

The Architecture of the 19th-20th Century Kichik Arabkhona Mosque and its Restoration Issues in the City of Kattakurgan

Narkulov Olmos., Yarashev Fozilbek

PhD students of Samarkand State University of architecture and construction

Abstract: This article talks about the architecture of the Kichkina Arabkhona Mosque, built in the 19th-20th centuries, located in the city of Kattakurgan, Samarkand region, and its changes to this day. Also, based on the analysis of the history of research related to this monument, appropriate conclusions and restoration project suggestions and recommendations are given.

Keywords: Kattakurgan, neighborhood, Kichkina Arabkhona, mosque, khonaqoh, porch.

The main part. The Kichkina Arabkhana mosque is one of the ancient monuments of the city of Kattakurgan and is located in the neighborhood of this name. When the mosque was named Kichik Arabkhana, when the city of Kattakurgan appeared in this neighborhood, 5-6 families belonging to the Arab clan settled in this area and the neighborhood was named after this mosque [1].

The Kichkina Arabkhana mosque was destroyed and rebuilt several times. The initial construction of the mosque is related to the emergence of the first neighborhoods of the city of Kattakurgan, which dates back to the end of the 17th century. The original mosque building was near the main street on the west side of the city of Kattakurgan [2]. The mosque is located almost in the center of the neighborhood, north of it is a large street and west of it is an inner street. Residents and guests of the city came to the mosque mainly through these two streets. The courtyard of the mosque was in the south of it. Later, the mosque replaced the old mosque building, the present mosque was started in the 19th century and completed in the early 20th century. It should be noted that in the studied period, the mosque dominated the composition of the neighborhood with its compositional solution.

Kichkina Arabkhana, the mosque has a square shape, and a porch is attached to the south and east. The mosque is entered through 4 doors from the south and east. There were square frames above the doors. The room is supported by a single column in the center. On the walls of the khonaqoh, curved shelves are provided [4]. The walls in the interior of the mosque are decorated with ganch. The porch is "F"-shaped and consists of 5 columns. Arched shelves are installed on the northern and western walls delimiting the porch. The pillars of the porch have a traditional shape.

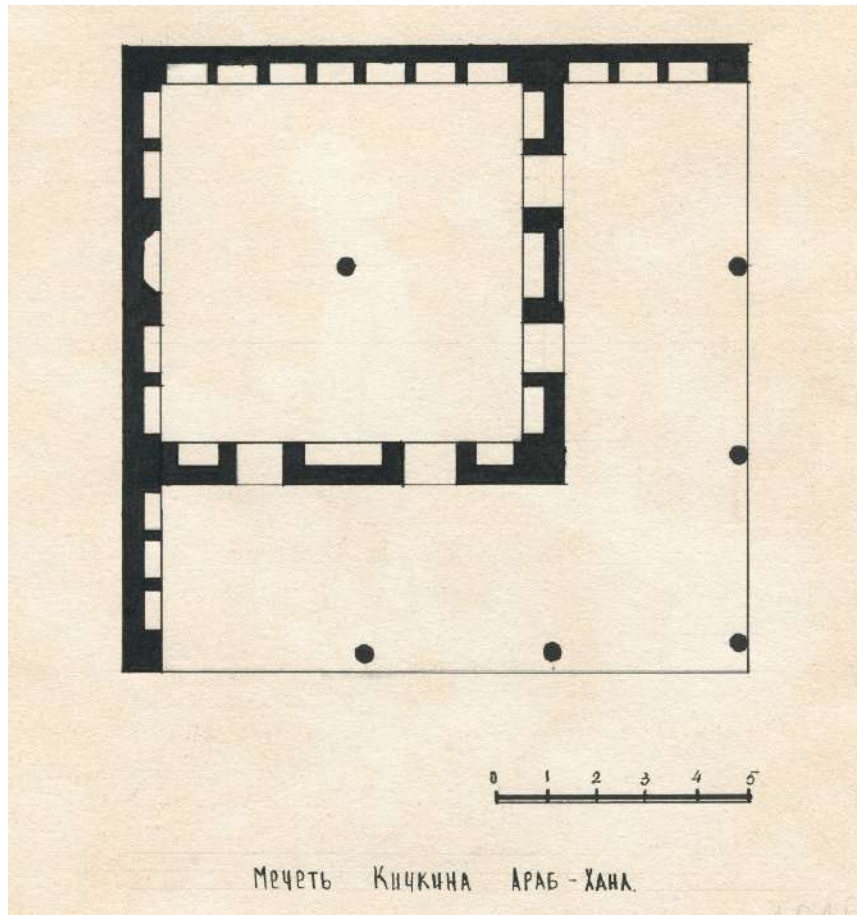


Figure 1. The project of the mosque. E. According to E. Karayev. 1977 year.

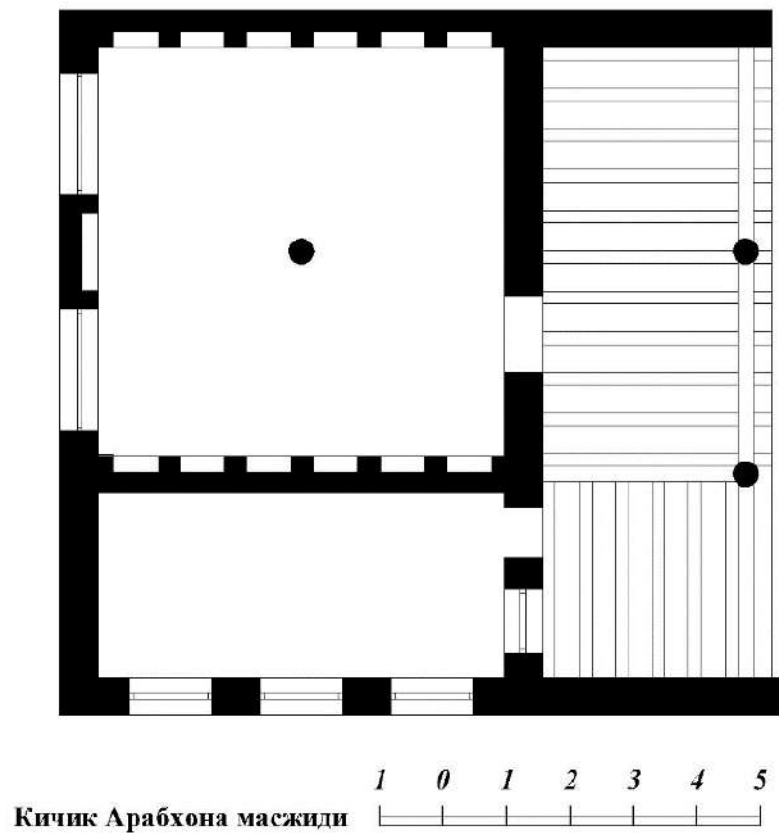


Figure 2. The current history of the mosque. (author's measurement and drawing). 2024 year.

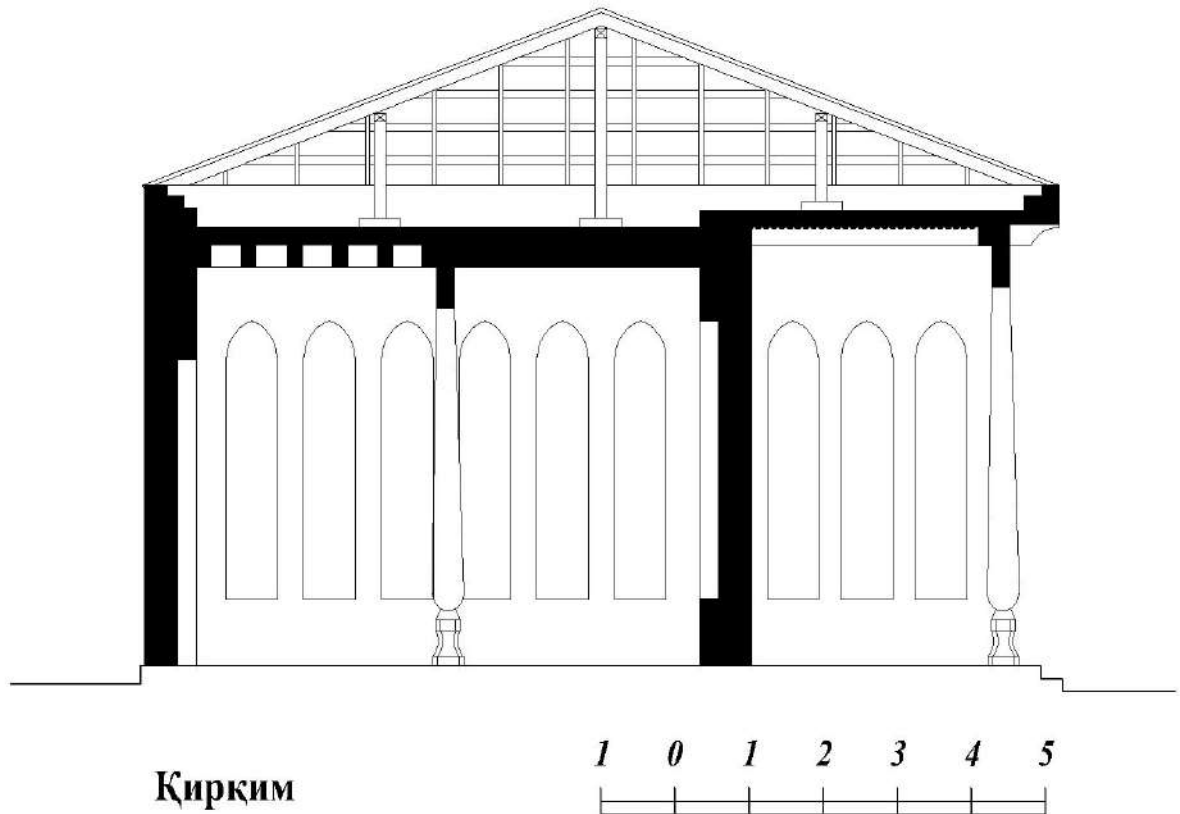


Figure 3. Fragment of mosque. (author's measurement and drawing). 2024

The Kichik Arabkhana mosque has somewhat lost its original appearance today. During the Soviet era, the mosque was used as a food store and warehouse. Accordingly, the mosque was adapted to this type of building and additional changes were made. In the 50s of the 20th century, the southern porch of the mosque was converted into a room and a wall was raised between the pillars. As a result, the porch of the mosque lost its original appearance.

The khonaqoh on the ceiling of the mosque room is covered with modern construction materials, and the original woods and beams of the mosque are blocked. There are 2 window frames on the western wall of the room. According to the original design of the mosque, there were no such frames. According to our archival data, the employee of the institute of Art studies E. Karayev drew the design of the mosque in 1977 [3]. In this layout, we see that there are 4 doors on the south and east sides of the mosque. There were also rectangular window frames above the doors. Because mosques of a similar type (in design) in the city and built at that time are of the same type, and square-shaped frames are installed on their doors. According to Karayev's design, shelves are provided on the walls of the room. Additional alterations to the mosque during the colonial period included wall cladding on its outer western and southern walls, which were carved and plastered with mud plaster in the mosque's original form.



Figure 4. General view of the mosque. (author's photo). 2024



Figure 5. View of the mosque from the courtyard. (author's photo). 2024

Summary. The above research allows us to make the following conclusions and suggestions:

- based on our research, it can be said that the building of the mosque was started in the 19th century and finished in the early 20th century;

- the mosque building, which has a unique architectural solution, has lost its original appearance due to repeated destructions, due to the fact that it was used for various purposes at the time, as a warehouse food store;
- it is necessary to thoroughly study and restore the mosque building based on archival data;

To date, our small and medium-sized historical monuments in our cities remain insufficiently studied. Monuments in these cities have an incomparable place in the history of our country. That's why we, architects, should scientifically establish and study such historical monuments. It is necessary to create tourism route maps of the cities in order to preserve, *restoration*, conserve and restore historical monuments in these cities. Only then can we deliver our ancient monuments to the next generation and increase the tourism potential of our country.

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