

## **Mosques with wooden construction - South of East Azerbaijan province, functions and methods of conserving**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Wooden mosques of the south region of Azerbaijan have specific characteristics and being built in different towns such as Maraghe, Bonab, Ajab- Shir, and Qoravan village. These mosques have wooden structures, delicate and very beautiful decoration. Their plans are rectangular, toward Qable (east – west longitude). The ceiling and pillars of Shabestan have been made of wood. The method of covering, wooden structure, and ornaments are considerable. Belonging to Safavid period, these mosques were the origin of Esfahan School in 17th Century. The local materials are wood, stone, brick, and adobe. Pillars and beams were made of poplar, species of willow, and aspen. Although wood was rare in the region and structure of the buildings were arch and dome, wooden construction became popular and common for the aesthetic characters and beginning of new style in Safavid period (17th Century).

As mentioned above, wooden pillars and columns were used in Shabestan and walls. All pillars play the role of the structure and the ornaments are the parts of the construction. Pillars were constructed in 3 parts: base, wooden body, and capital in different forms. The main beams, pillars, sub beams, all, were made of wood and joints had special characteristics which add to the resistance of the building.

The present paper tries to study particular characteristics of the wooden structures, their ornaments, and the method of conserving them and aims to present a new method for conserving these constructions. In this study Bonab Mehrabad mosque is highlighted.

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