

Karbandi: The ground of applying Dome on different contexts in Iranian architecture

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Abstract Dome is the most obvious reference of Iranian architecture having been present in every period and region. Using dome and not applying circular spaces in plan led to the transition from cornered contexts, also common in pre Islamic era, to circular form of dome with mathematical arrangements. Karbandi is considered to be one of the advanced methods of this transition which moved ahead over time to find a proper construction as a symbol of thoughtful architecture. The unique geometrical capacities of karbandi made it possible to build dome in any context. In this paper, we present the history of karbandi, its terminology followed by typology of different types of karbandi and finally a collection of various contexts in Iranian architecture along with practical practices in different regions and historical periods. There are presented some specific contexts which turned into circular form by karbandi, along with their plans and samples of application.

Keywords Karbandi, Typology, Geometry, Iran's Architecture