Creature of architectural monuments in Shahrisabz city in the period of Amir Temur and Temurids

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ABSTRACT

It is known that Shahrizabz is one of the most ancient cities of Movarounnahr. This ancient city plays an important role in the socio-political life of Central Asia. In this article, the creative and beautification works carried out by Amir Temur in his home city Shahrisabz will be based on historical sources.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 7 August 2020
Received in revised form 16 August 2020
Accepted 24 September 2020
Available online 02 October 2020

Keywords:

1. Introduction

The period of Timurids is sometimes referred to as Temurids Renaissance. Indeed, in the development of science, poetry and art in the Central Asia, there was a strong interest in the environment. Humanity's ideas in the creative works of mystic writers, historian and poets became apparent obviously. By the 15th century, the position of moderate stratum of craftsmanship-commerce in the cities grew up, can be used European term “third stratum” with respect to it. The traditions of the workshops in the Middle Ages Association are still sufficient, but their members go beyond the narrow range of the previous centuries and begin to enter into a wide range of spiritual values, not just material creativity. The magnificence of the buildings built on his commission for Temur was one of the tasks in the political sphere. The inscription on the portal of Ak-Sarai, “If you doubt our might, look at our buildings” expressed it exactly. It should be noted that the town planning of Temurids, with every city having
corners and gates, is surrounded by strong defense walls. T.Sh.Mamatmusaev noted about town planning of Amir Temur and Temurids in his abstract named “Architecture of Ulugbek’s period (first half of 15th century)” presented for the degree of candidacy of 18.00.01-Architectural sciences that “The cities include of arch and citadel, the closed structures in crossed streets in the central part are separated by intersections. Juma Mosques and the City Market formed the center, the squares in the front of the main madrassah formed the second center of the city”[1]. During this period, the division of the population into stratum according to craftsmanship has led to the formation of mahalla, as well as city neighborhood. The main streets included crafts and shopping streets, with no broader streets, squares and pools. Professor G.A. Pugachenkova, a prominent scientist, describes the city of Temurids as follows: “Arch-castles are the power of the state, palaces - the magnificence and importance of the government, the Islamic cultural buildings - the victory of the Muslim ideology, and the market structures – development of craftsmanship and trade, densely built houses are the body and blood of complex cities “[2]. The formation of a rectangle of the cities Bukhara, Heart, Marv and Shahrisabz in town planning of Temurids period is the result of the continuation of centuries-old architectural traditions of Central Asia. The main squares named Registan were organized in Samarkand, Bukhara, Tashkent, Andijan, Karshi and Shakhrisabz, T.Sh.Mamatmusaev dwelled extensively on his research about the schematic structure of the cities and their structural parts and emphasized that the city of Samarkand was much older and developed [3]. During the Temur and Temurids’ period, most part of the cities were called “Hisor”, which is different from the concept of Shahristan in the Middle Ages until the Mongolian period. In fact, Hisor included the city's major constructions and trade-craft spheres, or appeared in a completely new place, but architecturally harmonious interaction include the basic ideological and administrative tiers. The citadels of small and big cities are different, but their importance and function is the same. Let us take a look at the example of the city Shahrisabz, which is closely interconnected with Temur's activity. At that time, Shahrisabz, which was more popular with its ancient name Kesh, was discovered on archeological excavations, came into being before the middle ages of the Muslim population, after which it increased and exacerbated several times [4]. He was born and grew up in this area, during Temur’s period Kesh city in respect of construction which was heritage for his relatives, found final image. Amir Temur's homeland is not without purpose called Shahrisabz: the city located on the paradise is indeed greenery, abounding in water, and fresh air. In the past, its name was Kesh (Kash). As a center of knowledge in the time of Islam, it was known with the name of “Kubbatul-ilm va-l-adab” (“Dome of Science and the Breeding”). [5] The Ambassadors of Spain, who arrived in The Great Amir Temur’s birthplace in August 1404, described it as “a big city”. The walls of the fortress and the bourgeoisie were built under the command of Amir Temur and personally led by him. The length of the wall was approximately 5 kilometers and was a rectangular castle at a distance of 770 x 1730 meters. There was a bird tower in every side, was accessible entry through the roof gate inside. The Spanish ambassadors carefully examined the structures associated with the creative activity of Amir Temur. At that time, the initial image of the buildings were partially lost and demolished, and some were completely destroyed. Therefore, the Klavikho's historical record, which he has seen with his own eyes, is of special value to the history and practice of modern architecture (4). Sheikh Shamsuddin Kulol was the most respected
holy in Shahrisabz. He was very close to Amir Temur's house. When his father, Amir Taragai, brought his newborn child to his master, the Sheikh saw the Quran and named him Temur. Amir Temur acknowledged that the patriotic spirit of the holy was greatly influenced by the adventurous triumphs he had received from his youth. After Amir Temur was proclaimed as the ruler of Movarounnahr, for spirit of Sheikh Shamsuddin was given a great honor and was built a magnificent mausoleum with the dome on the grave of the Holy, which became a blessed cemetery in the southern part of Shahrisabz. Amir Temur moved the grave of his father, Amir Taragai to the newly built mausoleum next to his master’s grave in 1374. The architectural complex Dorut-tilovat, which is connected with the mosque of Jome, was famous with the place which is read the Koran to the spirit of the dead. Next to the Simkhona Gate, east of this sacred location, another great architectural complex, Dorus-saodat, the descendants of the Prophet, the Sayyid's house was built. As Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi pointed out, there were many commentators in the city of Kesh - Shahrisabz gathering the legends of the Prophet [6]. Ibn Nasr al-Keshi (who died in 865), who was known by the name of Hazrati Imam, was buried in the southeastern part of Kesh. The magnificent building built by Amir Temur is now called Hazrati Imam. The blessed name of this imam has been written in the carved door book in 1868. Hanakoh, two mausoleums and several courtyards around the yard are part of the architectural complex. The front of the building consisted of high and large portal, preserved with only the northern part of the portal overlooking the dome and the corner tower. In the architectural monuments built in Shahrisabz, “Ak-Sarai” plays a special role. The specific data on the construction of the Ak-Sarai appeared on the historical sources. According to Hafiz Abru’s “Geography”, the construction of the wall of the citadel began in 780 hegira (1378 A.D.) and completed in one year. The four corners of the wall had the right tetragonal gate. In his book Hafiz Abru, he writes: “It is called Shahrisabz, whose ground is mostly grassy, especially in the spring, its yard, roof and streets are dark green. It was an ancient city of Kesh, but it was ruined. Khazrat Amir Sahibkiran - God will glorify his fame - In seven hundred eighty year (1378 - 1379) he rebuilt his city and completed it in that year. Three years later, when he captured Herat, he demolished the city of Herat and sent the iron gate to Movarounnakhr to replace them with the gates of Kesh [7]. Sources show the date of birth and death of Ibn Sina from 980 to 1037. During Sakhibkiran Amir Temur’s state the city of Kesh was very beautiful, and built stone houses there. Including Dor-us-Saodat, a magnificent building; the lands, villages and administrative property was given as vakf. Personally, a high mansion has built for himself, and it is a stone-built building called the Ak-Sarai; its terrace is visible from several farsangs (distance). In addition, in the city and Kesh, madrassahs, khanaka, rebates, and pools were built for himself and some of them for amirs.” According to another information, when Temur captured Herat, the city's iron-covered gates were brought and installed in Shahrisabz. The two main roads began from the gates cross in the center. The shops on the side of the road have been rising towards the center and the main market in the center. Perhaps there was The Chorsu Dome in the middle of the market, but Chorsu which has been preserved since then, has been built long afterward and is far from the center. In the south-west of Hisor, Ak-Sarai, the palace of Temur, was erected, where the nobles and clergymen makhalla located in front of that. South-western part of the city consisted of mahallas of craftsmen and urban citizens. The rebates around Hisor show that it is not without purpose the name of Shahrisabz, the
second name of the Kesh, which is surrounded by canals and vineyards. Following information in Nizamiddin Shami’s work the “Zafarnoma” became apparent: “Her excellency Saray Mulk, brothers and Amirzad Shohruh have come out in the hope of kissing the carpet and enjoying each other's eyes to the Amir Sahibkiron. Khazrat spent several days in the Ak-Sarai in the region of Kesh, had weddings, and had a happy day. The graphic subject is very rare in the covers. Temur's palace in Shakhrisabz a pair image of lion and sun is found on Ak-Sarai’s portals, this is a purely symbolic theme. In the portal decoration, the stone, as well as the tiles, is usually used for marble engraving”[8]. Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi writes in his “Zafarnoma”: “It was early spring. At the same time, when it was surrounded by the beauty of the nature, it began to beautify the city of the architects and lawns and made the castles used bushes of the roses and raised the ends of the honeysuckle, and decorated them with brightly colored leafy leaves ... the majesty of the Almighty ... he set up the throne of power on the ceiling of the Couch, where the taste of water flowed. Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi writes in his Zafarnoma: "It was early spring. At the same time, when he grew up with his own energy, he began to beautify the city of the architects and lawns, to create palaces of roses bushes and to decorate the spruce branches and decorate them with purple-colored leaves ... the majesty of the great ... he set up the throne of state. Then he issued a decree establishing the Shahrishabz and distributed it among amirs and the army. ... They built its foundations in a happy hour that was worth the sacrifice. In the city he founded the construction of castle, according to a decree that would be fulfilled in stead. In the year of Sichen (in ancient Turkish “monkey”), History had made built the castle in one hundred and eighty-one (1380, March) and drove it to an end. And as soon as it was beautiful city, the Engineer traveled the world at a very young age and has not seen like this city”[9]. The building was so high and exceptionally attractive that even the old engineer, who had been around the world for many years, had not yet seen such a beautiful building. The name of the palace (called this palace) was called the Ak-Sarai. The construction of the magnificent Ak-Sarai complex, which was an architectural miracle, began in 1380, and in the autumn of 1404, jewelry work continued in this exquisite and imposing palace. Ak-Sarai buildings, which are poems in languages of definition, have been ruined by time. Therefore, the impressions of the Spanish Ambassador, Rui Gonzalez de Klavikho, are remarkable for the history of architecture, The only witness is the document: ”The entrance to the palace is very long and the gate is very high, at the entrance to the roof, arches are located. These arches include small rooms without door, as well as a mezzanine stage. There is another one passing through the gate, behind which is a large courtyard with white stone woods, surrounded by luxuriously decorated terraces, and a large pool in the middle of the courtyard. The width of the courtyard is about three hundred steps”[10]. After crossing the portal, right tetragonal large yard has two terraces with odd arches. Staff meeting of law court and hall held in large dome rooms. Between the portals and terraces there were a few small two storey apartments. The main place in the Sahibkiran palace was hall and it was separated with its luxurious appearance. At the top of a luxurious, magnificent roof, Amir Temur's three-rings flag are represented in the form of the Lion and the Sun. The ambassador was amazed at the elegant ornate interior decorations of the palace: “Through this door we go to the Intersection hall: the walls are decorated with gold and bluestone, and the ceiling is completely sculpted. The ambassadors were taken to the upper floor. It is enough to say
that the Khanakah is superficial, so let's talk about one of them in detail”. The ruins of the two main pillars of the main portal remain to this day as evidence of the unmatched glory of the Ak-Sarai in past. The arch of the 22 meter-wide portal, with its minarets fortresses on both sides and opened edges attracts attention. The top of the portal is not preserved. At the same time, the ornamental designs of the three circles, such as the Sun and the Lion, were of the utmost importance. Zahiriddin Babur, who is admired by the magnificence of the portal, says: “It has little sign in the odd high world. They say, this is the greater than Hisor mountain”[11]. Indeed, in Central Asian architecture there was no such great building. The Ak-Sarai will become an example of outstanding talent and architectural researches as the highest peak of the creation of national architects in Central Asian architecture. The images related to the dwelling houses architecture show that the houses of the rich people are divided into two section men and women. The palace paintings are distinguished by the size of the building and the decoration. The palaces were not merely a place where the members of the ruling family or highland lived, but the place where the glorious reception was held, reflecting the position of the ruler with his luxury and magnificence. The absolute extraordinary tasks as compared with ordinary dwelling house construction were put to the architects, even to wealthy families. The palaces were two types. The first one is primarily intended to carry out administrative and political tasks and is built into a castle or a hisor. The second one was the outskirts of the city, surrounded by gardens. Here, too, the reception ceremonies were accompanied with the parties, but often ordinary meeting-parties were held, the ruler enjoyed public leisure time and enjoyed the gladness of life. The first type palace was built by Temur in Shahrisabz, and he was renowned for the name of Ak-Sarai [12]. He briefly described his official mission in historical sources, Temurbek built a magnificent building in Kesh, built a large portal for his council meetings, and built two small portal on the right and left sides of the monastery for the bek’s meetings, and left little shelves on the side of the building for visitors for appeals. Legends about the construction history of the Ak-Sarai were created among the people. One of them tells the story of the architect who built the portal dome. Despite being temporarily tempted by him, the master disappeared the long chain hanging a day. Temur was angry, but when he could not find the master, the other masters could not bear that difficult task. Two years later, the master himself suddenly appeared furiously at Temur and said, “Look, The Great: When I left, the tip of the chain touched my head, and now it is on lower than my shoulders. So the foundation of the portal has sunk, and now I can rebuild the dome, otherwise it will be cracked and then broken. “Temur's wrath has changed, the construction were finished and the master has been rewarded. It should be noted that there is no legitimacy in this legend, and there is no historical basis, that is, there is no information about this event at any given time. Over time, other parts of the palace’s portal were destroyed. There are some arguments in the 16th century that the Bukhara ruler, Abdullakhan II, issued a decree to demolish the palace to eradicate the works of Temur. In our opinion, there is ambiguity in this view too, because Abdullakhan II did this because he did not want to lose Amir Temur’s work, not to eradicate the memory of the people, but to let nobody fall into the situation. Because the Ak-Sarai is very beautiful, and Abdulla-khan because of the beauty, is almost captured by his enemies (this happened in 1574). However, the fact that the two sides of the Ak-Sarai had collapsed was partly broken. Later on, at the back of the portal, the ruins of the wall decorations, the bricks of the courtyard,
and the eight-edges town’s pool for golden fish were opened in the excavations.

2. Conclusion

In summary, Shahrisabz (Kesh) is an ancient and blooming city not only in Central Asia, but also in the human civilization. Amir Temir and Timurid’s period play special role in the historical development of this city. Amir Temur has built home city and has turned it one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

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