

Identifying Indicators of Timurid Architecture Reflected in the Contemporary Buildings of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Abstract

The interrelation of identity and architecture with national and regional identity is an issue that has received superior devotion in recent years in all nations. In the current situation and with an outlook towards introvert architecture, clarifying how works of contemporary architecture are influenced by their predecessors, particularly those works that are in the historical-cultural context of each other are of significant importance. Therefore, in this research, by examining the imperative and influential features and the intra-textual components of identity in the Timurid architectural tradition, as one of the most significant architectural civilizations in Greater Khorasan and in the countries of its evolution. Regarding the Timuird structures of the mentioned regions, an attempt has been made to coherently express by what means and the degree of connection between Timurid architectural tradition and contemporary architectural works and its diverse components and layers. In this research, through library surveys and analysis of historical documents, a qualitative research method was applied by using multiple analytical-descriptive, historical-interpretive and comparative methods. The statistical population of the paper are the three countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan between the years ۱۹۶۰ and ۱۹۹۰. The analysis of the data and the results of the research show that the contemporary buildings in these countries have attempted to combine different layers in building architecture to communicate and converse with the Timurid architectural tradition.

Research aims:

۱. Recognizing the identifying indicators of Timurid architecture in contemporary public buildings of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
۲. Comparison of the relationship between Timurid architectural tradition and contemporary architectural works in three countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Research questions:

١. How is the reflection of the identifying indicators of the Timurid architectural tradition in the contemporary public buildings of the three countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan?
٢. How is the level of communication in different layers and between Timurid architectural tradition and contemporary architectural works in the three countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan explained?

Keywords: contemporary architecture, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Timurid architecture.

Introduction

The challenge of identity and architecture with national identity and how to return to native and national identity and values and traditions is precisely significant, particularly in today's architecture. In this regard, examining how architectural works are connected and influenced by traditions and how to apply past architectural solutions and the influence of traditions in contemporary architecture in countries that have similarities with each other due to their history, can be effective in providing a viable solution.

The countries east of Greater Khorasan (Central Asia) have long been considered one of the important civilizational centers of the world and have played an important role in its formation and evolution during historical and cultural development. The examination of the historical background portrays the fact that the countries of this region and consequently their architecture have been influenced by two great architectural traditions and have been motivated by Iranian-Islamic and Russian or former Soviet architecture. The successive shifts between modernist and traditionalist ideas have been on the contemporary architecture of these countries in successive periods. With these explanations, it seems that identifying how the national identity is manifested in the contemporary architectural works of these countries through classifying the communication and effectiveness of the works from local traditions can be a starting point. In addition, the studies show that in the field of architecture, so far, there is a coherent research on how to express the relationship between contemporary architectural works and their previous works and traditions, and to explain how this relationship is and to know the impact of architectural traditions on diverse artworks and on its diverse components and layers. The degree of adherence of these architectural works to the known principles and approaches in this regard, especially in Central Asian countries

have not been studied before. Based on this, this research seeks to find a suitable answer to these questions: How has the Timurid architectural tradition been related to and influenced by contemporary architectural works in the eastern countries of Great Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan? And how is the level of this connection between Timurid architectural tradition and contemporary architectural works in the three studied countries explained?

In this research, according to the research subject and the problem and the questions raised about it, qualitative research method using multiple methods, descriptive-analytical (due to the need to analyze and categorize buildings), historical-interpretive method (due to the existence of data related to the past) and comparative method have been used. For this purpose, at first, according to the studies conducted in the form of library and documentation studies, the intertextuality approach was selected as the theoretical framework of the research, and based on this, the table of intertextual components of architecture was chosen to evaluate and determine the identity-forming layers of the works in the Timurid architectural tradition. In the next stage, the works of contemporary architecture in three countries, assuming the existence of intertextual connection with the buildings of Timurid architectural tradition, are selected and their information is also placed in the table of intertextual components, and based on the comparative method, the type of intertextual components that create their identity was found. In the end, in order to compile and compare the relationship between the buildings, a conceptual research model was developed based on the descriptive-analytical method, and in this way, the main question of this research will be answered.

Current studies in which their approach or the data presented would aid in advancing this article can be divided into the following categories: a) books of general or social history that describe historical events and the social and political image of these countries. In this regards book with the subject of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan from the series of books published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iran, which deals with the comprehensive investigation of each of these countries, and the book on the roots of political behavior in Central Asia and the Caucasus, written by Alireza Sheikh Attar. published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that describes the political and historical events of these countries. b) Architectural history books with special emphasis on the contemporary history of the mentioned countries, such as the book “Soviet Modernism” written by Isabella Marboe has reviewed and presented all the works of former Soviet architecture in all countries of this union. c) Books related to the concepts and literature and theories presented about

the concept of intertextuality, such as the intertextuality of the new critical language written by Graham Allen and the books of theories of intertextuality written by Dr. Bahman Namvar Moltaq and intertextuality written by Graham Allen. This theory and the introduction of important theorists are discussed and in some cases its application in criticism are also mentioned. d) theses of specialized doctorate course; for example, a doctoral dissertation titled "Explaining intertextual relationships in contemporary Iranian architecture from the ۱۹۶۰s to the ۲۰۰۰s, examining the role of Western architecture and Iranian architecture in the contemporary period" at Qazvin Islamic Azad University, written by Maziar Ghaseminia, which seeks to understand the relationship between architecture of the West and contemporary architecture of Iran through intertextual relations; also the doctoral dissertation entitled "Using and adapting the past in architectural design towards an evolutionary design model" at Delft University in the Netherlands, written by Karina Mora Rozzar, seeks to help reuse previous architectural designs by introducing a new model.

e) Doctoral theses in Russian universities and the studied countries and scientific and research articles related to the contemporary architecture of these countries and other related articles that have been published in reputable publications. including Modern architecture in Uzbekistan, which describes the characteristics of contemporary architectural periods and the general characteristics of buildings, or the development of architecture of independent Uzbekistan, which examines and analyzes the development of architecture and urban planning in Uzbekistan since ancient times. Until the ۲۱st century, with the aim of providing scientific recommendations to improve the city structure, and Architecture in Europe and the former Soviet Union, which examines the common developments and transformations in the architectural language and buildings of these countries, which is the result of the political and historical changes of this region.

As mentioned, the review of the background of the research shows that in the field of architecture, until now, no coherent study regarding the expression of the relationship between the works of contemporary architecture and the works and traditions of their predecessors and the explanation of how this relationship is and the recognition of the influence of architectural traditions on various works of contemporary architecture and its different components and layers, especially in Central Asian countries has not been published so far. Since this research attempts to investigate how the Timurid architectural tradition is reflected in the contemporary architectural works of the Eastern Greater Khorasan countries, the Timurid architectural tradition is considered as an independent variable and the contemporary architecture of the eastern countries of Greater Khorasan

(Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) as dependent variables. Recognizing the layers and important intertextual components and identity builders of the Timurid architectural tradition and its components is a subset of the independent variable of this research, and contemporary architectural works are considered as a subset of the dependent variable due to the reflection of these traditions; Consequently, first, Timurid architecture is investigated as an independent variable and the characteristic features of the architectural works of this period are explained, then the intra-textual components of architecture and its compilation method in this research and the approach of the article and the conceptual model of the research will be investigated.

Conclusion

The main motive of this research is to investigate how the Timurid architectural tradition in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan is reflected in the public contemporary buildings of these countries. In fact, the goal is how to read two works (texts) in the semiotic system of architecture and their elements and components and their association with each other, in other words, to explain how the works of architecture are related to each other will ultimately lead to the reading of these works. Thus, with the help of the intertextuality approach, which examines the relationship between one text and another text, an attempt has been made to define its architectural equivalent, i.e. inter-architecture, and examine this feature in case examples. For this purpose, we searched for a suitable answer to the main research question through the analysis of case examples in the form of "inter-architectural criticism" layers, which are basically consistent and in line with the main goal of the research. The case examples in this research were selected purposefully and with the assumption of connection (conversation) with Timurid architectural tradition. Each of these selected contemporary works have been read in connection with the selected works in question, first in the table of intra-textual components and then in the conceptual model of the research. The results of the investigation of how the intertextual relationship in the landmark buildings of Timurid architecture with the contemporary public buildings of the three countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan showed that there has been an attempt to establish a dialogue between contemporary architecture and Timurid architectural works in the three studied countries.

Examining the communication in the conceptual model demonstrates that in almost all the studied samples, except for three buildings in Uzbekistan and two buildings in other two countries, the intertextual communication is explicit and obvious and in the form of reference to the elements of

this tradition. Implicit and hidden communication have appeared in the layer of details and it seems that in contemporary architectural works, attempts have been made to recreate and generate a new form in these layers in a limited way. Another important point is that priority is related to view layers. In this way, in all three countries, the most intertextual connection is related to the layers of the inherent properties of the facade. Finally, it seems that contemporary public buildings have come closer to strong intertextual communication by trying to combine and use more than one layer of text (Timurid architectural works) to communicate. In general, it can be concluded that efforts are being made to establish a dialogue between contemporary architectural works in the three studied countries (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) and the works of Timurid architectural tradition.

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