

Architecture of Uzbekistan: Past and Present

Yusupova Fotima Zokirovna

1Eldest teacher of the Tashkent Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineering.

Annotation. In this article, the architecture of Uzbekistan is influenced by various architectural traditions, such as Islamic architecture, Persian architecture, and Russian architecture. Timurid architecture is the pinnacle of Uzbekistan's Islamic art. The magnificent buildings erected by Timur and his successors in Samarkand and Herat contributed to the spread of the influence of the Ilkhanid school of art in India, leading to the emergence of the famous Mongolian school of architecture. It is said that the architecture of the Timurids began with the sanctuary of Ahmad Yas-savi in modern Kazakhstan and ended with the mausoleum of Timur Gur-i Amir in Samarkand.

Key words: Samarkand, Bukhara, history, architecture, Prehistoric times, Medieval epochs.

Introduction.

The architecture of Uzbekistan is considered a symbol of the history of peoples. Despite changing economic conditions, technological advances, demographic fluctuations and cultural shifts, the originality of Uzbek architecture can be seen in the country. Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Shakhrisabz, Termez and Kokand are the most famous architectural centers of art and science. In particular, palaces, mausoleums and mosques, minarets and ancient masterpieces have been preserved to capture the pages of history. Confirming the analytical facts from archaeological research on the population of the territory of Central Asia, it is said that trends in architecture are considered in parallel with the Achaele era. In fact, several monuments belong to both the Stone and Bronze Ages, have been found in the mountains of Surkhandarya, Tashkent, Samarkand, Fergana and Navoi regions and in river valleys. In the Middle Ages, Uzbekistan was the center of the Silk Road with a length of 7,000 miles, which allowed the development of architectural projects of Uzbek culture. In addition, the architecture of the Timurid period from the XIV to the XVI century, the Shaybanid era of the XVI century led to the contribution of Islamic architecture and the Middle Ages. Since the XX century, Uzbek architecture is characterized by its connection with the traditional background, on the one hand, and modern innovations, on the other.

History

Magnificent, colorful mosaics, religious symbols and abstract geometric patterns have always characterized historical construction in Uzbekistan. At first glance, the design seems beautiful, and a deeper look preserves the geometric and scientific intelligence of abstractness.

Prehistoric times

The earliest traces of human habitation in the region of Uzbekistan date back many centuries. Turning to the details, information about ancient settlements proves that the earliest art of construction - Zapallitepa (XVII-XIV centuries BC) and Yarkutan (XIV-IX centuries BC), as well as Buddhist monuments, in particular Fayatstepa and Karatepa, can be found in the Surkhandarya region (I-III centuries AD). All of them capture the stages of civilization of Central Asia. One of the most important factors of Uzbek national history is the importance of the culture of ancient Khorezm. According to the life of Abu Rayhan Beruni, it can be learned that the city was established as early as 982 years before Alexander the Great invaded Central Asia or, in other words, 34 centuries ago. In other words, the settlements of ancient Khorezm antiques, defined by architectural masterpieces, such as Yanbaskala (IV century BC), Koy Krilgankala (II century BC - IV century AD), Toprakkala (I century BC - VI century AD), Ayazkala (II century BC, on the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan).

Medieval eras

Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva play a vital role in influencing Uzbekistan's medieval architecture. For example, the palaces of rulers, the places of residence of the aristocracy, market places, madrasahs and mausoleums are confirmed as exceptional architectural patterns.

Material and methods.

Samarkand

Timur the Great conquered Persia, captured Baghdad and led expeditions to Anatolia and India. Much of Samarkand's architecture was built by Timur and his grandson Ulugbek.

Probably the most impressive architectural monuments of this period can be found in Samarkand. Axial symmetry is characteristic of all major Timurid buildings, especially Shah-e-Zend and The Registan in Samarkand. Double domes of various shapes are abundant, and outside they shimmer with bright colors.

Timur filled his capital with both secular and religious monuments, as well as many gardens with stone walls and floors with intricate patterns and palaces decorated with gold, silk and car sets. Most of these buildings have not survived to this day. Also, samples of buildings erected by subsequent Timurid rulers are still preserved. As noted above, although they did not share his passion for territorial expansion, they inherited his love of beautiful architecture.

Interestingly, one of the main builders of the Timurids was Gaukhar Shad, Shah Rukh's wife, who was responsible for the magnificent mosque at Mashed (built between 1405 and 1418) and the mosque-madrasah-mausoleum complex in Herat (1417-1437). Unfortunately, today these buildings mostly lie in ruins, mainly as a result of wars and earthquakes of the last two centuries, "independent researcher Mark Dickens wrote in his study.

Dickens noted that the transfer of the Timurid capital to Herat also moved the architectural center from Samarkand to this city. However, the Timurids continued to build their founder in the capital, especially Ulugbek, who was the ruler of the city under his father Shah Rukh.

In addition, there are two important examples of Timurid architecture in the post-Timur period:

"madrasah" and observatory of Ulugbek (Ulugbek), most connoisseurs of architectural art consider them a great work of architecture and consider them unique in their complexity and scale. They were among the best works of that period. It should be noted that the observatory was built in 1428.

Bukhara

After Samarkand, Bukhara is the next ancient city with many architectural buildings. Throughout its history, Bukhara has been one of the main centers of Iranian civilization. Its architecture and archaeological sites form one of the pillars of Persian history and art.

Extensive construction activity was accompanied by progressive construction machinery. Massive buildings were built of adobe (pakhsa), using day and frame systems and flat wooden roofs.

The objects of monumental construction provided for some innovations; for example, raw brick was used in the masonry of the walls and the dome system. The use of bricks dried in a kiln made possible both greater durability and the ever-increasing scale of the buildings, which gave an impressive effect to many buildings. Brick was used not only as the main building material, but also as a decorative material. Patterned brickwork gave the facades and interiors a rich geometric ornamentalism. The process of furnace drying of large day slabs led to the appearance of ornamental terracotta, for which the masters used geometric and floral patterns, as well as inscriptions in arabic kufi and maskhi font. Gypsum and wood carvings, as well as ornamental wall paintings in interiors, have been common since pre-Islamic times, when such decoration was practiced. Another achievement in the field of architectural decoration of the eleventh and twelfth centuries was the use of glazed bricks and slabs of glazed decorative terracotta.

Geometric patterns (girih) dominated decorative practice from the tenth to the twelfth century. This Arabic term refers to both the basic element of geometric patterns and the patterns themselves. The level of development of girikh coincided with the rise of mathematics and other exact sciences in the Muslim East at that time. In particular, the study of geometry was widely used in architecture. This was useful not only for the development of pattern systems, but also for the overall proportions of the structures, so that the buildings

created a sense of balanced unity. When training experienced professional architects, it was necessary to master these methods. In Bukhara, architectural monuments built from the tenth to the twentieth century have survived to this day.

Bukhara is a "living" city, and its buildings are used in everyday life. Thus, there are so many significant buildings in it – Modern Bukhara looks like a collage with its historical monuments and modern buildings.

Tashkent

Tashkent is one of the ancient cities that arose at the intersection of the Great Silk Road from China to Europe. The first information about Tashkent as an urban settlement is available in ancient Oriental sources of the second century BC. Already in antiquity, the favorable geographical position and favorable climate make Tashkent one of the main points on the trade route of the "Great Silk Road". In support of this assumption, archaeologists of Uzbekistan in the southern part of modern Tashkent, irrigated by the Jun River, discovered the remains of an urban-type settlement - Shashtepa. The ruins of a defensive fortress wall, a round citadel with a building of adobe bricks and pakhsa inside it were discovered. The outer defensive wall of the citadel was included inside the vaulted corridor and was designed from the outside with tower-shaped protrusions, i.e. built taking into account the fortification movement of its time.

The main square of the old city market - Chorsu Square - originated in the IX century. Trade routes went to Chors from all the gates, turning into bazaar streets. This square was a transport interchange and a trading place.

In the VI century, one of the honorary buildings was built here - the Kukildosh madrasah. On the modern part of Chorsu Square there were chorsu makhallas, Tikan mazar, Chukur village. Around the old squares and market streets, which in most cases were caused by the activities of artisans, other buildings of modern architecture were erected.

Since Tashkent was a city of rich merchants and artisans, large architectural structures were mainly associated with the construction and design of caravanserais, mosques and mausoleums.

The earliest buildings that have survived to our time are mausoleums that arose along the caravan roads, they were dedicated to the holy sheikhs and were not only places of worship, begging for good luck in life and trade work, but also a kind of landscape that adorned a long boring path. on deserted roads.

In the city of Tashkent and on the access roads to it, about a dozen such mausoleums have been preserved.

Today's architecture has done a good job of modernizing the city of Tashkent. A number of hotels have been built in the city, which undoubtedly meet international standards. In addition, the additional beauty of the city is given by numerous parks and wide roads. Since ancient times, Uzbek builders have been creating "living art", creating durable modern and ancient architectural structures. Styles of current architects are closer to the styles of their ancestors. They reconstruct old buildings. At the same time, they design and build structures in a style with the national spirit.

Inference

Proof of the fact that the features of Uzbek architecture harmonize the traditional originality of the formation of the structure and accounting of the microclimate. The magnificent cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva are famous for such fantastic architectural ensembles as Hazrat-Imam, Registan, Lyabi-House, Ichan-Kala, etc. Almost all historical cities of Central Asia are considered to be in the "Proper Places".

Recommendations.

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