



ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS OF AMIR TEMUR PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

In 1370, Amir Temur was declared the ruler of Movarounnahr at the congress. Amir Temur set himself the goal of creating a centralized state in Central Asia and chose Samarkand as the capital. After Amir Temur came to power, Samarkand became the capital of his state. In 1371-72, the city defense wall was restored under his instructions. Samarkand was previously destroyed by the Mongols.

KEYWORDS

Samarkand and Shahrisabz, trade and crafts developed.

INTRODUCTION

Amir Temur used ideas and developments that had a thorough scientific basis for his time in urban planning, construction of defense structures, and the formation of the army and military campaigns. The society paid special attention to scientists, writers, and people of high talent, who were the spiritual pillars of the society, and these events served as the key to the success of the great commander. Also, according to orientalist V. V. Bartold, Amir Temur was an enthusiastic builder, he built magnificent buildings with wonderful gardens, restored cities and villages. Irrigation systems were established and repaired, and according to official

history, he did not leave an inch of arable land idle. Unique architectural structures were built in Samarkand and Shahrisabz, trade and crafts developed. In Samarkand itself, many famous scientists and philosophers gathered and lived and worked. Amir Temur took care of them. According to the historian Louis-Mathieu Langle, Amir Temur had a friendly attitude towards scientists and believed in scientists who saw their integrity with their knowledge.



After taking power in 1370, Amir Temur paid special attention to Samarkand, which was chosen as the capital of the country, and ordered to strengthen the capital of his state. A monumental wall with a solid foundation was built around the city. A large part of the city wall ran along the borders of the inner rabat, which existed before the Mongol invasion. This relationship served as the foundation. But the boundaries of the new city were not exactly the same as those of the old city. According to Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, the wall is solid and has high pointed towers, the length of which is 10,600 paces. The city's six double-tiered gates guarded the entrance to the trade routes from all directions.

At the same time as the construction of the fortress wall, Amir Temur built an arch covering an area of 34 hectares in the western part of the city. Rui González de Clavijo, the Spanish ambassador who came to the palace of Amir Temur, described that "there is a castle at one end of the city, which looks like it is standing on a level ground from the outside, but in fact it is surrounded by a deep ravine, and this ravine did not allow to attack the castle."

The walls were two-story, with corridors between them. The original wall was made of straw and was 2.1 meters thick. The second wall, built at a distance of 2 meters from the outside, is made of rectangular raw bricks. The towers are cylindrical in shape, with an inner diameter of 2.5 meters, and are made of raw stone.

During subsequent renovations, a new 4.5-meter-thick wall was built on the north side, replacing the collapsed outer wall of crude stone, blocking both the corridor and the tower.

In the north-eastern corner of the arch there is a water source, which is defended by two special towers. From there, water is brought to Boston Palace through

special underground ceramic pipes. The two gates of the arch are fortified with special fortifications.

The walls and towers of the arch are built strong enough to withstand the attack of wall-destroying machines on the basis of a special design based on science. The height of the walls was three times more than their thickness.

This wall was built mainly on the site of the wall of the 11th-12th centuries and was strengthened in various places and with many towers. A citadel was built in the highest western part of the city, corresponding to the city wall (Barthold, 1922, p. 43; Vyatkin, 1902, p. 17). The castle became the administrative and to some extent the military center of Samarkand. It is surrounded by a double defensive wall (Boburnoma, 1958, p. 50), reinforced with round towers at the exit corners of the fortress. In addition, towers were erected in strategically important places of the fortress. In the western part of the wall, towers are located every 50-60 m, and in the northern part more, every 40 m.

Protection of the castle's water supply was of great importance. There was a water source in the north-eastern corner of the castle, and a high underground waterway (obi-muri) led to the Bostan residential palace. Two gates of the fortress - eastern Samarkand and southern - Bukhara, as well as defensive walls and towers reinforced with gate towers, were built according to the standards of medieval defense art.

From the outside, the castle was surrounded by a deep moat filled with water. The fortress was entered through the Samarkand gate, through the street surrounded by shops. From the southern gate of the fortress, the road passed through the city gate of Chorsu to the gate of Bukhara. Inside, the fortress was divided into two parts: - the northern part was reserved for administrative and military buildings, and its southern part was residential. Here, a significant part



of the population of Samarkand was protected from the enemy. In the early period, the southern part of the citadel may also have been an uncultivated area intended to shelter the townspeople and livestock during wartime.

According to the description of the Spanish ambassador Ruy González de Clavijo and the memoirs of Timurid Babur, there were two palaces in the fortress of Amir Temur: Kuksaray and Bo'stansaray, where thousands of captive craftsmen who made armor, helmets, bows and arrows were kept (Clavijo, 1881, p. 330-331). Bostansarai is located on the side of the northern defensive wall of the arch and served as a residence for the rulers during their stay in the arch. Koksaroy was built in the center of Kurgan, where official receptions were held for ambassadors of other countries and local governors. Every subsequent ruler of the country sat on the throne here. Babur wrote: "Temurbek built a large four-story building in Samarkand Arch and called it Koksaroy. A very tall building. There is an amazing aspect of this building: every son of Temurbek who ascended the throne sat right there. ("Boburnoma", 1958, p. 50).

After the rule of Mirza Ulugbek, feudal unrest began in the Timurid state, and the ground was prepared for the fall of the Timurid dynasty and the establishment of Shaibani Khan's power. Since then, there is no information about the Samarkand fortress and its buildings in historical sources. After Shaibani Khan's death, mutual feudal disputes began between the Shaibani sultans. The same scenario continued under the Ashtarkhanids, and this process led to the final decline of Samarkand and its citadel in the 18th century. In 1740, during Nadirshah's march to Samarkand, "there were absolutely no inhabitants except for about a thousand families who settled in the fortress," writes Barthold. From the middle of the 18th century, attempts to eliminate feudal disunity began in

the Bukhara Khanate. The centralization policy of Muhammad-Rahim and other Mangit khans led to the revival of life in Samarkand. First, the population that left the city will return here, as well as the representatives of the population from other regions of the Bukhara Khanate will be forcibly relocated. During the archeological excavations carried out in the fortress along the eastern facade, a pottery neighborhood was created, where the remains of the kiln were found. (Barthold, 1922, p. 49).

In the second half of the 19th century, the Central Asian khanates became part of the Russian Empire. The Russian garrison was located in the fortress of Samarkand. In 1868, during the uprising of Shahrizabz begs, he tried to expel the Russian garrison from the Samarkand fortress. The paintings of the famous Russian martial artist A.K. Vereshchagin, who created a series of paintings and graphic sketches dedicated to Samarkand, mainly depict parts of the arch defense wall near the Bukhara Gate. Among the buildings inside the fortress, there is a sketch of the dungeon prison located in its northern part. In the second half of the 19th century, images of the Samarkand fortress and its separate buildings appear again. Basically, it is found in the notes of tourists and Russian officers who visited Central Asia. It is described in them that Nyi rasta street (New rows) with shops on both sides was laid out from the Tillakari Madrasah. This new street led to the square where the livestock market was located in front of the fortress. On normal days, this square was empty and only on Wednesdays and Sundays - market days - it came alive and filled with people and livestock. The front of the castle could be seen from the square. Part of the defensive wall to the right of the gate is made of stone, and the rest is made of mud. Behind the wall you can see the dome of the Chohardukhum mausoleum of St. Nuriddin Basir. Later, a tomb was formed around it. Fakhr-ul-Islam Aliya Pazdavi and Abdu-Rahman bin al-Auf are also buried here. The Russians built an armory



in the Nuriddin Basir mausoleum. (Vyatkin, 1899, p. 181)
The upper part of the mausoleum was soon demolished.

In the publications of G. Vamberi and A.P. Khoroskhin, according to them, the last emirs pay a lot of attention to Koksaroy. It was built by one of the last emirs, trying to restore the former glory of the Timurid palace.

It featured one of the rooms decorated with pieces of mirrors and a banquet hall. It has the famous Koktash throne stone, on which Amir Temur once sat. The throne room, according to the description of G. Vambery, was a long courtyard surrounded by a closed gallery with several columns. To the right of the bluestone, an oval piece of iron (probably a meteorite) shaped like half a coconut is embedded in the wall, above which is an Arabic inscription in the Kufic alphabet. According to legend, it may be a gift from Sultan Bayazid-Yildirim, who served as a talisman for the caliphs. Behold, on the top of the stone are two inscriptions written in golden letters. One of them belonged to Sultan-Mahmud, the other to Sultan-Abdul-Majid, and they were rukzati-namaz (official permission to lead and lead prayers - patron of religion). Emirs sit on the throne on the throne stone, and decrees are announced here, and later they are distributed to the entire khanate.

In 1875, a plan of the Samarkand fortress was taken, and all its buildings, including Koksaroy and Bostonsaroy, were drawn. In 1878, the walls of the old fortress were demolished and a small Russian fortress was built in its place. It had a double defensive wall with two panels. After the Russian garrison was placed in the castle, the palace building was used as a hospital. Only the throne room remained empty in its former form. Behind the wall of the throne room was the emir's bath, which was used as a barracks for soldiers. (Lebedeva G.I., 2001. 202-2017)

New barracks were built along the eastern wall of the fortress, to the north of which was the Sar-Boz Palace. Earlier, there were artillery and two battalions of soldiers (infantry) under the command of emirs. A second gunpowder warehouse was built next to the soldier's courtyard, and then there is a square with a monument to Russian soldiers who died during the siege of the fortress by the Shahrisabz begs in 1868, and the grave of Colonel Sokovnin, who died of wounds, is located there. There was also a Russian church built entirely of wood on the square (in place of a mosque), with a Russian school behind it. From the school, it was possible to go to the southern gate of the fortress, Bukhara, on a narrow street. Opposite the southern wall of the fortress, directly up to the Rukhabad mausoleum, Russian shops were visible.

In the plan of the fortress from 1875, Bostonsaray is located near the northern defensive wall of the fortress, and an underground water supply system, obimur, is laid to it from the east.

Koksaroy was located in the central part of the fortress. Traces of the courtyard of the throne room were observed during the archaeological work carried out in 1982. In the cultural layers of the 18th-19th centuries lay the remains of a 2x2 m burnt square brick corridor, nearby narrow streets of the residential area were found at a depth of 1-2 m. The discovery of a new stone pavement in the throne room, built on top of later cultural layers, denies that the Blue Palace was rebuilt by Emir Muzaffar in relation to Amir Temur's palace plan of the same name. In order to identify the remains of the Koksaroy palace, archaeological excavations should be carried out at a depth of at least 4 m below the modern surface in an important area near the throne room. During the archaeological research of 1981-85, many majolica tiles were found in different parts of the castle in the 16th-18th century layers.



In the 14th-15th centuries, Amir Temur's arch was a classic example of semi-Erostran baths. Only the underground heating system with heat-conducting channels has been preserved from it. The size of the open part of the bathroom is 12x18 m. A heating chamber with two round ovens is located in the northern part of the bathroom. Boilers are usually installed on stoves to heat water. There was an additional small furnace in the southwest corner, probably because the heat from the main furnaces was only sufficient to heat the four hottest rooms and the dressing room.

Baths have been very popular in Central Asia since ancient times. During the Timurid era, large city baths were located near mosques and bazaars, and those inside the quarter were not only a place to maintain hygiene, but also a place to relax and socialize. Here the latest news was distributed, finance and trade transactions were carried out. The bathing process was long and gradual. The guest entered a series of bath rooms where the temperature gradually increased during the bathing process. Drinking coffee and smoking cigars during a separate bath, interspersed with relaxation with a massage. All this led to a unique feature of the structure of the baths. For long-term preservation of heat, the bottom of the baths is buried in the ground, and the heating system in the form of ventilation holes is located under the buildings. (Buryakov, 1986, pp. 168-170) A system of heat transfer and chimney channels was established there.

Even after the establishment of Soviet power, military units were stationed in the fortress. During World War II, the military barracks buildings built at the beginning of the 20th century (1903) were turned into a military hospital. In the 70s, the military units were moved to a new place and administrative buildings were built on the territory of the fortress, part of the old buildings was given to vocational schools.

From the beginning of 1980s, the radical reconstruction of this area began. Archaeological excavations were carried out by the Samarkand detachment of the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan simultaneously with the improvement of the eastern part of the former fortress. During the archeological research, a number of objects related to different periods of the settlement of the castle were found.

Unfortunately, most of the excavation sites were later buried under newly built structures. Currently, summarizing the results of this research, making a specific plan and continuing scientific research in the area of the arch, adding clarifications to the information about its topography, popularizing the obtained scientific news are among the urgent tasks of today.

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