Entrances of the takiyya and Sabil of Sultan Mahmoud
Bousy Mohammed Hussein - Hebatullah Mohammed Fathy - Adel Sherief Alaam
Suez Canal University - Tanta University

Abstract
During the Islamic epoch, structures varied between religious - such as mosques-, secular - like houses, palaces, wakalas, baths, khan, and rabi: funerary - like mausoleums and domes; military - like castles; and beneficent - like public fountains and takiyah - ones. Here is an example of the beneficent structures, the Takiyya and Sabil of Sultan Mahmoud, monument No. 308 in the index of Islamic structures that date back to 1164 H / 1750 A.D is among the beneficent structures that were erected for serving the public. This monument is a complex of structures, encloses an aimshouse (takiyya) for teaching religious rites and civil studies, a public fountain for saving drinking water for the people, and a primary school (kuttab) for learning the holy Qur'an for the orphan children. Moreover, a small mosque is annexed to this complex.

This research aims at describing the entrances of this complex, which has four entrances, one leading to the takiyya as the main one, the second leading to the prayer hall or mosque, the third to the public fountain, and the fourth to the primary school (kuttab).

This research is divided into an introduction followed by four items ended with a conclusion, besides some figures.

Introduction: encloses general information about the structure's location and a brief detail of its founder, besides the date of erecting it.
- Item I: concerned with describing the main entrance of the complex
- Item II: encloses a description of the entrance of the annexed prayer hall or mosque
- Item III: describes the entrance of the annexed public fountain (Sabil).
- Item IV: describes the entrance of the annexed primary school (kuttab)

Introduction
This is a great madrasa or takiyya to which a magnificent rounded shaped public fountain (sabil) is annexed. It is the second remaining Ottoman type madrasa in Egypt, that the first is at-Takiyya: as-Sulimaniyya in as-Surogiyya Street that dated back to 950 H/1543 A.D.

This madrasa commonly known as the tekke and the public fountain (sabil) are located in the southwest of Cairo, exactly in Port Said street (ancient al-Khalil al-Misry, on the right hand side of the one who passes from al-Sayyida Zaineb towards Bab al-Khalil square.

In other words, the main façade of this takiyya is overlooking Darb al-Gamania Street: This part of the street was anciently termed as Del' as-Samaka street begins from the qantaral All kafar and ends at Sekat al-Habaniyya towards Qantarat Sounqor.

This takiyya and the public fountain (Sabil) are attributed to Sultan Mahmoud Khan I the of sultan Mustafa Khan I who took over the rule of the Ottoman sultanate in 1143 H / 1731 A.D. He ordered the construction in 1164 H / 1750 A.D. The actual founder is Amir Bashir Agha Wakil Dar as-Sa'adda, and it was inscribed on both the foundation text above the public fountain's or sabil entrance and the foundation of waqfyya that sultan Mahmoud Khan founded.

Item I: The main entrance of the complex
The structure's main façade is the northwest one (fig. 1), below which there is a group of shops. These shops are topped with a band of interlaced floral motifs. This façade encloses the main entrance.
It is a monumental entrance, flanked from both sides with two stone benches. The entrance is crested with a semicircular arch that is leaning on two combined columns. This arch is surrounded with a decorative frame in form of a fret with hexagonal buckles, and ends at the higher point of the arch with a circle of axial buckles. In addition, the whole entrance's mass is surrounded with a fret with hexagonal buckles. The arch's two spandrels are decorated with arabesque technique, and the columns' abacuses are decorated with blooming or flowering floral stems and the lala flowers over a surface, of arabesque decorations type.
The central parts of these columns were adorned with dual floral stems with trefoil floral leaves coming out.

In the center of the entrance there is on entrance opening portal topped with flat lintel topped with a nafis (fig. 2) ornamented with rectangular ceramic tiles, which are adorned with drawings of composite flowers and floral branches of which tiny notched leaves come out. These drawings are applied to dark blue color over a white surface. Moreover, red and green colors are used in adding some clear touches over the transparent glazed overlaying. In addition, the arch's two spandrels are coated with square ceramic tiles. The right side of spandrel decorations looks like arabesque ornaments being interposed by drawings of flowers and floral branches in blue and turquoise colors over a white surface. On the other hand, the left spandrel is decorated with floral branches from which flowers come out in a geometrical deviation around a central flower, interposed with decorations of Chinese clouds. Similar to those of the right spandrel; these decorations applied on blue and turquoise colors over a white surface.
The abacuses of the pillars on which the entrance's arch leaning are coated with ceramic tiles decorated with
crenels shapes that enclose arabesque ornaments or the blooming or flowering floral branches. These crenels are framed on the exterior with tulip flowers. These tiles themselves were surrounded with a frame of intertwined ornaments. These decorations were applied on blue, green and tomato red over a white surface. Both colors and decorations dated these tiles to the 2nd half of the 16th century A.D. or the 1st half of the 17th century A.D. It was stated that these tiles either belongs to İznik or to Kütahya. It is probable that the tiles where the tomato red and planting green colors applied over decorations being ascribed to İznik manufacturing in the 17th century, while those of yellow, brown, pale green, and the brick red are ascribed to Kütahya in the 18th century A.D.

Over the nafs, there is a relieving arch of alternate white and black marble. Directly over the relieving arch, there is a panel that is inscribed with the following phrase;
"this blessed madrasa was constructed by the order of sultan Mahmoud Khan son of Sultan Mustafa Khan in 1164" On each side of the panel there is a rounded shape, the southern one encircled the majesty term مَلَكَ، and the northern one encloses the prophet's name محمد. Over this panel, exactly in the center of the entrance's mass; there is a window with two columns, on each side. This window has a screen of lathed wood, in the center of which a two word inscription is applied, this inscription says "الله يguided "The entrance's recess is built of alternate white and black courses. The arch's two spandrels are adorned with blue ceramics. A horizontal roof of quintifol floral leaves shaped crenels is crowning the whole façade and the entrance's mass. This entrance mass is higher than the whole façade. This entrance leads to a dirkah, which followed the entrance, and in turn; it leads directly to the takiyya.

Item II: Entrance of the annexed prayer hall or mosque
Another entrance is that of the prayer hall, It is also a monumental entrance, flanked with two stone benches, crested with a simple nida'ini arch. In the center of this entrance; there is the entrance portal that topped with a window that is adorned with stalactites from its upper part, this is beside the lathed wood. This portal leads to the prayer place.

Item III: Entrance of the annexed public fountain (Sabit)
A third entrance is that of both the public fountain or sabit and the kuttub over it. It occupied the southwest part of the main – northwest façade. It is an independent entrance mostly similar to that of the takiyya. This entrance is within a niche of 200 cm. in width and 50 cm. in depth, crested with a pointed arch the intrados and borders of which are adorned with opposite buckles (minat). In the center of the niche; there is a rectangular portal of 2.10 m. in height and 1.00 m. in width, being shut with one wooden shutter portal with geometrical decorations of assembled panels forming polygons. This entrance niche is flanked with two stone benches (makasal).

This entrance portal is topped with flat lintel of marble enclosing the foundation text of three lines of salient thuluth calligraphy saying: This lettering is by the hand of the master calligrapher and the inscription is in the style of the master calligrapher and is written by master calligrapher. This lettering is by the hand of the master calligrapher and is written by master calligrapher. Using the letters of the alphabet according to their numerical value, this structure is dated to 1164 H. This lintel is topped with a nafs coated with ceramic tiles, which are of identical design with those of the nafs that topped the main entrance of the takiyya that is in the main – northwest façade. Over the nafs, there is a relieving arch of unjogged voussoirs. Over this composition (the lintel, the nafs, and the relieving arch), there is a rectangular window with bronze hollow coating in the form of zigzag floral branches from which carnation flower emerge. The entrance's arch and its two spandrels are encircled with two stone frames that joined over the key – voussoir of the arch, forming a large buckle (mina). Those frames are filled with arabesque decorations. This entrance leads to a square hall of 1.40 m. in length, to the left of which there is three-step staircase ending with a basta. To the left of this basta there is a niche of 1.00 m. in depth, 1.50 m. in height, and 1.40 m. in width, being shut with two wooden shutters door, and to the right side of this basta, there is an opening of 1.40 m. in width leading to a room annexed to the tashbil room.

Item IV: Entrance of the annexed primary school (kuttub)
The entrance of the primary school (kuttub) is perpendicular to the public fountain's façade. This entrance mass is of the same width and depth of that of the sabit, but crested with a pointed arch of plain – none decorated - stone voussoirs. However, the arch's intrados is embellished with stone decorations of lozenge shapes centered with fan shutter shapes. This pointed arch is leaning on two marble pillars leaning on two stone benches (makasal) that are flanking the entrance portal. Below the pointed arch, there is another foiled or lobed arch, the two pilasters of which are leaning on the entrance's two buttresses. The entrance niche is centered with a rectangular portal, topped with a marble lintel enclosing the foundation text of the primary school (kuttub) in three lines each of four hemistiches of poetical verses; saying: موصوف الخلا. مرسم خلاف الورث، محمود السامي الخلا. وحنى ثم مثيره. ضياوم. أتضح في تاريخه بيلا يروى البلاء. اكتسابه. مكتب برزاق من حلة سام الخلا. Over the lintel, there is a relieving arch of joggled voussoirs, topped with a rectangular window with brass coating. This window is flanked with two marble compacted pillars directly below the foiled arch.

Conclusion
After describing the structure several of entrances, it seems that;

- This complex encloses a public fountain that is characterized by its bent façade, a type which appeared only in the Ottoman epoch in Cairo, and applied to other few examples such as the Sabil - Kuttab of Sultan Mustafa monument no. 314 that dated back to 1173 H / 1759 A.D, the Sabil - Kuttab of Rujayya Dado monument no. 337 that dated back to 1174 H / 1761 A.D, the Sabil - Kuttab of Hussein ash-Shou'eybi monument no. 388 that dated back to the 12th century H / 18th century A.D, and the Sabil of Nafisa al-Beyda

References


- عاصم رزق, أطلس العمارة أطلس العمارة الإسلامية والقلطية, تأليف, جزء, الفنون الأولي, مكتبة مديوني, 2002Ω, ص 1664.

2- على ناشا مبارك, الخطط التوفرية الجديدة لمصر القاهرة ومدنها وبلاتها المدينة, 20 زراء (1304 - 1306 ه), ص 37.

3- pumping station, groundwater level, 69 (1310 - 1311 ه), ص 53.

4- متحف الأقباطية, تأليف, قطر سطح السراج محروم وعبادة, ثورة غربية وأراضيها مرتبطة بمعمارية الشرق يتميز تشكيلها ببيئتها, عبد الرحمن, ص 55.

- وقد تم ترميم هذه الكنيسة سنة 1996م، وهي الآن مقترح تأثر حروب القارة.

5- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.

- متحف الأقباطية, تأليف, قطر سطح السراج محروم وعبادة, ثورة غربية وأراضيها مرتبطة بمعمارية الشرق يتميز تشكيلها ببيئتها, عبد الرحمن, ص 55.


7- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.

- متحف الأقباطية, تأليف, قطر سطح السراج محروم وعبادة, ثورة غربية وأراضيها مرتبطة بمعمارية الشرق يتميز تشكيلها ببيئتها, عبد الرحمن, ص 55.

8- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.

- متحف الأقباطية, تأليف, قطر سطح السراج محروم وعبادة, ثورة غربية وأراضيها مرتبطة بمعمارية الشرق يتميز تشكيلها ببيئتها, عبد الرحمن, ص 55.


- متحف الأقباطية, تأليف, قطر سطح السراج محروم وعبادة, ثورة غربية وأراضيها مرتبطة بمعمارية الشرق يتميز تشكيلها ببيئتها, عبد الرحمن, ص 55.


- متحف الأقباطية, تأليف, قطر سطح السراج محروم وعبادة, ثورة غربية وأراضيها مرتبطة بمعمارية الشرق يتميز تشكيلها ببيئتها, عبد الرحمن, ص 55.


12- Berchem, op. cit, p. 445.


14- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.


16- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.

17- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.


22- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.


24- محمد أبو العرابي, آثار القاهرة الإسلامية, المجلد الأول, اسطنبول, 2003, ص 391.

Figures :
بالخلاصة:
في نهاية هذا البحث نخلص إلى ذكر بعض النقاط الهامة و هي:
1- السبيل الملفق: بهذه المجموعة المعمارية يتميز بواجهته المقوسة و هو شكل لم يظهر قبل العصر العثماني.
2- في كثير من الأحيان يكون السبيل و يطهو الكتاب ذا مدخل واحد، أما في هذه المجموعة المعمارية فقد كان هناك مداخل متعددة لكل من السبيل و الكتاب الذي يطهو.
3- ظهرت مداخل هذه المجموعة المعمارية ثلاثة أشكال مختلفة ذات عقود: منها ما يتوج بعد نصف دائري، ومنها ما يتوج بعد مداخل ثلاثية الفصول، ومنها ما يتوج بعد مدخل مدببة.