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MAIN STAGES OF THE HISTORY OF UZBEKISTAN, THE SPIRITUAL AND ENLIGHTENING SIGNIFICANCE OF MUSEUMS AND THEIR PLACE IN ARCHITECTURE

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Abstract: This article examines the main stages of the historical development of Uzbekistan, as well as the role of museums in preserving historical heritage, promoting national values, forming patriotic feelings in the younger generation, and in the spiritual and educational development of society. The functioning of modern museums based on innovative technologies, the possibilities of digitizing historical exhibits and presenting them to the general public are also analyzed. It is argued that museums are not only spiritual and educational institutions, but also important objects that embody the achievements of modern national architecture and serve the development of society.

Keywords: historical heritage, cultural heritage, exhibit, museology, center of Islamic civilization, tangible heritage, modern architecture,

Introduction: In one of his Addresses to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan, our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the role of museums, stating that "a special program will be implemented to further familiarize our historical and cultural treasures with our youth and foreign tourists, and to adapt museums to the requirements of the times." Based on this noble goal, it can be said that museums are not just buildings where historical objects are stored, but also a place of spirituality that transmits the spirit of the nation, the heritage of ancestors, and the identity of the people from generation to generation for centuries. Uzbekistan, as a state founded on the basis of a thousand-year civilization, deeply feels the responsibility to understand its history and pass it on to future generations. Through museums, we can demonstrate to the world today how rich the ancient history of our Motherland is in the achievements of material culture, how high the knowledge and thinking, worldview, art, skills, and talents of our ancestors are.

Consistent reforms are being implemented at the state level to support the activities of museums in our country, comprehensively develop their marketing policy and service sector, effectively apply innovative technologies to museums, as well as create new modern expositions on the history of the Uzbek people and statehood, the First and Second Renaissance periods, and the life and work of great scientists.

The history of Uzbekistan has a long and rich development path. From ancient states to the Timurid era, khanates, consolidation and independence, the processes have created a solid foundation for the country's current development (Table 1). Table 1.

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THE MAIN STAGES OF UZBEKISTAN'S HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

	Stage	Time Period	Key Characteristics
1	Primitive Society	About 1.5 million years ago – 4th millennium BC	The emergence of the earliest human communities, settled life, agriculture and animal husbandry, appearance of tools and weapons.
2	Ancient Period	4th millennium BC – 4th century AD	Formation and development of the ancient states of Khorezm, Sogd, Bactria, Kangju and Kushan.
3	Early Middle Ages	5th–9th centuries	The Turkic Khaganate, local states and the influence of the Arab Caliphate.
4	Developed Middle Ages	9th–13th centuries	The Samanids, Karakhanids, Gaznavids and the Khwarazmshahs state; growth of science, culture and arts.
5	Timurid Period	14th–15th centuries	The Timurid Empire and dynasty, political stability, development of science and culture.
6	Khanates Period	16th–19th centuries	The khanates of Bukhara, Khiva and Kokand.
7	Colonial Period	Second half of the 19th century – 1917	Conquest of the region by the Russian Empire and colonial policy.
8	Soviet Period	1917–1991	Uzbekistan as part of the Soviet Union, industrialization and social changes.
9	Period of Independence	From 1991 to the present	Formation of the independent state of Uzbekistan, economic and social reforms.

Analysis and results: The role of museums in the field of architecture, their importance in the urban planning system, their reflection of national architectural traditions and their integration with modern architectural solutions were also considered. As a result of the study, it was substantiated that museums are not only a place that preserves cultural heritage, but also an important object that serves the spiritual development of society and the development of architecture. It proves that museum work in Uzbekistan is not just a place to store artifacts, but a living historical and cultural system in constant motion, reflecting the decay of eras. The main goals and tasks of museums have expanded radically over time (Table 2). If earlier exhibits were displayed only in a specific building, then a systematic collection was created, and today new innovative museums are being built, relying on world experience and international cooperation.



Table 2. Historical development of the museum sector in Uzbekistan

The development of the museum industry has not been smooth, but has gone through three sharply different periods. Founded in 2017 at the initiative of the President of the Republic of

Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and opened its doors on March 17, 2026 after more than eight years of extensive construction work, it is included in the list of the most beautiful museums in the world and is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the “largest museum of Islamic civilization” (Figure 2).

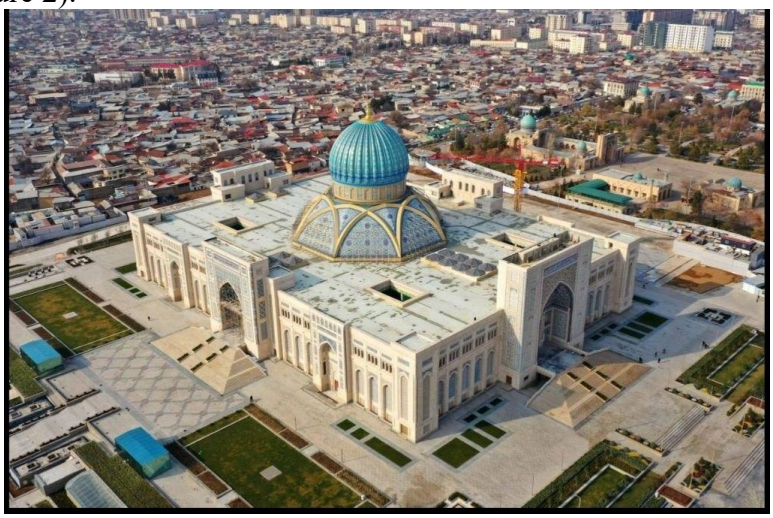


Figure 2. Center of Islamic Civilization in Tashkent

The new exposition of the State Museum of the History of Uzbekistan is aimed at demonstrating the development of historical and cultural processes in Uzbekistan from the most ancient times to the present through material evidence and visual aids (Figure 3).

THE FIRST AND LARGEST MUSEUMS IN UZBEKISTAN

MUSEUM NAME	ESTABLISHMENT YEAR	LOCATION	DETAILED DESCRIPTION
 Termez Archaeological Museum	1925	Termez city	This is the oldest museum in the city of Termez, established in 1925. This museum preserves invaluable artifacts of ancient Surkhandarya culture.
 State Museum of History of Uzbekistan	1876	Tashkent city	This is the largest and most famous museum in Tashkent. Established in 1876, this museum preserves and displays cultural heritage from various periods of Uzbekistan's history.
 Samarkand Afrosiab Museum	1970	Site of the ancient city of Afrosiab	Located at the site of the ancient city of Afrosiab, this museum is continuously enriched with Uzbekistan's oldest cultural heritage.

Figure 3. Early and large museums in Uzbekistan

This table reflects the comparative characteristics of the three largest and most important museums that have played a special role in the history of Uzbekistan. Museums are located not only in the capital, but also in the most important historical and cultural centers and archaeological centers of our country (Samarkand, Tashkent, Termez). This indicates that our country has a unique rich past.

Conclusion: Today, only a people who know their history can build their future correctly. Museums are a treasure trove of spiritual wealth that is passed down to future generations. Therefore, every citizen, every young person must honor their past, their museums, love them and preserve them for future generations. After all, preserving our history is not only respect for the past, but also the greatest responsibility for the future.

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