He Feng

**"The Historical Memory of the Burana Minaret. The Silk Road, the Image of Islam, Architectural Development, Restoration"**

in the field of

750300 - Restoration and Reconstruction of Architectural Heritage.

**ABSTRACT**

1. **Affiliation**: The research was conducted at the Department of Restoration and Reconstruction of Architectural Heritage, Institute of Architecture and Design, Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov.

2. **Approval**: The topic of the doctoral (PhD) dissertation and the scientific supervisor were approved at the meeting of the Academic Council of KGUSTA named after N. Isanov, Protocol No. 10, dated June 3, 2022.

3. **Scientific Advisors**:

Doctor of Architecture, Professor Jumamedel Jumabaevich Imankulov (Kyrgyz Republic);

PhD, Professor Wang Wenhao (China).

4. **Relevance of the Research Topic:**

The Burana Minaret is one of the oldest architectural monuments in Central Asia and a symbol of the Chui Valley. Its study is essential for understanding the historical development of Islamic architecture, the formation of regional historical memory, and the development of effective measures for preserving World Heritage sites in accordance with international standards. The minaret also serves as a significant cultural tourism attraction and contributes to the sustainable development of the region.

5. **Research Objective:**

To conduct a historical-architectural and theoretical analysis of the formation of the historical memory of the Burana Minaret, identifying its memorial, symbolic, and restoration aspects.

6. **Research Tasks**:

Study the history of the minaret and the urban environment of Balasagun;

Analyze the stages of scientific and design work;

Identify the memorial qualities and factors of the monument’s preservation;

Examine the influence of Islam on Kyrgyz architecture and the minaret’s role in the Silk Road structure.

7. **Scientific Novelty:**

First systematic interpretation of the minaret’s historical memory as an architectural symbol.

Clarification of the stages of scientific study and restoration.

Identification of memorial value factors and current conservation challenges.

Proposal of a restoration concept considering the minaret’s symbolic function.

8. **Practical Significance**:

Applied in restoration project documentation for the minaret and the Balasagun settlement.

Used in World Heritage management, patriotic education, and the promotion of Islamic architecture and tourism.

Provides a theoretical basis for heritage conservation practices.

Findings contribute to patriotic education and heritage popularization.

Research materials support tourism infrastructure and cultural-educational center projects, aiding regional sustainable development.

9. **Key Defended Theses:**

Development of knowledge about the Burana Minaret;

Stages of the minaret’s restoration;

Architectural image of the minaret as a symbol of Islamic architecture in Kyrgyzstan;

Influence of Islam on Kyrgyz architecture;

Modern approaches to World Heritage preservation;

The Chui Valley in the Silk Road context.

10. **Research Validation:**

The author presented key findings at national, regional, and international conferences, including:

\*5th International Scientific-Technical Conference of Students, Master’s Students, and Young Scientists\* (Ust-Kamenogorsk, 2019);

\*9th All-Russian Online Conference with International Participation\* (Kemerovo, 2020);

International Correspondence Scientific-Practical Conference (Barnaul, 2020);

1st Eurasian Symposium on Architecture, Urbanism, and Design (Bishkek, 2023);

Seminar "Design and Heritage" (Bishkek, 2024).

Research results have been published in international scientific journals.

11. **Structure and Volume of the Dissertation**:

The work consists of an introduction, three chapters with conclusions, a final summary, a bibliography, and appendices. Total volume: 118 pages, including archival materials, measurements, and photographic documentation.

12. **Keywords:**

Burana Minaret, historical memory, Islamic architecture, restoration, systematic-structural analysis, Silk Road, architectural heritage, Chui Valley.