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پژوهشگاه علوم انسانی و مطالعات فرهنگی  
پرتال جامع علوم انسانی

## The Inner City Seljuk Fortifications of Rey: Case Study of Rashkân Fortress, Gabri and Kāsni Castles

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### Abstract

Defensive fortifications in different regions of Iran have been an effective factor in the survival of residential centers and commercial routes. An investigation on defensive structures will provide useful information on this kind of architecture. The study of remains of castles in the Rey region has provided an important context for archaeological research. In the present study, the Seljuk fortifications (Rashkân fortress, Gabri and Kāsni Castles) are introduced and recognized as inner city castles. It aims at identifying and studying the Seljuk fortifications of Rey, identifying the function of inner city fortifications, and comparing them with other samples in neighboring regions in terms of characteristics. The data were gathered through field and documentary studies while an analytical-historical method was applied in the course of the research. Important questions intended to be addressed were: 1. what has been the role of Seljuk fortifications of Rey in security provision of the region? 2. In which categories can the Seljuk fortifications of Rey be classified in terms of structural characteristics and architectural classification? Among the Seljuk fortifications of Rey, Kohandez (e.g. Rashkân Fortress) had functioned as the political headquarters, and in other inner city castles, larger circular towers have been usually located in four angles and interspersed with subsidiary towers. These types of defensive architecture indicate the progress in the urban construction and security provision.

**Keywords:** Castles; Rey; Seljuk; Rashkân Fortress; Gabri Castle; Kāsni Castle.

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## **Introduction**

The ancient Rey region is part of the central Iranian plateau located on the southern slopes of the Alborz mountain ranges. It is situated on the vast agricultural land, the south of present-day Tehran and in the western margin of the central desert of Iran. Thanks to the economic, cultural and social prosperity of this city during the Islamic era, some historical sources have referred to this city using different names such as “the bride of cities”, “Umm al-Belad” and “Sheikh Ol-Belād” (Moghadasi, 2004: 582-5/2, Rāzī, 1999: Vol. 2/582-583; Yaqout Hamawi, 1978: Vol. 2/600; Mostowfi, 1983: 52). Rey was the capital of the Ziyāri and Būyid rules in the 4th century AH and thus it became one of the most important and most developed cities in the Muslim world. Rey retained its role as the capital city in some periods of the Seljuk rule, and later it was still very important even when this dynasty chose Isfahan as its capital.

Being located on commercial and highly-commuted routes, including the Silk Road, the increasing growth of economic and commercial relations, the existence of many scientific and educational centers, the presence of prominent scholars and elites and the existence of suitable urban infrastructure remained of the earlier times, made this city as one of the major economic, social and cultural centers of Iran during the Seljuk period (Yousefi-far and Mohammadi, 2009: 106).

Given the geographical and political situation of Rey in the Seljuk period, the need for defensive fortification was necessary. The archaeological studies carried out on defensive fortifications of the Rashkān fortresses; Gabri castle and Kāsni castle indicate the need of the Rey district for having such fortifications. The present paper aims at identifying and studying the Seljuk

period's fortifications and their typology, comparing each of them with other examples in neighboring areas in terms of the characteristics of architectural structure and their inner-city functions.

The research questions in this paper are as follows: 1. what was the role of Rey fortifications during the Seljuk period in providing the security of the region? 2. In which category of fortifications can these monuments be classified in terms of the characteristics of architectural structure and classification?

The present paper is based on the results of the field studies performed by the authors in the area of the old texture and identification of the Seljuk fortifications of Rey, and also with reference to previous studies and historical sources. The data collection of this paper has been conducted by field and library methods and the research method is an analytical-historical one.

## **Research Background**

Among the valuable works on the history and ancient monuments is *Ancient Rey*, which is a two-volume book by Hossein Karimān (Karimān 1975; Karimān 1977). Robert Ker porter (1821-22) prepared a map of the ancient city of Rey and referred to Gabri castle as the fortified castle of the southeastern part of the city (Ker porter, 1821: 359). Rashkān fortress was excavated for the first time in 1935-1937 by an American exploration board led by Eric Schmidt. After the death of Schmidt, there is no other information available about this fortress, except for several aerial photographs and images (Schmidt, 1935, 1936). In 1983, Ali Asghar Mirfatāh, Yahyā Kowsari and Houshang Khazāei conducted some boring in Rashkān fortress. According to the report

of this excavation, Rashkân fortresses referred as the center of the Seljuk rule (Mirfatāh, et al., 1996). Kowsari excavated Gabri castle in 1991 and then presented his results in a corresponding paper (Kowsari, 1996: 494-453). Afround and Pourbakhshandeh (2002) studied the monuments of the region during a project called "Investigation and Identification of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the city of Rey" (Afround and Pourbakhshandeh, 2002). Rocco Rante, along with Ghadir Afround, excavated Rashkân fortresses in 2006 and 2007 (Rante, 2014). It is noteworthy that Kāsni castle has not yet been studied.

### **Historical Background of the Study**

With the death of Masoud Ghaznavi in 431 AH, the power of the Seljuk's suddenly increased by his descendants, and the scattered troops joined them in Khorasan (Ibid. 29). In 433 AH, Ebrahim Yanāl settled in Rey. When Rey was ruled by Gazans and they became aware of Ebrahim's interest in Rey, they thought that resistance was not expedient and therefore they left Rey. Ebrahim Yanāl conquered Rey and the cities adjacent to it (Ibn Asir, 1991: 341). After a while, Tughrol came to Rey in 434 AH and captured it from Ebrahim Yanal. In the 5th century AH, Rey suffered from much damage due to the attacks of the Ghazes, but Tughrol ordered to restore the damage and reconstruct the city (ibid. 338). According to the background and location of Rey, Sultan Tughrol moved his throne from Isfahan to this city in 442 AH. After the death of Tughrol in 455 AH, he was buried in a magnificent graveyard, which seems to be part of today's Tughrol's tower (Rāvandi, 1985: 116; for further information on the successors of Tughrol, see Bandareri

Isfahani, 2536: 31; *History of Al-Seljuk*, 1996: 48). During the reign of Malekshāh, Rey was especially prospered and thus became a very great city and during the reign of him and his descendents, Barkiaragh and Mohammad, science and culture greatly flourished in this city, and huge schools and large monasteries were built there (Ibn Asir, 1991: 94). During the attack of Takesh Kharazmshahi to Rey in 588 AH, the name of Tabarak castle (Rashkân fortress) has been mentioned and it has been also stated that the city was sieged and conquered in two days (Ibn Asir, 1991: 105; Javaher Kalam, 1946:21). There is no exact knowledge regarding the state of the castles of Rey after the 571 AH terrible earthquake that caused the destruction of the city and the killing of many people, as well as the religious strife between Hanafis, Shafeis, Shiites and Ismailis, which led to the abandonment of the city by the residents and destruction of the city (Yaghout Hamawi 2004: 598; Ibn Asir 1991: 237).

### **The City's Fortifications**

#### ***Rashkân Fortress (Tabarak Castle)***

Rashkân fortress or Tabarak castle, which is approximately 3 hectares, includes a mountain with an approximate height of 55 meters above the level of the surrounding land and the remaining of one of the subsidiary mountain chains of the Mount Bībi Shahr-banou. This monument is located in the northeast of Rey and on the southern side of Rey's old cement factory, in the Safāeieh neighborhood, at geographical location of 51°, 27' and 11" eastern longitude and 35° 36' and 29" northern latitude and at a height of 1151 meters above sea level (Figure 1). Rashkân fortress, along with the monuments of "Hāroun Prison", as well as the "Royal Cemetery" and "Seljuk Citadel", have been registered under the title of "Seljuk

and Dialmah City Center" in 1934 with registered number 215 in the list of the Iranian National Monuments.

According to archaeological excavations of Rashkân fortress, fortifications and the defensive area constituted the city. Kohandez was located at the top of a rocky hill called "Mount Sorsoreh". The plan of the castle has a triangular pattern that leads to a higher hill towards the eastern direction, where it is connected to the Mount Bībī Shahr-banou. Defensive walls around the hills follow the entire castle environment. Today, as a result of agricultural activities, most of the castle's defensive complex has disappeared.

Part of the area between the Mount Sorsoreh (north of the castle) and the Mount Bībī Shahr-banou had been called Rey-e Barīn (which means the upper Rey) by Hossein Karimān, while the southern area of Bībī Shahr-banou has been introduced as Rey-e Zīrīn (which mean the lower Rey). The castle is located in a highland area, in whose lower part it is consisted of two: the northern and southern terraces facing each other. The architectural analysis of the northern terrace is difficult due to the existence of the cement factory, and the only documentations we have regarding the existence of architecture in this section are Eric's images (Figure 4). The southern terrace section is almost completely intact. Today, no old rampart or wall is remained of the castle and everything has been destroyed. At the top of the castle, a circular architectural structure is seen that seems to have had a defensive function (Figure 2). The materials used in the castle are stone and plaster. There are two rectangular rooms on the southern side of the castle which is likely to be a defensive wall because its approximate size is 2 meters which has been designed to defend the structures at its back. The western part of the

castle, with a rectangular structure, is made of stone and mortar in two layers. In the western fortifications, some arrows slit have been made for shooting, indicating the military and defensive application of the castle (Figure 3, Table 1).

According to a report by Afround, from the first season of excavations in Rashkân fortress, "It is certain that the foundations of this site date back to the pre-Islamic era, but the architecture itself, whose structure is entirely made of stone and mortar, belongs to the late Sassanid period that was used during the early centuries of Islam, especially the Seljuk era" (Afround, 2006: 29).

Rashkân fortress as the Kohandez (the Old Fortress) and the center of the Seljuk period rule is comparable to Kohandez of the Bam Citadel (Figure. 6) and Neishabour Kohandez (Figure 7). This plan is also comparable to the examples of monuments seen in Samarqand area (Figure 8) and the city of Marv (Figure 9). In these cities, Kohandez is located at the highest district of the city.

### **Gabri Castle**

Gabri castle is located southeast of Rey at a distance of about 100 meters from Karimi highway, in Amin Abād district, Mostafa Khomeini Street, and in the geographical location of 51°, 27' and 01" northern latitude and 35°, 35' and 01" longitude, and is 3400 meters above sea level (Figure 10). This castle was registered in 1998 in the list of the National Monuments of Iran under the registered no. 1982. Currently, the castle is among the endowments of the holy shrine of Abdul Azim and it is used as the storeroom of this shrine.

Due to its geographical location and accessibility, more attention has been given to the ancient castle of Gabri than Kāsni

castle. Hossein Karimān has introduced the Gabri castle, which is located near the holy shrine of Abdul Azim, as the place of "Dare-ābes" (Karimān, 1966: 243). In *Al-Naqz*, "Dare-ābes", near the holy shrine of Abdul Azim, was one of the most important Shiite centers in the Seljuk period (Qazvini Rāzi, 1979: 437). Hence, the Gabri castle seems to have been the probable place of Dare-ābes and has been one of the major Shiite centers.

The Gabri castle with an interior space of about 1 hectare is a solid defensive quadrangle high fortress, each outer edge of which has four defensive towers (Figure 16). The area of the castle in the outside is about  $160 \times 180$  meters and in the inside it is about  $140 \times 130$  meters. Although the corner towers are mostly destroyed, it seems that each tower has had a diameter of 10 to 15 meters. In each angle of the castle, there is a tower for defensive and observation affairs with a diameter of 14 meters, and between each side there are two smaller towers which are 8 meters in diameter. The distance between the towers in the angles to each of the ramparts of the castle is maximally 50 meters. The towers also have the highest altitude in the rampart section which is about 17 meters (Figure 11). The thickness of the castle wall in most of the remaining part is about 10 meters. The highest point remained in the northern part of the castle is about 12 meters. Around the castle, in the outside, the ground is deep that it seems that just like most military fortifications, there have been some ditches around it. The building of Gabri castle has been constructed of clay walls and adobes with an approximate size of  $40 \times 40 \times 10$  cm. Mud layers have been used between the adobe surfaces for the strength of the building (Figure 12, Table 1).

Through the boring operations conducted by Kowsari in 1991 in Gabri castle some clay

findings from the 5-7 centuries AH and the Seljuk period were obtained. The pottery findings include storage vessels and glazed and non-blazed vats and glazed pottery with a turquoise and green color categorized among the typical pottery types of the Seljuk period. The notable point is the lack of pottery samples before the Seljuk period in this castle (Kowsari, 2017: 478).

From among the castles comparable to Gabri castle, in terms of the type of plan, Darbārzin castle of Bam (Figure. 18) and Fahkand castle of Isfahan (Figure. 19) can be mentioned. The architectural structure of the mentioned castles consists of a square-rectangular building with four main towers on both sides and two towers in the middle.

#### **Kāsni Castle**

Kāsni castle is located southeast of Rey and in the area of the Alaein town, at the end of the Meysam Street and about 500 meters southeast of Gabri castle (Figure 13) and in the geographical location of  $51^{\circ} 27'$  and  $15''$  eastern longitude and  $35^{\circ} 34'$  and  $39''$  northern latitude and it is 3400 meters above sea level. The castle was registered in 2007 under the reg. no. 19683 in the list of the National Monuments of Iran. At the present time, the castle is enclosed by agricultural land and residential and public buildings. Unfortunately, the Kāsni castle, in contrast to Gabri castle, has been less considered by scholars and travelers, and it is being studied for the first time in this study.

Like Gabri castle, Kāsni castle also has a square plan (Figure. 17). This castle has four towers on each side that between each side, except for the eastern side, there is a tower (Figure 14). The entrance to the castle seems to have been on the eastern side of the building, which is now completely missed. The area of the castle in the outside it is about

60 x 50 meters. Most of the northern and eastern parts of the castle have disappeared (Figure 15). The thickness of the castle wall is maximally 8 m. The height of the corner towers, as the highest part of the castle, is about 10 meters. The diameter of each corner tower is about 12 meters and the diameter of the middle towers is about 6 meters. The distance between the towers on the angles to each of the castle's ramparts is about 25 meters. Just like the Gabri castle, in the construction of the Kāsni castle, clay walls and adobes have been used, and their approximate size of the adobes is 40 × 35 × 10 cm. Mud layers are used between the adjacent surfaces for more strength of the building (Table 1).

In terms of plan, architecture and materials, this castle is similar to the Gabri castle. The pottery shreds obtained from the inside and around the fortress indicate that this monument belongs to the Seljuk and Safavid periods.

The plan of the Kāsni castle is comparable to those of Jalāli castle of Kāshān (Figure 20) and Choghukhi castle of Kermān (Figure 21). The architectural structure of the castle complex consists of a square-shaped structure with four main towers on both sides and it has one tower in the middle.

### **Study and Analysis**

The Seljuk city of Rey, influenced by the architecture of the Sassanid period, consists of three sections called "Kohandez", "Shārestān" and "Rabaz". Walls of Rey were destroyed due to the expansion of urbanization along with its gates. The inner-city fortifications have been built with adobes and clay walls and protected by a ditch around it. This kind of ditch has been survived around the wall of the remains around the fortresses of the administrative

fortress of Rashkān. The Seljuk's designed their cities with defensive capabilities, and in Rey also, for better defense, in addition to the side walls, they built other strong walls at different distances; these walls generally led to fortified towers. In Rashkān fortress, very strong towers are seen in three corners of the tower, with reference to the triangular shape of the fortress. So that ramparts and fences were created outside of Rashkān fortresses and strong towers have been constructed around the castle itself in order to ensure the security of the Kohandez.

Rashkān fortress is located on the west along the Mount Bibī Shahr-banou with an area of three hectares. In the northern part, given the mountainous structure in which it has been constructed, the fortress has become impassable and this situation makes it difficult to be able to access the fortress through this path; this defensive aspect is also a characteristics of inner-city castles. From among the other features of the inner city castles of Rey is the use of indigenous materials such as adobes and clay walls, for example this is seen in Rashkān fortresses which is in harmony with other monuments of the region. Also, other important functions of Rashkān fortress is overlooking the great Silk Road and its supervisory role. In Rey, they set up the Kohandez and their administrative place at the top of Rashkān fortress as an inner-city castle (Figure 2).

In Rey's Kohandez of the Seljuk period, the main gate and the main entrance of the Kohandez are located at the end of the western part of the castle that today the remains of the entrance towers have totally disappeared. The defensive fence of Rey as a type of inner-city regional fortification has been a leading factor against the enemies' invasion. This defensive wall is located in a small area that involves an important part of



the city. Today, only part of this defensive fence has survived of the development and expansion of the city. In general, it can be argued that factors, such as access to the important route of the Silk Road, being the capital and center of the reign, the existence of appropriate urban infrastructure and the remains of the earlier times, led to the creation of a series of inner-city castles and fortifications in Rey of the Seljuk period for the purpose of defending the city and maintaining the city's security (Figure 1).

### **Conclusion**

Geographically, Rey has had an appropriate situation on key business routes, and it has been actually the connecting gateway between the north and the south, as well as the west to the east. Study of the architectural remains of Rey, in the form of castles, towers and ramparts, provides a significant context for archaeological studies of the region. In the architecture and urbanization of Rey of the Seljuk period, Kohandez has been of great importance just like other cities. Meanwhile, Rashkân fortress of the city's Kohandez, along with other inner-city castles, such as Gabri and Kāsni, have had defensive and security functions. For instance, in Gabri and Kāsni castles, existence of large circular towers in four corners and smaller subsidiary towers at the distances between them indicate their defensive and security aspects. Also, in the administrative fortress of Rashkân, some ditches have been built around it in order to meet defensive purposes and also to maintain and its security. The walls and fence of the inner-city castles of Rey have been usually constructed in a very strong and fortified manner in order not to be accessible and also for the sake of defense, for example, Gabri castle with a thickness of about 10 meters still remains. Also, the

fortifications of the Rey region in the Seljuk period are comparable to some castles in Iran and abroad in terms of plan and functioning. For example, Gabri and Kāsni castles are similar to Darbarzin castle of Bam, Fakhand castle of Isfahān, Choghoy castle of Kermān, and also they are comparable to Jalāli castle of Kāshān in terms of the similarity of plan and type of materials. Meanwhile, Rashkân fortress with a nearly triangular shape, as the Kohandez and the center of Seljuk rule, is comparable to the Kohandez of Neishabur, Kohandez of Bam Citadel, Kohandez of Marv and Kohandez of Afrāsiāb. Being located on the path of the great Silk Road led to the growth of commodity production and economic development of the city, which required a space and physical body suitable for new conditions. Hence, the physical space needed for the expansion of activities and the protection and control of them was created and expanded in Rey. Rashkân fortress, as the administrative center, was expanded and highly considered due to its location, in order to be able to control the transportation on the important Silk Road.

In terms of defensive purposes, the Seljuk's used to design their cities with defensive capabilities, and in Rey also, to provide better defense, in addition to the side walls, other strong walls were built, at various distances, which generally led to strong towers. Rashkân fortress is seen with very strong towers in the three corners of the tower, with reference to the triangular shape of the fortress, in such a way that ramparts and fences are built outside Rashkân fortresses and around the castle itself; also strong towers have been created to ensure the security of the Kohandez. Gabri and Kāsni castles also have strong and thick walls, as well as large towers which have larger

circular towers on four corners, and in the distances between them subsidiary towers have been constructed. This type of defensive architecture represents progress in building the city and providing the security of the city of Rey in the Seljuk period.

From typological point of view, Rashkân fortresses is among the defensive and administrative fortresses that can be categorized as mountainous castles. Gabri castle is also a military castle due to the large

and strong walls, as well as large towers; and in terms of geographic division, it is among the plain castles. Kāsni castle is also among the plain castles in terms of geographic location, and according to its proximity (about 500 meters), the similarity of its type with Gabri castle, it seems to be a kind of small military castle, which in the event of an emergency, especially during enemies' invasion, this small castle has had the responsibility of supporting the Gabri castle.

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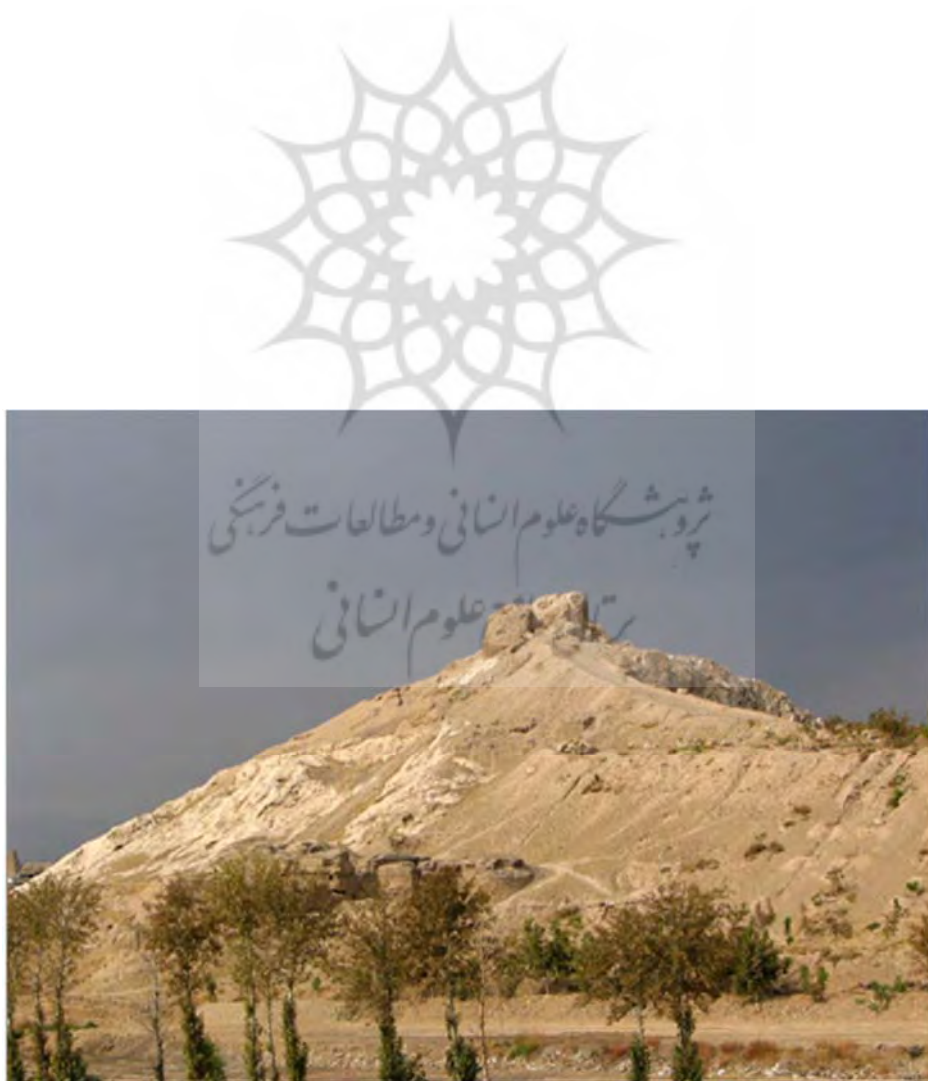
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**Fig 1. Aerial images of Rashkân fortress area on Google Earth map**



**Fig 2. The landscape of Rashkân fortress from the northeast view**



Fig 3. Some remains of the arrow slit of Rashkân fortress

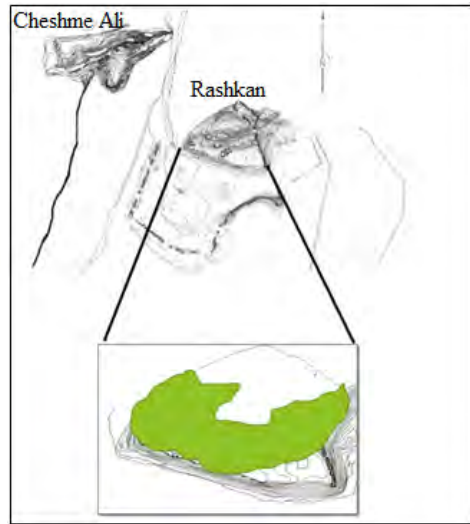


Fig 4. The remaining area of Rashkân fortress-the destructions in the northern part of the site by the old Rey cement factory

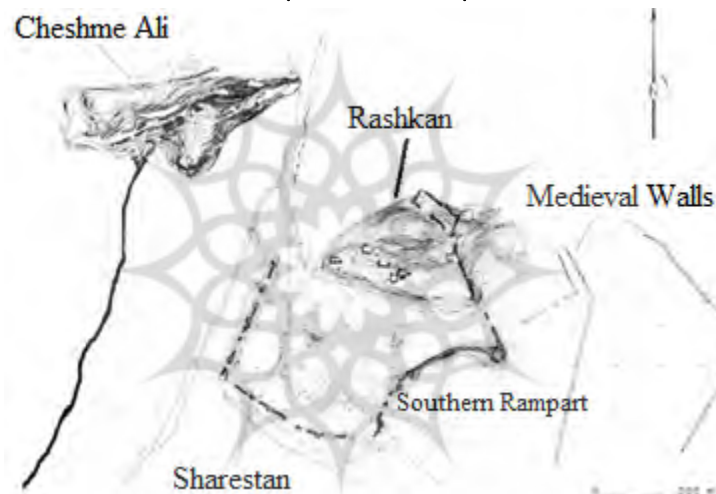


Fig 5. The Area of Kohandez, Shārestān, and rampart of the city of Rey during the Seljuk Period



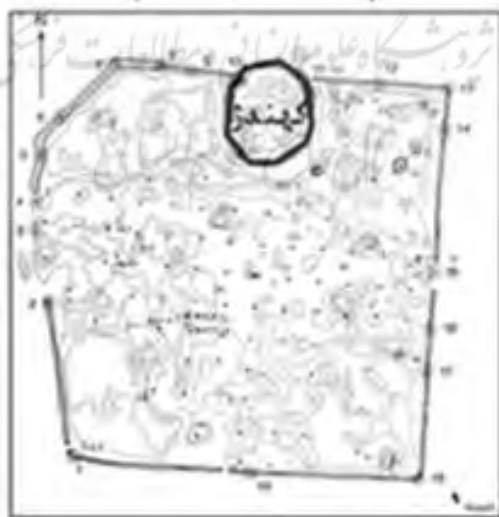
Fig 6. Kohandez of the Bam Citadel (Farah-Bakhsh & Mansuri, 2016: 222)



**Fig 7. Kohandez of the Neishabour City (Rante, 2008: 200)**



**Fig 8. Kohandez of the City of Afrāsiāb (Gangler et al, 2008)**



**Fig 9. Kohandez of the City of Marv (Hermann et al, 1993)**





Fig 10. The landscape of Gabri castle of Rey-the circular towers on four corners of the castle have been marked by arrows



Fig 11. Remains of one of the towers of Gabri castle



Fig 12. The western wall of Gabri castle- Access to the castle through the rampart and the walls is hardly possible



Fig 13. Location of Gabri castle and Kāsni castle on Google Earth maps



Fig 14. Remains of the rampart survived of the Kāsni castle





Fig 15. The southeast tower of the Kāsni castle

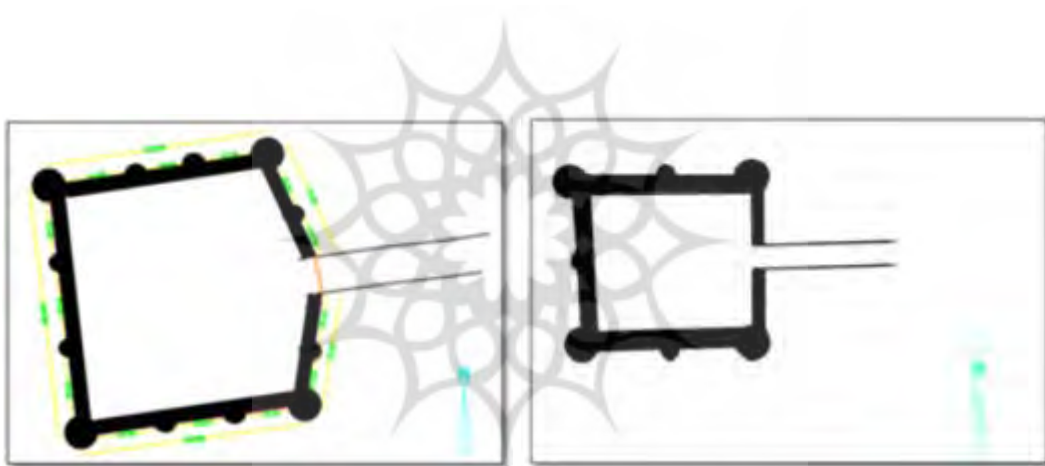


Fig 16. Plan of Gabri Castle Fig 17. Plan of Kāsni Castle

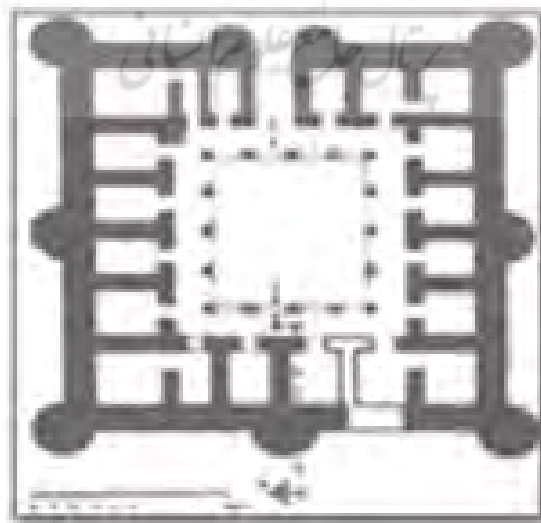
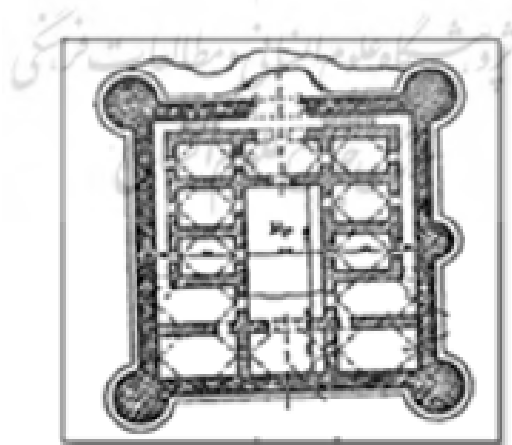


Fig 18. Plan of Darbarzin Castle of Bam (Mollāzādeh and Mohammadi, 2006: 227)

**Table 1. Table of the Specifications and Features of the Rashkân Castle, Gabri Castel, and Kâsni Castle**

Features	Rashkân Castle	Gabri Castle	Kâsni Castle
Materials	Adobe	Adobe	Adobe
Entrance gate	One	One	One
Main towers	3	4	4
Subsidiary towers	5	8	3
Plan	Triangular	Square	Square
Period classification	Sassanid-Seljuk	Islamic-Seljuk	Seljuk
Functions	Ruling Fortress-inner city	Military-defensive	Military-defensive
Comparable examples in terms of plan	Neishabour Kohandez-Kohandez of Bam citadel-Kohandez of Marv-Kohandez of the city of Afrâsiâb	Darbarzin castle of Bam-Fahkand castle of Isfahân-Choughaki castle of Kermân-Jalâli Castle of Kâshân	Darbarzin castle of Bam-Fahkand castle of Isfahân-Choughaki castle of Kermân-Jalâli Castle of Kâshân
Current situation	It is currently being used as a museum site in the form of a historical and tourist complex.	It is currently among the endowments of the holy shrine of Abdul Azim al-Hasani and it is used as a warehouse.	It is currently abandoned and surrounded by agricultural land and private and public constructions.



**Fig 19. Plan of Fakhand Castle of Isfahan (Memâriân, 2008: 82)**



Fig 20. Erial Image of Jalāli Castle of Kāshān (Google earth)

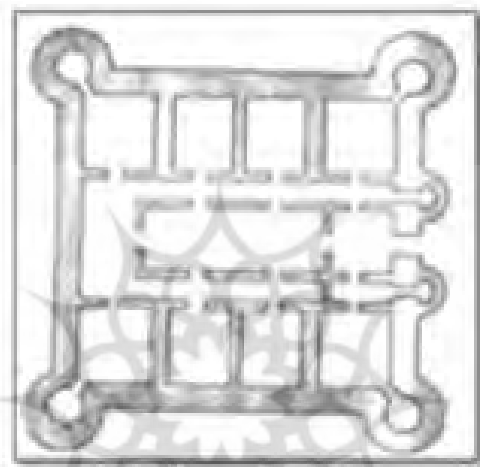
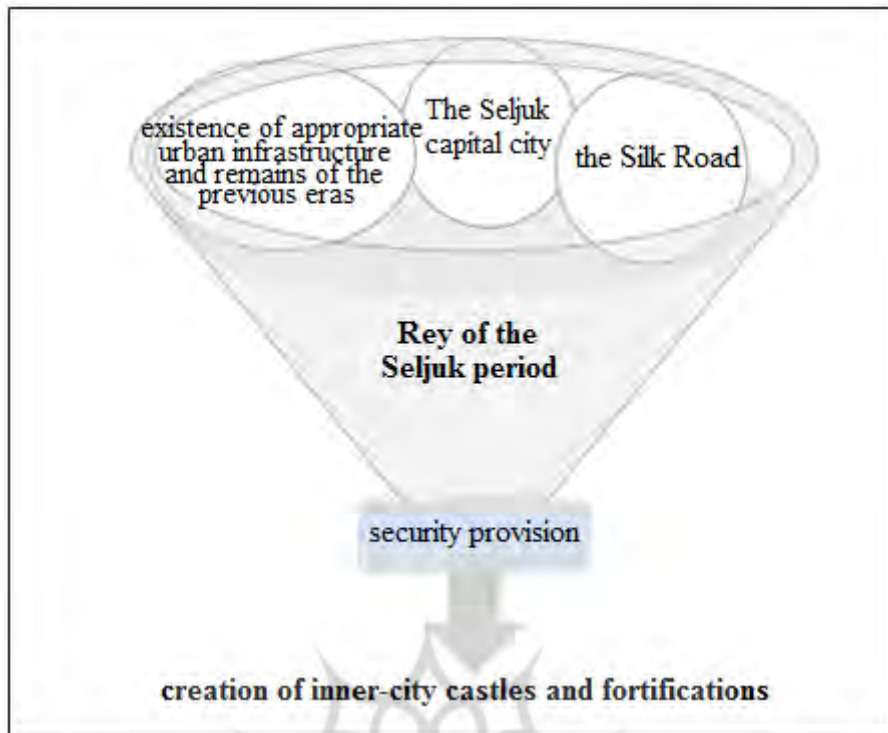


Fig 21. Plan of Choughaki Castle of Kermān (Mollāzādeh and Mohammadi, 2006: 304)



Fig 22. Location of the Silk Road path in relation to Rashkān Fortress (Google earth)

Chart 1. Conceptual diagram of Rey in the Seljuk period, based on the causes for establishment of inner-city fortifications and castles of Rey in the Seljuk era



پژوهشگاه علوم انسانی و مطالعات فرهنگی  
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## استحکامات درون شهری ری دوره سلجوقی؛ مطالعه موردی: دژ رشکان و قلعه‌های گبری و کاسنی

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### چکیده

قلعه‌های دوره سلجوقی به‌عنوان قلعه‌های درون شهری نیز مورد استفاده قرار گرفته است. پژوهش حاضر با هدف شناسایی و بررسی قلعه‌های سلجوقی ری، شیوه عملکرد استحکامات درون شهری و مقایسه آنها با سایر نمونه‌ها در مناطق همجوار از نظر ویژگی‌های ساختاری انجام شده است. داده‌های این پژوهش از طریق مطالعات میدانی و کتابخانه‌ای به‌دست آمده و روش تحقیق نیز در این پژوهش براساس روش تحلیلی-تاریخی است. در این پژوهش به این پرسش‌های مهم پرداخته شده: ۱. نقش قلعه‌ها و استحکامات سلجوقی ری در تأمین امنیت منطقه چیست؟ استحکامات سلجوقی ری از نظر ویژگی‌های ساختاری و طبقه‌بندی معماری در زمره کدام نوع از قلعه‌ها و استحکامات قرار گرفته‌اند؟ در میان قلعه‌های سلجوقی ری، کهن دژ به‌عنوان مقر سیاسی و حکومتی بوده و در مقایسه با دیگر قلعه‌های بین شهری نیز دارای برج‌های مدور در چهارگوشه و در فواصل کم آنها نیز برج‌های فرعی با دیوارهای مستحکم ساخته شده است. این نوع شیوه معماری تدافعی نشان‌دهنده پیشرفت در ساختارهای شهری و تأمین امنیت در دوره سلجوقی است. از نظر طبقه‌بندی قلعه‌ها، دژ رشکان با یک حصار دفاعی و قرارگیری در مجموعه حکومتی را می‌توان در زمره قلعه‌های کوهستانی قرار داد. قلعه گبری نیز از نوع قلعه‌های نظامی براساس دیوارهای مستحکم و بلند و برج‌های بزرگ است که از نظر جغرافیایی نیز در انواع قلعه‌های جلگه‌ای است. قلعه کاسنی نیز از لحاظ طبقه بندی جغرافیایی در بین قلعه‌های دشت طبقه‌بندی شده است.

واژه‌های کلیدی: قلعه، ری، سلجوقی، دژ رشکان، قلعه گبری، قلعه کاسنی.

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