

## **Model of Architectural - City-Building Formation of Historical Basars of Central Asia**

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### **Abstract**

*The article explores the history of becoming, formation, development trends of medieval bazaars and shopping complexes in the cities of the Central Asian republics. A model of their formation is compiled. The analysis covers the list of trade and market facilities in Central Asian cities: an open bazaar, a street bazaar attached to it with shopping malls, a bazaar at the crossroads of «Chorsu» streets, covered shopping facilities («tim», «tokhi»), caravanserais, shopping malls, trade and craft suburb- “rabad”.*

**Keywords:** *History of formation, formation, architectural development, medieval bazaars of Central Asia, shopping arcades, street bazaar, indoor bazaar, tim, tok, chorsu, caravanserais, trade and craft suburbs rabad.*

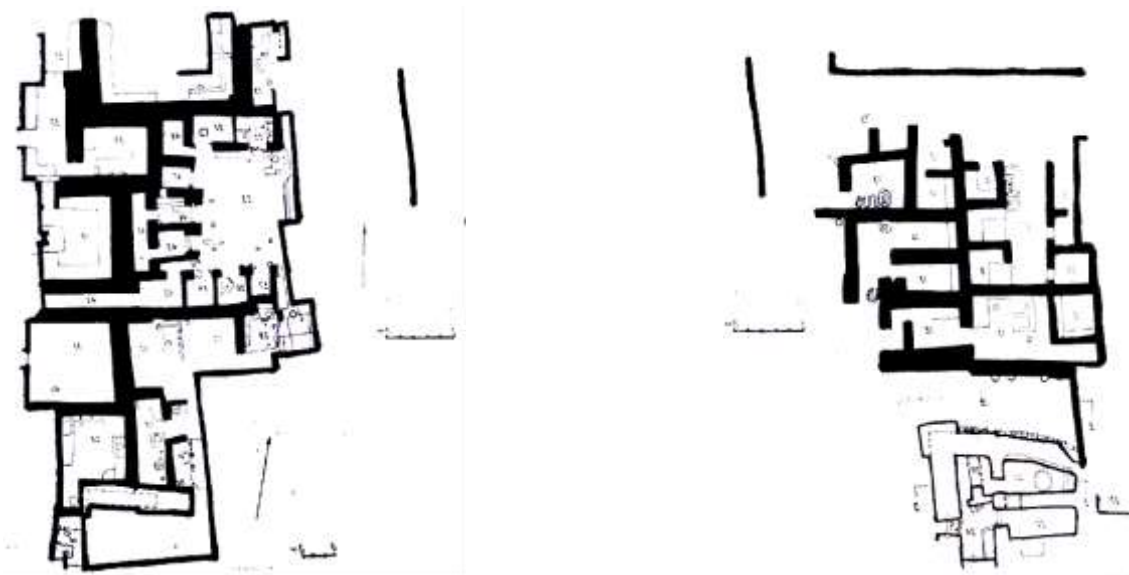
### **Introduction**

The formation and development trends of the trading buildings and structures during the Middle Ages in the countries of the East, including Central Asia, were a specific phenomenon that has deep socio-economic, scientific, cultural and historical roots related to the natural and climatic features of these countries.

Significant role in the development of medieval bazaars had international trade messages, including the Great Silk Road. This path became a powerful economic lever not only in the formation and development of a network of eastern bazaars and caravanserais, but also of a number of other public buildings.



The genesis of the isolation of the eastern bazaars, apparently, should be sought in more ancient times, since as far back as “Avesto”, the term “chavrusuk” is used, which, according to experts, meant the “four-sided” market [4, p.51], located at the intersection, that is, on the “chorsu”. In the settlement of Penjikent, two small pre-Islamic bazaar complexes dating from the first quarter of the 8<sup>th</sup> century were found by archeological excavations. [5, p.67; 1, p.26]. One of them was located on the chorsu and was a complex of small commercial and craft premises. The other bazaar complex was adjacent to one of the main streets of the city and consisted of a multitude of workshops and retail shops located around the open market square.

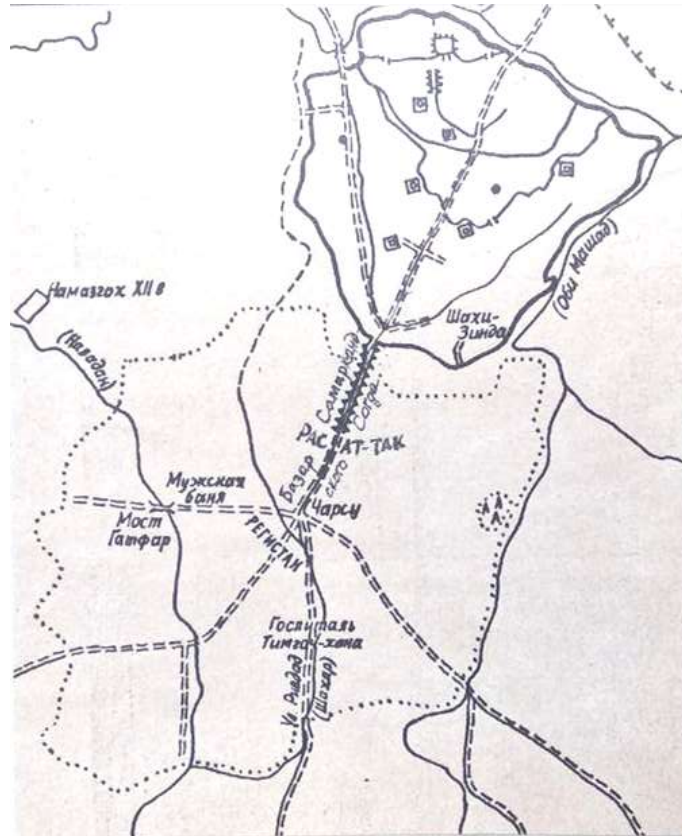


Ancient Panjakent Market

Since the 9<sup>th</sup> century, bazaars have appeared in written sources as the main economic center of the city. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries were marked in the history of Central Asia, as the heyday of urban culture and economics with the formation of the Samanid empire. During this period, the cities became a place of concentration of handicraft production and trade, which led to the formation of a new part of the city structure outside the walls of shahrستان – rabad. Rabads were settled by artisans who worked in their home workshops or in the bazaars, uniting for their craft in quarters and bazaar trading rows.

One of the bazaars of the period under review was the so-called bazaar of the Samarkand Sogd, which was located in the south of Afrasiab, in the territory of rabad [2, p. 229]. Its location, in the opinion of O.G.Bolshakov, covered the area from the current Registan to the Siab market. The central place in the bazaar was occupied by the chorsu, to which the streets ran from the rabad's gate. Along the streets, departing from the chorus, and in small squares located on the territory of the bazaar, specialized

shopping arcades, shops of artisans and caravanserais were organized [1, p.72]. Thus, the bazaar of Samarkand Sogd was a bazaar-street with chorsu, trading and craft raws and caravanserais.



Samarkand Sogd was a bazaar-street with chorsu

Chorsu as a trading dome building, is known for us since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. In Merv, according to at-Tartusi, in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries there was a chorsu covered with arches and dome with light windows [2, p.297].

Written sources indicate that as early as the Middle Ages, the bazaars of some cities in Central Asia had a covered commercial structure called “tim”. In particular, “tim” functioned in Bukhara, Ispijab, Ushturkat, Chaganian, Amul and other cities [2; four]. It should be noted that the word “tim” originally meant only a function; therefore, it equally applied to individual commercial buildings and specialized indoor trading and craft streets and malls [4, p.52-56]. Al-Mukaddasi used the word “tim” even in relation to urban caravanserais, where wholesale trade was made and visiting merchants lived.

The historical period of the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries inscribed in the history of Central Asian architecture one of the most striking pages covering the topic of trade and market structures. During the reign of Temur and the Timurids, numerous bazaar constructions were built in the cities of Central Asia, including specialized covered “tim”s, covered bazaars, streets, and chorsu. An interesting fact is that historians of pre-Timurids period did not mention the existence of any covered shopping streets or buildings in Samarkand other than the Samarkand Sogd mentioned above. The construction of such structures here had begun obviously since the reign of Temur. By the order of Tuman-aga, Temur’s wife, a special covered building, Timi Kulakhi-furushon (Dome selling headware), was built in the Registan Square. Then, in 1404, by the order of Temur, a covered bazaar highway was constructed, which led from the gate of Akhanin, crossing through the entire city [3, p. 134]. During Ulugbek period, the Registan market square was turned into a public, commercial, and cultural center of the city. Here some madrasas and khanaka, a mosque, a caravanserais and public baths were erected. The central trading and public space continued along the main streets and guzars of the neighborhoods: Puli-safed

bazaar was located on the street connecting Registan with the Chorsu gate; the bazaar of Mohammed Sultan was located near the mausoleum of Ruhabad; on the street connecting Registan Square with Kuksaray Palace, the Zargaron Bazaar was located, where numerous shops and jewelers' workshops were located. [6, p.37].



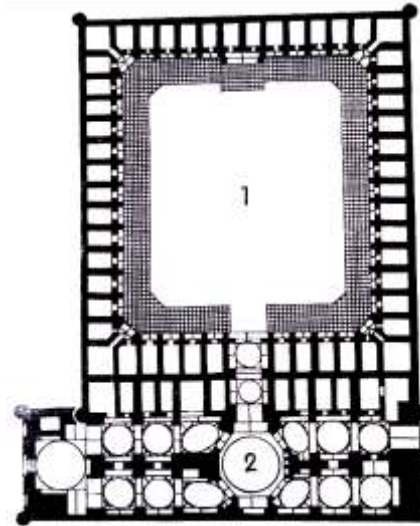
Market squares of Samarkand at the end of the 19th century



Bazaar street is the shopping arcade of old Samarkand.

Bazaar (market) on Registan Square in Samarkand.

In the bazaars of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries prominently occupied spaces were monumental buildings – “tim”s, chorsu, covered bazaar streets, as well as caravanserais, which in architectural terms significantly exceeded the bazaars and trading and craft buildings of cities in the early medieval period. Later on, during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the spatial-structural plan of organizing bazaars in the cities of Central Asia, no significant changes occurred. There are examples when the caravanserais and “tim” unite in a single shopping complex (for example, caravanserai and “tim” of Allakuli – khan in Khiva).

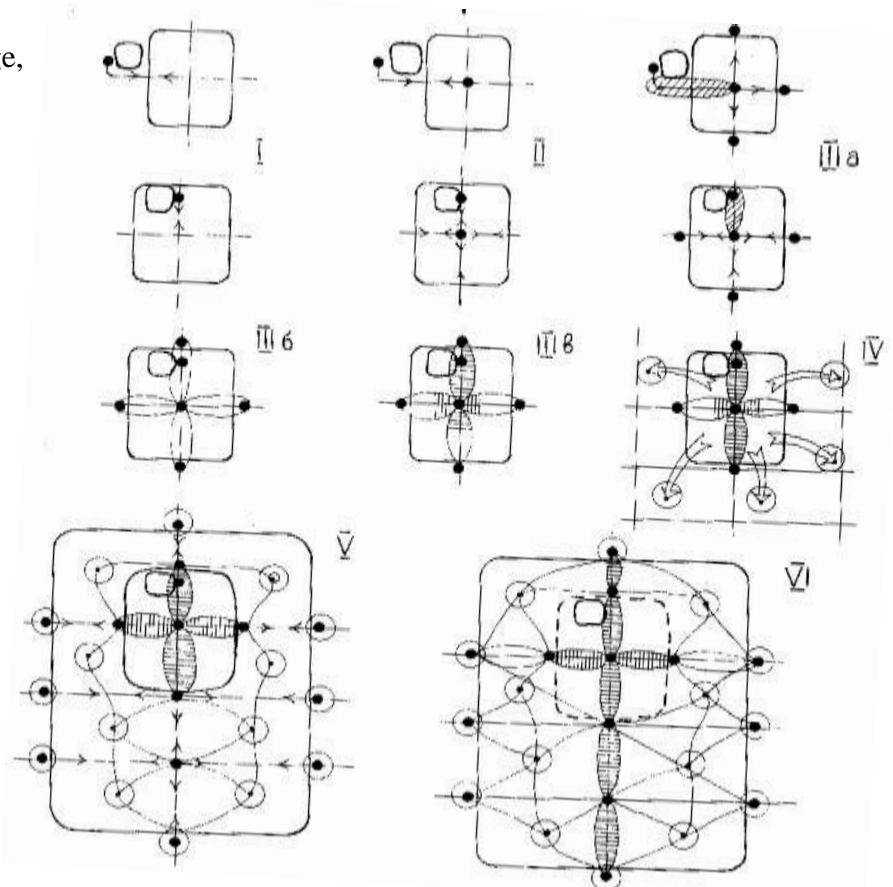


Tim and caravanserai in Allakuli Khan Khiva. Side view and plan.

Thus, the study of the history of the formation and characteristics of the evolutionary development of the Central Asian bazaars shows that initially in the square at the gate of the arch (citadel) a trading place appeared in the form of a shop- “dukan”, which gradually expanded, forming here a peculiar bazaar center (Fig. 1. 1 -stage). In turn, at the crossroads of the main streets of shahristan, another place of the bazaar appeared in the form of a shop-dukan or a shop-craftsman (II stage), then these two places joined together to form a market pedestrian street, where the dukans, blocking with each other, formed a trading row - “rasta” (Fig. 1. III – stage, a). With the development of foreign (inter-district and international) trade between the cities, a trade service was formed at the gates of shahristan, which grew towards the central

crossroads of city streets (III – stage, b). As a result, four trading streets

– markets appeared, at the crossroads of which a “chorsu” was formed. Perhaps, originally, the “chorsu” was not a covered building, but over time, a commercial building was erected at the crossroads, which was renamed chorsu. At the same time, the busiest parts of the central bazaar streets were covered with sheds or domes (III – stage, century). Bazar-street intersected the entire city or its parts with a covered trade highways, the construction of which depended on specific socio – economic, natural and climatic conditions.



Architectural - urban model of medieval bazaars Central Asia.

In connection with the development of the economy and trade, the construction of shakhristan was consolidated and part of the bazaars, especially bazaars, requiring a large amount of free space (trading cattle, wood, etc.), as well as craft workshops, whose works are connected with fire, were taken out of the line of shahristan (Figure 1 IV – stage). As a result, a trade and craft suburb – rabad was formed. In the construction process of rabad, a street network was formed and its territory was enclosed with a wall.

As a result, a new network of bazaars was formed in rabad, which concentrated at the crossroads of the main streets (V-stage). The newly emerged bazaars, connecting with the old ones, constituted a pedestrian and commercial artery of the city, against the background of which the city's bazaar street stood out, sometimes penetrating the entire territory of the city (Figure 1, stage VI). The intersection of the main bazaar street and the crosswalks were made out of monumental dome-trade passages “Toki”, and the market square — a special multi-dome covered market –Tim (this was the case, in particular, in Bukhara).



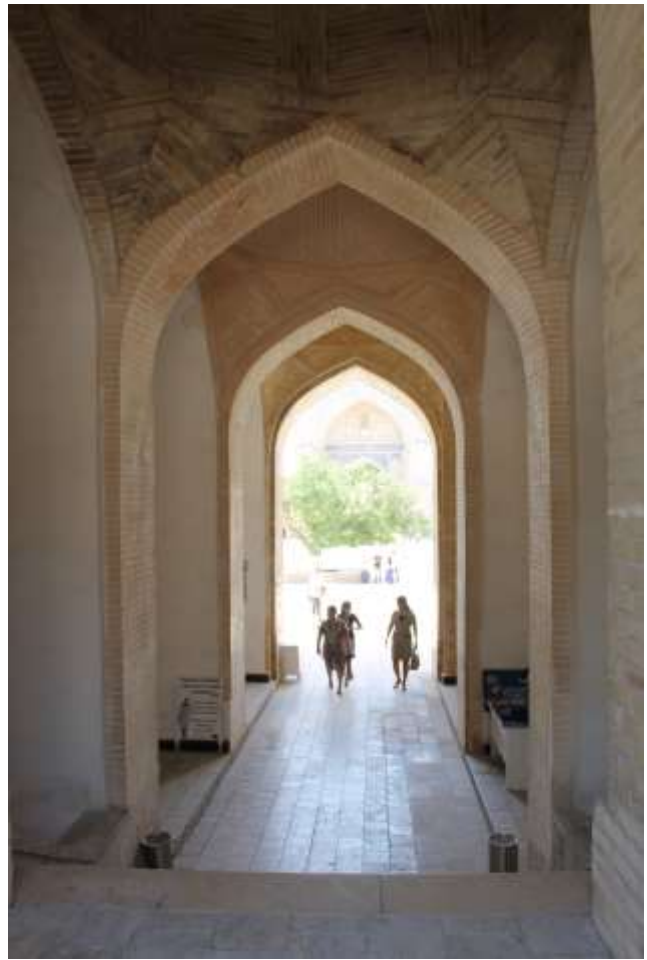
Location of trade and market facilities along the streets of the historical part of Bukhara



Open market square at the gates of the Bukhara Arch of the 19th century



Exterior views of commercial and market buildings in old Bukhara.



Interiors of covered market streets of the city of Bukhara.

In the centers of craft quarters or neighbourhoods, small street bazaars were formed, consisting of several trading and craft stores (V – VI – stages). In the areas close to the city gates, bazaars were formed, some of which had sheds, “kappans”, for trading grain crops, cotton, and also dry agricultural products. Bazaars for the sale of bulky goods were also formed near the external gates of the rabad. Wholesale trade was also carried out in caravanserais, which were part of the bazaars, often adjoined to the shopping streets or blocked by tims (caravanserai and tim of Allakuli-khan in Khiva).

Thus, the general formula described above and the model of the formation of the eastern bazaars and caravanserais (Fig. 1) is characteristic of most of the historical cities of the Medieval East, it could have its own specifics when forming the bazaars of a particular city.

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