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Evaluating large-scale intervention in a historic urban fabric based on the components of the Islamic-Iranian City: A case study of Mashrouteh Bazaar, Tabriz*

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Abstract

Large-scale interventions in historic urban fabrics can address contemporary needs while transforming existing spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships. Therefore, their evaluation requires simultaneous consideration of physical, functional, social, and semantic dimensions. This study examines the continuity and transformation of these relationships through Mashrouteh Bazaar, a large-scale intervention in the historic urban fabric. This applied, descriptive-analytical research adopts a qualitative case study approach. Data were collected through documentary research, examination of maps and records, physical-spatial surveys, field observations, and 30 semi-structured interviews. Interview data were coded and analyzed across three research dimensions, while physical-spatial and functional data were examined comparatively. Findings were interpreted in terms of physical-spatial and functional adaptation; identity formation and meaning-making; and socio-spatial justice and social consequences, with reference to the components of the Islamic-Iranian city. Results indicate that Mashrouteh Bazaar maintains connections with the access network and historic bazaar structure while accommodating contemporary needs, including vehicular access and goods transportation. However, its spatial organization, semantic experience, and scope of social life differ from those of the historic bazaar. Economic benefits vary among users, and the complex's identity derives more from its historical context than from an independent identity. Overall, Mashrouteh Bazaar represents neither a complete rupture nor a full continuation of the historic pattern, but relative continuity. These findings can inform evaluations of large-scale interventions across physical, functional, social, and semantic dimensions.

Keywords

Historic urban fabric
Islamic-Iranian city
Large-scale intervention
Mashrouteh Bazaar of Tabriz
Place identity

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1. Introduction

Historic urban fabrics are integral to collective memory, cultural capital, and societies' historical continuity. Nevertheless, their value extends beyond their physical characteristics, as interventions in these areas can also affect patterns of use, social interactions, users' experiences, and meanings associated with place. In this regard, place identity, as a concept encompassing the physical, experiential, and social dimensions of place, emerges from the interaction of physical features, activities, perceptions, memories, and social and cultural meanings (Relph, 1976; Proshansky et al., 1983). From this perspective, examining interventions in historic urban fabrics requires considering place's multiple dimensions. Accordingly, urban regeneration studies emphasize user participation, place-specific characteristics, sustainability, and the adaptability of new uses (Pulles et al., 2023). Studies of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar have also addressed some of these dimensions, highlighting relationships among use, accessibility, culture, and social sustainability (Yadollahi et al., 2017). Recent research has also examined physical transformations in historic urban fabrics (Huang et al., 2024) and different impacts of interventions on different social groups (Forouhar & Hasankhani, 2018).

Despite existing studies on the spatial and functional structure of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar (Nejad Ebrahimi et al., 2013), social interactions within the bazaar (Balali Oskouei & Jafari, 2022), its spatial quality (Hosseinikia et al., 2024), and the architectural and semantic characteristics of the Mashruteh Complex (Gharehbaglou et al., 2019; Gharehbaglou & Ardabilchi, 2021), the continuity and transformation of relationships resulting from a large-scale intervention adjacent to the historic bazaar have received limited attention as an integrated subject of investigation. In particular, these relationships have not been sufficiently examined simultaneously from physical-spatial, functional, social, and semantic perspectives in relation to the constituent principles of the Islamic-Iranian city. This research gap highlights the need for an integrated examination of how contemporary intervention, historic urban structure, and the experiences of users and other stakeholders interact.

This study investigates the Mashruteh Bazaar in Tabriz as an example of a large-scale intervention adjacent to the Tabriz Historic Bazaar. The research problem extends beyond the physical differences between the new development and the historic bazaar; rather, it concerns the continuity and transformation of spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships and the implications of these changes for place identity and meaning. The study examines these relationships across three dimensions: physical-spatial and functional compatibility; identity formation and meaning-making; and socio-spatial justice and social consequences. The findings are also interpreted within the framework of the constituent principles of the Islamic-Iranian city. The study's innovation lies in integrating these three dimensions within a unified analytical framework and interpreting the findings in relation to the principles of the Islamic-Iranian city.

Accordingly, the main research question is formulated as follows:

What implications does the large-scale Mashruteh Bazaar intervention in Tabriz have for the continuity of the spatial, functional, social, and semantic structures of the historic urban fabric, and how can these implications be interpreted within the framework of the constituent principles of the Islamic-Iranian city?

To address the main research question, three subsidiary questions are posed:

To what extent does Mashruteh Bazaar demonstrate continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity with respect to the historic structure of the Tabriz Bazaar in terms of its physical-spatial and functional characteristics?

What patterns of continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity does Mashruteh Bazaar exhibit in relation to the historic context of the Tabriz Bazaar in terms of place identity, experience, and meaning?

From the perspectives of socio-spatial justice and social consequences, what patterns of continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity does the large-scale Mashruteh Bazaar intervention exhibit concerning accessibility, the distribution of benefits, and social life?

2. Theoretical and empirical background

2.1. The concept of large-scale urban interventions and their implications for historic urban fabrics

"Large-scale urban interventions" refer to projects and initiatives that, because of their scale and scope of influence, can bring about significant changes in the urban structure. This concept is not limited to physical dimensions; it also encompasses spatial and functional changes, as well as social, economic, and institutional implications (Swyngedouw et al., 2002; Lorens & Habier, 2018). These implications may extend beyond the direct boundaries of the project (Swyngedouw et al., 2002).

The significance of such interventions is greater in historic urban fabrics because they occur in contexts where spatial, functional, and social relationships have been established over time. Gharib and Salama's (2014) study of Doha's historic center highlights the socio-spatial and typo-morphological implications of intervention; it emphasizes the need to consider local characteristics and the existing spatial structure. Iranian studies have also emphasized the relationship between the physical structure of the city and social life (Habibi, 2012), the role of interactions among urban elements and processes in understanding environmental changes (Bahreini, 2004), and the importance of considering context and the relationship between conservation, revitalization, and contemporary needs (Mozaffar et al., 2018; Rezaei & Hanachi, 2015).

Accordingly, assessing interventions in historic urban fabrics should consider not only project characteristics but also how spatial, functional, and social relationships within the historic context transform and continue. This study examines Tabriz's Mashruteh Bazaar as a commercial intervention adjacent to the historic bazaar, focusing on its spatial connections, functional organization, and social and semantic implications.

2.2. Historic urban fabric, morphology, and continuity of spatial structure

Historic urban fabric is a dynamic structure shaped by the interaction of physical elements, spatial organization, activities, and social relationships, and it undergoes both continuity and change over time. The historic urban landscape approach and the Washington Charter also emphasize the physical, social, and cultural dimensions of urban heritage, as well as the need to consider spatial structure and ongoing urban life in conservation processes (UNESCO, 2011; ICOMOS, 1987).

From a morphological perspective, urban structure is shaped by the relationships among street networks, plots, buildings, building fabric, and land use (Conzen, 1960; Kropf, 2017). Recent studies have also examined the spatial patterns of historic urban fabrics (Huang et al., 2024). Iranian studies have investigated the spatial organization of cities and the relationships among their constituent elements and related structures (Abarghouei Fard & Mansouri, 2021). Morphological studies have also highlighted how relationships among structural elements help in understanding the formation and transformation of historic urban fabrics (Behzadfar & Rezvani, 2015; Aghajanbagloo et al., 2022; Iranmanesh et al., 2021).

In this study, continuity of spatial structure refers to the persistence of certain spatial and functional relationships between a new intervention and the existing urban structure; it does not necessarily imply the preservation of historical form. In the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, connections among circulation routes, bazaar corridors, and associated spaces are a key aspect of spatial continuity (Yadollahi & Weidner, 2014; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2017). Accordingly, Mashruteh Bazaar is assessed in terms of its access network and circulation routes, spatial organization, solid–void relationships, scale, physical characteristics, and the arrangement of activities to determine the extent to which it demonstrates continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity in relation to the historic structure of the Tabriz Bazaar.

2.3. The Islamic-Iranian city and the bazaar as a spatial-social structure

The Islamic-Iranian city cannot be reduced to a fixed model of physical elements or spatial organization. Rather, it has been shaped by social, economic, cultural, political, and religious factors and has evolved across different historical periods (Fallahat, 2011; Behzadfar & Rezvani, 2015; Maroufi, 2018). Accordingly, this study views the Islamic-Iranian city as an interpretive framework to examine the spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships of the historic urban fabric.

In historic Iranian cities, the bazaar is a spatial-social structure that, beyond its economic role, is connected to the street network, religious spaces, and social activities (Habibi, 2012; Gharehbaglou et al., 2019; Balali Oskouei & Jafari, 2022; Abroomand Azar et al., 2024). In the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, the relationship among spatial structure, economic activities, and social relationships is also important for the continuity of the complex (UNESCO, 2010; Nejad Ebrahimi et al., 2013). Furthermore, the relationship between the physical characteristics of space and social interactions in the bazaar has been highlighted (Balali Oskouei & Jafari, 2022). The bazaar's environmental quality can also be examined in terms of accessibility, sociability, activity, comfort, and place image (Hosseinikia et al., 2024). Within this framework, physical accessibility and the ability to use space influence environmental quality and social sustainability. From a socio-spatial justice perspective, large-scale interventions may generate different experiences of benefits and costs for different groups. Therefore, assessing their social

implications requires considering differences in the economic experiences of those who use and operate within the affected areas (Smyth & Vanclay, 2017; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2017).

Moreover, adapting historic bazaars and buildings to contemporary needs does not necessarily imply a rupture with heritage. Adaptive reuse can contribute to the continuity of economic and social life, although the nature of an intervention can affect a place's authenticity and cultural values (Bianco, 2023). Therefore, functional continuity alone does not equate to the continuity of historical values.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this study's five analytical domains have been formulated through a synthesis of concepts from the reviewed literature on spatial structure, social life, activity and functional coexistence, place identity and meaning, and accessibility and the use of space. These concepts are relevant to the nature of large-scale interventions and the issue of continuity within historic urban fabrics.

Within this framework, discussions of spatial structure and connectivity are incorporated into the domain of spatial cohesion and continuity; presence, interaction, and collective life into social interaction and life; the diversity and coexistence of activities into functional-social diversity and coexistence; identity, memory, and place perception into place identity and meaning; and issues concerning access to and the distribution of opportunities to use space into social accessibility and use of space. These five domains result from synthesizing the concepts presented in the theoretical foundations of this study. They are not proposed as a definitive or universally agreed-upon list of characteristics of the Islamic-Iranian city; rather, they serve as analytical domains for interpreting the empirical findings.

In this study, the Islamic-Iranian city serves as the overarching interpretive framework for analyzing the physical-spatial, functional, social, and semantic findings. The five domains constitute this framework's analytical dimensions rather than independent empirical variables. Accordingly, continuity of the historic structure is assessed based on the quality of relationships among space, activity, social interaction, identity, and the use and benefits of place.

2.4. Place identity, meaning, and the continuity of social life

Place identity emerges from the reciprocal relationship between physical characteristics, activities, and human experience (Alalhesabi & Charbgoo, 2015). Relph (1976) links place identity to distinctiveness of place, lived experience, and the meanings attributed to it, while Proshansky et al. (1983) emphasize the role of the physical environment in shaping individual and social identity. Place attachment also develops through experience, memory, interaction, and continuity of presence (Lewicka, 2011).

In historic urban fabrics, place identity and meaning extend beyond physical characteristics, as changes in spatial organization, activities, and patterns of use can influence how a place is experienced and perceived. Studies examining the socio-cultural impacts of urban regeneration also emphasize place identity, social relationships, cultural values, and the local economy (Abdurahiman et al., 2024). Iranian studies also examined the relationship between the quality of public spaces, historical identity, sense of belonging, and social participation (Sheikhi et al., 2025).

The experience of place is associated with presence, movement, lingering, and interaction in public space (Whyte, 1980; Gehl, 2011). The spatial quality of the Tabriz Bazaar can also be examined in terms of accessibility, sociability, activity, comfort, and place image (Hosseinikia et al., 2024). Heritage-led regeneration further emphasizes user participation, place-specific characteristics, sustainability, and the compatibility of new uses with the historical context (Pulles et al., 2023). Similarly, Abdurahiman (2025), in assessing the socio-cultural impacts of urban heritage, considers dimensions such as sense of place, social cohesion and inclusion, cultural awareness, and the local economy.

Accordingly, this study conceptualizes place identity and meaning as outcomes of the interaction among a place's spatial and physical characteristics, its activities, and users' experiences. These are examined through legibility, experience, and perception of place, as well as the identity, memory, and meaning associated with it.

2.5. Synthesis of the literature and positioning of the present study

The literature review indicates that studies of interventions in historic urban fabrics have primarily addressed three related areas. The first concerns the spatial, social, and economic consequences of such interventions (Swyngedouw et al., 2002; Lorens & Habier, 2018). Studies of urban renewal in historic areas have also highlighted the different impacts of large-scale projects on different social groups (Forouhar & Hasankhani, 2018). The second area

concerns the continuity and morphological transformation of spatial networks, plots, built form, open spaces, and the organization of activities (Conzen, 1960; Kropf, 2017). The third examines the social and semantic implications of interventions, with particular emphasis on place identity, place attachment, and social interaction (Relph, 1976; Proshansky et al., 1983; Lewicka, 2011). These areas are analytically distinct but interrelated, as changes in spatial organization can also affect social interaction and the experience of place.

In the literature on the Islamic-Iranian city, scholars have emphasized understanding spatial structure in its social, cultural, and historical context, rather than reducing it to a purely physical model (Fallahat, 2011; Maroufi, 2018; Abraghui-Fard & Mansouri, 2021). Studies of historic bazaars have highlighted their simultaneous roles in the spatial, economic, and social organization of cities (Habibi, 2012; Gharehbaglou et al., 2019; Balali Oskouei & Jafari, 2022; Abroomand Azar et al., 2024). Research on the Tabriz Historic Bazaar has also examined its spatial structure, accessibility, activities, environmental quality, and social interactions (Nejad Ebrahimi et al., 2013; Hosseinikia et al., 2024).

Studies of Mashruteh Bazaar have primarily addressed infill architecture, changes in the meaning and perception of the environment, and the quality of the intervention. They have also examined the complex in terms of its spatial and functional connections with the historic bazaar and its role in responding to spatial constraints and transportation-related challenges affecting certain commercial activities (Gharehbaglou et al., 2019; Gharehbaglou & Ardabilchi, 2021). These studies highlight the importance of the relationship between new interventions and their historic context. However, an integrated assessment of the physical-spatial and functional dimensions, place identity, and social implications – and of the continuity or transformation of existing relationships within the historic urban fabric – still requires further investigation. Recent studies of heritage-led regeneration likewise emphasize the need to consider place-specific characteristics, user participation, sustainability, and the compatibility of new uses with the historic context (Pulles et al., 2023).

Accordingly, the research gap addressed by the present study does not lie in an absence of research on the Tabriz Historic Bazaar or the Islamic-Iranian city. Rather, within the literature reviewed, an integrated framework for assessing large-scale interventions in historic urban fabrics across three dimensions – physical-spatial and functional compatibility, place identity and meaning-making, and socio-spatial justice and social implications – was not identified. The present study examines these three dimensions separately and then interprets the findings through five analytical domains derived from the interpretive framework of the Islamic-Iranian city. This approach aims to determine the extent to which spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships within the historic urban fabric are maintained, partially maintained, or disrupted. The proposed framework thus provides the basis for the study's conceptual model and assessment system.

3. Methodology

In terms of purpose, this study is applied; in terms of approach, it adopts a descriptive-analytical method with a qualitative orientation and a case study design. It aims to assess the relationship between the large-scale Mashruteh Bazaar intervention and the historic context of the Tabriz Bazaar in terms of continuity and change in physical-spatial, functional, semantic, and social relationships. The analytical framework is based on three main dimensions: physical-spatial and functional compatibility, place identity and meaning-making, and socio-spatial justice and social implications.

Research data were collected through documentary research, the examination of maps and records, physical-spatial surveys, field observations, and semi-structured interviews. Interviews were conducted with 30 participants: 12 shopkeepers or commercial operators and 18 users of Mashruteh Bazaar.

Participants were selected through convenience sampling based on their connection to the complex and willingness to participate. Accordingly, interviews were conducted with individuals who were available and willing to talk during visits to the bazaar. The interview questions addressed the complex's relationship with the historic bazaar structure, its physical and functional characteristics, the experience and meaning of place, social interactions, and users' and operators' access to and use of the space. The interviews were concluded due to repeated responses and time and access limitations; therefore, the number of participants was not intended to support statistical generalization.

The interview transcripts were organized in MAXQDA and coded according to the study's three main

dimensions. The relevant evidence was then categorized under the components and subcomponents of the analytical framework and interpreted alongside documentary, physical-spatial, functional, and field-observation data. In reporting the interview findings, the number of participants who referred to each theme was distinguished from the number of times quotations were repeated. Because each participant could refer to multiple themes, the total theme frequencies do not necessarily equal the total number of participants. Direct quotations were used to illustrate supporting evidence, and repeated quotations were not treated as independent evidence. Physical-spatial and functional data were also examined comparatively, and findings from different sources were synthesized. In this comparison, documented characteristics of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, as identified through documentary sources, maps, and previous studies, served as the basis for comparison. These characteristics included spatial organization, route connectivity, functional diversity, and social relationships. Given differences between the two complexes in construction period, scale, and spatial organization, the purpose of the comparison was to assess continuity or transformation of corresponding characteristics and relationships, rather than to expect the historic bazaar's physical form to be reproduced in Mashruteh Bazaar.

In this assessment, continuity was defined as the preservation of the characteristic or relationship under examination; partial continuity referred to the preservation of part of that characteristic or relationship alongside changes or limitations; and discontinuity referred to its absence or substantial transformation to the extent that the corresponding relationship was no longer identifiable. For example, the absence of a discernible spatial connection between the routes within Mashruteh Bazaar and the surrounding historic structure could constitute a discontinuity in spatial connectivity, provided that this finding was corroborated by maps, documentary evidence, and field observations of the complex.

The subcomponent's status was determined by interpreting the relevant evidence and assessing the extent to which the characteristic under examination had been preserved, transformed, or lost. This assessment did not rely solely on the frequency of interviewees' responses. The overall status of the components and dimensions was derived by synthesizing the findings for their related subcomponents. In determining the overall status of each component and dimension, the decision was not based solely on the number of subcomponents assigned to each status. Instead, the extent to which the principal relationship under examination had been preserved or transformed was interpreted alongside the supporting evidence for each subcomponent. Accordingly, the final status of each component and dimension, as well as the overall assessment, was established through an analytical synthesis of the relevant evidence. Table 1 presents the data collection and analysis methods, while Table 2 outlines the study's analytical framework.

Table 1. Data collection and analysis methods

Data source/method	Purpose of data collection	Data domains examined	Method of use and analysis
Documentary research and examination of maps and records	To understand the historical context and the position of Mashruteh Bazaar in relation to the Tabriz Historic Bazaar	Historical background, spatial structure, location of the intervention, and its relationship with the historic urban fabric	Documentary review and comparative analysis of the historical context and spatial structure
Physical-spatial survey	To identify the spatial organization and physical characteristics of the two complexes	Access network, passages, entrances, circulation routes, connection points with the historic structure, scale, height, and materials	Physical-spatial analysis and comparison of spatial organization and physical characteristics
Field observation	To examine existing conditions and patterns of spatial use	Current activities, presence and movement, lingering, social interactions, environmental qualities, and use-related constraints	Qualitative description and interpretation of existing conditions and patterns of spatial use

Data source/method	Purpose of data collection	Data domains examined	Method of use and analysis
Semi-structured interviews	To understand the experiences and perceptions of users and commercial operators	Accessibility and usability, economic benefits and costs, place identity and memory, social interactions, and the intervention's relationship with the historic context	Organization of interview transcripts and coding in MAXQDA according to the three main research dimensions, followed by the categorization and qualitative interpretation of evidence
Synthesis of findings	To assess the relationship between the intervention and its historic context	Evidence concerning physical-spatial, functional, semantic, and social relationships derived from different methods	Integration and interpretation of evidence, and assessment of each component in terms of continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity

4. Analytical framework and conceptual model

The assessment of large-scale interventions in historic urban fabrics requires the simultaneous examination of physical-spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships and how they relate to the historical context. New interventions may involve continuity or change in spatial structure, activities, patterns of use, social interactions, and users' experiences. Their assessment therefore requires a framework that considers these interrelated aspects together.

Accordingly, the analytical framework of this study was developed by synthesizing theoretical discussions and previous studies on interventions in historic urban fabrics. These studies emphasize the importance of physical-spatial and functional structure, place identity and meaning, and the social implications of interventions (Relph, 1976; Proshansky et al., 1983; Smyth & Vanclay, 2017; Pulles et al., 2023). Studies of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar have also addressed the relationships among spatial structure, accessibility, activities, and social life (Nejad Ebrahimi et al., 2013; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2014, 2017).

Based on these discussions and in accordance with the research problem and objectives, the relevant concepts were organized into three dimensions: physical-spatial and functional compatibility, place identity and meaning-making, and socio-spatial justice and social implications. The components and subcomponents were then identified based on their conceptual relevance to the main dimensions, their coverage of the aspects under investigation, and their applicability to analysis in the case study. Consequently, the analytical framework was developed from the conceptual level to the operational level. Table 2 presents the correspondence among its dimensions, components, and subcomponents.

These three dimensions are analytically distinct, although they are interrelated in the lived experience of space. This study does not assume a linear causal sequence among them. Instead, each dimension is examined separately, and the findings are interpreted at the final stage through the analytical domains of the Islamic-Iranian city. Within this framework, the three categories of continuity, partial continuity, and discontinuity are used to synthesize the extent to which relationships between the intervention and its historic context have been maintained or transformed.

4.1. Physical-spatial and functional compatibility

The Tabriz Historic Bazaar has evolved through the interconnected network of passageways, commercial and collective spaces, and diverse activities, forming an integrated spatial structure. Therefore, assessing a new intervention solely on its physical characteristics is insufficient; its relationship with the existing spatial and functional structure must also be examined.

In this dimension, the relationship between the Mashruteh Bazaar complex and the physical-spatial and functional organization of its historic context is assessed by examining continuity with the spatial structure, physical-spatial characteristics, and the compatibility of activities and patterns of space use. The aim is to identify the extent to which spatial and functional relationships between the new intervention and the historic urban fabric have been maintained or transformed. Data from physical-spatial surveys and analyses, land-use and activity assessments, and field observations provide the basis for this evaluation. At the final stage, the findings are interpreted in terms of spatial cohesion and continuity, and functional-social diversity and coexistence.

4.2. Place identity and meaning-making

This dimension addresses the relationship between the intervention and the identity and meaning of place. In historic urban fabrics, place identity emerges

through interactions among historical elements, ongoing activities, landmarks, memory, and users' experiences. Introducing a new structure may therefore influence how the environment is interpreted and perceived.

In this study, place identity is not a fixed, pre-existing attribute but an outcome of the interaction among environmental characteristics, historical elements, activities, and users' experiences. Accordingly, interview data and field observations are used to assess this dimension. In the final stage, the findings are interpreted in terms of place identity, memory, and meaning within the interpretive framework of the Islamic-Iranian city.

4.3. Socio-spatial justice and social implications

This dimension addresses the intervention's social implications and how space is accessed, used, and benefited from. Because the Tabriz Bazaar's role extends beyond economic activity, changes to its spatial structure and functions may affect users' and commercial operators' presence, interactions, and opportunities to benefit from the space.

This study examines socio-spatial justice within a limited scope appropriate to the available data; it is not intended as a general judgment about justice in the city or society. Rather, it concerns patterns of access to, use of, and benefit from space within the study area. Observational and interview data provide the basis for analyzing this dimension. At the final stage, the findings are interpreted in terms of social access and benefit, as well as social interaction and social life.

4.4. The role of the Islamic-Iranian city's analytical domains in the assessment framework

In this study, the analytical domains of the Islamic-Iranian city do not constitute an independent empirical dimension alongside the three main dimensions. Instead, they form the interpretive layer used for the final assessment within the analytical framework. This layer was developed based on theoretical discussions and previous studies on spatial organization and cohesion, social life and interaction, activity diversity, place identity and meaning, and access to and benefit from space.

The domain of spatial cohesion and continuity draws on discussions of the spatial organization of the Iranian city, the morphology of historic urban fabrics, and studies of the spatial structure of the Tabriz Bazaar (Abraghui-Fard & Mansouri, 2021; Behzadfar & Rezvani, 2015; Nejad Ebrahimi et al., 2013; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2017). The domain of social interaction and life draws on studies of social interaction in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and social life in public spaces (Balali Oskouei & Jafari, 2022; Gehl, 2011; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2017). The domain of functional-social diversity and coexistence draws on discussions of the bazaar's structure and activities as well as the Iranian city's spatial-social organization (Habibi, 2012; Maroufi, 2018; Nejad Ebrahimi et al., 2013; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2014, 2017).

The domain of place identity, memory, and meaning draws on theories of place identity, attachment, and environmental meaning, as well as studies of changes in meaning associated with Mashruteh Bazaar (Relph, 1976; Proshansky et al., 1983; Lewicka, 2011; Gharehbaglou & Ardabilchi, 2021; Ali-Hesabi & Charbgoo, 2015). The domain of social accessibility and use of space draws on studies of accessibility in the historic bazaar and frameworks addressing the social impacts of projects and differences in the experiences of various social groups (Mozaffar et al., 2018; Yadollahi & Weidner, 2017; Smyth & Vanclay, 2017; Abdurahiman et al., 2024, 2025).

Accordingly, the findings across the three main dimensions are interpreted through five analytical domains: spatial cohesion and continuity; social interaction and life; functional-social diversity and coexistence; place identity, memory, and meaning; and social accessibility and use of space. These domains do not introduce new empirical data or variables into the study. Rather, they provide a framework for interpreting and synthesizing the empirical findings.

Table 2. Analytical framework for assessing large-scale interventions in historic urban fabrics (Source: compiled by the authors based on theoretical discussions and previous studies)

Main dimension	Component	Supporting references	Subcomponent under examination	Data/evidence	Method of analysis	Interpretive link to the Islamic-Iranian City
1. Physical-spatial and functional compatibility	1. Spatial Connectivity and Continuity	Abraghui-Fard & Mansouri (2021); Behzadfar & Rezvani (2015); Nejad Ebrahimi et al. (2013); Yadollahi & Weidner (2017)	Connection with the access network and surrounding passageways	Maps, plans, surveys, observations, interviews	Comparative spatial analysis	Spatial cohesion and continuity
			Connection to the historic bazaar structure	Maps, documents, surveys, observations, interviews	Comparative analysis	
			Pattern of entrances and access routes	Plans, surveys, observations	Descriptive spatial analysis	
	2. Physical-spatial organization and characteristics	Abraghui-Fard & Mansouri (2021); Behzadfar & Rezvani (2015); Nejad Ebrahimi et al. (2013)	Spatial organization and circulation routes	Plans, surveys, observations, interviews	Comparative physical-spatial analysis	Spatial cohesion and continuity
			Height and scale	Surveys, observations	Comparative physical analysis	
			Physical characteristics and materials	Surveys, observations, documents, interviews	Comparative physical analysis	
	3. Functional compatibility	Habibi (2012); Maroufi (2018); Nejad Ebrahimi et al. (2013); Yadollahi & Weidner (2014, 2017)	Types of activities and their compatibility with contemporary needs	Observations, interviews	Descriptive qualitative analysis	Functional-social diversity and coexistence
			Continuity, diversity, and coexistence of activities	Observations, interviews	Descriptive functional analysis	
			Functional relationship with the historic bazaar	Documents, observations, interviews	Comparative qualitative analysis	
2. Place identity and meaning-making	1. Legibility and recognizability	Relph (1976); Proshansky et al. (1983); Lewicka (2011)	Distinctive elements and environmental landmarks	Observations, physical-spatial surveys, interviews	Descriptive qualitative analysis	Lace identity, memory, and meaning
			Legibility of routes and internal access	Observations, physical-spatial surveys, interviews	Qualitative spatial analysis	
			Wayfinding	Observations	Descriptive qualitative analysis	
	2. Experience and perception of place	Relph (1976); Proshansky et al. (1983); Lewicka (2011); Ghareh-baglou & Ardabilchi (2021)	Sensory experience and environmental quality	Observations, interviews	Descriptive qualitative analysis	Place identity, memory, and meaning
			Perceived quality and usability of space	Observations, interviews	Descriptive analysis	
			Users' perceptions of the environment	Interviews	Qualitative examination and interpretation	

Main dimension	Component	Supporting references	Subcomponent under examination	Data/evidence	Method of analysis	Interpretive link to the Islamic-Iranian City
2. Place identity and mean-ing-making	3. Place identity, memory, and meaning	Relph (1976); Proshansky et al. (1983); Lewicka (2011); Alalhesabi & Charbgoo (2015); Ghareh-baglou & Ardabilchi (2021)	Connection with the historical context and identity-bearing elements	Documents, observations, interviews	Comparative analysis and qualitative interpretation	Place identity, memory, and meaning
			Evocation and continuity of historical memory	Interviews, observations	Qualitative examination and interpretation	
			Place attachment and meaning	Interviews	Descriptive analysis and qualitative interpretation	
3. Socio-spa-tial justice and social implica-tions	1. Accessi-bility and usability	Mozaffar et al. (2018); Yadollahi & Weidner (2017); Smyth & Vanclay (2017); Abdura-himan et al. (2024, 2025)Yadollahi & Weidner (2017); Smyth & Vanclay (2017); Abdura-himan et al. (2024, 2025)	Physical and vehicular accessibility	Maps, physi-cal-spatial surveys, observations, interviews	Descriptive spatial analysis	Social accessibility and use of space
			Access barriers and limitations	Observations, physical-spatial surveys, interviews	Descriptive physical analysis	
			Usability and amenities	Observations, interviews	Descriptive qualitative analysis	
	2. Economic benefits and implications	Mozaffar et al. (2018); Smyth & Vanclay (2017); Abdurahiman et al. (2024, 2025)	Economic and functional benefits for commercial operators	Interviews, observations	Qualitative examination and interpretation	Social accessibility and use of space
			Costs, rents, and commercial operators' economic experiences	Interviews	Qualitative examination and interpretation	
			Differences in commercial operators' experiences and economic benefits	Interviews	Qualitative comparison	
	3. Social interaction and life	Balali Oskouei & Jafari (2022); Gehl (2011); Yadollahi & Weidner (2017)	Presence and lingering	Observations, interviews	Qualitative behavioral analysis	Social interaction and life
			Social interactions and relationships	Observations, interviews	Qualitative examination and interpretation	
			Collective and non-commercial activities	Observations, interviews	Descriptive qualitative analysis	

The three main dimensions provide the structure for organizing the empirical analysis. The components and subcomponents classify the evidence, while the interpretive links to the Islamic-Iranian city form the integrative layer through which the findings are interpreted. The classification of each component as continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity is then determined during the synthesis of the relevant evidence.

4.5. Conceptual model of the study

The conceptual model presents the assessment framework for the large-scale intervention represented by the Mashruteh commercial complex within the

historic fabric of the Tabriz Bazaar. This model examines the intervention's implications across three dimensions: physical-spatial and functional compatibility, place identity and meaning-making, and socio-spatial justice and social implications. At the interpretation stage, the findings from these dimensions are examined through five analytical domains of the Islamic-Iranian city. Finally, the evidence generated through this process is synthesized to interpret the relationship between the intervention and its historic context in three categories: continuity, partial continuity, and discontinuity.

These categories represent a qualitative assessment of the extent to which relationships between the intervention and its historic context have been maintained or transformed; they do not presuppose causal relationships among the study's dimensions. Figure 1 illustrates the main relationships within this process, while Table 2 presents the details of the dimensions, components, subcomponents, data sources, and analytical methods.

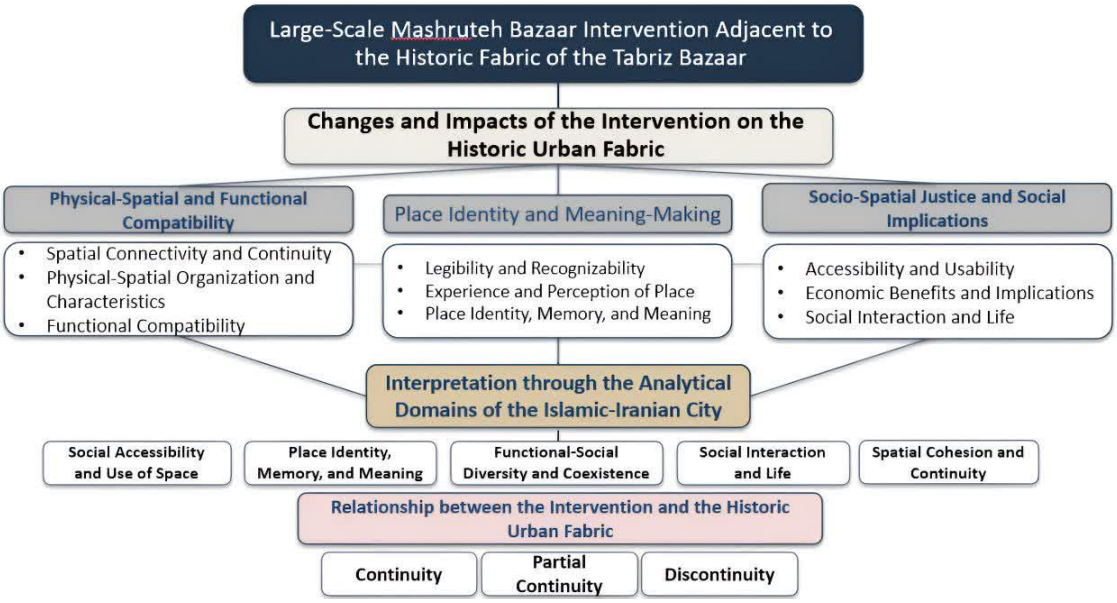


Figure 1. Conceptual model for assessing the impacts of the large-scale Mashruteh Bazaar intervention within the framework of the Islamic-Iranian city

5. Findings

Mashruteh Bazaar, a contemporary commercial intervention within the historic context of the Tabriz Bazaar, was examined across three dimensions: physical-spatial and functional compatibility, place identity and meaning-making, and socio-spatial justice and social implications. The findings are based on physical-spatial analysis, field observations, and semi-structured interviews with shopkeepers and users. Within each dimension, the collected evidence was interpreted in relation to the components of the analytical framework, and the overall status of each component was classified as continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity.

Table 3. Coding and organization of interview data using MAXQDA (Source: authors, based on the qualitative analysis of interview data)

Main dimension	Descriptive code	Analytical theme	Number of participants mentioning each theme, by users and shopkeepers/operators (based on interviews with 18 users and 12 shopkeepers/operators)
Physical-spatial and functional compatibility	Ease of vehicular access and parking	Responsiveness to commercial functional needs	15 users and nine shopkeepers/operators mentioned at least one of the following: parking advantages, ease of vehicular access, or goods transportation.
	Weak internal connectivity and difficulty accessing certain sections	Limitations in spatial continuity	12 users and four shopkeepers/operators mentioned problems with connections between internal sections of the complex or difficulties accessing certain spaces.
	Differences between the commercial functions of the two complexes	Change in functional compatibility with the historic context	17 users and 10 shopkeepers/operators preferred the historic Tabriz Bazaar in terms of historical experience and tourism. However, Mashruteh Bazaar offers advantages for certain commercial needs.
Place identity and meaning-making	Recognizability and wayfinding	Environmental legibility	8 interviewed users and 11 shopkeepers/operators referred to the role of the mosque or spatial landmarks in wayfinding within the complex. However, the experience of wayfinding in the complex differs from that of moving through the historic bazaar structure.
	Preference for the architecture and historical background of the Tabriz Bazaar	Connection with place identity and memory	15 users and 12 shopkeepers/operators preferred the historic Tabriz Bazaar in terms of architecture, historical background, or tourism experience.
	Variety of goods alongside limited spaces for lingering	Mixed experience of place quality	16 interviewed users and seven shopkeepers/operators mentioned the variety of goods. In addition, 12 users and nine shopkeepers/operators reported the absence or shortage of suitable spaces for sitting and resting.
Socio-spatial justice and social implications	Accessibility and usability	Barriers to benefiting from space	16 interviewed users and 11 shopkeepers/operators mentioned access difficulties or limitations in benefiting from the complex's amenities.
	Economic costs and benefits	Differences in economic experience	18 users and 10 shopkeepers/operators mentioned the economic advantages of Mashruteh Bazaar. In contrast, 10 users and nine shopkeepers/operators also reported economic difficulties associated with the complex.
	Everyday interaction and collective activities	Continuity of social life	Six interviewed users and four shopkeepers/operators referred to everyday social interactions or religious ceremonies held in the complex's central courtyard. Beyond these functions, commercial activities constitute a major part of the experience of the complex.

The interview evidence was organized and interpreted in relation to the study's three main dimensions. Together with findings from field observations and physical-spatial analysis, this evidence formed the basis for assessing the components in terms of continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity. Each participant could refer to more than one theme; therefore, theme frequencies are independent of one another, and their sum does not necessarily equal the total number of participants. Direct quotations are presented solely to illustrate examples of qualitative evidence, and the repetition of a quotation is not considered an independent piece of evidence or a new participant.

5.1. Physical-spatial and functional compatibility

The first assessment dimension concerns the relationship between the structure introduced by Mashruteh Bazaar and the physical-spatial and functional organization of its historic context. This section examines three components: spatial connectivity and continuity, physical-spatial

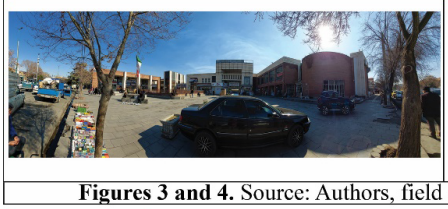
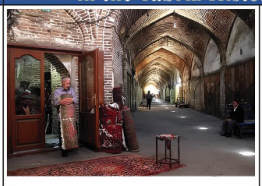
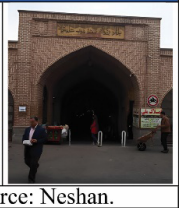
organization and characteristics, and functional compatibility with the historic bazaar structure. Based on physical evidence, field observations, and interviews, the overall status of each component is interpreted as continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity.

Spatial connectivity and continuity. A comparative examination of maps and images, along with evidence from physical surveys and field observations, indicates that Mashruteh Bazaar connects to the structure of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar through the surrounding access network. However, examining circulation routes and internal connections within the complex shows that the quality of this connectivity differs between the external and internal scales. In the interviews, commercial operators highlighted street access and the ease of goods transportation. One shopkeeper stated: "Mashruteh Bazaar has parking, whereas the Tabriz Bazaar does not. Mashruteh Bazaar has better street access. Transporting goods is easier for both customers and shopkeepers." These comments underscore the importance of vehicular accessibility and the facilitation of goods transportation in commercial operators' experience of the complex.

However, the complex's connection to the surrounding network does not necessarily imply adequate continuity among its internal routes. Referring to access to certain sections, one commercial operator stated: "it is not particularly satisfactory. It is not good. Access to some parts of the project is difficult." Considered alongside evidence from physical surveys and field observations, this account highlights the difference between external access to the complex and connectivity among its internal spaces.

Overall, the evidence indicates that Mashruteh Bazaar is connected to the surrounding access network and its historic context. However, differences in the organization of internal routes and difficulties accessing certain sections prevent full spatial continuity at all scales. Accordingly, the spatial connectivity and continuity component is assessed as partial continuity.

Table 4. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of physical-spatial and functional compatibility

Spatial Connectivity and Continuity	
Entrance and Connection to the Surrounding Network in Mashruteh Bazaar	Entrance, Route, and Spatial Connection in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar
 	 
Figures 3 and 4. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.	Figures 1 and 2. Source: Neshan.

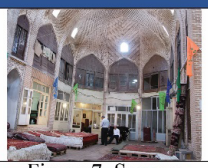
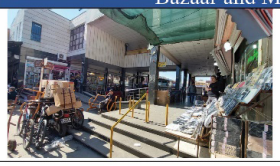
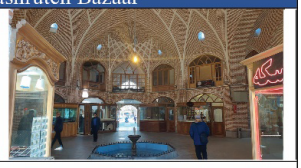
Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Continuity	The complex is connected to the surrounding access network, facilitating vehicular access and goods transportation.	In Mashruteh Bazaar, access to surrounding streets, parking availability, and goods transportation were identified as advantages in the interviews.	Connection to the surrounding access network and passageways
Partial Continuity	A connection with the historic structure is maintained; however, the spatial organization of the new complex does not fully follow the historic bazaar's spatial pattern.	Physical evidence and field observations indicate a connection between the complex and the historic bazaar context.	Connection to the historic bazaar structure
Partial Continuity	Despite the complex's good accessibility, its internal routes do not follow the same spatial pattern as the main commercial alleys and passageways of the historic bazaar.	Interviewees reported difficulties accessing certain internal sections.	Pattern of entrances and access routes
Partial Continuity	The connection with the historic context is maintained, but spatial continuity at the internal scale is incomplete.	Field evidence and interviews indicate advantages in external accessibility alongside limitations in internal connectivity.	Overall assessment of the component in Mashruteh Bazaar

Physical-spatial organization and characteristics. The Tabriz Historic Bazaar is composed of main commercial passageways, intermediate spaces, and associated built elements, whereas Mashruteh Bazaar is a contemporary commercial complex with a different spatial organization. An examination of the plans and physical survey findings indicates that circulation routes within Mashruteh Bazaar are organized to accommodate contemporary commercial functions and do not fully reproduce the spatial pattern of the historic bazaar. The use of brick and certain linear and grid-based patterns is also evident in the complex's physical form; however, its scale, spatial organization, and construction details differ from those of the historic bazaar.

The physical survey and field observations also revealed environmental limitations and deficiencies in building services, which were reflected in interviewees' accounts. One shopkeeper stated: "There is no water supply or sewage system here at all. There is only gas and electricity. To wash food dishes, we have to use the restroom." This statement highlights limitations in building services as experienced by commercial operators and, together with the physical evidence, reveals another aspect of the complex's environmental quality.

Overall, Mashruteh Bazaar does not reproduce the physical organization of the historical market, but it is not separated from the historical context either. Accordingly, this component is assessed as Partial Continuity: the connection with the historic context is maintained, while the complex's spatial organization, scale, and certain physical characteristics and building services differ from those of the historic structure.

Table 5. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of physical-spatial and functional compatibility

Physical-Spatial Organization and Characteristics			
Physical Characteristics and Materials in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar		Comparison of the Organization of Interior Spaces and Open, Enclosed, and Semi-Open Spaces in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar	
			
Figure 8. Source: Iran Tourism website.	Figure 7. Source: EachTo website.	Figures 5 and 6. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.	

Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Partial Continuity	The internal organization of Mashruteh Bazaar has been shaped to accommodate contemporary commercial functions and does not fully follow the spatial sequence of the historic bazaar.	Plans and physical surveys reveal differences between the organization of routes in Mashruteh Bazaar and the gradual, continuous network of the historic bazaar. Some shopkeepers also reported difficulties connecting between internal sections.	Spatial organization and circulation routes
Partial Continuity	The scale of the new complex differs from the gradual spatial structure of the historic bazaar; however, its location within the historic context and its connection to the surrounding structure are maintained.	Differences in the scale and volumetric organization of the two complexes are identifiable through physical surveys and field observations.	Height and scale
Partial Continuity	Selected physical elements establish a visual connection with the historic context, but the complex's physical expression does not replicate the historic pattern.	The use of brick and certain linear and grid-based patterns is observable in Mashruteh Bazaar; its construction technology and details are contemporary.	Physical characteristics and materials
Partial Continuity	The connection with the historic context is maintained, but the spatial organization and physical characteristics of the new intervention differ from the historic pattern.	Physical evidence and field observations reveal differences in spatial organization, scale, and physical expression, alongside the complex's connection with its historic context.	Overall assessment of the component in Mashruteh Bazaar

Functional compatibility. Mashruteh Bazaar was assessed in terms of the compatibility of its activities with contemporary needs, the continuity and diversity of activities, and its functional relationship with the historic bazaar. The findings indicate that activities such as selling household appliances and bulky goods, along with vehicular access, parking, and loading facilities, partially respond to contemporary functional needs. Interviewees also emphasized this. One shopkeeper stated: "it has parking, and vehicles can access the shops and unload goods directly in front of them. This project was really necessary in Tabriz for the household appliance sector." From this perspective, the subcomponent "Types of activities and their compatibility with contemporary needs" was assessed as continuity.

However, the composition and organization of activities differ from those of the historic bazaar. Mashruteh Bazaar is experienced primarily as a destination for purchasing certain specialized and bulky goods, whereas the historic bazaar offers greater functional diversity and has a broader historical and tourism-related role in addition to its commercial functions. Comparing the two complexes, one shopkeeper stated: "no, that one is historic, and people mostly go there for recreation and to see historic places. But this place is more of a place for doing business."

Furthermore, some users' visits to both complexes during a single shopping trip indicate a functional relationship between them, although their functional roles are not identical. Overall, while Mashruteh Bazaar retains its commercial function and responds to some contemporary needs, it differs from the historic bazaar in the diversity of its activities and its broader functional role. Accordingly, the subcomponents "Continuity, diversity, and coexistence of activities" and "Functional relationship with the historic bazaar" were assessed as partial continuity.

Table 6. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of physical-spatial and functional compatibility

Functional Compatibility			
Comparison of Commercial Activity Patterns: Diversity of Activities and User Presence in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar versus the Concentration of Specialized Commercial Activities in Mashruteh Bazaar			
  Figures 11 and 12. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.		  Figures 9 and 10. Source: leben-pur.ch website.	
Result	**Comparative Analysis and Assessment**	**Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)**	**Subcomponent Under Examination**
Continuity	**The provision of commercial activities suited to contemporary needs, along with access and loading facilities, addresses some current functional requirements.**	**The concentration of specialized commercial activities and bulky goods in Mashruteh Bazaar, together with vehicular access, parking, and loading facilities, was identified as a functional advantage in field observations and shopkeepers' accounts.**	**Types of activities and their compatibility with contemporary needs**
Partial Continuity	**Commercial activity continues in Mashruteh Bazaar, but the diversity and distribution of activities differ from the pattern of the historic bazaar.**	**Compared with the diversity of activities and the commercial, service, and tourism-related roles of the historic bazaar, activities in Mashruteh Bazaar are more concentrated on certain specialized commercial functions.**	**Continuity, diversity, and functional coexistence**
Partial Continuity	**A functional connection exists between the two complexes, but their roles and patterns of use are not identical.**	**Some users visit both complexes during a single shopping trip. Mashruteh Bazaar primarily serves as a shopping destination, whereas the historic bazaar is also a destination for leisure and historical experience.**	**Functional relationship with the historic bazaar**
Partial Continuity	**Commercial functions and responses to some contemporary needs are maintained, but the composition and roles of activities differ from those of the historic bazaar.**	**Field evidence and interviews indicate the continuation of commercial activity and a response to some contemporary needs, alongside differences in the diversity, roles, and patterns of use of the two complexes.**	**Overall assessment of the component in Mashruteh Bazaar**

5.2. Place identity and meaning-making

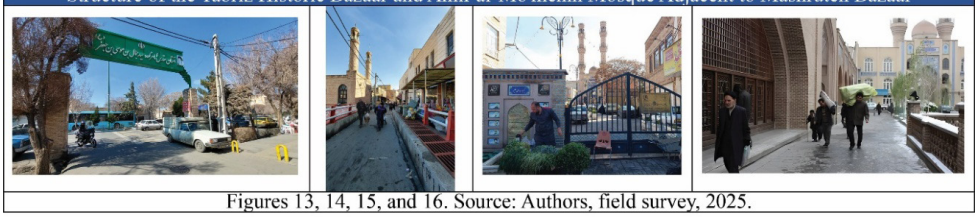
The second assessment dimension concerns the relationship between Mashruteh Bazaar and place identity and meaning. This dimension was examined through three components: legibility and recognizability, experience and perception of place, and place identity, memory, and meaning. Based on empirical evidence, each component was classified as continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity.

Legibility and recognizability. The findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar is reasonably recognizable in terms of its overall location and accessibility, particularly through its connection to the surrounding street network and nearby landmarks. However, legibility is not consistent at the internal scale. As also established in the assessment of spatial connectivity and continuity, difficult direct access between certain sections is one of the limitations experienced within the complex. Thus, ease of access to the complex at the surrounding-network scale does not necessarily imply that its internal spatial organization is fully legible.

At the surrounding scale, Amir al-Mo'menin Mosque, as an adjacent landmark, helps users identify the complex's location. By contrast, the Tabriz Historic Bazaar has greater independent recognizability due to its established structure and status as an urban landmark and destination. Interview evidence also highlights landmarks' role in wayfinding and differences in how the two complexes are recognized and experienced.

Accordingly, Mashruteh Bazaar's legibility in relation to its surrounding context is maintained, but the complex's independent recognizability and the legibility of some internal routes are more limited than those of the historic bazaar. Therefore, the legibility and recognizability component is assessed as partial continuity.

Table 7. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of place identity and meaning-making

Legibility and Recognizability
Comparison of Key Landmarks Contributing to the Legibility of the Area: Jameh Mosque within the Spatial Structure of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Amir al-Mo'menin Mosque Adjacent to Mashruteh Bazaar

Figures 13, 14, 15, and 16. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.

Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Partial Continuity	Mashruteh Bazaar is recognizable through its connection with surrounding landmarks; however, recognition of the complex depends to some extent on contextual cues.	Compared with the established landmarks of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, Mashruteh Bazaar can be identified through its proximity to the historic bazaar and surrounding landmarks, including Amir al-Mo'menin Mosque. The role of landmarks in wayfinding was also mentioned in the interviews.	Distinctive elements and environmental landmarks
Partial Continuity	The main entrance route and overall access to the complex are relatively clear, but connections between some internal sections and transitions between different parts of the complex are not consistently legible.	Compared with the continuity of passageways and routes in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, connections between some internal sections of Mashruteh Bazaar are inconsistent. This difference is reflected in the physical survey, field observations, and interviewees' accounts.	Legibility of routes and internal access
Partial Continuity	The connection with the surrounding context facilitates wayfinding, but the legibility of some internal routes remains limited.	Wayfinding in Mashruteh Bazaar relies on its connection with the historic bazaar, surrounding routes, and nearby landmarks. The role of these cues was also mentioned by interviewees.	Wayfinding
Partial Continuity	The complex's overall recognizability is maintained, but its internal legibility and independent recognizability are more limited than those of the historic bazaar.	Field observations, physical surveys, and interview evidence indicate that the complex can be recognized through its surrounding context, alongside limitations in the legibility of some internal routes.	Overall assessment of the component in Mashruteh Bazaar

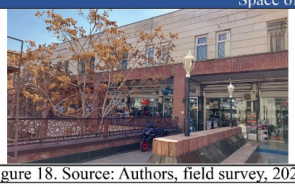
Experience and perception of place. The findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar is perceived primarily as a commercial space for everyday needs and shopping, with convenient access and a variety of goods contributing to users' experience of the complex. By contrast, limited spaces for lingering and sitting, along with certain environmental and amenity-related deficiencies, mean that this experience is not consistent across all sections.

This issue was also reflected in users' accounts. For example, while acknowledging the complex's convenient access and variety of goods, one user identified the lack of suitable resting facilities as a limitation, stating: "the amenities are inadequate; there are only a few benches." Interviewees also mentioned the difficulty older people face when using the stairs and the need for an elevator or escalator.

Conversely, the variety of goods and reasonable prices were among the factors encouraging users to visit the complex. One user identified these features as reasons for returning and also highlighted accessibility and parking as positive aspects of the complex. These differences in users' perceptions suggest that the experience of place in Mashruteh Bazaar is not uniform but is related to patterns of use, users' expectations, and the quality of available facilities.

Compared with the historic bazaar, the experience of Mashruteh Bazaar is more strongly focused on shopping and commercial use. By contrast, the historic bazaar is characterized not only by its commercial function but also by spatial continuity, diverse activities, and the distinctive qualities of its historic environment. Differences in users' experiences of the two complexes can therefore be interpreted in relation to their spatial organization, types of activities, and historical contexts. Overall, Mashruteh Bazaar still supports commercial use and everyday experience, but the quality and diversity of its spatial experience do not match those of the historic bazaar. Accordingly, the experience and perception of place component is assessed as partial continuity.

Table 8. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of place identity and meaning-making

Experience and Perception of Place Comparison of Spatial Experience and Perception (Interior Space of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar; Interior Space of Mashruteh Bazaar)	
	
Figure 18. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.	Figure 17. Source: EachTo website.

Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Partial Continuity	Differences in environmental quality and limitations in spaces for lingering and resting affect the quality of the spatial experience in Mashruteh Bazaar.	Compared with the spatial and environmental diversity of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, the quality of experience varies across different sections of Mashruteh Bazaar. Limited spaces for lingering and sitting, along with certain deficiencies in amenities, were evident in field observations and reflected in users' accounts.	Sensory experience and Environmental Quality
Continuity	The complex remains usable for commercial and everyday purposes; however, the quality of use is not uniform across different user groups because of certain spatial and amenity-related limitations.	Commercial and everyday use of Mashruteh Bazaar has been maintained. Accessibility, parking, and the variety of goods are among the positive aspects of users' experiences, although certain mobility-related and amenity-related limitations also exist.	Perceived Quality and Usability of Space
Partial Continuity	Patterns of use and users' expectations shape their perceptions of the environment. The experience of Mashruteh Bazaar is more functional and oriented toward everyday needs, whereas the historic bazaar offers a more diverse and historically grounded experience.	Compared with the historic bazaar, which users associate more strongly with strolling and the historic environment, Mashruteh Bazaar is perceived primarily as a destination for shopping and commercial activity. At the same time, users differ in their perceptions of the complex's overall desirability and their reasons for visiting it.	Users' Perceptions of the Environment
Partial Continuity	Experience and usability have been maintained, but the quality and diversity of the spatial experience are not equivalent to those of the historic bazaar.	Field observations and interview evidence indicate that everyday use and experience are maintained in Mashruteh Bazaar, alongside limitations in certain amenities and spaces for lingering, as well as differences in users' experiences compared with the historic bazaar.	Overall Assessment of the Component in Mashruteh Bazaar

Place identity, memory, and meaning. The findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar is acceptable to users in terms of use and commercial activity; however, its connection to Tabriz's historical identity is established primarily through its proximity and physical relationship with the historic bazaar. Interview evidence also points to differences in how the complex's identity is perceived. For example, when asked whether the complex's architecture was consistent with Tabriz's identity, one shopkeeper responded, "In my opinion, no." In contrast, another shopkeeper described Mashruteh Bazaar's architecture as "good" and "beautiful." This difference suggests interviewees do not share a uniform assessment of the complex's architecture. However, a positive appraisal of its appearance does not necessarily imply that it is perceived as consistent with the city's historical identity.

The complex's connection with the historic bazaar provides a context through which aspects of the place's historical meaning can be evoked. However, interviewees more often described the historic bazaar as a destination associated with historical and tourism-related attractions, while Mashruteh Bazaar was primarily characterized as a place for shopping and commercial activity. Moreover, proximity to the historic bazaar may evoke historical memories. Still, it is not, in itself, sufficient to establish that the lived experience and historical memory associated with the historic setting have been fully transferred to the new space.

Accordingly, the meaning associated with commercial use has been maintained in Mashruteh Bazaar, whereas its connection to the historical identity and meaning of the surrounding context appears more limited. On this basis, the overall status of the place identity, memory, and meaning component is assessed as partial continuity.

Table 9. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of place identity and meaning-making

Place Identity, Memory, and Meaning	
Comparison of the Contextual Factors Shaping Place Identity and Memory (Historic Space and Ongoing Activities in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar; Commercial Space of Mashruteh Bazaar in Relation to Its Surrounding Historic Context)	
	
Figure 20. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.	Figure 19. Source: EachTo website.

Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Partial Continuity	The connection with the historic bazaar and its surrounding context has been maintained; however, the interpretation of the complex's identity depends in part on this context.	In the historic bazaar, historical elements and spatial structure serve as landmarks and components of place identity. In Mashruteh Bazaar, the complex's connection with the historic context is established through its proximity to the bazaar and prominent surrounding elements, including Amir al-Mo'menin Mosque. Shopkeepers' accounts also reveal differing assessments of the extent to which the complex's architecture is consistent with Tabriz's identity.	Connection with the Historic Context and Identity-Defining Elements
Continuity	The connection with the historic bazaar and its surrounding context provides a basis for maintaining and evoking aspects of the place's historical memory in Mashruteh Bazaar.	Unlike the historic bazaar, which provides direct experience of historic spaces and elements, Mashruteh Bazaar offers opportunities to evoke the past through its proximity and connection to the historic context.	Evocation and Continuity of Historical Memory
Partial Continuity	Meaning associated with commercial use has developed within the complex, but the available evidence is insufficient to establish a sense of attachment and historical meaning comparable to that of the historic bazaar.	Compared with the historic bazaar, where meaning is intertwined with shopping, strolling, and historical experience, Mashruteh Bazaar is associated more strongly with shopping, commercial activity, and everyday use in interviewees' accounts.	Place Attachment and Meaning
Partial Continuity	The connection with the historic context has been maintained, but the evidence is insufficient to establish that the new complex independently reproduces the historic identity, memory, and meaning of the place.	Physical evidence and interview data indicate that the complex's connection with the historic context has been maintained, alongside differences in place identity and meaning compared with the historic bazaar.	Overall Assessment of the Component in Mashruteh Bazaar

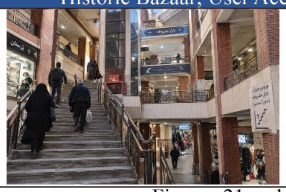
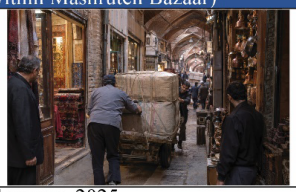
5.3. Socio-spatial justice and social implications

The third assessment dimension concerns accessibility, use, and the benefits experienced by users and commercial operators, as well as social life in Mashruteh Bazaar. Given the available data, socio-spatial justice is examined by investigating differences in opportunities for access and use, economic and functional benefits, and social interactions. It does not seek to judge social justice across the city of Tabriz as a whole. In this regard, photographs and spatial observations were used as supplementary evidence in the analysis of accessibility, use, and social life.

Accessibility and usability. The findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar offers certain advantages over the historic bazaar in terms of vehicular access, opportunities for stopping, and goods transportation. Interviewees' accounts reflect these features. However, convenient access to the complex does not necessarily imply that all its internal spaces are equally usable. Field observations and interviewees' accounts indicate that difficulties in using certain routes and stairs, together with limited seating areas and amenities, affect users' experience of the complex.

Overall, Mashruteh Bazaar provides advantages in external accessibility and goods transportation, but internal and amenity-related limitations continue to affect users' experience. Accordingly, this component is assessed as partial continuity, as the advantages in accessibility coexist with limitations in the use of internal spaces.

Table 10. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of socio-spatial justice and social implications

Accessibility and Usability	
Comparison of Usability for Different User Groups (User Access and Movement through the Passageways of the Historic Bazaar; User Access and Use Conditions within Mashruteh Bazaar)	
	
Figures 21 and 22. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.	

Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Continuity	**Vehicular access and the availability of stopping areas in Mashruteh Bazaar facilitate shopping and goods transportation. However, this advantage alone does not indicate the quality of access within the complex's internal spaces.**	**Compared with the historic bazaar, vehicular access and stopping are more convenient in Mashruteh Bazaar. This difference is reflected in field observations of access conditions and parking facilities, as well as in shopkeepers' and users' accounts.**	Physical and Vehicular Accessibility
Partial Continuity	**Convenient access to the complex does not eliminate limitations at the internal scale or differences in the conditions of use experienced by different user groups.**	**Compared with the network of passageways in the historic bazaar, some internal sections of Mashruteh Bazaar are less interconnected, and using certain routes and stairs is more difficult for some user groups. These issues were reported in field observations and in shopkeepers' and users' accounts.**	**Access Barriers and Limitations**
Partial Continuity	**General and commercial usability has been maintained, but the lack of certain amenities and spaces for lingering means that the quality of use is not uniform for all users.**	**General and commercial use is possible in Mashruteh Bazaar, but compared with the variety of spaces for gathering and lingering in the historic bazaar, seating and certain amenities are more limited. This was also reflected in field observations and users' accounts.**	**Usability and Amenities**
Partial Continuity	General and commercial accessibility has been maintained, and vehicular access and goods transportation offer certain advantages; however, some internal and amenity-related limitations remain.	Field observations and interview evidence indicate convenient external and vehicular access alongside limitations in internal accessibility and amenities.	Overall Assessment of the Component in Mashruteh Bazaar

Economic benefits and implications. The findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar offers advantages for certain commercial activities, particularly those requiring more space, vehicular access, and loading

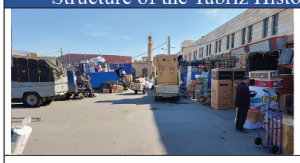
facilities. However, commercial operators' accounts reveal differences in their experiences of costs and income. For example, one operator stated, "This place is much, much better than anywhere else." In contrast, another operator, referring to the prevailing economic conditions, remarked, "In the current circumstances, no one is satisfied, because expenses are very high and there is no income."

These accounts indicate that commercial operators' economic experiences at Mashruteh Bazaar are not uniform. Declining sales in recent years were also mentioned in the interviews, with interviewees primarily attributing this decline to inflation and reduced purchasing power. However, the available evidence is insufficient to attribute this decline to Mashruteh Bazaar's performance.

Overall, Mashruteh Bazaar provides certain economic and functional opportunities, but operators' experiences of costs and the extent to which they benefit economically vary. Accordingly, the status of this component is assessed as partial continuity.

Table 11. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of socio-spatial justice and social implications

Mashruteh Bazaar in Terms of Socio-Spatial Justice and Social Implications. Source: Authors.

Economic Benefits and Implications	
Comparison of Access Conditions and Stopping Facilities (Access and Movement within the Spatial Structure of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar; Vehicular Access and Parking Facilities in Mashruteh Bazaar)	
 	
Figures 24 and 25. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.	Figure 23. Tabriz Historic Bazaar. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.

Result	Comparative Analysis and Assessment	Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)	Subcomponent Under Examination
Continuity	Vehicular access, loading facilities, and spaces suited to certain commercial activities provide opportunities for functional and economic benefits for those activities.	Compared with the historic bazaar, Mashruteh Bazaar offers more suitable space, vehicular access, and loading facilities for certain commercial activities, particularly those involving bulky goods. These advantages are reflected in the spatial conditions of the complex and commercial operators' accounts.	Economic and Functional Benefits
Partial Continuity	Differences in assessments of costs and income indicate that operators' economic experiences are not uniform; broader economic conditions also influence these experiences.	Operators' accounts of costs, rent, and the relationship between income and expenses vary. Some consider the complex's economic conditions unfavorable, while others regard unit prices or operating conditions as more favorable than those in certain other parts of the city.	Costs, Rent, and Operators' Economic Experience
Partial Continuity	Economic experiences differ, but the available evidence is insufficient to attribute these differences to the intervention or to establish an unequal distribution of benefits.	In comparing the two complexes, some operators consider the historic bazaar more favorable in terms of income, while others regard Mashruteh Bazaar as better suited to their activities in terms of accessibility, prices, and functional requirements. Some interviewees also reported a recent decline in sales, attributing it to inflation and reduced purchasing power. However, the causes of declining sales were not independently investigated.	Differences in Operators' Economic Experiences and Benefits
Partial Continuity	The intervention has provided certain economic and functional opportunities, but operators' experiences of costs and the extent to which they benefit economically vary.	Field observations and interview evidence indicate that the complex offers functional and economic advantages for certain activities, alongside differences in operators' experiences of income, costs, and rent.	Overall Assessment of the Component in Mashruteh Bazaar

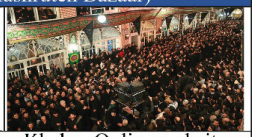
Social interaction and life. The findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar primarily functions as a commercial space and shopping destination. User presence and movement are maintained during operating hours, but prolonged stays and non-commercial activities are more limited. At the same time, everyday interactions among commercial operators and neighboring shopkeepers, including coordination and the resolution of issues through interaction, were mentioned in interviewees' accounts. One operator stated in this

regard, “most of the neighboring shopkeepers have relationships with one another.” The complex also accommodates collective activities on certain occasions, including religious ceremonies and Muharram observances in the central courtyard. One operator explained: “we also hold the ten-day Muharram ceremonies in the central courtyard of Mashruteh Bazaar. The shopkeepers themselves collect money for the ceremonies and the distribution of votive food.” However, these activities remain more limited in scope than the complex’s dominant commercial functions.

Overall, everyday interactions and certain collective activities have continued in Mashruteh Bazaar. Nevertheless, the dominance of commercial activity and the limited availability of spaces for lingering and non-commercial activities constrain the scope and diversity of social life. Accordingly, the overall status of social interaction and life component is assessed as partial continuity.

Table 12. Comparative visual and analytical assessment of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar and Mashruteh Bazaar in terms of socio-spatial justice and social implications

Mashruteh Bazaar in Terms of Socio-Spatial Justice and Social Implications. Source: Authors.

Social Interaction and Life			
Comparison of Social Presence and Life (User Presence and Activities, and Religious Ceremonies in the Historic Bazaar; User Presence and Activities in the Interior and Exterior Spaces of Mashruteh Bazaar)			
  Figures 28 and 29. Source: Authors, field survey, 2025.		  Figures 26 and 27. Source: Khabar Online website.	
Result	**Comparative Analysis and Assessment**	**Selected Evidence (Field Observations, Physical Survey, and Interviews)**	**Subcomponent Under Examination**
Partial Continuity	**User presence has continued, but the dominance of commercial activity and the limited availability of spaces for lingering reduce the duration and diversity of user presence.**	**Compared with the diversity of spaces for presence and lingering in the Tabriz Historic Bazaar, user presence and movement in Mashruteh Bazaar are primarily associated with commercial activity. Limitations in certain seating and lingering spaces were also reflected in field observations and users’ accounts.**	**Presence and Lingering**
Continuity	**Everyday interactions and cooperation among commercial operators have generally been maintained, but the intensity and continuity of social relationships are not uniform among all users and shopkeepers.**	**Everyday interactions among some shopkeepers and neighboring operators, as well as coordination mechanisms among commercial operators, were reported in the interviews.**	**Social Interactions and Relationships**
Partial Continuity	**Some collective and non-commercial activities have continued, but their scope and diversity are more limited than in the historic bazaar.**	**Some religious ceremonies and the participation of shopkeepers in collective activities have been reported in Mashruteh Bazaar; however, commercial functions remain dominant.**	**Collective and Non-Commercial Activities**
Partial Continuity	**Social life within the complex has continued, but its scope and diversity are more limited than in the historic bazaar.**	**Field observations and interview evidence indicate the continuation of user presence, everyday interactions, and certain collective activities, alongside limitations in spaces for lingering and the dominance of commercial activity.**	Overall Assessment of the Component in Mashruteh Bazaar

To clarify the empirical basis of the analyses, Table 3 presents selected evidence from interviews with shopkeepers and users of Mashruteh Bazaar, together with its interpretation within the framework of the study’s three main dimensions.

5.4. Synthesis within the framework of the Islamic-Iranian City

Findings across the study’s three main dimensions indicate that the relationship between Mashruteh Bazaar and its historic context is not uniform across all dimensions. In terms of spatial cohesion and continuity, the complex remains connected to the surrounding access network, but its internal spatial organization differs from the historic bazaar’s pattern. With regard to functional-social diversity and coexistence, commercial activities have continued, and the complex responds to certain contemporary needs. However, this continuity does not imply the full reproduction of the historic bazaar’s functional pattern. In terms of

place identity, memory, and meaning, Mashruteh Bazaar maintains a connection to its historic context, but the evidence does not indicate that this connection is equally established in users' experiences of place identity and meaning. Regarding social accessibility and use of space, vehicular access and certain functional capacities constitute advantages of the complex; conversely, limitations in amenities and differences in operators' economic experiences have also been observed. In terms of social interaction and life, user presence, everyday relationships, and certain collective activities have continued, but their scope and diversity remain more limited.

Overall, the synthesis of findings across the three main dimensions indicates partial continuity. This means some spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships have been preserved, while others have changed or are subject to limitations.

Table 13. Analytical synthesis of the findings and overall assessment of the Mashruteh Bazaar intervention within the framework of the Islamic-Iranian City

Assessment dimension	Preserved relationships and characteristics	Transformed relationships and characteristics	Overall assessment
Physical-spatial and functional compatibility	Connection to the surrounding access network and historic structure; continuation of commercial activities and responsiveness to contemporary needs	Internal spatial organization, scale, and some environmental and functional qualities	Partial continuity
Place identity and meaning-making	Connection with the historic context; opportunities for everyday experience and use; preservation of some semantic connections with the context	Legibility of some internal routes; diversity of spatial experience; more limited independent place identity and meaning	Partial continuity
Socio-spatial justice and social implications	Public and commercial access; user presence and interaction; certain collective activities; economic and functional opportunities	Limitations in some amenities and spaces for lingering; dominance of commercial activity; differences in operators' economic experiences	Partial continuity
Overall synthesis	Continuity of some spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships	Redefinition and transformation of these relationships in certain dimensions	Partial continuity

Overall, Mashruteh Bazaar has neither created a complete discontinuity with its historic context nor fully maintained the previous pattern. The overall assessment indicates partial continuity: some spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships have been preserved, while differences remain in certain dimensions. Within the framework of the Islamic-Iranian city, this finding suggests that continuity in the historic urban fabric should be assessed beyond the preservation of form or function alone, taking into account the relationships among space, activity, social interaction, identity, and the benefits derived from place.

6. Discussion and interpretation of findings

The findings indicate that the relationship between a new intervention and a historic urban fabric cannot be assessed solely based on physical similarity or difference. In Mashruteh Bazaar, certain spatial and functional connections with the historic context have been maintained, alongside changes in spatial organization, the experience of meaning, social life, and the conditions under which economic benefits are derived. The implications of the intervention therefore vary across dimensions, and its continuity should be interpreted in terms of the relationships preserved, transformed, or weakened within each dimension.

6.1. Physical and functional continuity versus changes in spatial organization

One of the study's main findings is that Mashruteh Bazaar retains its connection to the access network and structure of the historic bazaar, while its internal spatial organization differs from the historic pattern. This indicates that continuity within a historic urban fabric does not necessarily entail reproducing the past spatial pattern. Rather, it may involve preserving certain relationships with the historic context while reorganizing other spatial elements.

In Mashruteh Bazaar, the use of brick and certain linear and grid-based patterns, alongside differences in spatial organization, reflects this condition. In other words, the new intervention is not detached from its historic context, but its spatial pattern has not been directly reproduced. From this perspective, assessing an intervention in a historic urban fabric should not be

based solely on the degree of its visual similarity to the historic structure. Instead, it should identify which relationships with the context have been preserved and which elements have been redefined in response to new needs.

This finding can be compared with Bianco's (2023) study of the adaptive reuse of historic covered markets. Examining various aspects of these markets' heritage value, Bianco demonstrates that revitalizing and reusing historic buildings do not necessarily entail the full preservation of their authenticity and cultural significance. Similarly, in Mashruteh Bazaar, the continuation of commercial functions and the connection with the access network of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar do not, by themselves, guarantee the preservation of the historic spatial organization. Differences in the scale and nature of the interventions limit the direct comparability of the two studies; nevertheless, both underscore the need to assess interventions beyond functional continuity and to consider their physical and heritage values.

6.2. Continuity of commercial functions and the relative weakness of reproducing historical meaning

In Mashruteh Bazaar, the continuation of commercial functions, along with the availability of more space, vehicular access, and facilities for goods transportation and loading, addresses some contemporary functional needs and maintains a functional connection with the historic bazaar. However, one notable finding of this study is that continuity of commercial functions alone has not ensured continuity of the historical meaning of place. In the experience of users and commercial operators, Mashruteh Bazaar is perceived primarily as a space for shopping and commercial activity, whereas the historic bazaar is associated not only with its economic role but also with historical experience, strolling, and cultural values. Therefore, a shared function across the two complexes does not necessarily produce a similar experience of place.

Accordingly, a distinction can be made between functional continuity and continuity of meaning. Mashruteh Bazaar has maintained its connection to the historic context at the functional level, but this connection has not been sustained to the same extent at the level of identity and meaning. This difference indicates that assessing an intervention's success in a historic urban fabric cannot rely solely on preserving activities or the economic use of space; the quality of users' experiences and the meanings formed through their engagement with the place are also important.

6.3. Social life: Continuity of interaction alongside the dominance of commercial functions

The dominance of commercial functions in Mashruteh Bazaar has influenced the form and extent of social presence. Users' presence and movement, everyday interactions among shopkeepers and neighboring operators, and collective activities, including religious ceremonies, indicate that social life has continued within the complex. However, limited availability of spaces for lingering and a smaller share of non-commercial activities constrain its scope and diversity. The study findings align with Pulles et al.'s (2023) emphasis on user participation and attention to place-specific characteristics in strategies for regenerating historic places. In Mashruteh Bazaar, despite the continuation of user presence and everyday interactions, limited availability of spaces for lingering and the dominance of commercial activity constrain the scope of users' social experiences. This finding suggests that, in assessing interventions in historic urban fabrics, the mere continuation of activities is insufficient; the quality of users' experiences and the conditions that enable social interaction must also be examined. At the same time, because Pulles et al. examine regeneration strategies across different scales rather than focusing specifically on Mashruteh Bazaar, the comparison is made at the level of assessment principles and factors influencing regeneration.

Consequently, the findings do not indicate the elimination of social life, but rather a change in its form and extent. In other words, users' presence and social interaction have been maintained, but aspects of social life associated with activity diversity, strolling, and longer stays in the historic bazaar are more limited in Mashruteh Bazaar. From this perspective, the existence of social interaction alone is insufficient to assess social life; the nature of user presence, opportunities for lingering, the diversity of activities, and the continuity of social relationships must also be considered.

6.4. Differences in experiences of economic and social benefits

Commercial operators' experiences of the economic implications of Mashruteh Bazaar are not uniform. Vehicular access, parking, and loading facilities offer functional advantages for certain activities, while operators' accounts of rent, operating expenses, and the relationship between income and costs vary. Therefore, continued economic activity cannot be equated with uniform economic benefits.

At the same time, the available evidence is insufficient to establish a definitive pattern of unequal distribution of economic benefits. The evidence more confidently supports the conclusion that experiences of the intervention's benefits and costs differ. This variation indicates that the implications of an intervention are not experienced in the same way by all commercial operators, and that the nature of their activities, type of business, and broader economic conditions may influence their assessments.

Given the available evidence, no definitive conclusions can be drawn about changes in the use of parts of the former residential fabric or their potential implications for residents. Accordingly, assessment of the intervention's impacts in this study is limited to dimensions for which sufficient evidence was available. Overall, the findings indicate that continuity in Mashruteh Bazaar varies across dimensions. Connections with the historic structure, accessibility, and commercial functions have been maintained in certain respects, while spatial organization, the quality and diversity of experience, aspects of social life, and the historical meaning of place have changed. Commercial operators' economic experiences are also heterogeneous. On this basis, the concept of partial continuity helps explain the overall outcome of this multidimensional condition: the intervention has neither created a complete discontinuity with its historic context nor fully maintained the previous pattern. From a practical perspective, these findings underscore the need to assess interventions in historic urban fabrics to consider spatial, functional, social, and semantic connections simultaneously, while also accounting for differences in the experiences of commercial operators and users.

7. Conclusion

This study aimed to assess the impacts of a large-scale intervention in a historic urban fabric by examining Mashruteh Bazaar in Tabriz across three dimensions: physical-spatial and functional compatibility, place identity and meaning-making, and socio-spatial justice and social implications. The findings indicate that the relationship between the intervention and its historic context varies across dimensions, with some relationships continuing alongside changes or limitations in others.

In terms of physical-spatial and functional compatibility, Mashruteh Bazaar remains connected to the surrounding access network and addresses some contemporary needs through parking facilities, vehicular access, and goods transportation. However, its internal spatial organization and scale differ from the historic bazaar's pattern. Regarding place identity and meaning-making, the complex maintains a connection with its historic context, but the evidence does not indicate that its historical identity and meaning have become established to the extent seen in the historic bazaar. In the socio-spatial dimension, user presence, everyday interactions, and certain collective activities have continued. Nevertheless, limitations in spaces for lingering and amenities, together with differences in commercial operators' economic experiences, indicate that conditions of use and the extent to which users benefit from the complex are not uniform.

Overall synthesis of the findings places Mashruteh Bazaar in a condition of partial continuity, in which some spatial, functional, social, and semantic relationships have been preserved, while others have changed or become more limited because of a different spatial organization and pattern of use. In response to the first research question, the findings indicate that Mashruteh Bazaar is characterized primarily by partial continuity in physical-spatial and functional terms, as certain connections with the historic structure of the Tabriz Bazaar and commercial functions have been maintained despite differences in internal spatial organization. In response to the second question, the findings suggest that, despite the continuation of certain historical and functional connections, the experience and meaning of place are not fully reproduced in Mashruteh Bazaar, and the continuity of its historical identity and meaning remains more limited. In response to the third question, the findings indicate that user presence, everyday interactions, and certain collective activities have continued, alongside limitations in spaces for lingering and differences in experiences of economic benefit. However, the available evidence is insufficient to establish a definitive pattern of unequal benefit distribution or to determine the status of all dimensions of socio-spatial justice. From this perspective, continuity in a historic urban fabric cannot be reduced to the preservation of physical form or the continuation of economic functions; rather, the relationships among spatial structure, activities, the experience of place, social interactions, and the benefits experienced by users and commercial operators must be examined together.

From a practical perspective, the findings highlight the importance of improving the legibility of internal routes, strengthening spaces for lingering and interaction, improving amenities accessible to different user groups, and creating greater opportunities for non-commercial activities. Strengthening the intervention's connection to the historical identity and meaning of its context may also serve as a priority for improving the quality of similar interventions. In the socio-economic domain, attention to differences in commercial operators' experiences of benefits and costs may be useful in managing and evaluating comparable complexes. These recommendations address the limitations identified in this study and do not imply complete discontinuity in these dimensions. This study draws on a single case study, 30 semi-structured interviews, and evidence obtained through documentary research, physical-spatial surveys, and field observations. Accordingly, the findings cannot be statistically generalized to other interventions in historic urban fabrics. Participants were recruited through convenience sampling, and the data reflect the experiences of individuals who were available and willing to participate in interviews during the researcher's fieldwork. Consequently, the experiences of some groups of users or commercial operators may not have been adequately represented.

Another limitation concerns the basis of comparison. Mashruteh Bazaar and the Tabriz Historic Bazaar differ in terms of construction period, scale, spatial organization, and types of activities. Therefore, their comparison is limited to corresponding characteristics and relationships within the areas examined and should not be interpreted as a comprehensive assessment of equivalence between the two complexes. Furthermore, classifying conditions as continuity, partial continuity, or discontinuity is interpretive and, despite using multiple sources of evidence, cannot be considered entirely independent of researcher judgment. Interview code frequency alone also does not indicate the importance or intensity of an impact, and a theme's recurrence does not necessarily constitute independent evidence or imply that participants shared identical experiences.

The findings should therefore be interpreted within the boundaries of the study area, the participating individuals, and the evidence collected. Future research could apply the assessment framework to multiple cases using more clearly defined comparative criteria. Employing more diverse sampling strategies, systematically examining the experiences of different user groups, and integrating qualitative and quantitative data could further improve comparability and the assessment of findings.

Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally to developing and writing the article.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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