Interiors of Historic Hospitals

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A B S T R A C T

This article is based on a scientific study of the first hospital built in Samarkand - Ibragim Tamgochkhan "Bemoristan" and a graphic reconstruction of its architecture, which is a very unique building for the history and architecture of Uzbekistan, but not preserved to this day, and its popularization to the general public and the scientific community.

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Introduction.

Thanks to independence, under the leadership and initiative of the leadership of the republic, the existing architectural monuments in various regions and historical cities of the country are preserved in their original form and repaired, conserved and effectively used for modern needs. A number of urgent and noble tasks are being solved and implemented, such as adapting them to these needs, improving their environment, as well as determining and maintaining order in the defense zones.

Although many books have been written about scientific research and the study of our historical monuments and cultural heritage, there are countless aspects of the history of public buildings that are still unknown to science. One of these mysteries is the formation of medical institutions, their place and role in the past among people, the history of their architecture and construction.

Aims and objectives of the article. The role and place of Islam in the architectural formation of state hospitals in Central Asia is great. In the past, the establishment of such hospitals has contributed to the encouragement of Islamic sharia and mysticism to dominate the rulers and encourage them to win the respect of the people through the construction of such buildings. This meant the peacefulness of the people, their calmness and, most importantly, the strength of universal values in the public life and activities of the rulers of Islam at that time. The first hospitals in Central Asia were built in separate buildings at the beginning of the 11th century. An example of this is the Samarkand hospital. There are two main types of hospitals: public hospitals and private, palace, arch and park hospitals. Special hospitals for mentally retarded and seriously ill disabled people have been created, they are built outside the cities.

The object and subject of our article is the scientific analysis and generalization of such monuments of our heritage in our country on the basis of foreign samples and specialized literature, the study of the architecture of the medieval hospitals of Samarkand, the popularization of cultural heritage and putting it into scientific circulation.

Main part

We mentioned above that the hospitals of the past were built mainly in a closed three-dimensional solution from the outside, as part of the courtyard, in the form of a porch and (rooms) arranged around the courtyard. Although the civilian hospitals built in the past in Movarounakhr have not reached us, historical sources allow us to make some remarks about their premises and interiors.

The hospital "Dor-ush-shifo", built in Bukhara in 1682, was demolished in the 1930s in connection with the expansion of the Registan square [1]. The hospital is similar in history to the building of the madrasah. The rooms are located around a small courtyard. Entrance to the rooms from the courtyard. The courtyard was entered through the hospital gates. Each room had its own porch on the courtyard side. In the corners of the hospital, which served as a corridor, corners were cut from rooms with two or three adjoining rooms (Figure 1).



Figure 1. *The interior of the lobby of the treatment rooms of the patients of the Bukhara hospital. According to D. A. Nozilov.*

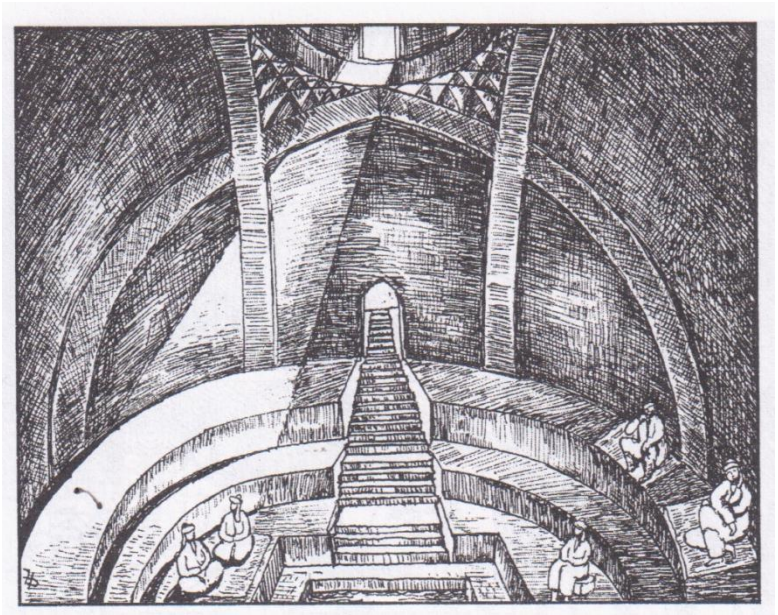


Figure 2. *Bukhara. The interior of the cistern in the courtyard of the medical hospital "Dor ush shifo" (according to D.A. Nozilov)*

The history of the hospital corresponded to its mission. The rooms in the corners were treated, and the sick in the middle. The hospital has a mosque, pharmacies and other facilities.

There is a cistern in the courtyard of the hospital, which is supplied with clean drinking water. The presence of a sardoba in the courtyard of the hospital is intended, firstly, to provide it with water and, secondly, to enable patients to relax on the sofas at the edge of the sardoba pool in the scorching heat of the day. Nasir Khisrav, an 11th-century traveler, said: "The uniqueness of the city of Arrajon is that there are as many houses underground as there are on the ground. Water flows from underground houses, and in these houses people spend their summers"[3]. During the summer months, sardobas were used for recreation in the cities of Central Asia, including not only on caravan routes, but also in some public buildings, such as hospital yards. An example of this is the sardoba of the Bukhara hospital.

Inside the tank had a unique look. Along the perimeter, the pool in their center is surrounded by two or three floors of shelves in the form of stairs. The light from the dome opening gave an artistic effect to the semi-dark environment inside the cistern (Figure 2).

In the interiors of hospital wards there are elements typical for the interiors of the architecture of public houses. That is, in the rooms where the sick rest, there are window sills, shelving, niches, gratings for lighting. Shelves on the walls of pharmacies and treatment rooms are very convenient for storing medicines. The rooms were not devoid of decorations, as the classical literature emphasizes the positive effect of color and decor on patients [6].

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