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mountain passes. No buildings or installations will be built in this area and the routes are designed for young hikers, professional mountaineers, and mountain sports. It is located at altitudes of 2,000 metres and higher.

These zones characterise the limits of the ecological potential of each mountain and valley as well as their future function. The focal points have presently been identified to prevent and control the city's destructive encroachment on nature. Using sustainable and non mechanical devices, water will be channelled from valleys as the optimal irrigation method to develop green space. The soil will be stabilised and resistant; vegetation native to the mountainous region will be identified and cultivated.

The second concept implies the extension of the valleys into urban areas by restoring paths continuing into the city in order to form new green spaces. This concept has also been approved, and the plan for the first route will gradually be implemented along the Chamran Expressway (and Darakeh Valley). This route, 12.5 kilometres long and approximately 250 metres wide, will extend from the Alborz valleys into the heart of the city. The intention is to restore what had been destroyed in the past and to re-establish the city's connection with nature by providing paths, waterways, and gardens in the area. Since several neighbourhoods exist alongside this green route, the green bed will also function as a non-vehicular connecting path between them.

By implementing these concepts, the destructive trend of the city will hopefully be curbed and the northern belt of Tehran will be transformed into a protected green zone for use as a place of leisure and mountain sports. The plans for Darakeh and Jamshidieh valleys have already been prepared as well those for the northeast route of Tehran. At present our firm is studying and planning the fourth route along another valley known as Farahzad valley, which extends 10 kilometres.



LEFT TO RIGHT: VIEWS OF THE BAGH SANGI JASHIDIEH PARK, LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN EDGE OF TEHRAN. FORMERLY A FRUIT ORCHARD, TRANSFORMED INTO A PUBLIC GARDEN.

Bagh Sangi Jamshidieh

An example of the natural mountainous garden mentioned above, and a project planned twenty years ago, the Jamshidieh stone garden incorporates concerns for sustainable development and constitutes a working paradigm for the two concepts outlined above. Iran's parks were a particular focus of the last ruling family - the Pahlavi's. Bagh Sangi Jamshidieh is the last of these efforts and was opened to the public just one month before the revolution. The seven hectares of land that the park covers were formerly a private fruit orchard with a residence at the corner. In 1976, its wealthy owner, Mr. Jamshid Davalloo Qajar, made a gift of the orchard (except the residence) to the Special Bureau of Her Imperial Majesty Empress Farah, with the request that it be used as the site of a home for the elderly. However, as the Special Bureau had recently completed such a facility in the same area, the Empress decided to turn it into a public garden. The idea behind the project was to create a public park upon the ruins of the old orchard and to attain the atmosphere of traditional Persian gardens for the enjoyment of nature and mountain lovers.

The park is located at the northern edge of Tehran in the Manzarieh area, at an altitude of 1,750 metres above sea level. Its northern edge is Jamshidieh hill and to the south in Hesarak valley, a fine neighbourhood of villas in large gardens. A 200-hectare park adjoins it to the east, which is a camp for boy scouts known as Manzarieh park. Early