

## Rehumanizing Urban Space for Night Activities with Particular Reference to Principal 24 hours Cities in Iran

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study is to present the solutions for enhancing the usage of urban spaces at night based on principles of twenty-four hour cities. Urban space is essentially built for use by human beings in their lifespan; it has gone through many changes due to the influences of modern trends. One main point needing reconsideration is urban spaces and their usage in different times especially in day and night. Now what is the main problem that most urban spaces are not able to provide their expected service in different times and are less used? Data collection procedure is a combination of library methods and field studies. Data taken from diagnostic interviews was analyzed using descriptive-analytical techniques. Comparison of case study of night and day usage and identification of challenges for nightly usage of urban spaces will be introduction to providing required strategies and solutions. Such strategies will be effective and useful in transforming Iranian cities especially Tehran to a twenty-four hour city.

**Keywords:** Tehran, twenty-four hour city, urban space

### INTRODUCTION

A kind of social organization was formed around the labor time since 19<sup>th</sup> century resulting from the order caused by industrial revolution and its subsequent development. Main part of services, leisure time and social-cultural activities in today cities is based on labor time-based time order (Fakuhi, 2005).

This behavioral timing leads to creating a common feeling among today human: feeling lack of time and it also creates a major motivation for time structure management. It shows importance of evening and night time as times for leisure and social-cultural activities. Concepts of twenty-four hour cities and night economy were developed through paying attention to this time for spending leisure time and other non labor activities. Thus regarding Iranian old culture in using night time combined with night economy of the cities, attempts for developing urban spaces appropriate for night times is necessary (Abasi and Kolivand, 2007).

In this study, first the concept and idea and then various approaches and features of night life are explored so than theoretical framework of the study and main principles of designing nightly urban space is defined. In the next step, local and international 24 h cities are analyzed.

**Twenty-four hour city concept:** Night planed economy concept in Europe was introduced since 1970. Bianchini (1995) considered Rim's night cultural events program as the pioneer for this concept. In 1977, Renato Nickolini,

Rome City Council member as custodian for cultural policies initiated an annual cultural program in summers: 'with emphasis on monuments, streets and historical squares in downtown which had become safer, more attractive and more accessible by cultural policies consistent with policies related to public transportation, lighting, police, children care and surrounding environment'. These policies became public factors of night living in several European cities.

### TWENTY-FOUR HOUR CITY IDEA

**The term 'twenty-four hour city:** A city without sleep' was originally used for New York in 1920. In England it was originally introduced in 1993 in 'Toward Twenty-Four Hour City' conference which goes back to Manchester. Manchester worked more hours following Olympic holding suggestion. There were accurate look at revival and organizing strategies in urban centers at night time and identification of inherent inconsistencies (Heath and Stickland, 1997).

Since then this idea has been developed extensively and this strategy was adopted for most British cities. This concept has been influenced both by those European cities which are inherently twenty-four hour cities and those cities which adopted cultural policies toward reviving night urban living since 1970 (Bianchini, 1995).

A general investigation on initiatives of British cities specifies three main elements of this concept:

Table 1: Different approaches in night cities

1. Behavioral approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using religious and cultural instructions in creating new space</li> <li>• Enhancing concrete cultural and natural examples at night.</li> <li>• Coordinating managerial, planning and activity license issuing policies</li> <li>• Setting a positive outlook for night time</li> </ul>	<p>To this end, it is suggested that appropriate spaces with considering parameters such as geographical situation, controlled lighting and necessary acoustic and environmental standards are created so that people can see beautiful manifestations of the nature at night (Abasi and Kolivand, 2007).</p> <p>By enhancing or adjusting lighting in spaces and locations and regarding their roles and promoting concrete cultural examples such as mosques and other culturally valuable locations, such spaces can gleam in night darkness. Using concentrated lighting capable of creating 3D images is suggested (ibid).</p> <p>Cooperation of different entities such as municipality, locations management, security forces, cultural and tourism organizations and corporations in necessary both in defining respective rules and regulations and coordinating urban planning and management policies and activity license issuing especially at night times (ibid)</p> <p>Following key ideals can support this outlook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making urban spaces safer and increasing their attractions by reduction of antisocial behaviors and fear of crime occurrence</li> <li>• Development of night varied economy</li> <li>• Preparing advanced facilities (such as suitable public transportation)</li> <li>• Increasing the number of hotels, restaurants, museums, libraries, galleries and other cultural locations and spending leisure time in urban centers</li> </ul>
2. Environmental approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety at night</li> <li>• Helping to solve inconsistencies in these centers</li> <li>• Dealing with antisocial behaviors and drug abuse</li> <li>• Providing appropriate training and using unemployed forces in night economy activities</li> <li>• Integration of compatible usages</li> <li>• Social supervision on spaces in daily life</li> <li>• Mechanisms for achieving appropriate level of confidentiality for some behaviors</li> <li>• Achieving legibility and orientation in time and space</li> <li>• The feeling of belonging to social and geographical location</li> </ul>	<p>Smart integration of good design, management and public participation is very important in developing safer environments. One of the motives behind 24 h city concept and night economy development is having areas with high mobility which can be monitored. They help public security. Thus encouraging night activities should be in direction of safety and security increase. Safe environment characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access and movement</li> <li>• Structure</li> <li>• Supervision</li> <li>• Ownership</li> <li>• Physical protections</li> <li>• Activity</li> <li>• Maintenance and management</li> </ul> <p>Since occurrence of antisocial behaviors and drug and substance abuse and drinking etc increase at night hours due to specific condition, dealing with such behaviors is necessary by the city authorities and security forces (O'Brien <i>et al.</i>, 2009)</p>
3. Structural approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Color</li> </ul>	<p>Defining a comprehensive plan for organizing all existential dimensions of the city including its structural landscape at night is necessary. This plan should consider following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of users of urban spaces in terms of age, gender, etc</li> <li>• Layout of usages and proximity to other usages</li> <li>• Considering usage type in lighting design</li> <li>• Defined lighting for each location and space according to its importance and appropriate to the totality (Abasi and Kolivand, 2007).</li> </ul> <p>Light impact on development of safe night urban spaces: '...according to studies in UK, improved lighting decreases fear of crimes'. Certainly, one of the simple factors for occurring crimes is its occurrence in darkness away from the spotlight. Night and darkness cause facilitation of criminal acts (Ahmadi, 2007).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Color impact on development of safe night urban spaces: the world that we are observing is composed of two important elements: form and color. Max Lucher performed a test with colors and found that 'it is possible to create a suitable situation by changing environment color and treat imbalanced character and thus to resolve personality disorders' (Lucher, 1922). Colors denote symbolic meanings and even in our mental imagery every building is associated with specific colors. Lighting of night urban spaces not only develops security feeling and mental relaxation, it is also useful in increased attraction of the spaces (Fig. 1)</li> </ul>

Table 1: continued

<p>4. Economic approach: Reviving and reconstructing downtown initially covers retailing and then the whole city and city development helps to attracting foreign investments. Value added helps urban economic development through creating commercial opportunities and job generation. In addition, commercial spaces are factors for increasing citizens attendance in the space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Form</li> <li>• Interruption in downtown economy</li> <li>• Re-populating old and native people in downtown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentration of night activities is more possible in locations which are more accessible by public transportation since transportation to these locations is easier and it helps increasing security in these locations. Establishment of night bus service, developing suitable bus paths in coordination with subway network, proximity of night bus stops to activity locations at night, appropriate lighting for bus stops and reliable taxi service at night, constructing suitable parking lots in vicinity to night activity centers are very useful in improving night transportation.</li> <li>Form states leading to increase in crime and security reduction include:  <b>First state:</b> Different horizontal surface  <b>Second state:</b> Corners  <b>Third state:</b> L and U shape surfaces  <b>Fourth state:</b> Closeness and opennessForm</li> <li>• Temporal performance separation: Temporal inflexible performance separation is dependent on modernistic aesthetic design in downtowns and has always been regarded as an important factor in urban life. Activities during the day is focused on the retail and trade, while night and evening activities are directed toward cultural and recreational activities such as public homes, clubs, restaurants, cinemas, theaters, concerts and etc.</li> <li>• Cultural separation between performance areas: Physical separation between performance areas resulting from development of modernistic planning ideas leads to considerable reduction of residential population in most urban centers which develops extensive temporal dichotomy between day and night activities. This is resulting from natural reduction of inhabitants monitoring (observer eyes) in street.</li> </ul> <p>By increasing residents, more people are attracted to the city and people are encouraged to purchase in downtown and using city in longer time interval, since old city residents cause development of more natural supervision in public and it helps increasing safety and security of the users. In addition, residents provide more profitability, job generation and investment attraction )The dynamics of residents and the protection from crime they offer is complex, (Hillier and Sahbaz, 2005)</p>
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- Providing downtown for a wide range of people to enjoy the location without fear
- Development of the city's night economy
- Improvement of the city face for attracting internal capitals

Twenty-four hour city concept and night economy development are new strategies for reviving and creation of safer urban centers. Krizman believes that by colonizing the night in twenty-four hour community, though one cannot create time, it is possible to provide such opportunity to use the available time optimally, then one can release from the shackles of time constraints. While this suggestion creates new freedoms and opportunities, it also has different costs and advantages. More freedom and flexibility is developed for activities, while it can increase labor hours even during non-formal

hours. A new freedom has been created in the world where electronic communications have released us from space constraints and this new freedom is freedom of time limitation. If differences between day and night and weekend and week days are considerably disappearing, it means that people have found various ways for using time leading to more freedom and variety in short term (Carmona *et al.*, 2010).

**Various approaches in twenty-four hour cities:** Table 1 summarizes different approaches in night cities.

**Night life characteristics:**

**Life cycle and vitality of cities at nights:** Development strategies of modern industrial and architectural century have caused discrete-space between the functions which will result in considerable population reduction. On the

Table 2: Cultural centers in the city

Theaters	One of the old attractive points in downtowns is theaters. Variety of theatrical products and their efficiency and performance level causes vitality and liveliness in downtown.
Cinemas	Traditionally entertainment and recreation have been important attractions in urban centers, though cinemas were developed out of the urban spaces late in 1980 and 1990, nowadays they have been returned to urban centers leading to increase in visitors' number and attracting them to inside the city for night and evening recreation and entertainment.
Arts, museums, libraries	Downtown libraries can be used for more night activities. In addition, training courses for adults and local-historical meetings can attract more people to the downtown, thus the government and charity institutions provide cultural activities for development of the downtowns (Fig. 2).
Hotels and restaurants	A city should offer good suggestions in relation to facilities which provides for residents and tourists (high quality and good service) so that more people are encouraged to visit downtown. To this end, attracting retailers for downtown vitality and liveliness of downtown and encouraging well known restaurant holders to establish restaurants in downtown and providing facilities for them seems appropriate (O'Brien <i>et al.</i> , 2009).
Development of dance culture in downtown, fashion shows and night shops	-

other hand, decentralized growing retailing which will cause reduction in economy of urban centers has necessitated 'vitality development and revival' strategy for protecting original commercial situation of the urban centers. It has been introduced since early in 1980 (Thomas and Bromley, 2000).

In promoting vitality of a space, attractions are regarded as infrastructure of an active center, but they are not restricted to a combination of retails. Art facilities, cultural facilities, leisure time, education, health or other services and accessibility of the space for living and work all contribute in keeping center alive.

Having vibrant and lively space is possible through two major qualities: variety and airiness (ease of movement) (Pakzad, 2007). Of course variety in usages and activities and long hours of living in the space guarantee attendance of various social groups, different age groups and levels in the space. In order to have longer living hours in the space, it's better to design its type and usage distribution in such a way that less urban space is left vacated or off and off and inactive bodies should not last continually late at nights.

**Cultural production and reproduction in city:**

Although activity of the citizens at night is based on cultural and local contexts of the city, demographic context condition and considering cultural dimensions and their beliefs, it can lead to promotion of aesthetics, effectiveness and identity of urban spaces and this process causes mental image richness in the viewer of the urban spaces and creates a collective memory of the city in citizens. Cultural centers in the city are shown in Table 2.

**Crimes:** Night due to its inherent identity is recognized as time for criminal acts, however, it should be noted that though some criminal acts may occur at night and helps to disorder in the community, all disordered acts at nights are not dangerous and criminal (Schivelbusch, 1988).

Due to relevance of these acts with night time and special condition of recreational activities and leisure time, following problems are probable:

- Occurrence of special crime such as drug dissemination and theft
- Noisy behaviors (night racket with electronic music) in the streets in vicinity of night activity concentration centers
- Antisocial behaviors such as dropping garbage in the streets and vandalism (Fig. 3)



Fig. 1: Pond by the library is lit up at nights Kerava



Fig. 2: State library at night



Fig. 3: Vandalism night

Table 3: General principles of night urban space design

<b>Social dimension:</b>	Attempt to increase citizens attendance in night urban spaces
Emphasizing the necessity of paying attention to social dimensions in night urban space	Preparing ground for appropriate social activities and encouraging creating diversity in night activities so that they are not restricted to few special groups and they should cover all groups of urban spaces users according to their age, gender and etc. Providing appropriate principles in the design of night urban space in order to increase social interactions Attempting to provide vitality and increase activities in night urban spaces by creating airiness and diversity in the space Providing mechanisms for achieving appropriate level of confidentiality for socially acceptable behaviors Identification of current behaviors and norms in Iranian urbanism's night culture for feasibility of appropriate citizenship behaviors (such as devotional ceremonies, holidays, etc) Attempting to increase social monitoring in night space and allowing and encouraging longer time activity Promoting a sense of belonging to the social and geographic location by attempting to meet the psychological needs in the urban space Eliminating insecure and defense less physical spaces and developing visible spaces which can be monitored and dealing with antisocial behaviors and drug; in other words, making urban spaces safer and increasing attractiveness by reduction of antisocial behaviors and crime occurrence fear Proper lighting in night urban spaces (sidewalks, sign elements, historical buildings, etc) and lighter urban streets
<b>Structural dimension:</b>	Paying attention to urban signs and providing proper mechanisms for their indication at night
Emphasizing on improving and enhancing the perceptual dimension of the night spaces	<b>Legibility at night:</b> Using mental map of citizens at night for drawing index night urban spaces (access to legibility and temporal and local direction finding) Paying attention to identify in night urban space by indexing space historical elements and reviving and reconstructing them Emphasizing on collective living promotion in order to create local feeling in night space Emphasizing on specific natural and environmental characteristics and structural quality of the night public space Promoting pedestrian movement and public participation (Fig. 4) Integration of recreational features and natural environment in night space
<b>Economic dimension:</b>	Identification of night activity centers (recreational locations in commercial and administrative areas) and adjoining to other usages
Paying attention to importance of establishing and maintaining appropriate activities in night urban spaces	Expansion of recreational-leisure activities and creating the diversity of ownership and economic productivity at night and development of appropriate mechanism for reliable investment in this sector Paying attention to usages integration and city strategic development plan in order to reduce inconsistency and conflict among integrated usages Encouraging and expanding night activities to other suitable city's locations and developing varied night economy Identification and providing opportunity for occurrence of normal behaviors and activities acceptable by the society and urban management Activity diversity and paying attention to participation and increasing such activities as cultural (cinema, theatre, library, gallery, etc), service (hotel, restaurant, coffee shop, etc), recreational (park, play grounds, leisure time spending, etc) and centers for night shopping (varied activities and creativity) in downtown Preparing advanced facilities and paying attention to public transportation and access to night urban spaces for all citizens Special attention to used materials and design in night space flooring Coordinating managerial policies, planning for night activities Preparing for appropriate training and using unemployed forces in night economic activities

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF NIGHT URBAN SPACE DESIGN

The major policies in this regards include preparation of context for night suitable activities and attempting to create a vibrant environment using design principles and promote effective factor of environment understanding (Table 3).

**Case study:** Some of the main factors which form night landscape of the city include:

- Attendance of the citizens and their collective activity in urban spaces



Fig. 4: Laramblas at night

- Urban landscape and its spaces' lighting over night hours.

Consistency and agreement between night landscape and urban performance current in the day and night are what keeps the city alive and dynamic at night. Regarding case studies in

- Mashhad (Imam Reza Holy Shrine)
- Tabriz (El-Goli and Moaalem St.)
- Shiraz (Hafezie Tomb and Chamran Park)
- Isfahan (Zayandeh-Rood riverside)
- Lion in France
- Mecca and Medina

It can be concluded that active night spaces are important factor in attraction people which it contributes in increased prosperity and people attendance. For example, Imam Reza Holy Shrine, Holy Prophet Shrine and Holy Kaaba in Mashhad, Mecca and Medina and Zayandeh-Rood in Isfahan and its appropriate riverside and Hafezie Tomb and Chamran Park in Shiraz and El-Goli green space in Tabriz are important factor in attracting people. Attendance of citizens leads to prosperity of service and commercial activities in boundaries of such spaces.

In addition, for development of night economy and twenty-four hour cities a combination of wider range of activities, residential robust functioning, revival and reconstruction of downtowns, access and transportation improvement, strong management for developed safety and security is necessary.

## CONCLUSION

Though night is an ordinary phenomenon, night urban spaces are not. Despite of the fact that a given space is physically located at the same place during both day and night, day and night urban spaces are different. The night moves the society toward investment and using mechanism for paying attention to darkness, for example, monitoring vulnerable spaces, lighting of different locations and night urban spaces directed by governmental policies, commercial strategies and social tendencies. However, most people utilize night urban spaces for illegal and antisocial acts. But such spaces are very suitable for gathering citizens with different tendencies and needs for development and promotion of the community's cultural level.

Night urban space is beyond an ordinary and simple space in such a way that in addition to covering general characteristic of a space, it also includes aesthetic criteria and socioeconomic complex values. Night urban space not only possesses social and cultural values of the community, it is also regarded as a container for urban

activities and related necessities. Such spaces should be compatible to general status of the society and have required characteristics for covering needs of different social groups (in terms of age, gender, physical, etc). According to studies and world experiences and paying attention to main principles of designing nightly urban space, general factors of a vibrant environment with nightly features are presented in 3 levels (Fig. 5).

Following suggestions were made after evaluating factors influential in night living:

- Suggestion for improving security:
  - Providing a pleasant environment for all social groups
  - Appropriate lighting for the streets, shops and buildings (lighting and vegetations should be in service of space security improvement and help removing hidden dark and away from spotlight points)
  - Improving the security of public parking (spaces such as underpasses, parking lots, parks and play grounds should have public visible spaces and enjoy appropriate lighting)
  - Proper design of walking routes
  - Increased police presence in the area
  - Using Closed Circuit cameras (CCTV)
  - Improving night public transportation inside and outside of urban centers
  - Increasing working hours of commercial, cultural centers, ...
  - Strengthening social supervision of citizens (it is recommended that ground floor shots are considered for commercial, administrative and active and lively usages such as shop, café, resultant and entrance and, of possible, they should have windows through which can be seen from the sidewalk to increase security.)
  - Reducing anti-social behavior and fear of crime
  - Proper and suitable informing on night activities to citizens and providing updated information
  - Preventing from long queues
  - Paying attention to cleaning streets
- Suggestions for improved night public transportation:
  - Integrated transportation network design by combining a variety of public transportation vehicles (bus, taxi, subway, etc)
  - Developing night bus lines and licensed taxis
  - Appropriate locating of bus and taxi stops in terms security, visibility, etc
  - Designing public parking lots for citizens with personal vehicles
  - Providing appropriate facilities for use of disabled and aged citizens
  - Suggestions for quality promotion and variety of activities
  - Developing and supporting family-oriented activities in night economy

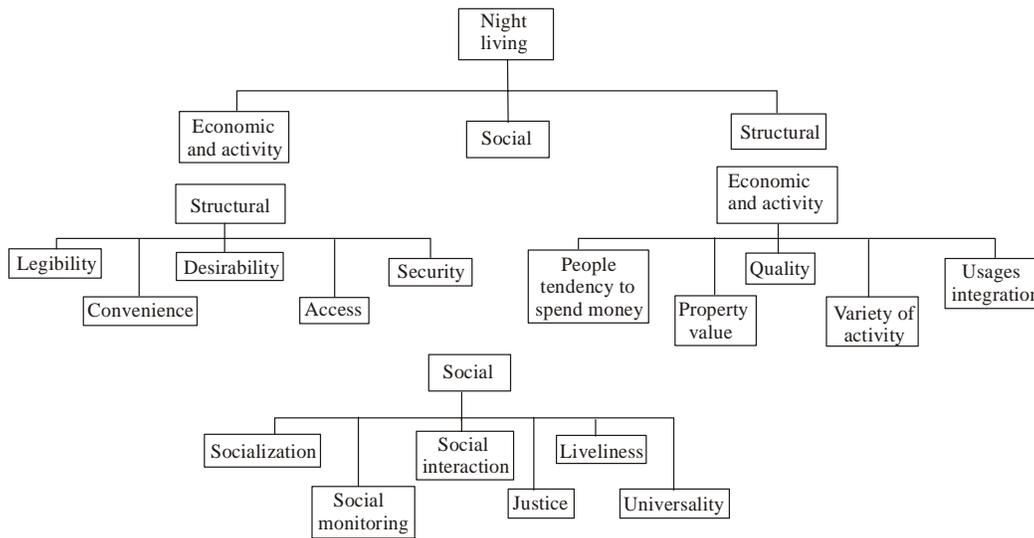


Fig. 5: Indices affecting night living

- Using planning and investment policies for night economy development
- Proper site selection in night urban spaces through night mental map of citizens
- Developing active cultural and artistic centers
- Increasing number of hotels, cafes, restaurants, museums, libraries, galleries and other cultural and leisure facilities in urban centers
- Creating multi-purpose cultural/ recreational/ sports/ training spaces and...in order to use spaces at all hours of day and night
- Encouraging local independent retailers to increase the reworking hours
- Providing a wide range of night activities for offering cultural and commercial services available to all age groups
- Encouraging various activities at night economy in order to prevent from mere domination of the young
- Increasing choices for consumers in restaurants, cafes, leisure centers, etc
- Promoting and improving management in areas related to the night entertainments
- Designing touring and pedestrian streets
- Developing a reliable mechanism for investing in the night economy sector
- Creating night shopping centers
- Creativity in creating night activities
- Attracting internal investors
- Suggestions for social interaction promotion
- Providing opportunity for increasing communication and interaction through creative strategies

- Predicting gathering spaces for different people and social groups
- Considering opportunities for women attendance in night activities
- Environmental optimization

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