



## Arts and Aesthetic Studies

**Hossein Nakhaei**

Rank 2<sup>nd</sup> Winner in the Young Section

**Degree:** MA

**Research Title:** The Great Mosque of Varamin:

The Process of Formation and Evolution

**Kind of Research Work:** Book



### About Researcher

Hossein Nakhaei was born in 1989 in Arak. He earned his MSc in Iranian Architectural Studies from Shahid Beheshti University and got his Bachelor in Architecture from university of Tehran. In 2015, he defended his master's thesis titled "Varamin Friday Mosque: Recognizing the Process of Formation and Evolution". He collaborated with some research institutions, including Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation, Encyclopedia of Iranian Architectural and Urban History and Archive and Architectural Research Center at Shahid Beheshti University. In addition to writing entries such as "Tomb Tower of 'Ala al-Din" at Varamin and "Tughrul Tower" at Rayy for the Encyclopedia of the World of Islam, he wrote a book titled The Great Mosque of Varamin: Recognizing the process of Formation and Evolution, based on his master's thesis. This book has been published in 2019 with forewords by Prof. Kambiz Haji Ghassemi and Prof. Haedeh Laleh.

### Abstract

The great mosque of Varamin is one of the most significant monuments of the late Ilkhanid period. Since 1937, it has been excavated and renovated several times, and now it looks sturdy in the heart of the new city of Varamin. However, photographs prior to its restoration reveal that it was in a miserable condition before, in so far as almost half of the building was completely ruined outside the city. This scene would promptly raise questions about factors contributing to this tragic fate and the original form of the building before its demolition.

This study explains the causes of the building's destruction by tracing the process of evolution from its inception until the restoration of its ruins in recent decades. It scrutinizes remnants of the building, analyzes textual, visual, and archeological evidence, and studies the building's evolution through the lens of Varamin's history. Moreover, it recognizes the original form of the building distorted by natural and human damages and reconstructs some of the missing parts of its ornaments via computer simulation. The findings of this research reveal that constructing and decorating of the building has been left incomplete in the fourteenth century and the only parts which their decoration have been completed in the fifteenth century were the sanctuary and its iwan. Moreover, it emphasizes the importance of construing the architectural terms of the foundation inscriptions in their proper historical context and brings up an assumption about its process of construction.

