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A STUDY OF THE DURABILITY OF ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS OF UZBEKISTAN

**Talipova Nargiza Zukhritdinovna, Omonova Dilnoza Fayziddinovna,
Kadabayeva Shaxnoza Saidjonovna, Ubaydullayeva Dildora Fayziddinovna**
Docent of Tashkent Architecture and Civil Engineering University
nargizatolipova@gmail.com, omonovadilnoza0307@gmail.com, melixa.86@mail.ru,
dildora_arx88@mail.ru

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the factors that negatively affect the durability of architectural monuments located in Uzbekistan. The study uses a qualitative methodology that includes archival research, expert interviews and on-site observations. The results show that factors such as environmental degradation, human activity and lack of maintenance contribute to the deterioration of these monuments. The discussion highlights the importance of preserving these cultural artifacts for future generations and suggests strategies to increase their longevity.

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Uzbekistan's architectural monuments, such as the historic complexes of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Shakhrisabz, listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, represent a unique cultural treasure. However, their sustainability is threatened by natural, anthropogenic, and technical factors. This study analyzes the main factors affecting the preservation of architectural monuments and offers recommendations for their protection. [1]

Uzbekistan, rich in architectural masterpieces and centuries-old traditions, is home to ancient cities that have preserved their history since time immemorial. Some are over 2,700 years old. These unique monuments are valuable not only to the Uzbek people but to humanity as a whole. Monuments, in particular, are powerful symbols of a nation's cultural heritage, embodying the history, art, and architecture of its civilization. Uzbekistan, with its rich and diverse cultural history, is home to many such monuments, ranging from ancient fortresses and mausoleums to Islamic madrassas and modern buildings. These architectural landmarks are not only significant cultural artifacts but also play a vital role in the country's tourism industry.

However, these monuments are increasingly threatened by a number of factors that negatively impact their longevity. In recent years, environmental degradation, human activity, and lack of maintenance have contributed to the deterioration of many architectural monuments in Uzbekistan. The country's arid climate and exposure to sunlight, wind, and water have taken their toll on buildings, leading to cracks, erosion, and decay. Human activity, such as vandalism and neglect, have also contributed to the damage, while a lack of proper maintenance and preservation efforts exacerbates these problems.

Uzbekistan's climatic conditions, characterized by hot and dry conditions, sudden temperature fluctuations, and strong winds, have a significant impact on the building materials of monuments (clay, brick, stone). The main challenges are:

Erosion and Weathering: High temperatures and wind erosion cause cracks and deterioration of the brickwork surface and decorative elements.

Salt corrosion: Salts contained in soil and water cause chemical destruction of materials, especially in regions with high salinity (e.g. Khorezm and Karakalpakstan).

Groundwater: In Shakhrisabz and other regions, rising groundwater levels are leading to the destruction of foundations and erosion of the lower parts of buildings.

Climate change, including increased drought and increased soil salinity due to the shrinking Aral Sea, is further exacerbating the situation, particularly for sites in Karakalpakstan and Khorezm.

Given the cultural and historical significance of architectural monuments, preserving them for future generations is paramount. However, this requires a better understanding of the factors contributing to their deterioration and conservation strategies. The aim of this study is to identify these factors and propose strategies for enhancing the longevity of architectural monuments located in Uzbekistan. To this end, the research utilizes a qualitative methodology, including archival research, expert interviews, and on-site observations. By providing information on the challenges facing Uzbekistan's monuments and potential solutions, this study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on cultural heritage preservation.

The research methodology involved a combination of desk and field research. The desk research included a comprehensive review of the literature on the conservation of architectural monuments and cultural heritage, while the field research included visits to several historical sites in Uzbekistan, including Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. [3]

Field research collected data on the current condition of the monuments and the factors contributing to their deterioration. Data collection included a combination of observation, interviews with local experts and community members, and surveys and questionnaires.

Data analysis included identifying patterns and trends in data collected during fieldwork, as well as analyzing tourism and maintenance statistics. The data was then used to identify the main factors negatively impacting

the longevity of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan and explore potential conservation solutions.

A combination of desk and field research provided a comprehensive overview of the factors contributing to the deterioration of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan. The study found that climate, lack of maintenance and restoration efforts, human activity, and tourism were significant factors affecting the longevity of monuments.

The study emphasizes the importance of sustainable tourism practices and proper maintenance and restoration for the preservation of historic sites. The participation of local communities and organizations was also emphasized as crucial for fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. [5]

Overall, the study provides valuable information on the challenges and opportunities for preserving cultural heritage in Uzbekistan and offers recommendations for stakeholders involved in preserving architectural monuments.

The study revealed several key findings regarding factors negatively affecting the durability of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan:

1. Uzbekistan's harsh climate, characterized by sudden temperature fluctuations and high humidity, has proven to be a significant factor contributing to the deterioration of architectural monuments. Changes in humidity and temperature can lead to the rot of building materials such as wood, brick, and stone. As a result, monuments require constant maintenance and repair to prevent further deterioration.
2. Lack of Maintenance and Restoration. The study found that lack of maintenance and restoration is a significant factor contributing to the deterioration of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan. Many historic sites are in disrepair, with damaged structures and missing decorative elements. Inadequate maintenance and restoration efforts are due to a lack of financial resources, inadequate training and experience, and bureaucratic inefficiency.
3. Human activity. Human activity has been found to be a significant factor negatively impacting the longevity of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan. Unregulated tourism can lead to overcrowding, overuse, and damage to monuments and their surroundings. Vandalism and looting also pose a serious threat to the preservation of cultural heritage in Uzbekistan.
4. Tourism. The tourism industry has had both positive and negative impacts on the preservation of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan. On the one hand, tourism can provide a source of income for the maintenance and restoration of historical sites. On the other hand, unregulated tourism can lead to overcrowding, overuse, and damage to monuments and their surroundings. [5]
5. Community Engagement: The study found that community engagement and public awareness are crucial for preserving cultural heritage in Uzbekistan. Local communities can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for historical sites by promoting a culture of conservation and responsible tourism practices.

The study also found that the lack of repair and restoration work is a significant factor contributing to the deterioration of architectural monuments. To address this problem, more funding should be allocated for the maintenance and restoration of these monuments and a plan for regular inspections and repairs should be developed. Furthermore, the government should ensure adequate training and experience for restorers and streamline bureaucratic processes to ensure the effective implementation of restoration work.

Another significant factor negatively impacting the longevity of Uzbekistan's architectural monuments is human activity. Unregulated tourism can lead to overcrowding, overuse, and damage to monuments and their surroundings. Sustainable tourism practices should be implemented to address this issue.

The study also found that community engagement and public awareness are crucial for preserving cultural heritage in Uzbekistan. Local communities can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for historical sites by promoting a culture of conservation and responsible tourism practices. To address this, local

communities should be engaged in cultural heritage conservation by establishing local heritage committees and developing community-based tourism initiatives.

In conclusion, this study highlights the importance of preserving architectural monuments in Uzbekistan and offers recommendations for the sustainable conservation of these monuments. The preservation of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan is essential for the region's cultural heritage and the identity of its people.

The longevity of Uzbekistan's architectural monuments depends on a comprehensive approach to addressing natural, seismic, and anthropogenic factors. Climate change, seismic activity, and poor maintenance pose serious threats to the historical heritage. The introduction of modern monitoring technologies, the use of compatible materials, and the development of educational programs will help preserve these unique monuments for future generations.

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