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Original Research Article

Judgment Criteria for Public Buildings Design in Governmental Organizations*

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Abstract

Problem statement: Judgment and evaluation of architectural designs have been among the challenges that designers and architects deal with. This challenge is more serious at the professional level due to the sensitivity of designs and these scales. In general, the lack of comprehensive and clear criteria for evaluating and judging architectural designs is named as the most substantial reason causing this issue. The intellectual foundations of the study have been shaped based on the following questions: What criteria are used to judge and evaluate architectural designs? Are design providers or participants in governmental organizations satisfied with the top design chosenor is this choice the outcome of the personal interests of the jury, political rents, and popularity of consultant companies or competitors? Finally, is the top design selected based on certain criteria and regulations that are everyone's favorite?

Research objective: The study attempts toidentify the mechanism, criteria, and characteristics of the jury that judges these designs, and finally develop the proposed checklist forjudging and evaluating public building' design in governmental organizations.

Research method: The datawere obtained from analysis of open and semi-in-depth interviews with architecture experts. This study uses the practical method of "Grounded Theory" in architectural studies to identify the judgment criteria for public buildings' design in governmental organizations based on the interpretations provided by architecture experts.

Conclusion: Research findings and categories point to the characteristics of the jurors and their judgment technique. The results show that when professional and competent jurors are employed to judge the architectural designs, the judgment process and its criteria are done accurately with fewer problems. Ultimately, the core category or theme titled "The selected legitimate and competent jury" has been presented in addition to the criteria and conditions involved in the judgment process, as well as the characteristics of the jurors who judge these designs.

Keywords: *Judgment Criteria, Public Buildings, Governmental Organizations, Grounded Theory, Jurors' Characteristics.*

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Introduction

Since the outcome and final product are not necessarily achieved through a certain single process and can be done based on various strategies in the architecture discipline and other artistic disciplines (Roberts, 2006), judgment and evaluation can be considered to bechallenging cases in these sciences. Architecture can be defined as a connection between art and engineering; art is based on personal tastes, while judgment techniques become challenging if theyrely on the mind or personal tastes. Hence, a proper mechanism is seemingly needed to integrate both aspects (Utaberta et al., 2012). More precisely, the design qualities and values can be considered in a spectrum with two extremes of fully quantitative values, including standards, dimensions, and sizes at one end and qualitative values such as architectural beauty, mixture, and form at another end. In this case, when we move towards quantitative values then the real view and accurate assessment of criteria and construction standards, rules, and regulations become more practical. In contrast, agreement and interpretation of relevant experts are more considered when moving towards another side of the spectrum that includes qualitative values (Kianersi& Talebi, 2012). Because the judgment process in architecture encompasses both qualitative and quantitative aspects, the juror and assessor judge the case beyond the numbers and figures. In other words, the case would be strategic decision-making.

On the other hand, boththe necessity of agreements and common opinions among the jurors clearly express the importance and sensitivity of choosing jurors making it essential to refer to experts and professionals in this field to achieve a holistic judgment of architectural designs (Nadimi, 2009). It can be asserted that this topic has made many architects study andconducted research on this case since the advent of a classic study byCatherine Anthonythat was published in private responses to public criticism in 1987 and the design jury in architectural studios in 1991 (Salama & El-Attar, 2010). Most jurors have received less holistic training on judgment and evaluation techniques and many of them were not trained in this field. Most jurors have only used the techniques adopted by the professors and teachers when they were students and relied on their previous experiences (Anthony, 1991). Hence, they have considerably different judgment and assessment techniques in theirdesigns. The jury's evaluation is often based on insufficient perception and consideration of the project's goals, constraints, etc. The purposefulefforts of jurors aim at identifying theshortcomings of the projects rather than their achievements (Bilozor, 2006).

Accordingly, it seems that some holistic mechanisms and criteria must be determined and formulated for judging architectural designs to overcome this challenge and minimize the unintentional or deliberate influence of the personal ideas of jurors and evaluators. Opinions of experts were asked to clarify the case base quantitative criteria such as standards and regulations are available in formulated written forms and qualitative criteria that shape the architectural designs originate from the ideas and opinions of competent experts.

In this study, 40 experts were interviewed through open and semi-in-depth interviews; in this process, the received data were repeated inthe 25thinterview and reached theoretical saturation. In the analysis process of interviews, line-by-line analysis was done and some codes were determined. Each initial has been underlined in the interview's content showing a meaning that is shown as a code or ID. The similar codes were labeled withan abstract title and the name of the concept. This phase led to the extraction of 2769 codes of IDs and 133 concepts. In the next phase, those concepts with similar dimensions and features were named subcategories. The subcategories with similar meanings were presented under the title of the category. In this research, 55 subcategories and 20 core categories were obtained.

Problem Statement

Because the criteria are some attributes or rules that serve as a factor for useful decision-making, it is beneficial to have a general definition of criteria. Criterion, features, or distinctive attributes are used to judge or estimate the quality, to make a decision, or to do a specific classification (Utaberta et al., 2011).

The judgment and evaluation process in art fields,

particularly in architecture is more difficult than other disciplines. This process is indeed considered one of the challenging issues. If the type of judgment or its tools are not clear and holistic and the proper atmosphere is not provided for judgment and evaluation, deliberate or unintentional interpretations and personal tastes and or irrelevant demands would destroy this process (Mahdizadeh Seraj&Mardomi, 2009). The evaluation and judgment system isusuallysubjective, comprehensive, or holistic, and no certain criterion exists for evaluation and grading among jurors. If such criteria exist, they have not been known and determined until now. This issue is more highlighted in executive projects and public buildings due to their larger scale and greater sensitivity and importance in all political, social, economic, and other aspects. The main reason is the lack of holistic mechanisms and codified criteria in the judgment process, so the evaluation and judgment process are influenced by the personal tastes of a juror. Hence, projects must be judged with the minimum effect of disturbing factors, such as political, social, and managerial relations, and only scientific, practical, and professional criteria must be considered (Mirriahi, 2015). Therefore, it is necessary to scrutinize some criteria and mechanisms to achieve a relatively holistic and comprehensive technique to meet the fundamental needs of a realistic judgment.

On the other hand, the specific features of architecture and its differences from other disciplines, especially the theoretical and artistic aspects of architectural design, make value-based judgments of it challenging because the judgment of architectural designs is mainly qualitative. Judgment of quantitative aspects of designs is less complicated than evaluating their qualitative aspects, so a systematic and holistic technique can be used to evaluate and judge them and reduce the influence of personal tastes and interests of jurors. Some aspects, such as structure and design standards and regulations, climatic topics, and environmental conditionadjustment, are among the quantitative aspects (Lang, 1987). However, evaluation and judgment mainly rely on the findings obtained by the person requiring a kind of judgment on the effectiveness, social efficiency, and optimality of the process or plan, and the outcome is ultimately based on the determined goals and values (Mirriahi, 2015). It can be stated that two critical challenges must be removed to achieve accurate judgment and evaluation and create motivation in designers and participants, particularly in the public buildings of governmental organizations:

- Lack of a holistic and legal process in all steps, including formulating promotion and program, judgment and evaluation process, selecting a top design, and announcing it officially.
- Lack of technical and professional surveillance over architecture and urban planning during all steps, including formulating promotion and program, selecting a top design, and announcing it officially (Publication No. 240 by Management and Planning Organization, 2002).

It is worth noting that governmental organizations and institutions prefer to deal with approved quantities and regulations because citizens refer to them to obtain approval letters for designs. Jurors' tasks become simpler when they use those regulations and standards formulated in the framework of imperative regulations. However, it should not be forgotten that regulations and bylaws can be formulated when measurement is possible. It is difficult to write a bylaw for quality (Nadimi, 2009). The intellectual context of the study has been shaped based on the following questions:

-What criteria are used to judge and evaluate architectural designs?

-Are design providers or participants in governmental organizations satisfied with the chosen top design or is this choice the outcome of the personal interests of the jury, political rents, and popularity of consultant companies or competitors?

- Finally, is the top design selected based on certain criteria and regulations that are everyone's favorite?

Background of the Study

Regarding the judgment and evaluation of architectural and urban planning designs, the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution approved the "Holistic Bylaw on Holding Architectural and Urban Planning Design

Competitions of Iran" according to the suggestion by the Art Academy in session 513 on 10 March 2002. Also, publication No. 240 of Management and Planning Organization was codified under the title of "Guide for holding architectural and Urban planning competitions in Iran" following the bylaw mentioned above. This bylaw and publication included definitions and concepts related to different architecture competitions, their constituents, the advantages and disadvantages of the competition, and the overall process of holding architecture and urban planning competitions. These documents have not presented criteria and tools for assessing and judging designs either in educational or professional scopes. Nevertheless, most studies conducted on the judgment and evaluation of architectural designs in Iran or overseas have been done on architectural education and academic environments due to easy access to respondents for researchers who themselves are architecture teachers. This important case has been less examined in the executive and professional fields. few studies on the professional scope of this topic may be related to limitations, difficulty, and barriers existing in this field. Some studies have evaluated the design in past periods the most important ones are reviewed herein: In the opinion of Hamid Nadimi, two approaches or patterns exist for judging architectural designs: objectivist and interpretive approaches. The objectivist approach considers the juror as the subject. As mentioned before, this approach pays more attention to the quantitative aspects of the topic. The interpretive approach considers the design judgment, including architectural design as an interpretive case depending on the mentality and opinions of jurors with emphasis on the qualitative and aesthetical aspects of architecture[1] (Nadimi, 2009). Bern and Røe (2022) carried out a study titled "Architectural competitions and public participation"at the University of Oslo to examine the effect of democratic and participatory aspects in architecture competitions. They conclude that architecture competitions can contribute to procedural justice and fairer results, and this process can be improved by including a wider range of stakeholders in forming competitions. Architects can move on this path based on their creativityand initiatives because no factor exists in the competition process to prevent them from creating projects that can effectively deal with many people in developing their recommendations (Bern & Røe ,2022).

Timuçin Harputlugil (2018) conducted a study titled "Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) as an Assessment Approach for Architectural Design: Case Study of Architectural Design Studio" with a case study in one of the architecture studios at Çankaya University in Ankara, Turkey,. By using observation tools, interviews and data evaluation, he came to this conclusion, this method can present comparable numerical results that are measurable, gradable, and consistent and can be reported separately. The main criteria of this study included performance, quality of construction, innovation and its effect, presentation, and process. Finally, the results showed that participants changed the priority of their criteria; however, this approach identified differences and determined the distinctions based on the comparative evaluation and projects' ranking (Hurputlugil, 2018). Nagham Al-Qaysi (2018) conducted a study titled "The judgment process in architectural design competitions as a deliberative communicative practice" at the University of Brighton to contribute to the theory and practice of the judgment process in architectural design competitions, expressing that it can improve the process of judgment and increase the validity and reliability of the results of the judgment process in architectural competitions by increasing the communicational and normative quality of deliberation, improving communications, and creating transparency among all stakeholders involved in the process. In her opinion, the relevant political, financial, and media considerations must be considered in designing a deliberative procedure within a competition framework. Also, problematic relationships between jury members are one of the barriers. The adaptation of various disciplines in the jury is a positive characteristic that can enrich the discussion and sharing of ideas. Interdisciplinary professions can be used as the best case (Alqaysi, 2018).

Method

As mentioned, it is more challenging to evaluate and judge the qualitative aspects of architectural design than their quantitative aspects. This explains why experts' opinions are used to find out how to evaluate the qualitative aspects. Accordingly, this study used the grounded theory method. This technique is a qualitative research method in which a set of data is used to develop a theory. This technique includes the systematic method, the emergent method, and the constructive method. This study used a systematic method that is attributed to the Strauss and Corbin method of data analysis. This technique included three main phases: open, axial, and selective coding (Rezaei, 2018). In this technique, the researcher tends to allow the natural environment to determine data free from beliefs and imagination to develop a theory derived from data (Groot & Wank, 1396). This research method is applied in most sciences and many researchers have used it in different studies. However, this method has been less used in some disciplines, such as architecture and urban design (Hussein et al., 2020). According to Mehrabi et al. (2011), some equivalent concepts are used for grounded theory in Persian: "basic theory," "basic research," "data-based theory," "underlying theory," "basic concept-making theory," "theory-making methodology," "founded theory" (Mehrabi et al., 2011). Grounded theory is generally a flexible qualitative method that is used for developing theoretical methods (Yu & Smith, 2021). This technique emerged in qualitative research methods and has been considered a modernist, or rather postmodernist, approach since the late 19th century (Ferasatkhah, 2019). This method provides a comprehensive theory based on the analysis of special social phenomena. This research method can examine changes in social processes over time (Fathi Najafi &Latifnejad Roudsari, 2016). Grounded theory is a technique for studying processes and a method in process (de la Espriella& Restrepo, 2020) is a collection of principles and actions or a set of techniques and methods or is considered "both a method and a technique" and research plan or output of a research (Esmaili et al., 2013, 289). It can be stated that grounded theory is a comprehensive research method that provides the field with systematic and evidence-based development (Hoda, 2021).

Grounded theory is an induction-based method. The sample size is measured based on the collected data and analysis. The sampling process is continued until itreaches saturation withthe number of participants. In grounded theory, saturation means the completion of all codes' thresholds so that no new conceptual information requiring a new code or expansion of existing codes isobtained. The researcher finally reaches theory saturation and closes the sample by regularly checking the data and asking questions. Accordingly, participants and other sources are selected until they reach the phase in which the theory appears and is discovered (Adib-Hajbagheryet al., 2016). Because relevant experts know the theories related to this phenomenon, improvement of the judgment and evaluation quality in both academic and professional scopes requires understanding and using common points of theories and criteria introduced by the experts. Three categories have been employed as interviewees (research colleagues) in this research (Fig. 1).

Data Analysis

In grounded theory, data collection, sorting, and analysis are interconnected and done simultaneously (Strauss&

Fig. 1. Three categories employed as experts in interviews.Source: Authors.

Corbin, 2011). Data analysis is done through coding, referring to a research process in which concepts are identified and their dimensions and characteristics are discovered. Coding means the interpretation of data by naming concepts and explaining them in detail based on the inductive method, which has an exploratory aspect. Coding steps include open, axial, and selecting coding phases (Lak, 2014). In the analysis process of interviews, line-by-line analysis was done, and some codes were determined. Each initial has been underlined in the interview's content, showing a meaning that is shown as a code or ID. The similar codes were labeled with an abstract title and the name of the concept. This phase led to the extraction of 2769 codes of IDs and 133 concepts. In the next phase, those concepts with similar dimensions and features were named subcategories. The subcategories with similar meanings were presented under the title of the category. In this research, there were 54 subcategories, and this number of subcategories was decreased to 20. Coding steps (open, axial, and selective) and the process of achieving codes have been presented in detail herein.

- **Coding process**

Coding is considered the heart of grounded theory. Coding is a fundamental method used to find categories available in the data. Code is a symbol orabbreviation used to categorize words or phrases. The purpose of coding is to facilitatethe recovery of data fragments. Three coding steps are used for the coherent, regular, and descriptive formulation of a theory, which includes open, axial, and selective coding (Iman & Mohammadian, 2008) that are explained herein:

- Open coding or first level of coding

after the interviews were done each took 90 minutes, the voice was recorded and listened to at least two times, and the sentences were transcribed. Semantic phrases and their relevant codes were extracted and classified. This step refers to the classification of the codes extracted from short notes of research, which leads to naming and classifying the concepts. Fig. 2 reports a sample of open coding.

- Axial coding or second level of coding

This step aims to make the relationship between categories generated in open coding (Soleimani & Mondegari, 2016). This phase determines the patterns existing in data. This step included the categorization level. This step requires a permanent comparison between data. In this step, the researcher compares data and sorts them into the clusters or categories that are matched (Adib-Hajbaghery et al., 2016).

- Selective coding or third level of coding

It is a process through which, categories are integrated

The main sentence of the interviewee	Semantic phrase	Code/ID
Jurors must know about architecture, have knowledge about architecture, be professional at architecture, be expert and experienced, and must have reached wisdom in architecture. However, the ability to criticize is one of the expert characteristics that almost do not exist in our country unless among a few architects. Another condition is that the juror must be a designer of course it is not compulsory and I do not say that the juror should be surly a designer. It may happen that some architecture experts are not designers but can understand an architectural project. Those who are designers and experienced in this field know more information about architectural issues and this is highly important. Another issue is about taste and style. Taste or style has many meanings. Many do not have any taste. It is highly important to understand design even if the person wants to involve personal taste. In the judgment process, a juror must be able to put aside personal taste because there is no experienced architect without personal taste. The taste can be included if it is matched with the goals of the competition.	Necessity of architect knowledge among jurors Importance of expertness of jurors Experienced jurors Jurors' ability to criticize architecture Having design experience for jurors Importance of jurors' knowledge and understanding of architectural design Having good and accurate taste in architecture Putting aside the personal taste of jurors Applying personal taste if it is matched with the competition's goals	Importance of knowing the design Importance of jurors' expertness Experience of jurors Jurors' ability to criticize Importance of design experience for jurors Jurors' knowledge of architectural design Having good and accurate tastes among jurors Not-interference of personal tastes in an absolute way Necessity of consistency between personal tastes and design's goals

Fig. 2. Analysis and encoding of the codes.Source: Authors.

and theory is corrected and formulated. In other words, the researcher searches for the process at this level. It is useful to create a kind of integration in codes and categories for creating integrity in the final theory (Strauss &Corbin, 2016). Table 1 presents a sample of three coding levels related to the category of "low quality of public buildings."

Findings

Table 2 reports the subcategories obtained from concepts extracted from codesand frequency, as well as categories extracted from the research subcategories. Because 2769 initial codes were extracted from the interviews, it is not possible to present open codingtables and the authors only provide subcategories and core categories. According to the obtained results reported in this table, the highest frequencyis related to the category of "importance of design problem and its demands clearly" and the lowest frequency belongs to the category of "process-based evaluation." Moreover, the obtained categories define and present three categories and the main category related to the judgment process is shown in Fig. 3.

According to Fig. 3, most of the derived categories point to the characteristics and conditions of jurors and their judgment technique. Hence, it seems that the selection of a professional and competent jury can minimize the challenges in this process and direct the judgment procedure in an accurate direction. Accordingly, the core category of study can be introduced as a "legitimate and competent jury"regarding the subcategories and categories presented in Table 2. The characteristics and features of the core category have been examined herein.

Core Category

The core category is the main idea or theory of the data analysis process resulting from the interviews conducted in the study (Creswell & Poth, 2007).This category in all studies introduces the main phenomenon of the study. The following are the features and criteria used to select the core category: 1) It should be axial,

Table 1. A sample of axial coding for the category of low quality in public buildings.Source: Authors.

Code/ID	Frequency	Concept	Subcategory	Category
More qualified judgment in private buildings (4) More qualified designs in private buildings (4)	8	Higher quality in private designs	Minimum quality of public building design	Low quality of public buildings
Lack of design quality in such designs (4) Lack of quality depending on the use of quantitative issues	5	Lack of quality in such designs		
Lack of quality in selected designs (4) Lack of quality of governmental designs (6) Not achieving suitable results in governmental designs (2) No quality of works in such designs (5)	17	Low quality of governmental designs		
Lack of quality in implementation of designs (3) The long process of design implementation (4)	7	Low quality of implementation of design		
Using simple designs in offices (2) Implementing the outstanding previous designs (3) Wisdom of classic perspective (2) Lack of creativity in such designs (10) Low quality of such designs (4)	21	Limited creativity in such designs	Lack of Avant-grade aspects of the design and implementation	

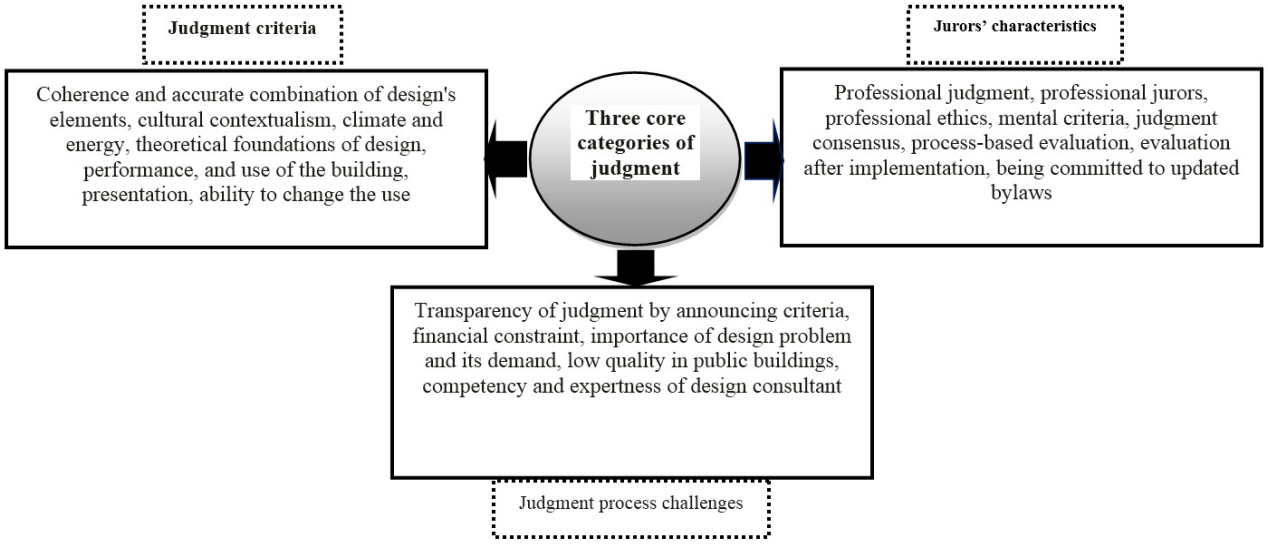

Fig. 3. Three categories were introduced based on the categories obtained in this study.Source: Authors.

meaning that other categories can be attributed to it. 2) It should appear permanently in the data, meaning that almost all cases return to the core category. 3) It should be explanatory, be developed by linking categories, and be logical and stable (Lak, 2014). This research has introduced theselected legitimate and competent jury as the core category. Each judgment process includes a jury. If this jury included selected and competent members who were chosen based on certain rules and indicators, challenges in judging architectural designs would be minimized or removed totally. Some samples of interviewees' opinions about the considered categories are mentioned herein to clarify the obtained categories of study. For this purpose, only some control samples related to the core category of theselected legitimate and competent jury are mentioned in the following rows:

There is no specific order or method for selecting jurors. Sometimes, several famous jurors are invited who are matched with each other without any disagreement. Jurors must know architecture and know about it; they must be experts and have a wisdom or vision in architecture. One of the expertness criteria is the ability to criticize (H. Khoie, personal communication, June 2, 2020).

Juror must have the experience for implementation of the considered design and be aware of the updated and modern theories related to that topic. Moreover, a juror must have a neutral character. The juror must be professional having specialized experience in the relevant scope. Another point in the juror's character is analysis and power of analysis. Governmental organizations usually employ those jurors that are weak at professional tasks and active in management duties, so the results of such judgments are very poor (H. Balazadeh, personal communication, May 21 2020).

Juror must be a strategic architect, i.e., an architect or non-architect who is good at interdisciplinary fields. It means such a person has both the considered knowledge and practice. The jurors must be selected accurately before the judgment process. more importantly, the priority is an accurate selection of the jury (H. Naser Khaki, personal communication, February 21, 2018).

These evaluations are mainly done by a technical and expert team of the employer. In many cases, individuals do not have essential professional experiences and expertise for evaluation. Jurors must indeed have mastery over the topicand jurors must be selected based on their experts and experiences in similar fields. In addition to expertise, professional soundness and ethics of jurors are highly preferred (M. Ghasemi, personal communication, May 23, 2020).

In my opinion, the most important challenge is that jurors are selected based on some relationships and executive architects are out of this arena. Many jurors are selected based on their political background. Selection must be based on certain characteristics and

Table 2. Subcategories, categories, and core categories obtained from the research subject.Source: Authors.

Row	Subcategories	Frequency	Category	Core category
1	Organizations' compliance with rules and regulations (68), observing bylaws and rules (31), updated regulations (45), secretary of competitions (16)	160	Being committed to updated bylaws	Legitimate and competent jury
2	Evaluation after implementation (13)	13	Evaluation after implementation	
3	Competence and expertness of design consultant (41)	41	Competence and expertness of design consultant	
4	Lack of Avant-grade of design and implementation (28), minimum quality of design of public buildings (30)	58	Low quality in public buildings	
5	Financial resources constraint (98), necessity of project construction (11)	109	Financial constraint	
6	Design process (16)	16	Process-based evaluation	
7	Consensus on jurors' vote (105), participation and cooperation with stakeholders (76), interaction between designers and jurors (19)	200	Judgment consensus	
8	Personal tastes of jurors (63), variability of criteria (41), balancing qualities and quantities (14), qualitative criteria (89)	107	Mental criteria	
9	Justice in judgment (41), announcing judgment criteria (135), transparency in judgment process (116), proper time of judgment process (23)	315	Judgment transparency with announcing criteria	
10	Non-specialized interferences (109), clarity in design demands (100), employer's demands (89), design problem (41)	339	The importance of design problems and their demands clearly	
11	Design's flexibility (11), design realization (16)	27	Ability to change use	
12	Fascination of artistic rendering (Rendu) (62), Rendu and presentations (26), clarity of design expression (32), consistency between presentation and design (16), presentation for transparency and design expression (84)	220	Presentation	
13	Design scale (21), Design performance (80)	101	Building's performance and use	
14	Design style (12), design philosophy (15)	27	Theoretical foundations of design	
15	Climate and sustainability (38), environmental indicators (15)	53	Climate and energy	
16	Contextualism (63), cultural topics (17)	80	Cultural contextualism	
17	Unity and proportions (56), integrity and coherence (24), design's originality (34), appearance features of the building (24), building's durability (17)	155	Coherence and accurate combination of design elements	
18	Reluctance to participate in judgment (117), observing the professional ethics of jurors (14)	131	Professional ethics	
19	Jurors' competency (62), jurors' professionality (136), scholar jurors (30), developing judgment knowledge (77), academic background (13)	318	Professional jurors	
20	Jurors' profession Appropriateness (8), multidisciplinary jurors (60), design-matched experiences (86)	154	Professional judgment	

jurors must be responsible for their performance (A. Khodadadi, personal communication, May 30, 2020). Jurors are usually selected based on the opinion of employers and their tastes. The juror must have professional experience and own a theory (M. Darvish, personal communication, May 11, 2020).

Jurors are often selected based on the administrative and political streams. The jurors must have something to say and be able to pursue the process (M. Ghaneie, personal communication, May 2, 2020).

The juror must be responsible for the judgment process and outcome, must have work experience, must be honest, should not pay to distractive points and just focus on the task and think about the judgment process (K. Rafiee, personal communication, June 8, 2020).

Unfortunately, jurors have been divided into different groups and everyone has a separate group. Some individuals do not participate due to the presence of some jurors and vice versa. The jurors must have many ranks in their resume to find how to evaluate and judge the tasks (S. Rafaat, personal communication, June 6, 2020).

One of the challenges is that who admits the competency of a person who confirms competency of jurors. Some jurors do not have academic experience or a profession of architecture. There is a high level of corruption in the judgment process, and jurors must be accountable (S. Arfaee, personal communication, November 10, 2020).

The main challenge is related to qualification or competency of the judgment. An experienced artist juror does not judge based on abstract criteria. The jurors are themselves criteria. If they are experienced and professional, the judgment outcome will be good, confirmable and instructive (S. R. Hashemi, personal communication, December 2, 2018).

Conclusion

The evaluation and judging process in art fields, especially architecture, is more difficult than other fields and is considered one of the most challenging cases in it. Generally, the evaluation and judging process in architectural designs is subjective and there are no predetermined criteria among the judges for evaluation and judging. This challenge seems to be more important in executive plans and public buildings due to the larger scale and greater importance and sensitivity from different aspects (political, social, economic, etc.). The main reason for that is the lack of a mechanism and criteria that are acceptable to everyone, which is not present in the arbitration process, and it leads the arbitration process towards the personal preferences of the arbitrators.

This study attempted to achieve a general conclusion and find some scientific criteria that are confirmed by everybody by analyzing the ideas of experts who have participated in the judgment process of the architectural designs of public buildings as juror designers or both of them. For this purpose, grounded theory was used, which is practical and useful for the case in which few theories and knowledge are available. The core category of the study, titled theselected legitimate and competent jury, was introduced and presented under such conditions. Research findings and most of the categories obtained point to the jurors' characteristics and their judgment technique. Therefore, it can be stated that when expert and competent jurors are employed for judging architectural designs, the judgment process and its criteria are done accurately, and the relevant challenges and dilemmas will be decreased. According to the categories derived from the research process, evaluation and judgment criteria for designs can be presented as a checklist reported in Table 3. The last point is that this study aimed at determining criteria for judging the design of public buildings, recognizing and using the grounded theory technique in architecture. The reason is rooted in the lack of foundations in the field of architecture, especially in the judgment and evaluation process of decisions about public buildings' design. Therefore, the application of this method is useful for localizing the theories because most of the theories apply and mimic the Western communities' methods. It is asserted that grounded theory can be beneficially used as a method that provides architectural theories and relevant scopes. It is hoped that this study can open a new window for further studies on the judgment and evaluation of architectural design projects, particularly in governmental organizations. It would be a pleasure if this study could pave the groundto address this concern.

Endnotes

1. For more study, refer to the research plan titled "Formulating a Guideline for Architectural Designs" available in the Center of Documents and Research in Architecture and Urban Development School of Shaheed Beheshti University.

Table 3. Checklist of evaluation and judgment criteria.Source: Authors.

Row	Main criteria	Total scope of criterion	Sub-criteria	Juror's theory		Acquired score
				Observed	Non-observed	
1	Cultural contextualism		Cultural topics			
2			Contextualism			
3	Coherence and accurate combination of design elements		Unity and proportions			
4			Integrity and coherence			
5			Design's originality			
6			Appearance features of the building			
7			Building's durability			
8	Climate and energy		Climate and sustainability			
9			Environmental indicators			
10	Theoretical foundations of design		Design Philosophy			
11			Design style			
12	Building's performance and use		Design scale			
13			Design performance			
14	Presentation		Clarity of design expression			
15			Consistency between presentation and design			
16			Rendu and presentations			
17			Fascination of artistic rendering (Rendu)			
18	Ability to change use		Design's flexibility			
19			Design realization			
			Sum score			

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