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UNESCO Region: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SITE NAME: Kunya-Urgench

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 15th July 2005

STATE PARTY: TURKMENISTAN

CRITERIA: C (ii)(iii)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Decisions of the 29th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Criterion (ii): The tradition of architecture expressed in the design and craftsmanship of Kunya-Urgench has been influential in the wider region to the south and southwest i.e. in Iran and Afghanistan, and later in the architecture of the Mogul Empire (India, 16th century).

Criterion (iii): Kunya-Urgench provides an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition (the Islamic culture of the Khorezm) and is unique in its state of preservation. The society that created this centre has disappeared; however we note that most of visitors are in fact pilgrims from the region.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

Kunya-Urgench is situated in northwestern Turkmenistan, on the south side of the Amu Daria River. Urgench was the capital of the Khorezm region, part of the Achaemenid Empire. The old town contains a series of monuments mainly from the 11th to 16th centuries, including a mosque, the gates of a caravanserai, fortresses, mausoleums and a minaret. The monuments testify to outstanding achievements in architecture and craftsmanship whose influence reached Iran and Afghanistan, and later the architecture of the Mogul Empire of 16th-century India.

1.b State, Province or Region: Dashoguz Vilayet (Province)

1.d Exact location: N42 23 18.0 E59 16 14.0



Kunya-Urgench

Turkmenistan

NOMINATION OF THE ANCIENT TOWN OF KUNYA-URGENCH
FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST BY THE

GOVERNMENT OF TURKMENISTAN



January 2004

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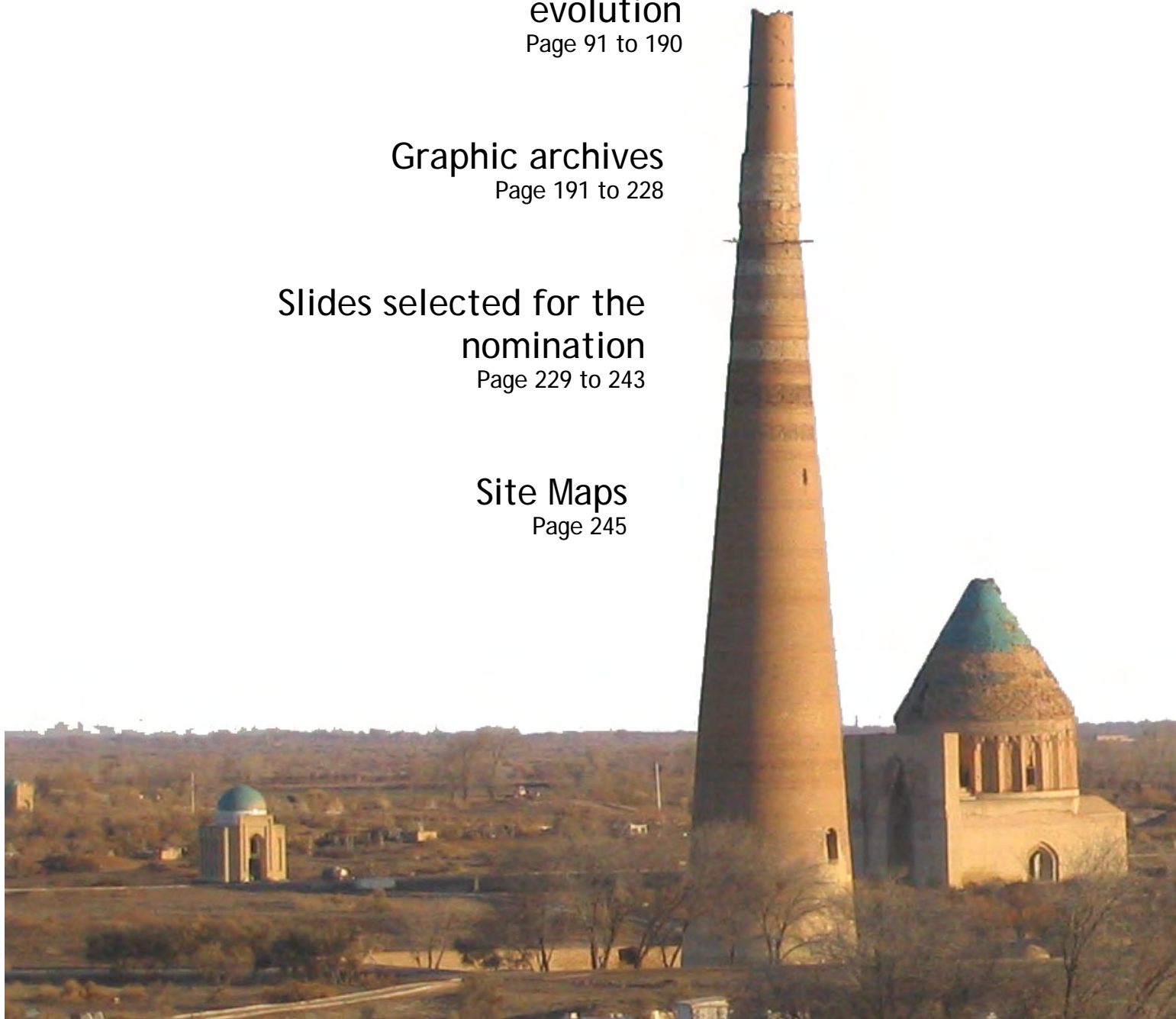
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Acknowledgements

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Kunya-Urgench

Turkmenistan

NOMINATION FORM



Acronyms

DPM : National Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan

SHCP-KU: State Historical and Cultural Park Kunya-Urgench

UNDP : United Nation Development Programme

Glossary of Turkmen names used in the file

Hakim: Mayor (of Kunya-Urgench) or Governor (of the Dashoguz Vilayet)

Hakimlik: Mayor's office or Governor's office (administrative structure headed by the Hakim)

Vilayet: province; Turkmenistan is divided in 5 vilayets

Other names for this site:

Kunya-Urgench is referred to in the literature and on the internet under a great variety of names and spellings:

- Avesta-Urva (6th Century BC)
- Hangrid-Hanjird (7-8th Centuries AD)
- Gurgench-Djurdjaniy (9-12th Centuries AD)
- Gurganj
- Gurgandj,
- Gurgengj,
- Urgendj,
- Old Urgench,
- Kunia-Urgench,
- Khunia-Urgench,
- Kune-Urgench,
- Konye-Urgench,
- Kohne-Urgench,
- Kunyaurgench,
- Koniaurgench,
- Köneurgench,
- etc ...

Note:

Kunya-Urgench should not be confounded with the modern town of Urgench (or Urganch) which lies 140 km SE in Uzbekistan, on the Amu Darya River and the Shavat canal, in the Khiva oasis.

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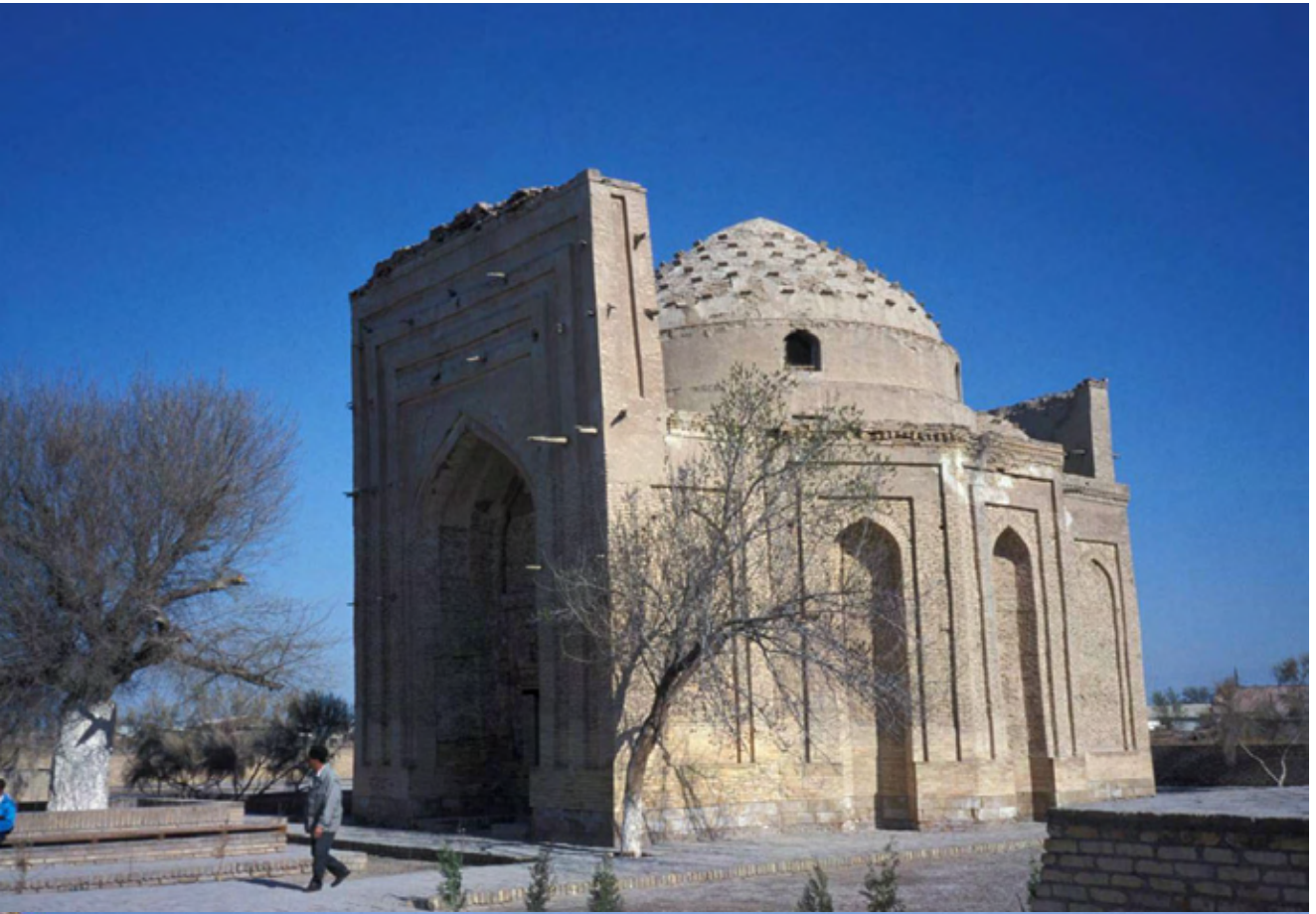
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1

Identification of the Property



Sultan Ali mausoleum (top) and Najm Ad-din Al-Kubra mausoleum

a. Country

Turkmenistan



b. State, Province or Region

Dashoguz Vilayet

c. Name of Property

Kunya-Urgench

d. Geographical coordinates

The site proposed for inscription in this file comprises 3 portions of land that are located in the same town, but are not adjacent. A great number of coordinates have been recorded on each of the 3 sections of the site, and can be found on the maps, at the end of this file. (page 245).

Coordinates of the centre of each section:

Section 1:	N 42° 18' 318''	E 59° 08' 494''
Section 2:	N 42° 19' 554''	E 59° 08' 754''
Section 3:	N 42° 18' 906''	E 59° 07' 694''

e. Maps showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone

Four maps are available at the end of this nomination file, p. 245

This includes:

- Map 1: general map showing the whole site (scale 1/10000)
- Map 2: sections 1 and 3 (scale 1/1000)
- Map 3: section 2 (scale 1/1000)
- Map 4: future town developments



f. Area of property proposed for inscription and buffer zone.

The site proposed for inscription is composed of 3 sections that are disconnected by the modern town, which has developed in the centre of the ancient complex.

section	description	area (ha)
1	Southern section: (largest section comprising the minaret and most of the monuments)	333,90
2	Northern part: Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex	14,17
3	Western part: the smallest section comprising Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medressa	5,17
Total		353,14

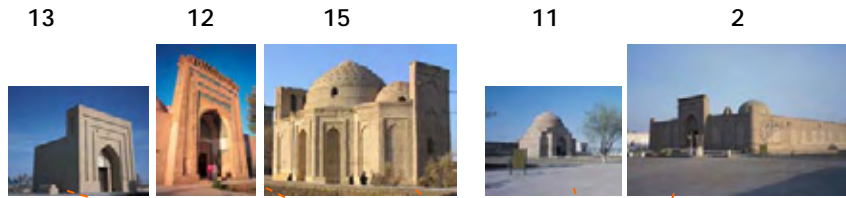
Buffer Zones:

The site is protected by two types of buffer zones:

- The entire "State Historical and Cultural Park", which was created in 1988, is considered as a buffer zone for Sections 1, 2 and 3.
- New by-laws (see appendix 8, page 85) have been created for two additional portions of land, to protect the proposed areas.

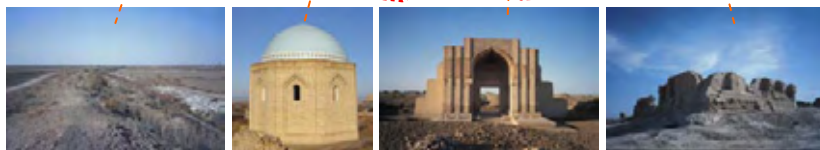
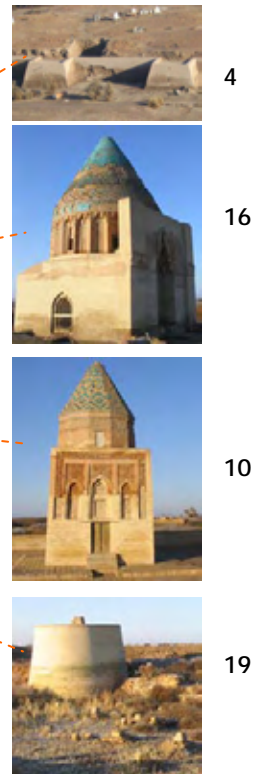
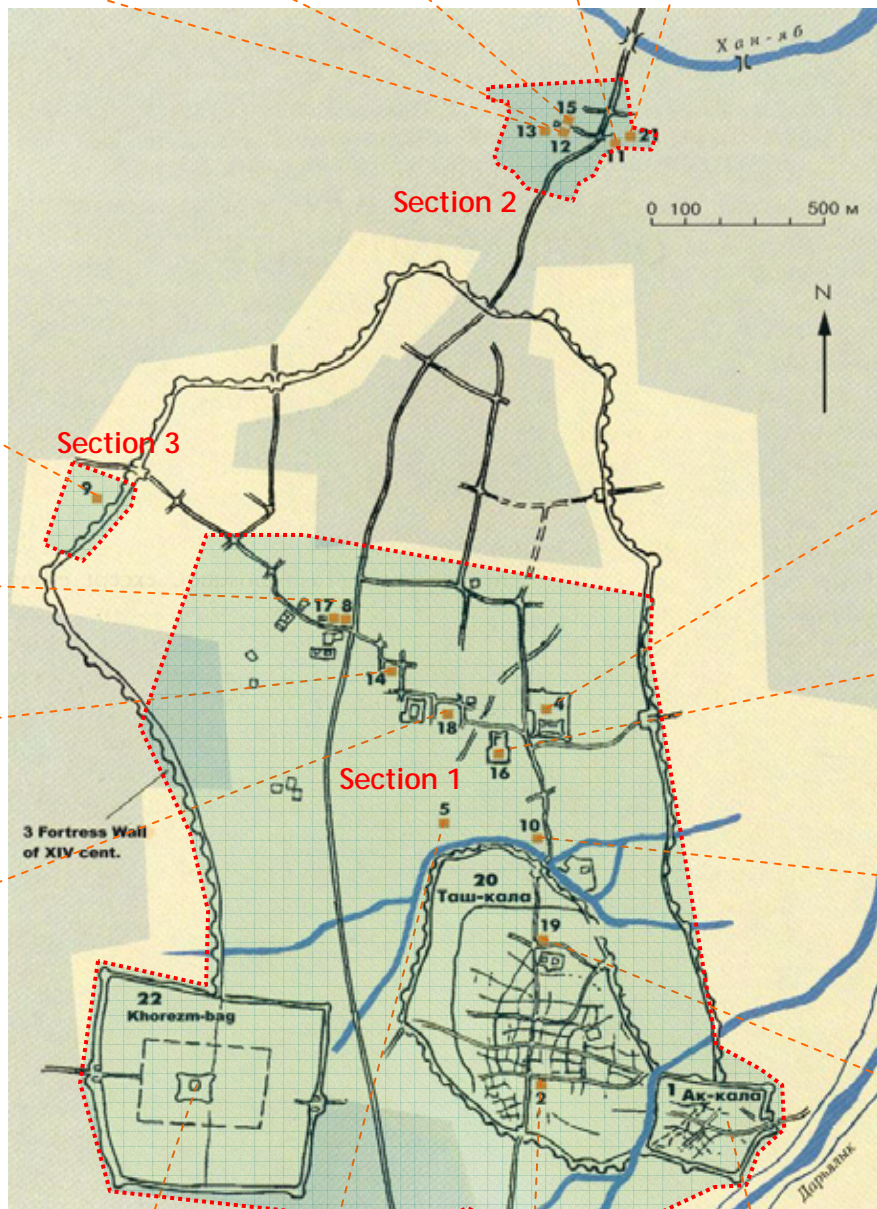
buffer zones	colour on maps	area (ha)
1	Portion of land protected since 1988	648,09
2	New extension created in 2003	21,45
3	New extension created in 2003	213,76

Map showing the location of the monuments and the boundaries of the 3 sections of land proposed for inscription



The numbers refer to the book Gurganj, page 7

- 1 Ak Kala
- 2 Gate of Caravanserai
- 3 Urgench Fortress wall
- 4 Kyrkmolla
- 5 Ali al-Ramitan
- 9 Ibn Khajib
- 10 Il Arslan
- 11 Maktarin Ishan
- 12 Najm Ad-din Al-Kubra
- 13 Piryar Vali
- 14 Seyit Akhmet
- 15 Sultan Ali
- 16 Tekesh
- 17 Turabek Khanum
- 18 Kutlug Timur minaret
- 19 Mamun minaret
- 20 Tash-Kala
- 21 Tash mosque
- 22 Korezm Bag



22 5 2 1

2

Justification for inscription



Eastern elevation of Turabek-Khanum mausoleum

a. Statement of significance

Turkmenistan, the crossroad of the busiest medieval path - the great Silk Road - and the meeting point of western and eastern civilizations, is well known by archaeologists and historians as a great land of history and ancient civilizations. Kunya-Urgench is the largest archaeological site in the north of Turkmenistan, on the left bank of the old Amu-Darya riverbed, representing a vast zone of protected landscape with well preserved monuments of great architectural value, numerous ruins and rich unexplored archaeological sub-layers. There is no doubt about the architectural, archaeological and historical significance of this site.

Architecture

Kunya-Urgench, capital of the ancient Khorezm Empire, is especially striking for its remaining standing structures, and more particularly for its extraordinary 60-m high Kutlug-Timur minaret dating back to the 11-12th Century, which is unique in the world. Other remaining structures are remarkable for their refined medieval Muslim architecture, such as the magnificent mausoleum of Turabek-khanym dating from 1370. Other surviving monuments include fortresses, mosques and minarets, medresses and mausoleums. In addition to these monuments, the remains of four forts lie within the site, including the earliest, Kyrkmolla, dating back to the 4/5th Century BC.

Archaeology

In between the monuments, the rest of the site is covered with earthwork remains of decayed mud brick buildings and is of the greatest importance for its archaeological potential. Since it was abandoned in the middle of the 17th Century, the site is being used as a graveyard only, and the archaeological sub-layers remain well preserved.

History

The history of the city of Gurganj, well-known nowadays by the orientalists, dates far back in the past, with monuments even older than those of Bukhara, Samarkand or Khiva. The capital of the Khorezm Empire was located right here and became the largest and most powerful state union on the Muslim East by the 12-13th centuries. Great individuals like al-Biruni, al-Khorezmi and Avitsenna worked in this city. Even the main forces of resistance to Genghis-Khan troops were here. Numerous archaeological and architectural monuments of great cultural and scientific

importance testify of this rich history.

Traditions

Local people have conserved elements of the rich folklore of post Mongol period. Handicrafts are still produced and used nowadays, and many features of the traditional life style can be witnessed today in the new Kunya-Urgench.

Building tradition

Kunya-Urgench was for a long time an independent school of construction masters. The knowledge of this school spread on the wide Muslim world and can be recognized in the structures, shapes and decoration of many buildings of Timur period in the Kazakh plain, in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, the Golden Horde cities of the Volga region, and also in Transcaucasia, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India. The closest architectural relations are obviously with the other Khorezm territories surrounding Kunya-Urgench. Remains of this influence can be seen in Dekhistan, in South-West Turkmenistan, and also in the Northern provinces of Iran, from Tabriz to Mashhad. In the late 14th Century, Tamerlan employed several architects and builders from Kunya-Urgench, who erected beautiful buildings in Samarkand for him.

The monuments of Kunya-Urgench reflect the vast knowledge and great ingenuity of the local craftsmen, who brought several construction details and decoration techniques to the highest perfection. A great variety of shapes, structures, materials and decoration techniques have been used here. Different types of building structures and unusual shapes of domes are visible here. The monuments also demonstrate the evolution of treatment methods for internal surface of domes, from richly decorated tiled surfaces to stalactites (*muqarnas*). The region has always been known for the superiority of the craftsmen. Even nowadays, the quality of new buildings, whether made of cob, adobe or burnt bricks, is far better than in the southern parts of the country.

Religion

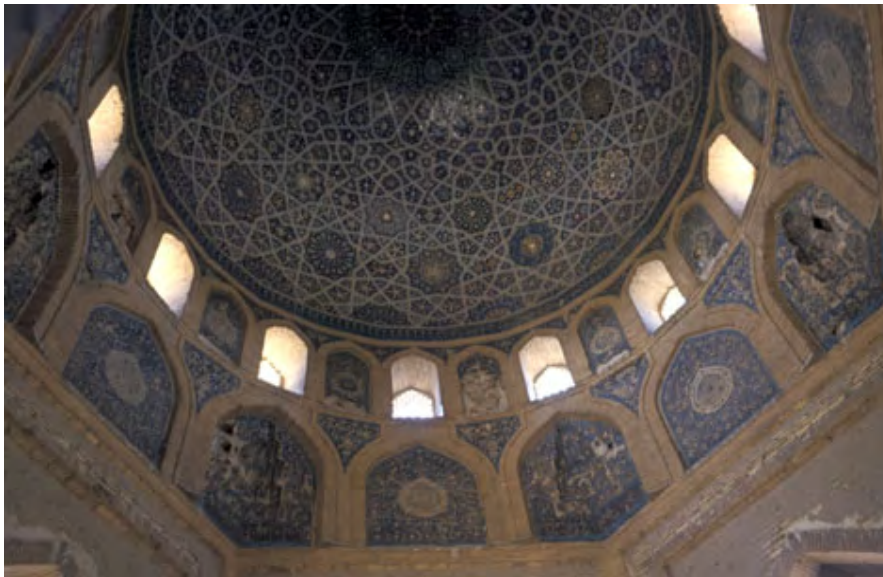
Several religious places such as the mausoleum of sufiyan Sheikh Najm ad-Din al-Kubra still attract Muslim pilgrims even from the most remote countries of Asia. Most of the national visitors (more than 100,000 a year) visit the site for its religious values.

b. Possible comparative analysis

The comparisons that can be made are manifold. The first one will be with other medieval towns in Central Asia, such as Bukhara, Khiva or Samarkand. The second is with other comparable monuments, such as high minarets in the region.

As compare to the above cities, Kunya-Urgench has lost its original urban fabric and only scattered monuments remain intact. Archaeologically speaking, the historical landscape in Kunya-Urgench is much better preserved than in those renowned old cities of Central Asia. After migration of people to a new place in 1646, this territory has never been re-occupied or used for building construction, and was partially turned into a vast graveyard. Moreover, if many historical objects in other biggest archaeological parks of Central Asia have been destroyed as a result of intensive agricultural activity for the whole 20th Century, Kunya-Urgench has also never been exposed to such negative impact. The minimum of human interaction has made Kunya-Urgench a really unique reserve of historical monuments and intact underground archeological layers, yet unexplored.

Several of the preserved architectural monuments of Kunya-Urgench are unique in the world. For example, the mausoleum of Turabek-Khanum (14th century), has its specific spatial composition and decoration which has never been duplicated elsewhere.



Decorated dome on Turabek-Khanum mausoleum

The monuments of this city are distinguished for their high degree of decoration. They show outstanding patterns of classical arabesques in monochrome terracotta and bright brilliance of enamel. Impetuous play of color, enlivening arid geometric patterns, does not rival, but forestalls the total polychromy of posterior monuments of Samarkand, Shakhrisyabz, Herat, Isfahan, Khiva.

The 60 meter tall Kutlug-Timur minaret (11th-14th Century) which bears a high degree of authenticity in terms of material and fabric, is the tallest in Central Asia. Other remains of minarets can be seen in Turkmenistan, one in Kunya-Urgench and two in Dekhistan (south-west Turkmenistan), but the highest of them is only 22 m high. Medieval minarets of Central Asia can be classified under two main styles. What makes a distinction between the two types is the shape of the trunk. Some had plain conical trunk topped with luxurious circular balcony; the minarets of Khorezm, Dekhistan, Northern Iran and Caucasus are of this kind. Minarets of the second style were also conical, but their trunk was stepped. In other words, they were divided into sections of different diameter (getting narrower upwards). This style is typical of the Indo-Iranian subcontinent and the minaret of Jam in Afghanistan, which is slightly higher than the Kunya-Urgench minaret, is a striking example. Kutlug-Timur minaret, (the highest in Inner Asia) is the greatest example of the first style.



c. Authenticity/Integrity

The standing monuments do not reflect the authenticity of the flourishing Khorezm capital, and the layout of the town can not be seen anymore. However the monuments provide authentic examples of the rich architecture, especially from the 12th to the 14th Centuries. Since the inhabitants deserted the town to develop a new settlement, the old Kunya-Urgench, mostly ruined, has remained undisturbed for 3½ Centuries, and the integrity of the land was preserved.

The Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex, surrounded by the modern town, is less isolated than the other two sections of the site, but a wall blocks the view of the new buildings and helps to preserve the integrity of this series of monuments.

The level of restoration and conservation interventions being very different on each individual building, it is difficult to generalize about the level of authenticity. Important restoration works were carried out during the past 30 years, to stabilize the threatened structures. To some extent, over-restoration and reconstruction overwhelms the honest evidence and patina of this site. But it also reflects the trend in conservation of the soviet era, which consisted in completely restoring the monuments rather than conserving them.

In regard to the material aspect of authenticity, the monuments have not been altered. Some of the restoration works have made use of modern burnt bricks replacing ancient burnt ones, slightly affecting the colour of the walls but not its fabric. The partly restored adobe monument (Kyrkmolla) has been restored with adobes.

New materials have only been used for landscaping the land surrounding the monuments, and to channel visitors. This includes the construction of retaining brick walls, narrow concrete paths for visitors, concrete benches, and metal barriers.

Workmanship has remained extremely well preserved, and the techniques used to build the ancient town are still in use today. This ensures that the techniques needed to conserve the monuments are well mastered and will continue to survive. This is not the case in some of the other Turkmen sites, such as Merv (World Heritage Site), where the workmanship is of lesser quality, and high quality bricks are not available. Bricks burnt in the local

Kilns of Kunya-Urgench are still used today to conserve some monuments in Merv.

The remoteness of Kunya-Urgench, far away from the capital also prevents it from the influence of new materials, which would affect the authenticity of the settlement surrounding the site.

A series of archives photographs have been compiled in the second part of this file (page 191). These old photos, some dating back to the 1920's, are compared to present-day photographs showing the site in its current state. This document provides clear indications on the site evolution in the second half of the 20th Century. The photographs clearly show the positive evolution - removal of inconsistent structures or electric poles, cleaning, conservation of threatened elements - as well as the negative ones - over restoration, conspicuous reinforcements, destruction and reconstruction of monuments.

d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed

Criterion (i):

(represent a masterpiece of human creative genius)

Kunya-Urgench is an outstanding collection of exceptional monuments covering a long period in the history of the region. The site embodies an exceptional testimony of the great creativity and advanced building culture developed by the local craftsmen since the 11th Century.

The Kutlug-Timur minaret, the most striking one at first glance, is a masterpiece of creative genius, and is itself worthy of World Heritage Status. Kunya-Urgench displays various building structures, with rare dome shapes. Amongst them are Tekesh mausoleum, with its conical dome built on a high facet-drum, and the monumental Turabek-Khanum mausoleum, which are remarkable examples of this prominent creativity, which has spread over the entire region.

Criterion (ii):

(exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; or)

The ruins are a brilliant testament to the extraordinary skills of the Urgench School of architecture and construction. The architectural styles developed in Kunya-Urgench have exerted considerable influence in the development of religious architecture in central Asia and Iran during the Islamic period. Local architects and craftsmen have participated in the construction of significant monuments in other towns in Uzbekistan and Iran. The Seljuk city in particular influenced architecture and architectural decoration and scientific and cultural development.

Criterion (iii):

(bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; or)

The monuments of Kunya-Urgench and its associated archaeological remains are exceptional testimonies to the power and quality of the Khorezmian capital that rose to great prominence between the 10th and 14th Centuries, before being destroyed by the Mongols. The sequence of the development of Kunya-Urgench, the series of fortifications and their urban lay-outs bear exceptional testimony to the civilizations of Central Asia. Looking at the beauty of the nowadays preserved monuments, one can imagine the splendour of this flourishing capital, once called the "Pearl of Khorezm".

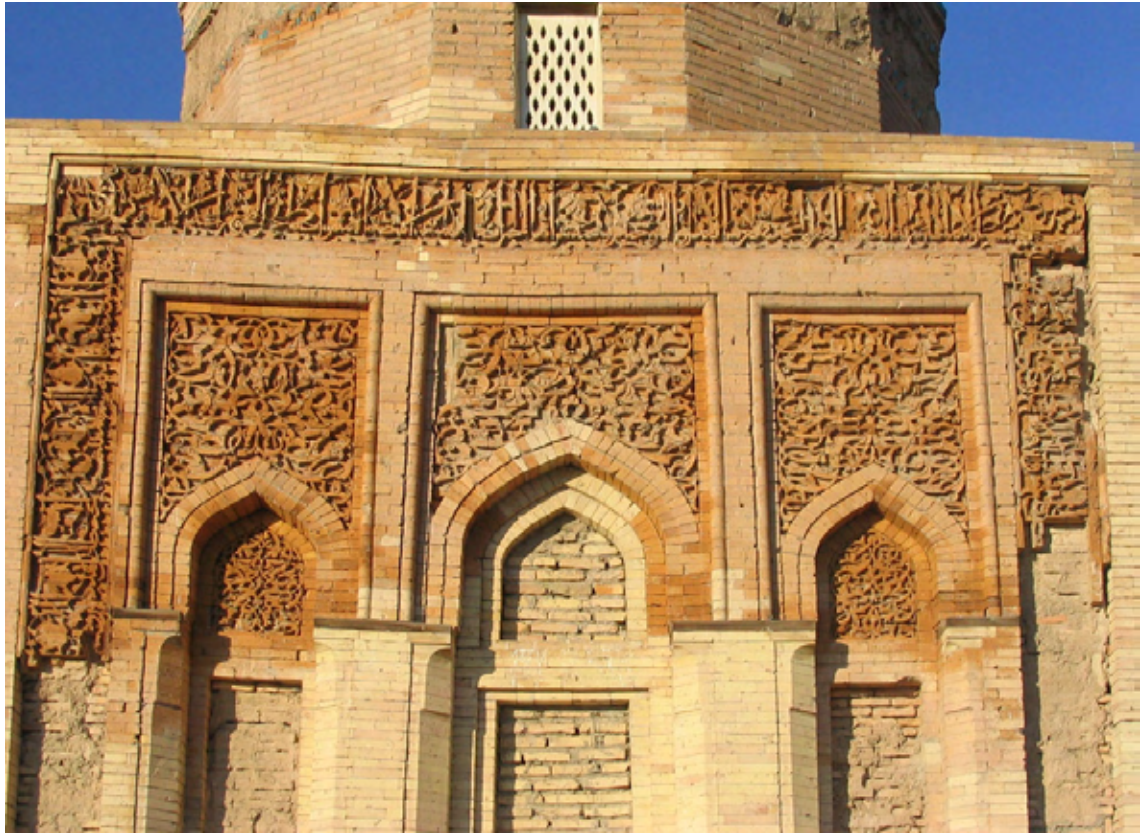
Criterion (iv):

be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or

The monuments of Kunya-Urgench are outstanding examples of Islamic architecture and ornamentation in this region and played a significant role in their further dissemination.

3

Description



Il Arslan mausoleum (top) and Tekesh mausoleum (bottom)

a. Description of Property

More detailed descriptions of the site and its monuments can be found in the book "Gurganj"¹, provided with this file.



General description

Kunya-Urgench was the ancient capital of Khorezm, a historical land situated near the Amu-Daria river. Several settlements have developed on this land over 2500 years.

Today, the site is a major pilgrimage site, but also the most impressive cultural site in Turkmenistan.

The ancient town of Kunya-Urgench is a vast deserted land, almost flat, with remains of ancient fortified towns (Kyrkmolla, Ak-Kala, Korezm-bag), and scattered solitary monuments on it. A detailed excursion tour of the site nearly requires a whole day.

The land has been used as a graveyard in the 20th Century, but this activity has stopped. As a result, several graves of various sizes, in an advanced state of decay can be seen on the empty land, in between the monuments. As they are not maintained, they gradually disappear. As part of the cleaning efforts, the Park staff also removes some of the old graves on a regular basis. Footpaths have been demarcated on this empty land to channel the flow of visitors. Other minor equipments such as benches and dustbins can also be seen. Signboards, showing the plan and indicating the name and the construction date of the monument are also placed in front of each monument.

This "empty" land hides rich archaeological sub-layers. When

¹ *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)*

walking on the site, one may find a large number of unbroken and broken baked bricks, alabaster fragments, pieces of turquoise glazed tiles and other types of coloured ceramics. The main portion of land (section 1) is actually crossed by the Ashgabat - Kunya-Urgench road, and by electric poles. Both the poles and the road will be removed and reconstructed outside the site boundaries in the near future. The other two sections are only accessible by foot.



Eastern part of section 1
seen from the minaret



Road crossing section 1



section of the site Views of the new town, surrounding section 2



Cemetery surrounding section 2



Empty land surrounding section 3

Individual descriptions of significant monuments are given hereunder. Detailed descriptions of other monuments are available in the "Gurganj" book.

Description of Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum

This monument, named after Turabek-Khanum, is located in the northern part of the ancient Gurgench. Some historians do not consider it to be a mausoleum, but rather the palace of the Anushtegyns Dynasty. One of the interesting features of this monument is the decorated dome covering the main hall. The surface of the dome is made of colourful and delicate mosaic panel with the ornament of stars and flowers. From the central hall, it is possible to go down to the crypt, where the ashes of the several representatives of the Dynasty are buried.

Description of Minaret Kutlug-Timur

With its 60 m height, this is the highest monument in the park. The diameter of the minaret at the base is approximately 12 meters, and only 2 meters at the top. The minaret was crowned in the past by a wooden lantern, built on wooden beams, inserted in the brickwork. The top of the minaret is accessible with the internal screw ladder, which starts at 7 m above the actual ground level. Access was possible in the past from the top of the mosque, which is no more visible today. The plinth part of the minaret and the surrounding landscape were completely restored in the 1990's.



Model showing the wooden lantern

Description of Tekesh Mausoleum

This monument, also known as Sultan Tekesh mausoleum, is a semi-cubic structure, measuring 11,45 x 11,45 m, crowned with a 18 meters high 24-sided conic cupola. Sultan Tekesh ruled between the 12th and 13th Centuries.

Description of the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum Sultan Ali Mausoleum and Piryar Vali complex



This mausoleum ensemble is situated in the heart of the new town of Kunya-Urgench, in the middle of a Muslim cemetery. The mausoleum of Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra was constructed in the first half of the 14th Century. The monument is named after Ahmed Ibn Omar Najm-ad-Din al Kubra al Khorezmi. He was born in Urgench in 1145, and became the founder of the Kubravid's school of Sophism. Najm-ad-Din al Kubra was famous not only as a philosopher, but also as a painter, physician, chess master and talented general. Seven books and 24 rubais written by Kubra survive to this day. This monument is a perfect architectural achievement. Its portal dates back to the 12th - 13th Centuries. The monument was rebuilt during the era of prosperity of Khorezm, and again after the Mongol invasion. The mausoleum of Sultan Ali is located on the opposite side of the mausoleum of Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra. This monument is linked to the name of Sultan Ali, who ruled Urgench in the 16th Century. The monument is hexagonal in shape. The diameter of its cupola is 9,5 m.

This mausoleum complex also comprises the little mausoleum of Piryar Vali, located on the western side of the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum. Several people were buried in this mausoleum, such as Shyh Setdar, Sheker Gendji, Daniyar Vali. Piryar Vali was a contemporary of Najm-ad-Din al Kubra. Initially the monument was constructed in the 13th-14th Century. The height of its portal is 6.5 m and length is 7.5 m.

Description of Dash mosque (20th Medressa converted into a museum)

This square building is made of a series of small rooms, opening on a large central courtyard. Built as a mosque, it mainly served as a coranic school, before being turned into a beautiful site museum in the 1990's. This museum presents the history of the site, and the traditional arts and crafts of the region. It also presents several findings from the site and other ancient settlements of the Dashoguz province. Each little room is dedicated to a specific know-how of the rich Turkmen culture (carpet making, pottery, Yurt construction, etc...)

Description of Il-Arslan mausoleum

Il Arslan is a magnificent building, located between Dash mosque and the Mausoleum of Tekesh. This magnificent structure is named after Il Arslan, who ruled from 1156 to 1172. According to scientific theories, this building was used as a water storage.

Description of Kyrkmolla

The Kyrk Molla fortress is a 12 m high mound located in the north-eastern outskirts of Gurgench. It represent the oldest nucleus of Urgench. The earliest ceramics discovered here goes back to the 5th Century BC.

This fortress is protected by a thick mud-brick wall, which has been partially rebuilt after archaeological excavations. It dates back to the 10th to 14th Centuries.

Description of Ibn Khajib complex

The monument of Ibn Khajib, located in the western sector of ancient Urgench, was built in honour of Ibn Khajib, a talented disciple of Najm-ad-Din al Kubra. This monument is actually a complex, different parts of which were constructed in different periods of time, from the 14th to the 19th Centuries. The remains include a burial chamber and premises for the visitors.

Description of Ak-Kala

This fortress is located southwest of the ruins of Medieval Urgench. Their high walls, stretching on more than a kilometre and built with sun dried bricks, have partly survived to our days. The shape of the fortress is still clearly visible. The height of the walls of the fortress ranges from 6 to 8 metres, and the thickness is 2 m at the top. The corners of the fortress

are embellished with semi-circular towers, and the internal face of the fortress wall is reinforced with buttresses.



Description of Khorezm-Bag

This is a quadrangular fortress (400 x 500 m) built in the mid-19th Century in the South-western outskirts of Kunya-Urgench, by Khan Muhammed Emin, who transferred his residence from Khiva. It was surrounded by a high rampart, which is severely eroded but can still be seen today. The fortress is divided in two sections by a wall, in the middle of which stands a large mound.

b. History and Development

No one knows when Kunya-Urgench was founded. Scientists assume that Kunya-Urgench correspond to the ancient town of "Urga", mentioned in the Zoroastrian book called "Avest".

Archaeological findings in the Kyrkmolla Hill also tell us that the town was already strongly structured in the Antique period (4/5th Centuries BC).

Arabs invaded Khorezm in 712 and Kunya-Urgench was given its Arabic name Gurgandj. Due to its location on the main trade routes from the South to the North, and from the West to Mongolia and China, the city soon became a prosperous centre. This crossroad position was a great contribution to the development of science and culture in Central Asia.

Thanks to the Arab manuscripts, more is known about the history of the site over the last millennium.

Kunya-Urgench rose to great prominence between the 10th and 14th Centuries as a major trading centre and as the Khorezmian capital. Many wonderful monuments of that era have survived.

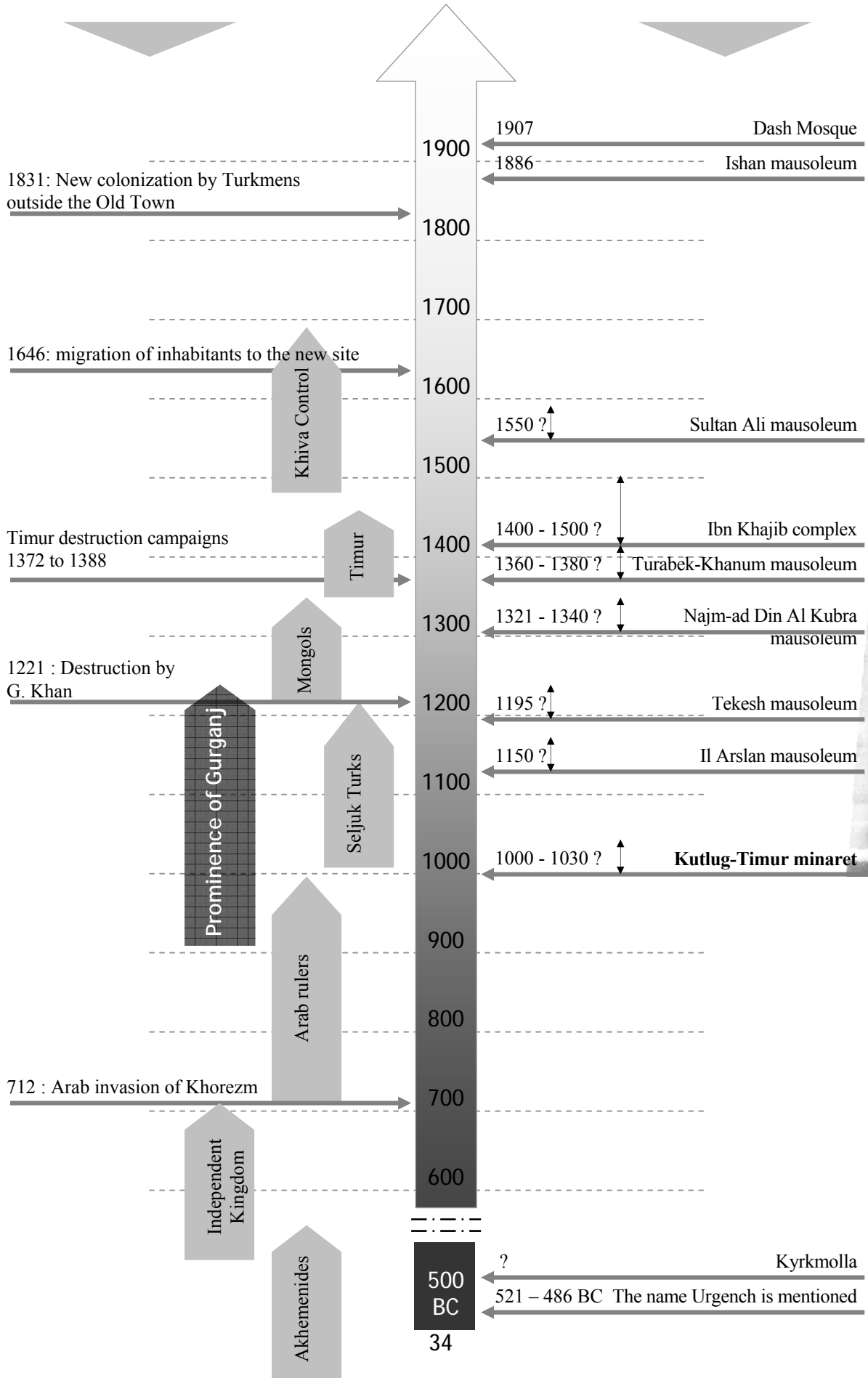
It became the capital of the khanate of Khorezm in the 12th Century and the second city after Bukhara in Middle Asia. Legend tells that Kunya-Urgench was destroyed and re-built seven times. The city was destroyed by the Mongols in the early 13th Century. Despite the Mongol invasion, it regained its previous status and was described in the 14th century by the Arabic traveller Ibn-Battuta as "*the largest, considerable, beautiful and majestic city of Turks with fine bazaars, wide streets, numerous buildings and impressive views*". The city however never recovered from Timur's campaigns against Khorezm between 1372 and 1388 and its decline continued until the 16th Century when it was replaced as a regional capital by Khiva. The town was finally abandoned in the 16th Century. At the same time, the Amu-Darya river also changed its course.

More details on the history of the site and its monuments can be found in the book "Gurganj"², provided with this file.

² Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, *Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)

HISTORIC EVENTS / REIGNS

MONUMENTS



c. Form and date of most recent records of property

As for any of the 1300 gazetted monuments of Turkmenistan, the monuments of Kunya-Urgench are registered on an official inventory form called "*Pasport*", which contains basic information such as its location, use, history, value, state of conservation, protective by-laws, etc... These forms are regularly up-dated, and also serve as monitoring sheets.

The *Pasport* forms are kept in 3 places:

- 1 copy at the Office of the Provincial Director of the Department of Monuments
- 1 copy with the Director of the Department of Monuments, Ministry of Culture, Ashgabat
- 1 copy for with the officer in charge of the territory where the monument is.

d. Present state of conservation

Different levels of intervention can be witnessed on site, from minimal preventive conservation to complete restoration. Some buildings have been entirely reconstructed on top of the ancient foundations. Some others have received no attention at all. The actual state of conservation of the remaining structures therefore varies a lot. The state of conservation of the property should be considered for each individual building.

The main conservation works, implemented with national funding, occurred in the 1980's and 1990's. Another restoration campaign was implemented with UNDP in 1999-2000.

In addition to the present text, the series of photographs³ showing the evolution of the site over the 20th Century is quite evocative of the State of conservation of the site, and the level of interventions carried out on specific monuments.

Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum

Conservation started in the 1980's. Works done between 1983 and 1993 included the restoration of the walls of the mausoleum, including the wall base. Decorative wooden screen walls "panjaras" were restored in the openings, the floor tiles were repaired, the collapsed northern

³ Second part of the present document: Photographic analysis of the site evolution over the past 75 years, by means of comparing archive and recent photographs.

portal was reconstructed, missing carved wooden doors were replaced, the spiral staircase was restored and landscaping work around the monument was implemented.

In the framework of the UNDP programme, implemented in 1999-2000, the inner dome was restored. The small domes on the southern and northern sides of the mausoleum were also restored. On the northern side, the broken arch was reconstructed, and the entire parapet wall, as well as the flat roof (tiled floor and drainage)

Currently the state of conservation is stable. However, urgent intervention is required to save the remaining decorations, both inside and outside. Unique mosaics and architectural details (stalactite domes) are threatened. Pieces of them are frequently detaching from the building, due to the weather, the pigeons, and natural aging.

Minaret Kutlug-Timur

Conservation works done in the 1980's included the complete cleaning and conservation of the lower part. The surrounding land was cleaned-up, levelled and equipped with benches. The spiral staircase was repaired. In the frame of the UNDP programme, the top part of the minaret was partially reinforced. The upper part of the minaret is deformed, the top is inclined 1,25 m away from its original position. This work was not completed due to time constraints, more reinforcement are required to prevent future deformation or collapsing of the upper part (10 m from the top).

At the same time, the plinth part of the minaret and the surrounding landscape were completely restored. The entire brickwork of the minaret needs to be checked and conserved (replacement of missing bricks, and re-pointing mortar joints). The top of the minaret is closely monitored to control its movements.

Tekesh Mausoleum

Major conservation works done with State budgets started from 1983. The foundation was reinforced, the walls were restored, the corrugated drum with the stalactite and the portal arch with its stalactite were reinforced. Inside, the brick work as conserved, and the plasters were completely restored.

The outer conical dome which was covered with glazed bricks is in critical condition today, because of advanced erosion. Some portions of the domes are very thin (less than a centimeter) due to severe erosion, some others

have already collapsed. The external decorations also require conservation (frise, glaze tiles with high relief inscriptions and other tiles are detaching).

Seyet Akhmet

The building was in very poor state and was completely surveyed in 1992. It unfortunately collapsed the following year. It was completely reconstructed on the ancient foundation, using new materials. This mausoleum is therefore totally new.

Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum

Conservation and restoration have been conducted at the end of the 1980's, early 1990's. During this period, all the external and internal walls were restored, all domes (big and small) also restored, panjara screens installed in the windows, carved doors installed in the doorways, manufactured after the existing samples of ancient doors, restored brick tiles on all floors, conducted conservation works in all 4 rooms, inside the mausoleum, walls, brickwork, dome, tromps, and plaster. However, the works conducted have not touched the main portal at the front entrance. Currently, it is leaning about 50 cm out. The stalactites above the entrance as well as the remaining decorative glazed tiles require restoration.

At the same time, inconsistent elements were removed, including a mud brick house built by the religious authorities and several graves.

General landscaping and construction of a short retaining wall around the site also took place, to restrain visitors' movements.

Mausoleum Sultan Ali

Preventive conservation was conducted in the early 1990's. New wooden carved doors were installed. Minor preventive conservation works done. Currently, the monument is still endangered. The walls and the dome are cracked, the portal is leaning out, which has numerous big and small cracks, including in the dome. Monitoring devices were placed on the cracks to follow their evolution. General landscaping was also done around the monument.

Dash mosque (20th Medressa converted into a museum)

Large scale conservation works implemented in the late 1970's, early 1980's. The building was in an advanced state of decay, with many parts ruined. Works included restoration of walls, domes, roof, and landscaping of the

inner yard and surrounding land. It remained unused for 10 years. Later, at the beginning of the 1990's, it was converted into a museum, and new wooden carved doors were installed. Under the UNDP project (1999-2000), the exhibition was enhanced. This entailed the installation of a new lighting and alarm system, installation of panjara screens, showcases and mannequins, and purchase of new artefacts for the exhibits. Signboards were also placed, not only in front of the museum, but in the entire park, in front of each monument. A concrete fence was constructed on the southern and eastern borders of the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex.

Today, the Dash mosque is in perfect condition.

Matkarim Ishan mausoleum.

The building was restored in the late 1980's, and is in perfect condition (like new).

Gate of Caravanserai

Partial restoration works were conducted in the 1980's. The very poor state of conservation required major works to be done. Huge buttresses considerably modified the aspect of the monument, but safeguard the monument from collapsing. Currently, the monument is in a stable condition. Conservation works need to be done on the ornamental glazed tiles and carved bricks, in the internal part of the arch.

II-Arslan mausoleum

Restoration work was done in 1980's. The walls which were in an emergency state were repaired, the brickwork of the 12-sided drum was restored, the interior was also restored, the windows were closed with panjara screens. Carved doors installed. The surrounding site was cleaned and large quantities of earth removed up to the original floor level. Landscaping also included the construction of a retaining wall around the mausoleum. The building can be considered to be in a stable state of conservation. However, conservation of decorative carved bricks will be required. The glazes tile on the 12-sided dome will also require conservation, as they have started to detach.

Kyrkmolla

This monument is a 3-hectares archaeological site which has not been entirely studied yet. Major excavations started in 1991 on the western side of the hill (more than 3000 m³ of soil removed). Excavations allowed discovering the foundation of a defensive wall with towers. Under the

UNDP project, the defensive wall was partly reconstructed with mud bricks, and coated with a straw-earth mortar. Windows were kept to show some of the original bricks. The monument is in a stable condition but requires regular maintenance.

Juma'a mosque and Mamuna minaret

The site is an archaeological site discovered after 1993 excavations. Under the UNDP project, minimal preventive conservation was carried out. The minaret was partially reconstructed, 6 meters above ground level, on the existing foundation. Due to excavations, the level of the site is much lower than the park level. This creates major erosion problem due to the presence of humidity.

Ibn Khajib complex

Conservation on the monuments started in 2001, and continued until today. The building was partially restored (repair on the brickwork and re-pointing mortar joints). The front portal and the southern side were restored. Urgent conservation is required to save the remains of the medressa. General landscaping is also required to drain rain waters away from the site.

Ak-Kala

This site has never been touched by archaeologists or conservators. Only surveys have been carried out. It is in an advance state of decay, and suffers from natural aging due to climatic factors, but archive photographs prove that the decay process is rather slow. Some remaining wall elements, which are severely undermined, require attention.

Fortress wall of Kunya-Urgench.

This wall is almost totally destroyed. Most of it has disappeared, and it can hardly be traced within the new town. Only a long mound of soil remains from it, and the best preserved part of it is on the south-western side of the Park.

e. Policies and programmes related to the site presentation and promotion.

The presentation of the site is quite consistent, in the sense that all signboards and information panels are similar in colour, materials and shapes.



Signboard in front of Il Arslan mausoleum



Pilgrims at Najm Ad-din Al-Kubra mausoleum



Pilgrims

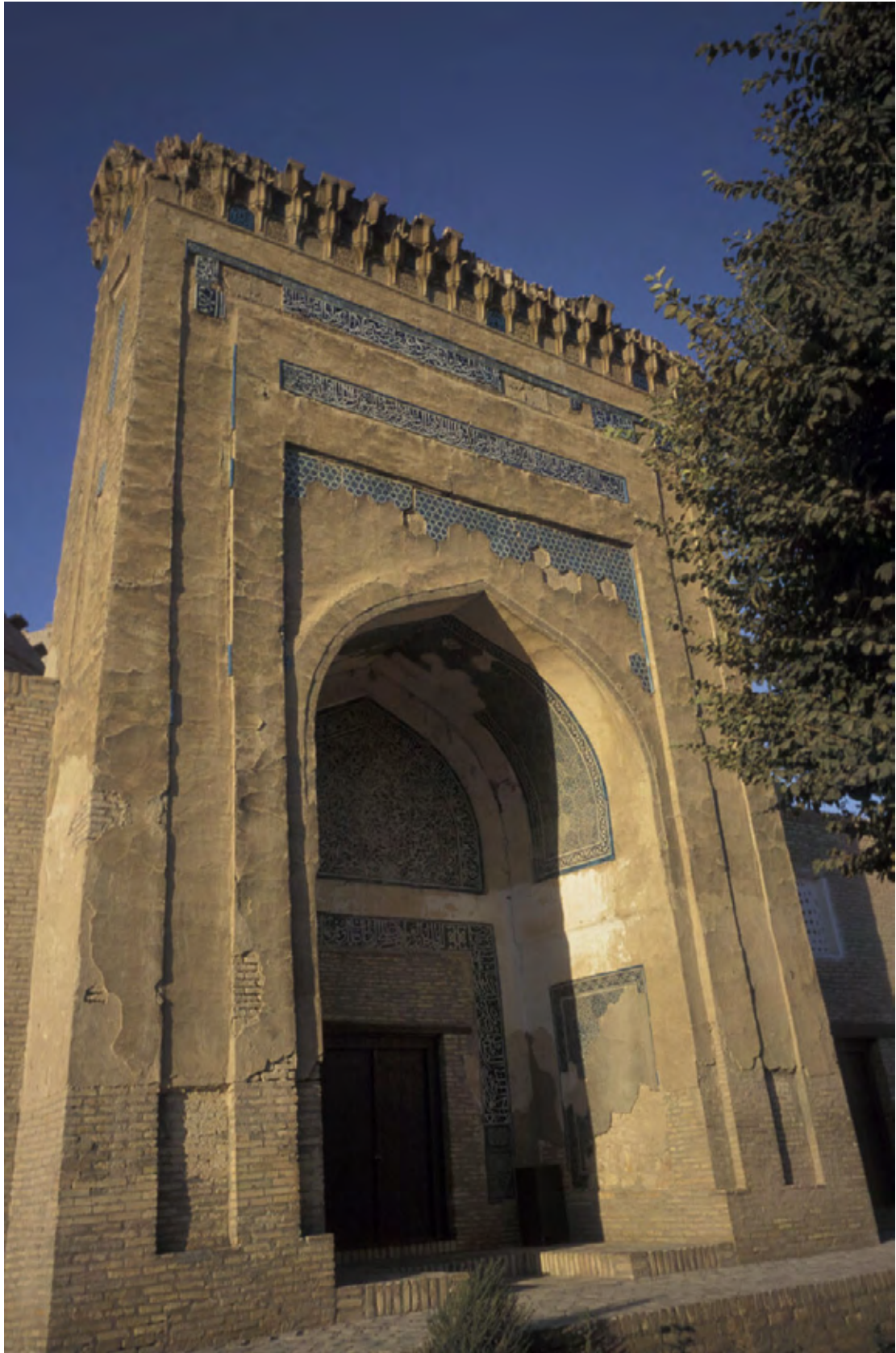


Fothpath and benches

In terms of interpretation, a museum of National crafts has been set up by the government with the technical and financial assistance of UNDP, in the ancient mosque and medressa known as Dash mosque. This building presents the various craft products of the region, and explains the production process for each type of craft, by showing the tools and equipment used to produce them.

4

Management



Portal of Najm Ad-din Al-Kubra mausoleum

a. Ownership

The SHCP-KU is a government-owned land.

b. Legal status

All the monuments in the property are gazetted on the list of historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan, which comprises more than 1300 individual monuments.

In addition, Kunya-Urgench is one of the 8 "State Historical and Cultural Parks" which have been created to protect the most significant sites in Turkmenistan. The SHCP-KU was originally created on the basis of Cabinet of Ministers of the Turkmen-Soviet socialist republic decree dated 17th May 1985, reference N°10085, and was registered at the Vilayet level under decree N° 440/16 from the Hakim of the Dashoguz Vilayet. This decree was officially approved by the State cabinet of ministries on 27th March 1989. The precise limits of the SHCP-KU are given in the State Act N° 007963, dated 18 June 1992 (see appendix 7).

Finally, Kunya-Urgench was one of the 3 first sites proposed on the tentative list with Old Nisa and Ancient Merv, for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

c. Protective measures and means of implementing them

The law of Turkmenistan provides legal protection for all monuments (see extracts of the law in appendix 9). However, being a State Historical and Cultural Park, Kunya-Urgench falls under a much more precise legal text which sets strict rules regarding activities and conservation policies taking place on site. A translation of this text is available in appendix 5, page 76. In addition to this text, special by-laws have been set-up by the Hakim in 2003 to create buffer zones that will reinforce control on the land immediately surrounding the protected site (appendix 8, page 85). The implementation of these laws is ensured by the park staff posted on site, and by the town authorities (police, chiefs of kolkhozes). Breaches of law are actually not possible, as they would be immediately be reported by the security staff or site guides.

d. Agencies with management authority

There are only two agencies with management authority, one in Kunya-Urgench (the SHCP-KU office), and one in Ashgabat (the DPM). The DPM in Ashgabat has legal control and authority to approve projects related to the site, and therefore monitors the site management from Ashgabat. The director of the SHCP-KU is in charge of the site management, but he has to seek permission from the DPM to implement works. The same applies to all archaeological missions, which are not allowed to dig without the permission of the DPM, and without being invited to work by the SHCP-KU director. Important conservation actions are generally executed on site in the presence of a DPM representative.

The Kunya-Urgench Town authorities (Hakim office) are also informed about the annual action plans of the SHCP-KU, and sometimes suggest specific activities to be implemented, but they do not directly interfere with the management, and have no right to implement activities against the will of the SHCP-KU Director or the DPM.

e. Level at which management is exercised and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes

Management is exercised at two levels, at the site level (SHCP-KU office, Kunya-Urgench), and at the national level (DPM, Ashgabat):

- in Ashgabat: Mukhammed A. Mamedov (Head of DPM)

Address: Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan

744000 Ashgabat

Magtymkuli street 73a

Phone: (993-12) 35 05 16 or 35 45 54

e-mail: rum@online.tm

- in Kunya-Urgench: Annamurat Begmuradov, (Director of the SHCP-KU)

Address: Turkmenistan 746370

Daşoguz welayat

Koneurgenç şäheri

Galkynyş köçesi N 69

Phone numbers: office (993-800347) 21 0 08 museum

23 5 71 Medet's office 22 0 14

f. Agreed plans related to property

The law of Turkmenistan contains general policies for the management of the Heritage organisation and the management of monuments. This general plan also provides general guidelines applying to all sites in the country. From this document, more detailed versions have been developed for each individual site, including Kunya-Urgench. It is this last document, which sets guidelines and constraints for the preparation of the annual action plan. A new action plan is prepared at the end of each year. This plan is then sent to Ashgabat, where it is controlled by Berdy Udemuradov, Chief of the protection, research and monitoring of Monuments and Dr. Mamedov.

g. Sources and levels of finance

The Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, via the DPM, is covering all the salaries of the SHCP-KU staff.

All other expenses, including office running expenses and conservation activities, are paid from the tourism income. Entry fee for Turkmen visitors is 1000 Manats (0,05 US\$), and 11000 Manats (0,55 US\$), for foreigners.

Tourism income (in Manats, including entry fees + donations)	2000	2001	2002
from Turkmen visitors	36 960 600	106 841 000	140 480 000
from foreign visitors	11 407 000	13 651 000	18 128 000
Total	48 367 600	120 492 000	158 608 000
<i>equivalent in US\$</i>	<i>2418</i>	<i>6025</i>	<i>7930</i>

Officially, an annual budget is allocated to the SHCP-KU for conservation works (100 Million manats \approx 5000 US\$) . But this budget is unexploited due to complex administrative procedures, which are totally unsuited for the field of conservation. Modification of administrative procedures has been announced by the President at the beginning of 2003. These new procedures should allow all State Historical and Cultural Parks in Turkmenistan to make use of these allocated funds. None of the Turkmen Parks can make use of this fund at the moment.

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

The SHCP-KU staff, with the assistance of the DPM staff in Ashgabat is experienced and qualified to implement conservation works.

A British expert, Roger Capps, was involved in the restoration of monuments under the UNDP programme, implemented in 1999-2000. He worked on the reinforcement of the Kutlug-Timur minaret and the partial restoration of the Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum.

Other specialists include architects Vladimir Artemeyev and Aliya Urmanova from Uzbekistan.

i. Visitor facilities and statistics

Existing facilities:

The site has been quite well developed since the 1980's, in terms of site presentation and interpretation. The following can be found on site:

- Ethnographic museum: an excellent museum (see photos) has been set-up in the medersa, near the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex. This museum was first set-up in the early 1990's, and was completely re-arranged under the UNDP project in the year 2000. It presents the Turkmen arts and crafts (carpet making, wood work, pottery, jewellery, etc...). Most of the exhibited materials were found on site during excavations, or have a direct relation with Kunya-Urgench. Information panels provide information in Turkmen and English.
- Guides:
- Trails are clearly marked and delimited all over the site.
- Signboards: signboards can be found near each monument. Written in Turkmen and English, they give the name of the building, its date of construction, and show the floor plan.
- Parking space is also available for busses and private vehicles.
- Toilet blocks are available near the parking spaces, where tourist busses are parking.
- Publications: Summarised guide books on the history and architecture of the site, and leaflets are available for sale at the museum.

Missing facilities:

Kunya-Urgench does not offer any accommodation facility. Tourists coming from Ashgabat generally sleep in Dashoguz, which is 100 km away. The site also lack restaurant or refreshment facilities, but such facilities are included in the future development plans. In addition, there is no souvenir shop and no restaurant/bar, near the sites.

Visitor statistics:

Kunya-Urgench is the most visited heritage site in Turkmenistan. Visitors mainly originate from the region (Dashoguz Vilayet). Other visitors come from the other regions of Turkmenistan. The number of foreign visitors remains limited, but is on the rise, as shown in the table below.

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Turkmen visitors	35 441	106 841	140 480	161217
Foreign visitors	1 037	1 241	1 648	1600

j. Property management plan and statement of objectives

There are 3 documents governing the site management:

- The Law of Turkmenistan, which provides guidelines (appendix 9, page 87)
- The Policy for the State Historical and Cultural Park, Kunya-Urgench (appendix 5, page 76)
- The action plan, prepared every year and written in Turkmen language. This action plan is a list of planned activities for the coming year, and is prepared by the Park management team and sent to the DPM for approval. A translation of the 2003 and 2004 action plans is available in appendix 3 and 4, page 73.

At the occasion of this nomination process, an additional plan has been prepared to summarise all the above documents. It clearly sets the objectives for the site conservation, and comprises a list of activities to be implemented in the next 5 years. This plan was prepared with a representative of the DPM and the park management team. It still needs to be approved by the DPM.

k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance).

The Park staff consists of 33 staffs, including 3 who work on a part-time basis. A detailed staff chart can be found in appendix 6, page 80 of this document.

5

Factors Affecting the Property



Conical dome of Tekesh mausoleum

a. Development Pressures

The fact that the site is adjacent to a small contemporary urban settlement with a population of 30 000 inhabitants certainly represents a threat. However, all development plans for this town take into account the existence of the site, and do not affect it. New development zones for the town (residential development) are planned on the north-east and eastern parts of the town. Industrial developments are also planned far away from the site, on the Kunya-Urgench - Dashoguz road. (see Map of future developments, last page of the present file)

Currently, development pressure exists, especially around the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex, which is surrounded on the northern and western sides by residential areas. One house owner has already encroached on the site to expand his yard. Future encroachment is unlikely to happen, since the limits of the site and the limits of each individual plots are well recorded at the regional planning office. The law also forbids the construction of new structures/buildings within the SHCP-KU boundaries.

The development of the town (e.g. construction of storey buildings) around the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex could be harmful for the view from the site. A buffer zone has been created to control future developments (see text in appendix 8, page 85, and map on last page).

Farmers also represent a threat to a certain extent. The southern part of the site is entirely surrounded by farmland, and the collective farms are tempted to expand their plantations on the park land, although it is forbidden by the law. Two small portions of the Park appeared to be illegally used for farming activities in April 2003, one in Khorezm-bag (south-west corner of the site), one in the north of Ak-Kala (south-east border of the site). The Hakim has addressed the farmers who have abandoned those lands immediately after the April 2003.

In April 2003, these encroachment issues were raised with the Hakim of the town, who took immediate action. At a weekly town council meeting, the Hakim gave orders to the competent authorities (including deputy Hakims, town development architects, heads of Kolkhozes, head of the police, the chief prosecutor, other politicians and stakeholders) to solve these problems.

b. Environmental Pressures

As for most of the archaeological sites in the area, the high water-table resulting from intense irrigation since the 1950's, causes damage to the site, especially at the base of the buildings, where the soluble salts crystallise.

c. Natural disasters and preparedness

Turkmenistan is a seismic zone (Ashgabat destroyed in 1948), but Kunya-Urgench being far away from the Kopet-Dag mountains, it is in a zone of moderate seismic activity, and all monuments, including the high minaret, have resisted so far.

d. Visitor/tourism pressures

Despite the great number of visitors, the site is not affected by tourism. The visitors remain on the clearly marked paths, and very few

e. Number of inhabitants within property, buffer zone

Within property: Only section 1 of the site is inhabited. 2 family houses are built at the edges of the site, near the cemeteries, far away from the monuments. The Park management is intending to shift these families outside the Park boundaries. Only 10 people live in these two houses.

f. Other

Among other threats, we can mention the problem of archaeological excavations without permission, or without post-excavation conservation. At the moment, it is not a threat. No archaeological diggings have been carried out since the creation of the SHCP-KU in the 1980's. But it is a common threat in the sub-region, and Merv is a good example of the risks encountered by such sites.

More information on the threats affecting can be found in the SWOT analysis, in appendix 3a of the present document.

6

Monitoring

a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation

The key indicators which are checked in the monitoring activities are:

- Activities carried out on site (illegal farming or grazing, encroachment, ...)
- Level of erosion of the base of walls
- Deformation of the structures
- Loss of decoration, such as glazed tiles

b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property

As explained in chapter 3c, the monuments are registered on an official inventory form called "*Pasport*", which contains information on the evolution of the site. These forms are corrected on a regular basis and serve as monitoring sheets.

Monitoring is done continuously by the park security and guiding staff, who are posted at the monuments. They report to the management team all the changes observed (crack, deformation, fall of tiles). The old photographs inserted in the second part of this file show that the erosion/evolution of building is extremely slow. The main changes are due to the intervention of the park staff (repairs and conservation works), and those are systematically documented and inserted in the "*Pasport*".

More precise monitoring activities also exist. It includes the monitoring of the Kutlug-Timur minaret. A special stand for the theodolite has been set-up, and it allows checking if the tower, especially the deformed top part, is not moving.

c. Results of previous reporting exercises

Results of the Monitoring activities are inserted inside the "*Pasport format*".

7

Documentation

- a. Photographs, slides and, where available, film/video
- 54 slides with captions, showing most of the monuments are inserted at the end of the document, page 229
 - Copies of the archive photographs that are kept in photo albums in Kunya-Urgench and Ashgabat are also inserted in this file, page 91 to 190
 - Copies of the existing drawings and maps found in various books are inserted from page 191 to 228
- b. Copies of property management plans

All documents relating to management are in Turkmen. A summary of these documents is inserted in the present nomination file, pages 64 to 79.

c. Bibliography

The following bibliographic reference, included in the nomination package, is available both in Russian and English language. It is the most comprehensive book on Kunya-Urgench. A Russian bibliography is available in it.

- *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (*Russian version published in 2000*)

Other bibliographic references are in Russian, and are not available anymore, apart from the following 3 booklets designed for the general public, which provide a summarised history of the site. Those booklets can be purchased at the Kunya-Urgench museum or in Ashgabat.

- *Yemra Yusupov, The heart of ancient Khorezm*, 14 x 20, 56 pages, Yurt edition, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 1993
- *Yemra Yusupov, Guide on archaeological and architectural monuments of Dashoguz region*, 17 x 26, 32 pages, Turkmenistan publishing house, for Ministry of Culture of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 1990
- *Egen Attagarriev, Terkech Khojanyazov, Turkmenistan, on the great silk road*, 17 x 26, 40 pages Yulem edition, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 1989

Other references (in Russian or Turkmen and out of print):

- *Baklanov N.*, *Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939
- *Trudy*, *Khorezm expedition*, Moscow, 1952
- *Piliavsky V. I.*, *Kunya Urgench*, Leningrad, 1974
- *Yusubov K.*, *Gadymy Horezmin Yuregi*, Ashgabat, 1995

d. Address where inventory, records, archives are held

Archives and records are held in Kunya-Urgench, at the Kunya-Urgench State Historical and Cultural Park office. Copies of these archives are generally available in Ashgabat too.

All projects, including drawings for restoration works and technical reports by engineers are also kept in Kunya-Urgench Park office.

Addresses:

Kunya-Urgench Park office
Annamurat Begmuradov, Director
Turkmenistan 746370
Daşoguz welayat
Koneurgenç şäheri
Galkynyş koçesi N 69
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8

Signature on behalf of the State Party



Gosel Nuralieva

Deputy Prime Minister
and
Minister of Culture and Information
Government of Turkmenistan



Mukhammed A. Mamedov
Head of the National Department for the protection,
study and restoration of the historical and
cultural monuments of Turkmenistan

Appendixes

Appendix 1. Authorisation

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Ashgabat

place

date

signature: Sébastien Moriset
Craterre-EAG

Appendix 2. Management plan

A 2.1. Introduction

The following management plan was prepared at the occasion of this nomination process. This is not a completely new plan. As it is explained in chapter 4f, management policies and plans do exist for the site, and yearly renewed action plans are also prepared by the SHCP-KU director (see appendix 5). This following plan is only a summary of the existing management documents in use, written either in Turkmen or Russian language. This management plan was prepared by Igor Zubanov, DPM, Annamurat Begmuradov, Director of the SHCP-KU, Medet Masharipov, Head of the conservation Department of the SHCP-KU and Sébastien Moriset, CRATerre-EAG (for UNESCO). This plan also takes into account the Kunya-Urgench town development plans, which have been discussed with Bairamdurdy Atdayev, Hakim of the Kunya-Urgench canton and Kurban Tovakov, from the regional planning office.

The following management plan should serve as a tool to ensure:

- partnership and optimal contribution by all parties in reaching the objectives of the plan
- the coherency of all activities developed at the site
- the best use of the available resources
- proper understanding of the factors threatening the site by all stakeholders, and more particularly by local community and visitors
- continuity in the management in case of changes in management.

Three main objectives have been agreed upon for this 5-year plan. They are to :

1. Protect the site
2. Conserve the site
3. Promote the site

A2.2. SWOT analysis

STRENGTHS

1. Park activities
 - urgent measures already implemented
 - all regional monuments registered and territory protected as a State Park
 - conservation works carried out on a regular basis for over 25 years
 - regulations for protection of monuments in place
 - archaeologists now obliged to carry out conservation work as part of their contract
2. Human resources
 - salaries of the personnel paid from the state budget
 - staff of an appropriate size (33 persons)
 - sufficient local specialists and craftsmen for conservation works
 - existing skills (brick production, brick work restoration, wood carving)
 - participation of the park in 1997-2000 UNDP Project with UNESCO specialists
 - specialists from Kunya-Urgench involved in works on other Turkmen sites.
3. Finances
 - park entitled to use significant part of income for conservation
 - tourist excursions bring in (limited) funds
 - appropriate building materials easily accessible.
 - possibility to carry out substantial conservation works with minimal expenditure (materials and labour are cheap)
4. Equipment
 - Good office facilities and 2 computers available, 1 4W drive car, 1 excavator, 2 tractors, 1 truck.
5. Publicity and information
 - good museum within the Park
 - history lessons on site
 - Kunya-Urgench included in school syllabus
 - excursions to Kunya-Urgench for school pupils
 - information provided for local population on the history and monument protection
 - multiple publications in local and national newspapers, TV broadcasting

WEAKNESSES

1. Finances
 - insufficient funding both for large scale conservation works and for regular maintenance
 - small income from tourists, as the cost of ticket for citizens of Turkmenistan is minimal and foreign tourists who pay more are very few.
 - The money issued by the government for restoration can not be utilised due to complex administrative clearing mechanism.
2. Lack of information
 - insufficient publicity for the monuments in Turkmenistan and abroad
 - insufficient information boards for monuments which are outside the park
 - not enough booklets, guides and popular/scientific literature
3. Lack of tourist facilities
 - no hotel accommodation near the park or in town
 - lack of facilities such as eating places, toilets and lavatories, souvenir shops near the park or within the territory
4. Lack of transport
 - not enough vehicles for staff use. This restricts ability to respond in cases of emergency and to visit isolated monuments regularly
5. Lack of high standard equipment
 - the lack of high standard equipment makes it impossible to apply contemporary conservation technologies
6. Inadequacies of current legislation
 - The territory is repeatedly invaded by the local population, domestic cattle, especially in the areas adjacent to dwelling developments
 - inspectors need more rights for dealing with violation of park rules
 - there should be zones of confined development determined, especially in the areas adjacent to future urban developments
7. Miscellaneous
 - public asphalted road runs through the park
 - two fenced cemeteries are functioning in the outskirts of the park

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Finances

- opportunity to obtain funding for conservation from sponsors (local organizations & businessmen)
- The President of Turkmenistan, in a recent speech, has expressed intention to call off complicated clearing operation practice. This will open access to budget finances for conservation works

1. Human resources

- exchange of experience in conservation under way between specialists from this country and elsewhere
- increase of work scope will return skilled restoration workers back to the Park

1. Partnership

- support from the World Heritage Centre
- co-operation with local authorities to seek solutions for major tasks
- Constructions works around park will be done with approval from the state body for protection of monuments.

1. Increasing scale of conservation work

- everybody agrees on the need for conservation, to develop and implement new methods & technologies of conservation

1. Strengthened control of the Park territory

- The new urban development plans will reduce/clear vehicle traffic though the territory of the Park by creating new by pass road on the eastern side
- In 2003, burials on the cemeteries within the park have been stopped

THREATS

1. Human threats

- deterioration of monuments by local inhabitants
- failure to respect the limits of the park by organisations and individuals
- encroachment on the park land at the edges around the Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum complex
- agricultural activity too close to the monuments

1. Natural threats

- climatic factors (rain, snow, wind, drought and frosts)
- air pollution
- salt
- negative influence of numerous birds (litter, mechanical damage of decorative tiles)

2. Finances

- Inadequate funding for conservation work

1. Miscellaneous

- International political situation can influence scale of tourism when potential tourists are afraid to travel (George W. Bush).

A2.3. Key issues

Several monuments in the Park require conservation works to prevent destruction or loss of valuable elements. Some of the activities below are necessary emergency consolidation works (Ibn Khajib mausoleum, Kutlug-Timur minaret). Other listed actions include minimal preventive conservation works (Ak-Kala fortress), or partial restoration (Sultan Ali mausoleum).

A2.4. Management Objectives

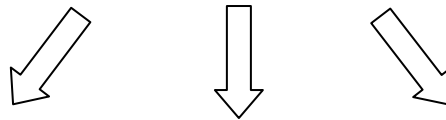
Three main objectives have been unanimously agreed upon for this plan. These are:

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>
1. Protect the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Open the management to a wider range of stakeholders- Liaise with town authorities to control all developments which could directly or indirectly affect the site- Strengthen the legal protection system- Avoid damages due to archaeological interventions- Create awareness on the site importance and fragility- Monitor the site more strictly to stop all encroachments attempts on time.
2. Conserve the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Monitor the site more often to analyse the decay processes and take action when needed- Consolidate threatened structures (Ibn Khajib, Kutlug-Timur)- Conserve the monuments to prevent further deterioration- Improve on the general environment to reduce the deterioration effects (i.e. drainage, cleaning)
3. Promote the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Make information on the Kunya-Urgench site accessible and available locally, nationally and internationally- Spread information not only on the history and architecture, but also on the fragility and need for protection of the site- Create awareness on other monuments in the region- Improve on the site presentation

A2.5. 2004-2008 Action Plan

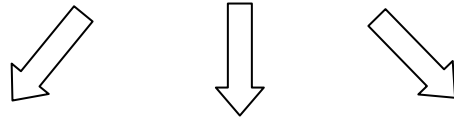
To reach the above objectives, the following activities are proposed. The listed activities are classified by order of priority.

Objective 1: PROTECT



Activities to be established on regular basis	Short term activities 2004	Medium term activities 2005-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry-out complete monitoring of the site every 6 month, to monitor both the monuments and the protected land - Set-up a stakeholders committee for the site protection and conservation, including politicians, site users, neighbouring communities, etc... - Strictly supervise all archaeological works (if any), in order to avoid any damage on the monuments, and ensure post-excavation conservation. - Collaborate with Hakimlik to agree on amendments of the urban territory development plans - Send messages to the population via the medias and via school lectures, to make them aware of the importance and fragility of the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain agreement from the concerned parties on the present conservation plan - Cooperate with Hakimlik on the definitive closing of the cemetery - Cooperation with Hakimlik for the issue of relocation of road - Prepare necessary documentation and agree with Hakimlik on Buffer zones by-laws, and means of implementation - Entrustment to individuals of certain parts of the Park territory - Collaboration with Hakimlik 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of a fence to demarcate the borders in the areas where there is no natural or artificial barrier, especially near the dwelling

Objective 2:
CONSERVE



Activities to be established on regular basis

- Carry-out complete monitoring of the site every 6 month, to monitor both the monuments and the protected land, and record all observations in a data filing system

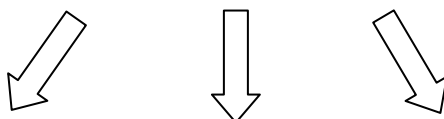
Short term activities
2004

- Prepare conservation project designs (costing, technical specifications)
- Prepare a drainage project
- Raise funds for the planned activities
- Produce and stockpile building materials (burnt bricks, stabilisers ...)
- Dismantle electric poles and lines, and replace by buried cables

Medium term activities
2005-2008

- Select and train new staff
- Increase existing capacities (scope of works, equipment, technical capacities)
- Implement new conservation techniques on the basis of experimentations
- Implement emergency and preventive conservation of mud brick structures at Ak-Kala fortress
- Conserve and partially restore Sultan Ali mausoleum
- Complete the reinforcement of Tugluk Timur minaret
- Conservation of Jumaa mosque complex (drainage and landscaping)
- Installation of window screens at Tekesh mausoleum
- Conservation and partial restoration of Ibn Khajib mausoleum
- Landscaping of the territory around Turabek Khanum
- Development of nominal tariffs for the works conducted
- General landscaping of the territory
- Implement works to improve on the site drainage
- Implement a training programme with international assistance on the conservation of earthen and brick monuments.

Objective 3:
PROMOTE



Activities to be
established on regular
basis

- Keep stocks of the most successful scientific literature
- Re-print the most successful scientific literature
- Give lectures on monuments for middle and high schools in the Kunya-Urgench and Dasoguz Vilayets

Short term activities
2004

- Prepare booklets and guides on Kunya-Urgench and Dasoguz Vilayet monuments
- Conclude contracts with the tourism sector for publication of leaflets, erection of billboards, etc...
- Organise the manufacturing of souvenirs symbolising the monuments (such as models of the monuments)
- Fabricate and install signage at the entrance of the site

Medium term activities
2005-2008

- Prepare a travelling exhibition on Kunya-Urgench
- Produce promotional products (bags, T-shirts, ...)
- Develop of new routes to send visitors to other sites in the region
- Creation a Web page on Kunya-Urgench (or up-date an existing official web-page)

Appendix 3. 2003 Action plan

Annual Action Plan for Kunya-Urgench Park, year 2003

APPROVED BY :
The Ministry of Culture
National Department for Protection,
Study & Restoration of Monuments

Part 1: WORKS

	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION	ACTION BY
1	Preparation of general lectures including new material on archaeology and architecture of monument located in Dashoguz Vilayet	1-3 quarter	Scientists of the Park
2	Organization of training for Parks staff	Every Friday; for 1- ½ hour	Dep. Director for Science
3	Organize guidance for visitors and foreign tourists	Constantly	Scientists
4	Work conducted by the Park: a) publishing articles in local press, radio and TV broadcasting at least 15 times a year	In course of the year	Scientists
5	Organize meetings and lectures in regional organization and education institutions devoted to explanation of Rukhnama content	Constantly	Scientists
6	Organizing Clubs of Young Historians & Guides in local schools.	Constantly	Scientists
7	Organizing traveling exhibitions devoted to Archaeological, Architectural, Historical & Cultural monuments of Dashoguz Vilayet	3 rd - 4 th quarters	Scientists
8	Organize study, registration & preservation of existing and new finds in the Museum and Park.	In course of the year	Scientists
9	Organize documentation and compilation of protective documents for architectural, archaeological & cultural monuments of Dashoguz Vilayet	In course of the year	Scientists
10	Organize collection of photos, legends & books related to historical monuments	In course of the year	Scientists
11	Organize meetings and lectures in regional organization and education institutions devoted to the topic of "The Country of Kunya-Urgench & Historical monument of Urgench"	In course of the year	Scientists
12	Constant observation and control for protection of monuments which belong to the Park	In course of the year	Scientists
13	Organize service to groups of tourist & visitors to historical monuments	In course of the year	Scientists
14	Organize individual conversations (questions and answers on Historical monuments located on territory of Dashoguz Vilayet) at least 90 times a year	Constantly	Scientists
15	Whenever possible conduct restoration and works on individual monuments	Constantly	Administration
16	Supervise and control archaeological excavations in park	Constantly	Administration

Part 2: STAFF TRAINING

	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION	ACTION BY
1	Organize constant seminars for Park's Scientists on Archaeological Works of Turkmenistan.	Constantly	Administration
2	Organize missions of the Park's scientists to the other parks of Turkmenistan for expertise exchange		
3	Organize missions for new museum items acquisition in settlements of Dashoguz Vilayet		
4	Take active part action undertaken by The Ministry of Culture, The Institute of History &		

Appendix 4. 2004 Action plan

Annual Action Plan for Kunya-Urgench Park, year 2004

APPROVED BY :
The Ministry of Culture
National Department for Protection,
Study & Restoration of Monuments

Part 1: WORKS

	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION	ACTION BY
1	Preparation of general lectures including new material on archaeology and architecture of monument located in Dashoguz Vilayet	1-3 quarter	Scientists of the Park
2	Organization of training about architectural and historical monument of Kunya-Urgench for Museum's staff	Every Friday; for 1- ½ hour	Deputy Director for Science
3	Organize for workers and pupils a Rukhnama (spiritual) day on Saturdays	Constantly	Scientists and guides
4	Organize guidance for visitors and foreign tourists	Constantly	Scientists
5	Organize excursions for tourists from foreign countries, from other parts of Turkmenistan at historical and architectural memorials of Kunya-Urgench reservation at least 3000 times a year	1-3 quarter	Scientists of the Museum
6	Organize lectures about historical and architectural memorials of Kunya-Urgench at least 300 times a year	Every Friday	Scientists of the Museum
7	Give an interview to local press, radio and TV broadcasting about museums functions and new archaeological finds	Constantly	Scientists and guides
8	Work conducted by the Park: a) publishing articles in local press, radio and TV broadcasting at least 15 times a year	In course of the year	Scientists
9	To study, collect and write an articles about historical and architectural monuments of Dashoguz Vilayet for newspapers	Constantly	Scientists
10	Organize exhibitions on National Holidays	On Holidays	Scientists
11	Organize meetings and lectures in regional organization and education institutions devoted to explanation of Rukhnama content	Constantly	Scientists
12	Continuation of excavation works on Kyrkmolla hill, Caravanserai, Tash Kala by plan and constantly learning	Constantly	Scientists
13	Maintain close relations with teachers of history of Vilayet and help them on methodology	Constantly	Scientists
14	Organizing Clubs of Young Historians & Guides in local schools.	Constantly	Scientists
15	Organizing travelling exhibitions devoted to Archaeological, Architectural, Historical & Cultural monuments of Dashoguz Vilayet	3 rd - 4 th quarters	Scientists
16	Organize lectures devoted to the topic of Rukhnama "The Country of Kunya-Urgench & Historical monument of Urgench" 1 hour 20 minutes	1-2 quarter	Scientists
17	Constant observation and control for protection of monuments which belong to the Park	In course of the year	Scientists
18	Organize service to groups of tourist & visitors to historical monuments meets to the orders of museum-reservation	In course of the year	Scientists
19	Organize individual conversations on History and future of Kunya-Urgench, about museum's functions on territory of Dashoguz Vilayet) at least 20 times a year	Constantly	Scientists
20	Supervise and control archaeological excavations in park	Constantly	Administration
21	Continuation of restoration works on "Turabek Khanum", "Minaret of Kutlug timur", "İbn Khajib", "Sultan-Ali", " and	Constantly	Administration

	Mamun minaret"		
22	Starting second phase of restoration works of upper cupola of Turabek Khanum mausoleum	Constantly	Administration
23	Starting to restore Sultan Tekesh mausoleum cupola	In course of the year	Administration
24	Supervise and control archaeological excavation (if any) and any other digging works in park	Constantly	Administration
25	Supply the site with necessary materials for conservation/restoration works	Constantly	Administration and Scientists
26	Organize study, registration & preservation of new finds in the Museum and Park	3-4 quarter	Scientists
27	Organize documentation and compilation of protective documents for architectural, archaeological & cultural monuments of Dashoguz Vilayet	In course of the year	Scientists
28	Organize collection of photos, legends & books related to historical monuments	In course of the year	Scientists
29	Help in organizing of museums and history rooms in organizations and schools	Constantly	Scientists
30	For 24 memorials which located in Kunya-Urgench Park create new explanation boards	1-4 quarter	Scientists And Administration

Part 2: STAFF TRAINING

	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION	ACTION BY
1	Organize constant seminars for Park's Scientists on Archaeological Works of Turkmenistan.	Constantly	Administration
2	Organize missions of the Park's scientists to the other parks of Turkmenistan for expertise exchange	In course of the year	Administration
3	Organize missions for new museum items acquisition in settlements of Dashoguz Vilayet	Constantly	Administration

Appendix 5. Conservation policy for the SHCP-KU

Document prepared by the Chairman of the National Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan (DPM), M.A. Mamedov, in the year 2000.

The current policy was developed on the basis of the generic policy about state historical and cultural parks approved by the Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan.

Policy for the State Historical and Cultural Park, Kunya-Urgench

I. General statements

1. Legal basis

The State Historical and cultural park Kunya-Urgench (SHCP-KU) was created on the basis of Cabinet of Ministers of the Turkmen-Soviet socialist republic decree dated 17th May 1985, reference N°10085, and is an ensemble of national monuments of historical and spiritual value.

2. The 3 main objectives of the SHCP-KU are to:

- preserve archaeological and architectural monuments, and control all archaeological excavations on the Park
- promote the site
- encourage people to learn the history and culture of Turkmenistan

For the above mentioned objectives, the office of the SHCP-KU:

- a. collects and preserves elements of movable and immovable heritage, which are primary sources for a scientific knowledge about the development of our society.
- b. creates exhibitions, both permanent and travelling exhibitions
- c. works on spreading a scientific knowledge about the history of the area, cultural heritage of Turkmenistan, by providing tour guidance, giving lectures, publishing articles in the newspapers, broadcasting on the radio and television, and any other actions.
- d. conducts both independent and joint scientific researches with the institute of history of the cabinet of ministers of Turkmenistan and other organisations research, in the field of archaeology, arts, history and ethnography.
- e. SHCP-KU is subordinate to the DPM.

3. The SHCP-KU has a right of legal entity. It possesses a round stamp, with its own name, and a triangular stamp of fixed pattern, as well as a budget and current account.

4. The SHCP-KU has the right to generate incomes or collect fees from those using movable or immovable elements of the site/the museum, in press releases, radio announcements, television programmes, movies and advertisements.

5. Closure or re-organisation of the SHCP-KU may only be done by the decree of the President of Turkmenistan.

II. Management guidelines

6. All immovable monuments or items included in the SHCP-KU, such as buildings, structures, and associated territories, as well as memorial sites are in the asset register. The park is responsible for their preservation, and usage as the local body of protection of monuments in accordance with the law of Turkmenistan "protection of monuments of History and Culture" and instruction "about the order of monitoring, provision of conservation, preservation and restoration of Immovable historical

and cultural monuments". In the asset register of the SHCP-KU, there are: territory with approved limits, as well as all buildings and structures regardless of their purpose and use at the date of creation of the Park.

Industrial, agricultural, and other enterprises, institutions, organisations, and citizens are responsible for damage to monuments and breach against this policy of the Park, in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan.

The state park as a monument protection body, has the right to issue fines for the breach of policy and rules of usage of historic and cultural monuments.

7. On the territory of the Park, it is forbidden:

- a. to build any new construction;
- b. to use cultural monuments for household needs;
- c. to lay cables, pipelines and electric or other lines which are not necessary for the requirements of the Park;
- d. to allow dwelling of private individuals, including park staff;
- e. to guide tourists and carry out all other educational activities by non authorized persons, organisations, or enterprises, without permission of the Park administration.

In case of discovery of the above breaches of law, the administration is eligible to liaise with the competent authorities for their immediate punishment.

8. All restoration and reinforcement works on the SHCP-KU monuments will be conducted under project designs and cost estimates approved by the DPM.

III. Scientific and educational Work

9. The SHCP-KU, on the basis of the historical and cultural monuments, the exhibits, is conducting mass scientific and educational work, the content and forms of which are determined by the purposes of a cultural revival and development of Turkmenistan.

10. The basic forms of scientific and educational work of the SHCP-KU are:

- Provide guidance on the conservation of monuments of history and culture, exhibitions, and stock of relics/heritage items;
- Providing effective conditions for individual observation of exhibitions by the visitors, sale of guide books, booklets, leaflets on the monuments, and postcards with explanatory texts, etc...
- Broadcasting on the radio, television, and publishing articles in periodical press;
- Political education for the youth, cooperatively with veterans' committees.

11. The SHCP-KU has the following rights:

- Develop enterprises in the approved order within the SHCP-KU, possessing rights of legal entity and subordinate to the director of the SHCP-KU. Their activity must strictly meet the purposes and tasks of the current policy, directed to production and sale of various souvenirs to the visitors of the site;
- Provide visitors with various services including the organisation of various forms of tourist services;
- Create a farm (outside the park) for the benefit of the staff

12. The SHCP-KU is organising services for visitors in the most convenient time for them, taking into account local conditions, and the amount of tourists. The SHCP-KU must be open to visitors on the week-ends and holidays.

IV. Monitoring, protection and restoration of immovable items

13. In cooperation with the DPM, the SHCP-KU is monitoring monuments and memorial places located within the site limits, is filing data, discovering new monuments in the Vilayet, issuing proposals for

their protection under the agreed order, and undertaking measures for their preservation before the final decision is made.

14. The SHCP-KU is the client of all restoration works, and is responsible for the presentation and use of the monuments within its territory.

15. The SHCP-KU concludes agreements with the project design organisations for development of design and cost estimates, documentation on the objects to be restored, agrees on the documentation with the DPM.

16. The SHCP-KU concludes agreements with contracted organisations for restoration, conservation and other works, conducts reception of the completed works from the contracted organisations.

17. The SHCP-KU concludes agreements with the project design organisations for the supervision of the restoration team.

18. The SHCP-KU supervises development in the project documentation, survey works, which could interfere with the protection policy and the territory of the park and its protected zones. The park requests for agreement a project document and a detailed design proposal for projects planned on the park.

V. Organisational structure, reporting system, economic activity

19. The park is headed by the Director who is responsible for all its activities, stocks, properties, and financial resources. The director approves necessary policies on the divisions of the park, job descriptions and work schedules.

20. The Director of the SHCP-KU is appointed by the Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan, under recommendations from the DPM. The rest of the staff is appointed by the Director. The park staff possesses job identification cards.

21. The organisational structure of the park allows the following departments and divisions:

- Director office
- Department for restoration, protection, and exhibits collection, and use of immovable heritage items
- Monitoring and storage department
- Museum department
- Mass-cultural and educational work department
- Photographic department

22. The SHCP-KU administration has a scientific committee consisting of volunteers and acting as a deliberative and consulting body consisting of:

- Director (Chairman)
- Representatives of scientific institution
- Representative of public organisations
- Architects

Note : Membership and decisions taken by the scientific committee require approval by the DPM

23. Annually, the park submits accounting reports to the DPM, and summary reports on all financial and technical activities. Statistical reporting on the restoration work is submitted on a quarterly basis. Accountant's reports are signed by director and the Chief accountant. Deputy Director for science reports for the quarterly results.

24. The resources of the park consist of:

- a. Annual budget
- b. Special resources are acquired from entry fees, for guidance, from selling posters, calendars, souvenirs, and advertisement, booklets, guidebooks, etc... from rental fees for the use of the

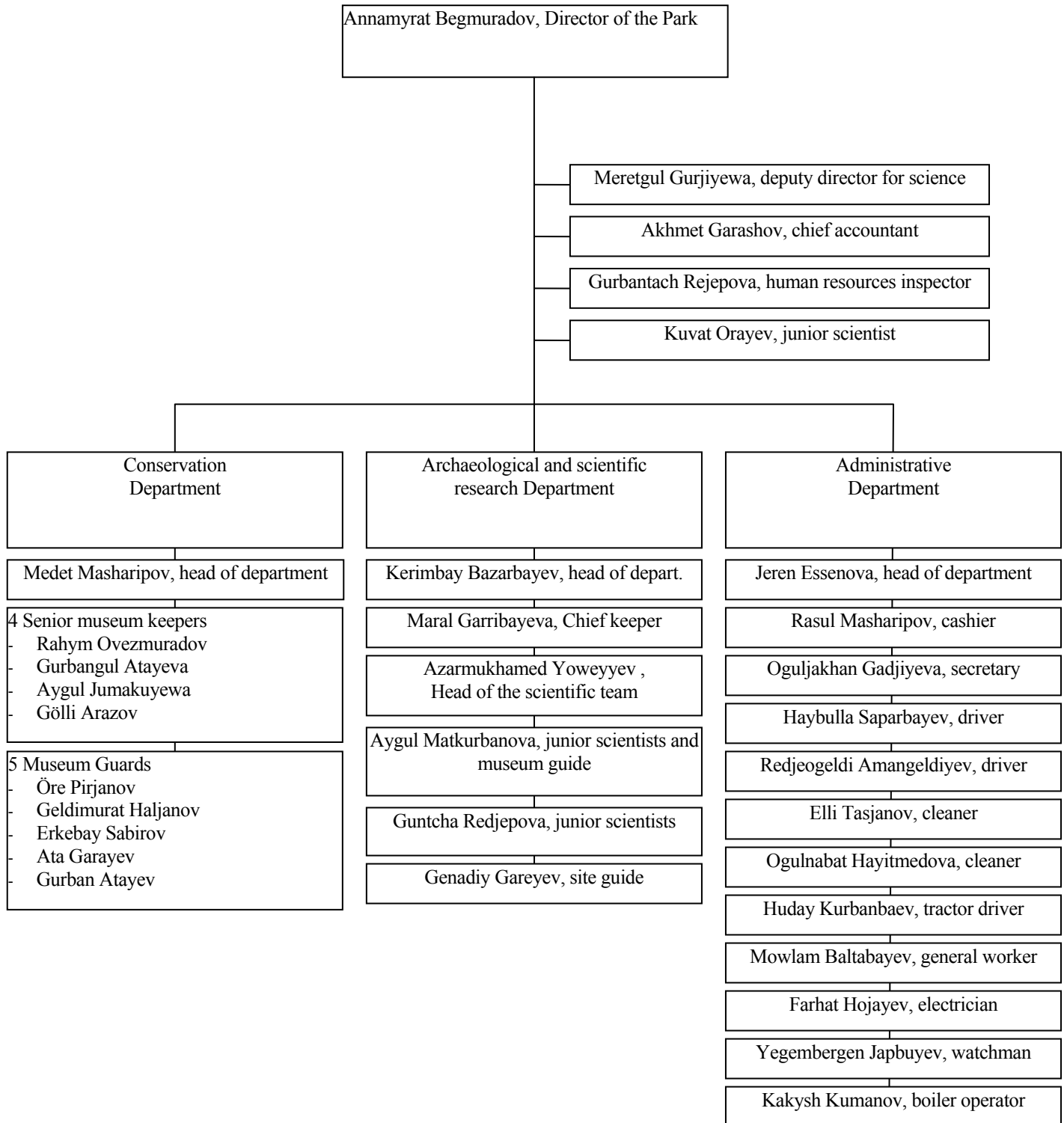
monuments, sponsored assistance, from the other types of economic activities of the park such as services to visitors and other incomes mentioned in the list of special out of budget resources.

25. Cost estimates using the budget are approved by the Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan. The park Director allocates credits from the budget and from special resources. Persons responsible for material values are appointed by the park Director.

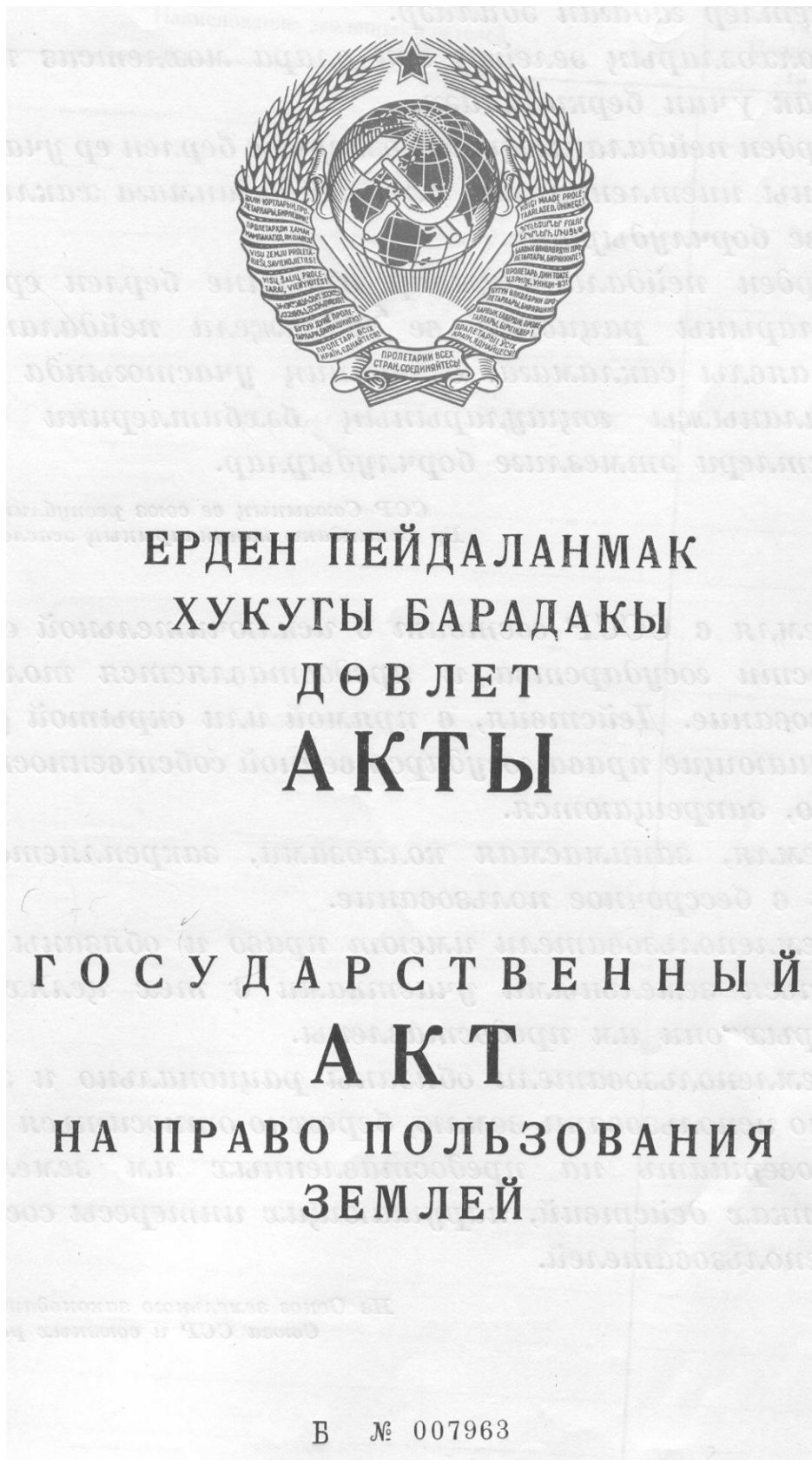
26. The SHCP-KU has the right to organise free-lance guides on the self-finances basis, production and sales of souvenirs, replicas, etc... , provide visitors with various types of services.

Appendix 6.
SHCP-KU staff diagram (in 2003)

The diagram below includes the permanent staff only, and excludes the additional workers who are employed when conservation works are implemented.



Appendix 7. State Act indicating the boundaries of the SHCP-KU



Ер СССР-де дөвлетинң эчилигинде дуряр ве диңе пейдаланмак үчин берилйәр. Ере дөвлет эчилиги хукугыны гөс-гөни я-да яшырын формада бозян херекетлер гадаган әдилйәр.

Колхозларынң әелейән ери олара мөхлетсиз пейдаланмак үчин беркидилйәр.

Ерден пейдаланыжылар өзлерине берлен ер участкаларыны ниетленилиши ялы пейдаланмага жаклыдырлар ве борчлудырлар.

Ерден пейдаланыжылар өзлерине берлен ер участкаларыны рационал ве نتیжелли пейдаланмага, оны аявлы сакламага, өзлериниң участогында ерден пейдаланыжы гоңшуларынынң бәхбитлерини бозян херекетлери әтмезлиге борчлудырлар.

ССР Союзынынң ве союз республикаларынң Ер жакындакы канунларынынң әсасларындан

Земля в СССР состоит в исключительной собственности государства и предоставляется только в пользование. Действия, в прямой или скрытой форме нарушающие права государственной собственности на землю, запрещаются.

Земля, занимаемая колхозами, закрепляется за ними в бессрочное пользование.

Землепользователи имеют право и обязаны пользоваться земельными участками в тех целях, для которых они им предоставлены.

Землепользователи обязаны рационально и эффективно использовать землю, бережно относиться к ней, не совершать на предоставленных им земельных участках действий, нарушающих интересы соседних землепользователей.

Из Основ земельного законодательства Союза ССР и союзных республик

Дөвлет акты Көнечргенч дөвлет тарыхы медени музей-заповедниги
Государственный акт выдан (ерден пейдаланыжының ада ве онуң ерлешен ери—

Көнечргенчскому государственному историко-культурному музею-заповеднику
наименование землепользователя и его местонахождение)

Туркменстан республикасының
Туркменской республики
Халк депутатларының
исполнительным комитетом
(шәхер) Советиниң
(городского) Совета народных депутатов в том, что за
берилди, яғны гөркезилен ерден пейдаланыжа мөхлетсиз ве
указанным землепользователем закрепляются в бессрочное и
мүгт пейдаланмак үчин 648.09 гектар ер пейдаланылян
бесплатное пользование 648.09 гектаров земли в границах
ерлеринң планына лайыклықда беркидилйәр.
согласно плану землепользования.

Ер гораг зонасыны дөретмек ве жемишелик пейдаланмак
Земля предоставлена в постоянное пользование под охранныю зону

Учин берилди.
(максады, ниетлениши — цель, назначение)

Шу дөвлет акты ики экземплярда дүзүлди, шолардан
Настоящий государственный акт составлен в двух экзем-
плярнах, из которых первый выдан землепользователю, второй
депутатларының район(шәхер) Советиниң исполнитель
хранится в исполнительном комитете районного (городского)
комитетинде сакланяр.
Совета народных депутатов.

Акт ерден пейдаланмак хукугы барадакы дөвлет акт-
Акт зарегистрирован в Книге записей государственных
ларының язгылар Китабында регистрирленди № 71
актов на право пользования землей за



Халк депутатларының
Председатель исполнительного комитета

Көнечргенч район (шәхер) Советиниң
Көнечргенчского районного (городского) Совета
исполнитель комитетинин башлыгы
народных депутатов

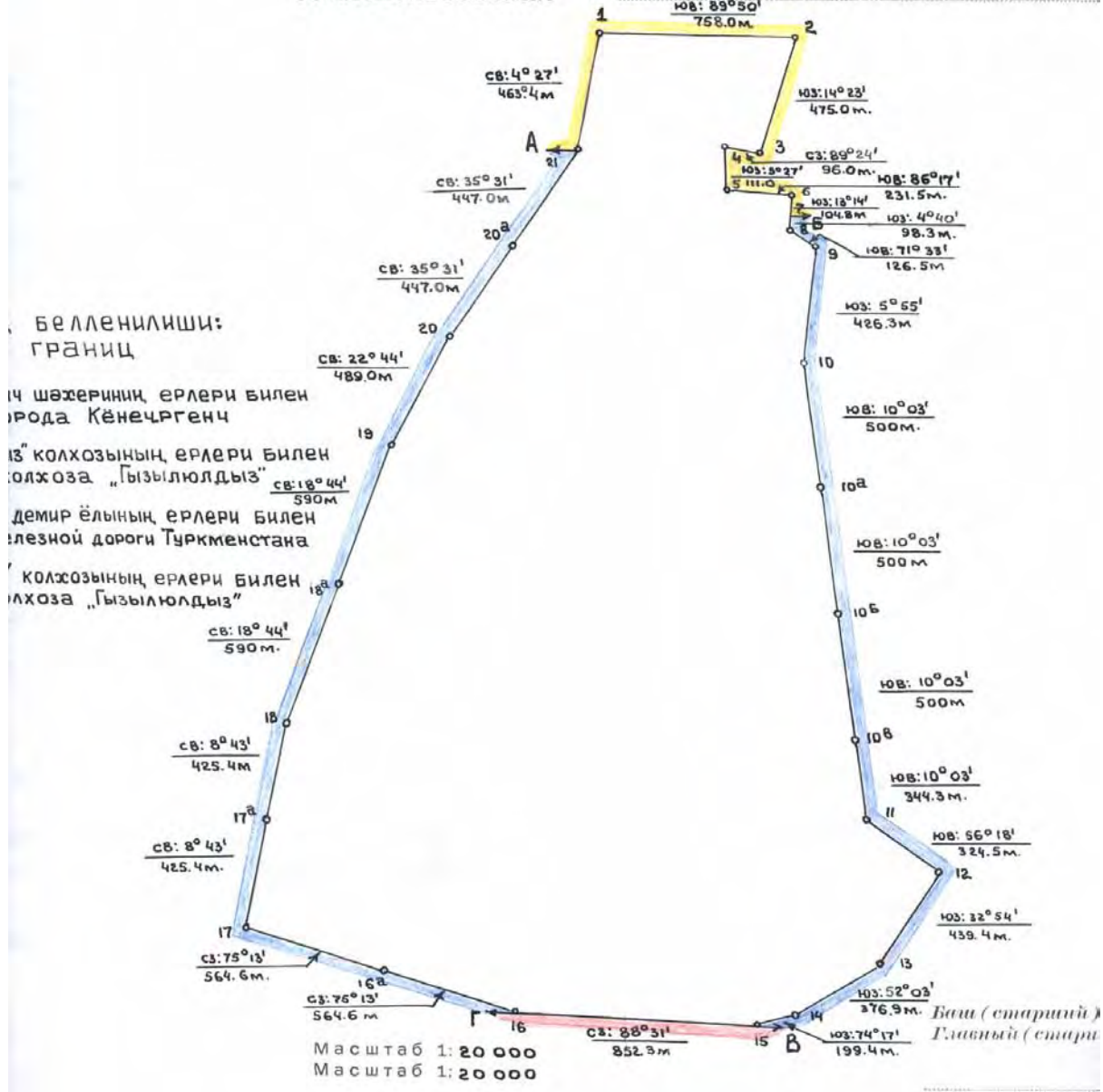
Баш (старший) инженер-ер гурлушыкчы
Главный (старший) инженер-землеустроитель

„ 18 “ июня 1992 йыл
года

В № 007963

П Л А Н Ы
П Л А Н

Землепользования Кенесарайского государственного историко-культурного заповедника



Appendix 8: Resolution by the Mayor of Kunya-Urgench

RESOLUTION

OF MAYOR OF KONEURGENCH REGION OF
DASHOGUZ PROVINCE OF TURKMENISTAN

№ 73
08.08.2003.

About the territory settled in Koneurgench State Historical and Cultural Park

Turkmenistan Chamber of
Commerce & Industry
"Turkmenterjine" Co.
17, B.Karryev street,
Ashgabat 744000

Koneurgench State historical and cultural preserve was created under the resolution of Turkmenistan Government №185 dated 17.05.1985. 648,09 hectares of land was transferred to the Park based on the resolution of the Mayor of Koneurgench region №15-3\107 dated 28.04.1992 and resolution of the Mayor of Dashouguz province №671\29 dated 26.03.1992. Since that time, security, research and restoration works have been carried out on the historical and cultural monuments.

Currently the asphalted road passes through the territory of the Park and the local farmers work on some areas, moreover, there is an area allotted for municipal graveyard on the same territory. At the same time, the monument of Ibn-Khadjib which is of government value is situated outside the land of 648,09 hectare allotted for the Park. All these facts complicate fulfillment of functions incumbent on the Park.

Based on the Law of Turkmenistan "About protection of monuments of history and culture of Turkmenistan" and appeal of the Koneurgench State historical and cultural preserve, I o r d e r:

I. According to clause 19 of the Law of Turkmenistan "About protection of monuments of history and culture of Turkmenistan":

- 1) To prohibit all kinds of construction in the protected zone of the Park within 300 m from the west and the north-west of the fortress walls of the city;

To prohibit erection of new buildings within 200 m protection zone from the southern and eastern boundaries of the Koneurgench State historical and cultural Park (up to the Akgala settlement);

- 2) To restrict construction within the limits of 100 meters from the territory of green graveyard, Nadjimaddin-Kubra complex is situated on its territory; To prohibit construction of buildings higher than one floor on this territory, at the same time the floor height should not exceed 6 meters for the buildings with pitched (slate) roofing and 5 meters for the buildings with flat and dome-shaped ceiling, it is obligatory to get approval from State authorities for protection of monuments for the projects of buildings on this territory.

II. To entrust the Archin, head of municipal council (G. Muhammedov), the architect of the region (G. Tuvakov), chairman of land resources of the region (D. Chimbergenov):

- 1) To take action on transferring the municipal graveyard to another location outside the territory of the Park;
- 2) To start construction of a new road bypassing the territory of the Park for the purpose of replacing the asphalted road passing through the territory of the Park soon;
- 3) To add the territory of monument of Ibn Hadjib and its protected zones to 648,09 hectares of the territory of the State Park.

III. The responsibility for execution of the order to be imposed on deputy mayor of the region A. Amannazarov and on the head of municipal council (G. Muhammedov).

Mayor of Koneurgench region

B. Atdayev

Send to: the reserve, region architect, regional land resources office, municipal council and copy to file

Turkmenistan Chamber of
Commerce & Industry
"Turkmenterjime" Co.
17, B.Karryev street,
Ashgabat 744000



Перевод с туркменского на русский язык
произведен дословно с учетом
особенностей оригинала предприятием
"Туркментерджиме" Б.Алимов

Дата 17.11.2003г

Подпись Б.Алимов

Appendix 9: Extracts of the Law of Turkmenistan on the protection of monuments

Law of Turkmenistan (extracts)

Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments of Turkmenistan

Chapter V. Provision for the preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments

Article 17

Enterprises, Organizations, Institutions as well as Citizens that possess historical monuments in Turkmenistan, are responsible for their preservation, and must follow requirements of the current Law. The rules of protection, utilization and conservation of historical and cultural monuments, established by the Government of Turkmenistan, provide accessibility for inspection, scientific research and cultural purposes.

Article 18

Exploratory works on lands covered with natural and historical monument, state historical and cultural parks and other historical and cultural objects, can only be done upon the permission of the Government of Turkmenistan. Appropriation of these lands for economic use is not allowed.

Collective farms, state farms, other enterprises, institutions and organizations, which have historical and cultural monuments on their lands, assume obligation to implement the monuments protection policy.

All kinds of activity, jeopardizing preservation of monuments, is forbidden on the territories of historical and cultural monuments. Supervision over observance of the established policy of protection of monuments, is entrusted to Executive Committees of local Deputies and organizations, and other monument protecting bodies.

Article 19

Preservation of immovable monuments and their environment is provided by determination of protected zones, zones of controlled construction development and zone of protected natural landscape with pre-determined policy of utilization, which is established by the Government of Turkmenistan. Owners of land plots, situated within protected zones, are responsible for observation of policy for utilization of these zones.

Protected zones, zones of controlled construction development and zones of protected natural landscape of the historical and cultural monuments are established by executive committees of local, regional and municipal Councils of Deputies representing competent authorities for state protection of historical and cultural monuments.

Zones of immovable monuments protection are determined based upon preliminary analysis of condition of a monument and compiling necessary historical reference documents and should be a mandatory constituent of all regional development plans, general planning projects and other detailed development projects applying to urban centres and populated areas.

Zones of historical and cultural monuments protection, irrespective of sizes and density of population, are considered while developing the general layout, detailed layout projects and construction development in populated areas, and are subjected to mandatory approval by competent state authorities for protection of monuments.

Excavation, construction and other works and economical activity are not allowed within these zones without permission of competent state authorities for protection of monuments.

If the traffic on the roads adjacent to the historical and cultural monuments and running through their protected zones jeopardize the existence of monuments, the traffic on such roads is restricted or prohibited according to the resolution of executive committee of a relevant local Council of Deputies.

Article 20

The objects of environment related to historical and cultural monuments are protected and used by state authorities for protection of monuments jointly with authorities for protection of monuments and other interested bodies.

Article 21

The complexes of unique historical and cultural monuments, which present a special scientific, historical, artistic or other cultural value, are declared as a historical and cultural park by the decrees of the Government of Turkmenistan. Protection of them is provided by separate regulations approved by the Government of Turkmenistan.

Article 22

Organizations dealing with explosive, construction and assembling, renovation, road maintenance or other operations and activities in the protected zone of immovable monuments must obtain approval from the relevant authorities for monuments protection for performing such operations and activities. The mentioned activities are funded on the account of organizations performing these operations. It is not allowed to perform operations and activities that damage the monuments and do not meet requirements of its preservation.

In case archaeological layers or objects of scientific, historical, artistic and other cultural value are found by Enterprises, Organizations and Institutions while performing their operations, they must inform the state authority for protection of monuments and stop the operations.

Article 23

The organizations and persons carrying out the archaeological exploration must provide the safety of discovered values, register the archaeological finds and hand over to the museum, library or archives of Turkmenistan and, for the newly discovered objects, inform the relevant authorities for state protection of monuments for taking immediate actions to protect them and stop the works.

Persons convicted of breaching the regulations of the current Law are deprived of their rights to carry out archaeological exploration on the territory of Turkmenistan and those responsible for these acts must, according to the Law, return the archaeological find to where it belongs or pay the re-imbusement if the latter is impossible.

Article 24

The historical and cultural monuments, which are used disaccording to their significance and character, and those threatened with demolition or damage, can be confiscated from enterprise, organization or undertaking in accordance with procedure established by special authorities for protection of monuments, and transferred over other organizations, and also individuals to posses, temporary use or custody within territory of Turkmenistan.

Owners, users and guards of monuments are responsible for their safety unless specified in a special agreement with the owner.

If a person does not provide the safety of the owned historical and cultural monument, or refuses to follow the recommendations of the authorities for state protection of monuments and prevents from scheduled inspection, the person will be given a written warning from the monument protection authorities. Improper custody continued after a given notice will lead to the deprivation of ownership with payment of compensation and transfer over to state ownership.

If the monument is lost or stolen the holder or the owner must notify the police and local authorities for protection of monuments.

Article 25

Demolition of immovable historical and cultural monuments is forbidden. Moving and changes to immovable historical and cultural monuments can be allowed only with the special permit of the Government of Turkmenistan for each particular case.

The organization given such a permit while removing or making changes to the monument must comply with the terms specified in the Article 14 of the current Law.

Article 26

State authorities for protection of monuments must inspect the condition of monuments regularly for making arrangements for repair works, conservation and restoration. The projects of restoration, conservation and repairs of historical and cultural monuments are to be approved by the State authorities for protection of monuments.

Basic methods applying to monuments include protection against destruction (prevention), conservation, restoration and preservation of environmental and historical structures, in complex immovable monuments as well.

Repairs and restoration of monuments are carried out by specialized state, cooperative and joint (mixed) ownership organizations, interim groups or individual restoration experts, with governmental approval from state authorities for protection of monuments on complexity of works to carry out.

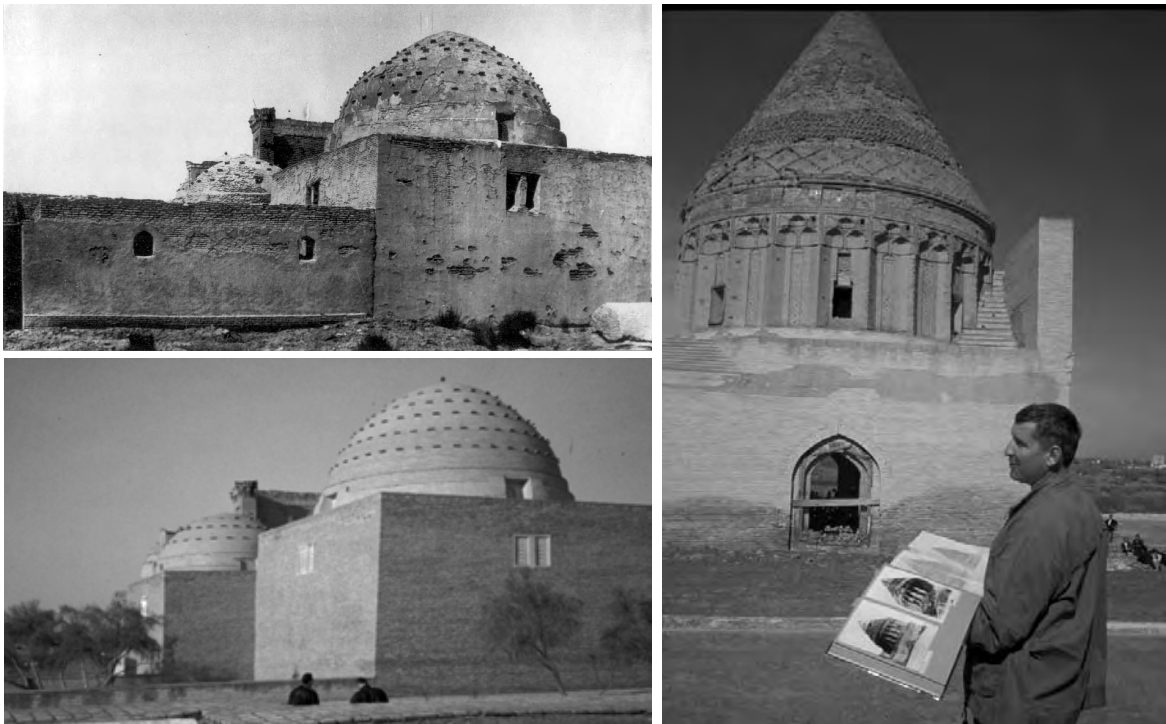


NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST



Kunya Urgench, Turkmenistan

Photographic analysis of the site evolution over the past 75 years,
by means of comparing archive and recent photographs.



Document compiled by:

Sébastien Moriset, CRATerre-EAG and Igor Zubanov, National Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan

This document was elaborated during the preparation of the nomination of Kunya-Urgench as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

January 2004

Foreword

This document was compiled between April 2003 and January 2004, to provide information to the World Heritage Centre - UNESCO for the nomination of Kunya-Urgench as a World Heritage site.

All the recent photographs were taken in April 2003 and January 2004, All the following archive photographs are scanned from photo albums or publications kept at the archives of the National Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan. These archives are available both in Ashgabat and Kunya-Urgench. Permission to make use of these illustrations for publication purposes should be sought from the above Department.

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Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to the World Heritage Committee which has accepted the request for preparatory assistance presented by the Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan.

Photographers



Archive photographs

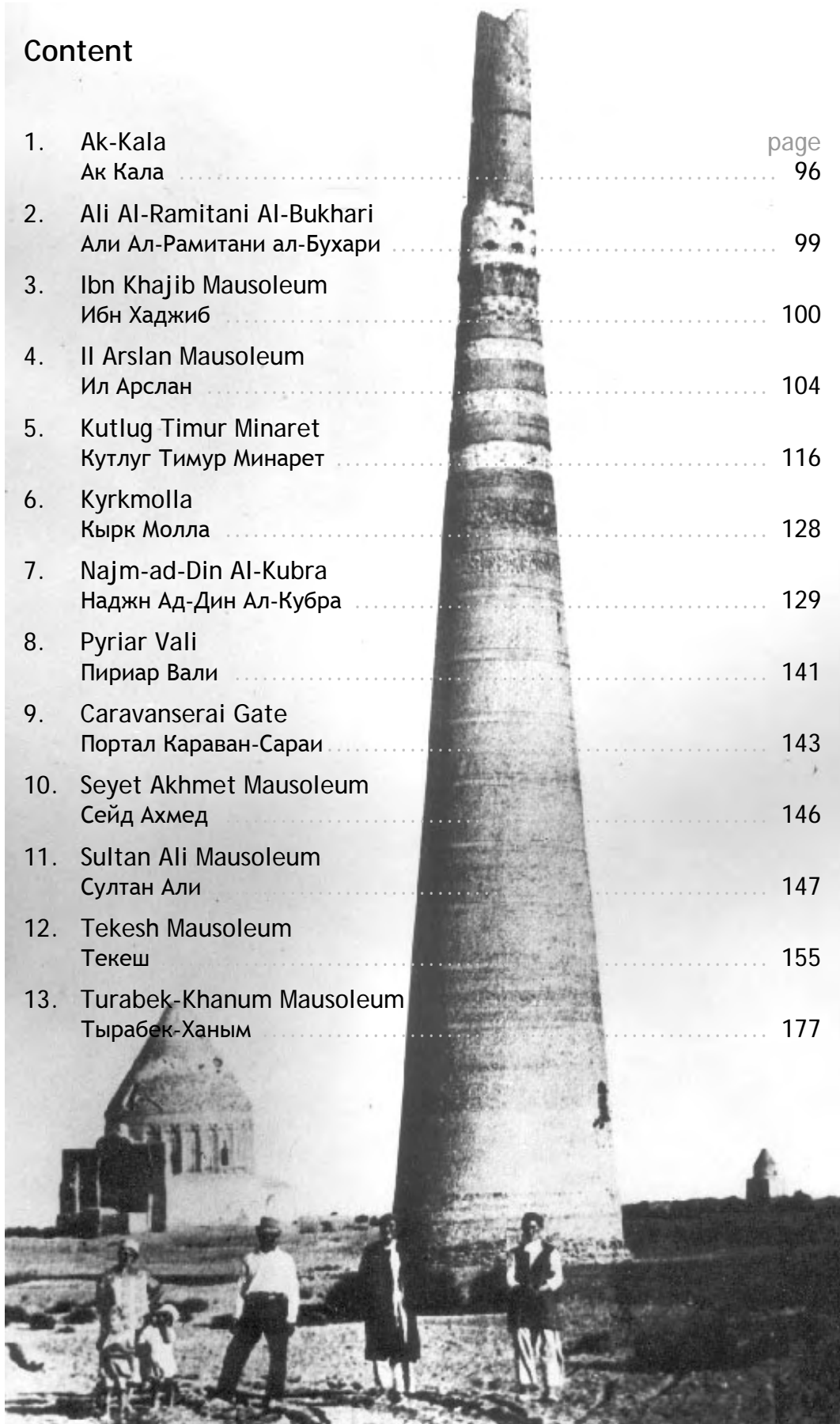
All archive photographs are those placed at the top or on the left. When the name of the photographer and the date of the photo are known, both are mentioned under the archive photo itself. When the information is missing, the caption states “unknown date” and “unknown photographer”.

Recent photographs

All photos without caption were taken in April 2003 by Sébastien Moriset, CRATerre-EAG

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L.I. Sokolov 1928

Л.И.Соколов 1928

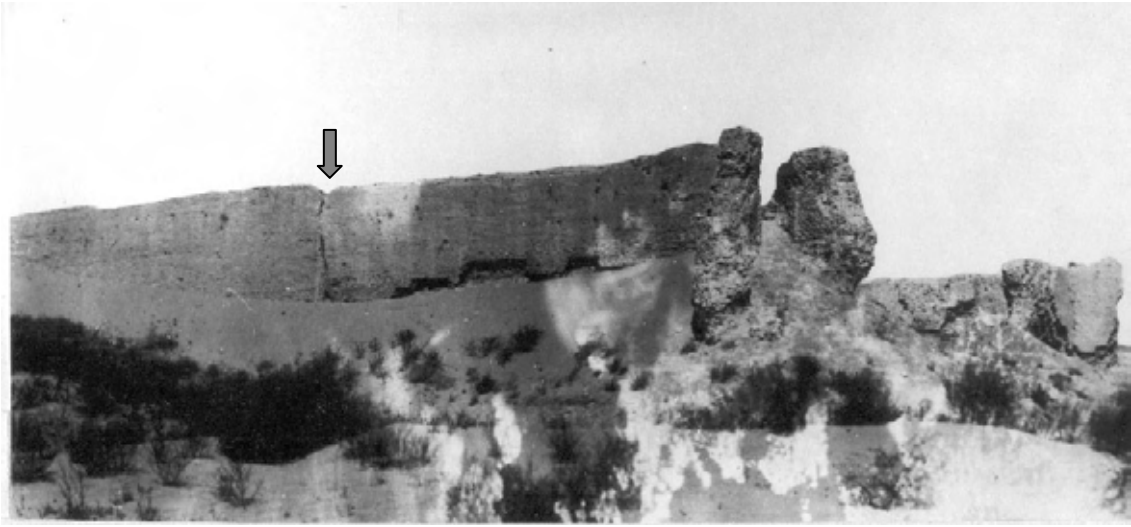
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L.I. Sokolov 1928

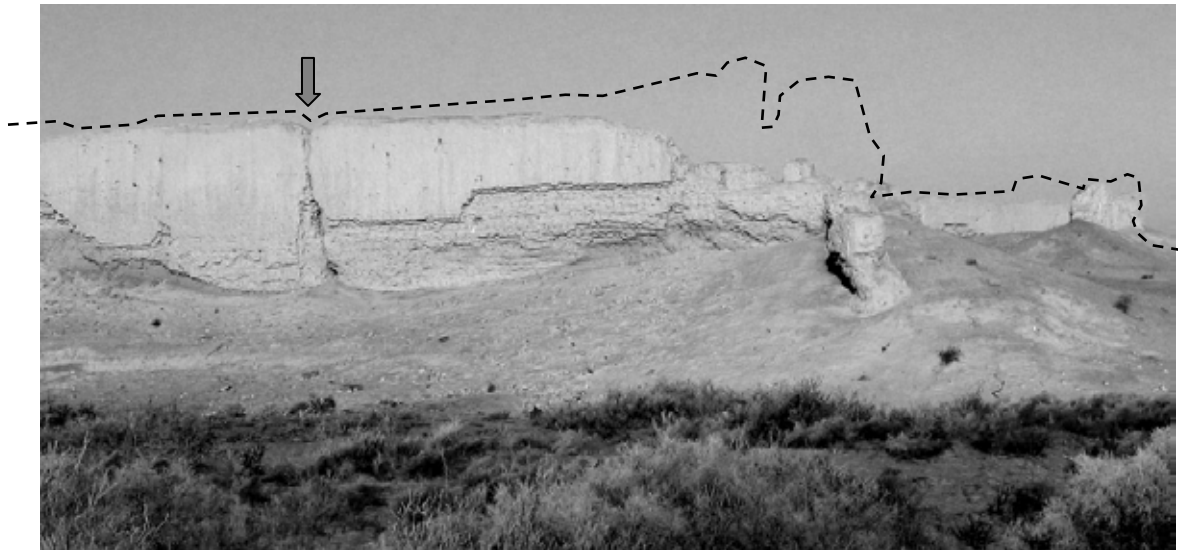
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L.I. Sokolov 1928

Л.И.Соколов 1928



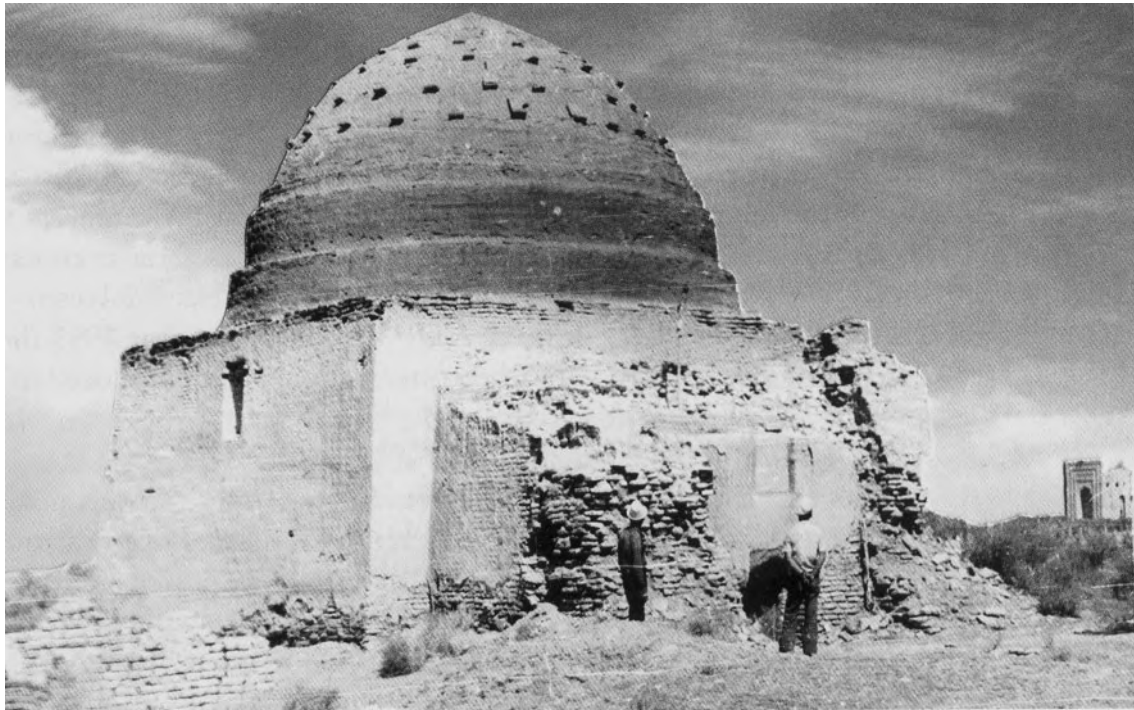


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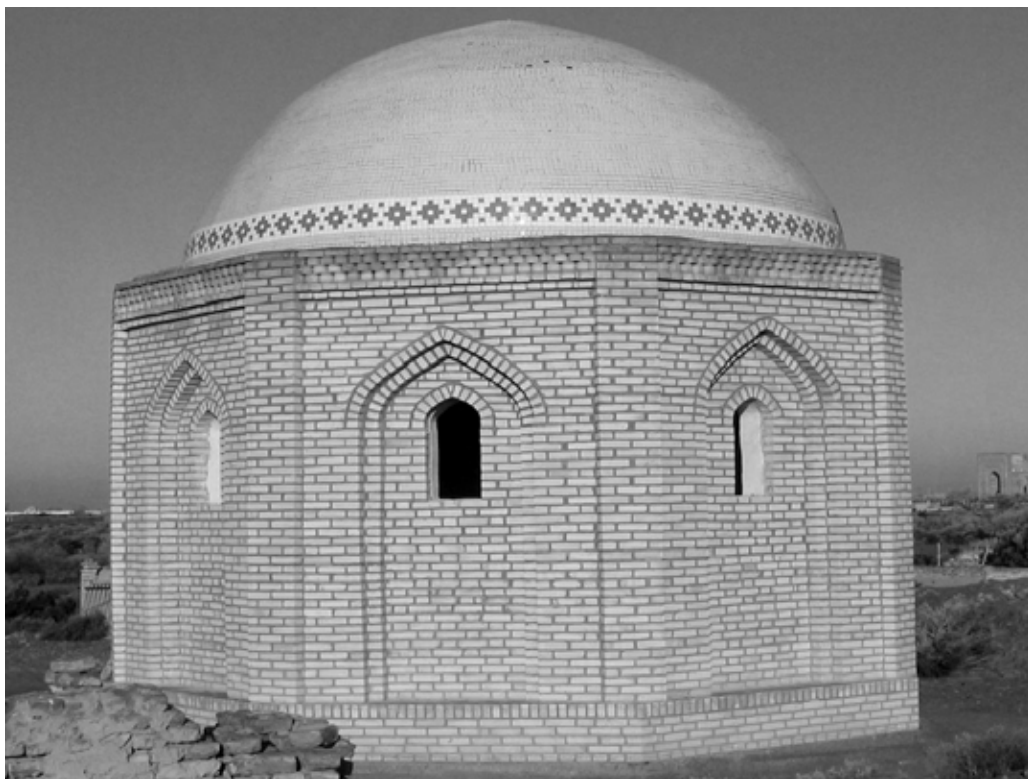
The remains of this ruined element could not be located

2. Ali Al-Ramitani Al-Bukhari / Али Ал-Рамитани ал-Бухари



N. Khalimov, 1979

Н. Халимов, 1979



This Mausoleum was rebuilt anew in 1998

3. Ibn Khajib Mausoleum / Ибн Хаджиб



V. Artemiev, 1988

В. Артемьев, 1988





V. Artemiev, 1988

В. Артемьев, 1988





unknown photographer, unknown date

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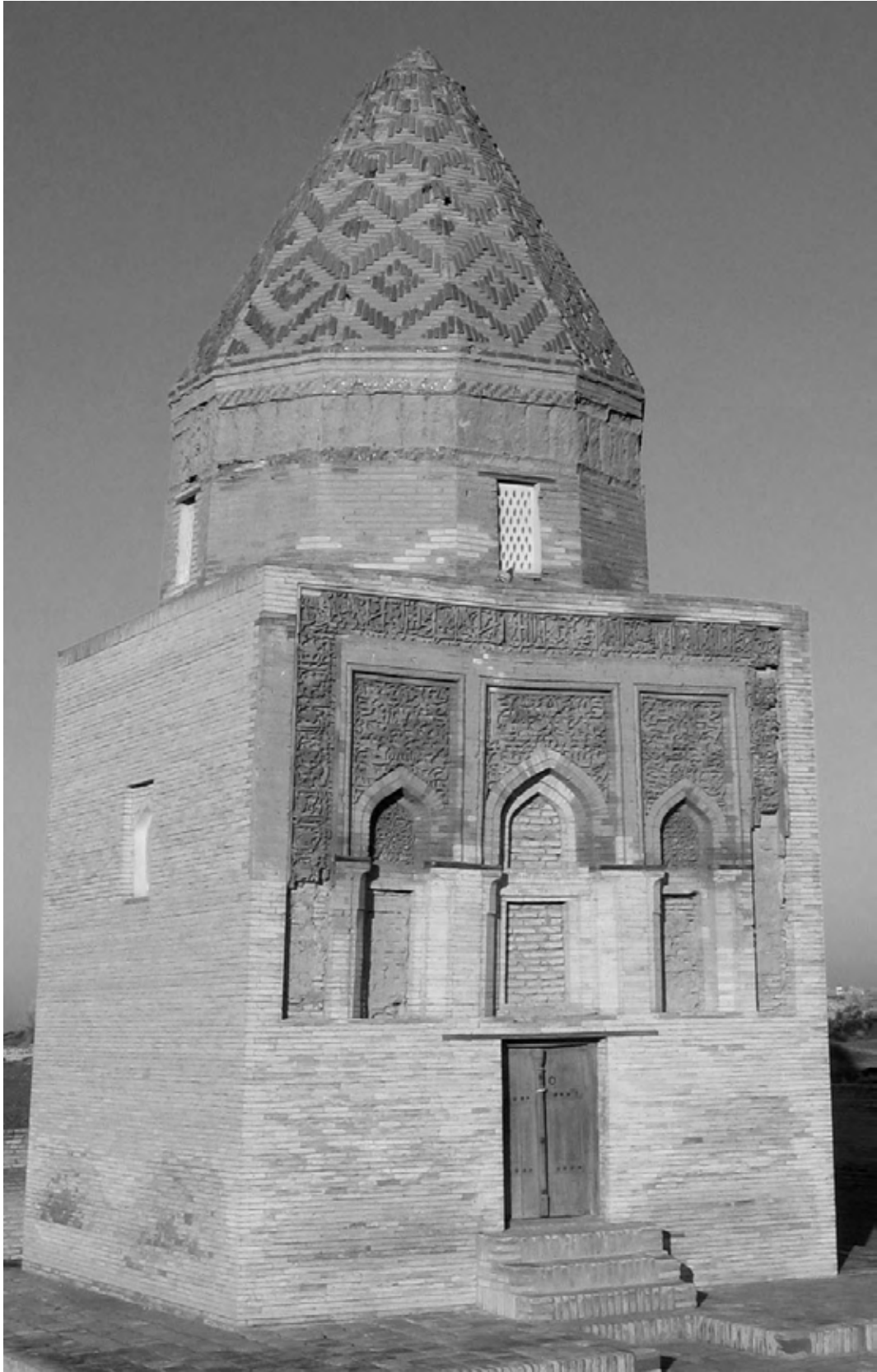


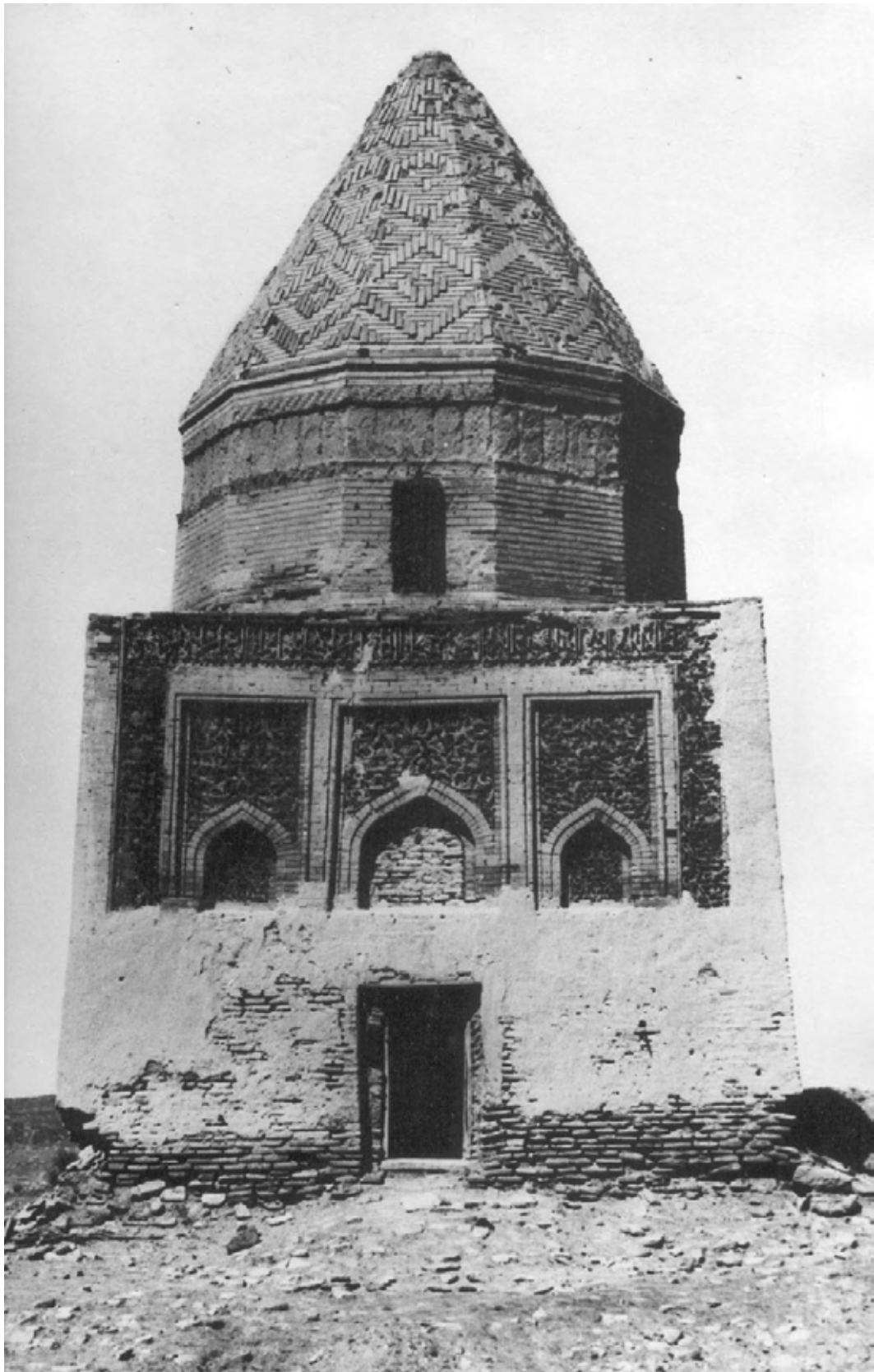
4. II Arslan Mausoleum / Ил Арслан



V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

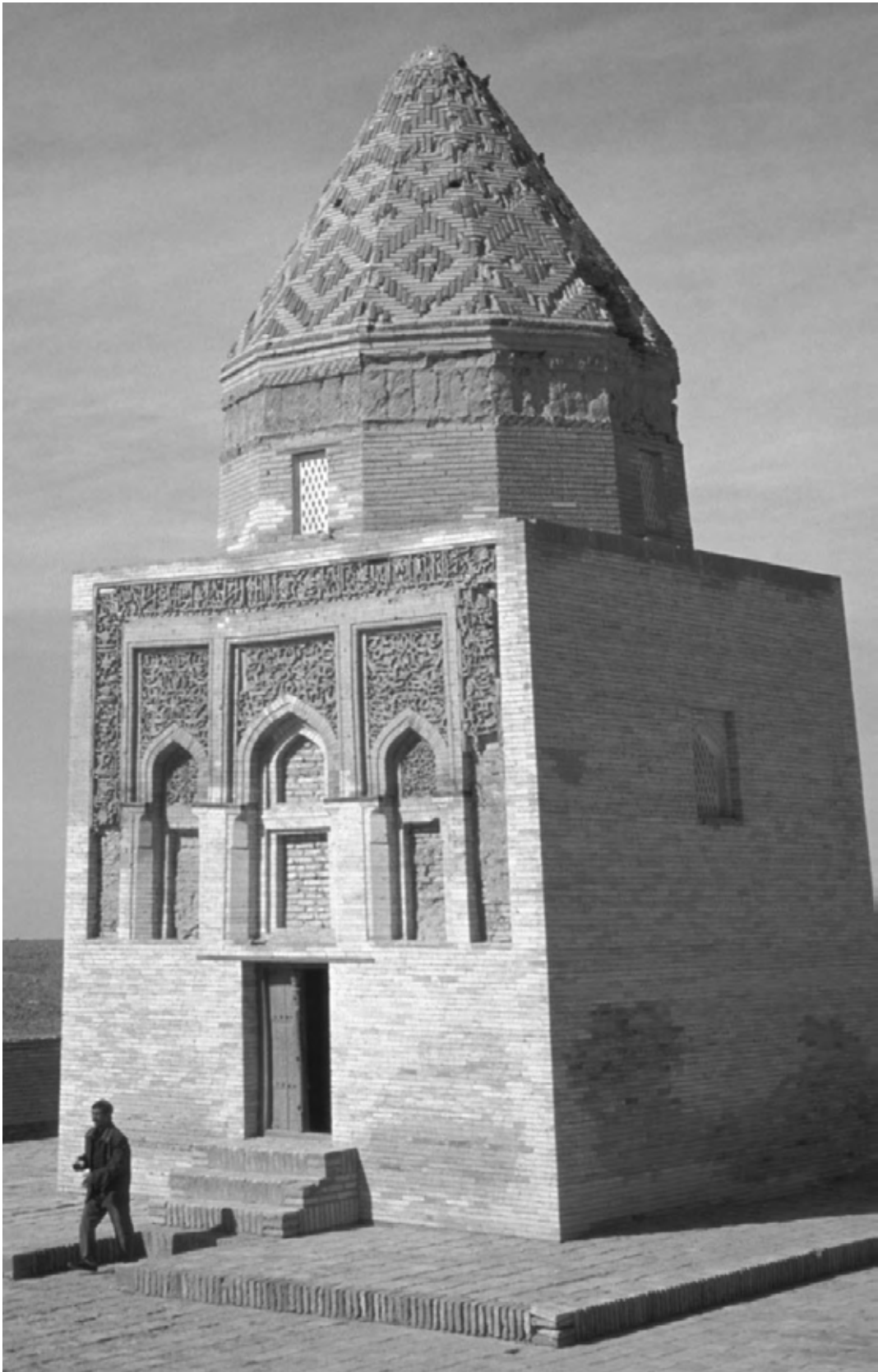
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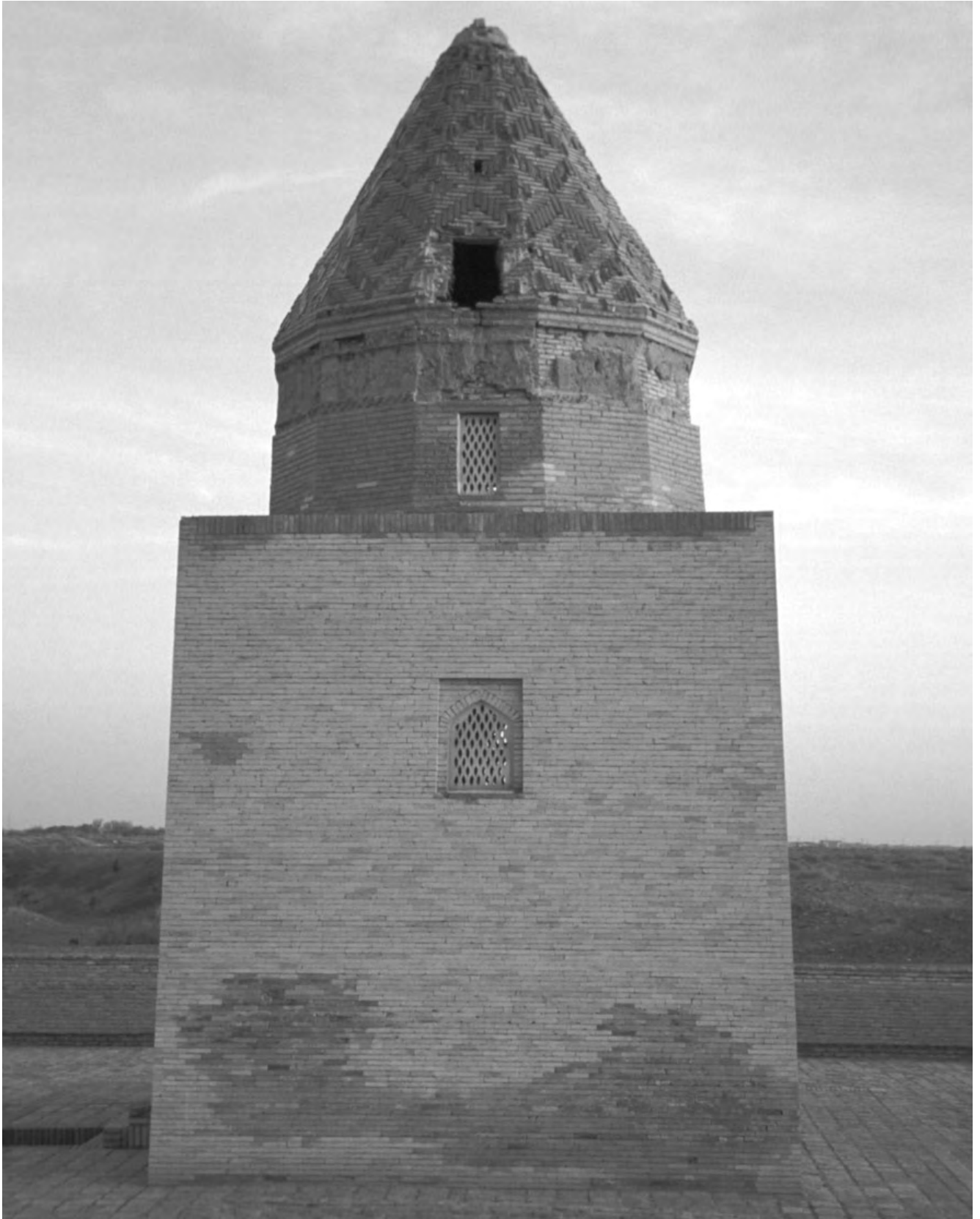
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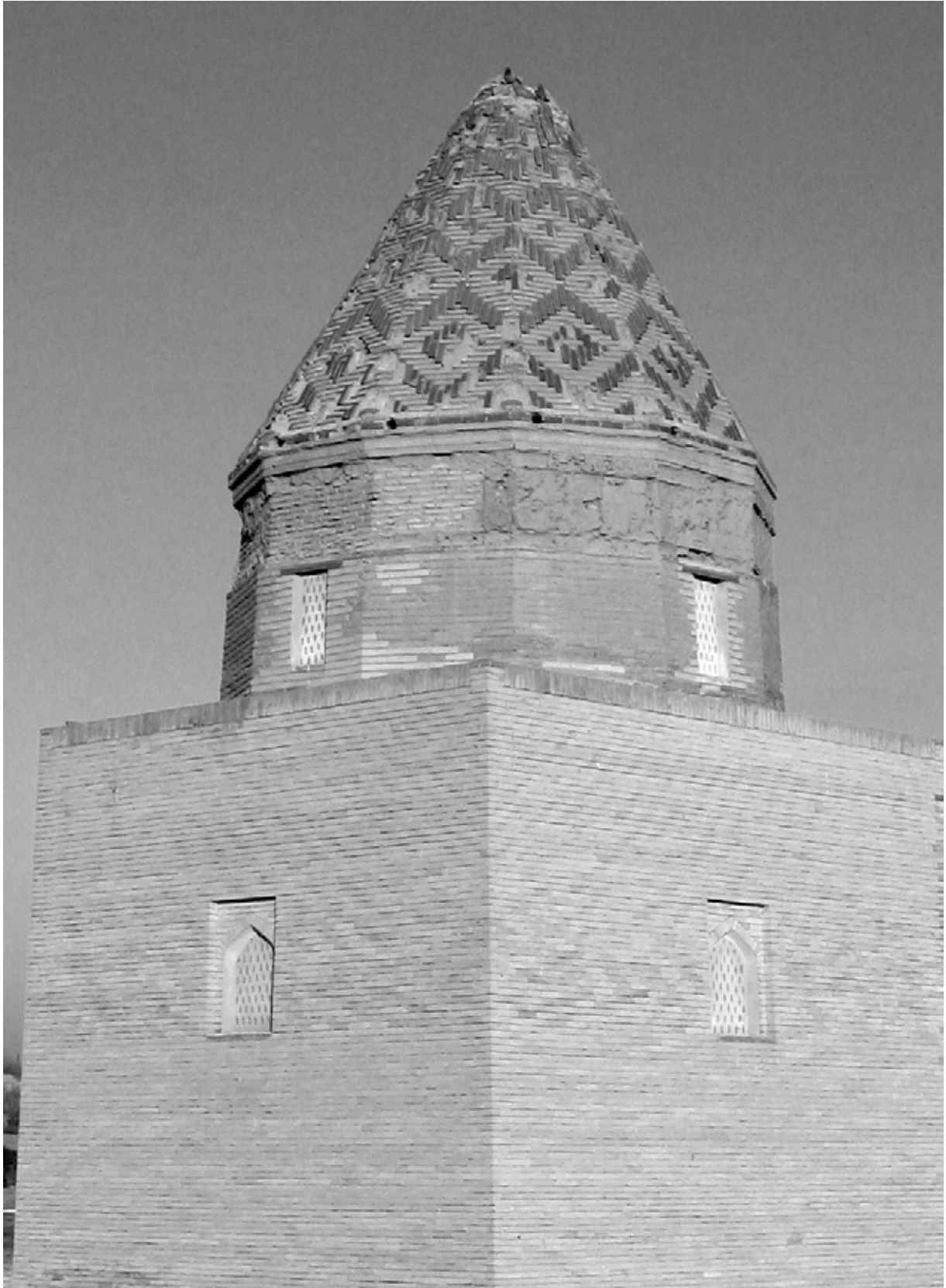
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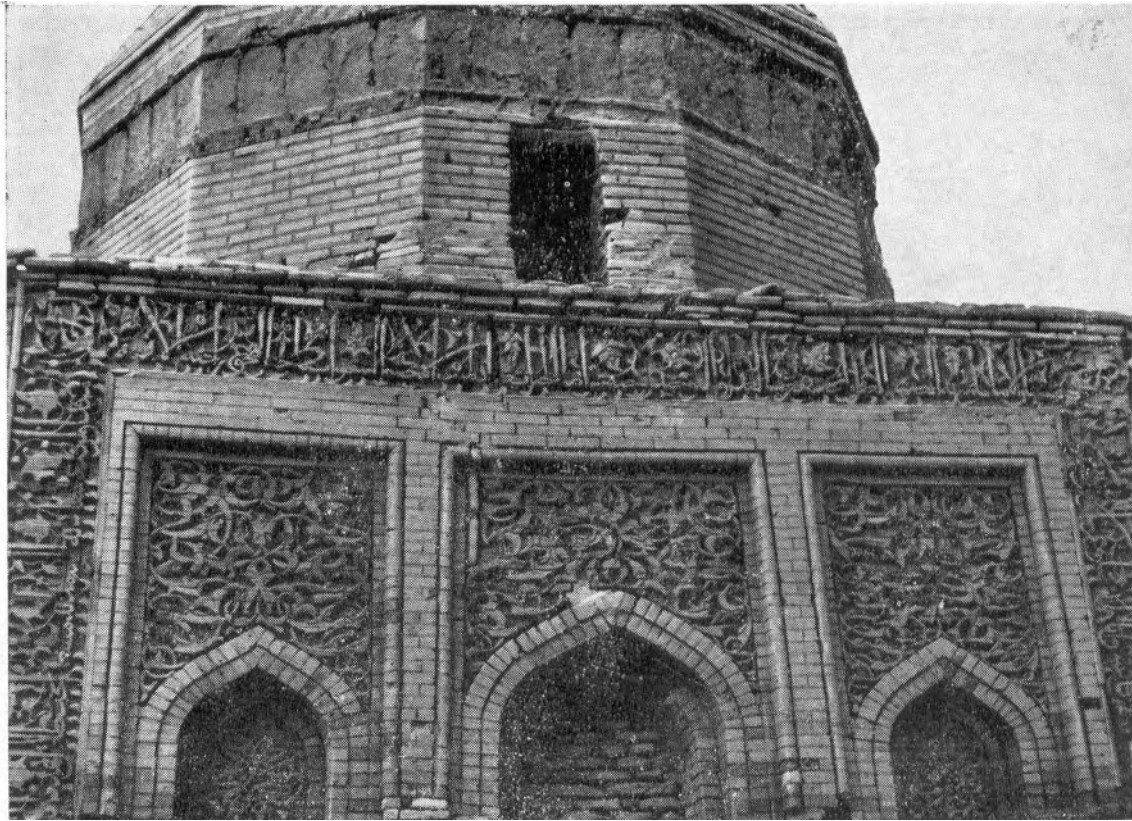




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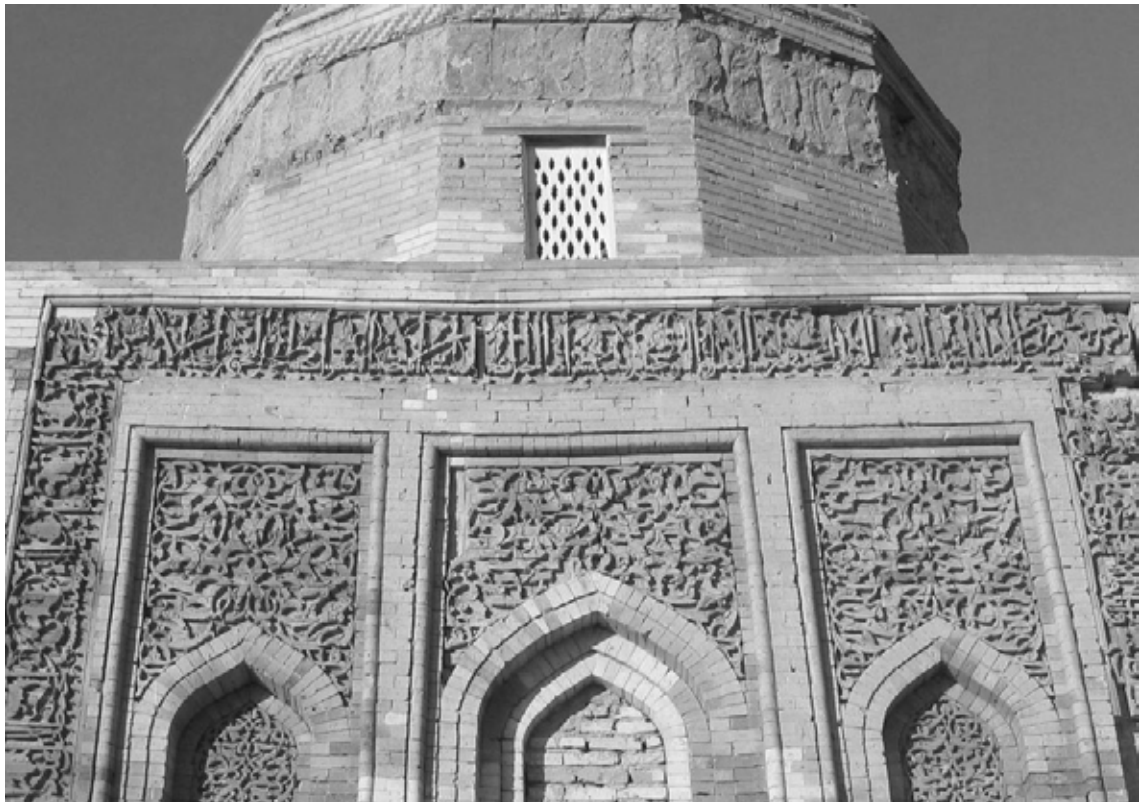
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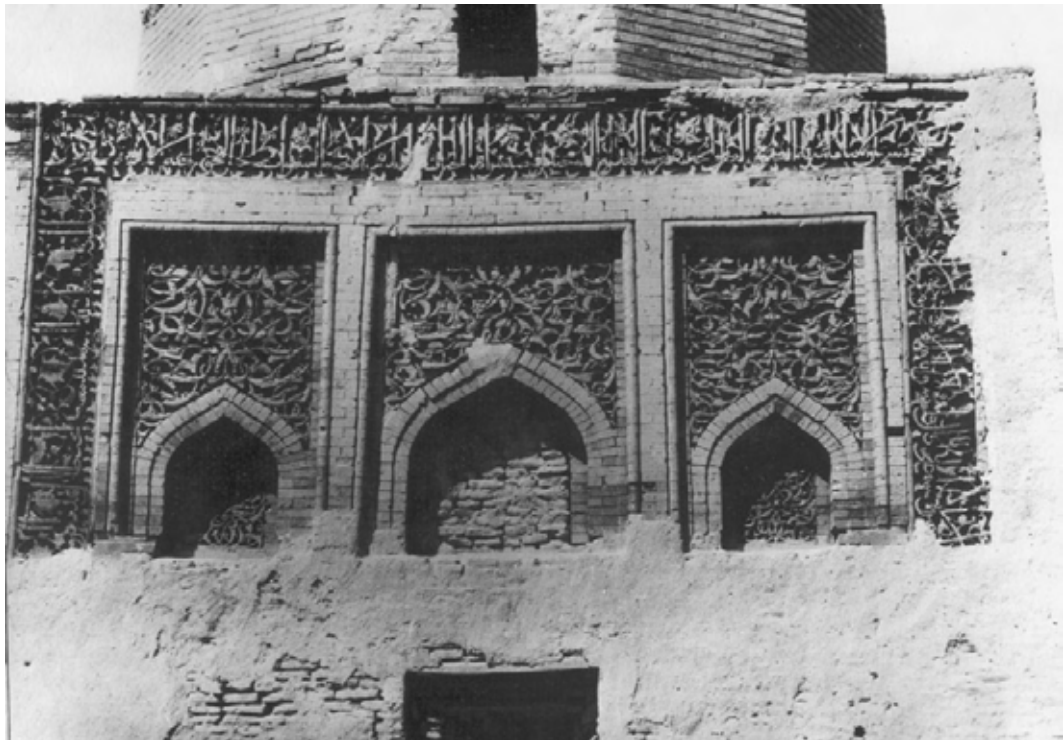




V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

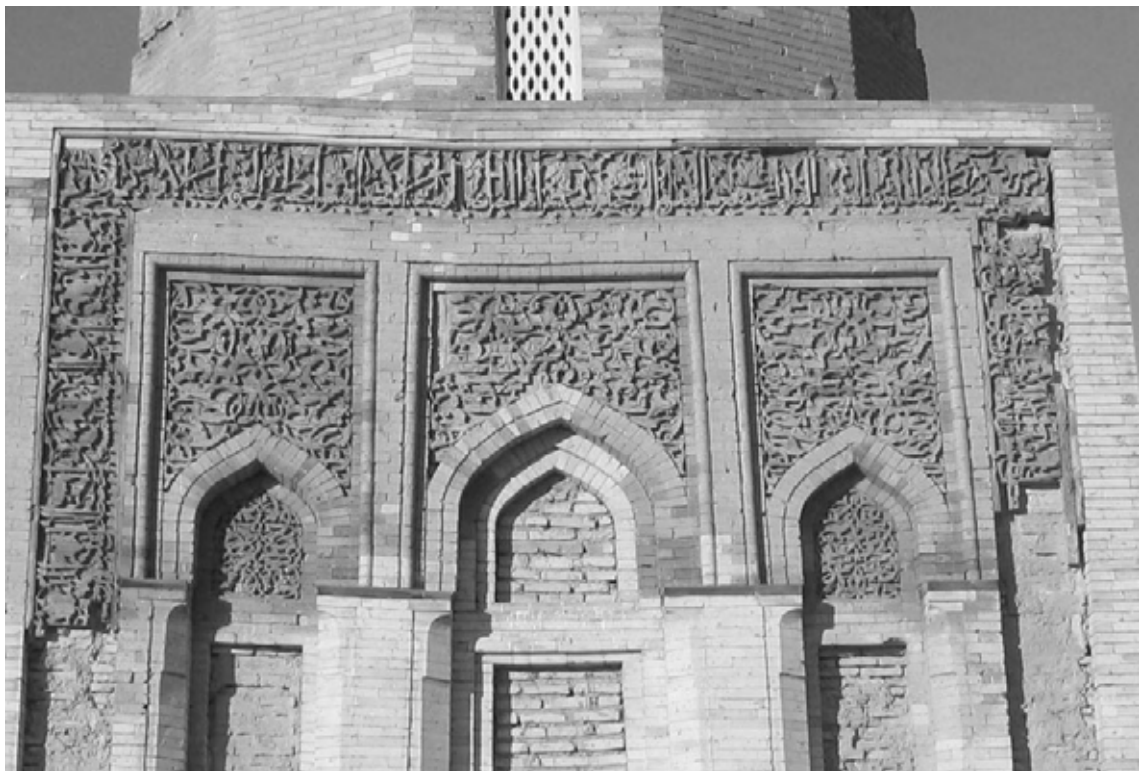
В. И. Пилявский





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928

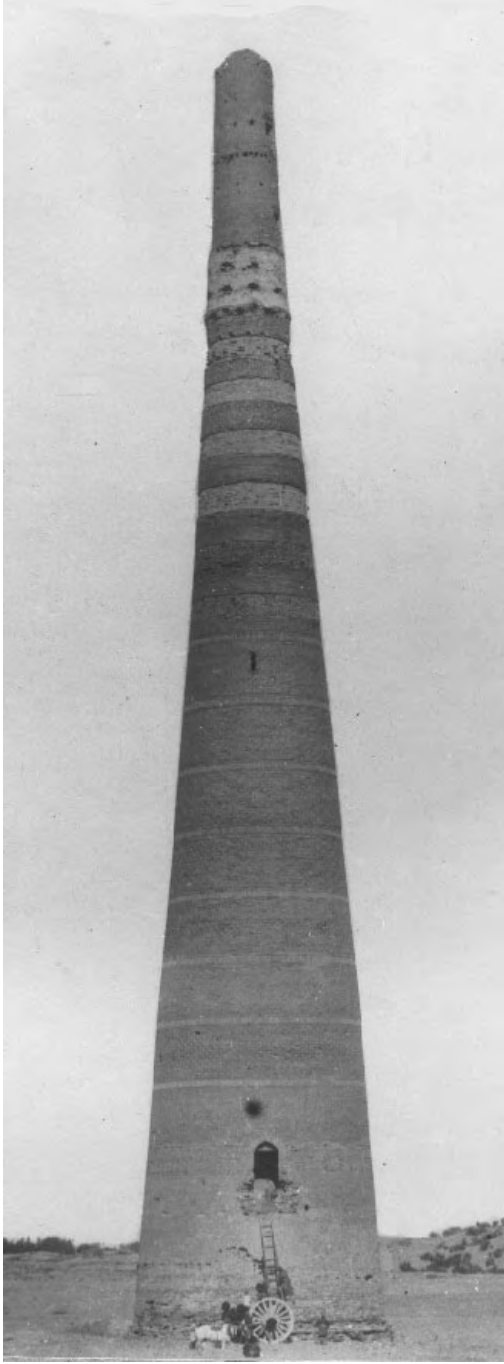


5. Kutlug Timur Minaret / Кутлуг Тимур Минарет

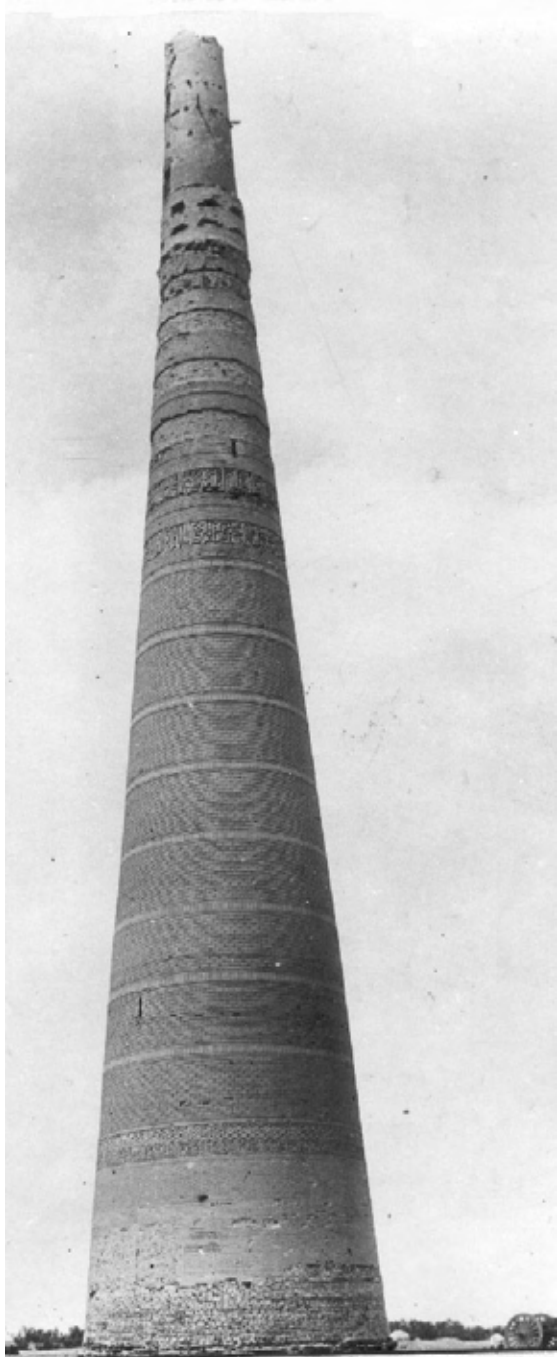


L. I. Sokolov 1928 Л.И.Соколов 1928





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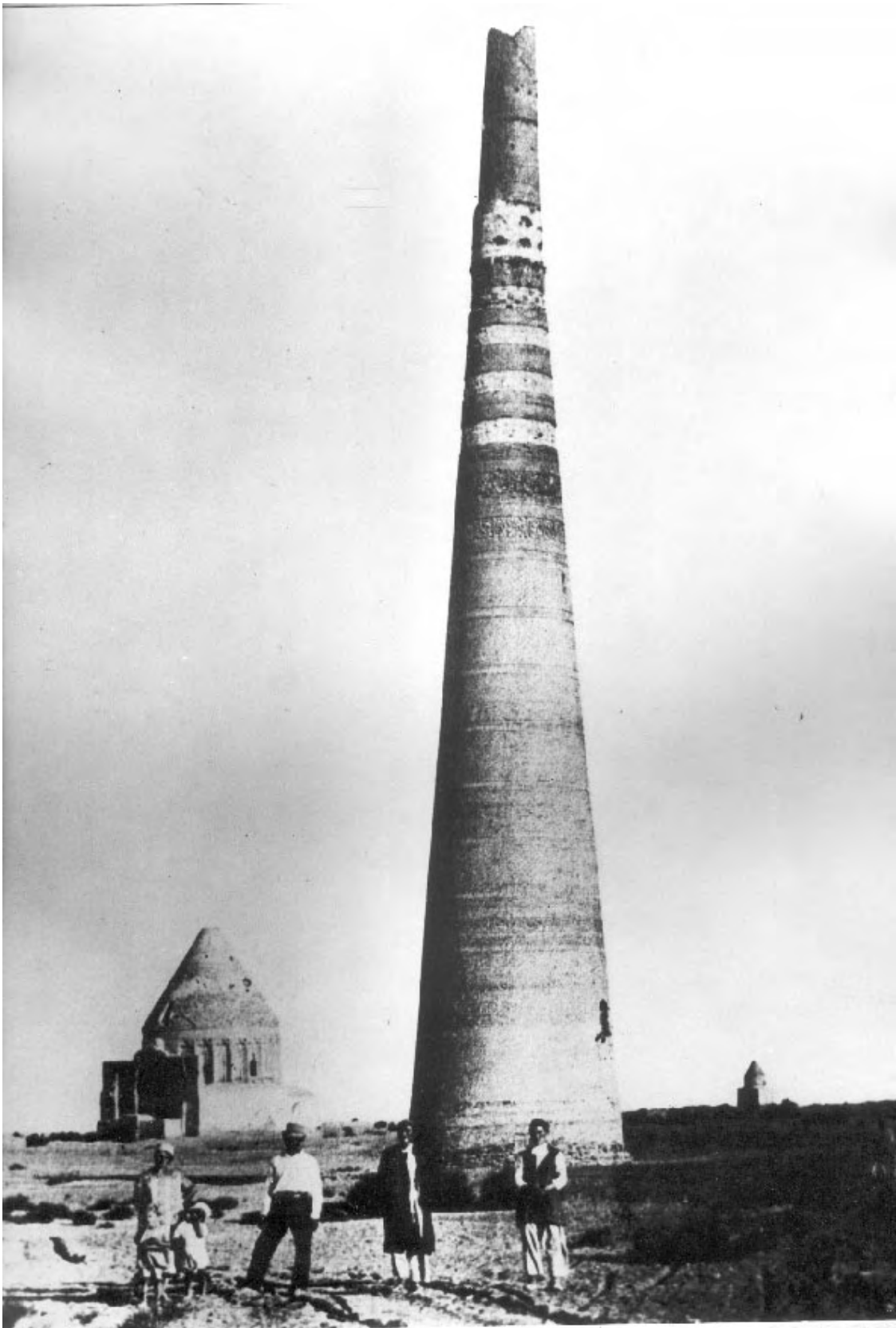
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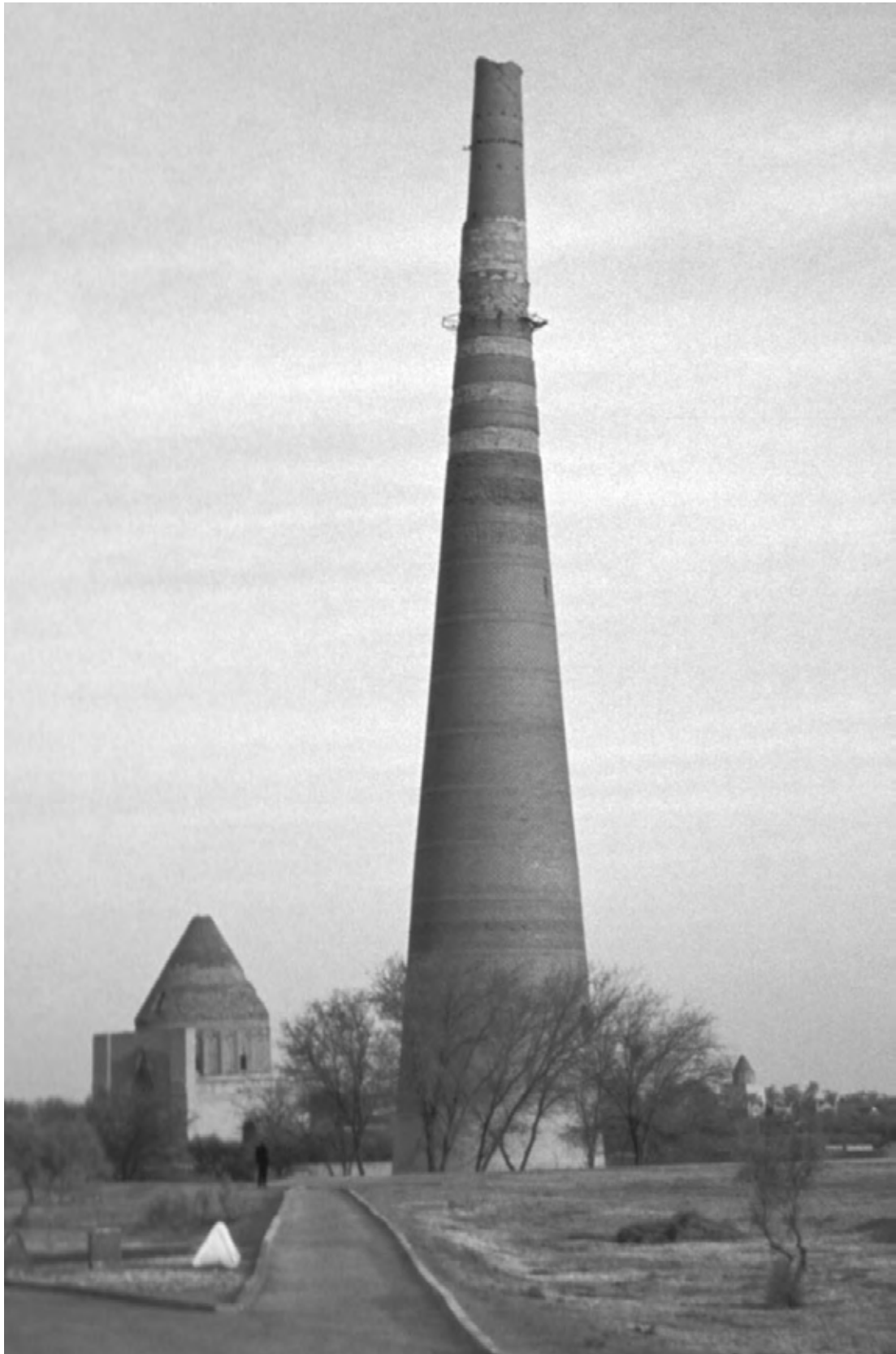
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L.I. Sokolov 1928

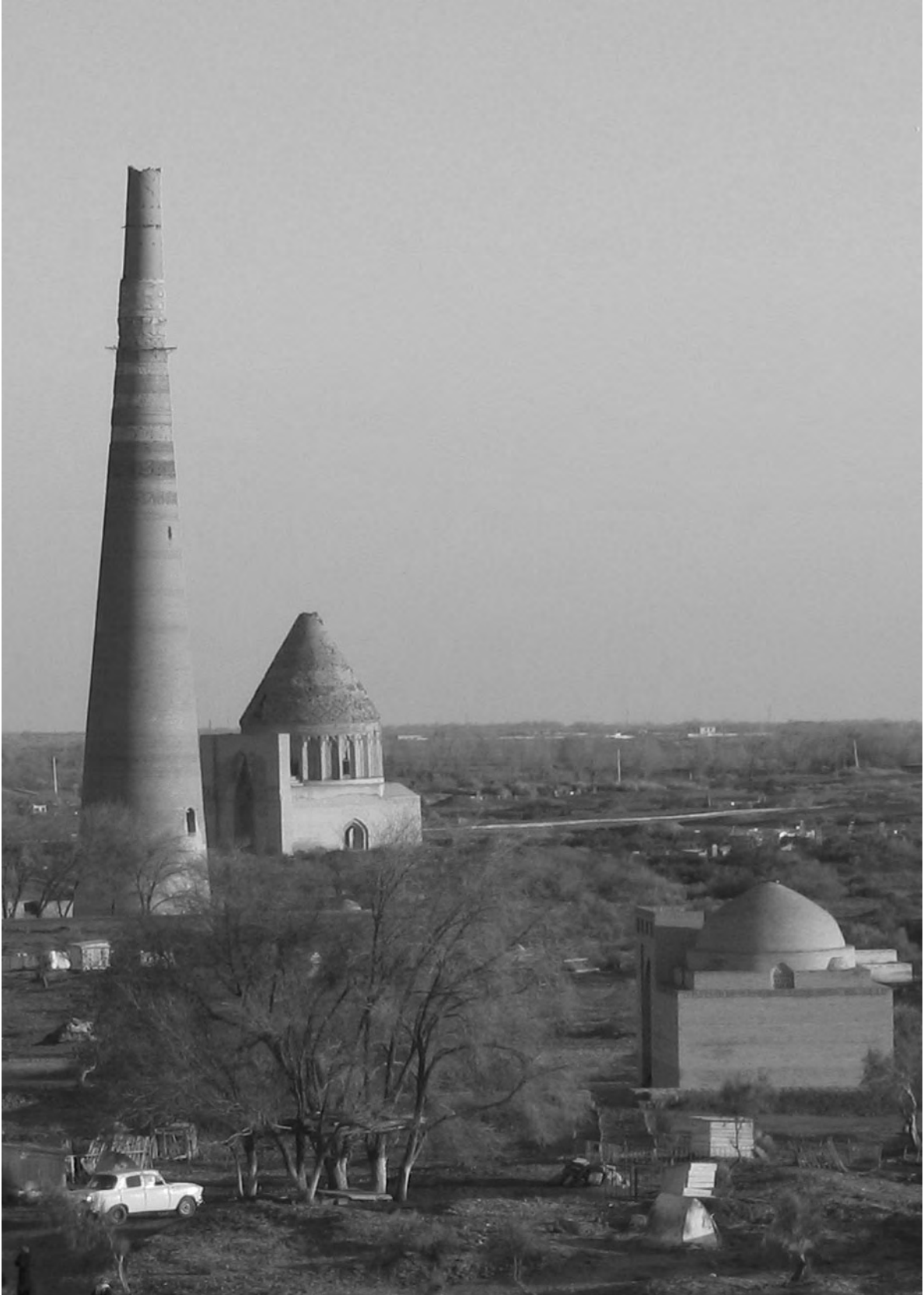
Л.И.Соколов 1928





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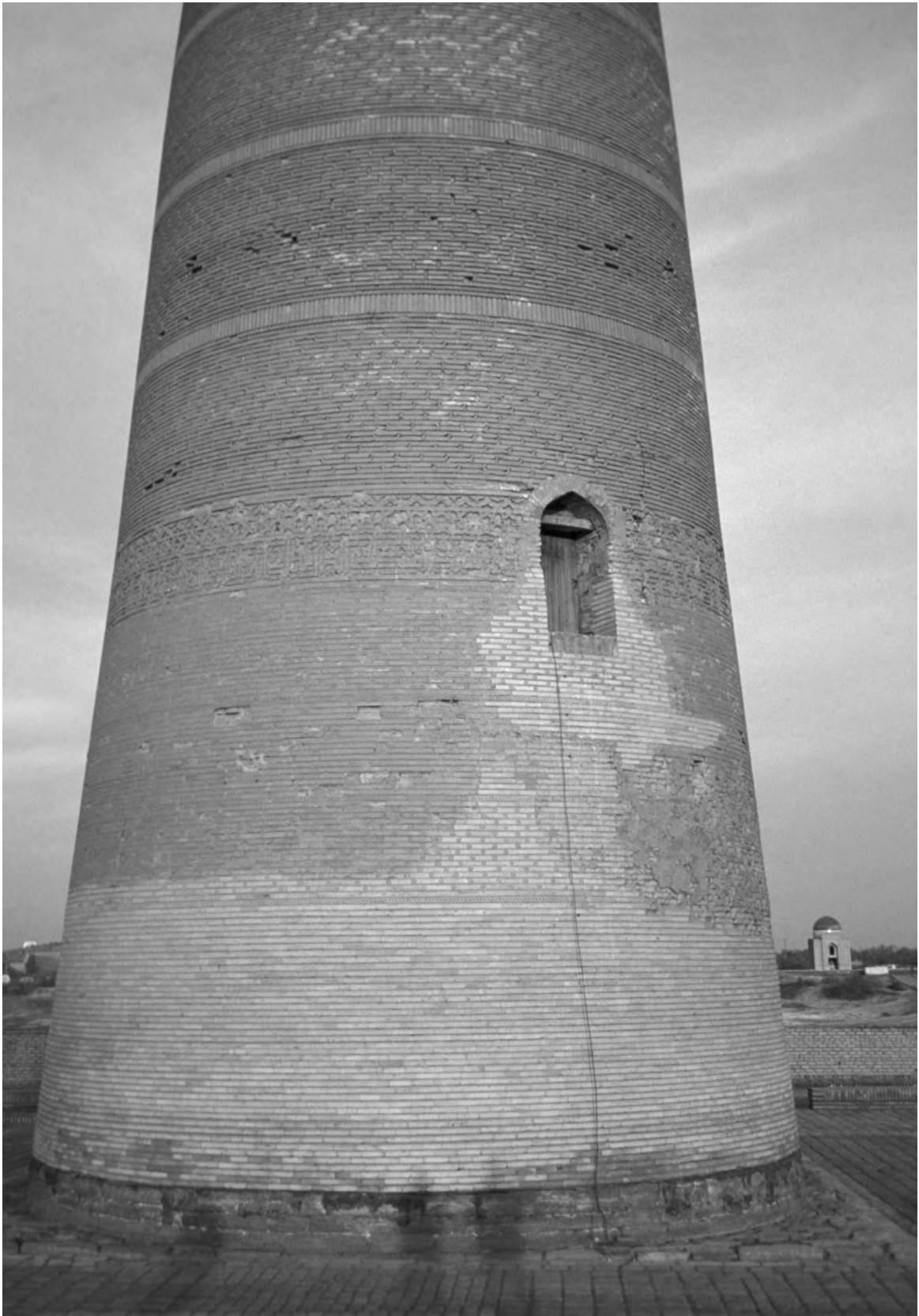
Фотограф неизвестен 1986





L.I. Sokolov 1928

Л.И.Соколов 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928



6. Kurkmolla / Кырк Молла



unknown photographer, 1980's

Фотограф неизвестен



7. Najm-ad-Din Al-Kubra / Наджн Ад-Дин Ал-Кубра



unknown photographer, 1986

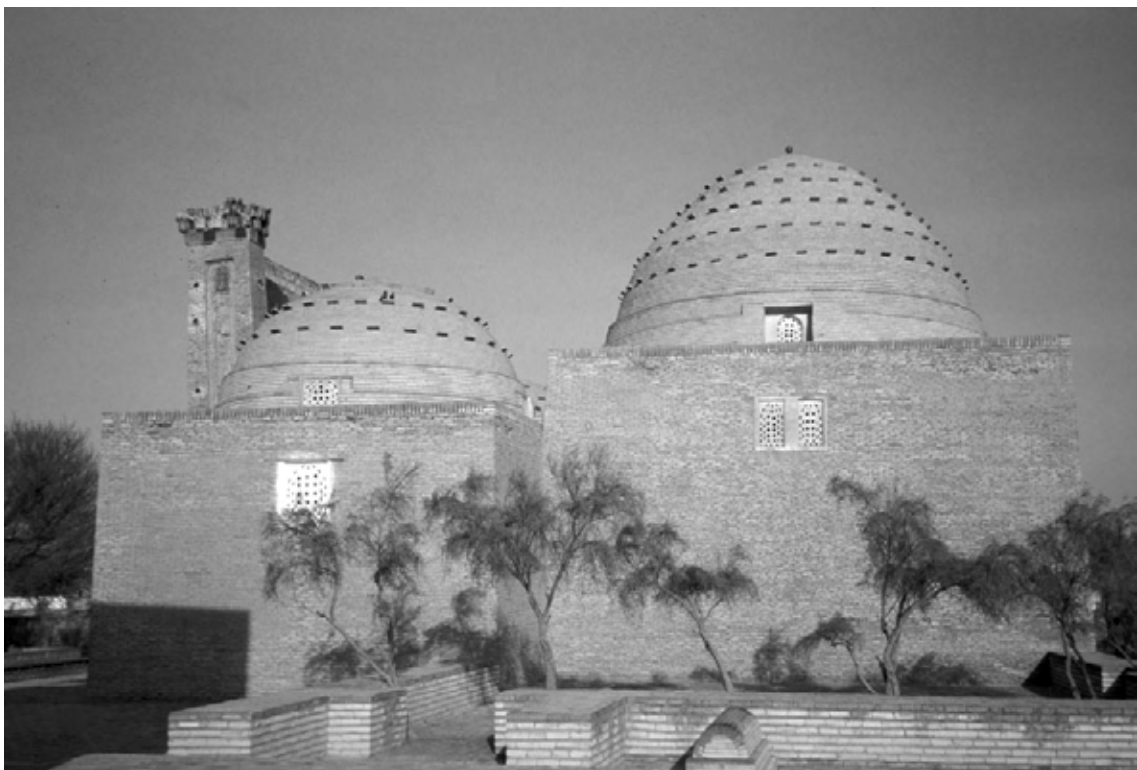
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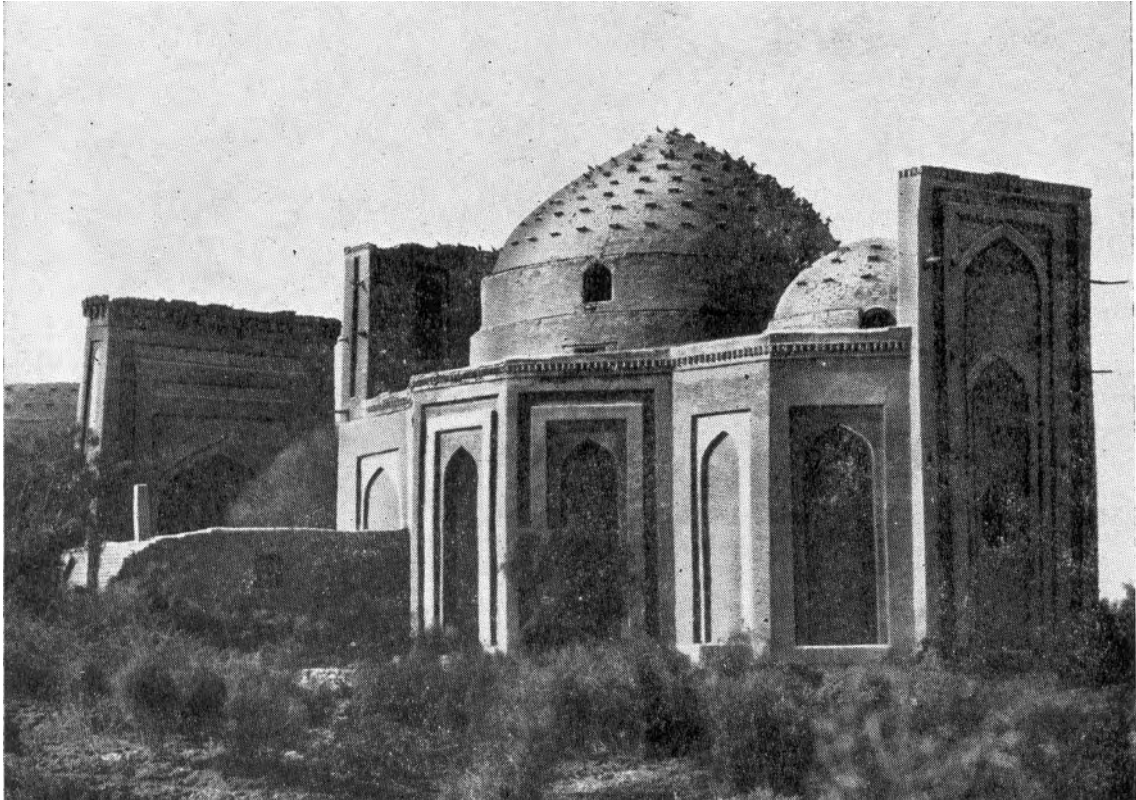




A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский





unknown photographer, 1986

Фотограф неизвестен, 1986





L.I. Sokolov 1929

Л.И.Соколов 1929

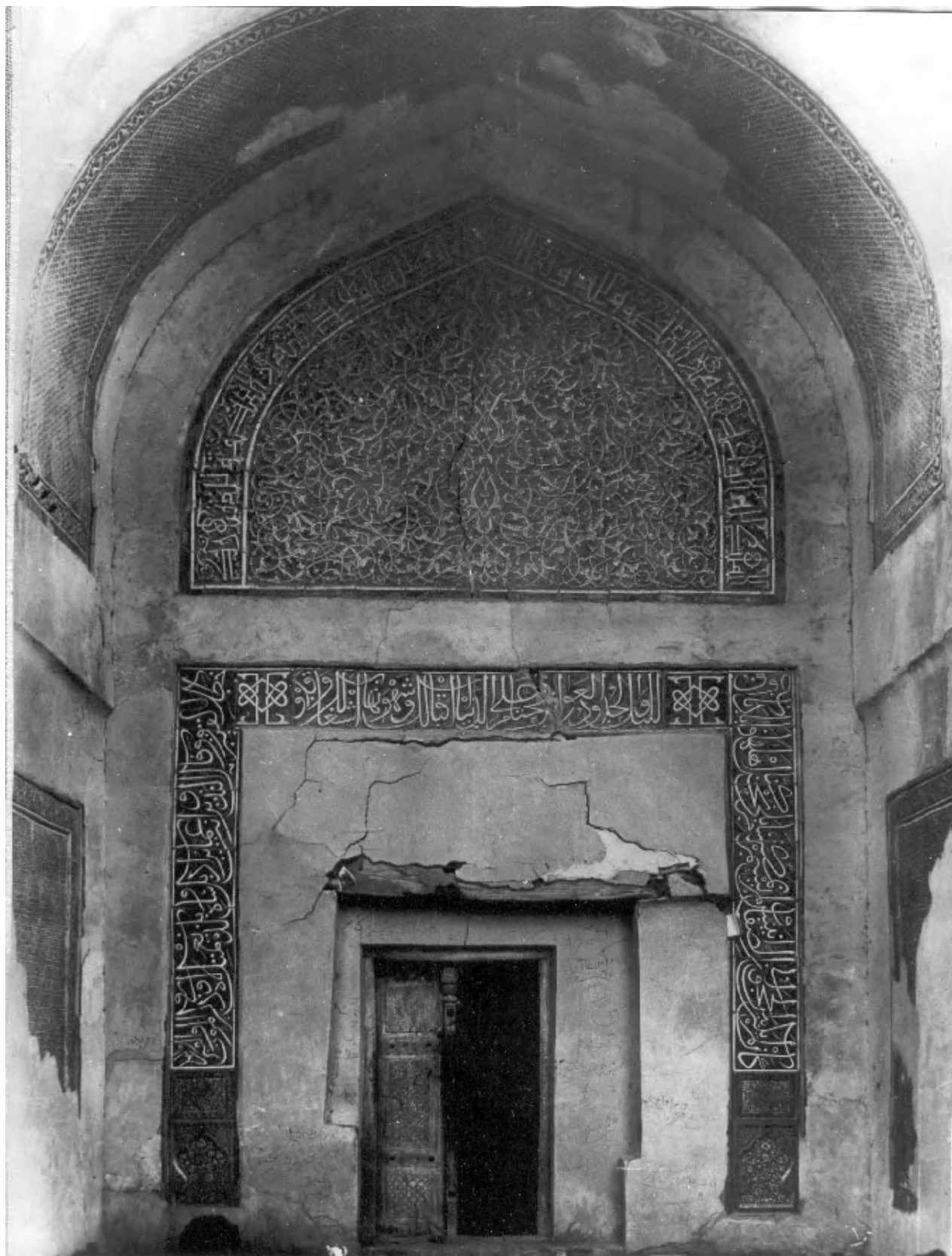




V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

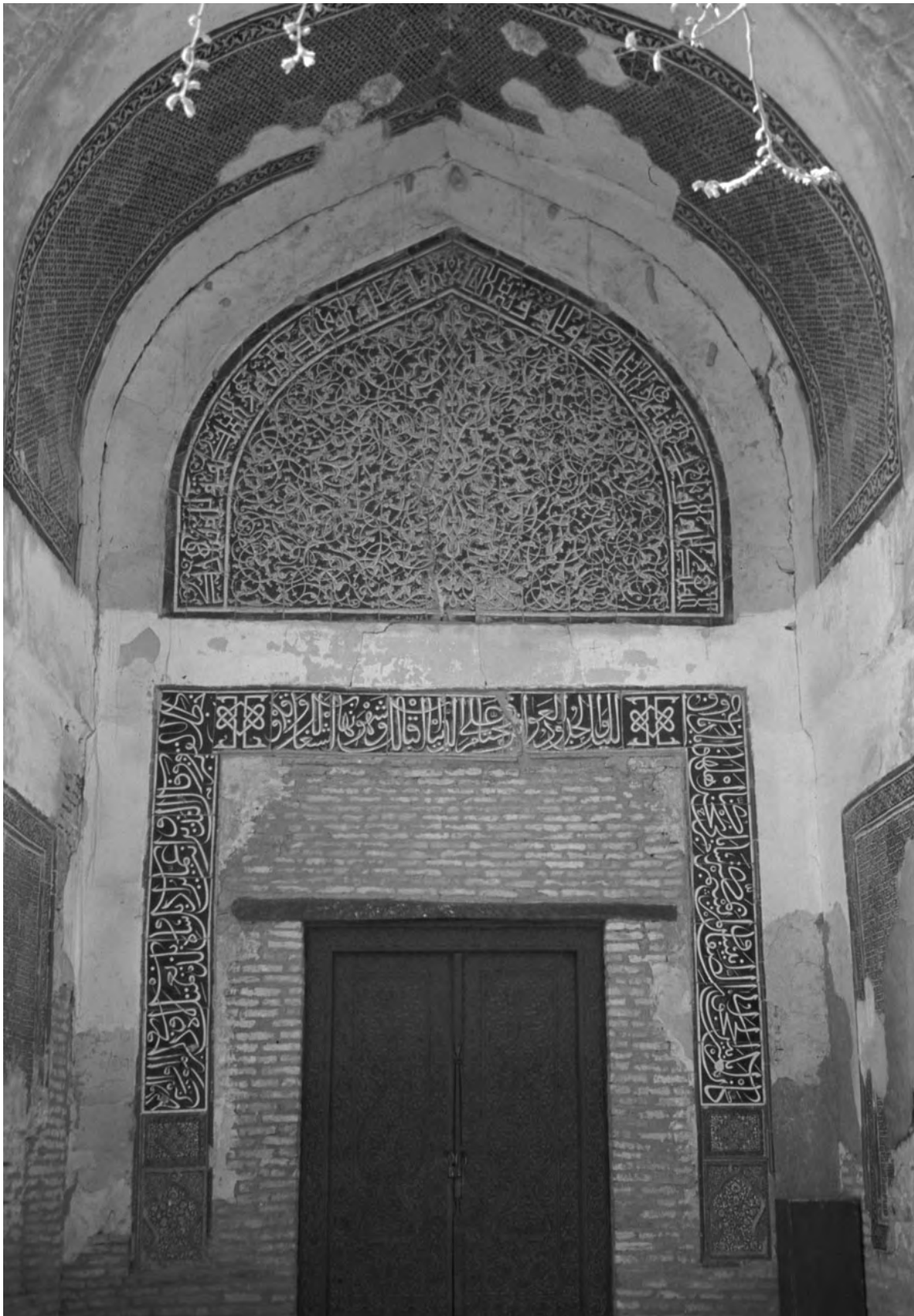
В. И. Пилявский





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





A. U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А. Ю. Якубовский 1928





L.I. Sokolov 1929

Л.И.Соколов 1929



8. Pyriar Vali / Пириар Вали



N. Khalimov, 1979

Н. Халимов, 1979





N. Khalimov, 1979

Н. Халимов, 1979



9. Caravanserai Gate / Портал Караван-Сараи



A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский



10. Seyet Akhmet Mausoleum / Сейд Ахмед



unknown photographer, 1986

Фотограф неизвестен, 1986



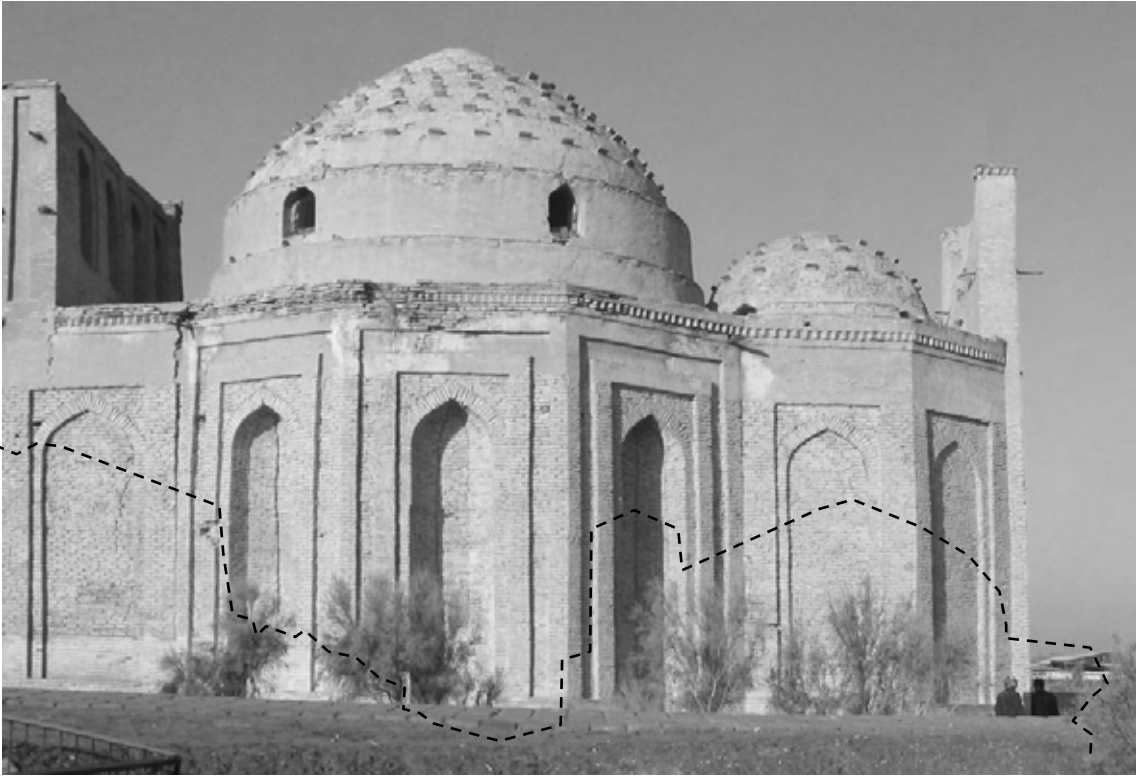
rebuilt on the ancient foundation, after it collapsed in 1993

11. Sultan Ali Mausoleum / Султан Али



L.I. Sokolov 1929

Л.И.Соколов 1929





unknown photographer, 1980's

Фотограф неизвестен

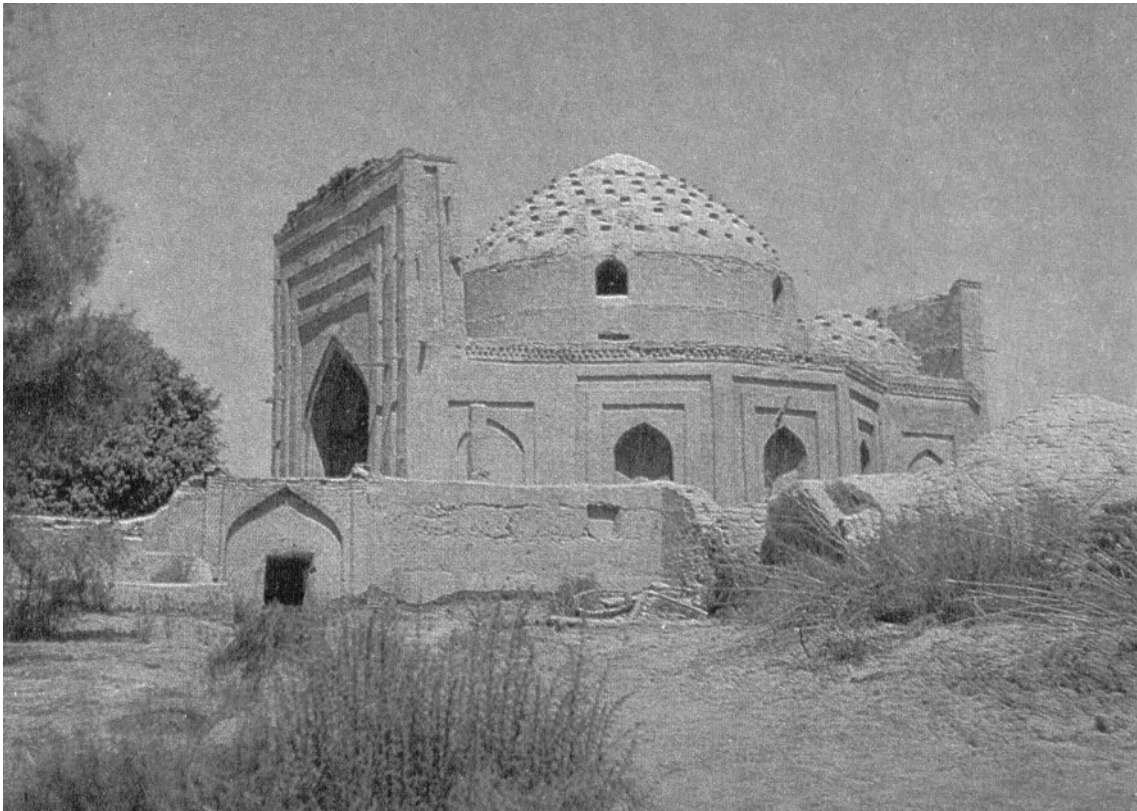




unknown photographer, 1985

Фотограф неизвестен





V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский





unknown photographer, unknown date





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





L.I. Sokolov 1929

Л.И.Соколов 1929





L.I. Sokolov 1929

Л.И.Соколов 1929



12. Tekesh Mausoleum / Текеш



V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский





unknown photographer, 1980's

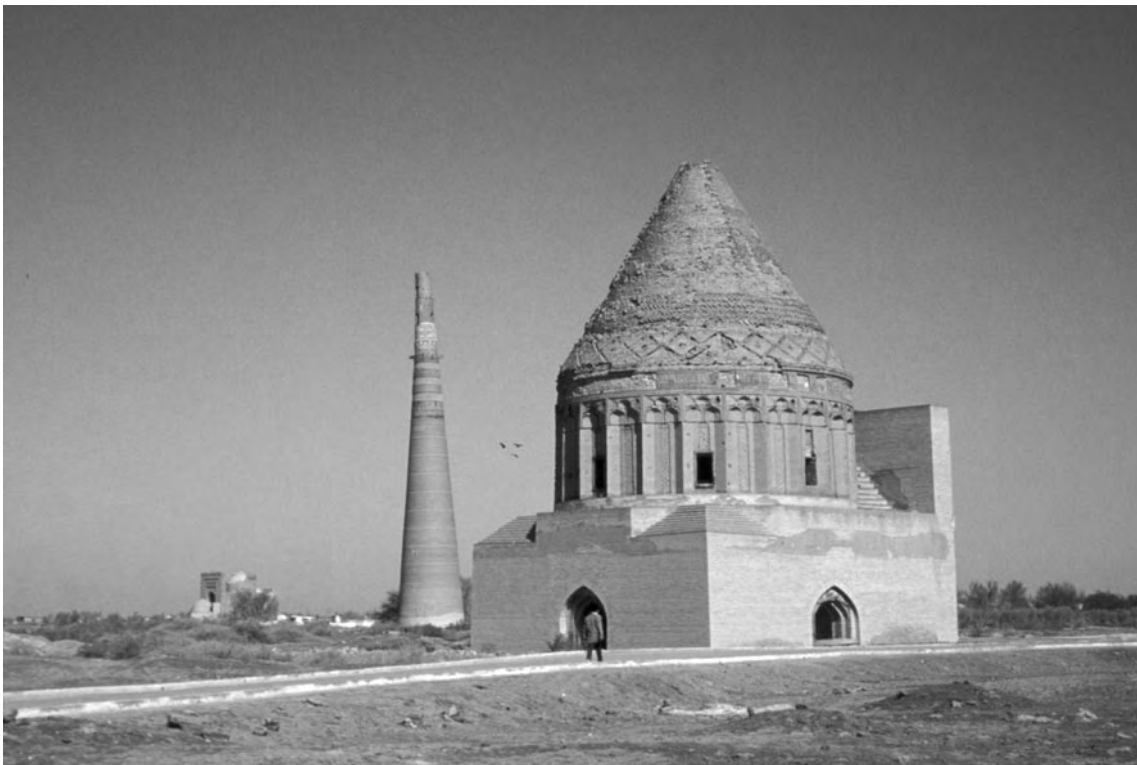
Фотограф неизвестен

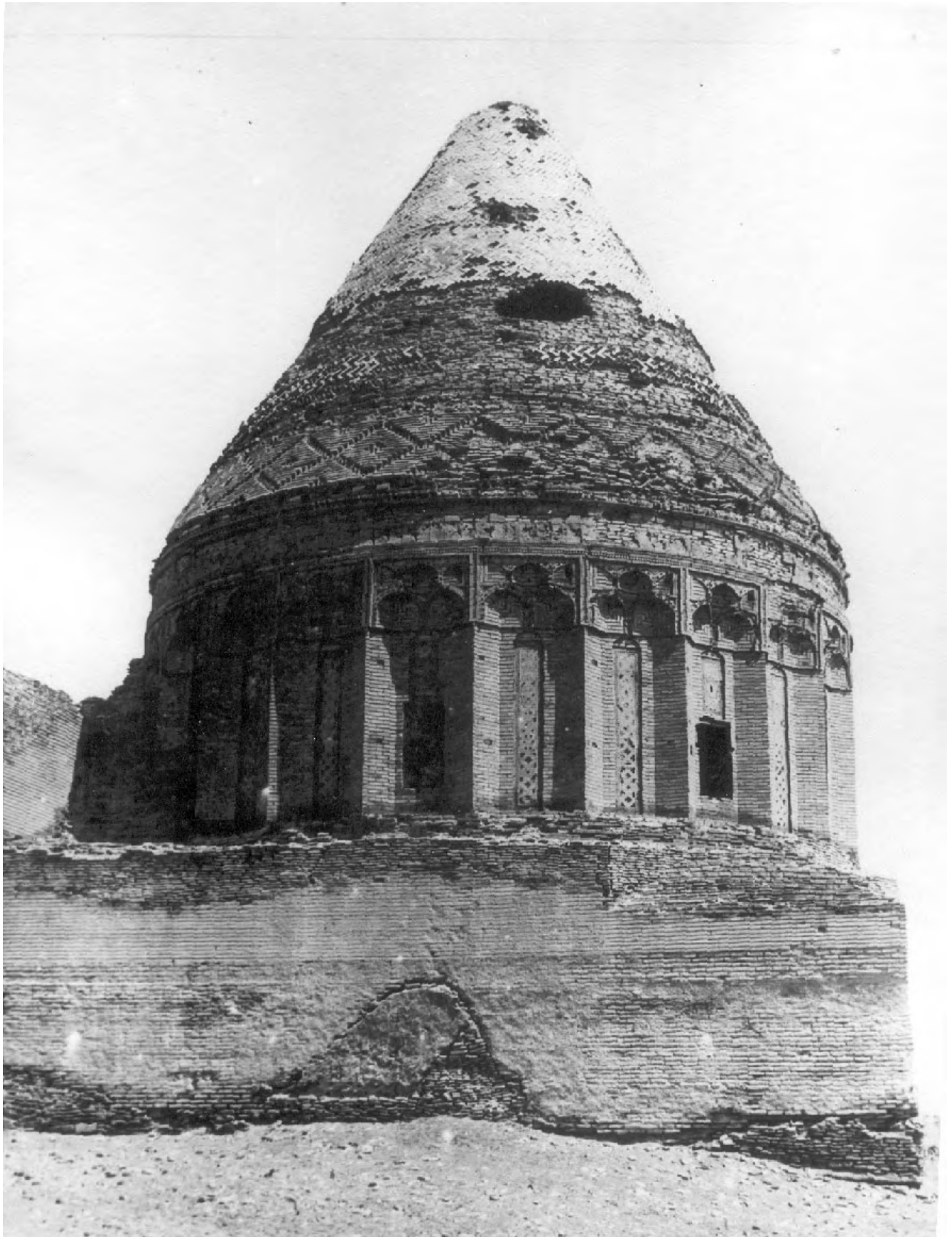




unknown photographer, 1986

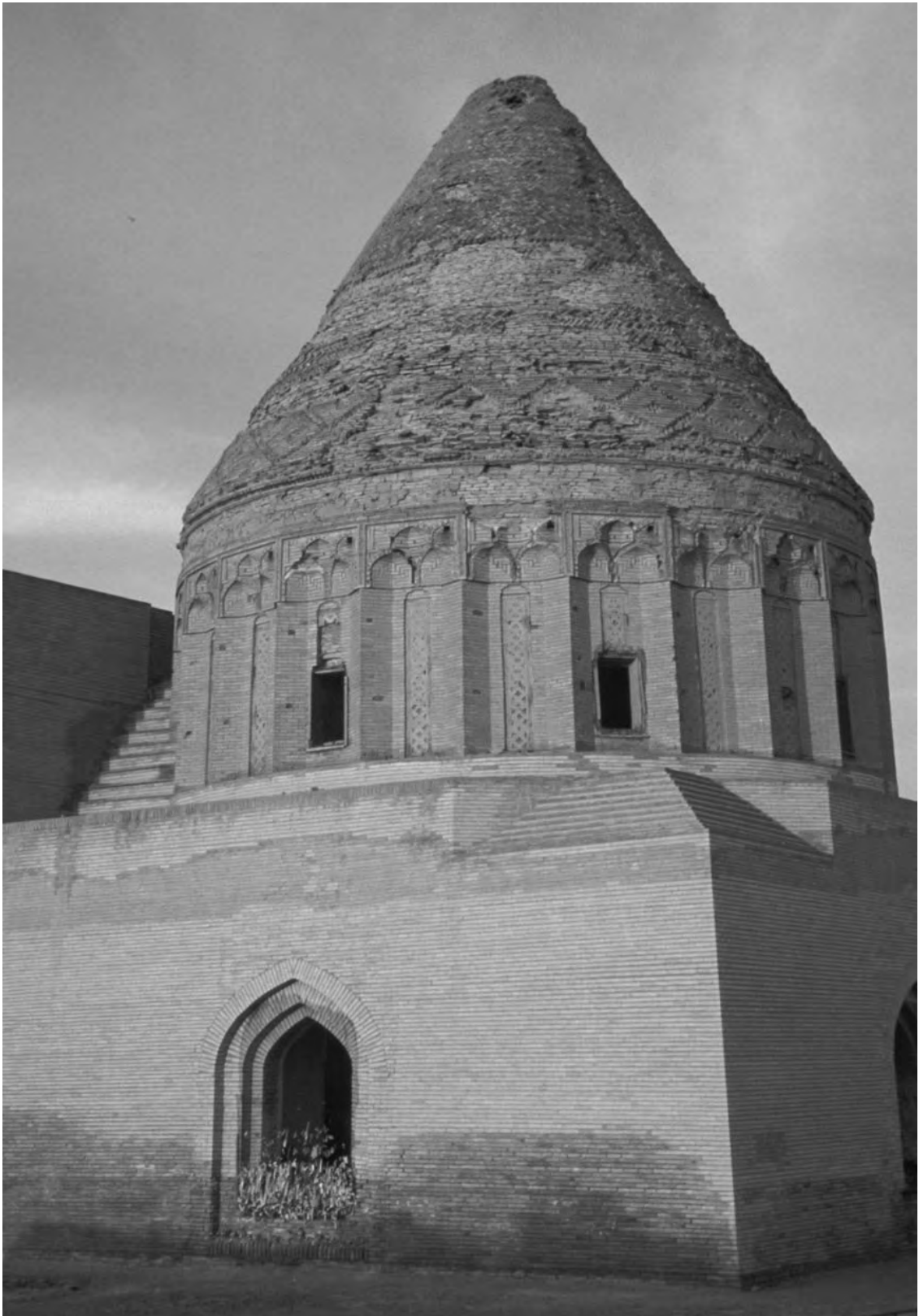
Фотограф неизвестен , 1986





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

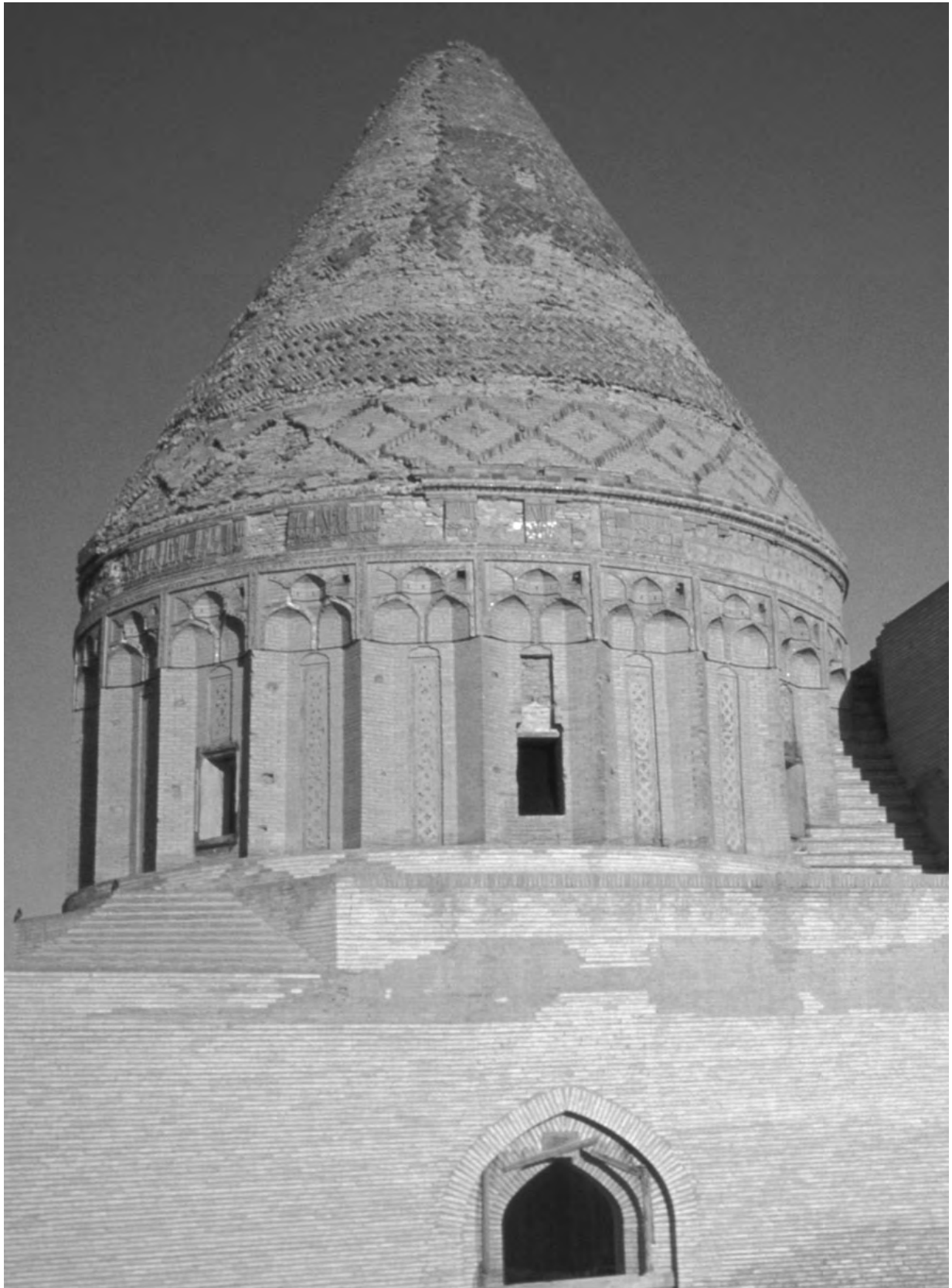
А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

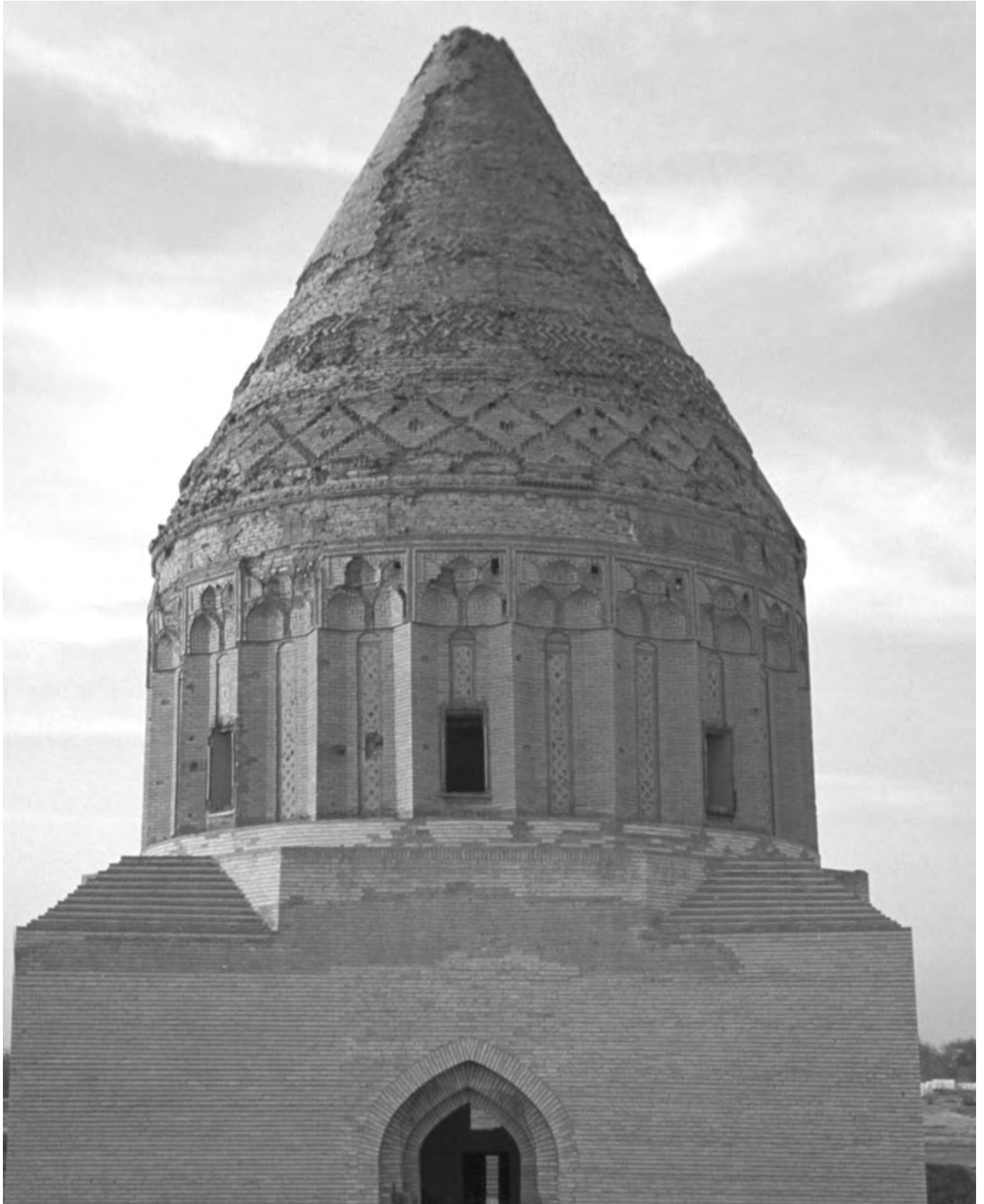
А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





L.I. Sokolov 1928

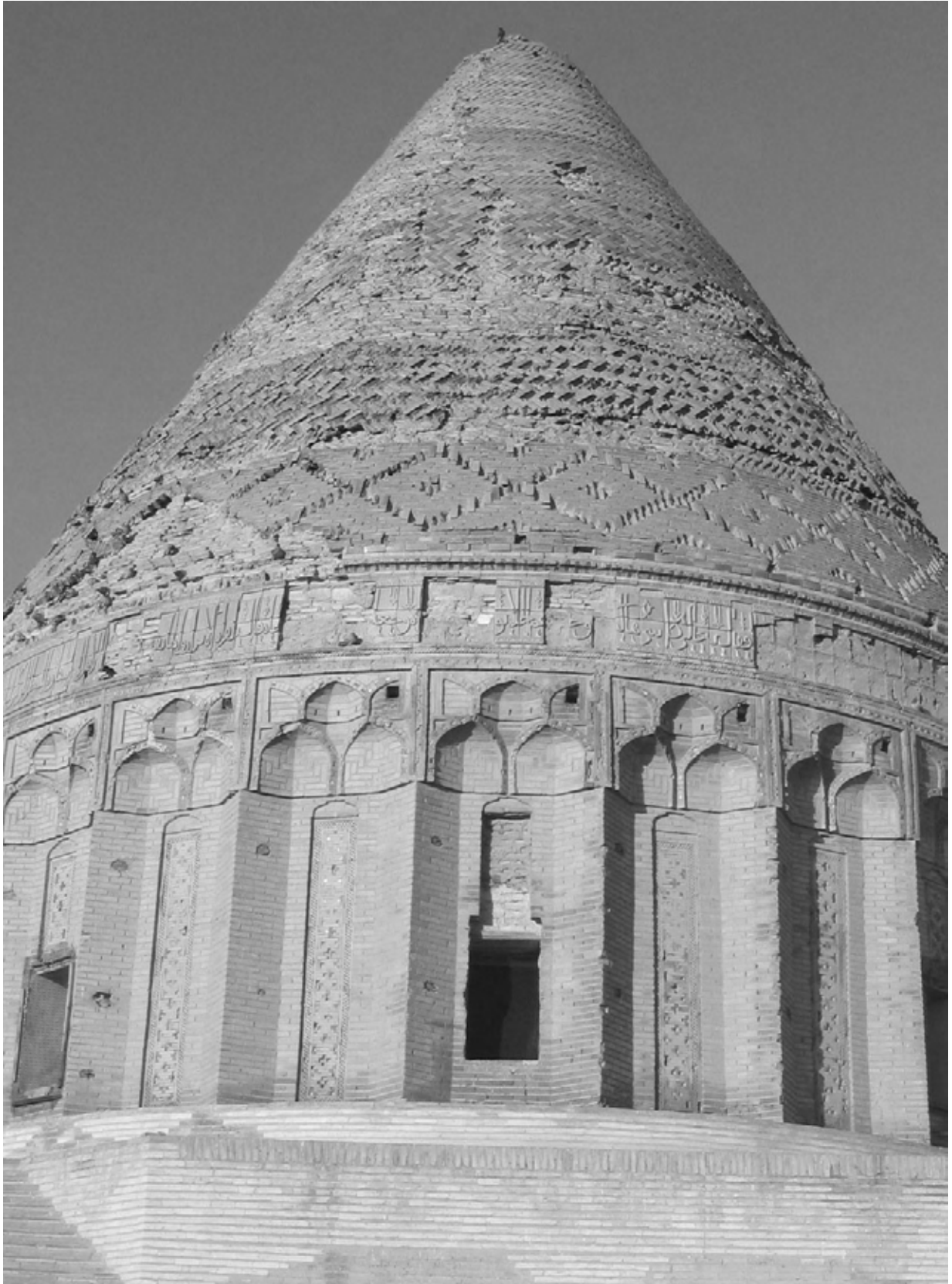
Л.И.Соколов 1928

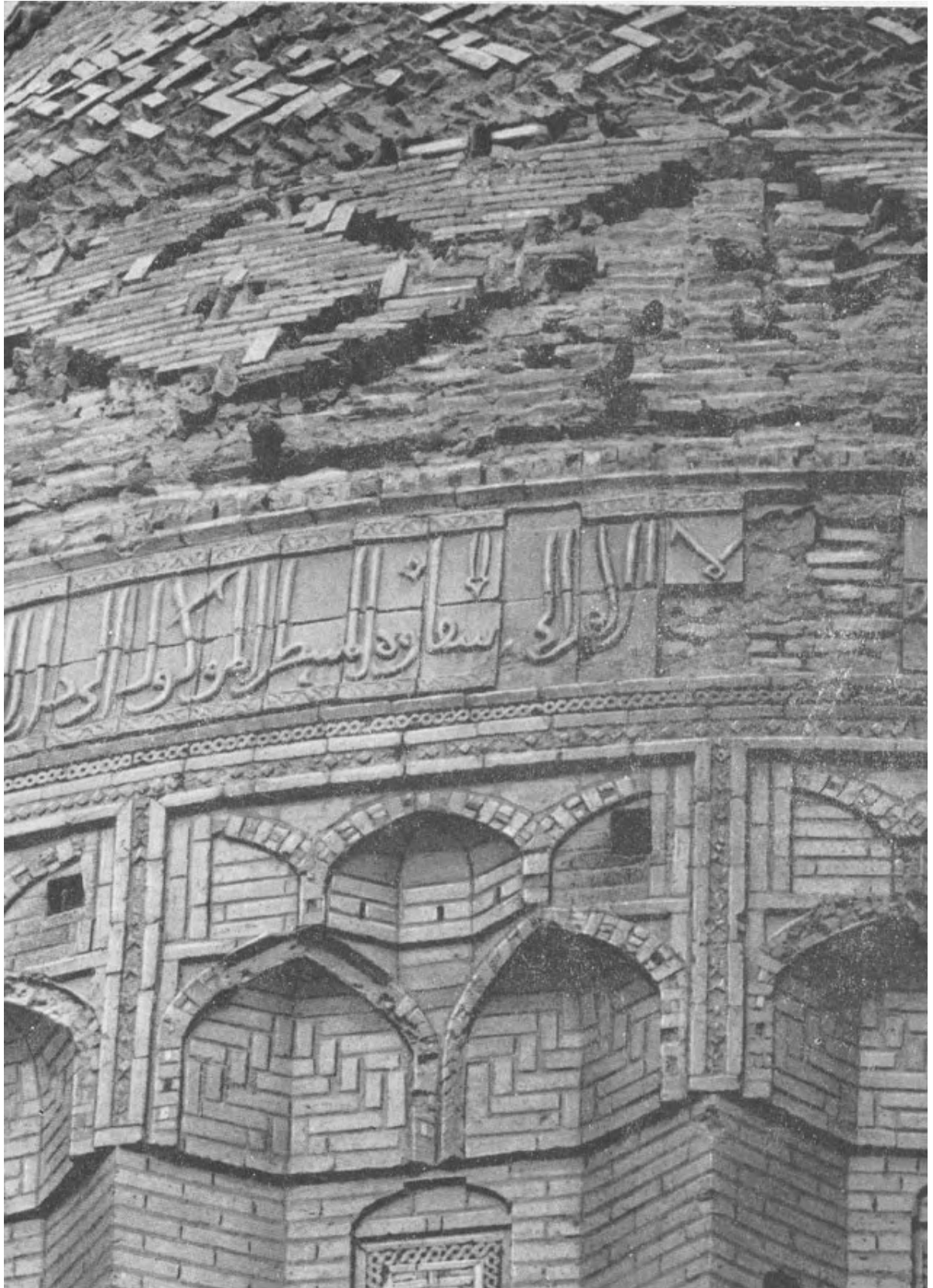




A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

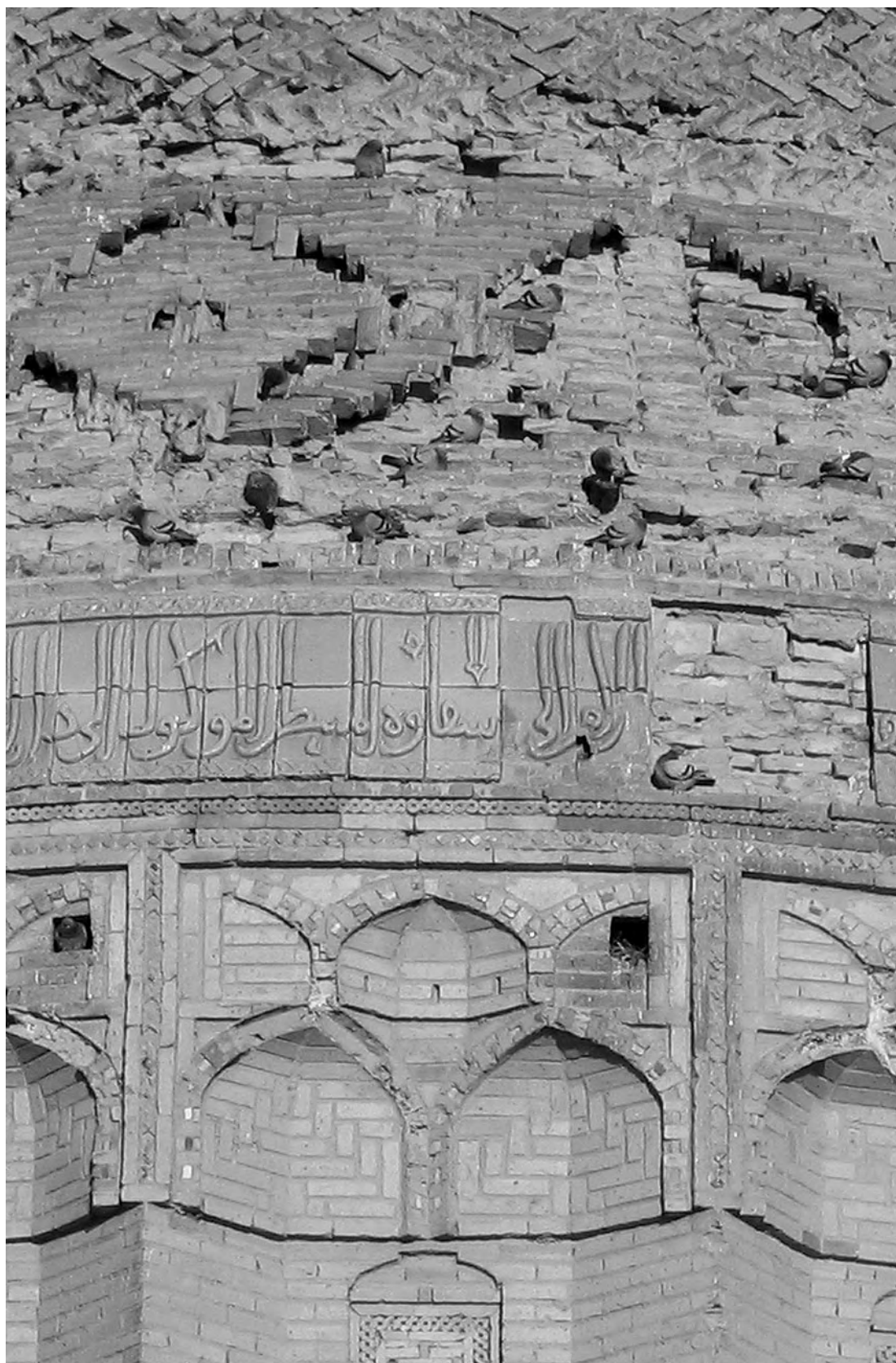
А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский





V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

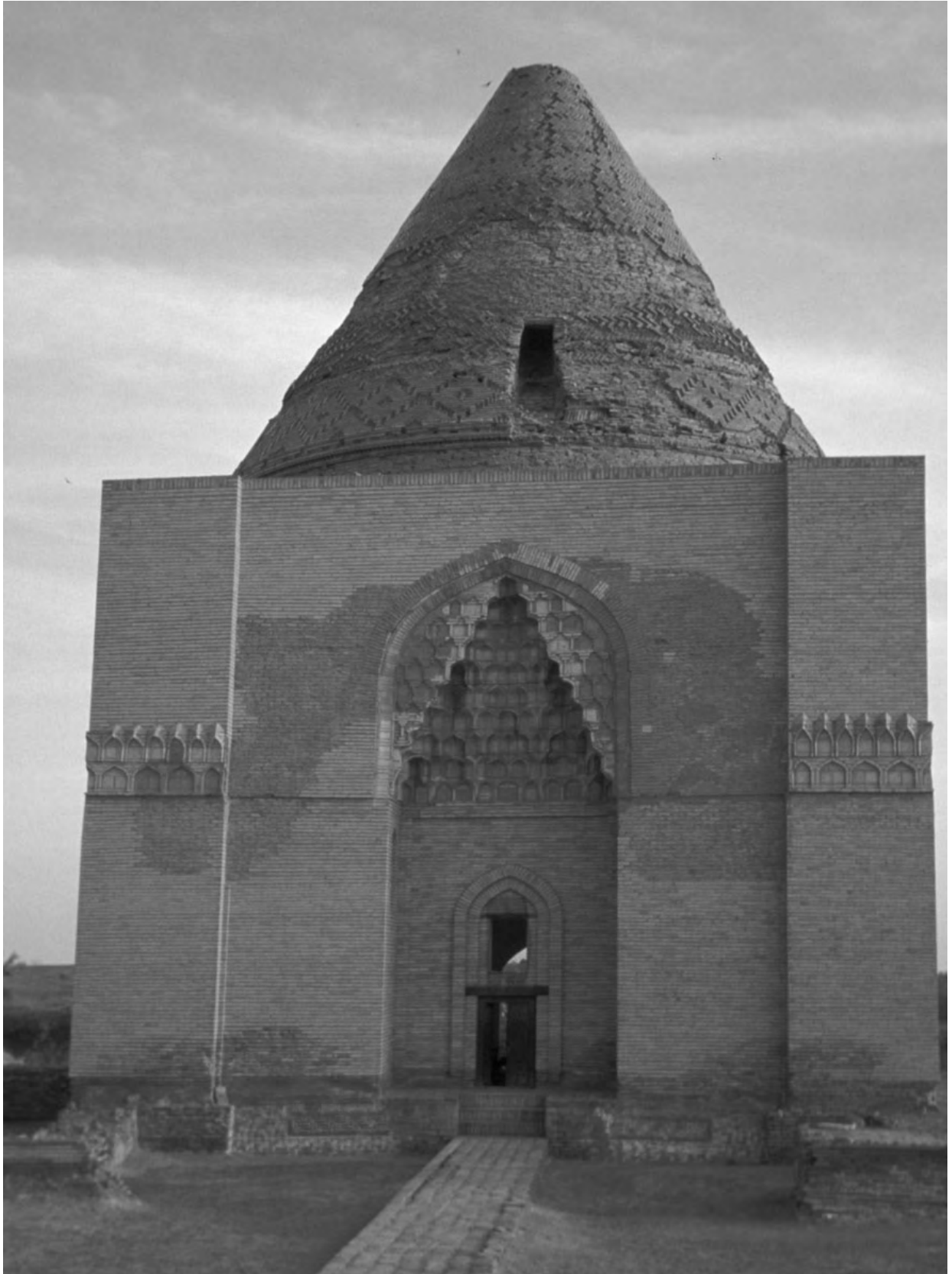
В. И. Пилявский

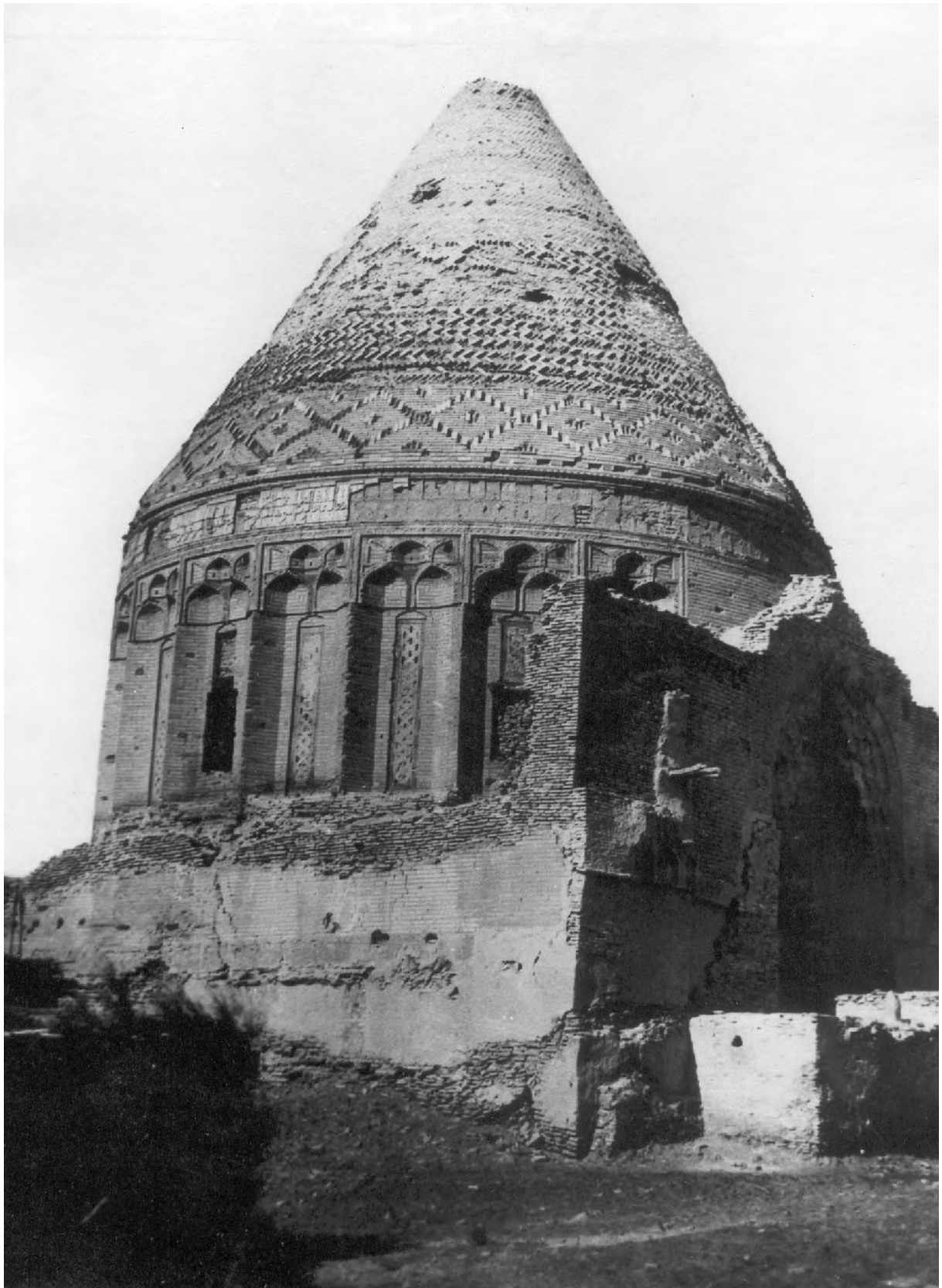




A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

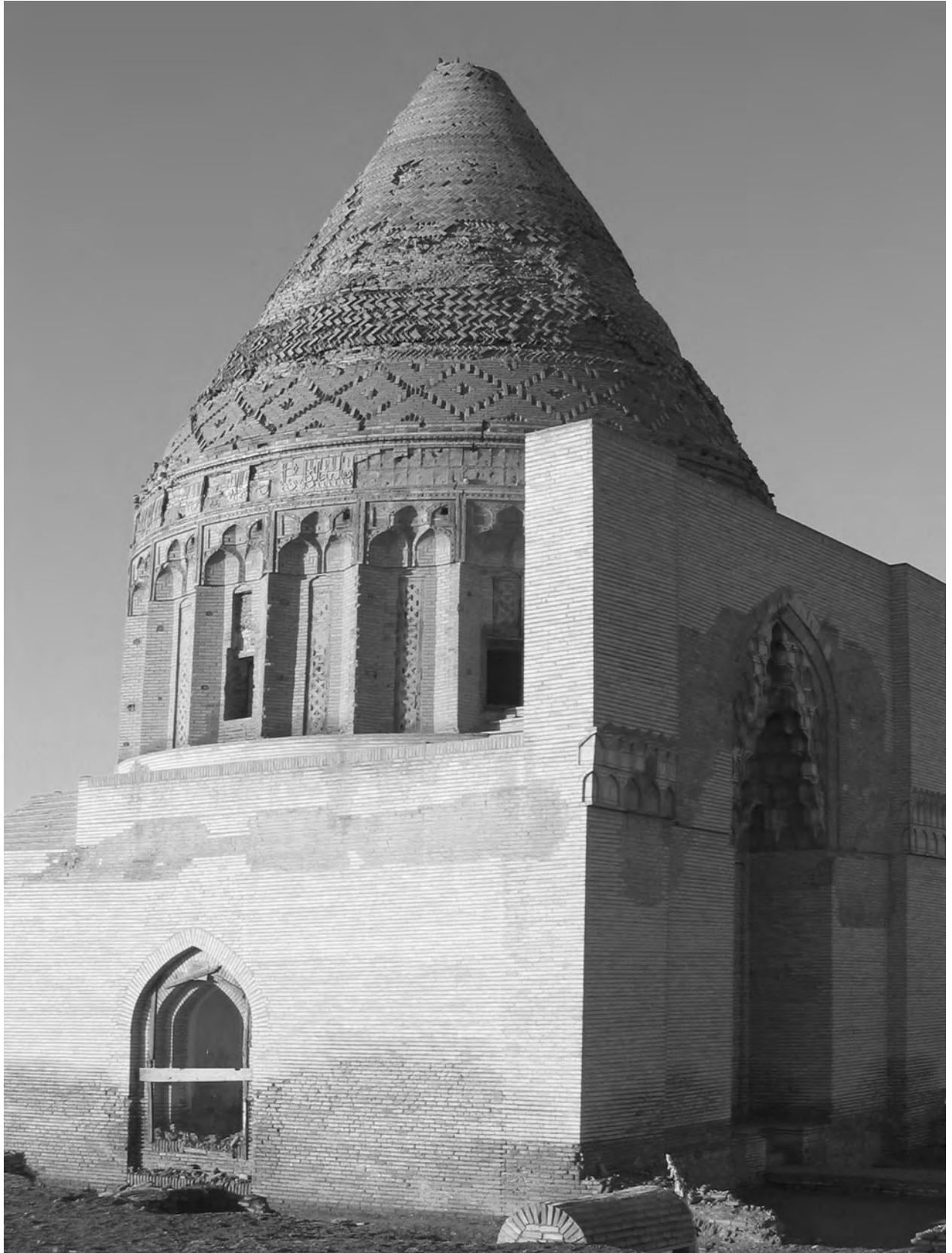
А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928



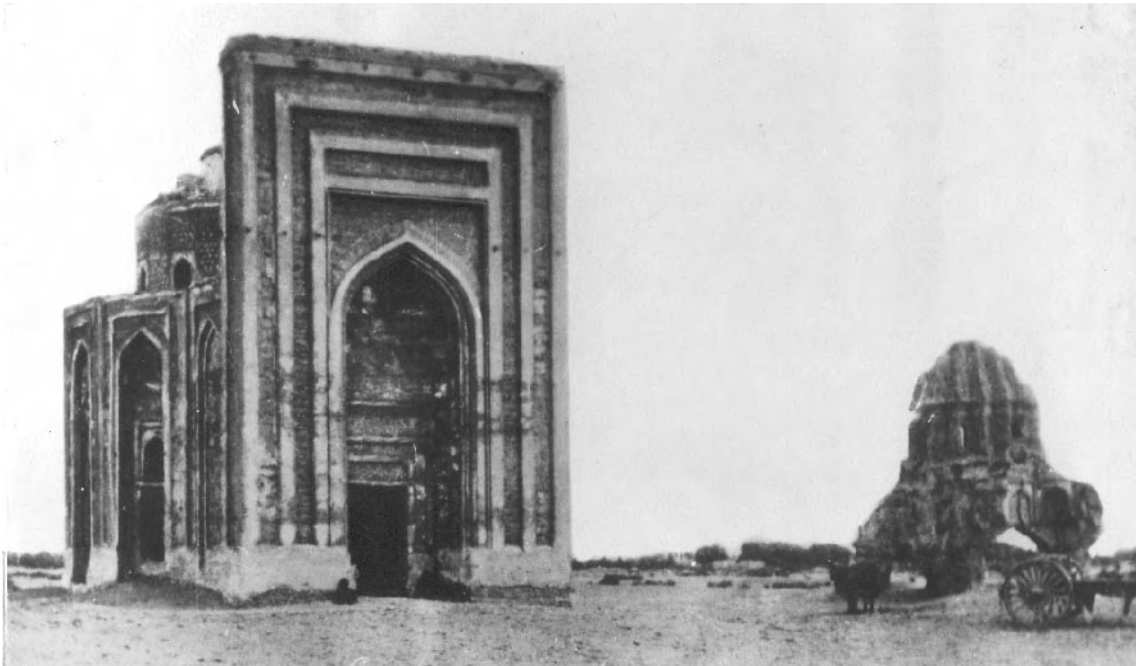


unknown photographer, unknown date

Фотограф и дата неизвестны



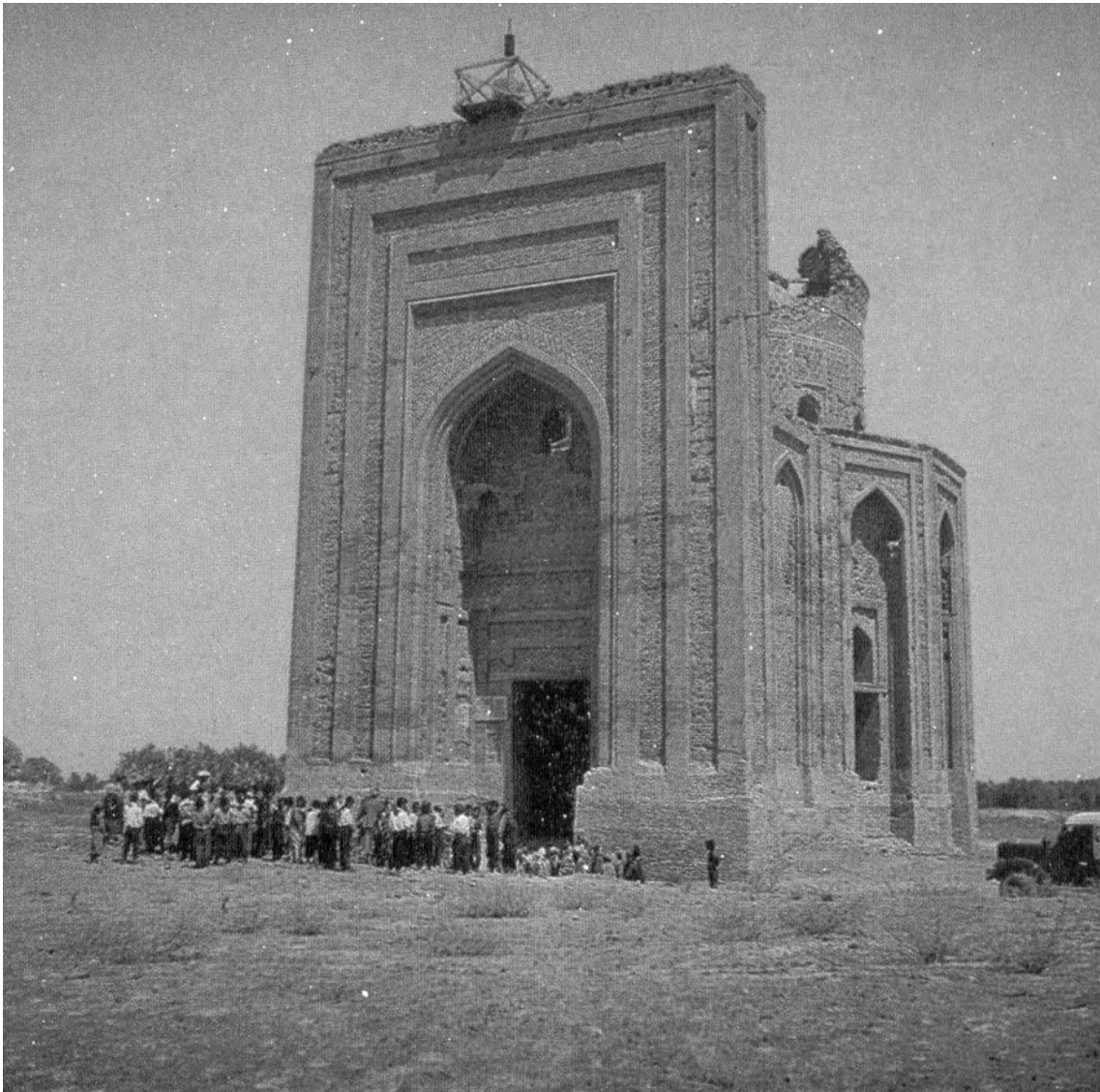
13. Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum / Тырабек-Ханым



D.D. Bukinitch 1914

Д.Д. Букинич 1914





V. I. Piliavsky, 1970's

В. И. Пилявский

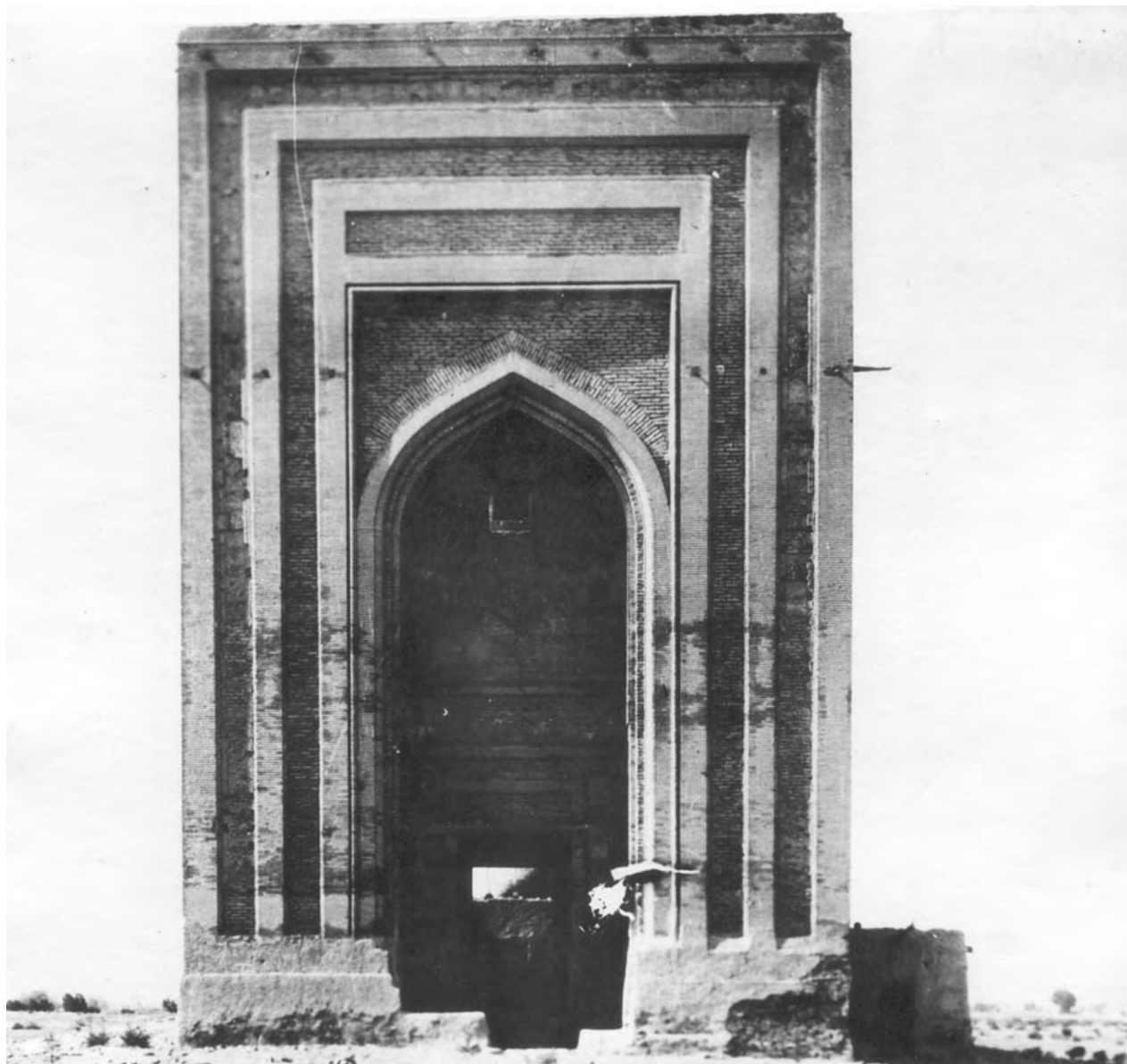




unknown photographer, unknown date

Фотограф и дата неизвестны

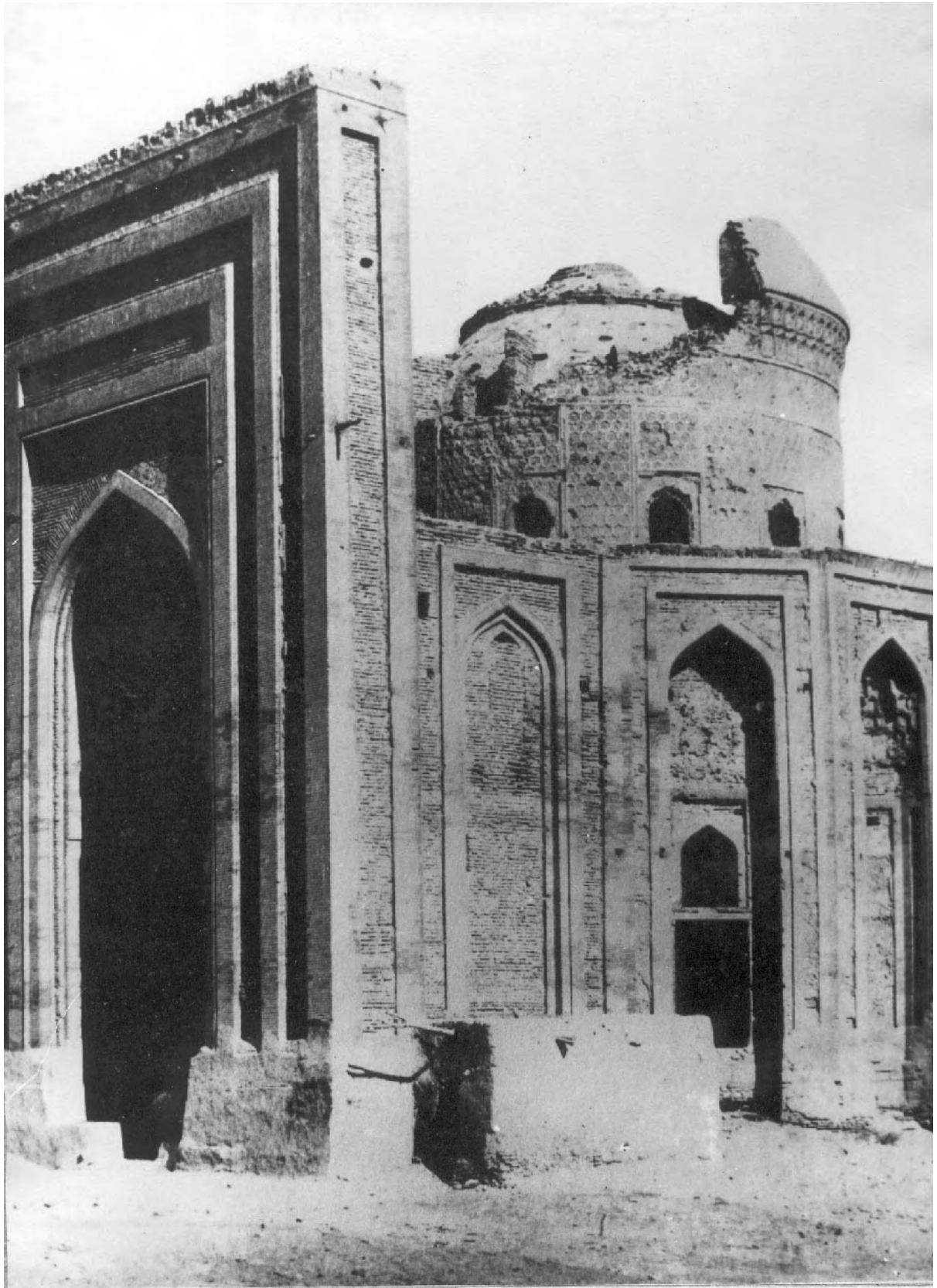




L. I. Sokolov 1928

Л.И.Соколов 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

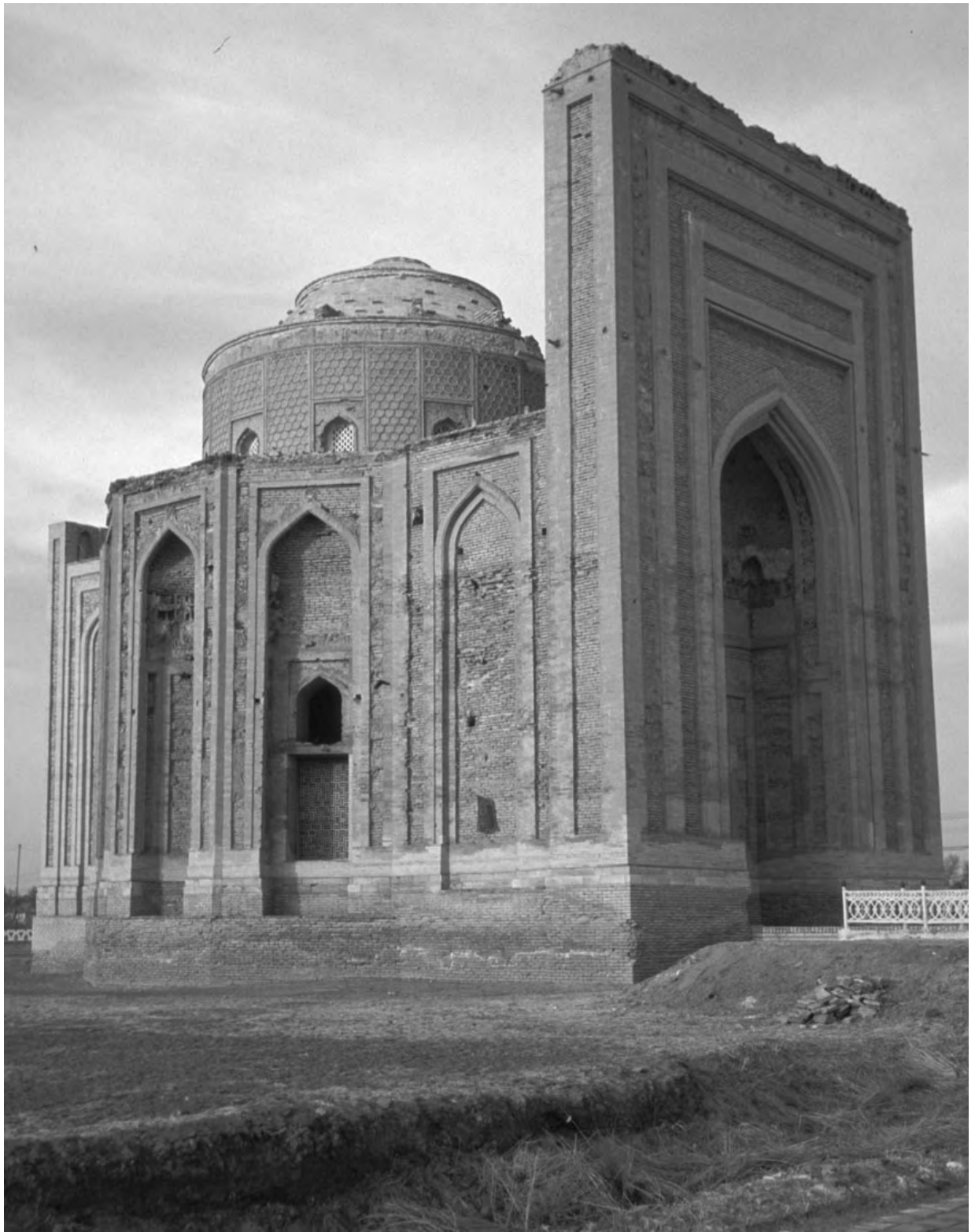
А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





A.U. Iakoubovsky 1928

А.Ю.Якубовский 1928





L.I. Sokolov 1928

Л.И.Соколов 1928





unknown photographer, 1986

1986



Foreword

This document was compiled to provide information to the World Heritage Centre - UNESCO for the nomination of Kunya Urgench as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

All the following documents are scanned from the archives of the National Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan. These archives are available both in Ashgabat and Kunya Urgench. Permission to make use of these illustrations for publication purposes should be sought from the above Department.

Contact addresses

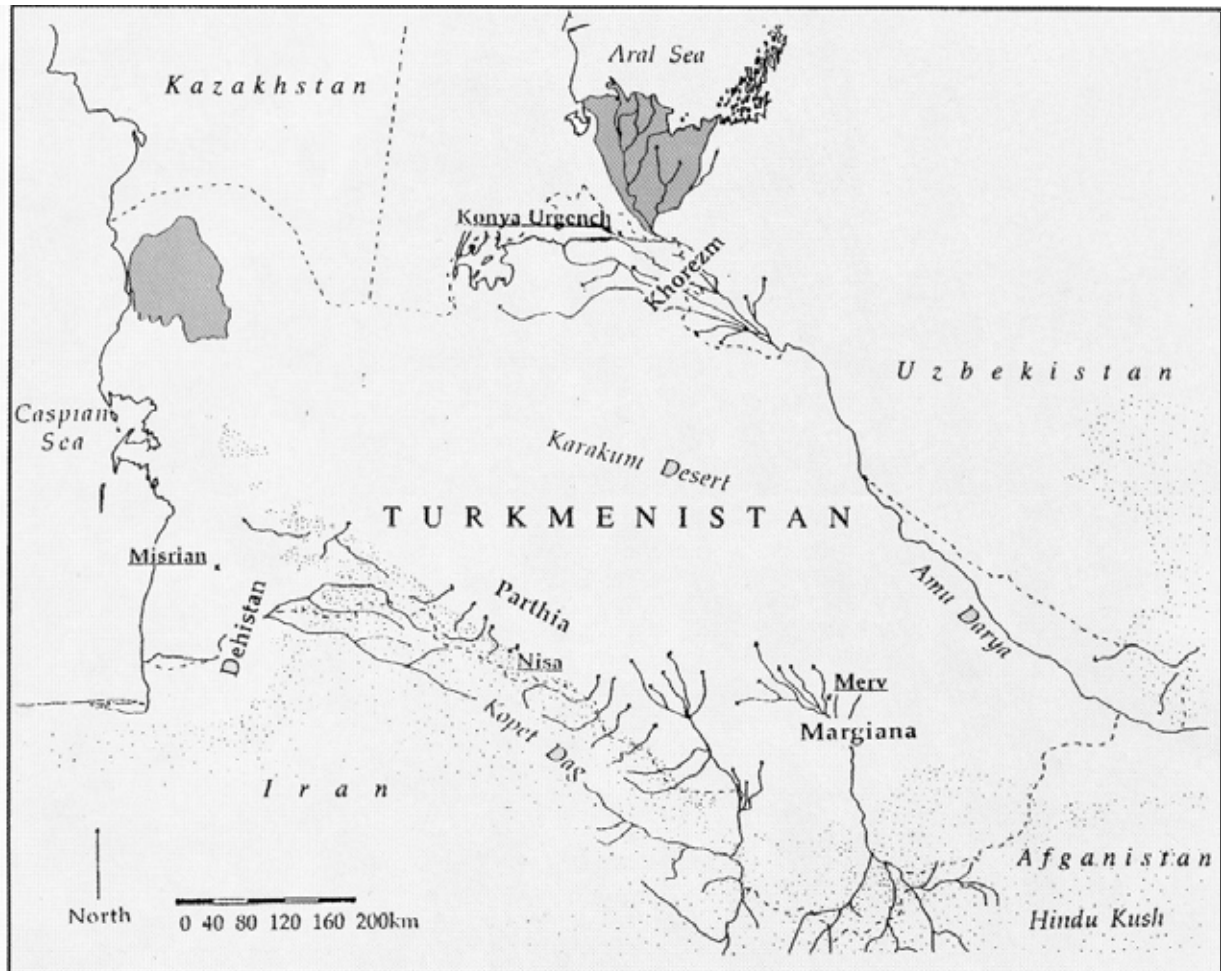
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Department for the protection, study and restoration of the historical and cultural monuments of Turkmenistan
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744000 Ashgabat
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International Centre for Earth Construction- School of Architecture of Grenoble
BP 2636,
60, avenue de Constantine
38036, Grenoble cedex 2, France
Phone: 00 33 (0)4 76 69 83 41 / 4 76 40 66 25 Fax : 00 33 (0)4 76 22 72 56
e-mail : sebastien.moriset@grenoble.archi.fr

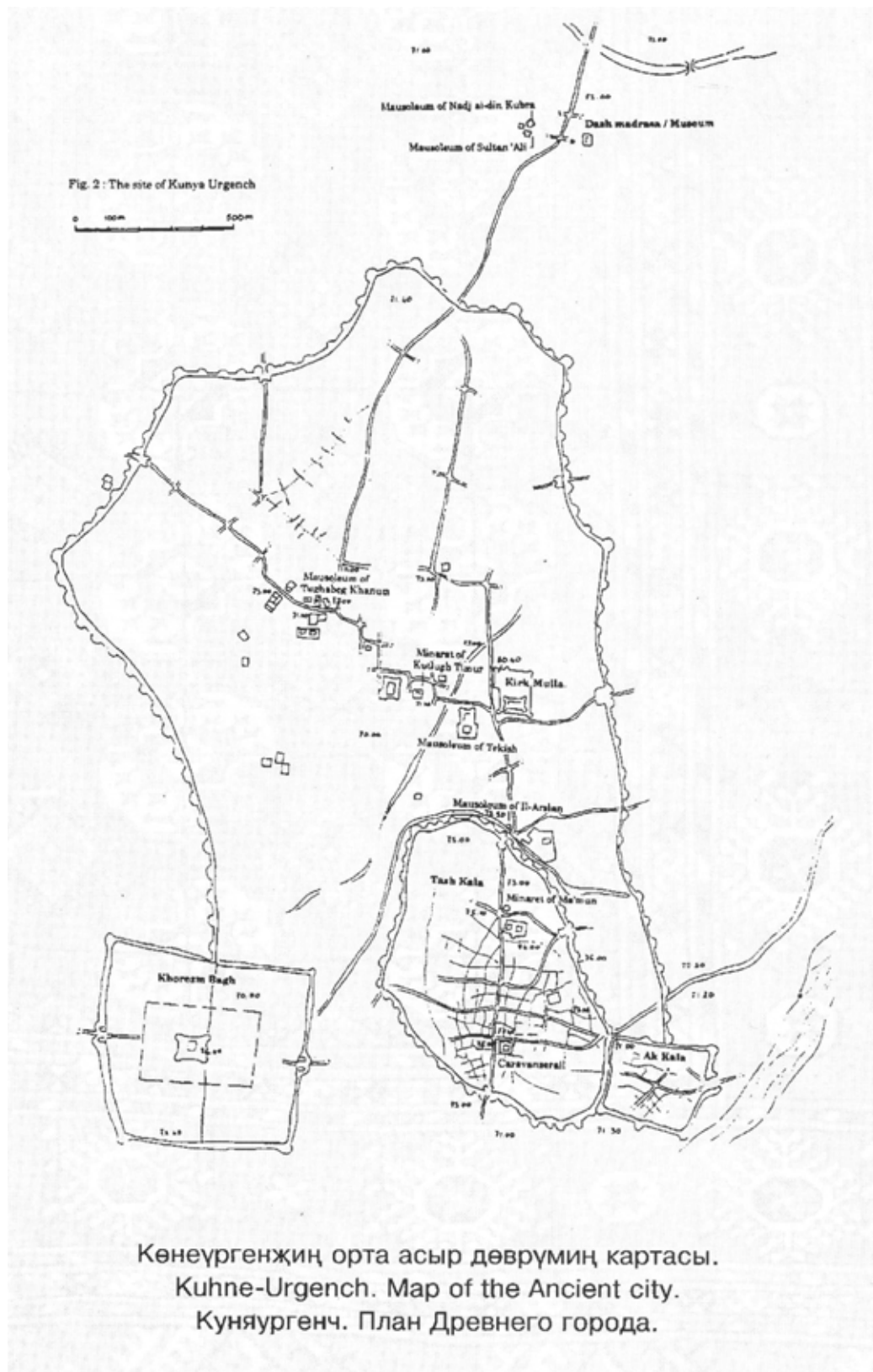
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1. Regional map / Региональная Карта

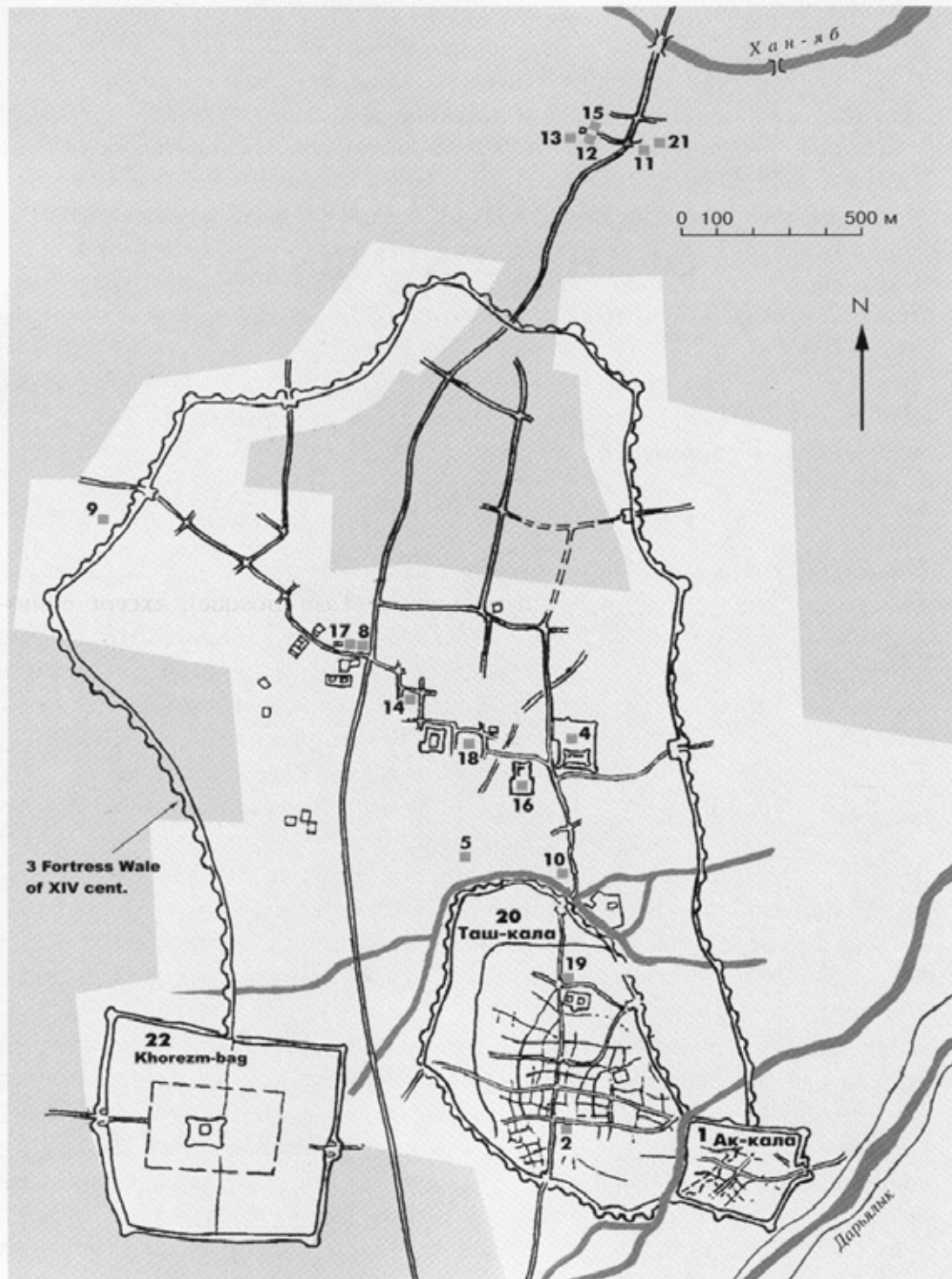


2. Site maps / План Древнего Города



Drawn by: Tolstov
Date: 1951
Book: *Trudy, Khorezm expedition*, Moscow, 1952 (in Russian)

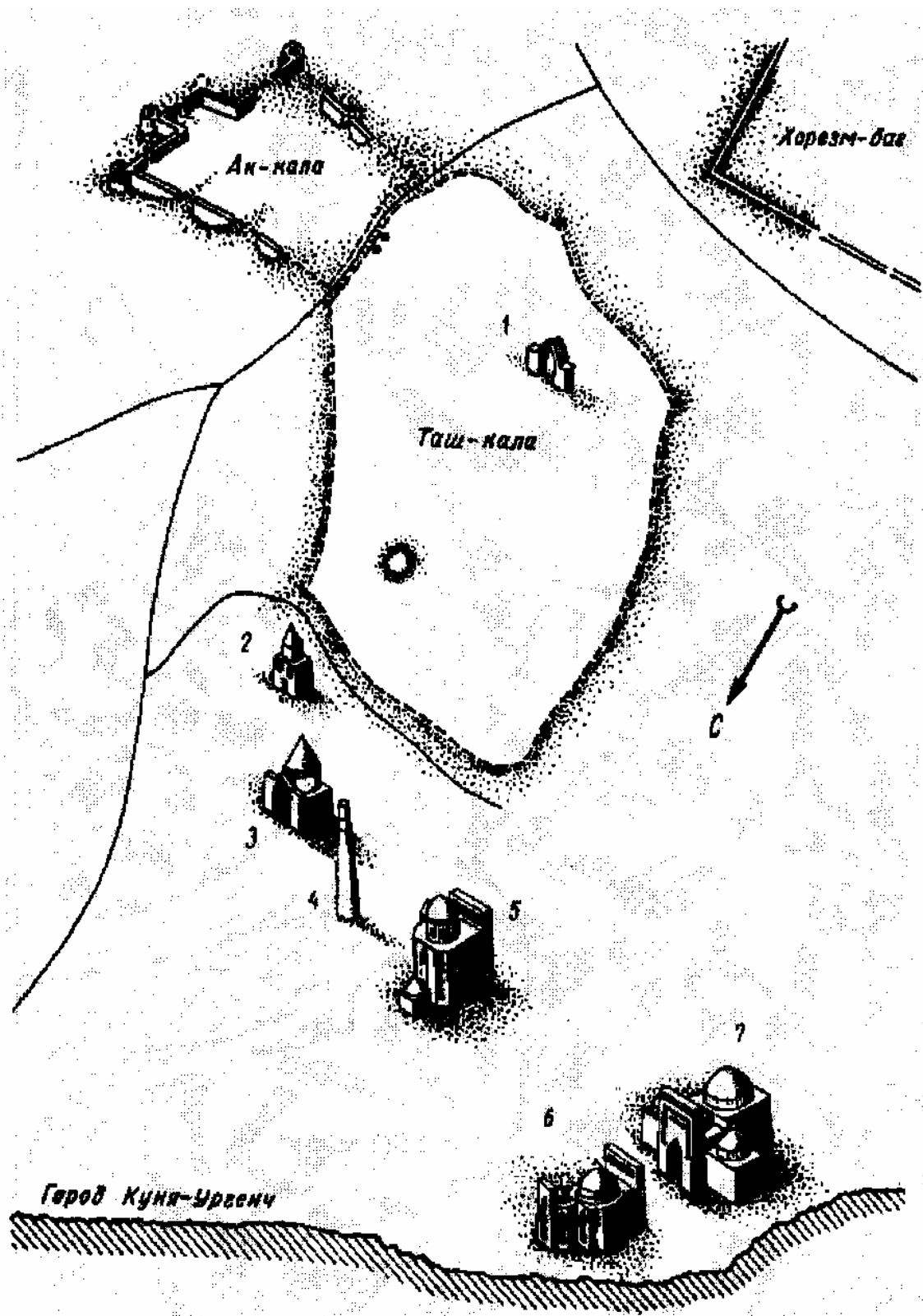
On the scheme numbering of the monuments corresponds to their ordinal numbers in the guide-book. Only fortification works are inscribed. The protected territory of historical landscape is marked out by the yellow colour



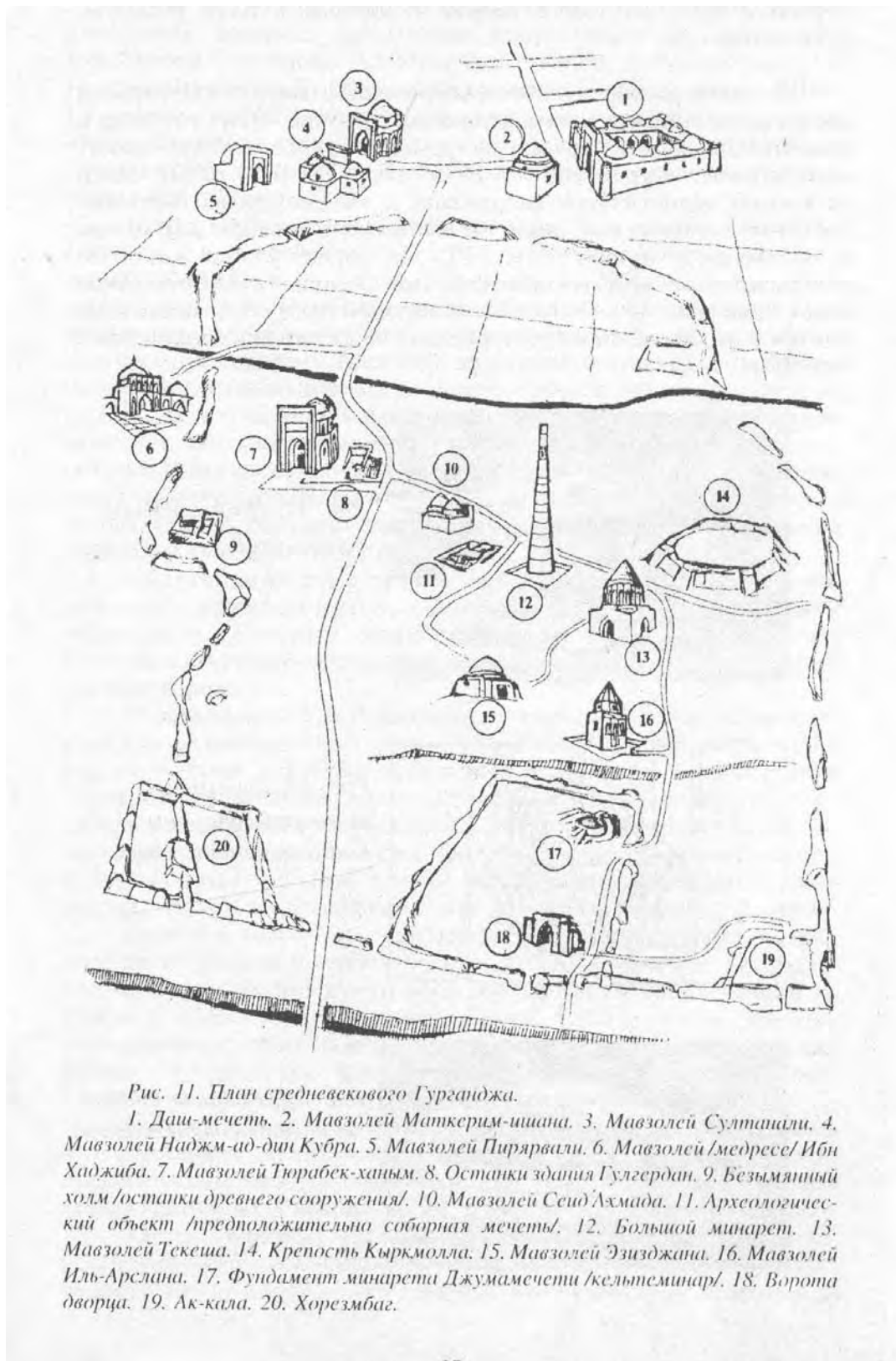
Drawn by: Ruslan Muradov

Date: 1999

Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 [Russian version published in 2000]



Drawn by: V. I. Piliavsky
Date: 1970
Book: *Piliavsky V. I., Kunya Urgench*, Leningrad, 1974 [in Russian]



Drawn by: R. Muradov

Date: 1993

Book: Yusubov K., **Gadymy Horezmin Yuregi** (ancient Khorezm heart), Ashgabat, 1995 (Turkmen language)

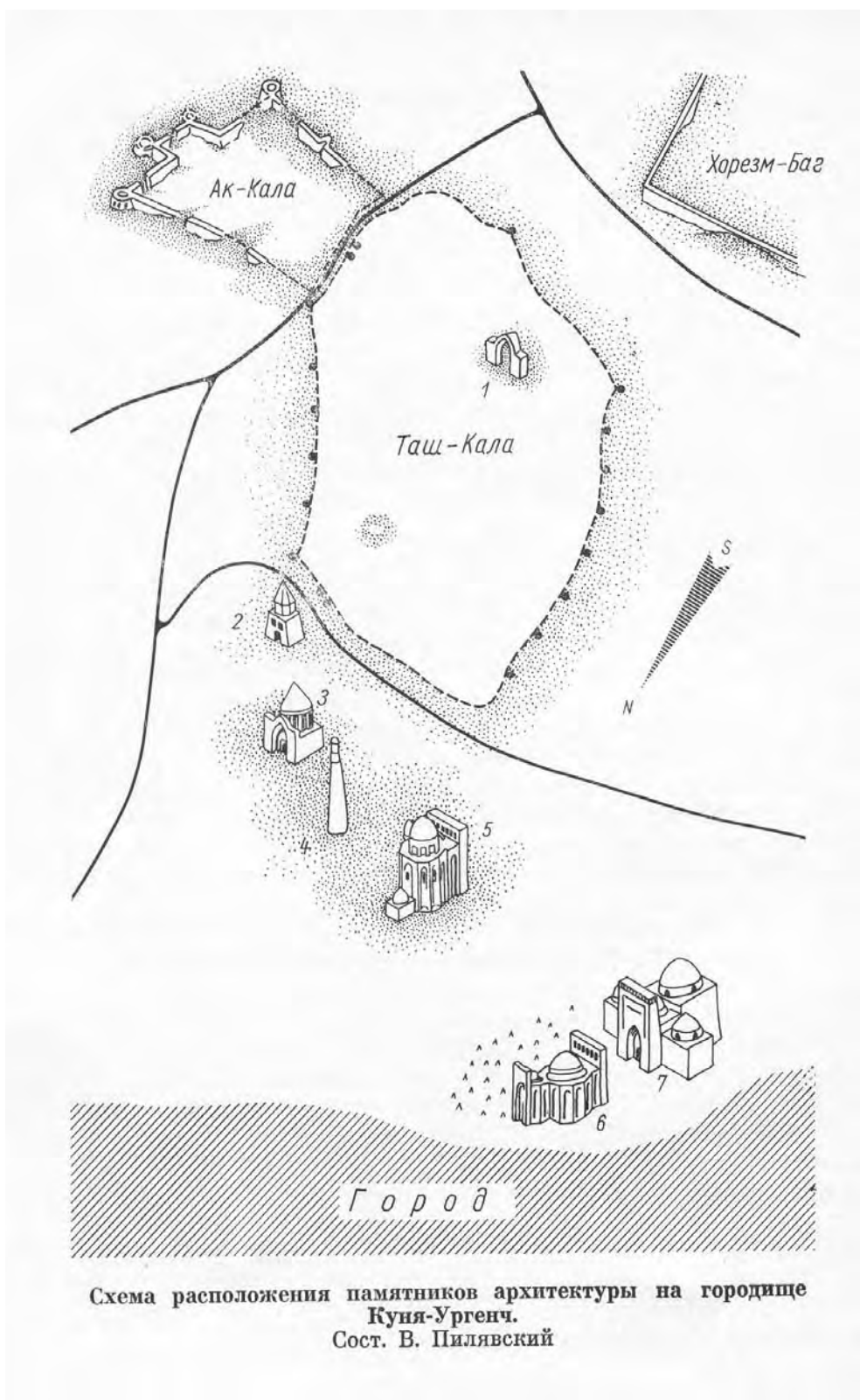


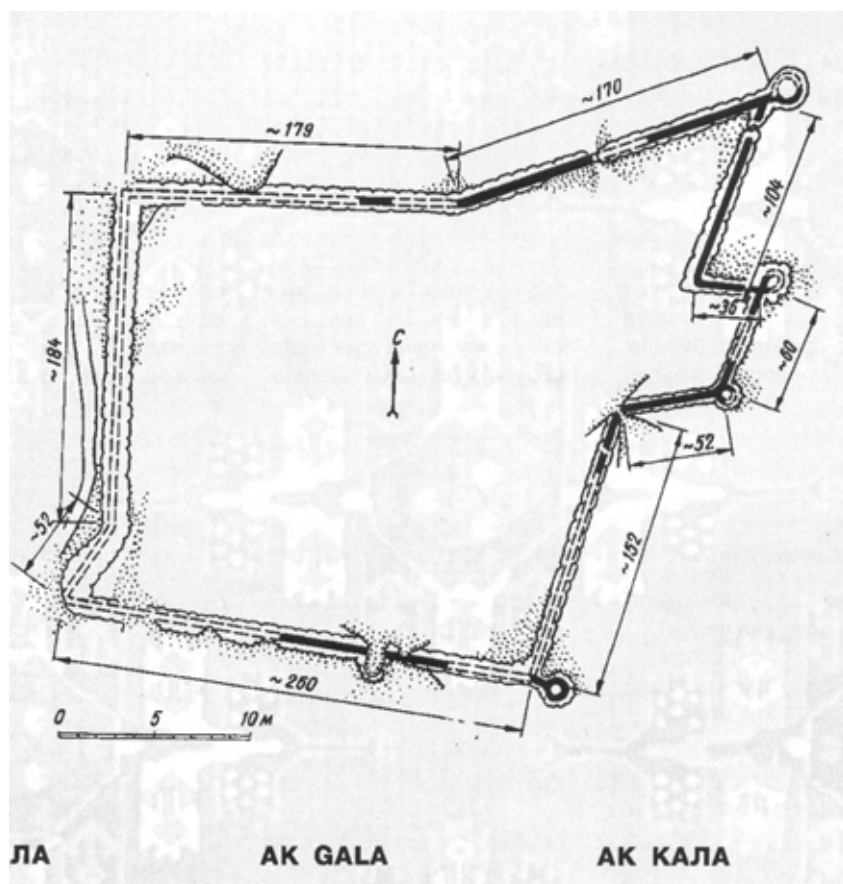
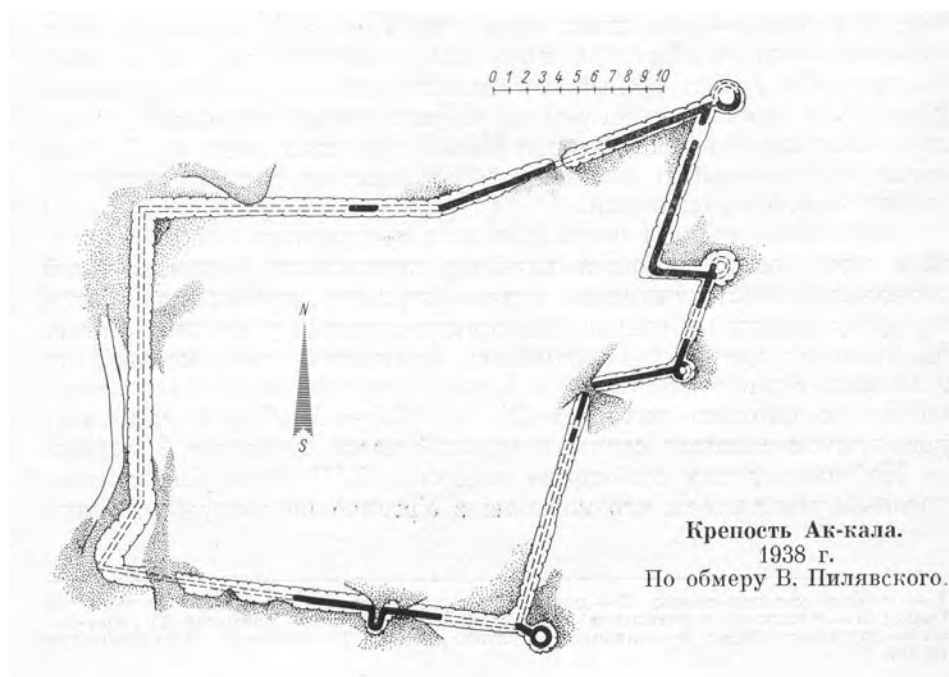
Схема расположения памятников архитектуры на городище
Куны-Ургенч.
Сост. В. Пилявский

Drawn by: V. I. Piliavsky

Date: 1970

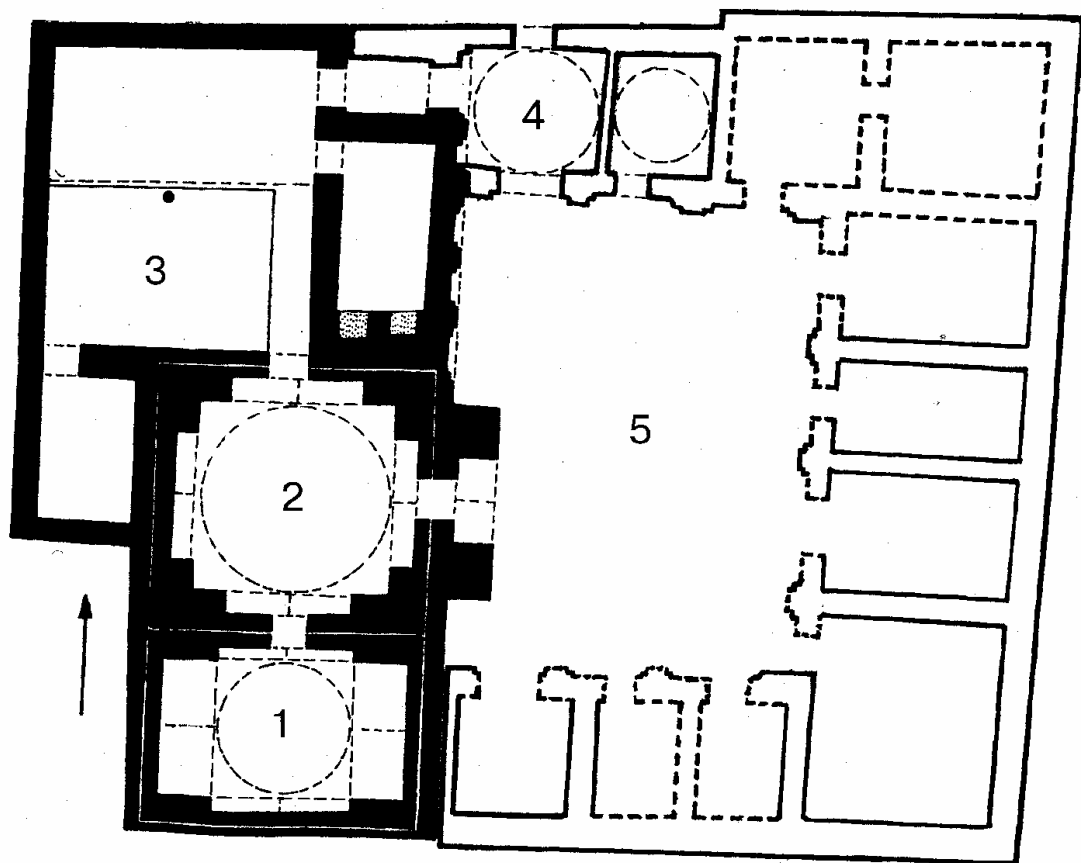
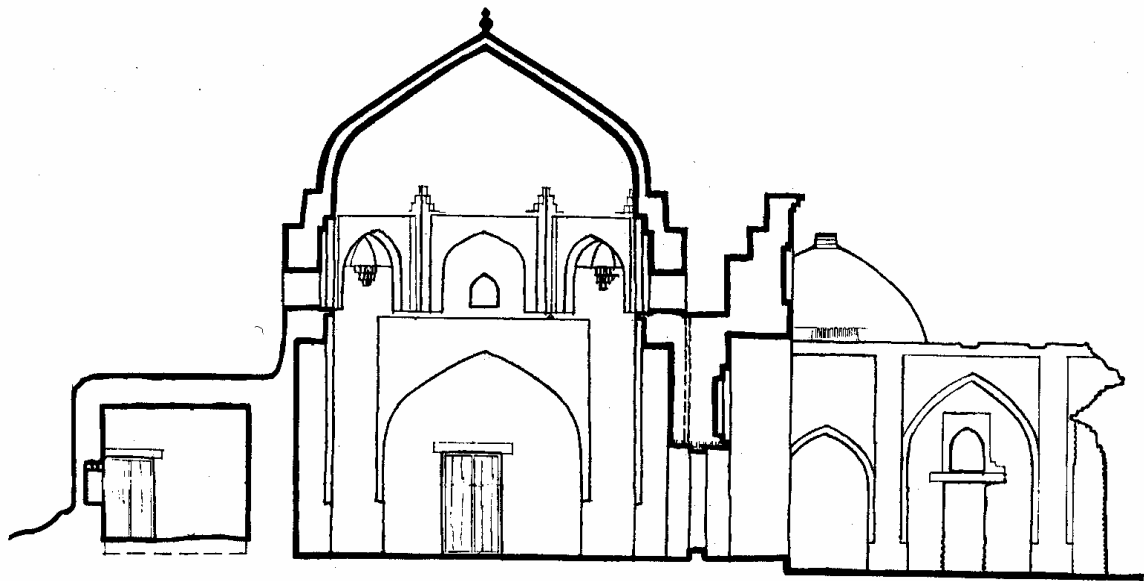
Book: Piliavsky V. I., **Architectural heritage of Turkmenistan**, Leningrad, 1974 (in Russian language)

3. Ак-Кала / Ак Кала



Drawn by: V. I. Piliavsky
Date: 1970
Book: *Piliavsky V. I., Kunya Urgench* Leningrad, 1974

4. Ibn Khajib Mausoleum / Ибн Хаджиб

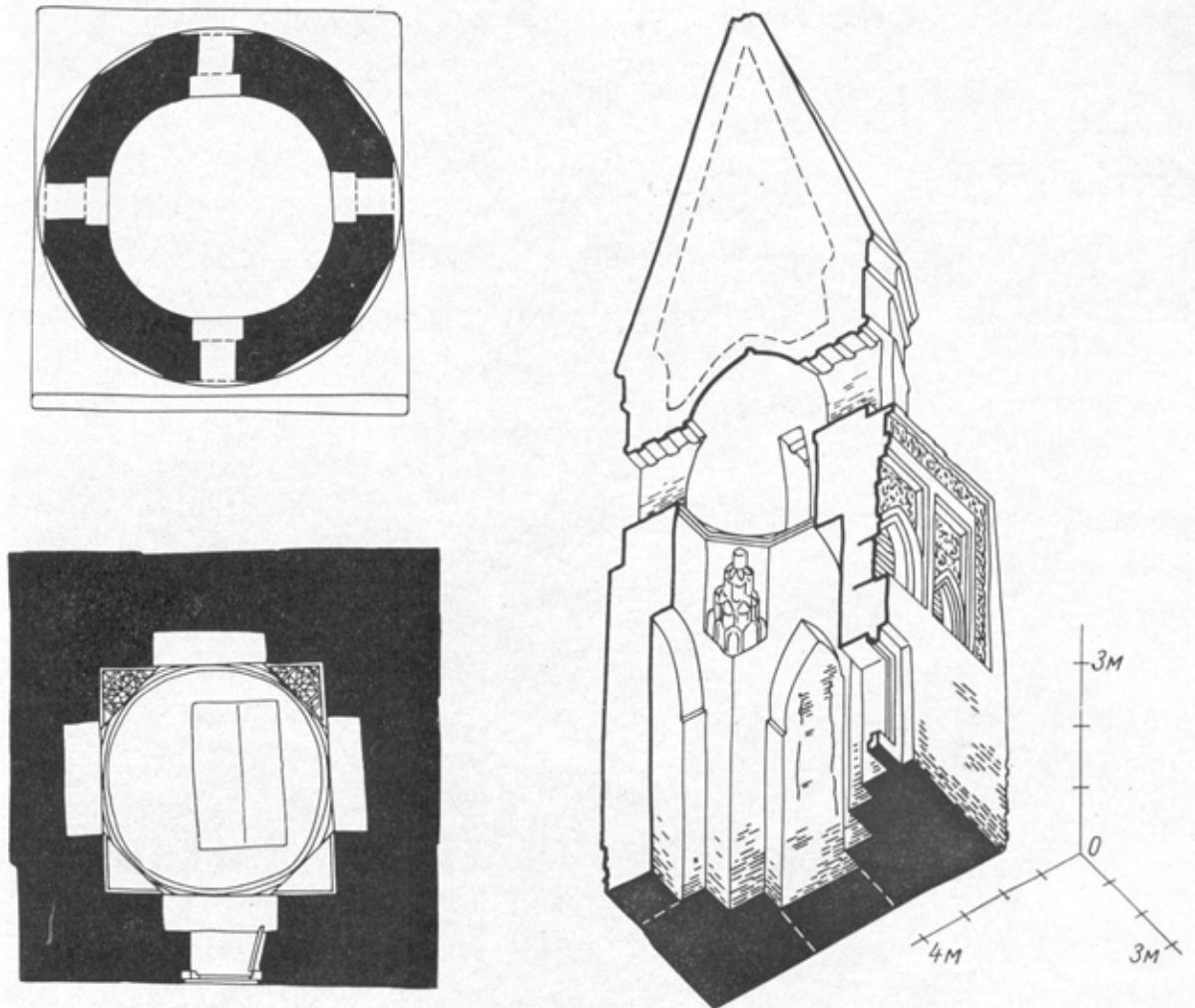


Drawn by: V. Artemiev and A. Urmanova

Date: 1989

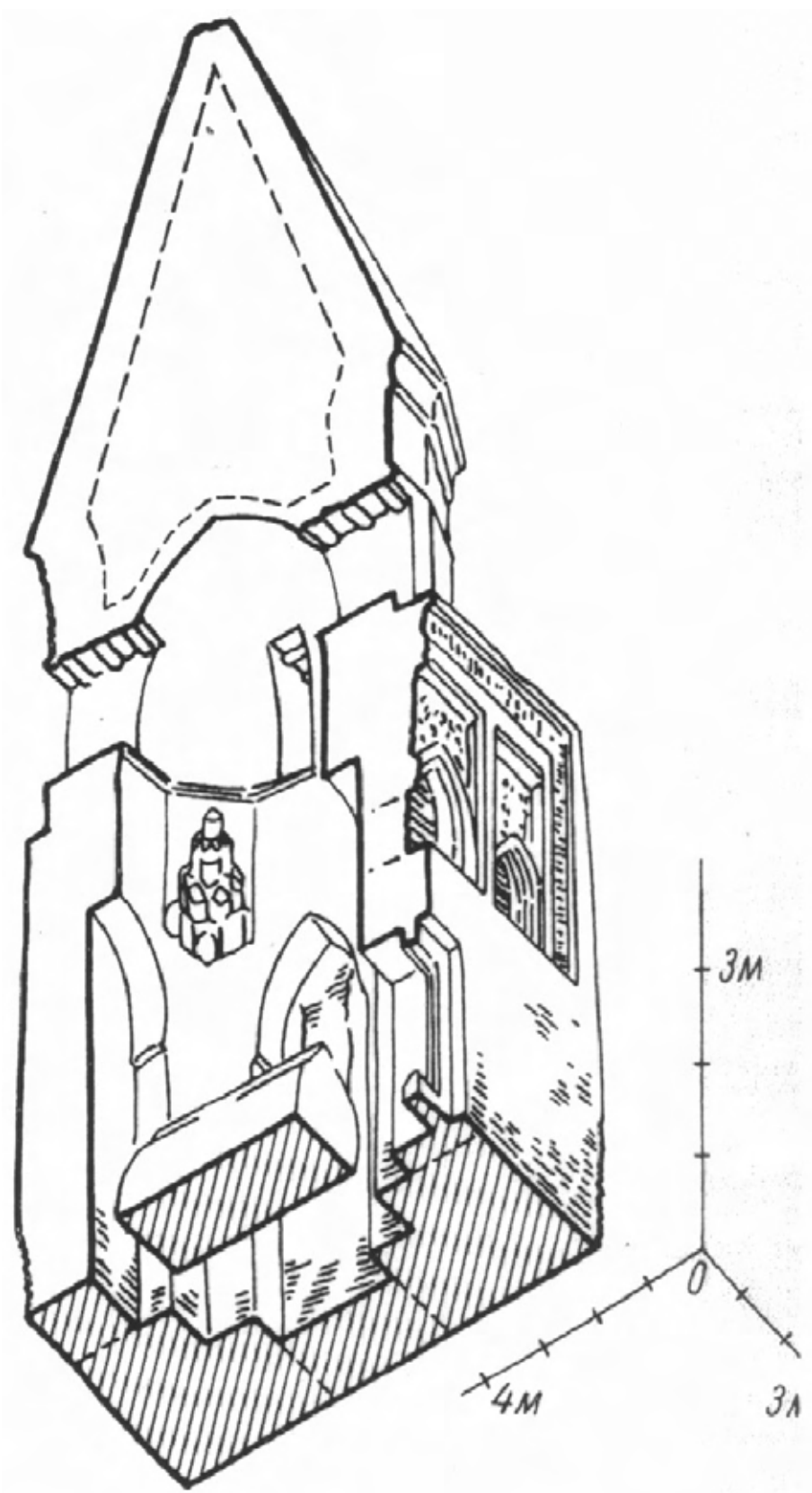
Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni. 17 x 26. 106 pages. Padova, Italia. 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)

5. Il Arslan Mausoleum / Ил Арслан

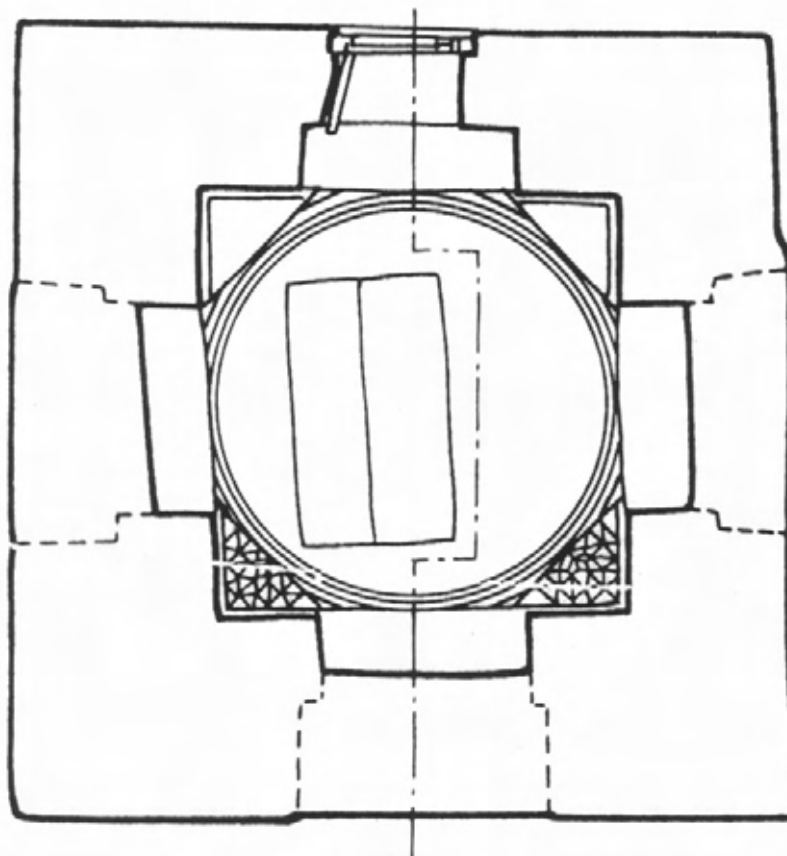
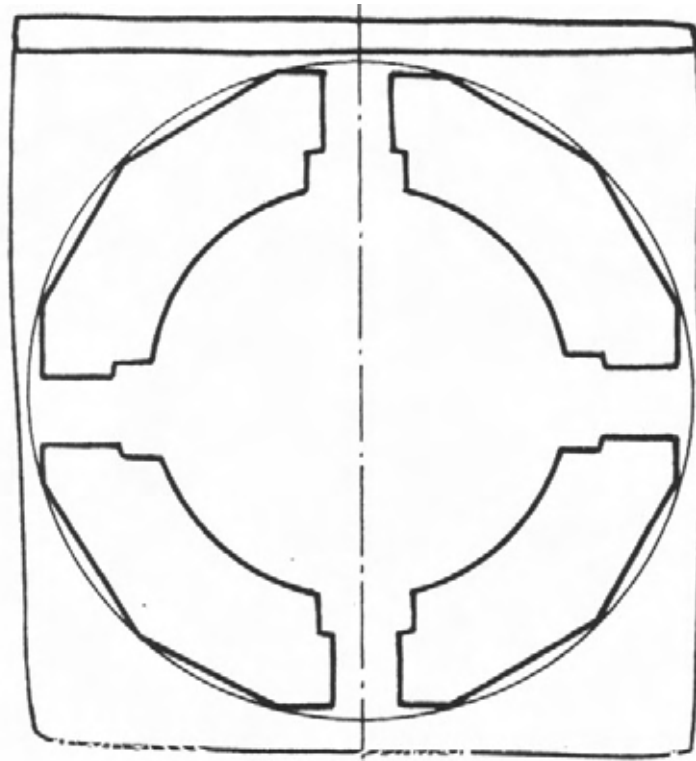


Мавзолей хорезмшаха Иль-Арслана (Фахр-ад-дин Рази).
Планы по четверику и восьмигранному барабану.
По обмеру Н. Бакланова, 1929 г.
АксонOMETрический разрез. По чертежу Н. Бакланова, 1929 г.

Drawn by: N. Baklanov
Date: 1929
Book: Piliavsky V.I., **Kunya Urgench**, Leningrad, 1974

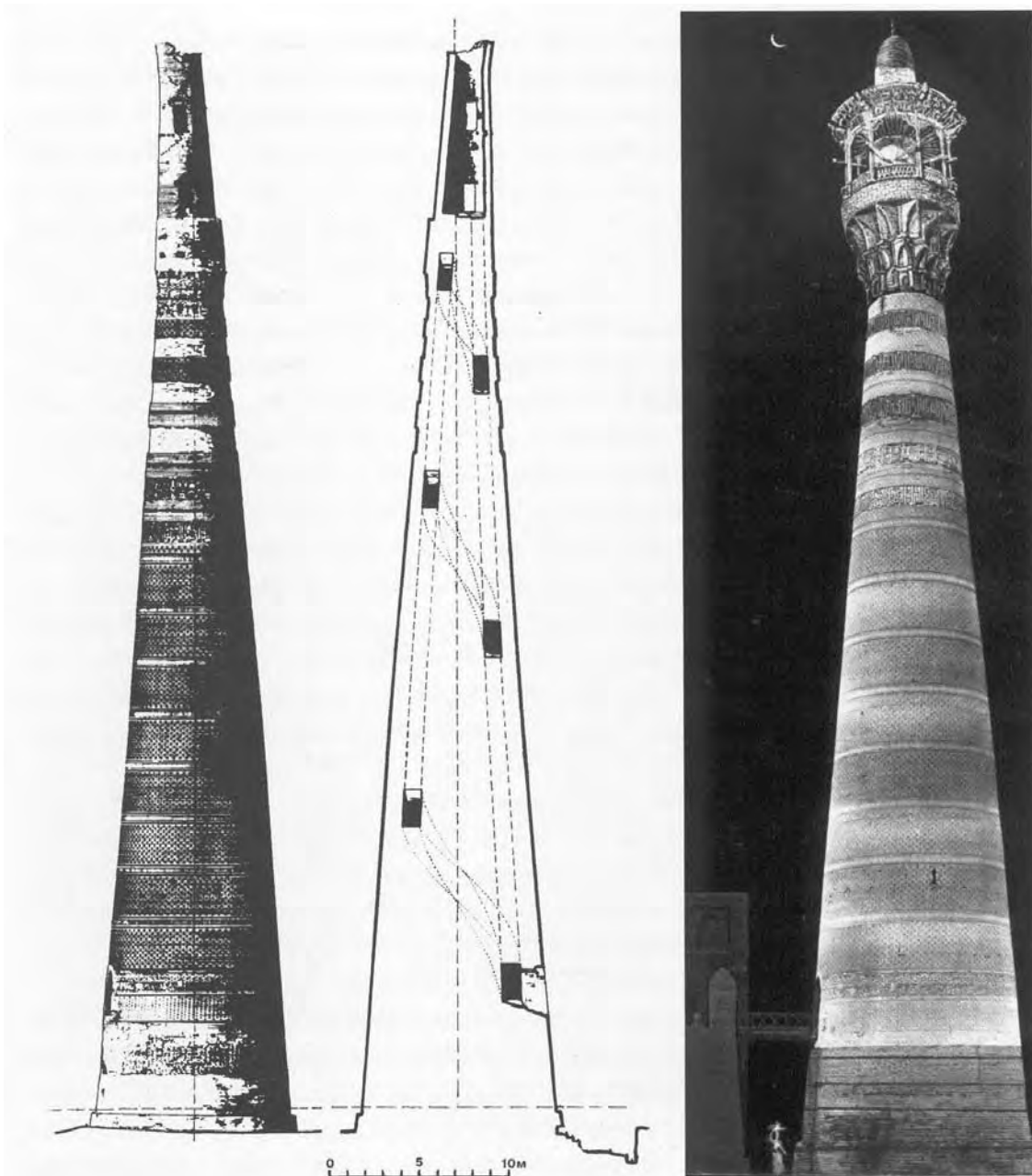


Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky
Date: 1974
Book: V.I. Piliavsky, **Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan**, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)

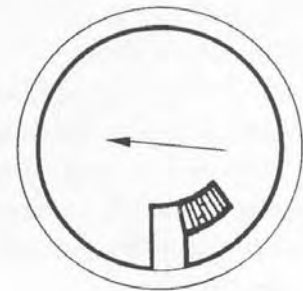


Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky
Date: 1974
Book: V.I. Piliavsky, **Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan**, Leningrad, 1974 [*Russian publication*]

6. Kutlug Timur Minaret / Кутлуг Тимур Минарет

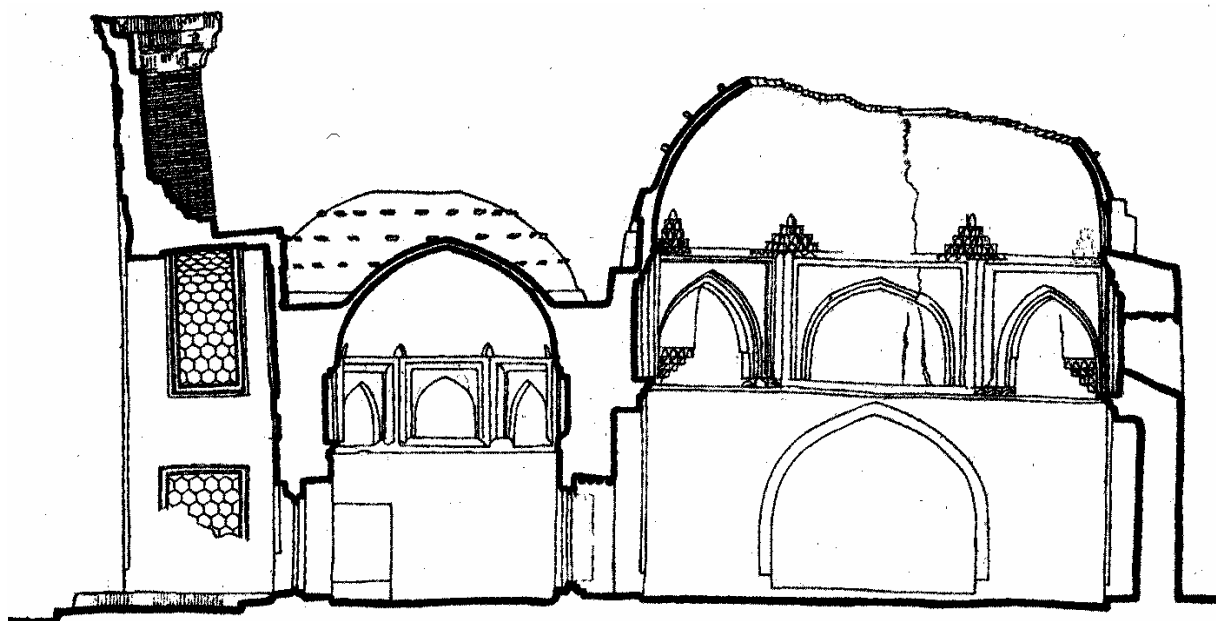
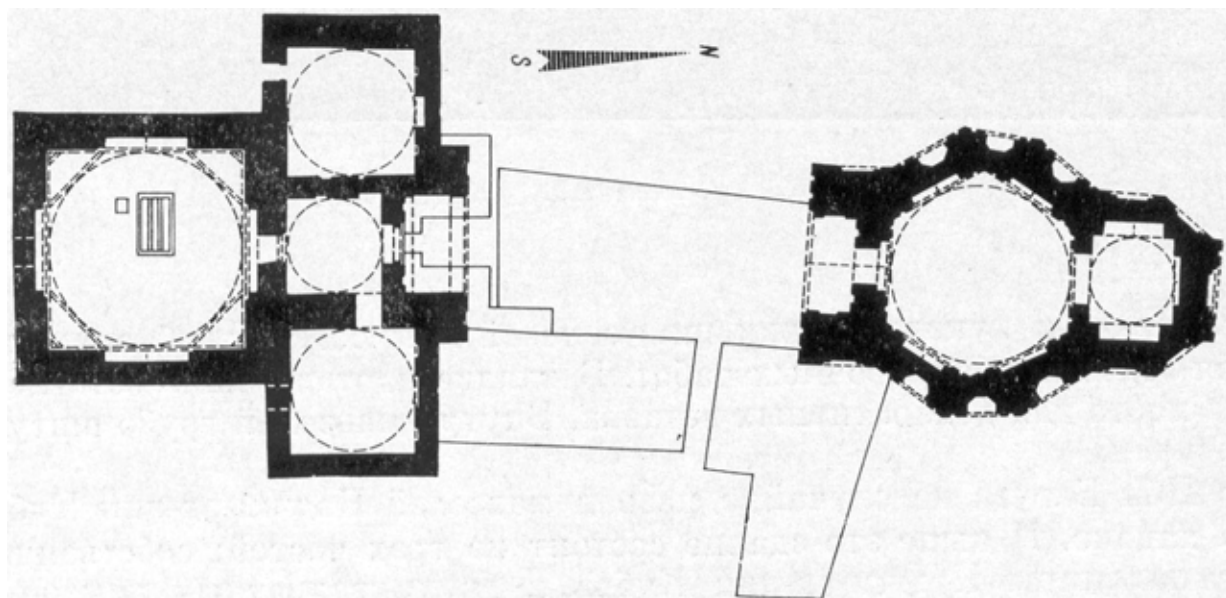


55-57. Kutlug-Timur minaret. South fasade and section by neasure of A.N.Vinogradov. Right: reconstruction by V.I. Artemiev. Below: plan on the level of entrance. Ref. # 18.



Drawn by: A.N. Vinogradov (elevation and section) and V.I. Artemiev (reconstruction)
Date: 1961 (elevation and section) and 1989 (reconstruction)
Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni. 17 x 26. 106 pages. Padova, Italia. 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)

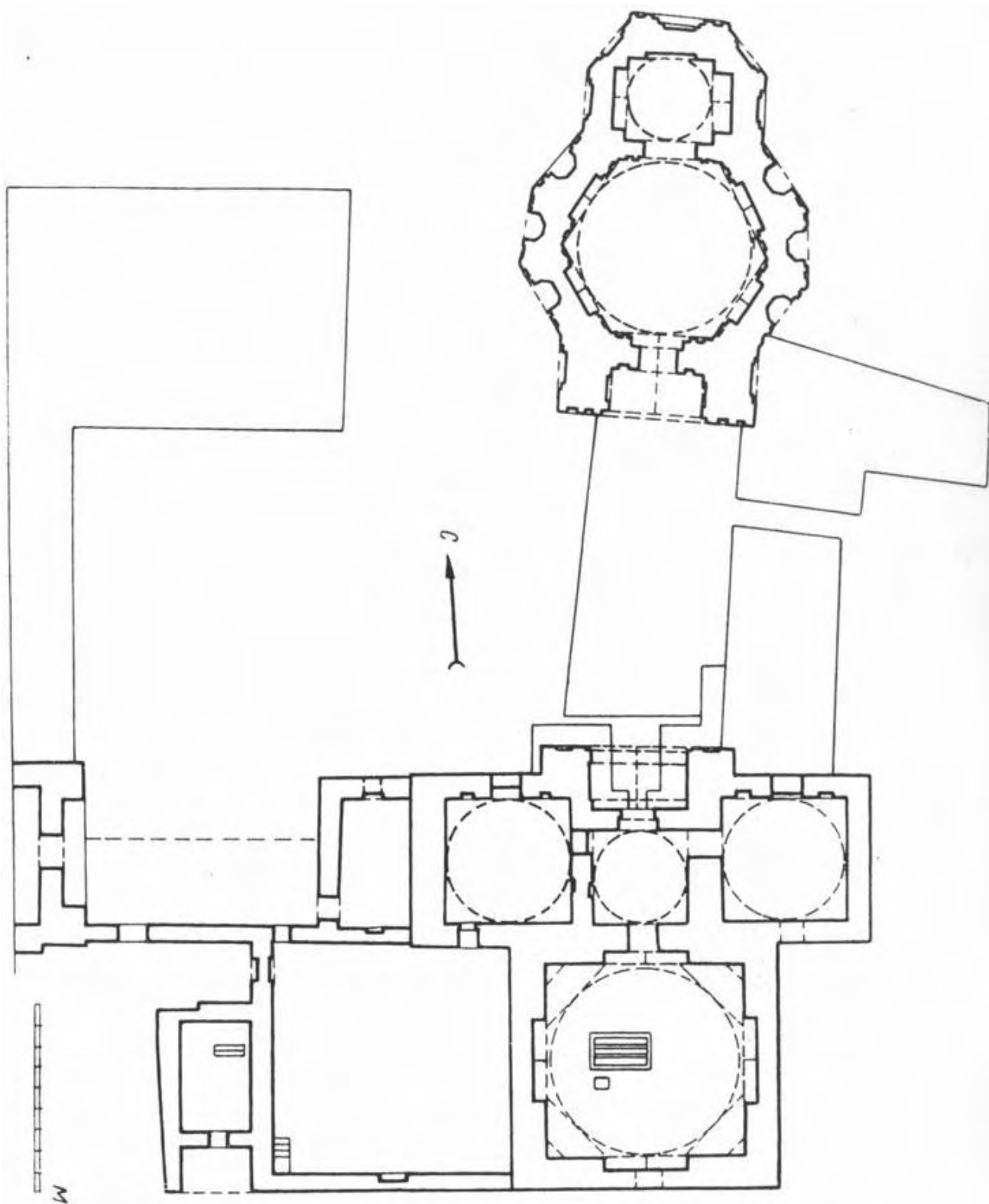
Najm-ad-Din Al-Kubra Mausoleum / Наджн Ад-Дин Ал-Кубра



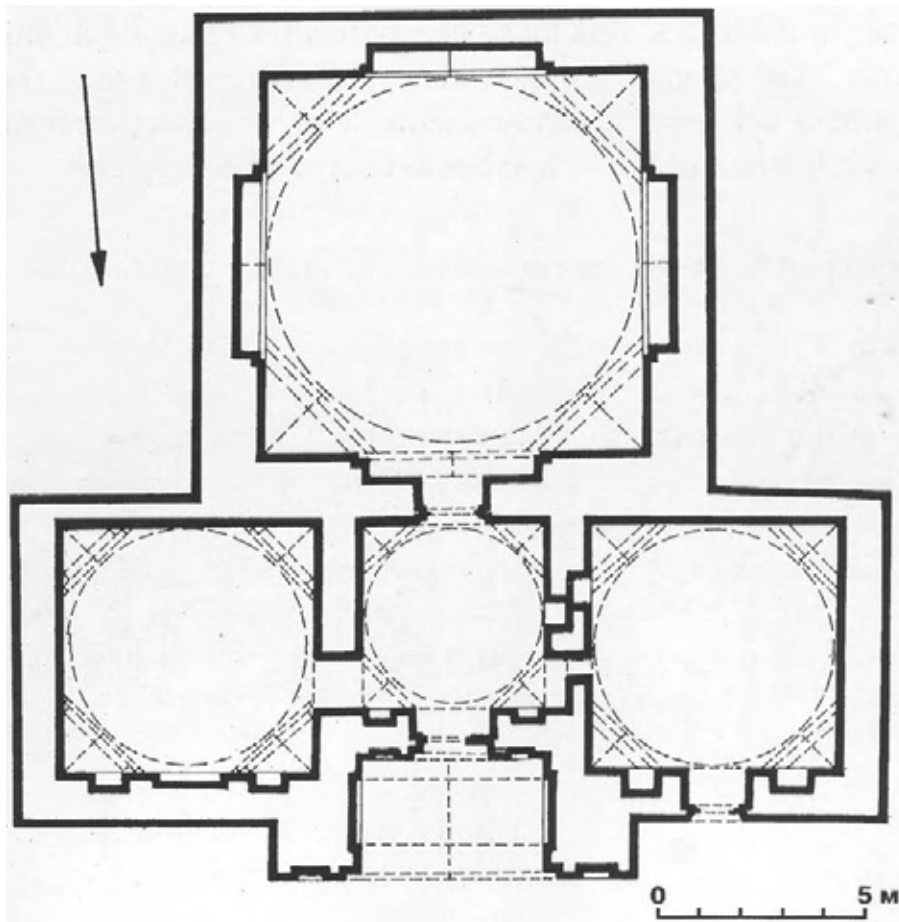
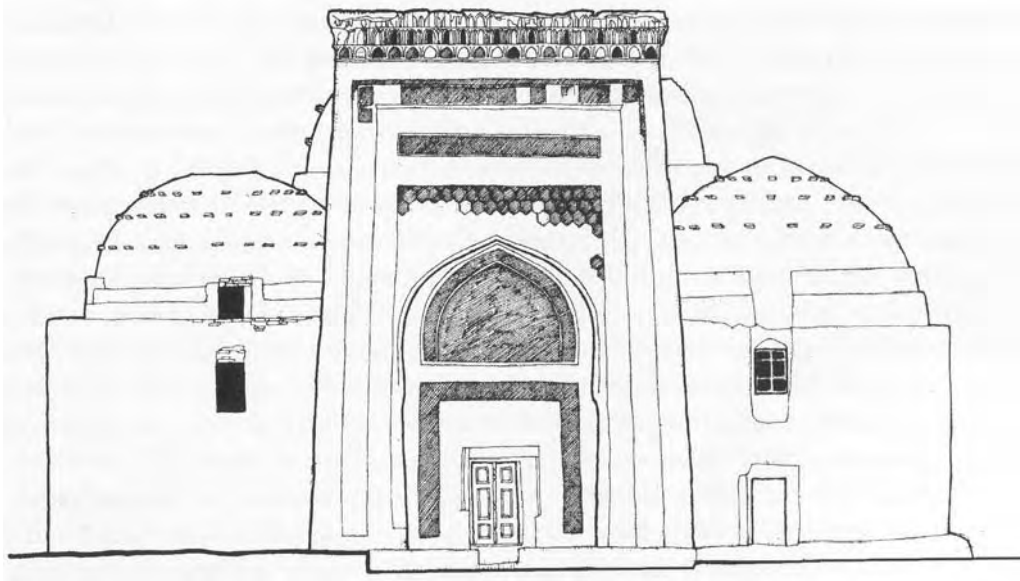
Drawn by: I.I. Notkin

Date: 1959

Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)

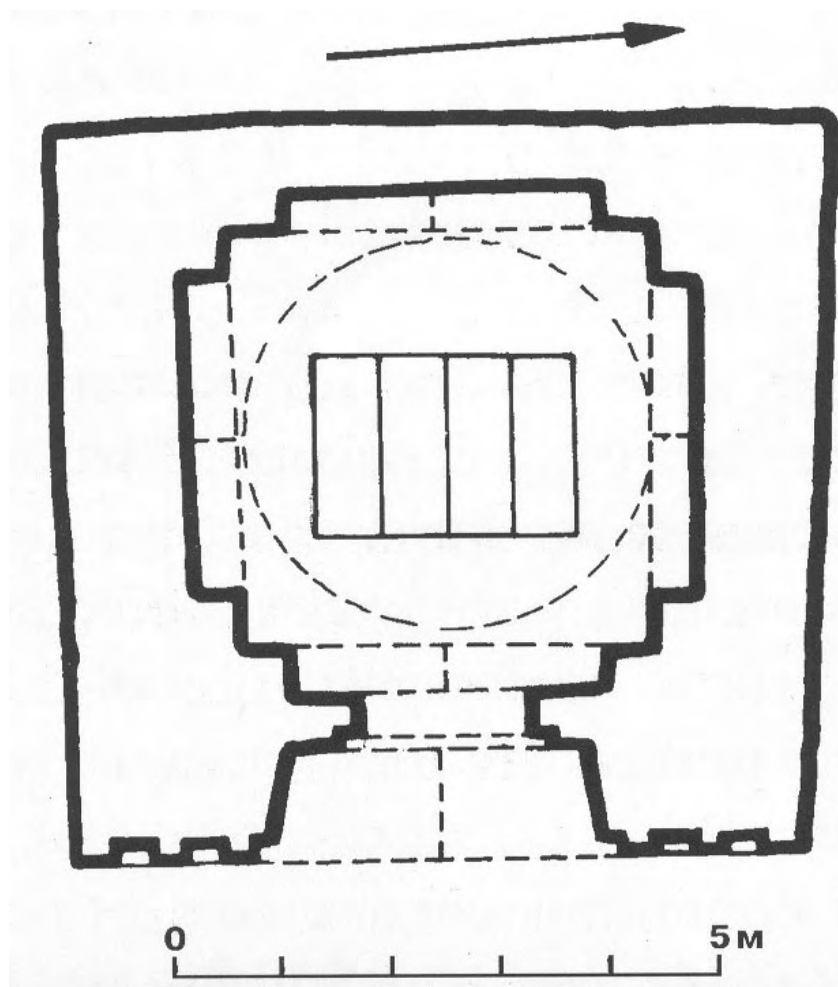


Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky
Date: 1974
Book: *V.I. Piliavsky, Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)



Drawn by: I.I. Notkin
Date: 1959
Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)

8. Pyriar Vali / Пириар Вали

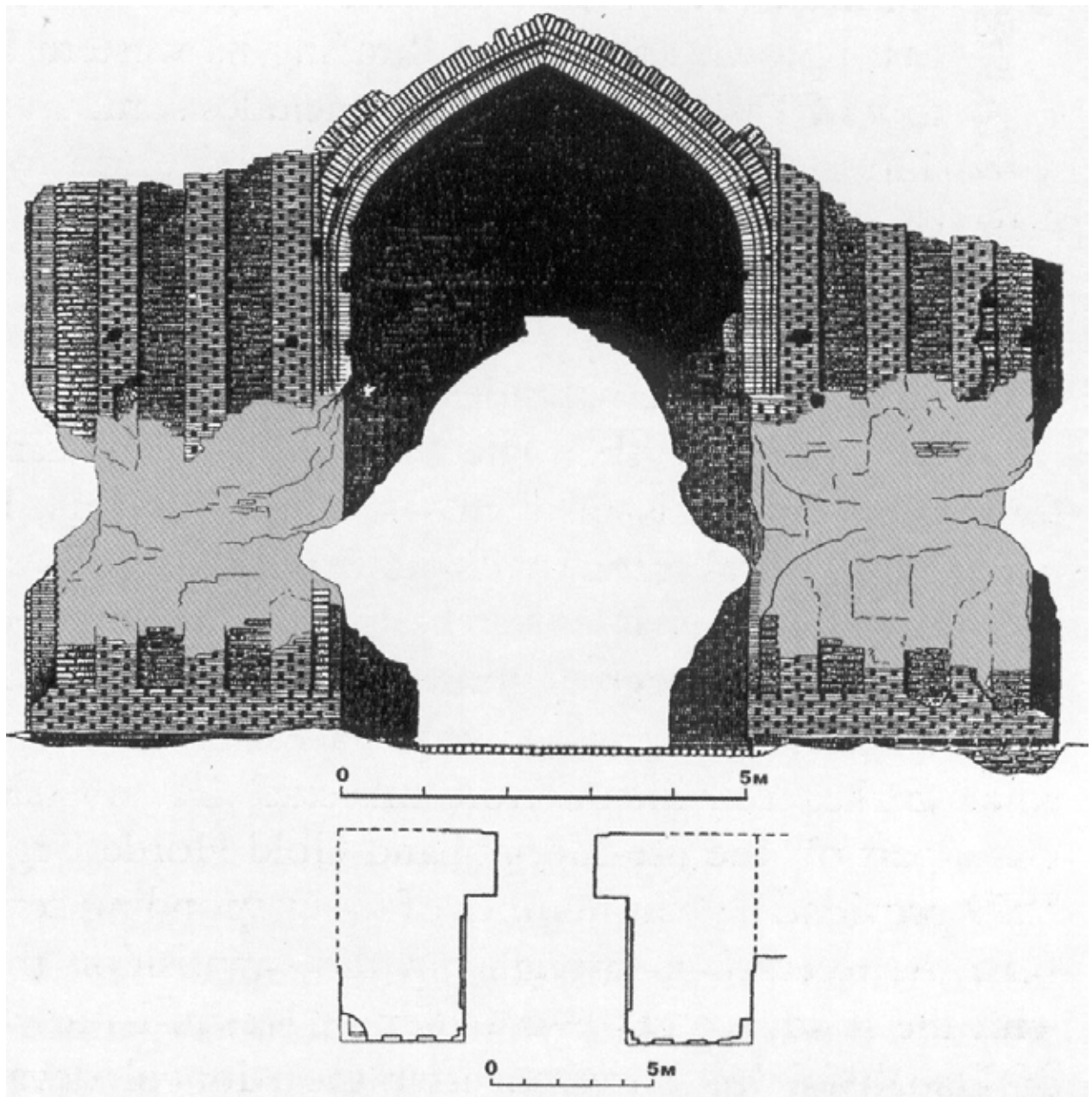


Drawn by: R. Muradov

Date: 1983

Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (*Russian version published in 2000*)

9. Caravanserai Gate / Портал Караван-Сараи

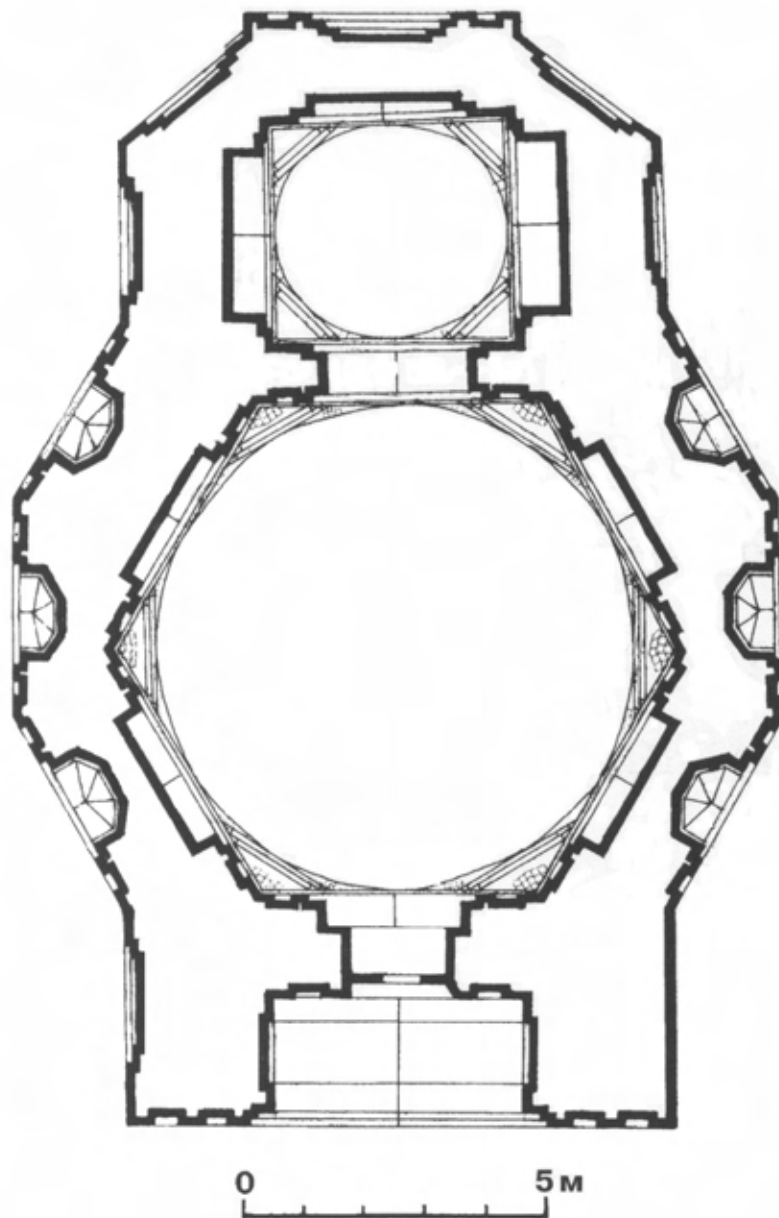


Drawn by: M. Lapirov-Skoblo

Date: 1951

Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)

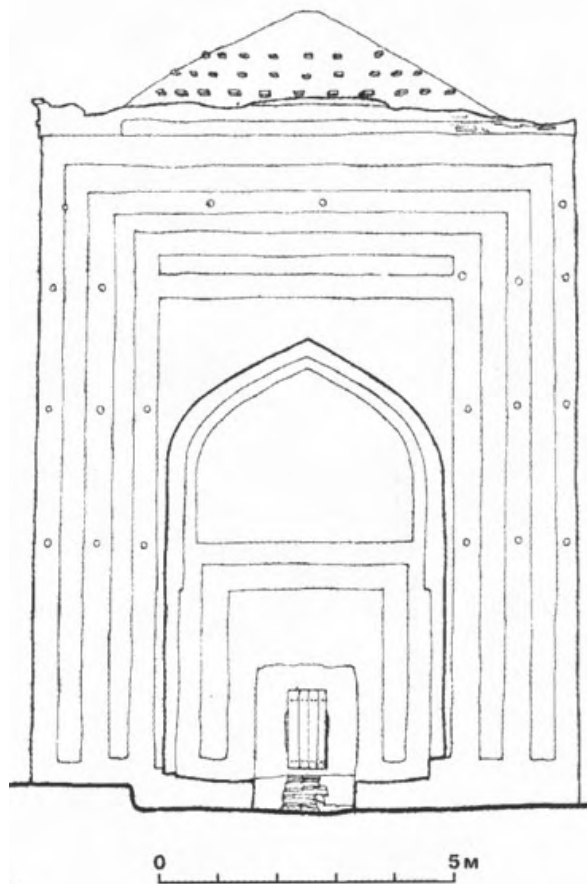
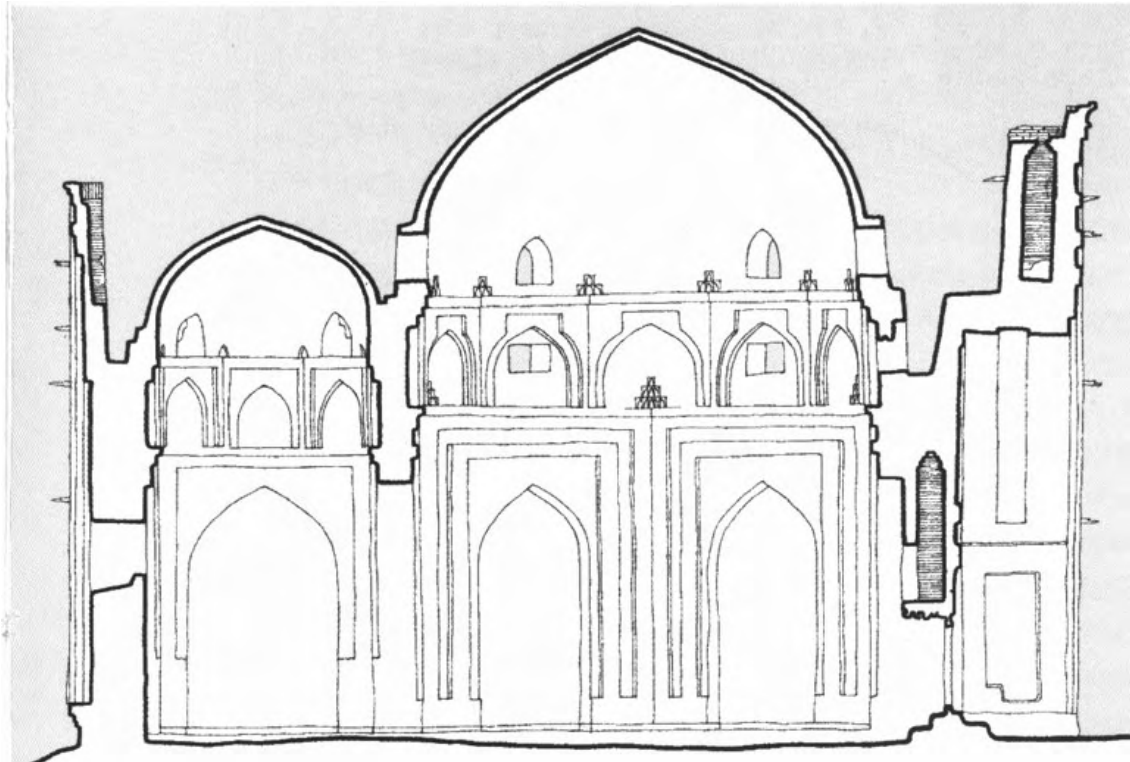
10. Sultan Ali Mausoleum / Султан Али



Drawn by: I.I. Notkin

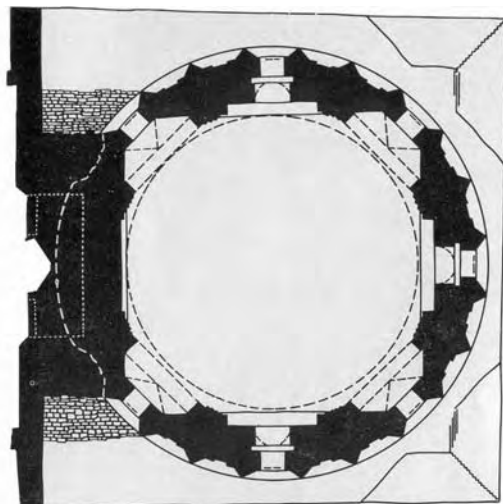
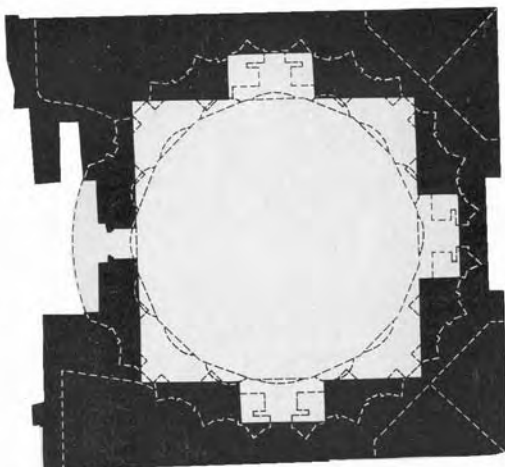
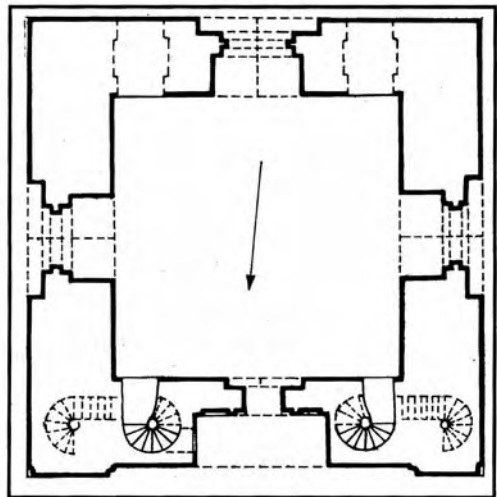
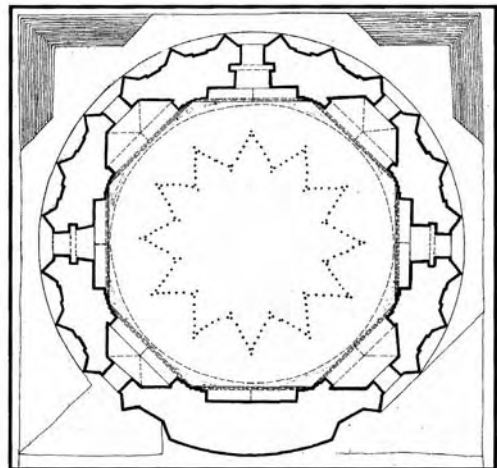
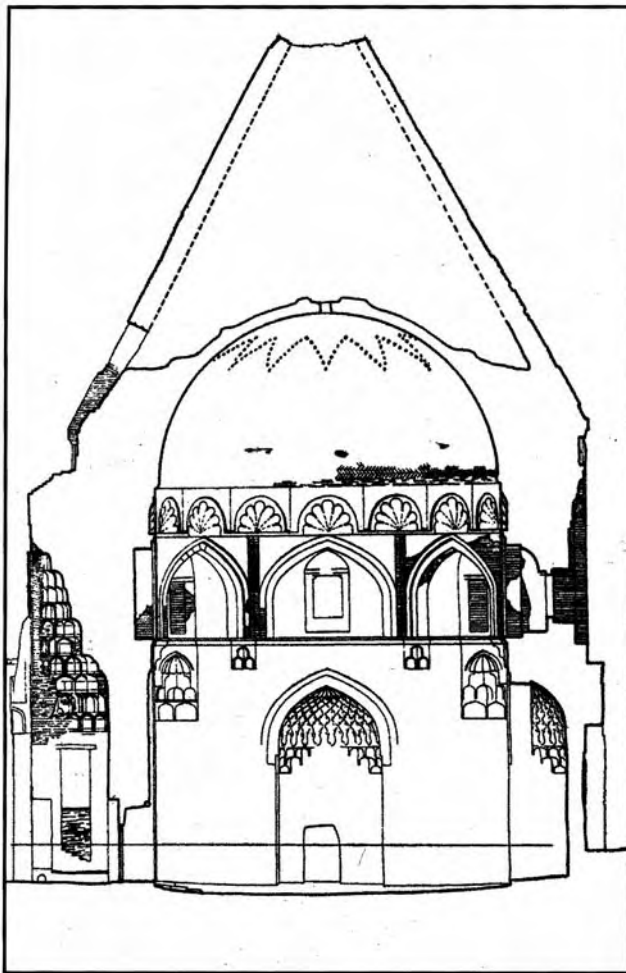
Date: 1959

Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (*Russian version published in 2000*)

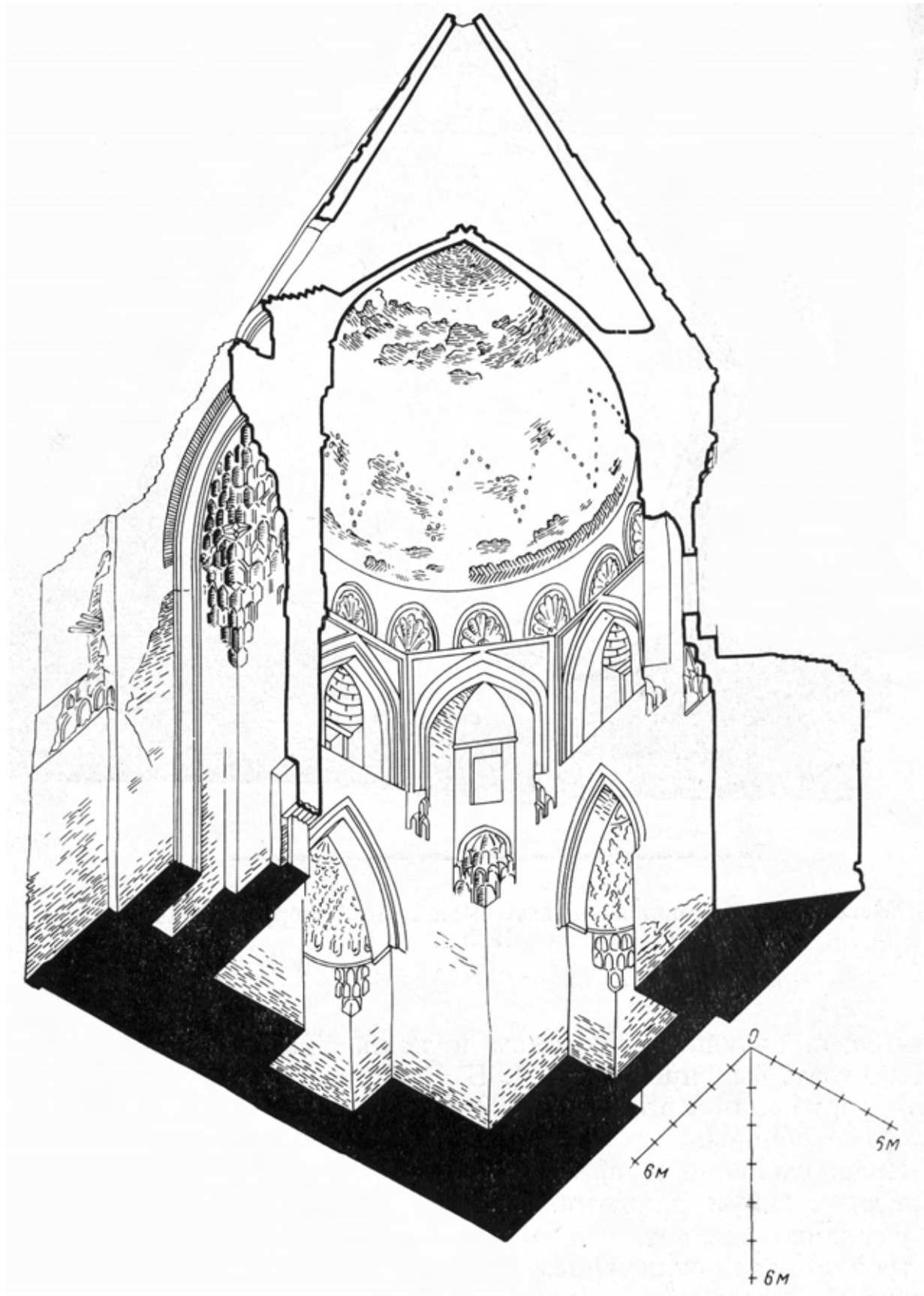


Drawn by: I.I. Notkin
Date: 1959
Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26. 106 pages. Padova, Italia, 2001 (*Russian version published in 2000*)

11. Tekesh Mausoleum / Текеш



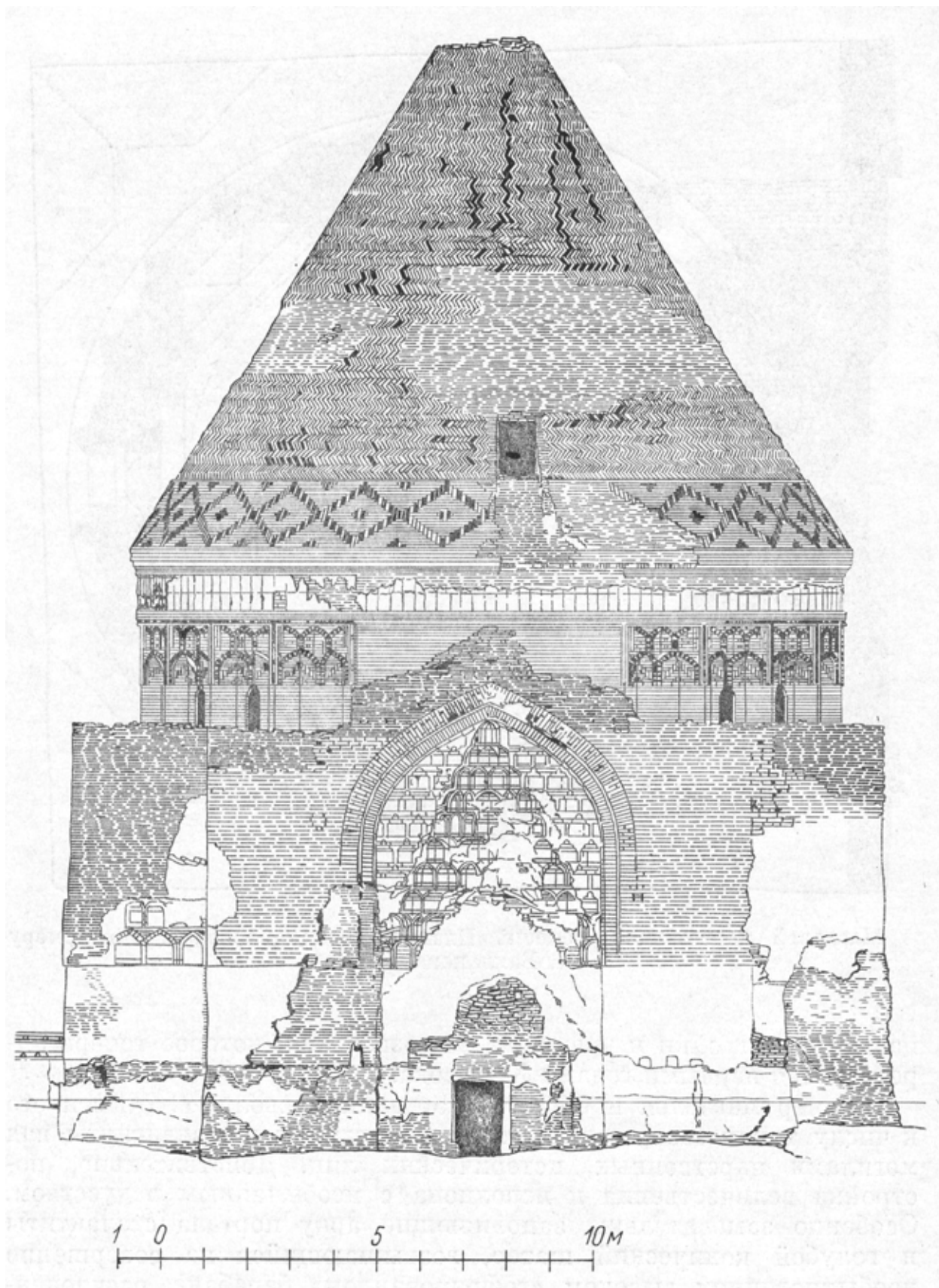
Drawn by: top right: plans by I.I.Notkin / top left: section by N.M.Bachinski / bottom plans:
Date: 1959
Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)



Drawn by: N. Baklanov

Date: 1929

Book: *Baklanov N., Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939 (in Russian language)

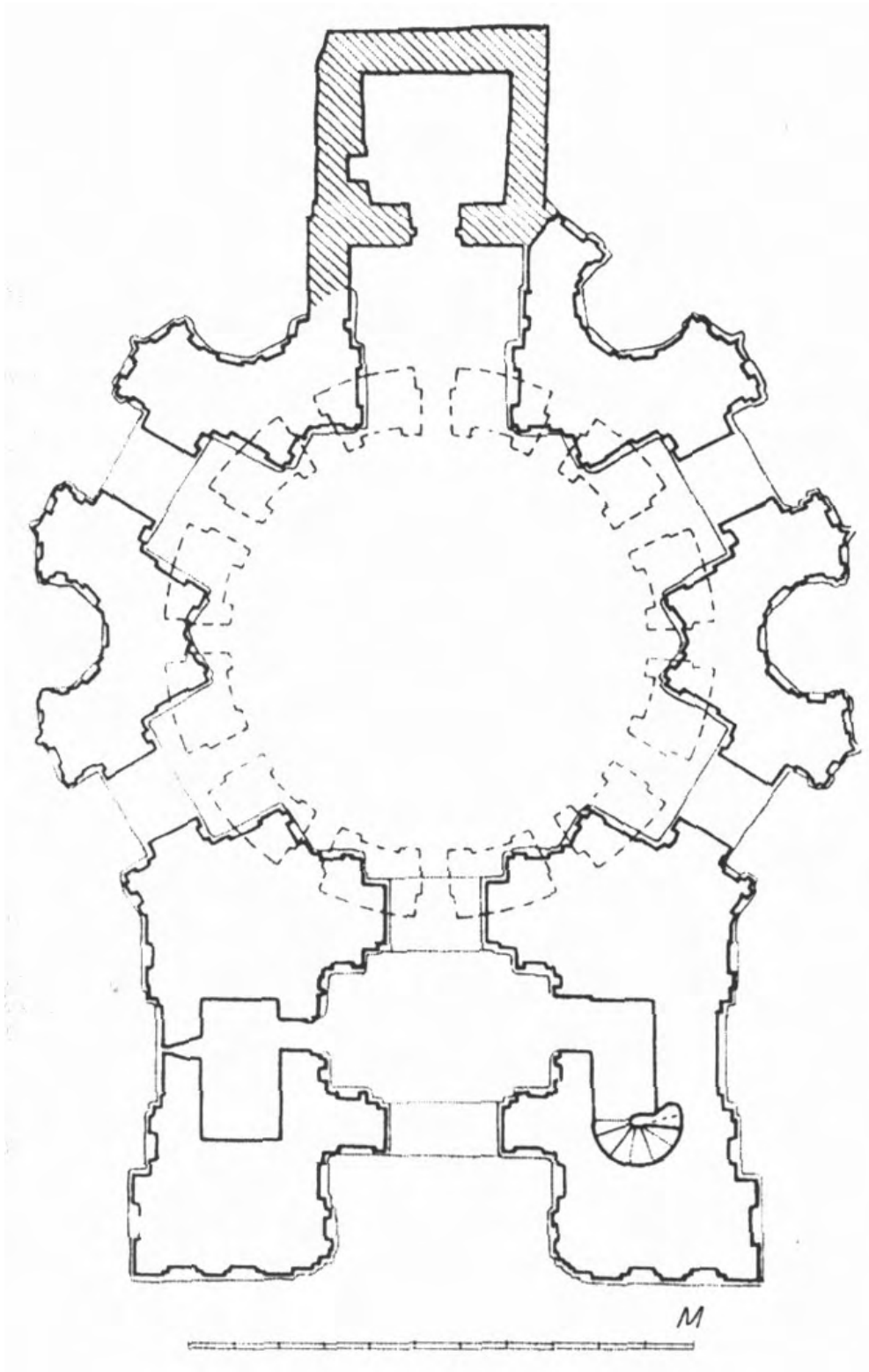


Drawn by: N. Baklanov

Date: 1929

Book: *Baklanov N., Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939 (in Russian language)

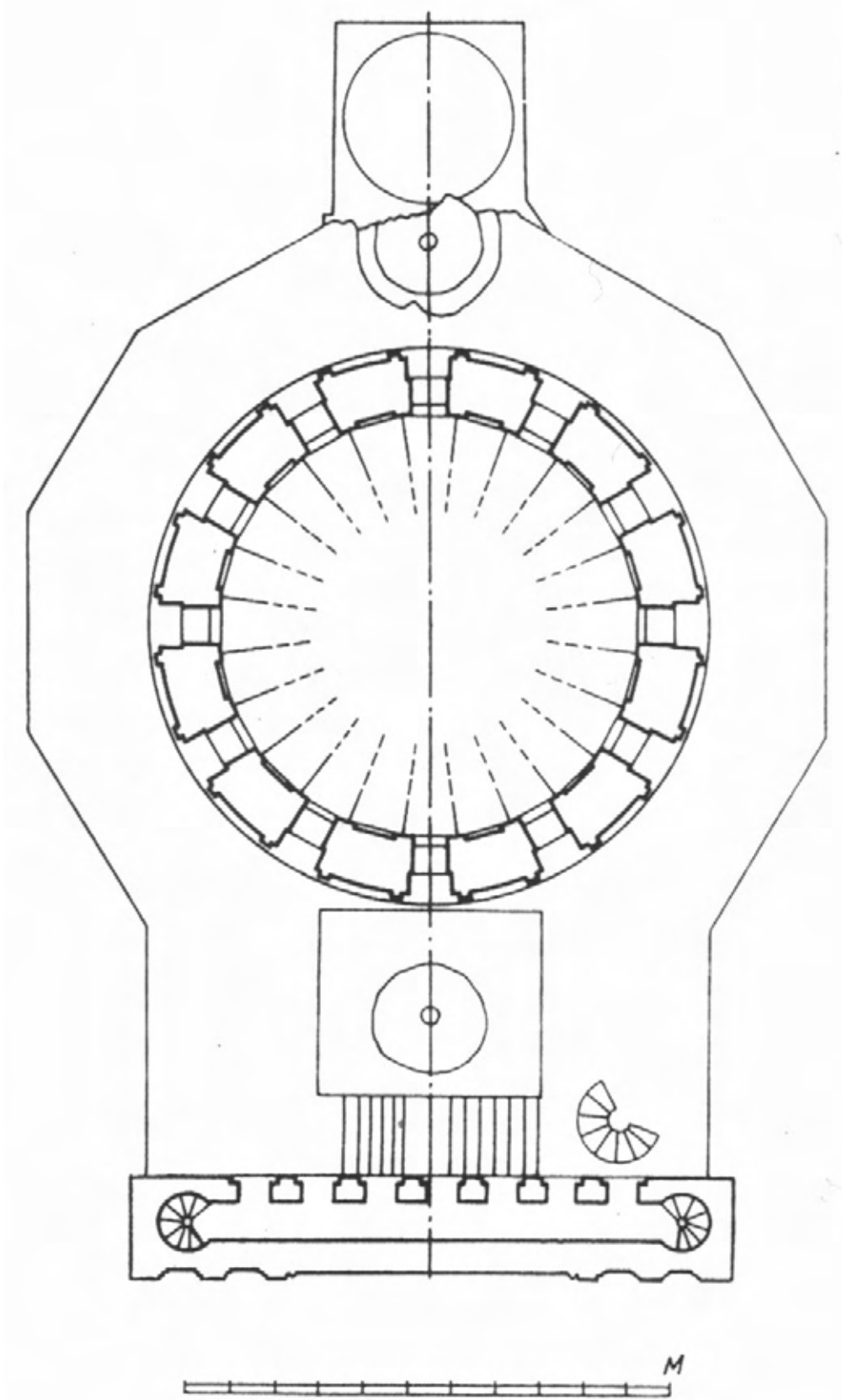
12. Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum / Тырабек-Ханым



Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky

Date: 1974

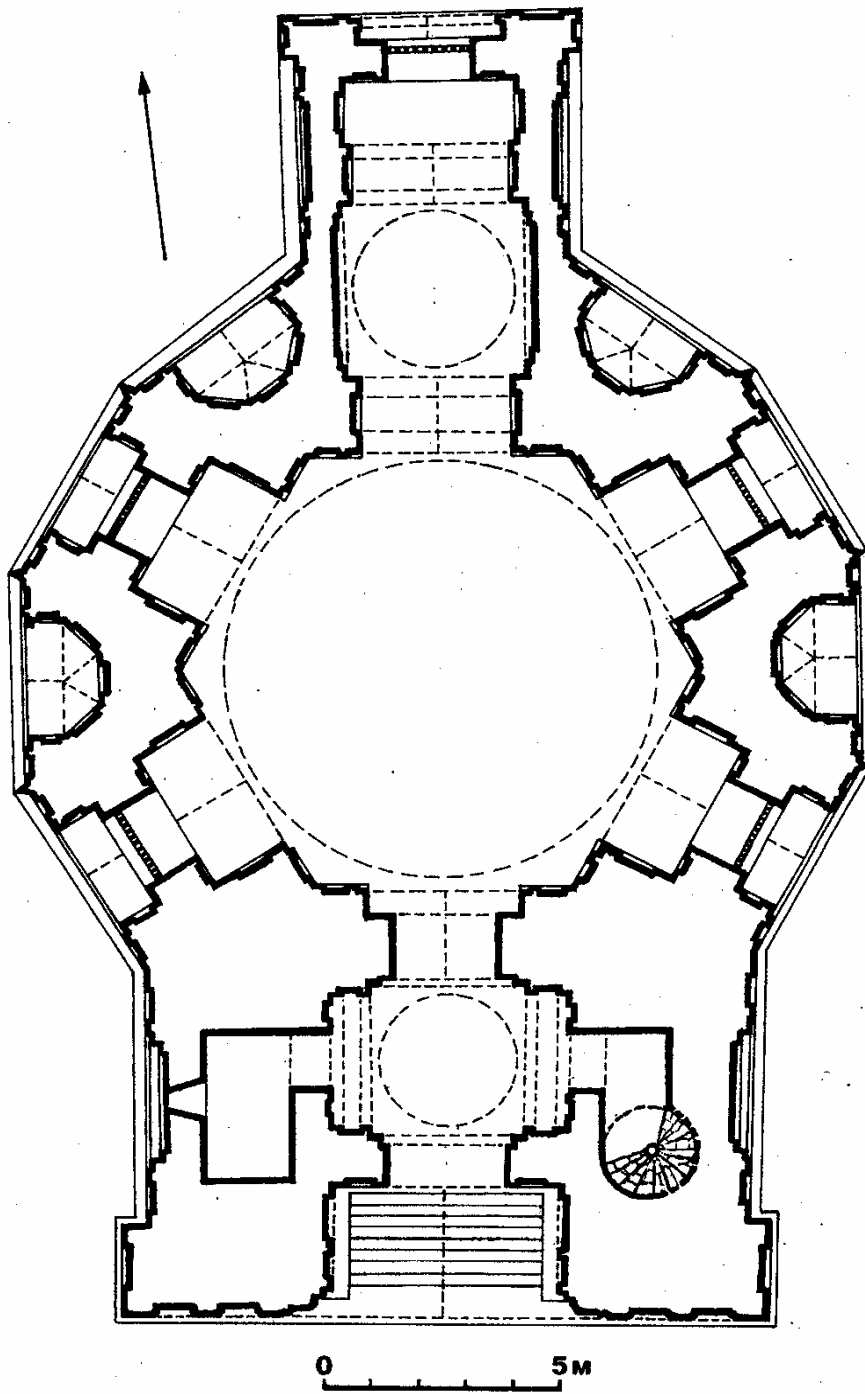
Book: V.I. Piliavsky, **Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan**, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)



Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky

Date: 1974

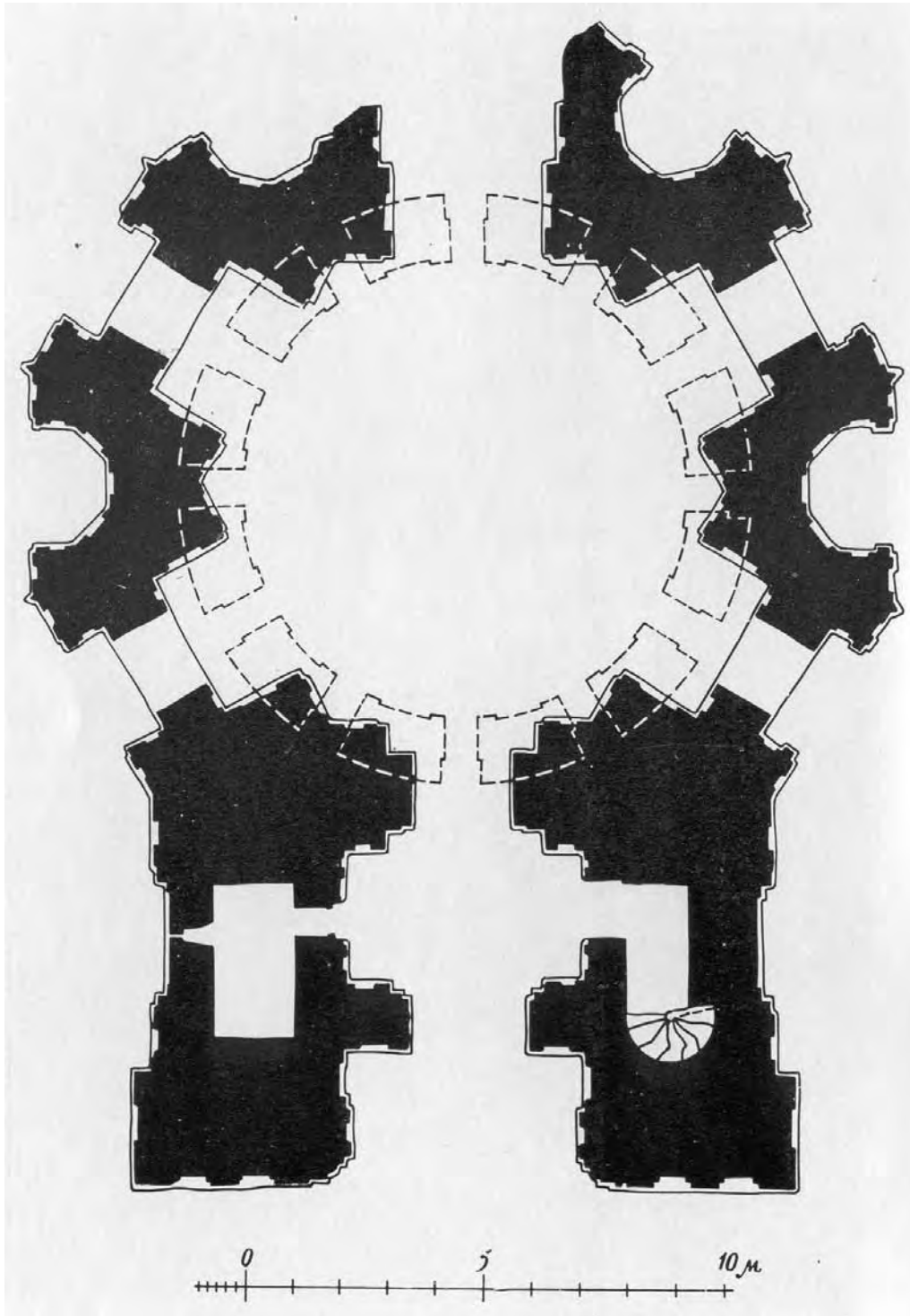
Book: V.I. Piliavsky, *Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)



Drawn by: M.M.Tuhtaev

Date: 1985

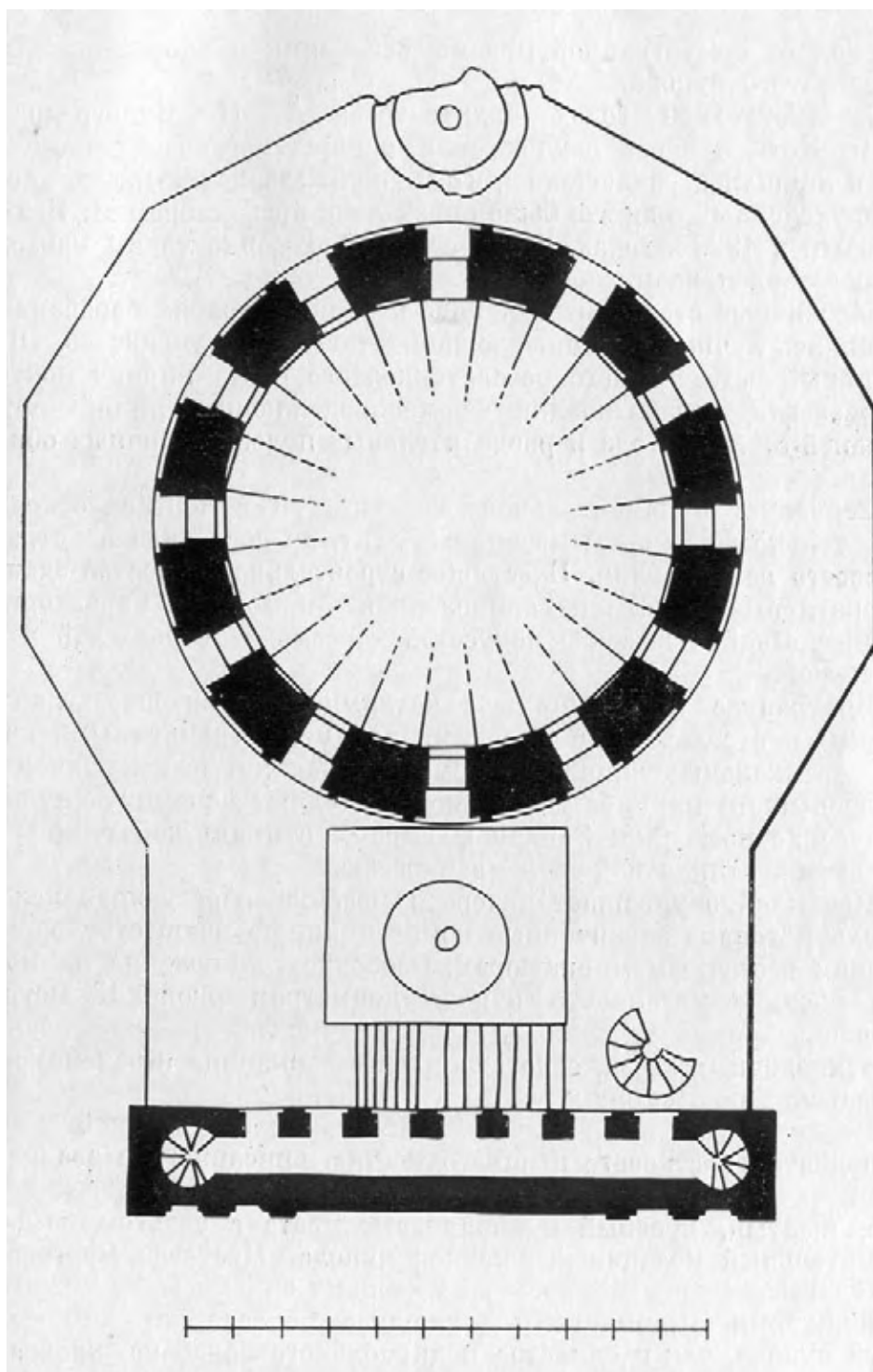
Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26. 106 pages. Padova, Italia, 2001 (*Russian version published in 2000*)



Drawn by: N. Baklanov

Date: 1929

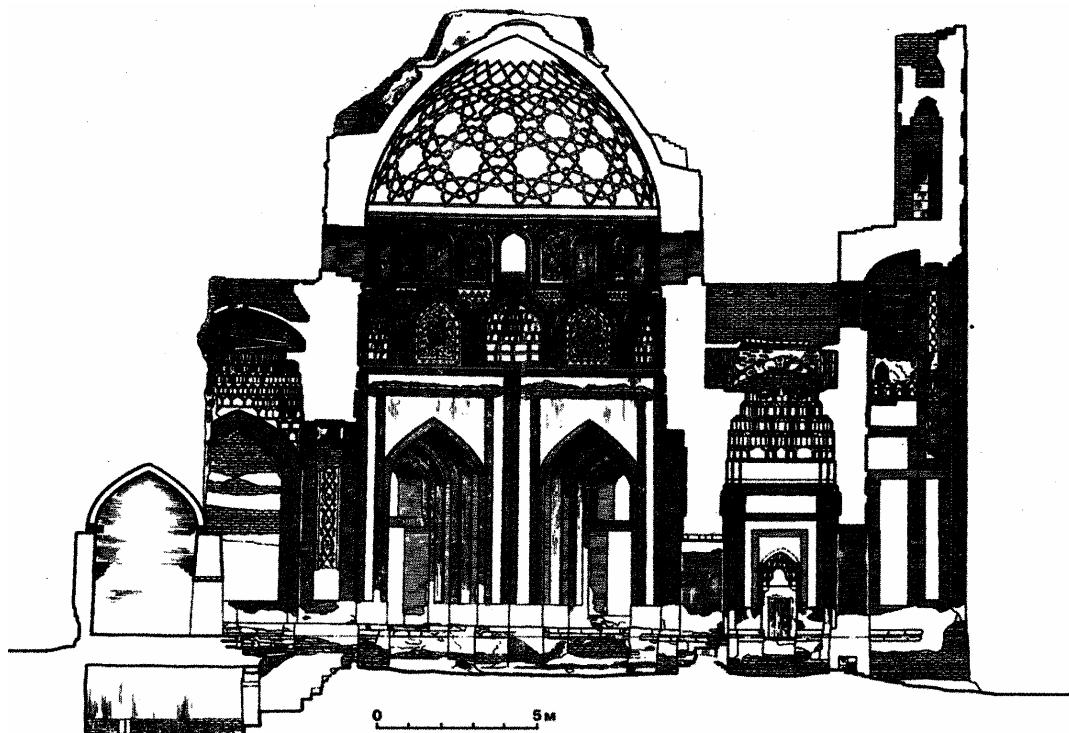
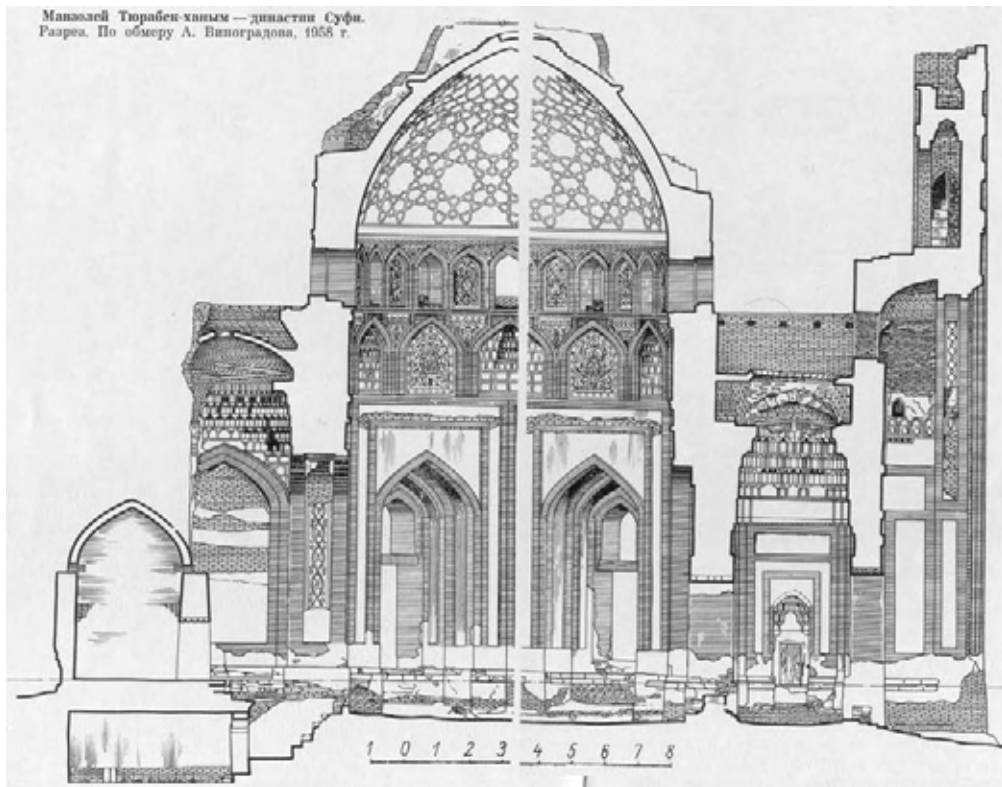
Book: *Baklanov N., Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939 [in Russian language]



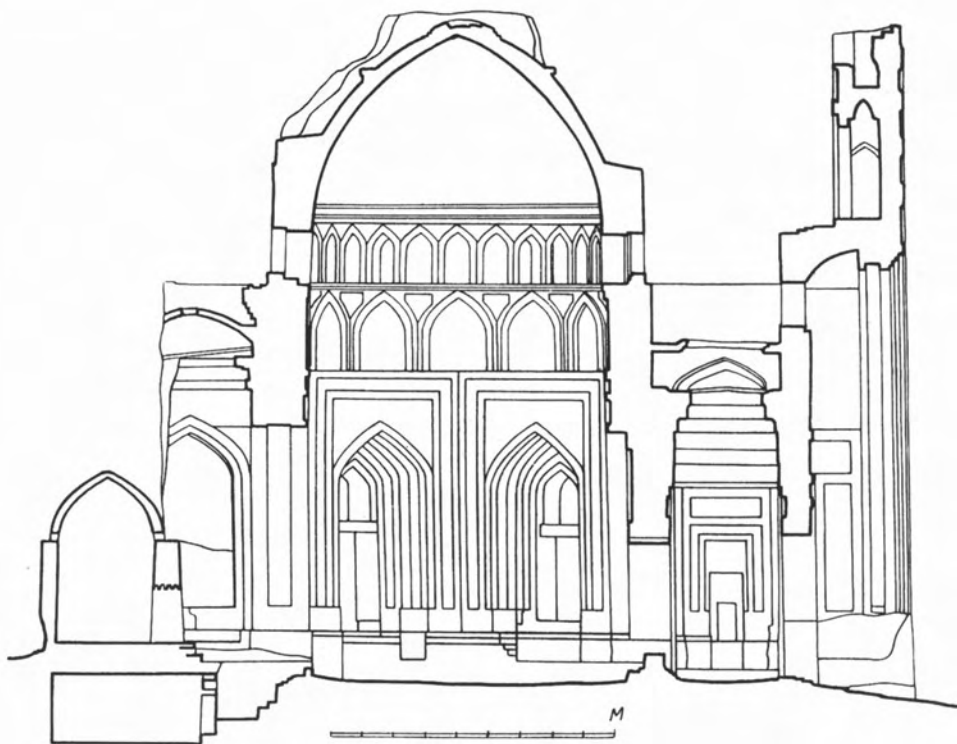
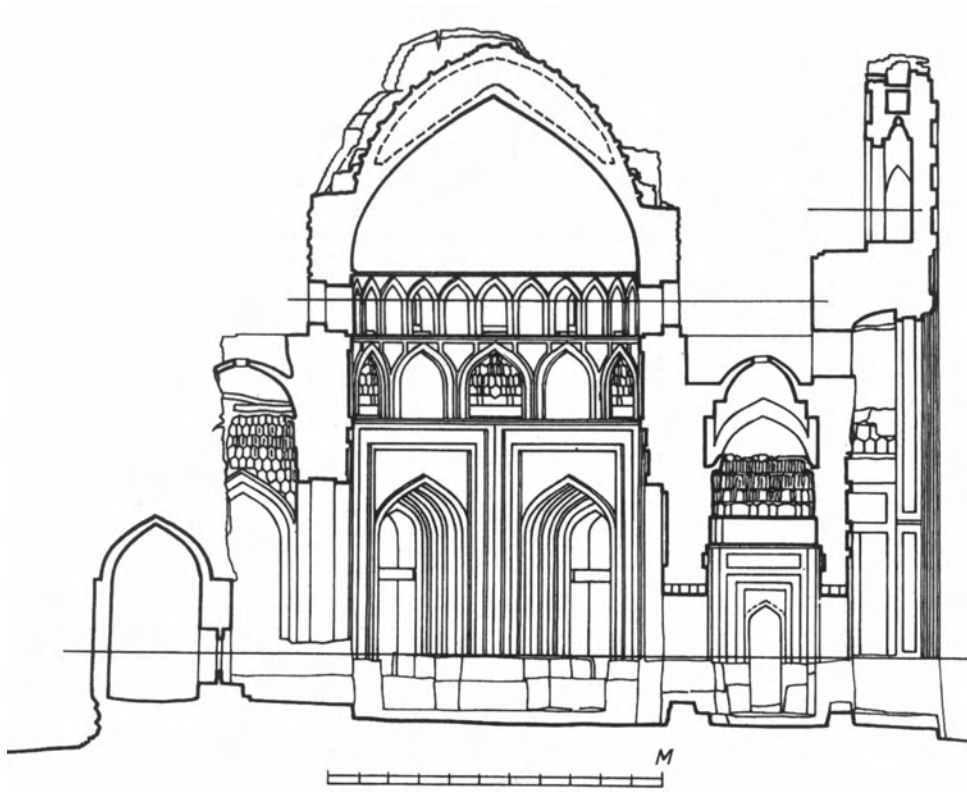
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Date: 1929

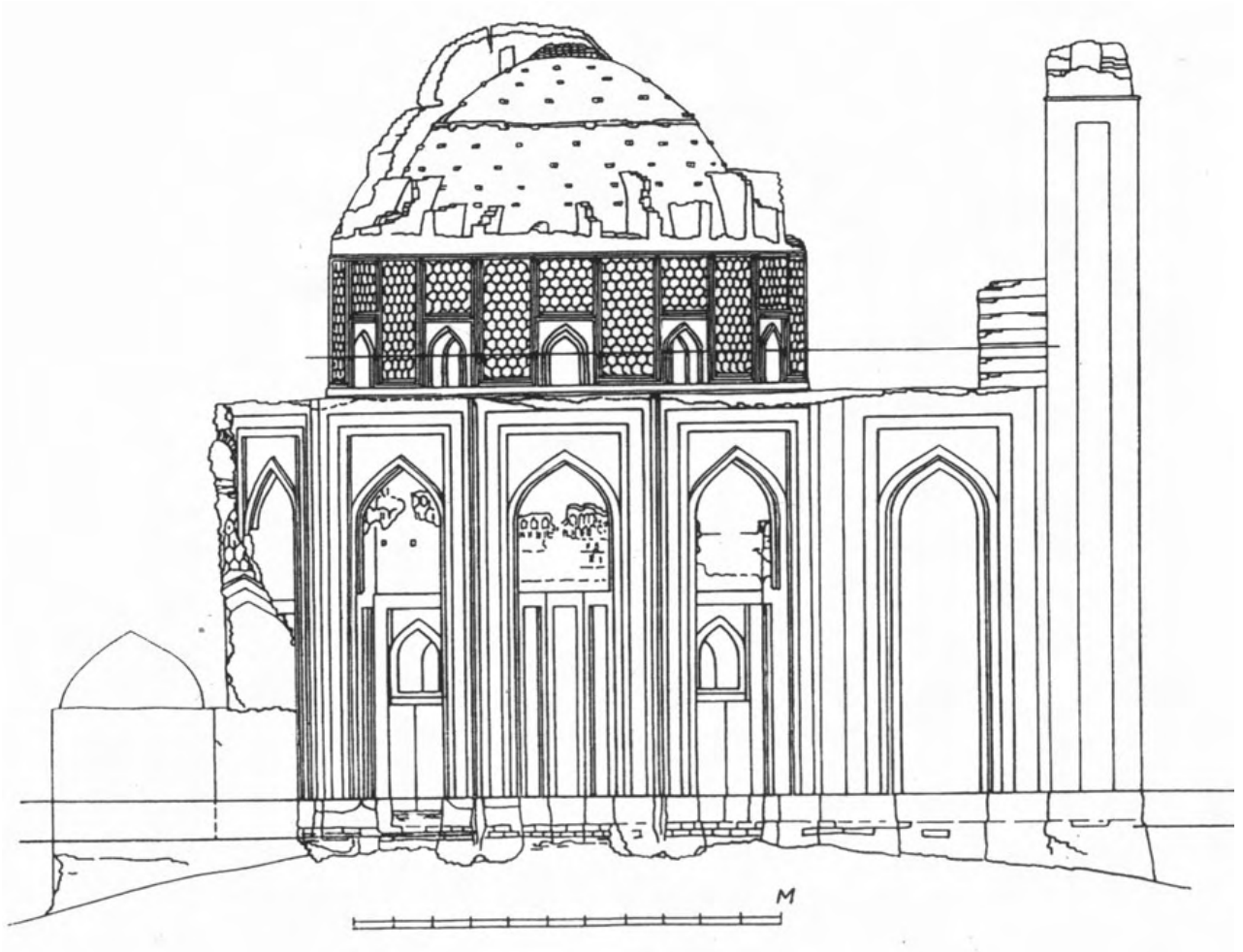
Book: *Baklanov N., Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939 [in Russian language]



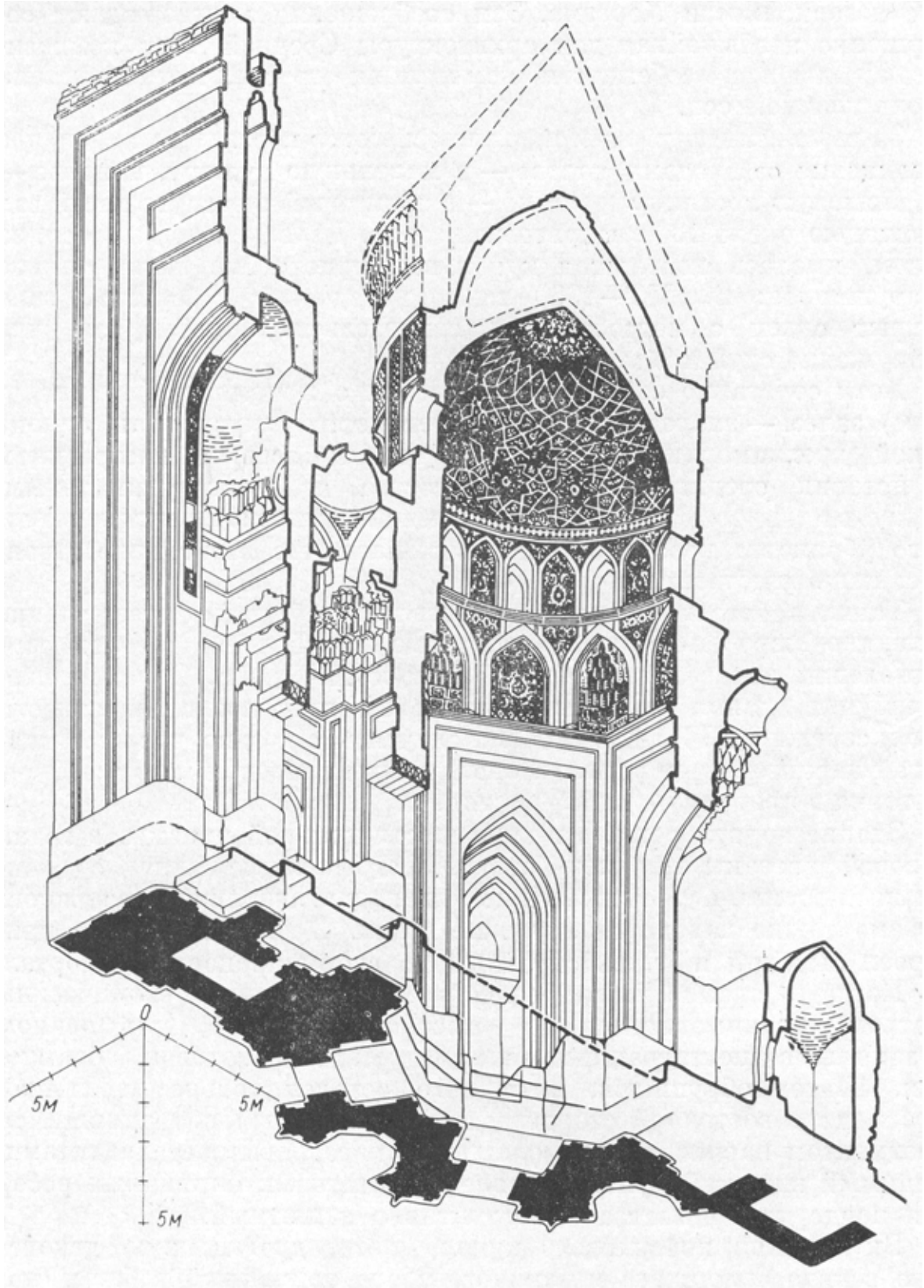
Drawn by: A.N. Vinogradov (top) and M.M. Tuhtaev (bottom)
 Date: 1960 (top) and 1985 (bottom)
 Book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001 (Russian version published in 2000)



Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky
Date: 1974
Book: V.I. Piliavsky, **Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan**, Leningrad, 1974 [*Russian publication*]



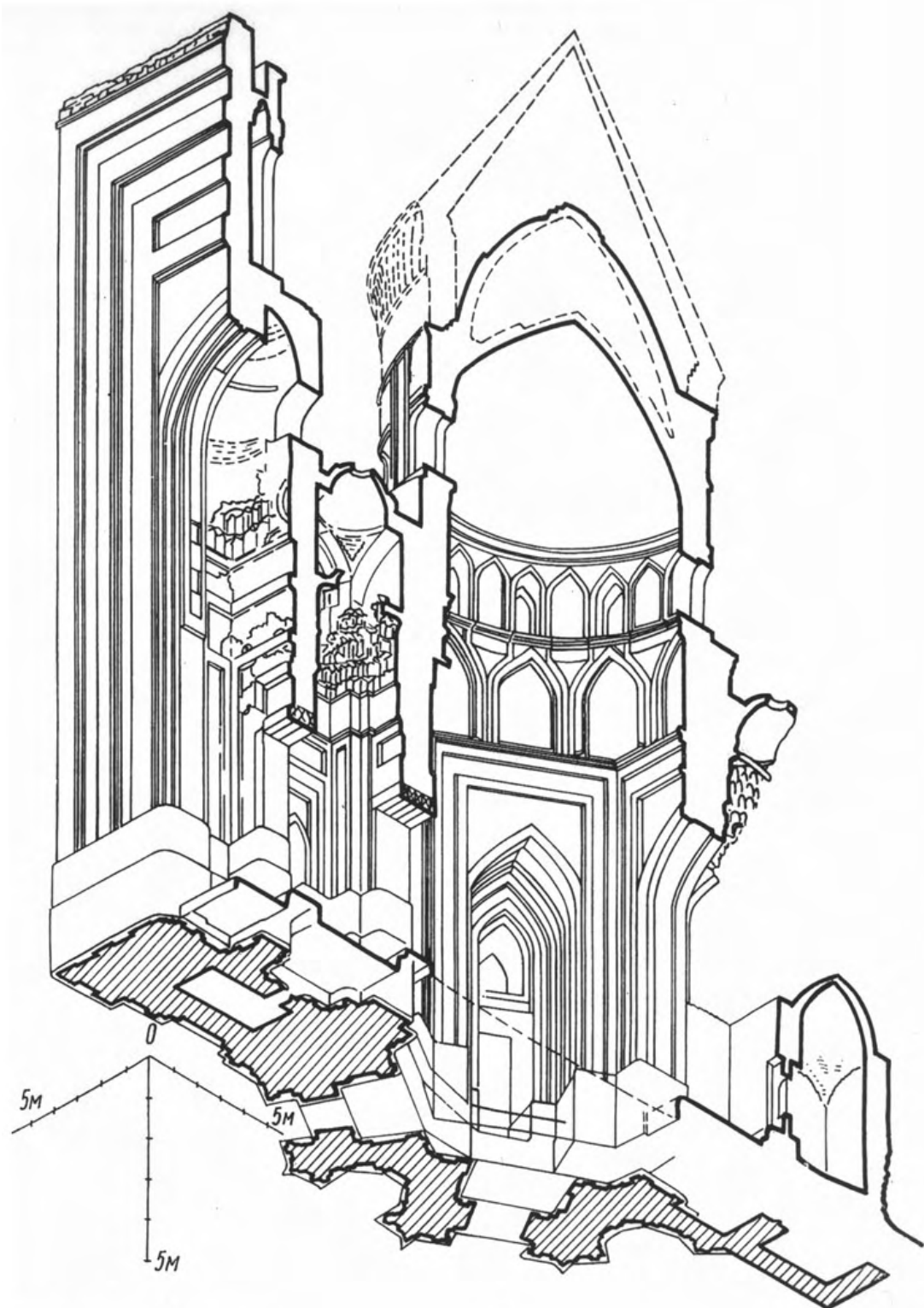
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Date: 1974
Book: *V.I. Piliavsky, Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)



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Date: 1929

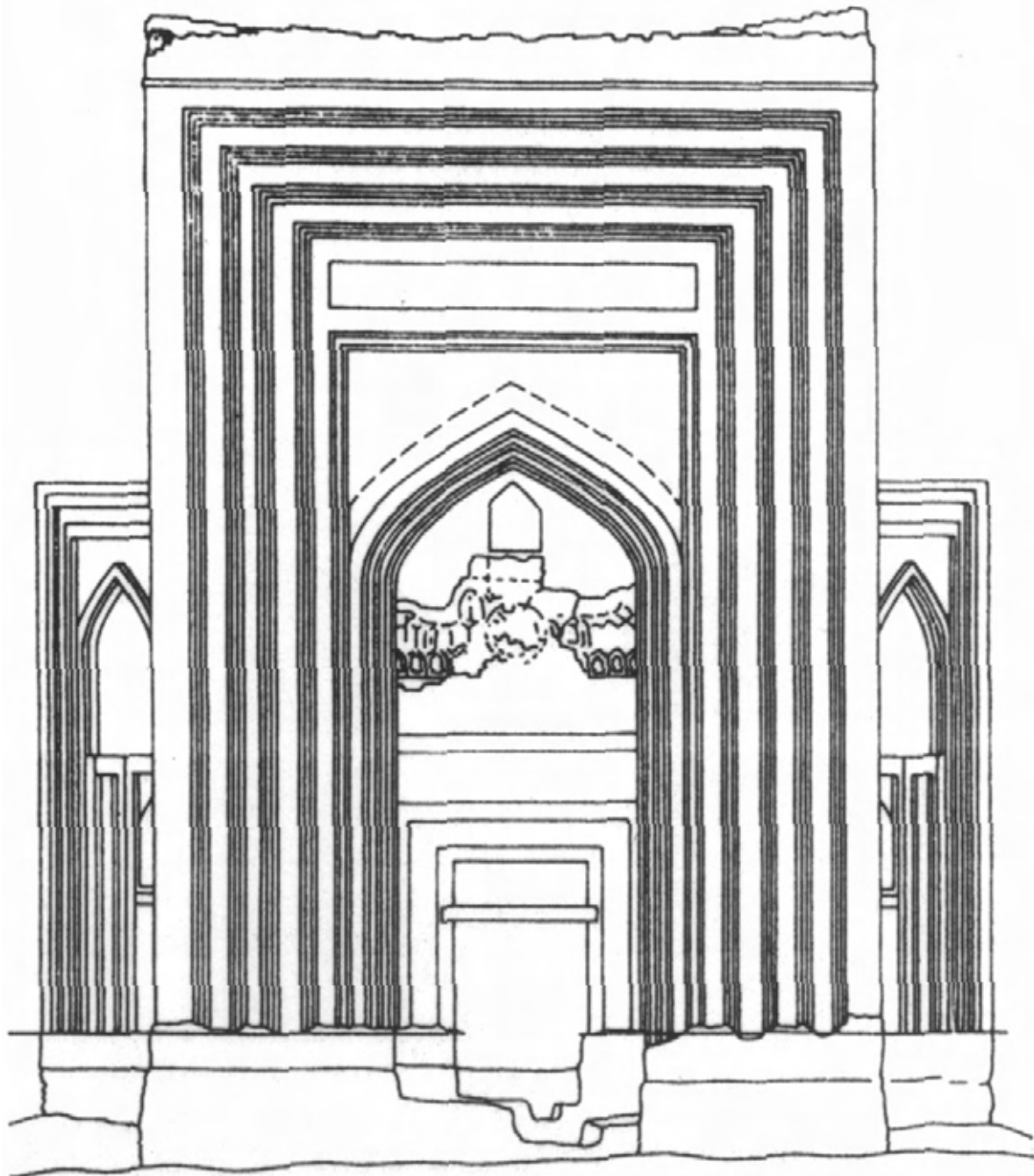
Book: *Baklanov N., Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939 (in Russian language)



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Date: 1974

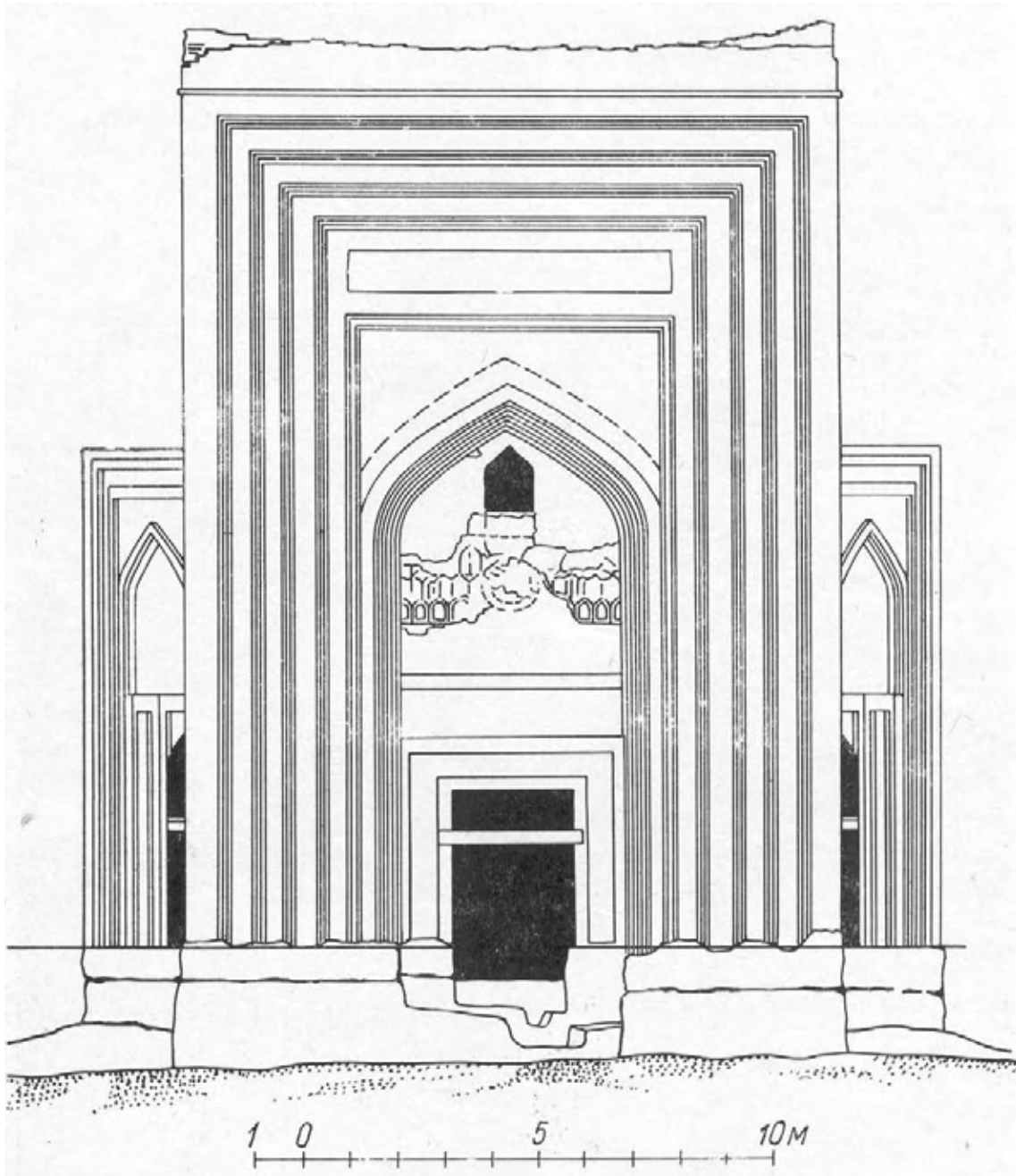
Book: V.I. Piliavsky, *Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)



Drawn by: V.I. Piliavsky

Date: 1974

Book: *V.I. Piliavsky, Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Leningrad, 1974 (*Russian publication*)








Drawn by: N. Baklanov
Date: 1929
Book: *Baklanov N., Architectural Heritage of Turkmenistan*, Moscow, 1939 (in Russian language)

Slides selected for the nomination






Slides selected for the nomination











All slides taken by Sébastien Moriset, CRATerre-EAG










GENERAL VIEWS OF THE 3 SECTIONS









	Slide N°	Reference number* and name of the site element		Caption
	1		Section 1	General view of the eastern part of the section 1 of the site seen from the top of Kutlug-Timur minaret
	2		Section 1	Parking area on the road crossing the site, where all visitors start their visit. Photograph taken from the top of Turabek Khanum mausoleum.
	3	11+12+13 + 15+21	Section 2 of the site	The Section 2 of the site seen from the Western limit of the cemetery, which serves as buffer zone.
	4	11+12+13 + 15+21	Section 2 of the site	The concrete fence wall enclosing the cemetery which serves as buffer zone for Section 2 of the site. View from the South.
	5	9	Section 3 of the site	Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medresse seen from a distance, with the surrounding empty land and cemetery. Turabek Khanum mausoleum and Kutlug-Timur minaret can be seen at the background.








MONUMENTS





	Slide N°	Reference number* and name of the site element		Caption
	6	1	Ak-kala	General view of the site, with the ruined structures and walls at the background
	7	1	Ak-kala	Details of the ruined structures
	8	1	Ak-kala	Details of the ruined structures
	9	2	Gate of Caravanserai	North elevation
	10	2	Gate of Caravanserai	South elevation

	11	3	Fortress wall of Urgench	View of the remains of the fortress wall on the South-eastern corner of section 1 of the site
	12	4	Kyrkmolla	
	13	9	Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medresse	View from the south, with the cemetery in the foreground
	14	9	Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medresse	Entrance of the mausoleum, which was restored in 2002
	15	9	Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medresse	View of the entrance of the mausoleum with the ruined elements on the northern side of the complex.
	16	9	Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medresse	Northern elevation, showing the restored medresse in the North-West corner
	17	9	Ibn Khajib mausoleum and medresse	Restored medresse in the North-West corner
	18	10	Il-Arslan mausoleum	Front (Eastern elevation)
	19	10	Il-Arslan mausoleum	Eastern and Northern elevations
	20	10	Il-Arslan mausoleum	View of the front (Eastern) elevation of the mausoleum, with the new tile paving and the other monuments at the background (Kutlug-Timur minaret and Tekesh mausoleum)







	21	10	Il-Arslan mausoleum	View of the Northern and Western elevations
	22	11	Maktarim-Ishan mausoleum	View from the North Eastern side. The path on the road leads to Nadjm ad-Din al-Kubra and Sultan Ali mausolea.
	23	13	Piryar Vali mausoleum	South and Eastern elevations
	24	14	Seyit Akhmet mausoleum	Northern elevation (entrance)
	25	12	Nadjm ad-din al-Kubra	View of the monument at sunrise, seen from the North-Eastern side
	26	12	Nadjm ad-din al-Kubra	Entrance portal
	27	12	Nadjm ad-din al-Kubra	Entrance of the mausoleum
	28	15	Sultan Ali mausoleum	The mausoleum seen from the South-East, as visitors see it on their arrival to the site, with 2 graves at the foreground
	29	15	Sultan Ali mausoleum	The mausoleum seen from the South-East

	30	15	Sultan Ali mausoleum	The front portal seen from the South-East
	31	15	Sultan Ali mausoleum	The mausoleum seen from the North-West at sunset, with Nadjm ad-din al-Kubra at the background
	32	16	Tekesh mausoleum	Front (Northern) elevation
	33	16	Tekesh mausoleum	Eastern and Northern elevations
	34	16	Tekesh mausoleum	East elevation with Kutlug-Timur minaret at the background
	35	16	Tekesh mausoleum	Western elevation
	36	17	Turabek Khanum mausoleum	Visitors approaching the mausoleum from the South-Eastern side.
	37	17	Turabek Khanum mausoleum	View of the eastern elevation at sunrise

	38	17	Turabek Khanum mausoleum	View of the western elevation at sunset
	39	17	Turabek Khanum mausoleum	Remains of the double dome
	40	17	Turabek Khanum mausoleum	Detail of drum which was supporting the outer dome.
	41	17	Turabek Khanum mausoleum	Inside view of the dome
	42	18	Kutlug-Timur Minaret	Minaret alone, seen from the Eastern side
	43		Kutlug-Timur Minaret	Minaret seen from the North-western side, with Tekesh mausoleum in the background
	44		Kutlug-Timur Minaret	Minaret as seen by the visitors from the path, when coming from the West, with Turkmen visitors in the foreground

	45	19	Mamun minaret and Juma-mosque	Base of Mamun Minaret, with Kutlug-Timur minaret and Tekesh mausoleum in the background
	46	19	Mamun minaret and Juma-mosque	Juma-mosque remains in the foreground, with the partially reconstructed Mamun minaret in the background
	47	21	Tash mosque	Building used as the site museum, seen from the North-Western side
	48	22	Korezm-bag	Photograph taken from the mound, in the centre of Korezm-Bag

SITE MUSEUM AND SITE INTERPRETATION

	Slide N°	Reference number* and name of the site element	Caption
	49	21 Tash mosque	Courtyard of the mosque. Each room is used for the museum exhibitions.
	50	21 Tash mosque	Main exhibition hall
	51	21 Tash mosque	Detail of the exhibition hall
	52	21 Tash mosque	One of the exhibition rooms, depicting the traditional pottery making process
	53	21 Tash mosque	One of the exhibition rooms, depicting a student at work
	54		Floor tiles, stairs and bench at the foot of Kutlug-Timur minaret. The same type of site arrangement/landscaping can be found around the other monuments

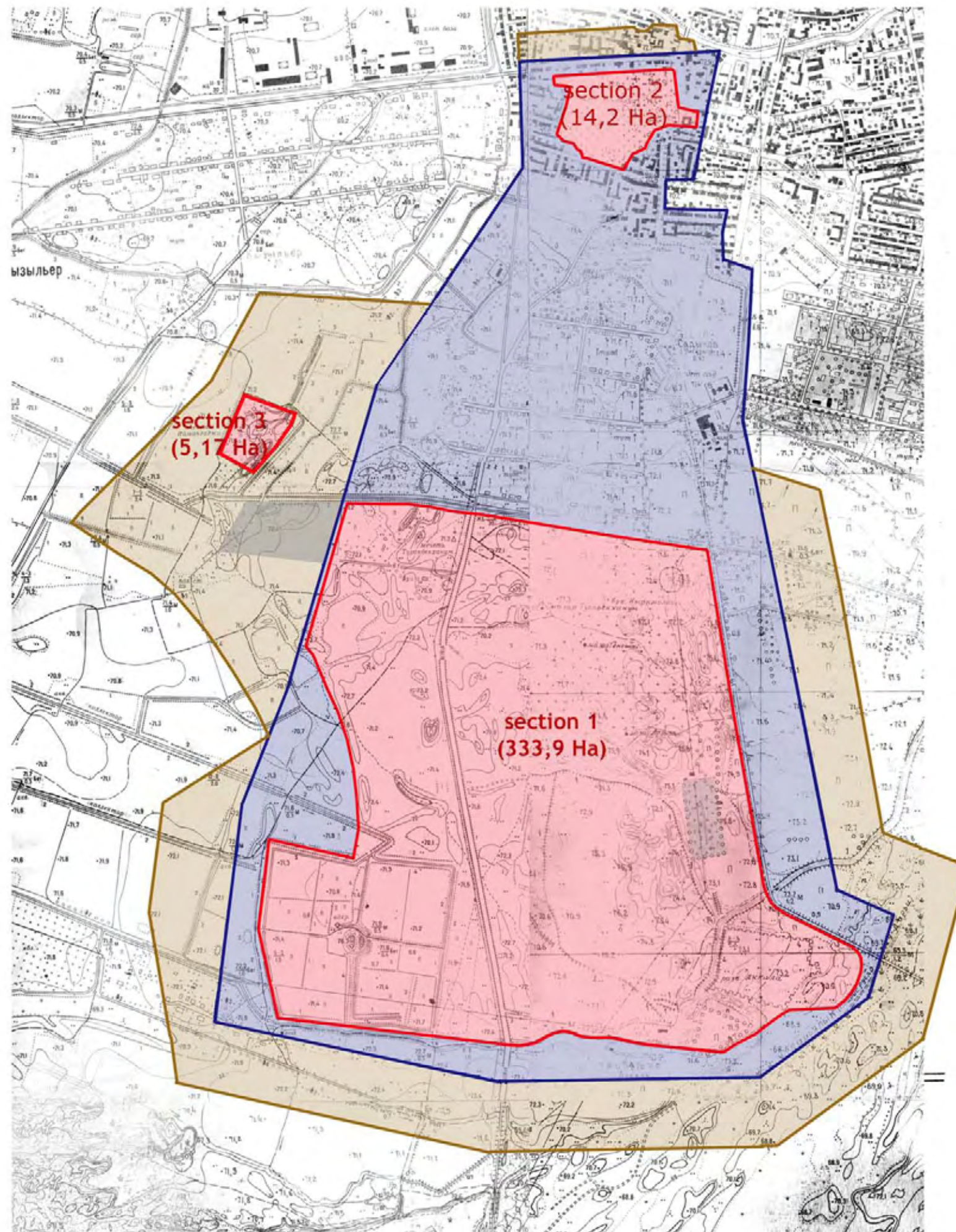
*the reference numbers correspond to the numbers used in the following book: *Mukhammed Mamedov and Ruslan Muradov, Gurganj, Architectural and Historical guide*, il Punto edizioni, 17 x 26, 106 pages, Padova, Italia, 2001

Site Maps

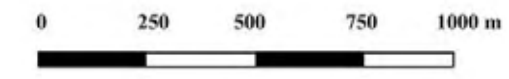
KUNYA-URGENCH

LOCATION PLAN

of the territories proposed for inscription
on the UNESCO World Heritage List
and buffer zones



- Territory nominated to include to the World Heritage List
- Territory of Keneurgench State historical and cultural Park
- Buffer zone (Zone of limited building and zone of protected natural landscape)
- Graveyards



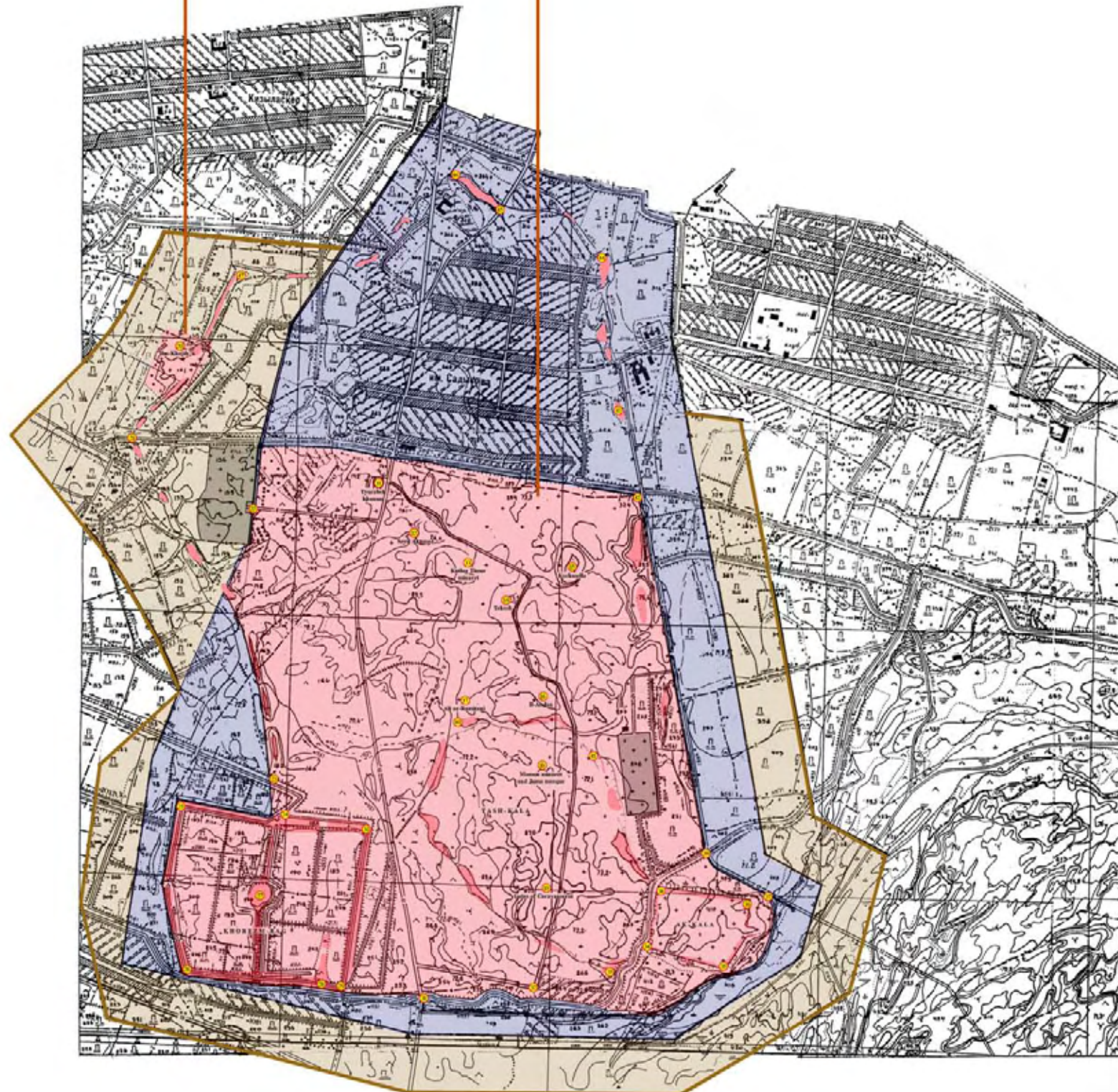
KUNYA-URGENCH

SECTIONS 1 and 3

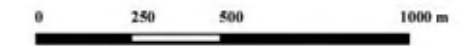
of the territories proposed for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List and buffer zones



№	Coordinations
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12	N 42° 18. 593 ¹ E 059° 08. 365 ¹
13	N 42° 18. 529 ¹ E 059° 08. 508 ¹
14	N 42° 18. 451 ¹ E 059° 08. 627 ¹
15	N 42° 18. 514 ¹ E 059° 08. 778 ¹
16	N 42° 18. 270 ¹ E 059° 08. 749 ¹
17	N 42° 18. 318 ¹ E 059° 08. 494 ¹
18	N 42° 18. 120 ¹ E 059° 08. 751 ¹
19	N 42° 17. 867 ¹ E 059° 08. 740 ¹
20	N 42° 18. 906 ¹ E 059° 07. 694 ¹
21	N 42° 18. 746 ¹ E 059° 07. 585 ¹
22	N 42° 18. 627 ¹ E 059° 07. 901 ¹
23	N 42° 18. 083 ¹ E 059° 07. 961 ¹
24	N 42° 18. 011 ¹ E 059° 07. 974 ¹
25	N 42° 18. 038 ¹ E 059° 07. 700 ¹
26	N 42° 17. 689 ¹ E 059° 07. 725 ¹
27	N 42° 17. 844 ¹ E 059° 07. 952 ¹
28	N 42° 17. 667 ¹ E 059° 09. 082 ¹
29	N 42° 17. 656 ¹ E 059° 08. 158 ¹
30	N 42° 17. 987 ¹ E 059° 08. 209 ¹
31	N 42° 17. 657 ¹ E 059° 08. 364 ¹
32	N 42° 17. 651 ¹ E 059° 08. 674 ¹
33	N 42° 17. 675 ¹ E 059° 08. 870 ¹
34	N 42° 17. 750 ¹ E 059° 08. 968 ¹
35	N 42° 17. 689 ¹ E 059° 09. 202 ¹
36	N 42° 17. 836 ¹ E 059° 09. 265 ¹
37	N 42° 17. 839 ¹ E 059° 09. 329 ¹
38	N 42° 17. 853 ¹ E 059° 09. 013 ¹
39	N 42° 17. 933 ¹ E 059° 09. 140 ¹
40	N 42° 18. 262 ¹ E 059° 08. 512 ¹
41	N 42° 18. 105 ¹ E 059° 08. 872 ¹
42	N 42° 18. 645 ¹ E 059° 08. 976 ¹
43	N 42° 18. 803 ¹ E 059° 08. 936 ¹
44	N 42° 19. 113 ¹ E 059° 08. 881 ¹
45	N 42° 19. 215 ¹ E 059° 08. 578 ¹
46	N 42° 19. 290 ¹ E 059° 08. 456 ¹
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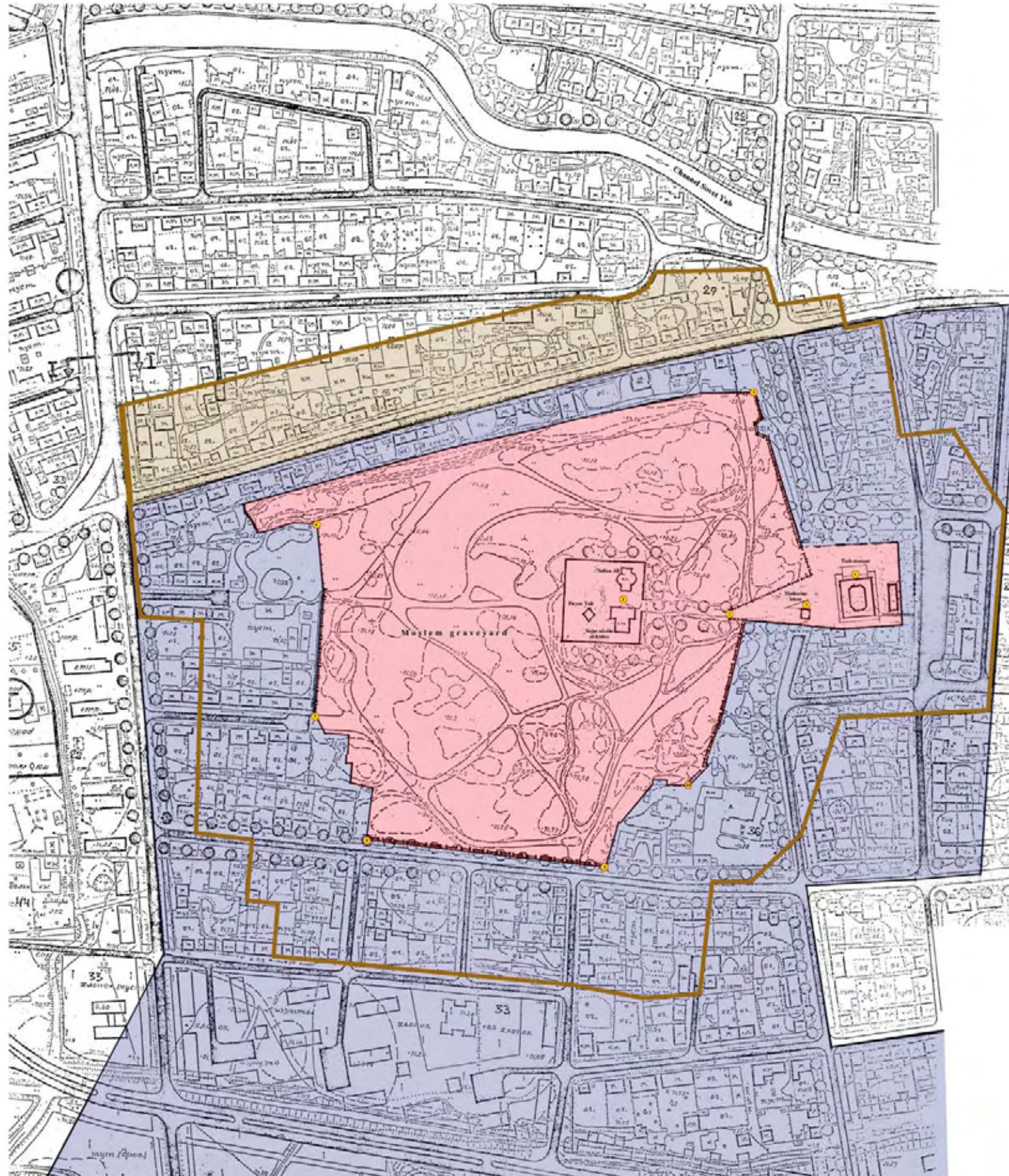
- Territory nominated to include to the World Heritage List
- Territory of Keneurgench State historical and cultural Park
- Buffer zone (Zone of limited building and zone of protected natural landscape)
- Stronghold walls
- Graveyards



KUNYA-URGENCH

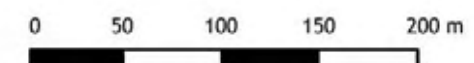
SECTION 2

of the territories proposed for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List and buffer zones



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3	N 42° 19. 528 ¹ E 059° 08. 873 ¹
4	N 42° 19. 543 ¹ E 059° 08. 908 ¹
5	N 42° 19. 639 ¹ E 059° 08. 867 ¹
6	N 42° 19. 630 ¹ E 059° 08. 569 ¹
7	N 42° 19. 523 ¹ E 059° 08. 548 ¹
8	N 42° 19. 473 ¹ E 059° 08. 563 ¹
9	N 42° 19. 438 ¹ E 059° 08. 712 ¹
10	N 42° 19. 464 ¹ E 059° 08. 783 ¹

- Territory nominated to include to the World Heritage List
- Territory of Keneurgench State historical and cultural Park
- Buffer zone
(Zone of limited building and zone of protected natural landscape)



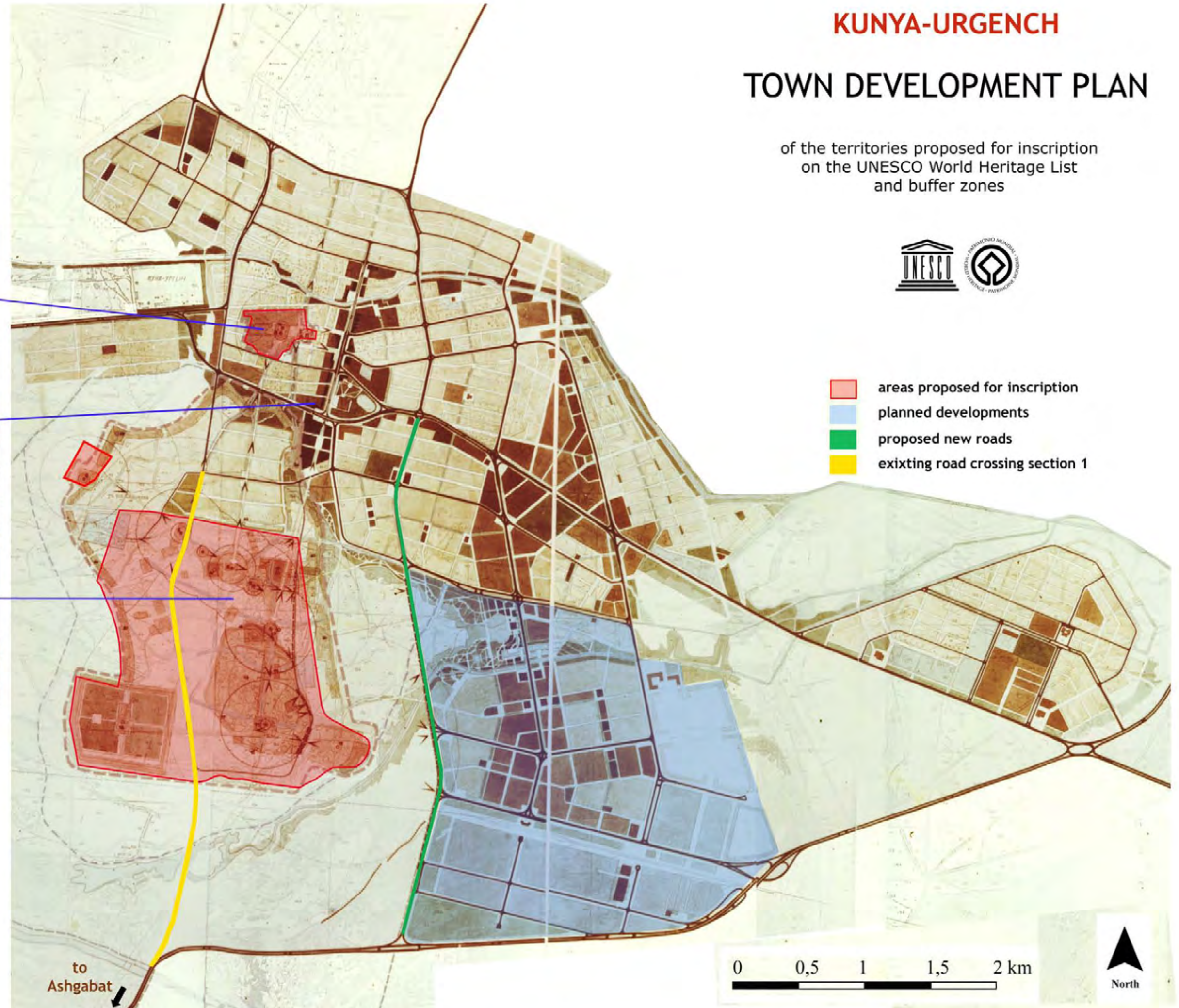
KUNYA-URGENCH

TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

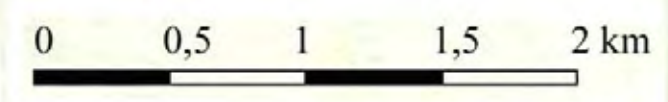
of the territories proposed for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List and buffer zones



- areas proposed for inscription
- planned developments
- proposed new roads
- existing road crossing section 1



to Ashgabat



Kunya-Urgench (Turkmenistan)

No 1199

1. BASIC DATA

<i>State Party:</i>	Turkmenistan
<i>Name of property:</i>	Kunya-Urgench
<i>Location:</i>	Dashoguz Vilayet (Province)
<i>Date received:</i>	2 February 2004

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*. In terms of the paragraph 27 of the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, this is a historic town that is no longer inhabited but which provides unchanged archaeological evidence of the past. This is a serial nomination, consisting of three disconnected sections.

Brief description:

Kunya-Urgench is situated in northwestern Turkmenistan, on the south side of Amu Daria River. Urgench was the capital of the Khorezm region, which was part of the Achaemenid Empire. The nominated property consists of the old town area with series of monuments mainly from the 11th to 16th centuries. This area has remained a vast deserted land with some remains of ancient fortified settlements (*Kyrkmolla*, *Ak-Kala*, *Khorezm-bag*). In the 20th century, it was used as a graveyard. Recent urban development has taken place on the north side of the old town.

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The nomination is divided into three distinct sections:

1. southern section (333.90 ha),
2. northern section (14.17 ha),
3. western section (5.17 ha).

The sections 1 and 2 are contained within the *Keneurgench State Historical and Cultural Park*.

Section 1 is limited on its east, south and west sides by the remains of the 14th century fortification walls. In the southeast corner of this section, there are the remains of the fortress of *Ak-Kala*. The centre of the section is partly occupied by the fortress of *Tash-Kala*, with the gate of a ruined caravanserai and the remaining base of the *Mamunminaret*. The southeastern corner of the section has

the ruined fortress of *Khorezm-bag*, built as a residence for Khan Muhammed Emin in mid 19th century.

From *Tash-Kala*, a road leads to the northwest, passing by most other monuments in this section, all built in brick. These include the remains of the *Kyrkmolla Fortress*, dated to the 5th century BC, the period of the city's foundation.

Kutlug-Timur Minaret (1000-1030?) is the most visible landmark of the site with its 60 m height. The diameter at the base is 12 m and at the top 2 m, and its brick surface has fine geometric patterns.

Il-Arslan Mausoleum (1150?) is relatively small with a square plan and conical roof. The roof has geometric patterns in brick, and the front gate is surrounded by terracotta inscriptions.

Tekesh Mausoleum (1195?) has a similar form, but is bigger. Also here, the roof is decorated in brick patterns with some turquoise tiles still in position. The front gate has stalactite decorations.

Seyet Akhmet Mausoleum is simpler in its architecture. The present structure has been rebuilt after the original collapsed in 1993.

Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum (1360-1380?) is the largest of the mausoleums. It has an octagonal floor plan, with tall niches opening outward. The entrance is a tall gate structure. The original conical outer roof shell has collapsed. The interior has an exceptional spatial composition crowned with a dome of extremely refined blue-white decoration in delicate geometric pattern.

Section 2 in the northern part of the town consists of a large Muslim graveyard in the middle of modern urban development. In the centre of the graveyard there is a group of three buildings. *Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum* was built in the first half of the 14th century. It was named after Ahmed Ibn Omar Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra al-Khorezmi (born in 1145), the founder of the Kubra School of Sufism, as well as being a painter, physician and chess master. The portal dates back to 12th-13th centuries. The *Sultan Ali Mausoleum* is located opposite to the previous, and is linked with the name of Sultan Ali, who ruled in the 16th century. The *Piryar Vali Mausoleum* is a small complex built in the 13th-14th centuries. It contains the burials of several distinguished persons. At the entrance in the east, the *Dash Mosque*, built in the early 20th century, has been converted into a site museum.

Section 3 is a small area in the western part of the old town. The monument of *Ibn Khajib* was built in honor of Ibn Khajib, a talented disciple of Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra. The ensemble was built in several phases from the 14th to 19th centuries.

History

The origins of Kunya-Urgench are believed to go back to the 6th or 5th centuries, the early Achaemenid period. Evidence of this is provided by the *Kyrkmolla Fortress*. In 712, Kunya-Urgench was invaded by Arabs and was named Gurgandj. Being at the crossing of trade routes, the town prospered, becoming a major centre from the 10th to

14th centuries. It was the capital of Khorezm from the 12th century and the second city after Bukhara in Central Asia.

The city was destroyed by Genghis Khan in 1221, but it was rebuilt and described as the finest city of the Turks with fine bazaars and impressive buildings. It suffered heavily from destruction by the Timurid troops between 1372 and 1388, and never gained its previous position again. In the 16th century, the capital function was transferred to Khiva, and the city was finally abandoned. The Amu Darya River changed its course at the same time.

The city experienced modern development when it was newly colonized by Turkmen from 1831. The new development however took place outside the old town, which was later utilized as a graveyard.

Management Regime

Legal provision:

The land of the nominated area is government-owned.

All monuments are legally protected. Kunya-Urgench is one of the eight “State Historical and Cultural Parks” in the country, based on a decree of 1985 (n° 10085). It is registered at the Vilayet (provincial) level (decree 440/16), approved by the State Cabinet of Ministers (in 1992).

In addition, there are special bylaws, for example, for the protection of the area identified as the buffer zone.

Management structure:

There are two agencies with management authority, State Historical and Cultural Park Kunya-Urgench, and the National Department for the Protection, Study and Restoration of the Historical and Cultural Monuments in Turkmenistan (DPM) in Ashgabat.

There is a general management system for the general policies of management and conservation of heritage sites. The system also provides general guidelines. More detailed plans are developed on the basis of these guidelines. Such is the case also with Kunya-Urgench, which includes a set of guidelines and annual work plans, controlling protection, research and monitoring.

Resources:

There is an official state budget allocated to the site. However, the amounts remaining were unused due to complex procedures. In 2003, the President of Turkmenistan provided information about a proposal to improve the situation. There is an income from visitor entrance fees, which amounted to 7,930 US\$ in 2002.

The site has a staff of 33 persons.

Visitor facilities have been developed since the 1980s, including an ethnographic museum, guides, trails, signboards, parking, toilets and publications. There are no accommodation facilities, restaurants or souvenir shops. Visitors normally sleep in Dashoguz, which is 100 km away. There are plans for a restaurant in the future.

Under the UNDP programme, there was a British expert working on the restoration of Kutlug-Timur Minaret and Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum, in 1999-2000.

Justification by the State Party (summary)

Criterion i: Kunya-Urgench is an outstanding collection of exceptional monuments covering a long period in the history of the region. The site embodies an exceptional testimony of the great creativity and advanced building culture developed by the local craftsmen since the 11th century. The Kutlug-Timur minaret, the most striking one at first glance, is a masterpiece of creative genius, and is itself worthy of World Heritage Status. Kunya-Urgench displays various building structures, with rare dome shapes. Amongst them are Tekesh mausoleum, with its conical dome built on a high facet-drum, and the monumental Turabek-Khanum mausoleum, which are remarkable examples of this prominent creativity, which has spread over the entire region.

Criterion ii: The ruins are a brilliant testament to the extraordinary skills of the Urgench School of architecture and construction. The architectural styles developed in Kunya-Urgench have exerted considerable influence in the development of religious architecture in central Asia and Iran during the Islamic period. Local architects and craftsmen have participated in the construction of significant monuments in other towns in Uzbekistan and Iran. The Seljuk city in particular influenced architecture and architectural decoration as well as scientific and cultural development.

Criterion iii: The monuments of Kunya-Urgench and its associated archaeological remains are exceptional testimonies to the power and quality of the Khorezm capital that rose to great prominence between the 10th and 14th centuries, before being destroyed by the Mongols. The sequence of the development of Kunya-Urgench, the series of fortifications and their urban lay-outs bear exceptional testimony to the civilizations of Central Asia. Looking at the beauty of the nowadays preserved monuments, one can imagine the splendor of this flourishing capital, once called the “Pearl of Khorezm”.

Criterion iv: The monuments of Kunya-Urgench are outstanding examples of Islamic architecture and ornamentation in this region and played a significant role in their further dissemination.

3. ICOMOS EVALUATION

Actions by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited the site in August 2004.

ICOMOS has also consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM).

Conservation

Conservation history:

The ancient city of Kunya-Urgench was abandoned in the 16th century. A new town developed on the north side, leaving the old town area as a deserted land. In the 20th century, it has been used as a graveyard.

A certain number of monuments remains as a testimony of the history and achievements of the city; many have collapsed or otherwise been ruined over time. From the 1970s, the monuments have been subject to restoration, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s. From 1999 to 2000, the UNDP financed a restoration campaign.

State of conservation:

The present state of conservation is variable. In some cases, the monuments have remained in their ruinous condition. In other cases, there have been variable degrees of repair, restoration and even complete reconstruction.

Of the principal monuments, *Turabek-Khanum Mausoleum* has been subject to restoration since the 1980s. In 1983-1993, the walls were repaired, and the collapsed northern portal was rebuilt. In 1999-2000, the inner dome and the small side domes were restored. The roof was partly rebuilt. There are still problems especially with the decorative elements, such as mosaics and stalactites, though the general condition is stable.

The shaft and staircase of *Minaret Kutlug-Timur* have been restored and consolidated in the 1980s. More recently, also the inclined top has been given attention, but the work needs to be continued in order to avoid collapse.

Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum was restored in the 1980s, involving internal and external wall surfaces, domes, screens, and fittings. The main portal has not been touched, and is now leaning out ca. 50cm. The decorative elements require attention. The surroundings have been cleared and arranged for visitors.

Sultan Ali Mausoleum has been subject to minor works of repair in early 1990s. The building is currently monitored and will require further work in the future. *II-Arslan Mausoleum* was restored in 1980s. The building is currently stable but will need further work in the future. *Seyet Akhmet Mausoleum* has been completely rebuilt after collapse in 1993. *Ibn-Khajib* complex has been subject to conservation work since 2001, which still continues.

The fortresses and archaeological areas have been partly explored, though many have not been touched yet. For example, *Kyrkmolla* is partly explored, while *Ak-Kala* is untouched. The 14th century city wall has been almost completely destroyed. All these sites are subject to weathering and gradual decay.

Management:

There are 3 documents governing the site management:

- the Law of Turkmenistan, which provides guidelines for conservation and management,

- the Policy for the “State Historical and Cultural Park of Kunya-Urgench”,
- the Action plan prepared every year by the Park management team.

In addition, a plan, recently prepared, sets out the objectives for the site conservation and comprises a list of activities to be implemented in the next five years (2005-2010).

Risk analysis:

The site is adjacent to an urban settlement of 30,000 inhabitants and there are relatively few visitors. Therefore there is not much pressure for change in the environment. However, there is some residential housing around *Najm ad-Din al-Kubra Mausoleum*, which requires monitoring. Being on a flat land, obviously any tall buildings in the surroundings would have an impact on the nominated site. The buffer zone and the present legislation exist and can counteract such development. Nevertheless, there has been illegal activity in past years. For example, the farmland may encroach into the archaeological park especially from the south side, though forbidden by law. There is also some illegal digging taking place, a common threat in the region. There is a high water table, which can cause salt crystallization in the buildings. Kunya-Urgench is in a zone of moderate seismicity.

Authenticity and integrity

The overall integrity of Kunya-Urgench as an archaeological site results from its historical condition. Having been abandoned for more than three centuries, and then used as a graveyard, the area has remained relatively “unchanged”. Accordingly, Kunya-Urgench is considered to have retained its historical integrity better than most other sites in Central Asia.

The nomination document includes an interesting photographic comparison of the state of conservation in the past (even in the 1920s), and at present. On this basis, it is possible to have a clear view of the works carried out.

The individual monuments are in variable conditions. Most have partly or nearly completely collapsed. The individual monuments have been subject to various degrees of repair, restoration and reconstruction. The principal monuments have retained a substantial amount of original material, representing a reasonable level of authenticity. Other buildings have remained untouched or been more or less substantially reconstructed. Seeing the condition before repair, one can appreciate that in some cases the choice was a complete collapse or partial reconstruction.

While taking note of the several reconstructions of individual buildings, the principal monuments are still considered to have retained a reasonable level of authenticity.

Comparative evaluation

The principal period of Kunya-Urgench extends from the 11th to 14th centuries. Before the Mongol invasion (ca. 1220), the city was a major commercial centre associated

with the Silk Road and a major centre of Khorezm, ruled by the Seljuk dynasty. From this period, there remains especially the Kutlug-Timur minaret, as well as the mausoleums of Il-Arslan and Tekesh. In the 14th-15th centuries, the region was under Mongol rule, and then part of the Timurid Empire. From this period remain the mausoleums of Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra, Turabek-Khanum, and Ibn-Khajib.

The nomination document compares Kunya-Urgench with the cities of Bukhara, Khiva and Samarkand, in Uzbekistan, which represent the same period. These cities however have continued to grow and change with the times, while Kunya-Urgench is an archaeological site. One can also compare the site with the ancient city of Merv (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999), an oasis in southern Turkmenistan, which has preserved testimonies from several millennia as well as having flourished from 11th to 14th centuries, like Kunya-Urgench. From the urban planning point of view, Kunya-Urgench still seems to be relatively unexplored, and needs further research.

The main feature of Kunya-Urgench is its remaining monuments as a testimony to its history. In this regard, it does represent a rare testimony to the history of Central Asia. The architecture, built in fired brick, represents high quality craftsmanship. Culturally, it is closely related with the Seljuk, Ilkhanid and Timurid examples in the region extending from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan and Persia.

Kutlug-Timur minaret can be compared with *Jam* minaret in Afghanistan (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2002, criteria ii, iii, iv). *Jam* minaret was built in the 12th century and is 65 m tall, while *Kutlug-Timur* was constructed in the 11th century, and is 60 m tall. The other minarets in Central Asia are relatively smaller in size. However, several minarets in Iran also date from the same period. In any case, *Kutlug-Timur* minaret can be seen as an outstanding, achievement both for its period and its architecture.

In the Seljuk period, the architecture of mausoleums developed on two lines, either centrally planned or with a portal construction. The floor plan could be square or octagonal, as in various examples in Merv, Bukhara or Kunya-Urgench. Of the Kunya-Urgench mausoleums, *Il-Arslan* and *Tekesh* remain from the 12th century, while *Turabek-Khanum*, the most elaborate in its architectural conception and decoration dates from the 14th century.

Outstanding universal value

General statement:

The nominated property corresponds to the following themes:

- Human beings in society (memorials);
- Spiritual response (Islam);
- Expressions of creativity: Religious and Commemorative architecture (mausoleums); Military architecture (fortified cities); Constructing and developing groups of buildings (towns which are no longer inhabited);
- Movement of peoples: routes and systems of transportation (cultural routes; centers of trade).

The property corresponds, in particular, to the theme of expressions of creativity. Seen in the historical context, there are very few such sites in the region of Central Asia, already mentioned above.

The architecture is interesting particularly in providing examples of memorial architecture i.e. mausoleums. In comparison with other examples in Merv or Bukhara, some of these examples are relatively early. Turabek-Khanum mausoleum, dating from the Timurid period, does have its own personality and uniqueness.

The Kutlug-Timur minaret is a fine construction and dates earlier than the minaret of Jam. Again, there are other fine minarets in Iran, which date from the same period. Nevertheless, this monument merits due respect.

Having been abandoned centuries ago, Kunya-Urgench has the advantage of representing a relatively intact site. At the same time, most of the structures have collapsed or are in ruins. There is relatively little remaining from the city walls and the site has not been systematically explored. In addition, most of the still standing buildings are partly or totally reconstructed.

All this said, Kunya-Urgench represents a rare example and one of the most extensive archaeological sites in Turkmenistan and in Central Asia. It represents an exceptional testimony to architectural developments in the Khorezm region.

Through the trade routes along the valley of the Amu Darya River and the Silk Road, Kunya-Urgench was in close contact with exchanging influences.

Evaluation of criteria:

As highlighted by the nomination, the criteria ii and iii should justify the inclusion of Kunya-Urgench in the List, since it expresses the large influence of a tradition of architecture and provides an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition (i.e. the Islamic Khoresmian culture).

However, criteria i and iv are not persuasive for Kunya-Urgench.

The criterion i is applied mainly to the decoration of the 12th century Kutlug-Timur minaret which is identified as a “*masterpiece of human creative genius*”. But the Jam minaret (in Afghanistan, also 12th century in age) alone is outstanding in this sense and is a far superior monument in its surviving form to Kutlug-Timur (NB: the Jam minaret, although it is a *masterpiece of human creative genius*, has not been inscribed on the World Heritage List under criterion i).

The application of criterion iv may be hazardous, since the shape and design of many monuments of Kunya-Urgench are represented elsewhere in Central Asia.

4. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for the future

It is strongly recommended to prevent encroachment on the protected area.

Due to the importance of Kunya-Urgench, a key site in the history of the region, it is to be hoped that the park staff posted on the site will receive sufficient political and financial support to enable them to protect the archaeological area.

It is also recommended that the State Party should submit, at 2-year intervals, a report to the World Heritage Committee, on the state of conservation of the site and the new development zones planned for the small contemporary urban settlement.

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

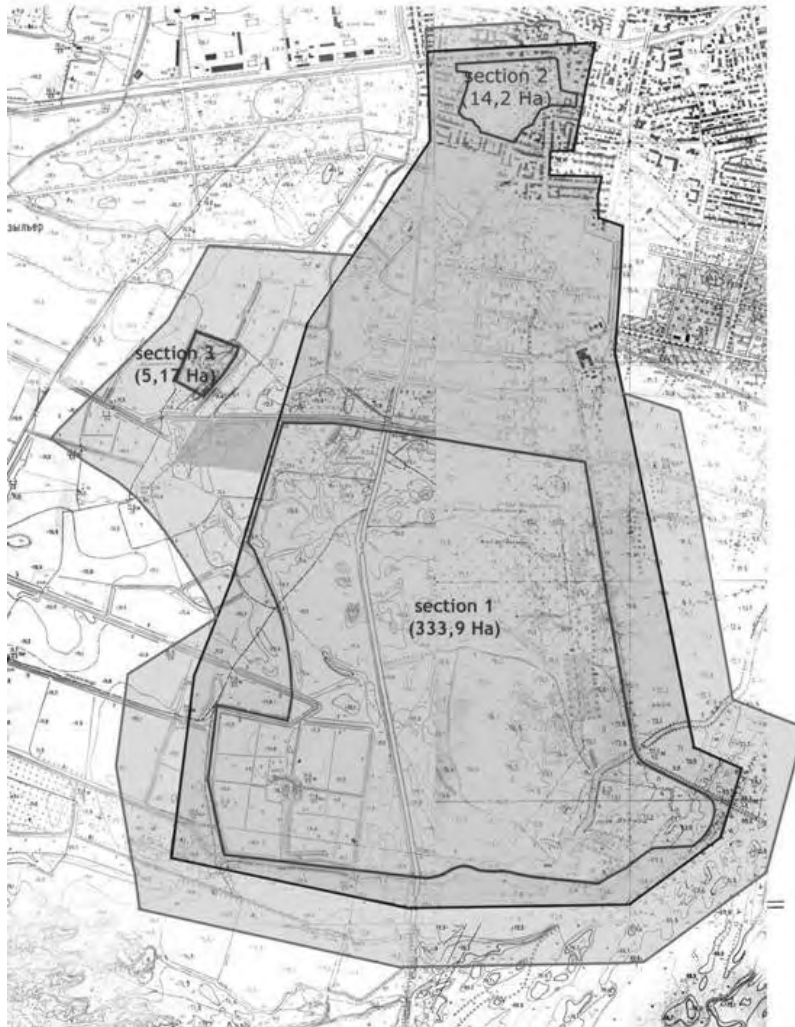
1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B,
2. Inscribes the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of ***criteria ii and iii***:

Criterion ii: The tradition of architecture expressed in the design and craftsmanship of Kunya-Urgench has been influential in the wider region to the south and southwest i.e. in Iran and Afghanistan, and later in the architecture of the Mogul Empire (India, 16th century).

Criterion iii: Kunya-Urgench provides an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition (the Islamic culture of the Khorezm) and is unique in its state of preservation. The society that created this centre has disappeared; however we note that most of visitors are in fact pilgrims from the region.

3. Recommends that every effort be made to prevent encroachment on the protected area.
4. Invites the State Party to provide the park staff posted on the site sufficient political and financial support to enable them to protect the archaeological area.
5. Requests the State Party to submit, at 2-year intervals, a report to the World Heritage Committee, on the state of conservation of the site and the new development zones planned for the small contemporary urban settlement.

ICOMOS, April 2005



KUNYA-URGENCH LOCATION PLAN

of the territories proposed for inscription
on the UNESCO World Heritage List
and buffer zones



- Territory nominated to include to the World Heritage List
- Territory of Keshurgench State historical and cultural Park
- Buffer zone (Zone of limited building and zone of protected natural landscape)
- Graveyards



North



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



View of Kutlug-Timur minaret and Tekesh mausoleum



Mausoleums of Sultan Ali and Nadjim ad Din al Kubra

Kunya-Urgench (Turkménistan)

No 1199

1. IDENTIFICATION

État partie :	Turkménistan
Bien proposé :	Kunya-Urgench
Lieu :	Dashoguz Vilayet (Province)
Date de réception :	2 février 2004

Catégorie de bien :

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 *ensemble*. Aux termes du paragraphe 27 des *Orientations devant guider la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur le patrimoine mondial*, il s'agit d'une ville morte, témoignage archéologique figé d'un passé révolu. Il s'agit d'une proposition d'inscription en série, composée de trois sections distinctes.

Brève description :

Kunya-Urgench est située dans le nord-ouest du Turkménistan, sur la rive Sud de l'Amou Daria. Urgench était la capitale de la région du Khorezm, qui appartenait à l'empire achéménide. Le bien proposé pour inscription se compose de la vieille ville, avec une série de monuments datant essentiellement du XI^e au XVI^e siècle. Cette zone constitue un vaste terrain déserté, avec quelques vestiges d'anciens peuplements fortifiés (Kyrkmolla, Ak-Kala, Khorezm-bag). Au XX^e siècle, elle servait de cimetière. De récents développements urbains sont apparus dans le quartier Nord de la vieille ville.

2. LE BIEN

Description

La proposition d'inscription se divise en trois sections distinctes :

1. section Sud (333,90 ha),
2. section Nord (14,17 ha),
3. section Ouest (5,17 ha).

Les sections 1 et 2 se trouvent dans le parc national historique et culturel de Keneurgench.

La section 1 est limitée, à l'est, au sud et à l'ouest, par les vestiges des remparts du XIV^e siècle. Au sud-est de cette section se trouvent les vestiges de la forteresse d'*Ak-Kala*. Le centre de la section est en partie occupé par la forteresse de *Tash-Kala*, avec la porte d'un caravansérail en ruines et les vestiges de la partie inférieure du *Mamunminaret*. Dans

l'angle Sud-Est de la section se trouvent les ruines de la forteresse de *Khorezm-bag*, construite comme résidence du Khan Muhammad Emin au milieu du XIX^e siècle.

De *Tash-Kala*, une route conduit au nord-ouest, longeant la plupart des autres monuments de cette section, tous en briques. Ceux-ci incluent les vestiges de la *forteresse Kyrkmolla*, datant du Ve siècle av. J.-C., époque de la fondation de la ville.

Le minaret de Kutlug Timur (1000-1030 ?) est le repère le plus visible du site, avec ses 60 m de hauteur. Le diamètre à la base atteint 12 m et 2 m au sommet, et sa surface en briques comporte de fins motifs géométriques.

Le mausolée d'Il-Arslan (1150 ?) est relativement petit, avec un plan carré et un toit conique. Le toit présente des motifs géométriques en briques, et la porte de la façade principale est entourée d'inscriptions en terracotta.

Le mausolée de Tekesh (1195 ?), de forme similaire, est plus grand. Le toit est également orné de motifs de briques, avec quelques tuiles turquoises encore en place. La porte principale est ornée de décorations en forme de stalactites.

Le mausolée de Seyet Akhmet est d'une architecture plus simple. La structure actuelle a été reconstruite après l'effondrement de la structure d'origine, en 1993.

Le mausolée de Turabek-Khanum (1360-1380 ?) est le plus grand des mausolées. De plan octogonal, il comporte de hautes niches donnant sur l'extérieur. L'entrée est constituée par une grande porte. Le toit extérieur d'origine, de forme conique, s'est effondré. L'intérieur présente une composition spatiale exceptionnelle, couronnée d'une coupole à la décoration en blanc et bleu extrêmement raffinée, faite de délicats motifs géométriques.

La section 2, au nord de la ville, se compose d'un grand cimetière musulman au milieu d'un développement urbain moderne. Au milieu du cimetière se trouve un groupe de trois édifices. *Le mausolée de Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra* a été construit dans la première moitié du XIV^e siècle. Il tire son nom d'Ahmed Ibn Omar Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra al-Khorezmi (né en 1145), fondateur de l'école kubravide de soufisme, mais aussi peintre, physicien et maître d'échecs. Le portail date des XII^e-XIII^e siècles. *Le mausolée du sultan Ali* se trouve face au monument précédent et il est associé au sultan Ali, souverain du XVI^e siècle. *Le mausolée de Piryar Vali* est un petit complexe bâti aux XIII^e-XIV^e siècles. Il abrite les restes de plusieurs dignitaires. À l'entrée de l'est, la *mosquée Dash*, bâtie au début du XX^e siècle, a été transformée en musée du site.

La section 3 est une petite zone dans la partie occidentale de la vieille ville. Le monument d'*Ibn Khajib* a été édifié en hommage à Ibn Khajib, disciple talentueux de Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra. L'ensemble a été construit en plusieurs phases, du XIV^e au XIX^e siècle.

Histoire

On pense que les origines de Kunya-Urgench remontent au VI^e ou Ve siècle, au début de la période achéménide, comme en atteste la forteresse Kyrkmolla. En 712, Kunya-Urgench a été envahie par les Arabes et a été baptisée

Gurgandj. Située au carrefour de routes marchandes, la ville prospéra, devenant un pôle majeur du Xe au XIVe siècle. C'était la capitale du Khorezm au XIIIe siècle et la deuxième ville d'Asie centrale après Boukhara.

Genghis Khan détruisit la ville en 1221, mais elle fut reconstruite ; on la décrit comme la plus belle ville des Turcs, avec de beaux bazars et des édifices impressionnants. Les troupes timurides lui infligèrent d'énormes dégâts entre 1372 et 1388, et elle ne retrouva Djamaï son statut d'antan. Au XVIe siècle, le siège de la capitale fut transféré à Khiva, et la ville fut finalement abandonnée. Le cours du fleuve Amou Darya changea à la même époque.

La ville connut un développement moderne à partir de sa recolonisation par les Turcs de 1831. Le nouveau développement était toutefois situé en dehors de la vieille ville, qui fut ensuite utilisée comme cimetière.

Politique de gestion

Dispositions légales :

Les terrains de la zone proposée pour inscription appartiennent au gouvernement.

Tous les monuments font l'objet d'une protection légale. Kunya-Urgench est l'un des huit parcs nationaux historiques et culturels du pays, d'après un décret de 1985 (n° 10085). Il est classé au niveau (provincial) de Vilayet (décret 440/16), approuvé par le cabinet d'État des ministères (en 1992).

En outre, la protection de la zone identifiée comme zone tampon est assurée par des statuts particuliers.

Structure de la gestion :

Il existe deux agences dotées d'un mandat de gestion, le parc national historique et culturel de Kunya-Urgench et le département national de Protection, d'Étude et de Restauration des monuments historiques et culturels au Turkménistan (DPM) à Achgabat.

Il existe un système général de gestion pour les politiques générales de gestion et de conservation des sites du patrimoine. Ce système fournit également des directives générales. Des plans plus détaillés sont élaborés d'après ces directives. C'est aussi le cas pour Kunya-Urgench, qui comprend une série de directives et de plans de travail annuels, contrôlant la protection, la recherche et le suivi.

Ressources :

Un budget public officiel est alloué au site. Toutefois, le solde est resté inutilisé, du fait de procédures complexes. En 2003, le président du Turkménistan a avancé une proposition pour améliorer la situation. En 2002, les revenus tirés des droits d'entrée des visiteurs se sont élevés à 7 930 US\$.

Le site emploie 33 personnes.

Des installations pour les visiteurs ont été développées depuis les années 1980, parmi lesquelles un musée

ethnographique, la mise en place de guides, de pistes, de panneaux d'affichage, d'un parc de stationnement et de toilettes, et des publications. Il n'existe pas en revanche de possibilités d'hébergement, de restaurants ou de boutiques de souvenirs. Les visiteurs dorment normalement à Dashoguz, qui se trouve à 100 km. Un projet de restaurant est prévu pour l'avenir.

Aux termes d'un programme du PNUD, un expert britannique a travaillé à la restauration du minaret de Kutlug-Timur et du mausolée de Turabek-Khanum en 1999-2000.

Justification émanant de l'État partie (résumé)

Critère i : Kunya-Urgench est un remarquable ensemble de monuments exceptionnels, couvrant une longue période dans l'histoire de la région. Le site représente un témoignage exceptionnel de la grande créativité et des techniques de construction perfectionnées développées par les artisans locaux depuis le XIe siècle. Le minaret de Kutlug-Timur, le plus frappant au premier coup d'œil, est un chef-d'œuvre du génie créateur humain, et mérite à lui seul l'inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. Kunya-Urgench présente des bâtiments aux structures variées, avec des formes rares, telles la coupole. Parmi eux figurent le mausolée de Tekesh, avec sa coupole conique construite sur un tambour élevé, et le monumental mausolée de Turabek-Khanum, tous deux de remarquables exemples de cette incroyable créativité qui s'est étendue à toute la région.

Critère ii : Les ruines sont un brillant témoignage des extraordinaires compétences de l'école d'architecture et de construction d'Urgench. Les styles architecturaux développés à Kunya-Urgench ont exercé une influence considérable sur le développement de l'architecture religieuse en Asie centrale et en Iran durant la période islamique. Les architectes et artisans locaux ont pris part à la construction de monuments importants dans d'autres villes d'Ouzbékistan et d'Iran. La ville seldjoukide, en particulier, a influencé l'architecture et la décoration architecturale, tout autant que le développement scientifique et culturel.

Critère iii : Les monuments de Kunya-Urgench et ses vestiges archéologiques associés sont des témoignages exceptionnels de la puissance et de la qualité de la capitale du Khorezm, qui a joué un rôle prépondérant entre le Xe et le XIVe siècle, avant d'être détruite par les Mongols. La séquence du développement de Kunya-Urgench, la série de fortifications et leur schéma urbain sont un témoignage exceptionnel des civilisations d'Asie centrale. En contemplant la beauté des monuments préservés aujourd'hui, on peut imaginer la splendeur de cette capitale prospère, jadis surnommée la « Perle du Khorezm ».

Critère iv : Les monuments de Kunya-Urgench sont des exemples exceptionnels de l'architecture islamique et de l'ornementation dans cette région et ont joué un rôle significatif dans leur diffusion ultérieure.

3. ÉVALUATION DE L'ICOMOS

Actions de l'ICOMOS

Une mission d'évaluation de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue sur le site en août 2004.

L'ICOMOS a également consulté son Comité scientifique international sur la gestion du patrimoine archéologique (ICAHM).

Conservation

Historique de la conservation :

L'ancienne ville de Kunya-Urgench a été abandonnée au XVI^e siècle. Une nouvelle ville s'est développée du côté Nord, laissant la vieille ville déserte. Au XX^e siècle, cette dernière servait de cimetière.

Un certain nombre de monuments demeurent, témoignages de l'histoire et des réussites de la ville, mais beaucoup se sont effondrés ou sont tombés en ruines au fil du temps. Depuis les années 1970, les monuments font l'objet de travaux de restauration, notamment dans les années 1980 et 1990. De 1999 à 2000, le PNUD a financé une campagne de restauration.

État de conservation :

L'état actuel de conservation est variable. Dans certains cas, les ruines sont demeurées telles quelles ; dans d'autres, il y a eu des degrés variables de réparation et de restauration allant parfois jusqu'à la reconstruction complète.

Parmi les monuments principaux, le *mausolée de Turabek-Khanum* fait l'objet de restaurations depuis les années 1980. En 1983-1993, les murs ont été réparés, et le portail Nord, qui s'était effondré, a été reconstruit. En 1999-2000, la coupole intérieure et les petites coupoles latérales ont été restaurées. Le toit a été partiellement reconstruit. Des problèmes persistent, concernant en particulier les éléments décoratifs, comme les mosaïques et les stalactites, quoique la condition générale soit stable.

La cage et l'escalier du *minaret de Kutlug-Timur* ont été restaurés et consolidés dans les années 1980. Plus récemment, le sommet incliné a lui aussi reçu certaines attentions, mais les travaux doivent se poursuivre pour éviter l'effondrement.

Le *mausolée de Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra* a été restauré dans les années 1980, impliquant les surfaces intérieures et extérieures des murs, les coupoles, les crépines et les ferrures. Le portail principal n'a pas été touché, et penche maintenant vers l'extérieur sur environ 50 cm. Les éléments décoratifs nécessitent de l'attention. Les environs ont été nettoyés et arrangés pour les visiteurs.

Le *mausolée du sultan Ali* a fait l'objet de travaux mineurs de réparation au début des années 1990. Le bâtiment est actuellement sous suivi et nécessitera des travaux complémentaires à l'avenir. Le *mausolée d'II-Arslan* a été restauré dans les années 1980. Le bâtiment est actuellement stable, mais nécessitera des travaux complémentaires à

l'avenir. Le *mausolée de Seyet Akhmet* a été complètement reconstruit après son effondrement en 1993. L'ensemble d'*Ibn-Khajib* fait l'objet depuis 2001 de travaux de conservation, qui se poursuivent à ce jour.

Les forteresses et zones archéologiques ont été en partie fouillées, quoique beaucoup d'entre elles soient encore intactes. Par exemple, *Kyrknolla* est en partie fouillée, tandis que *Ak-Kala* est intacte. La ville du XIV^e siècle a été presque entièrement détruite. Tous ces sites subissent l'usure due aux intempéries et une détérioration progressive.

Gestion :

Trois documents régissent la gestion du site :

- La loi du Turkménistan, qui stipule des directives de conservation et de gestion ;
- La politique du « Parc national historique et culturel de Kunya-Urgench » ;
- Le plan d'action préparé tous les ans par l'équipe de gestion du parc.

En outre, un plan récemment préparé fixe les objectifs de la conservation du site et comprend une liste d'activités à mettre en œuvre dans les cinq prochaines années (2005-2010).

Analyse des risques :

Le site est voisin d'un peuplement urbain de 30 000 habitants, et les visiteurs sont relativement rares. Il y a donc peu de pression pour le changement dans l'environnement. Toutefois, il existe, autour du mausolée Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra, certains logements résidentiels nécessitant un suivi. Le terrain étant plat, des bâtiments en hauteur dans les environs auraient clairement un impact sur le site proposé pour inscription. La zone tampon et la législation actuelle peuvent contrecarrer un tel développement. Néanmoins, il y a eu des activités illégales ces dernières années. Par exemple, les terres agricoles risquent d'envahir le parc archéologique, notamment par le sud, en dépit d'une interdiction juridique. Des fouilles illégales, une menace courante dans la région, ont également lieu. La nappe phréatique est haute, ce qui peut provoquer une cristallisation saline dans les bâtiments. Kunya-Urgench se trouve dans une zone à risque sismique modéré.

Authenticité et intégrité

L'intégrité globale du site archéologique de Kunya-Urgench vient de sa condition historique. Après avoir été abandonnée pendant plus de trois siècles, puis utilisée comme cimetière, la zone est demeurée relativement inchangée. Par conséquent, Kunya-Urgench est jugée avoir mieux conservé son intégrité historique que la plupart des autres sites d'Asie centrale.

La proposition d'inscription contient une confrontation photographique intéressante de l'état de conservation par le passé, jusqu'aux années 1920, et actuellement. Il est ainsi possible de se faire une idée claire des travaux réalisés.

Individuellement, l'état des monuments varie. La majorité se sont partiellement ou presque entièrement effondrés. Les monuments individuels ont fait l'objet, à divers degrés, de travaux de réparation, de restauration et de reconstruction. Les principaux monuments ont conservé une grande quantité de matériaux d'origine, qui représentent un degré raisonnable d'authenticité. D'autres bâtiments sont demeurés intacts ou ont été plus ou moins substantiellement reconstruits. À voir l'état avant les réparations, on peut se rendre compte qu'il n'y avait d'autre choix qu'une reconstruction partielle pour éviter l'effondrement total.

Tout en prenant note des différentes reconstructions des bâtiments individuels, on considère toujours que les principaux monuments ont conservé un degré raisonnable d'authenticité.

Évaluation comparative

La période la plus importante dans l'histoire de Kunya-Urgench s'étend du XIe au XIVe siècle. Avant l'invasion mongole (vers 1220), la ville était un pôle commercial majeur, associé à la Route de la soie, et un centre important du Khorezm, sous le joug de la dynastie seldjoukide. De cette période, il reste notamment le minaret de Kutlug-Timur, ainsi que les mausolées d'Il-Arslan et de Tekesh. Aux XIVe-XVe siècles, la région était sous la tutelle mongole ; elle passa ensuite aux mains de l'empire timuride. De cette époque, il reste les mausolées de Najm-ad-Din al-Kubra, de Turabek-Khanum et d'Ibn-Khajib.

La proposition d'inscription compare Kunya-Urgench aux villes de Boukhara, Khiva et de Samarkand, en Ouzbékistan, qui représentent la même période. Ces villes ont cependant continué de grandir et de changer au fil du temps, tandis que Kunya-Urgench est un site archéologique. On peut également comparer le site à l'ancienne ville de Merv (inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 1999), une oasis au sud du Turkménistan, qui a préservé des témoignages datant de plusieurs millénaires tout en ayant connu une ère de prospérité du XIe au XIVe siècle, comme Kunya-Urgench. Du point de vue de l'urbanisme, Kunya-Urgench semble encore relativement inexplorée, et nécessite des recherches complémentaires.

La principale caractéristique de Kunya-Urgench réside dans les monuments subsistants, témoignages de son histoire. À cet égard, elle représente un témoignage rare de l'histoire de l'Asie centrale. L'architecture, en briques réfractaires, représente un artisanat de haute qualité. Sur le plan culturel, elle est étroitement liée aux exemples seldjoukides, ilkhanides et timurides dans la région s'étendant de l'Ouzbékistan jusqu'à l'Afghanistan et à la Perse.

Le minaret de Kutlug-Timur peut être comparé au minaret de Djam, en Afghanistan (inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 2002, critères ii, iii, iv). Le minaret de Djam, de 65 m de haut, a été édifié au XIIe siècle, tandis que celui de Kutlug-Timur, de 60 m de haut, date du XIe siècle. Les autres minarets d'Asie centrale sont relativement plus petits. Toutefois, plusieurs minarets d'Iran remontent à la même période. Dans tous les cas, le minaret de Kutlug-Timur peut être considéré comme une œuvre exceptionnelle, tant pour la période qu'il illustre que pour son architecture.

Durant la période seldjoukide, l'architecture des mausolées s'est développée dans deux directions, soit avec un plan central, soit autour d'un portail. Le plan au sol pouvait être carré ou octogonal, comme on peut le voir dans divers exemples à Merv, Boukhara ou Kunya-Urgench. Parmi les mausolées de Kunya-Urgench, *Il-Arslan* et *Tekesh* datent du XIIe siècle, tandis que *Turabek-Khanum*, le plus élaboré dans sa conception architecturale et sa décoration, date du XIVe siècle.

Valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Déclaration générale :

Le bien proposé pour inscription correspond aux thèmes suivants :

- Les êtres humains dans la société (mémoires) ;
- La réponse spirituelle (Islam) ;
- Les expressions de la créativité ; l'architecture religieuse et commémorative (mausolées) ; l'architecture militaire (villes fortifiées) ; la construction et le développement d'ensembles (villes mortes) ;
- Les mouvements de populations : routes et systèmes de transport (routes culturelles, centres marchands).

Le bien répond en particulier au thème des expressions de la créativité. Dans le contexte historique, il n'existe que très peu de sites en Asie centrale, comme nous l'avons déjà dit.

L'architecture est particulièrement intéressante en ce qu'elle offre des exemples d'architecture mémoriale, c'est-à-dire des mausolées. Par rapport à d'autres exemples à Merv ou à Boukhara, certains de ceux-ci sont relativement anciens. Le mausolée de Turabek-Khanum, datant de la période timuride, possède une personnalité qui lui est propre et qui le rend unique.

Le minaret de Kutlug-Timur est une belle construction, antérieure au minaret de Djam. Une fois encore, il y a d'autres beaux minarets en Iran datant de la même période. Néanmoins, ce monument impose le respect.

Kunya-Urgench, qui a été abandonnée il y a des siècles, a l'avantage de représenter un site relativement intact. Parallèlement, la plupart des structures se sont effondrées ou sont en ruines. Il reste relativement peu de choses des remparts de la ville et le site n'a pas été systématiquement fouillé. En outre, la plupart des édifices encore debout ont été partiellement ou entièrement reconstruits.

Cela dit, Kunya-Urgench est une rareté, et l'un des plus vastes sites archéologiques du Turkménistan et d'Asie centrale. C'est un témoignage exceptionnel des développements architecturaux dans la région du Khorezm.

Grâce aux routes marchandes traversant la vallée de l'Amou Darya et à la Route de la soie, Kunya-Urgench était en contact étroit avec le reste du monde, échangeant des influences.

Évaluation des critères :

Comme le souligne la proposition d'inscription, les critères ii et iii devraient justifier l'inscription de Kunya-Urgench sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, car elle exprime la grande influence d'une tradition architecturale et offre un témoignage exceptionnel sur une tradition culturelle (la culture du Khorezm islamique).

Toutefois, les critères i et iv ne sont pas convaincants pour Kunya-Urgench.

Le critère i est essentiellement appliqué à la décoration du minaret de Kutlug-Timur qui date du XIIe siècle, identifié comme un « chef-d'œuvre du génie créateur humain ». Mais le minaret de Djam (en Afghanistan, lui aussi du XIIe siècle) est exceptionnel en ce sens, et c'est un monument de très loin supérieur, sous sa forme subsistante, à Kutlug-Timur (NB : le minaret de Djam, quoiqu'il soit un chef-d'œuvre du génie créateur humain, n'a pas été inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base du critère i).

L'application du critère iv peut sembler hasardeuse, la forme et la conception de bon nombre de monuments de Kunya-Urgench étant représentées ailleurs en Asie centrale.

4. RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ICOMOS

Recommandations pour le futur

L'ICOMOS recommande fortement d'empêcher l'empiètement sur la zone protégée.

Du fait de l'importance de Kunya-Urgench, un site clé dans l'histoire de la région, on doit espérer que le personnel du parc affecté au site recevra des soutiens politiques et financiers suffisants pour protéger la zone archéologique.

On recommande également que l'État partie soumette au Comité du patrimoine mondial, tous les deux ans, un rapport périodique sur l'état de conservation du site et les nouvelles zones de développement prévues pour le petit peuplement urbain contemporain.

Recommandation concernant l'inscription

L'ICOMOS recommande que le Comité du patrimoine mondial adopte le projet de décision suivant :

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial,

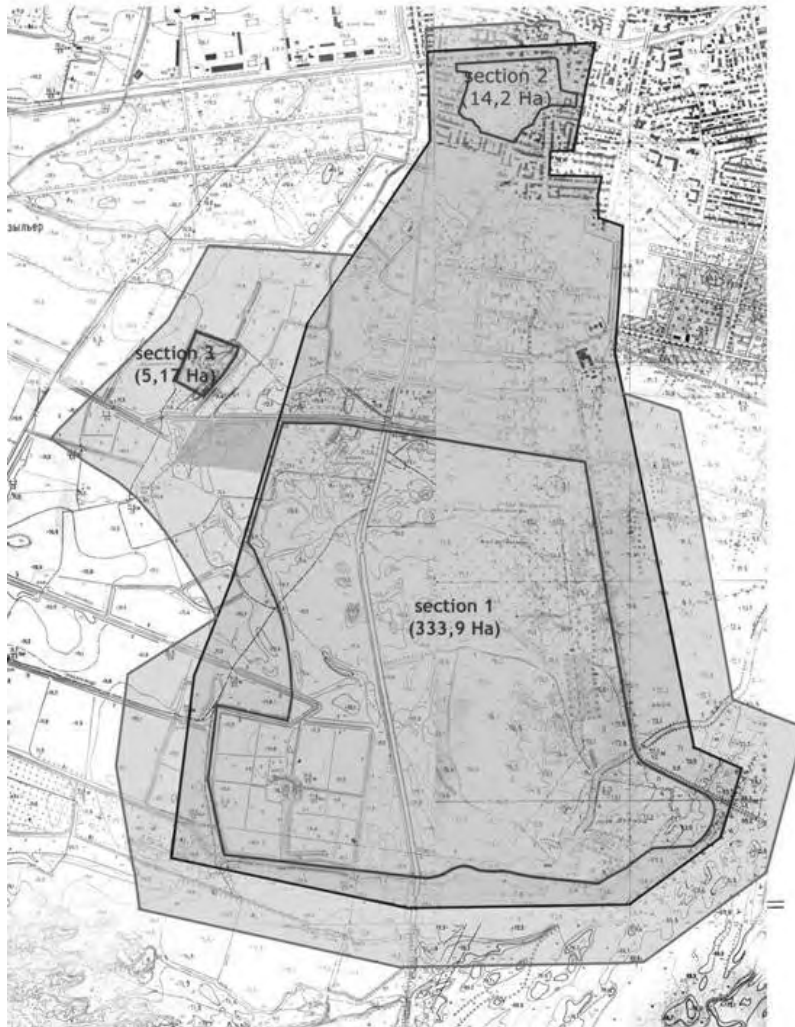
1. Ayant examiné le document WHC-05/29.COM/8B,
2. Inscrit le bien sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des **critères ii et iii** :

Critère ii : La tradition architecturale qui s'exprime dans la conception et l'artisanat de Kunya-Urgench a eu une influence sur toute la région vers le sud et le sud-ouest, à savoir l'Iran et l'Afghanistan et, plus tard, sur l'architecture de l'empire moghol (Inde, XVIe siècle).

Critère iii : Kunya-Urgench est le témoignage exceptionnel d'une tradition culturelle (la culture islamique du Khorezm) et son état de conservation le rend unique. La société qui l'a créé a disparu ; toutefois, on note que la majorité des visiteurs sont en fait des pèlerins venus de la région.

3. Recommande que tous les efforts soient faits pour empêcher l'empiètement sur la zone protégée.
4. Invite l'État partie à fournir au personnel du parc affecté au site les soutiens politiques et financiers suffisants pour protéger la zone archéologique.
5. Demande à l'État partie de soumettre au Comité du patrimoine mondial, tous les deux ans, un rapport périodique sur l'état de conservation du site et les nouvelles zones de développement prévues pour le petit peuplement urbain contemporain.

ICOMOS, avril 2005



KUNYA-URGENCH LOCATION PLAN

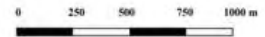
of the territories proposed for inscription
on the UNESCO World Heritage List
and buffer zones



- Territory nominated to include to the World Heritage List
- Territory of Keneurgench State historical and cultural Park
- Buffer zone (Zone of limited building and zone of protected natural landscape)
- Graveyards



North



Plan indiquant la délimitation du bien proposé pour inscription



Vue du minaret de Kutlug-Timur et du mausolée de Tekesh



Mausolée du sultan Ali et Mausolée Nadjim ad Din al Kubra