

PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND URBAN-PLANNING HERITAGE OF THE KITAB-SHAKHRISABZ REGION

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Abstract

The article examines issues related to the preservation of the historical, architectural, and urban-planning heritage of the Kitab-Shakhrisabz region. The processes of modern urbanization continue, while awareness of the high historical and cultural significance of Shakhrisabz is being maintained. Its unique architectural monuments, which took shape in the 15th century, form part of the world's cultural heritage and require systematic and comprehensive study and preservation – both of the monuments themselves and of their urban environment.

Keywords: Shakhrisabz, Kitab, urban planning, Kitab-Shakhrisabz region, preservation of architectural heritage, urbanization.

Introduction

The city of Shakhrisabz is one of the most important cultural and historical centers of the south of Uzbekistan, once located on the Great Silk Road. Possessing an ancient and rich history, Shakhrisabz reached its peak in the Middle Ages, especially in the XIV-XV centuries - during the reign of Amir Temur and the Temurids.

Due to the preservation of the urban structure, on December 2, 2000, the historical center of Shakhrisabz was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites (site No 885) on the basis of criteria III and IV.

The territory of the historic city center covers 240 hectares, and the buffer zone is 82 hectares. There are outstanding monuments of the Timurid era, as well as later architectural structures, partially preserved traditional residential quarters, which once reflected the original appearance of the historical city.

In the historical part of the city, there were 26 monuments and more than 200 residential buildings of value in terms of architectural heritage. Large-scale research, design, conservation and restoration work began here in the 1970s, playing an important role in preserving the unique appearance of Shakhrisabz.

The original town-planning structure of the city was clearly readable: the planning ideas of its time, the boundaries of the city's historical growth, and the stages of its evolution were clearly traced. The main compositional, planning and functional axes, oriented, in the medieval period, from south to north and from east to west, as well as their relationship with residential quarters and the adjacent architectural and planning landscape, were clearly expressed.

A feature of the Timurid Shakhrisabz was a clear functional zoning: administrative-political and spiritual-cultural centers were located separately, among traditional residential buildings. Unlike Bukhara or Khiva, where monuments are concentrated in one center, in Shakhrisabz the ensembles are located polarly, which gives the city a special scale and spatial expressiveness. Such an organization of urban space is not found in any other city of the Timurid region.

After the approval of the master plan in 2009 in the center of Shakhrisabz, the activities envisaged by the project began to be implemented, which led to significant changes in the urban environment. In the course of these transformations, some houses were demolished.

According to the master development plan, the demolition of part of the residential development in the central part of the city was aimed at revealing a panoramic view of architectural monuments and increasing the visual attractiveness of the historical core. However, despite the results achieved, the change in buildings has significantly affected the general perception of the historical environment: the usual spatial structure and authenticity of the urban fabric have been disrupted. This required a rethinking of approaches to rehabilitation and recreation of the historical atmosphere of the center of Shakhrisabz.

In June 2016, the World Heritage Centre, together with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), expressed serious concern over the implementation of the state program for the development and reconstruction of the historical center of Shakhrisabz. As a result of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS monitoring mission in March 2016, all reconstruction work was suspended. The historic centre of Shakhrisabz has been officially inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision 40 COM 7B.48). This decision was made on the basis of the significant deterioration of the property, which has led to the loss of its Outstanding Universal Value, a key criterion for inscription on the World Heritage List. According to archaeological research, as well as written sources, Shakhrisabz has preserved to this day the key elements of urban planning, formed in the era of the Timurids and partially supplemented in the XVII-XIX centuries.

In the northwestern part there were quarters of the nobility and clergy. In the north-east there was a magnificent palace complex of Amir Temur - Ak Saray. The south-western sector was occupied by handicraft quarters, while the south-eastern part was reserved for religious and memorial buildings - the architectural ensembles of Dorut-Tilovat and Dorus Saodat. There were also shrines - the tombs of Amir Temur's father, Amir Taragay, and his spiritual mentor - Sheikh Shamseddin Kulal.

In the center of the city, at the intersection of the main highways, there was a trade and craft center Chor-Su, which has survived to this day. In the southwestern part of Hisar, there was a bathhouse of the Timurid period, which operated until 2000.

At the end of the XIV - beginning of the XV century, Shakhrisabz reached its apogee, becoming the second capital of the state of Amir Temur. During this period, as well as under the subsequent Timurids, outstanding architectural monuments were erected here: the grandiose Ak Saray Palace, as well as the cult and memorial complexes of Dorut-Tillovat and Dorus Saodat.

Preserving its traditional historical and cultural appearance, modern Shakhrisabz has entered a new phase of development due to the social, economic and cultural transformations taking place in the Republic at the present stage. Today, the city has significantly expanded beyond the boundaries of medieval Hisar. Its space is actively built up with new buildings and public facilities.

Unfortunately, only a few architectural monuments reflecting certain stages of the historical development of Shakhrisabz have survived to this day.

The invasion of modern architectural forms and buildings has a negative impact on the historical and cultural environment. It violates the visual and spatial relationship between the monuments of the past and modern architecture, undermining the integrity of the historical landscape of the city.

Unjustified decisions on the construction of modern objects on the territory of the protected historical center cause irreparable damage to the appearance of the city, which was previously included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. A particularly critical example was the demolition of the residential quarter of the "jewelers", on the site of which a stylized "quarter of craftsmen" was erected, as well as the construction of fountains, a new decorative wall that isolates the historical center from traditional urban development.

These actions led to the loss of authentic urban life and turned Shakhrisabz into a deserted urban space that lost the authenticity and living connection of times, violating the Law "On the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites" and the Urban Planning Code.

Problems of the Kitabo-Shakhrisabz region:

1. Over-urbanization;
2. the loss of the historical urban topography of the city;
3. wear and tear of historical objects;
4. loss of authenticity of monuments;
5. violation of the natural water supply system, historical engineering (khauzy, aryks);
6. lack of a groundwater level monitoring system;
7. plants that destroy architectural monuments (microorganisms, algae, moss, flowering plants, insects, rodents, birds, etc.);
8. inconsistency of green spaces around historical monuments;
9. disruption of links between historical monuments and residential buildings;
10. inefficient use of territories and landscape zones;
11. inconsistency of modern objects with the historical appearance of the city;
12. insufficient funding for restoration work.

In order to prevent further unjustified development of the historical center of Shakhrisabz, it is proposed to implement the following measures:

1. Creation of a state expert commission.
2. Conducting archaeological research.
3. Regular research of cultural heritage sites.
4. Development of a conservation program.
5. Development of the concept of the historical development of ancient Kesh.



6. Scientific basis of the sources of the concept.
7. Taking into account the chronological stages of the development of the city of Kesh.
8. Consolidation of the necessary measures for the implementation of the concept.
9. Systematic archaeological research at the sites of Uzunkyr, Podayataktepa, Sangirtepa.
10. Implementation of stage-by-stage conservation of architectural remains on the identified monuments.
11. Partial museumification of the most significant artifacts and fragments of ancient buildings.
12. Integration of architectural heritage sites into cultural and tourist routes.

In order to preserve and develop the historical center of the city of Kitaba, it is planned to solve a number of issues in this region:

In order to preserve and scientifically develop one of the most important endangered archaeological monuments of the city of Kitab - Bekovskaya Kala, it is proposed to implement the following set of measures:

1. Develop a project for the protected zone of the monument.
2. Stop the economic use of the historical territory.
3. Archaeological research with their partial museumification and conservation.
4. Inclusion of the object in the tourist infrastructure.

The solution of all issues related to the preservation and development of the historical center of the city of Shakhrisabz and Kitab should be approached only on a scientifically grounded basis, taking into account the historical, architectural and urban planning heritage of the cities. The preservation of the monuments of Shakhrisabz is impossible without the restoration of their natural water environment, historical engineering and competent management of urban resources. Only a holistic, integrated approach, including irrigation, geology, restoration, architecture and chemical analysis of building materials, can give a sustainable result.

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