

THE OUTER PALACES OF THE BUKHARA RULERS

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Abstract: The palaces of medieval rulers were considered the backbone of the country as structures of great importance in state administration. The residences of the khans were improved in parallel with the development of urban culture. In fact, government palaces were considered one of the symbols of the state, where important issues for the country were discussed and resolved, decrees and rulings were developed.

Each dynasty had its own residence, which had its own unique features. For example, representatives of the Shaybanid dynasty, having switched to a settled lifestyle, took the ancient residence of the rulers in Bukhara - Ark - as their center and made significant changes to its internal and external appearance.

During the reign of the Shaybanids, significant changes occurred in the historical structure and appearance of the city of Bukhara. During this period, many cultural and educational buildings were built, and the outskirts of the city were surrounded by a 12-kilometer defensive wall. By the 16th century, Bukhara had all the infrastructure typical of large cities of that time.

At that time, the country was governed through the Ark. Although the hot climate and natural narrowness of the city made the Shaybani rulers need to build residences outside, this was not possible during their time. The Ashtarkhanids paid special attention to this issue. According to historical sources, during their time, two external residences were built near the city's defensive walls: the Khanabad and Piri Marza palaces. The palaces were built on a specific project, taking into account the natural and geographical conditions and climate, in places with clean air and abundant water.

By order of Ashtarkhanid Ubaydullah Khan (1702–1711), in 1709, the Khanabad park and palace were built in the west of Bukhara, near the Talli Poch gate. The palace was square in shape, with the grounds divided into triangular and hexagonal sections, and a high palace (palace) stood in the center. Skilled craftsmen from different regions of Balkh and Maverannahr were involved in the construction work, and it was built in three months. Contemporary historians likened this palace to the famous Havornak residence near Kufa. The palace of Piri Marza was located near the Sheikh Jalal Gate.

Ashtarkhani Abulfayzkhan (1711–1747) had his mother, Bibi Pasha, known as "Sitorai Mohi Khosa", build an elegant garden outside the city. The current Mohi Khosa Palace was later formed on the basis of this garden. The Mangid emirs also continued this tradition and built palaces outside the city. For example, Amir Nasrullo (1826–1860) had an outer palace called Charboghosha near the Oglon Gate. His successor, Amir Muzaffar (1860–1885), built the Shirbudin Palace 4 km east of Bukhara. Although local craftsmen were

mainly involved in the construction of this palace, it features styles typical of European architecture. This indicates that Western styles began to be felt in local architecture from the 1870s.

With the exception of the Sitorai Mohi Khosa Palace, none of the above-mentioned outer palaces have survived. The remains of the Shirbuddin Palace were completely demolished during the Soviet era, and not even the foundations were preserved.

Elements of European architecture can be clearly observed in the palaces built under the influence of the Russian Empire. In particular, the outer residences built by Amir Abdulahad Khan (1885–1910) stand out as a harmonious example of Eastern and Western architectural art. The palaces of Mohi Khosa and the emir in Karmana are a vivid example of this. The Karmana Palace differs from other outer residences of the Mangid emirs in its political significance. Because in the late 19th and early 20th centuries it became the headquarters of the government of the Bukhara Emirate. Why did Amir Abdulahad abandon the traditional capital and move his residence to Karmana? There is no single opinion in the scientific literature on this issue. Some sources say that his disagreement with the Bukhara clergy was the reason. Historian Mirzo Salimbek, on the other hand, emphasizes Karmana as the city where Abdulahad Khan was born and raised. There is some truth in both opinions, but they are not the main reason. In fact, during the reign of Abdulahad Khan, Russia's political and economic influence over Bukhara had greatly increased. The establishment of a Russian political agency in the city of Kogan in 1885 brought it only 12 km closer to the emir's residence. This prompted Abdulahad Khan to stay away from pressure. Property inequality also increased in Bukhara, and a new wealthy class emerged. This caused social problems and intensified the hidden struggle between the new and the old. As a result, the emir, not wanting to live in the city, chose Karmana as his residence. The Karmana Palace, unlike other external residences (with the exception of Sitorai Mohi Khosa), was built not only for the ruler's leisure, but as a center of state administration. It discussed issues of domestic and foreign policy, developed decrees, analyzed official information. In a word, the life of the emirate was controlled from Karmana. The passage of the railway and the station near Karmana also increased the economic and political importance of the city. From an architectural point of view, the Karmana Palace met the requirements of its time. Comfortable conditions were created for government officials. Judging by the old photographs and the remaining remains that have reached us, the palace had an elegant architectural solution. Unfortunately, its current condition requires serious attention. It would be advisable to restore it and restore it as an ethnographic or palace life museum. Today, there are palace museums in many countries of the world.

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