



## THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES

Volume 27, Issue 2 (2020), Pages 1-89

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## New Horizons Towards Three Rock-Cut Tombs (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> CE) from Northwest Iran

Amin Moradi<sup>1</sup>, Behruz Omrani<sup>2</sup>

Received: 2019/3/16

Accepted: 2019/10/13

### Abstract

By selecting Northwest Iran as the early capital of Ilkhanid dynasty, Mongol rulers had governed this area for about one century which would have been the official route of administration and communication between Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Northeast China, and Iran. The existence of three unknown rock-cut archetypes in Maraghe (new capital) and its surroundings are among the most controversial subjects for historians and archaeologists. Although the period between 1256 and 1335 is seen as a period of cultural interventions from Mongolia and Inner Mongolia into the Northwest Iran, the architectural influences during Mongol's dominion has been less considered by the scholars. In this way, recent archaeological developments related to this region are beginning to shed new lights on recognition the architectonic appearance and the application of these unique underground architectures in Northwest Iran. Considering comparative studies besides analytical expository of architectural evidences from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, and Northeast China, this project is aimed at standardizing the identity of unknown rock-cut structures in Northwest Iran. According to the results, the combination of a corridor leading to one or more chambers is not entirely random in Northwest Iran but also shares an exact assimilation of those in Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, and Northeast China.

**Keywords:** Ilkhanid Era; Rock-Cut Architecture; Funeral; Inner Mongolia; Eastern China Architecture; Northwest Iran.

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## **Introduction**

It is well documented that the Mongol rule in the thirteen and fourteenth centuries fostered the direct exchange of ideas and practices between diverse cultures and religions (Azad et.al, 2010). Scholars have evaluated the damage and the benefits brought by the Mongols to the Islamic world in different fields such as the military, religion, politics, economy, and culture (Lambton, 1988; De Nicola and Melville, 2016; Hope, 2016). It cannot be said that the Mongols, who at the beginning of the twelfth century lived in clans under the hereditary leadership, were prepared for controlling the enormous territory that they had conquered (Fletcher et.al, 1986). The Mongols nevertheless succeeded in creating a novel administrative system; they maintained some of the practices of the peoples of the steppes, such as the sharing out of the subject peoples among the members of the imperial family, while adding elements of Chinese administrative practice (Aigle et.al, 2009). They also used the experience of the Turco-Mongols who had been integrated into the empire, such as the "Uighurs" who had ruled Mongolia, and the "Kitan" who had governed north China (Franke 1990: 423). Apparently, during "Genghis Khan's" first campaigns in China (1211-1227), many Chinese officials had been recruited to his service, bringing with them their expertise in that domain. This composite administrative system was the essential factor in their success (Aigle et.al, 2009).

The arrival of the Mongols in Northwest Iran in the 13th century transformed the Islamic provinces of Northwest Iran into a political, religious and cultural region between Islam and Mongolian homeland traditions. The impact of this settlement of Turko-Mongols should be considered when

discussing architectural developments on Northwest Iran. Undoubtedly, the funeral architecture in accordance with early Mongolian customs was inevitable to cover funeral prospects of Mongol's elites and aristocratic families. Focusing our attention on the funeral architecture of Mongolian and Inner Mongolian traditions and comparing these underground architectures with Iranian specimens in "Maraghe", "Nir" and "Azar Shahr" provinces in Northwest Iran, using comparative studies of plan along with architectonic classification of recent excavation, this paper will try to categorize the unknown underground architecture of this era as the same funeral units of Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, and Northeast China.

## **Research Literature**

Three underground sites in Northwest Iran have occupied archaeologists, with some suggesting that the architecture of these units had served as Mithraeum and/or monasteries imported by pre-Islamic dynasties in Iran (Azad, 2010: 211). Since "Varjavand's" studies were among the prior investigations towards these sites, according to his conclusion and without any sufficient documentation these underground complexes have been dated to a period belonging to prehistoric settlements which were reused as a Mithraeum then renovated as a religious complex with the application of mosque as well as convent during the Islamic ages (Varjavand et.al, 1976). Judging from the troglodytic feature of what appear in Azar Shahr, Maraghe, and Nir many scholars identified these character as a definite warrant to classify them as a place where believers of Mithra could gathered since a handmade cave reflects the idea of creation of

Mithra in its best way (Labfaf, 2012); while others mark them as a sequence of swastika form in the Islamic architecture (Soltani and others, 2018). From this point of view, the identity of these architectural units have never go beyond superficial descriptions (Mirfattah and Shekari Niri, 1996; Shojadel and Alipour, 2005; Ahmadi, 2000).

### **Funeral Architecture in Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Northeast China**

#### *Single Chamber Temples*

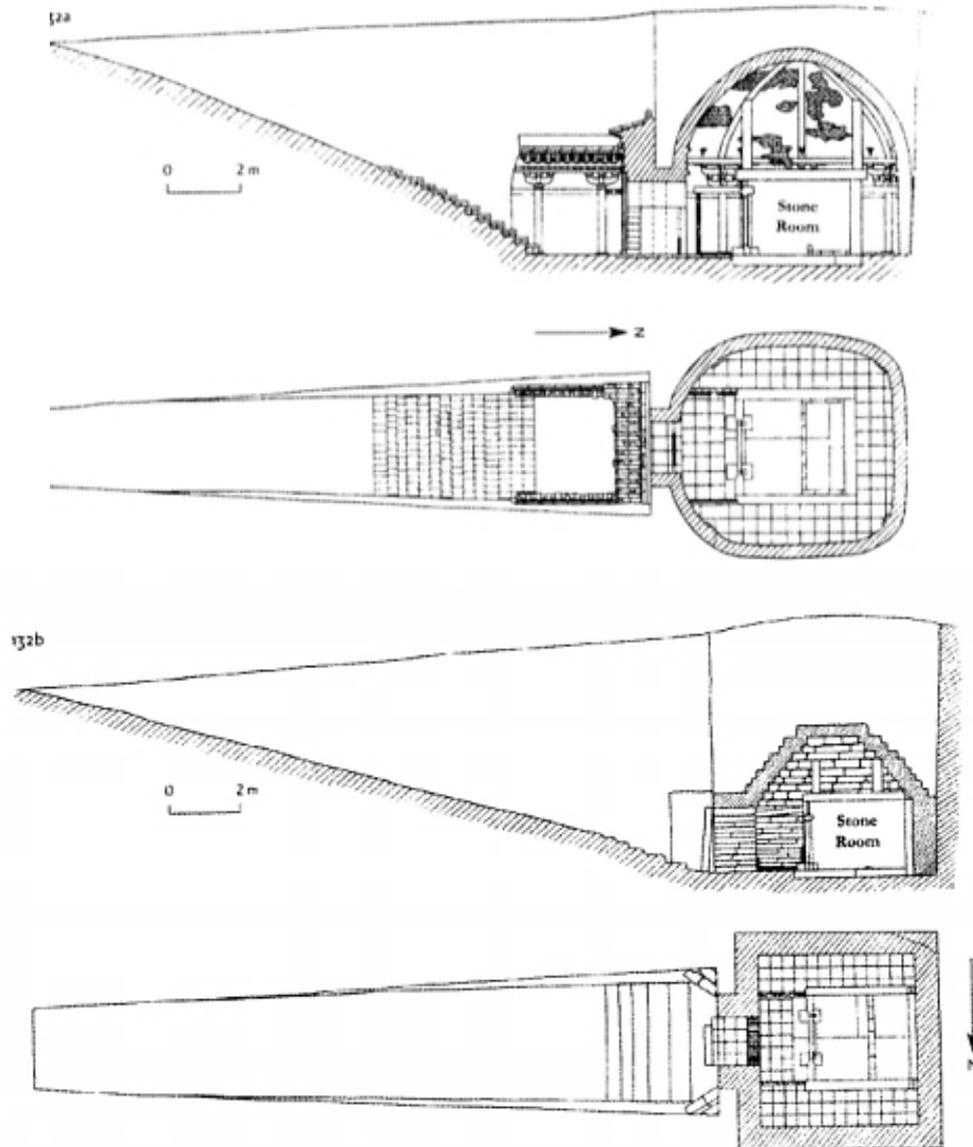
From the tenth century A.D. through the first quarter of the twelfth century, the Liao Empire ruled sixteen prefectures of north China, including the city that is today Beijing; most of the three northeastern Chinese provinces that formerly comprised Manchuria; and portions of Korea, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Gobi Desert, and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (Steinhardt, 1998). Beginning in the 1950s, a widespread excavation of Liao sites was undertaken by local and provincial Chinese teams in Liaoning and Inner Mongolia. As Steinhardt states: "*Below ground, burial occurred in a single chamber. The corpse may be contained in a single or multilayer coffin or it can lie directly on a funerary bed. Certain of these burial techniques can easily be linked to practices of the neighboring Chinese or other sedentary peoples near China's border. Other postmortem practices are unquestionably native to the "Qidan" and, in fact, corroborate descriptions of this group in Chinese historical texts. Some of the burial practices not only are distinctively not Chinese, but also are reminiscent of funerary customs associated only with nomadic groups of the Eurasian steppe a full millennium prior to the establishment of the Liao Empire and on the*

*western edge of China"* (ibid). Referring to the "Northern People", the Old Standard History of the Tang Dynasty says, "When a person dies, it is customary not to bury in the ground. Rather, the corpse is sent by horse-drawn conveyance to the great mountains where it is placed on a tree without mourning garments or identification" (Li Xu, 1971). If the textual accounts of early northern burials practices are accurate, it is remarkable that the remains of the first Liao ruler, "Abaoji", were placed in an underground tomb in the year 926 A.D. (Fig. 6; Left), a full twenty years before the establishment of the Liao dynasty (A.D. 947). According to the dynastic history of Liao, not only was "Abaoji" buried, but before interment his body laid in a "*miao*" (temple), and his tomb was located in an "ancestral prefecture". Both the use of the structure and the enclosure of funerary space in a prefecture are traditional Chinese features. Chinese are and were renowned for elaborate burial preparations in tombs built of permanent materials such as brick, and for specific practices such as encasement of bodies in jade suits during the Han dynasty (206 B.C to A.D 220). In pre-synaptic "Qidan" times, subterranean burial was likely learned from China, although, certainly, elaborate tombs were constructed by people's north and northeast of China at that time (Steinhardt, 1998).

Located at present-day "Baoshan" in "Chifeng", Inner Mongolia, and designated as "Baoshan" Tomb 1 and 2, these two tombs were found inside a large graveyard about 30km northeast of the Supreme Capital of the Liao (Xiaoguang et.al, 1998). An inscription in "Baoshan" Tomb 1, written in beautiful Chinese calligraphy in the earliest known Liao aristocratic tomb yet excavated only seven years after the founding of the Liao and sixteen years after the fall of the Tang (ibid).

These tombs share a similar architectural program, each comprised of a paved passageway, a small courtyard at the end of the passageway, a brick gate imitating a

timber structure, a short tunnel inside the gate, a chamber with a domed ceiling and an inner room (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1. Plan of Boshan's tombs, Chifeng, Inner Mongolia. Down: Tomb No. 1, 923 A.D. Left: Tomb No.2, after 926 A.D. and possibly before 930 A.D. (Hung, 2013).**

The "Baoshan" tombs, however, are unique in their inner stone rooms, which seem a standard feature in the "Baoshan" cemetery but are nearly absent in Liao tombs built a mere ten to twenty years later (Chaoyang shi et.al, 2011). We still cannot

securely identify the origin of this design, but it is interesting that a similar stone chamber was an important feature of some Northern Wei tombs constructed four hundred years earlier (Hung, 2013) (Fig. 2).

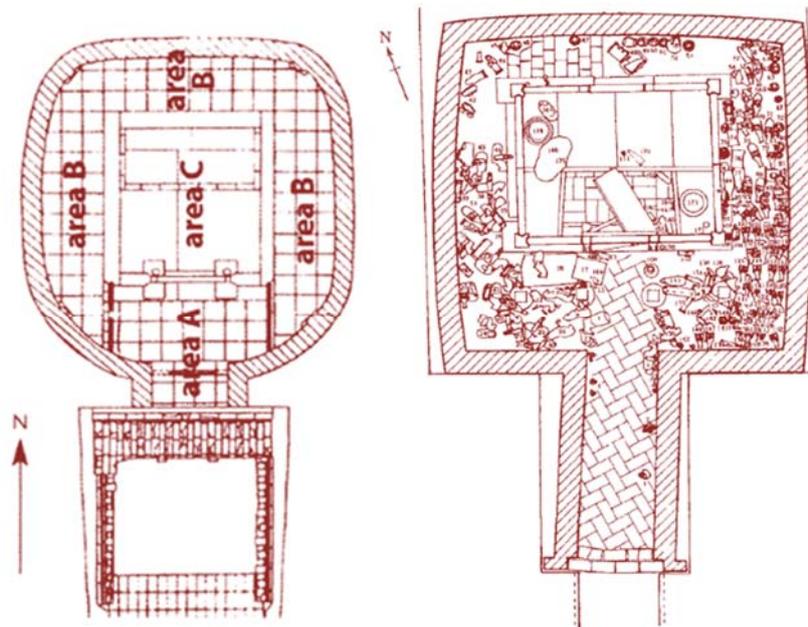


Fig. 2. Right: Plan of Song Shaozu's tomb, Shanxi. 477 C.E. Left: Internal spaces of the Baoshan tombs (Hung et.al, 2013).

The Northern Qi tomb of "Xu Xianxiu" in "Taiyuan" dating to 571 A.D. is remarkable for its well-preserved plan. It is marked above ground with a tumulus that rises five meters above the flat surface of the land. The tomb consists of a single, large chamber about 6.5m

square. The chamber is located directly under the tumulus, with a short, barrel-vaulted entryway and a fifteen-meter-long tomb passage dug directly into the earth. The entrance was sealed with a carved stone door and door frame (Lingley et.al, 2014). (Fig. 3)

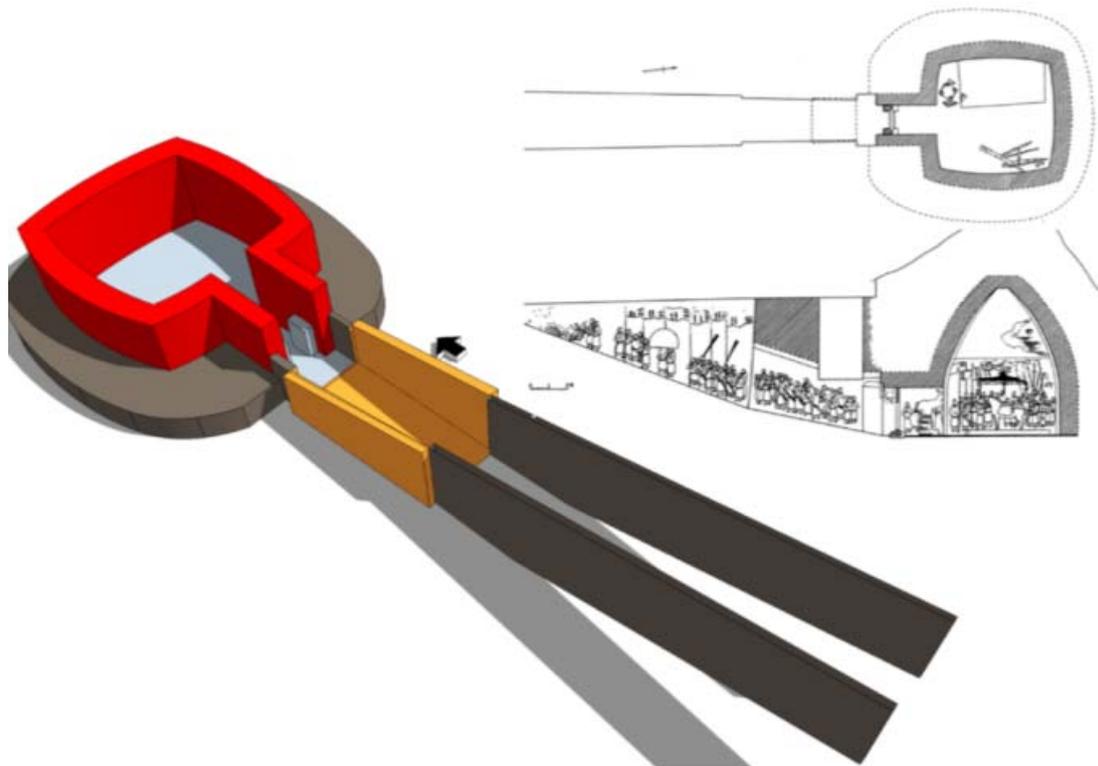


Fig. 3. Tomb of Xu Xianxiu in Taiyuan (Lingley et.al, 2014).

### Tombs with 2 inline Chambers

In Shanxi Province, tomb structures were almost completely in Han style; most of them were chambered with mounds and slopes

passages, which were usually double-chambered with few single-chambered cases and some decorated with stone relief (Du Linyuan, 2014). (Fig. 4)

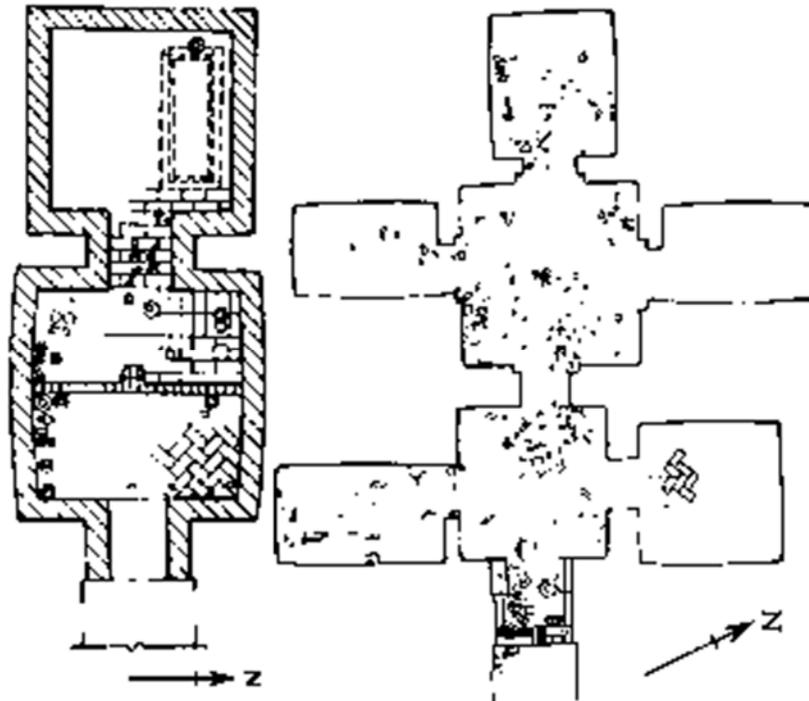


Fig. 4. Right: plan of M67 at Zhaowan cemetery, Baotou, Inner Mongolia. Left: Plan of 96SDM9 at Dabaodang, Shenmu Country, Shanxi Provinces (Du Linyuan, 2014).

"Zhang Wenzao's" tombs in "Xiabali" village are among the tombs with the same combination of a rectangular antechamber

and around rear chamber, the two connected by a narrow corridor (Steinhardt, 1998). (Fig. 5)

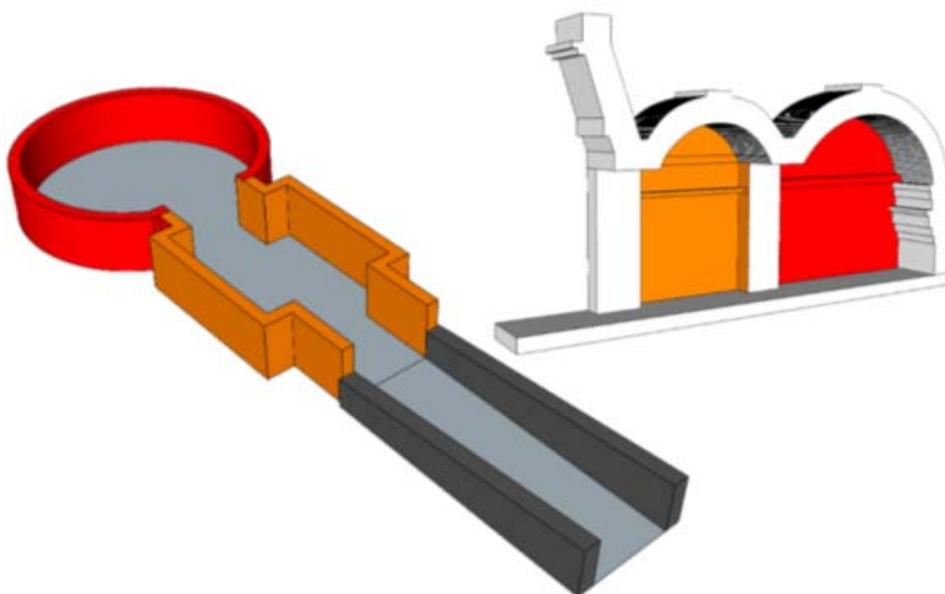


Fig. 5. Tomb of Zhang Wenzao according to Hong et.al 2013 (Authors).

According to the epitaph, the tomb belonged to a man named "Zhang Wenzong" who died in 1074 and was reburied there in 1093. Located near the southern border of Inner Mongolia and present-day Hebei province, this area had experienced political turmoil since the early tenth century during the Five Dynasties and Tang Kingdom period (907-960) (Hong, 2013). On the eastern

border of Inner Mongolia, the funerary art in "Koguryo" during the 4th and 5th centuries should be considered as the early examples of tombs that emphasizing on two chambered room in which the prior room flanked by two bights dedicated to the deceased mundane life especially horse bones and warfare equipment (Perrin et.al, 2016). (Fig. 6)

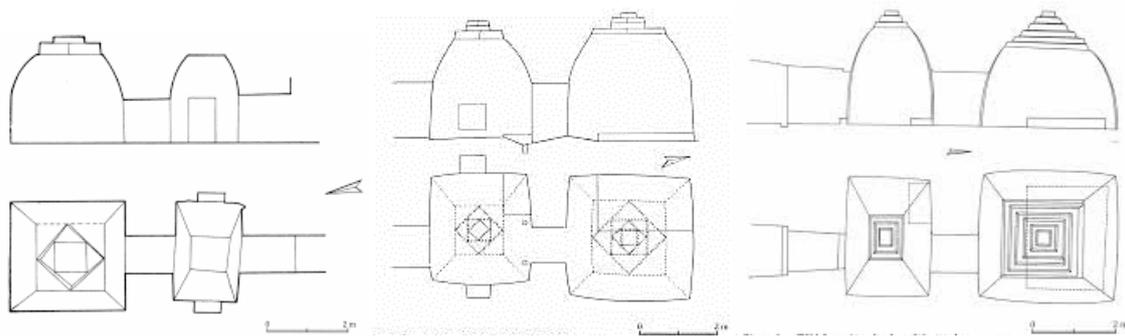


Fig. 6. Examples of Koguryo Funerary Art Including Two Inline Chambers. Right: Toxing-ni Tomb, Middle: Tomb of Yakseri; Left: tomb of Komsin (Perrin et.al, 2016).

**Multi-Chamber Tombs**

"Huatehua" cemetery is located 13km northeast of "Jarud Banner" in "Ulijimurensumu". There are three large and two small tombs at the cemetery. Tomb No.1 is a multi-chamber tomb with passageway, gate, ante-corridor, ante chamber, east and west side niches, rear corridor, rear chamber, measuring 30.5m in total length and 9.9m in width (Xinlin, D. and Tala. A. et.al, 2005) Here the four-side ceiling are corbeled and the layout of both east and west side niches is in protruding form with domed corbeled ceiling. (Fig.7; Right) according to the archaeological excavations, "Abaoji's" tomb has followed the design of tomb No.1 in

"Huatehua" (Fig.7; Left). The size of this tomb is very large and the whole tomb is composed of a passageway facing the southeast, corridors linking the chambers, an antechamber, a middle chamber, a rear chamber and two side chambers, the whole length at the longest place is 50m while the whole structure is cut out of the mountain. The entrance of the tomb has an arch-shaped top; the wooden ground beam of the doorframe is still kept. The antechamber has a rectangular plan and a vaulted ceiling. The middle, rear chambers, and two side chambers are all in square plan with curved corners and with a dome-shaped ceiling (Xinlin et.al, 2010: 40).

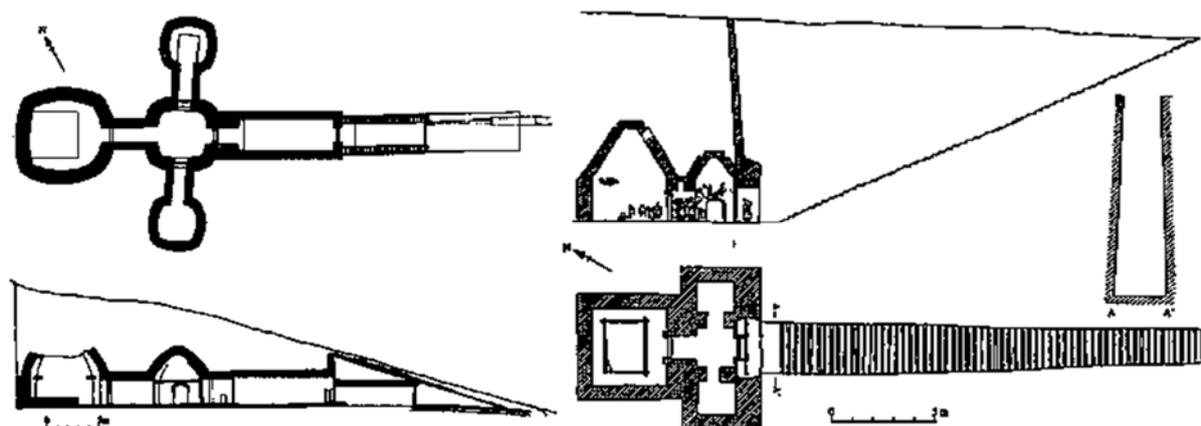


Fig. 7. Right: plan of the Tomb No.1; (ibid). Left: plan of the Abaoji's tomb (Xinlin et.al, 2010).

"Shoroon Bumbagar" tomb in "Biannuur", excavated in 2011. Buried in this tomb was a representative of one of the noble clans of the Eastern Turks. Judging from the

shape of the horse harness and belt details, it can be dated after the middle of the 7th century (Yatsenko, 2014). (Fig. 8)

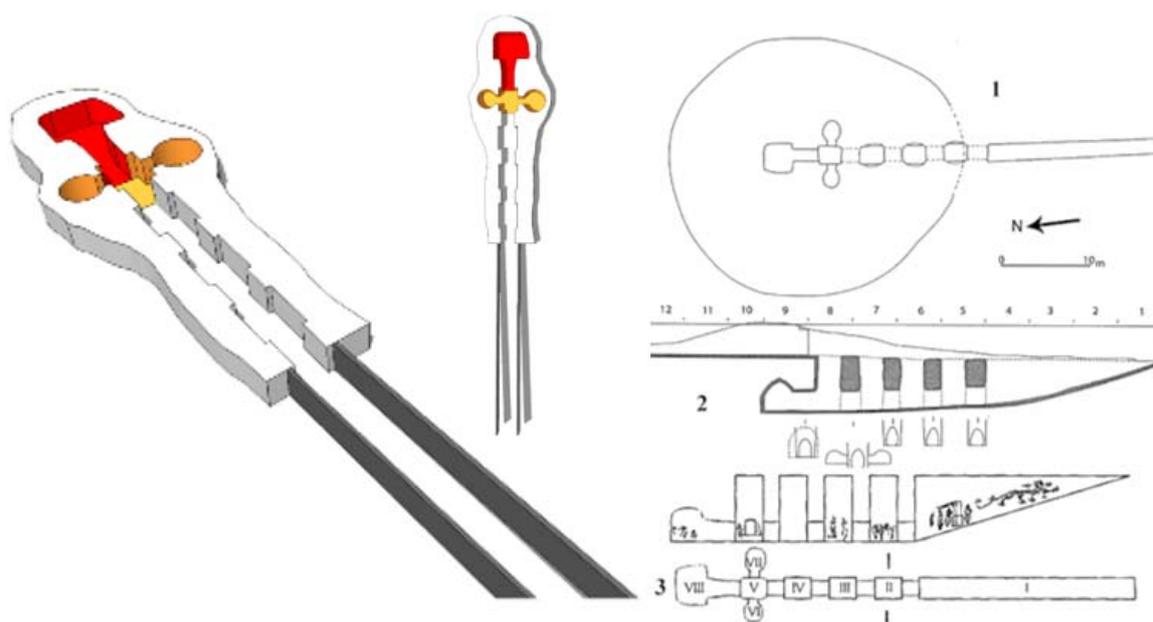


Fig. 8. Plan of The Barrow and Crypt in Shoroon Bumbagar (Ochir and Erdenebold, et.al, 2013).

In 2009 only a few kilometers from in the neighboring "Tov Aimag" was excavated the "Shoroon Dov barrow". This was a grave which Chinese epitaph on granite commemorates the burial here in 667 A.D. of I Yaoyue, a third generation hereditary Chinese vicegerent of the "Pugu" region (Yatsenko, 2014). The tomb contained an outer enclosure elongated north-south which

had a gate in its south (Danilov and others, 2010: 254) within the enclosure was a raised trapezoidal shaped mound with a passageway from the south<sup>1</sup>as well as two bilateral room (ibid). About these two, it is clear that Chinese engineers and builders were present to construct these tombs (Lyndon, 2014). (Fig. 9)

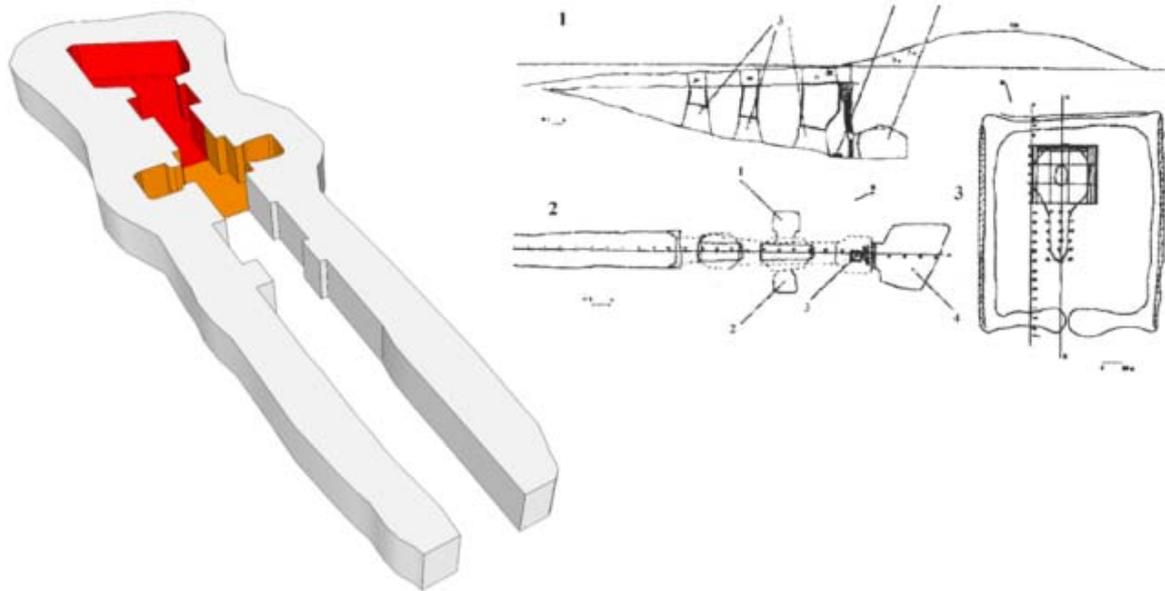


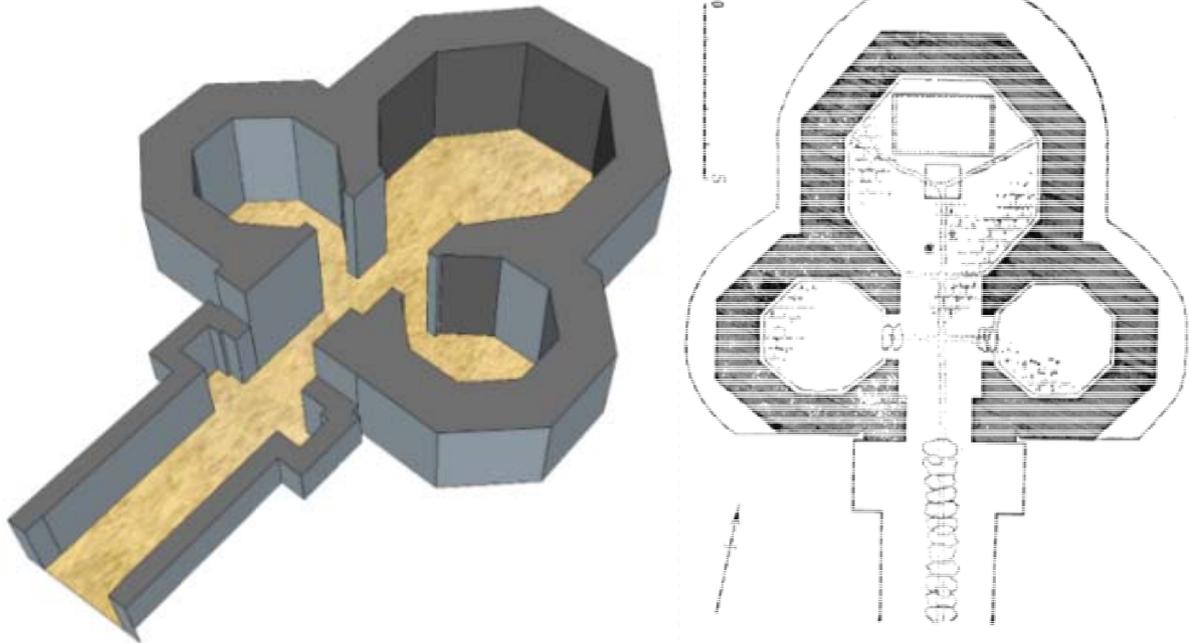
Fig. 9. Tomb of Shoroon Dov Barrow According to Sergei and Danilov (Danilov and others et.al, 2010).

Since the Japanese excavation of the tombs of the sixth, seventh and eighth Liao emperors (Longxu, Zongzhen, and Hongji) in "Qingzhou", Inner Mongolia, funerary architecture has been used as evidences for a belief that the establishment of a Chinese-style dynasty by the "Qidan" signaled a drive towards sedentary ways (Tamura and Kobayashi et.al, 1953). The layouts of the underground tombs in the Liao western capital, Datong, have been seen as indications that the Liao built according to the Chinese system. Main structures were placed along an axial line, subsidiary structures were symmetrically placed in relation to that line and buildings and walls followed the principles of four-side enclosure (Steinhardt, 1998). Japanese reconstructions of the arrangement of architecture above and along the paths to the three imperial Liao tombs showed the same pattern as the building plans used for monasteries in Datong. Three investigations have been undertaken of the funerary city at Zuzhou used by the first Liao ruler, "Abaoji" (Mullie,

et.al, 1922; Zhou jie 1966; Wei Changyou, 1989). From all indications, the visible funerary architecture of "Qidan" rulers was that of China. One Liao excavation that has attracted attention beyond China's borders in recent years is the tomb of the princess of "Chenguo" and her Husband, "Xiao Shaoju". They were buried together in A.D. 1018 the year of her death and one year after his, near the site today known as "Qinglongshan" in Inner Mongolia (Steinhardt, 1998). The burial chamber in which the princess and her husband lay was circular, 4.38 m in diameter. Its vaulted ceiling rose to a height of just under 4m. The round shape of the main chamber and two side niches were in accordance with the tomb's early eleventh century A.D. date (Xiang Chunsong et.al, 1981). In the early years of the People's Republic, ten tombs encircled by mountains were identified at the site of "Haqianying", about 20km southeast of the city of "Jining" in "Chayouqian Banner", Inner Mongolia. The tomb known as No.6 was excavated in 1981. This tomb was simpler than the

Princess of "Chenguo's" tomb, with only a single, subterranean chamber, but the chamber was octagonal, suggesting a date later than A.D. 1018 (Xiang Chunsong et.al,

1981) (Fig. 10). It also was distinguished from the majority of known Liao burials by the use of stone for the lining of its interior walls and ceiling.



**Fig. 10. Plan of The Tomb of Xiao Yi, Excavated in Faku Country, Liaoning Province (Wen Lihe, 1989: 325).**

Similarly, to the tomb of the Princess of "Chenguo", "Yemaotai" Tomb No.7 had one main chamber and niches adjacent on either side of the antechamber. In this case. All rooms were nearly square. An indication that the tomb had been prepared "Early" in the Liao dynasty, probably before the reign of Emperor "Shengzong" (A.D. 983-1031) (Xiang Chunsong et.al, 1981). Tomb of "Mme Yi", the De Consort of the Later Tang Dynasty is a progressed level of Han dynasty funeral tomb's idea by a brick multi-chamber tomb consisting of the passage, the entrance, the corridor, the main chamber and the side chambers, the full length of which was 24.1m. (Fig. 11; Right) This tomb shows more styles

of the Han Culture, which was special among the tombs of the Liao Dynasty at the same time. The content of the epitaph made up the insufficient records of the historical textual materials and provided important materials for the researches on the relationship between the Khitan and the Later "Tang" and Later "Jin" Dynasties in the Five-Dynasties Period (Fenglei, M. and others et.al, 2017).

In the Tangut's<sup>2</sup>royal tomb near Yinchuan province (Fig. 11; Left) the antechamber is flanked by two square rooms which probably stored up the royal ceramics and warfare accessories as well as horse bones (Steinhardt et.al, 1993).

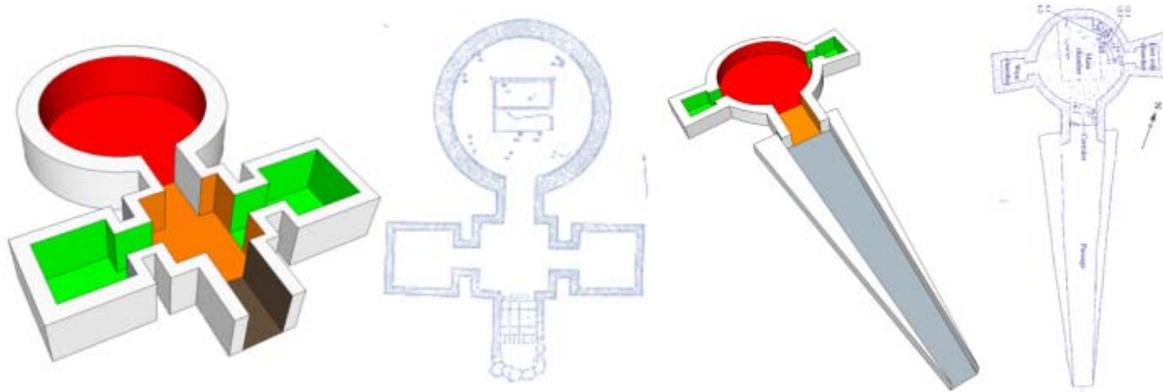


Fig. 11. Right: Tomb of Mme Yi 907-960 A.D., Inner Mongolia. Left: Tangut's Royal Tomb in Yinchuan (Steinhardt et.al, 1993).

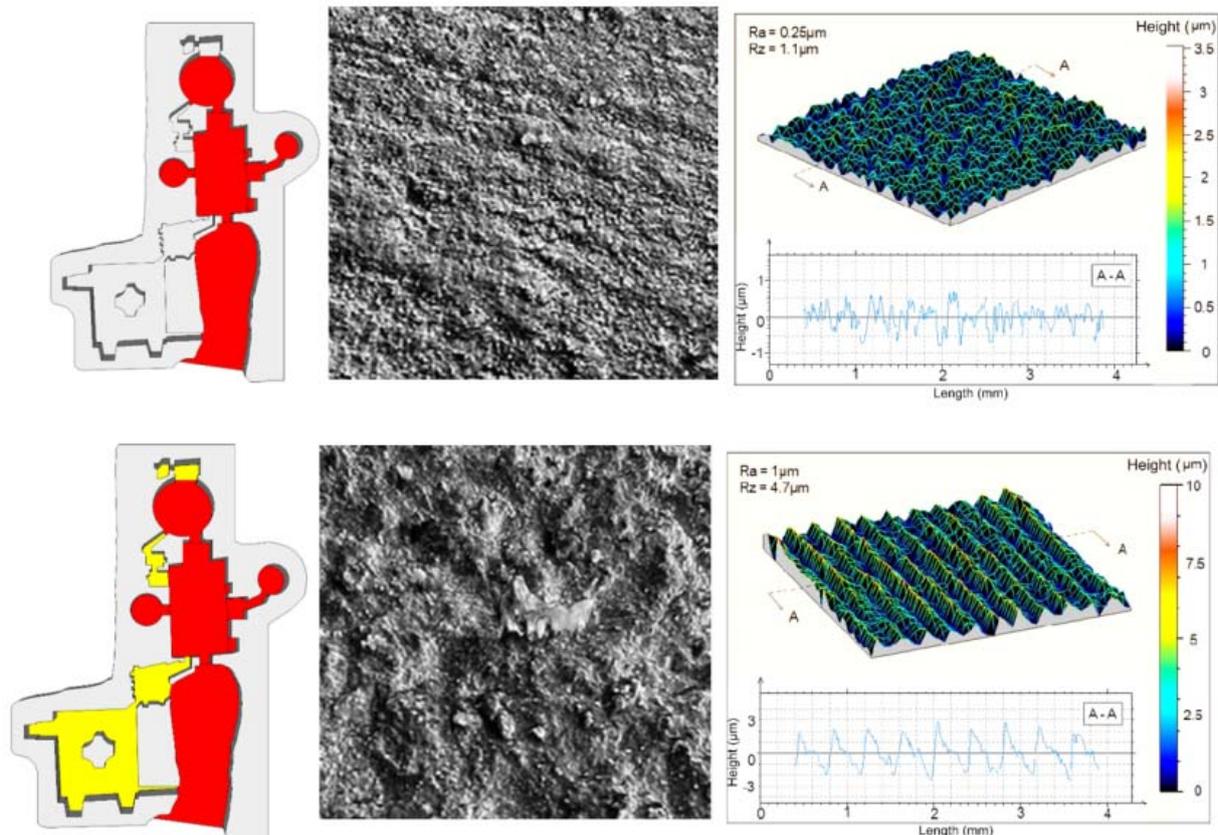
### Underground Architecture of Northwest Iran

Maraghe also known as "Maragha" was chosen as the early capital of Mongol dynasty in Iran by "Hulaku Khan" (1217-1265). In the outskirts of Maraghe lies the site of an underground structure known as the Mithraeum also the "Imamzade Masum". The site has three accessible areas: a main space surrounded by four domed chambers; a four-domed hall with a full-size pillar in its center and a set of three long chambers some 100 meters away. A parallelogram-shaped opening with a rough semi-circular roof and a single step of masonry blocks crosses into the central chamber. The original roof has collapsed and is now replaced by a makeshift modern brick roof. Ball suggests that the roof was originally divided into three by two shallow semi-circular arches. He notes the four symmetrical niches along the opening (Azad, 2010: 221). On the south of the main chamber is a large square-roofed alcove. The alcove leads to a little cavity that contains two niches. A second access to the largest domed room leads through an opening on the southern end of the east wall of the chamber via a passageway. The domed chamber has a remarkably well-preserved ceiling faceted in the Ilkhanid stalactite style. Each facet is a

square or triangle and only one facet has any decoration left on it. It sounds that the calligraphic artwork was left incomplete and possibly brought to an abrupt halt (ibid). The pillar hall is accessed from the main chamber via a small roughly square chamber surmounted by a dome with practically no zone of transition or squinches. It has a light shaft in its ceiling and contains a row of four elliptical niches set at eye-level on its east wall and two elongated niches on the adjacent walls. The pillar hall is a large square, divided into four smaller squares by semi-circular arches, each surmounted by a dome, possibly pierced by a light shaft. According to the gross surface of the pillar hall which is made owing to a precipitate process of carving in compare with the other portions, it could be concluded that this part is added during the recent renovations of this structure. As a matter of fact, what laser technology proposed about the different depth of scratches made by carving equipment in all surfaces, large variety of width and depth in each section designate two architectural phases. From this point of view, the pillar hall, as well as other highlighted sections (in yellow) might be additional sections in compare with the well-polished surface of original parts (in Red) (Fig. 12). Judging from

the laser scan data, two different architectural phases could be considered in this structure; one has started by a passageway, continues to a rectangular chamber flanked by two circular chambers and ended to the main chambered dome. In the second phase, some peripheral rooms and subordinate channels

had been added in an un-integrated manner compare with other parts including a pillar hall and new connections between old part and new constructions which might be in parallel with modern renovations that happened in its stable stony structure in the course of the centuries.



**Fig. 12. Architectural Plan of Maraghe Tomb. According to The Results of Laser Scan Date Towards Curved Surfaces of the Structure; The Older Part (Red) Whitt Its Polished Surface Is in Contrary with The Additional Parts (Yellow) As an Evidence That Two Distinguishable Surface Reveals Two Probable Constructions Phases.**

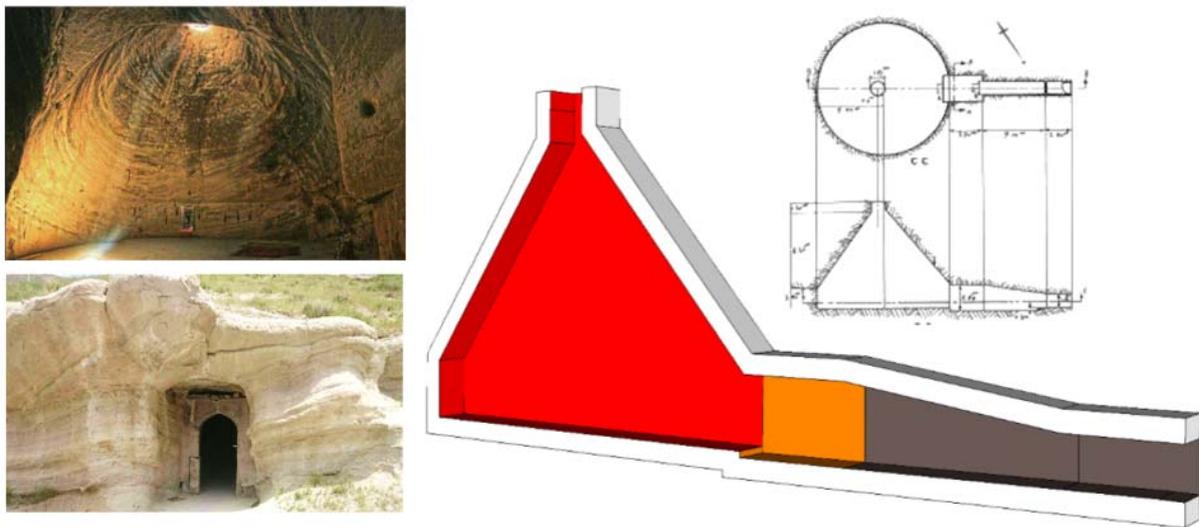


**Fig. 13. The Transition Area in The Main Chamber Room of Maraghe's Underground Structure.**

**Azar Shahr**

Nearby the historic graveyard of Din Abad in Azar Shahr province, Northwest Iran, there is a rock-cut structure known as the temple of "Gadamgah". The naïve façade of its structure including a stone framework might not reveal its glorious inner architecture at a glance. Here, a 7.80m passageway with the approximate width of 1.6m and a barrel shape vault ended to an ante-chamber with 4m for its length and 3.5m for its width. The main chamber of this structure with a conical

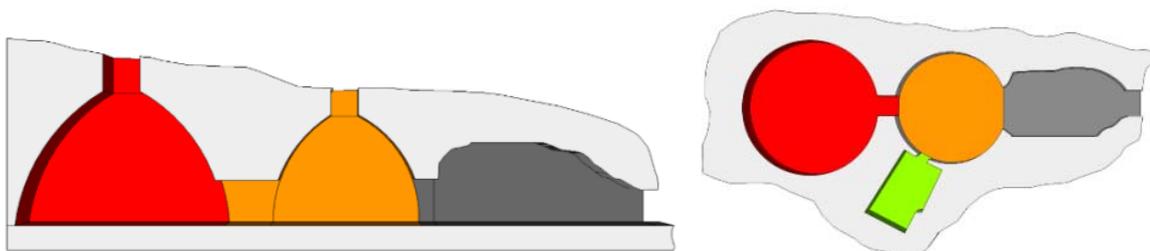
curved dome is among the most prominent remaining of stone cut masterpieces. (Fig. 14) The diameter of this chambered room is about 15m with the maximum height of 12.30m precisely curved from the surface to the top. Without any reasonable explanation, this monument has been categorized as a Mithraeum (Azad, et al., 2005) but the reputation of Stone-Mosque must not go further than the Safavid era (Varjavand, 1976: 17).



**Fig. 14. The rock-cut monument of Azar Shahr.**

In the northeast most point of "Ardabil" province, the existence of a rock-cut structure titled with the wide range of variety of applications such as Mithraeum, Parthian temple as well as Sufi Tomb (Azad, 2005) was shaped following the same pattern of a passageway and chamber rooms. Both

chamber rooms are in conical form but the diameter and the height of the domes might be as an indication for funeral hierarchies while the symmetrical formation of the whole building has been disturbed by the existence of a rectangular room in the west of the second chamber (Fig. 15).



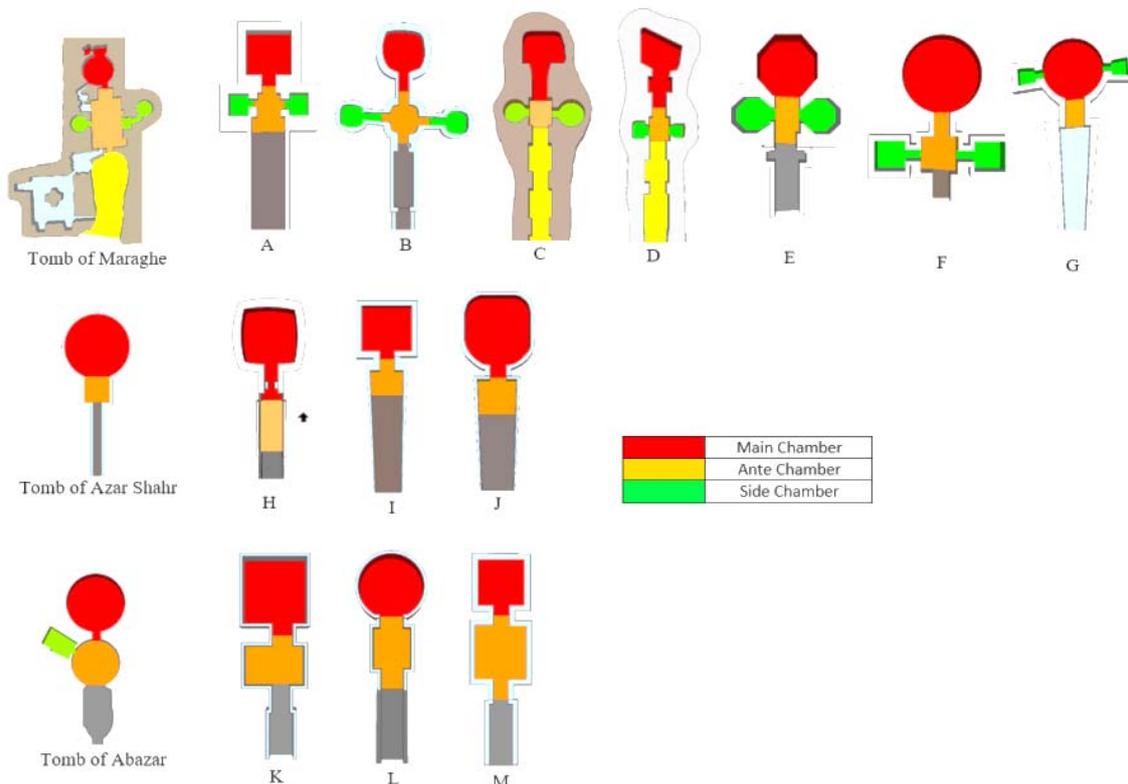
**Fig. 15. Rock-cut monument of "Abazar" in "Ardabil" Province**



**Fig. 16. Distribution of Temples in Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Northeast China.**

1.2. Boshan's tombs, Chifeng; 3. Song Shaozu's tomb, Shanxi. 4. Tomb of M67 at Zhaowan cemetery, Baotou. 5. Tomb of 96SDM9 at Dabaodang, Shenmu. 6. Tomb of Xu Xianxiu in Taiyuan. 7. Zhang Wenzao's tomb in Xiabali. 8. Abaoji's tomb. 9. Tomb No.1 in Huatehua cemetery. 10. Shoroon Bumbagar tomb in Biannuur. 11. Tomb of Shoroon Dov barrow. 12. Tomb of Xiao Yi. 13. Koguryo's tombs. 14. Tomb of Mme Yi. 15. Tangut's royal tomb.

A: Tomb of Maraghe; B: Tomb of Abazar and C: Tomb of Azar Shahr.



**Fig.17 Spatial Relations of Tombs in Inner Mongolia, Mongolia and Northeast China and in Accordance with The Plan of Tombs in Northwest Iran.**

A: Tomb No.1 in Huatehua cemetery. B: plan of the Abaoji's tomb. C: Shoroon Bumbagar tomb in Biannuur. D: tomb of Shoroon Dov barrow. E: tomb of Xiao Yi. F: Tangut's royal tomb. G: Tomb of Mme Yi. H: tomb of Xu Xianxiu. I & J: Boshan's tombs, Chifeng. K: Koguryo's Tombs. L: Zhang Wenzao's tomb. M: plan of M67 at Zhaowan cemetery.

Considering the distribution of single chamber and multi-room tombs in Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Northeast China, (Fig.16) it can be assumed that the architectural pattern of a single-room temple was more closely related to China in which such a mentality has gradually penetrated into the Inner Mongolian architecture under the dominion of the five Chinese dynasties. Apparently, this form has transformed into Mongolia by accepting two bilateral rooms in order to keep horse bones and warfare accessories. After capturing Northwest Iran by Mongols (1256), just like the Inner Mongolian temples and those in Mongolia and Northeast China, after the burial of the princess and aristocrats in Northwest Iran, a special motivation has shaped towards selecting these areas as a graveyard and had spread through these regions. In this way, these temples were the focal point of cemeteries even till the recent days. In "Azar Shahr's" underground architecture a stone framework would be a representation of the same language of the tomb of "Xu Xianxiu" and tomb No.1 in "Huathua"; while this idea has been repeated during the next Mongol projects in Northwest Iran such as the entrance gate of "Shad Abad" cemetery, "Sheikh Shahab's" mausoleum and Jami mosque of "Marand" respectively.

### **Conclusion**

This survey of evidence from Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Northeast China certainly point to the serious need to rethink the architectural developments on the

underground architecture of Northwest Iran, which was previously limited to Mithraeum complexes. It was sure beforehand that the existence of Mongols for a century in Northwest Iran would follow their funeral art parallel to other artistic aspects. Although historical contexts have confirmed that before "Ghazan Khan", burial customs of Mongols emphasized on hiding the exact point of the tomb, the remnants of three underground structures in accordance with Mongolian, Inner Mongolian and Northeast China's culture reflect the same attitude towards funeral traditions in new capital, Maraghe.

By comparing the architectural forms between Northwest Iran, Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Northern China, not only there is no difference between plans and design, but also a same language of architecture has been repeated in both regions. According to the results, three type of tomb constructing method could be considered in an area including Inner Mongolia, Mongolia and Northeast China; one including a passageway end up with an antechamber and main chamber room which is mainly formed the structure of the tombs in Northeast China like tomb of "Xu Xianxiu" and those in "Bashon". Second is a corridor in connection with two successive domed chambers in Northeast most point of Inner Mongolia in "Kogoryo's" tombs which should be considered as the point where single chambers and multi-chamber tombs overlapped; and the third: including a corridor, antechambers, main chamber and two bilateral rooms containing horse bones, warfare and ceramics. Although scholars cannot securely identify the origin of the design of Northwest Iran underground

architecture, but from this point of view, "Maraghe's" underground architecture might be a tomb in accordance with the architectural projects of Mongolian's tomb like those in tomb No.1 in "Huathua", "Abaoji's" tomb, "Shoroon Bumbagar" tomb, tomb of "Shoroon Dov barrow", tomb of "Xiao Yi", Tangut's royal tomb and tomb of "Mme Yi"; while "Abazar's" tomb will follow the plan of tombs in "Kogoryo" and "Azar Shahr's" tomb will be an exact copy of those in Northeast China. Since Mongol invasions

of Iran (1256) is the most common reason for this transition before the time that "Ghazan" started a new architectural movement towards funeral architecture by establishing his complex known as "Ghazaniyya" (1320); Northwest Iran's tomb most belong to the period between mid-13th to the early 14th centuries.

### Conflict of Interests

There is no conflict of interests.

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## رہیافت‌های نوین دربارهٔ سه مقبرهٔ صخره‌ای (قرن ۷-۸ ه.ق) در شمال غرب ایران

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تاریخ دریافت: ۱۳۹۷/۱۲/۲۵ تاریخ پذیرش: ۱۳۹۸/۷/۲۱

### چکیده

با انتخاب شمال غرب ایران به‌عنوان اولین پایتخت حکومت ایلخانی، دیوان‌سالاری قوم غالب نقش تعیین‌کننده‌ای در مدیریت، کنترل و تعریف فرهنگ‌های متنوع در این منطقه از ایران داشته است، به طوری که تعاملات فرهنگی گسترده‌ای بین مغولستان، مغولستان داخلی، شمال شرقی چین و ایران در این دوران مشهود است. وجود سه گونهٔ ناشناخته از معماری دست‌کند در مراغه (پایتخت جدید) و اطراف آن همواره در میان بحث برانگیزترین موضوعات مربوط به تاریخ معماری و باستان‌شناسی بوده است. هرچند بازهٔ زمانی بین سال‌های ۱۲۵۶-۱۳۳۵ میلادی را دورهٔ تداخلات فرهنگی میان مغولستان و شمال غرب ایران دانسته‌اند؛ با این حال، تأثیرات متقابل در حوزهٔ معماری کمتر مورد توجه محققان بوده است. در همین راستا، بازنگری داده‌های مربوط به بقایای معماری این گونه از معماری دست‌کند، راهگشای افق‌های نوینی پیرامون دلیل پیدایش و تعیین کارکرد معماری صخره‌ای دست‌کند در شمال غرب ایران خواهد بود. تحقیق پیش‌رو بر آن است تا با مطالعهٔ تطبیقی و تحلیل معماری نمونه‌های مشابه بر جای مانده در مغولستان، مغولستان داخلی و شمال شرق چین، ساختار فضایی سه معماری صخره‌ای دست‌کند در شمال غرب ایران را تکرار الگوی مشابهی از معماری مذهبی مناطق مزبور معرفی کند. مطابق با نتایج به‌دست‌آمده، ترکیب معماری راهروی منتهی به یک یا چند اتاق، نه‌تنها انحصاراً و ابتدا به ساکن مربوط به شمال غرب ایران نیست، بلکه بیانگر سبک معماری شناخته‌شده‌ای از مقابر تدفینی در مغولستان، مغولستان داخلی و شمال شرق چین است.

**واژه‌های کلیدی:** دورهٔ ایلخانی، معماری دست‌کند، معماری تدفینی، مغولستان داخلی، معماری شرق چین، شمال غرب ایران.

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