



The Defense System of the Ancient City “Nur” and the Project of Graphic Restoration of the Fortress

Freshta qauomy^{1,*}, Urokov Olimjon Khayitboevich²

¹TSUE "Lecturer of the tourism department, Tashkent State University of Economics, Tashkent city, I.Karimov Street 49, Postcode: 100003 Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan

²Lecturer of the department:“Preservation Cultural heritage objects” Samarkand State Architectural and Construction University Lolazor st.70. Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Emails: freshta.qayoumi@gmail.com; urakovolimjon83@gmail.com

Abstract

The architecture of the ancient cities of Uzbekistan with an average size remains unexplored. However, their historical planning structure, religious monuments, dwellings and defensive structures also had local features and traditions. This study is devoted to identifying the uniqueness of the defensive systems of the ancient city of Nurat. Defensive walls and towers, being the infrastructure of the city, had a direct relationship with the historical structure of the city, with its streets, squares, residential quarters, and also provides information about the historical, economic and social life of the population. By summing up various considerations and the features of the place above, we can say that the first protective structures of the ancient city of light appeared on the eve of the V-IV centuries BC. The defense system of the city of Nur, on the other hand, was extremely powerful, consisting of three parts: the defense wall of the fortress of Nur, the defense walls of Shahristan, the defense walls of Rabot - Pirosta.

Keywords: Pirosta wall; Shahristan wall; Nur castle; Big bear; Little bear; Chimney; Gates; Pirate

1. Introduction

Today it will not be a mistake to say that the gaze of the entire people of Uzbekistan and the peoples of many countries of the world is directed at the city of light. Because this city is witnessing many events in our country and even on a global scale. The presence of various historical, natural archaeological monuments of the most ancient times in Central Asia is the reason for this. Thanks to this, the current era assumes a quick record of this history. This article tried to add new feedback to the information about the protective walls of the castle “Nur”, Shahristan and Pirosta, previously published separately in the press and books, and justify the fact that there is an inextricable connection between them by bringing them into a holistic system, noting when the defense system of the castle “Nur” was built.

2. Main part

The reason why we start with the words attributed to nurota is that his words refer to the antiquity of the city of course. Considering the opinion of Abu Bakr Narshahi, is the location of Nur probably equal to the 28th-30th century? At this address" ...Life existed..."If that's what it stands to be a place that is densely populated and developed in every way in its time. This means that the surrounding neighboring regions were constantly looking at their rulers and calling them. What is known from history is that in the 7th - 8th centuries BC, the "Saks" who lived in the Zarafshan Valley and its surroundings close to the water, together with the "baktrs" who lived in the

Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya valleys, fought against the Medean state. They fought on the side of the Assyrians in the medic-Assyrian war. There is no doubt that the ancient ser population, the inhabitants of the prosperous Nur Valley, participated in this struggle. The rulers of the later centralized Iranian Achaemenid state (6th-5th centuries BC) were, for example, Darius I, Darius II, Caixusrave, and others had invaded Central Asia and partially made these lands dependent on them. In the same period, the Sogdians, who were considered descendants of the Saxons, United. The fight against them escalated with the help of local popular uprisings. At this point, remember the legendary Tumaris against Kaikhusrav. By the way, to the west of the oasis of Nur there is still a cornice "Tumar". Maybe Tumaris lived here? Taking into account the flowers, the location of the Nur can be said to have gained its place and position in the Sogdian state from the very beginning of its formation. Below we will consider this issue as much as possible.

1. Geographical and historical place. The city of "Nur" is located almost in the heart of Central Asia. It is surrounded to the North and west by the dry and scorching Qizilqum desert, and to the South by mountains and valleys with temperate climates. Nurota was built exactly in the desert and mountain range. Massagetes lived in the vast steppes and sacs in the valleys. The massagetes were nomadic and engaged in cattle raising. Part of the sak tribes in the mountains and valleys were engaged in agriculture and part in handicrafts. The rings on both geographical grounds also continued their hunting activities during this period. Rock images with a history of 7-10 thousand years in many parts of the Nur mountains confirm this. Later, representatives of both regions gathered at the border, that is, at the destination on the banks of the Nur wellspring, to begin to bear their products. So it was at this place that the first, but not the first, markets in Central Asia began to form. This was the basis for the ever-expanding and development of the old Nur settlement.

2. Strategic role. Over the course of the periods, in Central Asia (about the 7th-4th centuries), Khwarezmian, Sogdian, Bactrian states were formed in the Northeast and East, prosperous valleys, which caused dexkanery and crafts to grow greatly around rivers. That is why there were attacks on these fertile areas from the outside. In particular, the Achaemenids have been coming to the lands of Central Asia for almost 300 years (7th-5th centuries BC) in succession with invasions. The desert and the mountain city of Nur were also not spared from these attacks. Tired of these battles, the people of light were undoubtedly looking for ways to protect their land. The fact that the city of Nur was an important strategically important location in a commercial center, on roads running north to south, west to east, forced it to look for a defensive measure. Residents of other addresses around the area interested in protection have also helped with this. It seems to us that the castle of Nur may have originated as an early structure. Over the lands of the Achaemenids, weakened in the 4th century BC, was invaded by Alexander The Great and also reached the place of Nur of important strategic importance. This is evidenced by the presence of the village of Alexander The Great, 3 kilometers from the city of Nur, as well as the presence of Alexander the Great. Even "Alexander has a horn!" there is a legend that the well where the cane grew and the shrine of Alexander, which the flute made a sound, is located in the same village. In the subsequent invasions of Central Asia or the raids of ordinary nomads, both the GUI-Shu-An (Kushan) and the Turkish campaigns, and the Arab campaigns, and the Saljuqis, both Korahani and Karahitoylis, Genghis Khan's soldiers and Ashtarkhani's campaigns passed through this place of Nur. From this it can be seen that the city of Nur acted as a crossroads or gateway between West and East, North and South. So any army occupying the "Nur" was supposedly considered to have found the "key" of a strategically important gate. Therefore, the inhabitants of Nur have long taken protective measures. Our studies showed that the city of Nurota was made up of three parts, namely Castle-titadel, Shahrستان and Rabot. Each of them is surrounded by a wall, namely the wall of the Castle Nur, The Wall of Shakhristan, the wall of Pirosta.

The town of Nurota is located on a slope in the northern and western part of the mountain system. Nowadays, the ancient defensive wall of the city is preserved only in the way of the letter "L" on its southeast side. The south-west part of the Nur castle wall has four large semicircular defensive towers. This wall allowed the city to defend against the enemy coming from the mountain from the North. The eastern wall allowed the escarpment to keep an eye on the plain adjacent to the steppe. This wall was raised towards the top. This part of the defensive wall is terminated by a large tower in The Shape of a plan straight rectangle, which is located on the high summit of the mountain. The foundation of this wall has been preserved in some places at a height of 3-4 meters. This part of the wall is visible from far away due to its location above the mountain. This wall, with its beautiful solutions, its goodness, serves as a dominant in urban composition. Archaeologist B.Urokov also writes that the Castle Of Nur Iskandariya" (so the people called it in the 4th century BC), while with Professor Nielsen (1953), who conducted the excavations, academician Gulomov (1958) said, "The cultural layer under the castle goes back to the years before our era". The archaeologist Rostovtsev, on the other hand, found artifacts of the castle dating back to antiquity to the 1st and 4th centuries. The National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, published in 2003, lists the formation of the fortress as approximately the 5th-6th centuries.

As we observe the walls of the castle of Nur, we notice that their part, which is set on the mountainside, is reinforced by defensive towers. This is evidenced by the completion of the south western part of the city with three towers, the presence of a tower of a large diameter semi-circular structure of the south eastern corner, as well as the arrival and addition of the outer wall to the castle with its towers. Also, the fact that the city center has a defensive wall with seven towers, similar to the letter "L" on the mountaintop, belongs to our opinion above. V.A. Nielsen believed that the castle itself, located on the natural flat area of the mountain (tsitadel), 30 meters above Chashma, also had an independent defensive wall (Nielsen V. A., 1966, p.26.). Special attention is paid to the defense system of tsitadel as well. The reason for this was a natural body of water in the mountain below tsitadel. The same water leaked into the cup and supplied the city with water. Such a situation can be attributed to G. Gulomov also observed in the Ghazgan. In it, water from the pond under the castle flowed into the Chashma too (Gulyamov ya.G., 1979, p.135.). The problem of drinking water for the inhabitants of the city can again arise if both in Nurota and in Ghazgan and tsitadel fall into the hands of the enemy. Therefore, as we said above, tsitadel had its own defensive wall. In addition, a wall 120 meters long and 16 meters wide, with a corridor with a citadel, joined the defensive tower, which was bulged from the wall on the mountaintop. This defensive tower made it possible to observe the long and close roads around it that lead to the fortress. The attack on the central fortress (tsitadel) by the enemy was able to protect not only from the Citadel's own defensive wall, but also from the tower above and its wall adjacent to the tsitadel. It should be noted that the finishing of the mountain-embossed part of the city wall with a defensive tower was not applied in the cities of the plains. Such additional walls were used only in the mountains. This was caused by the structure of the Mountain relief. In particular, several of the defensive towers that were bulged outwards can be seen in Panjikent. The capital of the Fergana Kings, whose defensive towers date from the 7th–8th centuries, is in Koson [Bernshtam A.N., 1952, pp. 233-238] and partially preserved in Akhchob Castle. So, this defense system of the city of Nurota provided an opportunity to guard not only the city, but also the swamps and water bodies. Because the presence of drinking water even in the event of a long siege of the city by the enemy encouraged the townspeople not to weaken the defense. Since the structure of the wall of the fortress of light is unique, it has been explained by various legends. In particular, it is known that the cattlemen and peasants who lived in Central Asia understood that with the place and state of the celestial bodies, earthly phenomena were associated with each other, and they tried to use them in their own lives. They noticed that all objects in the sky revolve around a point (a Polar Star). Constellations have been distinguished. An excitable point is the polar star located at the tip of a small Bear constellation. In the current language of Science, The Polar Star is an excitable point of the axis of the universe. It should be noted that the terms "big and small bear" are characteristic of the Northern Peoples. Because the bear lives mainly in the North. We do not have this type of Star "Haft aka-dodar". ("Seven brothers") it is Persian and Tajik", in Turkic peoples it was called "big and small chimney" in the language. In addition, the Turkic rings say "seven robbers". So it can be said that the Polar Star looks at the constellation "little chimney". Since the constellation "little chimney" with the Polar Star occupies a large place in the life of our ancient rings, there are legends that it turned out that as its earthly appearance, a chimney-like wall was built above the "Castle of Nur". The inhabitants expressed confidence in their belief in celestial bodies and their request for salvation from them until the establishment of Islam, that they would keep the city from various invaders. The structure of the city of Nurota extended north of the central fortress on the mountainside. An opportunity was given to the expansion of the city in this direction by the presence of a flat area up to the mountain. A wall about 500 X 500 meters long, the so-called "Shahristan wall", surrounds the sides of the Shahristan part of the city. The Shahristan (inner city) was entered through only one gate, the "Gate Citadel" or "Gate Nur". But there were also three other small gates around the wall. These are "Gate Rabot" to the East, "Gate Gurgon", "Gate Mir" to the West. The gates of Rabot and Gurgon adjoin the edge of the defensive towers of the wall, in a small part of which it was kept until the end of the last century. On the Shahristan wall, the foundation appears to have been built mainly from raw bricks (40cm x 30cm x 8cm). There were no defensive towers in the corners of this Shahristan wall. In addition, we know from the story that Yakhya Ghulomov brought to this. However, the outer wall corners had defensive towers. The city has expanded, resulting in the rabot part of the city. This part of the city surrounds an area of about 7,000 x 7,000 meters wide. The area from the Shahristan wall to the outer wall was cultivated; gardens were created, as well as cattle grazing. It should be noted that this wall received the name Pirosta wall among the population, that in the 5th-4th centuries BC, the oasis of light served only as a product trading center for its surroundings, while for the 3rd-1st centuries BC, it is no doubt that it also began to serve as a stopping place, a trading center for a merchant market Near the walls of Pirosta, adjacent to the castle of Nur, there were many commercial stalls, a market and caravanserais.

Crafts are well developed in an ancient city called Pashshot near Nur. There, too, a large market was formed. It is proof of this that in this ancient city, the products of such types of crafts as the city of Nur, pottery, handicrafts, marble processing, are still scattered in the Earth's concrete and in the castle. In the pre-and early Middle Ages, the northern branch of the famous "Silk Road" passed through the oasis of Nur. The city of light can be said to be located above the intersection. This, in turn, provided a favorable opportunity for the formation of Nurota.

The most progressive period of the Nur settlement was also the 2nd-3rd centuries BC, or the 1st-3rd centuries AD. The city of Nur can also be called a place where caravans stop, a harbor where a lot of products come. In the markets of this place, the elegant fabrics of China are tea, porcelain, etc. Dried persimmon medicinal plants from India and Iran could be found in Indian fabrics, various items, perfume from the West. Special products: Korakul leather, wool, hookah, pottery, felt, carpet, embroidery are overflowing in the stalls of household items and others. The place of the address in the trade of ancient times was incomparable. For these and other reasons, many walks to Nurota are organized. That is why the Pirosta wall is endowed with several defensive towers. Several defensive towers and garrisons were established in strategically important areas of the Pirosta wall.

In particular, the three corners of the Pirosta wall are marked by a wide semicircular defensive tower. The south-east corner of the outer wall dates back to a castle in a rectangular structure with its own minoras. Interestingly, its south-west corner is terminated by three circular defensive towers. This part of the city was a convenient place for enemy penetration. Because the distance between the towers and the mountainside was much narrower than the corridor in the South East. An enemy from this side may have a Chashma in the first place. The city loses its drinking water after the Chashma falls into the hands of the enemy, and the possibility of being forced to surrender arises. Therefore, special attention is paid to this part of the city's defense. It seems to us that a wall connects the towers with each other. The defenders were able to pass from one tower to the other through a corridor above the wall. The location of the three towers close to each other, i.e. their connection in terms of plan and compositionality, firstly provided convenience to the defensive process, and secondly, panicked the enemy.

South of Pirosta, there were jewelry workshops near the Shahristan wall. Now there is not one of them. The Nurota defense system also includes a complex of underground caves. The fortress of Nur is the main link. It included a watchtower (moat, Spire) and a spike-six tower, built as protective structures, and wall interior walkways connecting them. In a large (33mx25m) structure called The "Ark", the rich and nobles, their families and the "nur" begi " called the Emir) while the soldiers lived mainly in rooms inside defensive towers (Mulas). Because it is easy to stand here and defend against enemies, climbing above the moat and sidewalks. The fortress complex included a warehouse where food was stored, a workshop where weapons were made, and its warehouse, stables, and Bashkir complexes. The water supply for the fort was from the springs in and around the Chashma itself. The fortress vaccine used lahms (underground passage, tunnel) dug towards them. From the fortress of Nur towards Shahristan, 2 underground roads with a width of 1.5 meters and a height of 2 meters were also considered part of the defense link. The main underground road came out over the chashma spring. Underground cave passages were also excavated towards the "Baboumar Sufi" east of the Shahristan wall and the "Qutyrbulaq" west of it, and as a result, water was not a problem at all. When the enemy came from the West, North and East, it first had to pass through a similar wall of Shakhristan after a high and wide wall of Pirosta. Although the south of the fortress was open, steep-sided, rocky slopes formed a complex relief, and it was difficult for the enemy to pass. The fortress of light, which had a large water, food and armor, could withstand an enemy siege for a long time. Due to the fact that the Pirosta wall is ancient, many of its places have been eroded or flattened and disappeared by courtyards that appeared over the next 2-3 centuries, its length is indicated in different sources in scientific archaeological sources, some elder people in the city of Nur in the 60-70s of the last century, it was said that the length of the wall it was said that two chariots could easily pass over this wall. It is also said that the height of such a wall was at least 7-10 meters. Gulomov defines it as 24 km long, saying that this wall was rebuilt in the 6th century and began to be demolished in the 10th century. Nevertheless, the fact that among the people this wall is called The "Wall of Alexandria" is a sign that it existed as early as the 4th century BC. Historian scholar A. Mukhammadzhonov says that the Pirosta wall existed from the 3rd century BC to The X century AD and was 20-21 km long. The archaeologist scholar O.M. Rastovtsev also says the length of this wall is 21 km and gives his drawing. The Pirosta wall was built entirely from clay. This wall was considered the outer part of the defense of the city of Nur. It is into this outer wall that the corys's of the city covered the Lands of Goorabad, Sanglok, Nurabad, Gajokol, Dangalbog, Tarafabad and Nur Chashma, Bobo Umar Soufi, Qotirbulok, as well as agriculture, horticulture. There are different opinions on the origin of the word Pirosta. But the most correct is the Persian "Pur", i.e. "many", "Rasta", i.e. the addition of store words. The later term "pur-rasta", i.e. "multiple rasta", may have changed to "Pirosta". Because there were so many rasta, market and craft workshops around this wall. The Pirosta wall is almost triangular in shape. But some areas have small turns. From this wall there were gates where roads ran out of the city in three directions. It was exited to the east from the "Gate Rabot", to the north through the "Gate Nur" and to the West through the "Gate Shodi". At the northern end of the Pirosta wall there were 2-3 burnt brick chimneys, and at the "Shody gate" with 2-3 limestone humdons at the West End and East, there were limestone cooking areas.

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It should be noted that the occupation of the city of Nurota by Genghis Khan soldiers with such a solid defense system is present in historical sources. Scholars note that Genghis Khan's army marched to Nurota on a route leading directly to Nurota, dating back to the early Middle Ages when it crossed the plain on the northern slope of the Nurota mountains (Raimqulov A.A., 2017, p.131.). They then marched through the Nurota mountains and encountered the Fortress of Zarnuq. This means that they continued to walk through the walkway, which was an Iron shell or a mountain around the redness road. According to historical sources, zarnuklik is said to have started by an unknown route that sent soldiers of a Turkmen Genghis Khan to Nurota. This road later began to be called the "Khan Road" (Bartold V.V., 1963, pp. 475-476.). The soldiers of Genghis Khan from these Dalis entered the interior from the empty space of the outer wall of Nurota, which the people may not have noticed. Part of the nuratoans agrees to resist, but to clarify the matter, they send an emissary to Genghis Khan and let them know that they will not fight. From this, the Nurota people do not suffer, but the Mughals take 600 young men to the insect. Genghis Khan does not harm the city of nur, but the nuratans are limited to paying tribute of 1,500 dinars to the Khwarezmshah Treasury every year. Half of this money is covered by the handover of earrings of women from Nurato. As a result, the Mughals renounce the sacking of Nurota (Buniyatov Z. M., 1986, p.143-144). The Nurotans were persuaded to pay taxes, a truce offered by Genghis Khan's warlords, to save the city from destruction and the population safely. It can be seen that this settlement, in which Nurota had an excellent historical and geographical, strategic and trade relations position, from that distant past was constantly under the gaze of foreign rulers, and they, as far as possible, aroused aggression towards our country. In front of the local people and its captains, "how is it necessary to protect the settlement?" was a cross-border issue.

3. Methods

Thus, by summing up various considerations and the features of the place above, we can say that the first protective structures of the ancient city of light appeared on the eve of the V-IV centuries BC. The defense system of the city of Nur, on the other hand, was extremely powerful, consisting of three parts: the defense wall of the fortress of Nur, the defense walls of Shahrستان, the defense walls of Rabot - Pirosta. This system reliably protected the people of the city of Nur, its strategic importance in Central Asia, foreign trade and artisan, and the peace of the city.

While in the reconstruction process of 2005-2015, the area of "Chashma" was expanded to 2.0 hectares, in accordance with the reconstruction plan of 2017-2018, its surroundings were envisaged to be further expanded, along with landscaping work on a total of 15.0 hectares, recreation areas and umbrellas, Boulevard-alleys, traditional national housing are also planned.

The city of Nurota is famous through the shrine of "Chashma" on the one hand, while it is also known as "the city that drinks water from a spring" on the other. Nurota district was founded in 1926, and the population of this city, which is now the center of the district, is 33 thousand people. Considering that the number of visitors to the world famous "Chashma" shrine increases from year to year, this city is developing not only because of tourism, but also because of the development of cultural-domestic, administrative-social facilities and the construction of entrepreneurial facilities.

The graphic restoration of the fortress of Nur consists not only in popularizing it for a large number of pilgrims and tourists visiting this land, creating an idea of the fortress of Nur, in which from the past to us only the ruins of which were preserved, but also showing how great socio-economic importance Nurota Oasis and Chashma had for the past rulers.

According to researchers, Nurota Castle is considered one of the pre-Islamic antique architectural monuments in Central Asia. The local people associate the monument with the name "Qal'ai Iskandariy" and Alexander the Great. Therefore, perhaps, many legends about Alexander walk in the mouth of the people. Indeed, the Fortress

of Nurota, where the trace of the soldiers of Alexander the Great remains, forms the gilded pages of the history of Movorounnahr.

In the past, a stone road of great military and cultural importance passed through Nurota. It is not far from the truth to call the ancient stone road through Nurota a branch of the Great Silk Road. Caravans stopped in Nurota not only for trade, but also for healing water humming. Through the same route, Genghis Khan's army also advanced towards Nurota. According to tradition, Genghis Khan, taisalized at the sight of the Fortress of Nurota, which climbed the mountaintop from a distance, ordered the city to be attacked at night after hearing of the walls of pirosta surrounding the city [43;p.21].

Nurota castle was built with the aim of owning a head of water above the famous Nurota Chashma, to withstand an enemy siege. The internal constructions of the castle are not well preserved. Four sides are clearly visible from the observation deck, which is the highest tower of the castle. The observation post was 26x26 meters. A thick cotton wall with a 12-meter overhead corridor adjoins the observation post and the Arch. The wall was about 14-16 meters thick [60; 38-b].

The history of the construction of the castle is unique. It is built with 7 towers and connecting ores, respectively, in the constellation of the seven robbers. The tower at the southernmost point and above the mountain was built to match the Polar Star, which is the main tower, where the residence of the Bek of Nurota is located [60;38-b].

4. Discussions

Part of the water of the Nurota Chashma flows under the castle. Local elders say that if the enemy surrounded the fort, those at the fort were never without water. Approximately from the fortress, in the middle of which the soldiers descended with a special staircase and took it out of the water of the chashma flowing under the fortress. The main architectural structures of Nurota Castle were restored in the 4th-7th centuries. In the 8th century, Nurota castle was demolished by the Arabs and restored again under the Somonians. Nurota castle was further fortified in the 17th century, with more observation posts built over the ancient foundation [43;23-b]. The castle is built mainly of raw brick and stone.

Nurota Castle is a thoroughly unexplored historical treasure in most of the ancient monuments of Central Asia, which has not yet fully revealed its secrets. (3.chapter, appendix 38).

Therefore, we tried to graphically restore the medieval architectural appearance of the castle, based on the above data that knocked out the Nurota Castle and the natural study and study of the castle ruins.

5. Results

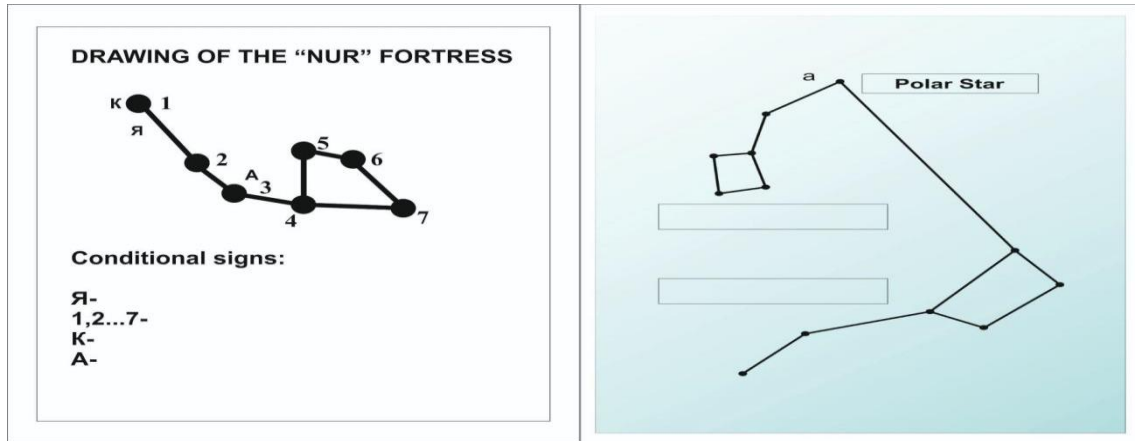
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6. Conclusion

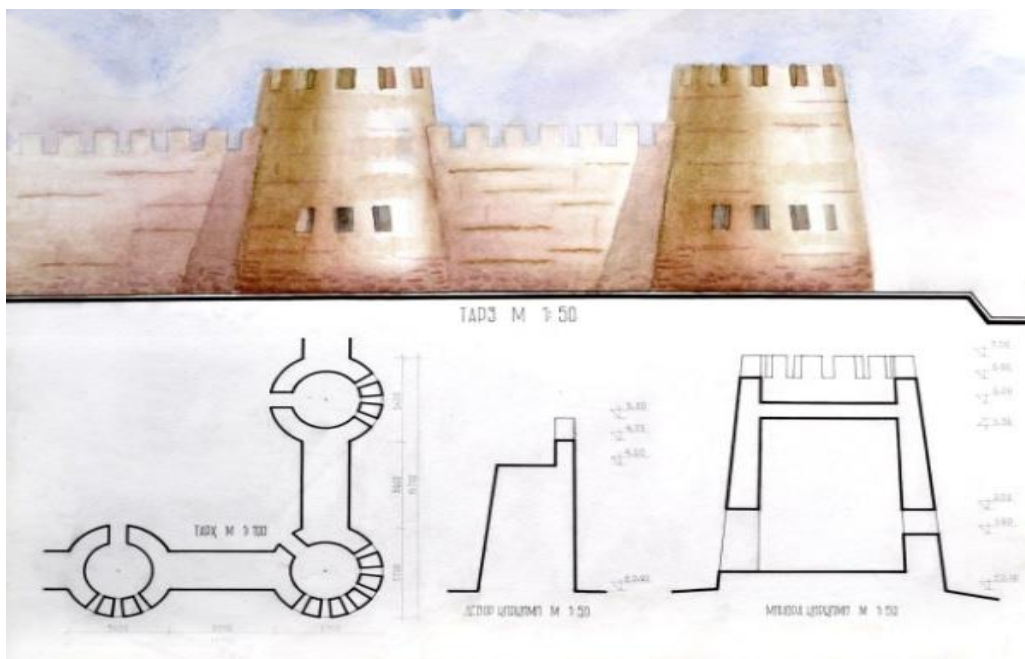
The reason for the occurrence of the city of Nurota was the presence of watercress. Historical accounts testify to the city's presence in antique drums as well. His castle (tsitadel) was built on a mountainside, above Chashma. It had its own defensive wall and Tower. The steppe, ridges around the city were observed, the defense system was designed not only to protect the fortress, but also Chashma. Because for the people of chashma Nurota, the city of Nurota is also surrounded by a defensive wall, the reason is that there were frequent attacks on it by enemies who passed through the roads that connected the "Khan Road" above the Nurota mountain range and the Ettisuv oasis of the early Middle Ages with the Zarafshan Oasis. The width of the walls and towers indicates that they were high in time. The part of the walls and towers preserved on the mountainside gives special beauty to the composition of the city, testifying to its antiquity.

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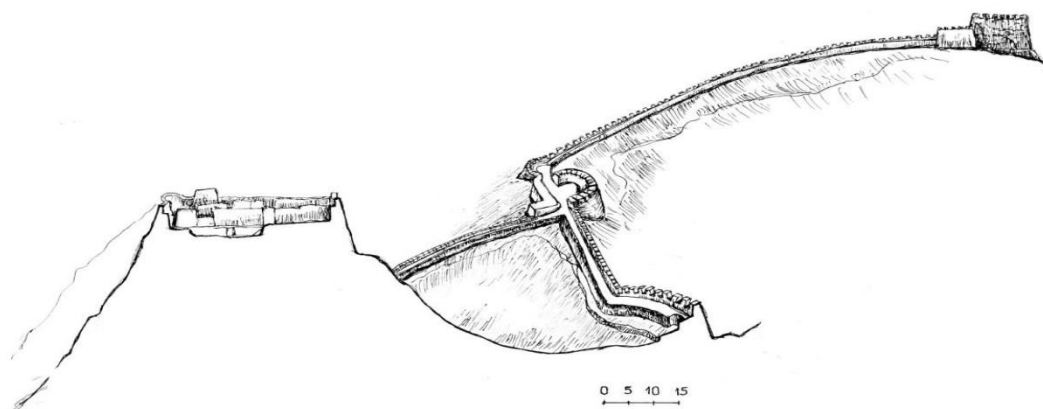
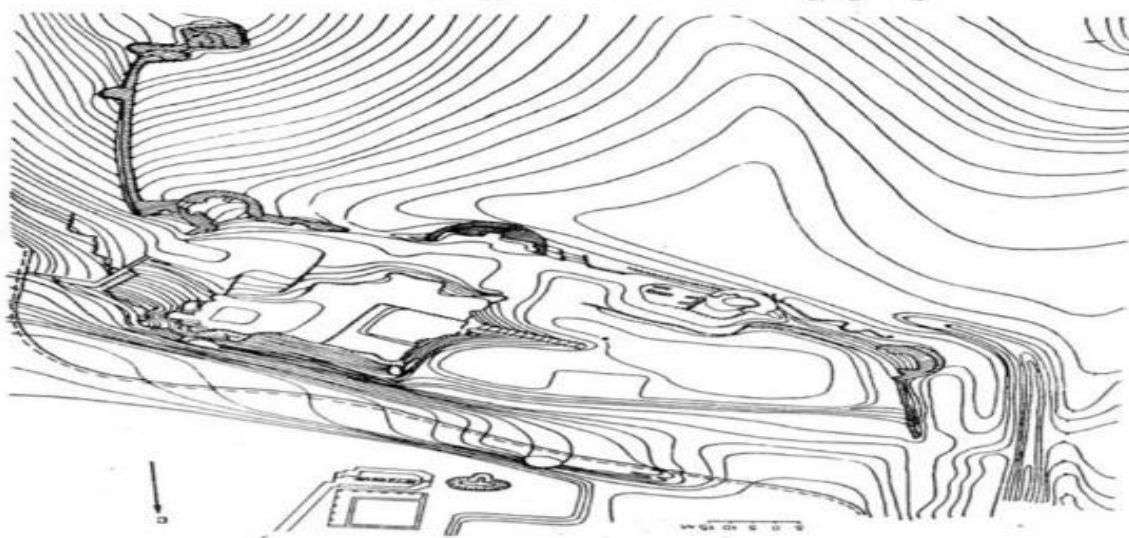
Big and small bear chumich seven brothers, the place in the sky of seven pirate constellations.

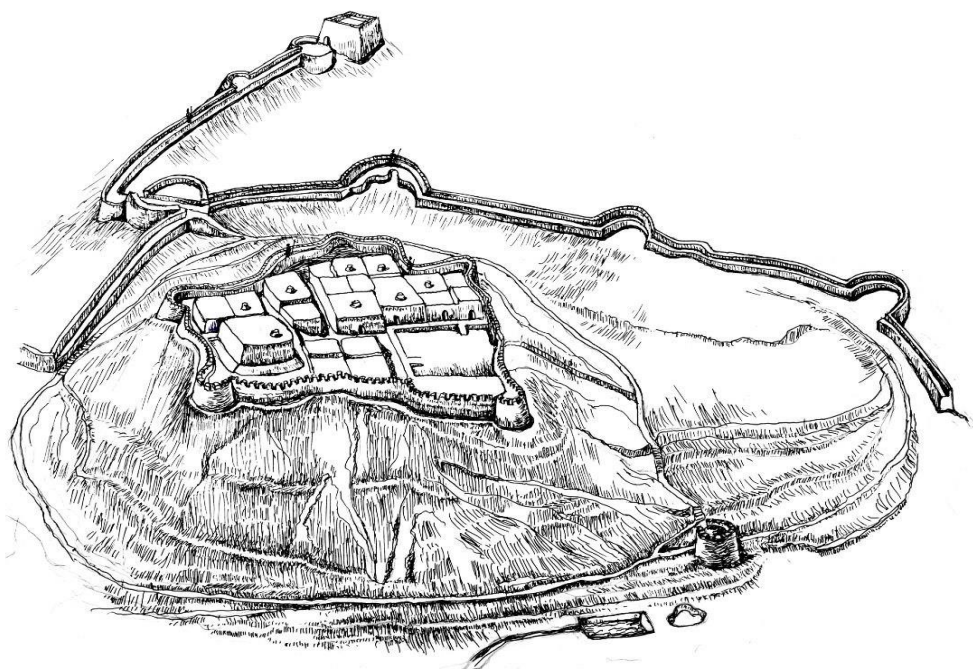


Front view of the wall of the castle of Nur, restored view of the watchtowers and moats



3. Satellite photo shoot of the fortress of Nur





4. Re-graphically restored drawings of the Watchtower of the castle of light and its adjacent wall by architect O. X. Urokov

Restored view of the fortress of Nur by architect O. X. Urokov



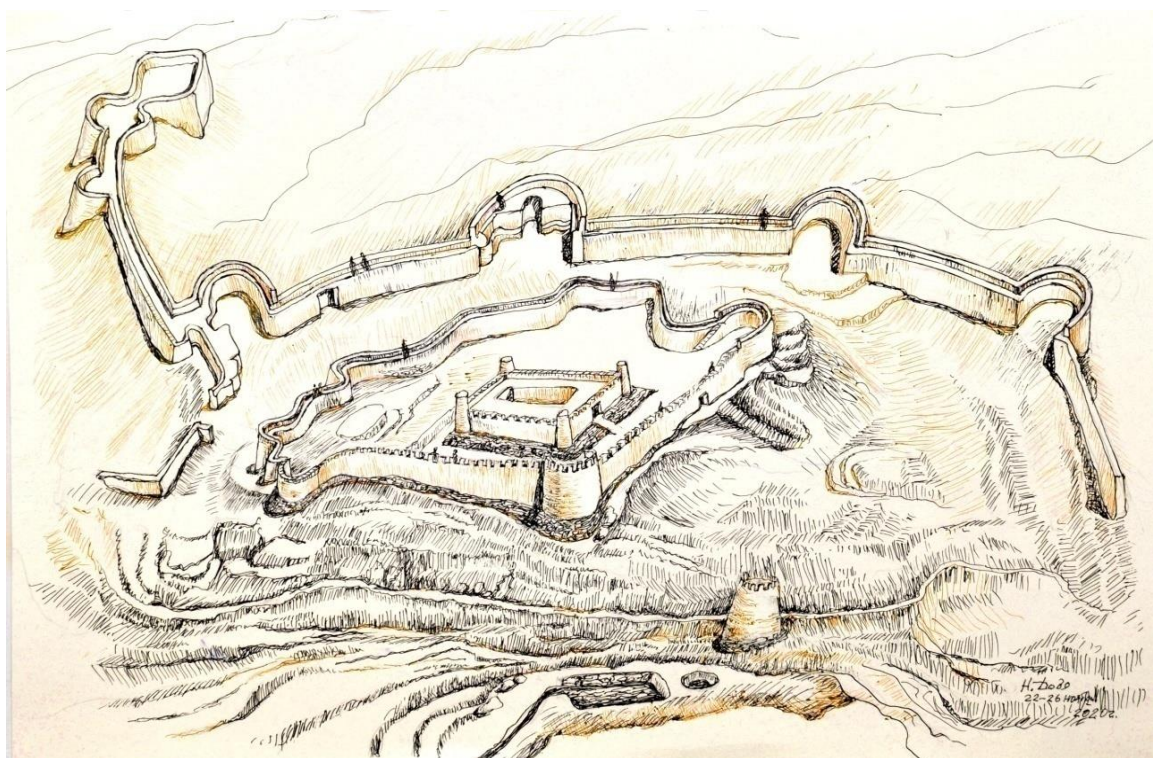
5. View of the tower of Nur watch and the north wall heading from it

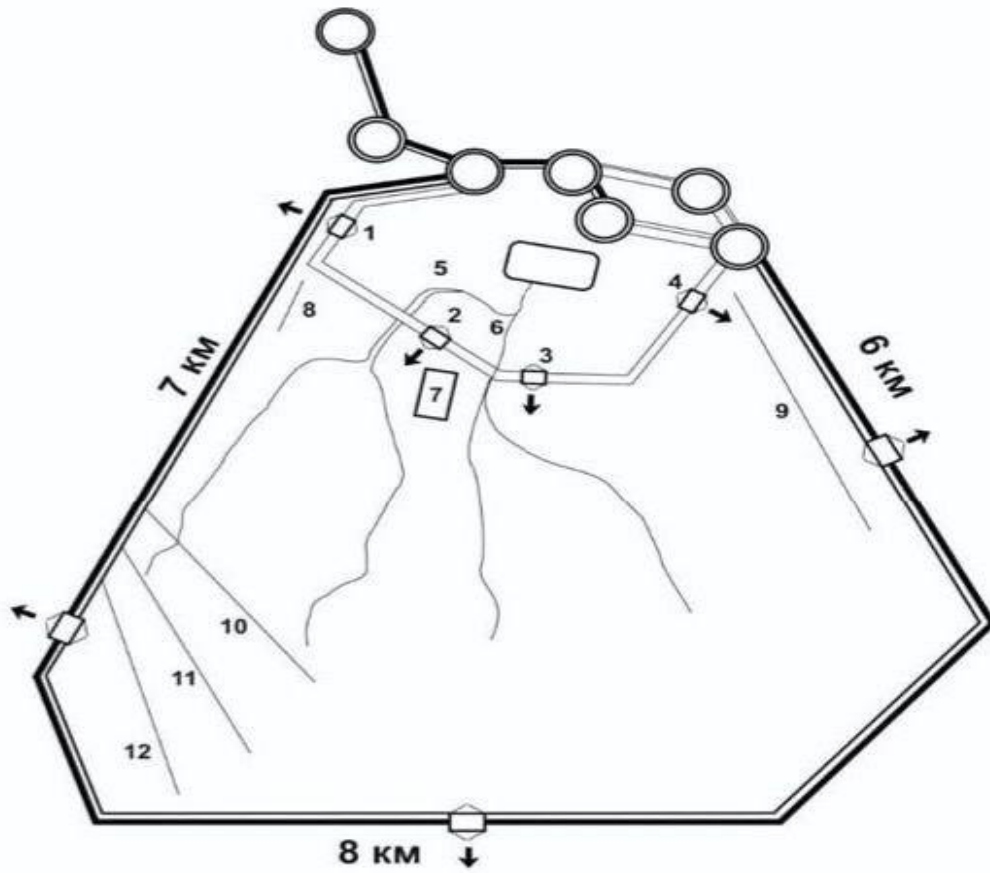


6. General view of the fortress of Nur arch structure, standing by 2 side



7. The confluence of the molaga pirosta and the Shahristan wall to the east of the fortress





8. Approximate drawings of the ancient city of Nur defense system.