



## DESCRIPTION OF SAMARKAND CITY NODES (SOCIAL CENTER)

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### Abstract:

This article discusses the role and importance of urban planning centers in the historical formation of the city of Samarkand. Also, their structural structures, brief history and description were highlighted.

**Keywords:** Node, all-city-all-village centers, Chorsu, tim, daha, khita, guzar, neighborhood.

It is known that social centers are very important in ancient and historical cities, whether they are very old or relatively new. Usually, the general (urban or rural) center of cities or other populated areas is formed in its geometric area. In addition to the general center in populated areas, there are also special centers in some areas belonging to the components of the city.

Historical cities are divided into centers, most of which have different levels. Functionally, it would be appropriate to differentiate between city center, daha centers and neighborhood centers. From an architectural and artistic point of view, social centers take the form of various large and small complexes. For example: the city center is usually located in the center of the city, in its geometric area. In terms of the tasks assigned to them and performed, it is comprehensive and includes social, commercial and ideological tasks. The trading environment, the market, occupies an important place in it. The main bazaar is often called Chorsu, where not only trade, but also crafts and production are embodied. In addition to the main market, there were specialized markets on the outskirts of it, where special goods were traded. For example: in Tashkent, according to historical data, there were special markets such as Kavunbazar in front of the Samarkand Gate, and Kaymoqbazor near Orda.

This means the main crossroads located in the center of the medieval cities of Central Asia. For example, such a name has been preserved in the toponymy of Tashkent, Andijan, Kokan, Namangan, Karshi, Shahrisabz, Bukhara, Gijduvan and other cities. According to Ibn Faqih, before the invasion of the Mongols, the city of Samarkand consisted of three parts: the inner city, the outer city and the rabad. At that time, the outer city occupied the distance between the current Afrosiyab fortress and Ruhabad





districts, and it also had four gates. So, the streets from the four gates met in the center and formed a square.

In Samarkand, several prestigious, historical city-wide centers have been formed. Registan Square, Bibikhanim, Gori Amir, Shahizinda complexes are among them. In Samarkand, we can take Chorsu as an example.

"Chorsu" is a Persian-Sughd word that means "chor", "suk" means "market", "chor" means a covered market building located in Raha. "Chorsu" is known to us from the 11th century in the form of a commercial building covered with domes. The main square of Sugd market also belongs to the 11th century. According to the historian al-Tartusi, in some early medieval cities of Central Asia, there were trade centers called "tim" in addition to charsu. Historian al-Muqaddasiy used the word "tim" even in relation to the caravans-palaces intended for high trade and foreign merchants.

During Timur's reign, a special trading building "Timi kulox furushon" ("Team of Headwear Sellers") was built in addition to a number of open market stalls in the current Registan Square. Temur built this structure in the name of his wife Tumon. During this period, the markets of Samarkand were so crowded that it was necessary to build a large covered market, convenient for merchants and buyers, to sell various goods in the hot climate. Therefore, Timur orders the construction of a closed shopping street that will cross the entire city through the tim in Registan.

According to the Spanish ambassador Clavijo, during the time of Timur, there were markets in Samarkand that traded not only during the day, but also at night. There were a number of caravanserais built by officials in the city, workshops for potters, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, glassmakers, papermakers, and cozy and comfortable shops. In addition to the city markets at the intersections of the main streets, Guzar markets also operated in the centers of neighborhoods.

So, we can cite Chorsu as an example as a large center in the cities of Central Asia in ancient times. Neighborhood centers can be considered as the smallest centers.

The emergence of urban development nodes, i.e. centers, in Samarkand is characterized by the formation of the first ancient city center in Afrosiyab in the 5th century. Over time, the development of the city in the direction of the new center in the 10th century can be classified with the expansion of the territory of Rabod. The next period can be seen through the continuation of the formation of the city center of the 15th century. In this period, in addition to city centers, local centers, main shopping streets, market (composite frame) develop in the direction of development and neighborhood centers within a radius of 130-220 meters are manifested. This period corresponds to Amir Temur and the Timurids' urban planning, and you can





find examples of the highest level of architecture. Tuman Aqa, which is considered the center of the city, is a clear example of this.

The situation of this period is described by research scientists as follows. In the history of the city of Samarkand, the condition of the medieval period has been preserved. The artistry of the city had its own basis. Among the mass, simple structures, dozens of magnificent blue (lajuvard) Timur and the remains of buildings from the Timurid era rose up. The area of the city within the fortress wall was close to a circle. Its geometric center is clearly visible on the map. It is marked with Chorsu building. The main streets spread radially from the Chorsu building. The street leading to the fortress, the administrative center of the city, was of great importance. Its position is indicated by the location of Registan Square on this street. The streets leading to the architectural group of Bibikhanim in the north and Gori Amir in the south were also very important. The next route started from Chorsu and ended in the distance to Ark Castle, and from the same place, the emergence of the "New City" center in the 19th century and the volume and spatial development of the urban composition in the city-wide two-structure system began.

With the construction of straight radial and circular streets, they built the second city center. Administration buildings were built in this place. At present, on the site of the Ark fortress, we can find urban planning objects under the jurisdiction of the regional government and many others that do not correspond to the historical panorama of the city. As the center of the city, the area where the regional administration buildings of Samarkand are located can be cited as the largest urban planning node. Because the old city of Samarkand during the Timurid period remained in a smaller area than the territory of the new city of Samarkand. The new urban area of Samarkand is expanding, and the suburbs are joining the city. The reason for this is that many modern residences, industrial enterprises, public centers are getting a new look.

So, in Samarkand, firstly, Chorsu market was the center of the whole city, and secondly, in the regions of Tashkent, the so-called daha centers were called khitas (quarters) in Samarkand, and in 1902-1906, the neighborhoods of Siyob district were divided into four khistans. In the literature, it is mentioned that Samarkand is divided into "continents" in the following areas. In particular, according to the information written by A.K. Pisarchik:

1. Khayrabad or Poikabok, north-west;
2. Siyob or Qalandarkhana, northeast;
3. Sozangaran, southeast;
4. It is mentioned that Khoja-Akhror was divided into southwestern regions.





Thirdly, it is known that neighborhood centers received the name guzar in Samarkand, and they formed about thirty structural structures in each continent and formed the city system during this period. Based on the above information, it can be noted that there can be one or two city centers, four to six centers, and about thirty neighborhood centers. These are clear evidence for the centers that are highlighted as urban planning nodes in the artistic image.

It is appropriate to call neighborhood centers by the name "guzar". The word Guzar literally means a passage. In some books, the word guzar means the center of several (spatially continuous) neighborhoods. Neighborhood centers - most of them consisted of structures such as a neighborhood mosque, a pool, a teahouse, and several shops. In later studies, it was shown that there could be devices such as shops inside the neighborhood mosque. In the center of some neighborhoods there were also buildings such as a wonderful madrasa-maqbara. Buildings such as mosques, madrasahs, mausoleums, and shops in the centers of the neighborhood are interconnected in various combinations, creating unique volumetric and spatial combinations.

Guzar centers are considered as the smallest link of urban development nodes, all neighborhoods and guzar centers of Samarkand can be cited as an example of these brands. Because their main functions are domestic, ideological, and commercial, and they tend to be more geometrically centered in their location and service system. As a service area, it is appropriate to say the smallest link, taking into account the coverage of small urban development areas - neighborhoods, neighborhoods, villages outside the city.

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