



# To The Study of the History of Restoration and Architecture of the Tashkent Madrasah Barakkhan of the 16th Century

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**ABSTRACT**

This article highlights that the research carried out in the Barak Khan madrasah in Tashkent in the 16th century, archeological and engineering-geological research, conservation and repair work carried out in a timely manner by well-known experts in the field of protection of the monument indicates that the correct methods have been selected when creating the zones and restoration. And also, considered on the architectural aspects, the history of the phased restorations in different periods, styles and the current state of the Barak Khan Madrasah in Tashkent, the fact that its construction was formed in several stages.

**Keywords:**

Madrasah Barak Khan, mausoleum Suyunch Khan, restoration, conservation, tympanum, reconstruction.

## Introduction

Barak Khan Madrasah is one of the remarkable architectural monuments of Central Asia of the 16th century. Madrasah was built under the Sheibanid dynasty in 1530-1550 in the complex Khazrati Imam in the old city of Tashkent (district Sebzar). The construction of the madrasah was supervised by the grandson of Mirzo Ulugbek, the ruler of Tashkent Barak Khan (Navruz Akhmad Khan) [2]. Its construction was carried out in several stages: first the central

tomb "Nameless" to the eastern facade of the courtyard (probably by Khoja Akhror), then the second tomb, dedicated to Suyunch Khan (died in 1525), was erected by his son Keldi Mokhammed and later named - "Dome Barak Khan" or "Blue Dome", at the third stage, were built portals and khujras of the eastern facade of structure, later khujras on the north side of the madrasah (*Table 1*) (as a result of archaeological research carried out in 1935) [1].

*Table 1*

Formation of the planning structure of the Barak Khan Madrasah		
a	b	c
a) the construction of the "Nameless" mausoleum; b) construction of the Suyunch Khan mausoleum; c) construction of the portal and hujr madrasah. reconstruction option.		

**The main part.** Madrasah rectangular plan 69x43 meters, has a wide courtyard in the middle of the building 34x25,2 meters surrounded by a circle of one-story covered khudjras (Fig.2). The building has an asymmetrical (now symmetrical) facade of the south and north sides of the main facade and high domes decorated with turquoise mosaics. There is a monumental roof leading directly into the madrasah courtyard. On the north side the complex of entrance constructions in the Madrasah Barak Khan consists of three khudjras

gates, and on the south side - the mausoleum "Nameless". The three roofs of this building as if fit into the structure of the madrasah and constitute a single whole. The southern facade, bearing the name "Nameless", has only preserved the original appearance of the structure. The monumental mausoleum khanaka of Suyunch Khan, was exposed so that it could be seen from four sides, and the khudjras on both sides of the roof did not overshadow its appearance [7].



Figure 1: Master plan of Khazrati Imam complex: 1-Barak Khan Madrasah, 2-Suyunch Khan mausoleum, 3-Tilya sheikh mosque, 4-Muyi Muborak Madrasah, 5-chillakhona, 6-entrance to the cemetery, 7-tree (chinar), 8-khauz, 9-Mausoleum of Kaffal Shashi, 10-Mausoleum of Baba Khoja, 11-Namozgokh mosque. (Arkhiv Fine Arts Institute ASR Uz., IA(M)M24N<sup>o</sup>770/7, 1974)


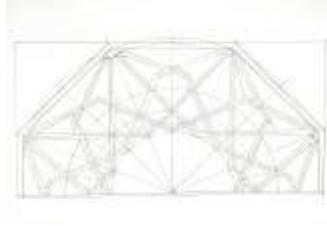







The decoration of the building is present in the main facade of the madrasah, on the entrance portal, on the facade and on the domes of the Suyunch Khan mausoleum. According to archival documents, historical photographs and scientific research data, the dome of the Suyunch



Figure 2: Barak Khan Madrasah Plan., (Arkhiv Glav NPU, T4754/I20 1981).

Khan mausoleum is covered with blue tiles, the dome is decorated with a complex mosaic geometric pattern – an octagonal girikh, and in the upper part with epigraphic inscriptions on a majolica frieze (Table 2).

Table 2

Decorations of the Barak Khan Madrasah		
		
<i>Reconstruction of a niche in the Tashkent madrasah of Barak Khan, 16th century. Drawing by master Shirin Muradov</i>	<i>Muqarnas drawing. Drawing by master Shirin Muradov</i>	<i>Entrance portal of the madrasah.</i>
		
<i>Portal covers. Detail of a brick mosaic.</i>	<i>Muqarnas in the dome.</i>	<i>Shield sails under the dome.</i>
		
<i>Interior of the central hall and altar (mehrob)</i>	<i>Interior of the central hall.</i>	<i>Shield-shaped sails in the form of arches and muqarnas</i>

After the Sheibanid dynasty in the 17th century the Barak Khan madrasah was abandoned until its reconstruction [3]. At the

end of the 18th century, as P.I. Rychkov writes, the madrasah was in ruins, he claimed that even cattle were kept in it [4].



Figure 3: The condition of the dome of Suyunch Khan mausoleum before the earthquake. Photo by D. Ermakov, archive Glav NPU.

After summarizing and analyzing a number of archival documents and research data on the landmark, the work on the study, basic restoration preservation of the landmark was divided into three phases:

1. Colonial period 1859-1905;
2. Soviet period 1930-1991;
3. The years of independence 1991-2022.







**At the first stage** – in 1866, a photo taken by D. Ermakov shows that the dome of the Suyunch Khan mausoleum is in a state before the earthquake (*Fig.3*). This photo shows that: the dome and part of the dome of Suyunch Khan mausoleum are well preserved; the dome ornament and part of the dome are partially lost; part of the dome is covered with blue plates; the complex mosaic geometric "girikh" pattern and

epigraphic inscriptions on the upper part are poorly preserved.

Also in 1859 the ruler of Tashkent Kanoatshakh restored the ruined northern side of the khujra courtyard and established a fund for the maintenance of the madrasah [8]. However, an earthquake in 1868 caused considerable damage to the madrasah, which resulted in the collapse of the great dome of the mausoleum. Subsequently the madrasah was repeatedly rebuilt. Then, in 1904-1905, the Barak Khan dome was repaired by Tashkent master builders under the leadership of Khoja Abulkasym [1].

As a result of earthquakes, improper repair work and economic recession that occurred during this period, repair work on the building was not completed.

Table 3









In 1935-1938, the madrasah was abandoned and archaeological research was carried out in the monument "Uzkomstaris"		
		
<i>Archaeological research on the foundations of the entrance portal of the madrasah. archive Glav NPU.</i>	<i>Facsde from the south side Photo by Hirshberg, archive Glav NPU, 1935.</i>	<i>Entrance portals and vaults of Barak Khan madrasah. Photo by Hirshberg, archive Glav NPU, 1935.</i>
		
<i>Top facade of Suyunch Khon mausoleum. Photo by Zavalin, archive Glav NPU, 1935.</i>	<i>Southwestern facade of Suyunch Khon mausoleum. Photo by Zavalin, archive Glav NPU, 1935.</i>	<i>Khujras in the northern facade Archive Glav NPU, 1938.</i>

**At the second stage** – photographs of the monument taken in 1935, 1938, reflect the neglected state of the madrasah, the practical absence of repair work and the need to repair the building [7] (*Table 3*).

In the continuation of 1935-1956 in the building were the largest recorded scientific and research work carried out "Uzkomstaris": in measuring the archaeological monument – in

1935 Sh.E. Ratia [4], and in 1955-1956. A.N. Vinogradov [7], I.F. Borodina; (*Fig. 3*) in archaeological research in 1935-1956. – Professor M.E.Masson, V.D.Zhukov [9], V.A.Levin. The foundations of this madrasah were built on dry earth from a mixture of stone and clay. The tombs also had carved doors decorated with bones [1].

Table 4

Restoration work in the madrasah in 1950-1983			
			
<i>Repair process in the main facade of the madrasah. Photo by A.N. Vinogradov, arkhiv Glav NPU, 1955.</i>	<i>Entrance portal. Archiv Glav NPU, 1983.</i>	<i>View from the courtyard of the entrance portal. Archiv Glav NPU, 1950.</i>	<i>View from the courtyard of the entrance portal, Archiv Glav NPU, 1983.</i>
			
<i>Repair process on the portal of the Suyunch Khan mausoleum. photo by Yudsky, arkhiv Glav NPU, 1950.</i>	<i>The portal of the Suyunch Khan mausoleum, Archiv Glav NPU, 1983.</i>	<i>Mausoleum "Nameless". Archiv Glav NPU, 1983.</i>	<i>Khujras on the northwestern side. Archiv Glav NPU, 1983.</i>

he walls of the madrasah are made of burnt brick

k. Mausoleum "Nameless" - 26x26x5 cm, mausoleum "Suyunch Khan" - 27x27x5,5 cm. The roof is 26x26x4,5 cm. The southern khudjras were built with bricks of the same size. The northern khudjras were made of thin bricks (3,5-3,75 cm) using clay and alabaster. The wall thickness was 3 meters.

Also with the aim of reconstructing the building in 1949-1956 architects-restorers A.N. Vinogradov [10], S. Bepaly, V.T. Rasskazovsky, V. Taikalov, G.N. Nikitin developed science-based projects [11], [12]. As a result, in 1955-1956 on the basis of historical data collected by these

developed (*Fig. 5*).

In 1950-1963, on the basis of the reconstruction project of the special scientific-restoration production workshop, restorers-repairers A.N. Vinogradov [13], master Shirin Muradov and I. Usmankhodjaevs carried out repair work: reconstructed the upper part of the entrance portal of the building (*Table 4*), also repaired the portal finish, restored the khudjras of the main portal, rearranged the bricks of supports and shelves in the khudjras, repaired the roof and courtyard of the mausoleum Suyunch Khan (*Table 4*), [1].

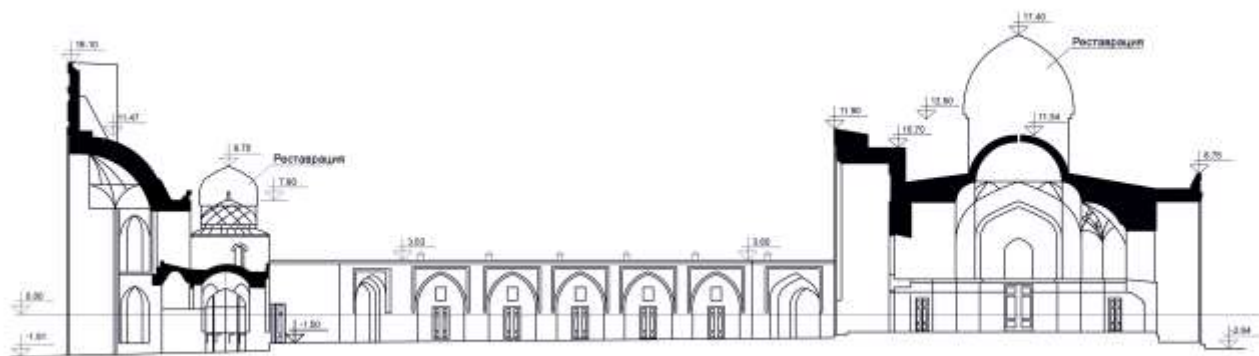
restorers-architects, the project of reconstruction of the building was

During this period there was a radical change in the history of madrasah repair. The madrasah became a hotbed of scientific

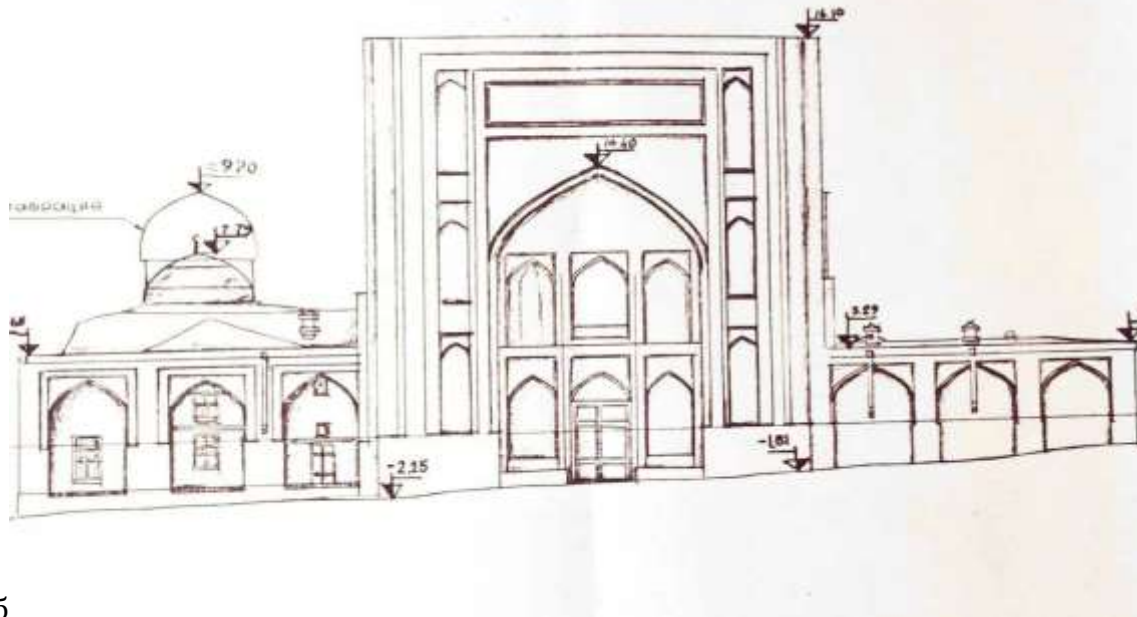
research. The restoration works in the madrasah were carried out stage by stage by qualified specialists.



Figure 4: General view of the Barak Khan Madrasah from the north side. Archiv Glav NPU, 1983.



a



6

Figure 5: Reconstruction project of the Barak Khan madrasah, completed in 1956: a) drawing of the main facade, b) section of the madrasah, Glav NPU Archive T4754/И20

**At the third stage** - until 2007, the madrasah was the seat of the Administration of Muslims of Uzbekistan, and today the madrasah houses workshops of calligraphy and national crafts.

During the years of independence, thanks to the efforts of Tashkent craftsmen, in 2006, the madrasah was restored. The dome, decorated with turquoise mosaics, was restored instead of the tin roofs of the madrasah, and the entrance portal and the gate decoration were restored anew [14].



Figure 5: The main facade of the Barak Khan madrasah. Photo by M. Beknazarova, 2022.



Figure 6: The portal of the Suyunch Khan mausoleum, Photo by M. Beknazarova, 2022.



Figure 7: View from the courtyard of the entrance portal. Photo by M. Beknazarova, 2022.

The photograph obtained by the editor also reflects how the main facade of the building and the overall appearance of the madrasah have been completely restored, surahs from the Holy Quran restored in one part of the dome of mausoleum Suyunch Khan, the side vaults of the entrance portal decorated with patterned panels, these panels show geometric writings, Islamic, geometric inscriptions - girikhi, In the upper part of the entrance dome is a rectangular panel with verses from the Quran. During roof renewal a "kolipqori" method from fired bricks was used, also the outer dome of a small mausoleum located on the left side of the main facade was restored, and to give symmetry - balance another dome of the same kind was installed on the right side of the main facade (Fig.5-6-7).

### Conclusion and Evaluation

To summarize, we may say that at one time the Barak Khan madrasah was a memorial-religious structure, but today it is used as a craft complex: two mausoleums are attached to the madrasah. So it is one of the big madrasahs, built in the architectural style of a traditional closed courtyard, typical of the 16th century. The patterns of the madrasah, in terms of beauty, style of construction differ from the best examples of Central Asian architecture of its time [6].

Result of the survey: survey works at the Barak Khan madrasah were carried out stage by stage, the result of engineering-geological, technical, archaeological survey was the use of

proper techniques in creating the nearest repair and protection zones. Works on preservation, repair, conservation of the monument were carried out throughout the 20th century at a skillful level by qualified specialists. In particular, in the future repair work is desirable to carry out only qualified specialists, as well as traditional craftsmen and master restorers.

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