

## Eco-Lodge Drawing on Local Design Attracts Visits



TEHRAN -- Tehran-based Haft Shahr Aria engineering group applies local construction techniques and architectural processes to form the 'Ghadimkhoone' eco-lodge resort in Gilan, Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh, Iran. Aiming for a traditional village aesthetic, the project draws from patterns, methods, and executive details of Gilan's local houses generating an intimate experience and a close interaction with nature. Following sustainable architectural criteria, the eco-lodge puts up a resilient structure with minimum environmental impact attending to the materials' life cycle.

Opting for an accommodation that presents a comprehensive approach to Gilan's local architecture, the resort construction meets the needs of a touristic homestay while providing an immediate connection to the surroundings and an insight into the cultural context. The frame applies repurposed timber beams for the structure and the traditional layered foundation system, while the four-slope roof lays out plant threads and twigs sourced from around the

region. Considering the construction and materiality, the design and engineering team sources timber beams and wood boards both from dismantled old buildings and originally purposed for coal factories, and stacks them as the third and fourth row of the foundation system, 'Shakil'. The main piling and balancing layer of the structure 'Boneh dar and Sarkesh', forms the fifth and sixth row out of discarded wooden lampposts long-stored and gradually destroyed in the electricity department of the region.

The roof structure is composed of two tiers of side beams 'Ajar and Sarchoob' respectively made out of local reeds and poplar wood. All joints of the construction are assembled with hand-woven rice stems, 'Veris', an element that is lightweight, easily accessible, and affordable. The covering of the four-slope roof sets up plant threads and twigs laid on by a local practice called 'Gali-poosh'. The project utilizes materials from Gilan's rice fields and dense woods throughout, reviving indigenous architecture adapted to the climate.

## Indians Savor Traditional Iranian Flavors in Mumbai



MUMBAI (Free Press Journal) -- Yazdani Bakery, located in the Fort area of Mumbai is a historic landmark in the bustling city that has been serving freshly baked goods for over 60 years.

Established in 1950 by an Iranian man named Meherwan Zend, the history of Yazdani bakery dates back to the early 1900s when Meherwan's grandfather came to Bombay from Yazd, a city in Iran, and started a small bakery in the heart of the city. The bakery was a success, and over the years, it became a popular spot among locals and tourists alike. Meherwan, who inherited his grandfather's passion for baking, decided to start his bakery, which he named after his hometown, Yazd, in Iran.

One of the oldest eateries in Bombay of the Yazidis continues to stand even today, attracting customers with its delicious offerings.

Yazdani Bakery is known for its delicious bread and biscuits. The bakery has retained much of its original decor, including a vintage cash register and an old-style bread oven. The walls are adorned with black and white photos of the bakery from the past, adding to its nostalgic atmosphere. The bakery's interior still has its old-world charm, with wooden benches, vintage tiles, and old photographs adorning the walls, creating a nostalgic atmosphere that transports visitors back in time.

The bakery offers a wide range of pastries, cakes, and biscuits, all of which are made with high-quality ingredients and prepared with care. Some of their specialties include bun maska (a type of bread served with butter), khari biscuits (puff pastry biscuits), and nankatai (an Indian shortbread cookie). One of the bakery's most popular offerings is its freshly baked bread, which is made using traditional methods and baked in a wood-fired oven. The bakery's famous mawa cake, a rich

and dense cake made with milk solids, and the crispy apple pie straight out of the wooden oven, is a must-try for anyone visiting the bakery.

The place is not fully functional except the bakery which is carrying it on. The place is managed by a few locals who look after the place now. After the death of Merawan, the place slowly washed away in oblivion. The place also had a restaurant earlier but was shut down a couple of years ago. Now, there is only a bakery.

The bakery is open early in the morning, and closes by 7 pm. Visitors can enjoy the bun muska, the mawa cake or other goodies the bakery has to offer. Locals in the neighborhood, Parsis and people walking by in the market often stop by the bakery to buy stuff.

In addition to its tasty offerings, Yazdani Bakery is a great place to visit for its historical significance. The bakery has been around for over six decades and has witnessed the changing face of Mumbai. It has survived through wars, political turmoil, and economic changes, and yet, it remains a steadfast reminder of the city's rich history and culture. It has been featured in several Bollywood movies and is considered to be a cultural landmark in the city.

Yazdani Bakery is one example among many Iranian cafes and eateries in the city that are dying a slow death. "There are many Iranians who are interested in reviving these businesses and save the Iranian food culture which is now facing threat due to the rapid westernization," stated Adil Irani, a regular visitor of the bakery and an Iranian himself.

Yazdani Bakery is not just a bakery, but a cultural institution that has been an integral part of the city's history and identity. The bakery's delicious offerings, excellent service, and nostalgic atmosphere make it a perfect spot for a quick breakfast or a leisurely afternoon tea.

# Venezuela Sees Leader's Memoirs as Guidebook

CARACAS -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil Pinto says Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's memoirs chronicling his years in prison unveiled here Saturday will be used as a guidebook on how to combat the enemies.

In his talks with Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Muhammad Mehdi Esmaili, the minister touched on "Cell No. 14", Ayatollah Khamenei's autobiography, saying he was happy the book had been published in Venezuela.

Gil Pinto hailed Iran's culture as rich, saying the world reveres it. He called for further bolstering of cultural relations between the two countries.

Esmaili also met with Venezuela's Minister of Communication and Information and Vice-President for Culture and Tourism, Freddy Alfred Nazareth, saying cultural measures can preserve the identity of nations and neutralize foreign attacks.

He touched on the media onslaught which has intensified against Iran in recent months, saying it is part of a hybrid war on the Iranian nation.

The Venezuelan vice-president said the mental proximity of the two nations and their shared view-



Venezuelan children gather in front of a poster of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei at the International Fair of Venezuelan-Iranian Culture and Friendship in Caracas, March 2023.

points about imperialism and Western media and cultural invasion provide for a suitable ground to broaden cultural cooperation.

The rich cultures and national identities and beliefs of the two countries have dismantled many strong plots of the enemies, Nazareth added.

"Cell No. 14" covers the first half of the life of Ayatollah Khamenei, from his early childhood all the way to the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought the monarchical regime to an end in Iran.

The book contains illustrations depicting different stages in the life of Ayatollah Khamenei.

Venezuela hosted the International Fair of Venezuelan-Iranian Culture and Friendship which opened March 4 in Caracas which ran through Sunday.

It was organized by a Caracas-based group called the Center for Intercultural Exchange in Latin America, or CICL.

## 'Mahrokh' Wins Main Prize of Russian Festival

TEHRAN -- The Iranian film Mahrokh's house won the main prize of the XXI International Festival of Debuts "Spirit of Fire" in Russia.

XXI International Festival of Debuts "Spirit of Fire" was held from March 3 to 6, in Khan-

ty-Mansiysk, Russia.

Directed by Shahram Ebrahimi and Shahab Hosseini, Mahrokh's house won the main prize in this cinematic event.

Mahrokh, who is starring in her first film, enters the house and is surprised by his husband, Key-

van, and their mutual friends on her birthday. The amount of snow spray on Mahrokh's head and body is too much that the candles on the cake catch fire and burn her face. Keyvan will be tried on charges of setting Mahrokh on fire, and numerous suspicions

and questions will be raised, read the synopsis of the film.

Amirreza Delavari, Rahman Bagherian, Mehri Al agha, Elham Nami, Mehdi Bajestani, Meysam Kazazi, Shobeyr Shirazi, and Atena Faghieh Nasiri are among the cast members.

## Calligraphers Gather in Bangalore to Display Islamic Art

BANGALORE (Dispatches) -- Hundreds of calligraphy lovers and art enthusiasts thronged to the Falcon's Den at the Prestige Falcon Towers on the second day of the three-day multilingual calligraphy exhibition and seminar organized by the Institute of Indo Islamic Art and Culture (IIAC).

Several renowned calligraphers from across the world who came to the city to attend the event interacted with the visitors and amazed them with their fine artworks in real time.

The calligraphers penned the names and initials of the visitors as a token of appreciation for their attendance at the event to appreciate the art.

Sarina Ghazaei (Iran), Ali Hasan Al Jad (Bahrain), Muhammad (Delhi), Mohsen Ghareeb (Bahrain), M Efdaluddin Kilic (Turkey), Narjes Noureddin (UAE), Tagalsir Hasan (Sudan), Ibrahim Abdullah Hussein Al-Zayer (Saudi Arabia) Farid Abdul Rahim Al Ali (Kuwait), Sara Abidi (UAE) were among the calligraphers present on the second day of the event along with other Indian artists whose work is also on display at the exhibition.

During the panel discussion that was held in the afternoon session, Efdaluddin Kilic and Mohsen Ghareeb interacted with the audience and shared

their knowledge and experience on calligraphy. Efdaluddin Kilic also briefed an introduction and history of calligraphy.

"You need to be patient and dedicated if you ever want to try your hand at calligraphy. Nobody can become a good calligrapher without having dedication and passion towards it," Efdaluddin said in

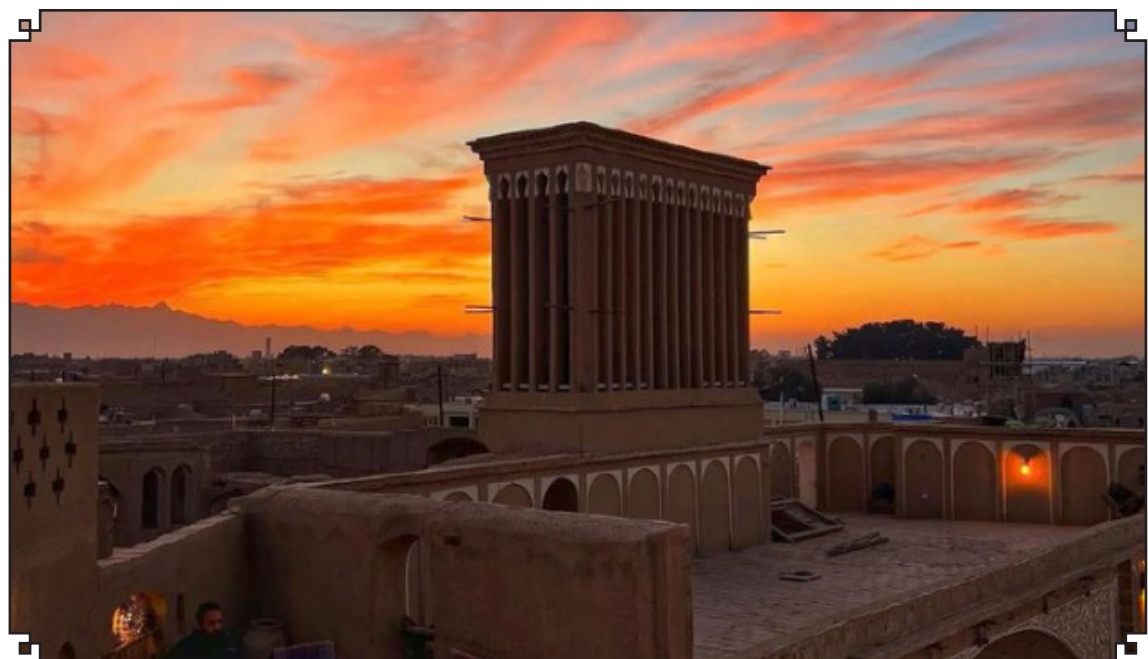


his address.

The last day of the three-day event was held on Sunday at

the Falcon's Den of Prestige Falcon Towers at the Brunton Road.

## Picture of the Day



Yazd is known for its rich cultural heritage and is home to UNESCO World Heritage sites.