

# ISSUES OF PERIODIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTS

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**Abstract:** This article addresses the issues of periodization and classification of historical and architectural objects. Architectural monuments are analyzed as objects reflecting the characteristics of their era and the aesthetic value of cultural heritage. The study highlights the principles of dividing objects into periods, their regional and functional differences, and the theoretical and practical aspects of classification in a historical-cultural context. This article focuses on pressing issues in the preservation and scientific study of historical monuments.

**Keywords:** Historical and architectural objects, periodization, classification, cultural heritage, architectural features, historical context, preservation and conservation.

## INTRODUCTION

In the years since Uzbekistan's independence, the country has taken significant steps to preserve and explore its rich historical and cultural legacy. One of the key areas receiving increased attention is the study of national history, particularly the deep analysis of historical and architectural monuments. This focus not only fosters national pride among the younger generation but also allows them to draw meaningful lessons from the experiences and achievements of their ancestors.

History, as a discipline, encompasses the chronological development of human society, analyzing events within their specific timeframes and contexts. It

seeks to understand the evolution of human civilizations and the socio-political, cultural, and economic transformations that have occurred over time. In this regard, Uzbekistan's history forms an inseparable part of world history. Its architectural and cultural monuments reflect a continuous dialogue between civilizations and have made significant contributions to global heritage. Studying the lives and achievements of ancient peoples on this land—who developed urban planning, religious architecture, scientific thought, and trade—helps illuminate how Uzbekistan has shaped and been shaped by broader historical processes.

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Historical and architectural objects are invaluable in understanding the trajectory of human civilization. These monuments serve not only as physical remnants of the past but also as carriers of intangible values such as belief systems, artistic trends, technological advancements, and societal organization. They are primary sources that reveal the spiritual and material life of ancient peoples.

To ensure proper scientific understanding and preservation of such objects, two critical processes are employed: periodization and classification.

#### Periodization

Periodization involves dividing historical-architectural objects into specific historical epochs based on their origin and stylistic characteristics. It provides a temporal framework that helps researchers contextualize and interpret the significance of the monument. Four main methodologies are typically applied:

Archaeological Findings – Excavated artifacts such as ceramics, tools, architectural fragments, coins, and burial remains allow scholars to approximate construction dates and cultural layers.

Epigraphic Sources – Inscriptions in stone, brick, or wood help identify key events, rulers, religious dedications, or construction patrons, allowing for precise historical dating.

Architectural Style and Construction Techniques – Elements such as domes, arches, portals, columns, and ornamentation provide clues about the time period and regional stylistic influences.

Scientific Dating Methods (e.g., Radiocarbon Analysis) – These offer an empirical basis for dating organic components (wood, charcoal, mortar), enabling more accurate chronological frameworks.

### Classification

Classification is the process of categorizing architectural objects according to their function, form, cultural significance, and construction methods. A well-structured classification allows for comparative research and practical efforts in conservation and restoration. The main types include:

#### Religious Structures

Mosques, churches, temples: Centers of worship representing Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and other religions.

Mausoleums, shrines: Memorials or sacred sites dedicated to religious leaders, saints, and prominent figures.

#### Civil Architecture

Palaces and mansions: Residences of rulers and nobility that reflect power, governance, and societal hierarchy.

Fortresses and citadels: Defensive structures that embody the military engineering and strategic planning of their time.

#### Trade and Industrial Buildings

Caravanserais and bazaars: Hubs of regional and transcontinental trade, illustrating the economic prosperity and international connections.

Workshops, kilns, production centers: Sites of craft and technological innovation.

#### Educational and Cultural Institutions

Madrasahs, libraries: Centers of religious and secular learning, promoting intellectual development.

Amphitheaters, museums, theaters: Spaces for artistic expression, public gatherings, and cultural continuity.

This systematization helps document and analyze objects in a structured manner while also guiding conservation policies.

### RESULTS

The accurate periodization and classification of historical-architectural objects create the foundation for deeper interdisciplinary studies. These processes contribute to several vital aspects: **Historical Analysis:** By situating monuments within their appropriate historical contexts, scholars can explore social structures, ideological shifts, and urban evolution. **Preservation Planning:** Categorization assists in prioritizing restoration work and applying appropriate methods for various types of monuments. **Educational and Cultural Engagement:** Classifying and periodizing historical sites helps in designing museum exhibits, curricula, and heritage tourism programs. Each historical epoch carries unique economic, spiritual, and cultural characteristics. These attributes are reflected in the design, construction, and symbolic meaning of architectural monuments. By interpreting these features correctly, historians can assess the values and worldviews of the time.

Over the centuries, different calendar systems were used by civilizations, and determining accurate chronologies often involves reconciling these diverse frameworks. In some cases, the exact dating of monuments remains contested, demanding interdisciplinary approaches.

Classical and modern historians have long debated how to divide history into periods. While the traditional Marxist-Leninist model defined five socio-economic formations (primitive communism, slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and socialism), such a rigid framework fails to accommodate regional variations and non-linear developments in different parts of the world.

Thus, there is growing support for models that take into account the regional socio-economic peculiarities and historical continuity specific to each culture or area. For example, the early communal lifestyle lasted longer in Central Asia than in parts of Western Europe, and the Islamic Middle Ages showed different dynamics than European feudalism.

### DISCUSSION

Scholars from the mid-19th century onwards sought to systematize history according to dominant modes of production and ownership. While such models provided a macro view of social development, their limitations became increasingly apparent. Historical processes are neither uniform nor predictable; they are shaped by cultural, environmental, technological, and ideological factors that differ across regions.

Therefore, a more pluralistic and flexible approach to periodization is necessary. This approach must:

- Be grounded in empirical data from local historical contexts;
- Recognize unique regional features rather than enforce universal schemes;
- Integrate archaeological, written, and architectural sources;
- Be adaptable to educational and conservation needs.

In both scholarly research and secondary education, this nuanced method offers a more authentic understanding of history and promotes respect for diverse civilizations.

### CONCLUSION

The systematic periodization and classification of historical-architectural objects are crucial for:

Scientific Research – Enabling organized, comparative, and interdisciplinary study of the built environment.

Cultural Heritage Preservation – Assisting in planning conservation projects, ensuring authenticity, and maintaining architectural integrity.

Educational and Cultural Promotion – Enriching public understanding through museums, educational content, and tourism initiatives.

In sum, a scientifically grounded approach to categorizing historical and architectural heritage ensures not only the preservation of cultural memory but also the responsible transmission of this legacy to future generations. The theoretical and practical models discussed in this study may serve as foundational tools for future academic, institutional, and governmental efforts in cultural heritage management.

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