

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GARDEN ARCHITECTURE DURING THE REIGN OF AMIR TEMUR AND THE TIMURIDS

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Abstract: Amir Temur, one of the greatest statesmen and military leaders in the history of Central Asia, aimed to transform Samarkand—the capital of his empire—into the “Jewel of the Earth.” For this purpose, he commissioned the construction of numerous gardens, boulevards, and palaces around the city. These gardens served not only as recreational spaces but also as venues for receiving state envoys, holding ceremonial events, and organizing gatherings of scholars and intellectuals. This study aims to reveal the role of Amir Temur and the Timurid period in the Eastern Renaissance, as well as the scientific significance of historical sources.

Keywords: Chaharbagh, Gulbogh, Jannat Garden, Qara Tapa, Boghi Chinor, Boghi Davlatabad.

Introduction:

Amir Temur, known in the history of Central Asia as a great statesman and military commander, not only established a powerful empire but also made a significant contribution to the development of science, architecture, and horticulture. During his reign, the city of Samarkand was transformed into one of the most beautiful and prosperous cities in the world. The gardens constructed by the Sahibqiran are considered outstanding examples of refined architecture, natural beauty, and Eastern aesthetic values.

Timurid-era gardens were generally built according to a precise plan. They included wide avenues, artificial pools and canals, fruit trees, flowerbeds, and pavilions decorated with marble and glazed tiles. These gardens were constructed in the Eastern “chaharbagh” style, meaning they were divided into four sections.

Among the famous Timurid gardens, Bagh-i Dilkusho is regarded as one of Amir Temur’s most renowned creations. Located near Samarkand, it contained a magnificent palace and was decorated with various flowers, fruit trees, and fountains. According to historical sources, foreign envoys were received there.

Bagh-i Behisht, as its name suggests, means “Paradise Garden.” It was famous for its beautiful nature, fresh air, and unique landscapes. A splendid palace stood at its center.

Bagh-i Chinor was mainly known for its large plane (chinor) trees. It served as a cool resting place during hot summer days, with specially arranged walking paths for visitors.

Bagh-i Shamol was located in a higher area around Samarkand, where a pleasant wind constantly blew. For this reason, it was especially suitable for relaxation during the summer months.

The importance of Timurid gardens:

The gardens established by Amir Temur contributed to the development of urban infrastructure, improvement of irrigation systems, and the advancement of horticulture and architectural art. These gardens were later further developed during the reign of Timurid princes, including Mirzo Ulugh Beg. The gardening traditions of the Timurids also influenced the Mughal gardens of India.

One of the gardens constructed during Amir Temur's reign was "Qara Tapa." Information about its creation and location is relatively limited. In his work, Khondamir notes that in 1404 Amir Temur traveled to Kesh, visited the Oqsaroy, and stopped at Qaroto'ba garden near Samarkand, describing it as follows: the Qaroto'ba garden was a place where the banner of sovereignty was raised, and where nobles, elites, and dignitaries of Samarkand came to pay their respects. He further writes that from the Qaroto'ba garden palace, they proceeded to Bagh-i Chinor, as if moving from body to soul.[1:270]

From the source, it becomes clear that it was built on the road between Kesh and Samarkand and served as a major garden where Amir Temur was received. In Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnama," the name of the garden is mentioned several times, which allows for certain conclusions. Yazdi writes that in the middle of Sha'ban, the caravan moved from Kesh, passed through several stations, and on Saturday the 18th stopped at Qara Tapa garden and proceeded to Jahannamoy pavilion, and then to Davlatabad garden.[2:288]

The information presented in the text indicates that Amir Temur departed from Kesh in mid-April 1399 and, passing through the Takhta Qaracha Pass, arrived first at the Jahonnomoy palace of the Qaro Tapa garden and subsequently at Bagh-i Davlatabad. In this regard, G.A. Pugachenkova notes that "Bagh-i Davlatabad" was located 13 km south of Samarkand along the main road.[3:13] The data in the text further clarifies that the garden was established in the area of the Takhta Qaracha Pass and was known under the names "Qaro Tapa" and "Qaroto'ba."

One of the picturesque gardens created during Amir Temur's reign is "Gulbogh." According to O. Bo'riyev, there is some confusion in the claim that

“Gulbogh” and “Bagh-i Davlatabad” are the same garden. While Clavijo describes this garden as a resting place, noting that it contained six pools and a wide variety of fruit trees, including lemons and other citrus fruits, he also separately mentions “Bagh-i Davlatabad.” This indicates that they are distinct gardens.[4:153]

Conclusion:

The gardens established by Amir Temur are rare examples of Eastern architecture and horticultural culture. They not only represented the aesthetic ideals of their time but also played an important role in the cultural and spiritual life of the people. These gardens created by the Sahibqiran served not only as recreational spaces but also as symbols of advanced architecture, respect for nature, and state power. Through these gardens, it is evident that urban planning and landscaping reached a high level of development during the Timurid period. In particular, the gardens built around Samarkand stood out for their beauty, structured design, and harmonious integration with nature. Today, the gardens created by Amir Temur remain an important part of our national cultural heritage, reflecting the aesthetic taste and creative potential of our ancestors.

References:

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- 2.Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi. Zafarnama. – p. 288.
- 3.Pugachenkova, G. A. The Architectural Heritage of Timur. – p. 13.
- 4.Clavijo. Diary of a Journey to the Court of Amir Temur. – p. 153.