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Should a city try to preserve its old, historic buildings or destroy them and replace them with modern buildings?

Some people believe that older places and historic buildings should be replaced by newer modern constructions as a necessity of modernization while others believe that these places are parts the architectural heritage of the place giving the city some kind of personality it needs. The first attitude has been the stronger one widely accepted for a rather long period but people are fortunately changing their minds and accepting the logical idea.

The historical buildings' most important roles are their cultural effects. I believe rapid changes are harmful to societies as a community is as susceptible to severe changes as a human being. The old places act as a memory for society. When people see their cultural and historical background everyday on their way they will not forget their traditional virtues. However this essential effect has been ignored in many countries, blindly seeking modernization. For example this happened in our city, Tehran. Tehran had 8 very beautiful gates on different sides of the city border. When government decided to extend the city farther, they were unfortunately destroyed. Today if you take a trip round the city you will find nothing telling you the story of this city. In contrast you will find historical notes and guides all around Paris in every street or square. You may notice a sign denoting that a well known scientist once lived in the street you are passing or you may even see one saying "This square was where many people were killed during the revolution."

Another really beneficial advantage of keeping these treasures is their tourist attraction. Nobody travels all the way round the world to just see a big skyscraper. But each year thousand of people go to Egypt to visit the Majestic Phoenix. That is because they really understand what is worth spending time and money on! Our country's Capital, Tehran, is a so-called modern city in contrast to Isfahan, a very ancient and historic city. When you go to Isfahan you are amazed at the historic sights to the degree that you do not want to leave there. But when someone has to travel to Tehran just to do some official work in an organization, he just tries to escape the horrible place.

So as a conclusion I believe it is better to keep the historic buildings even if it might block some advancements. You do not have the right to destroy a building in order to give way to a new highway under construction. Considering it's cultural and financial {Can these two things be contrasted?} Damages you also have to keep in mind that these historic places do not merely belong to this generation. Our children can blame us for the destruction of their ancestors' legacy, which was truly theirs.