

Formal characteristics of Khans plans In Islamic Architecture (An Analytical Study)

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Abstract

Islamic architecture is characterized by the diversity of methods as well as its wide spread across time and place. There is a real need to study Islamic architecture and know its features that distinguish it from other architectures. This can be achieved by identifying a number of properties or relations of specific type of function, or different functional types as indicators of Islamic architecture. Accordingly, the concentration in this research will be focused on the study of the formal qualities of Khans through the study of the relationship between the constituent elements of the building. In order to reach functional specificity for this type of buildings in Islamic architecture, reviewing of previous studies indicates there is lack of knowledge which is not available on the formal qualities of Khans in Islamic architecture. Therefore, this study will address all known Khans in the literature of Islamic architecture throughout the Muslim world. These Khans will be analyzed, and plans of these buildings will be studied in order to access to the method used in their design. This research includes the theoretical framework of formal relations between the components of the plans elements of Khans. Depending on some modern studies in forming relationships, some formal relationships are determined. They are represented by the relationship between the repetitive and unique elements which form the final shape of the building. The scientific method is adopted in addition to the statistical analysis for the purpose of access to the distinctive characteristics of Khans buildings. It is clear from the practical results of this research that Khans buildings are characterized by their participating characteristics by similar properties despite differences in the time period in which the completion of that building, as well as differences in the geographical location of those buildings. This conclusion indicates the unique vision and common background of architectural thought in spite of the change of time and place. The unique harmony of architecture thought determines the identity of Islamic architecture. This indicates the consistency of this architecture that were not documented and does not have the names of the creators who have done it, which by the history evidenced that it is fantastic.

Keywords: Formal characteristics, Islamic architecture, Khans, Repetitive, Unique elements.

For the abstract in Arabic see pages (207-227).

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