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Historical Formation and Present Significance of Single-Storey Residential Buildings in Samarkand City

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Abstract

This article provides a brief overview of the history of the city of Samarkand, the historical formation of Samarkand's architecture, and the history, current role, and significance of single-story residential buildings. It also presents some recommendations, opinions, and considerations for the comprehensive development of the city.

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Introduction

Samarkand is one of the most ancient and cultural cities in Central Asia, famous for its rich history, architectural and educational monuments. Residential buildings are of great importance in the history of the city, reflecting not only the living conditions of their time, but also the economic and social development of Samarkand [1]. Single-storey residential buildings also embody the unique features of traditional Samarkand architecture.

Scientists such as **A.Yu.Yakubov** , **Sh.K.Dzhurayev , A.Munavvarov, Shukhrat Rakhimov, Oktam Rakhimov , Abdulla Turobov** made a great contribution to the study of Samarkand architecture and the peculiarities of its residential areas [2]. They are scientists who studied the architectural monuments of Samarkand and its surroundings , in particular, the shape and structure of residential buildings in architectural monuments [3].

The aim of this article is to trace the historical formation of single-storey residential buildings in Samarkand, to assess their present role and significance, and to propose recommendations for the development of the city. The tasks are: (1) to describe the formation of single-storey dwellings in the main historical periods of the city; (2) to determine their significance today; and (3) to identify the urban-planning problems that affect them and to formulate recommendations.

Methods

The study is a historical-analytical review. It is based on the published works on the architecture of Samarkand and on the peculiarities of its residential areas mentioned in the Introduction, on textbooks and handbooks on architectural design and on the typology of residential and public buildings, on official publications, and on online resources, all of which are listed in the references.

The material was grouped chronologically into the ancient period, the period of Islamic architecture, the era of Amir Temur and the Timurids, the Russian Empire and Soviet period, and the period of independence. For each period the location of the dwellings, the building materials, the construction techniques and the social role of single-storey houses were described. The present role of these houses and the urban-planning problems of the city were then assessed in order to formulate recommendations.

Results

In the ancient history of Samarkand, namely in the 7th-6th centuries BC, the settlements within the city were different, built mainly of stone. At that time, the city was protected by walls and strong fortresses, and these settlements were different from the rural areas, which required agricultural labor [4].

Samarkand has a history of almost three thousand years , and the formation of settlements dates back mainly to ancient times. Due to its geographical location and location at the crossroads of trade routes, the city was formed by the fusion of different cultures and architectural styles [5]. The settlements in Samarkand, especially during the Islamic period, were built in a unique style, combining local traditions and elements of oriental architecture.

In the ancient parts of Samarkand, single-story dwellings were built mainly of masonry materials (raw brick, fired brick , soil, sand). They were built using wood beams, and in some buildings, the layered laying technique was used [6]. These dwellings were often located in narrow streets and are associated with social and economic processes that transformed the city [7].

With the arrival of Islam in Samarkand (7th century), urban architecture reached a new level . During this period, the city underwent many cultural changes, as a result of which many mosques , madrasas , and baths were built. Single-story residential buildings were more simple , but they incorporated many factors into the modern urban structure [8]. During this period, residential buildings usually had a unique design , and the use of alternative materials, including raw brick , baked brick , natural stone, wood, and other natural

resources, was widely used.

During the Timurid period, the urban planning and architecture of Samarkand underwent major changes. Although many large-scale constructions began in the city center , the formation of single-story residential buildings continued in the vicinity and surrounding areas. During this period, simpler but more practical dwellings were available for many citizens [9]. Dwellings were usually built of raw brick , baked brick, natural stone, wood and other natural materials, and were decorated with large windows and terraces.

By the 19th century, Samarkand had become part of the Russian Empire, and new approaches to urban planning had emerged [10]. New single-story dwellings, streets, and parks were built within the city , improving the living conditions of the population. During this period, the modernization of the city intensified.

The city of Samarkand during the period of independence, that is, after 1991, underwent significant changes in its architecture and urban planning. Mainly, new housing construction and reconstruction of existing buildings have begun. Many old buildings, including single-story dwellings, have been renovated, but single-story houses are still common, especially in areas outside the center.

Today, the city of Samarkand is famous worldwide for its historical heritage and cultural monuments. Single-storey residential buildings preserve many historical monuments of architecture [11]. Most of them differ from village houses in terms of their architecture and unique design, location and construction style.

Single-story residential buildings often serve as a place of residence for the population due to their simplicity and low cost. These dwellings are important mainly for low-income families and ordinary citizens. Also, these dwellings, due to their economy and modern infrastructure, create a comfortable living environment for many residents.

Currently, urban planning processes are ongoing in Samarkand, and single-story residential buildings are being reconstructed in **many** areas. These reconstruction works will serve not only to improve residential areas, but also to modernize the city, build new areas, and improve living conditions. In the process of preserving the city and renewing it for future generations, single-story residential buildings will not **lose their** historical significance **[12]**.

Discussion

One-story residential buildings of Samarkand city **occupy a special place with their** historical and cultural significance . They not only demonstrate the uniqueness of Samarkand architecture **,** but also reflect the living conditions, economic and social life of the city's population. Today, these residential buildings are of great importance in terms of urban planning, reconstruction and preservation of cultural heritage **[13]**.

The review shows continuity in the history of single-storey housing in Samarkand. In every period such houses were built of locally available materials, were located mainly on narrow streets and on the outskirts of the city, away from the large-scale construction in the centre, and served as simpler but more practical dwellings for ordinary citizens. This explains their present value: they remain affordable housing for low-income families, and their architecture, design, location and construction style distinguish them from village houses and preserve the character of the historical city.

At the same time, the growth of the city’s population and the increasing construction of multi-storey residential buildings are changing the city’s infrastructure and give rise to air pollution, ecological and geological, economic and social problems, and above all road and transport problems [14]. Reconstruction should therefore both modernise residential areas and preserve the historical significance of single-storey buildings.

Since Samarkand is one of the ancient and historical cities, the location of single-story residential buildings and buildings in this area is of interest to foreign and local tourists visiting our country. The architecture of single-story residential buildings and the daily lifestyle, living conditions, economic, cultural

and social life of the population living in these houses attract the attention of tourists. Taking this into account, the reconstruction of existing single-story residential buildings in the city and their preservation for future generations is one of the eternal goals and tasks of us architects. In recent years, the growth rate of the city's population has increased sharply , and the construction of multi-story residential buildings in the city is also increasing [15]. As a result, the city's infrastructure has changed, and air pollution, ecological and geological, economic and social, mainly road and road transport problems are increasing. Of course, today we are witnessing the fact that such problems concern many cities in the world. Considering these problems, we have developed the following recommendations.

First: Since Samarkand is a historical city, sharply restrict the construction of multi-storey buildings, as a result of which air pollution, ecological and geological, economic and social problems, mainly related to roads and road transport, will be prevented, and a safe and healthy lifestyle will be formed.

Secondly: Reconstructing the appearance of all buildings and structures in accordance with the standards of the historical city and constructing new ones, as a result of which the processes of visiting the city of Samarkand by tourists from all over the world and local regions and the impressions they form will be correctly formed.

Third: Rather than building luxury buildings in the city, build simple, traditional, one-story buildings, which will ensure that the infrastructure of roads and sidewalks is flat, smooth, and up to world standards, and prevent traffic congestion.

The study is descriptive and is based on general published sources. It does not include a field survey, measurements, or statistical data on the number and condition of single-storey houses in Samarkand, and the recommendations reflect the authors' judgement. They should be supported by further urban-planning, ecological and transport studies, which should also identify the shortcomings that cause serious problems in the city.

Conclusion

The article has traced the historical formation of single-storey residential buildings in Samarkand and assessed their present significance. These houses, built of local materials such as raw and fired brick, soil, sand, natural stone and wood, reflect the living conditions and the economic and social life of the city's population, embody the features of traditional Samarkand architecture, attract the attention of local and foreign tourists, and remain important for low-income families and ordinary citizens.

On this basis three recommendations were made for the comprehensive development of the city: to restrict sharply the construction of multi-storey buildings in the historical city; to reconstruct the appearance of buildings and structures in accordance with the standards of a historical city; and to build simple, traditional single-storey buildings rather than luxury ones, which will also ensure well-kept roads and sidewalks and prevent traffic congestion. Further research should identify the shortcomings that cause serious problems in the city.

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