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Mongolian Interest in Architecture and Construction in China (7th C. AH/ 13th C. AD)

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Abstract

The Mongols were interested in architecture and construction, whether in Mongolia or China, especially after they mixed with civilized peoples. They merged with them and were affected by their civilization and their arts, and they borrowed a lot from them, especially in the field of construction and architecture. After establishing his rule in China, Kublai (658-693 A.H., 1260-1294 A.D.) was keen on building a new capital for him, which he called Dadu, to replace his previous capital, Khanbaliq.

After consulting with the wise men of his palace and astrologers, Kublai was interested in building luxurious palaces for himself and his family, and he used a large number of engineers and craftsmen to build them to be a model for contemporary cities and compete with them in architecture and luxury. Kublai gave several priorities to build his capital by providing it with large funds to provide all service institutions its residents need. He split rivers, built canals, reclaimed and cultivated lands, built roads,

Keywords

Kublai, Engineers, Walls, Rivers, The Capital, Princesses.

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Introduction

The interest in architecture and construction was one of the most important priorities of different peoples. The Mongols are considered at the forefront, especially after they abandoned nomadic life and mixed with civilized peoples and merged with them and affected by their civilization, whether this was in Mongolia or in China and other regions that they imposed their control over. Building the capital is an important matter for every ruler, as it is the seat of his rule and managing the affairs of his state. That is why Kublai sought to build a new city to be an alternative capital to the one that preceded it, due to the destruction and devastation that befell it, especially after consulting with astrologists and astronomers. Kublai Khan (658-693 AH, 1260-1294 AD) summoned several experienced craftsmen, industrialists, farmers and engineers from different civilized people to participate in the construction. He used enough raw materials to ensure the building will last for a long time. He was also interested in cultivating and reclaiming lands and providing sufficient water for them by constructing rivers and building canals in order to provide river routes for ships to transport goods and supplies from one city to another, as well as transporting residents as soon as possible. Interested in building roads inside and outside the city and planting trees to provide shade for pedestrians and cool the atmosphere, and for ease of movement from one area to another. Kublai Khan gave unrivaled interest in building luxurious palaces for himself and his family, providing them with all the amenities and luxury they needed.

Selection And Construction of The City of Dadu:

Despite the violence witnessed in the history of the Mongols at the beginning of their appearance on the political scene, and because of their preoccupation with their military campaigns and building the nucleus of their sprawling empire, they took care of building and construction later on (Al-Taai, 2020). The elements of civilization, construction and urbanization were not absent from them, and this matter did not come overnight, rather it resulted from their mixing with the civilized and cultured peoples that were subjected to their authority. (Al-Taai, 2020) That is why Kublai Khan followed their approach through his interest in construction and building, and gave his priorities for building a new capital.

Kublai Khan had previously taken the city of Khanbaliq as his capital, and it was called in the Jurchen language Zhongdu, and it was the capital of the Qara Khitai kings, and their winter residence. Built from ancient times on the advice of astrologers and wise men, it has been associated with goodness and happiness. However, Genghis Khan (d. 624 AH, 1226 CE) destroyed it when he invaded the land of the Jurchens. That is why Kublai built another city next to it in pursuit of fame. He called it Dadu, so the two cities were connected to each other (Al-Hamdhani, 1983; Taqoush, 2007).

It is reported that Kublai Khan chose this site for his capital instead of Zhongdu in order to calm the horror of the Chinese, whose memory was associated with the pastoral tribes and their terrifying conquests. (Line, 2012) Kublai Khan decided to build it after consulting with astrologers that the population would rebel against him. That is why he decided to build a new capital for himself on the opposite bank of the river, so that the new and old cities would be separated, one from the other, by the river. The old city was called Kampalu or Khanbaliq, meaning the city of the Khan, and the new city was called "Daidu", meaning "Great Court," or "The Great City," and sometimes it was written "Tato" (Polo, 1977; Line, 2012).

The walls were painted white, had firing nozzles like those of forts, and he filled the city with craftsmen and artists he brought from all over the empire. It quickly became a glittering and decorated place all around (Line, 2012). The Mongols' belief in astrology prompted Kublai Khan to consult them about building his new capital, and he believed that this was not a sufficient reason. In all cases, he decided to build a new capital and took care to provide all its requirements according to new engineering foundations with the help of experienced engineers and craftsmen. After the completion of the construction of the city, all the inhabitants of the old city were forced to move to the new city and some of them remained behind, as the new city was not able to accommodate the same number that the old city absorbed (Polo, 1977).

City Plans:

The shape of the new city is a square, and its extension is twenty-four miles, with no more or no less

than 6 miles on each side. It is surrounded by dirt walls. The thickness of the walls at the base is approximately 10 steps. However, it gradually decreases as it approaches the top so that its thickness does not exceed three steps. The embrasures were all white. The complete map of the city was planned by drawing it in a regular way, so the streets became on the whole, accordingly, from the utmost integrity, so that when a person climbed to the wall above one of the gates, and looked directly in front of him, he could see the gate opposite him on the other side of the city (Polo, 1977). This confirms Kublai Khan's use of the most skilled engineers to develop the city's plans, taking into account the accuracy of its planning.

On both sides of the public streets are stalls and shops of all kinds. All the plots of land on which the dwellings were constructed throughout the city were square and adjacent to each other on the straight line. Each plot is spacious enough to accommodate beautiful buildings, with all its associated courtyards and gardens. A plot was allocated to each family head, meaning that someone from a tribe belonged to a square of land, and this is the case for others. In this way, the entire city became divided into squares similar to a chess board, and was outlined with a degree of precision and beauty that cannot be described (Polo, 1977). Kublai Khan was keen to draw the streets and roads of the city with extreme precision to be consistent and appropriate with the rest of the other urban features such as shops, markets and parks, with the determination of suitable housing areas for them.

As for the city wall, it has 12 gates, and each side of the square has three gates. Above each gate and shrine in the wall there is a beautiful building, so that on each side of the square there are five of those buildings, each one containing large rooms in which the weapons of the men who form the garrison of the city are deposited. As each gate was guarded by a thousand men, this does not mean that this force was camped there as a result of fear of the danger of any enemy force, but it represented a suitable guard for the monarch's prestige and honor. They are called Keshikten, and they number 12,000, confirming the strength and breadth of wealth of those who work under his protection and authority (Polo, 1977; Line, 2012).

The construction of the city wall in this way confirms the meticulous accuracy of its construction and its durability with attention to its external appearance. It was provided with a number of guards to provide security for the city. In the city center there is a large bell hanging in a tall building, and they ring it every night, and no one after the third minute dares to be in the streets, except that he is obliged for important reasons, such as illness or childbirth, with that person needs to carry a lamp (Polo, 1977).

City guards ring the curfew bells inside the city walls at sunset, to warn people to close their doors and stop wandering in the streets. About 30 guards roam the city to arrest anyone who violates these orders, where he is punished with severe beatings (Line, 2012). Guards who make up groups of thirty or forty men march on patrol through the city streets all night, looking for individuals who may be outside their homes at an inopportune hour, after the third stroke of the great bell. If they meet anyone in those circumstances, they arrest and imprison him, and in the morning, they question him in front of officers appointed for this purpose, and they pass judgment on him according to the nature of the offense he committed. (Polo, 1977). This matter reflects the extent to which everyone abides by the laws and is keen on providing security for the population and prevent them from being harmed. As for the death penalty, it is carried out outside the city walls, because the shedding of blood inside it is forbidden. Likewise, it is forbidden to burn bodies of the dead or bury them inside its walls (Line, 2012). Marco Polo noted, "In this way, the punishment for crime is usually inflicted among these people, as a result of reluctance to shed blood, which is something that their scientists and astrologers have taught them to avoid" (Polo, 1977). We note here the interest of the Mongols in punishing the offender, the criminal, and the guilty by several methods other than bloodshed, and if this happens, then it will be outside the city, and it may be the reason to prevent the spread of diseases and epidemics resulting from the decomposition and rotting of corpses.

There is a suburb on the outer side of each gate, which is so wide that it extends to the two suburbs standing at the nearest two gates on each side and unites with it, as it extends in length to a distance of three or four miles. There are more people in these suburbs than in the city itself. Within each suburb and at separate distances, each of which may be a mile away from the city, there are many hotels or inns where merchants who come from different places stay (Polo, 1977). The availability of inns and hotels in the city reflects the important position that it occupied and the fame it obtained, so that it became the focus of attention of the world, and a large number of tourists, ambassadors and merchants flocked to visit it. In order to enhance its position as a global city, Kublai allocated certain parts of the city for the housing of certain groups, so there was a

special area for Muslims, another for Indians, and another for Europeans, such as the Lombards, Germans and French, and certain trades could be concentrated in it, making it was similar to Karakorum, the capital of the first Mongols (Polo, 1977; Line, 2012).

Indeed, many residents resided on the outskirts of the city, as they were dispersed several miles in every direction, and splendid and luxurious homes and lodges that received merchants from all over the world were bought. There were more than 1000 wagons loaded with silk arriving to the city every day, due to the lack of linen, hemp and cotton in it, and because it directly served more than 200 neighboring cities. It has everything strange and rare and it is difficult to find it in other places of the world, which made it an international capital in every sense of the word. The building of Kublai was not a center for minting its currency with little reason behind the increase in the frequency of its distinction and attention to it (Line, 2012). The building of a special center for minting currency in the city is a major reason for attracting merchants to it, as it is evidence of its economic importance, given the availability of rare goods in it.

It had wide, wooded avenues, more than there were narrow lanes or alleys, as was the custom in Chinese cities. These boulevards allow the passage of nine horsemen with their horses, and from each gate, the gaze extends freely to the opposite gate. Within its walls extend gardens, wooded orchards, and hedges formed from shrubs imported from all parts of the empire, and most of these trees are fruitful (Line, 2012). On the other hand, the Mongols wanted to remove the bloody image that they knew among the peoples and move to a new world away from bloodshed in order to give a new picture of their history and improve it in the eyes of the world.

City Walls and Their Towers:

The walls are an important building for every city and a main pillar for it, as it constitutes of great importance in providing security for the population and protection from any assault on the city. Al-Hamdhani pointed out that the new city wall has seventeen towers, and the distance between one tower and the last is one league, and it is inhabited since a number of buildings were erected behind the towers (Al-Hamdhani, 1983; Line, 2012; Taqoush, 2007). And the wall of the city of Dado was erected from dirt, as the habit of the people of that state is to make two panels, and fill in between them with wet dirt, then pound it with thick wood until it becomes sealed, and then pull the boards out so that it becomes a wall, so the abundance of rain fall in addition to that the soil of that state is weak which makes the wall gets tighter. The khan ordered those stones be brought in to pave the surface of that wall (Al-Hamdhani, 1983). They brought to it from every state various kind of fruit tree, and planted them in its gardens and orchards (Al-Hamdhani, 1983). The interest in building the city walls stems from the need to pay attention to its fortifications and immunity, provide security for it and protect its residents, with an interest in choosing the raw materials needed for its construction.

City Rivers:

The Qara Khitai state was vast and densely populated, and the site of the city was 72 leagues from Bohai Bay. The Sanggan River flowing through the city provided water and transportation to the interior of the bay, and this river passed through the Naknau Pass and provided a passage for the summer residence and fishing headquarters in Shangdu (Line, 2012). The cities of Khanbaliq and Dadu have a very wide river that extends from the northern side, which is the resort road, and there are other rivers. On the outskirts of the city, a very wide pool was dug, as if it were a lake, and a dam was built on it to moor ships and to enable people to hike. Before this, the water of that river flowed elsewhere and poured into a bay extending from the surrounding sea to the borders of Khanbaliq. Because of the narrowness of this bay in these places near Khanbaliq, ships cannot enter it. That is why the loads were carried on animals and then brought to Khanbaliq. That is why the engineers and the sages of Qara Khitai warned that the ships could come to Khanbalik from the majority of Qara Khitai regions, from the house of the Majin king, from the city of Khinkai, Zeitoun and others. That is why Kublai Khan ordered the digging of a large river into which the water of the river and several other rivers would flow to connect the cities and states, and then pour into that river (Al-Hamdhani, 1983).

The Khan ordered the construction of a barrier for that river of stones so that dirt would not descend into it, and next to this river there is a wide road that reaches the Majin, and extends for a 40-day march. All this road was paved with stones, so that even if it rained profusely, the animals'

legs would not sink into the mud. Willow and other trees are planted on both sides of the road so that they cast their shade on the whole road. No one, whether civilian or military, has the audacity to break a single branch of those trees or to allow animals to eat a leaf (Al-Hamdhani, 1983; Taqoush, 2007). This demonstrates the Khan's interest in constructing roads to facilitate the movement of residents and to shade them with willow trees to provide abundant shade for passers-by to protect them from the scorching heat.

However, this river proved inadequate to meet the needs of the city, so Kublai ordered the restoration and expansion of the Grand Canal. The city suffered from neglect since its construction, and the north needed to import wheat and foodstuffs from the fertile south, and the canal could be more effective in achieving this than the sea route. Al-Hamdhani pointed out that the canal can secure access to the Port of Zaitoun within forty days, which is the building from which ships can sail to India and vice versa, and boats can also link it to other ports in Machin, southern China. (Line, 2012) The restoration of the Grand Canal made the capital a center of economic and political polarization, and made the process of moving from one city to another easier and faster, as well as transporting goods to several cities in various ways.

Expanding and strengthening the canal is an ambitious and costly undertaking. The chief minister, called Sanja, was assigned to supervise this project and guarantee the addition of a thousand and ninety miles to the length of the canal, by two and a half million workers. The canal, which is 40 meters wide in some places, was provided with water barriers to serve the huge ships and was fenced off by walls (Line, 2012). Several villages were established on both sides of the road, as well as shops and temples, so that the whole road became inhabited for a 40-day walk (Al-Hamdhani, 1983).

At the same time, a huge road was built and also made of stone, and willow trees and other trees were planted on both sides to provide shade for the travelers. Villages and side shops were established along the new road. This secured the extension of the famous "Yam" post road until it reaches eastern China. Tabriz was linked to Beijing by cavalrymen who could travel 250 miles a day (Line, 2012). The Khan's interest in building canals and digging rivers to secure the requirements of agriculture on the one hand and to facilitate the flow of merchant ships, as well as to facilitate river transport and provide sufficient water for the population, and this matter made his city a global city to attract a large number of people, merchants and ambassadors.

Palaces Of Kubilai Khan:

Kublai Khan was interested in building a luxurious palace for himself, which is very important for every ruler to be a head office of state administration. In the middle of that city, he set up a monument of great grandeur for his court that he called Qarshi, and its columns and floors were all made of marble and alabaster, and it was very wonderful and clean. He divided it into four sections, separating each section by a far distance. The outer section is for the court and ceremonies, the inner part is for the sitting of princes who meet every morning, the third is for the guards, and the fourth is for the private. Kublai resides in this palace in the winter, which painters have often depicted in history books (Al-Hamdhani, 1983; Line, 2012).

Kublai built his palace of wood, and it spanned an area equivalent to 400 paces in every direction. It was filled with windows and domes, and it was beautifully landscaped and beautifully built, not like Genghis Khan's palace. Its floor was studded with precious stones, window frames were made of gold and silver, and many statues were distributed all over it blending the splendor of art, wisdom and intelligence (Line, 2012).

Through his division of the palace in this way, Kublai wanted to provide comfort for the princes and guards and to be close to him, and this is very important to provide him with an element of protection and to facilitate the administration of the state and the distribution of tasks among them. Each of the walls had its own mission, as the outer wall was intended to bind the horses, the inner wall for the princes to sit in their daily meetings, and the third wall for the guard and the fourth for the entourage of the court (Line, 2012). Marco Polo expressed his admiration for this palace, describing it, saying: "The walls were covered on the inside with gold and silver, and decorated with drawings of knights, dragons, and every kind of bird and animal species" (Line; 2012). This type of decoration continued to cover the domed ceiling of the palace reception room, which accommodates 6.000 people, and has countless rooms (Line, 2012).

The missionary Ouduric de Bordonon, a Franciscan (664-732 AH / 1265-1331 AD) who visited China in 714 AH/1314 AD until 731 AH/1330 AD, expressed his admiration and astonishment after visiting this palace and said, describing it: "This city has twelve gates separated by two miles, and they



are divided between its two parts, the old and the new, which together cover the equivalent of 40 miles. Here was built the palace of the Great Khan, as well as several other magnificent palaces, for his large family of sons and daughters, in-laws and grandchildren. Thus, the palace of the khan occupies a distance of four miles. Near the building next to the palace and belonging to the entourage of the khan, a hill rises above on which another palace was built for the Khan, which is very beautiful. Next to it is a lake that stretches for a mile, above which a wonderful bridge has been erected that it is pleasant to stand on it to contemplate the wild ducks and geese swimming in that lake. He can hunt and fish without having to leave the area. But its basic palace is much more spacious and splendid. The lower floor of the building rises a distance of about five feet from the ground, and contains 24 columns of gold. As for the walls, they are all covered with skins dyed red, and it is said that they are of the finest skins on earth. In its center there is a large jar at a height of two or more bisin, which is made entirely of jade stone, very expensive, as I was told that its price is equivalent to the price of four countries combined, and it is framed with gold, and at every corner of it, a dragon stood about to pounce on its prey, as well. It is decorated with fringes with precious jewels attached to it, and the drink reaches it from a narrow tube in the tiles, and next to it are several golden bowls to be used for drinking. Also, in his hall there are a number of golden peacocks, and when they wish to entertain the Great Khan, they walk behind each other, clapping their hands, then the wings of the peacocks move to coincide with the movement of the applause, as if those peacocks are dancing with the dancers, and they are able to do this motivated by some demon, or perhaps by installing engines under the floor". (Line, 2012; Al-Sayed, without date). This description confirms the grandeur of this palace, which contained several palaces, vast orchards, and places for entertainment, dressage and hunting. In addition to dividing the palace into several sections, each section was assigned to a specific class of guards, princes and courtiers, and it was rightly an integrated complex.

Ibn Battuta described this palace, which remained standing during his reign, saying: "His palace is in the center of the city designated for the residence of the khan, and most of its buildings are carved wood, and it has a strange arrangement, and it has seven doors. The first gate is designated for the Qitual, the chief hajib. The gate has raised benches to the left and right, where the 500 Berdari Mamluks, who are the keepers of the palace gate, stay. I was told they were 1000. The second gate is protected by the Asbahi, 500 archers. The third gate is kept by the Nazdari, 500 spear wielders. The fourth gate is designated for the Tagdari, who carry swords and shields. The fifth gate contains the Ministry's office, and it has many sheds. The great shed is where the minister sits on a huge, high bench, and they call that al-mawdi' al-musnad, and between the minister's hands is a great inkpot made of gold. This shed corresponds to the shed of the clerk. On the right the shed of the writers of letters. To the right of the shed of the minister shed of the book of works. Corresponding to these sheds are four, one of which is called the Office of Supervision, in which the supervisor sits. The second is the shed of the office of the extractor and its prince is one of the most senior princes, and the extract is what remains before the workers and the princes from their fieldoms. And the third is the Office of Relief, in which one of the areat princes sits, along with the jurists and writers, so whoever has been chased by an overseer is seeking help from them. And the fourth, the post office, in which al-akhbari prince sits. And the sixth door of the palace doors, upon which al-gendarya and their Grand Prince sit. And the seventh door, where the ghilman sit, and they have three sheds, one of them is the Abyssinians, and the second is for the Indians, And the third is for the Chinese, each one has a Chinese prince". (Ibn Battuta, 2011) Ibn Battuta explained precisely here the most important administrative gates, describing them as sheds, indicating the presence of several military categories of archers, spears, wielders of swords and shields, as well as the presence of the Ministry and Supervision Bureau and others, stressing that it was an integrated administrative unit.

He pointed out that there is a door for *ghilman*, each according to his own shed, and for each one there is a Chinese prince. Ibn Battuta mentioned the *diwan al-ghouth*, which means grievances, in which a number of princes, writers and jurists sit to examine people's grievances, which reflects a positive situation that prevailed at the time, which was the punishment of the guilty and the relief of the oppressed.

The French missionary Ouduric de Bordonon indicated that he personally attended many ceremonies in this palace, knowing that the khan at that time was Yesün Temür (723-729 AH/ 1323-1328 AD) and this is an indication that he kept the seat of his grandfather Kublai (Al-Sayed, without date). Inside the palace, he described the court of the Grand Khan: "As the khan ascends the throne, the queen sits to his left at a level that drops two steps. Next are the princesses who are of the royal lineage and are accompanied by the maidens. The princesses, especially the married

ones, are almost completely covered in jewelry. To the right of the khan, his eldest son and the legal heir to the crown sits. Then come the princes of royal blood. Then four notary who write down every word the Khan utters sit. Opposing them, there are the high-ranking dignitaries and nobles in the state, who cannot issue any voice unless they are allowed to do so. In addition to these, there is a group who are like advisers who correct the errors issued by the Khan within the limits of customary decency. Some of them are at the door and do not allow anyone to enter without a permit, otherwise they will be severely beaten. It is clear that these people are specialized in providing security inside the palace. " (Al-Sayed, without date). This accurate description shows the most important royal decrees in the place of sitting and standing in the presence of the Khan, including princesses, princes, ministers, writers, nobles, notables, and advisors, as well as the royal guard, whose responsibility it is to provide security for all.

The Khan wanted to build a palace in the resort town of Kimin Phu, which is located fifty leagues away, and to build several buildings. From the Winter Palace, there are three roads: the first is a road designated for hunting, and only the Messenger of the Mughal princes (Al-Hamdhani, 1983) can walk on it, and the second road is near the city of Jojo, located on the banks of a river, where various types of fruits such as vines and others abound. A small village close to it called Semali, most of its inhabitants are from Samarkand, where they have built many orchards similar to those of Samarkand (Al-Hamdhani, 1983). As for the third road, it extends over a hill called Synclink (Al-Hamdhani, 1983). There are other palaces besides this belonging to the khan, which include the Khan's personal possessions, such as his treasures of gold and silver bars, precious stones, his tools and vessels, and he also has the wings of his wives and concubines (Line, 2012).

There is no doubt that these palaces were smaller in size and area than the previous ones, as they were designated to preserve the properties of the khan. In addition, they had special wings for his women. From the eastern side, Kublai built a palace for himself named Langk Tan, but he left it after seeing a disturbing vision. After taking the advice of wise men and engineers, he decided to build another palace in another place, in the place of a pool of water, next to the city of Kimin Phu in the meadows. They wanted to dry the pond, and given the presence of stones in that city, they used it instead of firewood, in addition to the availability of charcoal in it. So, they filled the pond with its fountain with gravel and crushed concrete, and poured tin and lead on it until it was tight. And they made its height from the ground the same as the stature of a man, then set up a shed on top. And when the water was trapped in the depths of the earth, it seeped out to the other sides, and spewed over the passage of days in the meadows a little further away, and springs flowed. In that capacity, they built a palace in the style of building the Qara Khitais, and built a wall of alabaster around that meadow, and made wooden barriers extending from that wall to the palace so that no one could enter that meadow (Al-Hamdhani, 1983).

They set up a palace in the middle of that city smaller than the first, and built a lane between the outer and inner palace, so that it would be a special passage that leads to the great palace. A section of tiles was constructed that would extend to that palace the distance of a long-range arrow throw. Kublai was staying in the palace outside the city (Line, 2012). The Khan's stay in a palace outside the city may be due to his desire to be away from the city noise and to relax and be alone with himself and his family. He described the palace of the Green Mountain, its gardens, the lake, and the surrounding bushes and strange wildlife. Between the inner and outer walls of the palaces were constructed gardens, and orchards. Where animals roam and birds fly, deer graze abundantly in those areas, which were an artificial plateau of land with a height of 100 bis and a circumference of one mile. The soil of that hill was drained from a place of digging to form a lake for raising fish. The Green Mountain Palace was crowned with a pavilion and surrounded by evergreen trees brought from all over the empire. Whenever Kublai heard of a new type of tree, he ordered it to be brought and planted in the garden of the Green Mountain Palace. The palace lake provided various types of fish and wild ducks (Line, 2012). All the descriptions of these palaces confirm the beauty of their decorations and colors, especially the ceilings, which are painted in purple, green, blue and yellow colors, all of which shine under the rays of the sun like jewels (Line, 2012).

The Khan's palaces varied in their grandeur, area and purpose of its establishment, and this matter confirms the Khan's interest in construction and urbanization, and for his city and its capital to be a competition to the major contemporary cities for it to attract tourists, ambassadors, craftsmen, skilled, jurists and scholars. Kublai Khan became a model for the Mongol rulers who came after him, whether in China or in the Mongolian Ilkhanate in Iran, as a number of Ilkhanate were interested in the arts of architecture and construction. The Ilkhan Arghun (683-690 AH/1284-1291AD) and Ghazan (694-703 AH/1295-1304 AD) are at the forefront, as they were interested in



building palaces, squares, resorts, mausoleums, schools, hospitals, mosques, markets, etc (Al-Taai, 2020).

Conclusions:

Through our study, we reached a number of important results, the most prominent of which are:

- 1. The Mongols in China were interested in building and urbanization, especially during the reign of Kublai Khan.
- 2. Kublai Khan was interested in building a new capital for him in place of the old one that was destroyed, after consulting with his palace wise men and astrologers.
- 3. Kublai Khan chose the location of his new capital so that it has all means of life, including good soil, along with availability of rivers and a suitable climate.
- 4. Kublai Khan hired a large number of engineers and craftsmen of various races and with experience to build his new capital, Dadu.
- 5. Kublai Khan took care of digging rivers and canals to provide water for most of the agricultural lands, reclaiming them and planting them with trees and various crops.
- 6. Kublai Khan was keen to build luxurious palaces for himself and his family and provided them with all the luxury and decoration requirements.
- 7. A number of foreign and Arab travelers visited the Kublai Khan court, most notably Marco Polo and the French Franciscan monk Odoric de Bordonon, as well as Ibn Battuta, who accurately described the court of Kublai Khan.
- 8. Kublai Khan took care of building service institutions for the population, such as roads, and provide them with the necessary protection day and night by appointing a number of guards to guard them and provide them with security.

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