

Architectural beauty of Jaame Mosque of Farumad



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If you have an interest in history, you can explore a historical book, watch a historical movie, or visit the Jaame Mosque of Farumad. Despite some physical damages, certain buildings can transport you back in time and stimulate your imagination. The stuccoes of the Jaame Mosque, along with its deep vaults and decorative elements from different eras, can take you on a journey into the past. The Jaame Mosque is situated near the road connecting Shahrud and Mashhad, in a village bearing the same name — Farumad. This village is located in Meyami, northeast of Shahrud, Semnan Province. The mosque features a two-ivan plan. Although there is no specific inscription indicating its date of construction, similarities with other two-ivan mosques in Khorasan Razavi Province suggest that it was built during the

Khwarazmian dynasty. Adjacent to the mosque is the tomb of Ibn Yamin, a 14th-century poet. The city of Farumad gained fame following the movements of the Sarbadars, a group of religious dervishes and secular rulers who rose to power in western Khorasan during the disintegration of the Mongol Ilkhanate. Covering approximately 820 square meters, the structure of the Jaame Mosque comprises two ivans on the north and south, with two smaller ivans flanking them. There is a sanctuary on the eastern side of the southern ivan, two arcades surrounding the courtyard, and a vaulted room on the west side of the northern ivan. The western sanctuary has been mostly destroyed, with only a small part remaining. However, the stuccoes and intricate tile works from the fourth to the seventh centuries adorn other parts of the mosque. These decorations, combined with turquoise tiles,

offer rich insights into architectural styles, particularly those of Khwarazmian architecture. There is speculation that the mosque was built atop an ancient fire temple, but no definitive evidence supports this claim. One of the mosque's most beautiful features is its northern entrance portal, decorated with brickwork, stucco, and tablets. The altar, adorned with turquoise and ultramarine stucco, is located on the southern side of the mosque. The Jaame Mosque has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List. Farumad is a small historic village is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and ancient architecture. Despite its small size, Farumad has historically played a significant role in the region's history, especially during the era of the Sarbadars. Along with its historical sites, Farumad is known for its peaceful rural scenery and traditional lifestyle, giving visitors a glimpse into

Iran's rich cultural tapestry. Semnan Province is a diverse and historically significant region located in northern Iran. Known for its varied landscape, the province features vast deserts, lush green plains, rugged mountains, and fertile valleys. The city of Semnan, the provincial capital, has a rich history dating back thousands of years, with archaeological sites that reflect its importance as a trade and cultural hub in ancient Persia. Semnan Province features a semi-arid climate characterized by hot summers and cold winters. The temperature can fluctuate significantly between day and night, with variations reaching up to 50 °C. The region experiences minimal rainfall overall, with most of the precipitation occurring in the northern mountainous areas, where the higher altitudes help retain more moisture. These climatic conditions influence the local ecology and the agricultural practices within the province.

Borujerd's rich heritage of handicrafts, artisanal skills

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The production of various handicrafts, each reflecting its own customs and culture, has transformed Borujerd into one of the important cities of Lorestan Province in this field. In addition to renowned industries such as Chit Bafi (textile weaving) and Varsho Sazi (nickel silverware crafting), as well as other arts and techniques for which this city is famous, its favorable climate, beautiful natural surroundings, and central location have historically fostered the development of diverse crafts and arts. Today, however, some of these crafts have been forgotten for various reasons, while new ones have been introduced. Nickel silverware crafting is the most notable handicraft of Borujerd, which, with over two centuries of prosperity, has established the city's name both inside and outside the country. Its diverse

products include water dispensers, trays and cups, braziers, rosewater sprays, and samovars. The craft of making these items has been prevalent since the Seljuk and Safavid periods, reaching its peak during the Qajar era. Other traditional crafts of Borujerd include Givah Bafi (weaving a type of traditional shoes), sock knitting, kilim weaving, and Jajim Bafi (weaving a type of traditional floor covering). Copperworking has also been a thriving profession in Borujerd, and today, the name of Rasteh Mesgarha (Blacksmiths' Corridor) in the old bazaar still evokes the reputation of this craft. Numerous records and accounts attest to the popularity of Borujerd's handicrafts among notable figures, resident foreigners, and tourists. Metalworking crafts include nickel silverware crafting, goldsmithing, blacksmithing, knife making, and lock making. Woodworking industries and related handicrafts include the con-

struction of doors and stained glass windows with innovative and diverse designs, decorative ceiling work in valuable buildings, marquetry, carving, pierced work, Jajim weaving and Qalam-Kari (decorative painted textiles). Mehdi Goudarzi, the head of the Borujerd Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, told ISNA, "Out of the 292 handicraft branches covered by Lorestan Province's Cultural Heritage Organization, 39 are native to the city. Currently, about 700 artisans and craftspeople are active in various handicraft fields." He highlighted that in 2019, Borujerd was registered as the National City of Varsho Sazi, and some infrastructure has been established to position the city as a global hub for this craft. The mayor of the city, appointed as the secretary of the national city, is planning to install signs bearing the title of the National City for Varsho Sazi at the city entrances and exits. Goudarzi added that the dossier for the global registration of Borujerd's Varsho Sazi is currently being finalized and submitted to the ministry. It will undoubtedly be forwarded to UNESCO, as Borujerd has the capacity to register this art because it is unique and specific to the city. "The Varsho Sazi House, spanning three floors and nine rooms, has been completed and equipped to host workshops, training sessions, and a display section for Varsho Sazi products. Currently, 80 artisans are active in Varsho Sazi within the city, making this craft one of the most prominent handicrafts of the area."



Varsho Sazi
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Givah Bafi
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