

Modern Problems In Development Of Historic Urban Centers In Uzbekistan

Khudoyarova M.B. PhD, Associate Professor of Architecture, Samarkand State
Architectural and Civil Engineering University

E-mail: xydoyarova@yahoo.com

Hidirov M.M. PhD, Associate Professor of Architecture, Samarkand State
Architectural and Civil Engineering University

E-mail: mmhidirov@gmail.com

Abstract: The article examines the identification of the planning system of historical urban centers, an increase in the population and territory of the city, the influence of social factors, an increase in free time of population and the scope of it, the concentration of business institutions influencing the development of historical city centers.

Key words: Historical urban areas, city centers, basic patterns, technological revolution, service system, population growth, business centers.

Introduction. For many centuries, the historical cities of Uzbekistan are constantly being transformed. Especially great changes are taking place in the centers of historical cities. The process of urbanization of city centers depends on the implementation of a complex of socio-economic, cultural and technical measures and the patterns of development of the structure of cities [1, 14 p.]. There are new objects of cultural and community services, management centers, new tourism facilities. In the modern world, the correct solution of these problems becomes relevant.

Historical central areas with an intact former style are often seen in old towns of Uzbekistan. These areas used to be large in number, and people do not find them of great value. However, most of these areas have vanished after major

urban planning endeavors. In some cities, the transformation of old urban parts has led to the complete disappearance of historical blocks [2, 12p].

Research. Aside from the physical structures, the culture and cultural diversity in historical central areas should be protected as well. In other words, their functions should not be undermined, and the living environment should be improved, which are essential for the protection of historical towns. The protection of historical centers includes protecting the exterior appearance, transforming the interior to meet the needs of the modern people, and improving local infrastructure and environment by taking gradual steps. In this process, the local government should play a leading role and involve the participation of local residents. The protection of historical central areas should not be confused with the development of real estate, and the profits of investments should not be the major concern.

The tasks of forming the urban environment are currently acquiring a reconstructive character, that is, along with the search for new architectural and planning solutions that would help avoid the mistakes of the previous stage of urban planning. The task remains to introduce figurative and artistic content into already completed complexes. "There are, for example, new built areas in which the architectural work has already been completed, but the artistic expressiveness and diversity are clearly not enough." [3, 64 p.].

Historical central areas are key elements in the protection of the history and culture of a city. Their protection does not only involve planning, but also a comprehensive endeavor. The methods and policies for the protection of historical urban areas should be given special attention.

In recent years, there have been successful cases of historical central area protection, and they have the following points in common. First, the traditional urban landscape, as well as the functions and culture, are well preserved. Second, the gradual and mild steps avoid possible conflicts in the community, facilitate the succession of the culture, meet the real needs of the local residents, and lessen the

burden of the government. Finally, the cooperation between the government and its citizens produces a favorable result, in which the government is responsible for improving infrastructure and the environment, and the residents are responsible for improving their own living conditions. Thus, the heritage and culture are preserved, and the environment and living standards of the local residents are improved.

At the initial stage of reconstructing of public spaces in historical centers, architects must involve the users of the urban environment in the dialogue at each stage, first of all, think about people. Studying people's opinions involves conducting large-scale research using an urban approach that includes aspects of sociological, economic, environmental, cultural and architectural analysis. This is due to the solution of a number of problems affecting the development of historical urban centers in Uzbekistan [4, 82 p.].

One of these problems is the study of the previously established planning system of the historical center with the identification of its main patterns. If the priority of the pedestrian is taken into account when reconstructing a historical city center, then it will certainly be a comfortable city. Cities with strong pedestrian infrastructure give the inhabitants more opportunities to be close to historical cultural traditions of old towns [5, 188 p]. To form a creative urban environment, it is necessary to create conditions for professional growth and the implementation of the creative community, and their activities must be in demand and intersect with all areas of historic city center.

In some historic areas, the government mandated commercial enterprises to dismantle all the houses and replace them with high-rises to solve the problems of poor houses and inadequate infrastructure. The protection of historical urban centers has been misinterpreted as city transformation, resulting in the destruction of historical urban centers. In many areas, a dense population is considered as a barrier to the protection; therefore, many people have been moved. Some people have been moved out of their original houses, and the culture has been destroyed.

The relocation of local residents from historical urban areas should be weighed carefully. Although relocation is necessary for the protection, it may undermine the local culture. Relocation should aim at optimizing the function of the old urban area [6, 177p.]. In addition, alongside the renovation of old urban area environments, relocation cannot be regarded as a time-limited target because it is not the only means of protecting historical urban areas.

Historical city centers life can be revived by street performances, fairs and concerts, the opening of cinemas, sporting events. This forces the city to focus on the pedestrian, which in turn boosts the economy. It is necessary to create an inspiring urban environment. It is important to use urban public spaces for various activities.

In the previous architectural and spatial structures of cities, one can see the emergence of residential settlements and their centers, formed with the historical conditions [7, 116 p.]. These centers have acquired historical and artistic value over time. They, together with the historically formed existing local city centers, do not meet the modern requirements for creating a single city center. Historical urban centers in the cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Kokand, Shakhrisabz and other historical towns are perceived as the main material and spiritual value [8, 92p.]. Therefore, they significantly influence the further development of city centers, where the previously established structure of their environment should be taken into account.

The second problem is related to the influence of public functions on the development of the city centers. This is primarily due to the development of modern information technologies and the mobility of the population. They directly affect the center both in the sphere of labor activity and in the sphere of public services. Business centers and service facilities are emerging. They require territories, which in turn entail the problems of expanding and compacting existing centers.

In some cities, real historical urban areas were replaced with fake ones. Furthermore, real historical blocks were dismantled for the sake of convenience and commercial motivation. As a result, historical city centers with enormous value become worthless replicas of old streets. Land value and commercial potential are very important. The functions of these areas have changed from dwelling areas to restaurants and catering and from general shopping streets to luxury shopping areas. Original residents have moved away, and enterprises have been attracted. Consequently, the environment was ruined for temporary commercial benefits. The truth was replaced with fakeness, vivid life with acting, and local features with fads. These historical urban areas no longer remind the people of the past. The construction of replicas of old streets out of tourism or commercial motivations is totally different from the protection of historical city centers [9, 32p].

The third problem is related to the increase in free time of the population and the scope of its implementation. This problem is associated with the development of city centers through the construction of new facilities and the reconstruction of objects of various functional purposes located in the central parts of cities, which are associated with the development of tourism. In this regard, in historical cities, the map of tourist routes is of particular importance, as well as the search for the highest standard of services along these routes. The organization of pedestrian streets and the organization of infrastructure around them, the creation of convenient conditions for getting acquainted with the historical and cultural heritage, as well as other attractions of cities [10, 22p.].

All this taken together, in turn, dramatically increases the load on the city center. Naturally, historically developed infrastructures of trade and services of the cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Shakhrisabz belong to such centers [11, 24 p.]. For example, in the historical center of Shakhrisabz, the Ak-Saray memorial complex and the area around it were reconstructed. There, instead of demolished dilapidated, old buildings of no value, two-story residential houses of artisans were built, where trade and an exhibition of works were organized on

the first floors, showing the process of performing work by artisans. The historic center of the city has been turned into a pedestrian street with alleys that connect historical monuments with each other. Traffic is organized around a complex of historic buildings [12, 34p].



Picture 1. New development in Historic Part of Shahrissabz city.

In Khiva, around the territory of the railway station, on the site of branchy old buildings in contact with the architectural monuments of “Dishan Kala” and “Ichan Kala”, residential houses of artisans, hotels, public catering buildings and administrative buildings were built. Volumetric - spatial solutions are made using the best elements of folk architecture. In the general plan, the whole complex is designed with pedestrian alleys that organically transition to pedestrian streets inside “Ichan Kala” [13, 28 p.].

The further development and changeability of city centers depends on the increase in the urban population and the territory of cities. Population growth leads to an increase in the capacity of citywide facilities and a qualitative change in their composition. Which, in turn, significantly affect the territorial growth of both the city and the historical city centers.



Picture 2. Khiva. View from the top of citadel to the new development.

The fourth problem is connected with the modern approach to the concentration of business institutions, which are a reflection of modern realities in the formation of public city centers. The expansion of the territories of public and business zones in the central part of large cities, such as Tashkent and Samarkand, requires a reduction in the territories of industrial and other zones previously built in city centers. In connection with the transfer of manufacturing enterprises outside the central areas, the use of the liberated and reconstructed territories is carried out mainly in accordance with the provisions of the master plans of cities. For example, in the city of Samarkand a new residential complex with a center of services designed out of historic urban area [14. 28 p.]

Taking into account the further development of the city, in accordance with the development of the master plan, part of the residential complexes with public services infrastructure has been brought to the vicinity of historic urban areas. For example, a new complex has been designed along the Qora Daryo River. Residential houses and public facilities are designed on both sides of the river and are connected by a bridge. The projected complex with a community center is a

continuation of the existing residential area "Motrit". Projected objects serving the population, both free-standing and on the first floors, will form the public center of this residential area in the future [14,34p.].



Picture 3. Unique tourist cluster is being built in Samarkand.

A new business and tourism center of the city of Samarkand is being built in another part of the city, in the area of the rowing canal and is connected with the city through a bridge over the main road crossing the Tashkent-Termez highway.

Conclusion. The given examples of the city of Samarkand are typical for other cities of the Uzbekistan and show how the above problems respond quite accurately to the reasons for the variability of urban centers in town building practice. Any solution to the territorial expansion ultimately affects the functional and aesthetic aspects of the urban environment, as well as the formation of the historic urban centers. It is necessary to take into account the real possibilities of developing the liberated territories. Territorial expansion must be carried out when all reserves have been exhausted within the existing boundaries of the center to meet the needs of the city, to correct situations with functional and transport load, and to preserve the valuable historic urban heritage.

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