

A Glance At The Palatial Architecture Of The Temurids

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Abstract: The great Movorounnakh was founded on the initiative of Amir Timur who played an important role with his workmanship and fair policy in history from the beginning of the 14th century. The architectural heritage that belonged to Amir Timur and the Temurids' period is wide ranging and multifaceted owing to the fact that this culture was extended over a large area in the 14th and 15th centuries. Amir Timur's heritage that played a key role in his architectural activities is his inimitable and unique architectural monuments which have survived to the present day. Very few of the architectural old relics and monuments that were built by order of Amir Timur have actually been preserved to the present day. However, the manuscripts of the 15th century and the historians lived after that period testified that there were a great number of other architectural relics and monuments. These old relics and architectural heritage have not lost their values for centuries with their constructional designs and architectural uniqueness. There is not full historical information about who and how actually built these architectural complexes. Therefore, studying the history of architectural designs, collecting the data on the basis of analyzing archive materials and existing books on history of that period and leaving them to the future generations are one of the pressing problems in the world today.

Index Terms: architectural monument, tower, mosque, roofing, wooden columns, technical condition, clay, reconstruction, monitoring.

1 Introduction

Assessing the scope of the problem: The written sources by Zahir ad-Din Muhammad Babur, Sharofiddin Ali Yazdiy, Abdurazzak Samarkandiy, Abu Tahirhodja Samarkandiy, Nizamiddin Shomiy, Giyasiddin Ali Yazdiy, Bin Arabshakh, Xondamir and Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo give historical information on the palaces and gardens built by Amir Timur and the Temurids and these were also studied and analyzed by V.V. Barthold, A.Yu. Yakubovskiy, B. Akhmedov, V.L. Vyatkin, B. Valihodjayev, T.N. Kari Niyoziy, G.A. Pugachenkova, L.I. Rempel, M.E. Masson, X. S. Sultonov, U.Alimov and others.

Tasks of the problem: The following scientific problems are brought forward on the purpose of throwing light upon the history of construction of the palaces and gardens built by Amir Timur and the Temurids:

- analyzing and comparing data on medieval history;
- comparing data on medieval history with archeological data;
- making a new scientific approach from the achieved results;

Stating the main points of the problem:

It is known that Amir Timur declared Samarkand as the capital city of Movorounnakh. Besides, this city is widely popular with its nature, spectacular scenery and moderate climate in the world. Amir Timur spent all his life constructing magnificent buildings and improving streets and the city of Samarkand. He built several palaces around the city of Samarkand at the end of the 14th century and at the beginning of the 15th century. The palaces built at the time of the Temurids greatly differ from other architectural monuments with their magnificence and unique diverse decorations. However, there were two particular types of palaces belonging to aristocrats and rulers along with the traditions of palatial architecture that had been formed over centuries. One of them was for formal occasions, for administrative purposes, meetings and special occasions and this was located in the fortress called "Khisori" in the capital city of the Temurids and the next one was on the outskirts of the city where rulers relaxed and rested from the administrative affairs. For this reason, these palaces were

usually constructed in a form of a garden ensemble. The palaces such as the Kuksaroy (the Blue Palace) erected in Samarkand, Bogi Shahr (the Garden of the City) in Heart and the Aksaray (the White Palace) in Shahrissabz erected by Timur are included in the first type. The residential palace of hakims (rulers) of Heart built by Amir Timur in 1400 was constructed for Shakhruh and it was one of the impressive and magnificent buildings, whereas there is little historical information the architecture and façade of this building. The Aksaray (the White Palace) in Shakhrisabz enables us to carefully consider about the palatial architecture. The Aksaray in Shakhrisabz has been expressed as an imposing and quadrilateral building in several written sources. However, according to the historical information given by a Spanish ambassador and traveller Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo, the whole complex had many yards.



Fig. 1.1. The part of the Aksaray Complex, Shakhrisabz city, erected by Amir Timur that has survived to the present day

Sharafiddin Ali Yazdiy described the majestic Aksaray as "the most magnificent palace in the world" (Figure 1).

2.1 Review Stage

A specific architectural design was predominant in all the buildings erected during the reign of the Temurids. The

palaces and buildings were mainly constructed on the outskirts of the town because of the fact that these royal palaces were large and splendid places of entertainment for city officials and rulers. Alisher Navoi, Turkish poet, scientist and statesman, had also represented the palace for Shirin and Farkhad, the main characters in the book "Khamasa", in poetic form. Writing about a certain ideal palace in his own virile literary style Alisher Navoi described a typical appearance, decorations and architectural aspects of the palaces built in Heart and Samarkand as the epic narrative poems and myths of the 15th century depicted the real life of those periods in the miniatures of the Timurids. Unfortunately, these palaces and buildings have not been preserved, whereas manuscripts witnessing those people and places have survived to the present day. One of the palaces erected on the outskirts of the town was rather large, had many rooms as well as the central reception hall and a lounge and it was a two-storey building. The rest of the rooms were comparatively smaller in size, but differed greatly with their inner parts and facades being greatly adorned. The palace buildings of the second type were mainly located in the middle of gardens and where the main pavements of the gardens intersected. According to some scientific literary books, the architects of the Middle Ages were supposed to have used the traditions passed from generation to generation rather than relying on their mathematical skills in building.

2.2 LITERARY ANALYSIS

The recent research carried out in recent years bears witness to the fact that the architects were able to use complicated geometric methods of calculations from the 9th and 10th centuries. For instance, Ismail Samani mausoleum was constructed on the basis of the two great scientists and mathematicians of that period Al Khoresm Al Fergani. It was impossible to construct very tall and large buildings in size in old times. According to sufficiently reliable information, we know that the projects of those buildings were made beforehand and discussed thoroughly. As well, we may read the following lines about the construction work of Bogi Dlikusho erected by A. Timur: "I ordered builders and palatial architects living in my prosperous state to gather. They worked out the projects and maps of flower gardens and squares and were busy building those squares and gardens". There are several manuscripts dedicated to architecture of that period indicating that the architectural designs and projects of the 14th and 15th centuries were actually made in advance. "Although these plans and projects, – professor G.A. Pugachenkova writes, did not form the architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries from the stereometrical point of view, anyway, they were applied to draw up projects to build those magnificent and impressive palaces". Bin Arabshakh narrated on the palaces situated on the outskirts of the town and said that they had been built in "new styles". As a result of seeking for new graphical means of the architectural designs, inimitable, impressive and magnificent palaces were erected. Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo who saw several of the palaces wrote as follows: "There is a high man-made hill the very top of which was levelled off and surrounded with wooden poles in the garden. In the middle of it there is a very beautifully adorned palace decorated with blue and embellished decorations and much gold. In order to ascend to the garden there were two bridges on both sides of the garden with two opening gates. There were also stairs to help to climb to the

top..." He also writes about another palace describing it as erected in a cross-shaped form, the drop-curtains, and the floor and the walls being decorated with various ornaments and there were three high niches where quilts had been placed for the king to sit.



Fig. 1.2. The part of the Aksaray Complex, Shakhrisabz city, erected by Amir Timur that has survived to the present day

Archaeological excavations carried out in some of the relics of the palaces give us invaluable information. According to the findings found in archaeological excavations and written sources and manuscripts we are totally sure that the palace compositions greatly differ from each other. Although the facades of these architectural monuments were constructed in square and quadrilateral forms, inner parts or features of them had a lot in common, that is, there had not been built in a cross-shaped form and the small rooms around the central room were arranged symmetrically. If we examine the projects of palaces carefully, it becomes obvious that they all belonged to the same architectural type, but differ in terms of facades. One of the peculiarities of the whole composition of palaces is that they are very impressive in appearance and the portals of the terraces are overly glorious. They all can be divided into two groups with regard to their compositional aspects. The specific features of the palaces of the first type are that they are comparatively smaller in size: secondly, they all had terraces attached to the palace on the side of the opening gates; in addition to this, they are mainly built on the top of high hills; moreover, they are one-storeyed buildings, sometimes, instead of two-storey buildings there were half-opened terraces on the upper floor. The Bogi Nav Complex built by A. Timur in Samarkand was the most magnificent and largest of its kind. It was also erected in the middle of the garden and had the main cross-shaped hall. The walls of the façade were decorated with carved ornaments, but the inner side was embellished with coloured stony mosaic by Syrian masters. Hafiz Abru described the picture of the splendid palace erected for Boysunkur Mirza in the Bagi Safid Garden near Heart at the beginning of the Reign of Shakhruhkan as follows: "The decorated terrace arcs reach the dome of the sky and magnificent castle turrets reach the belts of Jupiter." There are additional storeys decorated with carved patterns and a terraced raised platform and some arcs. The parts under the dome and verandas ornamented with beautiful decorations and pictures. The wall closets and yards are arranged inside the figurative forms and talismans covered with coloured valuable stones and marbles. Skilled painters drew

picturesque paintings in each niche like one can see in Chinese art galleries". The appearance of the magnificent and splendid palace of this kind can also be in the miniatures of the 15th century. Alisher Navoi's description of Heart in 1485 on "the officials waiting for the Sultan's reception" can be a good example for it. There is a three-storey building around of which have been ornamented with stucco moulding beside the yard with a stoneblock pavement and under the low terrace there stands a palaces with patterned decorations for maidservants. The decorations of the terraced verandas of the palaces are closely connected with building architectural traditions. Sometimes they were decorated terraces with columns and apart from them; palaces with stone columns were also constructed. According to Zahir ad-Din Muhammad Babur, the Chil Ustun Bog'(A Garden with forty columns) was located in the centre of the yard, they were two-storeyed and small towers in the corners. There were stairs inside towers for mounting, terraced verandas on the first floor, another round gallery on the second floor at the very centre of which there was a square pavilion with four gates. All the columns were made out of stone, some of which were spiral, while others were faceted. During archaeological excavations carried out in the territory of Bog'i Maydon 1941 (The Yard of the Garden) parts of decorated and spiral marble columns were found. The above-mentioned information indicates that the architectural designs and engineering were very developed and multifaceted (Figure 2).

3 FINAL STAGE

Juma Mosque served as a warehouse for storing grain and cotton in the 1940-50 years, as a result, unique wooden columns that time the most affected. 1959-60 years, the Juma mosque during archaeological excavations on the land of a depth of 5 meters of pottery fragments discovered evidence of ancient monuments. 1996-1997 Juma Mosque reconstructed and replaced the majority of columns. Since 1987, the mosque services as Khorezmian Museum of wood carving. The building of the mosque on October 20, 1997 had an international symposium dedicated to the 2500th anniversary of Khiva. The dome of the mosque with total area of 2530 m², the inner area 55,0x45,0 meters and a height of 4.5 meters. The mosque is fully built by baked brick and tile size - 27.5 x 27.5 x 6.5 cm; Used a mixture of brick plaster for building. The mosque is advantage (hypostasis) facility. Its ceiling is covered with wide flat timber, with large square; all accommodated worshipers in the city can get a seat to Friday pray. It has down lights and ventilations from two ropes. The Southern wall has an altar with the pattern of cellular arch. The tower height is 32.5 m, diameter is 6.2 meters. It is located in the northern façade of the mosque, and 7 at the upper part of the green and decorated with tile notes with a flashlight 4, showing a window. They ended with a series of simple stalactites 3 (1, 5).

4 END SECTION

CONCLUSION

1. Books on history and achieve material show that the total width of the Aksaray Complex built by A. Timur in Sharkhisabz contains over 52 m of façade and one could enter the palace through the main gate on an eight-metre pavement. R. Clavijo and Babur both mentioned that this pavement was long and both sides of it were decorated with brick arcs. After that, you can enter a yard with white marble blocks in the centre of

which there is a pool, on both sides there are reception halls for Timur's sons. In the very centre of it there were Amir Timur's reception halls. This kind of palaces did not have any other equivalent pares in the world.

2. Sharofiddin Ali Yazdiy wrote about the palace in the Dilkusho Garden in Samarkand erected by Amir Timur as follows: "The order was given to build a palace which would be more beautiful than the gardens in Paradise and more entertaining than the Garden of Eden in Konigul area in the autumn of the year of Hegira 799". Therefore, this garden is the most magnificent and splendid gardens of Movorounnahr. 3. We can surely say that constructing the architectural monuments and palaces built in the 14th and 15th centuries was based on the projects made up beforehand. All the palaces had the same appearance anywhere in the territory and the palaces of this kind were unique and inimitable.

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