

## Politics of a Regulatory Identity Construction in Architectural Industry

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This paper, will give a historical introduction to the politics of the formulation of the notion of 'Islamic-Iranian Architecture' and its historicist characteristics. It will explain the ways in which the re-use of past architectural elements has decreased the value of the present as the crucial part of the construction of a collective/national identity. By focusing on the case of Mehr Housing Project and its critical situation, both in the social context and design and construction industry in Iran, the paper will argue for the validity of association of such projects –regardless of their visual significance- as representatives of the Iranian collective identity. It will continue by stressing that whether aesthetically successful or not, the study of such projects with deep and actual socio-economic root in the current state of the country, provides a valuable potential for the study of that society, hence its identity.

### Biography:

Niloofer Kakhi started architectural studies in 2002 in Iran where she particularly became interested in history of the discipline. In 2009 she received her Master's degree in Histories and Theories of Architecture from the Architectural Association. She started her PhD research in 2011, investigating the relationship between the politics of nationalism and modern architectural practices in Iran. She also has been working on a number of architectural projects in Iran since 2007.