



MEDIEVAL URBAN PLANNING OF OLD TERMEZ AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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Annotation

The article provides scientific information about the developed medieval cities of Central Asia and their architectural structures, types of architectural structures and their main features, methods of decoration.

Keywords: Medieval, urban planning, architecture, Old Termez, archeological monuments, pottery, architectural structures, defensive structures, their types.

Introduction

The architectural structures of Central Asia of the IX-XII centuries were built in two directions. They are divided into monumental public buildings and civil buildings. The first group includes city forts, defensive walls, mosques, madrasas, mausoleums, minarets, minarets, sardobas, bridges, dams, waterworks, roads and irrigation facilities, while the second group includes civil construction, mainly housing. The architecture of Central Asia from the beginning of the XI-XII-XIII centuries is historically called classical architecture. Because the architecture of this period is rich in decorative, beautiful islami and girih style ornaments, built on a festive character on the basis of quality building materials. Termez is one of the medieval trade and handicraft centers of Central Asia. In the 10th and 11th centuries, its area was 500 hectares. According to numismatic data, the city was founded in the III-II centuries BC. On the site of the old Termez there are archeological and architectural monuments of its ancient and medieval culture. In the Middle Ages, Termez, like all cities, had its own fortress - a fortress, a shahrستان and two rabbs. The fact that Old Termez is surrounded by three rows of defensive walls means that its defensive fortifications are extremely strong. The ruins of ancient Termez are 7 km from the present-day city of Termez. northwest, along the left bank of the Amudarya. Its area exceeds 500 hectares. In the Middle Ages, Termez, like other cities in Central Asia, was a large trade and handicraft center with a fortress, a shahrستان and 2 rabats. Every part of the city is surrounded by special defensive walls. The oldest part of the





city is located on the banks of the Amudarya, which is built on a natural hill composed of sand and stone. The castle is rectangular in shape and covers an area of 10 hectares. Initially, this area of the fortress formed the core of the city. Over time, the city expanded and its ancient territory became a fortress. The castle wall is 470 meters south-west along the river bank. Its north-western wall is 230 meters long. In the summer of 2011, archeological excavations were carried out in the north-western part of the castle. The size of the excavated area is 60x10 meters. The city fort has strong defensive structures, mainly because it houses the palace of the rulers, temples and administrative buildings. The thickness of the castle wall is 7-8 meters, the height is 18-20 meters. The construction of the castle on a hill was of particular importance. The hill served as a natural defense structure for the city and gained its defenses several times. Currently, the height of the castle in some places is more than 20 meters. Due to its location on a natural hill, the fortress is called "Kohandiz" in historical sources, and the impregnable fortress is known as "Madinat ul rijal" ("city of the brave"). The scientific confirmation of the 2,500-year-old city of Termez has also been confirmed by archeological finds from the fortress. Of course, the scientific research of archeologist Sh.R.Pidaev inside the fortress in 1971-1986 is very important. During excavations in 2011, a 60x10 meter section of the wall was excavated. The height of the excavation is 8-10 meters. There are defensive towers every 20-25 meters of the castle wall. One of the towers and its interior room were opened and explored. When the upper part of the castle wall was cleaned, the remains of a semicircular minaret of the XVI-XVII centuries were found here. Although this tower is built of baked brick, it is built on a very soft layer. The radius of the late medieval semicircular constellation is 3.5 m. The remains of the surviving tower range from 1 to 1.20 meters. It is built of baked brick measuring 27x27x5 cm. When the inside of the tower was cleared, a recent interior room appeared. Its wall thickness is 1x1.10 meters, the length of the room is 3.5 m and the width is about 1.90 m. The last period defense tower was built on the surface and foundation of a defensive structure and room of the X-XII centuries. The developed medieval room is built of bricks measuring 30x30x6 cm and is 4x4 m, built for easy defense, although it is not fully open, the outer sides and thickness of the wall are very clear. The wall is 1 m thick and the north side of the room is rhombic. This wall also penetrated into the last period tower at a depth of 1.50-1.70 m and is very well preserved. To the east of the tower, recorded at a depth of 2.5 m above the excavation relief: a wall and interior of a brick building of the X-XII centuries were discovered. The thickness of this wall is 3 x 1.5 m. The interior of the room and the stage are made of baked bricks measuring 30x30x5 cm. Only one corner of this room has been studied, so its scale will be studied





in future studies. Between the tower of the last period and the wall of the X-XII centuries there is a pit with a flange d-36 and a height of 75 cm and a porch column (d-20 cm) with various finds. There is a cultural layer between the tower and the defensive wall, which is 2 m thick and 6 m long. There is a second wall at a depth of 2.10 m from the rapper. Hum and pit are located 3.20 m below the rapper. The radius of the late medieval watchtower is 3.5 m, d -7 m. Fragments of dark-green, dark-blue thick-walled pottery were found in the late medieval watchtower and its interior. The bases of the pottery have mainly ring-shaped, flat shapes, which were widespread in the late Middle Ages. The top of the inside and outside of the dishes are glazed. Their interior is decorated in dark brown, dark green, and the ornaments consist of plant flowers, geometric and zoomorphic pieces. During this period, the quality of both technological and decorative methods of ceramics decreases. The 2nd wall mentioned above actually dates back to the X-XII centuries and was found under an old layer 2.10 m thick. It is 13.5 m long and 2.5 m thick. At the base of this wall lies a huge majestic defensive tower. There is a large room above this building. The size of the room is 3x2 m. The continuation of this room wall continues to the east. On the east side of the first wall were found brick walls of the same orientation but of different widths. The size of baked bricks is 30x30x6 cm, raw bricks are 35x35x9 cm. They are located 4.20 m below the rapper. The thickness of this wall ranges from 1.70 to 2 m. Coins, chandeliers, ceramics of various assortments, stone cauldrons and others were found on this wall. The lower of the second wall is 4.20 m below the rapper. Between the first and second walls there is a gap of 11 m in length and 20 cm in width. Although the edges of the second wall are made of baked bricks, in the middle there are raw bricks measuring 30x30x6 cm. This is a characteristic feature of the construction of large-scale defense facilities. The inside of the wall is well preserved but there are some changes in its outside direction. Therefore, the wall thickness is 1.20-1.50 m, in some places up to 1.65 m. The wall of the outer tower, which was preserved at the same height as the second wall, was connected to the inner room. This wall is built around the inner wall of the room. This room and the tower are attached to the base of the castle wall, which rises to a height of 9 m, as part of the defensive structure of the X-XII centuries. In this room were found thin-walled ceramic vessels of the X-XII centuries, jugs, bowls, lamps, bows and copper coins of the Karakhanid period. The size of the room is 1.75x3.50 m. But the room scene looks like a hallway with a staircase. The east side of the room is connected to the arched wall of the castle on the south side of the tower with a thickness of 2 m. Its north-western wall is 70 cm thick. The wall is made of baked brick measuring 25x25x5 cm, the surface of which is plastered with straw clay. On the outside of this room, too, a wall of 30 cm thickness





belonging to the last period has been preserved. From here, fragments of medieval Kufic inscriptions (printed ornaments) were found that developed between the walls. To the east of the lower tower there is a thick wall 14.6 m long and 1.30-1.80 m wide. This is the third wall, which is located 9 m below the rafter. This wall is made of 25x25x, 5 cm bricks, the basis of which is a sloping first medieval raw brick and cotton. In recent years, the Uzbek-French international archeological expedition in Old Termez has been conducting research and studying the history and structure of the construction of defensive walls and fortifications on the western side of the city. In the 90s of the last century, Sh. Rakhmonov conducted research in the western part of these defensive structures. As a result of his research, the height, width, storage position of the defensive wall, the location of the towers and the distance between them

Scientific data on the relationship were collected and published [5]. The Shahrستان district of Old Termez covers an area of about 18 hectares. The area is home to neighborhoods of traders and artisans, workshops, wide streets, and two gates, namely, northeast and southwest gates. Up to 130 meters of the defensive walls of Shahrستان were cleaned and surveyed. There are three towers in this part of the defensive wall. The distance between the towers is 40 meters. The towers are semicircular in shape, with a radius of 3.70 m and a height of 5.90 m. During the excavations of archeologist Sh. Rakhmonov, a wall of the Kushan period was found at a depth of 2.80 meters under the medieval defensive wall. The Shahrستان wall, built of cotton and cotton stalks, protected the city from attack from the west, and the Kushan period defensive wall beneath it was the eastern boundary of the ancient city. The fort of the same defensive structure is the defensive fortification of the city of the Kushan period, located on the Amudarya River. Chingiztepa, which currently occupies an area of 8 hectares, confirms our opinion. The Kushan period defensive constellations are right-angled, while the median constellations are semicircular, the medial constellations are right-angled, and the defensive constellations are distinguished by protoxyism, i.e., the first fortification that strikes the enemy in front of the defensive wall. All sides of Shahrستان are surrounded by two rows of walls. The foundation of the lower part of the defensive wall and towers is 50x35 cm; It is made of cotton blocks measuring 54x40 cm. The thickness of the upper part of the wall between the towers is 2.70 m. The direction of the wall is north-west, south-east, that is, the parts on the side of the castle are connected with the Dunyotepa monument. On top of each wall was a protoheism - a passageway to the previous defensive structure. The distance between the tower and the outer defense structure is 6.70 m. When the top of the defensive wall was cleaned, it was discovered that raw bricks had





been laid on the stage where the archers were located. The size of the bricks is 32x32x12; Consists of 30x30x10 cm. It should be noted that in the medieval defense structures, bricks of this format were taken from the Kushan period structures located on the western side.

The width of the outer wall is 2.20 m. The destruction of the Third Zodiac during the former Soviet regime can be traced back to a cold attitude towards local cultural heritage during this period. When the inner eastern side of the ruined tower was excavated, it was discovered that there were raw bricks from the early Middle Ages. Since the excavations have not been completed, the raw bricks measuring 54x27x12 cm date back to the early Middle Ages. Because they were identified at the bottom of the defensive towers. On the south-western side of the tower there is also a sheathing wall 1-1.10 meters wide. The height of the tower from the podium to the rafter is 3.70 meters. Between the second and third towers there is an under-wall corridor for guards and archers. Its length reaches 20 m, but the rest of it has not been preserved. The two-row defensive wall is connected in parallel to the city fortress, the height of the destroyed part of the defensive wall is 30-50 cm. The outer defensive wall protoheism is well preserved in front of the third tower. Its height reaches 2 meters. In short, the city of Termez, which in Arabic sources is called "Madinatul rijal", with its defensive walls, will forever go down in history as an "impregnable city" or "city of lands, heroes." The study of the defensive walls of the ancient Termez is important in determining the structure of the territory of the city in the Middle Ages, the capacity of the population, the methods of construction of defensive walls and towers, the structure of defensive parts. Until now, no matter how much the defense structures of Old Termez have been studied, its new aspects and features have become more vivid.

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