

Historical bazaars of central asia – predictors of modern shopping centers

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ABSTRACT

Development of international and local commerce and functional requirements for urban development are the basis for the formation of bazaars in Middle Age Central Asian cities. These processes range from ancient cities to civilized cities of the medieval world. In the Middle Ages, all the streets in the city center were commercialized and formed a single bazaar complex. Outside the city gates there are wholesale bazaars. As a result of urban development and the expansion of its territory, trade-centered forces and squares completely surround the city center. Crossroads of the main streets of the city will be decorated with domed structures - Chorsu and Tims. Special buildings - Toki and Caravanserai will be built in shopping malls.

Keywords: Bazaar, Chorsu, Toki, Tim, Caravanserai.

1. INTRODUCTION

International and local commerce and urban development of public service complexes are of great importance in Central Asia. Russian researcher V.A. Lavrov said, "... the shopping complexes began with the city gates and continued to the domed trading facility at the crossroads in the city center. In the center of the city, the streets between the domed shopping malls have been designed in the form of complex market. When the architecture of the city gates represents the entrance to the city, the architecture of the domed trading buildings represents a bright rise of architecture and serves as a composite and spatial expression of medieval Central Asian urbanism."(8).

Development of international and local commerce and functional requirements for urban development are the basis for the formation of bazaars in Central Asian cities. These processes range from ancient medieval cities to civilized cities of the ancient world. In the Middle Ages, all the streets in the city center were commercialized and formed a single bazaar. Outside the city gates there are wholesale bazaars (News & 2017, n.d.; Piven, Society, & 2006, n.d.; Turdibekov, n.d.).

As a result of urban development and the expansion of its territory, trade-centered forces and squares completely surround the city center. Crossroads of the main streets of the city will be decorated with domed structures - Chorsu and Tims. Special buildings - Toki and Caravanserai will be built in shopping malls.

2. MAIN PART

"Chorsu" (a Persian-Sanskrit word, means four-sided) means a closed indoor market building at crossroads. Historical literature says that in some early medieval cities of Central Asia there were also commercial buildings called "Tim". In particular, such Tims have been built in Bukhara, Ispijab, Ushturkat, Chaganian, Amul, Osh and other cities. The word "Tim" originally meant "a roof over a market structure" and then applied to any architectural enclave, ie a closed commercial building, a separate market building, a specialized closed street and an indoor shopping mall [9].

In short, any closed indoor building or street in the early Middle Ages could be called "Tim". It is worth noting that Tim's building was closed not only on the surface but also around the building. Such shops could be traded and protected in the heat of summer, and rain and snow of winter. Light is provided by domed roofs [7].

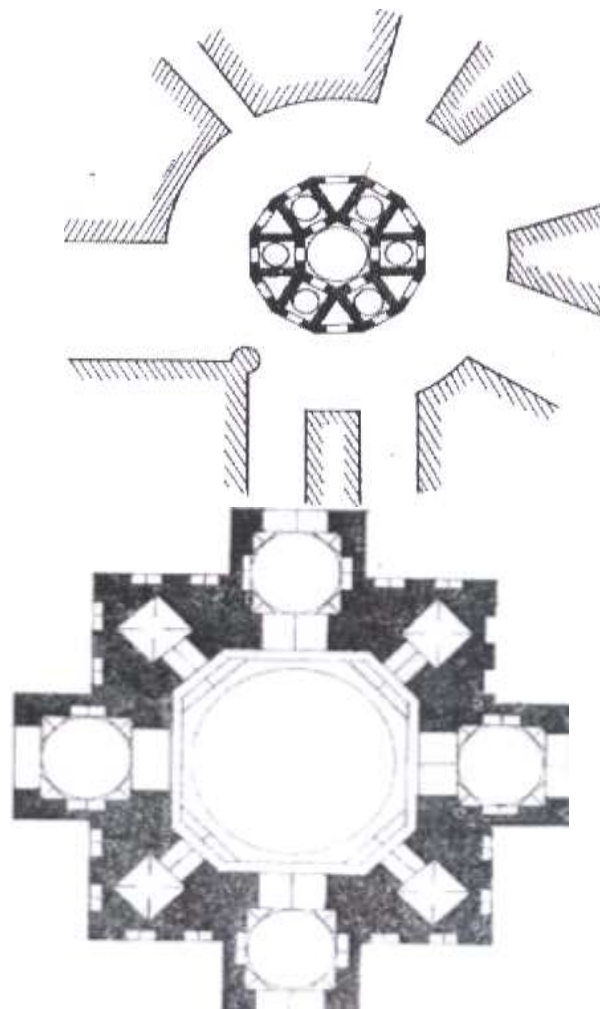


Figure 1. Historical Solutions of Historical Chorsu in Samarkand and Shakhrisabz: a – Samarkand Chorsu; b – Shakhrisabz Chorsu

It is well known that in the late 14th and beginning of 15th centuries, the history of civil architecture in Central Asia, including the history of the construction of markets, trading houses and crafts workshops, was vividly written. This period coincided with the rule of Amir Temur and Temurids, who were the main driving forces of the Great Silk Road and the owners of the greater part of the Turks. Samarkand, at this time, will not only be the center of trade and transit of this road, but also a highly developed center of science, art, culture, architecture and crafts (Bulai, Eva, & Rosu, 2016; Herdeg, 1990).

Cotton fabrics, leather shoes, silk boots, copper saddles, saddle harnesses, tents and boots, fine and elegant papers were all known along the Silk road from the East to the West. The city needed bazaars, shops, malls, caravanserais and craft workshops to develop commerce. During Timur's time, a special trade building "Timi kuloh furushon" (headwear vendors) was built on the Registan Square, which was originally intended for the sale of hats in addition to a number of open shops. Samarkand bazaars during this period were so rich that there was a need to create a large closed market for merchants and buyers to sell various goods in hot climates [1]. Therefore, Amir Timur ordered the construction of a closed, commercial street that crosses the whole city [5].

According to the researcher Rathiya, this shopping street began at the southern part of the area between the Amir Temur's Mosque (now the Bibi Khanim Mosque) and the uninhabited Palace of Mulkhanim Madrassah and led to Registan Square. According to other sources, this shopping street continued up to one of the city's south-west gates "Chorsu". It should be noted that this closed and extensive commercial street before Timur's time did not exist not only in Samarkand, but also in Movarounnakh and Khurasan.

3. ANALYSES

Therefore, such an indoor bazaar could be considered one of the true innovations of architecture and urban planning in Central Asia at that time. These closed market streets will later be built in Herat, Isfahan, Urgench, Khiva, Bukhara and Osh. Spanish ambassador Clavijo has said that in Timurid Samarkand there were markets for day and night trades [6]. In the intersections of the mahalla streets, in addition to the city bazaars, there were local markets. Such markets usually consisted of several shops and craftsmen's workshops or shops. There were many markets not only within the town, but also in the adjoining Rabad – outskirts of the city [2]. The markets of Rabad are mainly around the gates and streets of the city and also at the crossroads. In addition to such urban markets, inter-city markets are also established along the Silk Road. Such markets are usually formed on caravan roads, near rabat and caravan sheds (Bloom, Canning, & Chan, 2006; Michael Hall & Page, 2016; Scarnecchia, 2004; Todaro & Smith, 2012).

The 16th-17th-century Central Asian markets, with their magnificent architectural solutions, are distinctly different from the markets and trade crafts of the early medieval times. In particular, in the 17th century, five major multi-domed commercial buildings will be built at the main intersections of Bukhara city, namely Toki Ord furushon, Toki Zargaron, Toki Telpak furushon, Toki Sarrafon and Toki Tirgaron. The first and last of these have not been preserved to us, and the rest are still used today. The word "Toki" here also means a dome [7].

In Bukhara, number of trade buildings which are built on the city center, crossroads and highways forms the closed markets. The plan of Toki Zargaron is square, with a huge dome covering it on 8 arches in the middle. Light from the 46 windows in the multifaceted flange will light up the building. Initially, there were more than 30 jewelry shops and workshops inside the building [7].

The Toki Telpak furushon is six-dimensional in design, with the central dome of the building above the central hall - "Myons". The small shops nearby also are covered with domes. In addition to the hats, there were bookstores and bookmakers' shops in the building. For this reason, this building was formerly known as the "Books story". The formation of the commercial buildings is caused by the increased commercial culture in the cities, the need for sale in closed-door structures, permanent convenient and reliable stores, free from dust and rainfall for rare and expensive goods. When constructing such closed architectural buildings, local hot and dry climatic conditions are also taken into account (7).

There is a Tim of Abdulla – khan, built near the shopping street, adjacent to the Zargaron, and its architectural solutions are spacious, magnificent and tectonically large. This closed market, with 55 trade lanes, is intended for the sale of rare and precious materials [7].

4. DISCUSSIONS

The formation of Tim and Toki buildings is caused by the increased commercial culture in the cities, the need for sale in closed - door umbrellas, permanent convenient and reliable stores, free from dust and rainfall. When constructing such closed architectural buildings, local hot and dry climatic conditions are also taken into account (Figure 2).

The markets were not only a trade, but also a craft hub. The Chorsu bazaar in Tashkent is made up of open-market bazaars, terraces, and shops with handicrafts in the form of a variety of goods. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were about forty markets and stalls in this market. Market areas such as Galleries, Arab bazaar, Gilam bazaar, Tailor's bazaar, Broom bazaar, Culinary Market, Vegetable Market, as well as Bakery bazaar, Jewelry bazaar, Soap bazaar, etc. .

Bazaars also served as leisure sites for the public. Clowns, wrestlers, and cobblers showed their skills mainly in the markets. Singers, musicians and poets gathered at the market teahouses, while the play-mates performed humorously. Market nights continued during Ramadan. Such markets are called "urban markets" [3].

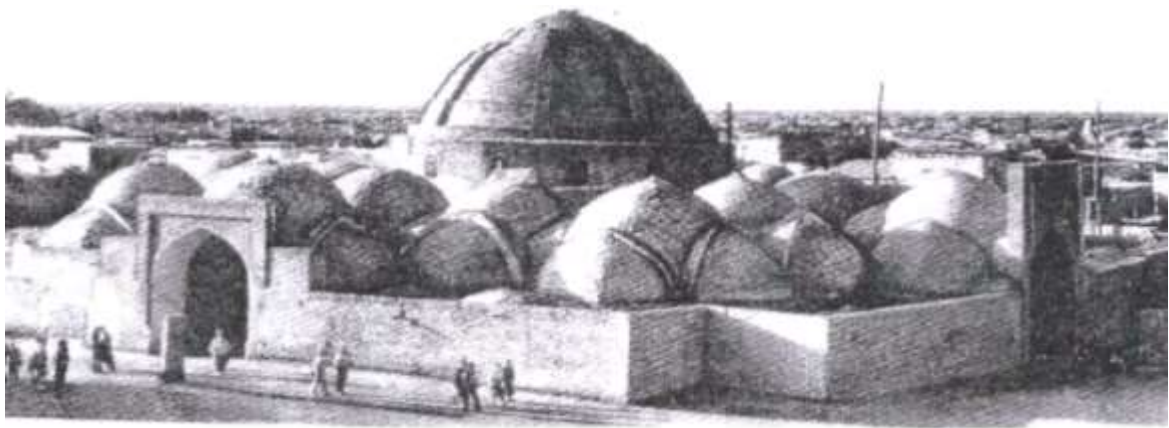


Figure 2. General view of Toki Zargaron in Bukhara.

Substantial changes we can see in the types, system and architecture of market structures, built in the cities of Central Asia in the 18th - 19th and early 20th centuries. In this period, only positive experiences can be observed, such as converting Caravanseraï and Tim buildings into a single mall. An example of this is the construction of the Allakuli - khan caravanseraï and Tim in Khiva, the Polvon Darwaza Tim and the gate (Figure 3). The exterior and interior of Allakulikhan Caravansaray and Tim in Khiva have a tectonic appearance [6].

The construction of a Caravanseraï and Toki, Tim and porch in the form of such a closed market complex stems from the local hot climate of Khiva. The warm, dry, dusty and choppy climate required the city's most populous bazaar to be safely closed, with a closed architectural shape. It enters the Caravanseraï of Allakuli - Khan through the Tim (EDITION, 1947; Heyneman & Young, 2006; Pierce & Goldstein, 2016).

Tim is 74 meters long and 26.5 meters wide, not only an indoor shopping street, but also a pedestrian structure covered with three rows of domes that connect Ichan Kal'a with the outer Dishan fortress. In the middle of it is a large dome hall (Miyan Palace), from which gate to the Caravanseraï. Tim finished with a deck on the inside and outside. The interior of this complex is always cool in summer and warm and bright in winter.

The staircase joins the closed shopping street (Tim) to the market area of Ichan Kal'a and forms a single architectural complex. Closed to the Polvon Darwaza in Khiva, the commercial street architecture has a tectonic solution. The shopping mall in the complex is located along the street. The middle porch and the outer rings are covered with domes. The weather in Khiva is so hot in the summer that even a series of rows and deep carved openings in the form of cobblestones are enclosed within the outer walls or chairs of street shops, caravans, palaces and madrasas.

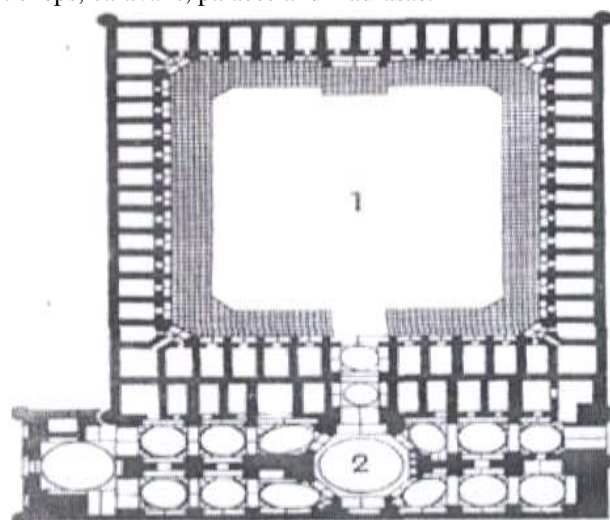


Figure 3 Allaquili - Khan Caravanseraï and Tim in Khiva:
1-Caravanseraï; 2 – Tim.

5. CONCLUSION

The demand for shade and cool environments is increasing due to high temperatures and intense solar radiation in the hot and dry climate of Central Asia. This is also reflected in the architectural arrangement of daily living of the person and the social life of the city. We can conclude, that in Central Asia due to different climatic conditions were architecturally formed open, semi - open, and closed type of bazaar complexes.

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