

Final Review Report: ISVSej_13.05.09_Kalonova, Compiled from Two Reviews

Please use this number to identify the revision.

Title of paper: The Architectural and Cultural Significance of the Courtyard House Museum: A Case Study of the Fayzulla Khodjayev House Museum in Bukhara

General

This paper examines the architectural and cultural significance of the personal memorial museums in Uzbekistan. It specifically looks at the Fayzulla Khodjayev courtyard house museum there. This is a very significant issue in terms of a vernacular phenomenon. The paper is reasonably well written, although more like an essay. Moreover, it has some issues to be resolved to bring coherence and meaningfulness to the paper.

Title: Title is composed reasonably well. However, it needs improvements. Following is suggested: **The Architectural and Cultural Significance of Personal Memorial Museums in Uzbekistan: Insights from the Fayzulla Khodjayev House Museum in Bukhara**

Language: Language is reasonably good. However, there are some issues in terms of grammar and the use of phrases. Pay attention to definite and indefinite articles. Please use academic language and provide references to statements and use citations for all the borrowed ideas. Follow the language standards. Figs must have sources cited. Citations must be before the full stop.

Formatting: This paper has major issues in formatting. It has not been formatted as per the ISVS e-journal template. First of all, copy paste all the text carefully to the ISVS e-journal template available at the site. General text must be Times New Roman 11 points, single line spacing and fully justified. Sub titles must be 12 points. There should be no space between the sub title and the text below. There should also be a space between the Fig Title and the text below. However, there should be no gaps between paragraphs. First lines of all the paragraphs must be indented. Tables and Fig titles must be always Ariel Narrow 10 points. Line spaces must be always single even inside tables. Quotations must be with double quotation marks. Quotations longer than 20 words, if cited, must be indented from both sides with the citation with the page number mentioned below right-justified. Download the template from the website and follow the specifications with attention to details. If you fail to format to perfection, and the paper is accepted, then finer-formatting will be done by the ISVS e-journal editorial office and it will attract an additional fee.

Abstract

The abstract is not written well. An abstract must be succinct and presented in three paragraphs as per the ISVS standards. The first paragraph must introduce the issue. Currently, it straightaway says what is examined without saying what the issue is. In an abstract, do not write about aims or objectives but what is examined. End the first paragraph by saying what the issue is and with a statement about what this research does. The second paragraph must present the research methods. Currently, this part is not separated as a paragraph. The research methods are explained reasonably well, but does not say that it employs case study as a method. It says that it analyses the building's tripartite zoning, material culture, and socio-spatial circulation using architectural analysis but to do so, it must have data. Please explain how data was gathered. "Methodology focuses" is a poor statement. Say what techniques were employed within the case study to gather data for analysis. The third paragraph must present the conclusions particularly with regard to the issue: the architectural and cultural significance of Fayzulla Khodjayev house museum in Bukhara, Uzbekistan.

Key words: Identified very well. However, 'Uzbekistan' is missing. If anyone is looking for research related to house museums in Uzbekistan, using the keywords mentioned, they may not find this paper. That is the purpose of the keywords. Please add Uzbekistan to the keywords.

Paper

1. The introduction:

Introduction is not written well. It introduces the issue of personal museums. However, it does not say that this is a unique socio-cultural practice in Uzbekistan as it appears to be. It is most unlikely that such museums exist everywhere in the world: for example, in Indonesia, Oman or Australia. It presents the ways in which house museums come into being. Then it introduces the Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum, located in the Bukhara Region of Uzbekistan, which can serve as a notable example of a memorial courtyard house museum. Up to this point, it is written well. Then it goes into architectural spatial organisation and zoning of the Museum: the case study. This is not proper. These are findings. Problematicize this museum and say that there is inadequate knowledge and understanding about this building and how it has been transformed into a museum. This is the issue.

After introducing the issue, it should mention the aim and the objectives of this investigation. Define the long-term aim of doing this research and the objectives expected to be achieved here itself. Avoid terms such as 'purpose' and 'focuses.' The aim, it seems is to throw light upon the phenomenon of personal museums: particularly house museums of Uzbekistan. The objectives must be specifically related to the Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum.

There should be one aim and several objectives. An introduction must introduce the issue as related to the title, and as claimed in the abstract, within its context. It must then say what this research specifically examines, followed by the aim and the objectives.

Please note that aims are noble, unmeasurable, long term, 'almost-impossible-to-fully-achieve' expectations while objectives are practical, measurable, short-term, achievable intentions.

As an example, 'to examine' and 'to understand' cannot be objectives. They are not measurable; cannot be fully achieved. The introduction must end with the aim and the objectives. List the objectives starting with 'to' and then STOP. That is how a proper introduction to a research paper is written. Please look at previous ISVS e-journal papers published.

One major issue of the current introduction is that it does not introduce the issue and end with the aim and objectives. The introduction also does not have adequate references. When talking about museums, certain well-known researchers and theoreticians cannot be ignored. Please cite the most significant authors: Currently no one is cited.

2. **Theoretical Framework:** This paper does not have a good theoretical framework established for the study. This is required. It should begin with the definitions of the theoretical ideas such as 'museums', 'personal memories', 'culture' as well as vernacular practices. These terms must be defined first and any theories that deal with their relationships must be articulated. The authors cannot know them. Any idea or a statement borrowed from another source must be cited. However, use proper citing systems and refer to only the last names such as Rapoport (1969) and Oliver (1977) etc. Do not mention full names. At the end, produce a graphically illustrated theoretical model showing the complexity of the relationships of these ideas. That is a framework. Currently, this paper does not have one. A paper that employs theoretical ideas such as memories and museums is not acceptable without a proper theoretical framework.

3. **Review of Literature:** This paper does not also have a review of literature. Generally, a review of literature should discuss the major **research** that has examined the issue to show the status of current knowledge, and where the gaps of that knowledge exist. Most likely, similar issues - personal museums may have been examined by the researchers both in Uzbekistan and also in other contexts. Actually, many such research exist, that examine the phenomena of memorialization and production of personal memories through buildings and structures. This should review the most significant research from around the world including Uzbekistan. It should then review local research related to courtyard house museums and show what kind of research has examined this phenomenon. Conclude this section with a statement about where the gaps of that knowledge exist. Currently, there is nothing. Please note the following.

- A review of literature must be written in either the present tense or the past participle: never use past tense. This is because a review of literature presents 'current knowledge' and not the fact that someone studied. Past participle is OK because then you are reporting. Statements such as "several scholars have examined" are not acceptable without mentioning the names of the authors.
- Do not mention titles of books or papers. Do not also refer to the 'studies.' Use the authors' voices with statements such as according to Rapoport (1969), or as Hamdi (1992) says.

4. **Research Methodology:** This paper has mentioned a number of data gathering techniques in the abstract but the body of the paper does not even have a section sub titled 'research methods.' A research paper cannot be accepted without a 'research methodology.' First and foremost, it employs case study as a method: Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum is a case study. In fact, the original title even says so. It seems that the research is based on the following.

a. **Direct observations**

b. **Survey of published literature (as per the abstract: historical documentary evidence)**

As said, this is also a case study and this means that the main method it employs is a 'case study method.' This must be mentioned, and the data gathering is done within the case study. This means that immediately after presenting the research methods, the case study must be introduced and presented. Currently, it does not do so. Figs 1,2 and 3 must be part of this and not the introduction.

Moreover, as a 'literature survey' is employed as a data gathering technique (providing historical documentary evidence), then a table listing such sources showing which data was gathered from which source must be presented. Currently, it does not show them. Please explain how the historical literature was chosen: make a table of all the sources consulted. Just claiming that historical documents were consulted, as data gathering, is not acceptable. There should be evidence.

5. **Introduction to Case Study:** Currently, the case study is not introduced, although there is a vague reference to the Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum at the end of the introduction. This is inadequate. Present it under the sub title, "Introduction to the Case Study: Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum." Under this section, provide a location plan, a general overview image of the house, and interior plans and locations of any interior elements, which were studied. Please also produce a table with images of each of the rooms studied, identifying the museum objects displayed there with small descriptions to introduce them.
6. **Findings:** Please reproduce a short introduction to the issue examined (remind yourself too) first and then present the data from all the data gathering techniques. This means the following.
- **Observation Data** with regard to the house followed by architectural analysis.
 - **Literature Survey data from Documents.** Currently, there is no information about this technique of gathering data. Please produce a table of all the documents examined and say which information was derived from which document.

Before presenting the analysis, please explain the essential characteristics of the courtyard house and its surroundings. Currently, what is written under "Architectural Spatial Organisation and Zoning," and "Material Culture and Domestic Adaptation," must be presented under 'Findings.' Although the descriptions are reasonably well done, there are no citations to sources of this information. Research methods said historical documentary evidence, but not a single document has been cited. If some information came from the observations, then they should be referred to so too.

7. **Discussion:** Discussion is not done well. Moreover, there are no references to sources. This is not acceptable. The paper is written like an essay as if the authors know all of this by themselves. It claimed that literature was consulted, but there are no references to them. No references to observations too. Please cite evidence from the sources. Introduction to Fayzulla Khodjaev should not happen in the discussion: it should have been done when the cases study was introduced. Statement such as "house museum not only demonstrates the lifestyle of a prominent historical figure" cannot be made. This research did not study the lifestyle of this individual to make this claim. Please treat this as serious research: not as an essay. No casual statements.
8. **Conclusion:** There are reasonably good conclusions. However, begin the conclusions by re-stating what was examined: Architectural and Cultural Significance of the Courtyard House Museum: especially Fayzulla Khodjaev House Museum. Please produce a list of conclusions with regard to this house museum, showing the architectural and cultural significance. Afterwards, say how the objectives were achieved followed by the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of this study.

Acknowledgments, Author contributions, Conflict of Interest, Ethics Statements and Data Availability are not present. Please add them

9. References: References are done reasonably well. However, some issues exist. There are no sufficient in-text citations. Please add them. The second line of the list must be indented as per the ISVS e-journal format. There are no citations to literature: historical records within the text. This is a serious issue.
10. In the end-of-text-citation list, for publishers, place of the publisher is needed before the publisher. Example, London: Routledge. Follow the standards.
Refer to the ISVS e-journal template. Make sure that all the material cited in text are listed here. Currently, many references exist in the final list but they have not been cited. This is a serious problem.

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 personal museums, which is a unique phenomenon in Uzbekistan. It analyses a specific courtyard museum: Fayzulla Khodjayev House Museum in Bukhara. It employs observations, and published historical literature and documents as data gathering techniques. However, it needs major revisions to bring the findings to be cohesive, supported by clear findings.

The abstract is written reasonably well: it needs to introduce the issue and say what is examined only at the end of the first paragraph. Separate the paragraphs. It also talks of objectives which is not proper.

The introduction is presented articulating the issue succinctly beginning with the introduction to the phenomenon of personal museums. Present what the research examines afterwards: this specific house museum posing the questions if any. It should end with the aims and objectives (listed starting with 'To') in keeping with the specific issue of ascertaining the 'architectural and cultural significance' of the Museum.

Please produce a theoretical framework with definitions to the key theoretical ideas central to the issue while establishing their relationships. There is no review of literature. Therefore, a comprehensive review of literature is needed, that reviews similar research globally first and locally afterwards.

The research methodology mentions a number of techniques in the abstract, and the case study is mentioned only in the title. Within the text, data gathering techniques are not mentioned. There is no sub title: research methods. Case study as a method must be mentioned. How the literature survey was done must be explained. List them and provide details about how each one was carried out. Provide details so that another researcher can repeat the same. That is the test of science. Without research methods, this is a poor essay.

Introduce the case study building with details of the location. Identify specific aspects studied.

Present the 'findings' from each of the data gathering techniques mentioned before the analysis of the data. Present the most relevant and meaningful findings to reveal the 'architectural and cultural significance of the Museum.' Focus on the issue and show evidence for the claims.

Produce specific conclusions related to the issue of architectural and cultural significance of the Fayzulla Khodjayev House Museum in Bukhara and then produce a summary. 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.

Please revise accordingly and send back the revised version as soon as possible to be considered for publication in the ISVS e-journal Vol. 13.05