

Art and Representation: Apadana at Persepolis



Biography of site



Biography of site



- Construction of the city began under Darius I – new capital of the Achaemenid Empire
- Administration of the Empire actually at Susa, Babylon and Ecbatana



Biography of site

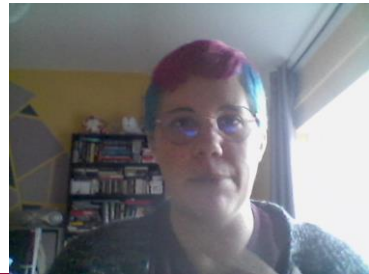


- Herzfeld (1941), Dekhane (2017) → site for celebrating Nowruz
⇒ disputed by Saith (2012)
- Root (1979) → illustration of royal power

Darius I → stronghold, not a political centre



Ancient use and context





Shahbazi (2020)





<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/421092/Apadana-Staircase-a-way-to-fabled-Persia>

Ancient use and context

“Used the language of elite
identity to assert the
primacy of the king
amongst the elite”

(Morgan, 2017, p801)

Temporary residence,
religious ceremonies, an
observatory for astronomy
(Visit Iran)

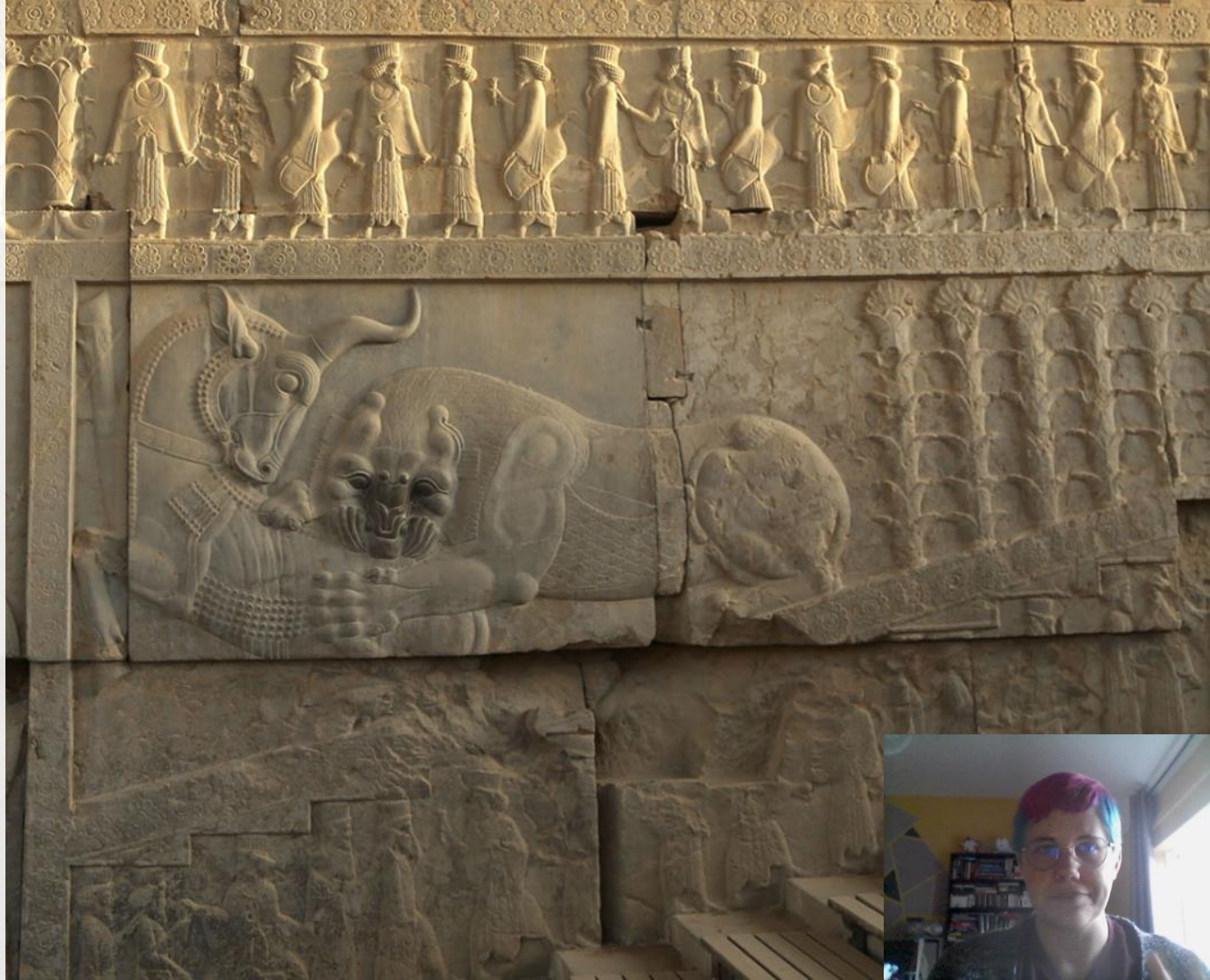


Ancient use and context

Communication - power of the king

“Persepolis as a highly
programmed visual landscape
full of symbols” (Root, 1979, p7)

“designed to reflect and
reinforce the power and status
of the Great King” (Morgan,
2017, p787)



“served to promulgate a particular view of the empire to the world” (Tucker, 2015, p21)



Jona Lendering



Ancient use and context

Communication - power
of the king

“right to exercise power
and assert his status”
(Morgan, 2017, p788),



Jona Lendering





Ancient use and context

Communication - power of the king

Bull was an emblem of power
(Marinatos, 1996)

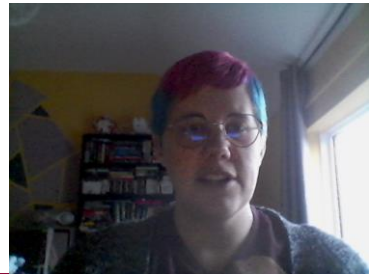
A symbol of fertility and power (Sathe,
2012)

“used to emphasize the king’s role as the
protector of the viewer who had to pass
by the dangerous scenes” (Pak-Shiraz,
2017, p762).

<https://www.livius.org/pictures/iran/persepolis/persepolis-tripylon/persepolis-tripylon-northern-staircase-relief-2/>



Modern reception



Modern reception

- Designated by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage in 1979
- Most popular tourist site in Iran (Culture Trip) - growth of 18% in 2017 (Aljazeera)
- Acts as a model for present-day architecture (Culture Trip)
 - Kish Island's Darius Grand Hotel
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Conclusions



Importance of communication to Empire

Symbolic communication of kingship

- Fertility
- Strength
- 'Joy of Empire'

Continuing importance in Iranian culture



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