





# Golestan Palace

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Abyaz Palac  
(Ethnology Museum)  
(kache Abyaz)



Almas Hal  
(Tallar Almas)



Temporary  
Exhibition  
(Chador Khaneh)



Gallery of Historic  
Photograph  
(Aks Khaneh)



(Emarat Badgir)



Gallery of  
Manuscript  
(Shams-ol-Emareh)



Sar-Sara  
Porcelains Hall  
Brilliant Hall  
(Talar Berelian)



Royal Museum  
(Muse Machsus)



European Painting  
Gallery  
(Howz Khaneh)



Iranian Painting  
Gallery  
(Neggar Khaneh)



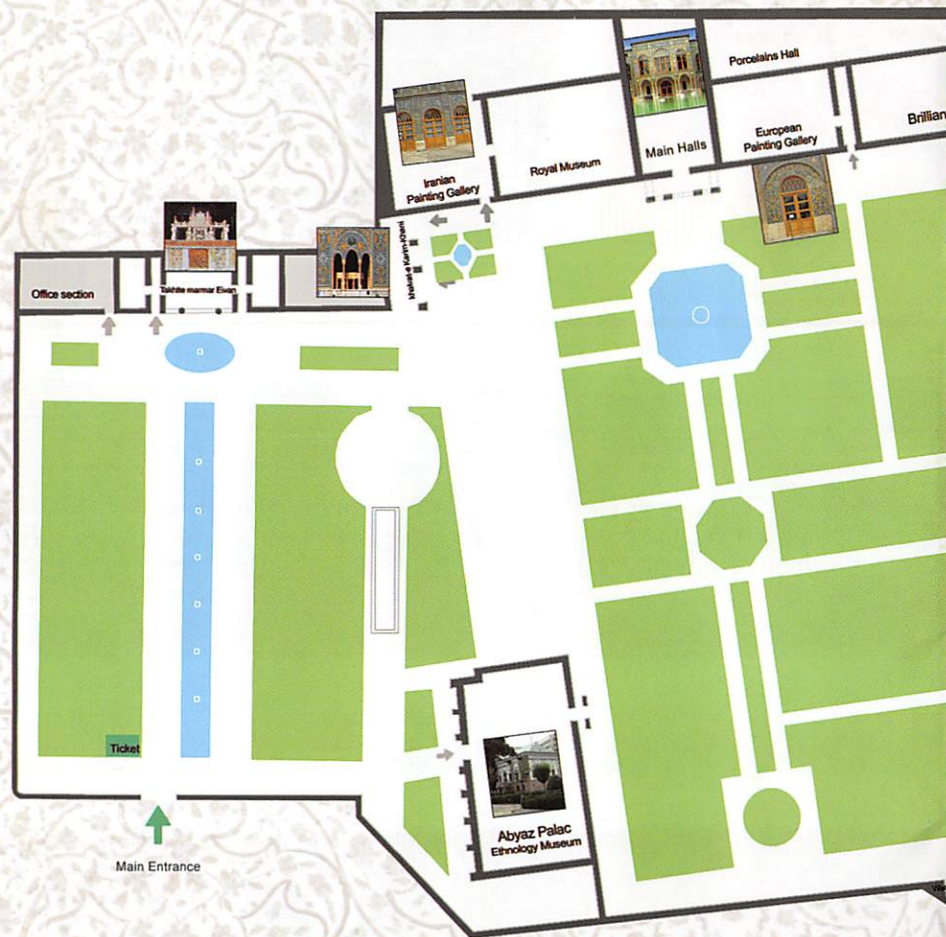
Khalvat-e  
Karim Khani



Takht-e Marmar







# Golestan Palace

## A short history of the Golestan Palace

The oldest of the historic monuments in Tehran, the Golestan Palace (palace of Flowers) belongs to a group of royal buildings that were once enclosed within the mud-thatched walls of Tehran's Historic Arg (citadel). The Arg was built during the reign of Tahmasb I (r. 1524 - 1576) of the Safavid dynasty (1502-1736), and was later renovated by Karim Khan Zand (r.1750-1779). Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar (1742-1797) chose Tehran as his capital.

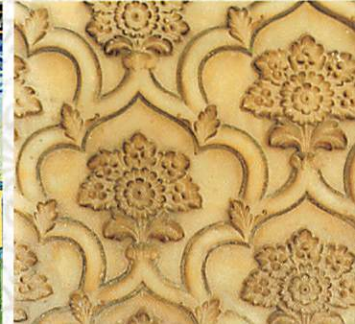
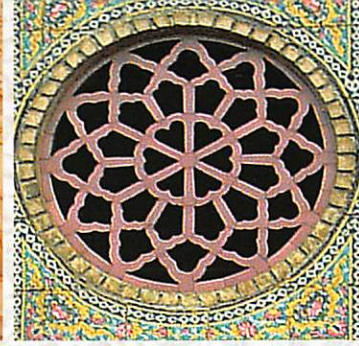
The Arg became the site of the Qajar (1794-1925) Court and Golestan Palace became the official residence of the royal family. During the Pahlavi era (1925-1979) Golestan Palace was used for formal royal receptions. The most important ceremonies to be held in the Palace during the Pahlavi era were the coronation of Reza Khan (r. 1925-1941) in Takht-e Marmar and the coronation of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (r. 1941- deposed 1979) in the Museum Hall. In its present state, Golestan Palace is the result of roughly 400 years construction and renovations. The buildings at the contemporary location each have a unique history.





## Takht-e Marmar

The spectacular terrace known as Takht-e-Marmar (Marble Throne) was built in 1806 by order of Fath Ali Shah Qajar (r.1797-1834). Adorned by paintings, marble-carvings, tile-work, stucco, mirrors, enamel, woodcarvings, and lattice windows; the throne embodies the finest of Iranian architecture. The Marble Throne is one of the oldest buildings of the historic Arg. The existing throne, which is situated in the middle of the terrace (iwan), is made of the famous yellow marble of Yazd province. The throne is made of sixty-five pieces of marble and was designed by Mirza Baba naghsh Basti (head painter) of the Qajar court. Mohammad Ebrahim, the Royal Mason, oversaw the construction and several celebrated masters of the time worked on the execution of this masterpiece. The architectural details and other ornaments of the terrace (iwan) were completed during the reigns of Fath Ali Shah and Nasser-ol-Din Shah (r.1848-1896). Coronations of Qajar kings, and formal court ceremonies were held on this terrace (iwan). The last coronation to be held at Takht-e-Marmar was the coronation of, the self-proclaimed King, Reza Khan Pahlavi in 1925.

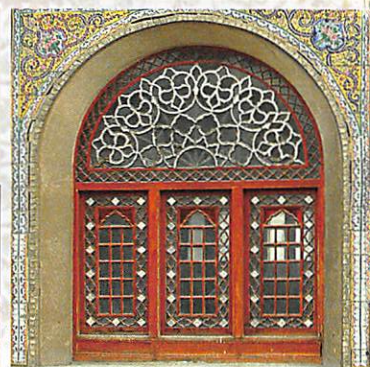
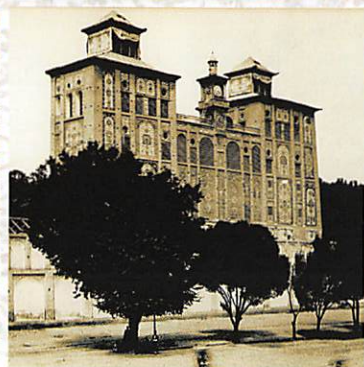






## Tâlâr-e Aineh

Talar-e Aineh (Hall of Mirror) is the most famous of the Palace halls. This relatively small hall is famous for its extraordinary mirror work. The Hall was designed by Haj Abdoul Hossein Memar bashi (Sanie-ol-Molk). Yahaya Khan Moetamed-ol-Molk, the Minister of Architecture, acted as consultant to the designer.

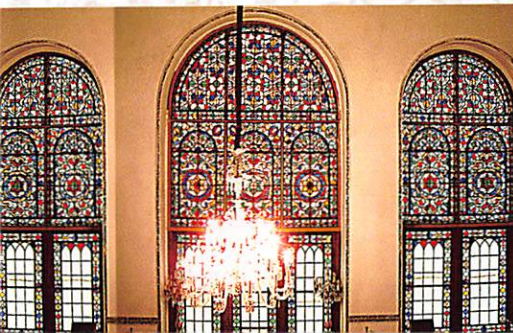






## Tâlâr-e Almâs

Talar-e Almas (Hall of Diamonds) is located in the southern wing of Golestan Palace next to the Badgir Building. It is called Hall of Diamonds because of the exceptional mirror work inside the building. The construction of this hall dates to the time of Fath Ali Shah (circa 1806). Nasser-ol-Din Shah renovated this hall changing its appearance and replacing the hall's Ogival arches with Roman ones. He also ordered the walls covered with wallpaper imported from Europe. As the basic structure dates back to the time of Fath Ali Shah. It is only apt that this hall should be devoted to the exhibition of art and handicrafts from that period.



## Neggâr-Khânêh

Nasser-ol-Din Shah was very impressed by the exhibition of artifacts and valuable objects at European museums during his second European tour around 1872. He arrived back in Tehran intent on building a museum hall to exhibit paintings, royal jewels, and other royal artifacts. The original collection of the museum hall is now scattered among Tehran's many museums. However, the paintings of the royal court are now kept at the Golestan Palace with the European paints housed in the Hous Khaneh and the works of Iranian Painters housed in the Neggâr Khaneh. Meant to show the evolution of painting in Iran during the Qajar era, the works of Iranian Painters are exhibited in two sections. Housed in the southern part of the Neggâr Khaneh are the works of early Qajar masters such as Mirza Baba, Mehr Ali Afshar, Ali Akbar Khan Mozaïen-ol-Douleh, Aboul Hassan Sani (Sanie-ol-Molk) who was Kamal-ol-Molk's uncle. The northern Neggâr Khaneh, was the seat of the Royal Guard during the time of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The northern hall underwent substantial renovations in 1995 and now houses the works of later masters of the Qajar era such as Mahmoud Khan Saba (Malek-ol-Shoara), Mohammad Gaffari Kashani (Kamal-ol-Molk), Mehri, Mosa Momayez.



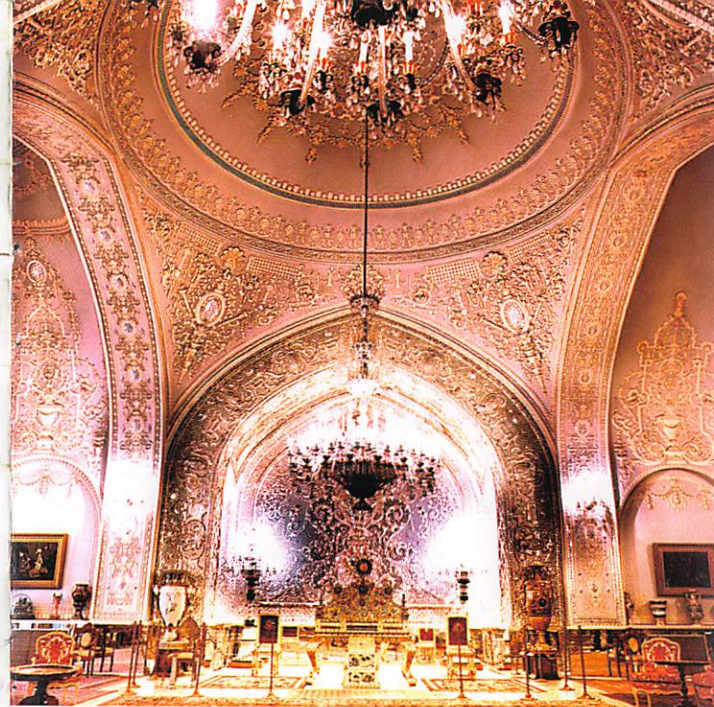




## Muz-e Makhsus (Special Museum)

This building is located under the Salam Hall or Museum. It is indeed a part of the first Iranian museum, which was built by Mohammad Ebrahim Khan Memar Bashi. In Naser-ol-Din Shah's period, this building was used as a warehouse for the china and silverware, which was dedicated to Qajar kings. In the palilavi period, this warehouse was turned in to a museum to expose the rare gifts, which was given to the Qajar kings. Right now in addition to the gifts, some rare objects are kept in this museum, some of them are as follows;

- 1- Helmet of king Esmail Safavid.
- 2- Bow and Arrows of King Nader.
- 3- Armband of Fath Ali Shah.
- 4- The collection of Qajar Seals.
- 5- Aga Mohammad Khan's crown.
- 6- A decorated ostrich egg.



## Tâlar-e Salâm

Talar-e Salam (Reception Hall) was originally designed to be a museum. After the Takt-e-Tavoos (Iranian's famous Jeweled Peacock Throne) was moved to the Royal jewels collection at the Central Bank, this hall was designated to hold special receptions in the presence of the king, hence the name Talar Salam. tourists and envoys from European courts received in the Arg during the reign of Nasser-ol-Din Shah, spoke of this outstanding hall, comparing it to its European counterparts. This hall has exquisite mirrors work. The ceiling and walls are decorated with plaster molding. The floors are covered whit mosaic. During the reign of Nasser-ol-Din Shah, this hall was used to exhibit Iranian and European paintings alongside gifts presented to the Iranian court. Royal jewels were also exhibited inside glass cases. These jewels are now housed at the Royal Jewels Museum of the Central Bank.







## Tâlar-e Zoroof

This building replaced the Narenjestan building in the north of Adj Hall or sofreh khaneh. All the chinaware that were dedicated to Qajar kings by the European kings were taken to this room and was arranged in show cases which were built for this purpose. All the chinaware that exists in this room is rare and beautiful. Among them these are the most exceptional:



- 1-The chinaware that shows the Napoleonic wars dedicated by Napoleon the first.
- 2-The chinaware dedicated by King Nicoli the first.
- 3- Chinaware studded with gems and jewels dedicated by Queen Victoria.
- 4-The Chinaware which was dedicated by King Vilhelm to the Iranian crown prince.
- 5-A set made by melacit stone dedicated by Alexandre the third.



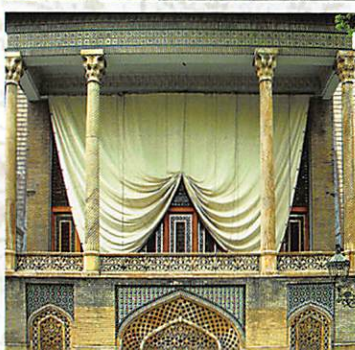
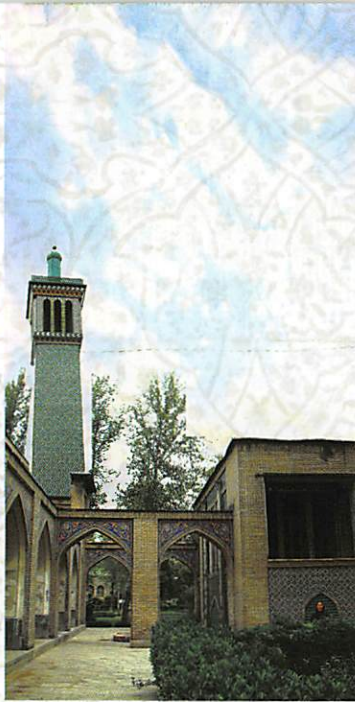
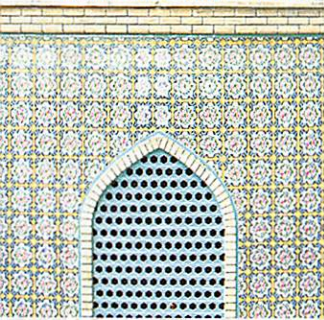
## Kâkh-e Abyaz

(Ethnological Museum)

The Ottoman king, Sultan Abdoul-hamid, send precious gifts to Nasser-ol-Din Shah. Reportedly, these gifts were copious and enough to fill a castle. The Qajar monarch was delighted with these gifts. He decided to build an exhibit hall worthy of these gifts within the confines of Golestan Palace. It is believed that Nasser-ol-Din Shah, himself, designed the structure, with a central hall large enough to house the carpet that was sent by Sultan Abdoulhamid. Completed in 1883, the Abyaze (White) Palace now houses one of the most interesting ethnological museums in Iran. There is a colorful exhibition of tradition Iranian costumes, as well as a folk art exhibition.







## Emârat-e Bâdgir

Emarat-e Badgir (Building of the Wind Towers) was constructed during the reign of Fath Ali Shah (circa 1806). The building underwent major renovations, including structural changes, during the reign of Nasser-ol-Din Shah. A watercolor rendering by Mahmoud Khan Malek-ol-Shoara depicts the original structure prior to renovation. The building is flanked by two rooms known as goshwar (earring). There is a central room which boasts the finest stained glass window in Golestan Palace. Outside, there are four wind towers of blue, yellow and black glazed tiles and a golden cupola. The wind towers are constructed to allow the cooling wind to move through the structure.



## Tâlar-e Adj

Talar-e Adj (Hall of Ivory) is a large hall used as a dining room. It was decorated with gifts presented to Nasser-ol-Din Shah by European monarchs. Among the Golestan Palace collection, a watercolor by Mahmoud Khan Malek-ol-Shoara, shows the exterior view of this hall during the Qajar period.







## Châdor-Khâneh

Located between the Badgir and Almas Hall, the Châdor Khâneh (House of Tents) was used as a warehouse for royal tents. The Qajar tribe loved the great outdoors and made several royal camping trips each year. These trips were grand affairs with multitudes of servants and attendants in addition to all royal necessities. Many tents were needed to accommodate the entourage. Thus, a need for a House of Tents. The Châdor Khâneh has undergone major renovations and is now used a meeting and lecture hall.



## Tâlar-e Berelian

Talar-e Berelian (Hall of Brilliance) was named so for it is adorned by the brilliant mirror work of Iranian artisans. The Hall was build by Nasser-ol-Din Shah build to replace another hall called Talar Bolour (Crystal Hall). Built by Fath Ali Shah the Bolour Hall had been laid waste by the damp. The Berelian Hall is famous for its mirror work and chandeliers. An oil painting by Yahya Khan Sanie-ol-Molk Ghafari, showing the decoration of this hall before renovations carried out by Mozafar-ol-Din Shah (r.1896-1907), exists in the Golestan Palace.







## 'Aks - khâneh

The Aks Khaneh (Phototheque) is a large summer chamber under the Badgir.

this room was cooled using a cooling system that pumped water from a subterranean stream (qanat) into a small pond. Due to the harmful effects of humidity, this system is no longer in use. This room has undergone major renovations and is now used as an exhibition space for photographs of the Qajar period. Nasser-ol-Din Shah took an interest in photography not long after the invention of the camera. In fact, he was an avid photographer. The Aks Khaneh houses some photographs taken by Nasser-ol-Din Shah and some photographs captioned by him.

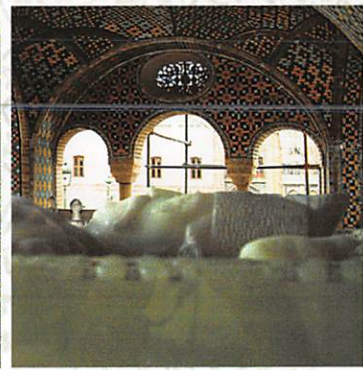


## Howz - Khâneh

Works of European Painters Presented to the Qajar court are housed in the Howz Khaneh. The Howz Khaneh was used as a summer chamber during the Qajar era. A special cooling system pumped water from a subterranean system of streams (qanats) in this case the King's qanat- into small ponds inside the chambers. Hows means pond, thus the name Howz Khaneh. The system was designed to pass through as many summer rooms as was necessary. The water was then channeled outside to irrigate the royal gardens. Due to the harmful effects of humidity, this system is no longer in use.

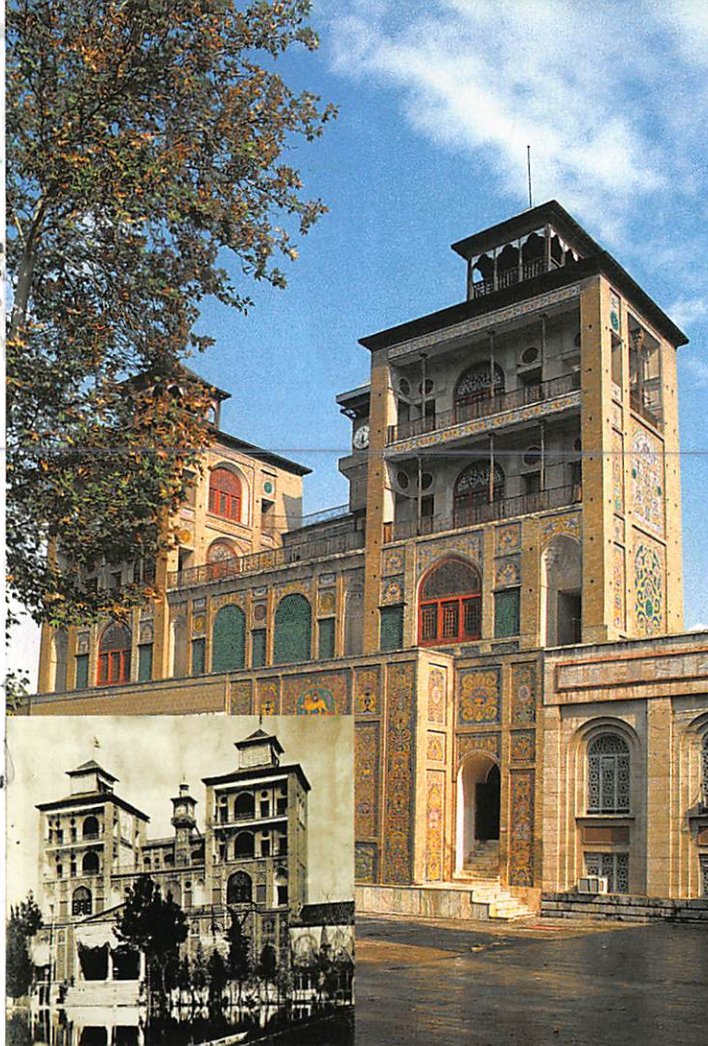






## Khalvat-e-Karim Khâni

Dating back to 1759, this building was a part of the interior residence of Karim Khan Zand. The basic structure of the Khalvat-e-Karim Khâni is similar to takht-e-Marmar. Like the latter, it is a terrace (iwan). There is a small marble throne inside the terrace. The structure is much smaller than Takht-e-Marmar and it has much less ornamentation. There was once a small pond with a fountain in the middle of this terrace. Water from a subterranean stream (the king's qanat) flowed from the fountain into the pond and was later used to irrigate the Palace grounds. Believe that it was he who dubbed the structure Khalvat (a cozy corner). It seems extraordinary, but the valuable gravestone of Nasser-ol-Din Shah finally found its way to this quite corner of the Palace after being misplaced for sometime. This marble stone with a carved image of Nasser-ol-Din Shah is indeed a site to behold.



## Shams-ol-Emâreh

Shams-ol-Emareh (Edifice of the Sun) is the most stunning structures of the Golestan Palace. The idea of building a tall structure came to Nasser-ol-Din Shah before his first European tour and from pictorial images of European buildings. The Monarch wanted a structure from which he could have panoramic views of the city. Designed by Moayer-ol-Mamalek, construction on the Shams-ol-Emareh began in 1865 and was completed two years later. The building has two identical towers. The exterior views have multiple arches, intricate tile work and ornate windows. This building is a fusion of Persian and European architecture.

