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# World Heritage Patrimoine mondial

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CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

**Samarkand - Crossroads of Cultures World Heritage site (Uzbekistan) (603 rev) /  
Samarkand – carrefour de cultures (Ouzbékistan) (603 rev)**

12 - 17 December 2007 / 12 - 17 décembre 2007

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:  
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**REPORT ON**  
**The Reactive Monitoring Mission to Samarkand - Crossroads of Cultures**  
**World Heritage site (Uzbekistan)**

**12-17 December 2007**

**Ainura Tentieva (UNESCO/World Heritage Centre) and Nur Akin (ICOMOS)**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Samarkand – Crossroads of Culture (Uzbekistan) was carried out by Mrs. Ainura Tentieva (UNESCO/WHC) and Mrs. Nur Akın (ICOMOS) from 12 to 17 December in response to the decision taken by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee during its 31st Session in New Zealand 2007 (Decision 31 COM 7B.74), and in response to an invitation from the State Party.

The primary purpose of the mission was to review the state of conservation of Samarkand-Crossroads of Cultures World Heritage site, to evaluate progress in the development of the Management Plan and the implementation of the revised road schemes for the City of Samarkand. For this purpose several meetings were organized with the governmental organizations responsible for protection of monuments at the national and city level. Two day site visits in Samarkand were carried out for inspection of the state of conservation of the sites within the property.

The mission confirmed the importance of a sustainable approach to maintenance of this World Heritage property, documentation of all of its historical values, and restoration of monuments and other attributes which carry its outstanding universal value, using internationally accepted scientific approaches.

For the monuments and their surroundings which are considered as one entity, it is necessary to take a coordinated and cross-disciplinary approach, including planning decisions to be implemented and applied in conjunction with the General Development Plan of Samarkand.

The principal general recommendations of the mission are:

- . Traffic along the new four lane road between Afrosiab and Timurid town should be strictly limited, to tourist buses, emergency vehicles and pedestrians.
- . **Any** new buildings constructed on the Timurid town side of the road must respect important silhouettes of the main monuments of Samarkand.
- . **Total** reconstruction projects, for instance of parts of the Timurid city walls or the gates, would not be acceptable.
- . A Conservation Strategy for the whole property, including the monuments and residential areas of the historic city, should be prepared, adopted and implemented and be based on

proper documentation of the property. A scientific monitoring system, as part of the Conservation Strategy, should be put in place to collect and analyze data in order to evaluate different factors affecting the property such as environmental and human factors, impact of the restoration works, and effectiveness of ongoing conservation.

. A conservation strategy for the existing residential districts which have been neglected until now, should be developed as soon as possible, in order to facilitate their rehabilitation based on accurate recording and restoration rather than re-building.

. A coherent urban conservation and planning policy should be developed as part of the management plan for the World Heritage site and its buffer zone.

. A «coordinating committee for the World Heritage site » for taking scientific decisions conforming to international principles and best practice, related to restoration and documentation of historic properties as well as the rehabilitation of historic quarters- must be established as soon as possible; this would benefit from the input of international experts.

.Taking into account the scope and complexity of issues facing the property, the site management system should be strengthened. There is also a need to improve coordination between all the different institutions in order to be able to execute the work plans developed under the Management Plan, covering on-going maintenance, major restoration projects, monitoring, documentation, promotional activities, and tourism.

These recommendations were discussed during the mission and the mission experts received positive feedback from the Uzbek authorities. The mission also noted that the recommendations of previous missions have been taken into account, especially on better coordination between responsible bodies and on a better understanding of conservation and preservation issues for Samarkand.

## **1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION**

### **1.1 Inscription history, Criteria and World Heritage values**

Name of the property: Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2001

Criteria:

*Criterion (i):* The architecture and townscape of Samarkand, situated at the crossroads of ancient cultures, are masterpieces of Islamic cultural creativity.

*Criterion (ii):* Ensembles in Samarkand such as the Bibi Khanum Mosque and Registan Square played a seminal role in the development of Islamic architecture over the entire region, from the Mediterranean to the Indian subcontinent.

*Criterion (iv):* The historic town of Samarkand illustrates in its art, architecture, and urban structure the most important stages of Central Asian cultural and political history from the 13th century to the present day.

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: N/A

### **1.2 Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau**

After Inscription of the property, the World Heritage Committee examined the state of conservation report on Samarkand:

- in 2005 at its 29th session (Decision 29 COM 7B.57), in response to the large-scale restoration and urban landscaping programme at the Shaki-Zindah ensemble;
- in 2006 at its 30th session (30 COM 7B. 59) following the recommendations of the UNESCO/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission on the implementation of the newly developed urban planning scheme (“Project for the reconstruction of the central part of Samarkand”);
- and in 2007 at its 31th session (Decision 31 COM 7B.74) in response to a major enlargement to a four-lane highway of a trunk road passing through the middle of the World Heritage zone, effectively severing the Afrosiab and the Shakhi-Zindah from the Timurid city. This State of Conservation report and Decision 31 COM 7B.74 are given below:

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.57  
30 COM 7B. 59

Previous monitoring missions:

A brief assessment mission by an international expert of the UNESCO Tashkent Office in April 2005  
Joint UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission on 6-12 March 2006  
Mission by UNESCO/ICOMOS experts in October 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Serious impact of a large-scale restoration;
- b) Urban landscaping programme impacts upon the authenticity and integrity of the property

Current conservation issues:

The criteria under which Samarkand was inscribed on the World Heritage List include not only the outstanding architectural ensembles such as the Registan Square and Bibi Khanum Mosque, but also elements of the historic town and townscape of Samarkand, from the 13th Century down to the present day. At the time of Samarkand’s inscription, the World Heritage Committee requested that the Uzbek authorities prepare an integrated management plan for the historic town as a whole, and to report back to the Committee at its 28<sup>th</sup> session in 2004.

Shakhi-Zinda complex:

In October 2004, comprehensive restoration works were begun in Shakhi-Zindah complex without prior notification or approval from the World Heritage Committee.

At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to provide a complete documentation concerning the large restoration and urban landscaping programme, which appeared to be severely affecting the integrity and authenticity of the property. As requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) an ICOMOS mission was carried out in March 2006, accompanied by the Head of the UNESCO Office in Tashkent. The Mission considered that the loss of authenticity occasioned by the recent work at the Shaki-Zindah complex was alarming and that all development and conservation decisions must in future be guided by a management plan.

New road between Afrosiab and Timurid part of Samarkand

In 2005/2006, the Municipality of Samarkand completed a major enlargement to a four-lane highway of a trunk road passing through the middle of the World Heritage zone, effectively severing the Afrosiab and the Shakhi-Zindah from the Timurid city. This project is part of a larger city development scheme 2004-2025 (“Project for the reconstruction of the central part of Samarkand”). At its 30<sup>th</sup> Session, the Committee noted that this new road construction, 16 metres wide and bordered by retaining walls up to five metres high, is very obtrusive to the

historic environment and has a considerable impact on the property and its buffer zone. The Committee also noted that the new trunk road was part of a wider plan to enlarge the road system around the periphery of Samarkand and provide links with the existing internal roads and that this, if implemented, could have a considerable impact on the integrity of the property and its buffer zones; the Committee also noted with concern that certain areas of traditional residential housing near to the main monuments had been demolished and others appeared to be under threat.

The Committee urged the State Party to review the large-scale urban planning schemes, such as the proposed “Project for the reconstruction of the central part of Samarkand”, and to immediately refrain from further demolition of traditional housing areas pending the adoption of a conservation policy and management plan;

The Committee requested the State Party as a matter of priority to develop a management plan for the whole historic town, including the World Heritage areas and its buffer zones; prepare an inventory and documentation of the historic features and the architectural values; establish an integrated conservation strategy for the existing residential quarters, as well as for the reintegration and rehabilitation of the surrounding areas that have been demolished. Further, the Committee noted that should the State Party fail to initiate the above-mentioned recommendations and decisions, the World Heritage Committee may decide to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 31st session in 2007. An informal mission by UNESCO/ICOMOS experts visited Samarkand in October 2006.

*Management Plan:*

During the Mission in October 2006, it was agreed by the State Party that the Management Plan for Samarkand should be a strategic plan, which should include the concept of the overall development of the city and include historical residential areas as well as the main architectural and archeological monuments.

In January 2007 the State Party submitted a Draft ***Management Plan of the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Historical Centre of Samarkand***. This detailed and aspirational Plan is in four main sections:

1. Historical-cultural values and condition of buildings of the historical centre of Samarkand
2. The general principles for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historical centre of Samarkand,
3. Management and monitoring
4. Management plan for the conservation and rehabilitation of the historical centre of Samarkand

The principles in the Plan include:

- Whenever possible the maximal preservation of all properties of the cultural heritage in original (authentic) shape.
- Preservation and rehabilitation, of both monuments and their historical environment and landscape
- New town planning should correspond to the requirements of national and international legislation on protection of the cultural heritage.
- The approaches to the preservation and rehabilitations of these three main zones in the City should be differentiated.

For the Old City attention is drawn to the need to consider not only the main monuments but the associated residential quarters with their network of courtyard houses, water collection system of *khouzs* and *aryks*, and small neighborhood mosques. There the main aim is to not only to restore but also revive something of the rich economic and social functions that these areas once had as the heart of the Timurid City. The Plan identifies the very specific qualities of these areas such as busy, “*trading streets hung ... with goods, mysterious shade of small*

*dokons (shops) with silver jugs and flashes bronze; ..... narrow side streets with sounds of dutar and dead-ends, suddenly open wide through gate to the depth of cool and wide courtyard. ” The Plan stresses the need for support for the ‘ positive phenomena of spontaneous, self-acting revival of traditional inhabited architecture, ...[as a ] result of current repairing and reconstruction by the population of their houses in traditional style.’*

The Timetable for the Plan is 2007-2015. The first stage, 2007 – 2010 would cover the necessary research, development and design activities. The realisation of the planned activities would be carried out in the second stage - 2011-2015. Financing the Programmes emanating from the Plan will be carried out at the expense of national and local budgets.

The State Party has further confirmed that:

- The “Project for the Reconstruction of the Central Part of Samarkand” 2004-2025 will be superseded by the proposals to be drawn up as part of the Management Plan
- The Management Plan, after its approval by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, should become the basic document on the basis of which the General Plan for City Development of Samarkand till 2025 will be elaborated. All subsequent projects of a detailed lay-out of the central part of Samarkand city, the general schemes and concrete projects of roads construction will be adjusted in accordance with submitted Management Plan.
- Additional rules and standards with more detailed regulation will be developed on the basis of the Management Plan. These will include historical buildings, tourism facilities, public spaces, residential quarters, transport infrastructure and other related issues. It is planned that draft rules and standards will be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for consultation and comments.

ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre congratulate the State Party on compiling a detailed and visionary draft Management Plan that addresses the key issues facing the historic city of Samarkand, in particular the need to integrate the protection and preservation of the main iconic monuments with the restoration of their associated historic residential areas, the need to keep major roads out of the historic centre, the need to support the economic and social sustainability of the overall historic centre, and the overall need to put in place detailed planning and guidance structures to provide the necessary supportive framework.

ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre also suggest that as part of the Management Plan, a Conservation Strategy for the City should be developed – covering both monuments and residential areas of the historic city – that acknowledges the wealth of conservation expertise, experience, documentation that exists in the city and which is addressed at both on-going maintenance and major restoration projects. It is further suggested that a Coordinating Committee for the World Heritage Site of Samarkand be put in place to bring together all partners currently involved in the conservation and development of the World Heritage Site

**Decision: 31 COM 7B.74**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 30 COM 7B.59, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the State Party’s production of a draft Management Plan for Samarkand which aims to address the concept of the overall development of the city and considers not only the main architectural and archeological monuments, but also historical residential areas and traffic and tourism management and notes the

- timetable, 2007-2010 for the development of the final detailed Management Plan;
4. Requests the State Party to submit for approval, as available:
    - a) Draft rules and standards including approaches to reconstruction,
    - b) Revised draft road schemes for the city, and
    - c) Details of proposed zoning;
  5. Also requests the State Party to confirm that no further road building will be undertaken until the revised road scheme for the city has been approved, and that this will include proposals to close the new road between Afrosiab and Timurid city to through-traffic;
  6. Further requests the State Party to consider the development of a Conservation Strategy for the city for both monuments and residential areas, that acknowledges the wealth of conservation expertise, experience, and documentation that exists in the city and covers both on-going maintenance and major restoration projects;
  7. Suggests that a Coordinating Committee for the property be put in place to bring together all partners currently involved in the conservation and development of the property;
  8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission to evaluate progress in the development of the Management Plan and the implementation of the revised road schemes for the City;
  9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2008, a detailed report on progress made in developing the management plan and on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

### **1.3 Justification of the mission**

This Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Samarkand (Uzbekistan) was carried out by Mrs. Ainura Tentieva (UNESCO/WHC) and Mrs. Nur Akin (ICOMOS) from 12 to 17 December 2007 based on the decisions taken by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at the 31th Session in New Zealand 2007 (Decision 31 COM 7B.74) and following an invitation from the State Party.

The primary purpose of the mission was to review the state of conservation of Samarkand WH property (Uzbekistan), to evaluate progress in the development of the Management Plan and in its implementation, in revising draft road schemes, in proposing planning zones and in the development of a Conservation Strategy. For this purpose several meetings were organized with the governmental organizations responsible for protection of monuments on the national level and at the city level. Two day site visits in Samarkand were carried out for inspection of the state of conservation of the sites within the WH property (Annex 3 Itinerary and programme with the summary of the discussions).

## **2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

### **2.1 Protected area legislation**

Laws, Governmental Decisions, Norms and Rules for City Planning and other regulations related to the protection and utilization of monuments, as well as special governmental programs are being applied in Uzbekistan (described in details in the draft Management Plan for Samarkand, officially submitted in 2007). Samarkand has the status of the State Historical and Architectural Reserve, which applies additional restrictions for new constructions or changes within the boundaries of the Reserve. Basic laws are:

- The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Preservation and Utilisation of Object of Cultural Heritage
- The Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers Concerning the establishment of the State Samarkand Historical and Architectural Reserve
- Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on City planning
- Norms and Rules for City planning. Planning of the Development and Construction on the Territories of Cities and Villages (Chapter XII. Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage Sites During Construction in the Settlements. Articles 329 - 334)

Although strict regulations for preservation, reconstruction/ restoration of cultural heritage sites, including safeguarding of the cultural heritage sites during construction, are clearly outlined in these Documents, they set out general rules only.

## **2.2 Institutional framework and Management structure**

The management structure at the central and local city level is presented in detail in the draft Management Plan (chapter III) including the following aspects: Legislative, Control, Planning and Management.

The operating bodies with powers of control and management are:

- The Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Principal Scientific Board for Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Monuments;
- Municipalities of the Samarkand Region and Samarkand city.
- The Samarkand Regional State Inspection on Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage Objects.

Decisions on construction/ reconstruction within the protective Reserve of Samarkand are taken in Consultation with the Samarkand Regional State Inspection on Protection and Utilization of Monuments, or by the Scientific Board on Protection and Utilization of Monuments in Samarkand (called once in 1-2 month or on demand in case of more complex questions). Major projects receive approval at the national level.

For day-to-day activities related to the monuments such as registration, monitoring, technical supervision of conservation and restoration, or technical expertise of new projects, these are implemented by the Regional State Inspection on Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage. This Inspection consists of 8 persons, including administrative staff.

## **3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES**

### **3.1 Management Plan**

One of the main management issues is the development of the final detailed Management Plan, 2007 -2010, including:

- concept for the overall development of the city

- development of a Conservation Strategy for the city for both monuments and residential areas, that covers both on-going maintenance and major restoration projects
- rules and standards including approaches to reconstruction
- revised road schemes for the city
- planning zones

The Uzbek authorities confirmed during the mission discussions that the final detailed Management Plan, covering all these important issues, is in the process of development.

#### 3.1.1 Revision of road schemes:

Concerning the revised draft road schemes for the city: according to information provided by the Mayor's office of Samarkand, no major road constructions are planned in the new Urban Plan for Development of Samarkand city 2004 –2025 (General Plan), that is being revised based on the recommendations of the UNESCO-WHC/ ICOMOS mission undertaken in October 2006. After the approval of this General Plan, a more detailed plan can be developed, which will be submitted to UNESCO. The timescale for the development of revised road schemes is not fixed, however it will fit into the first stage of realization of the draft Management Plan: 2007- 2010.

#### 3.1.2 Coordinating Committee:

The establishment of a Coordinating Committee for the property in order to bring together all partners currently involved in the conservation and development of the property was proposed by the World Heritage Committee. The Scientific Board on Protection and Utilization of Monuments in Samarkand (called once in 1-2 month or on demand in case of more complex questions) has this function in the current management system.

Taking into account a scope and a complexity of issues facing the property, site management system could be strengthened. There is also a need to improve coordination between different institutions in order to be able to execute the work plans to be developed under the Management Plan, covering on-going maintenance, major restoration projects, monitoring, documentation, promotional activities, and tourism.

### **3.2 Factors affecting the property**

Factors affecting the property are described in details in Section 4 of this Report (below).

For monumental architecture the main threats are:

- environmental factors (humidity, heat)
- mistakes of the previous restoration projects
- rising number of tourists

For traditional residential quarters and historic houses:

- loss of control of changes and modernization (private property)
- lack of funding for preservation
- lack of documentation

For townscape of Samarkand:

- new constructions
- large-scale development projects, such as road building
- large-scale reconstruction projects

#### 4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE SITE

Observations related to the problems of specific areas of the property:

. HAZRET-HYZR MOSQUE: This is surrounded by a new brick wall of a type which is inappropriate to this monument and its environment. The same retaining wall can be observed on the other side of the road along the cemetery, and has a negative affect on the general view of the monument and its surrounding area. Large scale urban landscaping around the monument and the Shakhi-Zindah Complex, and the creation of a vast green area, impact upon the authenticity and the integrity of these properties.

Looking from Hazret-Hyzr Mosque to the silhouette of the Timurid part of the city -which is on the other side of the new four lane road -,a long line of small shops have more or less positive effect on the overall view. On the contrary, new constructions of inferior quality inside the market, especially the shopping centre covered with aluminum panels, blue windowpanes, and the new buildings behind, spoil the view towards the Bibi Khanum complex. The shape of the structures and their roofing material are also obtrusive to the silhouette, too.

. SHAHI-ZINDA: Considerable large-scale restorations and reconstructions (2004-2006) have been undertaken in this very important necropolis. Most of the decorative details are now reproductions, although a few original ones have been left intact and exposed. One of the primary goals of the extensive clearance of the soil around the buildings was to reduce deterioration from humidity problems. Scientific monitoring system should be applied to collect and analyse data on the impact of the restoration work on the monuments, especially to evaluate the effectiveness of the drainage system. Upper structures, such as, brick works, wall paintings and architectural decorations appear to have humidity problems due to rainwater, and the same is true for the basements due to the insufficiency of the drainage system. Some monuments are in need of restoration.

. GUR-EMIR MAUSOLEUM: This was mostly reconstructed in 1996 for the 660 anniversary of Timur's birthday. Most of the decorative details have been reproduced while some original ones have been left intact and exposed. At the opposite side of the entrance portal which is richly decorated, a small new building is under construction for audio-visual activities related to Gur-Emir. It needs to be very carefully designed and constructed due to its direct effect on the monument.

. THE AKSARAY MAUSOLEUM: The ruins were in a private courtyard. Large scale restoration work was carried out in 2006 – 2007, and the mausoleum has just recently opened for visitors. The historic quarter around the mausoleum seems to have a traditional atmosphere. It can be analysed and evaluated as an integral part of the Aksaray and Gur-Emir mausoleums which are so close to each other.

. AL-MATURIDI MAUSOLEUM: This was reconstructed in 2000.

. AN EXAMPLE OF 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY HOUSE: This abandoned historic house is in bad conditions. It reflects all kinds of traditional characteristics which deserve to be preserved such as its courtyard facade, original storey plans and details. The decorations of the guest room ("mehmonhona") are especially remarkable. This house is a private property and the owner is planning to turn it into a guest house (under the supervision of the Inspection on Monuments). Therefore, documentation of these architectural values is crucial and has to be done as soon as possible for this house, as well as for other historically important ones, as their architectural details can be easily lost.

The Regional State Inspection on Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage maintains the documentation of the old residential area as part of its day-to-day activities, such as registration, monitoring, technical supervision of conservation and restoration, technical expertise of new projects. This documentation consists of plans (not very detailed) of some of the historic quarters and technical description of the most prominent examples of houses. At the same time scientific research of the historic city is going on, using different approaches for analysis and ways of evaluation of all kind of historic values: streets, quarters, quarter mosques, water channels and *Hauses*.

However, complete documentation of the traditional urban areas has not yet been done, and addressing the danger of deterioration is not a high priority of the present conservation works. The available equipment and experts provided by the Regional State Inspection is minimal for this vast site.

The mission therefore suggests that capacity building should be carried out to enable the establishment of a professional documentation unit based on the up-to-date documentation technologies.

. REGISTAN ENSEMBLE: This ensemble of important monuments has not had large-scale restoration, except in some parts. Some cells of the madrasahs are used as touristic shops, one as a carpet weaving workshop. Some parts of the madrasahs are not restored due to the lack of funding. Some cells have serious deterioration problems, and the loss of original architectural and decorative details was observed to be reaching a critical stage. Immediate interventions and are required for some parts of these monuments in order to avoid further loss. Again, a proper scientific monitoring system should be maintained to collect and analyse data to allow a better understanding of the deterioration problems and thus a better solutions of these problems.

. "PEDESTRIAN WAY" BETWEEN REGISTAN ENSEMBLE AND BIBI KHANYM MOSQUE  
This is important for the use of the pedestrians, as the area is the core of two Timurid monumental complexes. Currently it seems to be mostly opened to the traffic.

. BIBI-KHANYM MOSQUE, MAUSOLEUM, MADRASAH: Large-scale restorations, reconstructions and landscaping in the courtyard have recently been undertaken resulting in significant interventions to architectural elements and decorations. Critical structural problems were observed on the untouched parts, as well as on the rich decorations which need to be consolidated. The remains of the madrasah next to the mausoleum have been consolidated with modern bricks and are displayed. A proper conservation program is needed for the site.

. MAUSOLEUM OF KHODJA DANIYAR: It is situated on the northern slope of Afrosiab hill at the old wall near a curative source. This location and the general view are impressive. The interior of the mausoleum has recently been renovated. A new building is under construction near to the mausoleum in order to provide an entrance building combined with an entrance from Afrosiab area. This new building destroys views of the mausoleum and the overall site. On the entrance façade of the mausoleum, a harmful intervention to an original detail is noticed: the original niche used for candles –an authentic important part of the building- have filled up and poorly faced with modern bricks.

. MAUSOLEUM AND MOSQUE OF ABDI DARUN: This 15<sup>th</sup> century mausoleum which is not yet restored has serious structural problems. New additions/reconstructions have been undertaken next to the mosque and to the mausoleum. A new addition next to the mausoleum which destroys the monumental and original view of the monument will be moved (according to the explanation of Mr.Naberaev). The mosque is newly restored; its

decorations are recently repaired and repainted by means of certificated artists (according to Mrs.Naberaeva).

. ISHRAT-KHANA MAUSOLEUM: This lies to the north of Abdi Darun Mausoleum, on the other side of the road. As an intact structure it has a very authentic character. The atmosphere of the site is impressive. But especially some parts of the monument open to the weather have reached a critical stage after a long period of neglect, and immediate very delicate interventions are required in order to avoid further deterioration of original details.

. KHODJA AKHRAR ENSEMBLE: This consists of a series of three mosques (15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> c. open mosques and a 20<sup>th</sup> c. mosque) and a minaret (19<sup>th</sup> c.) separately constructed in the courtyard. An important cemetery is also a part of the complex. The madrasah was not visited as it was too late.

. MEMORIAL COMPLEX OF IMAM-AL-BUKHARI (out of the WH protected zone): This is a new complex (except its very old trees) built very quickly in 1998 on the site of the old mausoleum.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Recommendations related to the new four-lane road and its surroundings:**

**5.1.1** The new large road of four lanes which runs between Afrosiab and Timurid town enormously influences these two very important historic areas of Samarkand. The traffic of this road should be strictly limited and used exclusively by tourist buses, emergency vehicles and pedestrians. As can be seen from an old photo of the area (**Annex 3**), trees could be planted on the two sides of this road in order to diminish its scale and impact and provide a green layer as part of the monumental view of the two historic sides which could also help hide new constructions of poor quality at the Timurid site.

In this regard, The Uzbek authorities assured the mission that no further road building will be undertaken until the overall revised road scheme for the city has been approved by the Government of Uzbekistan after consultation with the institutions responsible for protection of monuments as well as with UNESCO. A new road around the ancient settlement of Afrosiab has just been opened which can be used to reduce through-traffic on the road between Afrosiab and the Timurid city. However it is difficult to close the road between Afrosiab and Timurid city for all through-traffic, as this road is used to get to the bazar near Bibi-Khanym.

**5.1.2.** The new buildings constructed on the Timurid town side of the road like the shopping centre which is under construction, and buildings without any quality, such as the restaurant “Konfort”, impact negatively on the silhouette of this side of the city, where Timurid period monuments are very important. On the other hand, two buildings constructed on the Afrosiab side of the road are negatively affecting the general view of Shahi-Zindah. The mission considered that the “Muzaffar Bobo” gas station must be moved to another site, and the new bus stop, whose design is unacceptable for this historic area should be redesigned more carefully and simply, taking into account the significance of the surrounding area.

These new buildings highlight the need for planning zones building design standards and the importance of a very carefully studied and definitely established buffer zone boundary, otherwise, this danger will always threaten the setting and views of the monuments and supporting buildings.

**5.1.3.**As it is written in the report on the Management Plan presented by Uzbekistan authorities (report on “Management-Plan of the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the

Historical Centre of Samarkand”, Samarkand, 2006, p.11), it is planned to regenerate former city walls (Annex 3 Photo from Magazine 3-2007, p.52) and the gate (Annex 3 Photo from Magazine 3-2007, p.51) of the Timurid part of Samarkand in order for them to be used –as it is written in the report- *as facilities for handicrafts workshops and centres for tourism services. At whole, the reconstruction of walls and gate enables for revival of former corresponding artistic image of Old city* (report, p.11). This large-scale reconstruction project would be very harmful to the general view of this part of the Timurid town, and does not conform to international conservation/preservation principles. A hotel, which it is planned to construct next to the remains of the Timurid city walls, will also cause significant damage to this very special historic area.

The mission recommends a halt to new constructions with “historic façades” and the total reconstruction of the city walls. Instead it is recommended that all new buildings of poor quality and harmful functions should be demolished and the historic remains consolidated and presented with archeological excavations where essential. .

## **5.2 Recommendations related to the Management Plan:**

The final detailed Management Plan, which will take into account the recommendations of the WH Committee, is in process of development. As stated in the draft Management Plan, research, development of normative documents and organizational activities will be finished during the first stage of realization of the draft Management Plan (2007- 2010).

**5.2.1.** A Conservation Strategy for the whole property, including the monuments and residential areas of the historic city, should be prepared, adopted and implemented and be based on a proper documentation of the property. A scientific monitoring system, as a part of the Conservation Strategy, should be put in place to collect and analyze data in order to evaluate different factors affecting the monuments: environmental and human factors, impact of the restoration works, effectiveness of ongoing conservation, etc..

A conservation strategy for the existing residential districts which have been neglected until now, should be developed as soon as possible, in order to facilitate their rehabilitation based on accurate recording and restoration rather than rebuilding. Any further demolition of the traditional housing areas should be prevented pending the adoption of the necessary conservation strategy and management plan. All possible measures should be taken in order to encourage their sustainable development and rehabilitation.

As seen during the mission, several areas surrounding major monuments such as Registan Ensemble, Bibi Khanum, Gur Emir have suffered significant losses. Some traditional urban fabric is still intact (as noticed in the surroundings of Aksaray Mausoleum). Their future protection and rehabilitation as key parts of the historic values of the town should be given high priority.

**5.2.2.** A coherent urban conservation and planning policy should be developed as part of the Management Plan of the World Heritage area and its buffer zone. It should be integrated into the Urban Development Plan.

## **5.3 Establishment of a Committee:**

It is necessary to strengthen *The Scientific Board on Protection and Utilization of Monuments in Samarkand*, perhaps by including some international experts, for consultations and taking scientific decisions in conformity with international principles related to the restoration and documentation of historic properties, as well as the rehabilitation of the historic quarters and approaches to developmental projects.

#### **5.4 Strengthening of the site management.**

Taking into account the scope and complexity of issues facing the property, the site management system should be strengthened. There is also a need to improve coordination between all the different institutions in order to be able to execute the work plans developed under the Management Plan, such as on-going maintenance, major restoration projects, monitoring, documentation, promotional activities and tourism.

**Although the progress that has been made is to be welcomed, the mission considers that there is a need to keep up the momentum to address issues highlighted by this report, and to reflect the urgency identified by the Committee, in order to ensure that within a reasonable timescale a clear approach is put in place for the overall management, conservation and development of the site that respects its outstanding universal value as an urban ensemble.**

**In order to ensure the threat of Danger listing is avoided, it is recommended that the State Party report by the end of January 2009 on the progress made in:**

- Finalization of the Management Plan,
- Development of a Conservation Plan,
- Progress with inventories, surveys and documentation of historic buildings, features, and areas,
- Reinforcement of the Coordinating Committee,
- Development of planning zones,
- Development of revised draft road schemes including proposals to close the new road between Afrosiab and Timurid city to through-traffic

*The programme of the mission:*

12 December, in the morning:

Arrival to Tashkent and Meeting at UNESCO Tashkent with Mrs. Anna Paolini (Head of UNESCO Office in Tashkent): commentaries on the problems of restorations of monuments in Samarkand and on the preparation of the management plan.

In the afternoon:

Meetings (accompanied by Mr. Alisher Ikramov, Secretary General of UNESCO Uzbekistan and Mr. Rakhmonov Abdusafi Rafikovich, Principal Architect of the General Office for Scientific-Production for Preservation and Utilization of Objects of the Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Cultural and Sports Affairs of Uzbekistan):

1. Meeting at the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Architecture and Construction with Mr. Azamat R. Tokhtaev (Chairman): explanations on the General Plan of Samarkand; on the efforts to reduce the destructive effect of the road project between Afrosiab and Timurid historic town; approaches to the restorations of monuments (reconstruction of the domes deteriorated by weather conditions) and cleaning up the surroundings of the monuments and creating green areas around in order to emphasize their monumental effect.

2. Meeting at the General Office for Scientific-Production for Preservation and Utilization of Objects of the Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Cultural and Sports Affairs of Uzbekistan with Mr. Rakhmonov Abdusafi Rafikovich (Principal architect):

Explanations on the institution, the documentation system and the archives; visit of the archives (books, old pictures, manuscripts and their published versions, cadastral plans, measured drawings etc.; 10.000 studied documents; on the regional branches of this office in Samarkand, Bukhara etc.; on their cooperation with UNESCO by means of big projects like "Silk Road" or by means of some important symposia.

13 December, in the morning:

Arrival to Samarkand by train.

In the afternoon:

Visits (accompanied by Mr. Rakhmonov Abdusafi Rafikovich; Mrs. Maysara A. Naberaeva, chief architect of Samarkand Regional State Inspection on Protection and Use of Monuments and Mr. Firdavs Naberaev, architect and city planner, head of the Scientific Laboratory):

1. Meeting at the centre of Samarkand Regional State Inspection on Protection and Use of Monuments: explanations by Mrs. Naberaeva on the works of the centre on conservation and restoration activities; visit of the exhibition on Samarkand prepared in 2005 and discussions with Mr. Firdavs Naberaev on different plans, photos etc., on the analysis of the historic city and on different approaches and ways of evaluation of all kind of historic values as well as their documentation and inventory (especially not only the monuments but the historic districts and the traditional houses, streets... which surround them); necessity of the use of the scales 1/500 or 1/200 for the analysis (plans, silhouettes etc.) of these traditional environments.

2. Site visits and observations:

. HAZRET-HYZR MOSQUE:

. SHAHI-ZINDA:

. GUR-EMIR MAUSOLEUM:

. THE AKSARAY MAUSOLEUM:

14 December, in the morning:

Meeting at the office of Samarkand Regional State Inspection/the presentation of the archive by Mr. Firdavs Naberaev: A file is prepared for each monument including all kind of documents related to it such as old photos, negatives, measured drawings, estimation of costs for their restorations etc. Approximately 200 monuments over 703 in total are documented until now. Mrs. M. Naberaeva and Mr. F. Naberaev, responsables of the office are complaining of the lack of financial sources and lack of experts for the completion of the

documentation of the WH property of Samarkand. 3 architects and 1 art specialist are working in the office with a lot of responsibility not only for Samarkand, but also for the entire region that they have to control.

One of the big project of the office is the reconstruction of a part of Timurid walls and the gate of the town. This façade reconstruction drawing is discussed during the meeting.

Site visit:

. MEMORIAL COMPLEX OF IMAM-AL-BUKHARI: Continuation of the site visits in the afternoon:

. AL-MATURIDI MAUSOLEUM:

. AN EXAMPLE OF 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY HOUSE:

. REGISTAN ENSEMBLE:

. “PEDESTRIAN WAY” BETWEEN REGISTAN ENSEMBLE AND BIBI KHANYM MOSQUE

. BIBI-KHANYM MOSQUE, MAUSOLEUM, MADRASAH:

. MAUSOLEUM OF KHODJA DANIYAR:

. MAUSOLEUM AND MOSQUE OF ABDI DARUN:

. ISHRAT-KHANA MAUSOLEUM

. KHODJA AKHRAR ENSEMBLE: The madrasah is not visited due to the darkness.

Dinner with the Mayor of Samarkand.

15 December, in the morning:

Meeting at the Municipality of Samarkand, with specialists like the representative of the Mayor (the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting due to an important international mission), Mr.Rakhmonov Abdusafi Rafikovich, Mrs.Maysara Naberaeva and Mr.Firdavs Naberaev. Exchange views on the General Plan of Samarkand and the Management Plan.

In the early afternoon: Departure for Tashkent by taxi.

Toward evening:

Concluding meeting at the lobby of “Radisson SAS Tashkent Hotel” with Mrs.Anna Paolini, Mr.Alisher Ikramov, Mr.Rakhmonov Abdusafi Rafikovich, Mr. Mansurov Ravshan.

16 December: Free day. In the evening: Exchange of views of the experts of UNESCO (Mrs.Ainura Tentieva) and ICOMOS (Mrs.Nur Akın) on the report to be prepared.

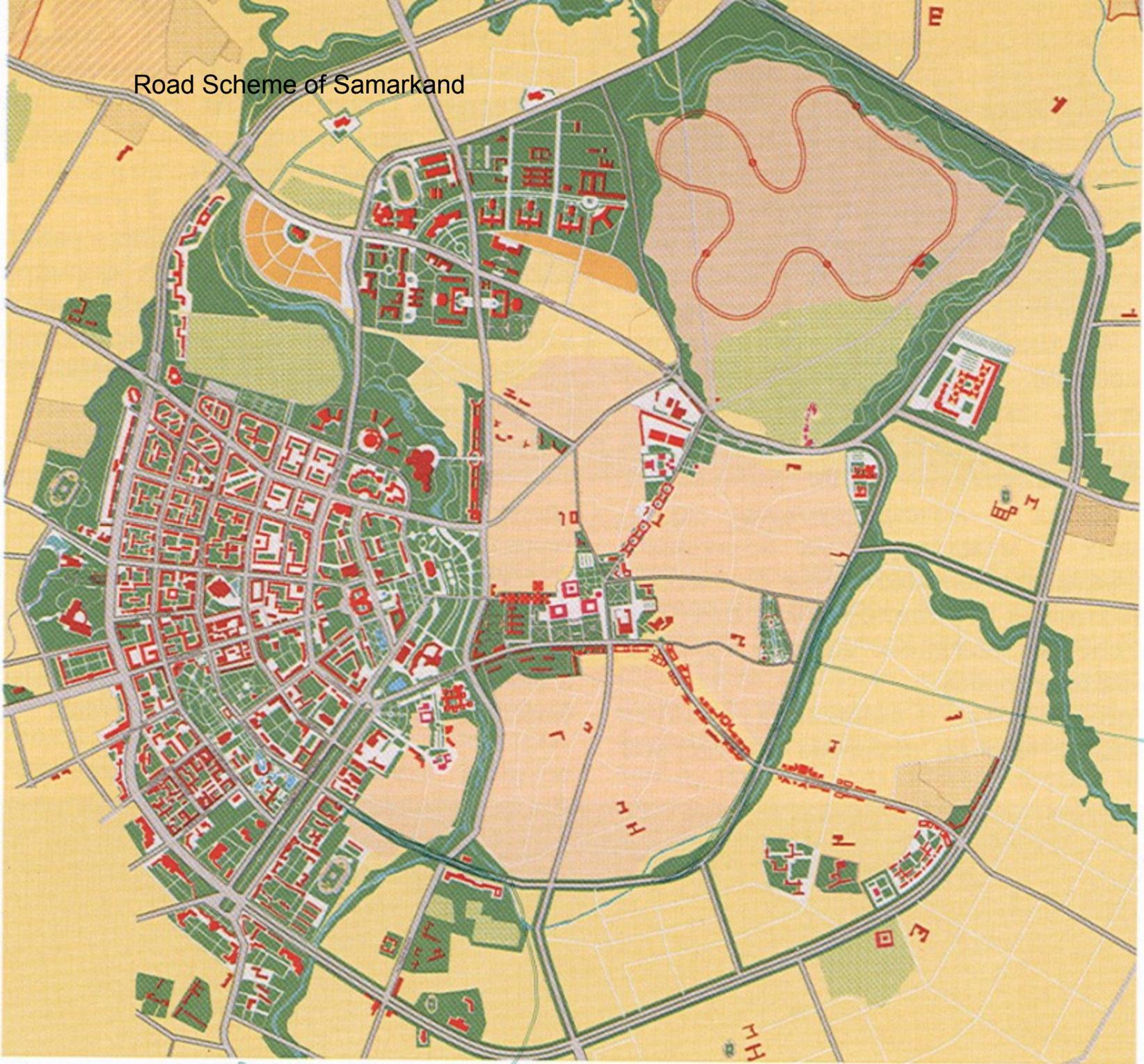
17 December, in the morning: Departure from Tashkent.

# THE MAP OF THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF SAMARKAND



1. Arkhabs
2. The Shahi-Zinda Ensemble
3. The Gur - Emir Ensemble
4. The Bibi-Khanum Mosque
5. The Registan Mosque
6. The Ulughbek's Observatory
7. The Hamra-Im Mosque
8. The Khanda Abul-Davud Ensemble
9. The Islam Khana Mausoleum
10. The Synagogue "Zarifbar"
11. The Arkhabskaya's Cathedral
12. The Russian catholic Church
13. The Cappadocian's Cathedral
14. The Polovetsky's Cathedral
15. The Armenian Church
16. The Saint George's Church
17. The palace of General Governor
18. The Khanda Demiry (Prophet Daniel's Mausoleum)
19. The Bahadur Ensemble
20. The Ak-Saray Mausoleum
21. The Public meeting building
22. The Military meeting building
23. The Mirza-bek Khatamov's house
24. The Synagogue
25. The Russian-Chinese bank
26. Library
27. The Filaret house
28. The River Academy, Admiralty
29. The Women's gymnasium
30. House "Arkhabs"
31. House "Zarifbar"
32. House "Zarifbar"

Road Scheme of Samarkand



Hazret Hyzr Mosque and views from Hazret Hyzr



Hazret Hyzr Mosque and views from Hazret Hyzr



SHAHI-ZINDA



SHAHI-ZINDA: old photo



SHAHI-ZINDA: humidity



Gasoline station to be removed



Archaeological remains of Timurid walls



Restaurant Comfort to be removed

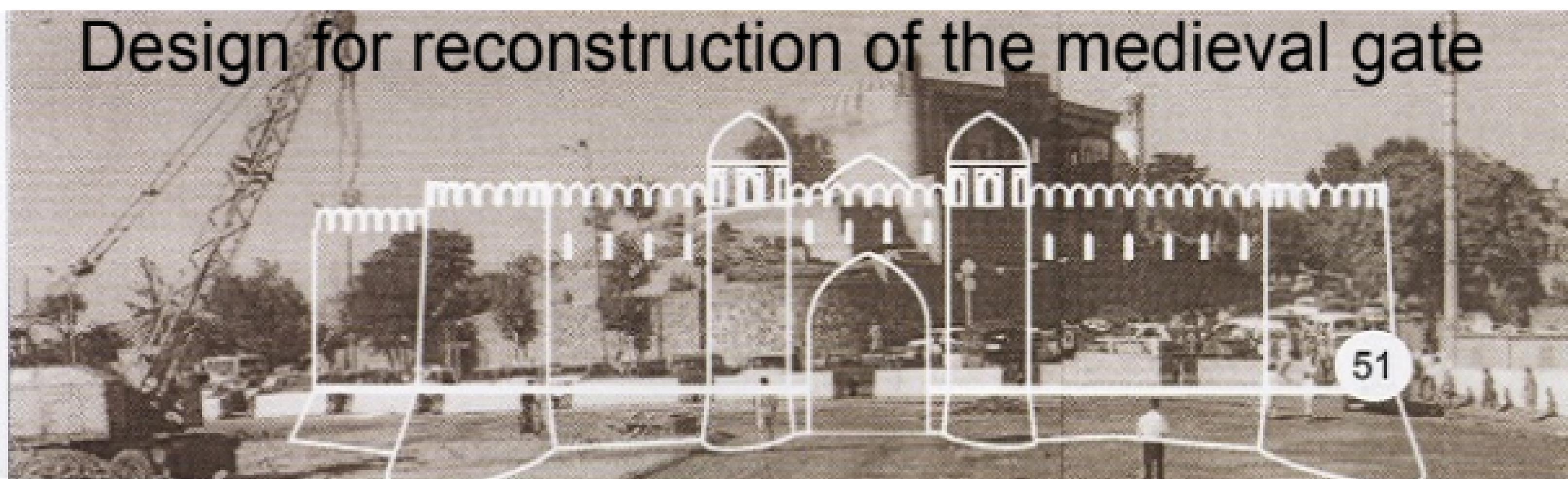
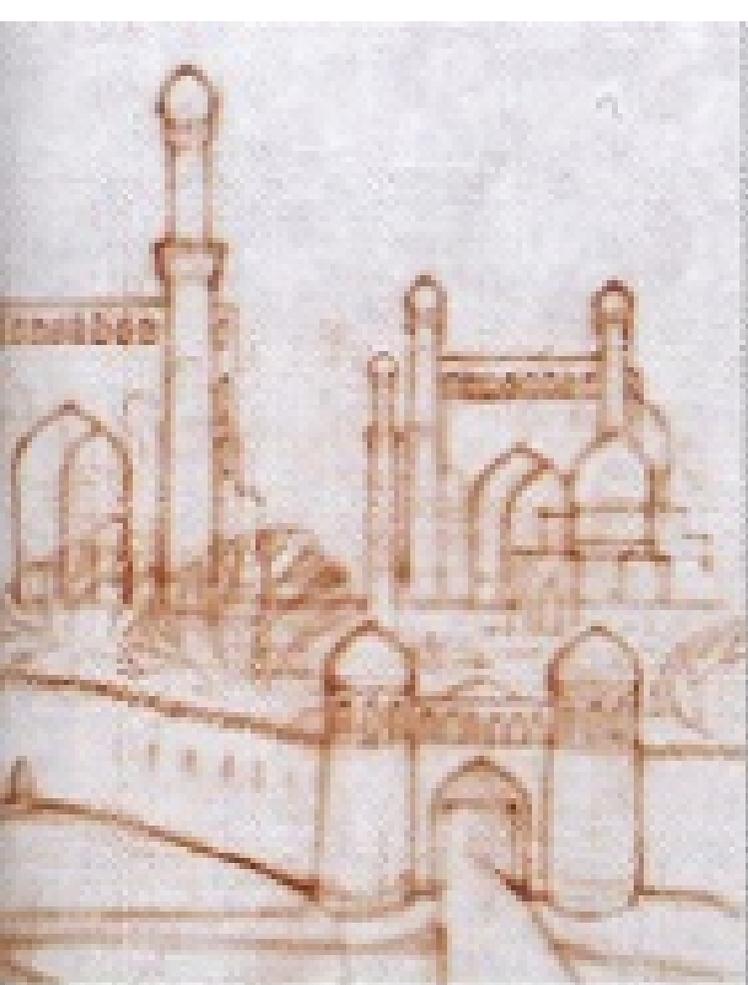


Проект восстановления фрагмента средневековой оборонительной стены г.Самарканда на участке Шутур-Гардан

# Design for reconstruction of the medieval city wall

52

# Design for reconstruction of the medieval gate



Historic House



# Registan Ensemble



Registan Ensemble



# Registan Ensemble



# Registan Ensemble



Bibi Khamum



**KHODJA DANIYAR: new construction**



KHODJA DANIYAR: restor



Abdi Darun



Ishrat Khana

