



in 1977, design and implementation of the Bagh Sangi Park were undertaken. Since there were rocks, tree roots, and natural features in the area, full-scale sketches were drawn on-site, similar to traditional Iranian methods. Step-by-step drawings were made only upon completion of each section of the garden. The overall work plan was only drawn in 1978, after completion of the whole project in April of that year.

As suggested by its name, which translates as “stone garden”, the park was designed around the theme of stone. It is built on steeply sloping land with an inclination of about 30 degrees from one end to the other. Triangular in shape, the garden narrows towards the south and its northwestern section is treated as a terrace and held by a substantial retaining wall. Various water channels have been constructed on the site and are connected to a man-made pool at the uppermost level, which in turn receives water from natural brooks coming from mountain sources.

The park covers an area of 70,000 square metres, and is now being expanded by 300,000 square metres towards the north. Within the park, there are five small buildings with a total area of about 2,000 square metres. There is a restaurant, located at the higher level on the northeast corner, an administration building near the entrance from the west, a children’s library on the southwest corner and a



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gatehouse at the main entrance at the southeast corner. Toilets are located below ground level in three of the buildings (restaurant, administration, and children's library).

The restaurant is designed as a pentagonal building with a daring steel structure inspired by indigenous house design in northern Iran. Beside these built elements, the park was fitted with ten, stone or metal sculptures and consists of various thematic areas for different kinds of use, such as a playground for children, bird cages, an area for private recreation, a public arena, and an amphitheatre for public performances.

For landscaping, scattered loose rocks were used to create natural waterfalls, terraced enhancements, streambeds, and paving. Existing trees were preserved and new ones added. The existing pathways were revitalised to create three major axes running from north to south. The eastern axis lined with old plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) is the largest and most prominent, descending smoothly and bordered on both sides by running brooks.

The central axis was also revitalised from an old path. The stone steps were pierced by a central water channel which creates a playful sound as water passes through and falls, before disappearing into a pond at the south end of the park. To supply water to the park, the old rectangular water reservoir at the highest level of the old orchard was enlarged to create a small lake with an artificial waterfall.

The western axis, diverging from the central one and terminating at the western entrance, is shorter and leads to a mountain-hiking path. Among the trees that were saved from the old orchard, the most impressive are the huge ash trees (*Fraximus excelsior*). The evergreens (*Cypressus arizonica* and *Cedrus deodora*) as well as the weeping willows and flowering varieties, such as cherry and plum trees, were planted anew, along with *forsythias*, *prunus mahaleb*, crape myrtles, and other shrubs and ground covers for summer flowering.