

Final Review Report ISVSej_13.01.02_Nurulin
Compiled from Two Reviews

Please use this number to identify the revision.

Title of paper: **Kangju Architecture and Ancient Indian Treatises on Geometry**

General

This paper claims to examine the origins of the so-called cross-shaped buildings of Kangju. However, it has major issues to be resolved to bring coherence and meaningfulness to the paper.

Title: Title is not well composed. Some improvements are needed. Following is suggested: **Kangju Architecture of Uzbekistan: The Influence of Ancient Indian Spatial Concepts on its Geometry**. Alternatively, it can be titled as **"The Influence of Ancient Indian Spatial Concepts on the Geometry of Kangju Architecture of Uzbekistan"**

Justification: This paper examines Kangju Architecture. However, it does not say where Kangju is. A title must offer an indication of where it is. Moreover, what is studied is not just the treatise but the spatial concepts articulated in that treatise. That makes more sense.

Language: Language is reasonably good. However, there are some issues in terms of grammar and the use of phrases. New paragraphs are not introduced at the appropriate locations. Please note that a new paragraph must be created when the idea being discussed changes. When citing authors, only the last name must be mentioned and the year must be cited within a bracket or both must be within brackets separated by a comma. Use the curly brackets like (Oliver, 1998). Numerous language problems exist.

Formatting: This paper has some issues in formatting. Sub titles must be 12 points with the first letter capital. Text must be single line spacing. Tables must be Ariel Narrow font 10 points. Figs must acknowledge the source as 'Source: xxxxx in a separate line at the bottom. Follow the template to the last dot.

Abstract

The abstract is not written well. Kangju architecture and cross shaped buildings are not introduced before it says that it examines them. Statements such as "This circumstance allows us to study" are poor. Be forthright and say things straight in an abstract. At the end of the first paragraph, after introducing the issue of cross shaped buildings, say that it examines Kangju architecture in this context: not before. The second paragraph must present the research methods. Currently, it does not say that it employs case studies and that data is collected by observations and interviews. Instead, it talks of analysis. Literature review is not a research method. Survey of literature is. Do not talk about analysis. Say how data was collected. The third paragraph must present the findings and conclusions. Do not personalize and say 'author concludes.' Use passive voice and say that 'it is concluded.' 'Allow us to conclude,' is a poor phrase. Please note that an abstract must be succinct and say things straight.

Key words: Not well identified. Uzbekistan must be a keyword so that anyone searching for research on Uzbekistan will find this paper.

Paper

1. The introduction:

Introduction is written reasonably well. However, its argument is not coherent. It introduces the issue of the discovery of cross shaped buildings. However, they have been written in the past tense. Please say that they "have been discovered," instead of "were discovered." It presents the issue reasonably well and claims that this author was the first to discover. This is fine. Its goal (must be aim) is written in an awkward place. It then talks about research methods here which is wrong. Please make the statement about the aim only before the objectives. The objectives are mentioned twice. Thus, there is a lack of coherence in the argument. A research paper could not have two sets of objectives.

An introduction must introduce the issue as related to the title, and as claimed in the abstract. It must then say what this research specifically examines, followed by the aims and objectives.

In the introduction, after introducing the issue, briefly say what is examined and what the aims and objectives are. Aims first and the objectives afterwards.

Please note that aims are noble, unmeasurable, long term, almost-impossible-to-fully-achieve expectations while objectives are practical, measurable, short-term, achievable intentions. Objectives must be always listed starting with 'To'. The introduction must end with the aims and objectives.

Make your argument coherently from the title to abstract to introduction leading to research methods and the conclusion.

2. **Theoretical Framework:** This paper currently has no proper theoretical framework for the study, although it examines specific issues, involving specific concepts such as 'vernacular,' 'ancient Indian spatial concepts,' 'geometry,' and 'cross-shaped buildings.' Although the theoretical framework begins by citing "cross-shaped buildings," "mandala-shaped buildings" and "cosmograms," it does not theoretically define any of these. There is just a small discussion about the cosmograms. None of the concepts such as Vastu are theoretically discussed here. This is not proper. It should offer a discussion about these ideas theoretically. The theoretical framework should start with the definitions and must be produced employing the voice of the authors with statements such as 'according to Rapoport (1969),' or 'Lawrence (2000) argues,' instead of the authors making statements and putting references within brackets. The authors of this paper cannot theorize because they are not theoreticians. Please produce a meaningful theoretical framework by referring to the most outstanding theoreticians. Define the terms first and then establish the relationships among them and culture etc. using the views of well-known theoreticians.
3. **Review of Literature:** There is no review of literature in this paper. A review of literature should discuss the major research that has examined this issue previously to show the status of current knowledge, and where the gaps of that knowledge exist. The issue here is "the Influence of ancient Indian spatial concepts on the geometry of Kangju Architecture of Uzbekistan. The review should critically examine previous research that have examined the issue globally first (not Kungju architecture but architecture in general), and refer to research that have examined the same in Uzbekistan afterwards. If none exists, say so, and show what kind of research has examined the cross shaped structures in Uzbekistan.
A review of literature must be produced employing the voice of the authors with statements such as 'according to Oliver (1999), or Rapoport (2000) points out, instead of the authors making statements and putting references within brackets. It should be a 'critical review'.
Please see 'how to write a review of literature' in the ISVS e-journal web site and follow suit. Write in the present tense because it discusses current knowledge. Sum up at the end and show what the status of current knowledge is and where the gaps of that knowledge exist. 12-15 references are needed. Currently, nothing exists.
4. **Research Methodology:** This is not done well. This research employs case study as a method which it mentions casually and very late. Some data gathering techniques are employed within the case studies and some general. Please recognize the differences between 'research methods' and 'methods of analysis.' Geometric analysis is a method of analysis and that cannot be done unless data with regard to the forms and shapes of the structures are gathered in the first place. Please list the data gathering techniques first and explain each in detail as to how it was conducted, when, where and how the recording of data was done. Only one person has been Interviewed: Margarita Filanovich, a local and respected scholar of archaeology in Tashkent. Why only this person. How was she selected. Was it a structured interview: face to face or what: open ended? Give details.

Moreover, review of literature is mentioned as a research method. This is wrong. A review of literature has only one purpose: to establish the status of current knowledge and demonstrate where the gaps of knowledge exist. What this research is referring to is a 'survey of literature,' which is a research method. When describing these methods, be specific and clear: use of the terms such as 'numerous,' is not acceptable. List the documents sourced from each source: Academia edu; personal collection, etc. Currently, there is a lack of clarity.

Data gathering techniques must be listed and each must be explained. Currently there are no details. List them first and explain how each was carried out, with full details of where when and how. They must be explained in such a way that another independent researcher can repeat them and see if they will get the same results. That is the test of science.

As noted, literature review is not a research method. Literature survey is. In this case, produce a table listing all the literature surveyed and which information was collected from which source. Current writing is inadequate and incoherent. It does not provide adequate details of data gathering techniques adopted.

5. **Case studies:** Before the findings, introduce the case studies and identify each building: Please provide a location plan identifying each building surveyed and studied while providing a general description to the case study area. Please confine the introduction to basic information about the case study area and stop. Produce authentic images of the buildings too. The names of the places where the buildings have been studied appear only at the beginning of the conclusion when it refers to: Shashtepa, Mingurik, Setalak 1, Bilovurtepe, Ark-tepe, Tepe 5, Ak-tobe 2, Chol-tobe, Kzyl-Kainar-tobe, Kultobe, and Shahr-i-Qumis. This is wrong. Each of these must be introduced under the case studies. Fig. 1 must be placed under the title: case studies.

Moreover, some of the introduction of what is written under the sub titles "Ancient Indian treatises on geometry and architecture," "Mandala-shaped buildings," "Modules and units of measurement," as well as "Vastu Purusha mandala," must be moved to be part of the 'theoretical framework.' Afterwards please use the same titles with the phrase 'Application of' after a major sub title 'Findings' placed after the research methodology.

For example, the new subtitles must be "Application of Ancient Indian Spatial Concepts on the Geometry of Kungju architecture: Vastu"

6. **Findings:** There is no separate section identified as 'Findings'. This is not proper. Research must have findings. The findings are presented, but without the sub title. Reproduce a short introduction to the issue first and then present the data from all the techniques, including the interview.
7. **Discussion:** There is no section that discusses the findings of this research. This is essential given the fact that these buildings have been studied by others and different interpretations have been offered before. Therefore, this paper should have a section discussing the findings of other research that have examined the same issue if any exist. Such a discussion should show if the findings of this research are similar or different to other research findings. If different, then it should explain why.
8. **Conclusions:** The conclusions are generally written well. However, the conclusions must be listed. Please also revisit the aims and objectives of the paper. The purpose of this study was to ascertain the influence of Ancient Indian Spatial Concepts on the Geometry of Kangju Architecture of Uzbekistan, Therefore the conclusions must relate to these. Please list these aspects separately in relation to "Vastu Vidya, the Shulba Sutra, and the Grihya Sutra, as revealed in this research as related to this particular place and the case studies. Within these, a number of other conclusions can also be made: on orientation, on composition, on cross-shaped structures etc.

Please discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this research after the conclusions.

9. **References:** References are not done well in the text as well as at the end. Please use the bracket (...) and not [...]. Use only the last names followed by a comma followed by the year. Please make sure that all the cited literature are listed there. Cite only the last name. Use commas appropriately. Provide references to findings as to where they come from. In the final list, journals must have page numbers without pp. Please use Harvard system and provide complete references. Refer to the template.

Final Decision: Major Revisions

Summary of the overall observations of the paper:

This is a potentially very valuable paper that could make a significant contribution to knowledge about the Influence of Indian Spatial Concepts on Kungju architecture: It closely examines this in terms of geometry based on observations and interviews with people, buttressed by data from published literature. However, it needs major revisions to bring the argument to be cohesive, supported by clear findings.

ISVS e-journal

Journal of the International Society for the Study of Vernacular Settlements

2025

The abstract needs to be succinct but must have sufficient details to introduce the issue, the research methods and the specific conclusions. It is written poor; introduce the issue, research methods and offer clearer explanations and conclusions.

The introduction needs to be presented articulating the issue succinctly. Present what the research focuses on. It should end with proper focused aims and objectives in keeping with the issue.

Please produce a theoretical framework defining what is 'geometry,' 'vastu shasthra,' 'vastu purusha mandala' as well as other theoretical notions relevant to the issue. Produce a proper review of literature afterwards to establish the status of current knowledge and demonstrate where the gaps of that knowledge exist.

The research methodology requires to be organized well with a list of the techniques employed to gather data and explanations of how each was carried out: Mention the use of case study as a method within which surveys, observations and other techniques are employed. The survey of literature as well as the interviews must be all explained here. Provide details about how the respondent was chosen and how the interview was carried out. Introduce the case studies properly. Provide details.

Have a sub title: Findings. Present the findings to be meaningful and to show the data generated from all the techniques: survey and interviews included. Focus on the issue of geometry, however, the interview data must be cited too.

Discuss the specific conclusions arising from the findings related to the case studies as related to the three essential Indian concepts: In other words, the conclusions must be derived and substantiated by the data and be specific to the case studies. Please note that case study findings cannot be generalized. Revisit the aims and objectives and show how they were achieved. At the end, discuss the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of this research. Re-examine and reproduce the references to be compatible with the ISVS e-journal template.