Development of Architectural and Landscape Space
Collective Purpose in Low-Rise Buildings
(By the Example of the Old City Part of Samarkand City)

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Abstract: In the article it is considered the development of public welfare’s landscape of high-rise buildings in the historical part of Samarkand city and its planning, its decorative designing.

Keywords: mahalla, mahalla centers, mosques, houses, ponds, architectural and landscape space.

In recent years, in Uzbekistan, under the leadership of the President of the Republic, much attention has been paid to the revival of national values and traditions, a deep study of the cultural and spiritual heritage.

One example of this is the special attention paid to low-rise buildings in the old city part of the city of Samarkand. One of the important urban planning problems is the reconstruction of architectural and landscape spaces for collective purposes in low-rise buildings in the old city part of the city of Samarkand. Preservation of the historically established town-planning virtues and nature, improvement of the environment are priority areas of activity of the state and society. Urban planning trends and the natural environment should be included in the system of modern socio-economic relations as the most valuable component of the national heritage. As domestic and foreign design and construction experience shows, the effective preservation of architectural monuments is closely related to the possibilities of their further architectural and landscape design and development in low-rise buildings.

The solution of the most important social task to transform the architectural and landscape space around mahalla centers, mahalla mosques and low-rise residential buildings is becoming relevant.

In the old city part of the city of Samarkand, as a result of scientific analysis and research, it was revealed that the spaces of collective purpose in low-rise buildings are mahalla mosques, teahouses, mahalla centers, etc.
Ayvan of mahalla mosque

Small mahalla architectural ensembles, formed since ancient times as spaces for the collective purpose of primary residential formations of the Uzbek city, in their space-planning structure, along with buildings for cultural and public purposes, included hauzes (reservoirs) and small groups of green spaces. At the hauz, as a rule, they planted a mulberry tree or a plane tree.

Landscaping in historical mahallas is mainly located in the guzars, usually formed around the guzar ponds that make up a series of guzar buildings, in or around the courtyards of guzar mosques and schools. Such green spaces are usually planted in rows along the ditches of the pond. In front of the mosque, in the courtyard, in the school, in addition to ornamental and fruit trees, several varieties of roses were planted, as well as mallow, safflower, always in spring, basil and other long-flowering plants. Ornamental trees include: poplars, willows, maples, elms, willows, and fruit trees include mulberries, walnuts, plums, pears, pomegranates, figs, almonds, and others.

The trees were planted around the Guzar pond in such a way that their shadow covered not only the surroundings of the pond, but also the surface of the pond with its shadow. This method ensured that the water in the pool did not evaporate much from the hot rays of the sun, dust did not enter the pond, and it was always icy. As a result, a comfortable and pleasant microclimate and a light breeze are provided around the pond. It was demanded that the leaves of the trees planted around the pond should not fall and pollute the water in the pond.

This created a favorable biological and aesthetic microclimate. This environment included water surfaces, high-growing greens, with a wide crown, which provided shade and coolness in the sultry heat.

At present, the atmosphere of these guzars and mahallas in our historical cities is being restored, projects for their modernization are being developed in accordance with modern technical and aesthetic requirements. When working on such projects, it is necessary to take into account the historical values associated with the landscape organization of the aforementioned guzars and adjacent territories.
The study of the history of formation, city-forming significance, architectural and typological solutions, the development of scientific and methodological foundations for improving and promising solutions for the architectural and landscape organization of collective spaces is the main goal of the study.

Communication with people in various forms during work, religious rites, recreation and entertainment are an organic need of the individual, contribute to a full perception of reality as the most important condition for active life and activity. In this sense, the principle of emphasizing the functions of a public building in the planning structure of the city should be highlighted in the development of small mahalla architectural ensembles. One of the main goals pursued during this period is the formation of a religious worldview and the assertion of its influence in all spheres. Therefore, the construction of monumental religious public buildings, for which a well-observed territory of the city was allotted, prevailed. This manifested monumentality and contrast between the compositions of public and religious buildings and ordinary residential buildings in the old town.

The results of archaeological excavations of the ancient Central Asian city of Tuprak-Kala confirm the monumentality of public buildings, distinguished by their scale in relation to low-rise buildings. Analyzing the description of the same city (Tuprak-Kala) of a later time, we are convinced that the street, which cut the residential part of the city into two parts, began at the entrance labyrinth - the entrance and led to the gates of the “Temple of Fire”. On both sides of the main street there were 10-12 residential blocks, which, in turn, were separated by transverse passages. The quarter consisted of a large number of homogeneous houses in the form of a continuous array with organized in some places open spaces for collective purposes (courtyards), on which the central building for public purposes was located.

Generalization of materials from written sources and data from archaeological research made it possible to establish that later, with the further development of the urban planning system, prototypes of city-wide architectural ensembles, public centers and collective spaces were created on the territory of quarters.

The study of the phased historical development of the city and current trends in its urbanization will help to find the right solution for the urban planning future of the old city part of low-rise buildings, and specifically, the architectural and landscape space for collective purposes.

References: