

World Heritage Scanned Nomination

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UNESCO Region: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SITE NAME: Pasargadae

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 7th July 2004

STATE PARTY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

CRITERIA: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Report of the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Criterion (i): Pasargadae is the first outstanding expression of the royal Achaemenid architecture.

Criterion (ii): The dynastic capital of Pasargadae was built by Cyrus the Great with a contribution by different peoples of the empire created by him. It became a fundamental phase in the evolution of the classic Persian art and architecture.

Criterion (iii): The archaeological site of Pasargadae with its palaces, gardens, and the tomb of the founder of the dynasty, Cyrus the Great, represents an exceptional testimony to the Achaemenid civilisation in Persia.

Criterion (iv): The 'Four Gardens' type of royal ensemble, which was created in Pasargadae became a prototype for Western Asian architecture and design.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus II, the Great, in Pars, homeland of the Persians, in the 6th century BC. Its palaces, gardens, and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization. Particularly noteworthy vestiges in the 160-ha site include: the Mausoleum of Cyrus II; Tall-e Takht, a fortified terrace; and a royal ensemble of gatehouse, audience hall, residential palace, and gardens. Pasargadae was the capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia. Spanning the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River, it is considered to be the first empire that respected the cultural diversity of its different peoples. This was reflected in Achaemenid architecture, a synthetic representation of different cultures

1.b State, Province or Region: Pars Province

1.d Exact location: N30 11 37.8 E53 10 02.3

Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran

PASARGADAE
CAPITAL OF CYRUS THE GREAT

UNESCO
WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE
WORLD HERITAGE LIST

That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure...Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus.

The Holy Bible, Isaiah 44-45

Synopsis

The monuments at Pasargadae are the manifestation of desire of Cyrus the Great (circa 550 – 530 B.C.) to mark the advent of his vast multinational empire. Ten years later, Darius the Great (522-486 B.C.) purposely opened a new era marked by the transfer of the Achaemenid capital to Persepolis that he began to build (circa 518 B.C.).

The construction of Pasargadae as the capital of the Achaemenid Empire is the most important testimony of the birth and rapid growth of a new empire. Pasargadae is the place where Achaemenid art emerged as a successful symbiosis of various elements taken from ancient civilizations of the South West Asia, and remoulded on the aim of the creation of a new art. Pasargadae was mentioned in classical sources. While for Herodotus, the father of History, Pasargadae referred to the noblest of the Persian tribes, for Starbo, Pasargadae implied both the name of that tribe and where its people lived.

God prizes Cyrus in the Bible and according to an interpretation, Cyrus may have been identified as Zolqarneyn or the Sovereign of Two Worlds, the enigmatic personality mentioned in Koran. Truly, the winged figure at Pasargadae which is traditionally recognised as representing Cyrus bears a crown surmounted with a twin horn, itself a symbol of Zolqarneyn. Old legends recognise the Mausoleum of Cyrus as that of Salomon's Mother (Mashahd-e Madar-e Soleyman). This was undoubtedly the main reason for which the Mausoleum became a symbolic mosque after the Islamic conquest of the country.

Pasargadae stands as the unique survival of the first phase of the Achaemenid art while the palaces at Persepolis belonging to the reign of Darius the Great witness the "classical" phase of this art. Thus, there is a distinguished difference both in concept and realization between the monuments at Pasargadae and the ruins at Persepolis located some 70 km to the south.

The specifications of Pasargadae's main area where the Mausoleum of Cyrus and other Achaemenid monuments stand are:

Site name	Map ref.	Area core zone	Buffer zone	
			Site specific buffer zone	Landscape (common) buffer zone
Pasargadae	2	159.65 ha	superimposed to its core zone	7126.97 ha

Pasargadae is proposed as a single nomination within its landscape buffer zone. The landscape buffer zone includes: 1- The area of the Achaemenid monuments protected by its metallic enclosure containing the main monuments such as the Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great; 2- Four other archaeological units provided with their own core and buffer zones and 3- Enclaves allocated to the existing villages and their restricted expansion in future.

1. Identification of the Property

1a. Country (and State Party if different)

IRAN

1b. State of province or region

FARS

1c. Name of Property

PASARGADAE ('Pasargad)

1d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical co-ordinates

E 053° 10'; N 30 ° 10'; for very precise coordinates see the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file.

The site of Pasargadae or the Morghab plain lies in the northern half of the present-day province of Fars (fig. 1); the plain is 25 km in length and not more than 12 km in width. Here, the parallel folds of the Zagros Mountains are cut by three major rivers, the Mand, the Kur, and the Polvar. The latter crossed Dasht-e Morghab, i.e. the plain of Pasargadae, and was possibly an important factor for the choice of the site. The river also traced the natural road between Pasargadae and Persepolis. The site is situated at a distance of 4 km to the west of the modern Ispahan-Shiraz road (fig. 2).

1e. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone

See the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file.

1f. Area of site proposed for inscription (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.) if any.

The main area of Pasargadae protected by a metallic enclosure in which are situated the Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great and other monumental constructions of the Achaemenid period.

Site name	Map ref.	Area core zone	Buffer zone	
			Site specific buffer zone	Landscape (common) buffer zone
Pasargadae	2	159.65 ha	superimposed to its core zone	7126.97 ha

The metallic enclosure of Pasargadae covers an area of 159.65 hectares (see map in fig. 2 attached to the end of this file, red line on the map). This core as well as buffer zone is itself included within a large landscape buffer zone (green line on the

map) which covers an area of 7126.97ha. This landscape buffer zone also includes 4 other sites each marked under its own name (see map in fig. 2 attached to the end of this file, red line on that map). All the limits of the core and buffer zones have been approved by the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization and are legally protected. The four sites within the landscape buffer zone are as follows:

Site name	Map ref.	Area core zone	Buffer zone	
			Site specific buffer zone	Landscape (common) buffer zone
Tall-e Se Asiyab	2	4 ha	19.2 ha	7126.97 ha
Do Talan	2	3.4 ha	15.8 ha	
Tall-e Nokhodi including Ahmadiyah	2	1 ha	5 ha	
<i>Sacred Precinct area including:</i> 1- Sacred Precinct itself and : 2- Rectangular area 3- Toll-e Khari 4- Fire Temples	2	0.75 ha 2.6 ha 0.3 ha 0.002 ha	43.98 ha	

2. Justification for Inscription

2a. Statement of significance

As regard to the significance of the site of Pasargadae, some historical considerations must be taken into account. The rise of the Persians as conquerors of the Ancient World, and founders of the first Persian empire is narrowly linked to the site of Pasargadae. It was from here that for the first time Cyrus the Great rose against the Medes; the plain of Pasargadae was the battlefield of Cyrus' army and the Medes in 550 B.C.; the Medes were defeated and the Persians annexed Median territories. After this date, Cyrus continued to conquer most of the Ancient Near East. The Persians took Sardis, the capital of the Lydian kingdom in Asia Minor, in 546 B.C. Later, in 539 B.C., Cyrus opened the gates of Babylon, the heart of the oldest kingdom of that time. In 538 or 537 B.C., Cyrus carried out his last campaign, against the Massagetae, a nomadic people possibly living north of the Iaxartes, somewhere east of the Aral Sea. It was his last battle; the nomads in one decisive encounter defeated the Persians; Cyrus was killed in the battle, and his body was recovered and borne back to his homeland, at Pasargadae. The construction of Pasargadae as the capital of the Achaemenid Empire is the most important testimony of either the rapid growth of a new empire and the birth of Achaemenid art and architecture.

Pasargadae represents a successful combination of the Ancient Near Eastern art brought here as a new creative art, i.e. Achaemenid art. Pasargadae is also the first manifestation of this new art, an expression of an extraordinary position attained by the Persians within the span of two decades, from 558 to 538 B.C. Pasargadae, as David Stronach states, is 'the unique mirror of this endeavour'. In spite of later architectural activities at Pasargadae, it is the monuments of Cyrus' reign which dominate the site recalling a 'moment of rare achievement' in the history of ancient Iran.

Because of the above-mentioned reasons, the site of Pasargadae is a unique ancient site that played a major role in the world history. The site can rightly meet the criteria for its inclusion on the World Heritage List of the UNESCO.

2b. Comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar sites)

There are no truly comparable sites to Pasargadae in Iran or elsewhere. However, one can mention the small pavilions constructed probably under Cyrus the Great, at Borazjan, near Bushher. Here, similar construction techniques were used to erect some monumental buildings on the road running to the Persian Gulf. The state of conservation of the constructions at Borazjan is rather bad, and serious measures for protection of the site should be taken into account.

The isolated tomb of Bozpar, not far from the Persian Gulf, can be mentioned here as a comparable monument to Cyrus's tomb at Pasargadae, but it belongs to a later date - probably to the 4th century B.C. - and is built on a smaller scale.

Another site - an obvious one - which comes to mind is Persepolis, 40 km south of Pasargadae. Persepolis, which is on the World Heritage List, is of course an Achaemenian Capital, but it was constructed precisely to show the world the advent of a new era : that of Darius the Great. Pasargadae was discarded and the construction of Persepolis started from 518 onwards. The distinction between the two capitals is not only political and historical, it is also architectural. The "classical" phase of Achaemenid art and architecture triumphs at Persepolis. No traces of the "archaic" phase represented at Pasargadae can be seen at Persepolis. It is the same for Susa, another Achaemenid capital built under Darius Ist and his successors. Thus, Pasargadae stands almost the unique example of the "archaic" phase of Achaemenid art that ended sometime after the death of Cyrus in 537 B.C.

2c. Authenticity/Integrity

As regard to the authenticity of the site, there is absolutely no doubt that the site represents the ancient capital of the Achaemenians. This has rightly been proved either by historical references or by archaeological excavations. Moreover, it must be mentioned that there is no reconstruction at Pasargadae, and all the monuments stand in their preserved state. Some restorations undertaken by the Italians have carefully respected authenticity of the monuments. The chosen materials (stone or mud brick) used for repairs and restorations are distinguishable.

2d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

As it is mentioned above, it is clear that the site of ancient Pasargadae is unique both for its historical as well as artistic values. Pasargadae is the first capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia and perhaps in the human history. Pasargadae is also the first manifestation of an imperial combined (composite, synthetic) art in the Near East recognized as “Achaemenid art”. Moreover, Pasargadae shows the earliest manifestation of Persian or Iranian art and architecture in the written history of ancient Iran. No other architectural remains of that time are comparable to Pasargadae in the whole of the Near East or indeed in the world. Pasargadae is proposed as a single nomination under criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Criteria 1. A masterpiece of human creative genius in its composite architecture and town planning which includes the first example of “Four Gardens” type prevailing in Western Asia up to the 18th century (Safavid Ispahan or Mughal India).

Criteria 2. The first capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia and perhaps in the human history. An empire which recognised and respected the cultural and religious values of each nations and reflected it in its set of laws (return of the Jews from captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem for instance, see the Bible) and arts (composite, mainly Greco-Persian architecture).

Criteria 3. An exceptional testimony to the Achaemenid civilisation.

Criteria 4. See 1.

Criteria no 5 and 6 are also applicable to Pasargadae (5: human settlement and land-use; 6: association with living traditions and beliefs: association with the prophet Solomon).

3. Description

3a. Description of Property

The Site: The site contains a group of fourteen ancient monuments (fig. 2, pl. I/1-2), including the prehistoric mounds scattered on the plain of Pasargadae; the position of every monument or mound is well chosen in a cultural landscape. Here, the description of the monument is presented so that to respect the order given by David Stronach, the British excavator of the site; Stronach's description unfortunately lacks both the prehistoric mounds and the Islamic monuments of Pasargadae; these are included in the following description to present a complete survey of the site.

1. The Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great (see no 1 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file.

2. The Tall-e Takht (Takht-e Soleyman / Solomon's Throne) and the fortifications (see no 6 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file.

3. Gate R (Gate House).

4. Palace S (Audience Hall).

5. Palace P (Residential Palace).

6. The Royal Garden (Four Gardens).

7. The Bridge.

8. The Zendan (Zendan-e Soleyman / Solomon's Prison).

9. The Sacred Precinct.
10. Tall-e Nokhodi.
11. Toll-e Khari.
12. Tall-e Se Asiyab.
13. Do Talan.
14. The Madrasseh or Caravanserai.

1. Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great (fig. 3; pls II-III, and no 1 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Identification:

The identification of this stepped structure as the Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great comes essentially from the classical descriptions. James Morier was the first to draw attention to the fact that the so-called Tomb of Mother of Salomon should be corresponded to the monument described by the classical authors such as Arrian in his *Anabasis* vi, 29, Strabo in his *Geography* , xv, 3, 7, and Plutarch in his *Alexander's Life* , 69, 4. His arguments were subsequently reinforced by the comments of Lord Curzon and Ernst Herzfeld, both of whom attested that the tomb stood on the site of ancient Pasargadae.

Location

The Mausoleum stands apart from all other major monuments at the site, dominating the southern half of the Morghab plain. Its position is such that it attracts the eye from almost any vantage point from the entrance of the Bolaqi pass (where any traveller coming from the south could have seen the monument the moment he caught sight the plain ahead. This stepped monument was known to the Greek authors, especially after Alexander's visit to the site.

Description

The structure combines two distinctive elements: a high plinth composed of six receding tiers and a gabled Mausoleum chamber which seems to preserve a very much earlier form of wooden house.

The first tiers of the plinth has a height of 1.70 m, the second and the third each have a height of 1.04 m, and the last three tiers each have a uniform height of 57.5 cm. The total height of the plinth is thus 5.5 m or half the height of the monument as a whole. The total height of the monument is 11 m. The base of the plinth measures about 13.35 m x 12.30 m. The base of the Mausoleum chamber measures about 6.40 m x 5.35 m. The door of the Mausoleum chamber is only 1.39 m high and 78 cm wide; the passage 1.20 m long; and the chamber 3.17 m long with a uniform width and height of 2.11 m. The walls of the chamber are up to 1.50 m. thick. Above the chamber, a hollow compartment in the roof, divided in two, measures 4.75 m. in length and 85 cm in height. The capstone of the roof is missing. In 1970, the remains of a raised disc on apex of the triangular gable over the door were observed for the first time. The entire upper half of the disc was carved on the missing capstone

of the pediment. Only the much damaged part of the disc, namely its lower half is preserved. Today, the carved disc is almost disappeared.

The separate tiers of the plinth are too high to be regarded as steps and some scholars have tried to consider the Mausoleum as a ziggurat. But, David Stronach has refuted this approach in comparing the Mausoleum of Cyrus with another later similar tomb at Gur-e Dokhtar. Here, the architects added a suitable elevation to a set of three tiers, providing an easy access to the chamber tomb, which were already part of a traditional design for all free-standing Achaemenid tombs.

The chamber was entered through small double doors which pivoted just inside the open door-frame. The remains of the socket holes are still preserved at the entrance. The double doors were probably wooden or they could be in precious metals and thus were removed or robbed. Beyond the entrance, the tomb chamber is a modest small room with smooth and flat walls. A shallow prayer-niche or mihrab in the south-west wall was carved in the medieval times which with the compass carved at the southern corner of the third tier are the visible signs that the tomb served as the central part of a medieval mosque founded as early as the thirteenth century A.D. The mosque, built by removed fragments of the palaces, was still standing until 1970 the fragments were removed back to their original positions. Above the tomb chamber there is a long hollow space within the roof without any access save for the one comes from a square robber's hole in the north-eastern side of the roof. Ali Sami put forward the suggestion that Cyrus and his queen were buried within the space of the two compartments inside the roof. He argues that the tomb chamber was used as a repository for funerary goods.

Date

The strong presence of Ionian elements at Pasargadae indicates the technical participation of a people from Asia Minor that became possible after the conquest of Sardis by the Persians in 546 B.C. As far as concerns the date of the building of the Mausoleum of Cyrus, D. Stronach, considering the development of the basic elements of the Ionic architecture, dates the building of the monument sometime between 540 and 530 B.C.

2. The Tall-e Takht (Takht-e Soleyman / Solomon's Throne) and Fortifications (figs 4-6; pl. IV, and no 6 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The great stone platform, known locally as Takht-e Madar-e Soleyman or the Throne of the Mother of Salomon, dominates the plain of Pasargadae from the north. It is, in fact, the western end of the hill called Tall-e Takht, the stronghold of a series of fortifications extended on the northern hills dominating the plain. Both travellers and archaeologists who visited or undertook excavations at the site have often described the platform in detail.

Description

The structure covers an area of about two hectares. The terrace forms a parallelogram with central recesses on its northern and southern sides. The length of the north side is 65.80 m, that of the west is 78.84 m, and that of the south side is 98.15 m. The north recess has a depth of 4.75 m and a length of 15.10 m; the southern recess is 15 m in depth and 48.50 m in length. As Stronach recognised, the construction itself is composed of three constituent parts: an outer wall made of large, well-drafted limestone blocks of varying dimensions, arranged in up to twenty horizontal courses; an inner wall composed of roughly fitted blocks of reddish sandstone of random size and shape; the core of the construction is made up of small, dark grey limestone of chips with some courses of white mortar.

The huge stones of the façade are fitted without mortar, with an advanced technique of jointing, anathyrosis, known in Asia Minor as early as the sixth century B.C. The masonry of the outer wall consists of rectangular blocks fitted in courses of equal height. Each vertical joint was bridged at the top by a pair of iron and lead dovetail clamps so that each of the upper courses constituted a horizontal chain round the central core, rendering the structure more stable. The original height of the facade was about 15 m above the ground level. However, in the course of time, most of the metal clamps were extracted as a valuable local asset, and this have caused gradual destruction of the courses and consequently falling of the superstructure of the façade itself. It actually stands about sixth meters above the ground level.

The British excavations on the Tall-e Takht revealed two broad stone staircases on the north side of the platform, called staircases A and B. Stronach excavated the former in 1961, while the Staircase B had already been discovered by Sami in 1951. Each step of the staircases had an original width of 5.5 m, a height of 26 cm, and a depth of 53 cm. Both of the staircases were neither finished nor used before being covered by a solid mass of mud-brick.

The rough, raised bosses of the walls of the Tall-e Takht exhibit more than seventy masons' marks offering an interesting contrast known from Persepolis. The excavators have recognised two groups of marks indicating the presence of at least two teams of mason. The mason's mark gives not only invaluable information about the organisation of the work at the site but also they can have a chronological value. The masons of Pasargadae have left circles, crosses and L-shaped signs. All of which are known from the fragmentary terrace walls of the Lydian palace at Sardis. Other signs find parallels in the eastern Greek or Anatolian seals and coins.

Dates

Thanks to the British excavations and C. Nylander's studies, we have now a clear stratigraphy of the different construction phases of the Tall-e Takht. According to Stronach, the masonry of the impressive monument of the Tall-e Takht brought to a halt by the death of Cyrus the Great in 530 B.C. Later, with the transfer of the capital from Pasargadae to Persepolis, sometime around 518 B.C., the construction programme was stopped for a while. The second phase of construction was resumed under Darius the Great (522-486 B.C.). Instead of stone, the new programme of construction used mainly mud-brick. The modifications are well documented in Stronach's report. It suffices to say here Darius Ist and his successors maintained the defensive scheme.

The structure shows an impressive evidence of the scale and quality of Cyrus' building activities at Pasargadae. The origins of this style of architecture must be rooted in traditional Iranian architecture of the first half of the first millennium B.C.

3. Palace S or the Audience Hall (figs 7-11; pls V-VI, and no 2 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The monument known as 'Palace S' or the 'Palace with the Column' or the 'Audience Hall' or the 'Palace of Audience', lies almost midway between Gate R and Palace P, some 1250 m north-east of the Mausoleum of Cyrus.

Description

The monument represents some chief standing elements such as the single tall column in white stone and the three stone antae which were repeatedly drawn by the early visitors of the site. Flandin and Coste published the first plan of the monument in 1840. M. Dieulafoy's plan was published in 1886. Then, Herzfeld's plan was appeared in 1910. But A. Sami produced the first more or less accurate plan of Palace S in 1950. The most detailed one, reproduced in this paper, belongs to D. Stronach's publication. The monument consists of a hypostyle hall surrounded by four columned porticoes. The long axis of the building runs from northwest to southeast.

The Hypostyle Hall

It is a paved hall with two rows of four columns. The interior of the hall measures 32.35 x 22.14 m. The column bases are constituted of two rectangular plinths of black stone surmounted by a torus. Each is cut from a single block and was apparently set on a buff limestone foundation. The lower plinth measures 1.43 x 1.43 x 0.47 m, the upper one 1.24 x 1.24 x 0.36 m, and the torus has a height of 0.22 m and a diameter of about 1 m. The drums were in white stone, and the top of the topmost drum stands today over 13 m above the level of pavement. The height of the base is 1.04 m and the shaft itself is 12.06 m. As for the capitals, various fragments found during Herzfeld's excavations suppose there would have been four forms of sculptured impost capitals, each of black stone and all have been attributed to the main hall of the monument. Herzfeld writes that the relevant forms were a hybrid, horned and crested lion (now disappeared but once well preserved and photographed by Herzfeld), a monster, a bull, and a horse. However, there is not any trace of these capital fragments today.

The Porticoes

Four porticoes flanked the hypostyle hall of Palace S.

On the northeast, the large paved portico in antis with two rows of twenty-four columns measures 53.65 x 9.60 m. A white stone bench of 46 cm wide and 44 cm height lines the back and sidewalls of this portico. The black stone bases of the

portico are made of two plinths with a torus above them. The drums were in stone. None of the columns is preserved.

The south-western portico measures 32.10 x 9.60 m; it is more than twenty meters shorter than the south-eastern portico. The pavement of the south-western portico is well preserved; it has two rows of fourteen black stone columns, of which two are partly preserved. Each column has a double stepped square plinth, a smooth torus, and a slim astragal above the torus. The lower part of the plinth measures 56 x 56 x 24 cm; the upper part measures 44 x 44 x 18 cm. The diameter of the shaft is about 37 cm. Two spacious corner rooms flank the south-western portico, and are now stripped to foundation level.

Each of the opposed porticoes lying northwest and southeast of the hypostyle hall measure 22.10 x 10.50 m. The porticoes were originally paved, and traces of the polished pavement are still visible. Each portico possessed two rows of eight columns, of which only few poor traces of the bases are now preserved; the drums must be in wood or other perishable material.

Doorway Reliefs

Four pairs of Reliefs once decorated the four entrances of the hypostyle hall. Two jambs of each doorway represent the same scene in an opposed direction to the other. They are better preserved in the north-western and south-eastern doorways. Upper parts of the jambs, however, are disappeared.

Remains of the relief on the left-hand jamb of the north-west doorway shows the bare legs and feet of a human figure followed by an eagle-footed monster (fig. 9); the end of a fringed belt-tie also hangs between the legs of the monster. With comparison to Assyrian Reliefs on the orthostats from the Palace of Sennacherib at Ninveh, these over life-sized figures can be identified as a warrior, who wears a horned cap and holds up one hand in a threatening gesture and a lion demon, who brandishes a dagger in one hand and a mace in the other.

The reliefs on the opposite southeast doorway are better preserved, and still stand to a height of about 80 cm. The left-hand jamb shows the lower part of a bare footed human figure in a short skirt and full-length fish-skin cloak, followed by the legs and tail of a bull. The Assyrian parallels can help again to reconstruct these reliefs as fish-cloaked genius and a bull-man, who holds a disc-topped standard.

The left-hand jamb of the south-western doorway is incomplete and fragmentary, showing three feet of two long-robed, bare-footed men and three legs of a hoofed quadruped. Scholars' interpretations of this scene are varied. While certain archaeologists think that the scene represents human figures conducting horses, others suggest that it shows a delegation of Egyptians bringing a ram.

As for the date of the, D. Stronach has rightly suggested that they were executed by a Babylonian master sculptor; the date is rather uncertain because skilled Babylonian craftsmen could have found their way to Pasargadae even before the conquest of Babylon in 539 B.C.

Present State of Conservation

All the eight reliefs of Palace S are in a bad state of conservation, and a rapid solution seems of extreme urgent for their protection. The erosion is very fast, and by a couple of years some of the reliefs may be entirely disappeared.

4. Palace P or the Residential Palace (figs 12-14 ; pls VII-VIII, and no 4 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Called sometimes the 'Private Palace' or the 'Residential Palace' of Cyrus the Great by Herzfeld, this structure has attracted wide attention of both the early travellers and the excavators of Pasargadae. The Palace P was firstly excavated by E. Herzfeld in 1928. Herzfeld, however, failed to give an accurate plan of the structure. In 1950, A. Sami excavated the entire structure and gave an adequate record of the main stone elements. Finally, D. Stronach re-examined Palace P in 1960's; the British survey of the palace gives accurate information on the state of the monument as it appeared in November 1963.

The Hypostyle Hall

The palace is constituted of three main parts: a central hall flanked by two large porticoes, forming an 'H' on plan. The interior of the hypostyle hall measures 31.10 m in length by 22.10 m in width. It has five rows of six columns, separated from each other by a standard interval of 2.35. The stone bases are composed of a double plinth and a horizontally fluted torus. No entirely preserved drum is seen today in Palace P. The drums have a diameter of about 69 cm, and they probably had a height of about 10 m.

The South-eastern Portico

The south-eastern portico, called also the 'Throne Portico' by Stronach, is an impressive one with 72.52 m long and 9.35 m deep. The pavement consists of one white and one black stone course. Two row of twenty columns lie in antis with a pair of antae of which only one is today preserved (see below). The traces of the columns are mostly disappeared today, and we often possess no more than a buff stone foundation plinth. The surviving lower part of the bases, above the level of the pavement, allows reconstructing the two-coloured stone base that is smaller than, but similar to the bases of the main hall. In the absence of any stone fragments, Stronach assumes that the drums were probably in wood.

The North-western Portico

This portico is an abbreviated, unpaved, and shorter version of the south-eastern portico in smaller dimensions. It is 44.85 m in length with a deep of about 9 m. It has two rows of twelve column bases of which only one more or less complete base, a double square plinth, and a fluted torus are actually preserved. The drums were originally in wood. Two unpaved rooms flank the northwest portico and share

similar internal dimensions of 9.65 x 7.15 m. Only stone foundations of these rooms are preserved today.

The Anta

At the southwest end of the south-eastern portico, a still undamaged anta stands 6.14 m above pavement level. It is the lone surviving anta from Palace P, which is one of a pair that once flanked the south-eastern portico. It is composed of two superimposed blocks. On its inner face, there is the trilingual CMA inscription within in a single frame of 90 x 40 cm. The inscription reading is "I, Cyrus, the king, an Achaemenian". Other examples of the CMA inscription are on the southeast portico of Place S (see below), and on the winged genius in Gate R; the latter is now vanished.

The Reliefs of the Hypostyle Hall

Four poorly preserved reliefs decorated once the inner side of the black limestone jambs of the doorways connecting the hypostyle hall with the porticoes. They were discovered during Herzfeld's excavations in 1928, and were partly restored in 1950. The scene on each jamb shows a king, followed by an attendant, leaving the hall. The upper part of the reliefs has been completely disappeared, and we possess few fragments which can be ascribed with certainty to the upper parts. A short trilingual inscription (Cyrus Morghab inscription c, hereafter CMc) in Old Persian, Elamite, and Akkadian once labelled the royal figure, on the pleated robe of the king, read as "Cyrus, the great king, an Achaemenian". Moreover, from a number of inscribed fragments found in Palace P, it can be assumed that a trilingual inscription once existed on the top part of each jamb above the figure of the king. The reliefs are in a very poor state of preservation. The jambs are fairly protected by metallic roof, but the same problem of erosion for the winged figure of Gate R is encountered here, namely the danger of violent winds and rainfalls.

Date

According to Stronach, the construction of Palace P appears to begin in the last years of Cyrus' reign, between 535 and 530 B.C. The various comparisons show that while many features of the general plan had been partly presented in the plan of Palace S, the design of Palace P draws on certain older Iranian architectural elements that were not employed in the other monuments of Pasargadae. Oblong piers are known from Uartian sites; internal corner pilasters are found at Tepe Nush-e Jan, in the Zagros, and the thirty-columned hall is derived from the Median complex of Godin Tepe, in the Kangavar plain.

5. Gate R or Gate House (figs 15-17; pls IX-XI and no 3 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

Gate R stands at the eastern limit of the palace precinct, about 200 m southeast of Palace S (fig. 2).

Description

The building was excavated and examined by E. Herzfeld in 1928, by A. Sami in 1951, and by D. Stronach in 1963.

The gate is a freestanding, rectangular building, c. 28.50 x 25.50 m, with a columned hall entered by two main and two side doorways. According to Herzfeld's observations, a pair of winged bulls originally flanked the outer entrance while a pair of winged human-headed bulls faced the palaces.

The doorsills projecting in front of each of the two main doorways are in white stone, while the two thresholds are made of black stone. Stronach's estimates that the height of these two doorways would have been close to 9 m; their width is 3 m. Two much smaller doorways in white stone are standing on the transverse axis. Each of these side doors was originally 1.80 m wide and 1.55 deep. In the north-eastern doorway the main part of the one white stone door jam still stands in place bearing the famous representation of the four-winged figure (see below).

The Columned-Hall, measured once 26.40 x 22.20 m, had originally a pavement in white stone, and was probably one of the most handsome pavements at Pasargadae. The columns had originally an internal height of more than 16 m. The bases are made of black stone and measure from 1.98 x 1.98 m to 2 x 2.01 m; the missing upper plinths are likely to have measured at least 1.60 m on each side; the lowest part of the column drum could have been 1.25 m in diameter. The span between columns was 5.60 m; on the transverse axis it is about 8 m. It should be mentioned that no fragments of any capitals from Gate R have ever been published. Sami, however, mentions the discovery of some broken pieces of two-headed bull or lion capitals.

Two additional rooms, each 3.80 x 4.40 m in size, stand outside the side doors, and are not figured on the published plans.

The small doorjamb of the North-eastern doorway bears the famous winged figure (fig. 16; pl. XI). A copy of the trilingual CMA inscription originally surmounted the figure: "I, Cyrus, the King, an Achaemenian" in Old Persian, Elamite, and Akkadian. The bas-relief was firstly recorded and drawn by James Morier in his visit in 1808, then by Sir William Ouseley in 1811, and by Sir Robert Ker Porter in 1818 (fig. 17). The inscription was still in position in 1860, but the entire upper part of the jamb bearing the inscription had been disappeared in 1874 when the pioneer German photograph, Friedrich Stolze, made his first visit to Pasargadae. The relief shows a four-winged, bearded figure facing left, inwards the centre of the building. It bears a crown on its head, attached to a close-fitting, ribbed cap; the crown is distinguished by a number of elements. At first, long twisted horns of Abyssinian ram, between two opposed uraie each of which supports a small solar disc. Between the uraie, are three bundles of reeds, each surmounted by a solar disc and each set against a ground of ostrich feathers; three solar discs with concentric circles mark the bottom of the reed bundles. While some archaeologists have interpreted this crown as an example of a triple "atef-crown", others have thought that it is an Egyptian crown. The winged figure bears a fringed robe that passes over the right arm; a narrow border of rosettes backs the fringe of the robe. The body is shown in full profile; the right hand is raised

in front of the chest with the figures fully extended; the left hand is less well preserved; the feet are bare. The figure, as a whole, is a synthesis of iconographic features of a royal or divine character derived from different parts of the ancient Near East. But its calm and grace attitude displays an early example of the later Achaemenid sculpture represented principally at Persepolis. Many scholars think that the figure would have represented Cyrus the Great, while some of them believe that it is the Faravahar or spiritual complement of the king.

State of Conservation

While the building is in a relatively good condition, the figure is in a permanent danger of erosion and eventual disappearance. The Italian specialists restored the jamb in 1970, and a metallic roof now covers it as a means of protection. However, it seems that an entire protection (perhaps in glass) is of ultimate urgent; violent winds of the Morqâb Plain are as destructive as its burning sun for the monuments.

6. The Royal Garden (fig. 18, pl. X)

Location

The master plan of the layout of the heart of Pasargadae consists of the palace precinct; it is a flat, walled stretch of ground lying midway between the Mausoleum of Cyrus and the Tall-e Takht. The garden area lies between the Palace P to the north and Place S to the Southwest, and Gate R to the South-eastern corner.

Description

The palaces of Cyrus were designed in spacious, well-watered ground. Each palace opened to profusion of trees, shrubs and grasses. The main features of such a ground, called rightly the Royal Garden, have been discovered in the course of excavations of the British team at Pasargadae. The watercourses of the Royal Garden cover a length of over 1100 m. They are set in asymmetrical pattern which must have determined the original position of the paths, the trees, and grassed areas within the garden.

The discovery of the watercourses and the two pavilions provided the prototype of the famous “Four Gardens” plan widely in use during the next millenniums in Central Asia, India or Iran. The Mughal emperors of India and the Safavid Shahs in Ispahan used extensively that plan in the recent centuries.

7. Pavilions A and B (fig. 18)

Location

The two rectangular constructions called by the excavator Pavilions A and B lie northeast of Palace S, and north of Gate R.

Description

These two pavilions appear to form two of the three entries (aside from Palace P) to the rectangle of the Royal Garden which was about 300 x 250 m in size.

Pavilion A is now a much denuded structure, and the reconstruction given by D. Stronach is necessarily tentative. The outstanding features of the floor of the paved central room measure 10.45 x 7.90 m.

Pavilion B, which was referred to as the Garden Pavilion in earlier reports, is located 120 m to the north of Palace S and immediately beside the present motor road. The building, much better preserved than Pavilion A, actually consists of a rectangular platform of dressed stones, approximately 11.70 x 10.15 m in area, with what were probably the foundations of opposed columned porticoes on its north-eastern and south-western sides and possibly on its other two sides as well. The central paved room was 11.60 x 10.10 m in size with wide opposed doorways in each short wall. The pavement is made up of more or less rectangular stones that are laid in regular courses at least in the southwest half of the room. The presence of two large thresholds are shown by the twin foundation stones that project from each of the paved room's shorter sides while the doorways themselves appear to have been at least 2.60 m wide. According to the excavator, some dressing marks that are still to be seen along the edges of the paved floor and on certain of the portico foundations let to suppose that the mud-brick walls of the pavilion must have varied in thickness from 1.55 to 1.70 m. The two main porticoes, each of which had an original width of 17.75 m, once possessed four columns placed 3.55 m apart, with two columns on each of the short sides of the building giving it a harmonious appearance. Stronach estimates that Pavilion B once covered an area of 24 x 21 m, as opposed to an area of 21 x 19.75 m for the over-all dimensions of Pavilion A. By its position on the private path that the king no doubt used to pass between his two main palaces, Pavilion B must be counted as a building of some importance.

8. The Bridge (fig. 19)

Location

Remains of an isolated and unparalleled structure were found in the southern half of the Palace area during the British excavations. The remains lie almost 150 m west of the Gate R belonging to the foundations of a bridge that once spanned a large canal or watercourse.

Description

The structure consists of a square hall with two opposed limestone sidewalls with five rows of three stone columns between them. The original construction had a width of about 16 m and a length of about 16 m. The original height of each column, as estimated by Stronach, was a little more than 2 m.

Date

Few parallels are known for this structure. Stronach does not suggest any certain date for the bridge. But he writes that since it is not built exactly in line with

the axis of Gate R, the bridge is plausibly a late Achaemenid or even a post-Achaemenid construction.

State of Conservation

Due to its unusual location, few traces of the Bridge can be seen today. A broken fragment of one of the stone columns can be quietly distinguished in a big trench just to the north of the route connecting Palace S and Gate R

9. The Zendan, Zendan-e Soleyman / Solomon's Prison (figs 20-21; pl. XII, and no 5 on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The monument lies halfway between the Residential Palace or Palace P and the Tall-e Takht, about 1500 m north of the Mausoleum of Cyrus. The present road running from the Mausoleum of Cyrus towards the Tall-e Takht passes beside the Zendan.

Description

The tall stone tower that rises to a height of about 14 m to the north of the palace area is locally called Zendan-e Soleyman or the "Prison of Solomon" (hereafter the Zendan). The monument consists of a square tower, buttressed at the corners with three rows of false windows on three sides of the building. A staircase, now completely destroyed, originally led to a single, windowless room in the upper part of the building. The base of the monument consists of a triple-stepped plinth, flanked on one side by a wide pavement. As for the masonry of the monument, it consists of large, finely cut blocks of stone laid without mortar in regular, horizontal courses. Save for one hidden buff stone foundation course and twenty inset, blind windows, the whole monument was made of white stone. The oblong chamber was 3.21 m wide, 4.73 m high and about 4 m long. The pavement covers a surface of about 288 m².

Date

No precise date has yet been suggested either for the Zendan or the comparable monument of Ka'abe-ye Zartosht at Naqsh-e Rostam, near Persepolis. These monuments could have been built in Achaemenid period but no archaeological confirmation can be presented to support such an attribution.

10. The Sacred Precinct (figs 22-23; pl. XII and under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The area situated at a distant spot of the site is often called 'sacred precinct' by the excavators. Today, the only visible monuments are two freestanding stone structures lying beyond a canal that joins the river Polvar. At a distant of about 100 m

west of these two stone plinths, lies a smooth mound, which was once a mud-brick platform.

Description

The south plinth is constituted of two main elements: a square plinth and a stepped structure (fig. 22). The central cube of the plinth consists of a hollow white block approximately 2.16 m high and 2.43 m at the base; the top of the plinth was designed to support a three-tiered black limestone cap. The staircase consists of eight steps. The foundations of the plinth consist of three massive blocks of stone.

The north plinth seems to represent a simpler form of the south one without staircase (fig. 22). The plinth is 2.10 m high while its base is 2.80 m. The main cube is made of a big hollow block. According to Stronach, the largest stone reached the site in a damaged condition due to the attempt to reduce the weight of the stone.

A third broken plinth discovered at remote spots of the plain, could also belong to the Sacred Precinct.

Just over 120 m to the west of the two stone plinths, there is a small mound called the Terraced Mound because of the discovered structures. The length of the mound is about 75 m; its width tapers from 50.40 m at the north end to 46.65 m at the south end; the height of the mound is about 5 m above the level of the surrounding plain. Herzfeld, who carried out a preliminary survey of the area, observed that the mound contained some structures that were apparently arranged into terraces. The British excavations proved the existence of several platforms in dry-stone. The arrangement of the terraces as a whole presents a symmetrical plan. There were six terraces superimposed on each other to form probably a sacred place; the first one is a massive platform whose perimeter wall in dry-stone at ground level was preserved to a height of more than 2 m. at the time of excavations in 1960's. Two dry-stone staircases, one on the north face some 2.20 m high and 1.50 m broad, and the other on the eastern face, which can be guessed by a discrepancy in the alignment of this face, reached this platform. Upon the platform, rose two parallel terraces in dry stone, which were surmounted, by two other small terraces. These supported another one perpendicular; the last one was a mud-brick terrace with an area of 15 x 20 m. An enclosure wall in dry-stone closed the whole area of the Sacred Precinct (fig. 23).

A small hoard of gold objects was discovered from the paved terrace in the course of excavations in 1963. It consists only of three perforated, terminal strips of gold, several intermediate strips of gold of varying length and thickness, a plain gold sleeve, and a split carnelian barrel bead. The excavator has suggested a date for the hoard towards the end of the occupation of the Mound, sometime in the post-Achaemenid period.

Date

According to D. Stronach it is possible that the erection of the two plinths or fire altars belongs to Cyrus's reign (550-530 B.C.); as for the Terraced Mound, it can be either Achaemenid or post-Achaemenid.

State of Conservation

Because of its location outside the protected zone, the area of the Sacred Precinct has been part of agricultural activities since the British excavations in the 1960's.

11. Tall-e Nokhodi (fig. 24 and under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

Small prehistoric mound of Tall-e Nokhodi lies 200 m north of the modern village of Mobarakabad, and about 800 m west of the Mausoleum of Cyrus (fig. 2).

Description

Tall-e Nokhodi or the Buff Mound (as it is called by the local people) is a small mound, 120 m long and 80 m wide. A modern irrigation ditch roughly defines its limits. The mound has a slight depression in the centre, and at its highest point raises only a little over 2 m above the level of the surrounding plain.

The mound was first examined and excavated by A. Sami on behalf of the Iranian Archaeological Service in 1951. Clare Goff undertook a series of careful excavations later under the direction of D. Stronach in 1961 and 1962.

The British excavations revealed prehistoric architectural remains in mud-brick, and pottery vessels showing buff ware and red ware of the early and late fourth millennium B.C. According to C. Goff, the three architectural levels discovered at Tall-e Nokhodi may be taken as falling somewhere between 3200 and 2500 B.C.

Another prehistoric site (Ahmadiyah), discovered 3 years ago (1999), is situated just to the north of Tall-e Nokhodi (see under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file). It will be published by C. Adle in near future.

State of Conservation

Tall-e Nokhodi is completely surrounded by agricultural fields; it is, however, intact for the time being; the mound is not physically protected. Some protection measures, such as a metallic fence or something like are needed.

12. Toll-e Khari (see under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

Toll-e Khari or the Thorny Mound lies about 400 m northwest of the Sacred Precinct, and about 800 m northeast of the modern village of Abol-Verdi (fig. 2).

Description

The mound was briefly excavated by A. Sami in 1950 who has given but a very short description. The mound is about 100 m long and 35 m wide; its height is

about 5 m. Sami reports on prehistoric pottery vessels which he dates, with uncertainty, to the third millennium B.C.

State of Conservation

Like Tall-e Nokhodi, agricultural fields also bound Toll-e- Khari to the east; the development of the modern village of Abol-Verdi is a serious danger too.

13. Tall-e Se Asiyab (see under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The mound is situated behind, about 800 m northwest of the Tall-e Takht, beside the Polvar (fig. 2).

Description

Tall-e Se Asiyab, is a circular mound. No exact measurement is available for Tall-e Se Asiyab. The mound has not yet been excavated, but one can easily find painted sherds on its surface.

State of Conservation

The mound of Tall-e Se Asiyab surrounded by agricultural lands would be in danger in the coming years.

14. Do Talan (see under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The twin mound of Do Talan lies about 2500 m south of the Mausoleum of Cyrus (fig. 2).

Description

Do-Tolan or the Twin Mound is formed by two mounds: Do-Tolan A, which is the smallest, and Do-Tolan B that is the largest. Mound A is 360 m long (East/West), 153 m wide, and 12 m high. Sir Aurel Stein briefly investigated do-Tolan A in 1934. As for Do-Tolan B, no archaeological description is available. A rough examination in spring 1998 shows that the mound has an approximate height of 14 m.

State of Conservation

Do-Tolan has been the best-preserved prehistoric mound at Pasargadae. However, a recent irrigation canal has cut its south-western side; agricultural fields which are considered a serious danger surround the mound.

15. The Madrassah or Caravanserai (fig. 25, pl. XIV)

Location

About 100 m north of the Mausoleum of Cyrus, to the left of the modern road running from Madar-e Soleyman village to the Tall-e Takht (fig. 2).

Description

The monument was primarily built of the transported stones from Achaemenid monuments of Pasargadae. The plan is a square 45.20 x 40.30 m. A series of rooms are organized around a court of 18.50 x 16.50 (fig. 22).

Date

The monument was built under Shah Shoj'a (1358-1374 A.D.) of the Deylamite dynasty, in 14th century. According to Wolfram Kleiss who examined the monument, it must be a religious school or madrassah which formed a religious centre with the Mausoleum of Mother of Salomon (namely the Mausoleum of Cyrus) after the building of the mosque (now disappeared) around the tomb. It was disaffected later and became a caravanserai probably in the late 18th/early 19th century.

16. Kuh-e (Tape) Hazrat-e Ya'qub (pl. XV, see under the name on the map in figure 2 attached to the end of the file)

Location

The hill lies at the farthest point, north of the Morghab plain, 1 km north of the Tall-e Takht (fig. 2).

Tape-e Hazarat-e Ya'qub (Prophet Jacob's Hill) is a very unique hill at Pasargadae. It is the highest one on the Morghab plain. Moreover, it is the only hill on the plain that is still covered by trees; it should be noted that wood resources in the region are very rare. The hill is locally a sacred place with an emamzadeh behind its western foothill. The local people believe that Prophet Ya'qub (Coranic name of Biblical Jacob) passed by the hill; because of this reason, the local people have fortunately not cut the trees; they consider it a profanation to the sacred place. No description of this hill is available either in travellers' accounts or in archaeological reports. The importance of the hill as a sacred place dates likely to the islamization of Pasargadae as early as the 10th century A.D., and it could be as important as the cultural monuments of Pasargadae.

3. b. History and Development

As far as how the site of Pasargadae has reached its present form and condition, it should be noted that our knowledge on pre-Achaemenid periods at Pasargadae is very scant. It is, however, clear that the plain of Pasargadae had been a

considerable centre in the 4th and 3rd millennium B.C. No connection is found between these prehistoric mounds and the Achaemenid Pasargadae. It is a possibility that the site had been occupied before the Achaemenians, in Elamite period (i.e. before the 6th century B.C.). Anyway, the importance of the site rose with its choice as the first capital of the Achaemenians in mid-sixth century B.C. After Cyrus the Great, Pasargadae served as an important dynastic centre for the Achaemenians until the fall of the Achaemenid Empire in 330 B.C. Aside from the Tall-e Takht that played a fortification role, most of the monuments on the plain of Pasargadae were abandoned after the Macedonian conquest. Without any maintenance, the palaces were gradually destroyed. Nothing is recorded of Pasargadae during the following Persian empires, i.e. that of the Parthians and Sassanians. Few poor carvings in Pahlavi (middle Persian language) have been attributed to the early Islamic period, probably to the late 7th century A.D. It was after the fall of the Sassanians, from 7th century onwards, that the Mausoleum of Cyrus was called the Tomb of Mother of Salomon. The attribution of the site by the local people to Salomon or his mother certainly preserved the monuments from fanatic destruction that can be seen on some of the constructions at Persepolis. Pasargadae regained its importance in the 10th century A.D. under the Deylamites who erected a small mosque around the tomb. This mosque erected by column drums of the palaces shaped a courtyard; three entrances lied in northwest, northeast, and southeast of the courtyard; all of these had been taken from the Achaemenid constructions of the site. It seems that after 14th century A.D., Deylamite mosque and madrasseh were abandoned. The people settled nearby, at the present village of Madar-e Soleyman (Village of Mother of Salomon). During the centuries, they continued to reuse stone elements of the Achaemenid monuments for their private uses, save for the Mausoleum of Cyrus and the mosque around it. Until a very recent date, they used to remove stone pavement of the Palaces to make tombstones for village cemetery. Travellers' description in the course of the 19th century gives an interesting account of the gradual disappearance of architectural elements of the monuments. For instance, one does mention the disappearance of the trilingual inscription above the winged-figure of Gate R, sometime between 1850 and 1870. It was not until 1928 that scientific excavations began at Pasargadae by Ernst Herzfeld. In 1950, Ali Sami of the Archaeological Service of Iran undertook a series of excavations on the palaces and the Tall-e Takht. He also made some restorations on the Mausoleum of Cyrus and the palaces. In the early years of 1960's, David Stronach carried out a meticulous examination of all the Achaemenid monuments of the site. In the late 1960's and the early years of 1970's, Giuseppe and Ann-Brit Tilia carried out several campaigns of restoration at Pasargadae which remain the essential restoration work at the site. The Tilias could replace some architectural elements on their original position and reconstruct partly Palaces P and S; they also worked on Gate R and the Zendan; the latter would have been collapsed without Italians' restorations. In 1970, in the occasion of the 2500th anniversary of the Persian monarchy, the mosque around the Mausoleum of Cyrus was destroyed. The restaurateurs had to bring back the architectural elements to theirs original position in the Achaemenid monuments. So the courtyard disappeared, and a platform was built around the Mausoleum of Cyrus preparing the monument for the visit of the shah of Iran. After 1979, no major change has taken place at Pasargadae. The Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great is still considered

as a place of pilgrimage by local people. This fact has had an important role for protection of the monument.

3.c. Form and date of the most recent records of the site

The most recent record of the site, after the Italian restorations, is dated to the spring 1998 when the site was revisited and re-examined for the present dossier.

3.d. Present State of Conservation (see also the appendix)

The most recent record concerning the present state of conservation for each monument is given in 3.a. with the description of the monuments, and in the appendix.

4. Management (see the appendix)

4a. Ownership

All the lands within the Pasargadae's metallic enclosure (see fig. 2) which contains the main monuments belong to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran through the Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran (ICHO). The core zones of the sites within the 4 other areas, i.e. Sacred Precinct, Tall-e Se Asiyab, Do Talan and Tall-e Nokhodi, also belong to ICHO, but the lands within their buffer zones are under private ownership (see fig 2).

4b. Legal status

The Organization is a branch of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Propaganda of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The organization is charged to protect all historic monuments in Iran.

4c. Protective measures and means of implementing them (see the appendix)

Pasargadae was nominated in the National Heritage List of Iran in 1931 under the item 19. The site can thus benefit from a special programme devoted to important historical sites known as National Heritage. A metallic enclosure protects the main sites (see fig 2). The guardians of the site maintain a permanent control. Nine guardians employed by the local office of the Cultural Heritage Organization are present on the site. They are charged to survey and protect the site.

4d. Agency/agencies with management authority

The Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran through its local office in Shiraz and Persepolis. The address is: Office of the Cultural Heritage Organization, Arg Street, Arg-e Karimkhani, Shiraz. See also the appendix.

4e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on site, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes:

Level at which management is exercised is a national one called the Achaemenid Project. The local office of the Cultural Heritage Organization installed at Persepolis exercises the management; the name of the responsible for the site is Mr Mohammad-Hasan Talebian, Persepolis, Marv-Dasht, and Shiraz. A local responsible, Ali Ahmadi, is also present at the site, Madar-e Soleyman village, (Pasargad), Shiraz.

4f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)

A recent restoration plan for Pasargadae is available. See the Appendix.

4g. Sources and levels of finance

Sources come annually from governmental budget of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Propaganda. As for the research credit, there is a common budget for the Achaemenid Project of Fars (Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rostam, Pasargadae. As for the conservation of the site, there is a special budget for. For details see the appendix.

4h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

See the appendix.

4i. Visitor facilities and statistics

The site possesses few visitor facilities at Pasargadae. For detailed information, see the appendix.

4j. Site management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)

See the appendix.

4k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

Professional for punctual controls of the state of conservation; technical for restoration work; and local for daily maintenance and protection. See the appendix.

5. Factors affecting the site

5a. Development pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture)

There is only agricultural pressure on the site of Pasargadae. Developed agricultural fields are a serious danger for the prehistoric mounds of the site. See the appendix.

5b. Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate, change)

See the appendix.

5c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)

In spite of the fact that some earthquakes have been recorded during the past centuries in the region, there is no record of any recent earthquake from the early 20th century up to now. See the appendix for a detailed discussion.

5d. Visitor/tourism pressures

See the appendix.

5e. Number of inhabitants within site, buffer zone

None, only the Guardians. The number of inhabitants of the neighbouring village (Madar-e Soleyman) is about 1000. See also the appendix.

5f. Other

See the appendix.

6. Monitoring/Inspection

6a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation (see the appendix)

Thirteen years ago, when the Italians began to restore the monuments of Pasargadae, almost all the monuments seriously needed to be repaired. A very good key indicator is the winged figure of Gate R. The drawings and photographs taken from the early 19th century onwards show that the relief has been damaged progressively in the course of time. Early restorations in the 1970's fixed the figure on its stone jambs, but they did not solve the climatic problem that has remained as main danger for the relief. For further information, see the appendix.

6b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property

A regular inspection is carried out by the staff of the local office of the Cultural Heritage Organization at Persepolis and Shiraz. A brief report on the state of conservation of the site is sent regularly to the head office of Shiraz which reports on in its turn to the central office in Tehran. See the appendix.

6c. Results of previous reporting exercises

The earliest published report on the state of conservation of the site is that of A. Sami in 1950 (see bibliography) and that made by D. Stronach in 1960's in his book (see bibliography). Both of these reports have indicated the deteriorated state of conservation of Mausoleum of Cyrus, the winged figure of Gate R, the Zendan, and the reliefs of Palaces P and S. A summary of this published state of conservation is given under section 3 of the present dossier. Very few official reports are persevered in the archives of the Cultural Heritage Organization in Tehran. The earliest of these reports is dated to 1986. They concern mainly a brief account of restorations undertook on Palaces S and P, Gate R, and repairs of the damaged parts of the enclosure of the site. No detailed account of the state of conservation of Pasargadae is available as far as the present writer knows. For a detailed report, see the appendix.

7. Documentation

7a. Photographs, slides, and where available, film/video

See the end of the dossier.

7b. Copies of site management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the site

See the plans at the end of the file.

7c. Bibliography

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8. Conclusion and recommended actions

Today, the site of ancient Pasargadae seems to be preserved in a good condition and state of conservation. Despite the all efforts made by the Cultural Heritage Organization of Iran, the protection of the monuments inside the buffer zone is a difficult task and it needs more attention. Two protection measures could be recommended here: 1. The protected area must be broadened in order to cover every important monument or site on the plain. 2. Conservation activities must be increased in a regular rhythm in order to have a control on the state of conservation of the monuments.

9. Signature on behalf of the State Party.

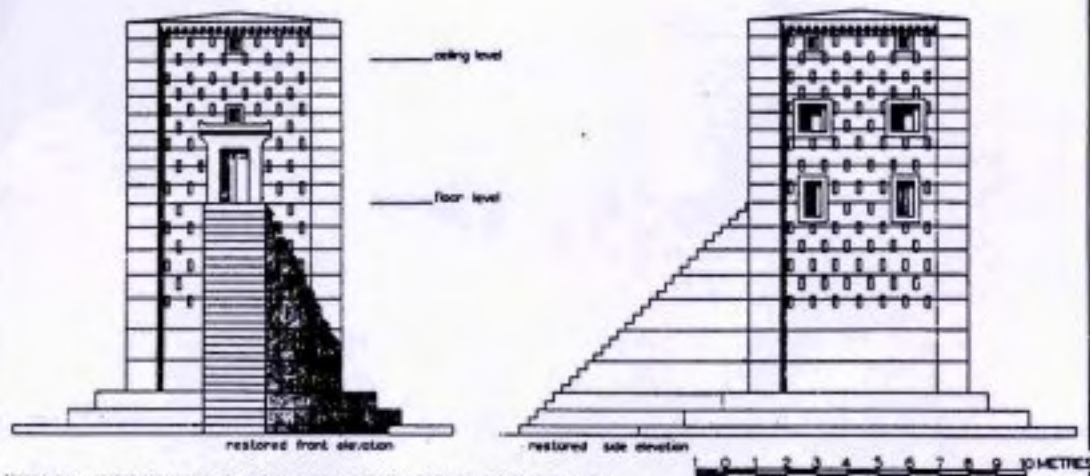
Jalil Golshan
Research Deputy Director
I. C. H. O.

31 December 2002

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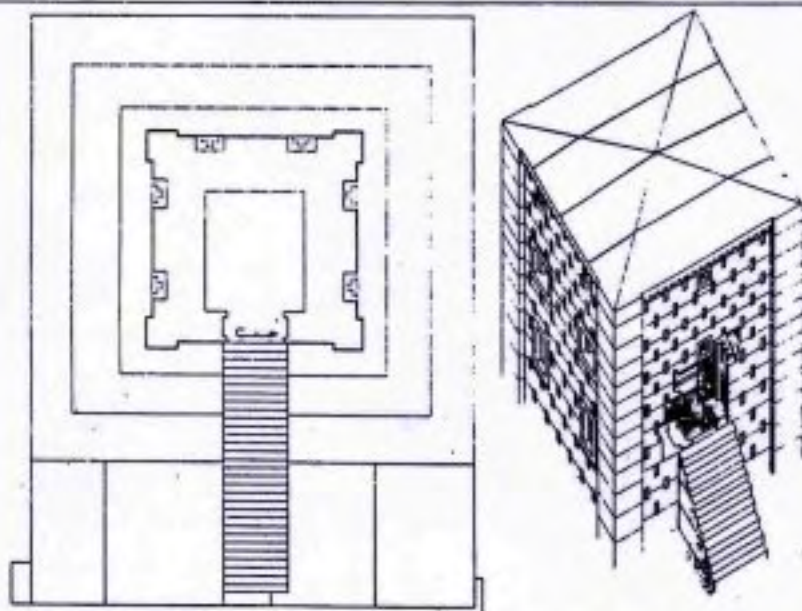
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"THE ZENDAN-I-SULEIMAN" PASARGADAE

The above restorations are entirely based on the detailed measurement of stone-work on the site November 1963. © Brassey & M. E. Weaver 00 005

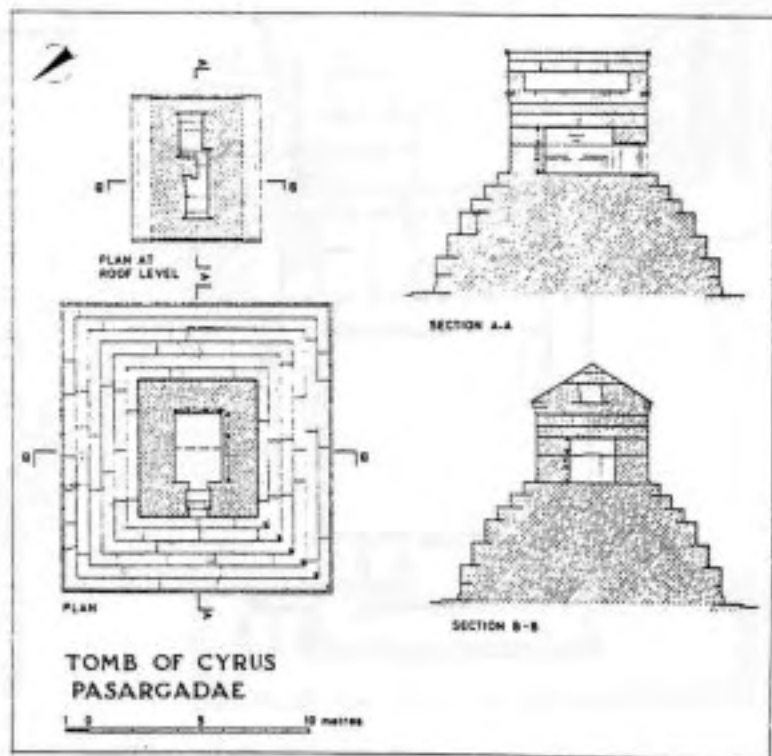
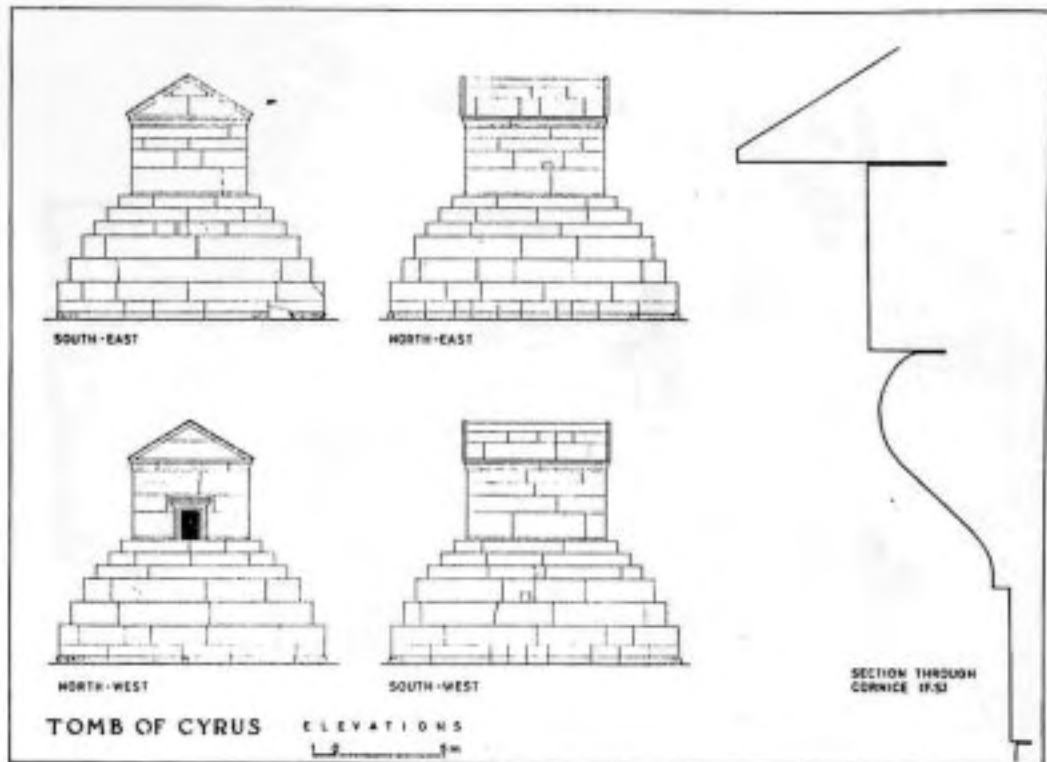


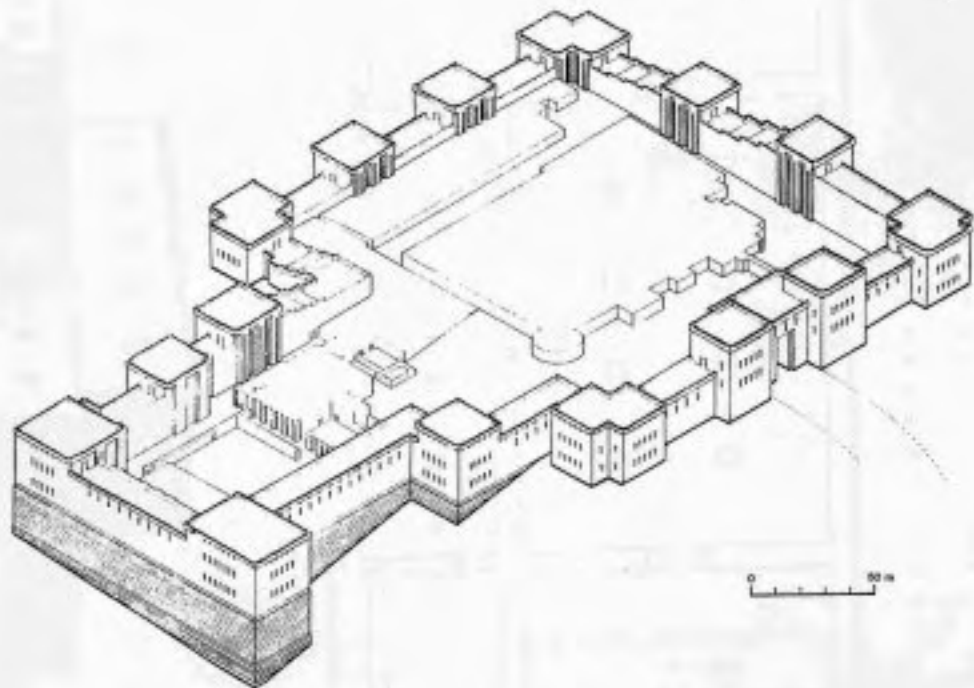
"THE ZENDAN-I-SULEIMAN" PASARGADAE

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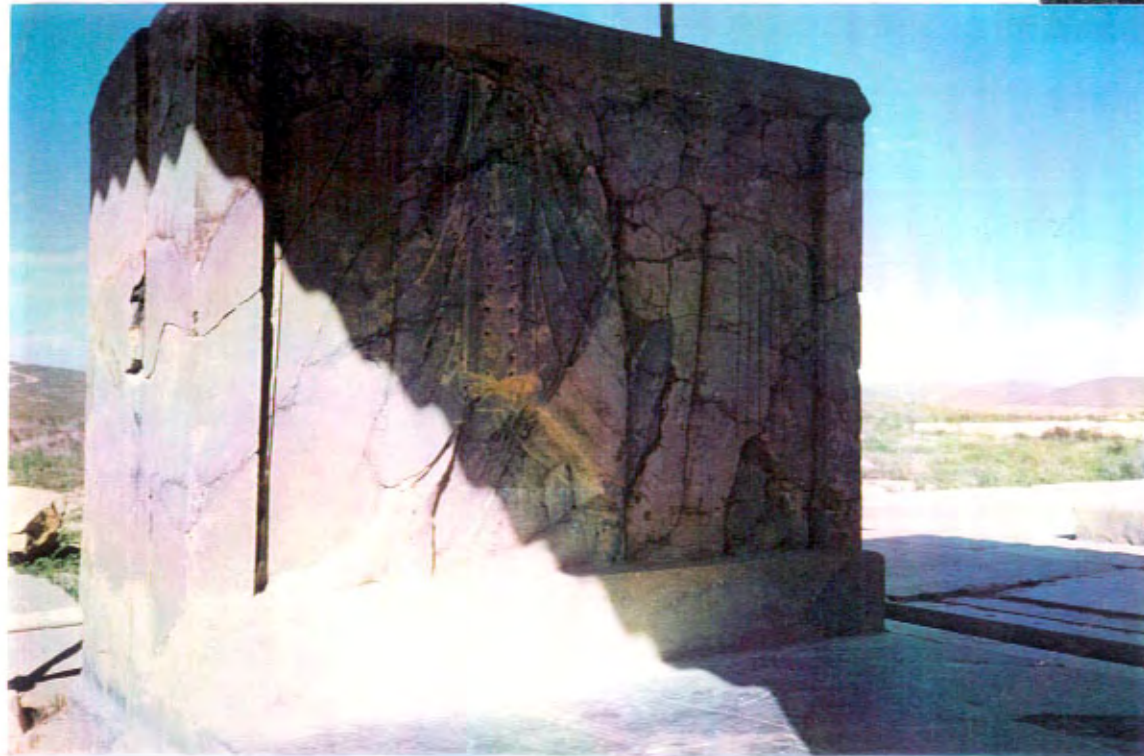


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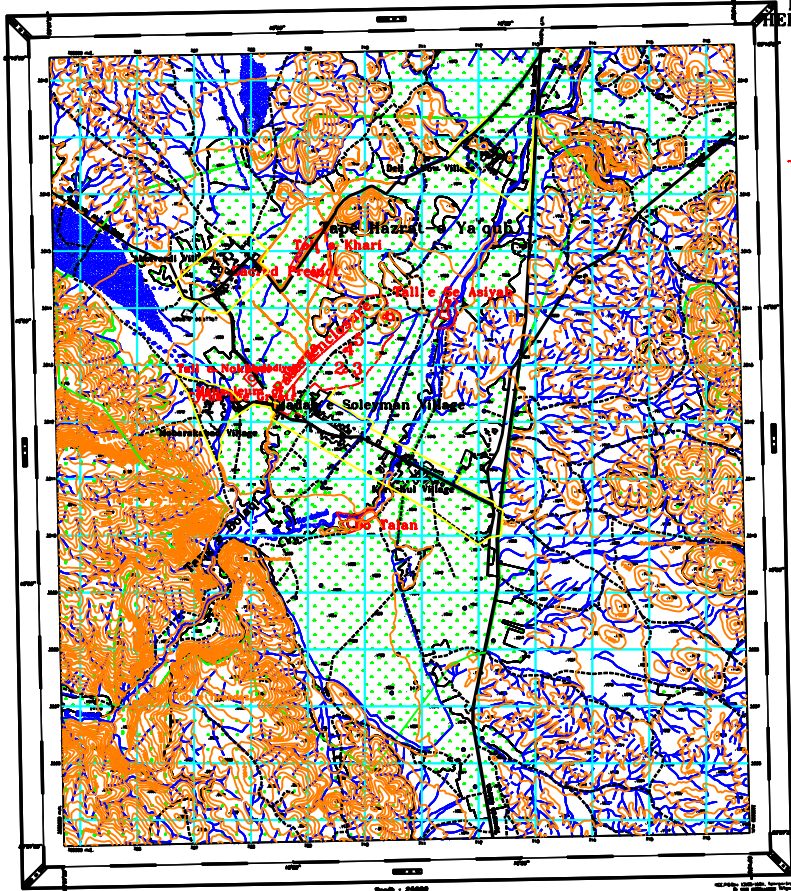
VII. Palace P (Residential Palace) from the South ▶



◀ **VIII. Palace P (Residential Palace).Detail of relief on the Right-hand jamb of the North-West Doorway**

PASARGADAЕ

IRANIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANIZATION



Archaeological Map of Pasargadae and the boundaries of the sites
 the year of 2008, No. 114

- Legend**
- Pasargadae's main ancient boundary lines in one and other areas
 - 1: Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great
 - 2: Audience Hall, Palace S
 - 3: Gate House, Gate II
 - 4: Residential Palace, Palace P
 - 5: Swallow-tail Soleyman (Soleyman's Palace)
 - 6: Tomb of Soleyman (Soleyman's Tomb), Tomb of Soleyman
 - Limits of the core area other than Pasargadae itself
 - Limits of the buffer zone other than Pasargadae
 - Limits of the core area zone
 - Extension range of network monitor zone (boundary zone of 200m - 200m)

- Buildings and archaeological remains
- Cemetery / Tomb
- Palace / Audience Hall
- Gate House / Residential Palace
- Tomb of Soleyman / Tomb of Soleyman
- Road
- Canal
- River
- Water Tank
- Well
- Spring
- Peak / Mountain Peak

Scale: 1:20000

Scale 1:20000

Scale 1:20000

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Scale: 1:20000

Scale: 1:20000

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PASARGADAE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

National Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization

Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation

2002, version 1.1

Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great, building scaffoldings



Introduction

The present management plan has been compiled on the basis of analyzing the current situation in order to prepare a better programming pattern and future for Pasargadae. The plan discusses the methods of raising the authorities' and local settlers' insight and knowledge with respect to the area's invaluable significance. It also provides a background for a long-term improvement pattern on the basis of the present monuments of the Morghab plain (Pasargadae area) from the cultural heritage view point.

Owing to the nature of the issue, the plan no doubt will need continuous revisions and interpretations in appropriate times and conditions. The present paper shows the situation as it stands now. It was compiled with the energetic aid of young interested researchers, and from this point of view, it has revealed itself as a valuable experience.

Undoubtedly the future revisions will complete the present report and help to prepare a brilliant future for Pasargadae.

Mohammad H. Talebian

Head of Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation

Pasargadae Management Team

Main corp.:

- M-H. Talebian: Head of Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation and Pasargadae Team.
- M. Bazljoo: Historical monument conservation expert.
- A. Poor-Moghaddam: Historical and cultural monuments conservation expert.
- S. Aminz-Zadeh: Historical monument conservation expert.
- A. Bargh-Dahandeh : Historical and cultural monuments conservation expert.

Members:

- B. Bahrami: Expert on Architecture.
- Dr. A. Shapur-Shahbazi: Consultant.
- M. Kazemi: Head of Historical Site
- Kh. Bahari: historian (Achaemenid period)
- M. Rezai-Monfared: Head of the Marvdasht Site.
- A. Mahmoud-Zadeh: Head of Parse-Pasargadae Research Department
- A. Ahmadi: Head of Pasargadae Site's Technical Office.
- B. Kial: Restoration expert.
- M. Rekhshani: Restoration expert.
- G. Zaei: Secretary
- E. Yousephi: Driver

Collaborators:

- O. Ud-Bashi: photographer, A. Emadi: computer, R. Ataii: periodical reports, M. Rahimi, M. Homayun and A. Molla-Hosseini: technicians of the Pasargadae technical office, A. Khosravani: former mayor of Pasargadae, E. Bujalo, Dr. A. Hatami and Gh. Rajabi: members of the Islamic Council of Madar-e Soleyman village, D. Siavoshi: supplier and A. Soltani: service.

CHAPTER 1

1.1 Main goals of the management plan

1.1.1 Some generalities

UNESCO's description of outstanding architectural monuments and historical sites as human beings treasuries creates a deep insight in one's mind thereby forcing him / her to be sensitive to the issue of invaluable cultural monuments protection as a necessity. On the other hand, since a firm grasp of a monument and awareness of its moral value, becomes possible only after perceiving the connection with its creating culture and historical as well as natural milieu, thus the issue of conservation should guaranty the physical duration of the archaeological site and the monuments therein, strengthen the visual features of the available landscape, extend and improve the biological conditions, and finally raise the local population's insight and knowledge about the cultural value of the site through introducing it as a cultural landscape.

Our management plan is in concordance with the above viewpoint and is compiled with the aim of introducing Pasargadae to be registered in the UNESCO's WH list.

1.1.2 The main aims of the management plan

- To clarify the appropriate strategy so as to improve the current management of the site, its monuments and landscape in order to preserve and strengthen their unique outstanding universal value.
- To Clarify the priorities of the program in order to provide the cornerstones of the comprehensive plan to be compiled in the near future; to provide facilities in order to increase the number of site's visitors, and finally, to actualise the area's agricultural potentialities by means of improving its current management.
- To increase the awareness of the existing divers institutions on the economical and cultural benefits of the presence of a WHS in the area for the region and the country, and to increase such benefits without disturbing the area's old structures through close collaboration with local organizations.
- To raise peoples' interest and insight of the site by presenting them its cultural, educational and economical values on archaeological, historical, landscaping and natural levels.
- To facilitate and promote continuous scientific researches in such areas as the history and archaeology of the site, the way in which its present landscape has been formed, the methods of conservation of its monuments and, finally, to study the applicability of our existing or in preparation management plans with other regional and national development existing plans or in preparation by other organizations.

1.2. Status

1.2.1. The legal description of Pasargadae

Pasargadae was inscribed in the National Heritage List of Iran on September the 15th, 1931.

By the Law of Conservation of National Monuments, approved in November the 3rd 1930, all the monuments registered in the National Heritage List are under the State's protection and supervision.

In addition, a number of other protection laws, such as the Law of Foundation of National Council of City constructing and Architecture, Law of City constructing and Architecture, Law of City Properties approved in September the 12th, 1982, Law of Purchase of properties, buildings and archaeological monuments as well as some chapters of the Law of City Halls force the State or private administrations to respect registered monuments in the National Heritage List. Part of these laws also applies in addition to general or local plans for the extension and management of village areas. These sections of laws apply to Pasargadae as there are villages within its Landscape buffer Zone (see map 2 in the main report and the paragraph 1. 2. 2). These laws also imply collaborations between diverse Stat or private administrations with the ICHO.

Some preventive laws have also been approved to guaranty the physical maintenance of National Monuments of Iran and preserve their cultural-historical values. Among these laws one may mention a parliamentary bill prohibiting illegal excavations, paragraphs of the Law of Islamic Punishments or the chapter 127 of the Annex to the General Punishment Law in Iran.

One of our present priorities is to inform all concerned organizations on local, provincial and national levels about the implications of the Management Plan of Pasargadae whether they concern its short, middle or long-term future. We insist when informing them on the advantages of the plan particularly for the cultural and economical prosperity of the region.

1.2.2. The Madar-e Soleyman and other villages

The main inhabited area in Pasargadae region is the village of Madar-e Soleyman (village of Solomon's Mother), but in the neighbourhood of the Pasargadae site and Madar-e Soleyman there are four other villages situated within the landscape buffer zone: Mobarakabad, Abolvardi Deh-e Now and Kordshul (see map, fig 2 in the main plan). They lack a comprehensive development plans. Though this has slowed down the implementation of development projects in general, in our case it has produced an opportunity to work on a suitable management plan for Pasargadae within its landscape buffer zone and in connection with this villages. The whole area in general (even behind the buffer zone) is considered and common cultural, social and economical goals are discussed in local, regional and provincial councils. Discussions go as far as considering the necessity, or the lack of necessity, of revising the present administrative limits of the area and the region within the Fars Province in which Pasargadae is situated.

1.3. Necessity of the management plan's compilation

1.3.1. The monuments of Pasargadae have suffered in the past and have been more or less damaged. The damages were mostly caused by natural factors, but human interventions and destructions have been important too. Direct human destructions take place no more, but an end must be put to indirect causes (such as pollution if any), natural causes or improper controlled expansion of the inhabited areas (villages for instance, see above, 1.2.2).

1.3.2. Three of outstanding monuments of Iran were registered in the WHL long ago: Persepolis, Chogha-Zanbil and Naqsh-e Jahān Square together with its architectural complexes in Isfahan, but their number being too small relative to the great number of highly important sites in Iran, ICHO felt that the List needed to be completed. In that respect, a fourth site – Takht-e Soleyman – was submitted last year and the present dossier on Pasargadae is a new step in that direction.

1.3.3. As the WH Committee very rightly insists on the necessity of having a management plan for each site, the present report was prepared as supplement to the main dossier submitted separately in 4 copies. This presentation is based on a selection of documents on ongoing works and studies carried out at Pasargadae.

1.4. Structure of the management plan

Given that a management plan can only be successful if its different parts and executive phases are well considered and properly interconnected, the following points were constantly kept in mind to reach that harmony:

- The determination of the boundaries of the site's core and buffer zones. Much attention has been paid to the site's natural landscape and its buffer zones as well as its monuments. Archaeological and historical specifications, current situation of the site were considered too.
- Apprehension of the basic administrative problems of Pasargadae; clarification and detection of the weakness and strengths of points related to the site; finding, précising and classifying the goals to reach; investigating the feasibility of the projects; explaining and enumerating the management plan's priorities; determining the strategies and defining the mechanisms for the plan's enforcement according to its priorities; clarifying the role of the governmental and private organisations; finding financial sources; studying the manner in which the new administrative structure should be implemented and maintained; finding out preclusive factors, and ultimately, produces necessary mechanisms for the plan's implementation, supervision whenever necessary, its control and producing periodical reports.

1.5. Preparation of the management plan

1.5.1 Pasargadae Team

Pasargadae team for preparing and implementing the management plan in accordance with international conventions and WH's concerns and priorities was formed in April 2002 by Parsa – Pasargadae Research Foundation.

Since that time the team has worked continuously in Pasargadae. Several consultative sessions have taken place with the members of the councils which represent the population of the villages situated within the landscape buffer zone of Pasargadae (especially the members of the Islamic Councils of Pasargadae and Marvdasht). The team also participated in the WH educational workshop which took place in Iran. A complete list of the members and other colleagues who collaborated for the preparation of this dossier is presented at the beginning of these pages. The publications and printed material used in this dossier are mentioned in the next paragraph.

1.5.2. Publications and sources used for the preparation of Pasargadae management plan

A great deal of publication including books, papers, maps and plates published in Iran or the other countries were and are used in the studies carried out in Pasargadae. Here are some examples taken in consideration in the preparation of the present dossier.

- Blandford, Chris, *Stonehenge World heritage Site Management plan*, English heritage, 2000.
- Ishizawa, Yoshiaki, Endo, Nobuo, *Study on the conservation of monuments and sites and socio-cultural development: a new methodology of historical engineering*, Tokyo, Sophie University.
- *James Island and its related sites, The Gambia management plan*, 2001-2005.
- Jokilehto, Jukka, *Practical approaches of monument registering in the world heritage list, 1st educational workshop WH convention in Iran, 2001* (In Persian).
- *Kasubi Management plan*, Uganda, Africa 2009, 2001.

Maps include:

- 1/ 25000 maps of the Iran. Ed. NCC., 1999.
- 1/ 50000 maps of Iran, ed. Geographical Organization of the [Iranian] Army, 1969.
- Aerial 1 / 3000 colour and 1 / 8000 black and white aerial pictures of Pasargadae ordered by the ICHO and taken by NCC., 2001.
- 1/ 100000 geological maps of the Iran, ed. Geological Organization of Iran.
- Regional ecological maps, pub. Sahhab Cartographical Institute.
- Iran's National Atlas, Volume on Geology, pub. The State Management and Planning Organization.

CHAPTER 2

2.1. Current Management

2.1.1. Ownership:

Land possessions are divided in two categories: private and state possessions:

Private possessions consist of about 85 % of the whole lands in Pasargadae. All of the farming lands whose original possessor was the 'Khan' (Landlord) of Pasargadae now belong to the area's farmers. All of the habitable houses of the Pasargadae, Kordshul, Mobarakabad, Abolvardi and Deh-e Now villages also belongs to the villagers themselves.

State possessions cover all (15%) of the remaining lands in Pasargadae. 14% out of these 15% belong to the State of Iran (meaning that a particular State agency does not own them), the rest (1%) belong to particular organizations such as the Old Pasargadae Regional Management Office, schools, health centres, gendarmerie posts, banks and naturally the core zone of Pasargadae itself (see detached map, fig 2 in the main dossier) and the area round the Pasargadae's museum (in construction).

For the limits and boundaries of the lands see detached map, fig2 in the main dossier.

For the surfaces of the ICHO's proprieties see the tables at the beginning of the main dossier.

2.4.1. Land users

As stated in the preceding paragraph, 85 % of lands in the area belong to the farmers. Farms occupy 95% and gardens 5% of these 85%. The plain of Morghab has a gentle slope, fertile soil and enjoys sufficient precipitation in appropriate seasons.

The residential areas are in five villages: Pasargadae (Madaer-e Soleyman), Abolverdy, Kordshul, Mobarakabad and Deh-e Now. Some of these areas have been built after the revolution (1979), while others such as (Madaer-e Soleyman) itself, show a great growth in their inhabited areas after that date.

2.4.2. Authorities

The following organizations are directly responsible for the Pasargadae site:

- ICHO (Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization)
- PPRF (Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation)
- Marvdasht Cultural Heritage Organization
- Madar-e Soleyman (Pasargadae) rural district
- Ministry of Islamic Orientation and Culture (former Ministry of Culture and Art)
- Iran Tourism Organization
- Fars Provincial Organization
- Natural Resources Organisation
- Governorship (Ministry of Interior)
- Safa-Shahr City-hall
- Prosperity Projects Organisation

Other concerned organizations:

- City construction Organization
- Natural resource Administration
- Natural Resource Administration
- University of Shiraz
- Open university of Saādat-Shahr
- Open University of Marvdasht
- Open University of Shiraz

2.4.3. Responsibilities of the ICHO

- Producing research programs
- Investigating on monuments
- Performing archaeological and scientific researches
- Following up of legal affairs
- Supplying necessary plans for protection, repair and conservation of monuments
- Studying the possibilities of revising the core and buffer zones in connection with new research carried out in the area.
- Constructing a documentary centre.
- Enforcement of educational programs for training specialists (upgrading human resources)
- Encouraging local people and visitors to collaborate in activities related to the site
- Organising local cultural heritage societies
- Maintaining scientific and cultural relationships with organizations on national and international levels.
- Collaboration with Iran Tourism Organisation

2.4.4. Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation (PPRF)

The formation of PPRF in 1999 was intended to produce conservation programs and improve the management of monuments and Achaemenian sites such as Persepolis, Pasargadae, Naqsh-e Rostam, Estakhr.

Other duties of the PPRF include:

- Research in conservation, preservation and in archaeology
- Organising management program groups
- Producing periodical reports for Persepolis and Pasargadae
- Introducing Achaemenian sites and monuments at large by publication
- Providing a suitable background for collaboration with other organizations

Some of the measures already taken by PPRF includes:

- Formation of Pasargadae Technical Department
- Improvement of the available tourism potentialities on Pasargadae site
- Resumption of retarded prosperity projects
- Local investigation in Pasargadae in order to produce diverse maps
- Identification of destructive factors and ways to contain or reduce them
- Taking of aerial photographs of the area, scale of 1:3000 and 1:8000 in 1999

Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation (PPRF) working force amounts to:

Members	No.
Conservation of relics expert	7
Conservation of cultural relics expert	7
Archaeological expert	3
Historians (Achaemenian period)	1
Expert on Architecture	3
Expert on structure	1
Bookkeeper	1
Computer Expert	1
Secretary	1
Architecture technician	1
Structure technician	1
Archaeology technician	1

Student in Architecture	1
Driver	1

Members of Pasargadae technical department	No.
Conservation of historical relics expert	3
Architecture technician	1
Structure technician	1
Student in Architecture	1

2.4.5. The Fars Province Cultural Heritage Organization (Fars CHO)

After the formation of Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation (PPRF), the Fars CHO left most of its duties in relation with the Achaemenian sites and monuments, management and conservation to PPRF. Of current activities of the Fars CHO, one can mention educational ones such as publishing posters, guidelines and printing tickets. Its workforce consists of:

Profession	No.
Conservator	9
Master / Workman	8
Assistant Master/workman	6
Serviceman	3
Driver	3

2.4.6. Mashhad-e Morqab Cultural Office

Some minor activities such as health service, cleaning service of Pasargadae site, guarding the monuments and ticketing are carried out by this local office.

2.4.7. Current users and beneficiary of Pasargadae site

People:

- Tourists from Iran and other countries:

Due to its important national, historical and artistic importance, the site of Pasargadae had some 100,000 visitors during the year 2001 (see below 4.3.1), so, being among one of the most visited cultural heritage sites of Iran. Thanks to Iran's position among the first ten countries of the world for the number and diversity of historical monuments, and considering the fact that travelling in Iran with long distances and the current economic situation is difficult for the majority of Iranians, the number of 100,000 visitors per year shows a fortunate signal for a possible increase of tourism if facilities become available.

The site of Pasargadae, as a symbol of one of the most glorious phases in the history of Iran mingled with the deeds and personality of Cyrus the Great, attracts with Persepolis more foreign visitors than any other cultural heritage site in Iran.

- Local settlers of the area and neighbouring villages who in addition to their religious interest in Cyrus' mausoleum as the Tomb of Solomon's mother, benefit from the visit of the tourists.
- Educational use, the site is often visited by local students or those coming from other Iranian provinces.

Organisations, institutions and agencies:

- Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization
- Madar-e Soleyman district Cultural Heritage Organization.
- Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation
- Natural Resources Administration
- Iran Radio- TV Organization
- Iran tourism Organization
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Shiraz University
- Open university of Sa'adat-Shahr
- Open university of Marvdasht
- Open university of Shiraz
- Foreign research institutes
- Iranian and foreign tourism agencies

CHAPTER 3

3.1. Clarifying the project's main purpose

3.1.1. The structure of the management plan

The main purpose of the Pasargadae's management plan is to preserve the value and significance of the archaeological and cultural landscape of the site.

In order to reach that purpose, the following points must be pursued:

- Furtherance of scientific investigations
Directing studies and researches in the fields related to the site in order to fully understand the characteristics of that site and its monuments, to judge and weight the importance of these characteristics and their values, and, determine the scientific and practical ways and procedures needed for carrying out the work undertaken in the site.
- Better conservation of the site
Giving more attention to the conservation of the landscape and the creation of better facilities to deal with the expansion of tourism. Management structure must be developed in that respect. Attention must be paid to human resources.
- Raising the level of public education and interest in the site
Extensive usage of scientific, historical and cultural findings resulting from researches in the site in order to advance scientific and educational purposes in the schools, universities and scientific circles.
- Developing cultural tourism
Elevating, inside and outside of the country, the level of tourists' awareness and insight on the values of the sites and the efforts undertaken for its preservation.
- Pushing for social developments
Better social conditions, especially when close to the site, often means awareness and leads to better conservation.
- Raising the public awareness on the economical, social and cultural benefits and merits of Pasargadae site
The public awareness, especially on potential economical fallouts, can greatly help to preserve the site

3.1.2. Determining the extents of the projects purposes

The project has vast national and international ambitions, but owing to the time limits and the current financial difficulties, the extent of project has to be realistic, but also most effective. Its general purposes are as follows:

- a: Helping to improve the administrative structure of the area (i.e. Madar-e Soleyman village) via insuring and persuading its local council to participate actively in rural development projects which take the site in consideration. b: helping the establishment of a town-council for Madar-e Soleyman village with the aim of improving the rural services with the site's need in mind ; c: assisting the local authorities to obtain a better administrative position for the village (thus the site) from the official political and provincial authorities.

- Enhancing relations and coordination between Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation (PPRF) and other governmental administration in the area as well as the local councils of surrounding villages.

- Developing new structures in order to take care of executive and researches programs under the supervision of the PPRF.

- Creating a consultative structure for the coordination of the activities of various groups involved in the execution of the managing plan. These groups include Pasargadae Cultural Bureau, members of Pasargadae Team, the Technical Bureau of Persepolis and experts of PPRF.

- Raising the level of participation in conservation by expanding cooperation and participation with local and governmental organizations.

- Pushing for prompt execution of protective and preventive laws.

- Proposing amendments for updating governmental protective and preventive decrees.

- Improvement of tourism management by establishing priority plans.

- Expanding human resources through educational plans for training the necessary personnel.

- Helping the social and cultural development of the region through the creation of town councils for the villages of Kordshul and Madar-i-Soleyman.

- Helping agriculture and land use for the promotion of agronomical economy and the increase of the financial power of the local residents.

- helping to accelerate the planning and the execution of rural-regional development projects.

- Helping to generate wealth for the rural community by providing job opportunities resulting from tourism industry (consequence of lengthy stay of more visitors requiring service-providing).

3.2. Time limit and duration of accomplishment of the activities contained in the management plan

Depending on priorities, extant or anticipated financial resources and accessible human sources, the accomplishment of the tasks defined in this management plan in connection with the duration of their achievement and their results are classified as follows:

The duration of the fulfilment of this project until its complete achievement is five years.

The duration of the accomplishment of the plans contained in this management plan have been classified in three groups:

- a) Short-term (1 year plan), see below 3.4.
- b) Middle-term (3 years plan), see below 3.4 and
- c) Long-term (5 years plan), see below 3.4.

- Determining the possibility of achieving short-term purposes:

- * The financial resources and credits needed for accomplishing the short-term purposes are obtained from the present budget of Pasargadae site.
- * The labour force needed for performing the projects related to the short-term purposes is furnished by experts who have contracts with the PPRF.

- Evaluating the feasibility of achieving the middle-term and long-term purposes:

- * Financial resources and credits will be secured from the increased budget allocated to Pasargadae site (anticipated in the 1 year plan) and from other varied sources.

3.3. Evaluation and Recognition of the problems and points of strength

3.3.1. Weaknesses:

1. Administrative situation of the area is not clear due to problems arising from political divisions within the State.
2. In spite of the long distance separating Pasargadae from Marvdasht (Persepolis), Pasargadae is under Marvdasht's administrative authority.
3. No well-defined administrative plan pre-existed for the site prior to the creation of PPRF in 1999.
4. No well-defined conservative plan was drafted for the maintenance of the monuments of the site prior to the creation of PPRF in 1999.
5. Located too far from administrative centres, no accurate statistical data has been gathered on and about the site.
6. Villagers use the lands round the historical mounds (Tall-e Se-Asiyab, Do-Tallan etc.) as fields and agricultural purposes.
7. Some villagers had already embarked on some objectionable constructing activities within the landscape buffer zone before its establishment.
8. The common cemetery of Madar-e Soleyman village is situated near the tomb of Cyrus the Great.
9. Detritus from Madar-e Soleyman village are ejected in the site's buffer zone.

10. The metallic enclosure of Pasargadae (see fig. 2, detached map in the main dossier) is worn out.
11. The current management system, and not PPRF., has control over its personnel (the guardians for instance).
12. The palaces are not under suitable control and protection.
13. Villagers use the site's core zone as a short-cut when going around. Their passages may harm the archaeological remains and rise security problems.
14. Guards of the monuments lack sufficient education and were not properly formed to meet the cultural needs of the visitors.
15. There are no suitable refuges for the guards in case of bad weather.
16. The sites situated outside of the metallic enclosure of Pasargadae (see fig. 2, detached map in the main dossier) are threatened by illegal excavators.
17. The entrance of heavy vehicles to the site (inside the metallic enclosure) is not forbidden.
18. The transportation system is far from being satisfactory for the visitors.
19. The road to the site is too crowded as it goes through two villages (Kordshul and Mashhad-e Morghab) before reaching the site.
20. General services (hotels, restaurants ...) are lacking in Pasargadae and its neighbouring villages, visitors have no place to stay.
21. Even a small resting place for the visitors is missing within the enclosure of the site.
22. There are no suitable publications and maps on the site available to the visitors.
23. Neighbouring schoolboys sometimes cause trouble to the visitors.
24. The construction of Pasargadae's museum has been suspended for the past 25 years.
25. Lack of laboratory with the necessary technical devices for conservation.

3.3.2. Strengths and advantages:

1. By Cyrus the Great's grace and fame, the site is one of the most celebrated places in the whole world.
2. Excellent potentialities for archaeological studies.
3. Excellent potentialities for scientific studies related to the conservation of stone built monuments (jointly with Persepolis).
4. Excellent potentialities for tourism industry.
5. Good educational potentialities.

3.3.3. Opportunities

1. Formation of Parse-Pasargadae Research Foundation (PPRF).
2. Approval of the PPRF's independence by the State.
3. Presence of PPRF experts at Pasargadae.
4. Existence of the present management plan for Pasargadae.
5. Inclination of the State administrations for collaboration in the management plan of Pasargadae.
6. Inclination of local villagers towards improvement projects regarding Pasargadae site.
7. (Hopefully) the inscription of the site on the "World Heritage List".
8. Great potential for tourism industry.

3.3.4. Factors which endanger the site

1. Following the construction of an unauthorised dam by the villagers on the upper part of the flood way which runs through the Mobarakabad village, now all the waters go when it rains through the branch flood way which comes towards Cyrus's Mausoleum. In case of torrential rainfalls, the flood may submerge the area in which the tomb is situated.
2. Occasional destructions of the remains by the villagers.
3. Occasional overlapping of agricultural lands with those of the historical mounds.
4. Degradation of stone built monuments by micro-organism (vegetal origin).
5. Erosion by wind.
6. Degradation by dilatation resulting from sudden change in temperature or caused by frozen dampness inside fissures and fractures.
7. Gradual and unbalanced sinking of Cyrus's mausoleum due to the weight of his tomb chamber.
8. Negative consequences of some poor conservational operations.
9. Poor state of the monumental remains on the top of Tall-e Takht mound.
10. Poor state of the "Winged-Figure" (Gate R, Gate House) identified as representing Cyrus the Great.
11. Poor state of conservation in palatial areas.
12. Possible damaging effects consequent to the building of a dam on the river Polavar.

3.4. Scheduled Program

3.4.1. Improving the region's management and administrative structure

Short-term (1 year plan)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging local cancels and societies to take part in the accomplishment of 'village prosperity plans'. - Pushing for the formation of local Committees of 'Friends of Cultural Heritage'.

Middle-term (3 years plan)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocating for the creation of a municipality at the village of Madar-e Soleyman to improve general services (sweeping, garbage gathering...) - Working for the clarification of the role of organizations and State establishments. - Facilitating investment in scientific-cultural matters in the site's landscape buffer zone. - Creating and strengthening mutual relationships between the organizations, councils and local committees under the supervision of PPRF.

Long-term (5 years plan)

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working to ascertain an elevated politico-administrative position for Pasargadae on national and provincial levels. - Tending to resolve discrepancies on various plans. - Tending to suppress misplaced interventions. |
|---|

3.4.2. Adjustment and the strengthening of the current management system at Pasargadae.

Short-term (1 year plan)

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation of a management group. - Identification of educational needs of the site's management. - Improvement of Pasargadae's Study Centre Building. - Resumption of Pasargadae Study Centre under PPRF supervision. - Training the site's personnel to inform and help the visitors. - Training the site's guards to fight illegal excavators. - Formation of Pasargadae Technical Office, under PPRF supervision. - Producing suitable uniforms and identification cards for the site's personnel. |
|--|

Middle-term (3 years plan)

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the structure of the management system by employing experts. - Improving the structure of the management system through frequent training courses. - Training the personnel to deliver a more effective protection. - Generating small joints projects with the villagers. |
|---|

Long-term (5 years plan)

<p>Setting up a consolatory structural system which would embrace and also serve as a link between various mechanisms such as Pasargadae Technical Office or the Pasargadae Study Centre.</p>

3.4.3. Conservation improvement

Short-term (1 year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidation of Pasargadae's supervising and administrating structure through cooperation between the local and governmental organizations. - Establishing a restoration committee which would meet regularly. - Producing a map of the present status of the historical buildings and remains in order to prepare a plan for future restoration activities. - Starting pathological examinations. - Enhance the Equipping the guards for a better control of the site. - Improve the protective lightning of the site. - Improve the documentation. - Preparing and submitting of annual or periodical reports.

Middle-term (3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposing up-to-date protective regulations in order to meet daily problems. - Raising the quality of conservation activities on the existent relics by establishing research programs for conservation plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widening the bridge over flood way west of Mādar-e Soleyman and connecting that village to Mobarakabad and Abolvardi in order to eliminate the occasional flooding of the area containing Cyrus's Mausoleum (see above, paragraph 3.3.4.1). Dikes must be built too. - Raise the level of participation of the local people in the conservative co operations. - Consolidating restoration and conservation committees. - Construction of a convenient warehouse for keeping items discovered at the site while the plans for the future of Pasargadae's Museum (under construction) are being considered. - Preventing damages caused by vandalism by training the guards and raising the awareness of local people. - Examining the methods of controlling erosions resulting from various factors (physical, chemical, environmental...). - Starting effective actions erosive elements. - Documentation of all activities. - Providing periodical reports.

3.4.4. Expanding tourism industry

Short-term (1 year plan)

- Publicizing the values and significance of the site as a cultural and archaeological landscape at national and international levels by publishing brochures, creating websites and using audiovisual and mass communication facilities.
- Introducing the set of activities and aims of the management plan to the public, especially to the visitors in order to increase their awareness and visions on the merits of the site and its preservation.
- Evaluating the needs of the tourists.
- Negotiations with travel agencies.
- Planting signs and informative boards in different languages at suitable places on the site.
- Negotiations with Iran Touring Organization about starting training programs for tour-guides.
- Enhance the maintenance (cleaning, hygienic facilities, ticket office...) of the site.
- Improving the limited tourist facilities.

Middle-term (3 years plan)

- Creating tourist facilities.
- Identification and presentation of the existing cultural and natural resources with the aim of increasing the number of visitors.
- To create an appropriate tourist circuit within the site.
- Publishing fine guide books and brochures in different languages.
- Printing and circulating new brochures on various occasions.
- Organizing various cultural and artistic activities at the site.
- Organizing tours for students.
- Organizing consistent training and informative programs for tour guides and local guides.
- Evaluating the satisfaction level of visitors at regular interval.

Long-term (5 years plan)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating transportation facilities and easy public access to Pasargadae especially via Shiraz the province's capital, Persepolis (Takht-e Jamshid) and Naghsh-e-Rostam. - Planning the access way to Pasargadae from Shiraz-Isfahan road and improving the aesthetics of the buildings on that road. - Inauguration of the temporary museum of Pasargadae. - Evaluation the visitors' satisfaction level.

3.5. Financial and credit resources of the plan.

3.5.1. The present financial and credit resources of Pasargadae-Parse Research Foundation (PPRF) are provided by the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization and the development budget of Fars Provinces approved by the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran. PPRF has the responsibility of planning, management and conservation of the Achaemenid sites which cover a vast area of about 2500 km².

- Current (standing) credits: the amount of funds needed for the Achaemenid relics and sites which are managed by Pasargadae-Parse Research Foundation are evaluated by this foundation, discussed with the experts of Plan and Budget Organization and submitted to the State through the director of the Cultural Heritage Administration of Fars province. The Submission takes place at the beginning of each fiscal year.

- The main portion of the standing credits and budget is spent for paying wages and expenses such as water, electricity, telecommunication, fuel and other maintenance costs.

- Revenues are provided by selling tickets at the site and sums paid by tourists and other users for obtaining various rights, permissions granted to them or services they have received. The revenues amount to about three forty five million Rials (US\$ 5600 in 2001). This sum is transferred to the Government National Treasury Account in the Central Banks of Iran. 25% of this sum is however returned annually to the PPRF. The purpose is to provide for some parts of the site's needs such as assuring its protection facilities, paying service costs, printing and publishing expenses and buying necessary equipments for administrative as well as research needs. At present, due to the weakness of financial and administrative structure of Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization as well as its Office in the Fars province, only 12% of the 25% are paid to the PPRF.

- Development credits and budget: at the beginning of each fiscal year, a budget containing an estimation of the credits needed for development and conservation at Pasargadae is submitted to the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (ICHO). After discussions and agreements between the representatives of IHCO and those from the Plan and Budget Organization, a final balanced budget is drafted and submitted by

the government to the Majlis (Iranian parliament). After its ratification by the Majlis, the approved credits are distributed to the ministries and governmental agencies such as PPRF through the Plan and Budget Organization.

CHAPTER 4

4.1. Strategies for the plan's implementation

One of the main objects of Pasargadae management plan is to present a practical strategy for its fulfilment. The following points have been considered in that respect:

4.1.1. Classifying the research programs of the management plan on the basis of their common features. The classification also aims to facilitate the simultaneous implantation of each group of programs, so as to be effective on the improvement of other programs' rate of implementation.

4.1.2. Editing a flexible and up-to-date 'priority-embedded' program. It determines the priorities of each group of activities in taking in consideration chronological details and the possible phases of implementation of those activities in connection with available financial and human resources.

The flexible and up-to-date priority programs have to be prepared in such a way that their implementation can be guaranteed on 'short-term' basis (short-term plan). By exploiting the results of these short-term activities (1 year plan) and the evaluation of problems encountered during their implementation, the priority programs can if necessary be modified in order to lead to the implementation of middle or long term activities (3 or 5 years plan).

4.1.3. Constructing a satiable structural system for the supervision of the rate of the implementation of the programs. The rate of the implementation of each selected priority program is evaluated and controlled by a computerised supervision system. By robotizing the delivery and the control of the results and the rate of progress of each activity according to its 'rate of implementation diagram', the supervision system provides up-to-date data on the progress of the activities concerned or the difficulties it encountered.

Regular reports must be issued on these matters.

4.2. Feasibility study of the management plan

The feasibility study of Pasargadae management plan takes in consideration three major factors: financial availability and ways to secure and increase resources, expertise and technical availability and finally, reinforcement of capabilities and qualification through training and education.

4.3. Financial availability and ways to secure and increase financial resources

One of prime necessities for plans running on 3 and 5 years (middle and long-term plans) is to have the certitude that financial means anticipated for the implementation

of their planned projects are secure. To secure this main issue, the approval of the Pasargadae-Parse Research Foundation (PPRF) financial independence has been considered by the State and an act on this matter will be presented to the Parliament. According to this scheme, all the incomes generated within the sites controlled by PPRF by ticketing and other services and means can be entirely and directly spend by PPRF to accomplish management programs as defined by the PPRF itself (for the present situation see above 3.5).

4.3.1. Incomes generated by ticketing at Pasargadae during the financial year 2001:

- Visiting ticket price:

Iranian tourists: 2000 Rials (US\$ 0.25)

Foreign tourists: 20000 Rls (US\$ 2.5)

Students: 1000 Rls (US\$ 0.12)

Children: free.

Number of visitors and profit generated:

Profit US\$	Total of visitors	Free visitors	Students	Foreign visitors	Iranian visitors	Year
57242*	98227	16513	4122	16592	61000	2001

*US\$ 57242 or 457962000 Rials

- Due to the lack of suitable control over the vast area covered by Pasargadae site, the number of visitors may not reflect their precise number.

- Owing to the current US\$ 57242 or 457962000 Rials profit and also the predicted increase in the number of visitors, it is possible to anticipate that if the independence of PPRF is approved by the Parliament (see above 4.3), then a significant part of the necessary funds for the implementation of the management plan can be assured.

4.3.2. Intended measures to increase the revenues

- The State has been invited to try to modify some chapters of the Tax Law in order to divert part of regional tax revenues to historical monuments and sites.

- Encouraging ministries and national organization to ministries to allocate part of their 'region's prosperity budgets'* to the PPRF.

* Key administrations such as the ministry of petrol, agriculture or industry have an important development budget. Under this request, they are asked to consider intellectual progress as development and necessary for progress and prosperity.

- Interesting private industry and private capital to invest in the Pasargadae management plan.

4.4. Improving expertise and technical availability

- Use of available experts and masons on the basis of one year contracts.
- Providing and enforcing training programs in various fields for the present personnel of the Pasargadae Team.
- Soliciting the scientific and technical expertise of other organizations such as the Iranian universities.
- Requesting UNESCO, WHC and other international organizations for their scientific and technical expertise.
- Proposing to foreign educational and research organizations to participate in research programs at Pasargadae.
- Soliciting the scientific and technical expertise of individuals or specialized groups (Iranians or foreigners as needed).
- Establishing a scientific committee for the PPRF.

Residential Palace P
Restoration work on one of its colons



Flooded areas next to the Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great



Floods destroying sections of the metallic enclosure of Pasargadae





Constructing dikes against the floods



Destructive agents at work on Stone-built monuments



Degraded parts of the Fire altars (temples)



Pasargadae Team at Pasargadae

Pasargadae (Iran)

No 1106

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Islamic Republic of Iran

Name of property: Pasargadae

Location: Pars Province

Date received: 30 January 2003

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

Brief description:

Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, created by Cyrus II the Great in the heartland of the Persians in the 6th century BCE. Its palaces, garden layouts, as well as the mausoleum of Cyrus are an outstanding example of the first phase in the evolution of the royal Achaemenid art and architecture, and an exceptional testimony to the Persian civilization.

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The archaeological site of Pasargadae represents the first capital of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. It is located in the plain on the river Polvar, in the heart of Pars, the homeland of the Persians. The position of the town is also denoted in its name: 'the camp of Persia'. The town was built by Cyrus II the Great in the 6th century BCE. The core zone (160 ha, ca 2.7 x 0.8 km) of the site is surrounded by a large landscape buffer zone (7127 ha).

The core area contains the following monuments:

- The Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great, at the south end;
- The Tall-e Takht (or Tall-e Takht-e Soleyman, 'Solomon's Throne') and fortifications, on a hill at the north end of the core zone;
- The royal ensemble in the centre of the core zone, in the plain, consisting of the remains of: the Gate House (Gate R), the Audience Hall (Palace S), the Residential Palace (Palace P), and the Royal Garden ('Four Gardens').
- In the eastern part there is a small structure (16 x 16 m) identified as the Bridge. North of the Royal ensemble, there is the Zendan-e Soleyman (Solomon's Prison), a stone tower, ca 14 m high, of which the date is not certain.

The core zone includes the main excavated area. The ancient capital extended much beyond this zone and has not yet been excavated. In the buffer zone there are other remains, including: the Sacred Precinct (ca 550-530 BCE), and the sites of Tall-e Nokhodi; Tall-e Khari, Tall-e Se Asiyab, Do Talan, of which some are prehistoric, as well

as the Madrasseh or Caravanserai (14th century CE). Within the buffer zone, there are also five small rural villages, inhabited by farmers.

The Mausoleum of Cyrus the Great is built in white limestone ca 540-530 BCE. The base (13.35 x 12.30 m) of the structure is formed of six receding tiers, of which the first is 170 cm high, the second and third 104 cm, and the last three 57.5 cm. The mausoleum chamber, on the top, has the form of a simple gable house with a small opening from the west. In the medieval period, the monument was thought to be the tomb of Solomon's mother, and a mosque was built around it, using columns from the remains of the ancient palaces. A small prayer niche, mihrab, was carved in the tomb chamber. In the 1970s, during a restoration, the remains of the mosque were removed, and the ancient fragments were deposited close to their original location.

The Tall-e Takht refers to the great fortified terrace platform built on a hill at the northern limit of Pasargadae. This limestone structure is built in dry masonry, using large regular stone blocks and a jointing technique called *anathyrosis*, which was known in Asia Minor in the 6th century. The general plan of the terrace structure is a parallelogram measuring ca 98 x 79 m, with recesses in the north and south sides. The original height of the elevation was ca 15 m. The first phase of the construction was built by Cyrus the Great, halted at his death in 530 BCE. The second phase was built under Darius the Great (522-486 BCE), using mud brick construction.

The royal ensemble occupies the central area of Pasargadae. It consists of several palaces originally located within a garden ensemble (the so-called 'Four Gardens'). The colour scheme of the architecture is given by the black and white stones used in its structure. The main body of the palaces is formed of a hypostyle hall, to which are attached porticoes. The *Audience Hall* (Palace S) was built ca 539 BCE. Its hypostyle hall has two rows of four columns. The column bases are in black stone (1.43 x 1.43 m), and the column shafts in white limestone. The column base is 1.04 m high, and the shaft 12.06 m. The capitals were in black stone. There is evidence of a capital representing a hybrid, horned and crested lion. The palace had a portico on each side. Some of the bas-reliefs of the doorways are preserved, showing human figures and monsters. The *Residential Palace* (Palace P) of Cyrus II was built 535-530 BCE; its hypostyle hall (31.1 x 22.1 m) has five rows of six columns, and its impressive southeast portico measures 75.5 x 9.3 m. The *Gate House* stands at the eastern limit of the core zone. It is a hypostyle hall with a rectangular plan, 26.2 x 22.2 m. In one of the doorjambes, there is the famous relief of the 'winged figure'. The *Pavilions* A and B were probably two entrances to the Royal Garden. Pavilion B is the better preserved of the two; it consists of a rectangular platform of dressed stones, 11.7 x 10.1 m.

History

The land of Parsa or Persia was the homeland of the Achaemenids, the Persian tribe whom Cyrus II the Great (reigned 559-c 529 BCE) led to victory over the Medes in 550. Traditionally, Cyrus II chose the site for his capital because it laid near the site of his victory over Astyages

the Medeian king. This first victory was followed by the conquest of Lydia, Neo-Babylonia, and Egypt, and the empire was later consolidated and extended by his son Cambyses (529-522 BCE) and by Darius I the Great (521-486 BCE). Cyrus has been remembered in the Bible as the liberator of Babylon, and as the one who brought the Jews back from their exile.

Darius I decided to build a new symbolic capital for the empire, at Persepolis, some 70 km further south. Nevertheless, Pasargadae remained an important dynastic centre until the empire was conquered by Alexander the Great of Macedonia in 330 BCE. According to ancient writers, such as Herodotus and Arian, Alexander paid his respects to the tomb of Cyrus and had it restored.

In later periods, Tall-e Takht continued to be used as a fort, while the palaces were abandoned and the material was reused. From the 7th century on, the tomb of Cyrus was called the Tomb of the Mother of Solomon, and it became a place of pilgrimage. In the 10th century, a small mosque was built around it, which was in use until the 14th century. The site was visited by travellers over the centuries, giving accounts on the gradual loss of various elements. Special attention was given to the Tomb of Cyrus and the Tall-e Takht fortified terrace.

Management regime

Legal provision:

The nominated core zone is owned by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and allocated to the care by the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (ICHO). The land in the buffer zone is privately owned.

The site of Pasargadae has been protected under the Iranian national legislation since 1931.

Management structure:

The management of the site is the responsibility of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization, which has adopted a Management Plan in 2002. At the local level, the management is under the responsibility of Parsa-Pasargadae Research Foundation (PPRF), established to manage, conserve and maintain Persepolis and Pasargadae. A sub-office of the PPRS is permanently established at Pasargadae, under the direction of an architect conservator. The PPRS has a direct support from the central ICHO office in Tehran, from the provincial government and the local amenities. To guarantee security at the site, the local and provincial authorities provide guards and the support of the Police department. So far, no case of vandalism or theft has occurred at this site. Staff working in conservation and monitoring of monuments is employed on regular and long term basis.

Resources:

The Foundation (PPRF) at the site has three sources of financial support for preservation and restoration activities, employment of all categories of staff and for the promotion of tourism related activities. The main source of funding is from the ICHO in Tehran. The second source is the provincial government of Fars where Pasargadae is located, and the third source is the 25 % share of all revenue generated by the PPRF consisting mostly of entry fee.

Justification by the State Party (summary)

Pasargadae was the first capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia and perhaps in the human history. Pasargadae is also the first manifestation of an imperial combined (composite, synthetic) art in the Near East recognized as 'Achaemenid art'. Moreover, Pasargadae shows the earliest manifestation of Persian or Iranian art and architecture in the written history of ancient Iran. No other architectural remains of that time are comparable to Pasargadae in the whole of the Near East or indeed in the world. Pasargadae is proposed as a single nomination under criteria i, ii, iii and iv.

Criteria i and iv: A masterpiece of human creative genius in its composite architecture and town planning which includes the first example of 'Four Gardens' type prevailing in Western Asia up to the 18th century (Safavid Ispahan or Mughal India).

Criterion ii: The first capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia and perhaps in the human history. An empire which recognised and respected the cultural and religious values of each nation and reflected it in its set of laws (return of the Jews from captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem for instance, see the Bible) and arts (composite, mainly Greco-Persian architecture).

Criterion iii: An exceptional testimony to the Achaemenid civilisation.

3. ICOMOS EVALUATION

Actions by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the nominated site in August 2003.

ICOMOS has also consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management.

Conservation

Conservation history:

After the fall of the Achaemenid Empire, most structures of Pasargadae were abandoned and gradually destroyed and the material was reused. However, the Tall-e Takht continued to be used as a fortification. From the 7th century onwards, the Tomb of Cyrus II became a place of pilgrimage, and a mosque was built around it from 10th to 14th centuries.

The first scientific excavation was carried out by E. Herzfeld in 1928, and continued by the Archaeological Service of Iran. The site was placed under legal protection in 1931. A British archaeological mission led by D. Stronach surveyed the site in the 1960s, and an Italian mission carried out some restoration in the 1970s.

State of conservation:

The architectural remains within the core area of Pasargadae are in relatively good state of preservation. The conservation of the site is respectful and undertaken at a minimum level. Some conservation problems are reported regarding the more delicate elements, such as the famous bas-reliefs, which are kept in situ.

Management:

The management plan for the area has been prepared by the recently established Parsa-Pasargade Research Foundation (PPRF), which is associated to the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization. The programme of the PPRF focuses on the cultural landscape of which Pasargadae and Persepolis as well as other sites of the region. Attention is given to the survey of the whole extent of the ancient city of Pasargadae and its monuments, the development of appropriate conservation and presentation measures, as well as facilities and routing for cultural tourism. Attention is also given to improving the social conditions of the local population and raising public awareness on the economic, social and cultural values of Pasargadae. The management of the site includes the establishment of a commission, involving all relevant authorities as well as representatives of the inhabitants.

On the basis of present knowledge of the site, it is advisable to limit the World Heritage nomination to the main core zone. The additional sites indicated in the nomination can be kept within the buffer zone. With the advancement of the exploration of the ancient capital, and on the basis of more information on the real extent of the ancient urban area, it is expected that the World Heritage nomination be revised accordingly.

Risk analysis:

The main pressures on the site are from agriculture and the possibility of the growth of the villages in the buffer zone. Here, the land is all privately owned. It is noted that the current level of development of the villages is very low. Therefore, the risk is not immediate. In fact, within the management system of the site special attention is given to monitoring the situation and coordinating any development in coordination with the inhabitants.

While the area of Pasargadae is a seismic risk zone, no earthquakes have been reported in the past century. Instead, there is a risk of flooding, which has caused some damage in the past years. For the time being, there is no pollution in the area, but this aspect requires monitoring in order to avoid any adverse development in the future –in the event of the construction of industrial plants in the region.

Authenticity and integrity

The site of Pasargadae has been confirmed to have been the capital of Cyrus the Great. Taking into account the character of the area as an archaeological site, it can be considered to pass the test of authenticity as required by the Operational Guidelines. Restorations have been limited, and there have been no modern reconstructions on the site.

The site is part of an agricultural landscape, which continues to be cultivated. The buffer zone includes five villages, used by the farming population. As a whole, the area retains its traditional integrity.

Comparative evaluation

In its significance as the first capital of the Achaemenid Empire, Pasargadae can be considered unique. Later on,

other cities were taken to function as capitals of the empire, including Persepolis, built by Darius I starting in 518 BCE, as well as the ancient cities of Susa and Babylon. During the entire Achaemenid period, Pasargadae continued to retain its significance as the city of the founder of the dynasty, and it remained a place for crowning the emperors and for special ceremonies.

There are no truly comparable sites to Pasargadae. It was built with the contribution of workers from Babylon and Ionia. Architecturally it has similarities with Ionian Greek architecture, e.g. in the details of the column bases. At the same time, Pasargadae established a prototype for a garden city with pavilions, and initiated the development of royal Persian architecture with its specific character and identity. This is distinguished from the earlier Assyrian or Babylonian architecture by its character of detached buildings. The Achaemenid art and architecture reached their full form in Persepolis, which differs from Pasargadae both in terms of its architecture and its concept. At the same time, Pasargadae and Persepolis can be seen as part of the same process of evolution.

The current World Heritage nominations related to Achaemenid civilisation include only Persepolis, inscribed on the basis of criteria i, iii and vi in 1979.

Outstanding universal value

General statement:

The principal significance of Pasargadae is in its being the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, built by Cyrus the Great, the founder of the dynasty, in the heart of the homeland of the Persians. This great empire extended from the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindu River in India. It is considered the first empire to be characterized by a respect to cultural diversity of the different peoples. This characteristic was also reflected in the royal Achaemenid architecture, which became a synthetic representation of the different cultures. Pasargadae represents the first phase of this development into a specifically Persian architecture, which later found its full expression in Persepolis. Pasargadae also became a prototype of the Persian garden concept involving pavilions and palaces with porticoes (in Persian: 'paradayadam' or 'paradis', 'pleasant retreat', 'park').

Evaluation of criteria:

Criterion i: Pasargadae is the first outstanding expression of the royal Achaemenid architecture. The builders came from Babylonia and Ionia, and the design introduced themes that existed in the region integrating these into a specifically royal Achaemenid architecture.

Criterion ii: The dynastic capital of Pasargadae was built by Cyrus the Great with a contribution by different peoples of the empire created by him. It became a fundamental phase in the evolution of the classic Persian art and architecture.

Criterion iii: The archaeological site of Pasargadae with its palaces, gardens, and the tomb of the founder of the dynasty, Cyrus the Great, represents an exceptional testimony to the Achaemenid civilisation in Persia.

Criterion iv: The 'Four Gardens' type of royal ensemble, which was created at Pasargadae became a prototype that

came into current use in Western Asian architecture and design. The garden with its pavilions and water canals is based on a formal layout, and the architecture is characterized by its refined details and slender verticality.

4. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation with respect to inscription

That the property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of ***criteria i, ii, iii and iv***:

Criterion i: Pasargadae is the first outstanding expression of the royal Achaemenid architecture.

Criterion ii: The dynastic capital of Pasargadae was built by Cyrus the Great with a contribution by different peoples of the empire created by him. It became a fundamental phase in the evolution of the classic Persian art and architecture.

Criterion iii: The archaeological site of Pasargadae with its palaces, gardens, and the tomb of the founder of the dynasty, Cyrus the Great, represents an exceptional testimony to the Achaemenid civilisation in Persia.

Criterion iv: The 'Four Gardens' type of royal ensemble, which was created in Pasargadae became a prototype for Western Asian architecture and design.

ICOMOS, March 2004

Pasargades (Iran)

No 1106

1. IDENTIFICATION

État partie : République islamique d'Iran

Bien proposé : Pasargades

Lieu : Province du Fars

Date de réception : 30 janvier 2003

Catégorie de bien :

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *site*.

Brève description

Pasargades fut la première capitale dynastique de l'Empire achéménide, créée par Cyrus II le Grand au cœur de la Perse au VI^e siècle avant notre ère. Ses palais, ses jardins, ainsi que le mausolée de Cyrus, sont un exemple exceptionnel de la première phase de l'évolution de l'art et de l'architecture royaux achéménides, et un témoignage non moins exemplaire de la civilisation perse.

2. LE BIEN

Description

Le site archéologique de Pasargades fut la première capitale de l'Empire perse des Achéménides. Il se situe dans la plaine du Polvar, au cœur du Fars, la patrie des Perses. L'emplacement de la ville est également marqué par son nom : le « Camp des Perses ». La ville fut construite par Cyrus II le Grand au VI^e siècle avant notre ère. La zone principale (160 ha, environ 2,7 x 0,8 km) est entourée d'un grand paysage formant la zone tampon (7 127 ha).

La zone principale comprend les monuments suivants :

- Le mausolée de Cyrus le Grand, au sud ;
- Le Tall-e Takht (ou Tall-e Takht-e Sulaiman, le « trône de Salomon ») et ses fortifications, sur une colline au nord de la zone principale ;
- L'ensemble royal au centre de la zone principale, dans la plaine, se composant des vestiges : de la porte (Porte R), de la salle d'audience (palais S), du palais résidentiel (palais P) et du jardin royal (les « quatre jardins »).

- Dans la partie orientale se trouve une petite structure (16 x 16 m) identifiée comme le pont. Au nord de l'ensemble royal se dresse le Zendan-e Sulaiman (la prison de Salomon), une tour de pierre, d'environ 14 m de haut, dont la date est incertaine.

La zone principale inclut la principale zone fouillée. L'ancienne capitale s'étendait bien au-delà de cette zone et n'a pas encore été fouillée. La zone tampon comporte d'autres vestiges, dont : l'enceinte sacrée (vers 550-530 avant notre ère), et les sites de Tall-e Nokhodi, Tall-e Khari, Tall-e Se Asiyab, Do Talan, dont certains sont préhistoriques, ainsi que la médresa ou caravansérai (XIV^e siècle de notre ère). La zone tampon abrite également cinq petits villages ruraux, habités par des agriculteurs.

Le mausolée de Cyrus le Grand fut construit en calcaire blanc autour de 540-530 avant notre ère. La base (13,35 x 12,30 m) de la structure est formée de six gradins en retrait, dont le premier fait 170 cm de haut, le deuxième et le troisième, 104 cm, et les trois derniers, 57,5 cm. La chambre funéraire du mausolée, en haut, a la forme d'une simple maison à pignon avec une petite ouverture à l'ouest. À l'époque médiévale, on croyait qu'il s'agissait de la tombe de la mère de Salomon, et une mosquée fut construite autour, en réemployant des colonnes des ruines des anciens palais. Une petite niche de prière, un mihrab, fut sculptée dans la chambre funéraire de la tombe. Dans les années 1970, pendant une restauration, les vestiges de la mosquée furent enlevés, et les anciens fragments déposés à proximité de leur lieu d'origine.

Le Tall-e Takht fait référence à la grande plate-forme en terrasse fortifiée construite sur une colline, à la limite nord de Pasargades : une grande structure de calcaire en maçonnerie sèche, utilisant de grands blocs réguliers de pierre et une technique d'assemblage appelée *anathyrosis*, connue en Asie Mineure au VI^e siècle. Le plan général de la terrasse est un parallélogramme d'environ 98 x 79 m, avec des retraits au nord et au sud et une élévation d'origine de 15 m. La première phase de la construction, commandée par Cyrus le Grand, prit fin à sa mort en 530 avant notre ère. La seconde phase eut lieu sous le règne de Darius le Grand (522-486 avant notre ère), selon une technique de construction en brique crue.

L'ensemble royal occupe la zone centrale de Pasargades. Il comporte plusieurs palais situés à l'origine dans un ensemble de jardins (les « quatre jardins »). La couleur est conférée à l'architecture par les pierres noires et blanches qui en forment la structure. Le corps principal des palais est formé d'une salle hypostyle, flanquée de portiques. La *salle d'audience* (palais S) fut construite vers 539 avant notre ère. Sa salle hypostyle compte deux rangées de quatre colonnes chacune. Les bases des colonnes sont en pierre noire (1,43 x 1,43 m), et les fûts, en calcaire blanc. La base de la colonne fait 1,04 m de haut, et le fût, 12,06 m. Les chapiteaux étaient en pierre noire. On trouve des traces d'un chapiteau représentant un lion hybride, à cornes et crête. Le palais comportait un portique de chaque côté. Certains des bas-reliefs des embrasures sont préservés, représentant des figures humaines et des monstres. Le *palais résidentiel* (palais P) de Cyrus II fut construit en 535-530 avant notre ère ; sa salle hypostyle (31,1 x 22,1 m) comporte cinq rangées de six colonnes, et

son impressionnant portique sud-est mesure 75,5 x 9,3 m. La *porte (Porte R)* se dresse à la limite est de la zone principale. Il s'agit d'une salle hypostyle au plan rectangulaire de 26,2 x 22,2 m. L'un des jambages de la porte présente le célèbre relief de la « figure ailée ». Les *pavillons A et B* étaient probablement des entrées vers le jardin royal. Des deux, le pavillon B est le mieux préservé ; il consiste en une plate-forme rectangulaire de pierres taillées, de 11,7 x 10,1 m.

Histoire

La terre de Fars, ou Perse, était la patrie des Achéménides, la tribu perse que Cyrus II le Grand (qui régna de 559 à 529 avant notre ère environ) conduisit à la victoire sur les Mèdes en 550. Comme c'était la coutume, Cyrus choisit l'emplacement de sa capitale à proximité du site de sa victoire sur Astyage, le roi mède. Cette première victoire fut suivie par la conquête de la Lydie, de l'Empire néo-babylonien et de l'Égypte, et l'empire fut ensuite consolidé et agrandi par son fils Cambyse (529-522 avant notre ère) et par Darius I^{er} le Grand (521-486 avant notre ère). Cyrus est évoqué dans la Bible comme le libérateur de Babylone, et celui qui ramena les Juifs de leur exil.

Darius I^{er} décida de construire une nouvelle capitale symbolique pour l'empire, à Persépolis, quelque 70 km plus au sud. Néanmoins, Pasargades demeura un important centre dynastique jusqu'à la conquête de l'empire par Alexandre le Grand de Macédoine, en 330 avant notre ère. Selon certains auteurs antiques, comme Hérodote et Arrien, Alexandre rendit hommage à la tombe de Cyrus et la fit restaurer.

Plus tard, Tall-e Takht continua d'être utilisé en tant que fort, tandis que les palais étaient abandonnés et les matériaux réutilisés. À partir du VII^e siècle, la tombe de Cyrus fut appelée la tombe de la mère de Salomon, et elle devint un lieu de pèlerinage. Au Xe siècle, une petite mosquée fut construite autour, utilisée jusqu'au XIV^e siècle. Des voyageurs visitèrent le site au fil des siècles, lesquels témoignèrent de la perte progressive de divers éléments. On accordait une attention toute spéciale à la tombe de Cyrus et à la terrasse fortifiée de Tall-e Takht.

Politique de gestion :

Dispositions légales :

La zone principale proposée pour inscription appartient au gouvernement de la République islamique d'Iran, et est confié aux bons soins de l'Organisation du patrimoine culturel iranien (ICHO). Les terrains de la zone tampon sont propriété privée.

La législation nationale iranienne protège le site de Pasargades depuis 1931.

Structure de la gestion :

La gestion du site incombe à l'Organisation du patrimoine culturel iranien, qui a adopté un plan de gestion en 2002. À l'échelon local, la gestion est sous la responsabilité de la

Fondation de recherche Parsa-Pasargades (PPRF), fondée pour gérer, conserver et entretenir Persépolis et Pasargades. La PPRS a établi une délégation permanente à Pasargades, sous la direction d'un architecte du patrimoine. La PPRS bénéficie du soutien direct de l'office central de l'ICHO à Téhéran, du gouvernement provincial et des autorités locales. Pour garantir la sécurité du site, les autorités locales et provinciales fournissent des gardiens et le soutien du ministère de la Police. Jusqu'à présent, aucun acte de vandalisme ni aucun vol n'ont eu lieu sur ce site. Le personnel travaillant à la conservation et à la surveillance des monuments est employé de façon régulière, avec des contrats à long terme.

Ressources :

La Fondation (PPRF) sur le site dispose de trois sources de soutien financier pour les activités de conservation et de restauration, l'emploi de toutes les catégories du personnel et les activités liées à la promotion du tourisme. La principale source de financement vient de l'ICHO, à Téhéran. La deuxième source est le gouvernement provincial du Fars, où se trouve Pasargades, et la troisième source est une part de 25 % sur les recettes générées par la PPRF, essentiellement des droits d'entrée.

Justification émanant de l'État partie (résumé)

Pasargades fut la première capitale du premier grand empire pluriculturel en Asie occidentale et peut-être dans toute l'histoire de l'humanité. Pasargades est aussi la première manifestation d'un art impérial combiné (composite, synthétique) au Proche-Orient, l'art achéménide. De surcroît, Pasargades est la première manifestation de l'art et de l'architecture perses ou iraniens dans l'histoire écrite de l'Iran antique. Aucun autre vestige architectural de l'époque n'est comparable à Pasargades dans tout le Proche-Orient, et d'ailleurs dans le monde. Pasargades est présenté comme proposition d'inscription individuelle sur la base des critères i, ii, iii et iv.

Critère i et iv : Un chef-d'œuvre du génie créateur de l'humanité par son architecture composite et son urbanisme, qui comprend le premier exemple du type des « quatre jardins » prévalant en Asie occidentale jusqu'au XVIII^e siècle (l'Ispahan safavide ou l'Inde moghole).

Critère ii : La première capitale du premier grand empire pluriculturel en Asie occidentale et peut-être dans l'histoire de l'humanité. Un empire qui reconnaissait et respectait les valeurs culturelles et religieuses de chaque nation et les reflétait dans ses lois (retour à Jérusalem des Juifs en captivité à Babylone, par exemple, voir la Bible) et son art (composite, essentiellement une architecture gréco-perse).

Critère iii : Un témoignage exceptionnel de la civilisation achéménide.

3. ÉVALUATION DE L'ICOMOS

Actions de l'ICOMOS

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue sur le site proposé pour inscription en août 2003.

L'ICOMOS a également consulté son Comité Scientifique International sur la gestion du patrimoine archéologique.

Conservation

Historique de la conservation :

Après la chute de l'Empire achéménide, la plupart des structures de Pasargades furent abandonnées et progressivement détruites, les matériaux réutilisés. Toutefois, le Tall-e Takht est resté en usage en tant que forteresse. À partir du VII^e siècle, la tombe de Cyrus II le Grand devint un lieu de pèlerinage, et une mosquée fut édifiée autour entre le Xe et le XIV^e siècle.

Les premières fouilles scientifiques furent conduites par E. Herzfeld en 1928, et poursuivies par le service archéologique d'Iran. Le site fut placé sous protection juridique en 1931. Une mission archéologique britannique menée par le Dr Stronach étudia le site dans les années 1960, et une mission italienne réalisa quelques travaux de restauration dans les années 1970.

État de conservation :

Les vestiges architecturaux de la zone principale de Pasargades sont en relativement bon état. La conservation du site est respectueuse et minimale. Certains problèmes de conservation sont signalés cependant en ce qui concerne les éléments les plus délicats, tels que les célèbres bas-reliefs, qui restent *in situ*.

Gestion :

Le plan de gestion de la zone a été préparé par la récente Fondation de recherche Parsa-Pasargades (PPRF), associée à l'Organisation du patrimoine culturel iranien. Le programme de la PPRF se concentre sur le paysage culturel auquel appartiennent Pasargades et Persépolis ainsi que d'autres sites de la région. On accorde une attention spéciale à l'étude de toute l'ancienne cité de Pasargades et de ses monuments, au développement de mesures appropriées de conservation et de présentation, ainsi que d'installations et de transport pour le tourisme culturel, tout en s'efforçant d'améliorer les conditions sociales de la population locale et de sensibiliser le public aux valeurs économiques, sociales et culturelles de Pasargades. La gestion du site comprend l'établissement d'une commission, qui implique toutes les autorités compétentes ainsi que des représentants des habitants.

Sur la base de la connaissance actuelle du site, il est recommandé de limiter la proposition d'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial à la zone principale. Les sites supplémentaires indiqués dans la proposition d'inscription peuvent être maintenus dans la zone tampon. Avec la progression de l'exploration de l'ancienne capitale, et sur la base d'un surcroît d'informations sur l'envergure réelle

de l'ancienne zone urbaine, il est probable que la proposition d'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sera révisée en conséquence.

Analyse des risques :

Les principales pressions sur le site viennent de l'agriculture et du potentiel de croissance des villages dans la zone tampon. Ici, la terre est propriété privée. On note que le niveau actuel de développement des villages est très bas ; le risque n'est donc pas immédiat. En fait, dans le système de gestion du site, on accorde une attention toute particulière à la surveillance de la situation et à la coordination de tout développement avec les habitants.

Si la région de Pasargades est une zone à risque sismique, aucun tremblement de terre n'a été rapporté pendant le siècle écoulé. En revanche, il existe un risque d'inondation, ce qui a causé quelques dégâts ces dernières années. Pour l'instant, on n'observe aucune pollution dans la région, mais cet aspect nécessite un suivi, afin d'éviter tout développement préjudiciable à l'avenir - en cas de construction de sites industriels dans la région.

Authenticité et intégrité

Il est confirmé que le site de Pasargades était la capitale de Cyrus le Grand. En tenant compte du caractère de site archéologique de la zone, on peut considérer qu'elle remplit les conditions d'authenticité requises par les *Orientations*. Les restaurations ont été limitées, et il n'y a eu aucune reconstruction moderne sur le site.

Le site s'inscrit dans un paysage agricole encore cultivé à ce jour. La zone tampon comprend cinq villages, utilisés par la population agricole. Dans son ensemble, la zone conserve son intégrité traditionnelle.

Évaluation comparative

En sa qualité de première capitale de l'Empire achéménide, Pasargades peut être considérée comme unique. Plus tard, d'autres villes devinrent les capitales de l'empire, notamment Persépolis, construite par Darius I^{er} à partir de 518 avant notre ère, ainsi que les anciennes cités de Suse et de Babylone. Pendant toute la période achéménide, Pasargades a conservé toute son importance, en tant que ville du fondateur de la dynastie, et elle est restée le lieu du couronnement des empereurs et des cérémonies spéciales.

Il n'existe aucun site réellement comparable à Pasargades, qui fut construite avec la contribution d'ouvriers de Babylone et d'Ionie. Sur le plan architectural, elle présente des similitudes avec l'architecture grecque ionienne, par exemple dans les détails des bases des colonnes. Parallèlement, Pasargades a établi le modèle de la ville jardin dotée de pavillons, et a lancé le développement de l'architecture royale perse, avec son caractère et son identité propres. On la distingue de l'architecture assyrienne ou babylonienne antérieure par ses bâtiments détachés. L'art et l'architecture achéménides ont atteint leur apogée à Persépolis, qui diffère de Pasargades à la fois en termes d'architecture et de concept. Pourtant, on peut

les considérer comme deux parties d'un même processus d'évolution.

Les inscriptions actuelles sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial relatives à la civilisation achéménide ne comprennent que Persépolis, inscrite en 1979 sur la base des critères i, iii et vi.

Valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Déclaration générale :

L'importance de Pasargades réside principalement dans son statut de première capitale dynastique de l'Empire achéménide, construite par Cyrus le Grand, fondateur de la dynastie, au cœur de la patrie des Perses. Ce grand empire s'étendait de la Méditerranée orientale et de l'Égypte à l'Indus, en Inde. On le considère comme le premier empire caractérisé par le respect de la diversité culturelle des peuples, une caractéristique que reflète l'architecture royale achéménide, qui est devenue une représentation synthétique des différentes cultures. Pasargades représente la première phase de cette évolution vers une architecture spécifiquement perse, qui s'exprima pleinement ensuite à Persépolis. Pasargades devint également le modèle du concept de jardin perse, avec des pavillons et des palais à portiques (en persan, « *paradayadam* » ou « *paradis* », « retraite plaisante », « parc »).

Évaluation des critères :

Critère i : Pasargades est la première expression exceptionnelle de l'architecture royale achéménide. Les constructeurs venaient de Babylone et d'Ionie, et la conception introduisit des thèmes régionaux pré-existants, en les intégrant à l'architecture royale achéménide.

Critère ii : La capitale dynastique de Pasargades fut construite par Cyrus le Grand, avec la contribution de différents peuples de l'empire qu'il avait créé. Elle fut une étape fondamentale dans l'évolution de l'art et de l'architecture perses classiques.

Critère iii : Le site archéologique de Pasargades avec ses palais, ses jardins et la tombe du fondateur de la dynastie, Cyrus le Grand, représente un témoignage exceptionnel de la civilisation achéménide en Perse.

Critère iv : Le type d'ensemble royal à « quatre jardins », créé à Pasargades, devint un modèle qui se répandit dans l'architecture et la conception d'Asie occidentale. Le jardin, avec ses pavillons et ses canaux, repose sur un tracé formel, et l'architecture se caractérise par ses détails raffinés et son élégante verticalité.

4. RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ICOMOS

Recommandation concernant l'inscription

Que le bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des ***critères i, ii, iii et iv*** :

Critère i : Pasargades est la première expression exceptionnelle de l'architecture royale achéménide.

Critère ii : La capitale dynastique de Pasargades fut construite par Cyrus le Grand, avec la contribution de différents peuples de l'empire qu'il avait créé. Elle fut une étape fondamentale dans l'évolution de l'art et de l'architecture perses classiques.

Critère iii : Le site archéologique de Pasargades avec ses palais, ses jardins et la tombe du fondateur de la dynastie, Cyrus le Grand, représente un témoignage exceptionnel de la civilisation achéménide en Perse.

Critère iv : Le type d'ensemble royal à « quatre jardins », créé à Pasargades, devint un modèle qui se répandit dans l'architecture et la conception d'Asie occidentale.

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