

**ЎЗБЕКИСТОН РЕСПУБЛИКАСИ ФАНЛАР АКАДЕМИЯСИ ҲУЗУРИДАГИ
ЎЗБЕКИСТОННИНГ ЭНГ ЯНГИ ТАРИХИ МАСАЛАЛАРИ БЎЙИЧА
МУВОФИҚЛАШТИРУВЧИ МЕТОДИК МАРКАЗ**

**ЎЗБЕКИСТОН ЭНГ ЯНГИ ТАРИХИНИНГ
ДОЛЗАРБ МАСАЛАЛАРИ**
ФАНЛАРАРО ИЛМИЙ-НАЗАРИЙ ЖУРНАЛ

**АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ
НОВЕЙШЕЙ ИСТОРИИ УЗБЕКИСТАНА**
МЕЖДИСЦИПЛИНАРНЫЙ НАУЧНО-ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИЙ ЖУРНАЛ

UZBEKISTAN`S CONTEMPORARY HISTORY ISSUES
INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC JOURNAL

№ 2

Тошкент
2018

МУНДАРИЖА
СОДЕРЖАНИЕ
CONTENT

Бош муҳаррир сўзи4

МАҚОЛАЛАР – СТАТЬИ – ARTICLES

Ф. Старр, М. Селман. Ўзбекистондаги урбанистик жараёнлар ва унинг истиқболи.....6

F. S. Starr, M. Sellman. Urban processes in Uzbekistan and its future..... 17

М. Рахимов, А. Муллаев. “Belt and Road” мегаконцепцияси ва унда Ўзбекистоннинг иштироки 26

G. Yuldasheva. Iran and Central Asia: peculiarities and perspectives..... 38

В. Парамонов. Торгово-экономические отношения России и Китая со странами Центральной Азии в период 1991–2007 годов: характер и основные тенденции..... 51

Л. Махмутходжаева, Н. Талипова. Сотрудничество в области науки и образования как важное направление стратегического взаимодействия Республики Узбекистан и Российской Федерации..... 60

ЁШ ТАДҚИҚОТЧИ МИНБАРИ

Ш. Икромов. Ўзбекистондаги сиёсий трансформациянинг Араб таҳлилий марказларида ёритилиши (1990–2019) 75

J. Salomov. Uzbekistan: on the path of renewal and progress 86

Ю. Кушанова. Основные тенденции взаимоотношений Узбекистана и Казахстана с Францией 96

ҲУҚУҚИЙ ҲУЖЖАТЛАР ВА КОНЦЕПЦИЯ

Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг «Иккинчи жаҳон урушида фашизм устидан қозонилган ғалабага Ўзбекистон халқининг қўшган муносиб ҳиссасига бағишланган китоб-альбомни нашр этиш чоратадбирлари тўғрисида» Фармойиши..... 108

Концепция книги-альбома в рамках выполнения Распоряжения Президента Республики Узбекистан от 31.05.2018 г. «О мерах по изданию книги-альбома, посвященного достойному вкладу народа Узбекистана в победу над фашизмом во Второй мировой войне»..... 110

URBAN PROCESSES IN UZBEKISTAN AND IT'S FUTURE

Frederick S. Starr,

Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program. Expert for contemporary history and political issues of Central Asian States. Professor (USA).

Michael Sellman,

President, Tinwood LLC trustee, Souls Grown Deep Foundation
Co-ceo, Calatrava Grace

No feature of the modern world is more striking than the mass movement of people from countryside to cities. As commerce and prosperity grow, millions are flooding from the rural to urban environments. As part of the fast-developing world, Uzbekistan, too, faces an urban future. But what will Uzbekistan's future urban centers be like? If effectively developed, Uzbekistan's future cities will draw on the best of the past and on contemporary experiences worldwide. They will enable Uzbek citizens to make smooth transitions to modern urban life without jettisoning important family and social values. As they achieve this, Uzbekistan's city centers can become models for other countries facing the same problems of rapid urban growth.

Rapid migration from the countryside has created monster metropolises like Shanghai (21 million), Karachi (18 million), and Istanbul (15 million), each of which has more inhabitants than the individual populations of 160 of the 195 members of the United Nations. In many developing countries the mass movement to cities has created slums, urban crime, and corruption. Even in cases where these pathologies have been avoided, urban life has forced millions of rural migrants into faceless megastructures, where they barely interact with their neighbors, let alone feel a sense of community.

How can Uzbekistan reap the benefits of urbanization and avoid its pitfalls? How can it identify and embrace wise modern strategies in urban planning and architecture that harmonize with Uzbek life as it has been lived over the centuries? How should notions of zoning be considered? Should residential and retail or commercial units be contiguous and if so, to what extent? These questions are urgent. How they are answered will determine how the children and grandchildren of today's people of Uzbekistan will live.

Uzbekistan's State Statistical Committee reports that as of 1 January 2018 the country's population was 32,653,900, [1] placing Uzbekistan forty-fourth among all countries in terms of total population [2]. Tashkent, with a population of 2,481,696, houses 7.6% of all Uzbek citizens, with the rest living in secondary cities or the countryside [3]. It should be noted that every country defines "urban" differently. The World Bank, seeking to clarify the issue, cites that most nations define "urban" in terms of a minimum of 2,000–5,000 inhabitants [4]. The United Nations' report on *World Urbanization Prospects*, which accepts the World Bank's definition, assigns Uzbekistan an urbanization rate of 50.5%, which places it 115th among all 231 countries and territories [5]. Studies show that the populations of secondary cities typically range from between 10% and 50% of the populations of capital cities, and that these secondary cities are the fastest growing urban areas in nearly all developing countries.

Several forces impel this movement towards urbanization in Uzbekistan. Relatively high birthrates create excess population in large areas of the countryside. While it is true that the number of children born in 2017 was 10,700 less than in the previous year, and that the birth rate fell from 22.8 per thousand to 22.1 per thousand in the same period, the country's overall birth

rate still ranks it at a high position of 71st among all 226 countries recorded [6]. Simultaneously, higher incomes in most of the large population centers have long acted as magnets for rural migrants. Further stimulating urban growth today is the fact that Soviet policies prevented many who wanted to migrate to cities from doing so, leaving a legacy of pent-up demand for urban living that still prevails across much of the Uzbek countryside.

Compounding this urban drive has been the spread of education, which has created career expectations among many young people that they most associate with Tashkent and other large cities. Sophisticated transport infrastructures also allow cheaper and quicker access to the capital. For example, the high-speed Afrosiyob reaches from Samarkand to Tashkent in just over two hours. Transport times will continue to shorten as the Uzbek government commissions more dedicated high-speed rail lines.

Finally, Uzbekistan is seeing the easing of the old Soviet *propyska* system of urban registration. Without such a registration permit, urban migrants were prevented from obtaining employment, buying real estate, or even relocating to Tashkent. Across the Soviet Union the process of issuing such *propyskas* was deeply susceptible to corruption. The erosion of this registration regimen is helping to increase migration to Tashkent and other centers.

In one of his many notable pronouncements during his first two years in office, President Shafkat Mirziyoyev challenged Uzbekistan to advance into the ranks of solidly middle-income countries. Since then the President has instituted many programs to achieve this goal, including the establishment of a dozen free economic zones and nearly fifty industrial zones in the past year alone, the promotion of exports, measures to attract foreign investments, and the removal of impediments to entrepreneurship. Even though he has prudently balanced such steps with new measures to improve rural housing, these new initiatives to achieve middle-income country status will continue and likely even strengthen current trends towards urbanization.

We must pause here to ask what constitutes a “middle income country”? The World Bank defines a middle income country as having a gross national income (GNI) per capital between \$1,006 and \$12,235. Uzbekistan’s GDP per capita is \$1,500 but its GNI/capita is \$7,130. The World Bank also distinguishes between “lower middle income countries” and “upper middle income countries” and defines the line between them as \$3,995 per capita; this places 56 of the total of 109 middle income countries in the ranks of “upper middle income countries” and the rest as “lower middle income countries” [7].

Let us therefore assume that President Mirziyoyev’s goal is to bring Uzbekistan up at least to the middle ranks of middle income countries. Turning to the United Nations’ report on Urbanization Prospects, we find that middle income countries as a group are projected to have become 53.7% urbanized by 2020, 59% by 2030, and 68.3% by 2050. However, it is important to note that all these estimates are notably higher when they pertain only to upper middle income countries. By 2020 upper middle income countries are estimated to reach 68.2% urbanization, 75% by 2030, and a high of 82.6% by 2050.

The implications of these UN estimates for Uzbekistan are startling. If by 2030 Uzbekistan attains the same rate of urbanization as middle income countries as a group, then its urban population will have reached 34.44 million, or 17.67 million more than today. This is equivalent to an average annual increase of 1.47 million urban residents, or 283,173 households, each year. If however, if by 2030 Uzbekistan succeeds in reaching the average level of urbanization of upper middle income countries, then its urban population is likely to reach 36.06 million, or 19.29 million more than today. Even if only half of the new urban population is concentrated in Tashkent, the population of Uzbekistan’s capital would still reach 12.125 million by 2030 while secondary cities would expand to a total of 23.94 million; a surge of 9.645 million more people in Tashkent than today. Even if only a third of the expanded urban population ends up in Tashkent, the capital

would reach 8.49 million people by 2030, or 6.43 million more than today, and secondary cities would add almost 13 million people, growing to a total of 27.15 million. The data is even more striking if we assume that Uzbekistan’s future rate of urban growth tracks with that of upper middle income countries.

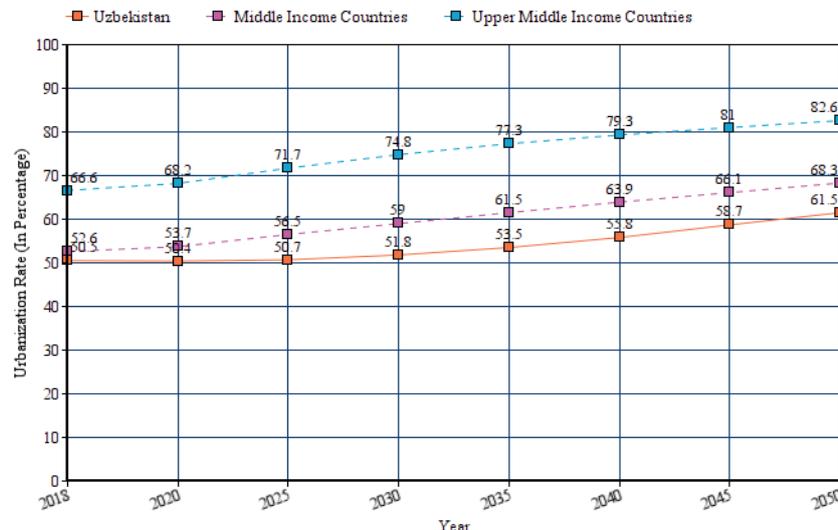


Fig. №1. Urban Population of Uzbekistan and its peers (in millions).

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects*.

Thus, whatever metric one chooses, it is clear that if Uzbekistan follows the same pattern as today’s upper middle income countries it will experience an unprecedented and vast urbanization during the coming decades. This implies a need for millions of additional urban homes per year.

Before rushing to premature conclusions, let us remember that statistics are not destiny. The same data that might appear to dictate a single course of action may, upon closer examination, open up the possibility of many policy alternatives. This is notably true with respect to urbanization. Left to themselves, the forces making for urbanization will almost surely leave Uzbekistan with an enormous capital city, Tashkent, and just a few very large secondary cities. Places such as Namangan, Samarkand, Andijon, Bukhara, and Nukus could become truly major centers, leaving behind such smaller communities as Qarshi, Qoqon, Chirchiq, Ferghana, Jissax, and Urganch. Alternatively, the government and people of Uzbekistan might adopt policies that promote the equalization of development in a larger number of secondary centers. Or, through vigorous interventions by the government, another extreme could emerge—more Uzbeks might be incentivized to move to smaller centers or to stay in the countryside, thereby curbing the growth of Tashkent and moderating the growth of the principal secondary centers. The choice between these alternatives—or the mix among them—may be the most fundamental question of domestic life facing Uzbek society over the coming generation. It is one which only Uzbeks themselves and their government can decide.

Related to this is the possibility of establishing satellite cities around Tashkent or near major secondary cities. In fact, the Government of Uzbekistan has already given a green light to the construction of satellite cities adjacent to both Samarkand and Bukhara, projects which will be of decisive importance for the future of Uzbek urbanism.

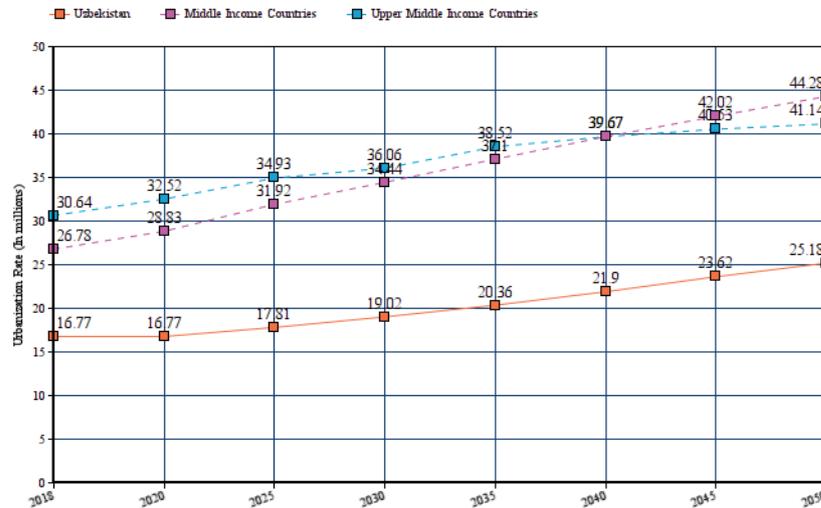


Fig. №2. Urban Population of Uzbekistan and its peers (in millions)

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects*.

But what of the dwellings themselves? What exactly will be constructed to house the future citizens of Uzbekistan? From their first institution in the early 1960s through the end of Soviet rule, the near-universal model for housing across the USSR involved vast ensembles of prefabricated, largely undecorated, and utterly standardized blocs, usually of five stories. These “Khrushchevkas” all had the same cladding—or lack thereof—and were thrown up with little or no attention paid to actual patterns of pedestrian and vehicular circulation or of social behavior. In fact, Soviet planners scarcely acknowledged the use of personal automobiles as they designed ingresses and egresses for housing blocks; single lane secondary roads often ended up serving both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, a recipe for constant congestion and traffic jams.

Initially defended as a distinctly Soviet contribution to urban life, these monotonous, unsafe, and staggeringly bland apartment blocs could not have been more sharply juxtaposed to the lively spirit of traditional urban life as it had existed for millennia across the entire territory of Uzbekistan.

This paradox leads us deeper into the actual lives of families and communities in Uzbekistan, which in turn gives rise to further questions. What are the essential features of traditional residences across the expanse of Uzbekistan and to what extent do they define national identity and character? Even casual foreign visitors are immediately struck by the warmth and civility of Uzbekistan’s traditional courtyard houses and their capacity to serve multiple generations of single families while also assuring each family unit a degree of privacy. At the same time they effectively foster strong neighborhood ties through the *mahallah*. No less striking is how closely these courtyard houses interact with nature, thanks to ubiquitous fruit trees and grape arbors.

Of course, mayors and urbanists across Uzbekistan are well aware of these issues, and have begun the dialogue with their citizenry that is essential to any successful process of urbanization as a whole. Still, many of the most urgent questions remain open, or have not even been defined with the clarity that is needed. Bluntly, should Uzbekistan’s urban heritage be dismissed as a quaint relic of the past that has no place in the new and thoroughly international style of urban living that is cropping up everywhere—what French sociologist Claude Levi-Strauss called “the global monoculture”? Or should it instead be treated as a priceless national resource, to be

explored and *adapted* to the present as an essential element of any new urbanism in Uzbekistan? Such questions become both more complex and more urgent when they are raised in the context of large metropolises, where budgets demand the most careful calculations of costs per square meter and where large, quickly erected housing blocs may seem at first to be the quickest and easiest solution.

It is worth noting that even the world's most regimented planned cities have rarely evolved according to their architects' intent: Brasilia, St. Petersburg, New Delhi, Washington, Islamabad, and Beijing are only a few of the many examples that spring to mind. Over time the deeply engrained social habits of ordinary citizens interacted with the demands of commerce and unanticipated uses of space. Even the most carefully planned cities grew organically, forcing planners to recalibrate their designs to keep pace. Given the inevitability of this process, close attention to the dwellings and habits of the people of Uzbekistan through the millennia becomes of critical importance—masterplanning and design must pay heed. Climate and available building materials caused traditional Uzbek housing to fall into two broad categories: single wood frames in more temperate low-elevation zones; and double wood frames in mountainous regions where winters are harsher. Until the end of the nineteenth century most homes lacked foundations or insulation other than the occasional use of *saman*, or chopped straw. In all locales structures had to be light, sturdy, flexible, and not more than two stories tall in order to withstand the earthquakes that have always wracked the region.

Such homes were simple but ergonomically quite sophisticated. Most were divided into two zones: internal and external courtyards. The former consisted of more private family space reserved especially for women and children, and therefore more modestly decorated with quilts or *suzannes*; the latter, being more public, frequently featured ornately carved gates and carpets that were functional and decorative. Elm trees (*gudjim*) cooled the ambient air, while small pools provided water for animals and fostered a sense of tranquility. In two-story structures, verandas further helped blur the distinction between indoors and outdoors, capturing breeze and making even long hot summer days pleasant.

A prominent feature of traditional housing in Uzbekistan was, and is still, its multi-generational character. Three generations under one roof has been the rule, not the exception, with rooms arranged accordingly. Social activities focused on the courtyards and dining, when family members and guests would congregate around a low table. In wintertime sandal wood would smolder in a sunken pit under the table and *kurpachi*, quilts used as blankets, would provide warmth. Intergenerational conversations that involved friends and neighbors assured the passage of information and customs from generation to generation and cultivated the bonds of stewardship and family.

It goes without saying that most citizens of Uzbekistan are well aware of their rich cultural legacy, but it has been all too easy for them docilely to accept whatever new housing types the government offered, especially if those new apartments provided better electricity, heating, and other amenities than were available in their traditional dwellings. The aura of modernity and sense of participation in modern life as it is purportedly lived in the most advanced countries caused many to close their eyes to what was being lost in the process.

Thus we return to a fundamental question facing an urbanizing Uzbekistan: to what extent should planners and architects embrace the cultural and historical heritage of the people who will dwell in the housing they design? Since the planning and design process will involve international as well as domestic architects, this question must be posed to foreign architects as well as to Uzbekistan's own design firms. The issue here is not simply to paste onto bland "international" structures "authentic" Uzbek ornaments and patterns. Indeed, this practice would destroy everything that is specifically Uzbekistan's by trivializing and commoditizing it.

Instead, the challenge is to look through a cultural and social lens in such a way as to devise new housing types that build on the past rather than negate it.

Both architects and planners from Uzbekistan and international architects should be expected to engage in such study and dialogue prior to their generating actual plans. Fortunately, these issues are front and center on the government's agenda, and President Mirziyoyev has already thrown down the gauntlet. Billions of dollars have been invested in building projects to date, and numerous incentives are in place to increase construction. Further, President Mirziyoyev doesn't limit the charge to new buildings. In his 2018 year-end address, he noted that renovation and refurbishment would be focal points for 34,000 existing residential structures. Energy efficiency, cost, and good design are his key considerations here and in new construction. And let us not forget jobs! The Government expects more than 100,000 new jobs to be created annually as a result of home building.

We will explore these dynamics in greater detail below, but before doing so, it is well to remember that Uzbekistan is not the first country to be confronted by such architectural and planning issues. To be sure, the governments of most developing countries have simply sidestepped them. Instead of calling on their own sociologists, historians, social psychologists, and economists to explore the actual culture and expectations of the urbanizing part of their population, they have adopted generic solutions worked out elsewhere, which they mechanically apply to their own cases.

Uzbekistan can do better. Instead of repeating that unfortunate history, it has a chance to strike out in new and innovative directions. But to do this, Uzbekistan must still study carefully the successes and failures of other countries in the area of urbanism and residential planning. Only in this way can new neighborhoods, towns, and cities develop that are truly "in the spirit of Uzbekistan." Thus, the challenge facing Mr. Mirziyoyev's team of reformers is simultaneously to look inward and outward as they contemplate Uzbekistan's urban future.

So politics and aspirations aside, where do things actually stand? At least one thing is obvious: there isn't enough housing. Annual shortfalls across the country are thought to be as high as 100,000 units. Beyond that, we perceive two endemic problems that Uzbekistan must address. First, all housing isn't safe. Many homes, especially affordable ones, do not meet modern seismic and life safety requirements or international codes. This can be corrected through modern building technologies for new structures and the application of remedial technologies to older ones. Second, too much of the construction sector is rooted in its Soviet past and offers very uneven quality. To be sure, there are Uzbek construction firms that are capable of building to a high international standard, but these are all too few. Better design and closer attention to the details of construction can remedy this, but the task will not be easy.

Critical factors to the improvement of affordable and safe housing in Uzbekistan will be close attention to the most advanced building technologies and to the specific processes through which they are applied. Residential construction in the country today relies almost exclusively on traditional construction methodologies. Thus, superstructures are created using either timber frames or walls made of brick or concrete blocks. It should be noted that such traditional construction methods can be improved through the use of sophisticated concrete blends that produce stronger, safer buildings.

But it is not enough simply to improve the quality of materials while maintaining the old methods of construction. Some may hesitate to embrace new building technologies on the grounds that they would require the use of expensive materials. For example, they might point out that certain modern construction types entail the use of expensive structural steel imported from Korea. But there are better and more economic solutions to such problems of cost. At \$80 per ton, concrete in Uzbekistan is as inexpensive as anywhere in the world. This suggests that a

better solution would be to use modular construction methods (i.e., a new technology) designed around a concrete core (i.e., a traditional material). Modern concrete has advanced far beyond the applications common in the past. Its versatility may not be obvious, yet it is striking. It can simultaneously serve structural purposes while also providing finished surfaces that readily compliment cladding materials such as ceramic tile. Also, the thermal mass of concrete helps manage the swings of temperature from season to season.

Beyond the materials, however, why might a modular building process make sense? For one thing, modular construction methods comprehensively address life safety issues. It will be important for Uzbekistan to update building codes, especially with regards to fireproofing and seismic sensitivity. It should be noted that modular structures are built to meet or exceed the most exacting building codes.

Modular construction methods are also extremely simple and entail enhanced quality control and efficiency. The construction or assembly of a module (think LEGO blocks) occurs in a factory setting. Once assembled, each of these LEGO blocks is shipped by rail or flatbed truck to predetermined building sites, where they are erected—stacked one atop another—as high as forty stories or more in some cases. In this process a comprehensive “parts library” is created, and the result is a construction system with full interoperability. All of the parts, or “mods”, can connect with one another in nearly infinite permutations. This is LEGO, quite literally. The benefits of this method cannot be overstated. Individual homeowners exercise greater control of their environments because their living quarters can be repurposed or expanded incrementally by absorbing contiguous modular units into additional living areas or simply adding new ones to an existing structure. Modular construction also offers greater flexibility to businesses. Traditional street-level retail storefronts can be easily reconfigured to provide commercial spaces shared by multiple entities—such as co-working environments—and can then be re-sized as demanded. To be sure, modular construction is only one of several advanced building methods and technologies, but it would appear that this technique might have wide application in a rapidly urbanizing and cost-conscious Uzbekistan.

An ancillary benefit of the factory-controlled environment is that the fabrication process generates less waste, inflicts fewer disturbances to the site, and allows for tighter construction. Raw materials are recycled, inventory is controlled, and equipment is protected, all within the confines of a closely managed industrial space. Air quality improves, too, because the assembly process uses dry materials. Also, less moisture is captured during construction, ultimately reducing pollution and controlling soil erosion, waterway sedimentation, and airborne dust. No less important, the closely monitored indoor construction environment reduces the risks of accidents and related liabilities for workers. This seamless operating procedure stands in stark contrast to many construction sites in Uzbekistan today, where as many as half a dozen contractors are working simultaneously on sprawling and uncoordinated building projects. The pastiche of structures that results from this then becomes, at best, an inchoate neighborhood.

The standardization of the modules themselves allows for the use of “plug-and-play” fixtures and fit-outs such as windows, furniture, plumbing, and electrical systems that can be integrated on a large scale into the overall architecture of the structure. This is an important point, especially given President Mirziyoyev’s year-end call to reassess Uzbekistan’s existing housing structures. This should include an embrace of the notion of the adaptive re-use of defunct existing structures. An example might be the re-use of Soviet era military hangers for modular construction factories.

Speed is yet another benefit of the modular construction method. To meet its ambitious targets, Uzbekistan must consider ways to accelerate its building process. Construction of modular buildings occurs simultaneously with site work, allowing projects to be completed in half the time of traditional construction methods or less. One reason for this is the virtual

elimination of weather delays since the vast majority of the construction process is completed inside a factory.

What about the second core problem, namely to improve the aesthetic and social value of new urban structures? Whatever the efficiency of modular processes, their value is nil if they are not shaped and guided by a master planning process that fully embraces the aesthetic and social considerations discussed above. Absent the application of such thinking, the process could still result in endless fields of quickly erected, monolithic modular blocks that fail the needs and expectations of Uzbek society. Uzbekistan needs to balance strategy and tactics—fundamental thinking about culture, life styles, and society and methods of implementing them that are economically and organizationally practical. This is everywhere a tricky combination to manage, given the realities of modern politics and economic cycles. Workable tactics are required to provide tens of thousands of good residences as soon as possible. Wise strategy is required to do so in a thoughtful, culturally and socially literate way.

The key to successful strategy is thoughtful design that translates general principles into attractive and practical plans. The challenge here is to move beyond the superficial application of the clichés of purportedly “Uzbek” design, which usually means a series of trivialized patterns and techniques, and to get to the cultural and social realities of how the citizenry has lived over the centuries and how it aspires to live today and tomorrow. In considering this question, it would be wise to avoid the “one size fits all” approach. Uzbekistan is a highly diverse territory, with different landscapes that have, over the centuries, given rise to many distinctive styles. It would be a tragedy if the forthcoming era of large-scale urban construction were to result in a new national standardization, one as mechanical in its way as the old one dating to the 1960s that it purports to replace. A reasonable variety of approaches is quite possible across the territory of Uzbekistan, but to achieve it the most subtle interaction and collaboration between architects, technologists, and local populations will be required.

In the end, the success or failure of Uzbekistan’s urban future will be measured by its impact on the quality of life of actual citizens. Will the new master planning thoughtfully manage pedestrian circulation? Will it treat public space as a high priority, essential to the enhancement of enjoyment by members of all generations and the reduction of crime? Will it stimulate new modes of invention and commerce? Will it make creative use of the existing topography, and will it make generous use of both indigenous and adaptive vegetation? A successful approach should combine some of the world’s best urban design with new building technologies, but also bring to bear distinctly Uzbek responses to the universal problems of rapid urbanization, soaring demand for housing, traffic congestion, and the gap between expectations and resources.

In all these areas workable solutions will have also to be sustainable. The worldwide concern to identify and employ “best practices” has led urban planners and architects to focus on “LEED,” which stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.” Indeed, this has become a common language of best practices in buildings around the world. Among successful approaches are those being developed by Google’s subsidiary “Sidewalk Lab”. Master planned on Toronto’s waterfront, the Sidewalk Lab utilizes modular construction and new building technology to construct a complex responsive to community habits and sufficiently flexible to allow for future growth. Another manifestation of such new thinking is New York’s “High Line,” a 1.5-mile elevated park and walkway constructed atop a defunct rail line that wends its way through the west side of Manhattan. Neither of these, or any other such initiatives, should be mechanically applied to Uzbekistan’s cities. But the kind of thinking underlying them, which emphasizes the creation of “living systems” to enhance circulation and interaction among inhabitants, can usefully inspire analogous thinking in Tashkent and other Uzbek cities of the future. Similarly bold initiatives

exist in many other aspects of urban development worldwide and warrant the closest attention by Uzbekistan's planners and architects, and by those from abroad whom it engages.

What does all this tell us? Uzbekistan has the demographics, economic base, ambitious politics, and rich cultural history to propel a proud, ambitious, and talented population into the upper ranks of urbanization success stories. Over the centuries, many cities have achieved success in devising and implementing thoughtful urbanization strategies. Each of such cities becomes a magnet for talent, not only from within the country but from abroad. They also become destinations. We should never underestimate the impact of sheer beauty and attractiveness on the quality of urban life. Uzbekistan cannot avoid taking decisions in all the areas discussed above. Will it make them by the inertia of wooden bureaucratic processes—in other words, by default? Or will it do so consciously, and after thoughtful deliberation involving domestic and foreign architects and planners and the country's own best experts on Uzbekistan's distinctive culture, society, and economy? Everyone who wishes Uzbekistan well must hope that it follows the latter course. Happily, there are hopeful signs that this will indeed be the case.

REFERENCES

1. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Давлат статистика қўмитаси, «Ўзбекистонда демографик ҳолат». Ўзбекистонда демографик ҳолат. 2018 йил январь–декабрь.
2. United States, Congress, "The CIA World Factbook." *The CIA World Factbook*, ser. 2018, CIA. 2018. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2119rank.html>
3. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, Online Edition. <https://population.un.org/wup/General/FAQs.aspx>
4. Deuskar, Chandan. "What Does "Urban" Mean?" *Jobs and Development*, World Bank, 22 Jan. 2016, blogs.worldbank.org/sustainable-cities/what-does-urban-mean.
5. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, Online Edition. <https://population.un.org/wup/>
6. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2054rank.html>
7. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, Online Edition. [Htts://population.un.org.wpp/](https://population.un.org/wpp/)

ISSN 2181-8231

Ўзбекистон Республикаси Фанлар академияси
«Фан» нашриёти давлат корхонаси
Тошкент–2018

Бадий муҳаррир
Умид Сапаев

Саҳифаловчи
Ҳасан Мақсудов

Журнал Ўзбекистон Матбуот ва ахборот агентлиги томонидан рўйхатга олинган.
Гувоҳнома № 0848.

Теришга берилди 18.05.2019 Босишга рухсат этилди 03.06.2019
Ҳажми: 7,5 босма табақ. Гарнитура Cambria. Қоғоз бичими 60x84 x $\frac{1}{8}$.
Адади 200 нусха.

Таҳририят манзили: 100047, Тошкент Яҳё Ғуломов кўчаси 70 уй.
Телефонлар: (71) 233-37-01, (71) 233-37-11. E-mail: uzconhistory@academy.uz