



## DANESTAMA

---

**DANESTAMA**, a mud-brick structure on diaper masonry foundations located on the left bank of the Sorḳāb river, 34 km north of Doāb-e Miḳzarīn on the road to Doši (35° 25' N, 68° 14' E).

A stone foundation carried a mud-brick edifice that can be reconstructed as a rectangular building 40.40 x 36.35 m, protected at each corner by a three-quarter-round bastion and reinforced on the northern flank by a semicircular bastion and on the east and west by pairs of semicircular bastions (for a ground plan, see Fischer, fig. 6.59). On the south a gate flanked by huge walls leads into a vestibule and an open court. The many chambers, regularly distributed along the northern, western, and eastern walls may indicate the function of the building, as an Islamic *madrassa* (religious school). One excavated specimen of stucco wall decoration with geometric designs can be compared with Ghurid and Ghaznavid architectural ornament in the palace at Laškarī Bāzār, thus suggesting a probable 11th-century date. The excavator discovered Ghaznavid slip-painted and Ghurid incised pottery from the 11th-13th centuries.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

M. Le Berre, "Le monument de Danestama en Afghanistan," *REI* 38, 1970, pp. 43-53.

K. Fischer, "From the Rise of Islam to the Mongol Invasion," in F. R. Allchin and N. Hammond, eds., *The Archaeology of Afghanistan from Earliest Times to the Timurid Period*, London, 1978, pp. 351-52.

(Klaus Fischer)