

## World Heritage Scanned Nomination

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UNESCO Region: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**SITE NAME:** **Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi**

**DATE OF INSCRIPTION:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2003

**STATE PARTY:** KAZAKHSTAN

**CRITERIA:** C (i)(iii)(iv)

**DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:**

*Excerpt from the Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee*

**Criterion i:** The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi is an outstanding achievement in the Timurid architecture, and it has significantly contributed to the development of Islamic religious architecture.

**Criterion iii:** The mausoleum and its site represent an exceptional testimony to the culture of the Central Asian region, and to the development of building technology.

**Criterion iv:** The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi was a prototype for the development of a major building type in the Timurid period, becoming a significant reference in the history of Timurid architecture.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS**

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, in the town of Yasi, now Turkestan, was built at the time of Timur (Tamerlane), from 1389 to 1405. In this partly unfinished building, Persian master builders experimented with architectural and structural solutions later used in the construction of Samarkand, the capital of the Timurid Empire. Today, it is one of the largest and best-preserved constructions of the Timurid period

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**1.b State, Province or Region:** South Kazakhstan Oblast, City of Turkestan

**1.d Exact location:** N43 17 35.0 E68 16 28.0



**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**Convention concerning the protection of the  
world cultural and natural heritage**



**NOMINATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY FOR INSCRIPTION  
ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

**NOMINATION OF  
THE MAUSOLEUM OF KHOJA AHMED YASAWI**

**STATE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING ON  
MONUMENTS OF MATERIAL CULTURE**

**COMMITTEE OF CULTURE**

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC ACCORD**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF**

**KAZAKHSTAN**

2002



## 1. Identification of the Property

- a. Country: Republic of Kazakhstan
- b. State, Province or Region: South Kazakhstan Oblast (former Chimkent Oblast), City of Turkestan
- c. Name of Property: **The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi**
- d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second:  
  
43°17'35" North, 68°16' 28" East
- e. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone:

The following maps are enclosed:

- i Map 1. The Republic of Kazakhstan, showing South Kazakhstan Oblast and the location of Turkestan City;
- ii Map 2. at 1:15000 scale: The historic centre of Turkestan City, showing the boundaries of the Buffer Zone and the additional Zones of Legal Protection;
- iii Map 3. at 1: 5000 scale: The Buffer Zone (corresponding to the boundary of «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum) showing the location of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in relation to adjacent secondary monuments, archaeological sites and their immediate environment.
- iv. Map 4. at 1:2000 scale: the core area of the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum, showing the boundary of the nominated Monument Zone of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and adjacent monuments in the Buffer Zone.



*South-eastern aerial view*



f. Area of property proposed for inscription (ha) and proposed buffer zone (ha)

The nomination consists of a Monument Zone of 0.55 hectares and a Buffer Zone of 88.15 hectares. Together they constitute a Legal Protection Zone of the medieval town of Yasy-Turkestan of 88.7 hectares and represent the territory of the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum. Further legal protection is afforded by Zones of Planning Control and a Protection Zone of Natural Setting.



*Aerial view from the south of the Buffer Zone*

**2. Justification for inscription**

a. Statement of significance.

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi is unique in its proportions memorial and shrine complex building erected between 1389 and 1399 by order of Timur over the tomb of Ahmed Yasawi, the great Sufi master of XII c., the father of the Turk branch of Sufism. It was already a place of pilgrimage, but the new construction grew its religious importance so that became one of the most significant sacred places for Moslems.

The Mausoleum is the characteristic example of Timurid style and one of the most impressive proof of the architectural attainment of Timur's empire in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. L.Mankovskaya, the researcher of the of Central Asian Architecture, has made a conclusion that the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi represents a culminating example of a multifunctional memorial build-





*Kazandyk (Main Hall)*

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, is a city of ancient history and culture. It is a city of many wonders, including the Kazandyk, a large cauldron that is thought to be one of the greatest treasures of the Islamic world.



*Cauldron donated by Timur*

ing performing the functions of mausoleum, of mosque and of 'khanqa'.

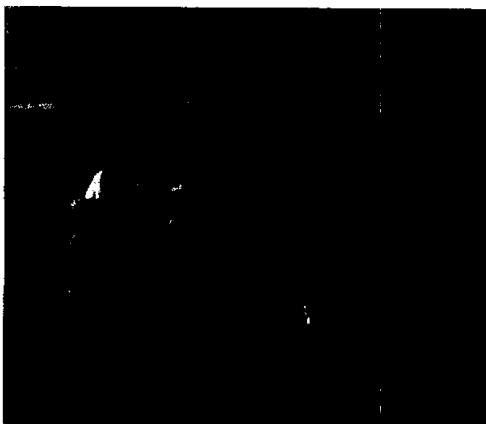
The edifice of 45,8 m wide, 62,7 m long and 38,7 m high includes in its externally symmetrical rectangular plan more than 35 rooms connected by corridors and staircases dividing the building into 8 blocks of independent settling and thus improving its seismic resistance. This complicated design indicates extremely rational and effective planning.

The Mausoleum provides important advances in building technology, displaying an unsurpassed record of all kinds of Central Asian vaulted constructions and showing some innovations. Its main dome is the largest existent brick dome in Central Asia of 18.2 m in diameter. It rests not on spandrels or squinches, but on the wooden beams placed diagonally across the corners of the enormous central hall. The lavish stalactite decoration of the inner domes of all three main rooms is also a particular feature distinguishing this monument from the other comparable buildings of that period. The construction has not been completed, the portal part and the decorative facing of some rooms are unfinished, showing unique evidence of the medieval building technology: wooden scaffolding, temporary staircases, devices for lifting loads. The original architectural details show the highest level of craftsmanship.

To date, the results of many years' work of scientists prove the outstanding universal value of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi as of a highly significant architectural monument in itself for the period it represents and the unique survival of the 4 largest buildings of that period. It was one of the greatest architectural achievements of the age, a landmark chapter in the story of Central Asian architecture influenced its further developments, and a striking structure thought to be one of the greatest mausoleums of the Islamic world.

b. Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)

Being one of the 4 largest, most grandiose and magnificent monuments of the Timur's period, the mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is the only one fully preserved. Dar al-Sadat in Shahr-i Sabz, Timur's home city, was as similar and as just grandiose memorial building, but only a few impressive fragments survive. Only the ruins of the enormous, richly decorated portal of the Aq Saray Palace in Shahr-i Sabz are preserved, and the Bibi Khanum Mosque in Samarqand, which proportions were supposed to surpass those of all comparable buildings in the world, started to crumble under its own weight before it could be completed, showing that the old construction techniques could not simply be transferred to a building of such a huge size. During the last 30 years of restoration works the ruins of the Bibi Khanum Mosque have been consequently im-mured within a sham brick and concrete case and therefore to all extents and purposes destroyed.



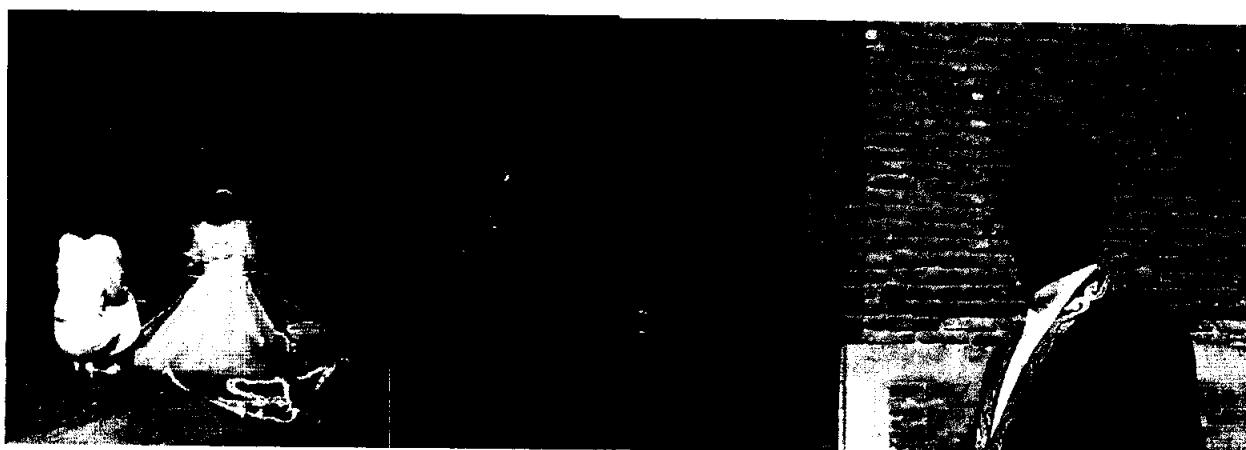
Both the above mentioned outstanding monuments and the other relatively comparable examples found among the other Timurid monuments of Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey only stress the uniqueness of the conception and the novelty of the construction techniques of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi.

c. Authenticity/Integrity

The Mausoleum is authentic in design and workmanship, and the most part of the original materials is preserved. The construction non-authentic new jet grout foundations was the only possible way to preserve one of the most important values of the Mausoleum - its integrity. The foundations are not visible from the surface and cannot destroy the historic atmosphere. Concerning a setting: in spite of its location in the centre of the modern city of Turkestan, the archaeological site of the medieval town of Yasy-Turkestan is not covered by contemporary buildings. It has well preserved cultural layers representing the evidence of all the stages of the evolution of this important religious, cultural, economic and administrative centre of a large region. Exception is its eastern part where they have been removed on an area of 4.5 ha. Some of the secondary monuments of the later periods within the Buffer Zone of the Khodja Ahmed Yasawi Mausoleum were extensively restored in the Soviet period.

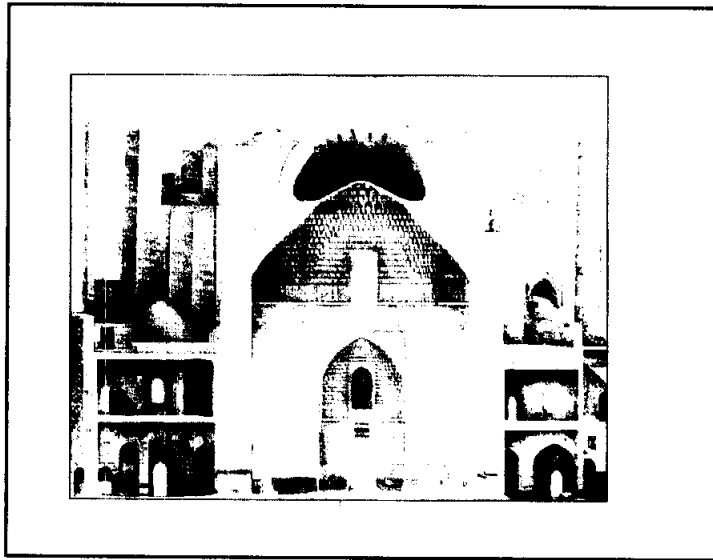
d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

- Criterion i. The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is a masterpiece of creative genius. It was one of the greatest architectural achievements of the age.
- Criterion iii. The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is unique. It is a striking structure thought to be one of the great mausoleums of Islamic world.
- Criterion iv. The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is a characteristic example of Timurid architecture, representing the most impressive proof of the architectural attainment of Timur's empire in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- Criterion vi. The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is associated with personalities of historic, religious and cultural importance. These include Ahmed Yasawi, the great Sufi master and the father of the Turk branch of Sufism.

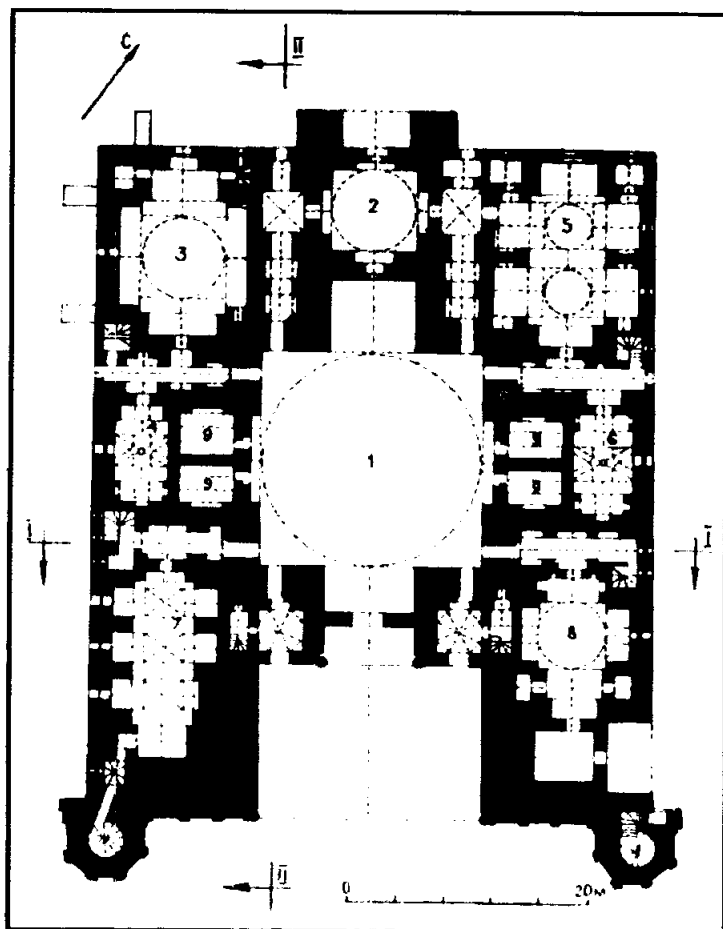


*Mussafar Shakanov, the mullah, descendant of Ahmed Yasawi through 22 generations*





*Transvere section, drawing of 1950-s.*



*Ground floor plan.*



*Eastern facade*

### 3. Description

#### a. Description of property

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi is situated in the Southern Kazakhstan, in the city of Turkestan, one of the oldest cities in Kazakhstan. The famous Sufi master, philosopher and poet, Ahmed Yasawi has spent a large part of his life was buried in 1166 in the town of Yasi (renamed Turkestan in XVI c.) in a small mausoleum which subsequently became a place of mass pilgrimage and worship for Moslems. In a period from 1389 to 1399, by order of Timur Tamerlan, a grandiose edifice was built on the site of that smaller mausoleum of XII c. The building became the architectural dominant of the city, and it is a mere fact that the outstanding person and an architectural monument erected in his honour have defined the destiny of the whole city, that developed in prosperity till the XX c., despite of the general tendency of the Central-Asian centres to decline after the Mongolian conquest. Turkestan became the second Mecca for the Moslems of Central Asia. In Middle Ages it was a major religious, cultural and political centre of a large region. Being located at the cross-roads of caravan routes, between settled oasis's and nomadic steppes, on the juncture of trade roads, it played an outstanding role in the Kazakh history in XVI c., when it was a large fortified city, the capital of the Kazakh Khanate, and changed its name from Yasi into Turkestan. Its remains are represented now by the archaeological site of Eski-Turkestan, within the area of the Buffer Zone of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. The building continued in its original use as late as the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and still today the Mausoleum is a very important destination of Moslem pilgrimage.

The Mausoleum is 45,8 m wide, 62,7 m long and 38,7 m high. It represents the culminating





*South front (main portal)*

example of a multi-functional memorial building that performed the functions of mausoleum, of



*South-western view* The original wall paintings survive. These paintings were made with light brown





*Western facade*

example of a multifunctional memorial building that performed the functions of mausoleum, of mosque and of *khanqa* (normally these functions must be represented by a complex of buildings). Externally symmetrical two-storied structure (although in the portal part there are three) with a compact rectangular plan, which includes more than 35 rooms, connected by corridors and staircases dividing the building in 8 blocks of independent settling and improving its seismic resistance.

The principal rooms are arranged around the main hall at the ground floor: *Kazandyk (khanka)* - the main hall for the ritual gatherings of the Sufi dervishes, *Gurhana* - the tomb vault of Ahmed Yasawi, the Mosque, the Large and Small *Aksarais* - the premises to hold meetings, *Kitabhana* - the library, to keep and copy books and documents, *Askhana* - a room to prepare the ritual meals, *Kudukhana* - a room with a well, *khadras* - rooms for the staff and for pilgrims. The smaller rooms for living accommodation at the first floor are dimly lit by narrow slit windows.

The most important hall is *Gurhana* - the tomb vault of Ahmed Yasawi. Over the entrance to the tomb vault there is an inscription reading: "This sacred tomb was erected by the order of...Emir Timur Gurgan...". It was designed as a place for a spirit of Ahmed Yasawi buried here, and its decoration was utterly refined. In the middle of the cross-shaped hall there is a tomb-stone faced with plates of serpentine. There are no inscriptions on the tomb-stone. The hall is covered by the double dome. The inner dome is 17 m high, and the outer one - about 28 m high. At the lower part of walls there is a panel made of the hexagonal green glazed tiles adorned with gold pattern.

The Mosque is located in the north-west corner of the building. It is covered by the dome, placed high on the drum having the light apertures. The Mosque is the only room of the building, where the fragments of the original wall paintings survive. These paintings were made with light blue





Northern facade

paints, presenting geometric and floral ornaments fitted into belts and frames. The *mikhrab* of the Mosque was made using the techniques of glazed mosaics and is considered to be the unique example of the mosaic art.

The bounding link between all the rooms is Kazandyk (*jamaatkhana*) - the enormous main hall in the centre, with its square plan 18.2 per 18.2 meters. It is covered by the single spheric-conic dome, the largest one in Central Asia. Here the meetings and group zeals (*zikras*) of dervishes were held. In the centre of the hall there is a ritual bronze cauldron (*kazan* - it gave the hall its most preferable name - Kazandyk) which was intended to serve water to pilgrims visiting the Mausoleum. According to the legend, this cauldron was founded from the alloy of seven metals. The cauldron is a symbol of hospitality and unity. Its diameter is 2.2 m., the weight is 2 tons. Exaggerated size of the cauldron may be explained by the beliefs of ancient Turkic tribes: the edge of the cauldron is to be at the mouth level of a person coming to it. The cauldron surface is decorated with three belts of relief inscriptions on the background of vegetable ornament. The upper inscription reads that this cauldron for water - is the Timur's donation to the building erected in commemoration of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. The wording of the middle inscription is "Be blessed", the year the cauldron was made (1399), and the master's name - Abdulgaziz ibn Sharafutdin from Tebriz. The lower inscription is "The Kingdom Glory to Allah". The handles of the cauldron are lotus shaped and take turns with round ledges.

The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is a complex construction. The immense size of the building with two tiers of windows, and two and even three tiers of rooms predetermined refined and complicated constructive solutions. The foundations of the monument are clay layers at the depth up to 1.5 m., served also as a dump-proof layer of the walls. The most loaded parts of the monument are the portal pylons and *jamaatkhana* basis rests upon wattle and daub foundations. The

walls are built of the square baked bricks with *ganch* mortar (gypsum mixed with clay).

The vaulted constructions of the Mausoleum are remarkably various and display the complete collection of the all kinds of Central Asian vaults of the time and show some innovations. They illustrate two consecutive periods of construction in the Central Asian architecture. The portal part, flanked by massive corner pillars with polygonal bases and round shafts, with its arch of 39 m high and 18.2 m wide, predominates over the volume of the building and emphasises its monumental character. The construction has not been completed, the portal part and the decorative facing of some rooms are unfinished, showing unique evidence of the medieval building technology: wooden scaffolding putlogs, temporary staircases, devices for lifting loads, etc.

The large scale geometric pattern that covers wide areas of facades like a carpet is characteristic of Timur's monumental buildings. Features include the white-snow lavish alabaster stalactites (*muqarnas*) of remarkably various patterns in all three main rooms, the exterior and interior mosaics of glazed tiles, fine carved wood and ironwork of doors, fine Kufic and Suls inscriptions, both hallmarks of Timurid architecture. The ornament is mainly epigraphic. All facades of the monument are covered with religious texts often included into geometric ornament - *girikh*. The texts from Koran are placed on the drums friezes and written by the canonical "suls". The *khadises* are used in design of doorways and window openings are specially emphasised.

The large dimensions of the building, its perfect unique proportions, novelty of some constructive solutions, variety of architectural decor, give a full notion of the monumental international style of the Timur empire.

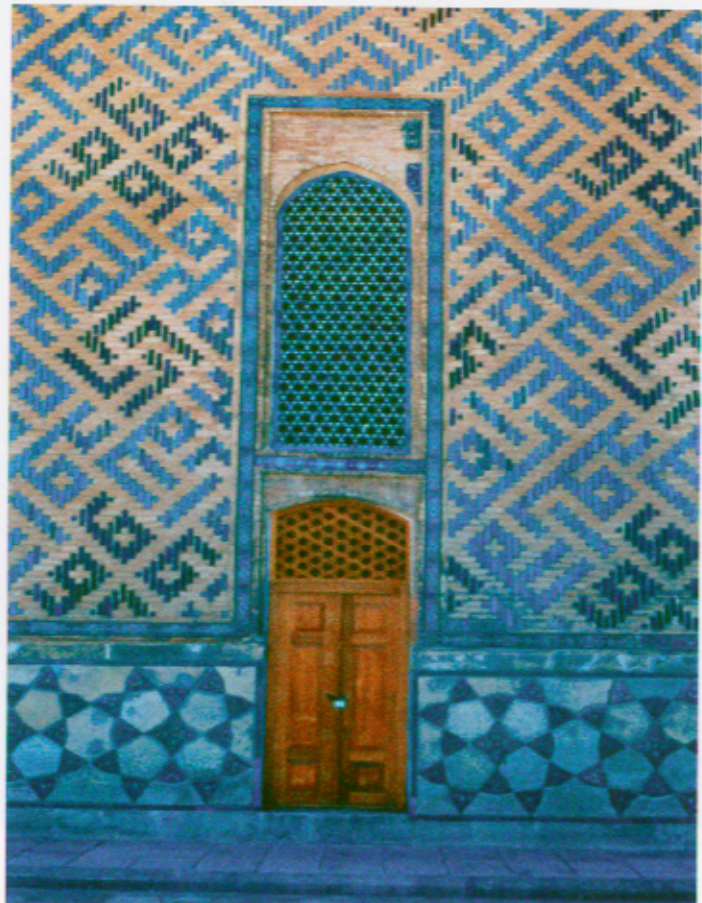
The scientific research of the Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi started at the end of the XIX century, though the descriptions of this building are met in various sources, beginning from the XV century. The first scientific expedition to the town of Turkistan was undertaken in 1905 - it was arranged by the Russian Committee for researches of Central and East Asia and headed by professor N.I. Veselovsky. The aim of this expedition was to make drafts of the monument. Beginning from 1922, several commissions took part in the technical investigation of the building. The most important investigations of the monument were made in 1952 - 1958 (B.N. Zasytkin, T.Sh. Karumidze, L.Yu. Menkovskaya, K.A. Shakhurin) and also in 1970-1980 (B.T. Tuyakbaeva, A.N. Proskurin).



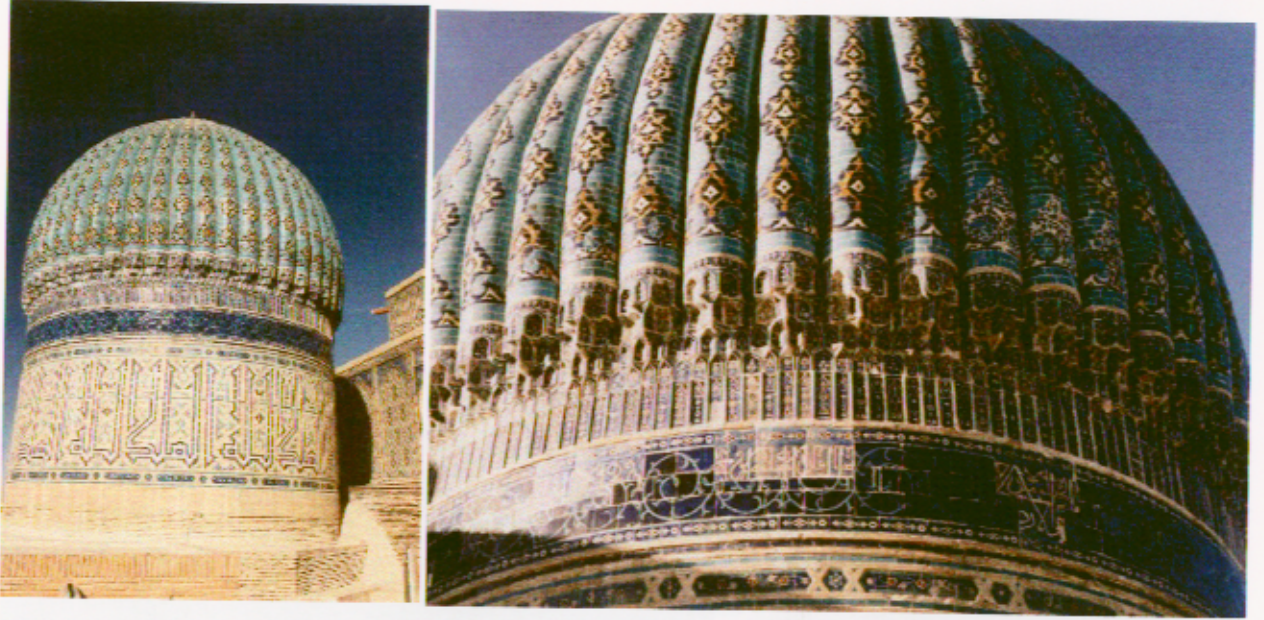


*Domes*

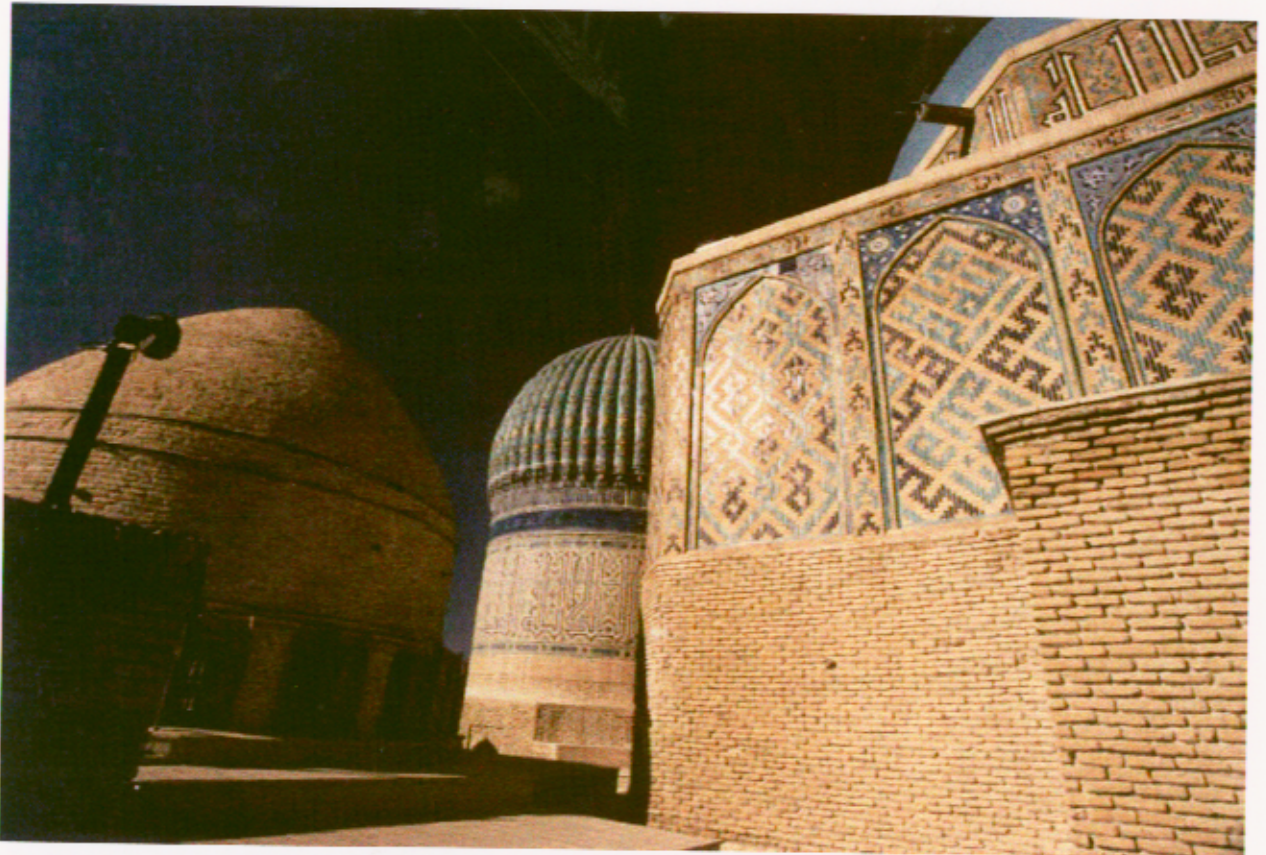
*Northern facade; detail*







*Tomb dome*



*Drums*





*Tomb of Ahmed Yasawi*



## b. History and development

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi has been built between 1389 and 1399 by order of Timur, on the site of the old mausoleum of the Sufi master Ahmed Yasawi, dead in 1166. Part of the original decorated brick facade of the 12<sup>th</sup> century mausoleum can be seen through the opening in the facing of the northern portal of the building.

“Zafar-name” (“the Book of Victories”, the formal history of Timur) gives the description about laying of this building in the end of 1397 when Timur made ‘ziarat’ (the ritual worship) at the grave of Ahmed Yasawi. According to the “Book of Victories”, Timur during his staying in the town of Yasy (Turkestan) ordered to erect here, on the edge of his possessions, the immense monument worthy of the memory of Khodja Akhmed Yasawi. This monument was to glorify Islam, to promote its further dissemination, and to improve the governing of those vast areas.

Timur himself determined the size of the building. In particular, the diameter of the great dome had to be of 41 gyaz and its circumference of 130 gyaz (gyaz is the measure of length, equal to 60,6 cm), etc. The Timur’s instructions were very precise, defining all the principal dimensions of the Mausoleum. His order also provided the instructions concerning some decorative details of the building and its inner decoration. Various written sources state that Timur took part personally in the designing of the building. Maulyan Ubaidullakh Sadr, the person in charge for the charity affairs of the Emir, had to ensure the implementation of this construction.

Income derived from the adjacent lands, irrigation system and also from donations of the faithful had to be used for the future repairs of the building and for keeping of the serving staff, including



*Scaffolding putlogs in the main portal arch*

a preacher, two Koran readers, property manager, a water-carrier, a gardener and a scavenger. Well-preserved inscription over the entrance door reads: "This sacred building has been erected by the order of the sovereign Emir Timur Gurgan, beloved by the Allah ... let Allah prolong his orders for centuries!".

In 1405 Timur died, and the construction works on the mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi stopped. The portal part and the interiors of some rooms remained unfinished, showing the rare evidence of the medieval building technology (scaffolding putlogs, devices for lifting loads, temporary staircases).

In XVI c. the Mausoleum went through some reconstruction works on the portal part: where the new niche was built in the main portal bay, and the portal arch itself has been repaired by order of Abdulla-Khan, the governor of Bukhara. At the back side of that 'Abdulla-khan niche' the best preserved original tiling of the main drum is found, partly concealed by the niche.

From XVI to XIX c.c. the town of Turkestan was the residence of the Kazakh khans.

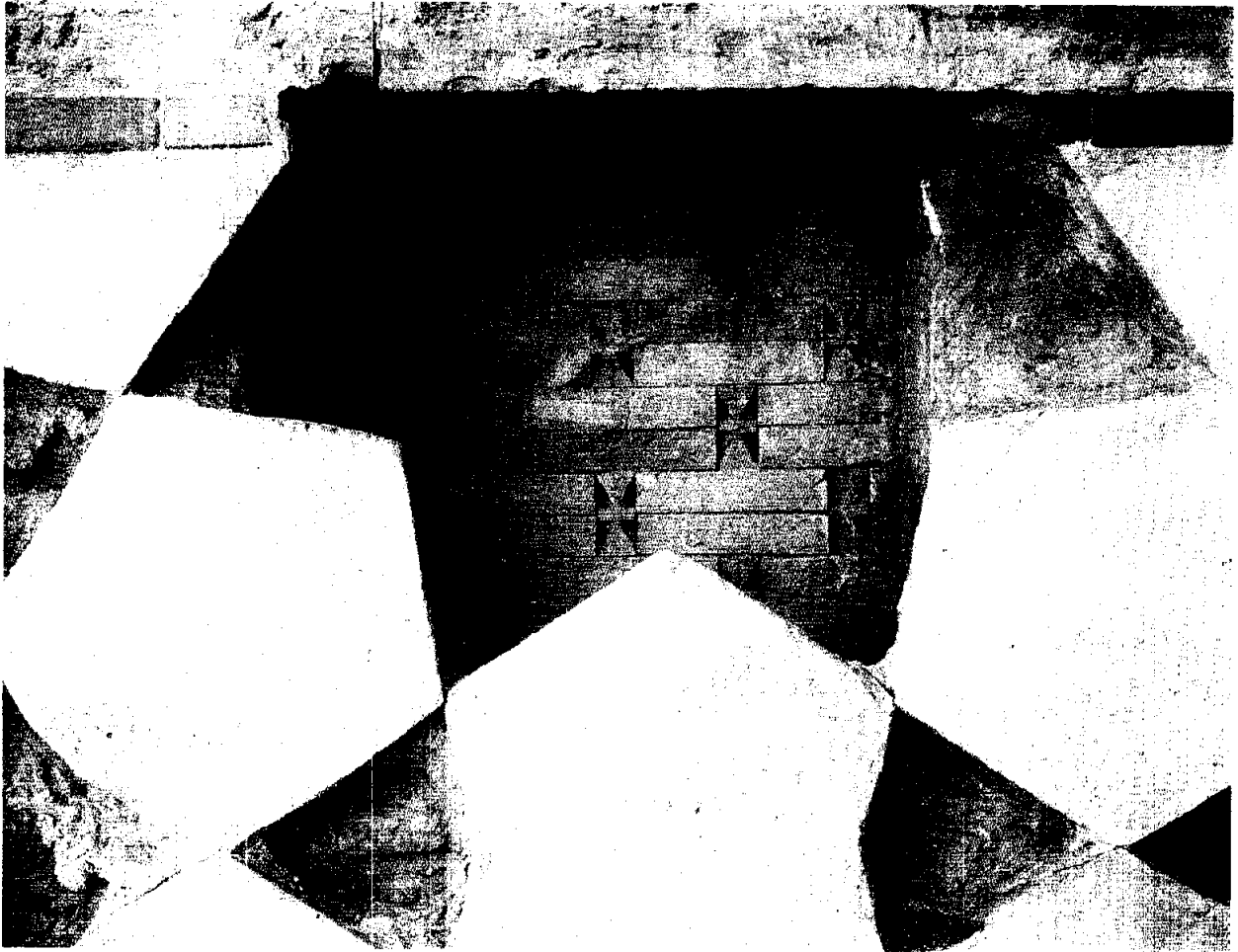
In XIX c., by the order of Kokand khan, who at that time ruled Turkestan, the crude merlons were made on the minarets for defensive purposes, and the mausoleum was surrounded by the defensive mud-brick wall and turned into a fortress. In 1964 Turkestan has been captured by the tsarist army, and several shots were fired at the Mausoleum, leaving eleven holes. In the beginning of 1870-s the Mausoleum was in so poor state of conservation, that the tsarist colonel proposed to demolish the building as it presented a danger to people.

Fortunately, the Russian scientists and the tsarist authority showed a certain interest in the mausoleum, and in 1872 the repair works on the mausoleum started. Unfortunately, the remains of the original paintings in the interior have been white-washed during that repair, and many of the original glazed tiles are gone. In 1886-87, in order to prevent the north-western corner of the building from further subsiding, four massive buttresses were added on the outside. It was particularly valuable that during the repair works the architects and engineers have prepared the drawings of the various architectural details and the plan of the Mausoleum. In 1925 the building survey was provided, and in 1938 the permanent team of workers has been set up, to provide the continuous repair of the Mausoleum, under the supervision of the architect.

The surveys and limited conservation works, targeted at the strengthening of the threatened parts of the building, were continuously implemented in 1945, in 1951-54 and in 1956-58. The next major restoration works were undertaken in 1970-s and lasted about 10 years. The most recent restoration of 1993-2000 has been financed by the Government of the Republic of Turkey and implemented by the «Vakif Insaat» Turkish firm with the participation of the Kazakh experts.

During this last restoration, the structure has been well-stabilised due to construction of the new jet-grout foundations and to consolidation of the cracked walls and vaults by the injection of mortar. Thus, the soil subsidence threatened the integrity of the monument is already eliminated. The regular monitoring of cracks didn't show any further movements in the constructions. The damaged parts of vaults were repaired, and the roof leakage have been finally eliminated. The restoration works were done both on facades and interiors of the monument, where the remaining original architectural details and decorations were carefully preserved. The restoration works were supported by the considerable technical works like the reconstruction of the existing drainage system and providing the electricity lighting inside and outside the monument.

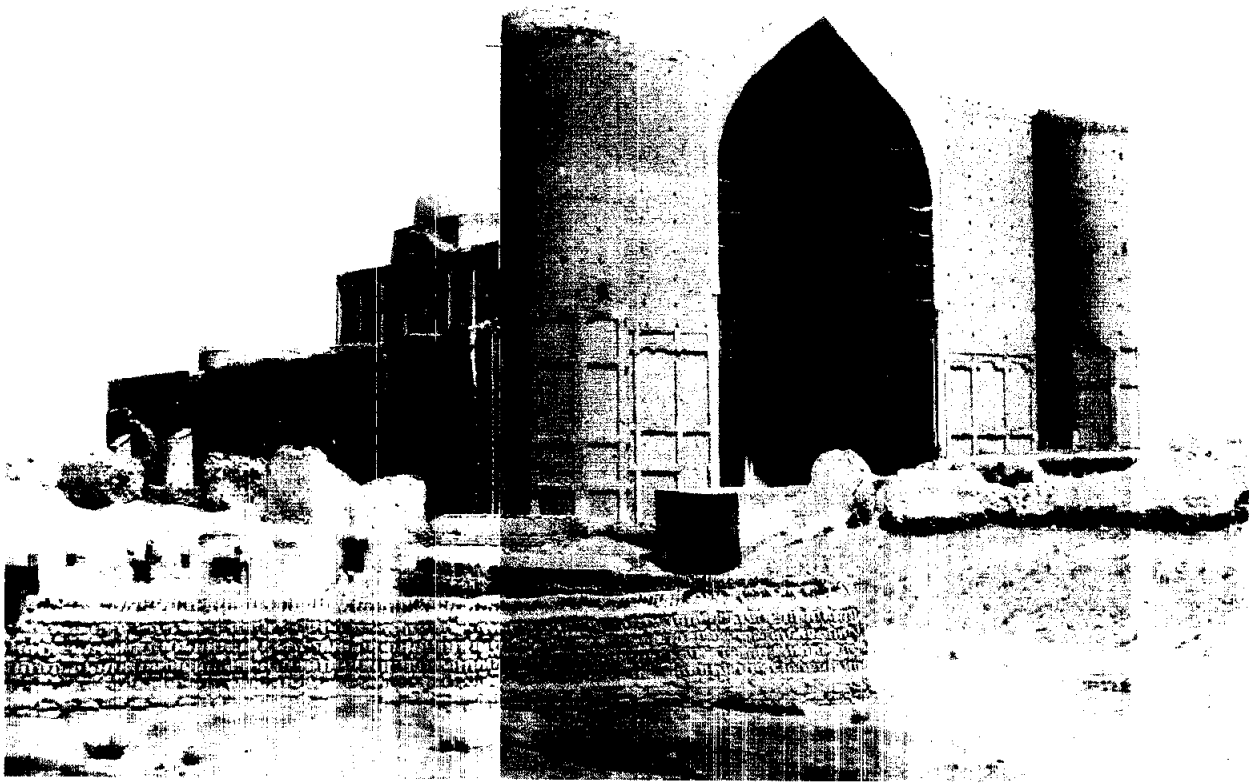




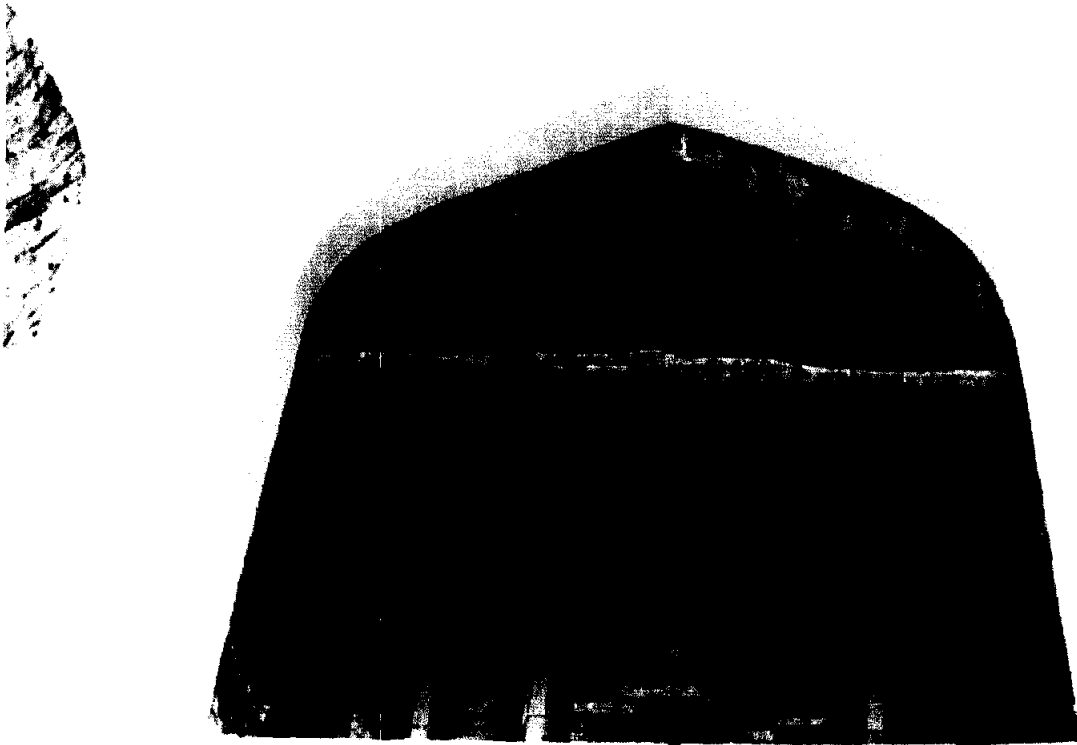
*Northern portal. Detail of the earlier mausoleum of XII c.*

It must be noted, that the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi survive in integrity, unlike the other large structures of Timur, not only due to its perfect innovative construction, but also thanks to the efforts of number of restorers during the period of more than 100 years long. Unfortunately, it must be noted also that the considerable part of the multi-layeral remains of the monument's archaeological environment, along with the ruined traditional mud-brick houses of the latest periods, has been destroyed in the process of earthworks around the Mausoleum.

The detailed documentation on all the works done since 1950-s is available in the Cultural Heritage Archive of the State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture (NIPI PMK, Almaty).



*South-western view in 1951*



*Original tiling of mainh drum partly concealed by 16th-century niche*

c. Form and date of most recent records of property

The most recent published scientific accounts of the monument were by L.Mankovskaya in 1962.

Detailed report on works undertaken on the monument during the recent restoration of 1993-2000 have been prepared by «Vakif Insaat» Turkish firm in 2001. The report is supported with a number of documents prepared during all the period of restoration, such as analytical survey drawings and sketches, drawings and reports on stereophotogrammetry, photographs and negatives, annual reports, relevant technical projects, specific reports on various kinds of conservation works, water-coloured drawings of the glazed decorations, working sketches and daily recordings. The major part of the above-mentioned documentation is transmitted to the State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture in January 2002 to be kept in the Institute's Cultural Heritage Archive, together with other reports on the past restorations, repairs, surveys and other works took place on the monument since 1950's.

The reduced copies of drawings provided in Appendix II is a small part of a large volume of the documentation available. After having systematised that documentation in the archive, the copies of the selected most important documents are to be prepared and passed to the «Azret-Sultan» State Historic and Cultural Reserve-Museum, along with the Nomination dossier, to serve as a reference material in future.

d. Present state of conservation

The recent restoration works started in 1993 by «Vakif Insaat» Turkish State Company and financed by the Government of Turkey have been completed in October 2000. After the restoration, the structure is well-stabilised due to construction of the new jet-grout foundations and consolidation of the cracked walls and vaults by the injection of mortar. Thus, the soil subsidence threatened the integrity of the monument is already eliminated. The regular monitoring of cracks didn't show any further movements in the constructions.

Although, the Mausoleum is still a subject to rising damp and salt attack from the high water table. To reduce it, the repair and improvement of the existing drainage system has been implemented, allowing to control the water table and to remove the superfluous water from the site. The monitoring data of the year 2000 show the permanent water table at a temperate level.

Further monitoring is required to record the behaviour of constructions and materials after the restoration, as well as the changes of water table and also of moisture and temperature in the different parts of the building, in order to finally define the main reason of moistening the walls.

e. Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

The monument and its buffer zone are managed by the «Azret-Sultan» State Historic and Cultural Reserve-Museum, which is subordinate to the Committee of Culture. The Reserve-Museum produces the educational materials, organises lectures and excursions for visitors and involves the local community to provide services to tourists and pilgrims.

The completion of the restoration of the mausoleum and the recent celebration of the 1500 anniversary of the city of Turkestan have contributed to the promotion of the monument and also to public awareness of the protection and conservation of cultural heritage. The site museum created in 2000 displays a rich collection of archaeological objects and other materials illustrating a history of Yasi-Turkestan and of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. The museum staff has started the English and Russian translations of captions and explanatory texts.

#### **4. Management**

##### **a. Ownership**

The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is in the ownership of State. It is covered by the provisions of 1992 Law on the Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Heritage. According to the Article 11 of the Law, the rights of owner on behalf of the State are exercised by the Committee of Culture, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord. The Committee of Culture plays a part of a State Agency for Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Heritage.

##### **b. Legal status**

The mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is a Property of National Significance. It is inscribed on the List of National Properties of Kazakhstan. Decree 38 of January 26, 1982.

##### **c. Protective measures and means of implementing them**

The Protection Zoning Plan for the town of Turkestan has been elaborated in 1986, under invitation of the Ministry of Culture, by the State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture (NIPI PMK, Almaty). This Plan has been approved by the Committee of Culture, and then the boundaries of all the proposed zones have been legally approved by the Government of South Kazakhstan Oblast (former Chimkent Oblast). Decree 628 of November 22, 1988.

Having the highest national listing since 1982, the Ahmed Yasawi Mausoleum, along with the adjacent secondary monuments and the archaeological remains of the medieval town of Yasy-Turkestan have been included in the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum by State Decree 265 of August 28, 1989. The Reserve-Museum was opened on January 1, 1990. It occupies the territory within the boundaries of the Medieval Site Protection Zone of 1988. The permanent guard/guide of the site is provided. The annual budget allocations are available for the salaries of the Reserve-Museum staff, and some part of the income from visitors is fed back into the maintenance and monitoring of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and other monuments within the protected area, and also into scientific research, keeping of the museum collections, archaeological excavations and other activities.

##### **d. Agency/agencies with management authority**

- i. Committee of Culture, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord.

- ii. «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum, which comes under the Committee of culture. The Office of the Reserve Museum is located at the south-east corner of its legal territory, in the two-storey building.

e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on property, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes

At national level: The responsible person is Uigur K.Jalilov, Head of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Museums & Libraries, Committee of Culture, Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord.

Address: 37 Gogol Str., 480002 Almaty, Kazakhstan.  
Tel.: (7 3272) 308239; Fax: (7 3272) 308551

At on-property level: The responsible person is Temirkhan Ryskeldiev, director of the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum.

Address: 70 Tauke Khan Str., Turkestan, Kazakhstan  
Tel.: (7 32533) 4 12 22; Fax: (7 32533) 4 24 56

f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)

The Reserve-Museum prepares the Annual Plans of development and submits them to the Committee of Culture for approval.

In 2000 the office of the Municipal Architect has drawn up the Long Term Development Plane for the whole of the city of Turkestan, which respects the existing zones of legal protection.

The Tourism Department of the South Kazakhstan Region has developed the regional plan for tourism which includes Turkestan as the most important destination.

g. Sources and levels of finance

At national level: State budget allocations (about \$ 8500 per year)

At on-property level: Entrance fees, pilgrims' offerings (about \$ 75 000 per year).

h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

The main source for cultural heritage conservation and management expertise in Kazakhstan is the State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture (NIPI PMK, Almaty), which maintains close contact with the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum, providing the necessary consultations.

According to the Reserve-Museum's Regulations, its staff is trained by exchange of experience with the other similar agencies.

i. Visitor facilities and statistics

A number of new private hotels appeared in Turkestan during last two years. To date, they seem to be sufficient to provide the accommodation for pilgrims and tourists visiting the site. Some of on-site visitor facilities have been provided recently, as preparatory measures before the celebrations of 1500 anniversary of the city of Turkestan, but they are not sufficient.

The director of the Reserve-Museum reported that a number of visitors increased from 111897 in 1997 to 200887 in 2000. The precise number of visitors in 2001 is not evaluated yet.

j. Property management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)

The Draft Five Year Management Plan is prepared by the State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture and must be finalised and approved after the discussion by the Kazakh National Commission to UNESCO annual meeting in February 2002.

The objectives of the Management Plan are to provide the guidelines for safeguarding, research, conservation, monitoring and maintenance of the Mausoleum of Khodja Ahmed Yasawi and its Buffer Zone, but also for the future use and development of the adjacent Zone of Planning Control and a Protection Zone of Natural Setting, in order to preserve the important views and the dominating position of the Mausoleum in the townscape.

k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

The formal staff of the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum is paid by the Government and consists of 19 persons, including:

Director	Administration	Researches (history & archaeology)		Custodians	Guides
/ educators	Technicians(monitoring & maintenance)				
1 person	2 persons	2 persons	7 persons	5 persons	2 persons

The guardians, as well as all the additional personnel required, are contracted by the Cultural Reserve-Museum.

## 5. Factors affecting the property

a. Development pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)

The modern developments in vicinity of the boundary of the Buffer Zone can damage the sight of the monument and from the monument.

b. Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change)

In 1970s with the arrival of the Arys-Turkestan canal and the creation of large agricultural fields caused a rise of the water table in Turkestan and thus created problems of damp and salt attack to the monument.

c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)

The area is considered to be of low seismic activity.

d. Visitor/tourism pressures

The number of visitors is growing. The city of Turkestan has a potential to become a large centre of pilgrimage and tourism, and the Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is the main attraction. As the building has not a heating system, it is essential to restrict the number of visitors in the cold periods of the year to reduce the condensation at the interior surfaces of domes and vaults.

e. Number of inhabitants within property, buffer zone

The territories of the Monument zone and of the Buffer Zone are uninhabited.

## 6. Monitoring

### Key indicators for measuring state of conservation

Mausoleum of Khodja Ahmed Yasawi:

- Evidence of movements in constructions
- Evidence of damp rising
- Evidence of roof leakage
- Temperature and humidity of air inside the building
- Humidity of materials
- Evidence of deterioration of the original restoration materials

Buffer zone:

- Visible damage

Drainage system:

- Water table
- Volume of removed water

Zone of Planning control

- Number of removed traditional buildings
- Number of reconstructed traditional buildings
- Number of new buildings permitted
- Local development initiatives

## Protection Zone of Natural Setting

- Area of new illegal housing
- Area under cultivation

### Administrative arrangements for monitoring property

The technicians of the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum are responsible for monitoring. The data of monitoring are passed to the Scientific State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture (NIPi PMK, Almaty) for analysing and elaboration of the appropriate strategies.

#### c. Results of previous reporting exercises

From the beginning of the restoration works until the end of the year 2001 the Mausoleum was managed and maintained by the 'Vakif Inshaat' Turkish firm, but monitored by the technicians of the «Azret-Sultan» State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum with some assistance from the State Scientific Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture. The main results are the following:

The regular monitoring of cracks didn't show any further movements in the constructions.

The monitoring data of the years 2000 and 2001 show the permanent water table at a temperate level.

The comparative analyses of the recent data on the air temperature and humidity in the main rooms of the building with those obtained in the past years since 1996 (after the construction of the jet-grout foundations) show the gradual reduction of humidity.



*Aerial view, 1979*



**7. Documentation**

**a. Photographs and slides**

All the new photographic documentation is produced in 2001 by Renato Sala for the present nomination and still unpublished. All the old photographs used in the nomination dossier copied from the archival materials of NIPI PMK.

1. Photographs - see Appendix III.

2. Slides:

- Slide 1. Buffer Zone. Southern aerial view.
- Slide 2. Eastern facade
- Slide 3. Main portal
- Slide 4. South-Western view
- Slide 5. North-Western view
- Slide 6. Northern facade
- Slide 7. Northern portal niche
- Slide 8. Eastern facade window
- Slide 9. Gurhana (tomb) dome
- Slide 10. Gurhana (tomb) dome. detail
- Slide 11. Main portal niche; scaffolding putlogs
- Slide 12. Mosque dome; stalactite ornament
- Slide 13. Gurhana: tomb of Ahmed Yasawi
- Slide 14. Mosque; mihrab
- Slide 15. Kazandyk (main hall); mosaic medallion
- Slide 16. Gurhana door; detail
- Slide 17. Gurhana door (back); inlaid detail

Slide 18. Kazandyk (main hall); bronze cauldron given by Timur

Slide 19. Muzzafar Shakhanov, the mullah, the descendant of Ahmed Yasawi in 22 generations

Slide 20. Western facade at night

b. Copies of property management plans

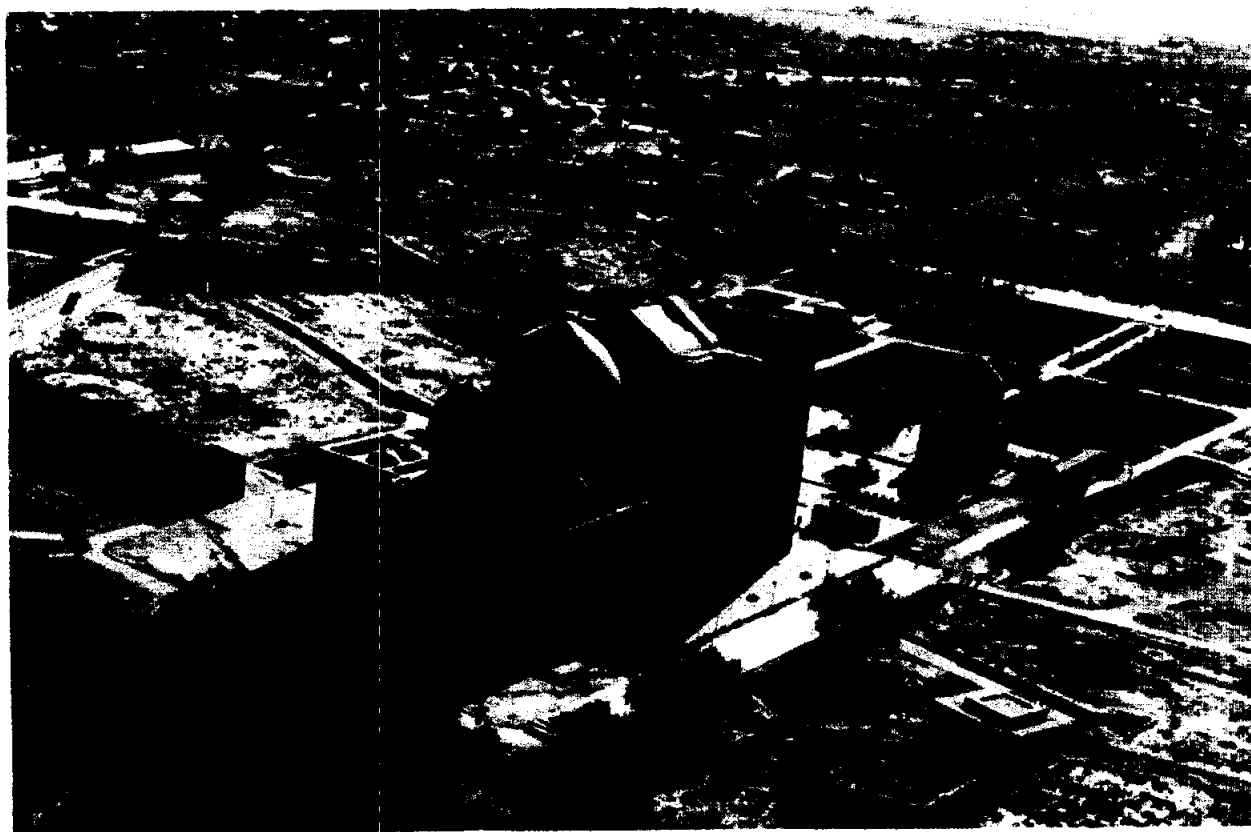
See separate document.

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*Mausoleum and the living city of Turkestan*

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d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held

1. State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture  
21 Tole bi Str., 480100, Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan  
Tel. 7 3272 918293, Fax 7 3272 916111

2. The «Vakif Insaat» Turkish State Enterprise, Istanbul, Turkey.

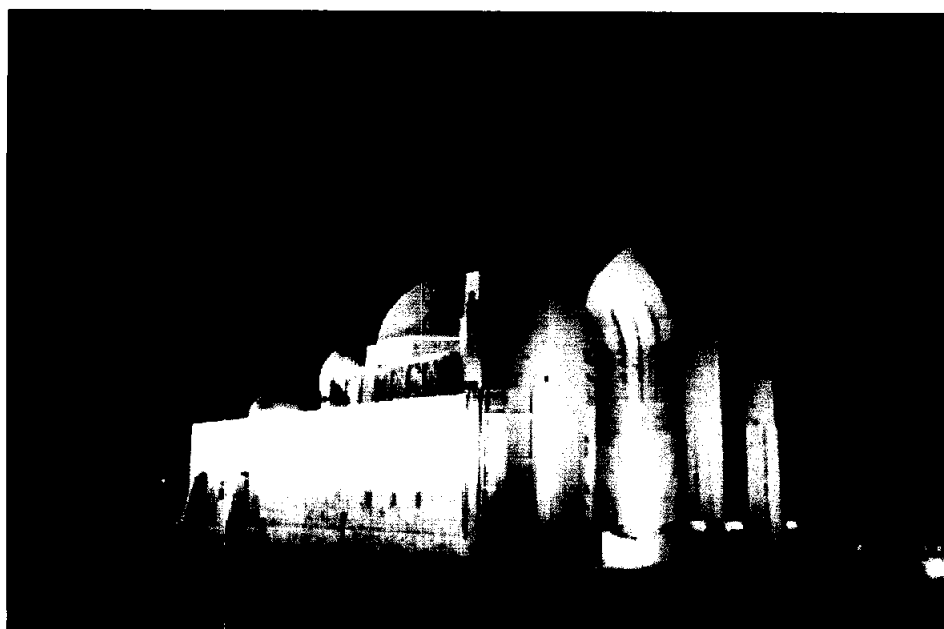
8. **Signature on behalf of the State Party**

3. The Uzbek State Conservation Institute, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Uigur K. Jalilov



Head  
Department of Cultural Heritage, Museums & Libraries  
Committee of Culture  
Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord  
Republic of Kazakhstan



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*Elena Khorosh,  
Chief Architect, Deputy Director*

STATE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND  
PLANNING ON MONUMENTS OF MATERIAL  
CULTURE

# Appendices

APPENDIX I	Maps
APPENDIX II	Drawings
APPENDIX III	Fotographic Documentation
APPENDIX IV	Legal Texts

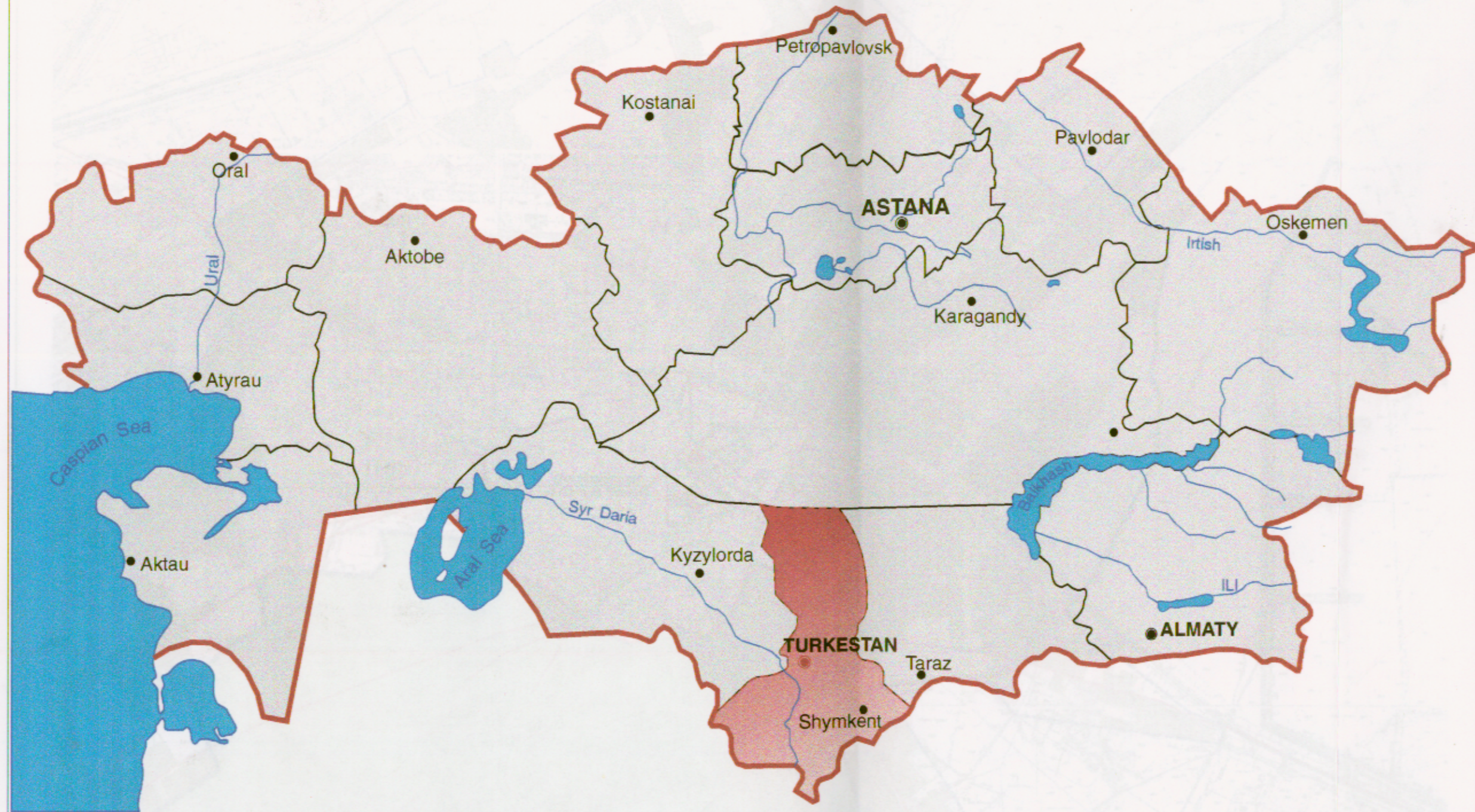
## **APPENDIX I**

### **Maps**

1. Map 1. Republik of Kazakhstan.
2. Map 2. Historic Centre of Turkestan City.
3. Map 3. “Azret-Sultan” State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum.
4. Map 4. Core Area of the “Azret-Sultan” State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum.



MAP 1. Republik of Kazakhstan

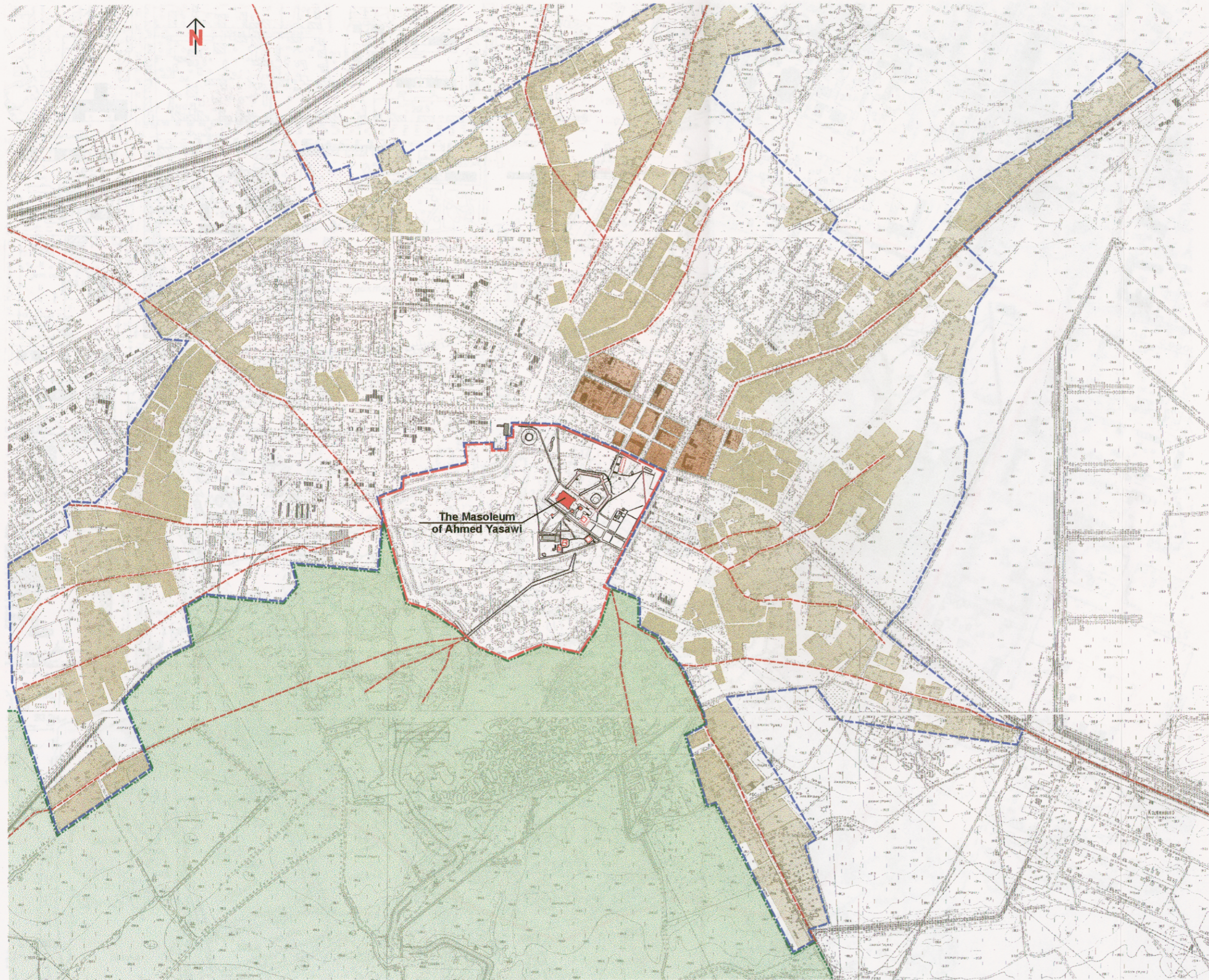


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








- South Kazakhstan Oblast
- Other oblasts (regions)
- Boundary of the South Kazakhstan Oblast
- Boundaries of the other oblasts (regions)
- Major cities
- Capitals of oblasts (regions)



MAP 2. Historic Centre of Turkestan City



**LEGEND**

-  Boundary of Buffer Zone
-  Boundary of the Zone of Planning Control
-  Boundary of the Protection Zone of Natural Setting
-  Architectural monuments
-  Restored section of city wall
-  Historic roads/ streets
-  Areas of traditional housing
-  Tsarist blocks of buildings
-  Zone of Natural Setting



MAP 3. "Azret-Sultan" State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum



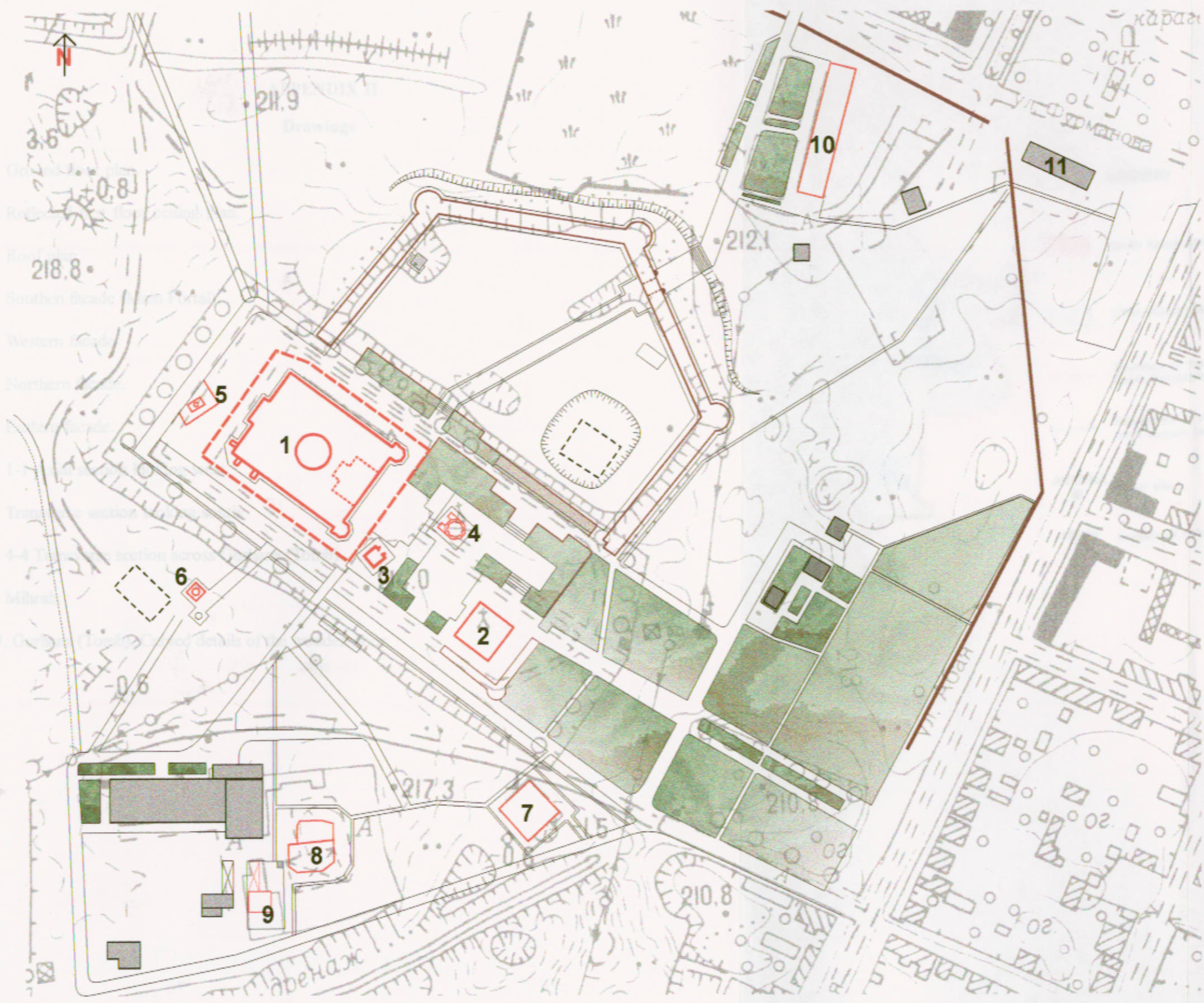
LEGEND

1. Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi
2. Mausoleum of Rabia Sultan Begum
3. Mausoleum of Esim-Khan
4. "Octagonal" Mausoleum
5. Chilla-Khana
6. Anonymous Crypt
7. Medieval Bath-House
8. Khilvet Underground Mosque
9. Mosque of the XIX c.
10. Archaeological Site of Eski-Turkestan (Old Turkestan)
11. Archaeological Site of Kul-Tobe
12. Site Museum (former tsarist barrack building of the XIX c.)
13. Office of the "Azret-Sultan" State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum

- - - Boundary of the Buffer Zone
- ◊ Architectural monuments
- Restored section of city wall
- Archaeological excavations
- Grass lawns



**MAP 4. Core Area of the "Azret-Sultan" State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum**



**LEGEND**

- 1. Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi
- 2. Mausoleum of Rabia Sultan Begum
- 3. Mausoleum of Esim-Khan
- 4. "Octagonal" Mausoleum
- 5. Chilla-Khana
- 6. Anonymous Crypt
- 7. Medieval Bath-House
- 8. Khilvet Underground Mosque
- 9. Mosque of the XIX c.
- 10. Site Museum (former tsarist barrack building of the XIX c.)
- 11. Office of the "Azret-Sultan" State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum

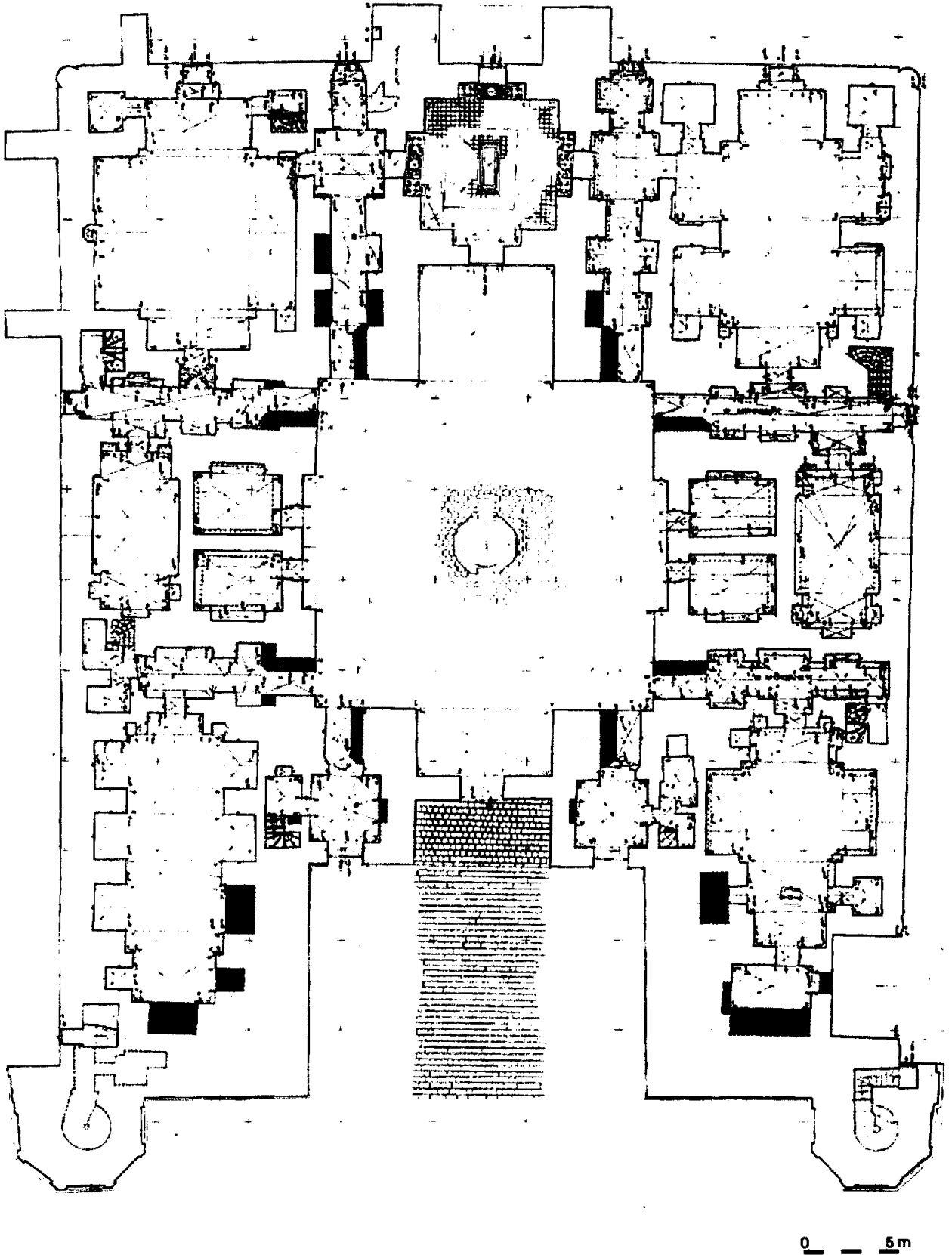
- Boundary of the Monument Zone
- Architectural monuments
- Restored sections of city wall
- Archaeological excavations
- Grass lawns



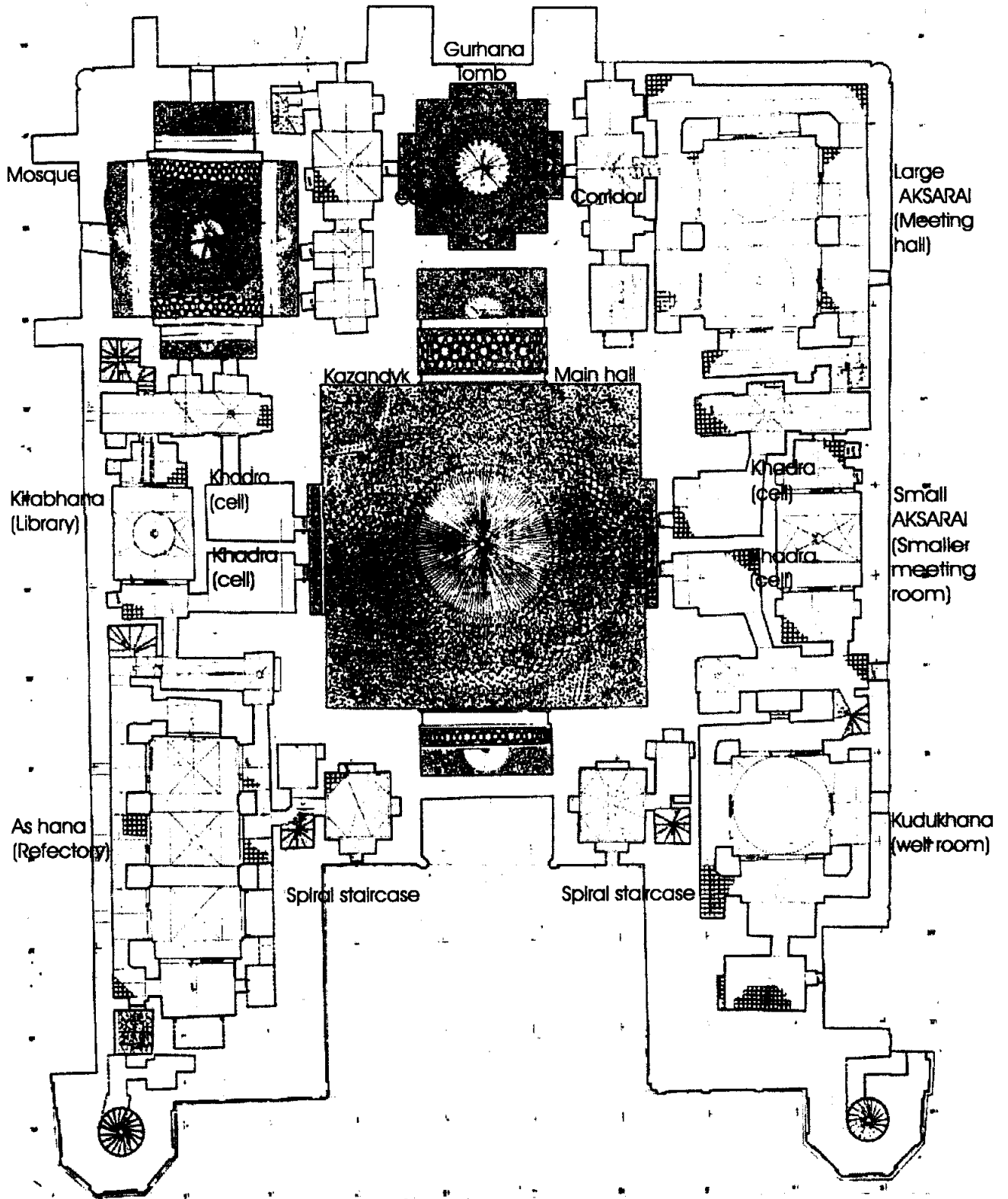
## **APPENDIX II**

### **Drawings**

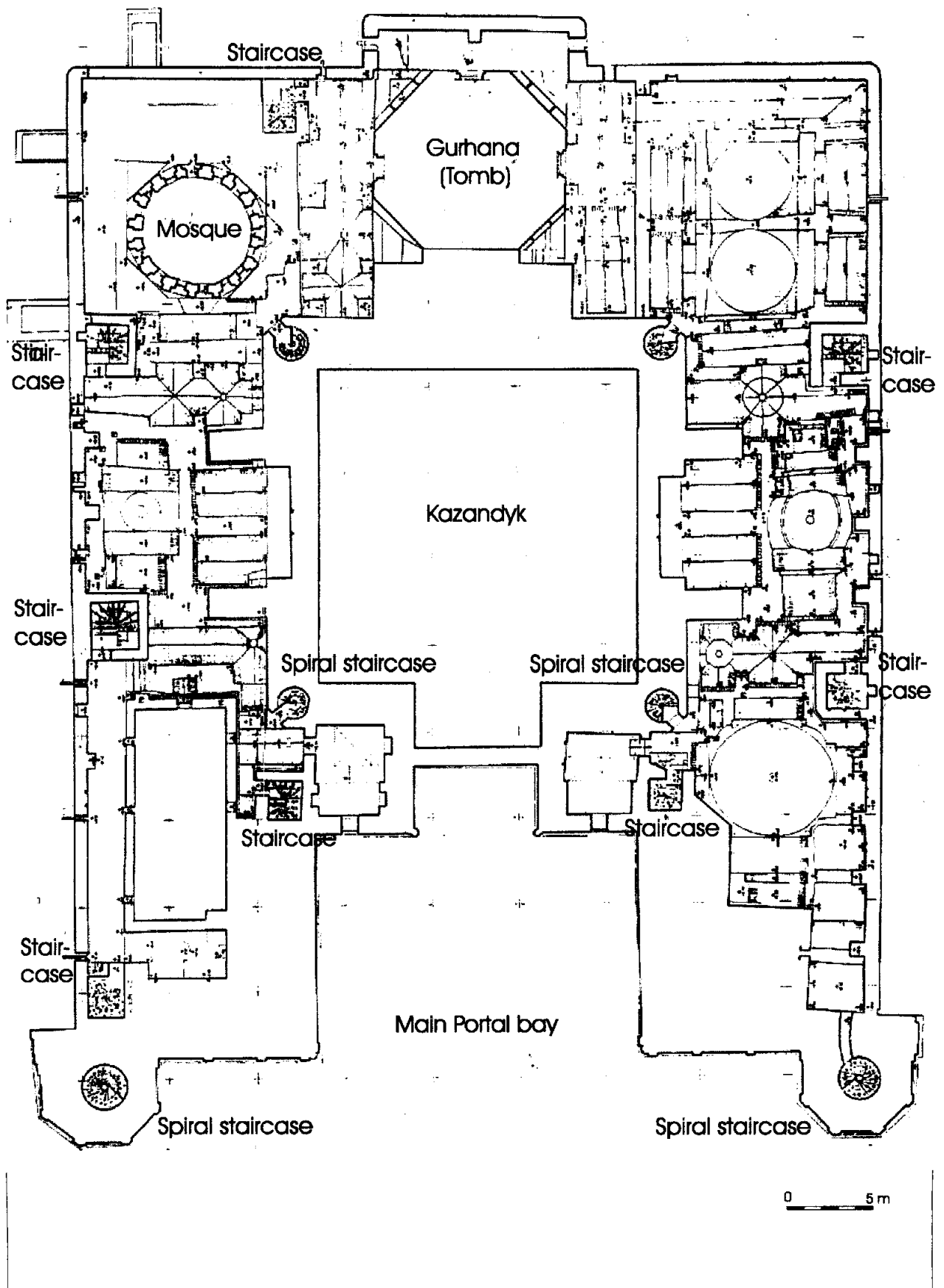
1. Ground floor plan.
2. Reflected first floor ceiling plan.
3. Roof plan.
4. Southern facade (Main Portal).
5. Western facade
6. Northern facade.
7. Eastern facade.
8. 1-1 Axial section looking west.
9. Transverse section looking south.
10. 4-4 Transverse section across Gurhana (Tomb).
11. Mihrab.
- 12,13. Gurhana (Tomb). Carved details of the wooden door.



Ground floor plan

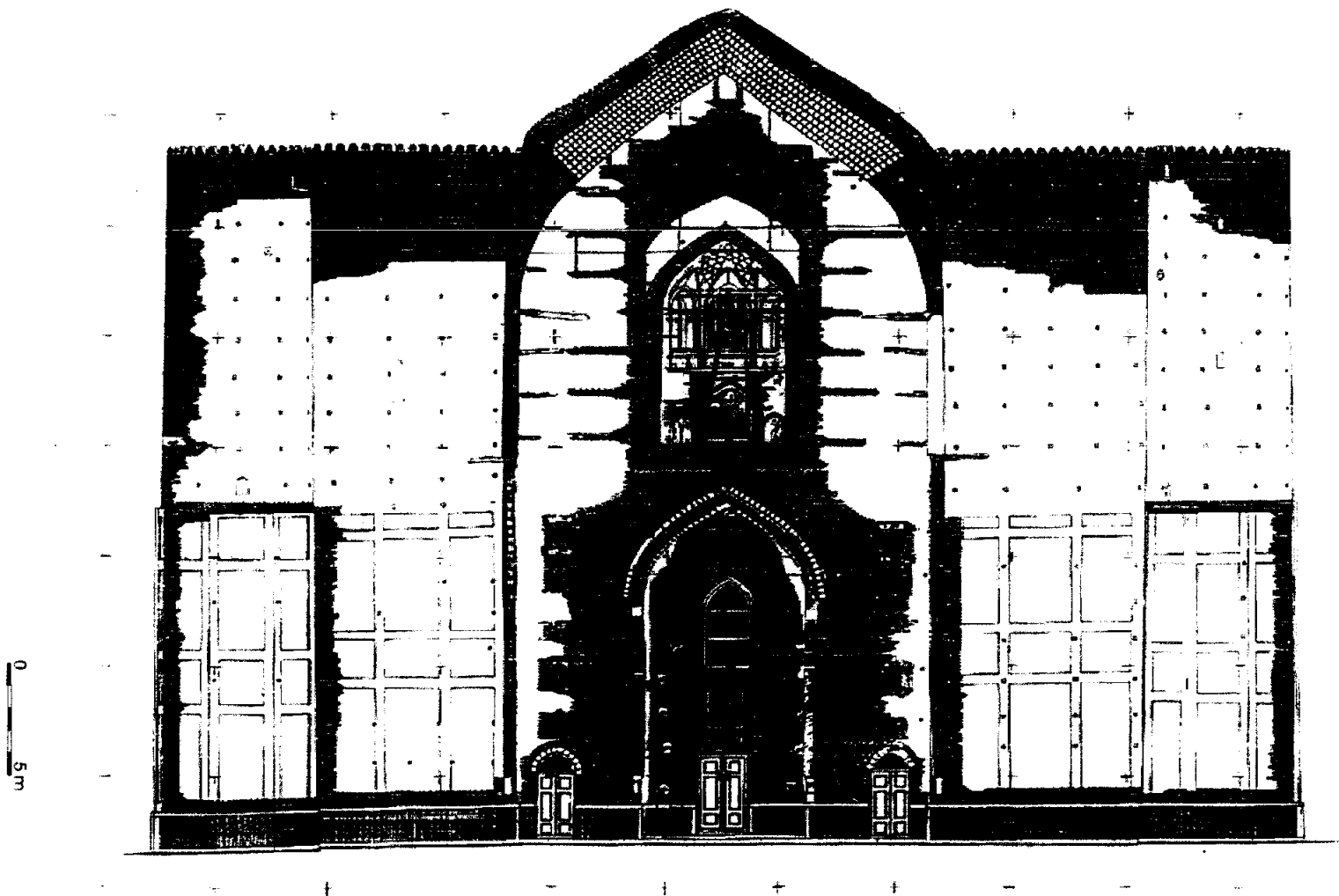


Reflected first floor ceiling plan

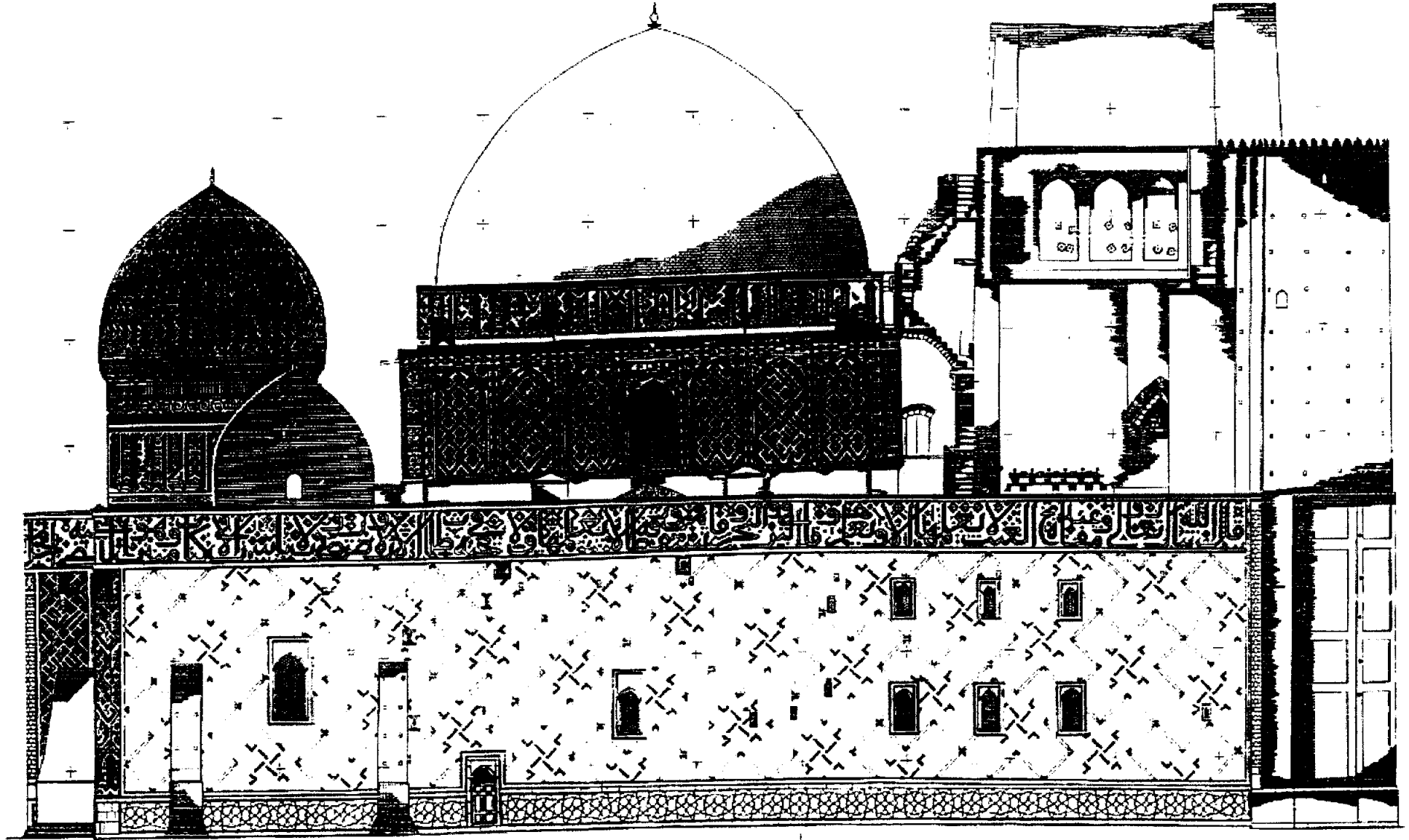


Roof plan

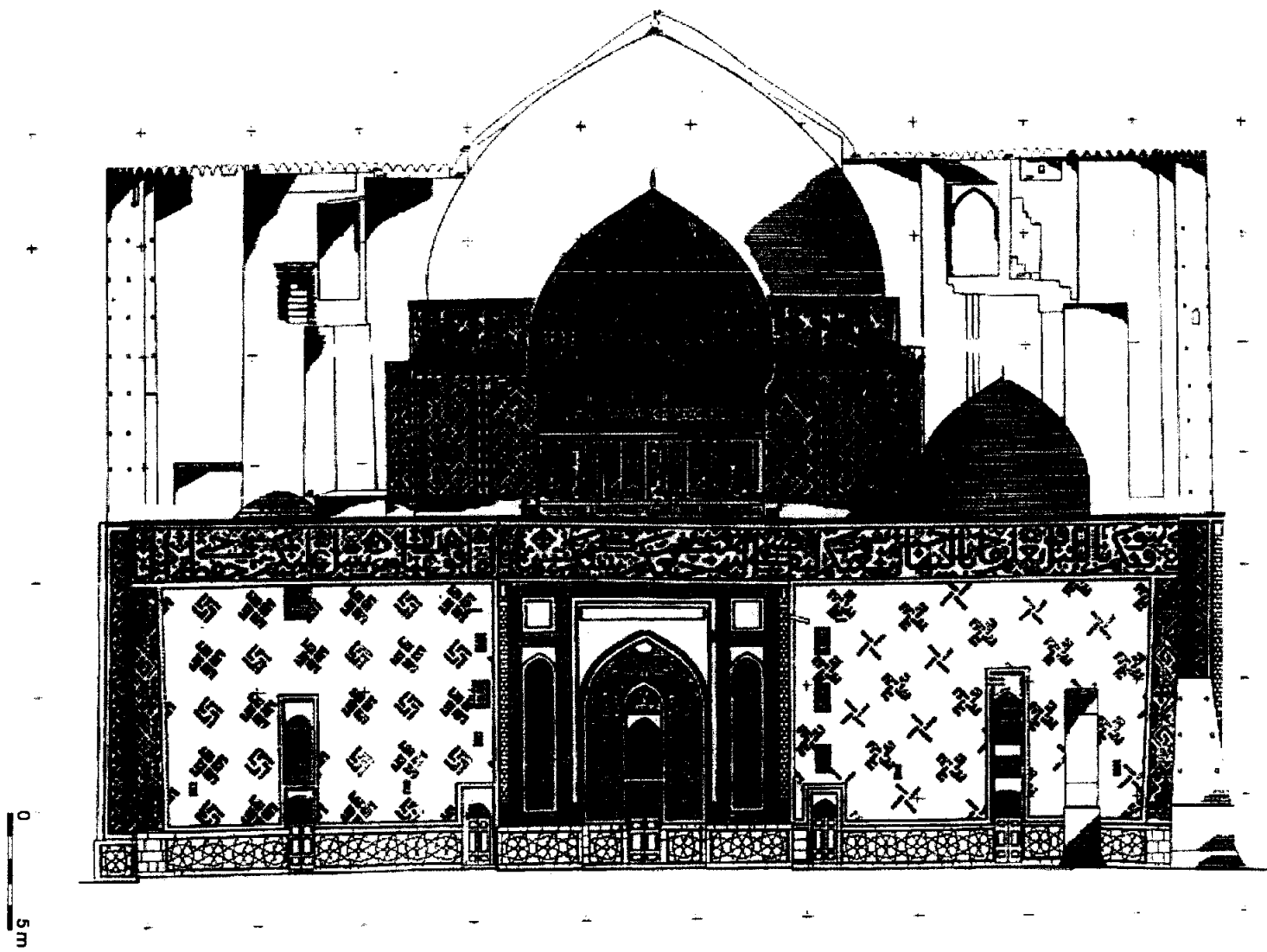




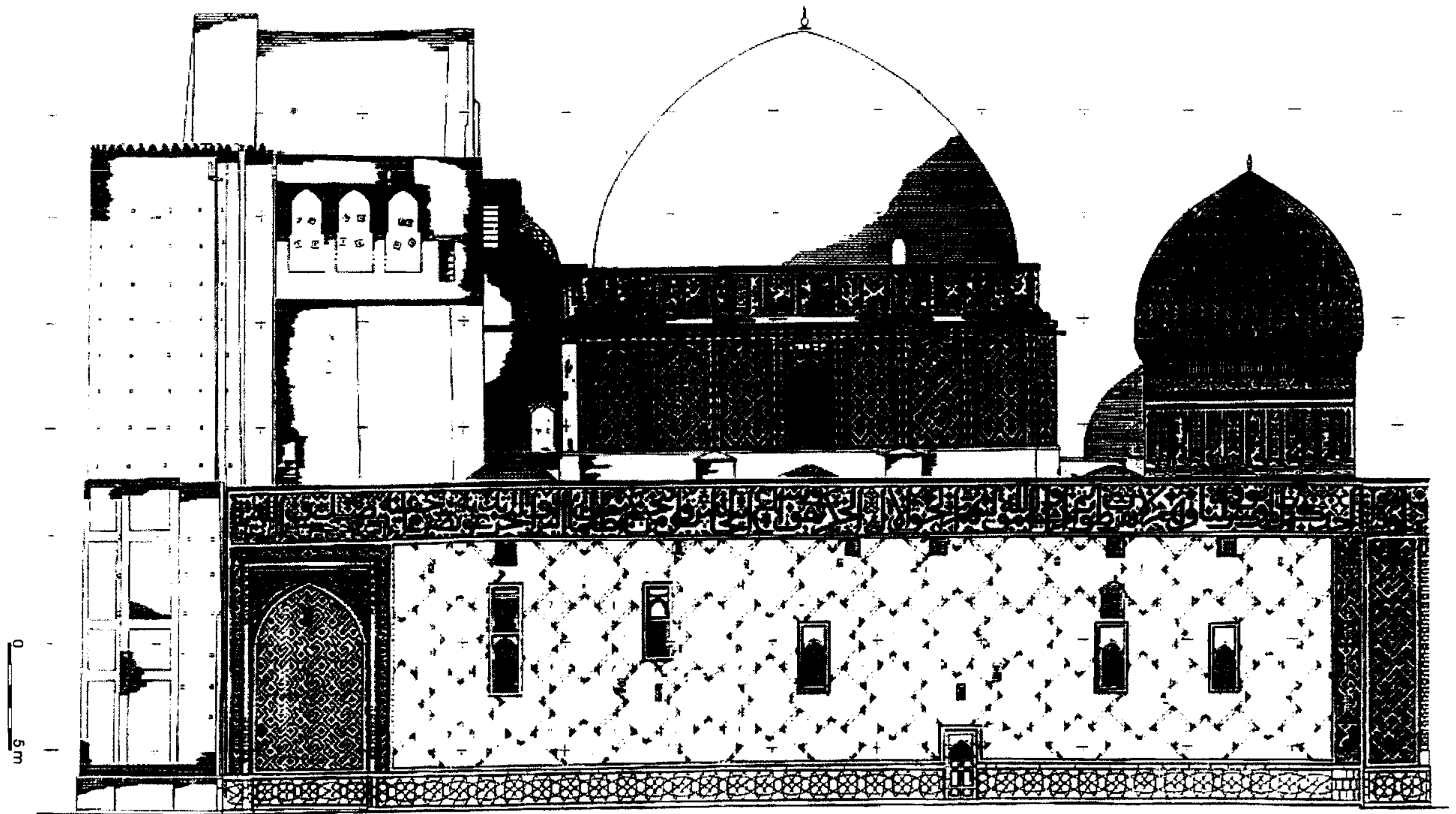
Southern facade (Main Portal)



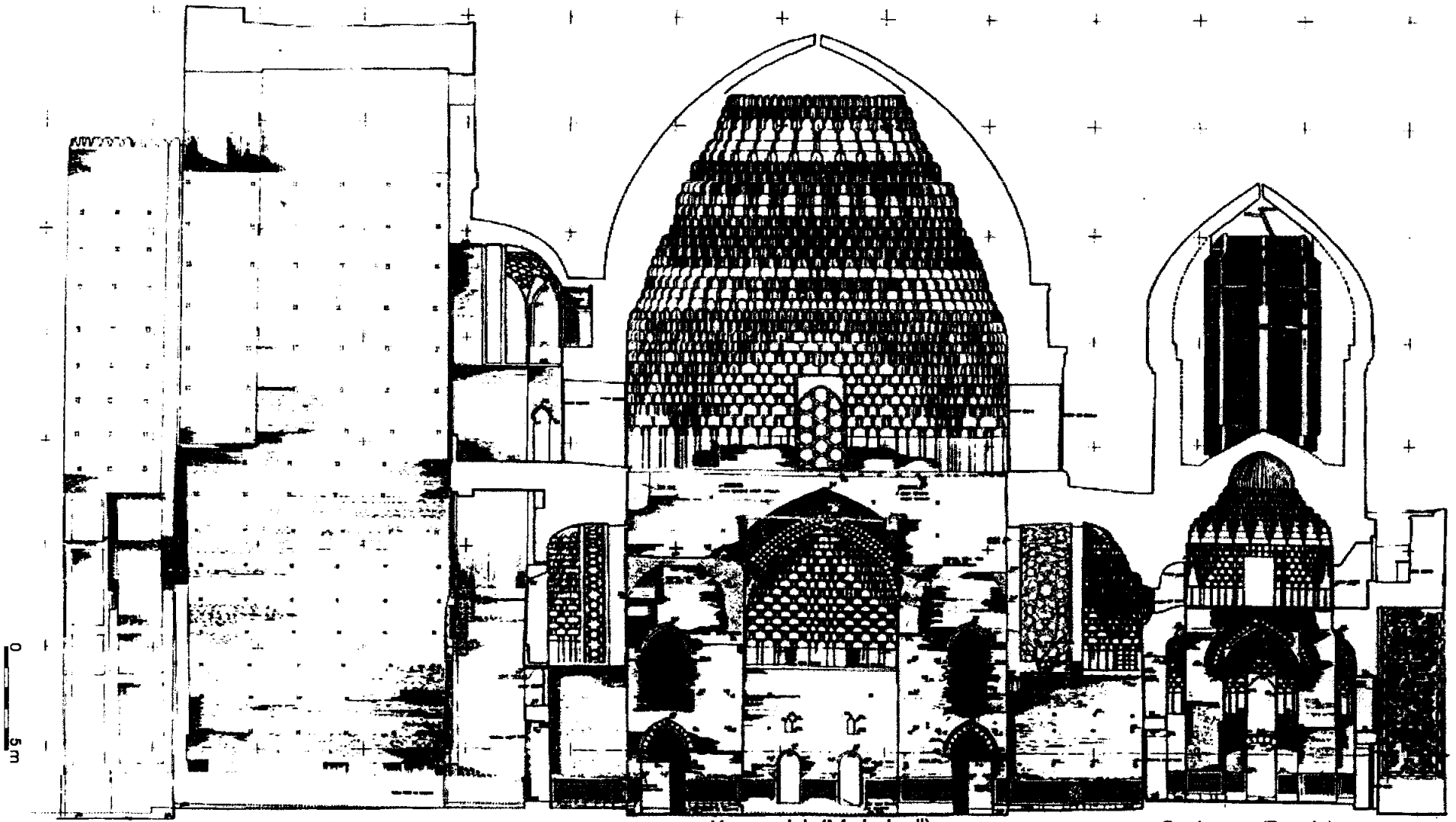
Western facade



Northern facade



Eastern facade

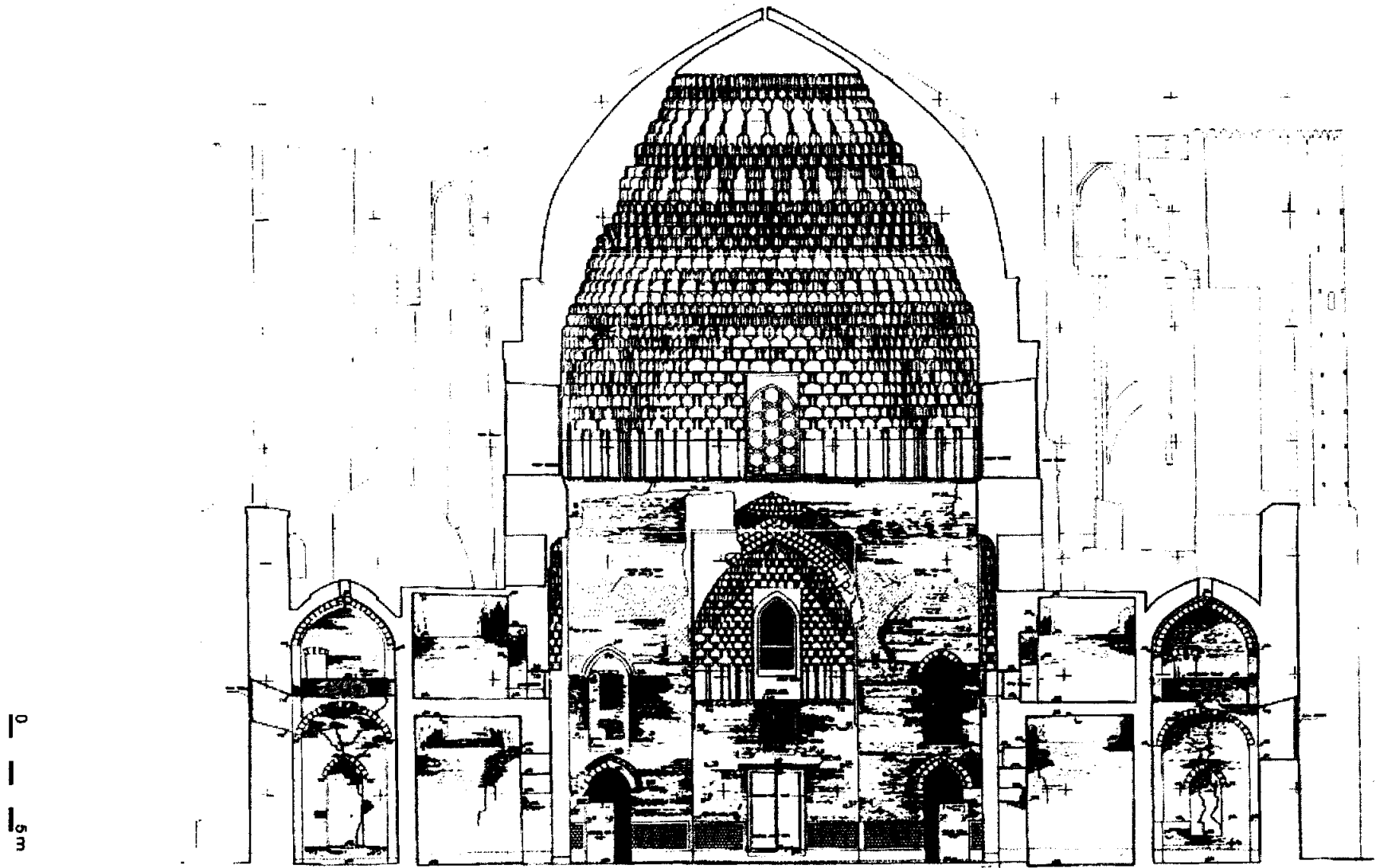


Main portal

Kazandyk (Main hall)

Gurhana (Tomb)

1-1 Axial section looking west



Corridor

Kazanatyk (Main Hall)

Corridor

Transverse Section looking south



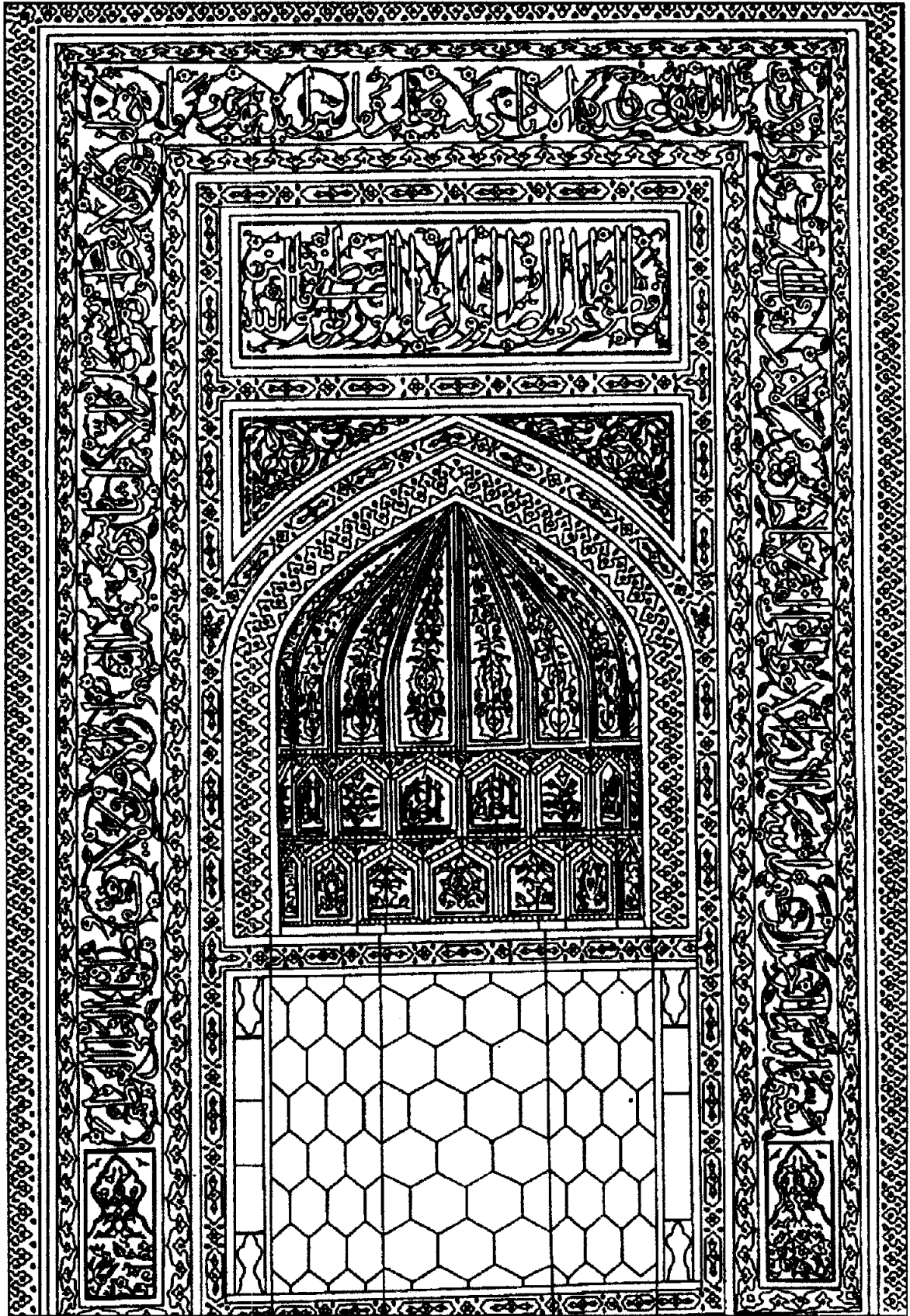
Large Aksaral (Meeting room)

Gurhana (Tomb)

Corridor

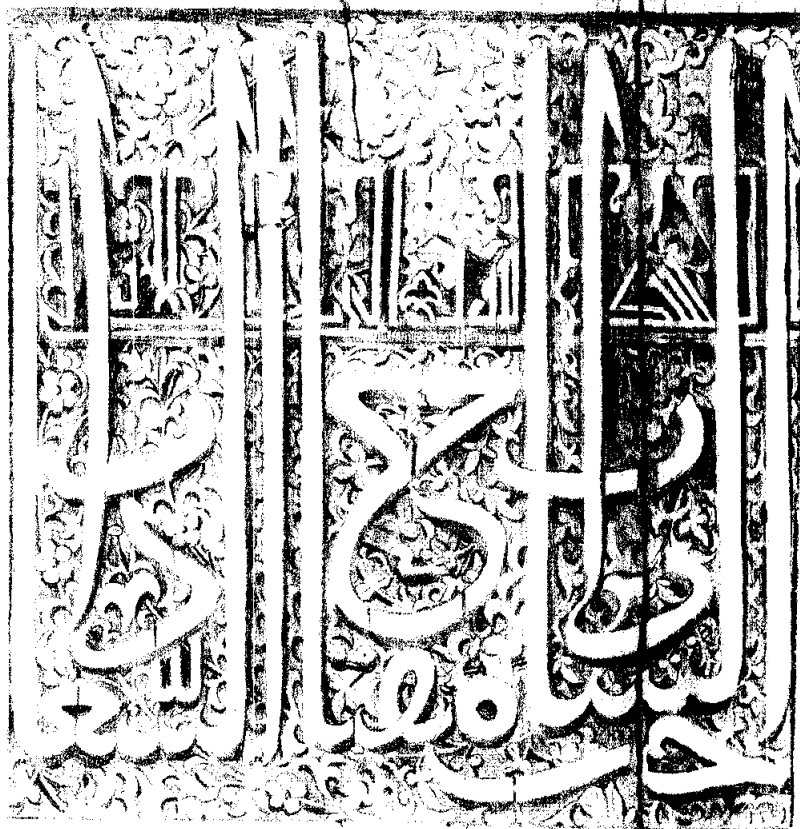
Mosque

4-4 Transverse Section across Gurhana (Tomb)

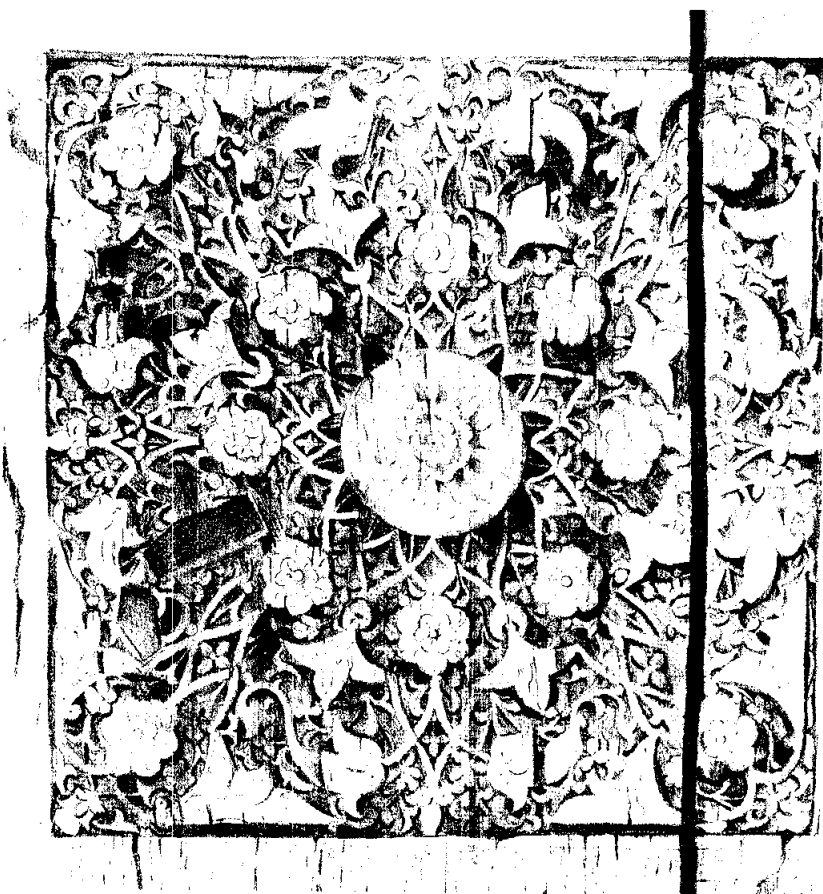


Mihrab





*Gurhana (Tomb). Carved details of the original wooden door*





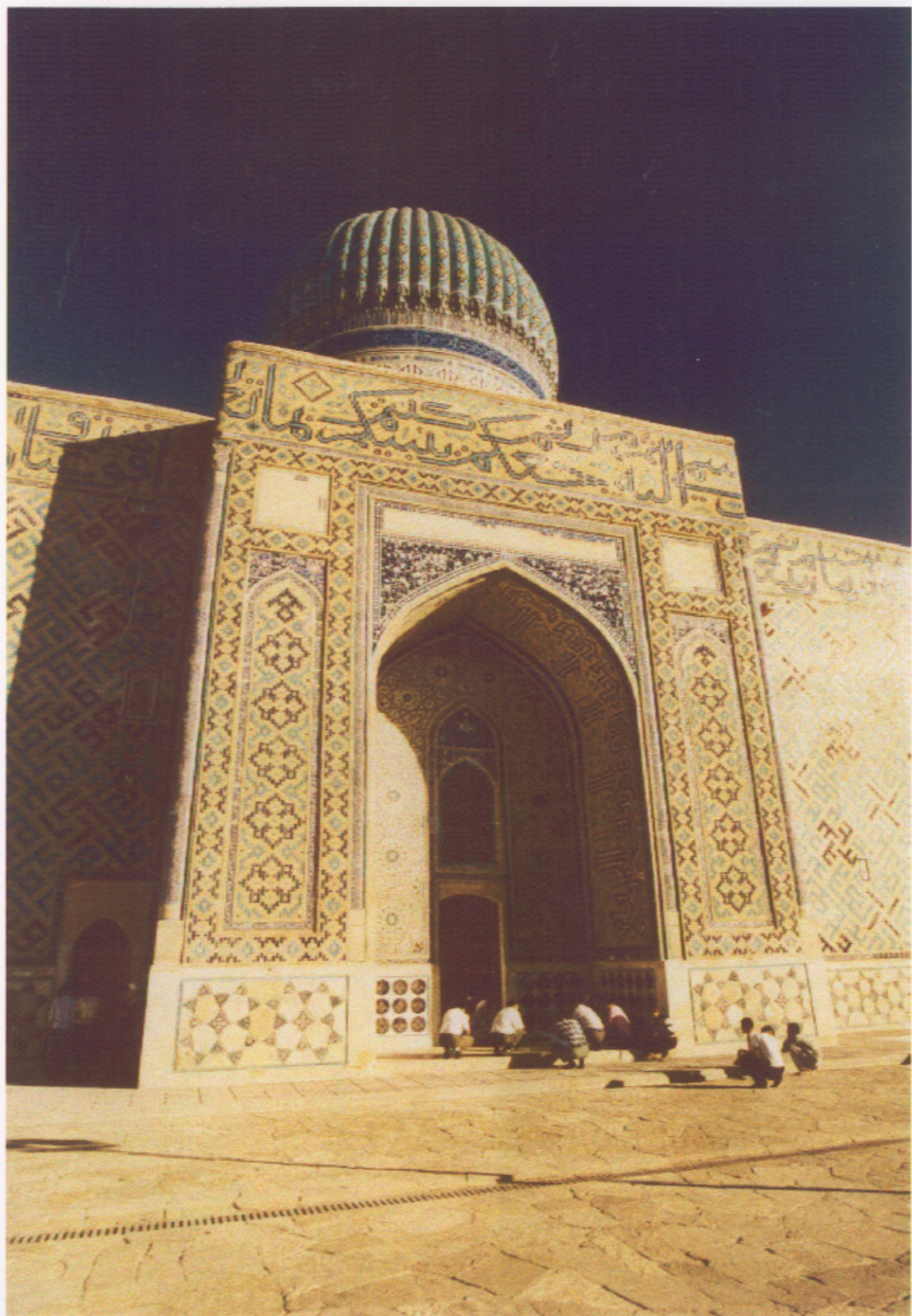
## **APPENDIX III**

### **Photographic Documentaion**

1. Historic centre of Turkestan city.
2. Core Area: Immediate environment of the Mausoleum.
3. North-western view in 1951
4. North-western view.
5. Main portal bay
6. Middle section of eastern facade and main dome
7. Part of the eastern facade
8. Eastern niche
9. Eastern facade; detail
10. Northern (Tomb) portal
11. Tomb dome: fragments of original tiling
- 12, 13. Western and eastern rooftops.
14. Rear side of portal, main drum and dome of well room.
15. Western roof-top, 2001
16. Western roof-top in 1951
17. Rear side of portal showing new protective facing of the 16th-century vault
18. Meeting of three staircases to the roof.
19. Kazandyk (Main Hall)
20. Gurhana (Tomb)
21. Kazandyk main hall: dome with stalactite ornament
22. Kazandyk northern niche: banner staff of Timur.
23. Mosque inner dome: stalactite ornament.

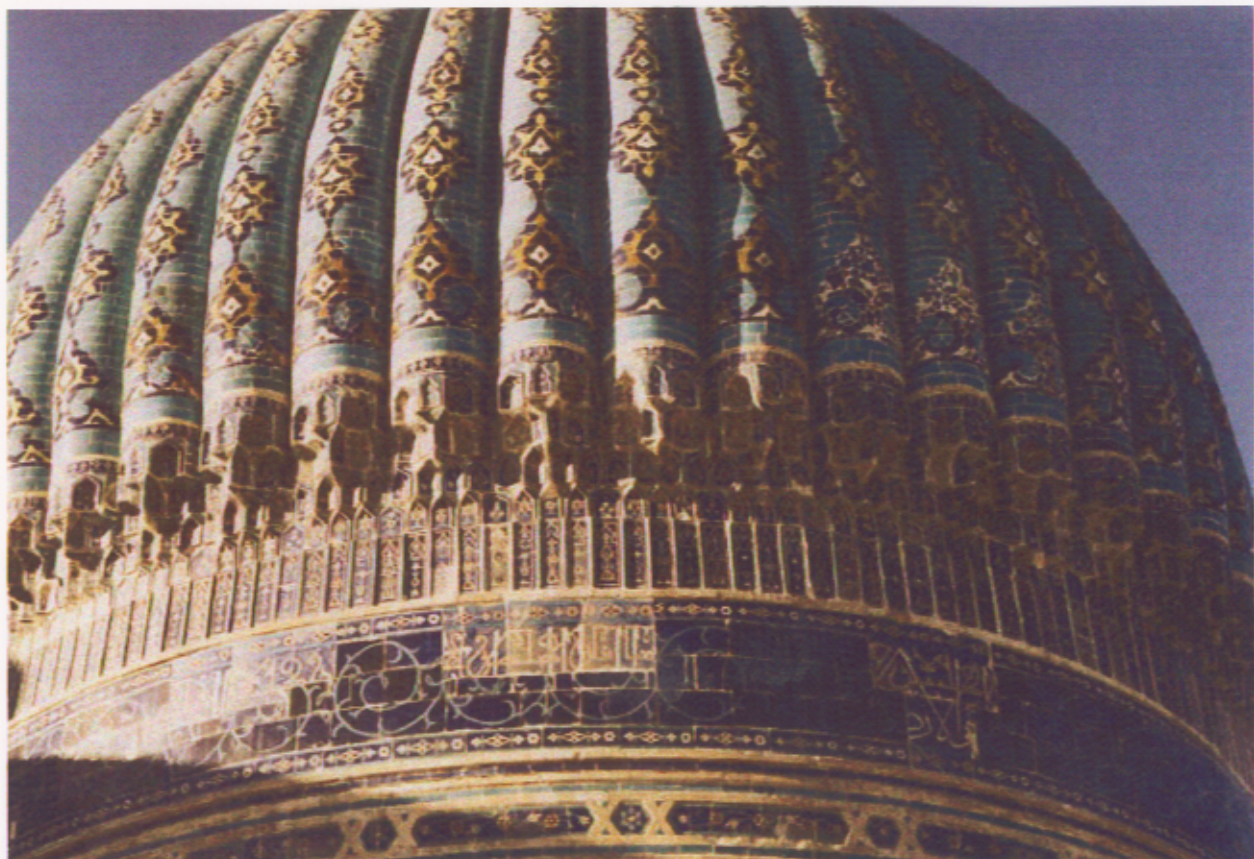
- 24,25,26. Large Aksarai (Meeting Hall).
27. Kitabhana (library).
28. Portal antechamber.
29. First floor corridor.
30. Eastern minaret: spiral staircase.
31. Well room with original main entrance doors.
32. Original bronze door-knocker.
- 33,34. Gurhana (Tomb): original wooden door.
35. Mihrab of Mosque.
36. Kazandyk northern niche: mosaic medallion.
37. Ritual candlesticks given by Timur.
38. Ritual rag bush.



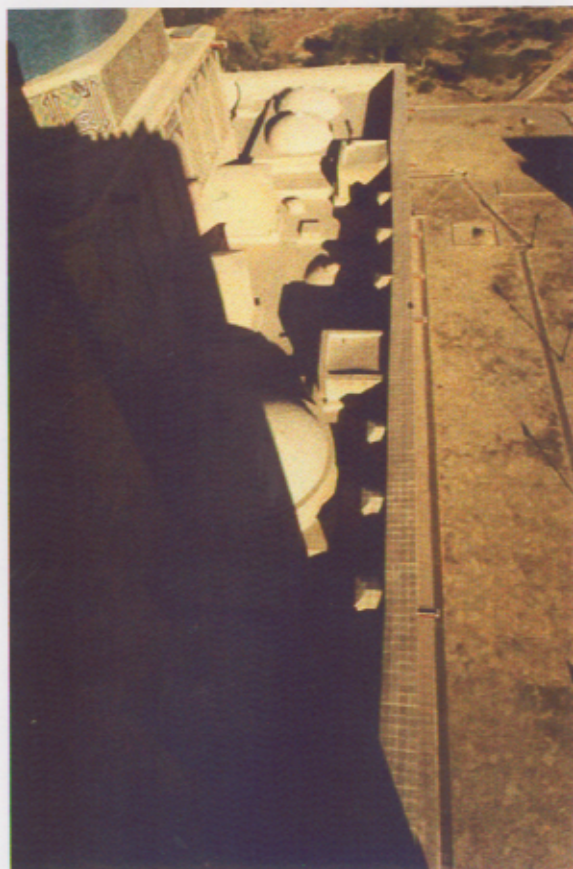


10. Northern (tomb) portal





11. Tomb dome: fragments of original tiling



12,13. Western and eastern rooftops

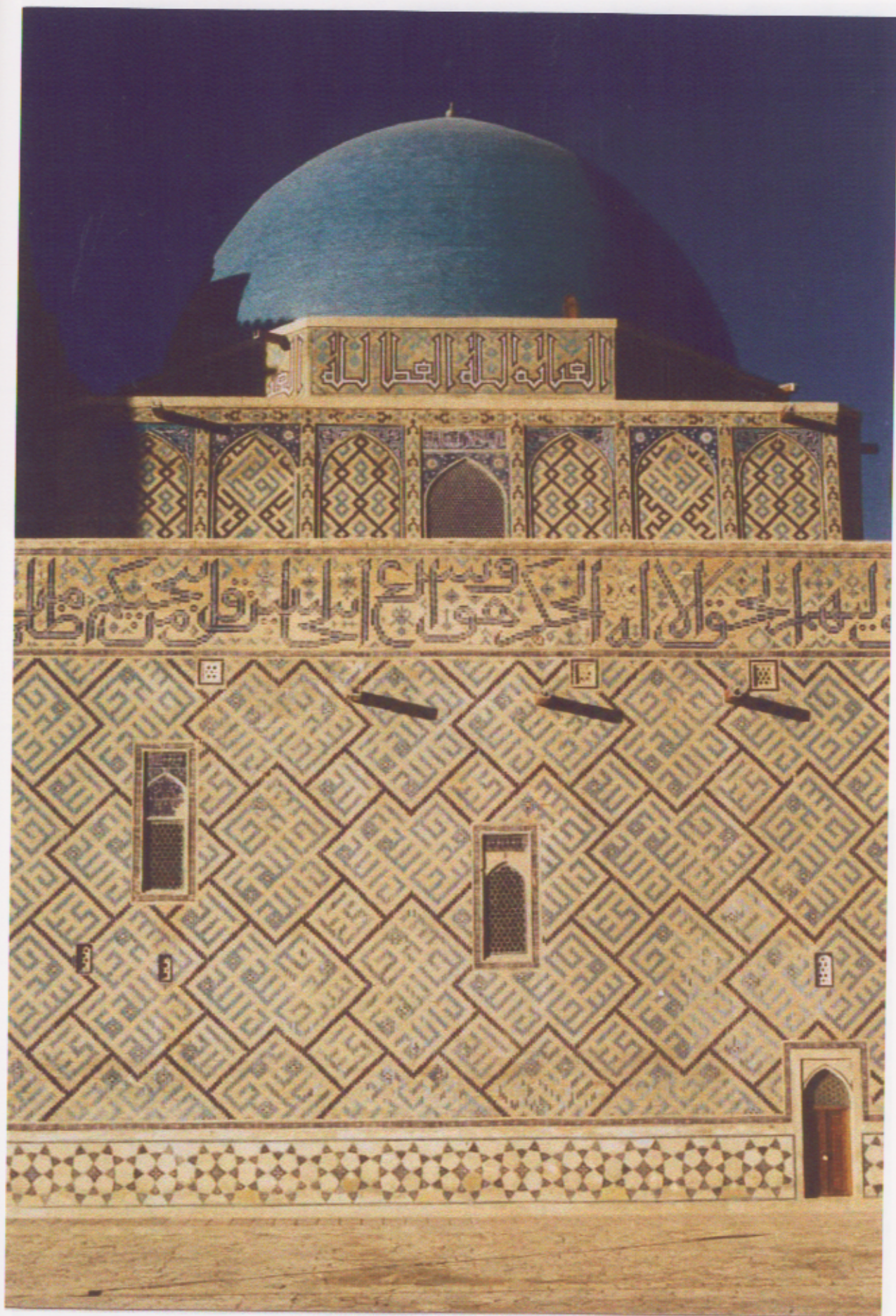
14. Rear side of central dome and dome of well room





14. Rear side of portal, main drum and dome of well room





6. Middle section of eastern facade and main dome

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **Legal Texts**

1. **The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan about the protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage, 1992.**
2. **Decision of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of National Deputies about the confirmation of zones of protection of monuments of history and culture of the city of Turkestan, 1988.**
3. **The Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR about the organization of the State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum "Azret-Sultan" in the city of Turkestan, 1989.**
4. **The order of the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture about the creation of a State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum "Azret-Sultan" in the city of Turkestan, 1989.**
5. **Regulation of the State Committee of Kazakh SSR of the State Committee of Kazakh SSR about the State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum "Azret-Sultan" in the city of Turkestan, 1989.**
6. **The decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan about the list of objects of state property not subject to privatization, 2000.**



**THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**  
**About protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage**

The historical and cultural heritage, as the major evidence of historical destiny of the people, as a basis and indispensable condition of its present and future development, as a component of all human civilization, demands constant protection from all dangers. The maintenance of it in the Republic of Kazakhstan is the moral debt and duty, determined by the present law, for all legal and physical persons.

Section I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Clause 1. The legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage.

The legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage includes the present Law and other acts regulating questions in the given area of the public relations.

Clause 2. The purpose and tasks of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan about protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage .

The purpose of the present Law is the regulation of the public relations ensuring safety and successive development of the historical and cultural heritage, namely:

- Definition of concepts of the historical and cultural heritage, its protection and use;
- Attaching of the legal status of objects of the historical and cultural heritage;
- Regulation of the rights and duties of the bodies of state authority, enterprises, institutions and organizations, public associations and also separate persons before a society and people in sphere of preservation of the historical and cultural heritage;
- Differentiation of the competence of the state bodies in the field of protection of the historical and cultural heritage;
- Establishment of measures of the responsibility for action or inactivity causing direct or indirect damage to the historical and cultural heritage.

Clause 3. The historical and cultural heritage

All kinds of archaeological objects, structures and subjects connected to the historical past of the people, development of the society and state, historical and cultural landscape, unique objects of a nature representing rare geological, physiographical formations, works of material and spiritual culture having historical, scientific and art value concern to the historical and cultural heritage.

Clause 4. Protection and utilization of objects of the historical and cultural heritage

The protection, preservation and utilization of objects of the historical and cultural heritage includes system of measures directed on:

- Exposure (discovery), research and propagation of the historical and cultural heritage;
- Establishment to the historical and cultural values of the status of monuments of history and culture;

- Maintenance of protection of monuments from destruction, acts of vandalism, falsification, mystification, distortion, entering of unreasonable changes, withdrawal from a historical context;
- Preservation and revival of monuments by preservation, restoration, regeneration and facsimile edition;
- Maintenance of monuments according to norms ensuring their safety;
- Utilization of monuments during revival of the ethno-cultural environment and also for scientific and educational purposes.

The stipulated system of measures is distributed to all the historical and cultural values of Kazakhstan recognized by monuments, without dependence from their kind, degree of safety and from what property they are in.

#### Clause 5. The legal status of objects of the historical and cultural heritage

The objects of historical and cultural heritage get the status of monuments from the moment of recognition of them by those in the order established by the present Law.

The recognition of historical and cultural value by monuments is fixed by inclusion of them in the state lists of monuments of history and culture subject to obligatory publication. All kinds of archeological monuments initially have historical, cultural and scientific value and status of monuments of history and culture.

The monuments of history and culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan are subject to obligatory protection and preservation in the order stipulated by the present Law, the changes of the property right on them and deprivations of their legal status have the special legal regime of their utilization.

The deprivation of a monument of history and culture of its legal status and exception from the state list of monuments of history and culture is supposed only in exclusive cases (at destruction as a result of acts of nature or loss of historical-cultural value) by the decision of Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on presentation of the appropriate local body of authority coordinated with a special commission of the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage, on the basis of the conclusion of scientific examination.

#### Clause 6. Kinds of objects of historical and cultural heritage

Objects of historical and cultural heritage can be recognized as (wholly or in the stipulated part):

The material historical evidences:

##### 1) immovable, including:

- Individual objects and works of architecture, of monumental art, elements or structures of archeological character, epigraphic materials, works of science and engineering, building, structures or other objects having historical or memorial importance;
- Complex objects - works of town-planning art (architectural ensembles and complexes, historical towns and populated areas, parts of towns, quarters, streets, elements of town-planning structures), works of garden-park art, historical necropolis, historical territories and places;

##### 2) movable, including:

- Individual objects – archeological finds, subjects of antiquity, elements of the immovable monuments which have undergone partition, anthropological and ethnological materials, historical relics, works of art (painting, graphic, applied art, art of cinema and photo), hand-written and rare printed documents, cinema, photo and video-documents, sound recording;

- Complex objects - historically usual complexes, funds and collections of the specified individual objects taken as a single unit, and also complexes, funds and collections of naturally-scientific value having as the whole historical importance.

The non-material historical evidences:

- Traditions of human communities - historical, cultural, religious, household, economic;
- Local dialects and languages of the small peoples, historical toponyms.

Clause 7. The competence of the Republic of Kazakhstan on protection, preservation and utilization of objects of the historical and cultural heritage

The Republic of Kazakhstan on behalf of the appropriate bodies has complete authority on protection, preservation and utilization of monuments of history and culture recognized by those in the order established by the legislation of the Republic and located on its territory.

To protection, preservation and utilization are subject also monuments being the property of the Republic of Kazakhstan, but located on territory of other states.

The protection, preservation and utilization of monuments located in territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, but being the property of other states, their legal persons and citizens, is established according to the treaties.

The Republic of Kazakhstan accepts the responsibility for the location, organization of the account, and preservation and returning to the historical native land, objects of cultural value which are outside the Republic, recognized by the historical and cultural property of the Kazakh people and peoples living in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

## Section II.

### FEATURES OF REALIZATION OF THE PROPERTY RIGHT ON OBJECTS OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

#### Clause 8. Regulation of the relations of property

The relation of property on monuments of history and culture are adjusted by the Law “About the property in Kazakh SSR” and other acts of the Republic. The features of realization of the property right on monuments of history and culture are established by the present Law.

#### Clause 9. Objects of the property right

Objects of the property right on monuments are the material and spiritual historical and cultural values recognized by monuments in the order established by the present Law.

#### Clause 10. The subjects of the property right

The subjects of the property right on objects of the historical and cultural heritage of the Republic of Kazakhstan can be: the Republic of Kazakhstan, legal persons of various patterns of ownership and citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### Clause 11. The state property on monuments of history and culture

All monuments of history and culture located in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan and which are not the property of other subjects, and also historical and cultural landscapes recognized as monuments in the order established by the legislation, are the exclusive property of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the power of the proprietor of monuments of international and national importance will be carried out by the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Heritage, and appropriate local bodies of authority protect monuments of local importance.

#### Clause 12. The rights of the subjects of the property

The proprietor possesses the rights of possession, usage and disposal of monuments of history and culture as for objects of property, except for the right of their independent destruction.

The proprietor keeps the property right to an object at its final recognition as a monument of history and culture.

The citizen having in the property the monument of history and culture, has the right to demand the maintenance of the privacy of its contents or inaccessibility to researches and public survey for the term of 30 years, if the object of the property belongs to him on the rights of the inheritance and on the origin or contents is connected to the person who composed his will or the ancestors of the proprietor.

The proprietor has the right of extraction of the profit (receipt of the income) as a result of utilization and operation of monuments limited by the obligations on their protection.

At change of the property rights on immovable monuments, their territories take over of the new proprietors gratuitously.

#### Clause 13. Duties of the proprietors

The proprietors of monuments of history and culture carry out activity on their preservation and are obliged:

- 1) to arrange the maintenance and safety of monuments;
- 2) to register monuments with the authorized state bodies for the protection of monuments in the place of presence of monuments (immovable) or on a residence of the proprietor (movable);
- 3) to notify state bodies for the protection of monuments on the prospective or realized changes of the property rights;
- 4) to notify state bodies for the protection of monuments on the prospective or realized changes of site, conditions of the maintenance and utilization of monuments;
- 5) to notify state bodies for the protection of monuments on works on repair, preservation, restoration of monuments;
- 6) to provide availability to a monument in scientific, cultural and other purposes in the order and limits established by the special contracts with state bodies for the protection of monuments.

The obligations of the proprietors of monuments of history and culture are fixed in the security documents signed by the proprietor and an authorized state body for the protection of monuments, and containing besides the aforesaid general obligations the special obligations with reference to physical monuments.

The obligations mentioned in items 1, 2 of the present clause, equally concern to the owners and users of monuments.

The actions listed in items 1, 3, 5 of the present clause, are not subject to realization by the owners and users without the certified consent of the proprietors of monuments.

Clause 14. Compulsory deprivation of the property rights on objects of the historical and cultural heritage



The compulsory deprivation of the property rights for monuments, on fault of the proprietor destructions, exposure to threat, or damage is carried out only on the basis of the decision of court.

In default of the individual, collective proprietor will take up the obligations on protection of monuments stipulated by clause 13 of the present Law, the decision is accepted by court under the claim of the State Body for the Protection of Monuments.

The compulsory deprivation of the individual proprietor of the monument, being his apartment house or dwellinghouse, cannot be carried out without granting to him another dwellinghouse in the order established by the law, and appropriate compensation under the contract.

Thus the obligations for the protection of monuments are subject to transfer on the contractual basis to other legal persons or citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan; or the monument in the compulsory order is subject to public sale. On revealing the impossibility of sale the monuments, under the decision of the State Body for the Protection of Monuments, are transferred to the property of the state with payment to the former proprietor of compensation at a rate established by the contract, and in case of dispute – by court.

In default of state bodies from acceptance of the obligations on maintenance of safety of monuments taking place or acting in state ownership, the specified monuments are subject on the contractual basis to transfer the property to other subjects undertaking to ensure safety of monuments according to the present Law.

#### Clause 15. Advantages to buying the property rights to the monument

The proprietors of parts of the monument, which is located in the common share property, have the right of priority of purchase other parts of this monument in the property.

The right of priority of purchase of other parts of monument stipulated in the first part of the present clause is distributed also to cases, when the property of the buyer has not the status of monument.

At public sale of monuments the state has the right of their primary purchase for the market (auction) price except for cases stipulated in the first and second parts of the present clause. In these cases the state has the right of priority after the proprietors specified in the first part of the present clause. The same rights, as well as state, have the legal persons and citizens getting monuments for passing them to the state if they have legalize obligation.

### Section III.

## STATE MANAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Clause 16. System of bodies of state management in the field of protection, preservation and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage.

State management in the field of protection, preservation and utilization of monuments of history and the culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan carry out:

- Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Local bodies of authority;
- State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Heritage;
- State Body for the Management of Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Clause 17. The competence of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage

Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Forms and carries out state policy in the field of protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage;
- Approves the regulation of state bodies and structures on protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage;
- Establishes the order of the state registration of objects of historical and cultural heritage and also their discovery, research, maintenance, preservation, restoration, regeneration, interpretation, propagation and utilization, import and export, and rate of rent payment for utilization of historical and cultural heritage located in national property.

Clause 18. The competence of local bodies of authority in the sphere of protection of the historical and cultural heritage

Local bodies of authority in the own territory:

- Provide revealing, registration, protection, restoration and utilization of objects of historical and cultural heritage;
- Provide observance of the legislation about protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage;
- Provide measures on organization of the registration, protection and restoration of monuments of local importance by way of economic and social development of the appropriate territories, and also finance their realization at the expense of means of their own budgets;
- Promote the organizations of patronage of the enterprises, organizations and establishments above monuments;
- Involve the public in the realization of measures on protection and propagation of monuments;
- Solve the problem on granting use of buildings and structures being monuments located in lands of state ownership and in agreement with the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Heritage;
- Establish the rates of rent payment for utilization of monuments of local importance which are located in lands of state ownership;
- Provide the implementation of measures on the discovery, study, and preservation of monuments of all categories, drawing up of the historical-building basic plans and maps; in agreement with the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Heritage by development and statement of the projects of layout, building and reconstruction of cities and other populated areas;
- Carry out allotment of the ground areas under development for economic-building and defensive purposes only at presence of the conclusion of the State Body for the Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Heritage;
- Resolve problems concerning delay and also prohibition of building and other works creating danger to monuments upon presentation of the State Body for the Protection and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Heritage;
- Carry out other powers stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Clause 19. The competence of the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage

State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage:

- Develops the state programmes and participates in formation and realization of state policy in the field of protection, preservation and utilization of monuments of history and culture;
- Carries out the state control of condition of utilization and order of the maintenance of monuments, execution of works on preservation and regeneration of monuments;
- Provides location, registration, preservation and observance of rules of utilization for monuments of history and culture which is located in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Carries out protection and utilization of natural monuments and other objects of the environmental/natural environment connected to monuments of history and culture in agreement in necessary cases with other interested organizations;
- Sanctions work permits on realization of any kind of research, design and restoration - preservation works on monuments of history and culture;
- Stops or forbids activity which may pose a threat to the safety of monuments of all categories;
- Carries out the control of observance of the legislation about the order of import and export of cultural values;
- Petitions for calling to account of the officials, enterprises, institutions, public associations, organizations and citizens breaking the norm of the legislation (law) concerning protection, preservation and utilization of monuments of history and culture;
- Carries out other powers stipulated by the relevant Regulations.

Clause 20. The competence of the State Body for the Management of Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage

State Body for the Management of Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Participates in the formation and realization of state policy in the field of protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage and funds of rare manuscripts, and develops the appropriate state programs;
- Supervises work concerning state archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan on revealing and collecting documentary monuments, their registration, protection, restoration, utilization and propagation;
- Carries out the control of maintenance of safety of documentary monuments which are not located in the state archives;
- Provides access to study of documentary monuments located in the state archives, to experts, to representatives of mass media, and to scientific and other researchers.

#### Section IV.

### FINANCING THE SPHERE OF PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION OF THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Clause 21. Funds of protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage

Within the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage is created the State Fund for the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the expense of financial assets of: the republican budget, percentage deductions, in roubles and currency, state, cooperative, public and other organizations which are carrying out building, reclamation, agricultural and other works in zones of protection of monuments of history and culture; tourist-excursion measures connected to visiting of monuments, release of souvenir production, advertising editions with the images of the registered monuments,

cinematography, television and video-films filming on location at monuments of the scale/size established by the Regulation about reserves (funds) confirmed by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and also voluntary donations of public associations, citizens, other enterprises, institutions and organizations.

At the expense of fund the financing is carried out:

- The state programs in the field of protection, restoration and utilization of historical and cultural heritage;
- The programs on professional training of the staff - restorers, strengthening and development of industrial bases of restoration organizations, equipment by their modern engineering, equipment and tools, creation of social conditions for the workers of these organizations;
- Other measures stipulated by the Regulation about reserves (funds).

For financing local programmes and measures in the field of protection of monuments the local bodies of authority create at the expense of means of the local budget, and also voluntary deductions of the enterprises, public associations and payments of the citizens funds of protection of monuments. Thus part of the means from local funds is sent to the state fund for needs of protection and restoration of monuments of international and republican importance located in the territory of the appropriate areas.

The sums of the taxes and not tax payments acting in the local budgets from the proprietors and the users of monuments, and also from excursions, tourist organizations and their enterprises are enlisted in the specified funds according to the Regulation about funds confirmed by local body of authority.

## Section V.

### PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS, ENTERPRISES, INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND CITIZENS IN REALIZATION OF MEASURES ON PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION OF THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Clause 22. Participation of public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens in realization of measures on protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage.

The enterprises, institutions, organizations, educational institutions, public associations and citizens participate in propagation and popularization of monuments, promote to the state bodies of protection of monuments in realization of measures on protection, preservation and utilization of monuments.

The enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens can establish patronage above monuments of history and culture with the purposes of maintenance of their safety, to render to the state bodies of protection of monuments the financial and material and technical help in the execution of works on repair, preservation and restoration of monuments.

The public associations carry out activity on protection, preservation and utilization of monuments of history and culture according to their regulations and also to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Clause 23. Participation of the Kazakh Society for the Protection of Monuments of History and Culture in the realization of measures for the protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage.



The Kazakh Society for the Protection of Monuments of History and Culture promotes the involvement of the population to participate in the realization of measures connected to protection, preservation and utilization of objects of historical and cultural heritage, carries out propagation of monuments, and co-operates in the activity with the state bodies on protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage.

Clause 24. Participation of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan in protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage

The National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Participates in the revealing and studying of objects of historical and cultural heritage and in summarizing information concerning monuments of history and culture;
- Together with the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage and local bodies of authority, gives conclusions on various questions of monument-protection at allotment of the ground areas under development by civil and military departments, and at the expense of their means carries out necessary prospecting works.

## Section VI.

### THE STATE REGISTRATION OF MONUMENTS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

Clause 25. Organization of the state registration of monuments of history and culture

The monuments of history and culture located in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, irrespective of the ownership of property where they are located, are subject to state registration.

Clause 26. Reference of monuments of history and culture to categories of monuments of international, republican and local importance

With the purposes of effective organization of the registration and protection of monuments of history and culture the monuments are subdivided into monuments of international, republican and local importance.

Clause 27. The order of the confirmation of the lists of monuments of history and culture

The list of monuments offered for inclusion in the World Heritage List is represented by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in an established order.

The lists of monuments of history and culture of republican importance are affirmed by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on presentation of the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage.

The lists of monuments of history and culture of local importance are affirmed by local bodies of authority on presentation of territorial state and public bodies of protection of monuments coordinated with the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage.

The exception of objects on the lists of monuments of history and culture of republican and local importance is supposed only under the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Clause 28. The order of formation and structure of special commission of state bodies on protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage

For preparation of the conclusion about the recognition of historical and cultural values for monuments of history and the culture and also about depriving them of this status, the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage will create authorized commissions, whose structure will include scientists, experts, figures of culture and art, representatives of creative unions and other public associations.

## Section VII.

### THE ORDER OF UTILIZATION OF OBJECTS OF THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

#### Clause 29. Utilization of objects of the historical and cultural heritage

The objects of historical and cultural heritage are used for the purposes of revival and development of spiritual and cultural traditions of the peoples of Kazakhstan, and also for scientific and educational purposes.

Utilization of objects of historical and cultural heritage in other purposes is supposed only from the sanction of the state bodies of protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage.

The mode of use of monuments of town-planning art for both historical centres of cities and other populated areas is determined in the projects of their zones of protection confirmed by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan or the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage within the limits of their competence.

#### Clause 30. The order and conditions of granting the use of monuments of history and culture

The granting of monuments of history and culture for use by organizations, public associations, enterprises and citizens for scientific, cultural, educational, tourist and other purposes is carried out in the order determined by the present Law.

The buildings, structures being monuments of history and culture, are permitted use under the decision of local bodies of authority in the preliminary coordination with the appropriate state bodies on protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage.

#### Clause 34. Restoration, preservation and regeneration of monuments of history and culture

The restoration, preservation, and regeneration of monuments of history and culture is carried out only with knowledge of state bodies of protection of monuments and under their control.

The restoration, preservation and regeneration of monuments of history and culture is carried out at the expense of means of funds of protection of monuments, and also at the expense of means of the proprietors and users of monuments.

The works of restoration, preservation and regeneration of monuments of history and culture are to be made by specialized scientific restoration organizations, other organizations and citizens, on the basis of the license for the right of such activity and special sanction which is given out by the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage.

Scientific, restoration, and other organizations and citizens are involved with the proprietors or users of monuments for realization of the appropriate works on the basis of the contracts.

Clause 35. Coordination with the bodies of protection of monuments for the projects of layout, building and reconstruction of cities and other populated areas having monuments of history and culture

The projects of layout, building and reconstruction of cities and other populated areas and also maps of land using having monuments of history and culture, are subject to the coordination with the state bodies of protection of monuments, local bodies of authority and National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### Clause 36. Zones of protection of monuments of history and culture

With the purposes of maintenance of protection of monuments of history, archeology, town-planning and architecture, and monumental art are established security zones, zones of regulation of building and zones of protected natural landscape in the order determined by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The borders of security zones, zones of regulation of building and zones of protected natural landscape are determined by the appropriate local bodies of authority in agreement with the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage.

Within the limits of security zones, carrying out of (excavation) ground, building and other works and also economic activity without the sanction of the appropriate bodies of protection of monuments is forbidden.

The zones of protection of monuments are included in the general plans, projects of detailed layout and buildings of the populated areas.

If the movement of transport on roads adjoining the monuments or running through security zones, creates a threat to existence of monuments under the decision of the local body of authority the movement of transport on such roads is limited or is forbidden.

#### Clause 37. Protection of the historical and cultural reserves

The ensembles and complexes of monuments, territories representing special historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value can be announced by historical and cultural reserves, whose protection is carried out on the basis of special regulations about them.

#### Clause 38. Prohibition of demolition, moving, change of monuments of history and culture

Demolition, moving, or changing of immovable monuments of history and culture is forbidden.

The exception of this rule is supposed only in the special case from the sanction of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the destruction of an object as a result of act of nature and loss of historical, scientific, art value.

The enterprises, organizations, institutions, public associations or citizens who have received such sanction, at realization of demolition, moving or change of monument are obliged to ensure observance of conditions stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the appropriate state body on protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage is obliged to carry out works on scientific study and fixing of monuments.

The charges connected to realization of the specified works are made at the expense of the enterprises, organizations, institutions or citizens who have received the sanction on demolition, moving or change of monuments.

Clause 39. Maintenance of safety of objects of the historical and cultural heritage at development of territories

In all kinds of development of territories for the period of allotment of the ground areas the research works on revealing objects of historical and cultural heritage should be made at the expense of means of land users. The realization of all kinds of works that pose a threat to the existence of monuments is forbidden.

The enterprises, organizations, institutions, public associations and citizens in case of detection while conducting similar works on archaeological and other objects having historical, scientific, art and other value, are obliged to inform the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage about their work and to suspend the further conducting works.

#### Clause 40. Conducting excavation and investigations of monuments of archeology

The conducting of excavations and investigations of monuments of archeology is supposed at presence of the research permit sanction (permission for excavations).

The sanction to conducting excavation and investigations in the territory of republic is given out by the State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage under the recommendation of Field Committee of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan and with agreement of local bodies of authority.

All materials and finds received by the legal and physical persons of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other states in result of archeological researches in the territory of Kazakhstan are transferred in state museums of the Republic of Kazakhstan after scientific fixing and processing. Their export outside the borders of the Republic of Kazakhstan is forbidden.

#### Clause 41. Import and export of monuments of history and culture

The order of import of monuments on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan and export them from the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is determined by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### Section VIII.

#### THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFRINGEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN ABOUT PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CONTROL OF ITS EXECUTION

Clause 42. The responsibility for infringement of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan about protection of historical and cultural heritage

The officials and citizens guilty of infringement on the legislation on protection, preservation and utilization of monuments of history and culture found expression in activity or inactivity, bear responsibility according to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The enterprises, organizations, institutions, public associations and citizens, who have done harm to monuments of history and culture or their corresponding security zone(s), are obliged to restore to a former condition the monument or its security zone, and at impossibility of it they must compensate the caused losses according to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The restoration of the monument or its security zone is carried out with observance of the established order of registration of monuments and under the control of state bodies of protection of monuments.

Clause 43. The control of execution of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan about protection and utilization of objects of the historical and cultural heritage



The control of execution of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage is carried out by:

- Local bodies of authority;
- State Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Protection and Utilization of the Historical and Cultural Heritage;
- State Body for the Management of Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### Section IX.

### THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

Clause 44. Alignment of the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan about protection and utilization of the historical and cultural heritage and international treaties and agreements

If the international treaty or agreement, in which the Republic of Kazakhstan participates, establishes rules other than those contained in the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage, those rules of the international treaty or agreement are applicable.

The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan

N. NAZARBAYEV

Alma-Ata, July 2, 1992

N°. 1488-XII

# **DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEPUTIES**

**1988**

## **About the confirmation of zones of protection of monuments of the history and culture of the city of Turkestan**

In accordance with the clause 32 of the Law of Kazakh SSR "About protection and utilization of monuments of history and culture" the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of National Deputies has decided:

1. To ratify the borders of the zones of protection with the following areas:
  - Protection zone of medieval city of Turkestan bounded by Furmanov, Abay streets and along the remains of the fortress wall, extending beyond them for 50 m., area of 88,7 hectares
  - Group protection zone of monuments of history and architecture of the beginning of XX century and of 30 years of XX century of railway station area bounded by the railways, October, Kotovsky, Dzerzhinsky streets, depot, area of 49 hectares;
  - Group protection zone of monuments of history and architecture of the end of XIX - beginning of XX centuries of Russian part of the city bounded by Matrosov, Abay, Lenin, Furmanov, Soviet, Berlin, 1<sup>st</sup> of May, Youth and Zhukovsky streets, area of 30 hectares;
  - Zone of strict planning control with existing traditional building along the Urtak channel, along the caravan ways, area of 500 hectares;
  - Zone of planning control, area of 167 hectares;
  - Zone of protected natural setting contiguous to the protection zone of the medieval city from the southern part, area of 140 hectares.
2. To the Department of Construction and Architecture (Saldirbaev) together with the Department of Land Use of the Regional Agro-industrial Committee (Myrzalikov), to Turkestan Urban Executive Committee (Jurabekov) to mark the borders of the zones of protection of monuments of history and cultures on the maps of land use.  
Ensure the safety of the monuments of history and culture located in the protected zones, put in place security measures, make the registration documentation.
3. Ask the Ministry of Culture of Kazakh SSR to carry out in the security zones of the complex of Khodzha Ahmed Yasavi the works connected with the restoration of lost elements of the historical layout and buildings, including preservation, restoration and utilization of buildings and structures of the historical environment.
4. This decision replaces the decision of the Regional Executive Committee from December 17, 1987 №. 563 and from August 2, 1988 №. 457.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee S.Tereshenko  
The Secretary of the Executive Committee U.Kubeyeva

**The Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR**  
**THE DECISION**  
**of August 28, 1989 N° 265**  
Alma-Ata, House of Government  
**about the organization of the State Historical and Cultural Reserve - Museum “Azret-Sultan” in the city of Turkestan**

Attaching great importance to the preservation of monuments of history and culture of the city of Turkestan and with the purposes of conducting complex scientific restoration and reconstruction works, and also the improvement of the utilization of monuments of ancient times in the interest of the development of mass domestic and foreign tourism, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR has decided:

1. To accept the offer of the State Committee of the Kazakh SSR on Culture and Chimkent Regional Executive Committee coordinated with the State Plan of the Kazakh SSR, the Ministry of Finance of the Kazakh SSR, the State Committee on Building of the Kazakh SSR, the State Committee of the Kazakh SSR on Labour and Social Questions, the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR, Union of Architects of Kazakhstan, the Kazakh Society for the Protection of Monuments of History and Culture, about the organization of the State Historical and Cultural Reserve - the Museum “Azret-Sultan” in the territory of the security zone of the historical nucleus of the city of Turkestan, in area 88,7 hectares, subordinated directly to the State Committee of the Kazakh SSR on Culture.

2. To transfer to the jurisdiction of the Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan” the architectural – archeological monuments: the site of ancient town Kultobe (4th-6th centuries), the centre of Sufism (10th-12th centuries) with the underground mosque Khilvet, the ritual structure of Shildekhan, the Anonymous and the Octahedron Mausolea, the Khanak (mausoleum-mosque) of Ahmed Yasavi (14th century), the Eastern Bath-house (16th century), the Mausoleum of Rabiya Sultan Begim (15th century), the Esimkhan (17th century), the Zhuma-mosque (19th century), the remainder of the medieval buildings of the citadel and Shahrstan, fortification structures with defensive walls, towers, gate (14th-16th centuries), and the military barracks (19th century).

To include within the jurisdiction of the Reserve/Museum the underground mosque of Auliye Kumchuk-ata, the remains of the mausolea of Alkhodzha-ata and Gauhar-ana (10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries). The Chimkent Regional Executive Committee is to determine their security zones in an established sequence.

3. To approve the detailed programme for the study, restoration, interpretation and regeneration of the territory of the security zone of the historical nucleus of the city of Turkestan as submitted by the State Committee of the Kazakh SSR on Culture.

To assign to the Institute “Kazprojectrestoration” of the State Committee of the Kazakh SSR on Culture, the function of general designer for scientific research and development of the project - budget documentation on restoration both reconstruction of monuments of history and culture, interpretation, regeneration of historical building and establishment of the territory of the Reserve-Museum, and to assign the function of overall responsibility for designing, for regeneration of historical building, and for the establishment of the territory of the Reserve-Museum – to the Turkestan Regional Executive Committee.

4. To the State Committee on Building of the Kazakh SSR, to create in 1990 in the city of Turkestan a specialized building organization, having assigned to it the function of acting as general contractor for the regeneration of historical building and establishment of the territory of the Reserve-Museum “Azret-Sultan”.

5. The State Committee of the Kazakh SSR on Culture: to develop and to ratify in an established sequence the regulation about the State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum “Azret-Sultan”.



**State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture**  
**THE ORDER**  
**of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1989, Alma-Ata**  
**about the creation of a State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan” in the city of Turkestan.**

In the performance of the decision of the Council of Ministers of Kazakh SSR from August 28, 1989 N°. 265 “About the organization of a State historical and cultural reserve/museum “Azret-Sultan” in the city of Turkestan”.

**ORDER:**

1. The State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan” was created January 1, 1990 on the basis of an architectural complex of Khodzha Ahmed Yasavi and the territory of a security zone of the historical nucleus of the city of Turkestan – an area of 88,7 hectares with submission directly to the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture.
2. Pass the Regulation about State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan”.

**State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture**  
**THE ORDER**  
of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1989, Alma-Ata  
**about the creation of a State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan” in the city of Turkestan.**

REGULATION:

**about the State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan” in  
the city of Turkestan**

**I. General provisions**

The State Historical and Cultural Reserve/Museum “Azret-Sultan” in the city of Turkestan of the Chimkent area (hereinafter referred to as “Reserve/Museum”) is founded according to the Law of Kazakh SSR «*about protection and utilization of the monuments of history and culture*» by the decision of the Council of Ministers of Kazakh SSR August 28, 1989 N°. 265.

The Reserve/Museum is created on the basis of the complex of archaeological and architectural monuments of the historical centre of Turkestan and the borders of its security zone authorized by the decision of the Chimkent regional executive committee November 22, 1988 N°. 628.

The reserve/museum includes: hillfort (old town area) Kultobe (4th-6th centuries, the centre of Sufism (10th-12th centuries) with underground mosque Khilvet, ritual structure of Shildekhan, the Anonymous and Octahedron mausolea, khanakah (mausoleum-mosque) of Ahmed Yasavi (14th century), eastern bath-house (16th century), mausoleum of Rabia Sultan Begim (15th century), Esimkhan (17th century), Khuma-mosque (19th century), medieval citadel and Shahrstan, fortification structures with defensive walls, towers, gate (14th-16th centuries), military barracks (19th century), the recreated complex of light-sound video panorama of ancient Turkestan, and also the underground mosque of Aulie Kumchuk-Ata, mausolea of Alkhodzha-ata and Gauhar-ana (10th-12th centuries); the interpretation of these monuments, and also territories integrally connected with them such as the meadow of the Khan with reservoirs, brooks and with its garden-park attributes.

The reserve/museum is a scientific research and educational institution established to collect, to maintain and to investigate monuments of archaeology and monumental architecture in the historical centre of Turkestan, reflecting a centuries-old history and culture, and to use them with the purposes of the communist education of the working class, propagation of the domestic material heritage.

The basic task of the reserve/museum is preservation in an inviolable manner or reconstruction on a strictly scientific basis; included in its structure are archaeological and architectural monuments with their interiors, historical conditions and territories connected to them, created as immovable monuments on the basis of original museum collections of the highly artistic expressive expositions.

The reserve/museum builds the activity in close contact with the institute “Kazproyektrestavratsia”, the Ch.Ch. Valikhanov Institute of history, archaeology and ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakh SSR and other interested organizations, studies the history of the monuments which is included in its structure, from ancient times and the Middle Ages, and completes the reservation of subjects of material culture, being a basis for research and cultural and educational work.

The reserve/museum is part of a system and submits directly to State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture.

The reserve/museum, within the framework of the rights and duties determined for it, works as a legal body, has a round stamp seal, angular stamp of the established sample and fixed forms written in Kazakh and Russian languages, as well as a budget and current accounts in the bank.

The liquidation of the reserve/museum can be made by the Council of Ministers of Kazakh SSR. In this case all its property and the means which are located in the pay-account are transferred at disposal of the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture. The transformation and liquidation of the reserve/museum is carried out according to a Regulation about the order of creation, reorganization and liquidation of the enterprises, associations, organizations and institutions, confirmed by the decision of the Council of Ministers of Kazakh SSR September 12, 1983, №. 370.

## **II. Structure, regime and protection.**

With the purposes of future development, the reserve/museum was initiated on the basis confirmed by the decision of the Council of Ministers of Kazakh SSR on the general plan of development in their statement *«the Complex program on study, restoration, interpretation and regeneration of territory of the security zone of historical nucleus of the city of Turkestan»* August 28, 1989. Confirmed by the State committee of Kazakh SSR on culture, the General plan of development is included in the Regulation as its Appendix.

Also in the Appendix, is the complete list of objects of the reserve/museum:

- Complexes of immovable monuments with the indication of borders of their security zones;
- Territories, with historical or landscape connections to monuments with indication of borders of the security zones;
- Other buildings occupied by the reserve/museum, with the indication of the exact address and purpose;
- Museum expositions with the indication of the name, display area, place of accommodation, time of creation and author's collective.

The inclusion in the reserve/museum structure of other monuments of history and culture is established by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture in agreement with the Chimkent Regional Executive Committee and the Academy of Sciences of Kazakh SSR.

All included in structure of the reserve/museum are immovable monuments of history and culture with their relevant territories also found on its balance. The reserve/museum bears complete responsibility for their correct maintenance and utilization according to the Law of Kazakh SSR *«About protection and utilization of monuments of history and culture»* and instructions *«About the order of the account, maintenance of safety, maintenance, utilization and restoration of immovable monuments of history and culture»*, confirmed by the Ministry of Culture of the USSR of May 13, 1986.

All museum collections stored in the reserve/museum are included in structure of the State Museum Fund of the USSR and are property of Kazakh SSR.

Demolition, relocation, or change of immovable monuments of history and culture which are included in the structure of the reserve/museum, excavations (except those falling under research permits for archaeological research), as well as building works which are not connected with restoration or regeneration of monuments in the territory of the reserve/museum, are forbidden on the basis of appropriate clauses of the Law of Kazakh SSR *«About protection and utilization of monuments of history and culture»*.

In the territory of the security zone of the reserve/museum, according to a typical Regulation about state reserves confirmed by the Decision of the State plan of the USSR and State committee of the USSR on science and engineering from 27.04.1981, №. 77/106 and by the Law of Kazakh SSR *«About protection and utilization of monuments of history and culture»* – the following are forbidden:



- Actions changing the ecological or geological regime in the territory of the security zone of the reserve/museum, or resulting in an emission of toxic substances established above by the *“Temporary specifications of extreme allowable concentration in atmospheric air rendering harmful influence on wood plantings and reservoirs in area of the reserve/museum”*, confirmed by the State committee of the USSR on hydrometeorology and control of the natural environment in 1984;
- All forms of unorganized recreation by the population, parking of motor transport outside of the established lots, and the run of livestock through territory of the reserve/museum.

In the territory of the reserve/museum in the established order are allowed:

- Restoration works, where immovable monuments of history and culture and the natural complexes have been broken or reduced by anthropogenic factors or as a result of natural processes;
- Works on reconstruction of a hydro-geological regime, and historically usual vegetation;
- Necessary fire-prevention and sanitary measures which do not break the maintenance regime of the monuments;
- Essential framing/structures for the creation of the reserve/museum paths and roads that are routes for organized tourism; improvement of these tracks and roads (hard paving in allowable cases), organization of special observation platforms and other forms of service for the tourists raising efficiency of activity of the reserve/museum;
- Driving on available roads with the pavement for motor transport and tourist buses; organization in established order appropriate places of parking according to the General plan of development. The director of the reserve/museum is the main state inspector for the protection of nature, his assistants and main keeper are accordingly assistants of the main state inspector on protection of the natural situation of the reserve/museum. To them are distributed the rights and duties established by the Regulation about state wood protection of the USSR from 22.03.1950 N°. 1181 with the subsequent amendments and additions.

The activity of organizations which are not included in the structure of the reserve/museum, but are located on its territory, should be subordinated to the regime of the maintenance of the reserve/museum and be coordinated with its management.

Industrial, agricultural and other enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens in infringement of the regime of the maintenance of the reserve/museum or drawing of damage to objects which are included in its structure, bear responsibility according to the legislation of Kazakh SSR.

### **III. The contents and forms of work.**

The reserve/museum on all directions of activity carries out the work according to the General Plan of the development, the perspective, the five year and the annual plans, confirmed by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture.

According to the structure and tasks the reserve/museum conducts work in the following directions:

#### **À. Consideration, protection and restoration of monuments of history and culture.**

The reserve/museum together with the state bodies of protection of monuments of the Chimkent area carry out the account of monuments of archaeology and architecture, natural landscapes which are included in its structure, their certification, reveals new monuments, carries (arranges) proposals to the established form (order) placing them under state protection and also arranges the preservation

of these monuments up to the decision of a question on their protection according to the Instruction *«About the order of the account, maintenance of safety, maintenance, utilization and restoration of immovable monuments of history and culture»*, and gives out security obligations on monuments which are taking place on its balance to the Chimkent Regional Committee on Culture.

The reserve/museum with observance of the requirements of the Law of Kazakh SSR *«About protection and utilization of monuments of history and culture»* and Instruction *«About the order of the account, maintenance of safety, maintenance, utilization and restoration of immovable monuments of history and culture»*:

- In agreement with design, scientific organizations and bodies of protection of monuments prepares the tasks for development of the design/budget documentation for performance of repair/restoration works;
- Prepares and represents for instance the plans and title lists for design and survey, repair/restoration and building works with the technical and economic offers;
- Can act as the customer of works on restoration, conclude the contracts with design organizations on development of the design/budget documentation of objects included in the title list and also the realization of architectural supervision, and is responsible for the adaptation and utilization of monuments of history and culture entering in its structure;
- Controls the course of development of the design/budget documentation by the plan of design and exploration work and on the current designing of objects of the reserve/museum, coordinates the documentation with state bodies of protection of monuments;
- Develops together with contract organizations, the Turkestan Town Executive Committee, and the Management of protection of monuments of the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture, the diagram of input and action built, reconstructed and restored objects, thus providing observance of scheduled terms and economic means;
- Concludes the contracts with contract organizations on construction, reconstruction and other kinds of works, together with Management of protection of monuments of State Committee of Culture Kazakh SSR makes bodies of protection for accepted monuments of the Chimkent area through contracted organization objects and completed kinds of works, and organizes delivery to their state commissions;
- Organizes supervision of carrying out works on the engineering equipment of territory of the reserve/museum: i.e. device of system of drainage, construction of the communications on water supply, heating, water drainage, electric lighting, low current devices, and also the creation of a light and sound video-panorama of ancient Turkestan;
- Controls the validation of the given specifications on connection of the outside communications, building certificates, other engineering specifications, provides prolongation of terms of their action, writes out the accounts and pays them;
- Carries out the control of development by various organizations of the design documentation on measures, which can affect the established regime of protection and maintenance of territory and objects of the reserve/museum and its zones of protection. Request for the coordination, in established order, of architectural planning projects and of reconstruction measures, planned in the specified territories;
- Participates in development of a regime of operation of monuments, controls the regime of maintenance of the security zone of the reserve/museum, observes the established regimes, provides measures of fire-prevention/protection for buildings and structures which are included in its structure.

## **B. Consideration, storage and restoration of the museum collections.**

With the purposes of maintenance of the consideration, storage and restoration of the museum collections the reserve/museum:

- Works out the instructions determining the internal order of the consideration, storage and restoration of the museum valuables in its collection and collections of its branches;
- Carry out the state consideration and storage of the museum collections in the order determined by the Legislation of the USSR about museum collections of the USSR and the Instruction «*On the consideration and storage of the museum values, taking place in state museums of the USSR*», passed by the Ministry of Culture of the USSR of October 1, 1985;
- Ensures the safety of the museum collections (both in storehouses, and in expositions), protection of monuments against destruction and spoilage and from opportunities of misappropriation and damage. In the absence of appropriate conditions of safety, the management of the reserve/museum composes the appropriate statement concerning any categories of the museum collections, which is sent to the State Committee of Culture of Kazakh SSR for adopting due measures. Adaptation of the attic, and basement under the collection repository, is forbidden.
- Concludes the contracts with the restoration centres and workshops on restoration of the museum valuables.

## **C. Research activity.**

On the basis of the General Plan of development, scientific programme and plans of acquisition, the reserve/museum forms the museum collection. In these purposes it has the right to carry out the archaeological, ethnographic, folkloric, historical-architectural, artistic and other expeditions, and to send the scientific workers to other museums, archives etc.

Note: conducting excavations and investigations of the monuments of archaeology is permitted only in the presence of excavation permits, given out by the Ch.Ch. Valikhanov Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakh SSR and registered in the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture and in the Turkestan Town Executive Committee.

The Reserve/museum:

- Comprehensively studies monuments of history and culture included in its structures and buildings, structures and territories connected with them, their history, connected with events and also monuments of history and culture of the region connected with the type of the museum;
- Comprehensively studies the collections, determines their structure and historical, scientific, and artistic value; carries out their scientific description and inventory;
- Enters the collections in a scientific rotation - creates stationary and mobile exhibitions from the collections, offers special lessons and advice on the collections, creates catalogues and scientific reference card indexes.

The subjects of research work is determined, first of all, by necessity of creation and through the improvement of constant expeditions and exhibitions and with consideration of the degree of study of museum collections and site complexes of history and culture, comprising the basis of the reserve/museum.

According to the profile and programme determined by the present Regulation, General plan of development, perspective and current plans, with the purposes of all-round study and propagation of monuments of archaeology and monumental architecture of medieval Turkestan, the reserve/museum builds an exposition «*Monuments of archaeology and architecture of Medieval Turkestan*» in an exhibition hall – (building of a former barrack), and also of monuments of architecture and restricted open monuments of archaeology, by exhibiting architectural details, archaeological finds and subjects, ethnographic valuables and other monuments of material culture of the region, reflecting the history of Turkestan, its place and role in the formation and development of the “Great Silk



Road”, and its role in the history of cities and state formation in the territory of Kazakhstan, Kazakh Khanate, and finally, in exhibition areas that are located directly within monuments, (depending on the type) a brief annotation of the object or feature will be provided.

On the basis of the research, and also the scientific research program the reserve/museum develops the perspective and current plans of interpretation of the monuments of history and culture and their territories, develops the scientific projects (scientific concepts, thematic structures, thematic-exposition plans) and decides on the exposition of projects of art and architecture. These materials are subject to review by the institute “Kazproektrostavratsiya”, the Ch.Ch. Valikhanov Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakh SSR, Republican Centre of Museum Management Studies, and to consideration by the Scientific Council of the reserve/museum and confirmation by the State Committee of Culture of Kazakh SSR.

The reserve/museum can, at the time of assignments, draw on a contract basis the experts from other museums, research institutions, organizations of the Union of Artists of Kazakhstan or other appropriate enterprises, for research work (scientific description of museum collections, scientific preparation of expositions etc.), and the development of architectural/art expositions.

The results of research work of the reserve/museum are made out as: the publications in the field of protection of monuments, museum management studies, art, source studies, literary criticism etc. (monographs and articles), scientific documentation of expositions, scientific reports, catalogues and cards, scientific certificates, articles about immovable monuments and separate subjects, reviews, and auxiliary scientific materials (maps, schemes, captions, explanatory texts for expositions etc.). The most important forms of the publication of results of scientific researches are the constant, temporary and mobile expositions made by the reserve/museum.

The reserve/museum in an established sequence prepares the results of scientific work and popular editions: scientific monographs and collections of works of the museum, guidebooks to monuments of history and culture and museum expositions, catalogues of the museum collections, and booklets. According to a number and qualification of the scientific workers and standards of the research, the reserve/museum can plan the preparation and edition of scientific/literary productions.

For an increase in ideological efficiency of the museum expositions and scientific/educational work, the reserve/museum shall regularly carry out sociological research concerning the interests and inquiries of the visitors, the structure of the tourist group, and also various influential factors of exposition; specialized training on this subjects shall be provided for the scientific workers.

The reserve/museum creates a scientific library specifically related to monuments, collections and expositions. The scientific library comprises of historical, artistic, and fictional literature, memoirs of the reserve/museum, and collections of magazines and newspapers; the library manages information, and creates the bibliography concerning the reserve/museum.

The structure of the reserve/museum includes a scientific archive, which in the obligatory order collects the following materials: the perspective and annual plans of work of the reserve/museum and reports on their performance, protocols of the sessions of the Scientific Council, manuscripts of scientific works and samples of printed production, documentation on monuments of history and culture which is included in the structure of the reserve/museum, scientific documentation of expositions, methodological development of excursions, completed visitors' books and other materials representing scientific or methodological interest. The scientific secretary of the reserve/museum carries out the scientific management of the archive.

The Scientific Council works as a consultative and scientific/advisory body for the reserve/museum. A Regulation about the Scientific Council and its structure is affirmed by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture on presentation of management.

#### **D. Scientific - methodological work.**

The scientific-methodological work of the reserve/museum is directed towards the improvement of the quality of expositions and exhibitions, scientific collections, and scientific and educational work and, consists from: development of the appropriate methodological recommendations and manuals;

- Organization of regular controls on condition of the account and storage of collections in branches and public museums, on quality of excursions and lecture propagation;
- Planning and organization of improvement of professional skill of the scientific workers (scientific seminars and meetings, training, visiting of other museums etc.).

#### **E. Scientific - educational work.**

The reserve/museum on the basis of the monuments of history and culture, expositions conducts mass scientific/educational work.

The basic forms of scientific/educational work of the reserve/museum are:

- Excursions to monuments of history and culture, expositions, exhibitions, open storage of collections;
- Maintenance of conditions for independent survey of expositions by the visitors (sale of the guidebooks, booklets, leaflets on monuments, cards with the explanatory text etc.);
- Scientific/educational measures, thematic evenings, museum and folklore and ethnographic holidays, days of the national master-craftsmen, literary and musical concerts etc.;
- Lectures and seminars;
- Appearances on the radio, TV, and in mass printed papers, and release of thematic video;
- Policy-education programs for youth;
- System of measures for work with students and children under school age;
- Organization of special interest circles and clubs at the museum;
- Other measures which take into account the specifics and themes of the museum.

The reserve/museum organizes service of the visitors in the time, most convenient for them, in view of local conditions and flow of the tourists. The exposition of the museum should be open for common days-off and holidays, including not less than two times per one week during evening hours. The reserve/museum has Monday off, and sanitary day - first Tuesday of month (except for holidays).

#### **IV. Organizational structure, reporting, economic activity.**

The reserve/museum is headed by the director answering for all activity of the museum, its funds and money resources. The director confirms the necessity of the regulation of divisions of the museum, duty regulations and rules of the internal schedule developed on the basis of the present Regulation, existing standards and current legislation.

The director of the reserve/museum is appointed and is released from the post by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture. The deputy directors, main keeper, chief accountant and keeper of the collection of precious metals also are appointed and are released from the post by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture on presentation of the director. The director of the reserve/museum appoints the scientific secretary, chiefs of divisions as agreed with State Committee of Culture of Kazakh SSR. All other workers of the museum are appointed by the director. The employees of the reserve/museum have official cards.

Organizational structure and list of staff of the reserve/museum is affirmed by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture.

The reserve/museum proceeding from the tasks and structure of activity can have the following services and divisions:

- Management;
- Departments of protection, restoration, interpretation and use of immovable monuments of history and culture
- Departments of collections (secret)
- Department of collection restoration (sector)
- Scientific research and exposition departments
- Departments of archaeology, architecture
- Scientific archive
- Scientific-methodical department
- Department of branch offices;
- Department of scientific propagation;
- Department of protection of nature and the natural landscape;
- Department of publishing (sector);
- Art and decorative department;
- Accounts department;
- Administrative department;
- Department on operation, restoration and operating repairs to buildings;
- Photo-laboratory;
- Other divisions as agreed with the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture.

The organizational structure of the reserve/museum can close branches and museums according to the rights of departments (sectors), and territorially isolated monuments of history and culture with security zones or without them, if the managers do not use branches according to the rules legally established .

In the reserve/museum are provided: scientific/methodological and restoration councils, whose function is determined by the director of the museum. In the reserve/museum works a fund-purchasing commission, whose functions are determined by the appropriate Regulation confirmed by the Ministry of Culture of the USSR.

The reserve/museum annually, not later than the 15-th of January, makes a statistical and textual report of the established form, not later than the 20th of February - under the form 1-OPIK and sends them under the list determined by the State Committee of Culture of Kazakh SSR in agreement with the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Statistics.

To address the State Committee of Culture of Kazakh SSR the reserve/museum annually represents the accounting report and summary balances on all financial and economic activity. The statistical reporting on restoration works is represented on results of half-year, nine months and year. The accounting reports and balances are signed by the director and chief accountant.

Means of the reserve/museum are made from:

- Budget assignments;
- Special means received from collection of an entrance payment, realization of excursions, from sale of the posters, calendars, souvenirs, catalogues, booklets etc.; from a rent payment for usage of the monuments of history and culture, from other kinds of economic activity of the reserve/museum connected to rendering of services to the visitors, from the penalties paid for infringement of the legislation on protection and utilization of the monuments of history and culture, other receipts stipulated by the list of special (extra-budgetary) means,
- Means received from voluntary payments and the donations of the enterprises, organizations, institutions and individual citizens.

The estimates under the budget and special means of the reserve/museum are confirmed by the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture. The director of the reserve/museum is the manager of the credits under the budget and special means. The materially responsible persons for material assets and money resources are appointed by the director of the reserve/museum.



The reserve/museum has the right to create in established sequence self-financed laboratories and workshops for the specialized purposes (restoration, art and design, taxidermy, photo laboratory etc.), to organize on an self-financing basis the contents of the non-staff guides, manufacture and sale of souvenirs, copies of exhibits etc., to provide the visitors with various kinds of services. The income of this activity is applied to special facilities of the museum.

The reserve/museum can on occasions of agreement with the State Committee of Kazakh SSR on Culture and Turkestan Town Executive Committee, solely for cultural and educational purposes, lease immovable monuments of history and culture and buildings held by the reserve/museum and which are located in its territory.

#### **V. Public scientific connections.**

In its activity, the reserve/museum supports connection with the structure of scientific institutions, higher educational institutions, and creative unions, leading museums of the country and republic, and public organizations.

For improved coordination of scientific activity of the reserve/museum, is provided the creation of the Council of Assistance to the museum considering various questions of scientific research, restoration, exposition, publishing activity of the reserve/museum.

**The decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2000, N°. 422  
about the list of objects of state property not subject to privatization**

With the purposes of the maintenance of the state regulation of activity of organizations and objects having the special importance for strategic interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan, decide:

1. Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
  - 1) refer to objects of state property , according to the applied list, as not subject to privatization and its preliminary stages;
  - 2) modifications in the list are made only with the agreement of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
**N. Nazarbayev**  
Astana, July 28, 2000, N°. 422 .

The appendix to the Decree of the President of Republic of Kazakhstan of July 28, 2000, N°. 422 .

**The list of objects not subject to privatization and its preliminary stages**

1. The earth (except for what can be in a private property on the grounds and in limits established by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan), its bowels, waters, vegetative and fauna.
2. Especially protected natural territories.
10. Objects of historical and cultural heritage under protection of the state.

## Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan)

No 1103

### 1. BASIC DATA

<i>State Party:</i>	Republic of Kazakhstan
<i>Name of property:</i>	The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi
<i>Location:</i>	South Kazakhstan Oblast, City of Turkestan
<i>Date received:</i>	29 January 2002
<i>Category of property:</i>	

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is an architectural *monument*.

#### *Brief description:*

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, in the town of Yasi, now Turkestan, was built at the time of Timur (Tamerlane), from 1389 till 1405, remaining unfinished in some parts. In this building, the Persian master builders experimented architectural and structural solutions under the supervision of the emperor. These solutions were then adopted in the construction of Samarkand, the capital of the Timurid Empire. At present it is one of the largest and best preserved constructions of the Timurid period.

### 2. THE PROPERTY

#### *Description*

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, a distinguished Sufi master of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, is situated in southern Kazakhstan, in the city of Turkestan (Yasi). The mausoleum is placed in the area of the former citadel, in the north-eastern part of the ancient town, now an open archaeological site. To the south, there is a nature protection area; on the other sides the modern city of Turkestan surrounds the site. The nominated property is limited to the mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi (0.55 ha); the buffer zone covers the archaeological area of the ancient town (88.15 ha).

The Mausoleum was built at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century by the order of Timur, replacing a smaller mausoleum of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of the largest built in the Timurid period. There are some other buildings in the vicinity, including mausoleums for distinguished persons, small mosques, and a medieval bath house. A site museum is placed in the former Russian barrack building of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the north side, the mausoleum is separated from the new town by a section of the ancient citadel wall, which has here been reconstructed.

The Mausoleum is rectangular in plan, 45.8 x 62.7 m, and is oriented from the south-east to north-west. Its total height is 38.7 m. The structure of the building is in fired brick with mortar of gypsum mixed with clay (*ganch*). The

foundations were originally built in layers of clay (1.5 m deep), but these have recently been rebuilt in concrete. The main entrance is from the south-east through the Iwan into the large square Main Hall, *Kazandyk*, measuring 18.2 x 18.2 m, covered with a conic-spherical dome, the largest in Central Asia (18.2 m in diameter). In the centre of this hall there is a bronze cauldron (*kazan*, 2.2 m diameter, weight: 2 tons), dated 1399 for ritual purposes. The tomb of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Gur khana), the most important space, is situated on the central axis at the end of the building in the north-west. In the centre of this space, there is the sarcophagus. The hall has a double dome; the inner dome is 17 m high, and the outer dome 28 m, and its extrados is covered with green and golden decorated tiles. The drum of the dome is tiled with hexagonal green glazed tiles adorned with gold pattern. The building has spaces assigned for several functions: such as meeting rooms, a refectory (*Ash khana*), a library (*Kitab khana*), and a mosque.

The mosque is the only room where fragments of the original wall paintings are preserved, which are geometric and floral ornaments in light blue colour. The intrados of the domes is decorated in alabaster stalactites (*muqarnas*). In the exterior, the walls are covered with glazed tiles with large geometric patterns with epigraphic ornaments, characteristic of Timurid architecture. There are fine Kufic and Suls inscriptions on the walls, and texts from the Qu'ran on the drums of the domes. The building remained unfinished at the death of Timur in 1405, and was never completed. Therefore, the main entrance still lacks the surface finish and the two minarets that were planned.

#### *History*

Sufism (*tasawwuf* from 'wool' in Arabic) is a mystic movement in Islam. It has been considered as the inner, mystical, or psycho-spiritual dimension of this religion, developing as a spiritual movement from the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sufist ideas evolved particularly in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries in the thoughts and writings of people such as: Attar (perished in 1221), Ibn Arabi (1165-1240) and Jalal al-Din Rumi (1207-1273).

Starting in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Sufism also developed into several regional schools, of which the Turkic branch was headed by Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. Sufism has been seen as one of the forces that sustained the diffusion of Islam, preventing its downfall, especially in the difficult period after the Mongol invasion in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Yasawi was born in Yasi or in Ispidjab (Sairam), in 1103. After initial education by his father he studied in Bukhara, one of the principal centres of Islam at the time. He spent most of his life in Yasi, and died there in 1166. His contribution was crucial for Central Asia, where he popularized Sufism, and contributed to the diffusion of Islam.

**The town of Turkestan:** The modern town of Turkestan is referred to ancient Kazakh towns, and its origins go back to the early Middle Ages. Until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was called Yasi. At first it was a suburban area of Shavgar, in the region of Syr Daria, the crossroads of agricultural and nomadic cultures. Shavgar developed into a large handicraft and trade centre, but from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Yasi gained importance over this. It was also one of the few places that do not seem to have been destroyed by the



Mongols in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Pilgrimage to the tomb of Ahmed Yasawi was another factor that contributed to its development.

In the 1370s, Timur (Tamerlane) (1328-1405) became the new ruler of Central Asia, and his reign extended from Mesopotamia and Iran to Transoxiana. His capital was in Samarqand. Timur's policies involved the construction of monumental public and cult buildings (mosques, mausoleums, *madrasahs*) in regions such as Syr Daria, where towns were vital outposts on the northern frontier of his possessions, including the Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi. Timur's wish was to contribute to the diffusion of Islam, but even more so to fulfil specific political objectives. Considering that the Sufi orders determined the support of nomadic tribes in the steppes, the construction of this remarkable sanctuary aimed to gain the support of the Sufis and of the large nomad community, who otherwise might have presented a risk for his ruling. He is reported to have participated personally in the design of the Mausoleum, which was built parallel with the Mosque of Samarkand. For the first time here, Timur used a team of immigrated skilled master builders from Shiraz and Isfahan. The building also represented an experiment, where he introduced innovative spatial arrangements, types of vaults and domes, that were later implemented in the capital cities.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries Turkestan was the capital and residence of the Kazakh Khanship, developing into its largest trade and craft centre. The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi was the outstanding monument of the town, and several prominent personalities were buried close to it. However, the political struggles and the shift of trade to sea routes resulted in the decline of urban life. In 1864 Turkestan was invaded by the Russian army. The old town was destroyed and deserted. A new railway station was built far from the old town, becoming the new centre for development. Some vernacular dwellings were built closer to the old town, called 'Eski Turkistan'. Today, the old town is an archaeological site, and one of the 14 Reserve Museum sites in Kazakhstan.

**The Mausoleum:** the construction took place between 1389 and 1399, continuing until the death of Timur in 1405. The building was left unfinished at the entrance and some parts of the interior, thus providing documented evidence of the working methods at that time. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the mausoleum went through some repair and reconstruction on the main portal; the arch was repaired by the order of Abdullah-Khan, the governor of Bukhara. From this time until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Turkestan was the residence of the Kazakh khans. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Kokand khan turned the mausoleum into a fortress, and built a defence wall around it in mud brick. In 1864, when the Russian army took over Turkestan, the building was in a poor state of repair. In 1872, the authorities decided to preserve it. From 1938 there has been regular maintenance, and since 1945 several restoration campaigns have been carried out, the latest from 1993 to 2000. In the Soviet period, this monument was treated as a historic building and a museum. Since the independence of Kazakhstan in 1991, its spiritual function has prevailed, and it has even come to epitomize national identity.

## ***Management regime***

### *Legal provision:*

The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi is a national monument, included on the List of National Properties of Kazakhstan, and protected by the decree 38 of 26.01.1982. The site of the mausoleum is included in the Protection Zoning Plan (1986) of the city of Turkestan, prepared under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, by the State Institute for Scientific Research and Planning on Monuments of Material Culture (NIPI PMK, Almaty). The plan has been approved by the Committee of Culture, and confirmed by the decree 628 of 22.11.1988. The adjacent secondary monuments and the archaeological remains of the medieval town of Yasi are included in the 'Azret-Sultan' State Historical and Cultural Reserve Museum (decree 265, 28.08.1989). The museum was opened in 1990.

### *Management structure:*

At the national level, the management of the site is under the responsibility of the Committee of Culture of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord. Locally, the care is the responsibility of the 'Azret-Sultan' State Historical and Cultural Reserve Museum. The museum staff prepares the annual programmes and plans for the repair and management of the property. There is a long-term development plan (2000) for the whole city of Turkestan, respecting the protection zoning. The Tourism Department of the South Kazakhstan Region has a regional plan for tourism, including Turkestan as a main destination. A five-year management plan for the property has been prepared by the 'Azret-Sultan' Museum, to be approved in 2002. This plan includes guidelines for safeguarding, research, conservation, monitoring, and maintenance of the property, as well as for the development of the planning control zone and the nature protection area, in order to preserve important views from and to the mausoleum.

### *Resources:*

The 'Azret-Sultan' Museum has 19 permanent staff, including technicians, custodians, guides, and administrators. Additional staff is contracted according to needs. Yearly funding is provided from the State budget (8,500 \$/year), and additional funds are collected from entrance fees and offerings (ca 75,000 \$/year).

### ***Justification by the State Party (summary)***

The State Party stresses the uniqueness of the mausoleum, which was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by order of Timur over the tomb of Ahmed Yasawi, the great 12<sup>th</sup>-century Sufi master. The earlier mausoleum was already a pilgrimage place, but the new construction increased its religious importance so that it became one of the most significant sacred places for Moslems. The mausoleum is a characteristic example of Timurid style, and a most impressive testimony of the architectural attainment of Timur's empire in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. The mausoleum provides important advances in building technology, displaying an unsurpassed record of all kinds of Central Asian vaulted constructions and showing some innovations. Its main dome is the largest existing brick dome in Central Asia, 18.2 m in diameter. The original

architectural details show the highest level of craftsmanship. To date, the results of many years' work by scientists prove the outstanding universal value of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi as a highly significant architectural monument in itself, for the period it represents, and a unique survival of one of the four largest buildings of that period. It was one of the greatest architectural achievements of its age, a landmark chapter in the history of Central Asian architecture, and has influenced further developments. It was a striking structure thought to be one of the greatest mausoleums of the Islamic world.

The State Party proposes that the property be inscribed under the *criteria i, iii, iv, and vi*. Criterion i for its architectural achievement; criterion iii for its being one of the great mausoleums of the world; criterion iv as a characteristic example of Timurid architecture; criterion vi for its association with Ahmed Yasawi as the great master of the Turkic branch of Sufism.

### 3. ICOMOS EVALUATION

#### *Actions by ICOMOS*

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the site in August 2002.

#### *Conservation*

##### *Conservation history:*

After its construction, the building underwent a first intervention in the 16<sup>th</sup> century on the main portal, when the arch was repaired. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was turned into a military depot; a defence wall was built around it. The building was in a poor state of repair, and was proposed to be demolished. However, in 1872, the authorities decided to repair it. This meant preparation of survey drawings, whitewashing the interiors, and constructing buttresses to support the north-west corner (1886-87). From 1938, a workshop was responsible for its maintenance on a permanent basis, under the direction of an architect. There have been restorations in 1945, in the 1950s, in the 1970s, and again from 1993 to 2000. The last restoration was sponsored by the Government of Turkey, and the works were implemented by 'Vakif Insaat', a Turkish firm, with the participation of Kazakh specialists. During these works the foundations were remade in reinforced concrete, the walls were consolidated, the roofs were water-proofed, and the domes were newly covered with tiles, as most of the old tiles had been lost. The form and colour of the new tiles is reported to correspond to the old, of which fragments have been found in place.

The surrounding area (buffer zone) corresponds to the former medieval town with the defence wall. The area was destroyed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and a new town centre was built further to the west. Some of the surviving remains next to the mausoleum have been demolished during the recent campaigns involving earthworks. The northern part of the old citadel wall was rebuilt in the 1970s, providing an enclosure for the mausoleum and its adjacent buildings. A drainage system has now been implemented in order to remove excess water from the site.

#### *State of conservation:*

After the recent works, the structure is considered stable, but the authorities still report on problems of rising damp and salts, due to high water table. There is also need to continue monitoring the behaviour of the structure of the building and the materials after the restoration.

#### *Management:*

The ICOMOS mission observed that the NIPI/PMK department has qualified specialists, but it should improve the collaboration with the 'Azret Sultan' office. This office would require a qualified permanent technical team, consisting of specialised technicians and skilled craftsmen dedicated to the maintenance of the heritage site. It would also be necessary to establish a documentation centre in the site museum, prepare a detailed report on the works over the past 130 years, encourage research on the history and conservation of the Museum Reserve, and develop appropriate methods for the restoration of wall paintings, metal works, wood works, and surface finishes. The mission has also noted that there was need to encourage appropriate academic institutions in the country to initiate training in the conservation of cultural heritage. A new management plan has been prepared, and it is expected to have been approved in 2002.

#### *Risk analysis:*

Considering that the town of Turkestan is situated in a vast plain, any high-rise buildings outside the buffer zone would have an impact on the visual integrity of the place. This is not an immediate risk, in view of the current planning regulations. The building of the Arys-Turkestan water canal and the creation of large agricultural fields in the region have been the cause of the rise in the water table. It will be necessary to study ways to reduce the impact in the area of the mausoleum and its buffer zone. No serious seismic risk is reported. The number of visitors is growing in Turkestan, being some 200,000 in the year 2000, and the mausoleum is the main target of tourism and pilgrimage. Bearing in mind that the winter climate in Turkestan can be rather cold, the increasing number of visitors is causing the risk of condensation in the interior.

#### *Authenticity and integrity*

##### *Authenticity:*

The Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi has suffered from inappropriate use and neglect especially around mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, until the interest for its safeguarding started gaining ground. Even so, it has been better preserved than some other Timurid monuments, such as Bibi Khanum Shrine in Samarkand, which is of comparable size. In fact, the mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi has preserved its original vault construction and a large part of the external decoration. The external decoration has been partly renovated in recent restorations, including the upper part of the large inscription, as well as the tiled extrados of the domes. Some original remains of the wall paintings are visible in the interior, and it is possible that future restoration may discover more of them under the whitewashed surfaces. The *muqarnas* of the ceilings are still in place. The mausoleum has not been subject to any major changes over time, and it can be considered a genuine representation of the architecture of the Timurid

period. Of added interest is the stage of the unfinished parts, preserved as a documentary evidence of the construction methods. The mausoleum has preserved an exceptionally high degree of authenticity as a monument.

#### *Integrity:*

Regarding the context, the mausoleum remains standing within the old town area, where the houses have been destroyed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The fact that this area has not been rebuilt, however, provides a valuable opportunity for medieval archaeology. On the other hand, the new town of Turkestan has kept a low skyline, so that the Mausoleum of Ahmed Yasawi continues to stand out as a major monument within its context, thus maintaining the required visual integrity.

#### *Comparative evaluation*

Even though the Mongol and Timurid periods in the Western and Central Asia caused much suffering and destruction, they also promoted a highly important development in art and architecture. The Timurid Empire extended from Mesopotamia to Western India and from the Caucasus to the Arabian Sea, including the present-day Uzbekistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The capital cities of the empire, Samarkand and Bukhara, already inscribed on the World Heritage List, comprised some of the principal buildings and ensembles, in particular the Bibi Khanum Mosque, which is comparable with the Mausoleum of Yasawi in its size and architecture.

There are also important works of this period in Iran (Yazd, Mashad and Tabriz, as well as in Herat in present-day Afghanistan), which are the key references for developments in architecture since the pre-Islamic period and well into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The master builders from the conquered cities and lands such as Shiraz, Isfahan, Yazd, Tabriz, south Caspian, and Damascus, as well as stone cutters from India, were involved in the construction of the masterpieces in the Timurid period.

The significance of the Mausoleum of Yasawi in this context lies in its being a prototype, where the architectural and artistic solutions were experimented under the control of the emperor himself. The Mausoleum has also better preserved its integrity and authenticity than most of the other buildings, such as those in Samarkand, which have later been partly rebuilt or modified.

#### *Outstanding universal value*

##### *General statement:*

The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi is an outstanding example of Islamic religious building, designed and constructed under the supervision of Timur Tamerlane, at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The building became a prototype for the contemporaneous construction of other major buildings in the Timurid period, particularly in the capital city of Samarkand, being a pilot project for the design of spatial arrangements, and the construction of vaults and dome structures. The site itself, the burials and the remains of the old town of Turkestan (Yasi) offer significant testimony to the history of Central Asia. The mausoleum is closely related to the diffusion of Islam in

this region with the help of the Sufi orders, as well as having political significance in relation to the political ideology of Timur (Tamerlane).

##### *Evaluation of criteria:*

**Criterion i:** The Mausoleum of Yasawi is a significant architectural achievement in the history of the Islamic architecture. It was a prototype for the innovative development of spatial and structural solutions as well as ornamentation in Timurid architecture.

**Criterion iii:** While recognizing the importance of the mausoleum in the Islamic architecture, this criterion would more appropriately refer to the cultural traditions that the monument and its site represent. The building also provides an exceptional testimony to construction methods in the Timurid period, especially due to the parts that remained unfinished.

**Criterion iv:** The mausoleum was a significant prototype in the development of a type of religious building, which had significant influence in Timurid architecture and in the history of Islamic architecture.

**Criterion vi:** The origins of Sufism can be detected in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, involving several spiritual leaders. While recognizing the importance of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in the Turkic branch of Sufism, this was one of several branches that developed from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. His significance was thus important in the regional context. ICOMOS does not consider this justification sufficient for the use of criterion vi.

## **4. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS**

### *Recommendation for the future*

While recognizing the efforts made by the authorities, ICOMOS recommends that special attention be given to the control of the built environment outside the buffer zone in order to avoid any high-rise constructions. The State Party is also encouraged to increase the resources for conservation management, and to establish a training strategy for those involved in the conservation of the site.

### *Recommendation with respect to inscription*

That the nominated property be inscribed on the basis of **criteria i, iii and iv:**

**Criterion i:** The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi is an outstanding achievement in the Timurid architecture, and it has significantly contributed to the development of Islamic religious architecture.

**Criterion iii:** The mausoleum and its site represent an exceptional testimony to the culture of the Central Asian region, and to the development of building technology.

**Criterion iv:** The Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi was a prototype for the development of a major building type in the Timurid period, becoming a significant reference in the history of Timurid architecture.

ICOMOS, March 2003



# Khoja Ahmad Yasawi (Kazakhstan)

No 1103

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

<i>État partie :</i>	République du Kazakhstan
<i>Bien proposé :</i>	Le mausolée de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi
<i>Lieu :</i>	Région du Kazakhstan Septentrional, Ville de Turkestan
<i>Date de réception :</i>	29 janvier 2002
<i>Catégorie de bien :</i>	

En termes de catégories de biens culturels telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *monument*.

### *Brève description :*

Le mausolée de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi, dans la ville de Yasi, aujourd'hui appelée Turkestan, fut construit à l'époque de Tamerlan, de 1389 à 1405. Dans ce bâtiment, dont certaines parties restèrent inachevées, les maîtres constructeurs perses expérimentèrent des nouvelles solutions architecturales et structurelles sous la surveillance de l'empereur. Ces solutions furent ensuite adoptées pour la construction de Samarkand, la capitale de l'empire timuride. Actuellement, c'est l'une des constructions les plus grandes et les mieux préservées de la période timuride.

## 2. LE BIEN

### *Description*

Le mausolée de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi, maître distingué du soufisme au XII<sup>e</sup> siècle, se trouve dans le sud du Kazakhstan, dans la ville de Turkestan (Yasi). Le mausolée est construit dans la zone de l'ancienne citadelle, dans la partie nord-est de l'ancienne ville, aujourd'hui site archéologique ouvert. Au sud, il existe une zone naturelle protégée, et la ville moderne entoure le reste du site. Le bien proposé pour inscription est limité au mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi (0,55 ha) ; la zone tampon couvre la zone archéologique de la ville ancienne (88,15 ha).

Le mausolée fut construit à la fin du XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle sur l'ordre de Tamerlan, en remplacement d'un plus petit mausolée du XII<sup>e</sup> siècle. C'est l'un des plus grands mausolées de la période timuride. Il y a quelques autres constructions à proximité, notamment des mausolées dédiés à des personnalités importantes, des petites mosquées et des bains médiévaux. Un musée du site est installé dans un ancien bâtiment militaire russe du

XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Au nord, le mausolée est séparé de la ville moderne par une portion du mur de l'ancienne citadelle qui a été relevée à cet endroit.

Le mausolée est de plan rectangulaire, (45,8 x 62,7 m), il est orienté sud-est nord-ouest. Sa hauteur est de 38,7 m. La structure de l'édifice est en brique flammée et mortier de gypse mélangé à de l'argile (*ganch*). Les fondations étaient à l'origine construites en couches d'argile (1,5 m de profondeur), mais elles ont été récemment refaites en béton. L'accès se fait du côté sud-est, en passant sous l'*Iwan* dans ce que l'on appelle le hall principal, *Kazandyk*, qui mesure 18,2 x 18,2 m, surmonté d'une coupole sphérique et conique, la plus grande d'Asie centrale (18,2 m de diamètre). Au centre de ce hall est disposé un immense vase de bronze (*kazan*, diamètre : 2,2 m ; poids : 2 tonnes), datant de 1399 et servant aux rituels. Le tombeau de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi (*Gur khana*), le lieu le plus sacré, est placé sur l'axe central, à l'extrémité nord-ouest de l'édifice. Au centre de cet espace se trouve le sarcophage. Le hall comporte une coupole double : la coupole intérieure est de 17 m de haut et la coupole extérieure, de 28 m de haut ; son extrados est couvert de tuiles à décor vert et or. Le tambour de la coupole est recouvert de tuiles vernissées de forme hexagonale, de couleur verte et ornées de motifs dorés à l'or. L'édifice comporte des espaces consacrés à différentes fonctions : salles de réunion, réfectoire (*Ash khana*), bibliothèque (*Kitab khana*) et mosquée.

La mosquée est la seule pièce où soient préservés des fragments des peintures murales d'origine, à motifs géométriques et floraux de couleur bleu pastel. L'intrados des coupoles est décoré de stalactites d'albâtre (*muqarnas*). À l'extérieur, les murs sont couverts de tuiles vernissées à grands motifs géométriques et ornements épigraphiques, caractéristiques de l'architecture timuride. Quatre belles inscriptions *Coufiques* et *Sul* ornent les murs, et les textes du Coran sont inscrits sur les tambours des coupoles. L'édifice est demeuré inachevé à la mort de Tamerlan en 1405 et ne fut jamais terminé. Il manque donc dans l'entrée principale le fini des surfaces murales et les deux minarets dont la construction était prévue.

### *Histoire*

Le soufisme (*tassawwuf* du mot « laine » en arabe) est un mouvement mystique musulman. Il se développa en tant que mouvement psycho-spirituel et mystique de l'Islam dès le IX<sup>e</sup> et le X<sup>e</sup> siècle. Les idées soufies évoluèrent surtout aux XII<sup>e</sup> et XIII<sup>e</sup> siècles dans la pensée et les écrits de personnages tels que Attar (mort en 1221), Ibn Arabi (1165-1240) et Jalal al-Din Rumi (1207-1273).

Au début du XII<sup>e</sup> siècle, le soufisme se développa en plusieurs écoles régionales, dont la branche turque fut dirigée par Khoja Ahmad Yasawi. Le soufisme fut l'une des forces qui soutint la propagation de l'Islam, empêchant son effondrement, en particulier durant la période difficile qui suivit l'invasion mongole au XII<sup>e</sup> siècle. Yasawi est né à Yasi ou Ispidjab (Sairam) en 1103. Après une première instruction reçue de son père, il étudia à Boukhara, un des principaux centres de l'Islam à l'époque. Il passa la plus grande partie de sa vie à Yasi et y mourut en 1166. Sa contribution fut fondamentale pour l'Asie centrale où il

popularisa le soufisme et contribua à la propagation de l'Islam.

**La ville de Turkestan :** La ville moderne de Turkestan est liée aux anciennes villes kazakhes, et son origine remonte au début du Moyen Âge. Jusqu'au XVIe siècle, on l'appela Yasi. Au début, elle fut une banlieue de Shavgar, dans la région du Syr Daria, au croisement des cultures nomades et agricoles. Shavgar se développa en un grand centre artisanal et commercial ; à partir du XIIe siècle, Yasi la supplanta. Ce fut aussi un des quelques lieux qui ne semble pas avoir été détruit par les Mongols au XIIIe siècle. Le pèlerinage au sépulcre de Ahmad Yasawi fut un facteur supplémentaire qui contribua au développement de la ville.

Dans les années 1370, Tamerlan (1328-1405) domina l'Asie centrale et son empire s'étendit de la Mésopotamie à l'Iran et à la Transoxiane. Sa capitale fut Samarkand. La politique de Tamerlan comprenait aussi un volet concernant la construction d'édifices publics et culturels monumentaux (mosquées, mausolées, *médersas*) dans des régions comme le Syr Daria où les villes étaient des avant-postes vitaux sur la frontière nord de son empire ; le mausolée de Ahmad Yasawi faisait partie de cette politique. En effet, le souhait de Tamerlan était de contribuer à la diffusion de l'Islam, mais encore plus de remplir des objectifs politiques spécifiques. Considérant que les ordres soufis déterminaient le soutien des tribus nomades des steppes, la construction de ce remarquable sanctuaire visait à gagner le soutien des Soufis et de la grande communauté nomade, qui, autrement, auraient pu présenter un risque pour son pouvoir. On dit qu'il participa personnellement à la conception du mausolée, qui fut construit en même temps que la mosquée de Samarkand. Pour la première fois en ce lieu, Tamerlan utilisa une équipe de maîtres constructeurs immigrés de Chiraz et Ispahan. L'architecture de l'édifice présentait une innovation de l'organisation spatiale, de nouveaux types de voûtes et de coupoles, repris par la suite dans les différentes capitales.

Du XVIe au XVIIIe siècle, Turkestan fut la capitale et la résidence du Khanat du Kazakh, devenant le plus grand centre commercial et artisanal. Le mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi était le monument remarquable de la ville et plusieurs puissantes personnalités furent enterrées à proximité. Toutefois, les luttes politiques et le déclin des routes commerciales terrestres au profit des routes maritimes entraînèrent le déclin de la vie de la cité. En 1864 Turkestan fut envahie par l'armée russe. La vieille ville fut détruite et désertée. Une nouvelle gare ferroviaire fut construite à l'écart de la ville ancienne, devenant le nouveau centre de développement. Quelques habitations vernaculaires ont été construites près de la vieille ville appelée « Eski Turkistan ». Aujourd'hui, la vieille ville est un site archéologique et l'un des 14 sites de réserve muséale au Kazakhstan.

**Le mausolée:** la construction fut réalisée entre 1389 et 1399 et se poursuivit jusqu'à la mort de Tamerlan en 1405. L'édifice demeura inachevé au niveau de l'entrée et de certaines parties de l'intérieur, fournissant ainsi des informations visuelles sur les méthodes de travail de l'époque. Au XVIe siècle, le portail principal fut restauré et reconstruit et la voûte réparée sur l'ordre d'Abdullah Khan, gouverneur de Boukhara. De cette époque jusqu'au

XIXe siècle, Turkestan fut la résidence des khans du Kazakh. Au XIXe siècle, le khan de Kokand transforma le mausolée en forteresse et l'encercla d'un mur de défense en briques de terre. En 1864, lorsque l'armée russe prit le Turkestan, l'édifice était en très mauvais état. En 1872, les autorités décidèrent de le préserver. À partir de 1938 l'édifice a été régulièrement entretenu et, depuis 1945, plusieurs campagnes de restauration se sont succédées, la dernière datant de 1993 à 2000. Pendant la période soviétique, ce monument fut considéré comme un bâtiment historique et un musée. Depuis l'indépendance du Kazakhstan en 1991, sa fonction spirituelle a prévalu et il en est même venu à symboliser l'identité nationale.

### *Politique de gestion*

#### *Dispositions légales :*

Le mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi est un monument national inscrit sur la Liste des biens nationaux du Kazakhstan ; il est protégé par le décret 38 du 26 janvier 1982. Le site du mausolée est inclus dans le Plan des zones de protection (1986) de la ville de Turkestan, préparé sous le contrôle du ministère de la Culture par l'Institut d'État pour la recherche scientifique et la programmation des monuments de culture matérielle (NIPI/PMK, Almaty). Le plan a été approuvé par le Comité de la culture et confirmé par le décret 628 du 22 novembre 1988. Les monuments adjacents secondaires et les vestiges archéologiques de la ville médiévale de Yasi font partie du musée d'État culturel et historique « Azret-Sultan » (décret 265, 28 août 1989). Le musée a été ouvert en 1990.

#### *Structure de la gestion :*

Au niveau national, la gestion du site est placée sous la responsabilité du Comité de la culture du ministère de la Culture et de l'Information. Localement, l'entretien est confié au musée d'État culturel et historique « Azret-Sultan ». Le personnel du musée prépare les programmes annuels et planifie l'entretien et la gestion du bien. Il existe un programme de développement à long terme (2000) qui vise la totalité de la ville de Turkestan et les zones protégées. Le plan régional pour le tourisme du département du tourisme de la région du Kazakhstan méridional considère la ville de Turkestan comme une destination majeure. Le musée « Azret-Sultan » a préparé un plan quinquennal de gestion, qui doit être approuvé en 2002. Ce plan prévoit des directives pour la sauvegarde, la recherche, la conservation, le suivi et l'entretien du bien ainsi que pour le développement de la zone de contrôle urbain et de la zone de protection de la nature, de manière à préserver les vues du mausolée dans le paysage et, inversement, le panorama du paysage environnant depuis le mausolée.

#### *Ressources :*

Le musée « Azret-Sultan » emploie un effectif de 19 permanents, parmi lesquels des techniciens, des gardiens, des guides et des administrateurs. Du personnel supplémentaire est engagé selon les besoins. Les financements annuels proviennent du budget de l'État (8 500 dollars par an), et des fonds supplémentaires

proviennent de la vente des billets d'entrée et des dons (environ 75 000 dollars par an).

#### *Justification émanant de l'État partie (résumé)*

L'État partie insiste sur le caractère unique du mausolée qui fut construit au XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle par ordre de Tamerlan sur la tombe de Ahmad Yasawi, le grand maître soufi du XII<sup>e</sup> siècle. Le mausolée précédant était déjà un lieu de pèlerinage, mais la nouvelle construction fit grandir son attrait religieux au point qu'il devint l'un des lieux les plus sacrés pour les musulmans. Le mausolée est un exemple caractéristique du style timuride et un témoignage très impressionnant de la maîtrise de l'architecture sous l'empire de Tamerlan à la fin du XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle. Le mausolée présente des avancées importantes dans la technologie de la construction, montrant des innovations et une supériorité technique incontestable par rapport à toutes les constructions à voûtes d'Asie centrale. Sa principale coupole est la plus grande coupole en brique d'Asie centrale, avec un diamètre de 18,2 m de diamètre. Les détails architectoniques d'origine montrent une maîtrise parfaite des techniques de la construction. À ce jour, les conclusions des scientifiques après de nombreuses années d'études montrent la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du mausolée de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi, considéré comme un monument architectural d'une grande valeur en soi et pour la période qu'il représente ; il est l'unique édifice qui nous soit parvenu parmi les quatre plus grandes constructions datant de cette période. Il fut l'un des plus beaux exemples d'architecture de son temps, un tournant de l'histoire de l'architecture en Asie centrale, qui a influencé les développements ultérieurs. Il s'agit d'une structure surprenante que l'on considère comme l'un des plus grands mausolées du monde islamique.

L'État partie propose que le bien soit inscrit sur la base des critères i, iii, iv et vi. Le critère i pour sa perfection architecturale, le critère iii parce qu'il est un des grands mausolées au monde, le critère iv parce qu'il est un exemple caractéristique de l'architecture timuride, le critère vi parce qu'il est associé à Ahmad Yasawi, grand maître de la branche turque du soufisme.

### **3. ÉVALUATION DE L'ICOMOS**

#### *Actions de l'ICOMOS*

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS a visité le site en août 2002.

#### *Conservation*

##### *Historique de la conservation :*

Après sa construction, l'édifice subit une première intervention au XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle au niveau du portail principal, lors de la réparation de la voûte. Au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle, il devint un dépôt militaire et fut entouré d'un mur de défense. L'édifice était en mauvais état, et sa démolition fut envisagée. Toutefois, en 1872, les autorités décidèrent de le restaurer. À cette occasion, un relevé de l'existant fut réalisé, de même que le chaulage des murs intérieurs et la

construction d'arcs-boutants pour conforter l'angle nord-ouest de l'édifice (1886-1887). À partir de 1938, un atelier fut chargé de l'entretien permanent de l'édifice, sous la direction d'un architecte. Des campagnes de restaurations ont été entreprises en 1945, dans les années 1950 et 1970, puis de 1993 à 2000. La dernière restauration a été financée par le gouvernement de la Turquie, et les travaux ont été effectués par « Vakif Insaat », une entreprise turque, avec la participation de spécialistes kazakhs. Pendant ces travaux, les fondations furent confortées en béton, les murs furent consolidés, les toitures imperméabilisées et les coupoles recouvertes de nouvelles tuiles, car la plupart des anciennes avaient été perdues. La forme et la couleur correspondent à celles des anciennes, dont certains fragments ont été retrouvés sur place.

La zone environnante (zone tampon) correspond à l'ancienne ville médiévale avec les murs d'enceinte. La zone fut détruite au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle et une nouvelle ville fut construite plus à l'ouest. Certains des vestiges encore visibles à côté du mausolée ont été démolis pendant les dernières campagnes qui exigeaient des travaux de terrassement. La partie nord du mur de l'ancienne citadelle fut relevée dans les années 1970, offrant un enclos pour le mausolée et ses bâtiments adjacents. Un système de drainage a été mis en place pour éliminer l'excès d'eau du site.

##### *État de conservation :*

À la suite de récents travaux, la structure est en principe stabilisée, mais les autorités signalent toujours des problèmes de remontée d'eau et de sels en raison de l'affleurement des eaux souterraines. Il faut aussi continuer de surveiller le comportement de la structure du bâtiment et des matériaux après la restauration.

##### *Gestion :*

La mission de l'ICOMOS a observé que l'Institut d'État NIP/PMK emploie des spécialistes qualifiés mais qu'il devrait améliorer la collaboration avec le bureau du musée « Azret-Sultan ». Ce bureau aurait besoin d'une équipe technique qualifiée et permanente composée de techniciens spécialisés et d'artisans qualifiés responsables de l'entretien du site. Il serait aussi nécessaire d'établir un centre de documentation dans le musée du site, de préparer un rapport détaillé sur les travaux réalisés depuis 130 ans, d'encourager la recherche sur l'histoire et la conservation des réserves du musée et de développer des méthodes adéquates de restauration des peintures murales, des éléments en bois et en métal et des finitions de surfaces. La mission a également noté qu'il serait nécessaire d'encourager des institutions académiques du pays à initier des formations pour la conservation du patrimoine culturel. Un nouveau plan de gestion a été préparé et en principe adopté en 2002.

##### *Analyse des risques :*

Si l'on considère que la ville de Turkestan est située dans une vaste plaine, tout bâtiment de grande hauteur hors de la zone tampon aurait un impact sur l'intégrité visuelle du lieu. Ce n'est pas un risque immédiat, au vu des règles d'urbanisme actuelles. Le bâtiment du canal Arys-Turkestan et la création de grands champs cultivés dans la



région sont la cause de l'élévation du niveau de la nappe phréatique. Il sera nécessaire d'étudier le moyen de réduire l'impact de l'affleurement des nappes d'eau dans la zone du mausolée et sa zone tampon. Il n'existe pas de risque grave de séisme. Le nombre des visiteurs s'accroît à Turkestan ; ils étaient quelques 200 000 en l'an 2000, et le mausolée est le principal site attirant le tourisme et les pèlerinages. Sachant que l'hiver peut être assez froid dans cette région, le nombre croissant de visiteurs entraîne le risque de condensation à l'intérieur des bâtiments.

### ***Authenticité et intégrité***

#### *Authenticité :*

Le mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi a souffert d'abandon et de d'utilisations inappropriées, en particulier au milieu du XIXe siècle, jusqu'à ce que l'intérêt pour sa sauvegarde commence à se manifester. Il est cependant mieux préservé que certains autres monuments timurides tels que le sanctuaire de Bibi Khanum à Samarkand, qui est de dimensions comparables. En fait, le mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi a conservé sa voûte d'origine et une grande part de sa décoration extérieure. Cette dernière a été en partie rénovée lors de récentes campagnes de restaurations, notamment la partie supérieure des grandes inscriptions ainsi que les extradors des coupes recouverts de tuiles. Certains vestiges des peintures murales d'origine sont visibles à l'intérieur et il est probable que des restaurations futures mettent au jour d'autres de ces peintures d'origine sous les surfaces chaulées. Les *muqarnas* des plafonds sont encore en place. Le mausolée n'a pas subi de modifications majeures et on peut considérer qu'il est une représentation authentique de l'architecture de la période timuride. L'état inachevé de certaines parties ajoute à l'intérêt du monument, car ce sont des manifestations visuelles des méthodes de construction. Le mausolée a conservé un degré d'authenticité exceptionnel en tant que monument.

#### *Intégrité :*

Du point de vue du contexte, le mausolée se dresse au milieu de la zone de l'ancienne ville, dont les maisons ont été détruites au XIXe siècle. Le fait que cette zone n'ait pas été rebâtie offre de précieuses occasions d'organiser des campagnes de fouilles archéologiques sur ce site médiéval. Par ailleurs, la nouvelle ville de Turkestan a conservé un profil urbain peu élevé, de sorte que le mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi se signale comme un monument phare qui conserve l'intégrité visuelle requise.

### ***Évaluation comparative***

Même si les périodes mongole et timuride en Asie centrale et orientale ont causé beaucoup de souffrances et de destructions, elles ont aussi apporté un développement important des arts et de l'architecture. L'empire timuride s'étendait de la Mésopotamie à l'Inde occidentale et du Caucase jusqu'à l'Arabie, comprenant les actuels Ouzbékistan, Iran et Afghanistan. Les capitales de l'empire, Samarkand et Boukhara, déjà inscrites sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, comprennent certains bâtiments et ensembles, en particulier la mosquée de Bibi

Khanum, qui sont comparables au mausolée d'Ahmad Yasawi par leurs dimensions et leur architecture.

D'importants travaux entrepris à cette époque en Iran (Yazd, Meshed et Tabriz) ainsi qu'en Afghanistan (Herat) sont des références-clés pour le développement de l'architecture depuis la période préislamique et jusqu'au XVIIe siècle. Les maîtres constructeurs des villes et des terres conquises, telles que Chiraz, Ispahan, Yazd, Tabriz, le sud de la région caspienne et Damas, ainsi que les tailleurs de pierre venant de l'Inde, ont participé à la construction des chefs d'œuvres de la période timuride.

La valeur du mausolée de Yasawi dans ce contexte repose sur le fait qu'il est un modèle, où les solutions artistiques et architecturales ont été expérimentées sous le contrôle de l'empereur lui-même. Le mausolée a également été mieux préservé dans son intégrité et son authenticité que la plupart des autres bâtiments tels que ceux de Samarkand, qui ont été ultérieurement en partie reconstruits ou remaniés.

### ***Valeur universelle exceptionnelle***

#### *Déclaration générale :*

Le mausolée de Khoja Ahmed Yasawi est un exemple remarquable de la construction religieuse islamique conçue et réalisée sous le contrôle de Tamerlan à la fin du XIVe siècle. L'édifice est devenu un modèle pour la construction contemporaine d'autres grandes constructions de la période timuride, en particulier dans la capitale de Samarkand, pour la conception et l'aménagement des volumes et de l'espace et pour la construction et la structure des voûtes et des coupes. Le site lui-même et les tombeaux et les vestiges de l'ancienne ville de Turkestan (Yasi) offrent un témoignage important de l'histoire de l'Asie centrale. Le mausolée est étroitement associé à la propagation de l'Islam dans cette région, avec l'aide des ordres soufis, sans oublier son importance politique en liaison avec l'idéologie politique de Tamerlan.

#### *Évaluation des critères :*

*Critère i :* Le mausolée de Yasawi est une réussite architecturale dans l'histoire de l'architecture islamique. Il fut un modèle pour les solutions spatiales et structurelles innovantes ainsi que l'ornementation de l'architecture timuride.

*Critère iii :* Tout en reconnaissant l'importance du mausolée dans l'architecture islamique, ce critère serait plus approprié s'il se référait aux traditions culturelles que le monument et son site représentent. L'édifice offre aussi un témoignage exceptionnel des méthodes de construction de la période timuride, en particulier grâce aux parties restées inachevées.

*Critère iv :* Le mausolée constitua un modèle important pour le développement d'un type d'édifice religieux qui eut une influence remarquable sur l'architecture timuride et l'histoire de l'architecture islamique.

*Critère vi :* Les origines du soufisme remontent aux IXe et Xe siècles, avec l'enseignement de plusieurs maîtres

spirituels. Tout en reconnaissant l'importance de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi pour la branche turque du soufisme, ce fut l'une des branches qui se développa à partir du XIIe siècle. Sa valeur a donc de l'importance dans le contexte régional. L'ICOMOS ne considère pas que cette justification soit suffisante pour invoquer le critère vi.

#### **4. RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ICOMOS**

##### ***Recommandations pour le futur***

Tout en reconnaissant les efforts faits par les autorités, l'ICOMOS recommande que soit accordée une attention particulière au contrôle de l'environnement bâti hors de la zone tampon afin d'éviter toute construction de bâtiments élevés. L'État partie est également encouragé à augmenter les ressources consacrées à la gestion de la conservation et à établir une stratégie de formation pour les personnes engagées dans la conservation du site

##### ***Recommandation concernant l'inscription***

Que le bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial la base des **critères i, iii et iv** :

**Critère i** Le mausolée de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi est une réalisation exceptionnelle de l'architecture timuride ; il a contribué de manière importante au développement de l'architecture religieuse islamique.

**Critère iii** Le mausolée et son site représentent un témoignage exceptionnel de la culture de la région d'Asie centrale et du développement de la technologie de la construction.

**Critère iv** Le mausolée de Khoja Ahmad Yasawi fut un modèle pour le développement d'un type majeur de construction sous la période timuride, devenant une référence importante dans l'histoire de l'architecture timuride.

ICOMOS, mars 2003