

## Urban development and planning in Iran

*Ebrahim Jamshidzadeh*

(Ebrahim Jamshidzadeh, Researcher in Urban Planning, P. O. Box 13145-391, Tehran, Iran, ziyaz11@yahoo.com)

### 1 ABSTRACT

Iran, in southwest Asia, Located between the Caspian Sea in the north and Persian Gulf in the south, covers an area of 1.6 million square Kilometers, slightly larger than one fifth of the United States. And the population of Iran is about 70 million.

Iran is a country with a very old city planning history. As review on urban planning before Christ shows, the early people of Iran had built their residential areas with complete awareness of climate, ecology and sociological factors in their time. For example in the “media” period (4000 BC), the residential areas of There was already an awareness of climatic condition by using smooth, square bricks instead of the former elliptical bricks and using big pieces of pottery in the walls of the houses to prevent dampness, building external walls at different levels to get more light or shade. The attention to social aspects by using windows toward public passages, or dividing residential areas into smaller quarters with narrow alleys was special characteristics of this period. Through centuries, urban design and architecture of Iran were affected by other nation, but never forgot their origin.

Urban development in Iran is characterized by the harmonic development of large and medium sized cities.