



Perspective view of micro-district Kalkaus, Tashkent  
S. Adylov, A.S. Kosinsky, G. Korobovtsev, G. Grigoryants (1974–78)

# MAHALLA

## TASHKENT – BUKHARA – SAMARKAND

### TEAM

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Mahallas are an ancient form of „living together“, historically built around family ties and the daily life of the community. They are even integrated into the modern Uzbek constitution, which allows them to deal independently with all matters falling within their jurisdiction. Weddings, funerals, conflict resolution in the quarter and in the family, administrative activities and community celebrations take place in these neighbourhoods, which are still home to a large part of the Uzbek population. To date there are almost 10,000 Mahallas in Uzbekistan with an average of about 2,000 inhabitants. Depending of local culture, tradition, region and climate, various types of Mahallas developed over the centuries. But many Mahallas are disappearing due to high economic pressure, changed habits and lack of modern infrastructure.

A focus of our journey will therefore be the different types of Mahallas throughout Uzbekistan. On our journey along the Silk Road from Tashkent to the West we will not miss to visit important cultural sites and buildings in the cities of Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand. From the monumental Koranic schools of the 15th century to the Soviet reconstruction of Tashkent after the 1966 earthquake.

The social organization of the Mahallas and their various architectural forms are of high interest because they represent alternative models of urban society. At a time when the anonymous megacity and its ecosystem are literally reaching their limits, the need for an alternative is greater than ever. The example of the Mahalla can make an important contribution to this.

### SEMINAR WEEK

23.10. – 31.10.2021  
Expense category E  
(max. 1200 CHF)  
10 – 12 participants  
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