
Pierfrancesco Callieri. “A ‘Persian Conception of Urbanism’ as Seen from the Results of New Field Research in Fars (Southern Iran)”

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- 1 Prior to a recent phase of international geophysical and archaeological investigations started in 1999, the Persepolis and Pasargadae areas in the Marvdasht plain of the Fars Province were mainly known by virtue of the imposing remains of the official and ceremonial buildings attested there. New research on the latter Achaemenid royal foundations—also based on large-scale surveys beyond the palatial complexes—have shed new light on those sites, suggesting that their layout was based on a peculiar concept of urbanism, characterized by the alternation of densely built-up (and settled) areas and large empty sectors to be interpreted as green open areas (parks and gardens). This resulted in the formation of typical "Persian" cities that were remarkably different from cities known in the previous Ancient Near Eastern tradition but nonetheless retained a properly urban character.
- 2 As expressed in this paper, Callieri's idea of a "Persian conception of urbanism" perfectly matches the view of the Achaemenid "diffused" urbanism conveyed in 2019 by Sébastien Gondet ("Villes achéménides de Perse : essai de définition" in Sébastien

Gondet and Ernie Haerinck (eds.). *L'Orient Est Son Jardin : Hommage à Remy Boucharlat* (Acta Iranica 59), p. 185-210).

- 3 Remarkably, a similar landscape organisation has been also hypothesised for the area of Dashtestan (Achaemenid *Tamukkan*) near Borazjan (Bushehr Province), in a recent paper by Emad Matin, "The Achaemenid Settlement of Dashtestan (Borazjan): A View from Persepolis", *East and West* 1(2), 2020, p. 333-364; *Abstracta Iranica*, Volume 42-43 | 2021, document 9).

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