

# Tabiat Bridge of Tehran, a modern icon



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Along with the iconic Milad Tower and the Azadi Tower, Tabiat Bridge in Tehran is considered another modern symbol of the capital. Located in the Abbas Abad region, Tabiat Bridge (Nature Bridge) connects two popular parks named Taleqani and Ab-o-Atash (Water and Fire). Therefore, it is a top choice for people to hang out, especially in the evenings.

As a multilevel pedestrian bridge, it was designed by Leila Araqian and Alireza Behzadi, two young Iranian architects, as part of a domestic competition

for the design of a bridge connecting the two parks. The construction project was launched in 2010 by using 2,000 tons of steel and 10,000 cubic meters of concrete. Having three levels, Tabiat Bridge covers an area of 7,000 square meters, ghoghnos.net wrote.

This 270-meter structure, built on a height of 40 meters above ground level, is the largest pedestrian bridge in the Middle East. The modern anatomy of Tabiat Bridge connects three huge trees erected by metal columns, and the interwoven branches,

which harmonize with the name of the bridge, Tabiat, which means 'Nature' in Persian. Inspired by Si-o-Se Pol (also known as Pole Khaju) of Isfahan, Araqian wanted the bridge to "be a place for people to stay and ponder, not simply pass."

For doing so, the bridge is equipped with several benches and seats in addition to restaurants, cafés and green spaces for encouraging visitors to linger.

## Design

The lowest level, with an area of about 1,450 square meters,

has been covered by the second level and glass walls, proper for the cold and rainy seasons, while the third level, with two round platforms on the path, invites visitors to take amazing photos.

The bridge offers amazing scenery to visitors who feel like walking through a forest. The feeling is intensified by the soft wooden flooring of the structure, which creates a warm, natural effect to the fullest. Being designed simply for staying rather than passing, Tabiat Bridge, with its curved



shape, adds to the plurality of perspectives. That is the reason Tabiat Bridge is a huge hit with locals.

## A recreation center

Surrounded by the numerous trees of nearby parks, Tabiat Bridge provides a superb view in addition to breaths of fresh air. The beautiful landscape, various eateries, and seating areas in between have all made Tabiat Bridge a top attraction. Its food court serves almost all types of cuisine.

There are some other attrac-

tions near the bridge, making the whole area a wonderful place including Gonbad-e Mina Planetarium.

Taleqani Forest Park, at the opposite end of Nature Bridge, is an amazing place for walking and lingering, especially in winter when the trees are covered with snow.

You are advised not to miss visiting the bridge at sunset, when you will have an amazing view of northern Tehran. The dreamlike, colorful light of the bridge will leave you with an unforgettable memory.

## A clever solution to aridity in ancient Persia

### Iranica Desk

The connection between culture and nature has been a subject worthy of attention since ancient Persia, examples of which are obvious in the architectural styles of the past. They came up with several solutions for aridity, which even back in the old times was one of the challenges of the country. The most significant

of these ideas was building cisterns. Cisterns are tanks used for storing water.

Mostly built by people in dry regions of the country, it is one of

the cheapest ways to save water for the longest time, with the least energy consumed.

These beneficial resources were often used in city districts, in small and various forms. Researchers believe the antiquated structure next to Choghazanbil is Iran's oldest cistern.

As time went by, water pipes changed and this invention faded. At present, all the remaining cisterns date back to the post Safavid era (1501-1736), and the only cistern that remains from before that time is in Yazd.

An article recently released by an archaeologist

says that cisterns play a major role in some big cities like Yazd. The construction of these cisterns is extremely important due to the complications and details of the building process. Also, the outer design of these tankers is in harmony with its surrounding nature.

Mohammad Barshan, head of Kerman's aqueducts center, said, "Some cisterns remain from



Zarch cistern, Yazd  
ealiya.com

other civilizations, but the ones in Iran are definitely more advanced." He highlighted that the building of these cisterns are different based on the weather conditions of each region. "Cisterns have different parts. At first, they were made from stones. But since the Seljukian era (1307-1194), bricks became one of the crucial elements of the building process, and then special bricks were used."

He noted that in some cases the construction included staircases. Most cisterns went 50 meters deep into the ground. The deepest cistern discovered so far is the

Haj Mohammad Taghi cistern in Kerman. He added, "Cisterns are built for particular purposes and the storage water is not changed seasonally so that people won't encounter problems using it."

He said that cisterns were often built by wealthy people, or they were endowed. He also confirmed the purity of the water, saying that the water is under strict supervision. He noted, "Although today aqueducts are used instead of cisterns, we shouldn't overlook their importance."

Some cities still use cisterns as tourist attractions. They can also be transformed into museums or exhibitions.

Haj Mohammad Taghi cistern, Kerman  
wikimedia.org

