

The Architecture Of Traditional Foothill Residential Buildings In The Tashkent Region In The Late 19th And Early 20th Centuries: Based On Archival And Field Research

Beknazarova Malika Baurjanovna

Institute of Fine Arts, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

malikabeknazarova91@gmail.com

Abstract: This study examines the architectural features of traditional foothill residential buildings in the Tashkent region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries using archival materials and field investigations. The research analyzes the planning, construction techniques, and artistic characteristics of dwellings in the village of Oblik (Angren District). The findings reveal distinctive architectural elements, including kush sinch wall construction, kashgarcha windows, verandas, and climate-responsive spatial organization. The results indicate the influence of regional building traditions while highlighting unique local characteristics. The study emphasizes the importance of documenting and preserving these increasingly endangered buildings and provides a scientific basis for future conservation and restoration of Uzbekistan's vernacular architectural heritage.

Keywords: Angren, Oblik, dwelling, architecture, artistic features.

Introduction

The traditional residential architecture of the Tashkent region was shaped by the region's natural and geographical features, including its flat, foothill, and mountainous areas, as well as local climatic conditions. In the northern part of the region, particularly in the Bostanlyk district, traditional mountain dwellings are widespread, while in the eastern districts, the vernacular architecture of the villages of Akhangaran and Parkent is distinctive in its essence. In the western part, the Zangiota architectural complex and historical residential monuments reflect the region's rich historical and cultural heritage.

This article examines traditional residential architecture that developed in the foothills of the Tashkent region, based on archival and field research. The focus is on the architectural features, layouts, and local construction traditions of residential buildings in the village of Oblik, located in Angren.

The Tashkent region is geographically close to the Fergana Valley and, in the 18th and 19th centuries, enjoyed political, economic, and cultural ties with Kashgar due to its proximity to the region. Furthermore, the fact that the Tashkent oasis was briefly part of the Kokand Khanate laid the foundation for the influence of Kashgari architectural traditions on the vernacular residential architecture of the Fergana Valley and Tashkent region. [1].

This influence is primarily reflected in certain architectural solutions used in residential buildings. In particular, functional sliding lattice windows, characteristic of the region and associated with Kashgar architecture, are widespread. These structures served to improve natural ventilation, reduce summer heat, and create a comfortable indoor microclimate [2].

As in other regions of Uzbekistan, traditional dwellings in the Tashkent region typically feature inner (ichkari) and outer (tashkari) courtyards [1]. This layout is shaped by the family's lifestyle, national customs, and local climatic conditions.

The interconnectedness of rooms in residential buildings is also closely linked to local climatic

conditions. To protect living rooms from direct sunlight in the summer, verandas were built in front of doors and windows, typically facing south, southeast, or east. Rooms intended exclusively for summer recreation, by contrast, were oriented more toward the north [3; 4].

Six main types of rooms are common in the vernacular residential architecture of the Tashkent region. These include the house (khana), the hall (dahliz), the Chorkhari khona, the kashgarcha – room with an ayvan, equipped with windows with sliding shutters, the ayvan, and the sufa. Another form of divan is the sori – a portable wooden “bed” [5; 6].

The traditional residential composition is based on the mutual harmony of closed, semi-open, and open spaces. Closed spaces include the house (khona), chorkhari khona, and entrance hall (dahliz); semi-open spaces include the veranda (kashgarcha-ayvan); and open spaces include the suri [7]. This combined structure is particularly common in regions adjacent to the Fergana Valley, including the village of Oblyk in the Angren district and the village of Telov in the Okhangaron district.

This article analyzes the surviving traditional folk dwellings in the village of Oblyk, Angren District, using archival sources and fieldwork. Along with archival documents, interviews with local residents, particularly the elderly, revealed a number of dwellings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Today, most of these traditional houses have not survived for various reasons. However, some exemplary dwellings found in the village of Oblyk are particularly valuable due to their architectural and compositional design, layout, and decorative and artistic features. Therefore, this study conducted a scientific analysis of previously virtually unstudied examples of vernacular residential architecture in the village of Oblyk, as well as their architectural, compositional, and artistic features[8].

Research Methodology

This study employed a combination of historical-comparative, architectural, and field research methods. Archival documents, including architectural passports and historical records, were analyzed to identify the architectural characteristics of traditional residential buildings. Field surveys, on-site observations, photographic documentation, and architectural measurements were conducted to examine the existing structures and evaluate their planning, construction techniques, and artistic features. The collected data were comparatively analyzed to determine the common and distinctive architectural characteristics of residential buildings in the Tashkent region.

Results And Discussion

The residential building of Ismailov Amonboy Baba is located at 24A, Lashkarak, Oblyk village. According to the owner, Amonboy Baba, the building was constructed in the late 19th century. Regarding the house's current state, the interior's historical appearance has been well preserved; unfortunately, changes have been made to the exterior. The building is rectangular in shape, with a flat ceiling and double-framed walls (kush sinch) (photo 1 and drawing). It consists of two adjoining rooms and an entrance hall (ayvan). The windows of the first room have shutters. Pediments are located approximately along the perimeter of the interior. Its overall dimensions are 16 x 10 m[9].



Figure 1: House of Omonboy Ismailov. Author's photo, 2022, 2023

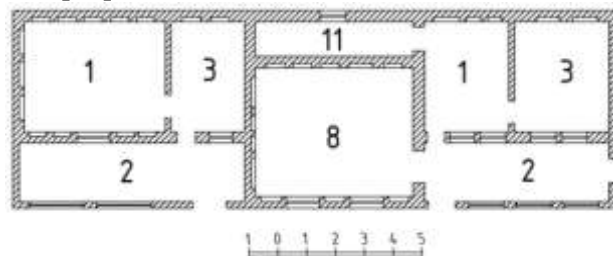
The late 19th-century house of Khatamov Karimkhan is located at 80 Bulak Boshi Street. According to Nokhidahan, a resident of the house, this historic house was built by Yusufkhan

Khodja Baba. In 1979, its passport was returned to E.Karayev as an architectural monument [8]. The house is rectangular in shape with square walls, a flat ceiling, and a centralized colonnade. It consists of two adjoining square rooms and a front veranda (ayvan). A unique feature of the house is the original structural solution of the ceiling. One column in the center of each room supports the strength of the ceiling. This construction technique, very rare in residential architecture, is connected with the architect's desire to ensure the necessary safety margin for a building constructed in a mountainous area. The walls of the building have rectangular shelves (tokcha). The columns are designed in the form of an attractive "kuzagi". The dimensions of the building are 8.3 x 11.0 m (2 photos and a drawing)[10].



Figure 2: and drawing: House of Khatamov Karimkhan. E.Koraev Photo, 1979; M.Beknazarova Photo, 2023.

The Komolov Shokirjon Residential Building (35 Boytopi Street) dates back to the early 20th century and was built by Karakhan Ata. As for the building's current state, its historical appearance has been well preserved. Some modifications have been made to the bedrooms and hallway, and the ceilings are finished with plywood. The hotel features a porch with columns on both sides, now covered with modern window frames. The structure is a regular quadrangle, with gable-beam walls supporting a column-and-beam structure. Originally, the roof was flat (photo 3 and drawing). Today, the roof is covered with tarpaulin. The hotel's (mexmonxona) slightly protruding ceiling beams are located in the center of the building. The hotel's (mexmonxona) ceiling beams are filled with vassa, and the room consists of shelves along the pier. Porches and rooms, intersecting each other, are located on both sides of the hotel. A separate refrigerated fruit storage room, measuring 6 x 1.30 meters, is located at the rear of the hotel. Overall dimensions of the house: 21.90 x 6.90 m[11].



1 – room (khona); 2 – hallway (daliz); 3 – canopy (ayvan); 8 – guest room (mekhmonkhona); 11 – storeroom (kaznok)



Figure 3: photo and drawings: Komolov Shokirjon residential house.

The Zimfira Kabirova House (35 Lashkarak Street) was built in the early 20th century. The historic interior has been well preserved, but unfortunately, some changes have been made to the exterior. A colonnaded portico once stood in front of the house, now covered with modern window frames. The building is rectangular, with a flat ceiling and double-framed walls (kush sinch). This house consists of a bedroom, a living room (mekhmonkhona), and a veranda (ayvon) (photo 4). A distinctive feature of the house is the presence of a winter veranda (ayvan), located in such a way that it connects it to the living room (mekhmonkhona) on the side. The winter veranda (dahliz) retains its sliding shutters, called “kashgarcha” or partitions – lintels that open in both directions. The double-sided framed walls (kush sinch) allow the building to have niches (tokcha) around its perimeter. Overall dimensions: 12x10 m[12].



Figure 4: Residential building of Zimfira Kabirova.

Another example of traditional residential architecture of the “kashgarcha” type from the early 20th century, the house of Abdullaev Abdurakhmon, was studied by E.Karaev in 1979. According to his research, the house is a small rectangular building, consisting of one room (khona), an entrance hall (dahliz) and a veranda (ayvan). A distinctive feature of the house is the presence of two sliding lattice stavins (kashgarcha-surma ravan) in the entrance hall. One of them is located on the side of the guest house (mekhmonkhona), and the other opens onto the veranda (ayvan). Changing the arrangement of the ayvans made it possible to transform the rooms into semi-open spaces. In the upper part of the rooms there are niches (tokcha), and on the large niches (tokcha) of the guest house (mekhmonkhona) there are niche-balconies (5 photo and plan). The ceilings are filled with vassa. Overall dimensions: 9.0 x 7.25 m [9]. Unfortunately, this building has not survived to this day[13-15].



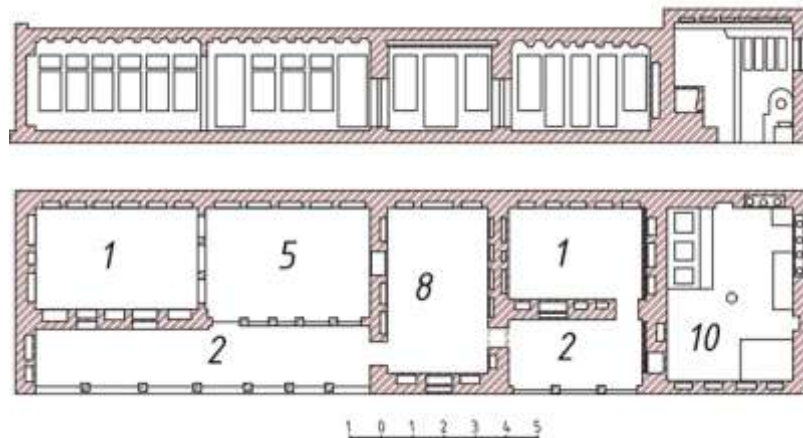
Figure 5: Abdullaev Abdurakhman's house (not preserved). 1 – room (khona); 5 – ayvan-kashgarcha; 6 – ayvan (peshayvan) (Archive of the Art Institute IA(m)K21 № 1018)

Shokirov's Karimjon residential building dates back to the early 20th century, according to research by E. Korayev conducted in 1979. On the open side of the winter porch (ayvon), there were kashgkak shutters (ravans). Unfortunately, these ravans have not survived. The building has an L-shaped layout, a double-frame wall (kush sinch), and a supporting post-and-beam structure, and originally had a flat roof. Today, the roof is covered with a metal tunic. The guesthouse (mekhmonkhona), located in the peret across the dahlizom, consists of a winter porch and a living room with a side ayvon (photo 6 and drawing). The upper part of the guesthouse shelves are decorated with tokcha: the central shelf of the entire solid wall has decorative cornices in the form of rectangular joints. The beam ceilings are filled with plaster. Today, two rooms in this building are in need of renovation. Dimensions: 20.0 x 10.7 m[16-18].



Figure 6: Residential building of Shokirov Karimdzhon.

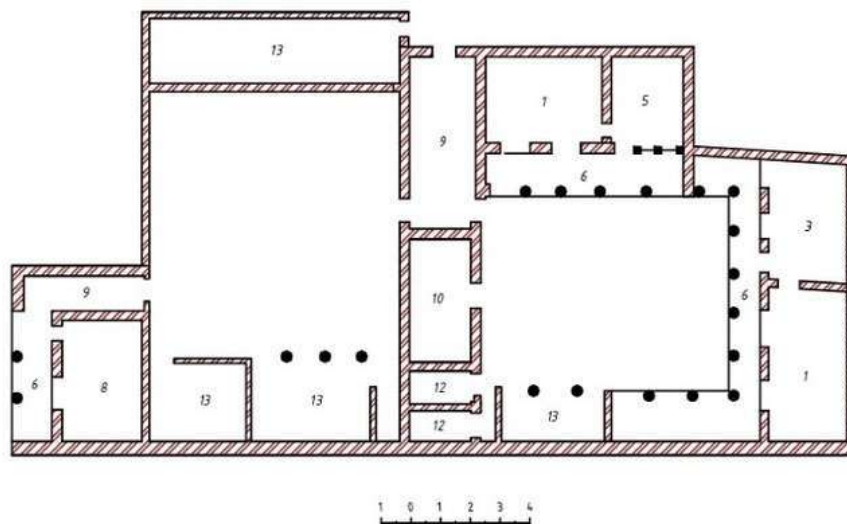
According to photographs and measurements by E. Korayev in 1979, Omonov Yesonboy's house was rectangular, with a flat adobe-framed ceiling and double-framed walls (kush sinch). It consisted of several living rooms (mekhmonkhona), a veranda (ayvon), and a kitchen (oshkhona). A notable feature of this house was its sliding shutters (ravan) – one of which opened onto the veranda (ayvan), and the other onto the living room (mekhmonkhona). The kitchen was equipped with a chimney, a fireplace, and a tandoor (photo 7 and drawing). Overall dimensions: 29.7 x 8.0 meters. Unfortunately, this house has not survived to this day[19-23].



1 – room (khona); 5 – ayvan-kashgarcha; 2 – ayvan; 8 – mekhmonkhona; 10 – kitchen (oshkhona). According to the plan of E.Karaev, archive of the Institute of Art IA(m)K21 № 1018/4



Figure 7: Omonov Esonboy house (not preserved).



1 – room (khona), 2 – ayvon, 3 – corridor (dahliz), 4 – sufa, 5 – ayvon-kashgarcha, 6 – peshayvon, 7 – chorkhari khona, 8 – guest room (mekhmonkhona), 9 – corridor (dalon or yolak), 10 – kitchen (oshkhona), 11 – storeroom (kaznok), 12 – toilet, washbasin, 13 – other utility rooms



Photo 8: Safokhon Khoshimov's house (late 19th century) (not preserved). Exterior in 1970, according to a plan by Kh.Pulatov, Institute of Arts archive IP88№874/7[24].

Conclusion

- The house of Omonboy Baba Ismailov is a traditional example of vernacular residential architecture of the Tashkent region from the late 19th century;
- The houses of Zimfira Kabirova, Abdurakhmon Abdullaev, Yesonboy Omonov, and Karimjon Shokirov are considered examples of the “Kashgar” type of vernacular residential architecture of the late 19th-20th centuries in the Tashkent region;
- A distinctive feature of the Shokirjon Komolov house is the central location of the inn (mehmonkhona);
- The house of Karimkhan Khatamov is an architectural masterpiece of vernacular residential architecture of the late 19th century in the Tashkent region, featuring a unique ceiling design, very rare construction techniques, and a desire to ensure border security, typical of mountainous and foothill areas.

Cloud houses, located in foothill areas, are built as single-story buildings on large, regular-shaped plots. They are relatively unadorned, have a somewhat simpler appearance, and more attention is given to auxiliary buildings: the barn, the jvazkhana, etc. Often, kashgarcha ravanas were built between living rooms, and a veranda (ayvan) was built in front of them. The walls of residential houses in Oblik were also constructed with double-frame walls (kush sinch). Therefore, shelf-niches (tokcha) were located along the perimeter of the interior. The size of the

house, the composition, and the furnishings of the rooms depended on the social and property status of the owner. The interiors of the rooms were usually decorated as follows: shelves for household items were placed in the crevices of the tokcha walls, ceilings were located in the upper part of the room, and the ceiling was made of beams that were not covered, as this was considered beautiful in itself. Along with this commonality of houses in the Tashkent region of the 19th and early 20th centuries, houses in Oblik had their own local characteristics. When comparing the layout of residential buildings in Oblik from the early 19th and early 20th centuries with the layout of individual residential buildings built in the past, a number of important changes can be noted. Some layout features (the presence of an aywan, sufa, etc.) are still used today. The division of the courtyard into an inner (ichkari) and outer (tashkari) courtyard is rare today. New features have also emerged, such as the construction of a courtyard with a single inner courtyard. This study also draws on rare and little-studied archival sources (the “passport” of E.Karaev, Kh.Pulatov, and others in 1978-79) and the author’s fieldwork. As a result, residential buildings from the 19th and early 20th centuries were identified that have not been included in scholarly research and are distinguished by unique architectural and artistic features.

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