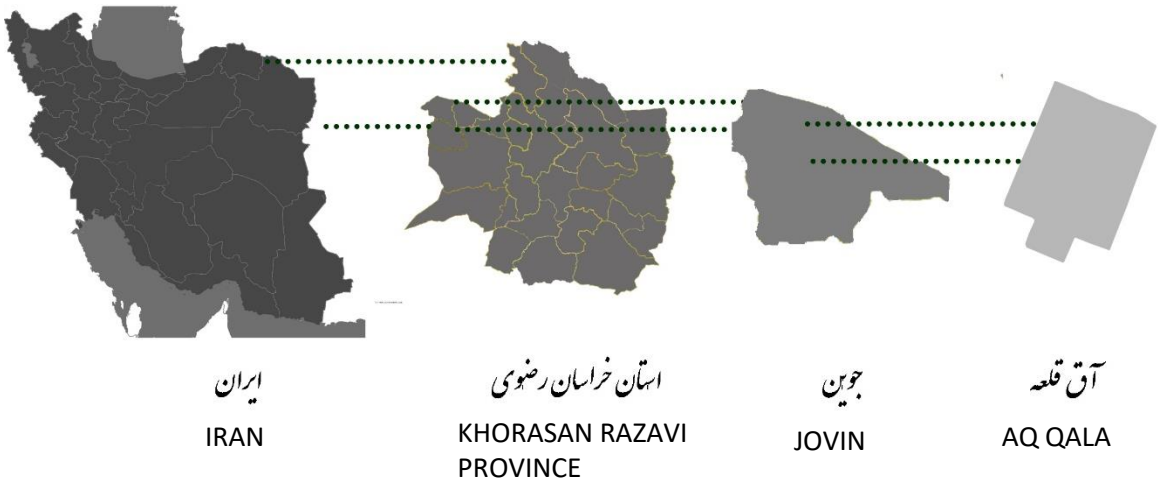




# AQ QALA

Golestan Province, IRAN

The historical city of 'Aq Qala' is located in northeastern Iran in 'Khorasan Razavi' province and in the city of 'Jovin'. This archeological complex, which includes the remains of an 'ILKHANI' city, is located on the outskirts of the city of 'Niqab' and today due to the passage of the main transit road through the city has been divided into two halves.



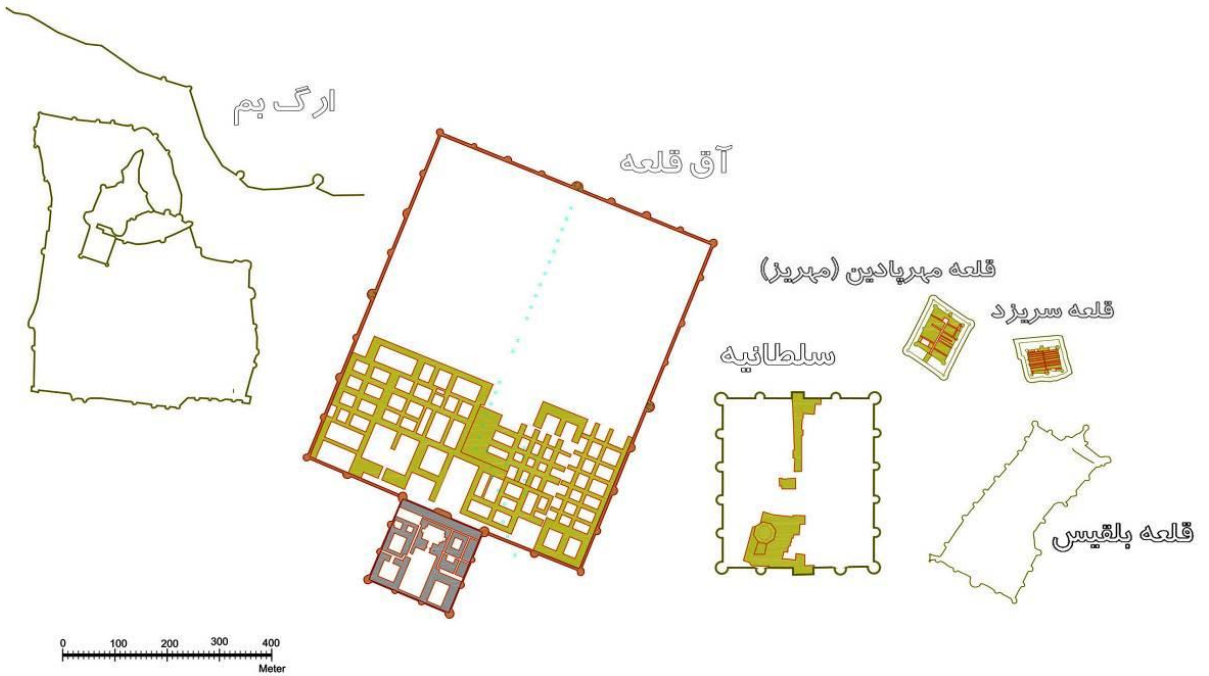
The literal form of the word 'Aq' originally means white in Turkish and in Persian means glorious.

The historical background of the region is full of bloody ups and downs and important in the history of Iran, which can be evidenced in the structures.

However, according to the inscription of the construction of the city mosque, which is located outside the fort and its date reaches 721 AH, the construction of the city is even before this date or Simultaneously connects with it; Because the mosque is part of the city structure, which is located at the beginning of the entrance to the bazaar and government citadel.

## Review of architectural features:

The first point about Aq Qala, before the geometric study, is its size. Its main citadel is almost half of all the city of Soltanieh and the main city of Aq Qala is about four times the city of Soltanieh. It is interesting to note that Aq Qala is larger than Bam Citadel and is about 1.5 times larger than Bam Citadel (Shar and Kohan Dej). The area of the complex is about 55 hectares.



Comparative comparisons in the dimensions and sizes of 'Aq Qala' in terms of physical capacity and per capita of the city.



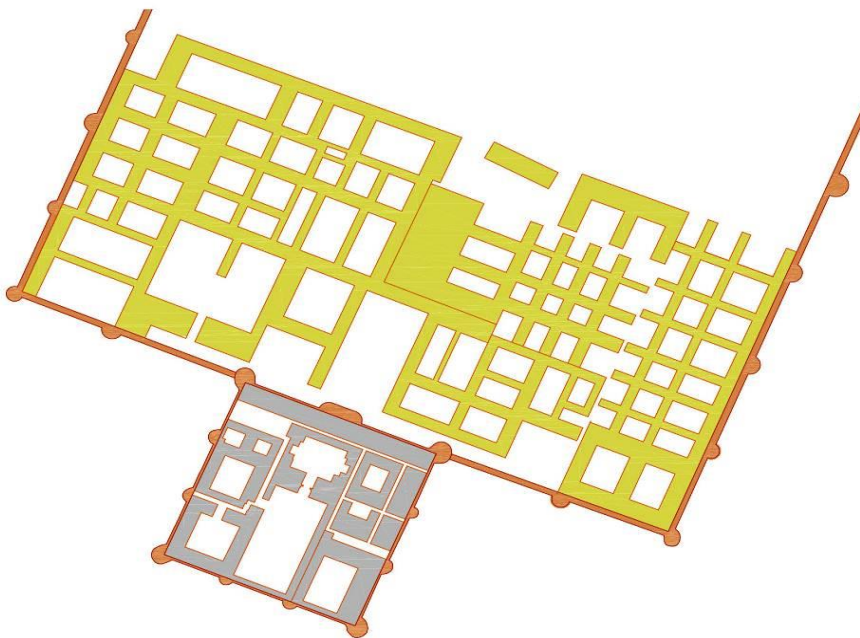
Picture of 'Aq Qala' citadel tower and fortification.

## Aq Qala Urban Organization:

The purlieus near the entrance to the citadel are formed by large squares, three of which are connected. After these large squares, in the eastern corner of the city, two courtyards can be seen that seem to be somehow separated from the other parts.

The mosque in the north of this complex is almost abandoned. In its southeast there are series of small courtyards and in its southwestern part larger forms of courtyards are existing which could be imagined to categorize to private and public spaces.

On the south side of the large rectangular square, which is in front of the entrance of the citadel, there is an enclosure mass of structures which, evokes the footprint of an urban corridor and maybe Bazaar.



Mass and Hollow spaces in the vicinity of 'Aq Qala' city and citadel. Based on Google 2016 satellite aerial photos.

The fort of 'Aq Qala' city is very thick and has a diameter of 5 to 7 meters. The structure of this fort is in such a way that the two sides of the rafters are made with a diameter of about one meter with stratification and at higher levels with large bricks, and between the two walls, there is a mud in which traces of clay or stratification are not visible.

Most of the city gates usually passed between the two main towers that were on watcher duty. A very interesting point in this castle is that the entrance gates of this castle are inside (and not between the two towers) towers.

Around the castle, the moat space is quite visible and it seems that in the past it was deeper than today and it is conceivable that due to the higher humidity of the plateau and the presence of surface water, it also had water inside it or at least it was swampy.



Picture of the current situation of the city of fortifications.

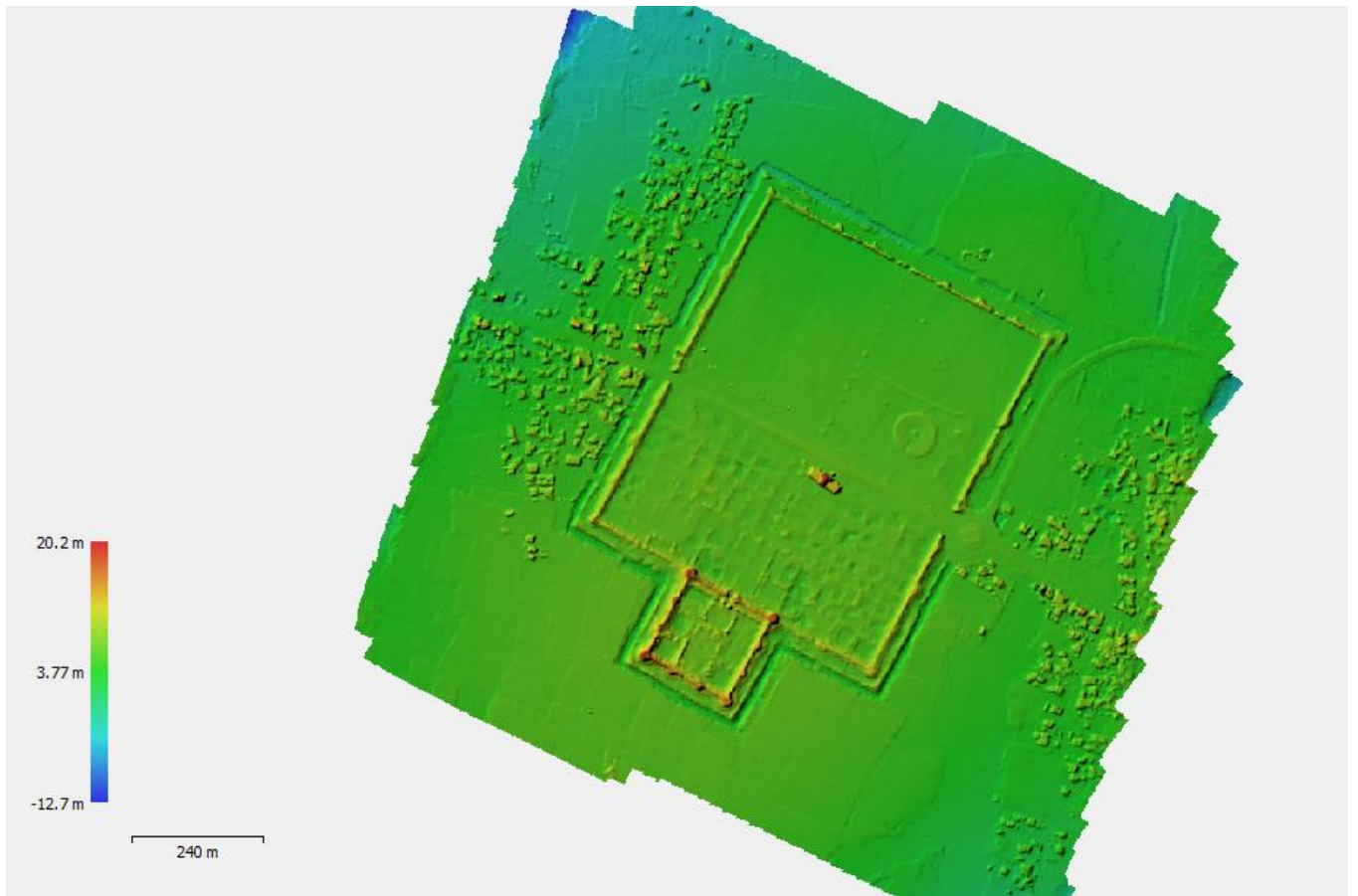


Aerial photo of 1335 Hijri year of Aq Qala city

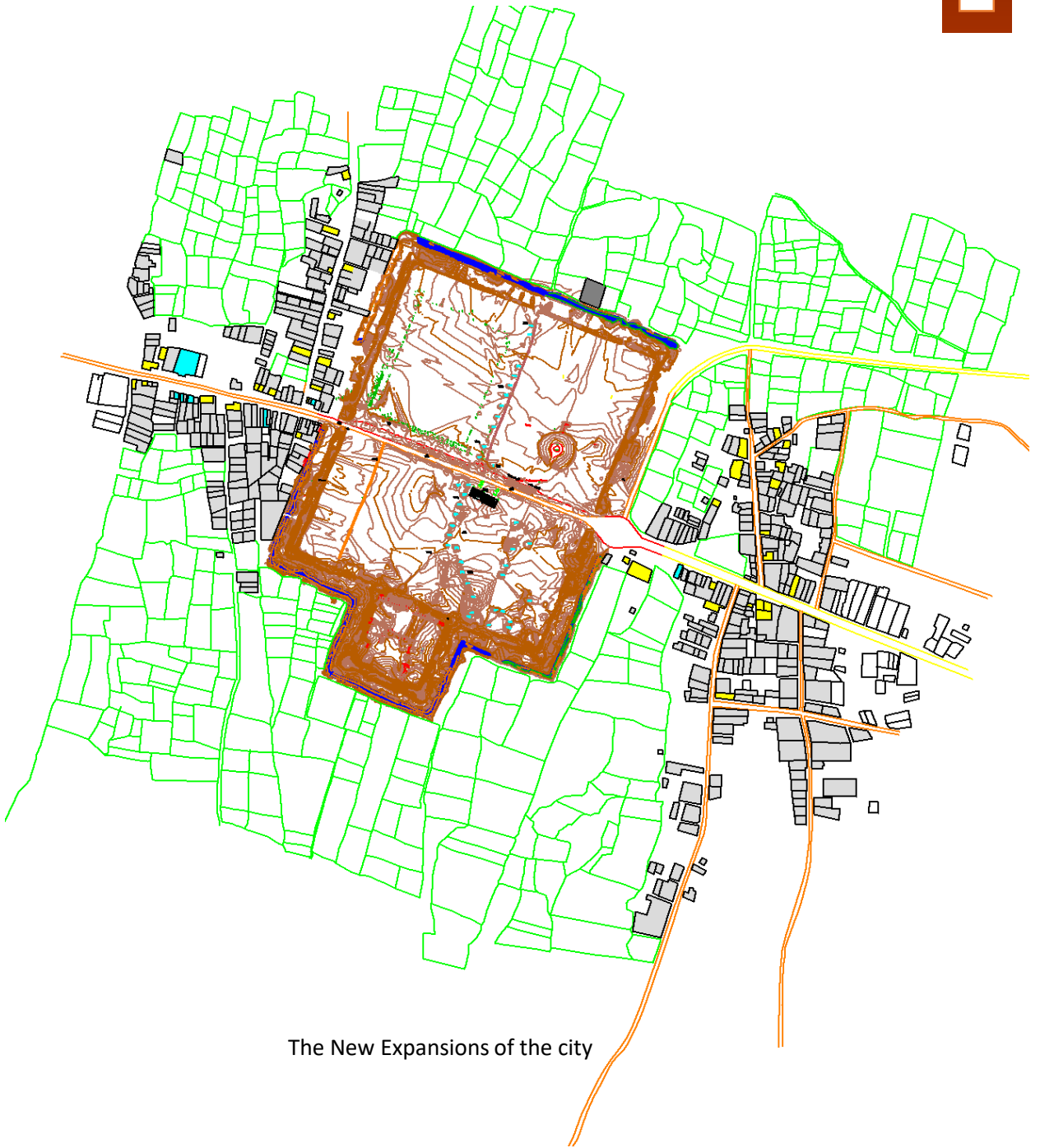


Aerial photo of the city in 1398 Hijri year.





The Height Module of the City in compare to terrain.



The New Expansions of the city