

RETROSPECTIVE OF THE CITY KHIVA

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Abstract: The article based on the research of scientists of those times, shows the generic structure of the material on the periodicity of the history of the city of Khiva in the VI-XIX centuries, architectural and planning structure of the city walls, .city gates and streets.

Keywords: Shahrستان, walls, gates, town planning, planning structure, plan, streets, city, residential neighborhoods, public buildings, period, public areas.

Khiva is the "city of the four gates", the only city in Central Asia with the preserved Shahrستان, with all the elements inherent in it -the citadel, the mosque, the bazaar, residential quarters, fortification, and it is a city which presents unique ensemble of cultural value and aesthetic significance. It is surrounded by walls which for many years defended Shahrستان of Khiva and now surrounded by fortified walls with four gates.

Archaeological data allow us to assert that Shahrستان existed in the present borders already in the VI–VIII centuries, having preserved its plan in general terms. The territory surrounded by walls is calculated in 26 hectares. From north to south and from east to west, two streets lead to the city gates. Of these, the street from east to west acquired the dominant importance and was built up with the largest monumental religious palace and commercial buildings.

Khiva in X century was obviously a small provincial town, the boundaries of were less than the modern Itchan-Kala. This is indirectly evidenced by old cemeteries, according to local tradition, were not arranged within the residential area. The further history of Khiva is closely connected with the general destiny of Khorezm, which has experienced all the

painfulness of endless internecine wars waged by the peoples and tribes that inhabited it and the neighboring countries.

The oldest of these buildings - Djuma Mosque - was significantly altered in the XVIII century with partial preservation of the old plan. Citadel-kuhnendiz (Kunya-ark) is located at the western gate within the territory of Shahrستان. The bazaar is placed behind the southern gate¹. (Figure 1).

The city of Khiva became the capital of Khorezm in the middle of

the XIX century. The city consists of two parts: the outer city - "Dishan-kala", the inner city - "Itchan-kala". Each part was surrounded by its fortress walls. In Dishan-kala, walls with ten gates encircled the territory, built-up with residential buildings with landscaped areas. There were also bazaars and

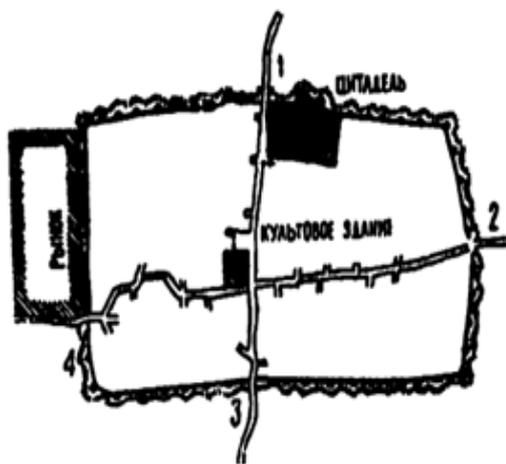


Fig.1 Names of the city gates
1) Ata-darvaza, 2) Bakhcha,
3) Palvan, 4) Bazaar

extensive khan's gardens. Itchan-Kala -is the focus of many religious and palace buildings – now it is the open-air museum.

Developed in one place, long relative independence from Russia, remoteness from large cities, all this determined the good preservation of the city as a whole, in particular, historical and architectural ensembles.

Lately, the growth of Khiva, the capital of ancient Khorezm is fixed on the plans of four authors in comparison with Samarkand and Bukhara. The initial and intermediate stages helped establish a retrospective analysis of the generalized model for the development of Central Asian cities.

The plan of Khiva in 1740, made by Nazimov (Fig.2.), represents the city in the form of a residential quarter protected from the west to the east facing the citadel. The growth of the city to the north, and then to the south, which completed the formation of Shahrستان - Itchan-kala, retained the appeal of the public zone of the initial settlement. Intensive capital construction led to an increase in the territory of the city core stretched from the gate to the gate along the entire west-east direction.

On the plan of Baziner in 1842 Khiva already has a closed rabad - Dishan-kalu (Fig.3.). The living environment, however, concentrates around Itchan-Kala (except the south) leaving vast undeveloped peripheral territories under rural manors and arable land.

Thus, there is no the version with the Kushan foundations of the city, put forward by one of the first researchers of Khiva -Ya. G. Guljamov.

XVII century, when Khiva became the only capital of Khorezm, travelers noted a very modest level of the country's economy.

There was a somewhat broken main street from the only eastern gate, which had local buildings in each side in the quarters.

In connection with the attraction of this little-known plan to the history of Khiva, the real ground of affirming the literature about Khiva as a city that preserved the scheme of the classical ancient Shahrستان with clear rectangular dimensions and four gates to which there were two mutually perpendicular streets.

Moreover, even according to the plan carried out in 100 years, the expedition

of G.I. Danilevsky in 1842, when the central part of Khiva expanded considerably, and the territory of the suburbs was surrounded by a second wall, the west-east road retained the dominant importance of the city, and the cross-shaped scheme of the main communications of Shakhristan did not develop and at the southern wall of it there was a lake and the gate was not there at that time. They appeared only in the last quarter of the XIX century, when the lake was partly drained, replenished by the waters of the channel "Zeykash".

The master plan of Khiva was made by Nigmatullaev in 1922. If you look carefully even after 80 years, Khiva's plan has not changed much, except that the city has expanded beyond Dishan-kala.

It can also be noted that the entire central part of Khiva (Itchan-Kala) was densely built up; the suburb (Dishan-Kala) included its gardens and summer palaces of the khan and the Khiva nobility, and in the eastern part of the suburbs and residential quarters. If we mentally extrapolate this plan, at the end of the XVIII century to the beginning of the XIX century, Itchan-Kala appeared mainly as a residential area with a small number of public buildings. To them, except for the citadel, belonged: the madrassah and the mosque of the Arab Khan, the madrassah of Mohammed - Amin inaka, the Djuma mosque, which make up the public center of the city, the madrassah of Khojamberdibay and Anush Khan in the eastern gate area, the mausoleum of Sayid Allauddin - Pakhlavan Makhmud and madrassah of Shergazi- Khan in the southern part of the city.

Attraction of old maps does not completely eliminate the discussion of the ideas put forward on the new planning of the late medieval Khiva (there



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remain doubts about the correctness of the scale of the map adopted by Nazimov). However, it is evident that the late Itchan-Kala cross-planning is unevenly related to the ancient regular town-planning.

At the same time, in order to judge the dynamics of such transformations that took place during the VII - X centuries around to the Arab fortresses of Maverannahr and Khorasan rare opportunity for new construction opens up extremely late in Khiva XVII - XIX centuries.

Incidentally, it should be noted that the features of the rudimentary architecture of Khiva in XIX century manifested itself not only in the methods of forming the planning structure of the city, but in many types of residential and public buildings. This feature can serve as a strong argument in the construction of lines of continuity in architectural school of Khiva, especially for periods preserved monuments of material culture.

Fig.2. According to Nazimov in 1740 the plan of the city of Khiva in XVII-XIX centuries.

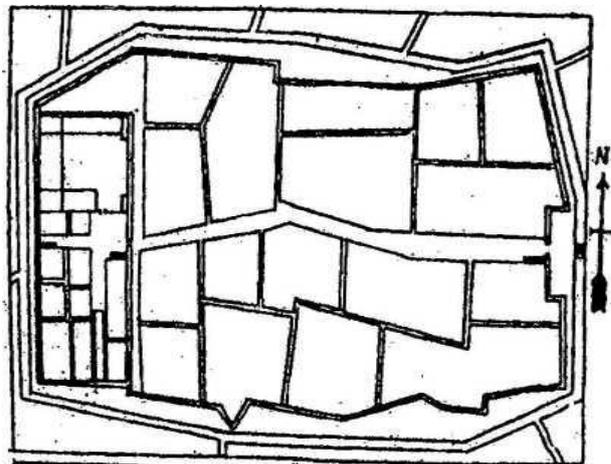
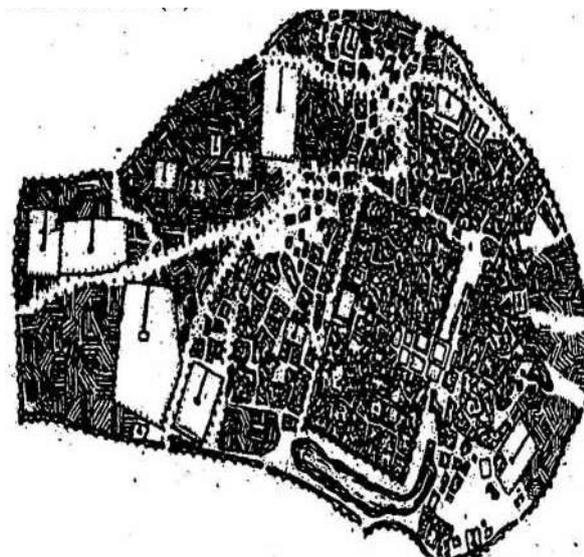


Fig. 3. According to Bazineruplan, 1842. Cities of Khiva in XVIII-XIX centuries.



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