

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AK-SARAY PALACE DURING THE REIGN OF AMIR TEMUR AND ITS POLITICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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| ABSTRACT | KEYWORDS |
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| <p>This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the construction process, architectural design, and political, military, and cultural significance of the Oqsaroy majmuasi built during the reign of Amir Temur. The study aims to examine the palace not only as an architectural monument but also as a complex socio-political institution that reflects the state-building strategies and ideological foundations of the Timurid Empire.</p> <p>The research is based on a combination of historical-analytical and comparative methods, utilizing both primary historical sources and modern scholarly literature. Particular attention is given to the technological aspects of construction, including foundation engineering, water supply systems, and structural organization. The findings reveal that the Ak-Saray Palace was constructed using advanced engineering techniques for its time, such as layered foundations with water stabilization, long-distance water transportation systems, and fortified defensive towers.</p> | <p>Ak-Saray, Amir Temur, Timurid period, architecture, palace architecture, urban planning, monumental construction, engineering innovations, water supply systems, Shahrisabz, historical monument, political center, cultural heritage.</p> |

Introduction

In the history of Central Asia, the Timurid period stands out for its highly developed architectural and urban planning traditions. The monumental structures built during this era not only fulfilled practical functions but also symbolized political power and aesthetic ideals. One of the most remarkable examples of such architecture is the Ak-Saray Palace¹.

The construction of the palace was closely connected with the state-building policy of Amir Temur, serving as his main political residence². This structure holds an important place in history not only as an architectural masterpiece but also as a political and cultural center of the Timurid state.

¹ O‘zbekiston Milliy ensiklopediyasi. Article on Ak-Saray. — Tashkent, 2005.

² Sharaf ad-Din Ali Yazdi. Zafarnama. — Tashkent: Fan, 1972.

The main objective of this study is to analyze the construction process, architectural characteristics, and socio-political significance of the Ak-Saray Palace.

Methods

This study employs historical-analytical, comparative, and systematic approaches. In addition, a source-based analysis of historical works and scientific literature was conducted. The material provided by the user was also used as a primary source.

Results

The findings indicate that the construction of the Ak-Saray Palace began in the late 14th century and lasted for many years. Craftsmen from various regions participated in the construction, demonstrating the existence of international architectural exchange during the Timurid period³.

The foundation of the palace was built using advanced techniques. Trenches were dug and filled with water, followed by layers of sand and reeds to prevent subsidence.

The complex consisted of three main parts: the reception hall, the courtyard with a fountain, and the main residence⁴. This layout reflects a well-organized and functionally structured architectural design. The fountain system and water supply infrastructure represent significant engineering achievements of the time. Water was transported over long distances through ceramic pipes, indicating a high level of technological development⁵.

Additionally, the palace had tall and fortified towers that served defensive and observational purposes, highlighting its military-strategic importance⁶.

Furthermore, the Spanish ambassador Rui Gonsales de Klavixo provided valuable descriptions of the palace in his travel accounts, which further confirm its historical significance⁷.

Discussion

The Ak-Saray Palace played a crucial role in the political, military, and cultural life of the Timurid state. Its construction demonstrated the economic strength and political authority of the empire, while its architectural solutions reflected the advanced scientific and technical thinking of the time.

The water supply system, communication methods, and defensive structures indicate a highly developed administrative and security system. These features were essential for effective governance and state stability.

Moreover, the palace functioned as a cultural center where official ceremonies, receptions, and state events were held. This underscores its importance not only as a political institution but also as a social and cultural hub.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Ak-Saray Palace is one of the most significant architectural monuments of the Timurid period. It embodies political authority, military strategy, and cultural values.

³ Ahmedov B. A. Amir Temur and His Era. — Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1996.

⁴ Azimov I. Architecture of the Timurid Period. — Tashkent: Fan, 2005.

⁵ UNESCO. Materials on the Historic Center of Shahrisabz. — Paris, 2000.

⁶ Vasily Bartold. Turkestan in the Era of the Mongol Invasion. — Tashkent: Fan, 1963.

⁷ Rui Gonsales de Klavixo. Embassy to Tamerlane. — Tashkent: Sharq, 1999.

The study of this monument provides deeper insight into the development of architecture and statehood in Central Asia. Even today, Ak-Saray remains an important historical and cultural heritage site with great scholarly value.

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