

ARCHITECTURE OF MARGIANA AND BACTRIA

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Annotatsiya: *Article is discussing the problems of formation and development of ancient architecture in the territory of Central Asia. Archaeologists' discoveries made from Bronze and early Iron Age relics merit particular attention because they enable us to answer a number of questions as to the origin and development of building types in South Central Asia.*

Kalit so'zlar: *Margiana, Bactria, Bronze Age*

Margiana and Bactria are the oldest centers of civilization in Central Asia. The architectural and construction art of Margiana and Bactria deserves close study, since the process of the emergence and evolution of architectural ideas, originating in the Bronze Age, served to form and develop the architectural and urban art of the peoples of Central Asia in subsequent eras. Some researchers call these areas the "Turanian civilization of Bactria and Margiana in the 2nd millennium BC" (5). The architectural-planning and artistic-compositional solutions of the ancient masters subsequently spread throughout the vast territory of Central Asia, and also influenced the development of architectural art in the neighboring countries of Western Asia. The study and comparison of the ancient architecture of the countries of Western and Central Asia shows that they have many similar features. This indicates the existence of an exchange of architectural ideas between the architects of ancient civilizations and the use of the achievements of the construction art of some peoples by neighboring peoples.

In ancient times, Margiana was located in the valley of the Murgab River, and Bactria was located on both sides of the upper reaches of the Amu Darya. The emergence and development of ancient agricultural cultures in the south of Central Asia contributed to the formation of a unique architectural and construction art at the end of the 3rd - beginning of the 2nd millennium BC in these regions (5). The results of extensive archaeological excavations in the territory of Margiana and Bactria indicate the existence of a proto-urban civilization in these regions during the Bronze Age. Archaeologists have discovered many interesting architectural monuments of the Bronze and Early Iron Ages, which have shed light on the evolution of Central Asian architecture. The identified remains of civil and religious buildings make it possible to examine the development of architectural, planning and compositional solutions of buildings and structures and to trace the continuity in the development of architecture. The architecture of Margiana and Bactria includes civil, religious and defense buildings and structures. The basis of our research is an analysis of the development of architectural and planning principles of the Bronze Age in these regions and a comparison of monuments with similar buildings in neighboring countries. The earliest mention of Margiana is contained in the ancient book of Zoroastrians Avesto, where this country is called Moure (Maurv). The mention of Margiana as the country of Morgush was preserved in the Behistun inscription of the Achaemenid period, compiled during the reign of King Darius 1. The Greek authors Isidore of Charak, Strabo and Ptolemy mention in their works Margiana, a country that the Greek conquerors describe as one of the centers of ancient Eastern civilization (1). Data from archaeological excavations indicate that by the end of the second millennium BC. on the territory of Margiana, a state with centralized power flourished and perhaps there was a writing system

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similar to Mesopotamian (1). Margiana is distinguished by its high construction culture, evidence of which is the monuments excavated by archaeologists. The main building material was clay, from which mud bricks were made. Architecturally, buildings and structures are distinguished by clear geometric shapes, strict symmetry and thoughtful planning solutions. In the settlements, artisan quarters were formed, where ceramic production was developed and it was possible to make tools from bronze and iron alloys. Builders, stone cutters and jewelers were also distinguished by their skill. The basis of the settlements are civil buildings, which can be divided into ordinary and secular architecture. Ordinary architecture consists of residential buildings and commercial and residential complexes. In the Bronze Age, residential complexes, which consisted of residential and outbuildings united by common courtyards, were widespread. In terms of planning, residential complexes represent a group of buildings - blocks inside a large rectangular courtyard, surrounded by two rows of high walls. Between these walls there was a bypass corridor consisting of narrow and elongated rooms. Residential premises differed from outbuildings by the presence of fireplaces, which were most often located in the masonry of the walls. Excavations of the Kelleli-4 and Kelleli-6 settlements show that the economic and residential blocks in plan are rectangular rooms located in a semicircle. The buildings are built of raw clay - pakhsa and the outside is plastered with clay coating.

The layout of the economic and residential complex excavated in the Kelleli-4 settlement is peculiar. The square-shaped complex has dimensions of 29.5x29.5 meters in plan. Along the perimeter of the courtyard, two rows of perimeter walls were erected, between which there were long corridor-like rooms. The thickness of the outer wall is 1 meter, and the inner one is 0.3 meters. The complex is built of mud brick with clay mortar and the walls have clay plaster. The internal development of the complex consists of 2 and 3 room blocks, in which there are passage rooms connecting the rooms. There is a fireplace in one of the rooms of the block. In the northern part of the courtyard complex, larger hearths were discovered, which were possibly used for economic and production purposes. The complex in Kelleli-4 has a clear orientation according to the cardinal points. The southern facade is decorated with two towers, between which the only entrance to the complex is located. In the middle of the other three facades there are rectangular towers that extend beyond the main square building. All towers of the complex are connected to the interior buildings. G.A. Pugachenkova described the architectural and planning composition of Kelleli-4 as “a courtyard surrounded by one row of rooms” (2). The type of architectural and planning composition formed in this complex subsequently became widespread not only in Margiana, but also in other neighboring countries. The architectural planning composition of the Kelleli-6 settlement is very similar to the general composition of the Bactrian settlement of Dashly-3. In Dashly-3, a circular building is built around the central courtyard space, which in turn is enclosed in a huge rectangle surrounded by high perimeter walls. The further development of this principle of development of an economic and residential complex can be traced in the settlement of Togolok-21. The architectural complex Togolok-21 in plan consists of three rectangles inscribed into each other, each of which is surrounded by powerful fortress walls. The overall dimensions of the outer rectangle are 140x100 meters. There are round towers in the southeast and southwest corners. Along the perimeter of the walls there are also semicircular towers, two on each side. The middle rectangle also has a similar layout. The central core of the complex is the third rectangle, inside which there is a dense regular building. In the center of the building there is a rectangular courtyard, with large entrance openings on all four sides. G.A. Pugachenkova described the architectural and planning composition of Togolok-21 “as a composition with a central element in a perimeter or three-sided outline” (4). The rectangular fortress walls are inscribed into each other in such a way that bypass courtyard spaces are formed on three sides of the inner and middle rectangles.



The same planning technique was used in the central part of the building, the main rectangle around the courtyard, covered on three sides by a bypass corridor. The courtyard in the central part of the interior of the Togolok temples is similar to the courtyard of the Altyn-10 complex in Bactria. The layout composition with rounded towers at the corners can also be seen in the settlement of Dashly-1 in Bactria, as well as in the Gonur-1 temple complex. The second period of the existence of the Togolok-21 settlement was marked by the emergence of residential buildings between the enclosing walls of the complex. It consists of multi-room blocks located close to each other. The entire building is adjacent to the enclosing walls of the temple complex, which simultaneously serve as one of the walls of many premises of the residential building. There are also longitudinal fences that divide this dense development into individual houses with utility yards. This can be seen especially clearly in the eastern part of the complex, between the outer and middle enclosing walls. It can be concluded that in the second period of its existence, residential and utility premises were built here

But unlike Kelleli-4 and Kelleli-6, Togolok-21 does not have a strict principle for planning the utility and residential block. This is due to the fact that the main attention was paid to the construction of the temple itself, and ordinary buildings were subsequently only attached to it. The question of why residential premises were built on the territory of the temple and who lived in them still remains open. The considered examples make it possible to determine the characteristic features of the residential architecture of Margiana of the Bronze Age. Residential architecture is distinguished by the type of multi-room massif houses, the tradition of which dates back to the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages. The residential architecture of Margiana should be considered as the next stage in the development of the ancient architecture of Central Asia and possibly the entire vast region of Western Asia. The features of this architecture can be traced in the Namazga culture, where several array houses with rooms arranged around a square courtyard were identified. In residential buildings in Margiana, the formation of space-planning solutions begins, which later become widespread in religious and secular architecture (3). The features of secular architecture can be seen using the example of the Gonur-1 Palace. The palace is an almost square-shaped building with plan dimensions of 120x125 meters, which has a strict orientation to the cardinal points. The square courtyard is surrounded by powerful fortress walls with a bypass corridor. Entrance openings are located in the middle of all four façade sides. On all external walls, at the same distance from each other, there are rectangular towers, two on both sides of the entrance opening, which rhythmically dissect the facades. The corners of the building are also flanked by rectangular towers. All towers of the palace are connected by passages with a bypass corridor. On the inside of the outer wall of the fortress, pilasters were built at a distance of three meters from each other. On the outer fortress wall there are arrow embrasures for archers. The strengthening of the fortress wall with pilasters and the presence of embrasures indicate that the palace also performed defensive functions. The courtyard of the palace is densely built, consisting of rectangular rooms. The composition of the palace plan highlights a monumental central core, which may have been the residence of the rulers. On the northern side of the residence, opposite the entrance door of the fortress, there is a small platform. In plan, the central residence consists of regular rectangular rooms and halls, narrow corridors and open courtyards. In the middle of the wide entrance openings to the residence there are pillars that resemble medieval ivans with one column in the middle. The presence of columns added a special solemnity to the interior of the palace premises and courtyards. The famous researcher of ancient architecture of Central Asia V.I. Sarianidi notes the similarity of the Gonur-1 palace with the Mari palace, located in the north of Mesopotamia (in the territory of modern Syria). (2). According to the hypothesis of V.I. Sarianidi in ancient times there was a migration of ancient agricultural culture from the borders of Northern Mesopotamia to Central Asia



and the migrating population brought with them architectural traditions. Despite the existence of such a hypothesis, many researchers are inclined to be of the opinion that the Gonur-1 palace demonstrates the development of local architectural and planning ideas dating back to the Namazga culture.

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