

## Samarkand and Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan)



Shaki- Zindah Complex, Samarkand/ photo F. Aalund/ March 2006

### Report on ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to World Heritage Sites

2-9 March 2006

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# **Reactive Monitoring Mission to Samarkand and Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) 2-9 March 2006**

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## Executive Summary.

The Shaki-Zindah complex has a very high cultural heritage significance and the memorial complex of Kussam-Ibn-Abbas especially has been re-established as a place of pilgrimage since independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991. Past repairs have been minimal and as a result the existing structures and materials had retained their authenticity creating a picturesque an attractive historic environment of very high artistic quality. No other historic monuments possess such fine examples of polychrome glazed tiles, tile mosaics and *majolica* representing 500 years of continuous development.

The condition of various mosques and mausoleums had reached a critical stage after a long time of neglect and it is acknowledged, that an intervention was required in order to avoid further deterioration.

The extensive restoration works, which have been carried out during the last two years on the basis of Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No 337 of 16 July 2004, has changed the immediate appearance of the site through the clearance of accumulated soil around the buildings in order to reduce humidity in the walls and the operation has revealed foundations of previous structures, which have been exposed. Whereas it would have been preferred from a conservation point of view that the work had been carried out gradually according to priority with more attention to details, the work has been completed within a very short period of less than two years from inception to completion. This haste has been critical to the quality of some details of the work.

The project completed there is an obligation to publish the work and give a full account of the intervention and the results of archaeological excavations.

Simultaneously with the restoration project the Municipality of Samarkand has completed a major enlargement of the trunk road passing between the archaeological site of Afrasiab and the Timurid section of Samarkand. This project is part of a larger city development scheme 2004-20025, which will have considerable impact also on the World Heritage Site and its buffer zones.

In Shakhriyabz the demolition of the former military barracks located within the Ak Sarai Palace compound has provided new opportunities for a close integration of the historic monuments into a general urban preservation and development programme.

In view of the previous decisions by the World Heritage Committee it is therefore recommended that the State Party to the World Heritage Convention takes initiative to ensure that the proper management instruments are being implemented for integration of the historic monuments into a scheme for urban preservation and development, which will secure the integrity and authentic cultural heritage values of the sites. The policies formulated in this plan should derive from a public consultation process which shall involve both individuals and organisation to contribute to and participate in managing the future development of the sites.

It is recommended to create a World Heritage Board assigned with the responsibility to facilitate the co-ordination of all the actions of all the parties involved in the protection, enhancement and fostering of the appreciation of the site and its diverse historic identity.

It is recommended that the progress and results of this work is reported to the next two succeeding sessions of the World Heritage Committee. It may be suggested that the State Party seek inspiration from similar urban development programmes in other parts of the world, and ask for international technical and economic co-operation eventually to formulate a comprehensive policy leading to the formulation of management plans, which set out a framework for conserving the old as well as the new town areas that comprise the World Heritage Site.

## Background to the mission

The Reactive Monitoring Mission to Samarkand and Shakhrisyabz was carried out from 2-9 March 2006 at the request of ICOMOS in response to the decisions taken by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at the 29<sup>th</sup> Session in Durban 2005. The primary purpose of the mission was to assess the impact of the works carried out on Shakhi-Zinda ensemble in Samarkand. It was further decided to include a visit to Shakhrisyabz to assess the state of conservation of this property in view of previous requests for the development of a comprehensive Management Plan for the site.

The details of the nomination history, previous missions and the WH Committee decisions is provided under the subsequent heading as a background to the assessment of the state of conservation of the sites.

The mission itinerary and programme is supplemented with summary of discussions and observations.

## The Nomination History of Samarkand

The nomination history of Samarkand dates back to 1990, but in the current context only the most recent background is being referred by extracts of the most relevant evaluation reports and decisions.

### The Advisory Body evaluation.

As the Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage ICOMOS made the evaluation of the original nomination document in July 2000, including the following recommendation:

‘That the nomination should be referred back to the State Party in order to redefine the nominated site and its buffer zone, aiming at a more unified proposal, taking into consideration the whole Timurid town, the archaeological area, Ulugh-Bek’s Observatory, and the 19th century development. ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party should provide protection and a coherent conservation master plan for the historic town as a whole as well as preparing a strategy for the restoration of historic buildings, consistent with the principles guiding the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. ICOMOS additionally proposes that the title of the nominated property might be simplified to "Samarkand – crossroads of culture."

### The World Heritage Nomination

The World Heritage Committee inscribed ‘Samarkand - Crossroads of Cultures’ on the World Heritage List at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session in 2001 under criteria (i), (ii), and (iv).

*Criterion (i):* The architecture and townscape of Samarkand, situated at the crossroads of ancient cultures, are masterpieces of Islamic cultural creativity.

*Criterion (ii):* Ensembles in Samarkand such as the Bibi Khanum Mosque and Registan Square played a seminal role in the development of Islamic architecture over the entire region, from the Mediterranean to the Indian subcontinent.

*Criterion (iv):* The historic town of Samarkand illustrates in its art, architecture, and urban structure the most important stages of Central Asian cultural and political history from the 13th century to the present day.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the extension of the buffer zone to include the whole Timurid town, the archaeological area, Ulugh-Bek's Observatory, and the 19th century development. It encouraged the city to continue with the preparation of an integrated management plan for the historic town as a whole and to report back to the Committee at its twenty-eighth session in 2004.

## Report to the World Heritage Centre April 2005

In response to the comprehensive restoration works started on Shaki-Zindah complex in October 2004 The World Heritage Centre arranged that a first assessment of the work was carried out in April 2005. On basis of this brief report the project was discussed at the WH Committee meeting in Durban July 2005 resulting in the following decision :

### The World Heritage Committee decision 29COM 7B.57.

1. Having examined Document *WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev*,
2. Expressing its deep concern about the on-going large-scale restoration and urban landscaping programme at the Shaki-Zindah ensemble, which appear to be severely affecting the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage property;
3. Requests the State Party of Uzbekistan immediately to stop the on-going works at Shaki-Zindah;
4. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre a complete documentation on the works being planned, in accordance to the provisions of the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraph 172);
5. Further requests ICOMOS to carry out a reactive monitoring mission to the property as soon as possible in order to assess the actual impact of the works on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property and report to the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). Depending on the results of this mission, the Committee may inscribe the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

## Assessment of the state of conservation of Samarkand

The present reactive monitoring mission was fielded in March 2006 as a result of the World Heritage Decision taken in Durban July 2005 concerning Shaki-Zindah. Regrettably the State Party did not respond to the inquiries transmitted by UNESCO World Heritage Centre and it is likewise critical, that so long time elapsed before this reactive monitoring mission materialised. In the meantime the project is completed and the possibility of entering into a constructive dialog about possible adjustments and changes to the project at the initial stages of the project implementation has failed.

### Shaki-Zindah Complex

The observations made during the Reactive Monitoring Mission to Shaki-Zinda confirms the extensive restoration works, which have been carried out during the last two years on the basis of Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No 337 of 16 July 2004.

It is noted that the condition of the various mosques and mausoleums had reached a critical condition after a long time of neglect, but is also noted that the State Party has completely disregarded repeated requests for information about the project transmitted by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Committee.

Past repairs have been minimal and as a result the existing structures and materials had retained their authenticity creating a picturesque an attractive historic environment of very high artistic quality. No other historic monuments possess such fine examples of polychrome glazed tiles, tile mosaics and *majolica* representing 500 years of continuous development, but it is also acknowledged that an intervention was required in order to avoid further deterioration.

The Shaki-Zindah complex has high significance to the new independent state and especially the memorial complex of Kussam-Ibn-Abbas has been re-established as a place of pilgrimage. The project therefore has

been vested with much prestige and a special committee been charged with the responsibility to overlook all phases of the project ( cf. Annex I - III).

Whereas it would have been preferred from a conservation point of view that the work had been carried out gradually according to priority with more attention to details, the work has been completed within a very short period of less than two years from inception to completion. This haste has proved to be critical to the quality of the work, which varies considerable from a very high quality of details as exemplified in the completion of Kussam-Ibn-Abbas to the mediocre and distinctly bad finish of brick coping and zinc flashing in some parts.

The extensive clearance of accumulated soil around the buildings is reducing the damp condition and deterioration of brickwork and tiling from humidity. This precaution against dampness has changed the overall appearance of the site by widening the narrow corridor and the former intimate character of the place has changed, but at the same time favourably allowing more space for visitors. The cleared space has revealed the foundations of previously unknown structures. The ruined parts has not been preserved as ruins, but partly rebuilt to a unified height indicating the layout of the buildings.

The main concept of the project follows the principles advocated by Viollet le Duc in France by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and generally applied for the restoration of the major Timurid monuments in Samarkand during the Soviet period, when large scale demolitions around the major monuments were carried out under the motto 'A Museum in the Open'. This long practise in restoration continues, but it shall be kept in mind that the situation in Uzbekistan is complicated by a very long period of neglect of the many historic monuments being in a ruinous condition, when restoration started during the Soviet period. The condition was further aggravated due to unstable soil conditions and frequent earth quakes in the region, which has required more radical measures than would otherwise be acceptable according to the internationally accepted principles of restoration as formulated in the Venice Charter. The restoration of the front portal of the Gur-Emir Mausoleum still remain a fine example of reference for achieving a balance between reconstruction and preservation of authentic qualities of the monument.

Work almost accomplished at Shaki-Zindah the consultant finds it worthwhile to make adjustments to the finish of brick copings, flashing and other details of mediocre quality. Even more important will be a reconsideration of the landscaping and lay-out of the new trunk-road passing in front of Shaki-Sindah and separating the Afrasiab and the Timurid part of Samarkand. This new road construction, 16 metres wide and bordered by retaining walls up to 5 metres high, is very obtrusive to the historic environment with no extenuating circumstances. Plans for demolishing additional housing bordering on to Afrasiab should be reconsidered, a centre strip to the road could be introduced reducing the visual impact of the trunk road, initiation of measures for speed reduction as well as proper provisions for pedestrians may all be important elements for improvements to the environment.

## **Integrated urban preservation and development planning for Samarkand.**

The plan for closing the Airport Road and the Tashkent Road passing through Afrasiab is a very positive planning initiative linked to the preservation of Shaki-Zinda Complex towards the formulation of a preservation policy for this part of the World Heritage Site, but a clearly stated policy and management planning need to be formulated for all areas of the World Heritage Site and agreed upon at all administrative levels. The new 2004-2025 Urban Development Plan for Greater Samarkand may have adverse effects on the sustainable development of the historic quarters, especially with regard to the 19<sup>th</sup> century part of the town situated within the buffer zone.

It may be relevant to repeat the recommendations expressed in the original ICOMOS evaluation document for the nomination of 'Samarkand- crossroads of cultures', on the World Heritage List.

‘The importance of Samarkand is recognized. However, it is noted that an historic town is an intricate compound of different elements, as stated in the 1976 UNESCO Recommendation regarding historic areas (paragraph 3): “Every historic area and its surroundings should be considered in their totality as a coherent whole whose balance and specific nature depend on the fusion of the parts of which it is composed and which include human activities as much as the buildings, the spatial organization and the surroundings.”

Considering that Samarkand is proposed as a historic place related to the crossing and synthesis of world cultures, it is all the more relevant that due consideration be given not only to a selection of monuments but to the historic site as a whole. It is unfortunate that several areas surrounding major monuments such as Registan, Bibi-Khanum, and Gur-Emir have suffered losses. Nevertheless, considering that most of the traditional urban fabric is still intact, serious consideration should be given to its future protection and conservation as an essential part of the significance of the historic town....

..Consequently, coherent urban conservation and planning policy should be developed for the management of the whole historic town , including the nominated World Heritage areas as well as the buffer zones. Such planning initiatives should formulate an integrated conservation strategy for the existing residential quarters, as well as for the sympathetic reintegration and rehabilitation of the surrounding areas that have previously been demolished.

The large-scale urban planning schemes, such as the proposed "Project for the reconstruction of the central part of Samarkand," should be reviewed on basis of a more comprehensive planning for urban renewal and preservation. Any further demolition of traditional housing areas should be avoided and measures should be taken to encourage their sustainable development and rehabilitation as part of the whole. Furthermore, ICOMOS draws attention to the need to review the issues of authenticity and integrity in the light of accepted international principles and guidelines within the framework of the World Heritage Convention’.

It should be noted that several pilot planning schemes have been proposed since Uzbekistan was declared independent in 1991. The UNDP-UNESCO project in 1994-96 ‘Revival of Cultural heritage and Sustainable Development’ included proposals for urban regeneration and also the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and other international co-operation partners have collaborated with the Uzbek authorities to develop this approach to conservation and urban development. It would be worthwhile to reconsider these earlier initiatives and strengthen the local capacities in cultural heritage preservation and urban improvement to the benefit of the local inhabitants

The walls imitating Timurid masonry recently constructed behind the Registan does not seem very appropriate for a policy of inclusiveness, screening off the living quarters behind. Contrary to this policy the opening up of the Registan square to the public as the very centre of the historic city would convey a significant symbolic message that the history belongs to the people of Samarkand and not only to the tourists.

# Shakhrisyabz

## The Nomination History of Shakhrisyabz

The Committee decided to inscribed this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*:

*Criterion (iii)*: Shakhrisyabz contains many fine monuments, and in particular those from the Timurid period, which was of great cultural and political significance in medieval Central Asia.

*Criterion (iv)*: The buildings of Shakhrisyabz, notably the Ak-Sarai Palace and the Tomb of Timur, are outstanding examples of a style which had a profound influence on the architecture of this region.

## Brief Description

The historic centre of Shakhrisyabz contains a collection of exceptional monuments and ancient quarters which bear witness to the city's secular development, and particularly to the period of its apogee, under the rule of Amir Temur and the Temurids, in the 15th-16th century.

## Justification for Inscription

*Criterion iii* : Shakhrisyabz contains many fine monuments, and in particular those from the Timurid period, which was of great cultural and political significance in medieval Central Asia.

*Criterion iv*: The buildings of Shakhrisyabz, notably the Ak-Sarai Palace and the Tomb of Timur, are outstanding examples of a style which had a profound influence on the architecture of this region.

## The World Heritage Committee, 28COM 15B.68

1. Notes the information provided by the State Party further to the request of the of the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session in 2003 (Decision 27 COM 7B.56);
2. Recalls that at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, the State Party had assured the World Heritage Committee on its intention to elaborate a comprehensive conservation and management plan to strengthen the conservation process at this property;
3. Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2005, a report on the progress made in the elaboration of the above-mentioned management plan for the Committee's examination at its 29th session in 2005.

## The World Heritage Committee decision 29COM 7B.62

1. Having examined Document *WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev*,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.68** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party of Uzbekistan for the advances made in the management and protection of the property;
4. Notes, however, that a real management plan for the property would still need to be prepared, based on the principles set out in the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Requests the State Party, with assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a comprehensive Management Plan specifically targeted at the situation in Shakhrisyabz, clearly based on the outstanding universal value of the property as recognized by the World Heritage Committee and in accordance with the principles set out in the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraphs 96-119). This should include a description of the physical attributes that it aims to conserve, specific activities to protect these attributes and provisions for a monitoring their state of conservation, as well as details on how the management system operates in aspects such as decision-making structure, budgeting, monitoring, specific conservation/restoration projects, etc.;



6. Further requests the State Party to submit, to the World Heritage Centre a report, by 1 February 2006, on the progress achieved on the implementation of the above recommendation, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

## **Assessment of the state of conservation of Shakhrisyabz**

The main objectives of the reactive monitoring mission was centered on Shakhi Zinda Complex and the city of Samarkand, but the mission schedule allowed a one day visit to Shakhrisyabs.

Whereas the consultant got a positive impression of the state of conservation of the main monuments located within the border of the World Heritage Site, it was not possible to evaluate the general situation. However, both the Inspector of the Board of Monuments and the Mayor of Shakhrisyabs were surprised to learn about the last decision of the World Heritage Committee concerning the obligation to formulate a comprehensive Management Plan for the city.

The obligation to formulate a Management Plan has been outline in the recommendations by ICOMOS at the initial stages of the nomination process and this planning obligation has new topicality by the exposure of parts of the Ak Sarai Palace compound area after demolition of the military barracks. There is a urgent need for archaeological excavations and comprehensive landscape planning to integrate these parts into the general urban development with proper concern for the integrity and authenticity of the site.

This planning goes beyond the traditional approach to conservation of individual historic monuments and will require the strengthening of the local capacities in urban development and cultural heritage preservation in order to create a positive understanding by all stakeholders that conservation and development are not mutually exclusive objectives, but part of a single planned process.

## **Intinerary and programme with summery of discussions and observations.**

### **2 March, Thursday**

21.05 - Arrival to Tashkent with "Uzbekistan airways" via Frankfurt. Entrance visa is issued at the Tashkent International airport, transfer from airport to hotel by Mr. Rafik Isyanov.

### **3 March, Friday**

09.00-10.30 Meeting with Mr. Michael Barry Lane, Head of UNESCO Tashkent and Mrs. Dinara Abdullaeva, secretary. Discussion on the programme and the arrangements for the mission. It was regretted that more than a year has elapsed since the first information about the work at Shakhi-Zinda was send to World Heritage Centre and the Reactive Monitoring Mission has been fielded, implying that the project has been completed with no possibility of interference. Mr. Sanjarbek Allayarov, local UNESCO Programme Officer will join the mission and serve as interpreter.

Mr. Alisher Ikramov, Secretary-General, National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, kindly assisted with the preparation of the programme for the visit.

11.00-13.30 Meeting with Mr. Ravshan Mansurov, Head of the Principal Department for Preservation of Cultural Monuments, Ministry for Culture and Sport of Uzbekistan. The following individuals took part in the meeting:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Mansurov Ravshan               | Director/ Principal department for preservation of cultural monuments of the ministry of cultural affairs and sport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent                        |
| Rakhmonov Abdusaffi            | Deputy director/ Principal department for preservation of cultural monuments of the ministry of cultural affairs and sport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent                 |
| Makhkamov Utkir                | Specialist/ International department of the ministry of cultural affairs and sport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent   |
| Ajibekov Konofil Djanibekovich | Deputy director/ Principal department for preservation of cultural monuments of the ministry of cultural affairs and sport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent                 |
| Yanchaev Abdujabor Ganiyevich  | General architect/ Institute of Restoration<br>“Tamirshunoslik”  |
| Muhitdinov Zaynitdin           | Head of inspection department of Principal department for preservation of cultural monuments of the ministry of cultural affairs and sport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent |
| Ikromov Alisher                | Secretary-general/ National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO  |
| Salimbayev Abdumalik           | Restoration-Architect/Institute of Restoration<br>“Tamirshunoslik”   |
| Beshirov Remzi                 | Restoration-Architect/Institute of Restoration<br>“Tamirshunoslik”   |

Mr. Mansurov explained the background and rationale of the Shakhi Zinda Project as presented in the Technical report on the Scientific Research, Conservation and Restoration of Shakhi Zinda Complex (in Russian, excerpts of this report is presented in the Periodic Reporting partly translated into English)

The following documents were requested in support of the presentation:

- i) The Review reports prepared by the Scientific and Technical Council, Board of Monuments for the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Objects, before approval of the Project/ Minutes from the meeting on 1 December 2004 of Plan, as well as documentation of the archaeological excavations

The following proposal were discussed:

- i) The need for scientific publication of the Shaki Zinda Project and the results of the archaeological excavations together with a vision for the future development of Afrasiab.
- ii) Possibly requesting assistance from the WH Committee for a review of the work in progress on the Management Planning of Afrasiab Archaeological Site and English translation by qualified interpreter.

Subsequently it turned up in discussions with Mr. Alisher Ikramov, that the SP has not paid membership fees for the transition period from Soviet Regime 1993 to 1996 and previous requests for technical assistance to the WHC has apparently been deferred for this reason; this controversy of missing payments need urgent attention overcome this controversy and allow the SP to request extra budgetary funds from the WH Fund eventually.

15.00-16.00 Meeting with Mr. Azamat Tokhtaev, Chairperson of the State Committee of Uzbekistan for Architecture and Civil Construction and qualified architect previously working with CH preservation during Soviet period. The meeting was attended by Mr. Abdusaffi Rakhmonov. The implementation of the Shakhi-Zinda Project is being financed 40% by State funding and 60% by private enterprise (prestige and tax incentives), incl. contributions from the Muslim Community; work on the road constructions in front of SZ exclusively by municipal funding !! Work on a Development Plan 2004-2025 for Greater Samarkand has passed all technical reviews ready for presentation and approval by the Council of Ministers/Ministry of Finance.

16.30-17.0 Meeting with the German Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Mr. Hans-Joachim Kiderlen. Germany has funded the internal restoration of Shadi-Mulk-Aga Shrine under supervision by Institut für Bauforschung und Bauhaltung, Potsdam University; plans to finance the restoration of Abd el Azziz Khan Madressa in Bukhara next and I promised to send my UNESCO report of 1996.

17.00-19.00 Meeting with dr. Valery Akopdjanyan, Director of Tashkent State Institute of Urban Planning, and Mrs. Yuliya Kadirovna, planner at the same institute in the presense of Mr. Abdusaffi Rakhmonov. Land use plans for the Greater Samarkand development 2004-2025 were presented including plans to divert the Airport Road and the Tashkent Road away from Afrasiab and create a new archaeological park. The planning process is almost completed; further co-operation with the General Office for Safeguarding of Monuments, Ministry for Culture and Sport, was discussed for the formulation of the visions and preparation of a stated policy for the development of the WH Site and a possible review process by the WHC.

#### 4 March, Saturday

08.45 Departure to Samarkand by car (UNESCO Office car)

12.00 Arrival to Samarkand, accommodation in hotel "Malika Samarkand"

12.30 – 15.30 Visit to Shakhi Zinda Complex meeting with Samarkand Hakimiyat and Mr. S.A. Rafikov, Mayor of Samarkand, and consultations with the group of specialists directly involved in the project including the following attendants :

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Rafikov S.A.      | Mayor of Samarkan city  |
| Nabiev T.         | Director of ...   |
| Boboyev S.        | Rector, Samarkand State Architectural and civil engineering institute   |
| Akhmedov Mukhamad | Professor, Samarkand State Architectural and civil engineering institute  |
| Uralov A.         | Professor, Samarkand State Architectural and civil engineering institute  |
| Achilov Sh.       | Professor, Samarkand State Architectural and civil engineering institute  |
| Sadikov N.        | Head architect of Samarkand city  |
| Rakhmatullayev B. | Assistant of mayor of Samarkand city  |
| Naberayeva M.     | Chief/regional branch for preservation of cultural monuments, Samarkand   |
| Naberayev F.      | Deputy chief/ regional branch for preservation of cultural monuments, Samarkand   |
| Pidayev Sh.       | Director/ Institute of Archaeology, Samarkand   |
| Mansurov R.M.     | Director/ Principal department for preservation of cultural monuments, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Sport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent |

16.00-17.00 Visit to the exhibition on Historic Samarkand set up in caravanserai housing the Local Branch of the Board of Monuments opposite the Registan; the exhibition announced with a large banner 'Samaqand-yer yuzining sayqalidir'.

17.00-20.0 Discussions about the plans and visions for Shakhi-Zinda Complex and general development of Samarkand. The UNESCO Chair on Preservation and Management of Historical Sites, Samarkand State Institute for Architecture and Civic Construction, mentioned especially the intentions of establishing a web based portal on Samarkand cultural legacy with all relevant information on Cultural heritage directly accessible on-line.

20.00-22.00 Dinner hosted by Mr. Sukhrob Rafikov with Mr. Ravshan Mansurov and Mr. Sobir Boboev, Rector of Samarkand State Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute attending.

## 5 March, Sunday

09.00 Departure to Shakhrisyabz by car via Yurgut

12.30 Arrival to Shakhrisyabz; working lunch on invitation my Mr. Uktam Valijonovich, Mayor of Shakhrisyabz, and Mr. Raushan Kodirov Muminovich, Head of Shakhrisabz Branch of the State Inspection for Safeguarding of Monuments. Apparently there is some confusion concerning the preparation of a Management Plan as requested by the WHC Decision an allegedly the implications of this decision has not been communicated to Shakhrisyabs. ICOMOS as the Advisory Body to UNESCO should have requested the preparation of the Management Plan conditional to inclusion into the WHL. At this stage there will be a need of allocating resources for preparation of this new planning instrument and to upgrade local capacities. In the view of the consultant the concept of urban preservation is not well understood.

14.00-17.00 Field visits together with Mr. Kodirov and Mr. Abdul Rhashid, archaeologist, Institute of Archaeology, Samarkand.

The shelters in front of AkSarai Palace ruin put up to protect the archaeological digs are leaking from defect roofing. Weather conditions can be very harsh with sudden storms and the Timurid pavement is being affected by water. As the shelters are actually obstructing the view to the monument, it was discussed, whether a back filling of earth would indeed not be preferable. Immediately to the east the former military barracks (originally constructed in 1939 by Polish troops sent to Uzbekistan by the Stalinist regime) have been demolished leaving a vast open space. Archaeological soundings have been started eventually disclosing foundations related to the AkSarai and decision of future use of the vacant area awaits the results of comprehensive excavations. The whole area needs preservation and landscaping eventually, including preservation of the line of old trees originating from the Timurid Period.

Visit to the museum together with Mr. Nabi Hushvaktuv, Director of the Shakrisabz Museum. Due to bad weather condition observations during site visits were limited with no possibility of getting impression of the condition of the urban environment and remaining city walls. The Darut Tilavat and Darut Saodat Complexes are in a good state of conservation. At the end of the day visit to the tile work shop having produced some of the new tiling for the restoration work at Shaki-Zinda, unfortunately the owner complains about lack of commissions to maintain a sustainable production of good quality tiles. This is highly regrettable as only a continuous demand can keep the glazed tile production and the craft tradition alive.

Diminishing demands of quality material and crafts become even more regrettable in view of the modern iron sheeting imitating red polished granite put up at the front of the new municipality building presently under construction. This is deplorable !

19.00 Arrival at Samarkand

## 6 March, Monday

09.00-11.00 Site visit to Gur-Emir Ensemble and the Registan together with Mr. Ravshan Mansurov. Gur Emir is in many ways an example of good restoration practice with the glazed tile decoration at the front portal fixed and the reconstructed upper part indicating the major decoration pattern in the lime plaster and borderlines in plain masonry only. Recently fixed decor at the outer retaining walls is executed rather crude indicating varying degrees of quality control and supervision. The interior space is indeed impressive, but the large crystal chandelier under the dome is pathetic and more suitable for a banquet hall of a presidential palace.

The seats for *son et lumiere* in the Registan square is now fortunately removed, but the scene put up in the middle of the square is reducing the great space, but may be only temporarily. Visitors have to pay a combined entrance ticket to the whole area, whereas the consultant suggests that ticket should give permission to enter the monuments leaving the square open to the public as the very centre of the historic city. This would give a significant symbolic message that the history belongs to the people of Samarkand and

not to the tourists. The large open space surrounding the Registan is a *fait en complis* unfortunately as a result of the policy for creating 'a museum in the open'. It is denied that this policy is maintained, but practise seems unchanged. Conservation policy still largely focus on the monuments as can be exemplified by the newly constructed wall behind the Registan screening off traditional living quarters behind and creating an obtrusive setpiece decorated in 'Timuride style' competing with the original and authentic facing of the Timurid monuments.

The pleasant plane trees and other foliferous trees, allowing full sun during winter and providing shade in summer, are now being exchanged in favour of pines and cypresses and thujas throughout the city. This new environmental policy will have considerable effect on the streetscape in the historic parts of Samarkand.

11.00-13.00 Visit to Samarkand Museum together with Mrs. Nabirayeva Maysara, especially looking at the photo exhibition of historic Samarkand comparing old photographs with the present situation. The most striking difference is that the vivid folk life on old black/white photographs dating from the end of the nineteen cent. as compared to the new sterile surroundings of the monuments appearing from the contemporary photographs in colour. But it is also apparent that considerable reconstruction was required to put the monuments into a good state of conservation due to earthquakes, foundation problems and long time of neglect.

14.00-15.00 Consultation with Mr. Pidaev Shakirdjan, Director, Institute of Archaeology. The finds from the archaeological excavations at ShakiSinda is piled up in one room with fine pieces of glazed tile work of different styles, allegedly reused pieces of tile decorations reused at the graveyard without any chronological order. In spite of several inquiries an excavation plan has not been presented, but it was promised again that the results of the excavation would be published eventually. The consultant emphasised the need of a scientific publication of the excavation as a monograph or as articles in recognised scientific journals accessible for international research.

15.00-18.00 Visit to Afrasiab Museum with a potential for developing into an attractive interpretation centre for the whole of Afrasiab at some time in the future. At the end of the day visit to a small local paper production work shop reviving traditional crafts based on technology and a pottery work shop, both UNESCO supported project. Most depressing to see the pottery work shop abandoned and desolated.

## **7 March, Tuesday**

09.00-10.30 Consultation with Mrs. Nabirayeva Maysara, Head of Samarkand Branch of State Inspection for Safeguarding of Monuments and Mr. Nabirayev Firdaus, architect and Deputy Head. Discussions on procedures for building consents to work on classified buildings. They are very dedicated professionals, but deal only with individual classified buildings and have no influence on the general city development and urban rehabilitation. A comprehensive survey of architectural values in the environments could serve as an important instrument for future planning.

11.00-11.30 Visit to the municipality checking up on the development plans presented in the Samarkand Master Plan 2004-2025. Requests for copies of central parts of the plan was denied. From a cursory and visual inspection the plan appears as a traditional physical master plan with the main focus on infrastructure and traffic planning of new ring roads.

This development plan has decisive consequences on the World Heritage, in particular to the future development of the Russian part of the city, which is part of the WH nomination. This plan is not acceptable from a conservation point of view. Apparently the concept of creating large open spaces is still appreciated rather than reintegrating the monuments within a living city. UNESCO, UNDP, Aga Khan Trust for Culture

and other international co-operation partners tried about ten years ago to influence this policy in favour of preservation and improvements to residential quarters.

11.30 Site visits to Registan, Bibi Kharnum and Shaki Zinda and the environments.  
14.30 Departure for Tashkent  
17.30 Arrival to Tashkent, accommodation in hotel

### **8 March, Wednesday** (National Holiday - International Women's Day)

10.30 –12.30 Fare well meeting with Mr. Mansurov and Mr. Rakhmonov discussing some of the main observations made by the consultant, proposing to delegate more responsibility to Samarkand, strengthening local capacity and improve the management of the World Heritage Site through the establishment an integrated development and preservation policy. Especially, there is an urgent need to clearly formulate a cultural heritage policy complementary to the 2004-2025 Development Plan. Local involvement may be strengthened through the setting up of a World Heritage Board for Samarkand with a technical secretariat capable of co-ordinating the interests of all shareholders and stimulate a local debate on cultural heritage values. The consultant have the impression that there is a general need of capacity building in cultural heritage preservation, not least in view of the enormous number of archaeological sites and monuments in Uzbekistan. Furthermore the sites included on the WH List are inscribed as living cities posing a new challenge to the Board of Monument. At the moment ten staff members are on training in Cairo on bi-lateral agreement with Egypt, whereas training at ICCROM is deemed too expensive.

### **9 March, Thursday**

05.00 Chek-in at airport  
07.0 Departure with Uzbekistan Airlines and SAS to Copenhagen via Frankfurt.  
14.00 Arrvial in Cph.

During the whole mission the consultant was accompanied by Mr. Michael Barry Lane and Mr. Sanjarbek Allayarov.

