



## CHAKAR MOSQUE IN KARSHI

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<b>Received:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 <b>Accepted:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 <b>Published:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	This article is about the mosque in Karshi, known as Chakar. The monument belongs to the buildings of religious architecture of the 1st half of the 19th century. It has historical and architectural value in the structure of the city.
<b>Keywords:</b> mosque, mosque in Karshi, mosque Chakar, architecture of mosques	

The Chakar Mosque is located in the old-urban part of Shakhristan in the city of Karshi on Kulol Street, dating back to 1807.

It is still dated to epigraphy within the first half of the XIX century. On the column of the mihrab there is a carved date of 1223 a.h. (1807). In addition, a similar inscription made in the painting is also found above the mihrab - 1259 a.h. (1847). There is also another date in small print - 1323 a.h. (1905). - apparently, by the hand of a pilgrim. The first dates are obviously associated with the construction of the mosque.

In 1950, the mosque was surveyed and measured by the expedition of the Institute of Art History, with the participation of V.L. Voronina. Obmery were published in the Central Asian Ethnographic Collection, published in 1956 (Volume I) in an article by V.P. Voronina.<sup>1</sup>

In 1977, a survey and measurements of L.Y. Mankovskaya were also carried out (with the participation of laboratory assistant R. Bibalaeu), the results were published in the collection of self-propelled guns in 1979.<sup>2</sup>

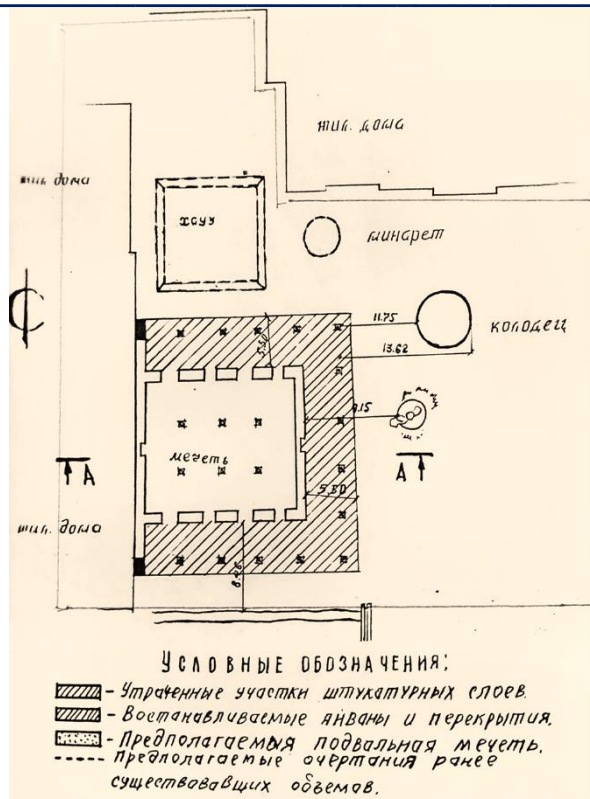
This is how the first mentions and publications about the monument of the XIX century appeared in the scientific literature. The Ministry of Culture of the Uzbek SSR and the Uzbek Research and Design and Survey Institute for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments carried out preliminary (pre-contractual) work on the Chakar Mosque in the city of Karshi in 1983.<sup>3</sup>

According to historical information, the Chakar mosque is a quarterly mosque, very large, unlike other quarterly mosques, it is large in size. The winter mosque is built in the form of a six-column hall, a deep location, in the side walls of which there are four openings leading to the iwan, and two exits are located in the end wall with a mihrab niche in the center.

<sup>1</sup> Voronina V.L. Materials on folk architecture of Kashkadarya region. Proceedings of the Institute of Ethnography. Volume 47. "Central Asian Ethnographic Collection". M., 1959. S. 299-351.

<sup>2</sup> Mankovskaya L.Y. Novoe o arkhitekturnogo nasledie Kashkadarya obl. SPG, No 1. 1979.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Culture of the Uzbek SSR. Uzbek Research and Design and Survey Institute of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments. Preliminary (pre-contractual) work on the mosque "Chakar" in the city of Karshi. – Tashkent, 1983.



Plan of pre-existing volumes



Состояние мечети до реставрации.

## Mosque

The general plan of the mosque is rectangular 22×22 m. The building of the hall is 13.4×17.0 m. The width of the iwans is about 5 m. The mosque is single-chamber, the ceiling is beamed, supported by columns. The roof is flat, adobe adobe. The beams, supported by support columns, have artistic carvings. The mosque has been repaired many times. Among the surviving doors there are also ancient ones. The walls of the mosque are lined with burnt square bricks covered with multi-layered repair plaster made of alabaster. In the upper parts of the walls, repair laying of walls of a different size is noticeable. In the hall, on the wall facing towards Mecca, a mihrab with a processed carved stone platband is arranged. Mihrab tympanums have a carved ganch ornament, which is also framed by a ganch panjara.

The overlap of the iwan is supported by 14 columns. The columns do not have capitals, they are installed on stone bases. The bases are mostly of the same type, except for two. One of them is installed during the repair period with the stalactite capital down. On the main and side facades, the profiles are of the same type, the difference is in the extensions, and the consoles at the walls have a peculiar profile with a hint of a volute curl in the side.

The ceiling beams of the iwans have no carvings and are painted in blue tone. Paintings go along the bottom of the perimeter beam. On the white background there is an ornament of blue, green, red colors.

The floor of the iwan and the mosque with brick lining. The monument is interesting for its decorative decoration.<sup>4</sup>

The Chakar Mosque is currently a rectangular single-chamber structure, overlapped by a rack-and-beam ceiling, with a vassa. The roof is a bulk soil 40-50 cm thick, the ceiling of the winter mosque has losses of up to 80%. The preserved floor beams and vassa are rotten, which indicates the emergency condition of the structure. The supporting carved columns have been preserved in satisfactory condition. The walls of the mosque are lined with burnt square bricks with a cross-section of 26×26×5 cm. the lower lost areas of the plaster layers clearly read the worn seams of the brick walls with a ganch mortar. The brick texture of the walls is plastered with three-layer ganch plaster. The thickness of the layers in total reaches 10 cm.

Along the upper belt of the walls in the areas of the installation of the floor beams, you can trace the brickwork of bricks of a different size. Apparently, the mosque was rebuilt or completed in a later period.

The condition of the foundations, judging by the minor deformations of the surviving walls, is satisfactory.

The floor in the interior of the mosque is laid out, as well as the walls of square burnt bricks measuring 26×26×5 cm on clay mortar. In some places, the lining has destruction and loss.

<sup>4</sup> Sultanov, Kh.T., Gilmanova, N.V. Historical, architectural and artistic heritage of Kashkadarya. – Tashkent: Fan va texnologiyalar nashriyot-matbaa uyi, 2022. - 328 p.



**Tympanums and ikrabs with painting and epigraphy. Photo 2021**

The hall has preserved unique details, carved columns, doors, among which there are ancient ones, a mihrab with carved ganch tympanums framed by zanjara.

The tympanums of the two mihrabs of the Chakar Mosque (Kashkadarya, XVIII century) depict flower bushes similar to a tree. There is also the idea of reminding parishioners of the Garden of Eden.<sup>5</sup>

With a full-scale study of the monument, the condition of the load-bearing walls of the mosque and plaster layers shows that the mosque has been repeatedly repaired. According to a survey of old-timers conducted by the author of the project, it was found out that on the site of the built one there was an even more ancient mosque, to which in the late period the existing mosque with a tripartite iwan was tuned.

In recent years, the mosque has fallen into disrepair. The beam ceiling of the hall was dismantled, six unique carved columns remained in the open air. The iwan is destroyed, the hall is cluttered. Currently, a unique architectural monument of the first half of the XIX century is being destroyed and can be irretrievably lost. Restoration, repair, emergency and other works were not carried out.<sup>6</sup>

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Uz SSR of 07.07.1981 No. 547 the mosque was taken under protection. The mosque as an architectural monument is registered by state bodies for the use of cultural heritage sites of the Kashkadarya region, as it is of historical and architectural value and has unique architectural details. The area of the building at this time is - 13.4x17.0 m, the hall - 11.5x15.7 m. with iwans - 22x22 m. The act on the technical condition of the mosque was drawn up on July 25, 1983 and 2010.

In May 2021, in order to study the architectural monuments of the Kashkadarya region, we investigated the current state of the Chakar Mosque, dated to the first half of the XIX century.

The iwans that previously existed on the three sides have been completely lost. At the site of the existing iwans, you can read traces of the floor beams and the places of passage of the foundations, which requires a detailed examination by pits. When conducting research work in kind and developing a restoration project, it is necessary to pay special attention to the condition of the foundations and their depth, to the calculations of the newly constructed structures of the mosque.

According to interviews of local guards and the stories of a resident of the makhalla Ulugbek Ikramov, it was found out that on the site of the existing mosque, its construction was previously recorded even more ancient, the entrance was on the right side of the mosque at the base of the foundation and went down for three meters, where they went down and climbed the stairs. The lower part of the room had an iron door, about two meters in size. At the moment, the entrance of the lower structure is with a span of earth. A little further than the mosque, the plan shows that there was a minaret. The old well is also located in front of the mosque on the right side, about 10 meters away and it is local. According to the residents of the mahali, the mosque used to be surrounded by mulberry trees, which protected the foundation of the structure from dampness and moisture. In the construction of the mosque, blue marble was previously used, which was used earlier for the construction of mosques. According to the latest research, the mosque does not function, is not in the best condition, part of the supporting wall is being destroyed, and high-quality authentic restoration is required.

We believe that the Chakar Mosque is a unique religious building with a two-level structure, since presumably its lower part is an older structure, the foundation of which was settled, and a new mosque of the beginning of the first half of the XIX century was completed on the site of the old structure.

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<sup>5</sup> Nazilov D.A. Cult-mythological traditions and symbols in the architecture of Central Asia. – T.: "Fan va texnologiyalar nashriyot-matbaa uyi", 2022. - 492 p.

<sup>6</sup>Materials submitted by the State Inspectorate for the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites of Kashkadarya region were used.





**General view of the mosque and the destroyed part of the wall adjacent to the mosque**



**Hall of the mosque with columns**



**The inscription preserved on one of the columns, with the date of construction of the mosque**

**Photo of the mosque, made in Maye 2021a. FotoGraf Garifulin I.R.**

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