

# Sustaining Historic Cities: An Approach Using the Ideas of Landscape and Place

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## Abstract

*Continuing and sustaining historic cities has been challenging for many architects and restorers. Numerous articles, research, and plans have been presented, and some, implemented. The solutions proposed fall into two general categories. First, those which deal with the anatomy and body of historical cities and suggest solutions to problems related to buildings and the physical relations between them. The second is those that offer solutions by presenting behavioral, sociological, and semantic studies about historical urban contexts. Despite some providing solutions even beyond these two categories, there still needs to be a holistic view that can offer more meaningful solutions.*

*In practice, however, it is assumed that examining all the objective and subjective aspects of historical contexts and managing the challenges may provide comprehensive and holistic proposals that could address specific regulatory requirements of each historical context. Current practices show that this assumption is false.*

*In this context, it is argued that new interpretations of landscape as a discipline with unique characteristics such as narratives, holistic perspectives, and activism can present an alternative understanding of the historical contexts with a comprehensive and holistic view. This is a potential move towards supporting the evolution and continuity of historical cities. It is based on the premise that it can offer a new textual reading of the historical contexts that could strengthen the sense of belonging and human identity in cities in line with the human experiences of place.*

*This research examines this issue by employing a documentary research method, probing into the concepts and ideas of erudite scholars who have articulated the ideas of landscape and place. The paper first introduces the articulated characteristics of landscapes, relationships with places, and related components and factors. It then analyzes landscape characteristics in historical urban contexts and examines different interpretations of noteworthy researchers. The paper maps out the influential factors in historical urban contexts and the significant contribution that can be made by engaging the ideas of landscape and place to achieve a sustainable revival of the historical cities.*

**Keywords:** landscape, landscape approach, historical cities, sustainability, regeneration.

## 1. Introduction and the Issue

Much research has been conducted on the regeneration and revitalization of historical cities from urban perspectives. Plans have been presented and implemented too. However, only some urban design approaches respond to the needs of historical cities. In this context, it is argued that landscape views on historical towns according to their characteristics can offer an alternative and effective solution.

Although there are numerous manifestations of the word landscape today, there needs to be more consideration of its multifaceted meanings. Unfortunately, the lack of attention to the conceptual complexity of this multi-dimensional concept has created the ground for superficiality. Indeed, landscape is a complex, multi-dimensional, and multi-faceted concept that can be defined with multiple approaches (Al Hashemi, 2016). For example, according to Mansoori (2009), landscape is another type of place. Burke (2007) points out that it is the product of the interactions between people and the environment. Given these multiple interpretations, landscape and its characteristics can be employed to examine the issues in historical contexts and provide solutions for their sustainability by exploring the opportunities available through significant features.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

This research aims to achieve a model of effective landscape characteristics in historic cities. In this article, after examining the influential factors in historic cities, we will learn about the effective parameters of the landscape in the continuity of historical contexts. These factors and parameters will become the indicators to provide a perspective model in the historic sites. The aim is to produce a model that can be employed to sustain historical cities that engages landscape factors and indicators, including sense of place and its relationship with human characteristics, as well as sense of belonging, collective memory, and social participation (Fig. 1).

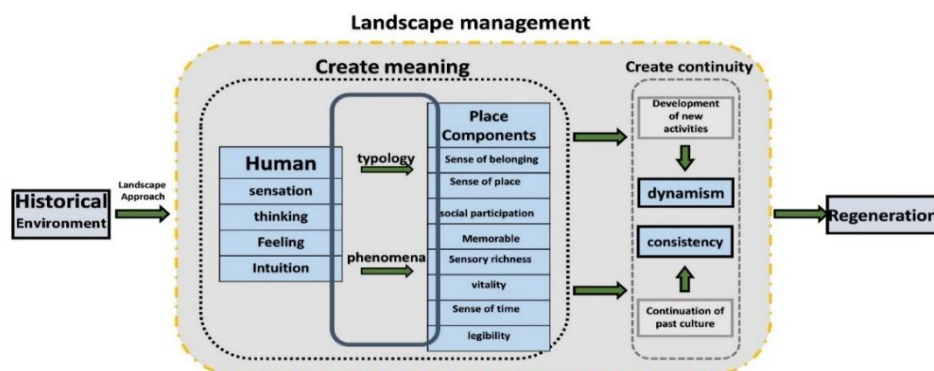


Fig 1: Landscape management process in historical urban zone  
Source: Author

## 3. Review of Literature

Research on global experiences of sustaining historical cities shows that the emergence of urban planning and its connection with restoration has led to fruitful urban rehabilitations. Given that the goal of urban restoration is to improve urban spaces, the landscape profession and knowledge, along with urban planning and global developments have been able to meet the needs and solve the problems of historical cities to a great extent.

As far back as the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Camillo Sitte, an Austrian architect, offered an aesthetic perception of medieval and Renaissance cities in his book "The Art of Building Cities," which has been a source of inspiration for city building ever since. Sitte (1889), who wanted to organize urban spaces argued that art should be relied on for this purpose. Therefore, he proposed to restore urban spaces and presented creative solutions. His ideas are as valid for today as for his time.

Brandi (1979) has proposed the revival of historical textures and considered restoration a methodological arm to recognize a work of art in this context. This recognition, which takes place regarding his physical existence and his physical and historical bipolar existence, is intended to convey a meaningful, spiritual and physical messages of a future. Krier (2001) considers the problem of historical textures to be the loss of the traditional understanding of urban spaces and the lack of coherence in contemporary urban spaces due to the need for more attention to the pedestrian scale and response to human needs. His solution is to discover and adequately exploit the main spatial types in the city.

Paumier (1973), expressing how to design a place and modernize it in the urban contexts and enlivening urban spaces considers it a problem of historical urban contexts. He argues that the principles of developing sites and living spaces in historical contexts should be the creation of an organizing structure. It involves creating a privileged identity: creating diversity and attractiveness, ensuring visual and functional continuity, maximizing ease of use, providing comfort and physical safety, and emphasizing the high quality of spaces.

Nevertheless, Lynch (1980) has been the authority on the appearance of cities. He presents the city form theory and says that the appearance of a city is what is seen, is entrusted to the mind, and causes happiness and memories. He also points out that visual clarity brings an ease to recognize urban components. A city is a living ecosystem, and a good city is a city where the continuity of this ecology is also a progressive realization.

Mansoori approaches this differently. According to Mansoori (2017), landscape relates to the nature of place and is a product of the human experience of space. It is an objective-subjective, dynamic and relative phenomenon formed in interaction with history and Nature. Analyzing and examining the environment of human life, a non-polar interpretation of the world, a systemic approach, and a change in the definition of meaning from the intrinsic content of matter, it is the result of a revision in the way of human thinking, providing the essential principle in the perspective of synthesis or synthesis of body and meaning. To add to this, Tripp (2012) has defined three perceptual fields for the appearance of a city: its utility or function, the city itself, their external manifestations and meanings. As he points out, the factors affecting a city's environment are the environmental system, environmental information storage, and the benefit or use of the domain. He says that the factors affecting a city are how it behaves and its result, evaluation of the environment, the goals, and the values.

Chen (2019), in the paper "The Content of Modern Landscape Architecture Discipline and Its Forming Process," says that after a long development and evolution history, modern landscape architecture discipline has become a broad first-level discipline of multi-study and mutual communication, which has a vital social and historical status. Modern landscape architecture is not an emerging discipline. It has a very long history. After a complex multi-disciplinary integration, it has formed what we now call the modern landscape architecture. In recent years, with the development of society, the problems of the environment and the economic structural imbalances have become more and more prominent and severe. Therefore, modern landscape architecture also faces tremendous changes and is at the crossroads of the discipline development

Jauslin (2020) has written that contemporary architects frequently refer to specific formal and spatial aspects of landscapes to describe their designs and summarize them under the term 'landscape' with various connotations. Indeed, according to literature, a new approach is evolving that may change the core of the architectural discipline: the organization and composition of architectural space as a landscape.

#### **4. Research Methods**

This research employs a document study. It reviews documents related to prominent research on landscape views and place, place identity, sense of place, and their multi-faceted interpretations. Papers have been selected based on the time of presentation of ideas and their scientific validity. This article is presented in three parts; the first part presents the theories and definitions of landscape and its characteristics that can affect sustaining historical cities. Then, it discusses the influential factors in forming a place and its related aspects and features in

historical towns. Finally, based on the measurement criteria given in the proposed model using qualitative content analysis, solutions have been proposed regarding the recreation of historical cities from the perspective of landscape and place.

## 5. Findings

Research studies, among others, about global experiences show that the emergence of urban planning and its connection with restoration has caused the formation of urban rehabilitation. Considering the ultimate goal of urban restoration to improve the affairs of cities, this profession and knowledge, in cooperation with urban planning and global developments, which are reflected in charters and resolutions, has been able to meet the needs and solve the problems of historical cities to some extent.

**Table 1**-Documents studied and their approaches and solutions

Source: Author

| Studies related to the restoration of historical cities |                               |  |   |  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| No  | Theorist                      | Reference Document   | Aspect Examined   | Proposed Solution  |
| 1   | Camillo Sitte                 | (1889)The Art of Building Cities. Vienna: Martino Fine Books Publisher   | Influential factors in organizing historical urban spaces.  | Relying on art and using artistic solutions to reconstruct urban areas - scientific and cultural partnerships.   |
| 2   | Camillo Boito                 | (1893) Practical Questions of Fine Arts, Restorations, Competitions, Legislation, Profession, Teaching, Milan: Ulrica Hoepli | Revival of historical contexts.   | Revitalizing the buildings and restoring activities to the historical buildings - Ideas became the basis of the Athens Charter.  |
| 3   | Cesare Brandi                 | (2005) Theory of restoration. Florence :Istituto centrale per il restauro.   | Reviving the historical context of restoration includes and builds a methodological arm for recognizing a work of art.                    | This recognition, which takes place regarding his physical existence and his physical and historical bipolar existence, is intended to convey a meaningful, spiritual and physical message of a future - The uniqueness of the artwork and the creative process in continuity. Gives importance to artistic and aesthetic values and paying attention to the concept of the artwork. |
| 4   | John Ruskin                   | (1880). The Seven Lamps of Architecture. United Kingdom: G. Allen.   | Revitalization of historical textures of cities. Historical textures are created from the interaction of human spaces and natural spaces. | In urban restoration, the laws of landscaping should be used in old urban contexts. What has made the old fabrics beautiful is having an organic order.  |
| 5   | Léon Krier<br>Thadani, D. A., | (2009). The Architecture of Community. United States: Island Press.  | Opposition to the modernist aspect after the war in historical contexts - negation of totalitarianism in intervention in these            | Reviving and recreating the patterns of small and large historical cities - returning to traditional Europeanization to prevent the fragmentation of   |

|  |                              |   |   |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  |                              |   | contexts - negative consequences of modernism zoning, especially in the historical contexts.  | towns and trans-nationalist eclecticism - the reconstruction of the essential elements of European cities before the industrial revolution, i.e., the street, the square, and the neighborhood.   |
| 6  | Rob Carrier                  | (2006). Town Spaces: Contemporary Interpretations in Traditional Urbanism. Germany: Walter de Gruyter GmbH.                           | Losing the traditional understanding of urban space - inconsistency in contemporary urban spaces due to the need for more attention to pedestrian scale and responses to human needs. | Research and proper use of the primary spatial types in the city in connection with the general plan of the city – classification of Spatial forms and their derivatives three main groups – presentation and the study of different states of street and square encounter – emphasis on the order of spatial organization in the integrity and unity of buildings. |
| 7  | Steven Tisdale,<br>Tim Heath | Heath, T., Oc, T., Tiedell, S. (2013). Revitalizing Historic Urban Quarters. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis.                        | Revitalization of city historical neighborhoods – Inequality of service to the historical areas as a result of the wear and tear of the buildings and texture.                        | The need to contemporize the texture and redevelopment with contemporary needs. Preparation and revitalization in the form of, or including on a macro scale an inclusion including economic and physical regeneration.   |
| 8  | Paumier, Cyril B             | Paumier, C. B. (2004). Creating a Vibrant City Center: Urban Design and Regeneration Principles. United States: Urban Land Institute. | How to design a place, modernize it in urban contexts, and enliven urban spaces   | The principles of designing places and living spaces in historical contexts are: creating an organizing a structure, creating a privileged identity, creating diversity and attractiveness, and ensuring continuity. Visual and functional, maximizing ease of use, providing comfort, and physical safety, emphasizing high quality.                               |
| 9  | Zahra Ahari                  | (2013), Isfahan school in urban planning: the grammar of urban infrastructure design, Tehran: Farhangetan Honor                       | Creating urban spaces and materializing and embodying the physical-spatial concepts of human beings   | By using a set of methods and arts that are all rooted in thinking about the essential movement of levels (and the world of example, the intermediate world in the order between intellectual existence and the sense of it), they create a city that is a beautiful parable of the promised paradise.  |
| Backgrounds related to revitalization and its approach |                              |   |   |   |
| 1  | Gordon Cullen                | Cullen, G. (1995). The Concise Townscape. Netherlands: Architectural Press.   | lack of attention to personal and social health, deterioration of social relations, comfort and security, separation of residents, and lack of solidarity                             | Changing the concept of landscape and creating new ideas in landscape strengthens the social and mental approach to planning and management in urban contexts.  |

|   |                        |   |  |  |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|
| 2   | Jahabshah Pakzad       | Pakzad, Jahanshah. (1391). Theoretical foundations and urban design process. Tehran: Shahidi Publications   | A dynamic and healthy urban space can be effective in the continuity of urban life.  | Attention to two social and physical dimensions of urban spaces - the importance of the concept of space.  |
| 3   | Anne Whiston Spirn     | Spirn, A. W. (1998). The language of landscape. United Kingdom: Yale University Press.  | Lack of attention to people and collective needs, public and collective spaces, and the quality of the environment.                                      | The landscape is the connecting factor between people and places and the scene of life and bearer of meaning.  |
| 4   | Mohammad Sadiq Falahat | Falahat M, (2017). The role of the sense of place concept in improving the quality of architectural preservation, Bagh Nazar's 14th year. No. 46, Tehran.       | Essential factors in the coordination of the person and the environment, which causes a better use of the environment and the satisfaction of its users. | Sense of place means people's mental perception of the environment and the factor of transforming a space into a place with unique sensory and behavioral characteristics for certain people.                          |
| 5   | Korosh Golkar          | Golkar K, (2011), Creating a sustainable place: Reflections on the theory of urban design, Tehran, Shahid Beheshti University, Printing, and Publishing Center. | A suitable model in the design of a sustainable city - a model of city sustainability.   | Compilation and explanation of objective-functional-objective aesthetic-mental and environmental, aesthetic components and ecology.  |
| Backgrounds related to landscape and its approach |                        |   |  |  |
| 1   | Seyed Amir Mansouri    | Mansouri, A. (2013), "An introduction to the understanding of landscape architecture." Bagh Nazar's first year. No. 2, Tehran.                                  | Paying attention to the appearance of the city and a purely physical view, and in the absence of a systemic statement of urban textures.                 | Simultaneously paying attention to landscape as a holistic approach.   |
| 2   | Mohammad Atashin Bar   | Atashinbar M, (2017), Landscape theory, an approach to the continuity of identity in urban renewal, Bagh Nazar's 14th year. No. 46, Tehran.                     | Different views and different methods of intervention and non-continuity of urban identity.  | A holistic landscape view of urban contexts.   |
| 3   | Kevin Lynch            | Lynch, K. (1960). The Image of the City. Norway: Technology Press & Harvard University Press.   | What kind of city is a good city?  | Visual clarity means that it is easy to recognize urban components. A city is a living ecosystem, and a good city is a city where the continuity of this ecology is also a progressive realization. (city form theory) |



The findings of this research can be divided into three general categories. First, the results related to the issue of restoration. The second is the ones that deal with the theme of landscape, and finally, the comments that are about regeneration and revitalization. These are presented in the table 1.

## **6. Landscape Approach to Sustaining the Historic Cities**

According to the above findings, there is a lack of a holistic view that includes the above ideas and provides a comprehensive solution. Therefore, it is argued that a new interpretation of the landscape and its features can be used to generate a solution. This interpretation is derived by examining the numerous interpretations of landscape and place offered by erudite scholars, and compounding them in a cohesive manner. It is presented as follows.

### **6.1. The Concept of Landscape**

As can be delineated from the above findings, the idea of landscape consists of three aspects, which are united and unified in a complex relationship: a site (land), a conception, and an image. The concept of landscape is an objective-subjective phenomenon in which landscape is defined as a space recognized in connection with the human point of view (Collot, 2011).

Landscape has a nature similar to a place. In fact, according to Mansoori (2013), it is a production of the human experience of place, an objective-subjective, dynamic and relative phenomenon formed in interaction with history. Landscape is thus a new interpretation that analyzes and investigates the human living environment, providing a non-polar (non-Cartesian) understanding of the world. It is a systemic approach and a change in the definition of meaning from the "intrinsic content of matter" due to a revision in how people think (Mansoori and Farzin, 2015). The essential principle in synthesis or integration of this approach is that the body and meaning are inseparable. In other words, its holistic nature is the most crucial point that differentiates the landscape approach and defines a more evident difference between this trend and other trends.

### **6.2. Definition of Place and its Relation to Landscape**

According to Rapoport (1982), a place is a space that has meanings for an individual or a group of people. People react to the perceptions that the environment creates for them. A place includes various features that make a wide range of potential meanings. In this regard, the phenomenological thinker David Simon has said that a place is an environment that collects human experiences, actions, and intentions spatially and temporally (Seamon, 2014). Among the components of meaning, it is a common sign of the three principles of differentiation, continuity and connection.

Places are formed or made of spaces when human activities interact with their environment. Places are characterized by physical collections and social and psychological conditioning and processes (Stedman, 2002). A place does not only include specific physical locations but is full of symbolic meanings, emotional attachments, and feelings that people have about a specific set (Dominy, 2002).

Lynch defines the identity of a place as distinguishing it from other places and considers it a basis for recognizing the desired place as a unique entity. Therefore, the identity of a place can be articulated correctly by making a place special. The essence of a place, as one of the ways of communication between Man and place, is aimed more at the Man's mental and emotional satisfaction so that his needs are related to his body. The identity of a place originates from the values that are directly individual and collective and with time, depth, expansion, and change (Ralph, 1976). Shultz considers the study of place to be the study of events and incidents that happen there and believes that a collection of events, shapes, colors and textures forms the personality of a place or its identity. He establishes a connection between architecture, place, and cultural identity. The experience of place is the experience of the meaning of place (Schulz, 1965). Landscape can be the narrator of the human experience of place, and this factor may strengthen the sense of place and the element of its continuity.

Heidegger (1998) points out that Man's relationship with places and through places with spaces is the essence of his existence, as advocated through phenomenology. Man's relationship with space is nothing but being in its nature. The focal point of phenomenology is the concept of the inseparability of Man and the world (how human beings exist in the world). Heidegger (1962) proposes that in existence and standard times, the relationship between Man and the world has been reduced to idealistic and realistic views. In the accurate picture, Man (mind) is dependent on the planet (object), and every action Man is a reaction to the world on the opposite point; in the romantic view, the world (thing) is dependent on Man (mind), and Man continuously acts through knowledge in his world and constantly recognizes it and in that way gives.

### **6.3. Sense of Place**

Sense of place is a dynamic link that a person develops due to attachment to a place, awareness of a place, belonging to a place, satisfaction with a place, and commitment to a place (Shamai, 1991). What is clear from the definitions of sense of place is that the sense of place varies over time and, according to people's understanding, their presence and participation in a place. To increase the sense of place and ultimately create an identity of the place, it is essential to know the influencing factors at different levels of sense of place.

These factors can be considered as the criteria for measuring the existence of a sense of place and, ultimately, the identity of a place. According to the contents, what is seen in the initial sense of place is related mainly to physical factors and physical presence in a place. In the mid-level sense of place, participation and attachment to a place through its activities leads to a stronger relationship with it. In sense of place, the feeling of being one and fully committed to the place is observed due to the meanings formed in people's minds (Bonyady, 2012).

### **6.4. Factors Influential in the Creation of Place**

According to Canter (1977), physical factors, activities, and meanings (Semantic elements) create places. The purposes of places may have their base in the physical arrangement of objects and activities, but the implications are not the only products of these factors. The initial expectations, experiences, intentions, and goals of people as observers and users have influential roles (Ralph, 1976). The environment represents the standard mental constructions of people (Carmona, 2003). Meanings may be changed and transferred from sets of objects to other locations, and these meanings have their attributes in terms of complexity, ambiguity, and clarity, etc. (Carr & Williams, 1974; Tuan, 1993).

An architect who wants to design or restore a previously created space must be aware of the effect of the place and time that is supposed to flow and be spent in this created space, and what is the place of originality, which means respecting the spirit of the place. It makes an impact, and this does not mean copying from old examples, but it means that we determine "this same" place and interpret it in new ways. It is only in that case that we can speak of a living and lasting tradition that makes the change meaningful by making it related to a set of parameters established in the place (Schultz, 2018), and this is a story that, in the eyes of phenomenologists, means authenticity. It strengthens it in the fabric and gives it richness and value. Therefore, "sense of place" includes a category that causes a person to feel joy, discomfort, and sadness, etc. Sense of place in religious places and sometimes in historical places is known as the spirit of a place. A place is a place for people to be. Orientation and recognition are the essential features of a place, and when both are well achieved, a person acquires a sense of place (Schultz, 2018).

### **6.5. Collective Memory**

According to Halbwax, collective memory is a transpersonal memory and a psychological capacity that emerges socially. All those things that the group members selectively agreed upon are remembered and placed in their minds like imagination. From Eiermann's point of view (2007), collective memory as a time map connects a nation or a society through time or space and forms an individual identity. In this regard, Kevin Lynch



considers that the existence of a "mental clear image of the place- time is necessary as a mental-spatial image for the mental health of people in the environment (Lynch, 1972). According to Hull (1994), our encounters with objects and places from the past have the power to create a clear sense of our history in us; this has a close relationship with personal identity and place identity, and the creation of place itself will promote the importance of place.

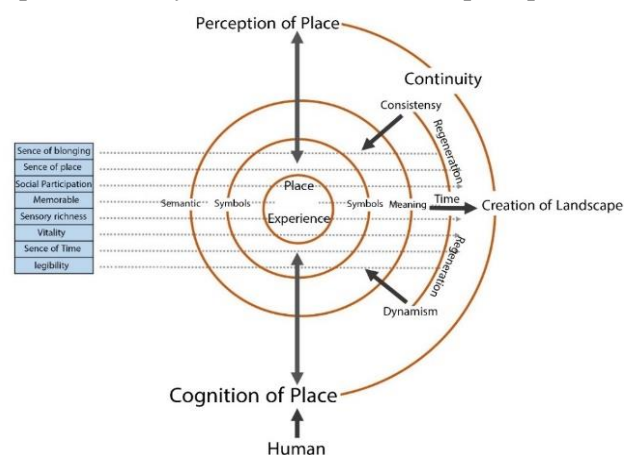
## 7. Landscape as a Narrative

The narration has been the oldest and most effective means of conveying meaning throughout the history of civilization. Representing the actual space or creating an imaginary space and the situations in which the characters of the story experience life in a way that has a lesson for them in line with the lives of the story's audience is the essential mechanism of the narrative. Therefore, in terms of its essence, the narrative has unity with architecture. From this point of view, the built space tells the history and the destiny of people and societies who have recounted their lived experiences for future generations and on a larger scale for all members of human civilization beyond the limitations of time and space (Ali Akbari,2021). Therefore, encountering the space and the building is reading a story about the teachings of life, whether obvious or hidden. Its understanding depends on the level of experience and the status of the audience's perception of the work (Ali Akbari,2017).

According to the definition and explanation provided, one aspect of landscape is a narrative of the meaning of place in the form of its emotions, activities, and social contributions due to its subjective and trans-temporal character. Landscape, as a link between Man and place, is a narrative that produces, reproduces, and protects another level of human existence, full of dreams, ideals, beliefs, myths, etc. Due to the holistic nature of landscape, understanding the place of architecture affects the participant in a way that can change their life.

The built space and the human body are both objective things that have a tangible reality in the material world, and the analysis of the narratives of place about the body and the space-time surrounding is a departure from objectivity to subjectivity, which requires a method of logical reasoning (Mirjani, 2009).

Nowadays is the end of the era of stylistic and formal narratives and the beginning of the period of human narratives of everyday life and manifestation. It is subjective and sublime based on human nature (Ali Akbari,2018). The landscape process is redefined based on mythological narratives and the space-time resulting from it, to be reproduced on this basis. The tool of this narration is the relationship between the human body and the body of the built space, physical proportions, body, and what is felt in the perception of human imagination.



**Fig. 2: Creation of Landscape**  
Source: Author

They make their narratives, directly or metaphorically to the mind of the participant present in the space from behind time and place, in an inter-subjective manner between different cultures and always make the human beings their participant.

For example, landscapers' view of Nature in the traditional culture of Iran was selective. (Cheshmeh,2019). The Iranian landscaper selects some aspects from all that is in Nature and uses them to create his desired landscape. He chooses "cypress" from among the trees and gives it character and identity. The culture of Iranian landscapers is given a high place to serve, and it is included in all kinds of cultural manifestations, literature, painting, sculpture, and everything that is the manifestation of his interaction with the surrounding Nature (Mansouri,2013).

One of the approaches to investigating and understanding landscape and its different aspects among different approaches is to use semantic systems. Among the other systems of examining meaning, the semiotics approach is one of the usual methods in many fields (Rapoport,2014).

## **8. A Theoretical Framework for Landscape in Recreating Historical Urban Contexts**

As said in the definition of sense of place, this sense is an abstract distance between the participant and the site that makes it possible to understand place (Taun, 1980). It is a mental concept and is not achieved only through physical actions and form. Since landscape is an objective-subjective phenomenon, this mental concept can be crystallized in the body through the objective-subjective nature of the landscape. On the other hand, to create a sense of place, we consider the three dimensions of function, beauty, and meaning (Shamai, 1991).

A separate examination of the city's three semantic, functional and physical dimensions in urban spaces shows that the record is focused on the two dimensions of urban studies and development, mainly (programmatic) and physical (design). They have been taken into consideration as the semantic dimension of the city has been primarily focused on preserving historical or physical symbols (Mansouri, 2011). Therefore, with a landscape approach, of which the most crucial principle is holistic, it is possible to synthesize function, beauty, and meaning, which is the basis of creating a sense of place in people in the process of planning and design in such a way that the location of an urban space affects the participant. A landscape approach can turn people from indifferent users to participants who have a high sense of belonging to the urban space and are even in harmony with the goals of the place.

Landscape is a discipline with a new definition and interpretation of "place" and "city." It can become a suitable approach to creating a sense of place and liveliness in urban spaces. Explaining the scenic components of life with emphasis on creating a sense of place, the city as a living entity has a body (objective dimension), a soul (subjective dimension), and the condition for the continuation of a being's life. This is to simultaneously have a body and soul (Mansouri and Farzin, 2015). Landscape is the connection between Man and place; a person's spiritual and psychological perception of the environment that gives character and individuality to place. The relationship between a person and a place is reciprocal and in two-ways. This relationship and action create memories and evoke the identity of the place for a person. The two categories of identity and sense of place have been introduced as factors involved in the degree of value and emphasis of urban spaces.

From another point of view, time is an essential factor in the dynamism of a work or its historical stability because values change with time. The passage of time will cause the vitality and strength of various pieces that are sometimes seen as original and sometimes as ruins. Landscape includes factors such as place identity, sense of place and narration of place can play a holistic role in the sustainability and regeneration of historical cities.

Landscape narration in historical city contexts is a factor that narrates a context mixed with time. This is the narration of history and time that strengthens the sense of identity and belonging and the importance of collective memory in people and connection with the experience of place. It is in line with increasing social participation and plays a role in preserving and maintaining historical contexts. It provides a platform for the continuation of life in historical urban contexts with a narrative about the continuation of the past culture and the development of new activities.

Revitalization of historic cities includes a wide range of objective and physical issues to mental and semantic matters; conservation history shows that proper conservation is a well-known issue. From the past to the present time, the attention of conservationists has gradually been drawn from the physical characteristics of spaces to their meanings and mental aspects. Physical protection is one of the different levels of security. Thus, if the number of side effects resulting from the presence of people in buildings can be considered controlled, new functions will play an influential role in achieving protection due to creating a sense of place and meaning.

One of the clear examples of attention to this issue can be seen in the opinions of Camillo Sitte (year?) and the Charter of Athens. The historic urban landscape approach with systematic monitoring management creates a balance between continuity and change and preserves the originality and integrity of the city (Falahat, 2016).

## 9. Observations and Arguments

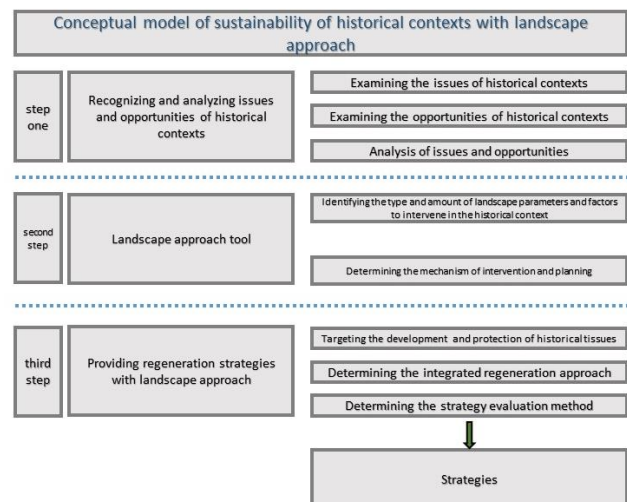
According to the observations and arguments, landscape is a natural geographical existence of things and people. It could be conceptualized as text because it produces meanings and a text that narrates the human experience of place. With a holistic view, Landscape transforms this experience of place into a space-less and timeless narrative that can trigger a collective memory or a sense of time and place in the audience. Strengthening the sense of place in people enhances the need for social participation in urban and social events. This factor ultimately leads to vitality and life in different areas (kiyaei,2012).

Historical places have hidden potential in their contexts. In historical cities, the landscape and the narrator have a different reading than in other places. An elicitation is taken from a text with transcendental values related to people's experiences in other spaces (Flamaki,2017). Therefore, landscape is a narrator in historical cities that illustrates a text that imagines a collective memory in time, which is a retelling of dynamic social activities in different periods and different meanings at any time with a fixed body as the text and story of the city (Afsharnadri,2001).

The story of the town and the human experience of place is narrated through the language of the landscape in physical stability and by re-reading the dynamic and vitality (Mollasahiy, 2013). The narration of social activity in different historical periods and with different meanings and experiences from a historical place direct the historical cities to context evolution and growth.

## 10. Conclusion

Landscape and its new interpretations as a discipline explaining how a landscape affects architecture and place is intriguing. It can effectively create a sense of belonging in



**Fig 3:** Proposed landscape model in historical cities-

Source: Author

people. A sense of belonging is an influential factor in the continuity of a site. Historical places have rich texts that can be read through landscapes. They present new readings of the places for people, which have significant impacts in creating a sense of belonging and collective memories and factors that make social participation because this reading is mixed with an identity of the place for people, which has a sense of belonging.

Landscape is a holistic view of all factors, and one of the influencing factors in historical urban contexts is to achieve a comprehensive continuity and recreation of historical cities. The idea of landscape can explain the signs and phenomena in the physical environment so that, in this way, it can influence the sensory-perceptual components of people. Landscape is an actor between Man and place and an indicator and driver of semantic components in historical contexts. Landscape expresses a different expression of a place through narration and effectively strengthens the sense of place and belonging with its activism.

The historical body creates components in the relationship between Man and place and time through the perspective of a landscape. These components include feelings, perceptions, thoughts, and insights, which through a landscape approach, could create factors such as a sense of belonging and personal and collective memories, a sense of participation, a sense of place and time, an increase in sensory richness, and social vitality in people. Each of these components is a factor of dynamism and stability in historical contexts, whose management could ensure the continuity of these collections.

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