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ORNAMENTAL FEATURES OF NAKHCHIVAN TOMBS

The article briefly discusses the way of formation and development of the Nakhchivan architectural school, mentions the tombs, which are valuable examples of Nakhchivan architecture. Along with such issues as the history of construction, architectural design, ornamental features, the form of expression of Eastern and Turkish thought in the system of patterns, the path along which the monuments pass, their current state, the architectural structure, geometric ornament, the building materials used here, and the features of the Eastern renaissance were studied. Valuable monuments created by prominent architect Ajami Abubakr oglu Nakhchivani, who created the most valuable examples of Oriental architecture, Maragha-Nakhchivan architectural school, various types of architectural samples created under the influence of his art include Yusif Kusey oglu's tomb, Momina Khatun's tomb, Karabakh Tomb Complex. The tombs are of special historical significance as well as architectural features. Numerous scientific sources also state that Noah's tomb is in the territory of Nakhchivan, and the notes of world-class western and world thinkers, who even describe the tomb built on Noah's tomb, still form the basis of scientific research. Even the activity of the Prophet Noah in the salt quarries in Nakhchivan is preserved in the legends circulating among the people. The author also notes that "Noah's tomb is located on the south side of Nakhchivan, near the remains of an ancient fortress. The current appearance of the tomb was restored in the VIII century. In its present form, the tomb resembles a small tomb rising from the ground. First there was a temple here, then it collapsed. One of the medieval tombs of Nakhchivan is Gulustan tomb. Unlike many medieval tombs, the tomb consists of a tomb and a tomb. The Gulustan mausoleum, which is one of the tower tombs, attracts attention with its unique architectural solution. The tomb of Yusuf Kuseyr oglu is one of the prominent figures of the twentieth century Azerbaijani renaissance, one of the immortal works of Ajami Nakhchivani, a genius of Oriental architecture. The tomb is a monumental historical and cultural monument embodying Turkish-Islamic values. The monument, built by Ajami Abubakr oglu in 1162, is also known as the Atababa Dome. It is clear from his inscription that the tomb was built in honor of Yusif Kuseyr oglu.

Key words: Nakhchivan, Ajami Nakhchivani, architecture, geometric ornament, symmetry, decagonal.

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ОРНАМЕНТАЛЬНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ НАХЧИВАНСЬКИХ МОГИЛ

У статті коротко розглядається шлях формування та розвитку Нахчіванської архітектурної школи, згадуються гробниці, які є цінними зразками архітектури Нахчівана. Поряд із такими питаннями, як історія будівництва, архітектурний дизайн, орнаментальні особливості, форма вираження східної та турецької думки в системі зразків, шлях, по якому проходять пам'ятники, їх сучасний стан, архітектурна структура, геометричний орнамент, досліджено використані будівельні матеріали та вивчено особливості східного ренесансу. Цінні пам'ятки, створені видатним архітектором Аджамі Абубакром огли Нахчівані, є найціннішими зразками східної архітектури, Марагінської-Нахчіванської архітектурної школи. Архітектурні зразки різних типів, створені під впливом його мистецтва, виділяються архітектурними особливостями – мавзолей Юсиф Кусею оглу, мавзолей Моміна Хатун, мавзолейний комплекс Карабаглар, Мавзолей Гулустан та інші подібні мавзолеї, що мають особливе історичне значення. У численних наукових джерелах також відображено, що могила Ноя знаходиться на території Нахчівана, і записи західних учених світового рівня, що дають навіть опис гробниці, спорудженої над могилою Ноя, і сьогодні складають основу наукових досліджень. Навіть діяльність Пророка Ноя в соляних кар'єрах Нахчівана збереглася в народних легендах. Автор також зазначає, що могила Ноя знаходиться на південній стороні міста Нахчіван, поруч із руїнами стародавньої фортеці. Нинішній вигляд гробниці був відновлений у VIII столітті. У нинішньому вигляді могила нагадує не дуже велику гробницю, що підноситься над землею. Спочатку тут був храм, потім він відлетів і зруйнувався. Одним із найдавніших мавзолеїв Нахчівана з часів Середньовіччя є Мавзолей Гюлістан. На відміну від багатьох середньовічних мавзолеїв монумента, що складається із цистерни та гробниці, частина цистерни також знаходиться над землею. Одна з видатних фігур

азербайджанського Ренесансу XX століття – геній східної архітектури Аджемі Нахчівані. Дійшла до наших днів безсмертна гробниця асарагга бісаругфа Бі бі, що представляє собою монументальну історико-культурну реліквію, яка містить тюрко-ісламські цінності. Це пам'ятник, побудований в 1162 році Аджемі Абубакром оглу, також відомий як «купол Атабаба». З книги ясно, що гробниця була побудована на честь сина Юсифа Кусейра.

Ключові слова: Нахчіван, Аджемі Нахчівані, архітектура, геометричний орнамент, симетрія, декагональ.

Introduction. Nakhchivan, one of the oldest cultural centers of Azerbaijan, as well as the Middle East, has made an outstanding contribution to the cultural heritage of mankind. As Nakhchivan itself is distinguished by its favorable geographical location, the historical and architectural monuments that bear the rich culture of this region are estimated as the most valuable examples of Azerbaijani national culture. In this sense, the tombs are one of the most valuable examples of Nakhchivan architecture. The fact that in the XII century Nakhchivan was the capital of the Azerbaijani state of the Atabegs, in the same century, as one of the important centers of the Eastern renaissance, was noted in the sources for its strategic importance, which led to the construction of a number of monuments of historical significance in Nakhchivan. The most valuable monuments created by the prominent architect Ajami Abubakr Oglu Nakhchivani, who created the most valuable examples of Eastern architecture, Maragha-Nakhchivan architecture school, are distinguished by the architectural features as well as the special historical significance of Yusif ibn Kuseyir tomb, Tomb of Momina Khatun, Garabaghlar Tomb, Gulustan Tomb and such tombs in the sign of various types of architecture created by the influence of his art. The ornamental features, the shape of the structure, the geometric structure and a number of architectural solutions of the Nakhchivan tombs give reason to say with confidence that Nakhchivan became one of the architectural centers of the medieval renaissance, an architectural school was formed here, which became an important component of the architecture of the Middle East. The exact geometrical solution of the tombs of Nakhchivan suggests that in this region, along with architecture, exact sciences are also highly developed (Aliyev, 2007: 114). In addition, from the studies of the Nakhchivan tombs, historical sources, and historical formations given in O. Chelebi's guidebook, it follows that the Islamic factor in the formation of the Maraga-Nakhchivan architectural school is indisputable, and pre-Islamic Eastern elements are also observed in the architectural monuments of Nakhchivan (Qiyasi, 1991: 175).

Discussion. One of the monuments of historical significance among the tombs of Nakhchivan is the tomb of Noah. The ancient history Nakhchivan, the rich culture of this mysterious land, its histori-

cal past, as there are numerous references to the history of this land as a witness to the valuable, one of the important moments of the Prophet Noah and the world flood sources connected with the place where Noah's Ark dried up is shown. One of the most valuable examples of Nakhchivan culture and architecture, connected with this belief, which is enshrined both in scientific sources and in folklore memory, is the fact that the tomb bearing the name of the Prophet Noah and his grave are located in Nakhchivan. Grave of Noah is located on the territory of Nakhchivan, and even the records of Western, world-class thinkers, which describe the tomb built on the grave of Noah, still form the basis of scientific research today, are also reflected in numerous scientific sources. In this sense I. Shopen, Dyubua-de Montpere, K. A. Nikitin, V. M. Sisoyev, K. I. Smirnov, I. M. Dyakanov and the opinion of other researchers are of interest. Along with the interesting information that Noah's flood is connected with Nakhchivan, K. A. Nikitin noted that "...After the legendary flood, Noah lived in Nakhchivan and was buried here" (Nikitin, 1882: 87). Even the activities of the Prophet Noah in the Salt Quarries of Nakhchivan are preserved in folk legends. The author also notes that "Noah's grave is located on the southern side of the city of Nakhchivan, near the ruins of an ancient fortress. The current appearance of the tomb was restored in the VIII century. In its present form, the grave resembles a not very large tomb, rising above the ground. First there was a temple, then it flew away and collapsed. The current tomb consists of the remains of the lower floor of the former temple. The interior of the temple, through which you need to go down the stairs, is of a round type, reinforced in the middle with a stone pillar. According to legend, under this pillar is the grave of Noah. There is no description of images and decorations in monument" (Nikitin, 1882: 132). From the records of russian scientist V. M. Sisoiev, it is known that the sides of the Tomb consist of an octagonal prism 2.5 m long. One of the important points about the tomb is that Bahruz Kengerli, the founder of the art of realistic painting in Azerbaijan, painted the Tomb of Noah in several different plans at the beginning of the XX century.

The tomb consists of a vault, a ground tomb and a conical cover. During the restoration, bricks, kashi and various embroidery elements were used. The height of the tomb is 15 meters 50 centimeters, and

its width is 7 meters 50 centimeters. The Tomb of the Prophet Noah has 8 corners (Ansiklopedi, 2008: 256).

On the basis of the decree of the Chairman of the Supreme Mejlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Vasif Talibov of June 28, 2006 “on the restoration of the tomb of the Prophet Noah in the city of Nakhchivan” in 2007-2008, the tomb of Noah was restored taking into account historical sources.

One of the outstanding figures of the XX century Azerbaijani renaissance, one of the immortal works of the genius of Eastern architecture Ajami Nakhchivani, which has come to this day, is the Tomb of Yusuf Kuseyr Oglu. The tomb is a monument of monumental history and culture that preserves Turkish-Islamic values. The monument, built by Ajami Abubakr Oglu in 1162, is also known as “Atababa cupola”. It is clear from the book that the tomb was built in honor of Yusuf Kuseyir. Yusuf Kuseyir was introduced as the mayor of city. From the drawing of the monument, the system of patterns on it, and the architectural design, it is clear that the architectural monument, which is the first extant example of Ajami's work, bears the main features of the Maraga-Nakhchivan architectural school (Salamzadeh, 1976: 83). One of the most valuable examples of Turkic-Islamic architecture in Nakhchivan, the Atababa Cupola, consists of an underground and an aboveground part. The monument, built in an octagonal shape inside and out, is covered with a pramidal dome. The historical and architectural monument of Azerbaijan, distinguished by its geometric ornamentation, system of architectural elements, patterns, structure, attachment to Islamic values, along with the expression of the original qualities of Ajami's art, gives a complete picture of the level of development of the architecture in Nakhchivan. The tomb, which has preserved its architectural structure to this day, was strengthened in 2001.

The Tomb of Momina Khatun, one of the most valuable examples of the architectural school of Ajami Nakhchivani, is a rare gem of Azerbaijani architecture. The monument, considered the pinnacle of the art of Ajami Nakhchivani, an outstanding representative of the renaissance of the XII century, was built in 1186 in honor of Momina Khatun, the wife of the founder of the Azerbaijani state Atabek Shamsaddin Eldaniz. The monument bears all the specific features of the Maraga-Nakhchivan architectural school. The Tomb of Momina Khatun, which has a special place among the tombs of Azerbaijan, consists of an underground and an aboveground part. The underground part has the shape of a rectangle in the plan. The decagon, separated from the center by arches, is interesting for its structure, architectural design,

ornaments, and geometric features. The aboveground part of the monument is rectangular on the outside, round on the inside. A similar geometric structure with the Tomb of Yusif Kuseyr, one of the valuable examples of Ajami art, “the system of patterns on the Tomb of Momina Khatun, its graphic features, geometric ornamental features, the system of colors in the patterns is a continuation of Maraga-Nakhchivan Architecture School (Salamzadeh, 1976: 83). The special value of the monument is that the architecture and painting in the Tomb of Momina Khatun are harmonious. In addition to being a continuation of the Eastern architecture and the culture of general architecture, the botanical patterns on the monument have preserved important components of pre-Islamic architectural art. On the inner side of the dome of the monument, the buds with a botanic pattern attract attention with their ornamental features and give preliminary information about the art of painting of this period. The greatness of the art of Ajami is that the geometric ornaments and patterns on the monument do not repeat each other in any way, the patterns differ in their structure, size, artistic technique, and features of expression of thought. It is known that in the pre-Islamic period, the general Turkic architecture developed on the territory of Azerbaijan, as well as in Nakhchivan. The inscriptions of the Tomb of Momina Khatun, which is one of the masterpieces of architecture of the XII century, give numerous information about the architect's worldview, the power of art, and his commitment to Islamic values. The writing of the names of prominent personalities of the Islamic world in the book, and the respectful attitude to Islamic values in general, gives reason to consider the Momine Khatun Tomb as a valuable example of Turkic-Islamic architecture.

It is also interesting that this magnificent monument, created by the outstanding representative of renaissance architecture Ajami Nakhchivani, along with deep reading, rich thinking, and broad imagination, confirms the fact that during the life of the architect in the capital of the Azerbaijani state of Atabay, Nakhchivan, the development of culture, high level of science and education were at such a level that Ajami Abubakr grew up and formed in this environment and became a great architect of the East.

Among the tombs of Nakhchivan, one of the monumental architectural monuments that attract attention with its historical value and architectural features is the Karabaglar Tomb Complex. The complex, whose construction history dates back to the XII–XIV centuries, has survived to the present day two minarets and tomb. The Karabakh temple complex is distinguished by its uniqueness among the structures

containing a palace, mosque, madrasah, khanaga, shafahana, hamam and other similar buildings. The sources indicate that it was built “in honor of Kodai Khatun in the time of Abu Said (1316–1335), the son of Kazan Khan's brother Olcaytu Khan” (Kerimzade, 1969: 69–78).

The Tomb of Garabaglar consists of a vault and an aboveground part. The upper cylindrical body of the tomb was built in the form of columns with a semi-cylindrical body that emerged from the tomb in a member state in combination with the wall structure. The thickness of the walls, consisting of semi-cylindrical columns of regular 12-angle shape, is 1.25 m. The surface is decorated with geometric patterns with the lines of Kufi script. The system of tombstone patterns, the abundance of Islamic sayings, the geometric structure, and architectural features express the main features of the Maraga-Nakhchivan architectural school. The tomb is one of the most valuable gems of medieval Nakhchivan architecture.

Conclusion. On July 4, 2016, the Chairman of the Supreme Mejlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic signed an order “on the restoration and

research of the Karabaglar Tomb Complex”. Based on the order, the tomb was completely restored, at the same time, the historical and cultural value of the Karabakhlar Tomb Complex was reflected in the research works.

One of the medieval tombs of Nakhchivan is the Tomb of Gulustan. Unlike many of the medieval tombs of the monument, which consists of a vault and a tomb, the part of the vault is also on top of ground. Gulustan tomb, which is included as one of the tower-shaped tombs, attracts attention with its unique architectural solution, the upper part of the Gulustan tomb, which consists of a cross-section pyramid from the outside, the lower part in the form of a cylinder, and the twelve-faced tower. Architectural features of the tomb, its geometric structure, system of patterns, etc. according to its characteristics is ranked among the monuments of medieval architecture. Like other historical and architectural monuments located on the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, the Gulustan Tomb was also restored by the relevant order of the Chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

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