



## ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS OF KASHKADARYA REGION: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the historical and architectural monuments located in the Kashkadarya region, their history, architectural features and cultural significance. These monuments represent the rich cultural heritage of the history of Uzbekistan and serve as an important educational tool for the modern generation.

**Keywords:** Kashkadarya, architectural monuments, history, cultural heritage, archeology, ancient cities.

**Introduction.** Kashkadarya region is located in the southern part of the Republic of Uzbekistan, between the ancient Zarafshan and Hissar mountain ranges. The center of the region is the city of Karshi. The region was formed in 1943, and in ancient times these territories were part of the Sogdian and Bactrian civilizations.

Kashkadarya region is located in the southwestern part of Uzbekistan and has a rich historical and cultural heritage. This region has long been one of the centers of science, culture and architecture. Archaeological excavations and historical sources confirm the existence of ancient cities, temples, fortresses and mausoleums here. The cities of Kitab, Shahrisabz and Karshi are especially distinguished by their architectural monuments.

**Main part.** The Kashkadarya oasis is one of the regions where ancient cities and cultural centers have emerged since the centuries BC. The settlements around Erkorgon, Kitab, and Shahrisabz found in archaeological excavations prove that ancient people lived here. Traces of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, and later Islam have been found in this area.

After the Arab conquest, the Kashkadarya oasis became a center of Islamic learning. Madrasahs, libraries, and mosques operated in the cities of Nasaf (now Karshi) and Kesh (Shahrisabz). During the Timurid era, Shahrisabz became a major political and cultural center. Amir Temur built his Ak-Saroy palace here.

The city of Shahrisabz is the homeland of Amir Temur, where he built many architectural monuments. The most famous of them are:

Aqsaroy Palace - this palace, the construction of which began in 1380 by Amir Temur, is a vivid example of Eastern architecture of the 14th-15th centuries. The entrance gates and wall decorations of the palace still amaze tourists.

Dorut-Tilovat Complex - This complex is the burial place of Temur's father Muhammad Taragay and famous religious figures.

Dor-us-Siyodat Mausoleum - a mausoleum built for Temur's son Jahongir, which embodies the architectural styles of its time.

The city of Karshi was known in ancient times as Nasaf. The strategic location of the city made it a military and cultural center.

Odina Mosque – This 16th-century structure dates back to the Koragonid era and is a religious complex associated with madrasahs for women. Today it operates as a museum. Kok-Gumbaz Mosque – It dates back to the Timurid era and is famous for its blue domes. The mosque's decorations feature Kufic inscriptions and patterns.

Karshi Caravanserai – This building, located on trade routes, served as a resting and trading place for caravans.

The city of Kitab has historically been a center for astronomical observations. The name "Kitab" is derived from the Arabic word "kitab" (book), which means that science was developed in this area. Although the Kitab astronomical observation station is a modern structure, it is a continuation of ancient scientific traditions. Ancient monuments found in the area, such as the remains of a Buddhist temple, testify to the multicultural history of Kashkadarya.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Russian colonialism intensified in this area. However, the events of the Turkestan uprising of 1916 and the Bukhara Emirate also had an impact on Kashkadarya. During the Soviet era, the region became famous for its agriculture (especially cotton growing). Large irrigation systems and factories were built.

After Uzbekistan gained independence, work on preserving historical monuments and restoring national values intensified in the Kashkadarya region. The Karshi Institute of Engineering and Economics expanded its activities, as did museums, theaters, and libraries. Today, Kashkadarya is one of the regions that stands out for its economic, cultural, and scientific potential. With its rich history, culture, archaeological, and architectural monuments, the Kashkadarya region occupies an important place not only in the history of Uzbekistan but also in the history of Central Asia. Through the past of the region, we can deeply understand the scientific and cultural achievements of our ancestors.

**Conclusion.** The architectural monuments of the Kashkadarya region are an integral part of the history of Uzbekistan, each of which is associated with its own architectural style and historical events. The study of these monuments is of great importance not only for understanding our past, but also for preserving and passing them on to future generations. Therefore, the scientific study, restoration and promotion of these monuments is one of the important tasks.

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# Western European Journal of Historical Events and Social Science

Volume 3, Issue 6, June, 2025

<https://westerneuropeanstudies.com/index.php/4>

ISSN (E): 2942-1926

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