



# THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL AND ETHNIC FACTORS ON THE MODERN ARCHITECTURE OF WESTERN KAZAKHSTAN

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**Abstract.** In recent years, there has been an increased interest in preserving and integrating ethnic heritage in architectural projects, reflecting the desire to preserve historical and cultural identity. The region of Western Kazakhstan, which has a rich historical past, was chosen as the object of the study.

This article is a review and comparative analysis of scientific publications devoted to the study of the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on architectural trends in this region. The study examines key areas in which cultural and ethnic diversity is reflected in architectural solutions.

The authors of the reviewed publications pay special attention to the following aspects: preserving traditional architectural forms, introducing ethnic motifs into modern buildings and integrating cultural symbols into the urban environment. The article also provides a comparative analysis of architectural objects, studying the influence of various ethnic groups, such as Kazakhs, Russians, Tatars and others, on the architectural appearance of Western Kazakhstan. Particular attention is paid to the interaction of cultural heritage and modern architectural trends.

In addition, the article discusses the issues of preserving cultural identity in the context of globalization and urbanization. The findings highlight the importance of taking into account cultural and ethnic factors when creating architectural projects, which contributes to the formation of a harmonious and culturally significant urban environment. The research identified key issues related to the insufficient use of historical and cultural elements in modern design and proposed solutions to this dilemma. Contemporary architecture of Western Kazakhstan, representing a complex interaction of traditions and innovations, occupies an important place in the context of global architectural trends and contributes to the international scientific discussion on the preservation of cultural heritage in the context of globalization.

**Keywords:** Western Kazakhstan, historical heritage, cultural traditions, heritage, architectural trends, identity, ethnocultural characteristics, ethnic factors.

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## Introduction

Kazakhstan, being a crossroad of cultural interactions, is a unique phenomenon. Since ancient times, migration routes of numerous tribes of Central Asia passed through its territory. These contacts contributed to the active exchange of material and spiritual values. As a result of this intensive interaction and mutual influence, Kazakhstani architecture was formed, which has a complex synthetic character.

The mechanism of historical and architectural interaction between the adjacent regions of modern Kazakhstan is distinguished by several determining factors. For the ancient period, the most important in the aspect of historical and architectural interaction were migration processes, as a result of which powerful related architectural layers were formed, which are at the origins of the architecture of most modern peoples in the studied area. Of particular importance in this regard was the movement of the Saka tribes, Turks, etc. Western Kazakhstan, which includes such regions as Atyrau, Mangistau, West Kazakhstan and Aktobe, has a unique history that spans several millennia, a rich historical heritage and a variety of cultural traditions, and plays an important role in shaping the architectural appearance of the country. In recent decades, there has been a growing interest in the preservation and restoration of ethnic heritage in architecture, reflecting a general desire to preserve historical and cultural identity. Western Kazakhstan, a region with a rich history and cultural diversity, is a unique space where the traditions of various ethnic groups intersect. These cultural and ethnic features have a significant impact on the architectural appearance of the region, creating unique forms and styles that reflect the centuries-old history and cultural traditions of its population. In recent decades, there has been a growing interest in the preservation and

integration of ethnic heritage into modern architecture, reflecting a desire to preserve cultural and historical identity in the context of globalization and urbanization. Contemporary architecture of Western Kazakhstan is a synthesis of traditional and modern elements, where cultural heritage and innovative architectural solutions harmoniously complement each other. It is important to note that various ethnic groups, such as Kazakhs, Russians, Tatars and others, contribute to the architectural appearance of the region, enriching it and making it more diverse. Traditional architectural forms, adaptation of ethnic motifs and the use of cultural symbols are becoming an integral part of modern architectural projects, emphasizing cultural significance and historical continuity.

Kazakh scientist-architect, cultural scientist and philosopher B.A. Ibrayev - emphasizes that cultural and ethnic factors played a key role in the creation of architectural traditions of the region, which is manifested in the synthesis of traditional and modern elements in architecture. His research shows how cultural heritage, including that brought through the Silk Road, continues to influence architectural solutions in modern cities of Western Kazakhstan, such as Atyrau, Uralsk, Aktau and Aktobe. His works are devoted to the preservation of cultural identity in the context of globalization, as well as the role of the Silk Road in the formation of architectural and cultural traditions of Central Asia.

Bek Anuarbekovich emphasizes that the cultural diversity that developed as a result of historical migrations and trade relations along the Silk Road became the basis for the creation of a unique architectural appearance of the region. In this context, his research allows us to better understand how cultural and ethnic factors continue to influence the architecture of Western Kazakhstan, preserving elements of traditional construction adapted to modern conditions.

The purpose of this article is to review and compare various scientific publications devoted to the study of the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on the architecture of Western Kazakhstan. The work will consider the main areas in which cultural and ethnic diversity is reflected in architectural solutions. Particular attention will be paid to how cultural heritage interacts with modern architectural trends, and how this interaction contributes to the creation of a harmonious and culturally significant urban environment.

## Methods

The main methods of the study were source analysis and comparative analysis of various scientific works. To conduct the analysis, various scientific publications devoted to the topic of the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on the architecture of Western Kazakhstan were collected and studied. This review includes literary sources, project and archival materials on the topic of the study and articles from peer-reviewed journals, conference materials and dissertations. The main attention was paid to studies that highlight architectural trends related to the cultural and ethnic diversity of the region.

The content of the selected publications was subjected to detailed analysis. The main attention was paid to the following aspects. Such as the influence of various ethnic groups on architectural styles and forms, the preservation and adaptation of traditional architectural elements, the integration of cultural symbols into modern architectural projects.

A comparative analysis was conducted to identify similarities and differences in the approaches of various authors to the study of the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on architecture. The main directions and trends, as well as unique features characteristic of the architectural appearance of Western Kazakhstan, were identified. The comparative analysis

included: comparison of the conclusions of various authors on the influence of specific ethnic groups on architecture; comparison of examples of architectural projects demonstrating the influence of cultural factors; analysis of methods for preserving and adapting traditional forms in modern conditions.

The use of analyses made it possible to systematize existing knowledge and identify key trends characterizing the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on the modern architecture of Western Kazakhstan.

## Discussion

The city, as a reflection of a certain variant of the socio-cultural situation, is a unique phenomenon. In the process of its formation and development of the nation, temporal and spatial characteristics are formed that determine the multicomponent concept of “city image”. This image includes geographical, landscape, architectural planning, historical, cultural and other features that create a unique identity of the city. The characteristics of the community and differences adopted in the study allow us to determine the identity of the city and reveal its image. Due to the vast territory of the country, to determine these characteristics, it is advisable to follow the geographical division into western, southern, eastern, central (northern) regions, which differ in natural and climatic conditions, but are united by a common historical prerequisite for the development of urban planning.

Western Kazakhstan (Atyrau, Mangistau, Aktobe, West Kazakhstan regions) includes many geographical features and is one of the most important economic regions of the country, the center of oil production, characterized by complex and extreme climatic conditions. Being a border region, Western Kazakhstan was distinguished by the originality of its architectural school, famous for its unique underground mosques and Kazakh baits

made of natural shell rock. During the Soviet urban development, the region became an experimental site. Probably, the border position of the region (sea-desert, city-steppe) largely dictated the architectural features that are observed in the development of Western cities during the period of sovereignty.

With the acquisition of independence in our country, issues of ethnoculture in architecture acquired particular relevance, which is associated with the unique position of the region. Many dissertations and scientific publications have been completed on these issues.

The work of E.M. Baitenov, devoted to the history and evolution of architecture, emphasizes the importance of preserving traditional architectural forms (Baitenov 25). Traditional Kazakh elements, such as yurts and decorative ornaments, are increasingly integrated into modern buildings, creating a unique combination of old and new. This helps to preserve cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations, while meeting modern architectural standards (picture 1).



Picture 1. Use of Kazakh elements on the facade of the shopping and entertainment center “Keruenicity” in Aktobe.

The research of E.T. Danibekova deals with the issues of form-building and architectural typology. Her work examines ways of adapting ethnic motifs in modern architecture (Danibekova 125).

For example, it can be assumed that the use of local materials, such as natural shell rock, in the construction of modern buildings reflects not only cultural but also environmental aspects. This approach not only preserves cultural heritage, but also promotes sustainable development (picture 2).



Picture 2. Adaptation of form-building to modern architecture, hotel “Kazakhstan” in Atyrau.

Historical and cultural tourism will provide us with an introduction to the traditions and customs of peoples in ethnic settlements, visiting museums and architectural monuments, where maximum authenticity of objects and surroundings is important. The Beket-Ata, Shopan-Ata and Karaman-Ata mosque complexes are located in hard-to-reach places, far from populated areas, which ensured their relative preservation. However, in recent decades, during the improvement and organization of entrances and approaches, various brick and concrete structures were built near the mosques, which are at odds with the unique natural landscape. The remoteness of the underground mosques determines the need to develop transport infrastructure and a network of hotels, the location of which should not violate the cultural and ecological integrity of the sacred landscapes. Therefore, the question arises of regulating the intensity of the use of underground mosques as tourist sites. In a number of countries, in particular in the

Russian Federation, there is a system of environmental monitoring of historical and cultural monuments, covering issues of the impact of natural and anthropogenic factors on heritage sites (Feoktistova and Bayash 135).

Each time, the uniqueness of the holy places of the Mangistau region increasingly attracts interest for visiting by pilgrims, historians, and tourists. The development of a tourist cluster is one of the promising areas for the economy of both the region and the entire republic. But at the same time, it is necessary to remember the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage, especially architectural monuments. Therefore, the pilgrimage sites of Mangistau, as monuments of the material and spiritual culture of the Kazakh people, must be studied, preserved and carefully used, so that, first of all, our compatriots could learn about the heritage of their ancestors (Feoktistova and Bayash 137).

There are a couple of factors that influence the functional purpose of architectural objects: cultural and ethnic. For example, mosques, mausoleums and other religious buildings are an integral part of the architectural landscape of Western Kazakhstan and reflect the importance of religious traditions and customs for the local population. Also, modern shopping and entertainment centers, residential complexes and office buildings are adapted to the needs of the local community, taking into account their cultural preferences and customs.

In the modern architecture of Western Kazakhstan, one can often observe interesting architectural solutions that combine elements of Kazakh, Uzbek, Russian and other cultures. This creates a unique architectural appearance of the region, reflecting its versatility and cultural heritage (picture 3).

G.S. Abdrasilova analyzes various aspects of the architectural typology of mass buildings and structures in her



Picture 3. The influence of cultures of different ethnic groups on architecture, the Akhtanov Theatre in Aktobe.

research. Her works emphasize the need to take into account cultural and ethnic factors when designing mass housing and public buildings (Abdrasilova 7). Today, in the context of globalization and urbanization, it is important to preserve the cultural identity of the region, which is possible due to the integration of ethnic motifs and symbols into modern architectural projects.

Globalization also has a significant impact on the architecture of Western Kazakhstan. Despite this, the architects of the region strive to preserve national characteristics and adapt them to modern requirements. As a result, modern architectural projects often represent a synthesis of traditional and modern elements. This is confirmed by studies that show that the architecture of the region is dominated by elements reflecting both local traditions and global trends.

Today, the theory of architecture of Kazakhstan needs fundamental scientific research aimed at studying modern architecture and figurative semantics, with an emphasis on the aesthetic heritage of the Kazakh people.

The study identified key issues that hinder the consideration of the topical issue of the article, such as the loss of traditional architectural features and insufficient attention to cultural traditions. One of the key aspects of the scientific

novelty of this study is the systematic analysis of the interaction of cultural factors with architectural practice in the region. Previous studies have usually focused on historical aspects, while this study seeks to highlight the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on contemporary architectural creativity. This approach allows us to highlight unique features and similar trends specific to Western Kazakhstan.

## Results

The study of the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on the modern architecture of Western Kazakhstan compared various works devoted to this topic and revealed a number of key findings:

- depth of historical context. Some studies focus on a deep analysis of the historical context of the formation of architectural styles in the region. They emphasize the evolution and interaction of local traditions with the influence of neighboring cultures and historical events.

- diversity of methodologies and approaches. Existing studies use various methodologies and approaches to analyze the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on architecture. Some works focus on the historical analysis of the evolution of architectural styles, others - on modern trends and the influence of globalization.

- uniqueness of regional features. All studies confirm that the architecture of Western Kazakhstan has unique regional features associated with local cultural and ethnic traditions. This is reflected in the use of traditional materials, forms and decorative elements.

- integration of modern technologies and approaches. Modern research shows that architectural projects in the region successfully integrate traditional solutions with advanced technologies and modern architectural approaches, which facilitates adaptation to new socio-cultural and environmental challenges.

- significance for sustainable development. All studies unanimously emphasize the importance of taking into account cultural and ethnic factors when developing architectural strategies to ensure sustainable development of the region. This includes not only the preservation of cultural heritage, but also the stimulation of social and economic progress through the development of tourism, infrastructure and strengthening of social unity.

- in the context of globalization, the formation of a unique Kazakh architectural identity plays an important role. It takes into account both the spiritual and material needs of the population, their desire for social and economic development, as well as readiness for change through the use of advanced technologies and advanced ideas.

- the development of an individual style of the architect, his unique style and expressive means to reflect regional identity in the context of changing times helps to reveal the essence of architectural creativity.

- Kazakhstani architecture will cease to be an exclusively local phenomenon, and the process of regional identification, based on modern principles and mechanisms of formation, will provide Kazakhstan with international recognition, increasing the sense of pride among citizens and attracting the attention of potential tourists and investors. The study showed that the formation of regional characteristics in the architecture of Kazakhstan is currently based on: continuity and rethinking of experience; growth of self-awareness and culture of self-identification; state policy on creating an international image of the country; legislative regulation of processes from design to commissioning of facilities; openness to innovation and international cooperation.

An analysis of a number of buildings and structures built in Kazakhstani cities revealed trends in the search for a modern architectural language. New objects

demonstrate a new understanding of regional forms, where traditional memorial and religious architectural forms are not quoted directly, but adapted to modern global realities. In modern architecture of residential and public buildings, traditional architectural themes are effectively used, unique features of the history and culture of Kazakhstan are revealed, and new technologies are introduced into local practice.

Comparison of various studies on this topic emphasizes the importance of further interdisciplinary research and cooperation between specialists to create a deeper understanding of the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on the modern architecture of Western Kazakhstan. The introduction of research results into architectural science and practice will contribute to the formation of regional identity in architecture and the improvement of the spatial environment for people's lives.

## Basic provisions

Western Kazakhstan, due to its unique cultural and ethnic diversity, plays a significant role in shaping the architectural appearance of the region. This region, with its centuries-old historical heritage, is an important space for studying the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on architecture. In the context of globalization and urbanization, the issues of preserving and integrating ethnic heritage are becoming especially relevant, which emphasizes the significance of this study.

The purpose of the work is to identify the unique features of the architecture of Western Kazakhstan, formed under the influence of cultural and ethnic factors. Unlike previous studies, which focused mainly on historical aspects, this study focuses on modern architectural practice and how cultural traditions and ethnic characteristics influence architectural creativity in the region.

The study identified key issues such as the loss of traditional architectural elements and insufficient attention to cultural traditions in modern construction. At the same time, a systematic analysis of the interaction of cultural factors with architectural practice allowed for a deeper understanding of the influence of these factors on the architectural landscape of the region. This approach promotes a deeper understanding of the interaction of cultural and ethnic factors in architecture and helps to formulate recommendations for the further architectural development of the region, taking into account its cultural and ethnic diversity.

## Conclusion

The modern architecture of Western Kazakhstan demonstrates a complex interaction of cultural and ethnic factors. Preservation and adaptation of traditional forms, consideration of ethnic motifs and integration of cultural symbols create a unique architectural appearance of the region. In the context of globalization and urbanization, it is important to continue research in this area in order to preserve the cultural heritage and ensure the harmonious development of the architectural environment.

For further study and development of this topic, it is necessary to conduct fundamental scientific research aimed at analyzing modern architecture and figurative semantics, focused on the aesthetic heritage of the Kazakh people. This will not only preserve unique architectural traditions, but also adapt them to the requirements of modernity, creating a harmonious and sustainable architectural space.

In the course of analyzing various articles and dissertations devoted to the influence of cultural and ethnic factors on the modern architecture of Western Kazakhstan, it becomes obvious that this topic plays a key role in understanding and

developing the architectural practice of the region.

Many studies confirm that architectural forms and solutions in Western Kazakhstan are closely related to the local culture and ethnic traditions. The uniqueness of the identity of this region is manifested in the use of traditional construction methods and materials that are adapted to modern conditions, contributing to the preservation and development of cultural heritage.

The diversity of methodologies used in various articles and dissertations emphasizes the multidimensionality of this topic. All the studies unanimously note that attention to cultural and ethnic factors in the development of architectural strategies contributes to social and economic progress, strengthens regional identity and stimulates the development of tourism and infrastructure. It is important to continue interdisciplinary research and

cooperation between architects, historians, ethnographers and representatives of local communities to create a deeper understanding and effective use of cultural and ethnic heritage in the architecture of Western Kazakhstan.

In addition, research shows that the integration of cultural and ethnic aspects into modern architecture not only contributes to strengthening the socio-cultural identity of the region, but also has a positive impact on economic development through the development of tourism and infrastructure projects.

Further study of this topic requires an integrated approach and cooperation between architects, researchers, public and government organizations. Only in this way can we ensure sustainable development of the region and the preservation of its cultural heritage in the conditions of the modern world and globalization.



**Author's contribution:**

**A. D. Tanzharykova** - development of the direction and problems of the research, selection and analysis of scientific literature, work with sources, preparation and revision of the text, conceptualization of conclusions.

**G. D. Maulenova** - development of the direction and methodology of the research, selection of scientific literature, critical analysis and revision of the text, editing and proofreading of the article.

**Вклад авторов:**

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**Г. Д. Мауленова** - разработка направления и методологии исследования, подбор научной литературы, критический анализ и доработка текста, редакция и корректура статьи.

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### БАТЫС ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ЗАМАНАУИ СӘУЛЕТ ӨНЕРІНЕ МӘДЕНИ-ЭТНИКАЛЫҚ ФАКТОРЛАРДЫҢ ӘСЕРІ

**Аңдатпа.** Соңғы жылдары тарихи және мәдени бірегейлікті сақтауға деген ұмтылысты көрсететін сәулет жобаларында этникалық мұраны сақтауға және біріктіруге қызығушылықтың артуы байқалады. Зерттеу нысаны ретінде тарихы бай Батыс Қазақстан облысы таңдалды.

Бұл мақала белгілі бір аймақтағы сәулет үрдістеріне мәдени және этникалық факторлардың әсерін зерттеуге арналған ғылыми жарияланымдарға шолу және салыстырмалы талдау болып табылады. Зерттеу архитектуралық дизайнда мәдени және этникалық әртүрлілік көрініс табатын негізгі салаларды зерттейді.

Қаралған басылымдардың авторлары келесі аспектілерге ерекше назар аударады: дәстүрлі сәулет нысандарын сақтау, заманауи ғимараттарға этникалық мотивтерді енгізу және мәдени нышандарды қалалық ортаға біріктіру. Мақалада сонымен қатар сәулет нысандарына салыстырмалы талдау жүргізіліп, Батыс Қазақстанның сәулеттік келбетіне қазақтар, орыстар, татарлар және басқалар сияқты әртүрлі этностардың ықпалы зерттелді. Мәдени мұра мен заманауи сәулет үрдістерінің өзара әрекеттестігіне ерекше көңіл бөлінеді.

Сонымен қатар, мақалада жаһандану және урбанизация жағдайында мәдени бірегейлікті сақтау мәселелері қарастырылған. Қорытындылар үйлесімді және мәдени маңызы бар қалалық ортаны қалыптастыруға ықпал ететін сәулет жобаларын жасау кезінде мәдени және этникалық факторларды есепке алудың маңыздылығын көрсетеді. Зерттеулер заманауи дизайндағы тарихи және мәдени элементтерді толық пайдаланбаумен байланысты негізгі проблемаларды анықтады және бұл дилемманың шешімдерін ұсынды.

Дәстүрлер мен инновациялардың күрделі өзара әрекеттесуін білдіретін Батыс Қазақстанның қазіргі заманғы сәулет өнері әлемдік сәулеттік үрдістер контекстінде маңызды орын алады және жаһандану жағдайында мәдени мұраны сақтау жөніндегі халықаралық ғылыми пікірталасқа өз үлесін қосуда.

**Түйін сөздер:** Батыс Қазақстан, тарихи мұра, мәдени дәстүр, мұра, архитектуралық ағымдар, болмыс, этномәдени ерекшеліктер, этникалық факторлар.

**Дәйексөз үшін:** Танжарыкова, Акбота и Гульнара Мауленова. Батыс Қазақстанның заманауи сәулет өнеріне мәдени-этникалық факторлардың әсері. *Central Asian Journal of Art Studies*, т.9, №3, 2024, 73-86 б., DOI: 10.47940/cajas.v9i3.917

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### ВЛИЯНИЕ КУЛЬТУРНЫХ И ЭТНИЧЕСКИХ ФАКТОРОВ НА СОВРЕМЕННУЮ АРХИТЕКТУРУ ЗАПАДНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА

**Аннотация.** В последние годы наблюдается усиление интереса к сохранению и интеграции этнического наследия в архитектурных проектах, что отражает желание сохранить историческую и культурную идентичность. В качестве объекта исследования выбран регион Западного Казахстана, который отличается богатым историческим прошлым.

Эта статья представляет собой обзор и сравнительный анализ научных публикаций, посвященных изучению влияния культурных и этнических факторов на архитектурные направления в данном регионе. В исследовании рассматриваются ключевые направления, в которых культурное и этническое многообразие находит свое отражение в архитектурных решениях.

Авторы рассмотренных публикаций уделяют особое внимание следующим аспектам: сохранение традиционных архитектурных форм, внедрение этнических мотивов в современные здания и интеграция культурных символов в городскую среду. В статье также проведен сравнительный анализ архитектурных объектов, изучено влияние различных этнических групп, таких как казахи, русские, татары и другие, на архитектурный облик Западного Казахстана. Особое внимание уделяется взаимодействию культурного наследия и современных архитектурных тенденций.

Кроме того, в статье обсуждаются вопросы сохранения культурной идентичности в условиях глобализации и урбанизации. Выводы подчеркивают важность учета культурных и этнических факторов при создании архитектурных проектов, что способствует формированию гармоничной и культурно значимой городской среды. Исследования выявили ключевые проблемы, связанные с недостаточным использованием исторических и культурных элементов в современном проектировании, и предложили решения данной дилеммы.

Современная архитектура Западного Казахстана, представляя собой сложное взаимодействие традиций и инноваций, занимает важное место в контексте глобальных архитектурных тенденций и делает вклад в международную научную дискуссию о сохранении культурного наследия в условиях глобализации.

**Ключевые слова:** Западный Казахстан, историческое наследие, культурные традиции, наследие, архитектурные тенденции, идентичность, этнокультурные особенности, этнические факторы.

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