

# Recreation Of Sheikh Khodja Akhror Vali Historic Complex

Muhammad Akhmedov & Dinara Nazarova

**Abstract:** A native of Tashkent Sheikh UbaydullahKhodjaAkhrorVali is well known as one of the most influential dignitaries and statesmen of the XV century. Being among the most prominent public leaders KhodjaAkhror had his land possessions reaching Egypt.

**Index Terms:** block mosque, large scale construction, jami-mosque, madrasah *Project master plan*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

A native of Tashkent Sheikh UbaydullahKhodjaAkhrorVali is well known as one of the most influential dignitaries and statesmen of the XV century. Being among the most prominent public leaders KhodjaAkhror had his land possessions reaching Egypt.

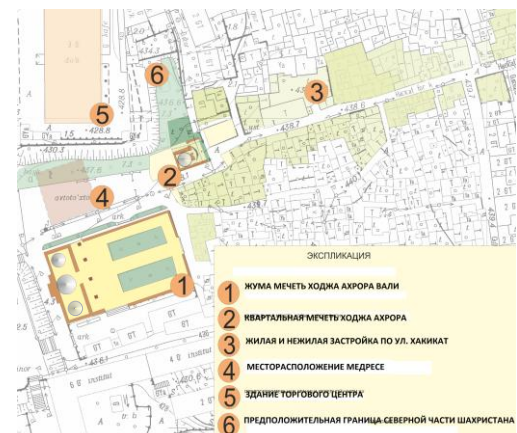
## 2 PROCEDURE FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

### 2.1 Review Stage

KhodjaAkhrorVali played an important role in the cultural, religious, and political life of Maverannahr. For a long time he lived in Samarqand, where he was buried. A family burial vault appeared next to his grave along with a memorial complex consisting of mosques, a minaret, a hovuz (a small octagonal pond), a khonako and a madrasah. Being an influential religious leader KhodjaAkhror is also famous for large scale construction in his native city. In Tashkent he built an entire complex, which comprised a jami-mosque together with a block mosque and a madrasah. The complex was located in the area called Binkat, which is considered to be among the most ancient parts of a medieval "Shakhristan" of Tashkent. (III. 1) Based on historic data, received from the archive of Head Department of Cultural Heritage Protection (HDCHP) as well as on archaeological excavations performed by a prominent archaeologist M.I.Filanovich, we may assume this could be the boundary of Shakhristan, enclosed by a fortified wall with several portal gates.



III. 1. Shakhristan in the frame of medieval Tashkent.



III. 2. Current condition of the former complex site along Khakikat str. in Tashkent

**KhodjaAkhrorValijami-mosque** is in the heart of an architectural complex, situated close to Chorsu square. This is the only example of a jami-mosque with an inner courtyard typical for medieval Central Asian architecture. Its foundation was laid back in the IX century following the order of a local emir YahyaibnAsad. In 1432 KhodjaAkhror paid a visit to Tashkent. Leaving it, he made arrangements to build a large jami-mosque and a madrasah. A small block mosque called Gulbazar, which still exists, was built at the same time period.

- Doctoral candidate *DinaraNazarova*, Tashkent  
Architectural building Institute, Uzbekistan  
E-mail: [dinara-khan@mail.ru](mailto:dinara-khan@mail.ru)
- DSc. Professor *M.K. Akhmedov*, Tashkent  
Architectural building Institute, Uzbekistan  
E-mail: [ahmedov-m47@mail.ru](mailto:ahmedov-m47@mail.ru)

## 2.2 Final Stage

The mosque was completed in 1451. It had long sheltered galleries all along its northern, eastern and southern parts. The mosque's floor plan has a shape of an extremely extended rectangle with the mosque at the end of an east-west axis. The long court yard was initially enclosed by a single-storied arched-domed gallery. In the second half of the XVIII century the gallery already destroyed by the time was restored and converted into khudjras, thus rearranging the mosque into KhodjaAkhrorVali madrasah. The mosque was placed in the north-eastern part of the medieval Shakhristan, next to lost KhodjaAkhror madrasah. This monument was an example of a XV – end of XIV century court-yard type jami-mosque, being 91 m long and 36.5 m wide with a 66×24 m courtyard though it lacked typical décor and facing. Through centuries the monument underwent numerous repairs. The western part collapsed in 1888 and was restored later using different structures and methods compared to the rest of the building. The following repairs and restorations are dated 1954. (source: data from HDCHP archive).

## 3 Sections

**KhodjiAkhrorVali madrasah** was located within the medieval Shakhristan in its north-western part. The complex, which incorporated KhodjiAkhrormadrasah was erected in the western end of the street, which connected Abdul-Abbas and Djunemda gates. The madrasah was completed in 1451 also following KhodjiAkhror's order. The floor plan had a rectangular, almost square shape 32,5×29,0 m with an inner court yard and the main façade with a portal facing the south (it was heavily distorted in the XIV century). The walls on both sides from the entrance portal had blind arches. Having rectangular floor plan the mosque had 21 cells along the perimeter as well as 2 ivans along the longitudinal axis of the yard. The building was heavily damaged during the earthquake on the 3 November 1947. In 1951 the mosque was completely demolished and only thanks to historic, archival and bibliographic data we could recollect its original appearance and assess its historic significance.



*III. 5. Entrance portal of KhodjaAkhror madrasah; Part of the inner court yard of KhodjaAkhror madrasah*

## 4 HELPFUL HINTS

### 4.1 Figures and Tables

Based on measurements made and photos taken the madrasah had undergone numerous reconstructions and as a result lost its former appeal. The recreation of the lost madrasah primarily aims at creating rich historic and architectural environment also shaped by HodjaAkhrorValijomi-mosque and a small Gulbazar block mosque. The planning structure reproduces its original parameters. The inner court yard and cells dimensions are identical to the original design. The use of complex structures and modern construction materials is acceptable during the restoration, although every effort should be made to preserve an architectural image the building used to have.

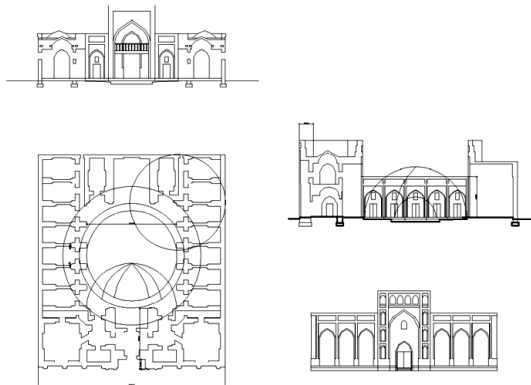




III. 3. KhodjaAkhror madrasah inner court yard (left: photo, right: design proposal)



III. 6. KhodjaAkhror block mosque (left: current state, right: reconstruction proposal)



III. 4. KhodjaAkhror madrasah: floor plan, elevation, sections; right photo: design proposal

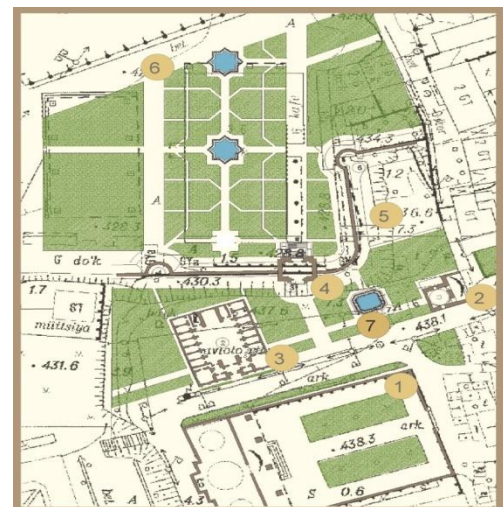


III. 7. The general view of the design proposal on KhodjaAkhrorVali complex.

**4.2 Acknowledgments**

The proposal is made to decorate the restored madrasah with majolica, which was widely used at the period to decorate madrasah portals. The project also implies reconverting the madrasah into craft workshops where the handmade items could also be traded.

**KhodjaAkhrorVali block mosque** (now called Gulbozor) was built up at approximately the same time as a large jami-mosque. It is a square shaped floor plan building covered with a dome. The entrance to the mosque on the west side is covered with ivan supported by 3 wooden columns. Everything seems to indicate that the ivan also covered the northern part of the building that looked towards household facilities. Nowadays the mosque is used to store books and needs to be slightly repaired. Recently a decree was issued by the government of Uzbekistan to regenerate the old city of Tashkent.



III.8. Project master plan:

1. *KhodjaAkhrorValijomi-mosque*
2. *Block mosque*
3. *KhodjaAhrorVali madrasah*
4. *Darvoza with a fragment of city wall*
5. *Archaeological reserve zone*
6. *Landscaping layout imitating national ornament*
7. *Khovuz*

#### **4 CONCLUSION**

Within the framework of the project aimed at rehabilitation and preservation of the historic city of Tashkent we have prepared a proposal and an architectural project to recreate KhodjaAkhrorVali complex. In the project we suggest to recreate the madrasah based on archival data also to restore Gulbozor block mosque to bring it to its original state. Besides, our proposal is to replace the existing roofing material on the mosque dome and three domes over jomi-mosque with a more traditional one, probably imitating majolica glazing. We also suggest to wall the inner court yard of the block mosque with a brick wall thus splitting it into zones, convert it into a small museum and improve the surrounding area with greenery and ponds. The area to the east from the block mosque may be left as a small archaeological reserve, uncovering where possible the cultural-historical layers as this upland is considered to be one of the most ancient parts of the city. To produce even better impression of KhodjaAkhror ensemble we would suggest restoring a fragment of the city wall together with entrance portal-darvoza thus recreating one of the most ancient pearls of Tashkent – KhodjaAkhrrVali complex.