



## **MADRASAH TURKMAN (RAHMONKUL KARAOULBEGI)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Turkman Madrasah, also known as Rahmonkul Karaulbegi, is an architectural monument in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. This building was built in the Kemukhtgaron quarter in the 16th century during the reign of the Shaibanids. The madrasah was dedicated to the teaching of religious sciences and was one of the main educational centers in Bukhara.

The building of the Turkman Madrasah has been preserved to this day and is an excellent example of medieval architecture in Central Asia. In different periods of time, the building was subjected to restoration and reconstruction, however, the last major restoration was carried out with the support of the Japanese government.

This article provides an overview of the Turkman Madrasah and its history, and describes the architectural features and details of the building. She also looks at the history of the building's restoration and preservation to the present day.

### **KEYWORDS**

Madrasah Turkman, Rahmonkul karaulbegi, Bukhara, architecture, Central Asia, religious education, restoration, conservation, history, Japan.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Madrasah Turkman (Rahmonkul karaulbegi)

Turkman Madrassah, also known as "Turkmen Madrassah" or "Rahmonkul Karaul Begi", is one of the most famous architectural monuments in Bukhara,

Uzbekistan. This madrasah, built in the 16th century, is one of the most significant monuments of the city and

one of the main centers of education and culture in its time.



### History of the madrasah

The Turkman Madrasah was built in the 16th century in the Kemukhtgaron quarter, which is located on the western bank of the Shakhrihanabad River. It was the time of the reign of the Uzbek Khanate, when Bukhara was one of the largest centers of trade and culture in Central Asia.

The madrasah was built thanks to the generosity of the Turkmen merchant Rahmonkul karaulbegi, who allocated funds for the construction and maintenance of the madrasah. He was appointed head of the guards of the Bukhara fortress, which gave him the nickname "karaulbegi" - literally "head of the guard".

### THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE MADRASAH

The Turkman Madrasah is an excellent example of the architecture of that time, and it combines elements of

Uzbek, Timurid and Iranian styles. It consists of two floors, a courtyard surrounded by chambers on both sides, and an entrance portal with a minaret.

The facade of the madrasah is decorated with ceramic tiles depicting geometric figures and plant motifs. The courtyard of the madrasah is also decorated with mosaics and wood carvings. In the chambers of the madrasah there are classrooms where students studied the Koran, Sharia and other subjects. The cells also served as a place for teachers and students to live.

One of the most notable features of the madrasah is its minaret, which is decorated with patterns and inscriptions in Arabic. The minaret is over 20 meters high.



The Turkman Madrasah was also important for the development of culture and education in Bukhara. It attracted students and teachers from all over Central Asia and was one of the main educational centers in the city. The madrasah remained an active center of education and culture until the beginning of the 20th century, when its use was discontinued.

Currently, the Turkman Madrasah continues to attract tourists and pilgrims who are interested in the history and culture of Bukhara. In 1993, the madrasah was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List along with other monuments of Bukhara.



## CONCLUSION

The Turkman Madrasah is not only a beautiful example of architecture, but also an important symbol of the history and culture of Bukhara. It testifies to the rich history of the city, its cultural heritage and significance in Central Asia. The madrasah continues to be one of the most visited tourist spots in Bukhara, attracting thousands of people from all over the world every year..

Over the past centuries, the Turkman Madrasah has gone through a series of renovations and restorations to preserve its original appearance and provide visitors with the opportunity to learn about the history of this important architectural monument.

At the end of the 19th century, the madrasah was closed and was not used for many years until it was restored in 1945. As part of the restoration work, the

domes and facade of the building were restored, as well as decorations inside the madrasah.

After this restoration, the madrasah was opened to the public and became a popular place among tourists. In 1988, a new restoration was carried out, as a result of which the lost elements of architecture were restored, such as mosaic patterns and inscriptions on the facade of the building.

In 2014, the madrasah underwent another major restoration, which was carried out with the support of the Japanese government. Japanese specialists collaborated with national experts and restorers in the course of work. As part of this restoration, not only the exterior elements of the building were restored, but also its interior decoration, including arches, domes, mosaics and other decorative elements.



Today, the Turkman Madrasah is one of the best-preserved architectural monuments not only in Bukhara, but throughout Central Asia. Restoration work carried out over the years has preserved the historical value of this building and attracts thousands of tourists every year.

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