

Vozara Office Building

No 23, 11th Street, Entefazeh (Vozara) Avenue
Tehran, Iran

Architects Etemad Moghaddam
Tehran, Iran

Clients Ebrahim Kojouri
Tehran, Iran

Commission n.a.

<i>Design</i>	n.a.
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Construction n.a.

Occupancy 2007

Site 439 m²

Ground floor 276 m²

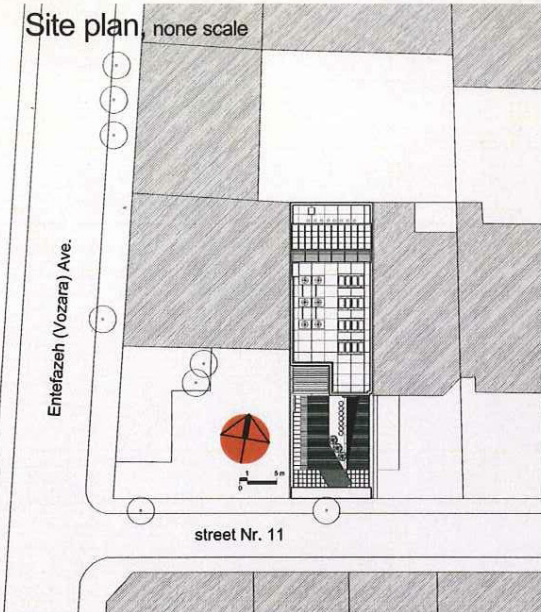
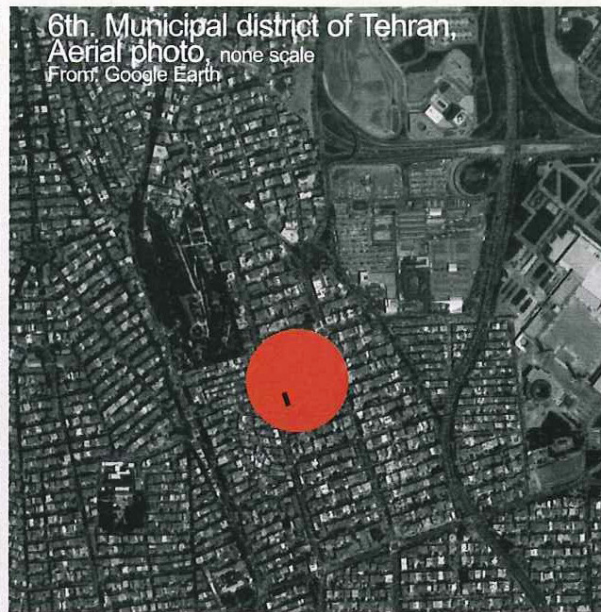
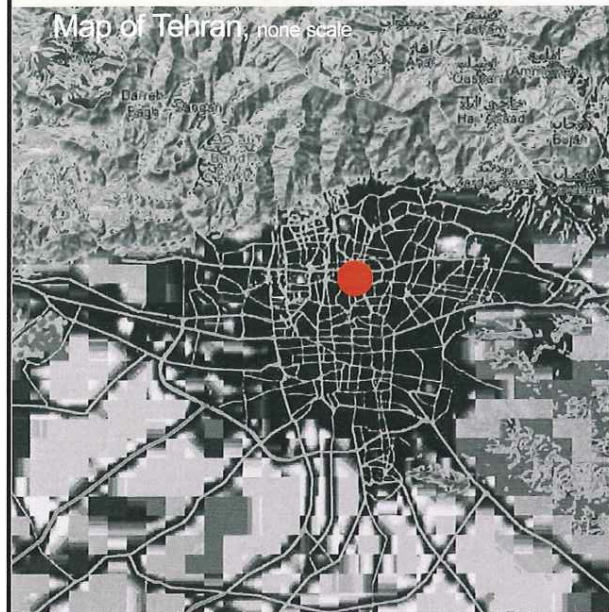
Total floor 2,075 m²

<i>Costs</i>	2,262,400 USD
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Programme

This challenging project was undertaken by a client and architect who both lived abroad and a local contractor who lacked the technical expertise to build a highly contemporary office block. The site also posed difficulties in that the north and west elevations are largely unfenestrated, so grids for climbing plants have been introduced following Tehran tradition. The client's insistence on granite and aluminium cladding reduced further attempts to contextualise the building although the energy strategy includes solar panels, double glazing, an interior void to provide natural ventilation and adjustable shading to the south façade. The building has been successfully let to Copper World Co as its headquarters.

<i>Building Type</i>	<i>Offices</i>
<i>2010 Award Cycle</i>	<i>3655.IRA</i>



FROM CITY TO THE PLANS

3655.IRA



GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS

The client's main residence is in Dubai, a city famous for its dynamism and construction activity. New buildings are constructed constantly, each surpassing the limits of conventional architectural practice. With this background in mind, the client insisted on a modern office building meeting higher standards than usually seen in Tehran, especially since the project is located in a commercially attractive and expensive surrounding.

The design process for me as an architect - who concerns himself primarily with regional, contextual and climatic characteristics- was personally a challenge. A challenge to find a common ground between my principles on one hand, and those of the client on the other hand. For example the client determined granite stone and aluminum cladding from the beginning for the high status these materials had in the public opinion. This exactly illustrates the situation in societies like Iran where the question between modernity and tradition is always an ongoing discussion.

The main challenge of this project was adapting to the existing context, either in the design process or the prevailing construction methods. This problem was specially highlighted since the contractor wasn't a construction company in the sense of one in western countries or UAE. In fact he was an individual with the conventional experience of constructing in Tehran. This compelled a constant and gradual training by the architect to modify the contractor's skills in meeting acceptable technical standards appropriate for the project.

The powers of the architect were considerably confined during the design process. As a confirmation, utilizing solar power and designing the play of sunlight on the windows were the only limited choices the architect could make to achieve a sustainable climatic design. In view of these conditions only a part of the architect's contextual and regional objectives could be met. On the formal and spatial aspects of design, the architect insisted on the open space design for the offices, the choice of colors for the facade stone and flooring.

VOZARA OFFICE BUILDING, Tehran - Iran, 2007
3655.IRA
AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE, 2010

FROM ENTRANCE TO THE ROOF ➡



2010 AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE

