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## Colors in the Decorations of Architectural Monuments in Uzbekistan

Elvira Jurayeva, Nurxon Karimova

Samarkand State Architecture and Construct University named after Mirzo Ulugbek

### Abstract

This Uzbekistan, located in the heart of Central Asia, is a country known for its rich cultural heritage and stunning architectural monuments. One of the most captivating aspects of these monuments is the use of vibrant and intricate colors in their decorations. These colors not only enhance the beauty of the structures but also hold deep cultural and historical significance. In this article, we will explore the colors used in the decorations of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan and delve into the meanings and influences behind them.

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### Blue - The Color of Heaven:

Blue is perhaps the most prominent and symbolic color in Uzbekistan's architectural decorations. Known as "Isfara" or "Isor," this shade of blue is reminiscent of the clear Central Asian skies and is often referred to as the color of heaven. You can find it adorning the iconic turquoise domes and intricate ceramic tiles of mosques, madrasahs, and mausoleums throughout the country. The use of blue in Uzbek architecture symbolizes the connection between earthly life and the divine, emphasizing spirituality and eternity.

### White - Purity and Peace:

White is another essential color in Uzbekistan's architectural palette. It signifies purity, peace, and spirituality. It is commonly used for the walls and facades of monuments, providing a stark contrast to the vibrant blues and warm earthy tones. White walls not only create a visually stunning effect but also evoke a sense of serenity and calm, inviting visitors to reflect upon the spiritual aspects of the architecture.

### Earthy Tones - A Connection to Nature:

Uzbekistan's architectural decorations also incorporate earthy tones, such as brown, beige, and terracotta. These colors are derived from natural materials like clay and sand and are often seen in the intricate woodwork, plaster, and ornamental details of the monuments. These earthy hues represent a

E-mail address: [editor@centralasianstudies.org](mailto:editor@centralasianstudies.org)

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deep connection to the land and its resources, reflecting the culture's long history of craftsmanship and building traditions.



*picture 1 Decorations on the facade of historical monuments*

### **Green - Fertility and Prosperity:**

Green, symbolizing fertility and prosperity, can be found in the gardens and courtyards surrounding Uzbek architectural monuments. These lush green spaces provide a serene oasis in the midst of urban environments and are often accented with colorful flowers, adding vibrancy to the overall aesthetic. The use of green invokes a sense of growth and abundance, creating a harmonious balance between man-made structures and the natural world.

### **Gold - Royalty and Prestige:**

Gold is sparingly used in Uzbek architecture but carries significant meaning when employed. It represents wealth, prestige, and the divine. You can find gold leaf accents on the intricate mosaics and calligraphy found in many Uzbek monuments. This opulent touch not only adds to the visual grandeur but also conveys a sense of reverence and importance.

Certainly, let's delve deeper into the use of colors in the decorations of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan, highlighting some specific examples and their historical and cultural significance:

**Blue - A Symbol of Faith and Infinity:** The use of the vibrant turquoise-blue color is especially prevalent in the city of Samarkand, home to some of Uzbekistan's most famous monuments, including the Registan Square. Here, the azure domes and intricate geometric patterns in shades of blue adorn the structures.

Blue is associated with Islam, and its prevalence in Uzbekistan's architecture emphasizes the deep religious faith of the region. It symbolizes the infinite nature of the universe and the divine.





*picture 2. Decorations in Khudoyor Khan urda*

**Ikat Textiles - Fusion of Colors and Patterns:** Uzbekistan is renowned for its traditional ikat textiles, which feature a wide range of colors and intricate patterns. Ikat fabrics are often used in the interiors of architectural monuments, such as the cushions and tapestries in mosques and palaces.

Ikat patterns showcase a fusion of colors, with reds, blues, and yellows often dominating. Each pattern carries its own symbolism and is an integral part of Uzbek textile art.

**Multicolored Tiles - A Visual Feast:** Many Uzbek monuments, such as the Gur-e Amir Mausoleum and Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis in Samarkand, feature intricate mosaic tilework. These mosaics incorporate a wide array of colors, creating a mesmerizing visual tapestry.

The use of multicolored tiles not only adds to the beauty of these structures but also reflects the diversity of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage, as it was at the crossroads of various ancient trade routes.





***Image 3 The colors used in the interior decoration of the Blue Dome Mosque***

**Red - Life and Vitality:** The color red, often seen in Uzbek architectural decorations, represents life, vitality, and courage. It can be found in decorative elements, textiles, and even in the vibrant spices used in Uzbek cuisine.

In Bukhara, for example, red dominates the Kalon Minaret, which stands as a symbol of strength and resilience.

### **Woodwork - Warmth and Craftsmanship:**

Uzbekistan's architectural heritage also features intricate woodwork, often adorned with warm brown and earthy tones. This woodwork can be seen in the delicate carvings of doors, ceilings, and columns in historic buildings.

The use of wood not only adds warmth to the interiors but also showcases the remarkable craftsmanship of local artisans.

**The Influence of Persian and Timurid Art:** Uzbekistan's architectural decorations have been significantly influenced by Persian and Timurid art and culture. The Timurid dynasty, in particular, left an indelible mark on the region's architecture, including their preference for vibrant blue and intricate tilework.

**Conclusion:** The use of colors in the decorations of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan is more than just an aesthetic choice; it is a reflection of the country's rich history, culture, and spirituality. Blue, white, earthy tones, green, and gold are all carefully selected to convey specific meanings and create a harmonious connection between the built environment and the natural world. These colors not

only make Uzbekistan's architectural landmarks visually stunning but also emotionally and spiritually captivating, inviting visitors to explore the depth of the country's cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the colors used in the decorations of architectural monuments in Uzbekistan are a testament to the country's rich cultural tapestry. From the heavenly blues to the warm earthy tones and vibrant textiles, each color and pattern tells a story of faith, history, and craftsmanship. Uzbekistan's architectural heritage continues to captivate visitors, inviting them to explore the depths of its cultural and artistic treasures.

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