

Revision of Architecture of Aliabad Shamshirbar and Rahmatabad ChaharTaqis in Kerman Based on New Archaeological Evidence

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Abstract

A large number of ChaharTaqis that have been identified so far are located in the south part of Iran, Fars and Kerman regions. However, Kerman ChaharTaqis due to their location in the remote areas are less known. Our knowledge about Sasanian religious architecture is limited to the investigations done by Vanden Berghe in the 1960's. In this study, Aliabad and Rahmatabad ChaharTaqis which are located in the south-west part of Kerman province, in Orzouyeh County, will be studied based on new findings both in architectural and religious typology. First of all, the type of the architecture in these buildings will be studied. After that, in comparison with other similar structures and writing resources as well, their religious quality will be evaluated by the authors. The present study is a fundamental research with descriptive-analytical methodology and nature, and data collection is carried out applying bibliographical methods and fieldwork. The results of this research indicate that some ChaharTaqis, such as the ChaharTaqis studied in this research, could be considered as a "Dadgah" fireplace in Sassanian period. The significance of this study lies in the new architecture features of ChaharTaqis described in this paper and offering a new usage for them.

Keywords: Sassanian Period, Religious Architecture, ChaharTaqi, Rahmatabad, Aliabad Shamshirbar.

Citation: Zabanavar A., Mortezaei M Shaban R., 2021. Revision of Architecture of Aliabad Shamshirbar and Rahmatabad ChaharTaqis in Kerman Based on New Archaeological Evidence. 5(2): 127-144.

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Received: 2021/07/11 Accepted: 2021/09/17