

HISTORY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KARMANA PALACE OF THE BUKHARA EMIRATE

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Abstract: This article analyzes the construction history, political significance, economic role, and cultural role of the palace, located approximately 110 km northwest of the Amir's residence in the Bukhara oasis, as a result of the political structure of the Mangit emirs in the 19th and 20th centuries, based on historical sources. The main attention was paid to revealing the key role of the Karmana Palace in the history and life of the Bukhara Emirate.

Keywords: Central Asia, history of construction, construction styles, political processes, economic situation, cultural center, Emirate, dual style, ensemble style, social significance

Introduction In the history of the Bukhara Emirate, palaces and garden residences played a central role in the political, social and cultural life of the rulers. This article is devoted to the construction history, architectural features, political and cultural role of the Karmana Palace - one of the summer residences that existed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries - and its subsequent development. The article provides comments based on S. Ainiy, A. Vambery, G.A. Pugachenkova, M.E. Masson and other historical sources.

Karmana - a geostrategic and cultural center Karmana was considered one of the economic and strategic centers of Bukhara and the surrounding valleys. Its natural conditions, water sources and the fertility of the land attracted the attention of the emirs. The city of Karmana and its surrounding gardens were convenient for the emirs as a summer residence not far from the village, but away from the city heat.

Vambery's observations and especially the 19th-century tradition of summer palaces indicate the importance of Karmana. Karmana was also a convenient location for controlling the region through caravan routes and local districts. These aspects led to its selection as a summer residence for rulers such as Abdullahad Khan.

Reasons for construction and sources of financing The main reasons for the construction of the Karmana Palace were: climatic factors (to escape the hot summer weather of Bukhara), political demand (to provide the emirs with an autonomous place of work outside the city), and foreign policy (to maintain relations with the Russian Empire, to create favorable conditions for receiving foreign delegations).

Financing was carried out through the traditional emirate budget, taxes and voluntary donations from local landowners, and special construction funds. According to the emirate archives, some high-ranking

officials also allocated funds for the palace, in return for which they were allocated hotel rooms in the palace.

The construction process and the craftsmen involved Construction began in the late 1880s - early 1890s. Local bricklayers, plasterers, woodcarvers and carpenters actively participated in the construction. The construction project was supervised by special inspectors of the emirate, and sometimes materials and qualified specialists were involved from Russia to introduce elements of foreign style.

Among the masters mentioned in historical sources are such names as Muhammad Rahim and Rahmatullah. Their work was reflected in the palace decorations, plasterwork and woodworking products. The materials used in the construction included local brick, marble, fine plaster and sometimes metal elements (such as bronze chandeliers).

Architectural solutions and planning The Karmana Palace belongs to the traditional oriental palace composition, consisting of a central courtyard, rooms and halls around it, a roof and a veranda. The building is two-story, with the lower floor reserved for service and utility rooms, storerooms and guards; the upper floor was intended for the emir and his entourage.

Around the central courtyard there is a marble pool and fountain, which served as a cooling effect on the internal microclimate during the hot summer days, as well as a decorative function. The gardens around the pool are decorated with fruit trees, flowers and tropical crops, and in some places there are references to the keeping of exotic birds, and sometimes even elephants or ponies.

Interior decoration and artistic developments The interior decoration of the Karmana Palace is famous for its traditional Islamic patterns, ganch carvings, tile work and wood carving elements. Some rooms have walls completely covered with glass, called the "glass room" - this element can also be found in other palaces, such as Sitorai Moxi Khossa and Shirbudun.

European elements such as mirrored rooms, Parisian carpets and bronze chandeliers indicate the palace's openness to international relations. This harmony combines the delicate decorative traditions of the East with European furniture and technical styles.

Cultural and political functions The Karmana Palace was not only the personal residence of the emir, but also a place used for foreign policy and diplomacy. Meetings of Russian generals, meetings with representatives sent from nearby provinces were held in the palace. This place also served as a center for major holidays, traditional holidays such as Navruz and Mehrjan.

The palace hosted large-scale performances with the participation of national musicians, dancers, drummers and clowns. Such events played an important role in maintaining political awareness, cultural identity and social harmony for the local population. When we compare the palaces of Karmana, Shirbudun and Sitorai Mokhi Khossa, each of them reveals its own unique features. Shirbudun is more typical of the era of Emir Muzaffar Khan, distinguished by its appearance and large gardens; Sitorai Mokhi Khossa showed a strong influence of European architecture. Karmana represents a harmony between the two - preserving national traditions while adopting modern elements.

The place of Karmana Palace in the life of the people was also of particular importance: it was the center

of folk festivals and celebrations that attracted not only the upper class, but also the general public. Subsequent fate, loss and potential for restoration The events of the early 20th century, especially in the 1920s, radically changed the functions of the Karmana Palace. The palace was reused for military or administrative needs, decorative elements were looted or destroyed. During the Soviet period, some buildings were demolished, and some parts were rebuilt and adapted for other purposes. Currently, the remains of the palace are not fully preserved, but with the help of archaeological and historical research, as well as the memories of the local population, its planning and capabilities can be restored. The following are important for restoration projects: archaeological research, re-study of historical sources, cooperation with local craftsmen and the involvement of international experts.

Conclusions and recommendations The Karmana Palace is a vivid example of the architectural heritage of the Bukhara Emirate. It is of great importance not only as a monument, but also as a cultural identity and tourism resource. Through restoration and preservation, this place can not only preserve history, but also serve to develop local economic and cultural life. It is recommended: to organize archaeological expeditions in the Karmana area, to register existing remains, to study in depth historical documents (archives), and to develop a restoration project in cooperation with local and international experts. It is also possible to increase the tourist potential of the area by involving the local community.

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