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TRADITIONAL HOUSING OF AFGHANISTAN

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Abstract: In this paper we have tried to highlight the effects of rapid development in cities of Afghanistan with a focus on Kabul, Herat, Balkh and Ghazni the process we have highlighted some aspects of traditional housings of Afghanistan and how the Government policies and geographical and climatic conditions have influenced this traditional housing. A comparative reflection on various aspects of the aforementioned cities has also been presented.

Key Term:

Introduction

About Afghanistan [7]

Afghanistan 652 230 km area. Location 65 ° - East and 33 ° North.

Top Point of Afghanistan Noshank 7485 M.

Population of Afghanistan [7] in 2017 about 31,108,077 Persons:

From North with Tajikistan 1206 km. Uzbekistan 137 Km and Turkmenistan 744 K. From West Iran 936 Km. from North and South with Pakistan 2430 Km. and from North. East with China 76 Km. Afghanistan is divided into 34 provinces.

Administrative divisions of the year (1773) after its Capital, Kabul was once Timor Shah began.

Area of Kabul is 4523, 85 Km.

Historically and geographically, [7] South-West and Central Asia have always been a knot in which in all epochs were crossed the largest on the Asian mainland artistic cultures and architectural ideas. The origins of this tradition must, apparently, be sought in the depths of the early landed foci of civilization, i.e. in the Neolithic Age Turkey, Northern Mesopotamia, Iran and Heritages in Afghanistan southern Central Asia). Therefore, we believe that the South-West, and hence

Fig 1-Heritages in Afghanistan

Central Asia, including (New Stone Age) of the Near and Middle East, the region included in the South-West Asian center of civilization (the river valleys of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Southern Afghanistan, is among the foci of ancient cultures, associated with the long-established sedentariness of isolated tribal groups. [8]

The dwelling of the peoples of Afghanistan, [8] located at the junction of the largest cultures and systems of economy and having passed



the long path of historical development, was formed under the influence of natural and geographical, economic and economic conditions, social relations, the development of forms of family life, various traditions and customs.

The area of Afghanistan [7,8] is 655 thousand square meters. km, four-fifths of the country's territory is occupied by mountains: Hindu Kush, Paropamiz, Hazarajat, Suleiman Mountains. In the south-west and west are desert plains. The climate of Afghanistan is continental, dry. On the plains hot summer and short warm winter; in the mountains, for the most part, a short, moderately warm or cool summer and a severe snowy winter [7,8]

Regions within Afghanistan:

[As mentioned in Wikipedia] [Afghanistan](#) is made up of 34 [provinces](#) (*wilāyat*). The **provinces of Afghanistan** are the primary [administrative divisions](#). Each province encompasses a number of [districts](#) or usually over 1,000 villages.

Provincial governments are led by a [governor](#) who is appointed by the [President of Afghanistan](#). Each province is represented in the [government of Afghanistan](#) by two members in the [House of Elders](#) [4] One is elected by the provincial council to a four-year term while the second is elected by the district councils to a three-year term. Representation in the [House of the People](#) is directly from the districts, although in each province, two or more of the representatives must be women. They are appointed by the [President of Afghanistan](#) [Wikipedia]

[Wikipedia] Provincial governors have played a critical role in the reconstruction of the Afghan state following the creation of the new government under [Hamid Karzai](#). According to international security scholar, Dipali Mukhopadhyay, many of the provincial governors are former [warlords](#) who have been incorporated into the political system

[Source Wikipedia]



Figure 2 Afghanistan political map-provinces named

[Source Wikipedia]



Provinces of Afghanistan

Province	Map #	ISO 3166-2:AF ^[4]	Centers	Population (2015) ^[5]	Area (km ²)	# Districts	U.N. Region
Badakhshan	30	AF-BDS	Fayzabad	950,953	44,059	29	North East Afghanistan
Badghis	4	AF-BDG	Qala i Naw	495,958	20,591	7	West Afghanistan
Baghlan	19	AF-BGL	Puli Khumri	910,784	21,118	16	North East Afghanistan
Balkh	13	AF-BAL	Mazar-i-Sharif	1,325,659	17,249	15	North West Afghanistan
Bamyan	15	AF-BAM	Bamyan	747,218	14,175	7	Central Afghanistan
Daykundi	10	AF-DAY	Nili	924,339	18,088	8	South West Afghanistan
Farah	2	AF-FRA	Farah	507,405	48,471	11	West Afghanistan
Faryab	5	AF-FYB	Maymana	998,147	20,293	14	North West Afghanistan
Ghazni	16	AF-GHA	Ghazni	1,228,831	22,915	19	South East Afghanistan
Ghor	6	AF-GHO	Chaghcharan	790,296	36,479	10	West Afghanistan
Helmand	7	AF-HEL	Lashkargah	924,711	58,584	13	South West Afghanistan
Herat	1	AF-HER	Herat	1,890,202	54,778	15	West Afghanistan
Jowzjan	8	AF-JOW	Sheberghan	540,255	11,798	9	North West Afghanistan
Kabul	22	AF-KAB	Kabul	4,372,977	4,462	18	Central Afghanistan
Kandahar	12	AF-KAN	Kandahar	1,226,593	54,022	16	South East Afghanistan
Kapisa	29	AF-KAP	Mahmud-i-Raqi	441,010	1,842	7	Central Afghanistan
Khost	26	AF-KHO	Khost	574,582	4,152	13	South East Afghanistan
Kunar	34	AF-KNR	Asadabad	450,652	4,942	15	North East Afghanistan
Kunduz	18	AF-KDZ	Kunduz	1,010,037	8,040	7	North East Afghanistan
Laghman	32	AF-LAG	Mihtarlam	445,588	3,843	5	East Afghanistan
Logar	23	AF-LOG	Pul-i-Alam	392,045	3,880	7	Central Afghanistan
Wardak	21	AF-WAR	Maidan Shar	596,287	9,934	9	Central Afghanistan
Nangarhar	33	AF-NAN	Jalalabad	1,517,388	7,727	23	East Afghanistan
Nimruz	3	AF-NIM	Zaranj	164,978	41,005	5	South West Afghanistan
Nuristan	31	AF-NUR	Parun	147,967	9,225	7	North East Afghanistan
Paktia	24	AF-PIA	Gardez	551,987	6,432	11	South East Afghanistan
Paktika	25	AF-PIA	Sharana	434,742	19,482	15	South East Afghanistan
Panjshir	28	AF-PAN	Bazarak	153,487	3,610	5	North East Afghanistan
Parwan	20	AF-PAR	Charikar	664,502	5,974	9	Central Afghanistan
Samangan	14	AF-SAM	Samangan	387,928	11,262	5	North West Afghanistan
Sar-e Pol	9	AF-SAR	Sar-e Pol	559,577	16,360	7	North West Afghanistan
Takhar	27	AF-TAK	Taloqan	983,336	12,333	16	North East Afghanistan
Urozgan	11	AF-URU	Tarinkot	386,818	12,696	6	Central Afghanistan
Zabul	17	AF-ZAB	Qalat	304,126	17,343	9	South East Afghanistan

Table 1: Different Regions of Afghanistan

Types of Traditional Housing: [7,8]

Of particular interest is the consideration of objects of mass construction of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. - works of Afghan folk architecture. Their aesthetic qualities - clarity and expressiveness of structures and forms, scale and proportionality - attract the attention of many modern researchers, since these qualities bring people's architecture closer to the present, despite the differences in styles, the scale of town planning, construction materials, the difference in the natural and climatic conditions of Afghanistan, historical traditions in the building culture and architecture led to local artistic and construction features, especially visible in the people [6]

In this respect, the villages and dwellings in Hazarajat [7] are very interesting. So, the villages are usually located on a mountain slope, on the border with the cultivated lands of the valley. Above the village lie pastures, below are the fields; the village itself does not occupy a span suitable for cultivating the land [9]

The village has the form of a quadrangle surrounded by a massive adobe [7] wall with towers at each of the four corners. Houses built from clay mixed with chopped straw adjoin the inner surface of the wall, leaving a large courtyard in the middle of the village. In other cases, the building is simply constructed wall to wall in the shadow of a high tower. This type of settlement is quite common in some areas of Afghanistan. It arose as a result of continuous feudal feuds, the periodic migration of cattle breeding tribes, to protect against raids by armed tribes of nomads, robbed villages and stole cattle, from blood feuds, etc., until recently played a great role in the life of the people of Afghanistan [9]. Hazaras still bear great damage when passing the Afghan tribes to the northern pastures. When the summer heat burns out the remains of grass vegetation in the desert areas of southern Afghanistan, the population of entire regions in search of

fodder for their herds is removed from the place and migrates from south to north, passing many hundreds of kilometers; while the Hazara fields often suffer from a strain [8]

Western Hazaras live in large groups, for 200-300 families. Their largest settlement is the fortress and the village of Kalai-Nau, consisting of several hundred clay structures surrounded by gardens [7,8]

The nomadic dwelling of the broad masses of Hazaras is Chappari, a transitional form from a conical hut to a yurt. 16-20 wooden stakes are being driven into the ground in a circle. To the upper ends they are tied as many wooden poles whose opposite ends are tied; they form a conical roof. This skeleton is surrounded by a reed mat and covered with nightmares. The poor peasants have old, ragged, splintering, so it is necessary to tie all the chappari with ropes. The poorest Hazaras live in semi-dugouts and various huts of the most diverse material [7,8]

The wealthy Hazaras retained the ancient Mongolian yurt of the 13th century. khanai hyrga, a rather complex device. The wooden skeleton of this yurt consists, as in the other yurts, from the latticed vertical wall on which the hooks of the hook rest, crowned by a round top, into which the upper ends of the poles are inserted. But, unlike other types of yurts, the wall of the hanai hyrga consists of two rows of gratings, set one on top of another and tightly connected with each other. In this case, the lattices of the lower row are somewhat curved, and the lattices of the upper row are concave. The roofing device is also original [7,8]. The rods of the roof frame in the lower part are arched, and in the upper concavities. Their upper ends are inserted into the wooden rim of the top of the roof of the sari hona, which is not spherical, as in Turkmen and Kazakh yurts, but in a very special, original form. To the rim, whose diameter is only 60-70 cm, i.e. much smaller than the pommel of Turkic yurts, a tapered elevation is attached by leather straps, consisting of two crosswise arranged wooden strips, in the middle bent and forming two loops that come in one another, intercepted somewhat from the top by a thin leather strap, so that a neck resembles a neck [4]

All these features of the wooden skeleton give the yurt a peculiar slender appearance. The yurta is covered with nightmares [6].

Speaking about the fortified dwellings of the Hazaras, it is necessary to point out similar residential structures in Gorno-Badakhshan of Tajikistan [3,5], formed thousands of years ago. So, the fortified manor in Vakhn (Ishkashim district of GBAO) dates back to the 10th-11th centuries. Manor is located on the northern outskirts of the village of Shitkharv, in the valley of the river. Panj, on the edge of a rocky terrace under the protection of a small fortress of the 10th-11th centuries. The rural estate itself is a square-shaped plan with rounded corners with two angular defensive towers (area 310 sq. M.). The walls, as well as the manor houses themselves, are made of stone on clay mortar. The entrance was in the center of the northern wall, along the walls along the perimeter inside the manor, dwelling houses and outbuildings were densely built, forming a courtyard of the irregular configuration of the plan (Figure 5).

The roofing of the buildings was flat on wooden beams. Inside the living quarters there are sufa, in one of its corners a hearth of stones is arranged. In general, in a rural manor-fortress lived a close family of more than 60 people [2].

A curious object of housing construction of the late Middle Ages is the fortress in the village of Roshhorv (Darvaz district, It was explored in architectural terms by the Uzbek architect [4]

D.A. Nazilov in the mid-80s of the XX century, he also carried out its reconstruction [3].

According to the reconstruction, [6,7,8] the fortress with a size of 40x33 m has a square plan, surrounded by fortress walls with four corner towers of rectangular shape. The fortress is completely occupied by one-storeyed dense residential areas. Individual merging arrays, inhabited by a single genus, are separated from the neighboring by narrow rectilinear streets. Before the entrance to the fortress (eastern side) a small area of 12x8 m is arranged. In addition to the main entrance to the fortress there is a separate entrance from the opposite, western side.

All housing arrays consist of a large patriarchal premise - a chid with a light-and-light device (a beam of the Chorchon type), premises for cattle and storage cells.

Fig. 3. Terraced house in Afghanistan



Similar: Residential structures in Gorno-Badakhshan All these features of the wooden skeleton 18-21 century

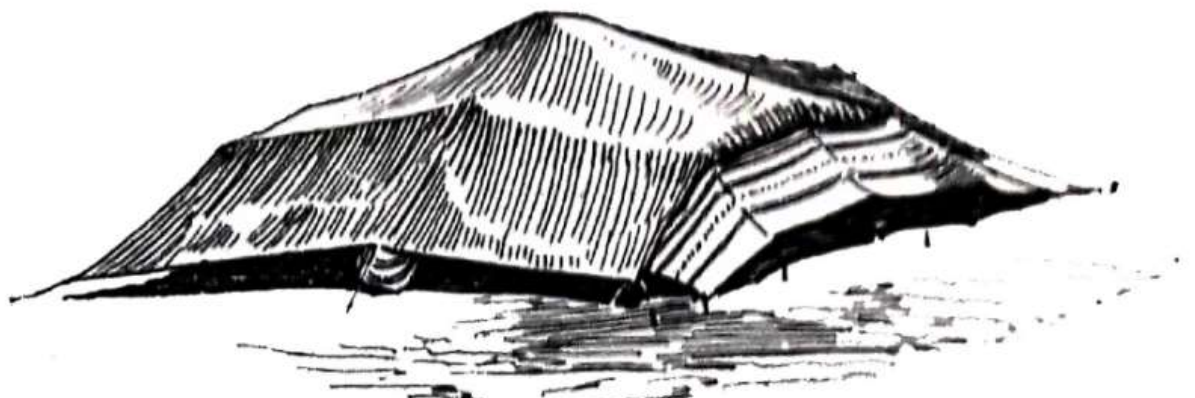


Fig. 4. The People's Home in Central Afghanistan (Khaima)

First Floor Plan

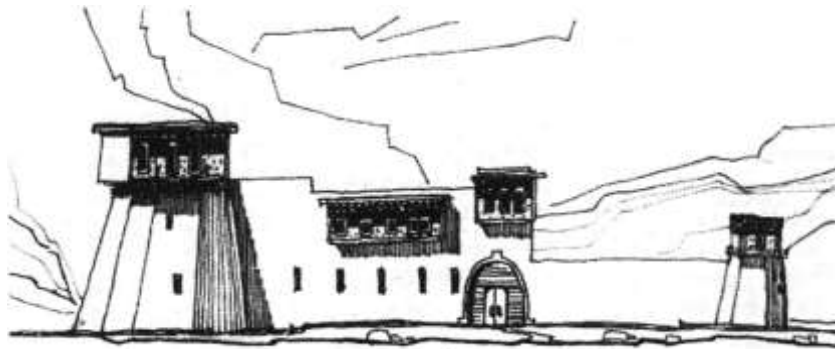
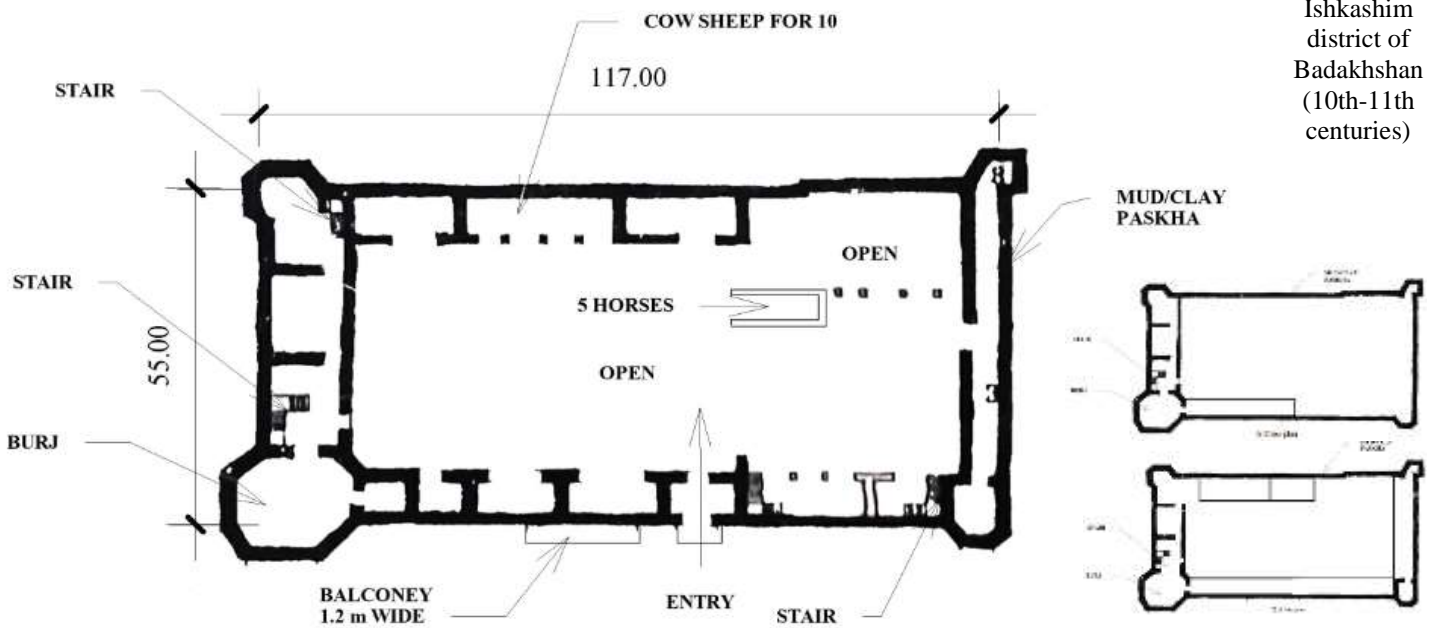


Fig. 5. Residential house-country estate of Afghanistan For 80 Residents

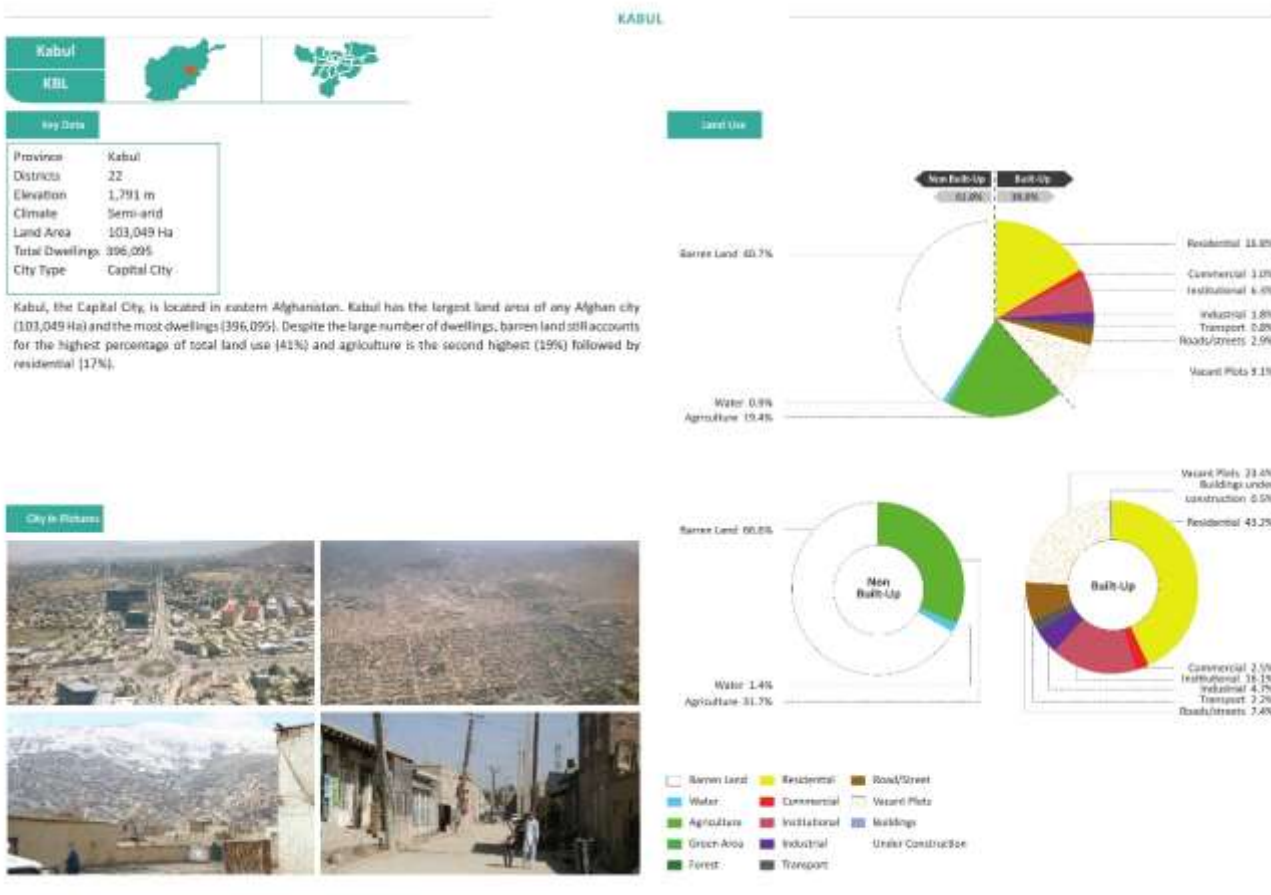
Similar:
Ishkashim
district of
Badakhshan
(10th-11th
centuries)



Description and Analysis of Traditional Housing:

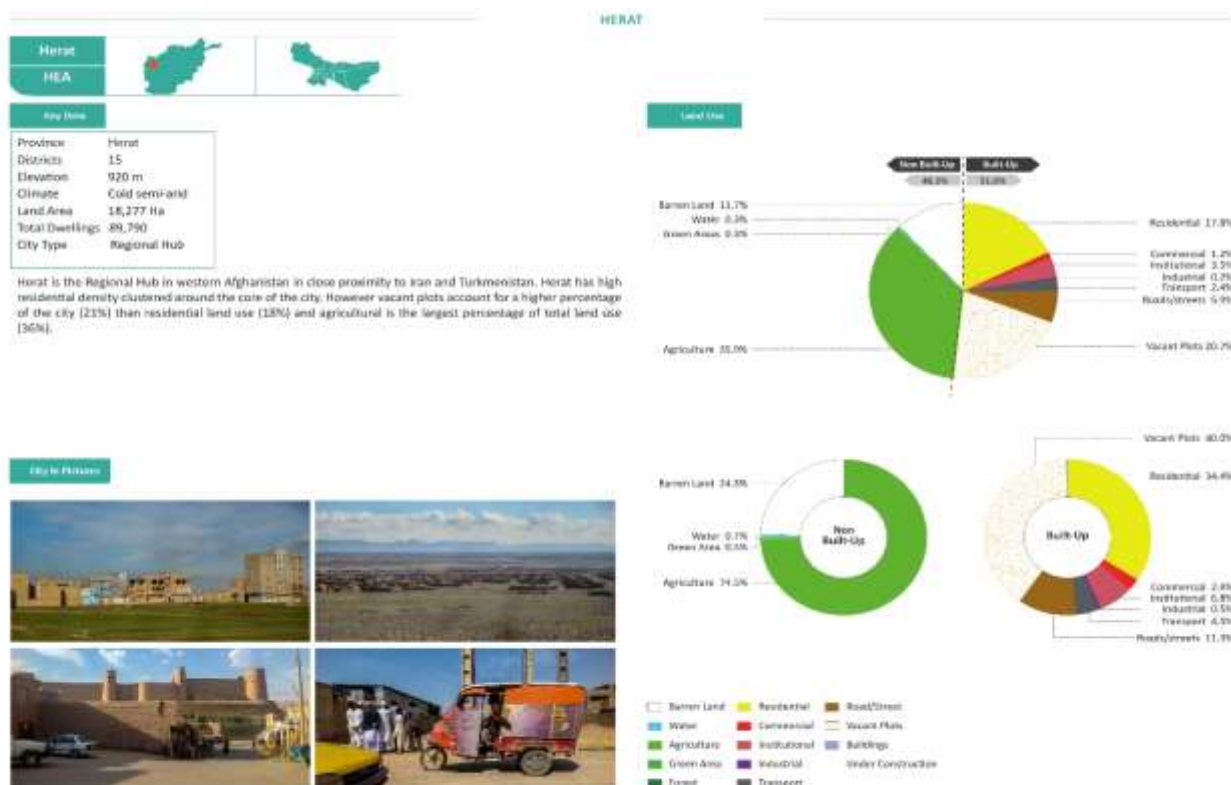
Kabul: [8] The natural and climatic conditions of Afghanistan, in its plains and foothill areas, have resulted in traditional flat beamed wood covers. The subsequent evolution of the architecture of the dwelling of the plains and foothills of Afghanistan was associated with the spread of spherical forms of coatings.

The genesis of the use of spherical structures comes from the yurta - the dwellings of ancient, mainly Turkic-Mongolian nomadic peoples, inhabiting the vast territory of the Great Steppes from Eastern Europe to East Asia and repeatedly invading the land of Afghanistan. The use of dome and vaulted coverings in a dwelling instead of the girder structures that were used here began, in all probability, in the Kushan era, when the influence of nomadic peoples on the formation of a new culture was particularly great [7,8]



State of Afghan City Kabul UN-Habitat

Herat: According to [UNESCO], In addition to the construction of significant monuments in and around the city through the ages, the residential quarters of Herat were developed in a manner that responds to the specific climatic and social needs of the inhabitants. A complex network of alleys leads to fine houses built around open courtyards, or small gardens, or to the many mosques, synagogues, schools, public baths, or reservoirs that dot the urban fabric. While such a fabric is characteristic of the large urban centres in the region, it has been lost in most other cases. There is a risk that the pace of inappropriate “development” will result in the destruction of the surviving residential quarters of the old city, unless controls are introduced.



State of Afghan City Herat UN-Habitat

Mazar-i-Sharif

Province: Balkh
 Districts: 18
 Elevation: 457 m
 Climate: Cold steppe
 Land Area: 8,304 Ha
 Total Dwellings: 77,615
 City Type: Regional Hub

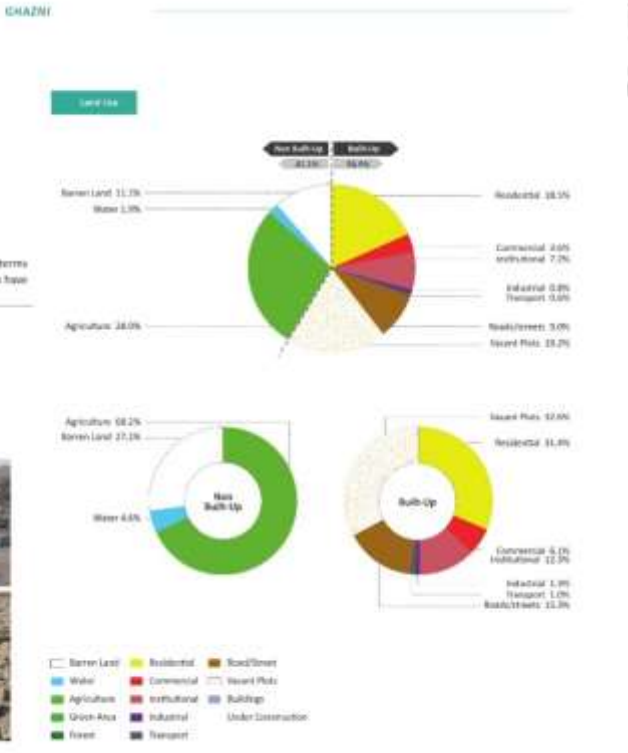
Mazar-i-Sharif is the Regional Hub located in the northern region in close proximity to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Mazar-i-Sharif has the highest percentage of built-up land (91%) of all the provincial capitals, and it has additional built-up area extending beyond the municipal boundary but forming a part of the larger urban area.



Ghazni

Province: Ghazni
 Districts: 4
 Elevation: 2,210 m
 Climate: Cold semi-arid
 Land Area: 3,330 Ha
 Total Dwellings: 15,931
 City Type: Trading and Transit Hub

Ghazni is a Trading and Transit Hub in central Afghanistan. Agriculture is the dominant land use of 28%. In terms of built-up land area, square plots (33%) slightly outweigh residential area (31%). Districts 3 and 4 also have large institutional areas.



BALKH: [1]

(Balkh Provincial Profile: <https://my.nps.edu/documents/...Balkh.pdf/9eb2659a-3d25-4ee1-a2cd-5b346ef5cda5>)

Twenty years of war and long-term under-investment have had a serious impact on urban housing and physical infrastructure in the Province. Large parts of the urban infrastructure in Mazar, especially government and municipal buildings, schools and health facilities were either damaged or completely destroyed. This has led to large uncontrolled settlements [1]. However, though many buildings are still in need of repair, large areas of Mazar have been reconstructed and the beautiful, undamaged “Blue Mosque” in the city centre is a magnet for many visitors. Hospitals, schools, the University and other social infrastructure are functional [1]. In the highly war-affected eastern part of the Province, the almost completely destroyed infrastructure still needs to be rebuilt. Though it is ongoing, the reconstruction work in areas outside the capital progresses only slowly. Productive infrastructure like irrigation canals has largely been repaired, and the new tube wells are being constructed mainly by owners of significant areas of land [1]. The main access roads are in good shape, while secondary roads particularly in the remote areas of the Province have been neglected

Ghazni: [2]

(Bombaci, A. "Ghazni." East and West, Rome, 1957, vol. 8, pp. 247-59)

Ghazni was first mentioned in the seventh century. It began to grow in the tenth and 11th centuries, when it became the capital of the Ghaznavid State and a commercial and cultural center of the Middle East. In the mid-12th century Ghazni was ruined by the Hurrids. The Khwarizmi shahs held the city from 1215 to 1221, when the Mongols captured it. Ghazni subsequently fell into the hands of the Kurts, the Timurids, and in the early 16th century, the Great Moguls. In 1738 it was conquered by Nadir Shah. Since 1747, Ghazni has been part of the Afghan kingdom [2]

Set high on a hill, the citadel rises above the old city with its flat roofed mud and adobe houses. Outside Ghazni there are two memorial towers, which were erected in the 12th century. They are star shaped and decorated with figured brick work and carved terra-cotta. Ghazni is an ancient center of artistic metalwork [2]

State of Afghan City Ghazni UN-Habitat**Conclusion:**

Afghanistan's urbanization has largely been informal. Cities have expanded rapidly over the past decade without effective spatial plans and limited access to formal land and housing. The result has been informal, low-density sprawl; increasing sociospatial inequality; and significant infrastructure deficiencies.

Yet Afghan cities have been a significant source of economic and social development. Urban-based economic activity such as services now account for over 50%.

A change is needed to combat the negative by-products of urbanisation. An improved national policy, legal and regulatory framework is essential, along with increased capacity and authority of municipalities, to avoid another decade of informal 'laissez faire' urban growth, and to harness cities as drivers of economic and social development.

Afghanistan has a relatively geographically balanced urban spatial structure although Kabul dominates with an estimated 41% of the urban population. Kabul and the four regional hubs of Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar and Jalalabad are home to 69% of the urban population (in the 34 provincial capitals).

In addition to these five largest cities, the eight Trading and Transit cities: Lashkar Gah, Kunduz, Taluqan, Pul-i-Khumri, Sheberghan, Zaranj, Maimana, and Ghazni also contain significant populations and are important regional economic and transit centres.

At the smaller end of the spectrum, Provincial Centres and Urban Villages have comparatively smaller populations but still represent more than was previously recognised in many cases.

Interventions should be tailored to the particular typology of cities: Kabul, Regional Hubs, Trading and Transit Hubs, Provincial Hubs, and Urban Villages. A national spatial strategy can help to promote spatially balanced and equitable urban growth in the coming decades, creating a 'system of cities' and reducing pressure on Kabul.

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