

Ilkhanid & Timurid Architecture

Sadaf Yahyai



Shadi Mahmoodi



OUTLINE

Ilkhanids

- Masjid Jami Yazd
- Masjid Jami Kerman
- Arg-e Alishah
- Torbat-e Sheykh e Jam
- Masjid Jami Varamin

Timurid

- Gowharshad
- Bibi Khanoom





IL-KHANIDS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The mongol invasions begun by the ferocious Chengis khan in 1218
→ with blind destructiveness ruined the lands the conquered
- But by mid century- tamed and instructed by persian culture, by Islam and even Buddhism- hulagu khan (1217-65), grandson of Chengiz, chief of the west, began to think of building.



Parallelizing the destruction

A large, ornate mosque with two tall minarets and a facade of arched panels. The building is light-colored with blue and green accents. The minarets are tall and slender, with decorative elements. The facade features a series of arches and panels, creating a sense of verticality and depth. The sky is clear and blue.

- An increased scale became apparent:
 - Domes were of immense size
 - Towers very high
 - Facades were energized by groups of tall, narrow pointed arched panels, revival of parallel salients and recessed that alleviated mass of the early ziguurats and temples, now artfully composed in groups of three.
- A marked intensification of the old Persian verticality



MASJID JAMI YAZD

- **Founded in the twelfth century**
 - The current structure dates to several building phases
- **The plan consists of:**
 - **A courtyard**
 - lined with a single story arcade on three sides
 - **A single iwan on the southern façade**
 - leads to an expansive domed sanctuary
 - Large rectangular winter prayer halls flank the sanctuary and iwan
 - **A soaring entrance portal is situated within the eastern arcade.**

14th & 15th Century Construction

14th Century:

- The southern iwan and dome chamber
 - flanking halls
- The recently restored entrance portal with minarets and entrance vestibule

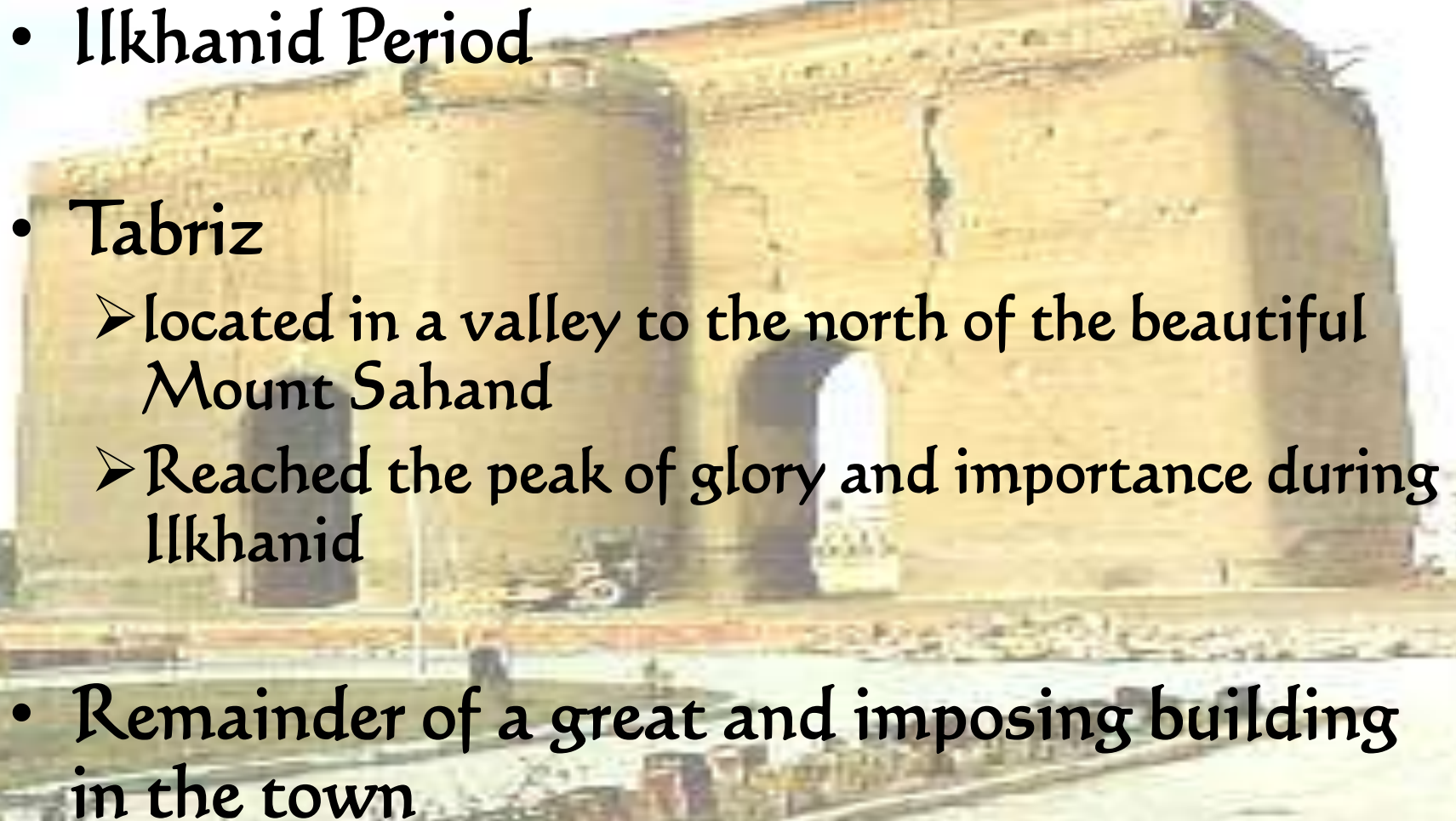
15th Century:

- A plan incorporating domed sanctuary with single or multiple closed winter halls





ARG-E ALISHAH

- Ilkhanid Period
 - Tabriz
 - located in a valley to the north of the beautiful Mount Sahand
 - Reached the peak of glory and importance during Ilkhanid
 - Remainder of a great and imposing building in the town
- 

ARCHITECTURE

- A huge and crumbling brick citadel
- Built in the early 14th century on the site of a massive mosque
- Inside the Citadel there is nothing except two arches and an indication of the position of the mihrab
- Court has been covered with ignoble buildings
- The sanctuary walls have been rebuilt and propped up

Torbat-e Sheykh Jam



- Located in the Khorasan
- Commemorates Sheikh Ahmad-i Jami
 - Sufi theologian and poet who spent most of his life in the small town Torbat-i Jam
- The shrine that gradually developed around the Sheikh's grave was the main pilgrimage destination in the eastern Iran
- 10 structures on the site that were built in 8 different phases beginning in the early 13th century



The Early Complex

- It was built in 1236 by a descendent of Seljuk Sultan Sanjar*
- oriented with qibla along the northeast-southwest axis*
- A single gateway facing northeast gives access to the shrine courtyard*
- The core of the complex is the grand Dome Chamber located to the southwest of the Sheikh's uncovered grave*

The Shrine

- Dome Chamber
- The Grand Iwan
- Saracha Khanqah and Fariwandi Madrasa
- The Old Mosque (Masjid-i Atiq or Atigh)
- Kirmani Mosque and Gunbad-i Safid
- Firuzshah Madrasa and Gunbad-i Sabz
- New Mosque (Masjid-i No)
- Madrasa of Amir Shah Malik

The Dome Chamber

- *From 1236 lies in the heart of the complex.*
- *10 m per side and is crowned with a star-ribbed dome carried on muqarnas squinches.*
- *The interior walls are animated and covered with painted geometric and floral motifs from the early 14th*
- *Doorways centered on the northeast, southeast and northwest walls*



-

S

SARACHA KHANQAH AND FARIWANDI MADRASA

- Built in the early 14th century to the northwest of the Dome Chamber.
- The patron of the khanqah was Shihab al-din Ismail
- The madrasa was built by vizier Khwaja 'Ala al-Din Muhammad Fariwandi (d. 1337-8).

The Old Mosque

- Built between 1320 and 1333 to the southeast of the Dome Chamber
- Largely destroyed by the early twentieth century.
- Its plan, as reconstructed by Golombek
 - A rectangle measuring nineteen by twenty-five and half meters
 - 5 aisles wide and 2.5 half rows deep.
 - A tall, cross-shaped volume flanked by double-story open arcades.
 - A tall dome on squinches marked the intersection of the nave and transept.
 - Carved stucco inscriptions framing the nave arcades and floral stucco carvings and painted arabesques in the arch soffits.
 - Traces of tile mosaics were found in the mihrab area.

Kand

- They were built during the Seljuq and are examples of Seljuq architecture.
- Kirmani is a square-shaped plan.
- Its 17 m diameter is supported by four columns.
- A doorway is on the north side of the Kirmani.
- Gunbad is a square plan that rests on the four columns.
- Gunbad is a square plan that rests on the four columns.



Muhammad
an.
with a cross-
east axis.
highways
in the
that rests
the Saracha

Gunbad-i Sabz

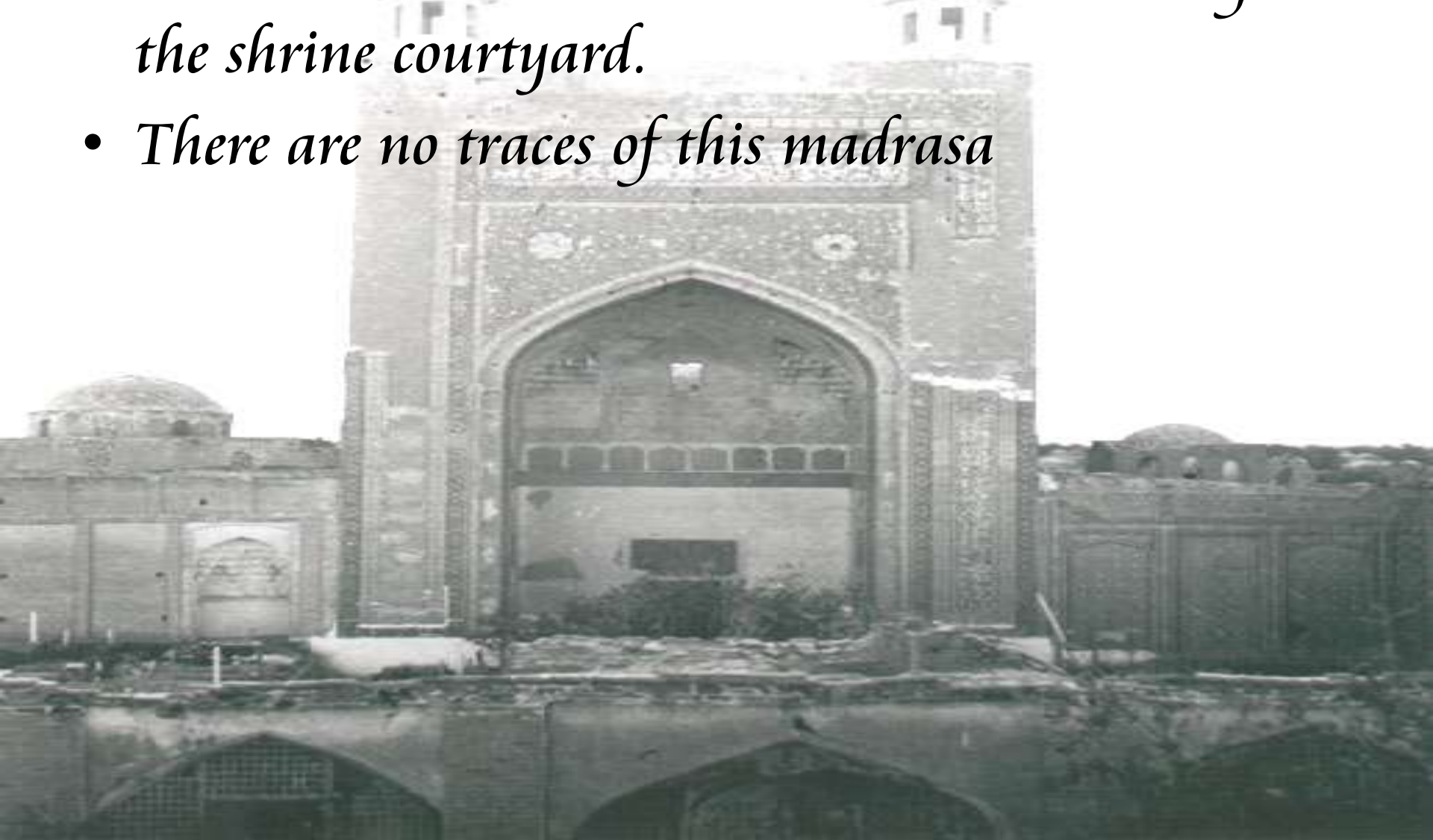
- *Firuzshah Madrasa and its mosque → Gunbad-i Sabz were built in 1440-41 by Timurid Amir Jalal al-din Firuzshah (d. 1444-5).*
- *Golombek suggests that ensemble measured 15 by 19 m with a central courtyard and was entered from the vestibule to the northeast of the mosque.*
- *The mosque and vestibule flank the northwest side of the shrine courtyard*
- *The portal leads into the vestibule, a rectangular room with a simple mihrab.*
- *the mosque is a cross-shaped chamber with four deep niches.*

NEW MOSQUE (MASJID-I NO)

- Timurid Amir Jalal al-din Firuzshah built the New Mosque in 1442-43
- Its rectangular courtyard was originally flanked by arcades on all sides
- The single-bay northeast arcade contains:
 - a door into the Dome Chamber and leads into the qibla row of the Old Mosque at one end.
- The prayer hall is located to the southeast of the courtyard.
- A tall portal centered on the courtyard facade opens into the sanctuary
- The sanctuary has eight doors leading into the flanking halls.

Madrasa of Amir Shah Malik

- *Timurid Amir Shah Malik to the southeast of the shrine courtyard.*
- *There are no traces of this madrasa*



MASJID JAMI OF VARAMIN

- Construction was ordered in 1322
- it is the oldest extant mosque with an ideal four-iwan plan.
- Inscriptions on the southern iwan cite the Timurid Shah Rukh
- the arcaded courtyard is small in scale.
- The western side is a recent reconstruction.
- The iwan of the east and north façades
- The southern iwan rises higher than the others and is larger in area.
- A richly decorated entry portal leading into the northern iwan lies on axis with the sanctuary iwan.

Dome of Masjid Jami Varamin

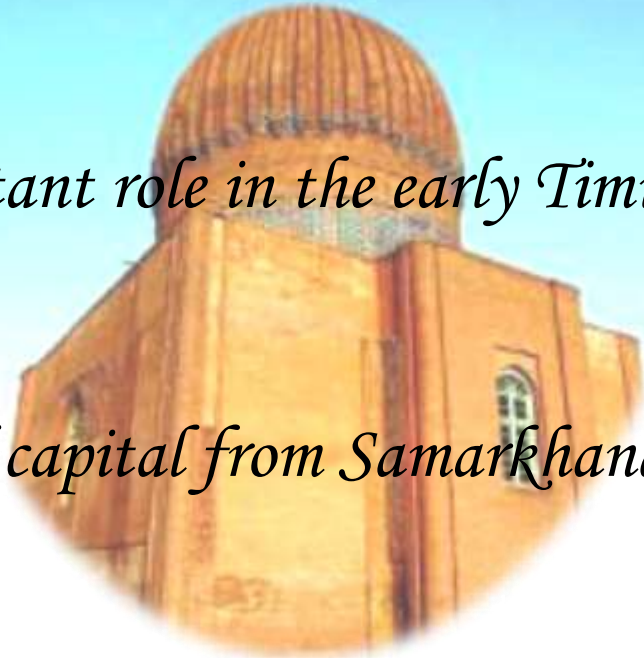
- The mosque is noted for the elegant proportions of the dome, and the proportions between dome and portal screen.
 - The dome rises high above the mass of the building
 - Supported on a sixteen-side zone that rests on an octagonal zone that in turn rests on the square sanctuary chamber

Decorations

- **Extensive application of plaster and faience.**
 - **Plaster treatments include elaborate and varied brick bonding patterns carved stucco floral and geometrical patterns and inscriptions.**
 - **The mihrab, was never completed.**
 - **The tile mosaic is largely in patterns of light and dark blue glazed brick with buff unglazed terracotta.**

GOWHARSHAD

- *Goharshād (Persian: گوهرشاد Gowharšād; meaning "joyful jewel" or "shining jewel" in Persian)*
- *A Persian noble and wife of Shah Rokh, the emperor of the Timurid Dynasty of Herat*
- *Goharshād played a very important role in the early Timurid history.*
- *In 1405 she moved the Timurid capital from Samarkhand to Herat.*



GOWHARSHAD

- *Under her patronage, the Persian language and culture were elevated to a main element of the Timurid dynasty.*
- *led a cultural renaissance*
- *Many exquisite examples of Timurid architecture remain in Herat today.*

THE MOSQUE OF GOWHARSHAD

- It was built by the orders of Gowharshad in 1418 CE and by the architect *Ghavameddin Shirazi*.
 - ❖ with the architectural and decorative manpower supplied from Shiraz and Isfahan.
- The Gowharshad Mosque, situated in the southern part of the holy shrine

The Entrance and Minarets

- The entrance porch is a continuation of the “one way set inside another” style.
- The minarets stretch upward from the surface of their marble base platform.
- The entire surface of these minarets are decorated with fine mosaic and glazed tiles
 - ultramarine
 - turquoise
 - white
 - clear green
 - saffron yellow
 - light yellow
 - ebony



Dome and Inscription

- The dome can be seen from distance of one thousand feet.
- The main ivan
 - A solid white structure while the other three ivans are decorated with an inscription in series of turquoise Kufic script.
- The convex part of the dome's shell is decorated with an inscription in Kufic script, shaded with touches of white and bright green and set on a deep red background.
- An inscription on the margin of the ivan portal
- A pulpit of walnut wood



THE BIBI KHANUM MOSQUE

- Named after Timur's favorite wife, Saray Mulk Khanum.
- Built with loot that Timur had brought back from India
 - used 95 Indian elephants to haul construction materials from the quarries
 - it was begun in 1398-1399
- The basic structure was rectangular in shape, measuring 109 by 167 meters.
- It featured four units
 - A large entrance portal
 - the main sanctuary
 - and two smaller side mosques.
- These four units were linked by hypostyle arcades

The Minaret and Ivan

- The *Shahnameh* (Dinall) is located at the four corners end of the facade toward the heavens, proclaim "will tell about us!" which reaches to the four
- The ivan
 - 19 m tall
 - supported by large pylons
 - ❖ flanked by two decagonal minarets
- Development of the Il Khanid twin-minaret portal



THE BIBI KHANUM MOSQUE



DECORATION OF THE MOSQUE

•The decoration on the mosque is rich and varied including

- ❖ kufic designs and girikhs in hazarbaaf
- ❖ mosaic faience
- ❖ tiles inset in brick and stone
- ❖ incised marble and terracotta
- ❖ haft rangi tilework.

• A band of inscription separates the upper and lower sections of the ivan wall of the main sanctuary.

•The ivan was framed with a light blue tile spiral molding.

All three domes were originally finished in light blue tile on top of a zone of muqarnas.

• The domes were covered in inscriptions in hazarbaaf technique, the smaller ones in naskhi, the larger one in kufic.

