

## The Contribution of Alisher Navoi to the Art of Architectural Repair

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### Abstract:

The article examines at Alisher Navoi's personal contribution to the architectural and restoration practice of architectural monuments in Herat, other cities, and settlements in Kharasan, as well as the methods and principles of restoration used at the time, which were led by the great poet and statesman Alisher Navoi.

**Key words:** Alisher Navoi, Herat, Khorasan, architectural monuments, architectural repair, the art of repair, repair rules.

**Introduction.** Although historians of the Navoi period (Khandamir, Navoi himself, Babur) have documented some of Alisher Navoi's work in the restoration and repair of architectural monuments that have been built and destroyed over time, his contribution to the development of architectural repair in general has received little attention in modern science. G.A. Pugachenkova, P.Sh. Zokhidov, A. Mukhammadjanov, A.S. Uralov, A.A. Yakhyaev, and others are among the scientists who have written about this subject. However, it is no exaggeration to claim that research and study on this subject are still in their infancy.

**Main part.** Alisher Navoi conducted arduous work, such as reconstructing and repairing public structures that were created and then devastated by conflict and earthquakes, in addition to new construction and beautification work. He restored 12 mosques in Herat and other cities and villages, including the 13th-century city mosque, the Goharshad Mosque in Mashkhad in 1405-1418, the Kobus Tower near Gurgan in the early 11th century, and the Arslonjoziba ribat in Merv and Herat, as well as many other buildings and structures built between cities[1].

The mosque in Herat was one of the major events in Navoi that led to the restoration of architectural monuments. During the reign of Khussein Boykaro, an earthquake damaged the dome, purpose, and walls of the mosque in Herat, according to the Khandamiri "Khulasat ul-Akhbar." The area is rich, but Allah's mansion is in ruins, the mosque's towering walls and minarets are crumbling, and some of the ornaments have fallen down. The architectural measurements of this mosque are also mentioned in Khandamir's account. The mosque has 408 domes, 103 arches, and 444 stalks, according to Khandamir, "the length from wall side is 254, the width is 150 zircons 1 (gas), the length of the maksura sufais 65, the width is 30 zircons, the circumference of the wall is 26 zircons, the north side of the sufais 32, the width is 15 zircons length is 24, width is 23 zircons, the mosque length is

Builders of many professions were always drawn to Navoi in order to ensure that each new building or monument to be restored had a flawless architectural appearance: qualified engineers and architects, carpenters, masons, artists, and jewelers. According to the Khandamiri Khulasat ul-

Akhbar, about a hundred craftsmen assisted in the reconstruction of the Herat Mosque in 1498. The entire repair process was overseen by Navoi from start to finish. "For days, he wore a skirt around his waist, conducted other tasks, and handed out bricks to hired laborers." He gave many caresses and other gifts to architects, craftsmen, and artisans, and he carried expensive clothing to them. As a result, three or four years' worth of work was finished in just six months»[2].

Mir Alisher then gathered a group of well-known engineers, carpenters, painters, and stonemasons and asked them to beautify the reconstructed structure. This noble project, which started with order, will be completed in a year with "excellent cleanliness and beautification." According to certain historians, the famed artist Mirak and a group of craftsmen working under his supervision adorned the mosque's spectacular gleaming ceiling and walls [3].

"...the mosque's environs and divans have become classic and extraordinary compared to the rest of the buildings, having made many astonishing discoveries," Khandamir Navoi wrote after the reconstruction.

Navoi restored and adorned the mosque's courtyard, which was 114 meters long, 84 meters wide, and had six gates. The mosque is still one of Herat's most stunning structures.

Navoi devoted close attention to the built and renovated buildings' surrounds, as well as the content and landscape of the produced architectural environment, as well as its presence.

Alisher Navoi also used his own money to rebuild houses, bridges, and canals, demonstrating that he was a wonderful person. Alisherbek's annual income was eighteen thousand "shahrukhi" dinars, according to Mirzo Mukhammad Khaydar's Tarikh-i -Rashidi, and he spent it all on good acts. Some institutions, according to A.A. Yakhyaev [4,] were not only repaired, but also "converted into hospitals for the needs of people with the cooperation of qualified and experienced doctors."



**View of the Herat Mosque, restored by Navoi, in the basic style**



### **This is the interior decoration of the mosque architecture**

When Navoi went to Nishapur to examine the wise ancestors' tombs, he was ashamed to see that most of them were ready to be demolished and ordered that they be renovated. [4]. The ruined tombs were reconstructed in the period's manner and got light from Navoi at the time. Navoi's anguish at the sight of old structures, as well as his endeavors to repair them, were natural given his personality. During his time in Mashhad, Navoi worked to rebuild and repair various elements of the Goharshad Mosque, which was built in 1405-1418. A second Alisher Navoi porch was afterwards erected in the restored old mosque courtyard of the Goharshod mosque, most likely for this reason [5;6].

**Conclusion.** Alisher Navoi thought it was a good deed to restore, repair, and return to public use old structures that were popular with the people but were later demolished, and he volunteered his time and money to do so. He was also in charge of artisans and architect-engineers and encouraged their efforts. He held each job in high regard and looked forward to their dependable and meritorious performance under his direction.

About twenty damaged sites in Herat and other cities and districts in Khorasan were restored and renovated by Navoi. It's worth remembering that no other monarch in Khorasan had done anything like before Navoi. Study the condition of the building and determine the method of repair; engineering repair and reinforcement of construction equipment with subsequent repair of construction embellishments; building improvement; encourage renovation architects and artists are some of the principles of restoration of monuments from the Navoi period. As a result, Navoi made a significant contribution to the advancement and growth of the field of architectural restoration in Khorasan.

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