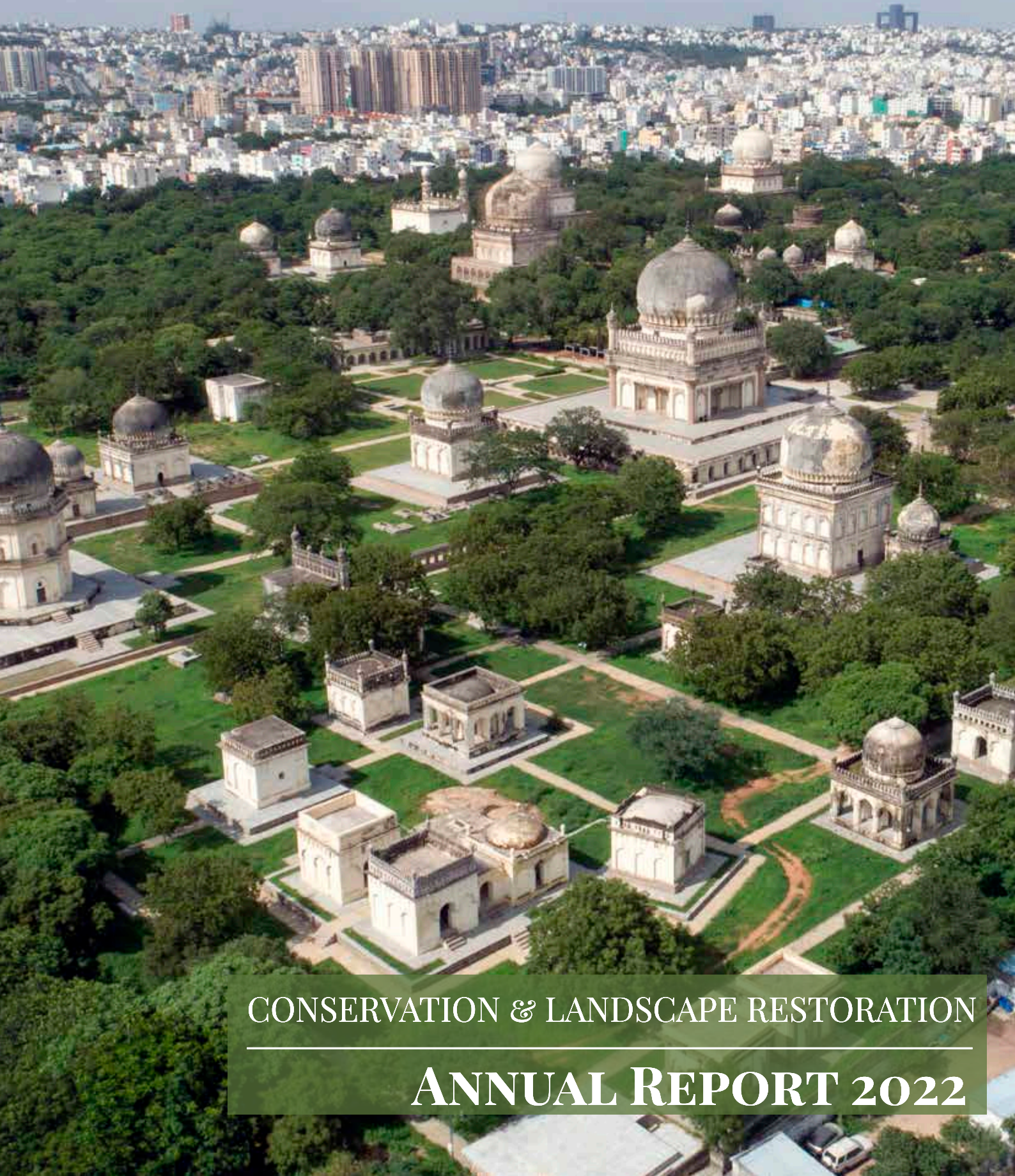
AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

QUTB SHAHI HERITAGE PARK

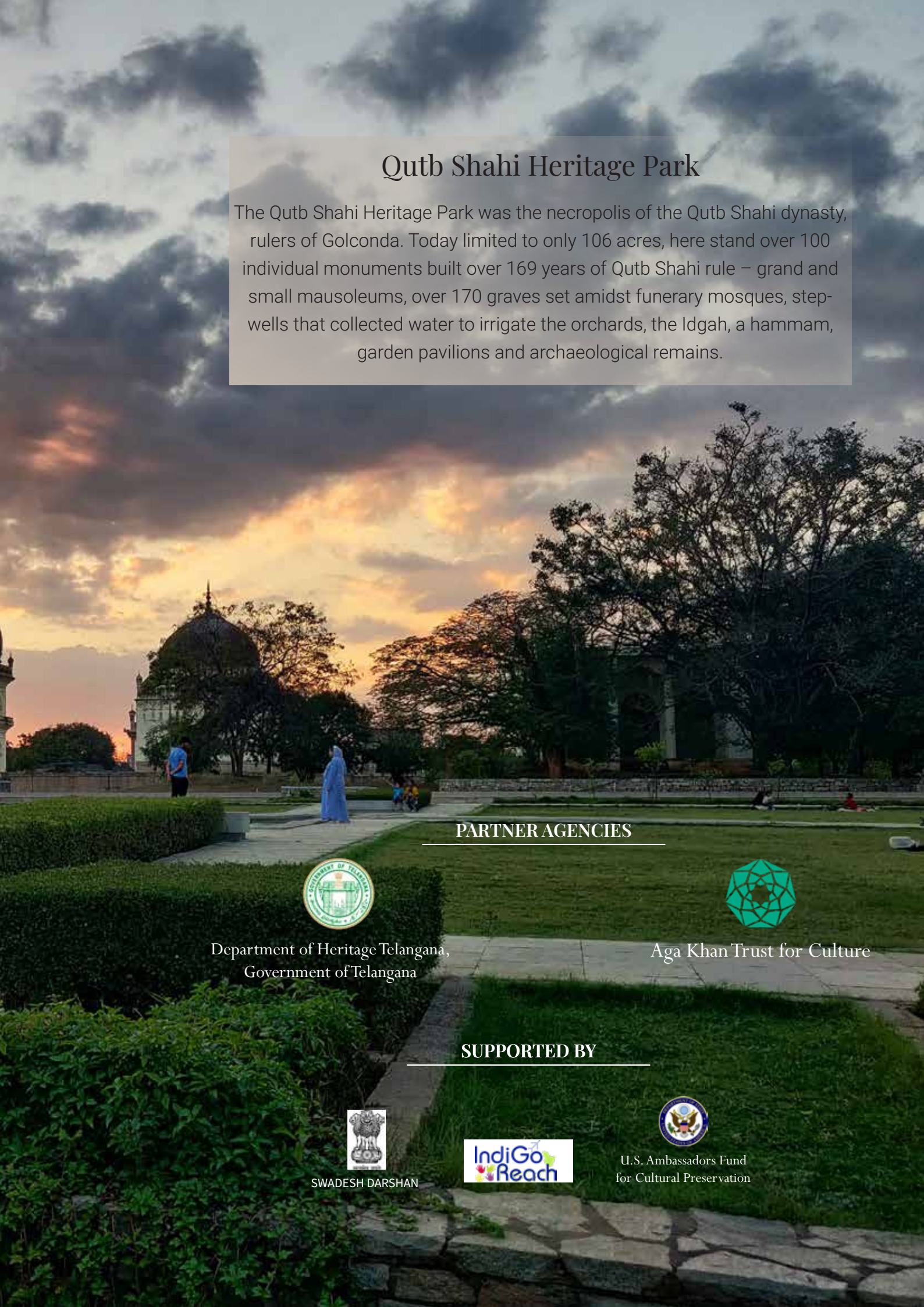


CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Qutb Shahi Heritage Park

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was the necropolis of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, rulers of Golconda. Today limited to only 106 acres, here stand over 100 individual monuments built over 169 years of Qutb Shahi rule – grand and small mausoleums, over 170 graves set amidst funerary mosques, step-wells that collected water to irrigate the orchards, the Idgah, a hammam, garden pavilions and archaeological remains.



PARTNER AGENCIES

Department of Heritage Telangana, Government of Telangana

Aga Khan Trust for Culture

SUPPORTED BY

SWADESH DARSHAN

IndiGo Reach

U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

Content

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

VISITOR ZONE

www.facebook.com/QutbShahiHeritagePark

www.instagram.com/qutbshahiheritage

www.twitter.com/qutb_shahi_park

LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, including the Deccan Park area, is one of the most significant historic medieval necropolises anywhere in the world, comprising over 100 structures including mausoleums, funerary mosques, step-wells/ baolis, a Hammam, pavilions, garden structures – all built during the reign of the Qutb Shahi dynasty which ruled the Hyderabad region for 169 years in the 16th – 17th centuries.

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park is listed on the tentative World Heritage List. Major conservation and landscape restoration works are being undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in partnership with the Department of Heritage Telangana, and support of Tata Trusts, IndiGo, US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, and the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany. These works aim to ensure long term preservation and enhance the visitor experience of this site of international significance.

PARTNER AGENCIES

Department of Heritage Telangana,
Government of Telangana

Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Landscape Masterplan as approved in 2013

Landscape Consultants: Shaheer Associates

(Above) Mr. K T Rama Rao, Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Govt of Telangana along with Mr. Srinivas Goud, Minister of Tourism & Culture, Govt of Telangana, Ms. Jennifer Larson , United States Consul General and Mr. Luis Monreal, Director General of Aga Khan Trust for Culture inaugurated the five stepwells at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park on 15th September 2022.

(Right) The Conservation of the six Baolis standing within the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was recognized in 2022 by the UNESCO Award of Distinction.

Executive Summary

Within the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park stand four mausoleum that rival the grand Mughal mausoleums, 40 mausoleums of both Qutb Shahi royalty and nobility, several funerary mosques – for the orthodox who chose to be buried under the open sky, six incredible baolis and over 170 gravestones – some most intricately carved in black basalt. Together these structures and their garden setting comprise a unique site – amongst the most significant necropolis anywhere in the world.

On 9 January 2013, the MoU to initiate the major conservation effort at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was initiated. This partnership between the Government of Telangana and the Aga Khan Development Network together with support of the Tata Trusts, US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, Indigo Reach, the German Consulate has enabled conservation works on over 80 monuments coupled with the landscape and ecological restoration of the 106-acre ensemble.

An inter-disciplinary Aga Khan Trust for Culture team, along with expert advice, has worked tirelessly for a decade now to restore the significance of this site. Craftsmen working with traditional tools, building material and valued craft skills have strived to match the stucco work from five centuries ago. Landscape architects, ecologists, horticulturists, gardeners have now planted over 10000 trees at the site – creating an ecological buffer to the heritage site.

Following the successful restoration of the Badi Baoli, wherein over 600 cubic meters of stone masonry was required to be rebuilt after its collapse in 2013, over the year 2022 the project has focused on completing conservation works on five additional baolis, two of which were discovered recently. In 2014, when conservation works could finally commence following permission from the Wakf Tribunal, water required for conservation was being purchased in water tankers – an economical and environmental challenge. At the onset of the project, the landscape masterplan prepared by the Late Prof M Shaheer/ Shaheer Associates sought to revive historic garden slopes. With the discovery

DECCAN PARK

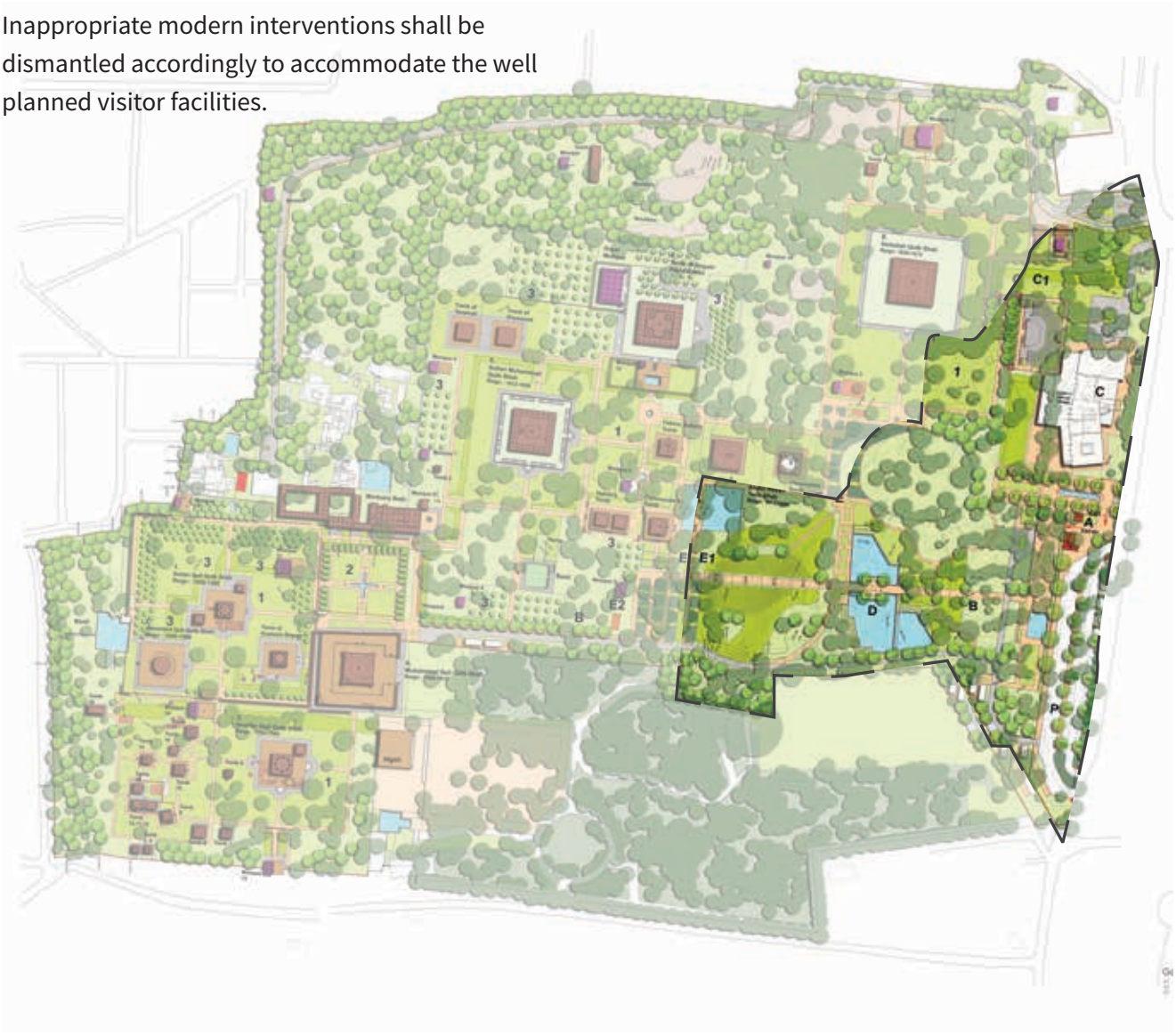
Background

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, including the Deccan Park area, is one of the most significant historic medieval necropolis in the world, comprising of over 80 structures including mausoleums, funerary mosques, stepwells, a hammam, garden structures – all built during the Qutb Shahi dynasty which ruled the Hyderabad region for 169 years, through the 16th and 17th centuries.

Key Interventions

A holistic landscape development, an interpretation centre with visitor facilities, an amphitheatre, parking facilities, battery operated buses, defining boundary walls – especially along the entrance, an exhibition area, and illumination and lighting for the entire site.

Inappropriate modern interventions shall be dismantled accordingly to accommodate the well planned visitor facilities.

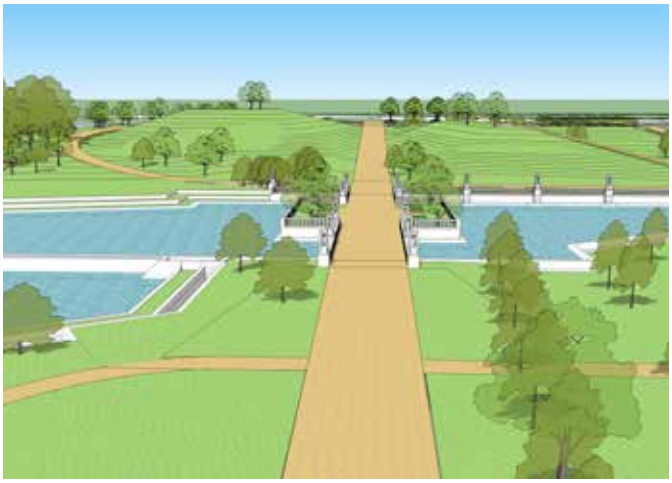


Amphitheatre

An amphitheatre was developed in the North-Western part of Deccan Park in place of a defunct swimming pool. The area selected for the amphitheatre was checked and declared free of underlying archaeology.

Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre

To enhance visitor experience for those visiting the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park and the adjoining Golconda Fort, an interpretation centre is proposed to be built at the entrance of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, in a zone presently known as the Deccan Park.



Lake

Water is a significant landscape feature. Inspired by the baolis at the necropolis, an existing but deteriorated water body is being revitalized into a shallow lake, improving the visitor experience, micro-climate, and zone transition.

Mound

The mound, constructed in the early 2000s on the west side of the water body in the Deccan Park area, obstructed the view of the monuments. Currently, portions of the mound are being altered to allow for the primary pathway between the currently segregates sites of Deccan Park Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, and maintain visual connections to the monuments.

and desilting of the Baolis, the AKTC team was able to define catchment areas for each baoli. With the conservation of the six baolis, including significant reconstruction of three, and coupled with grading earth levels in 2022 over 19 million liters of rainwater was collected. The 106 acre Qutb Shahi Heritage Park thus has a surplus water collection even after the planting of over 10000 trees.

The Conservation of the Baolis was recognized in 2022 by the UNESCO Award of Distinction.

Over the past decade, several significant discoveries have been made during conservation works, thus improving our understanding of both the monuments as well as the Qutb Shahi dynasty and its contributions to Hyderabad. With the intention of enhancing visitor understanding and experience of the site, and in keeping with UNESCO/ICOMOS recommendations for significant sites worldwide, the project expanded to build an Interpretation Centre—a new age museum.

A grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, was secured to build this facility, and the award-winning architectural firm of Lotus Design was chosen to design it. Construction by TSTDC commenced in 2019, only to be halted by Stay Orders in the Wakf Tribunal after a series of litigation by vested interests. Over the past decade, over

Birds eye view of the proposed Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre

90 cases of litigation have been filed in the Wakf Tribunal, and cases continue in the Hyderabad High Court and in the Supreme Court. This relentless abuse of the judicial system by vested interests remains a major hurdle and challenge in implementing conservation works at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. If built, the Interpretation Centre/ Site Museum will serve as the gateway to both Golconda and the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park for visitors.

In 2023, a major objective at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park will be to establish a Management Trust that would aim to integrate the presently segregated sites of Deccan Park and Tombs ensemble and work towards ensuring financial sustainability for the complex, with revenue generated at the site being made available for meeting the expenditure of managing the 106-acre site to international standards.

In 2023, the conservation of Paigah tombs will also be a priority, where the last few years have been spent understanding and reviving the craft techniques employed in building these structures.

(Right) The intricately decorated walls of Paigah Tombs

Baolis/Stepwells

Within the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park stand six major baolis or stepwells, from the 16th century. These stepwells were originally built to irrigate the garden orchards. After conservation efforts, many of the baolis now have a large fish population, which attracts water birds. Additionally, the significant afforestation of the 106-acre ensemble, which is irrigated with rainwater collected in the stepwells, has helped to restore the ecological balance of the necropolis.

Conservation work on the stepwells has ensured that their structural integrity is restored, with missing portions rebuilt using traditional materials and building crafts. Conservation efforts have revealed the stepwells' original architectural appearance and have reversed the damage caused by neglect and overgrown vegetation.

Supported by:

U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation

TATA TRUSTS

Western Baoli

Eastern Baoli

Bagh Baoli

Hammam Baoli

Badi Baoli

WESTERN BAOLI
3.7 million litres water capacity revived

HAMMAM BAOLI
4.7 million litres water capacity revived

IDGAH BAOLI
2.8 million litres water capacity revived

PLAN SHOWING THE LOCATION OF BAOLIS IN THE QUTB SHAHI HERITAGE PARK WITH THEIR CATCHMENT AREAS




BAGH BAOLI
2 million litres water capacity revived

EASTERN BAOLI
2.5 million litres water capacity revived




BADI BAOLI
3.5 million litres water capacity revived


01. Eastern Baoli

This baoli/stepwell is located between the Qutb Shahi Tombs and Deccan park. It is surrounded by the mausoleums of Fatima Sultana and Commander to the west and the incomplete mausoleum of Mirza Nizamuddin Ahmed to the north. The baoli is a quadrangular tank built in coursed rubble masonry in two levels. It has a smaller base of 10 m by 10 m which doubles in length towards the north at the upper level. The western wall of the baoli showcases an arrangement of rectangular buttresses with a projected platform topped by water channels at the southern end.

The conservation works of the buttresses were completed in the previous year along with the retaining walls. The dewatering of baoli revealed tonnes of sludge and loose masonry in debris below. Along with the other conservation works, the condition of the higher west wall was also assessed in the joint site inspection with the Department of Heritage Telangana.

IMPACT:

Once a ditch filled with debris and garbage accumulated over years, this stepwell has now been restored and is able to store 2.5 million litres of water as of the year 2022. The stored water has been crucial for various landscaping and conservation efforts at the Heritage Park.

Supported by:

U.S. Ambassador's Fund
for Cultural Preservation

2.5 million litres
Water capacity revived

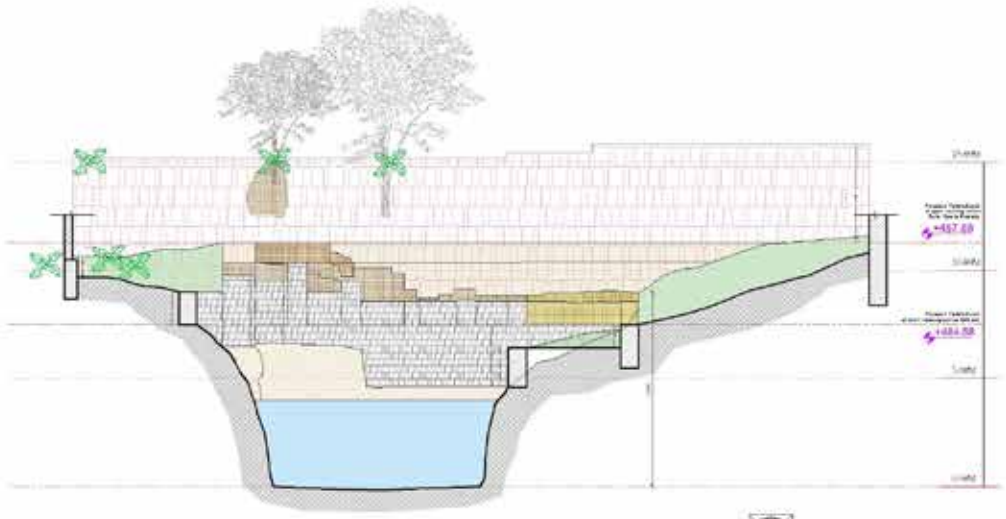
DE SILTING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

The accumulated sludge as high as 4 m had blocked the natural aquifers to the baoli at the lower level consequently reducing the original capacity.

ACTION TAKEN:

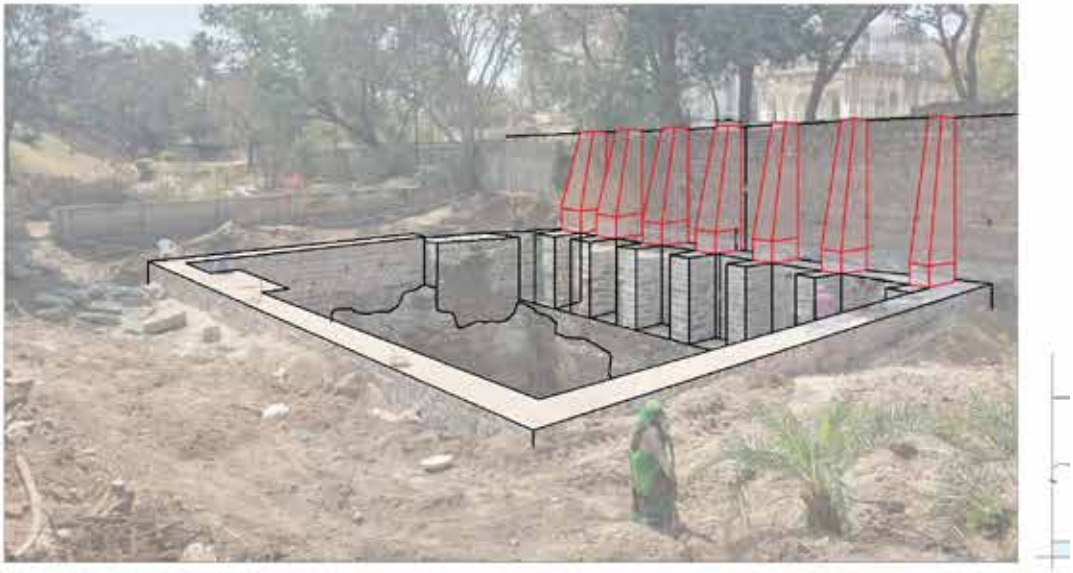
- Over 530 cubic metres of sludge was removed manually by a desilting specialist team for 400 man-days to reach the original bed level.
- The silt not only included sludge but also stones from collapsed retaining walls of the baoli. These stones were simultaneously being segregated from the debris to be reused further.
- As the sludge was being removed it unblocked the natural aquifers to the baoli resulting in water ingress which made it difficult for desilting works. Hence, water had to be also pumped out constantly.
- The sludge accumulated over years provided a thrust to the lower north wall built in dry stone masonry. Since the wall was laid in dry masonry it was decided to dismantle and rebuild it in lime mortar to prevent any collapse once the baoli is restored and gets filled with water.
- The task of rebuilding the wall started with first clearing the area and finding a firm ground on which the wall could be built.
- Scaffolding was erected in the centre till the upper level and the earth was manually lifted by 10 workers constantly for 30 days meanwhile another team segregated masonry stones from the debris to rebuild the collapsed wall.
- After manual excavation of earth, for 900mm below the bed level, a 300mm thick RCC raft was cast as footing across the breadth of the baoli.
- The segregated stones from the debris were used to reconstruct the lower north wall in coursed rubble masonry with projecting cantilevered stones in alternate courses to act as steps for the baoli.
- Earth was filled and compacted behind the wall simultaneously as courses were laid.

Skilled craftsmen reconstructing the collapsed wall reusing stones from the debris



Condition Assessment : Section AA

Proposed Section AA



Proposed Western Wall Buttresses View

Thorough architectural documentation of the stepwell was completed to understand the original profile of buttresses. Hence, restoration of the dilapidated buttresses on the western wall was carried out matching the historic masonry.

COUNTERFORTS

The occasional bulging of the west wall, along with cracks and cavities at various places, raised concerns about its strength. Hence, a decision was jointly taken by the technical committee to construct counterforts to support the wall from behind.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The counterforts were designed to match the original buttresses of the baoli, keeping the same width of 850 mm and juxtaposing the buttresses below.
- The counterforts were constructed to a height of 4200 mm from the buttresses to support the weaker west wall by injecting bond stones into the stone masonry. Eight such counterforts were constructed above the buttresses in cement mortar with lime pointing on the surface. Weepholes were also provided along the height to counter water pressure from the catchment west of the baoli.
- After providing adequate support by constructing counterforts, the bulged stone masonry between the 2nd and 3rd counterforts was corrected.
- The horticulture team manually removed the 3-meter-deep penetrated roots of the Pipal tree, some as large as 1 m in diameter, running behind the bulged stone masonry.
- The displaced stones were carefully removed by stonemasons and realigned in rich lime mortar to stitch the wall together in plumb.

Construction of counterforts by skilled stone artisans

PARAPET WALLS

The parapet walls on all four sides were also found to be in decayed mortar or 20th century additions in the form of brick walls and concrete railings. These digressions were also restored to match the historic profile of the baoli.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The 600 mm thick parapet wall at the west was found to be in decayed mortar compromising its strength. Hence, it was dismantled and a 450 mm thick parapet wall in stone masonry with lime mortar was raised to a height of 750 mm for a length of 52 m from the northwest corner to the Commanders Mausoleum in the southwest.
- To prevent any waterlogging, a 200 mm dia PVC pipe was installed, running across the pathway of the pomegranate orchard.
- The existing brick walls on the south and east edge of the baoli were also dismantled and a stone masonry wall in random rubble masonry was reconstructed on the stone foundation below up to a height of 1 metre. Taking care of the previous overflowing patterns of the baoli a subsequent wall in the east was raised to a height of 1 metre to hold the excess water collected during the monsoons adding another million litre of water to the total capacity of the baoli.
- The cement parapet at the north retaining wall was a modern addition, and hence, was dismantled manually. The cement parapet was replaced with a stone parapet matching the stone masonry below to a height of 700 mm in a stepped manner.

CONSERVATION

02. Bagh Baoli

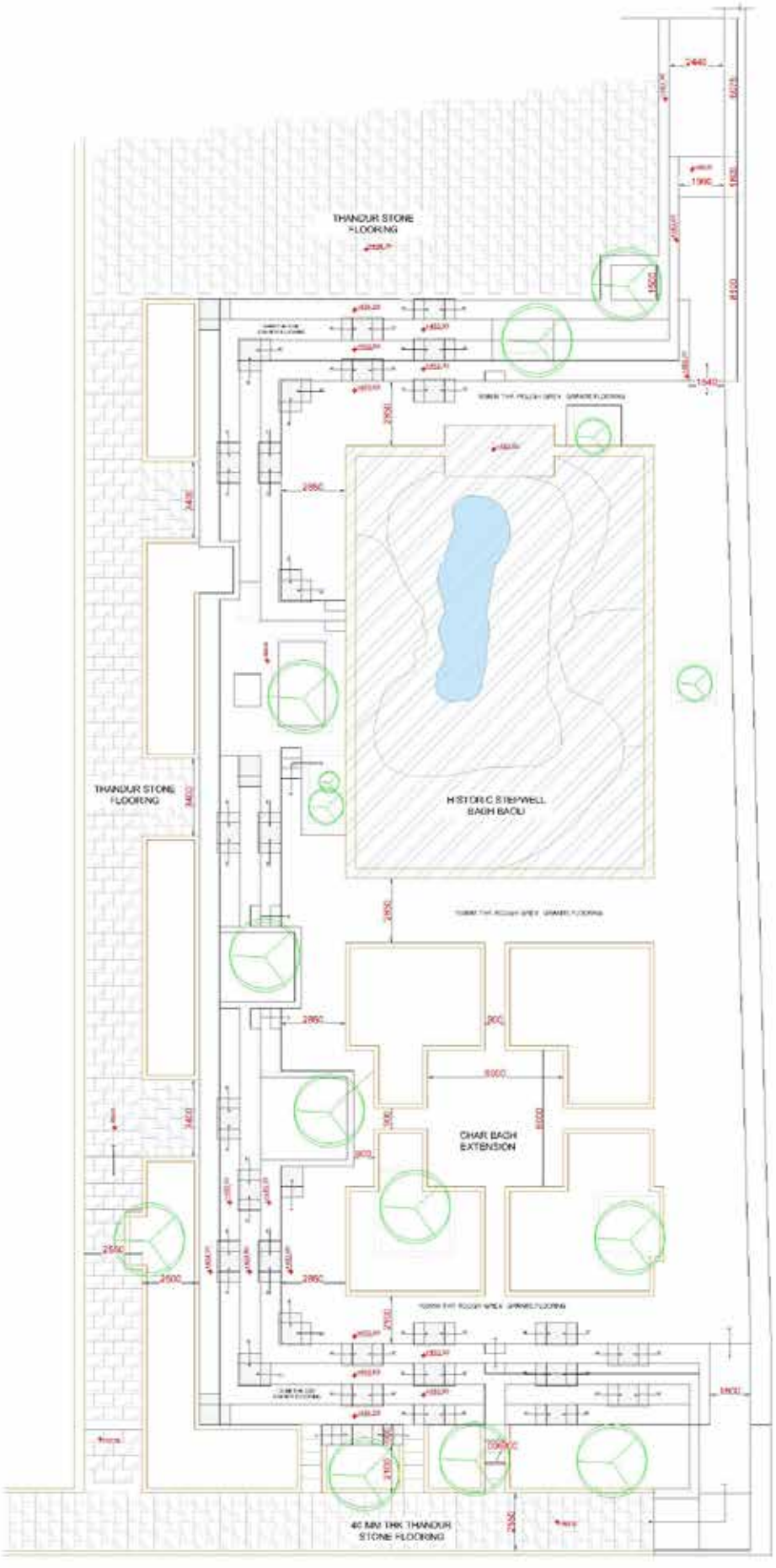
The Bagh Baoli is located on the eastern edge of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, within the Deccan Park premises. It is a rectangular tank structure embedded on natural bedrock, measuring 19 m in length and 14 m in breadth. The baoli has projected platform on the north which offsets from the tank on either side.

The baoli had lain in a state of neglect and abuse for several years, abutting the Deccan Park's infrastructure, and gradually transformed into a dumping yard with vegetation growth and collapsed masonry.

Supported by:

U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation

The Bagh Baoli was conserved in the previous year by reconstructing the retaining walls and projected platform and desilting the natural bedrock. Following the conservation, a garden was created in a style that is traditional for stepwells, which would allow visitors to rest here as well as hold performances and events. The garden was designed with large blocks of granite, similar to those seen on other monuments in the tomb complex.



Plan - Landscape Development Around Bagh Baoli

STEPPED SEATING

The stepped seating was proposed in the north, west, and south directions of the Bagh Baoli. It extended 60 m on the west edge and 30 m in the north and south directions, respectively, in 4 levels. The area south of the Bagh Baoli still had infrastructural remains of the Deccan Park dumped in the form of large trusses and boats once used in the lake, along with heaps of excavated earth from the Interpretation centre site stored here.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The initial steps included marking of the extents of the seating in all 3 directions and getting the area cleared for any undesirable vegetation, debris and abandoned structure.
- Site clearance was followed by marking levels at +483.65 with reference to the existing baoli wall and consequently deciding the ground levels to be achieved, syncing with the proposed design.
- Since the south of the Bagh Baoli had significant trees of banyan, wild almond, and neem, it was decided to accommodate all trees in the design of the seating through dedicated planters. These planters were constructed in brick masonry, with length in multiples of 900 mm, matching the flooring scheme and riser height of the seating area.
- The trees whose natural ground was altered were immediately treated and filled with a 200 mm thickness of good earth to prevent any loss.
- The base work at all the 4 levels, 900 mm wide and 300 mm high, was completed with 230 mm thick masonry using fly ash bricks. The seating levels were later filled back with earth excavated for foundation trenches, thereby minimizing the cost of material, transport, and labor.
- The filled earth was rammed using manual and mechanical compactors to lay a 75 mm thick plain cement concrete flushing with the top of the base work.
- The base work in brick masonry was marked, keeping in mind the clearance needed for an 80 mm cladding of granite stones at the riser of steps.
- The protruding stones in the ramp projection of the baoli were realigned to obtain a plain surface.
- The 150 mm high intermediate steps between levels were marked using oil paint on the base work to get a clarity of their locations and better understanding of the stone craftsmen.
- 2700 mm long and 150 mm thick grey granite stone slabs weighing in tonnes were manually cut and laid in an area of 350 sqm around the Bagh Baoli on the seating levels as per the design scheme.
- 100 mm thick rough grey granite stone were also manually cut and laid at the base in an area of 420 sqm and ramps at the north east and south east in an approved flooring pattern.
- Coping stones of 100 mm thick granite were laid on baoli wall for a total length of 66 m.

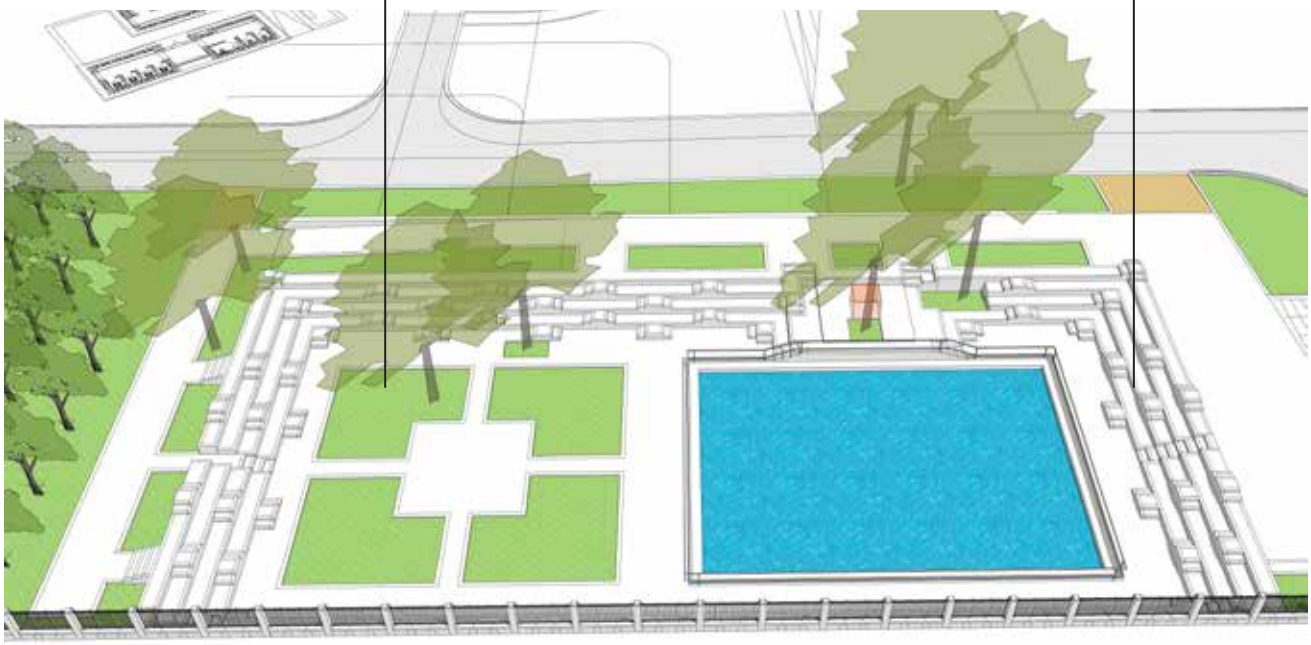
Skilled artisans installing stone seating at Bagh Baoli

CHAHĀR BĀGH

A minimal *chahār bāgh* was developed in the south, as a landscape feature inspired from the archaeological area at the Heritage Park, between the Bagh Baoli and the seating. It includes two axial pathways, one in the north-south direction and another in the east-west direction, intersecting and forming four lawns in each quadrant.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The layout for the Chahār Bāgh was marked with an offset of 2550 mm, in multiples of 850 mm long Thandur stone in all four directions for the circulation pathway.
- The east-west axis was aligned with the center of the Baoli, while for the north-south axis, the wild almond tree was taken as the cardinal point.
- Similar base work was carried out for the Chahār Bāgh using fly ash brick masonry for the pathways.
- Planters were constructed for the trees in the southeast and southwest quadrants of the Chahār Bāgh up to a minimal height of 300 mm. These planters were also later filled with good earth and leveled for grass laying.
- Due to the planter of the wild almond tree extending into the Chahār Bāgh geometry, the western edge had to be offset inwards by 900 mm.
- PVC conduits and drainpipes were laid before casting the PCC bed at the base level.
- The valve, which supplies water to the west of the Deccan Park towards the lake and mound area, situated at the Chahār Bāgh, was lowered below the ground level and covered with rough grey granite.
- Good earth to a depth of 300 mm, along with a layer of carpet grass, was finally laid in the quadrants of the Chahār Bāgh.



RAMP AND PATHWAY

Peripheral pathways were laid for visitors to access the Bagh Baoli. Two ramps in the north east and south east were also provided to make it a barrier free space for the people with disabilities.

Enhanced setting around the Baoli for visitors

ACTION TAKEN:

- Ramps are provided at southeast and northeast corners in a gradual slope of 1:13.5 to make the site a barrier free space. The base work for ramps was completed with supporting walls and PCC bed.
- Base work for ramp along with 75 mm thick PCC at the southeast and northeast corner was completed in brick masonry in a slope of 1:13.5.
- A 500 mm wide coping of 100 mm thick rough granite stone was also laid on the retaining wall of the Bagh Baoli for a length of 66 m.
- The base work of 2.85 m wide approach pathway south of the seating area was completed with 230 mm thick fly ash bricks and 75 mm thick plain cement concrete. The course of the pathway was redesigned to suit the location of trees.
- Excavation was carried out for the basework of pathway north of the Bagh baoli aligned with the central pathway to the lake.
- Base work for north platform was completed with removal and levelling of excess earth and debris followed by 75 mm thick PCC at a desired level for thandur flooring.
- Similar base work preparations were done at southwest and western edge of the seating leaving 2500 mm offset for planters according to location of trees on site.
- 30 mm thick thandur was laid in an area of 400 sqm north, west and south of seating area in an approved pattern.
- A toe wall of 50 m length was constructed in random rubble masonry to retain the raised levels at the western edge of the site.

IMPACT:

The restoration of the Bagh Baoli and landscaping it with seating space and the Chahār Bāgh has transformed the character of once a dump yard of the Deccan Park waste. It now provides a peaceful resting space for visitors throughout the day under the shade of ample trees located at the site.

Before Conservation

After Conservation

2 million litres
Water capacity revived

CONSERVATION

03. Well in Archaeological Area

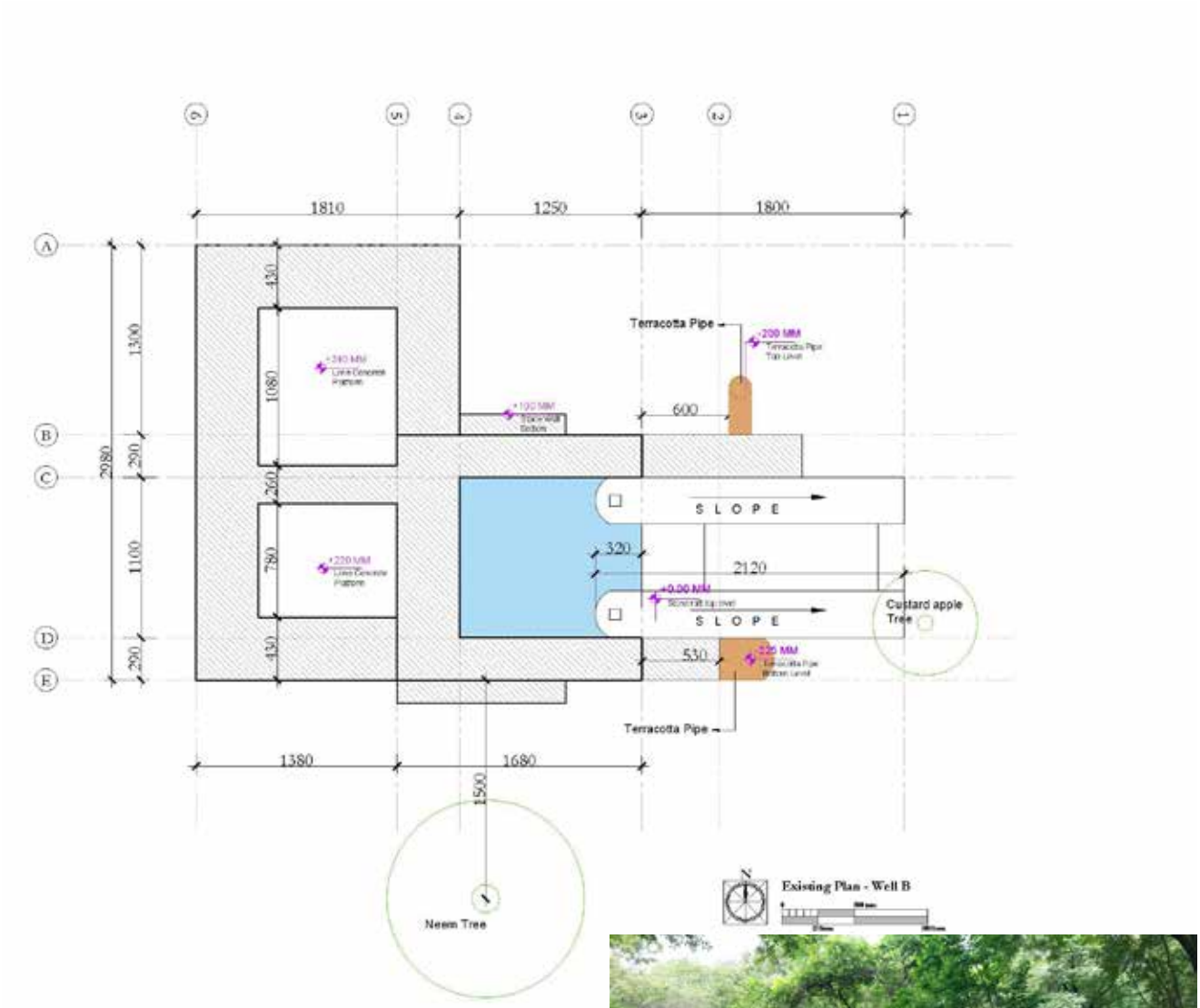
An austere well is situated in the archaeological area north of Qutb Shahi necropolis. Two interconnected tanks were also located west of the well in a dilapidated condition. East of the well were a pair of projected rafter stones, which would have historically had a pulley attached to draw water.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The vegetation around the well was manually cleared to start the conservation works.
- The inter-connected storage tanks west of the well were restored in random rubble masonry to a height of 1000 mm.
- Earth was excavated up to 600 mm depth and width for plinth protection around the well structure.
- The basework for the plinth protection was finished in brick masonry followed by 75 mm thick PCC bed.
- 100 mm thick, rough granite stones were laid in appropriate slope as per the approved layout finished with 200 mm thick edging stones measuring an area of 30 sqm.

IMPACT:

The well in the archaeological area is also a specimen of the water collection tanks of once a settlement inside the necropolis site. The added plinth protection and restored tanks has helped in respecting existence of the well.



(Above) Architectural documentation carried out of the archaeological site where the well is licated
(Below) Well: Before Conservation
(Right) The well was desilted and conserved

CONSERVATION

04. Badi Baoli: Aqueduct

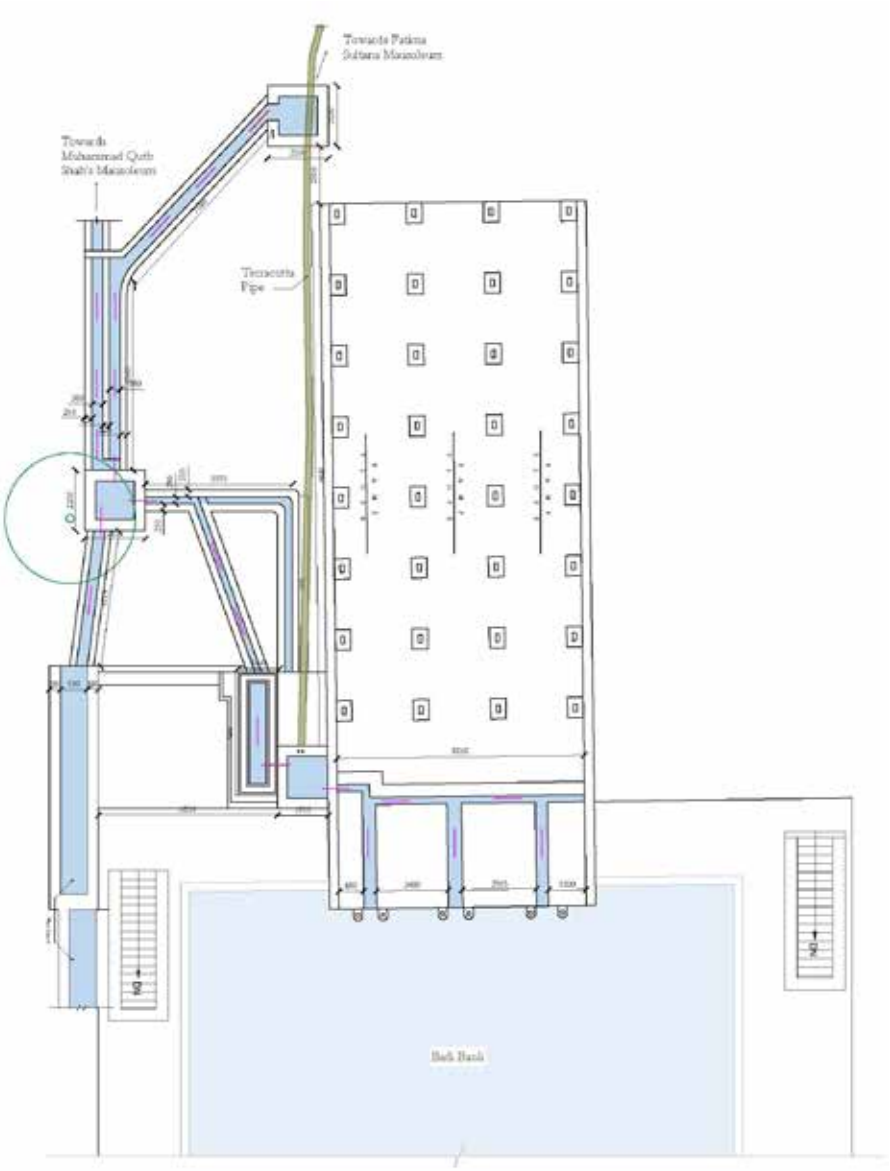
The aqueduct at Badi Baoli is a surviving specimen of the complex water management of the Qutb Shahi era at the Heritage Park. The aqueduct system consists of water cisterns and subsequent distribution chambers and water drains. The system was found to be in a dilapidated condition, with altered slopes and missing masonry often submerged in earth.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The area around the aqueduct was cleared of vegetation, and layers of 20th-century cement plaster were manually removed to expose the original masonry surface.
- The water cistern was cleaned and restored to a height of 1000 mm, while the connecting drains were restored to their original slope and profile.
- Another drain, which extends further north towards Muhammad Qutb Shah's mausoleum, was cleaned and restored. It was then covered with rough granite stone and a geotextile membrane (160 gsm) and finally covered with earth to match the abutting pathway level to the west. This protects it from further deterioration.

IMPACT:

The restoration of the aqueducts at the Badi Baoli has helped to exhibit and understand the complex mechanism used for distribution of water inside the Qutb Shahi orchards.



Plan - Water Channels, Tank and Ramp at Badi Baoli

Restoration of the water channels and cisterns to their original slope and profile

Royal Mausoleums

The Qutb Shahi Sultans built magnificent mausoleums and funerary mosques for themselves, family members, nobility, commanders, physicians, and courtesans within the necropolis.

While the original extent of the site was much larger, the surviving structures are awe-inspiring, featuring 40 domed mausolea set amidst formal gardens and decorated with intricate stucco patterns. There is truly no archaeological site like it anywhere in the world. Among these buildings, four structures stand over 40 meters tall, comparable in scale and grandeur to the Mughal mausoleums of North India.

The mausoleums showcase a fusion of Persian and local architectural styles and materials, adorned with ornamental stucco made from incised lime plasterwork. Some even feature glazed tiles.

Muhammad Qutb Shah's mausoleum

Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleum

Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum

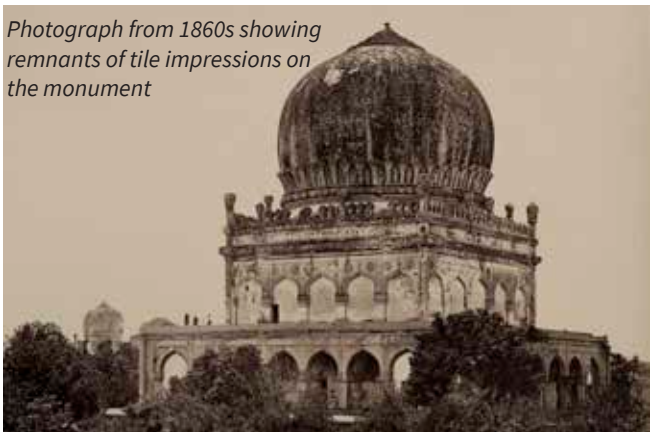
CONSERVATION

05. Muhammad Qutb Shah's Mausoleum

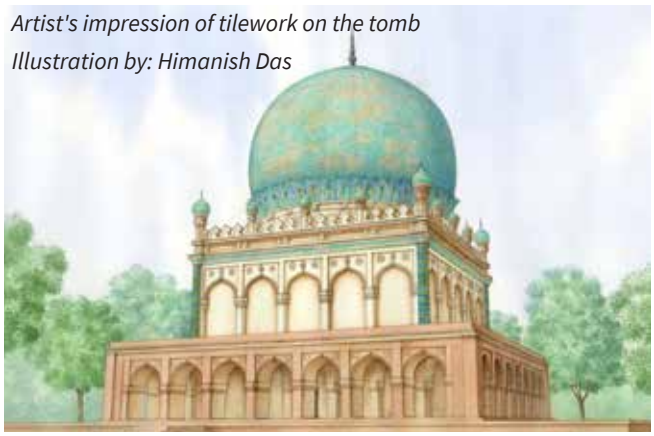
Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah, the sixth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, reigned from 1611 to 1625 CE. He was the nephew and son-in-law of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah having married his daughter Hayat Baksh Begum.

Muhammad Qutb Shah's mausoleum had suffered from inappropriate alterations, neglect, and vandalism throughout the 20th century. This aggravated the decay and led to a loss of ornamental stucco medallions and moulding bands.

Conservation works being undertaken here aim to revive the original architectural integrity of the monument and enhance the architectural significance of the monument. Traditional tools and techniques are being used by craftsmen to restore the lost grandeur of this important monument.



Photograph from 1860s showing remnants of tile impressions on the monument



Artist's impression of tilework on the tomb
Illustration by: Himanish Das

REVEALING GLAZED TILE PATTERNS ON EXTERNAL FACADE

The tiled layer on the monument's dome was entirely revealed in the previous year, along with the removal of loose plaster on the surface. Following our conservation efforts, to completely determine the tiled areas on the mausoleum's façade, further investigations were carried out on the basis of on-site evidence and archival photographs dating back to 1860s.

Investigations on the dome to reveal tile layer

Stucco pattern revealed on one of the minarets

Tiles revealed on the petals at the dome

ACTION TAKEN:

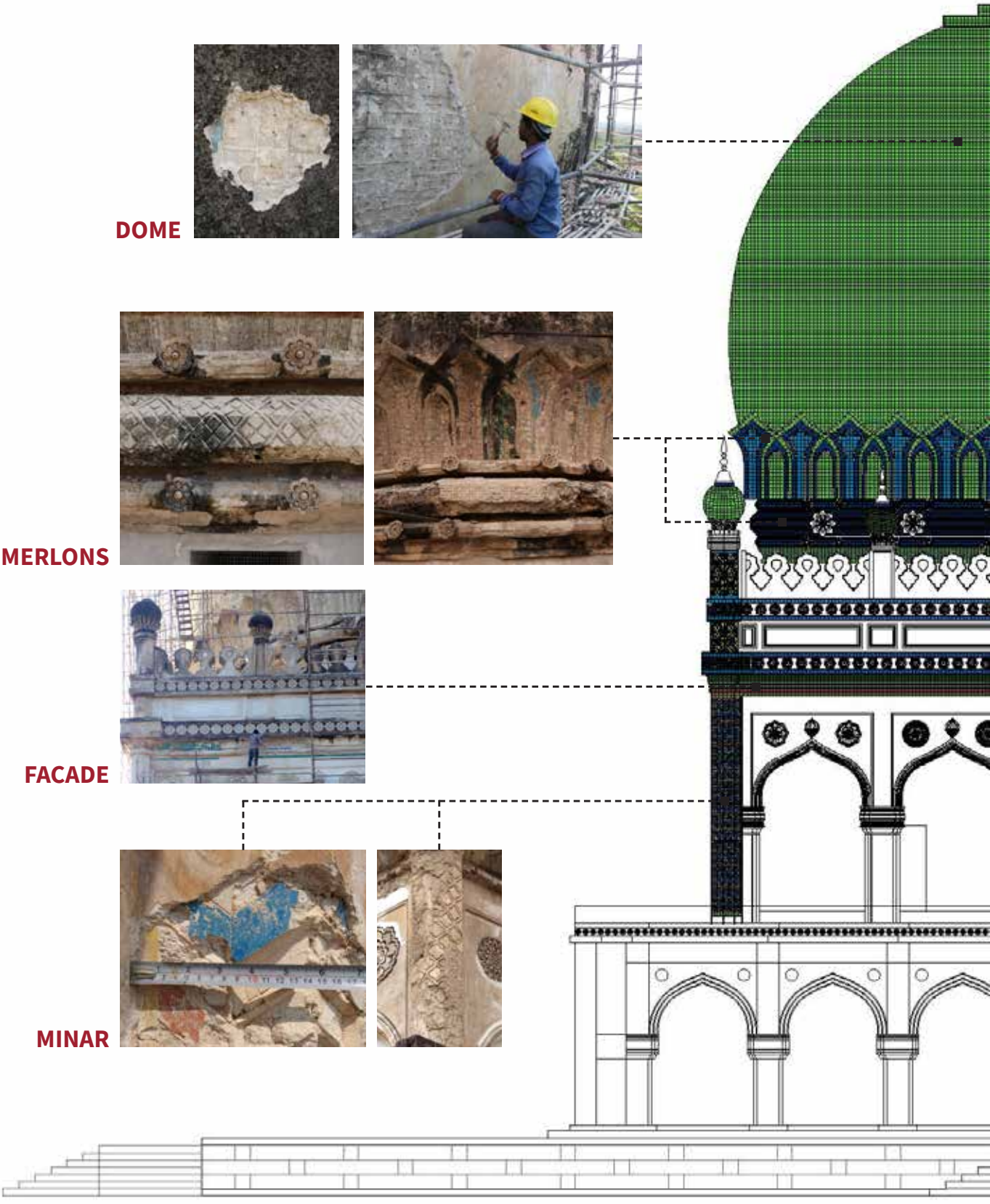
- After revealing all the surviving glazed tiles on the dome, loose and decayed plaster layer was identified and dismantled from the surface. This exercise confirmed that 5% historic glazed tiles still survive on the dome which will be preserved in their original state.
- Similar to the dome, investigative uncovering of tile layer was carried out at the middle façade. Clues were taken from the south and east facades where the green glazed tile band was visible hence it was delaminated first. The manual dismantling revealed further tiles on the south and east façades. However, the north and west façade had no surviving layer of tiles on the cornice.
- Dismantling of the later added layer of plaster was undertaken on the four corner minarets as well. It uncovered a layer of glazed tiles in chevron patterns in shades of white, blue, green and orange. However, the minaret at north west corner displayed a unique stucco pattern in lime below the plaster layer.
- Layer of 20th -century cement was dismantled from the bulb of the minaret on the northwest corner revealing layer of glazing.
- Simultaneously, 1,70,00, 000 tiles in various shapes and colors based on on-site evidence are being traditionally manufactured in Khurja, near Delhi known for its traditional ceramic artisans.
- A comparative analysis was undertaken with the sample tiles manufactured to check the accuracy of colors. Samples of green, orange, yellow, white, blue, and turquoise glazed tiles were checked with the original colors.

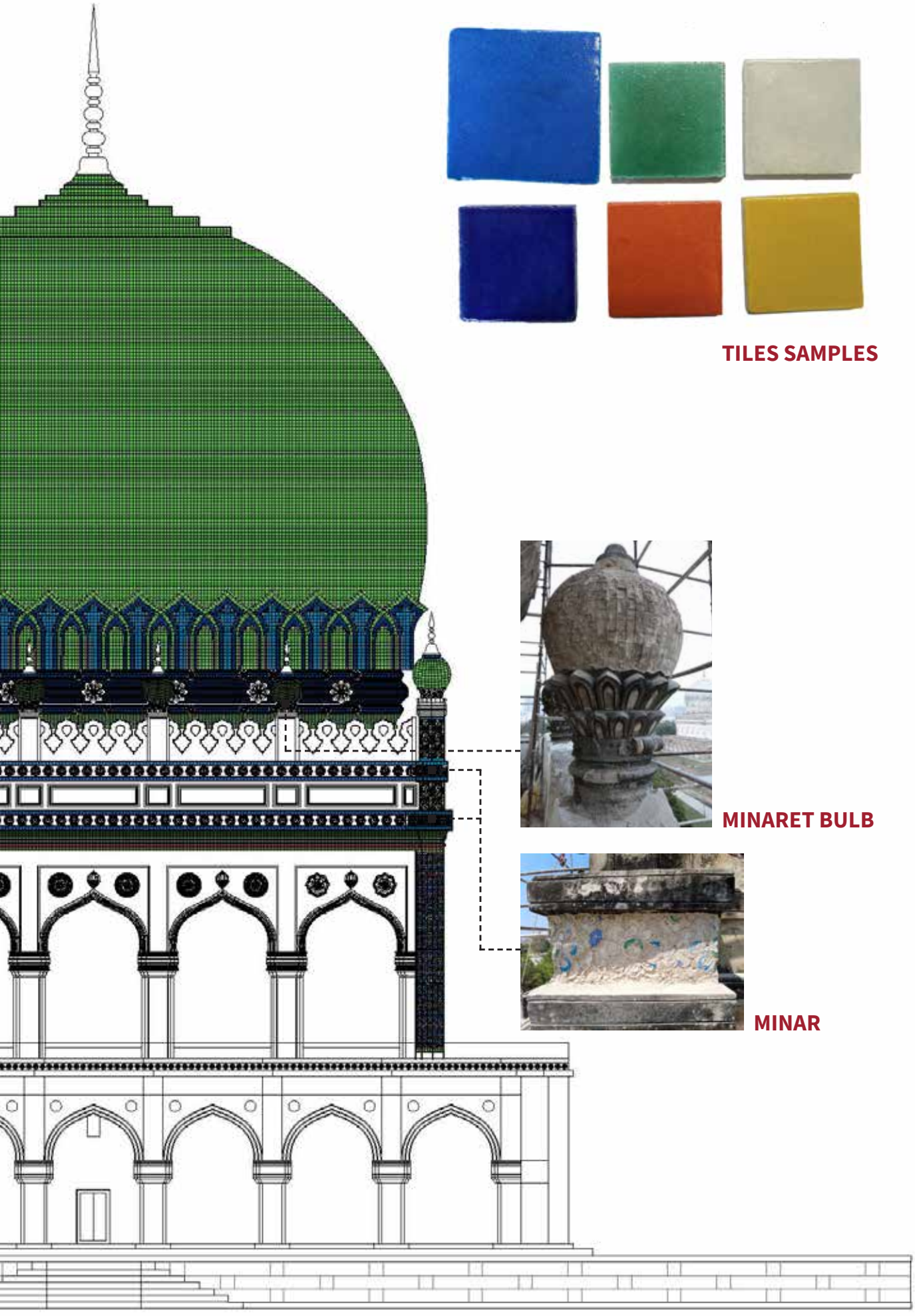
DOME

MERLONS

FACADE

MINAR





TILES SAMPLES

MINARET BULB

MINAR

ROOF PARAPET

The lime surface on the middle façade had undergone decay and algae deposition over time. Moreover, the medallion and surfaces in the northwest corner were repaired in cement in the 20th century, but the cement needed to be removed and the surfaces eventually conserved in lime.

Broken portions of the medallions were restored

Decorative elements on the facade restored

Final lime punning of restored floral band

ACTION TAKEN:

- A total of 384 floral medallions, situated in double bands, have been restored with lime plaster and finished with a thin layer of punning on all facades of the monument. Master craftsmen have also restored the plain borders above and below the medallions.
- The 950 mm wide rectangular bands were also finished in punning after stitching cracks in lime plaster. Prior to lime repairs all the surfaces were scrubbed and cleaned of algae and decayed lime layer.
- While the plaster surface was mostly intact, minor repairs were carried out on the eastern and northern facades of the monument by lime masons. Additionally, the 20th-century cement plaster layer was dismantled and replaced with lime.
- 13 of the 40 large medallions, measuring 735 mm in diameter, have also been restored. Some of these medallions were previously repaired with cement plaster, which had to be removed. They were then replaced with lime plaster and punning by master craftsmen matching the original design and shape.
- The 20 arched panels measuring 15 m x 5 m on all the facades have also been finished with lime plaster and punning. The repairs were completed in 3500 man days which included lime repairs done on the arch-crowns, column capital bands and mouldings in stucco at the spandrels of arches by a team of master craftsmen skilled in lime.

Conservation works supported by:

IndiGo Reach

During Conservation: 2022

Before Conservation

Evidence of original floral medallions found

NEXT STEPS:

- The stucco pattern at the northwest corner minaret will be restored.
- The glazed tiles will be restored on the monument based on the existing site evidence and archival images.

CONSERVATION

06. Mausoleum
North of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum

CONSERVATION OF MAUSOLEUM NO. 1*

This mausoleum, located north of the Mausoleum of Abdullah Qutb Shah, has a square plan with octagonal chamfered columns at the corners. It has a raised plinth, the access steps to which are missing. The outer corridor leads to an inner sanctum that would have been open on all four sides, but currently only accessible from the east and south. The parapet is highly decorated with merlons and floral bands atop rectangular voids, and the façade has two smaller arches, with arch crown and medallions, on each side of a lintelled opening. The central opening has distinctive ornamentation in the form of corn details and false column capitals.

On-site evidence testify that the building was never completed, hence, the stone masonry in the interior is left exposed along with the exterior façade at south. The grave in black basalt bears Quranic inscriptions in the Tughra style.

The adjacent Shubabul trees posed a threat to the monument, causing vegetation growth and deep penetrated roots on the terrace. The root growth had disfigured the parapet at the south east corner with details missing.

The name of the monument is unknown and hence, has been numbered in the inventory

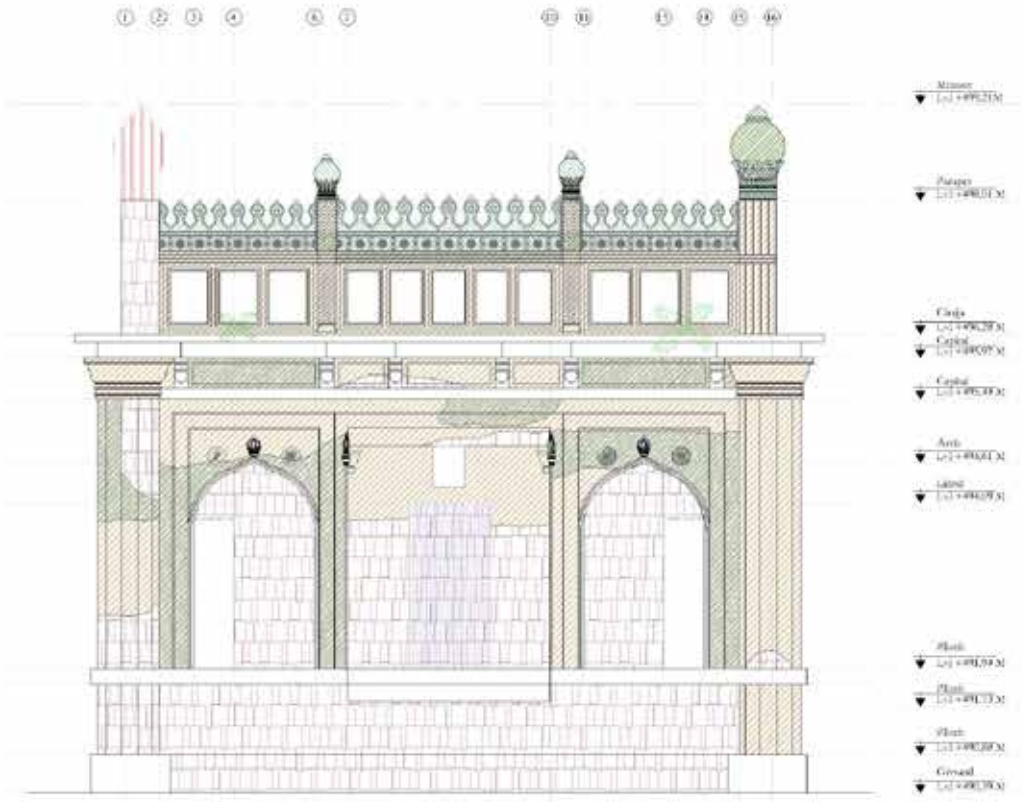

Before Conservation: 2021

TERRACE

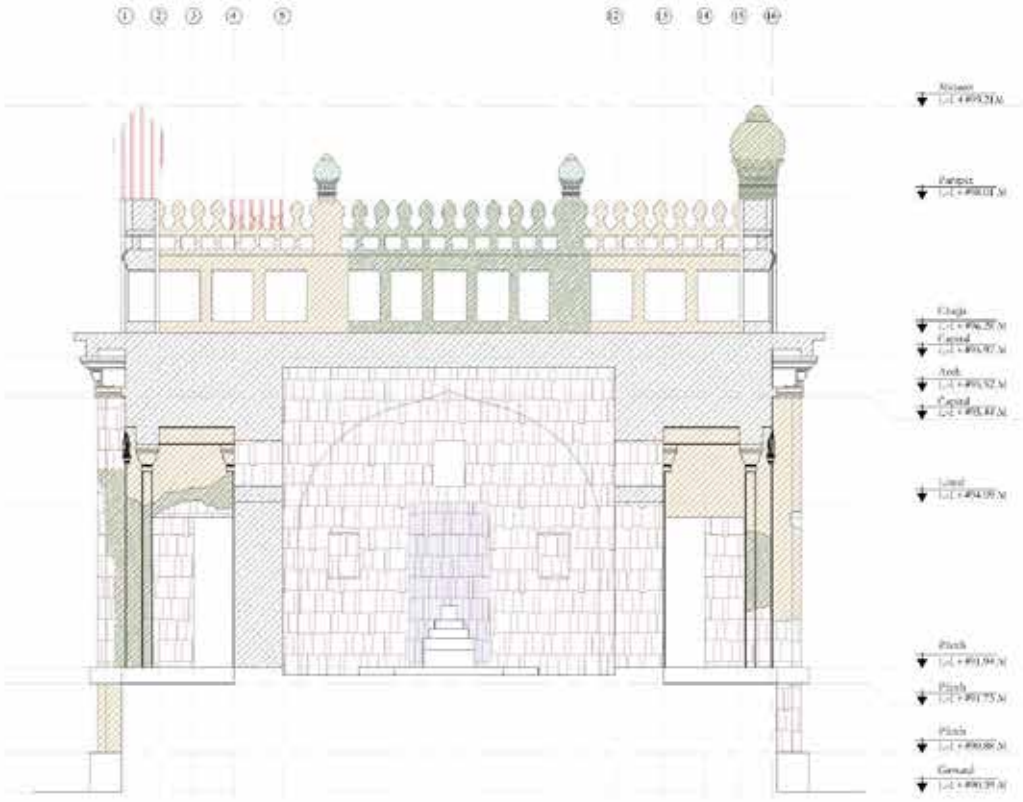
ACTION TAKEN:

- The terrace and projecting chajja were manually cleared of any vegetation and roots penetrating in the roof and masonry walls that caused damage to the structure over time and to preventing the further deterioration using trowels.
- The existing layer of 20th century deteriorated cement concrete was dismantled to prevent water ingress.
- In addition to the cement concrete, decayed lime concrete layer and stone packing in loose mud mortar were also dismantled that as they caused water infiltration. Removal of these elements ensured a solid base for the repair work.
- After the removal of the previous layers, a new layer of traditional lime concrete was re-laid over a layer of stone packing in rich lime mortar to ensure a strong bond between the stones and to provide stability to the structure.
- The layer of lime concrete was laid with appropriate slopes to allow water to drain out effectively from terrace , keeping it dry and protecting the underlying structure.
- These measures aim to maintain and repair the terrace, preventing water ingress and ensuring its structural integrity.

(Left) Workers dismantling the old concrete layers on the terrace;
(Right) Laying a layer of traditional lime concrete to restore the terrace



Condition Assessment
West Elevation



Condition Assessment
Section AA

Unknown Tomb 01

MINARETS AND PARAPET

Damaged minarets, missing merlons, and decorative lime stucco details on the parapet being restored carefully by skilled craftsmen

ACTION TAKEN:

- The damaged details at the parapet level were thoroughly documented before the 20th-century cement plaster was removed.
- The damaged or missing battlements were reinstated at their respective positions on the parapet wall by skilled craftsmen.
- The dilapidated parapet bay on the southeast corner of the structure was reconstructed as per the existing evidence. This included the reconstruction of the stone masonry framework, the reinstatement of mouldings, floral bands, and battlements.
- Damaged moulding bands, floral medallions, and ornamental stucco details were restored on all sides, as per in-situ evidence.
- Four corner minarets and eight intermediate minarets were repaired and restored using traditional lime mortar. The missing corner minaret at the northwest corner and one intermediate minaret on the eastern side were entirely reconstructed, along with details matching the existing minarets.
- All plaster repairs and the reinstated elements were finished with 1.5 mm thick lime punning.

Lime repairs on the main facade of the mausoleum

Consolidation of grave platform

20th century cement removed and replaced with lime mortar

EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SURFACES

ACTION TAKEN:

- **External Surfaces:**
  Black crust and algae deposition at places on the external facades were cleaned using wire brush and sandpaper.
- The damaged ornate details at the external facades were thoroughly documented. Missing and damaged ornate details were repaired and reinstated on east, west and north side as per in-situ evidence using traditional lime mortar. This includes rectangular mouldings between the stone brackets, arch mouldings, 3 arch crowns, 12 corn shaped details, 12 false column capital details and 6 floral medallions.
- Missing ornate details such as arch crown medallions corn details false capital column and arch moulding were reinstated on the southern façade as per in situ evidence on the rest of the structure.
- Repairs to the damaged and missing portions of octagonal corner columns along with the ornate column capitals were carried out using traditional lime mortar.
- Repaired lime plaster details and reinstated elements were finished with 1.5 mm thick lime punning prepared with lime putty and natural additives.
- **Internal Surfaces:**
  Raking and lime pointing to replace the existing cement mortar on the external surfaces of the inner sanctum and the outer corridor walls, along with minor repairs to the surviving lime plaster and walls, were carried out on all sides.
- Excess earth was removed from the outer corridor to determine the original levels, and the surface was prepared for flooring.
- Traditional lime mortar was used for raking and lime pointing to replace the existing cement mortar.
- Excess earth was removed from the internal chamber to determine the original levels, and the surface was prepared for flooring.
- During the removal of excess earth, the edging of the dressed stone of the grave platform was exposed.
- Consolidation of the grave and platform was carried out by fixing 100 mm thick and 250 mm wide dressed granite stone blocks around the gravestone.

PLINTH

ACTION TAKEN:

- Scientific clearance and removal of vegetation growth around the monument was undertaken to determine the original plinth levels.
- 20th century cement mortar was replaced with traditional lime mortar and pointing was carried out below the dressed plinth stone level.
- Base work including brick retaining walls and laying of concrete base for the plinth protection surrounding the monument have been completed.

(Top)Scientific clearance to determine the original plinth levels of the monument; (Bottom) Base work has been completed for the laying of plinth protection around the monument

NEXT STEPS

- Internal and the outer corridor flooring with 30 mm thick, gray granite stone as per approved pattern will be completed.
- 900 mm wide plinth protection with 100 mm rough gray granite and 200 mm wide granite edging, will be carried out as per approved details.

CONSERVATION

07. Burial Chamber

This structure was recently discovered beneath a pile of rubble. It is a domed underground chamber that was intended to be a mausoleum.

The structure is incomplete and was only built up to the upper plinth platform level. The platform has vents on both the upper and lower plinths. The lower plinth can be accessed through small flights of steps at the southeast and southwest corners. The crypt is reached through a western arched opening. The ceiling is supported by 2m deep vaults on all four sides and contains an articulated stone medallion at the center.

September, 2021

October, 2021

ACTION TAKEN:

- 3 stone lintels measuring 2400 mm long and 150 mm wide were cut manually from large monolith boulders. These stone lintels were then placed on the eastern entrance of the plinth.
- 30 mm thick stone flooring have been laid on the upper and lower platform of the chamber to appropriate slopes and approved pattern.

Before Conservation

Vegetation Clearance

After Conservation

(Left) Precise placement of stone lintels on the eastern entrance;
(Right) Laying of stone flooring on the upper platform in an appropriate slope

NEXT STEPS

- A metal gate will be installed at the entrance to restrict visitor access into the monument.

In addition to the 100+ monuments on the site, there are 133 graves standing outside the mausoleums. These graves are decorated with inscriptions and motifs, adding to their significance.

Qutb Shahi Heritage Park is the repository of some of the finest stone epigraphy craftsmanship in black basalt and local granite stone in India. Cenotaphs/graves across the necropolis showcase exquisite examples of Indo- Persian craftsmanship, and scripts such as Thuluth, Naksh, Nastaliq, and Kufic can be seen on the marked graves here.

Grave Inscriptions

A rare instance of angular Kufic calligraphy in India can be seen on a square panel on the grave of Mirza Muhammad Amin

One of the graves at the necropolis is inscribed with the word 'Ali' Nastaliq style of calligraphy

'Ya Allah Ya Muhammad Ya Ali' inscribed on one of the gravestones in Thuluth calligraphy

CONSERVATION

08. Qutb Shahi era Graves

According to orthodox Islamic belief, it is preferred to be buried in the open sky. As a result, within the necropolis, in addition to the 40 domed mausoleums, there are 133 graves located in the open, for many of which funerary mosques were built adjacent to the burial site so that families could pay for and honor the person buried.

Before the conservation works, common conditions observed included excess vegetation, accumulated earth, altered original levels of the grave platforms, and missing stones from the gravestones and their platforms.

(Above) Graves situated south of Tomb 5 were consolidated after necessary repairs

One example of a grave cluster is located east of Funerary Mosque 7* and Unknown Tomb 5*, situated west of Muhammad Qutb Shah's Mausoleum.

***The name of the monument is unknown and hence, has been numbered in the inventory**

Funerary Mosque 7

ACTION TAKEN:

- Scientific clearance was conducted around the graves to determine their original levels.
- During this process, a lime concrete platform measuring 5.1 x 5.6 meters, which surrounded two graves located east of Funerary Mosque 7, was unearthed. The lime concrete platform was consolidated and finished with a 200 mm granite edging.
- Necessary repairs and consolidation work was carried out on six graves located to the south of Unknown Tomb 5 and two graves to the east of Funerary Mosque 7. These graves were protected with a 300 mm wide plinth and finished with a 100 mm rough gray granite.

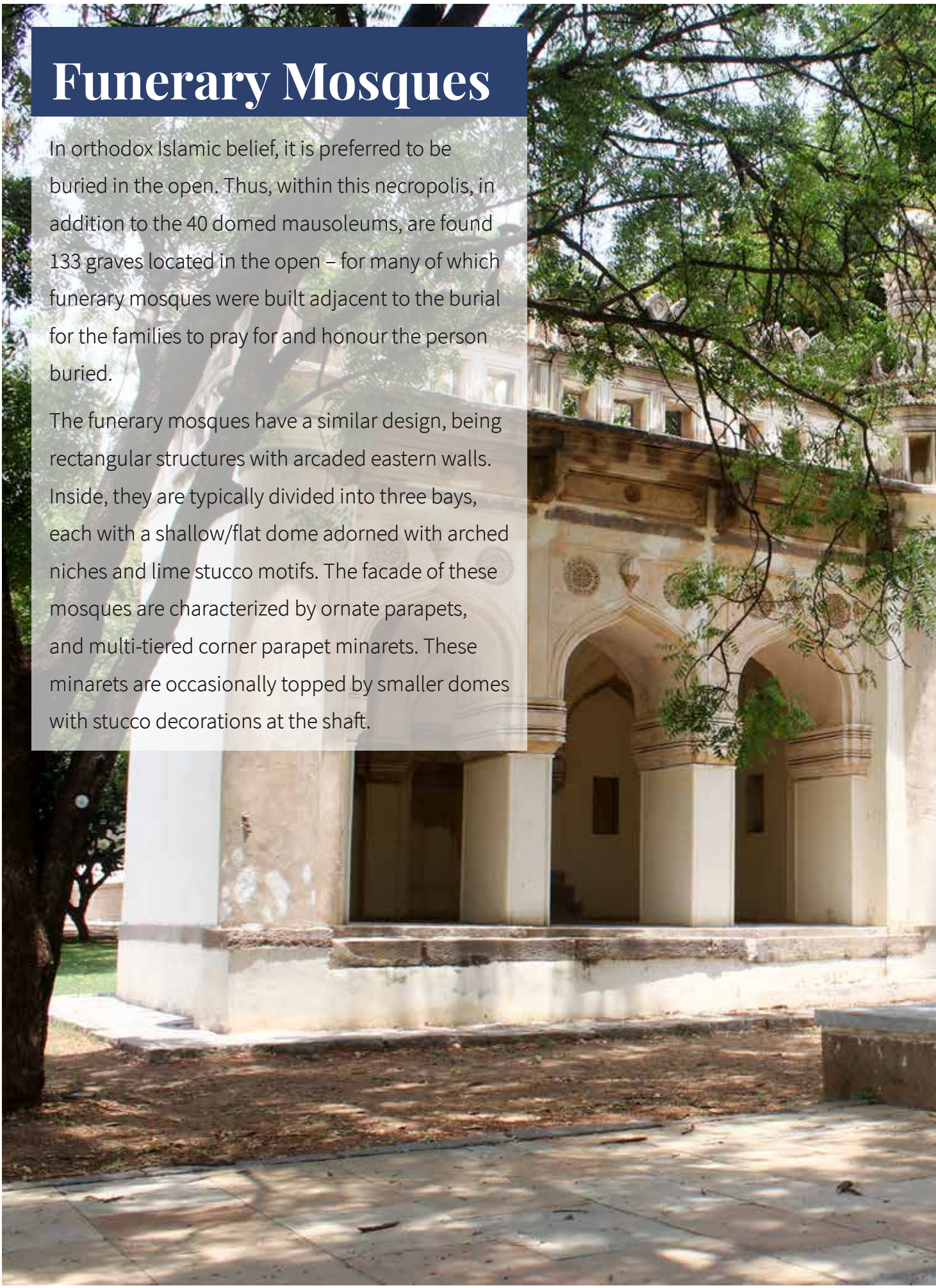
IMPACT:

By determining the original levels of the grave platforms and carrying out necessary repairs and consolidation, the historic open-to-sky grave clusters within the necropolis have been restored to their former glory. This has highlighted the significance of these graves and the importance of preserving them as a cultural monument in their own right.

Funerary Mosques

In orthodox Islamic belief, it is preferred to be buried in the open. Thus, within this necropolis, in addition to the 40 domed mausoleums, are found 133 graves located in the open – for many of which funerary mosques were built adjacent to the burial for the families to pray for and honour the person buried.

The funerary mosques have a similar design, being rectangular structures with arcaded eastern walls. Inside, they are typically divided into three bays, each with a shallow/flat dome adorned with arched niches and lime stucco motifs. The facade of these mosques are characterized by ornate parapets, and multi-tiered corner parapet minarets. These minarets are occasionally topped by smaller domes with stucco decorations at the shaft.



CONSERVATION

09. Funerary Mosque north of Hammam Baoli

CONSERVATION OF FUNERARY MOSQUE NO. 17*

The eastern facade of this funerary mosque has three arched openings. The arches have intricate mouldings, with ornamental arch crowns and medallions. A rectilinear band surrounds each arched bay.

The projected eave at the parapet is supported by stone brackets and beams with lime stucco work in between. The parapet has rectangular openings, horizontal floral bands and battlements on all four sides. Four smaller minarets are present on the eastern facade, and at each corner of the monument.

The corner minarets have a rectangular pavilion-like ornamentation having smaller arched openings. These minarets meet the parapet wall at a rectangular box like capital that has a lattice and flower bands. The domes of these minars also have spires on top.

The internal chamber of the funerary mosque consists of three arched bays. The arches and squinches are devoid of any arch-crowns. The central projected mihrab is in the shape of a half-decagon below a horizontal band of floral details and merlon band.

The condition assessment before conservation observed the algae deposits on the external surfaces, damaged minarets, dilapidated details on the parapets in various portions and flaking of plaster layer on external and internal surfaces.

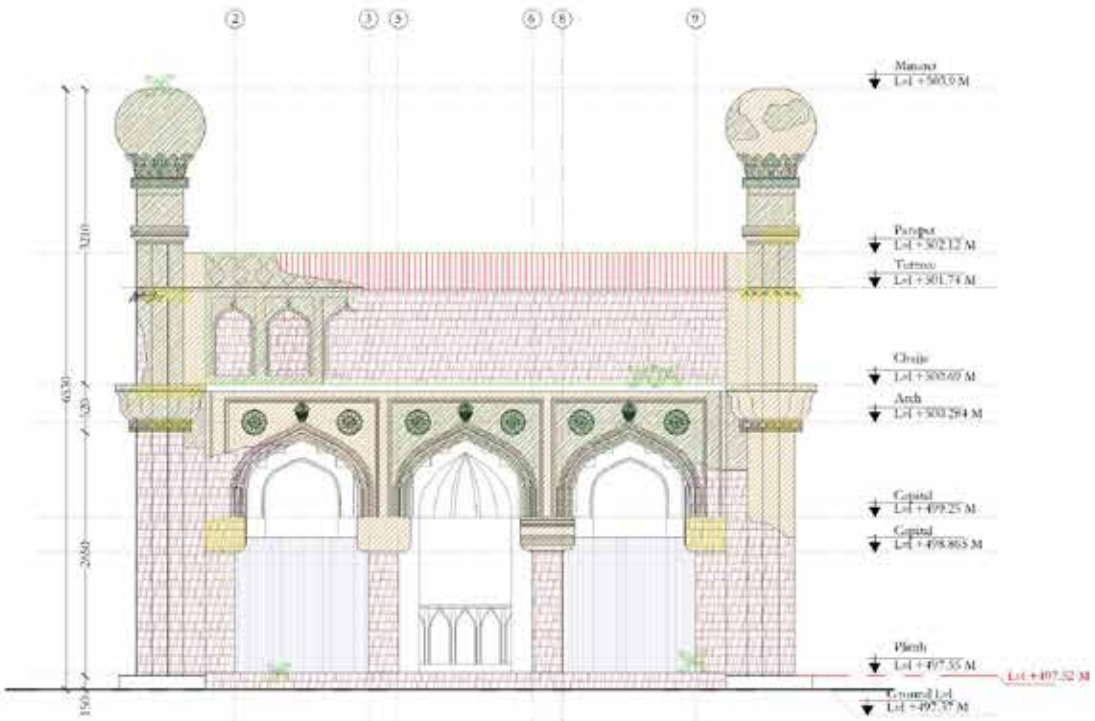
The name of the monument is unknown and hence, has been numbered in the inventory

CONSOLIDATION OF MASONRY

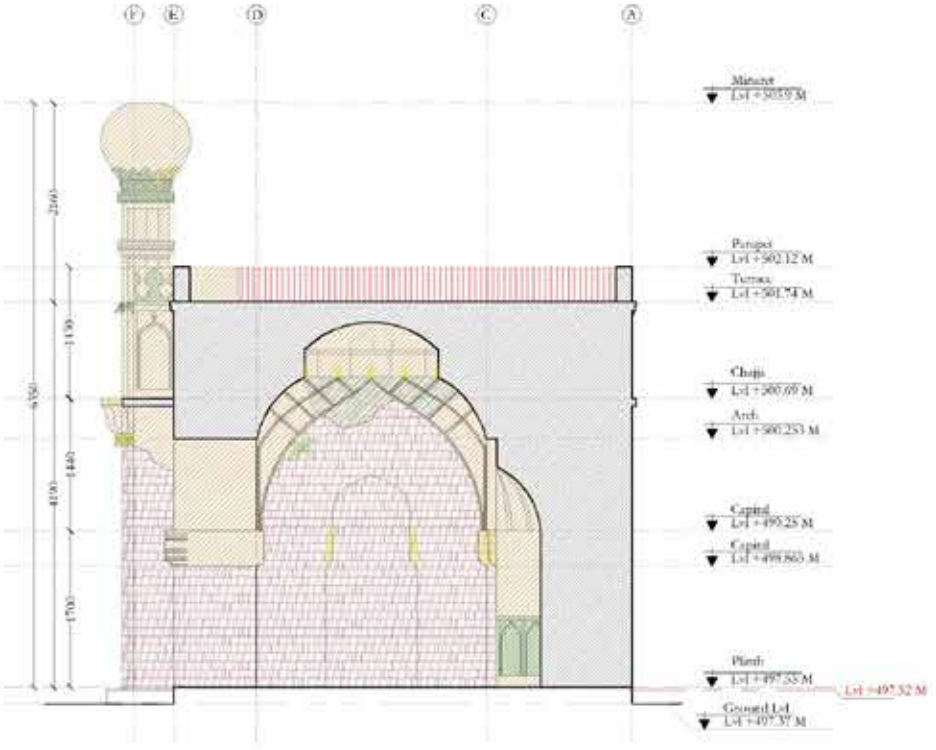
ACTION TAKEN:

- The excess vegetation and accumulated earth from the structure were carefully removed and ad-equate treatment was done to ensure no future growth.
- Documentation and inspection of structural damages were carried out.
- Steel bracings have been provided to the roof of the southern bay of the mosque to arrest any further damage of the roof.
- Consolidation of masonry walls on south, west & north sides was carried out with reconstruction and pinning of the missing and damaged masonry.
- A missing waterspout was fixed in place. It was embedded in the masonry wall on the western side as per in-situ evidence. This will help drain rainwater the from the roof.

(Left) Consolidation and reconstruction of damaged masonry walls
(Right)Steel bracings installed to prevent further damage



Condition Assessment
East Elevation



Condition Assessment
Section CC

Funerary Mosque 17 - Condition Assessment

PARAPET

ACTION TAKEN:

- The surviving ornamentation details at the parapet level were documented.
- Missing and damaged masonry wall was reconstructed on the eastern side of the parapet, matching the historic masonry.
- Ornamental lime stucco details, including24 battlements and 9 arched bays with small arch crowns and mouldings, were reinstated as per the in-situ evidence on the eastern side of the par-apet.
- Repaired and reinstated lime plaster details were finished with 1.5 mm thick lime punning pre-pared using lime putty and natural additives.
- Due to lack of surviving evidence on the north, south and west side, the surviving portion of the parapet was consolidated as-is.

Before Conservation: 2020

Reconstruction of damaged portions of the parapet

Restoration of battlements

After Conservation: 2022

EXTERNAL SURFACES

ACTION TAKEN:

- Black crust and algae deposits on the external facades were removed using a wire brush and sandpaper.
- Detailed documentation of the eastern facade was conducted, which included all ornamental details.
- Raking and pointing of the exposed stone masonry walls on the external facades was carried out using traditional lime mortar.
- The surviving plain lime plaster on the external facades of the north, south, and west sides was consolidated.
- Plaster repairs to the corner minaret were carried out, which included repairs to the minaret bulb, leaf details, diamond pattern band, and the molding at the neck of the minaret bulb.
- The missing and damaged band with the inverted leaf detail was restored based on in-situ evidence on the corner minaret at the chajja level.
- The missing semi-circular stones from the corner column masonry were reinstalled, and lime plaster repairs were carried out to achieve the original octagonal shape of the corner column, matching the surviving evidence.
- The repaired lime plaster details and reinstated elements were finished with a 1.5 mm thick lime punning, prepared using lime putty and natural additives.

Before Conservation: 2020

During Conservation: 2022

INTERNAL SURFACES

ACTION TAKEN:

- The 20th century plaster layer at Mihrab was dismantled to reveal original plaster mouldings.
- Detailed documentation of the interior portions was carried out.

(Left) Dismantling cement plaster from the internal surfaces
(Right) Trial pits to determine original plinth level

PLINTH

ACTION TAKEN:

- Trial pits were excavated on the corner pillars and inside the mosque to determine the original plinth and floor levels.

NEXT STEPS

- Repairs to the surviving lime plaster and lime stucco details on interior will be carried out.
- Roof repairs will be carried out by relaying rich lime concrete to appropriate slopes to drain the rainwater away from the roof.
- The internal flooring will be done using lime concrete.
- Excess earth surrounding the monument will be removed to achieve the original plinth level. A 900 mm wide plinth protection with 100 mm rough gray granite and 200 mm wide granite edging, will be carried out as per approved details.

CONSERVATION

10. Funerary Mosque
west of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum

CONSERVATION OF FUNERARY MOSQUE NO. 10*

The funerary mosque measuring 4.5x3.8 m is situated to the west of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum. The eastern facade of the mosque has three arched openings adorned with intricate spiral mouldings, arch crowns and medallions. A rectilinear band surrounds each arched bay. The projected eave is supported by stone brackets and beams. The parapet has rectangular niches on all sides and floral band and the battlements on the eastern side. Two corner minarets on eastern side meet the parapet wall on a rectangular box that has rectangular niches and flower bands and battlements. The internal chamber of the mosque consists of three arched bays. The arches have floral arch-crowns. Each of the three bays is covered by a flat roof. The central projected mihrab is five-sided with a horizontal band of ornamentation.

Most of the original plaster work had decayed. Plain plaster has been lost, exposing the underlying masonry. Northern wall of the structure has a major void in the masonry. Battlements and the floral band at the parapet and corner minaret were lost and damaged. The domes of the corner minaret were also damaged.

The name of the monument is unknown and hence, has been numbered in the inventory

PARAPET

ACTION TAKEN:

- Skilled craftsmen erected a stone framework to reinstate battlements and floral band on the eastern side of the parapet as per in-situ evidence.
- The recessed rectangular moulding at the parapet on all four sides was repaired using lime plaster.
- Internal surfaces of the parapet were finished with plain lime plaster.
- Repaired and reinstated lime plaster and lime stucco details were finished with 1.5 mm thick lime punning prepared with lime putty and natural additives.
- Stone craftsmen made two stone waterspouts and fixed in position with an appropriate slope to drain the rainwater from the roof.

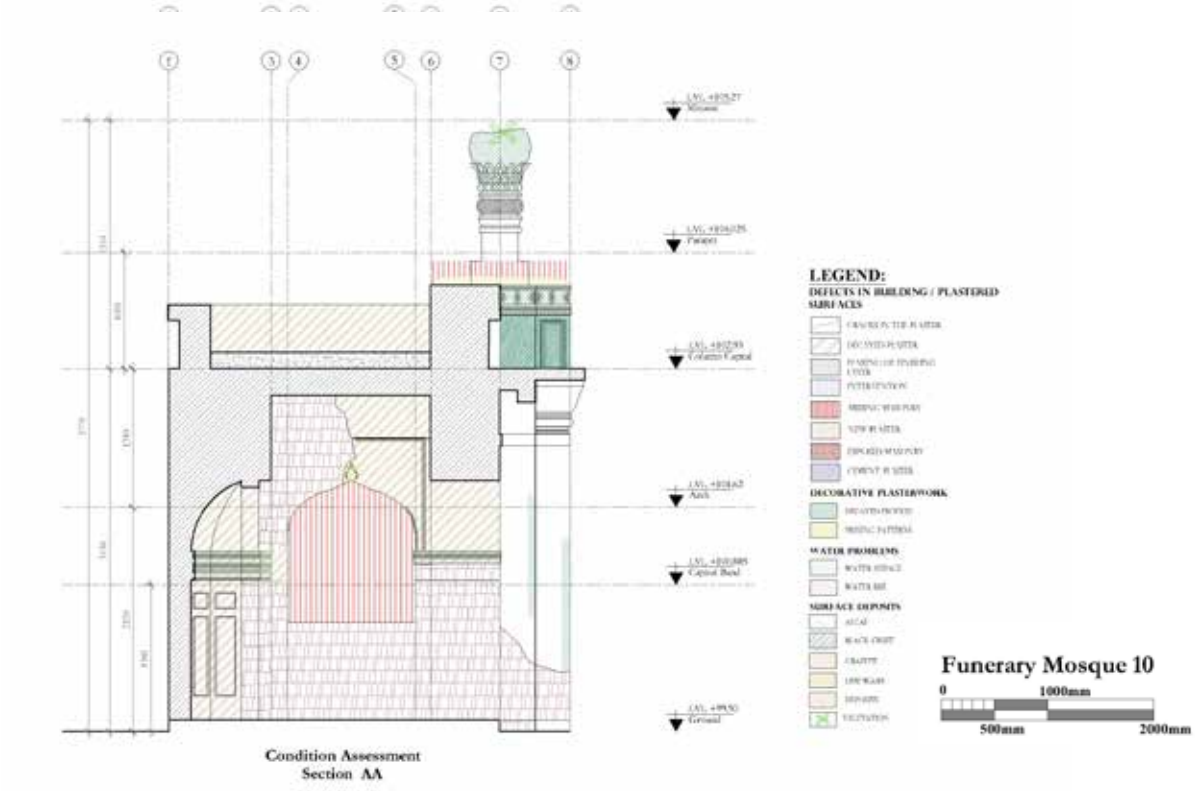
(Clockwise from left) Construction of stone framework for reinstating ornamental elements on the parapet; Reconstruction of battlements and floral bands; Repairs on the damaged minaret

EXTERNAL & INTERNAL FACADE

ACTION TAKEN:

- Black crust and algae deposition on the external surfaces were cleaned using wire brush and sandpaper.
- The broken northern wall was consolidated, matching the historic masonry, using rich traditional lime mortar.
- The damaged square shaped corner columns were repaired with mouldings etc. as per on-site evidence.
- Damaged and loose plain plaster layer on the external surfaces was dismantled and replaced with traditional lime plaster.
- 6 medallions, 3 arch crowns, and 3 sets of spiral details, arch mouldings and capital band mouldings were repaired as per in situ evidence on the eastern facade.,
- Repaired lime plaster details and reinstated elements were finished with 1.5 mm thick lime punning.
- Black crust and algae deposition on internal surfaces was cleaned using wire brush and sandpaper.
- The exposed ceiling due to damaged plaster was finished with the traditional lime plaster and punning.
- The exposed masonry surfaces due to damaged and missing original plaster layer were re-plastered with traditional lime plaster and finished with punning.
- Damaged and missing lime stucco details were restored as per on site evidence.
- Repaired lime plaster details and reinstated elements were finished with 1.5 mm thick lime punning, prepared with lime putty and natural additives.

The northern arched wall of the structure was in a state of disrepair with missing portion of masonry. The wall was carefully examined to assess the extent of damage and deterioration. The damaged portion was consolidated, and missing portion was reconstructed matching the historic masonry using rich lime mortar to achieve the structural integrity of the structure. Following which the lime stucco details in the internal side and the plain plaster on the external façade were reinstated as per on site evidence.



Condition Assessment
Section AA

PLINTH

ACTION TAKEN:

- Missing dressed stones at the plinth level were fixed in place matching surviving plinth stones at the site.
- Scientific clearance and removal of vegetation growth and excess earth around the monument was undertaken to determine the original plinth levels.
- Base work for the plinth protection surrounding the monument was completed.

CONSOLIDATION OF GRAVES

ACTION TAKEN:

- Excess vegetation and accumulated earth were cleared surrounding the 2 graves located south of the monument.
- Consolidation of these 2 graves was carried out by fixing in placed the missing dressed granite stones and traditional lime mortar at their platforms.

NEXT STEPS

- Roof repairs, replacing the damaged and loose lime concrete with traditional rich lime concrete to appropriate slope, will be carried out.
- Lime concrete flooring will be installed.
- 900 mm wide plinth protection with 100 mm rough gray granite finished with 200 mm wide granite edging, will be carried out as per approved details.

CONSERVATION

11. Plinth Protection

ACTION TAKEN:

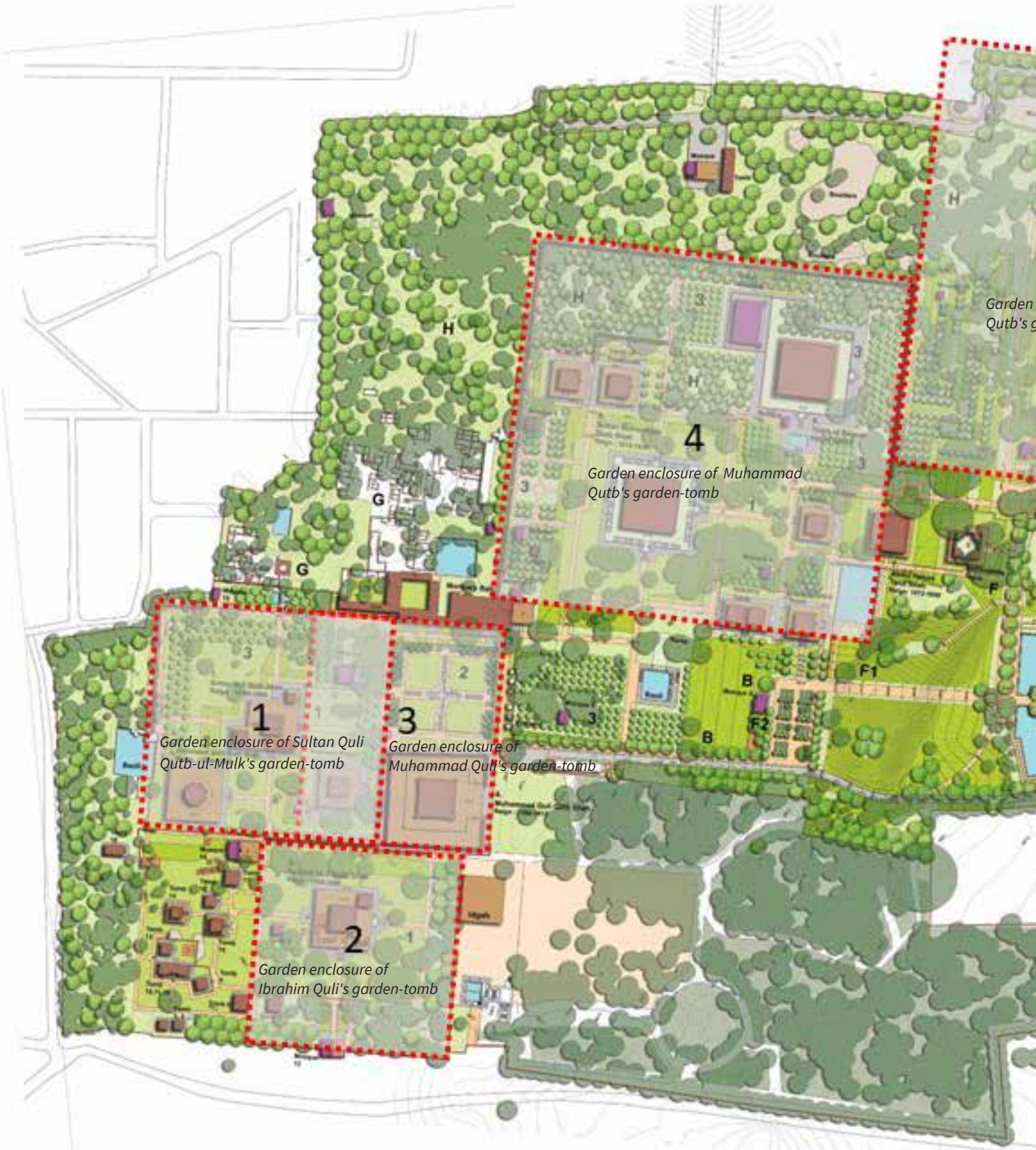
- On the eastern side of Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleum a 70-meters plinth was cleared of the dense vegetation, and inappropriate modern alterations such as the 20th-century steps in brick and cement mortar were dismantled manually. The 20th-century cement plaster on the eastern plinth wall was replaced with traditional lime plaster. This was finished with a 1 mm thin layer of lime putty mixed with natural additives.
- A 30 m long drain and a water cistern measuring 4.7 m x 2.5 m was also unearthed during the removal of excess vegetation. The drain in stone masonry was also restored in an appropriate slope as per in-situ evidence.
- A 900-mm wide plinth protection with 100 mm rough gray granite finished with 200 mm wide granite edging, had been completed as per approved details surrounding Funerary Mosque 9* (located northeast of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah 's Mausoleum), Tomb 5* and Funerary Mosque 7* (located west of Muhammad Qutb Shah's Mausoleum) .
- Base work including brick retaining walls and laying of concrete base for plinth protection surrounding Funerary Mosque 8* (located northeast of Hammam) have been completed coupled with the consolidation of the water channels in random rubble masonry up to 300 mm height that unearthed on north and eastern side of the monument.

*(Above) Skilled craftsmen restore traditional lime plaster on the eastern plinth wall, replacing the 20th-century cement plaster at Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleum; (Below) Consolidation of water channels at Funerary Mosque No. 8**

IMPACT:

The conservation of the plinth of Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleum's accomplished restoration of the integrity of one of the 4 large edifices of the Qutb Shahi funerary ensemble. The historic character of the monuments have been safeguarded by removing modern alterations.

The name of the monument is unknown and hence, has been numbered in the inventory



Southern Gateway to the necropolis: part of Ibrahim Quli's enclosure

Garden-tomb of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah

Garden Enclosures

"The Sepulchres of the King who built Golconda, and of the five Princes who have Reigned after him, are about two Musquet-shot from the Castle. They take up a great deal of Ground, because every one of them is in a large Garden ; the way to go thither is out at the West Gate, and by it not only the Bodies of Kings and Princes, but of all that die in the Castle are carried out ; and no interest can prevail to have them conveyed out by any other Gate."

- from 'The travels of Monsieur de Thevenot into the Levant' (Printed in 1687)

Archaeological excavations revealed the original enclosure wall around Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk's mausoleum. This disputed the legend that the Mughal dynasty introduced the concept of elabrate garden surrounding the mausoleums. The wall, originally standing west of Muhammad Quli's mausoleum, extends 560 meters with dressed granite stone and a coping band.

Parts of a similar enclosure wall around the garden enclosures of Muhammad Qutb Shah and Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleums remain. This wall displays blind arches and horizontal bands on top, with simple battlements.

In the southern Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, remnants of the enclosure wall around Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah's mausoleum are visible, featuring truncated blind arches.

Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk's garden enclosure

CONSERVATION

12. Garden Wall of Mausoleums of Muhammad Qutb Shah & Hayat Baksh Begum

The mausoleum of Muhammad Qutb Shah is enclosed by a wall similar to that of Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk's garden mausoleum. The enclosure wall runs in the west, north and east direction behind the mausoleum of Hayat Baksh Begum. The enclosure wall spans nearly 802 meters and encompasses multiple mausoleums, funerary mosques, and grave platforms. Conservation of western wall was completed in 2019.

The northern and eastern walls have surviving historic battlements with lime plaster and moulding details, but no surviving ornamental lime plaster on the north and east sides. The wall has been altered at places with new masonry constructions and cement plaster repairs in the 20th century, and the base of the wall is covered with earth. Some parts of the wall surface have decayed, and plant growth is visible on the wall.

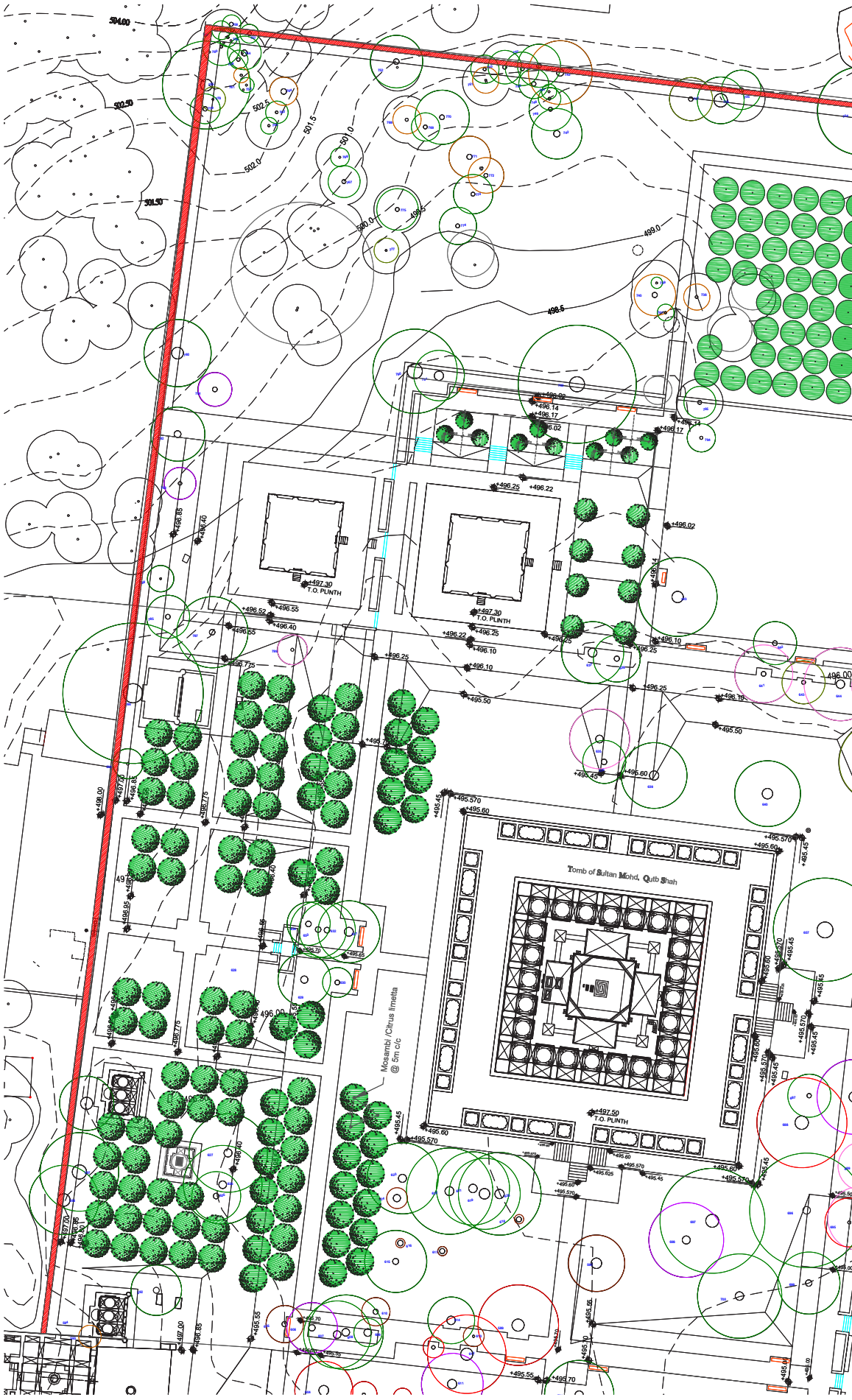
ACTION TAKEN:

- Excess vegetation and accumulated earth surrounding the northern and eastern wall was cleared manually up to 3m from the wall.
- To restore the wall to its original design, sections found to be dilapidated or altered in the 20th century were repaired while maintaining a uniform thickness of 500mm.
- 21 existing damaged battlements were repaired on the northern enclosure wall.
- The 380m long northern and eastern enclosure wall had 450 battlements of 800mm height and 500mm thickness reinstated in stone masonry to match the surviving battlements on site, spaced 310mm apart.
- Raking of 20th century cement was followed with repointing of the existing historic random rubble and coursed rubble masonry wall was carried out with traditional lime mortar.

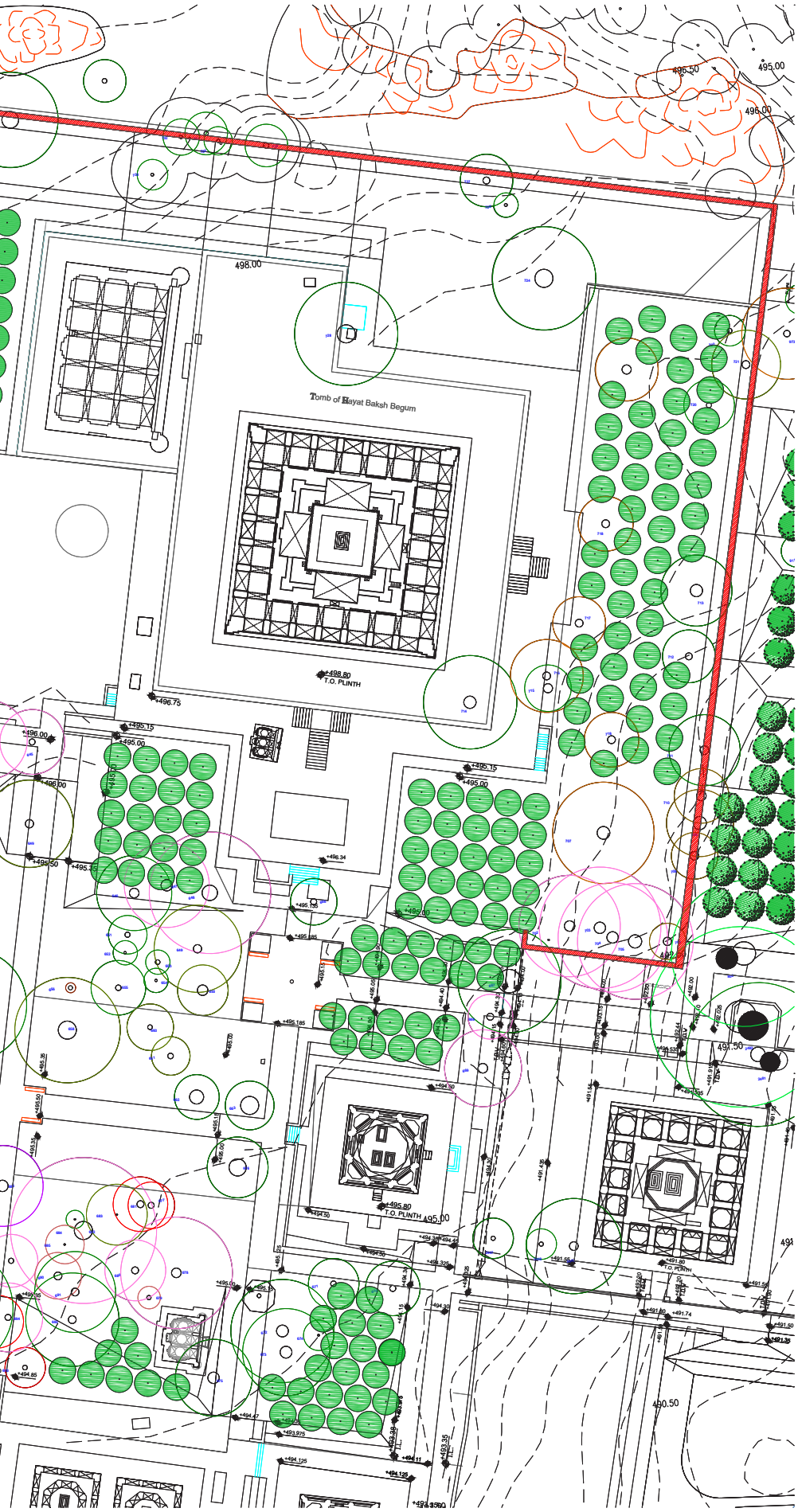
(Top) Craftsmen used the original evidence for reconstruction of battlements; (Bottom) Lime repointing of the wall after removal of cement layers

NEXT STEPS:

- 900 mm wide plinth protection with combination of 350mm thick stone masonry and 500 mm wide plain cement concrete as per the approved design and details will be carried out.



Enclosure wall encasing the mausoleums of Sultan Muhamma



ad Qutb Shah, Hayat Baksh Begum, Taramati and Premamati

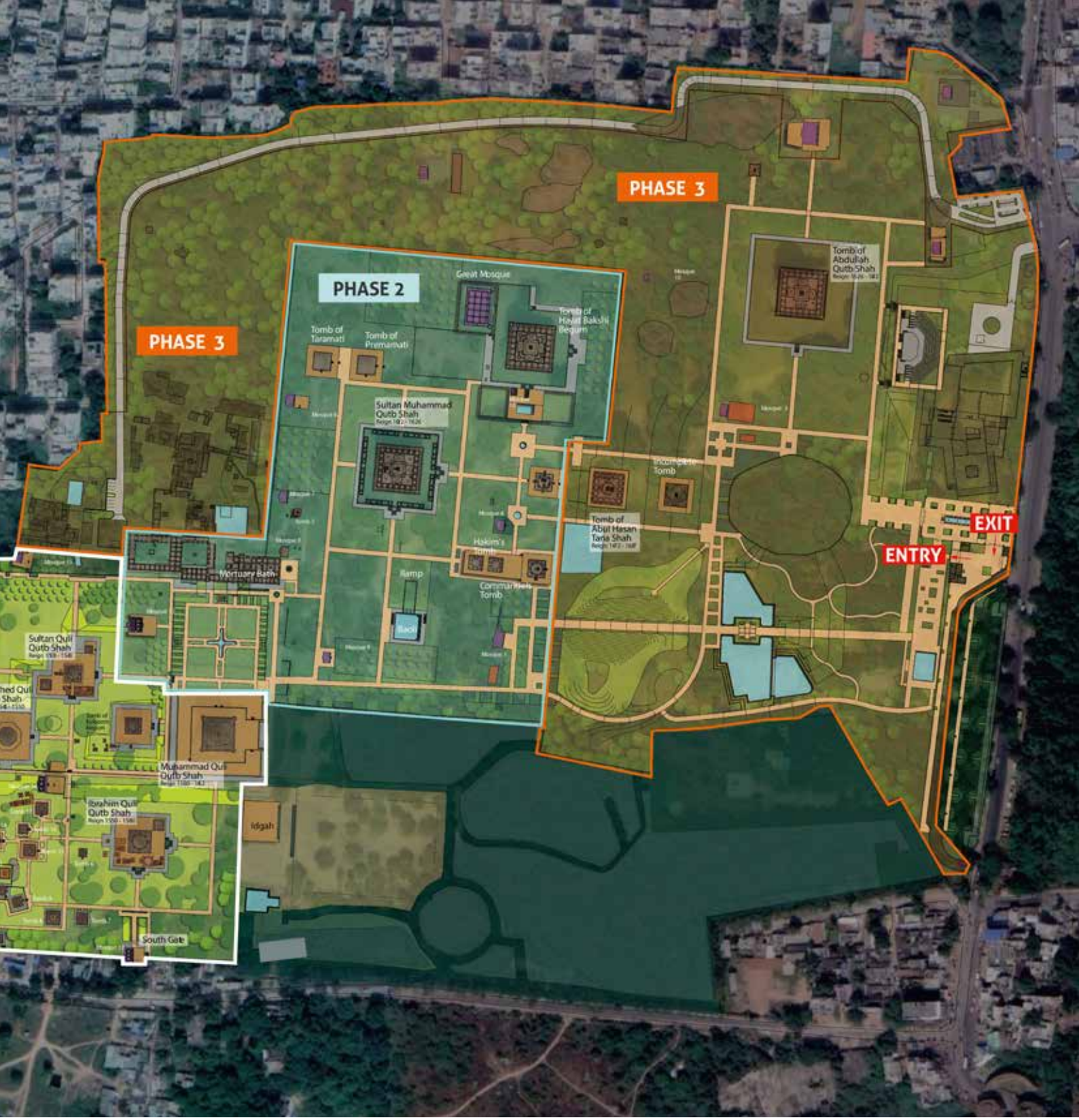
Landscape Restoration

Holistic landscape development has been carried out at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park since 2014. The entire site was divided into three phases. Phase 1 included the southwest corner of the complex around the mausoleums of Sultan Quli, Jamshed Quli, and Ibrahim Quli, including the buffer zone in the western part of the site. Phase 2 consists of the remaining core heritage zone, spanning around the mausoleums of Muhammad Quli, Hammam, and the enclosure wall of Muhammad Qutb Shah. Phase 3 primarily includes the area around the mausoleum of Abdullah Qutb Shah, and the entrance zone - the Deccan Park region.

Significant landscape development activities have been carried out, including the development of pathways, appropriate grading of the earth, and the development of gardens around the monuments. While the development works in Phase 1 are completed, work in Phase 2 is nearing completion, with pockets left to allow for conservation work at the mausoleum of Muhammad Qutb Shah. Similarly, over two-thirds of the work in Phase 3 is complete. The portions remaining in Phase 3 mainly include the construction of the Interpretation Centre and its associated works, such as parking, fire tender pathways, and the development of an entrance plaza. These works are being undertaken by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC) according to approved designs provided by AKTC.

Laying of Pathways

Planting orchards and gardens



Visitor amenities like benches

Lake redevelopment

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

13. Pathways

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

A network of stone pathways has been included in the landscape masterplan to provide easy access to each monument in the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. The landscape masterplan, which was designed for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture by the late landscape architect M. Shaheer, envisioned three zones within the 106-acre Qutb Shahi Heritage Park: a core archaeological zone that connects the monuments with a series of pathways, a visitor facility zone located on the eastern end at the site of the former Deccan Park, and ecological buffer zones on the north, south, and west.

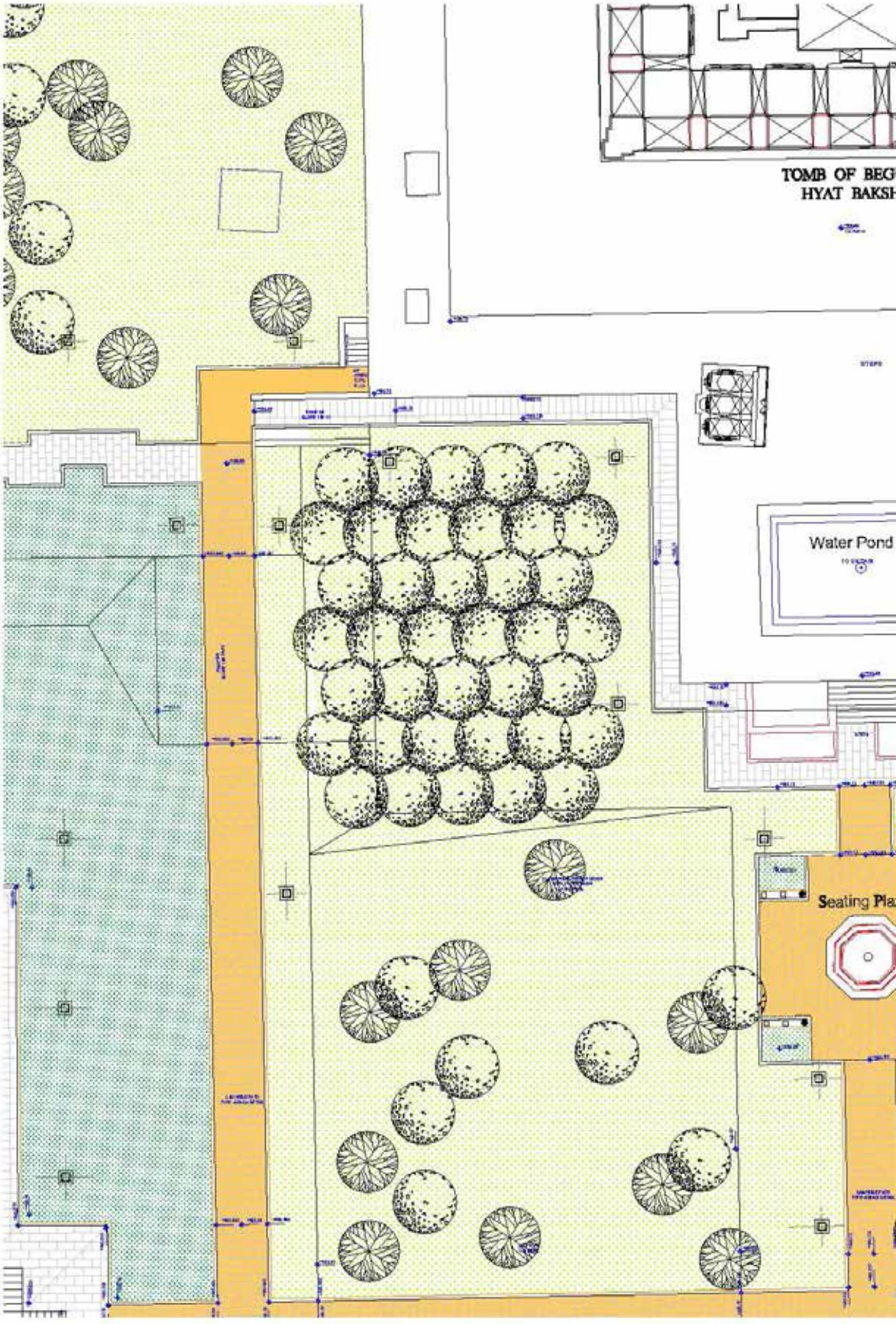
(Left) Installation of tandur pathway east of Taramati and Premamatis mausoleum
(Right) Laying of pathway south of Abdullah Qutb Shahs mausoleum

ACTION TAKEN:

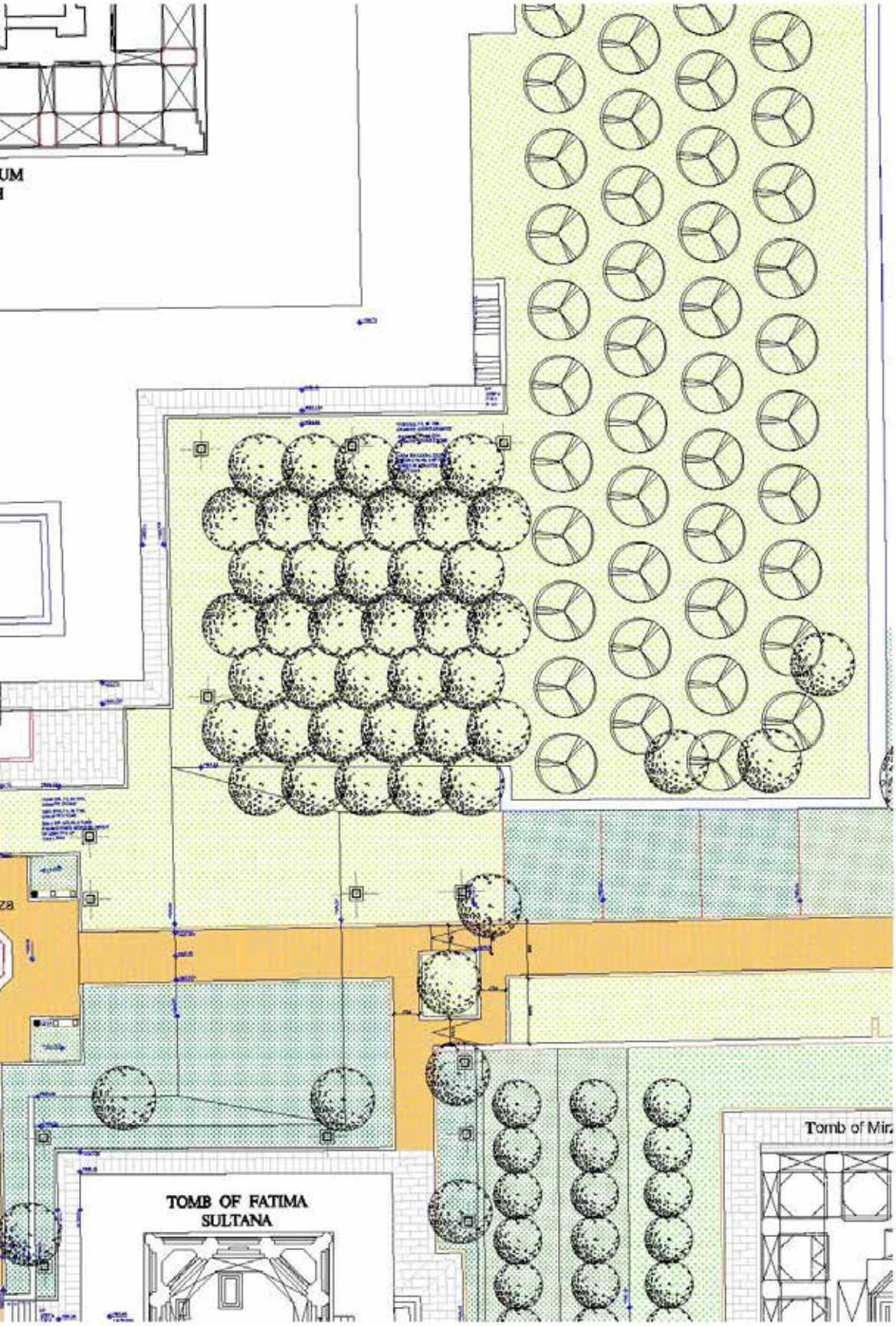
- Installation of 50 mm thick local Tandur stones over the base work on pathways from Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleum to north of Fatima Sultana's mausoleum has been completed.
- Construction of additional ramp on the south-west side of Commander’s mausoleum connecting plinth and rose garden was completed.

NEXT STEPS:

- Completion of remaining pathways and connections in Phase 3 as per approved landscape development plan.



Circulation pattern around monuments of the Qutb Shah



i Heritage Park with a mix of shaded trees and pathways

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

14. Vehicular Road

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park and the adjoining Deccan Park have been integrated, making them an ideal starting point for the Heritage circuit. The site offers ample parking space, an interpretation center, and exhibition spaces that can be used to inform tourists about the rich Deccan heritage. Additionally, an amphitheatre has been constructed for public events. To ensure easy accessibility, a Cement Concrete (CC) Road/Vehicular Road was proposed along the southern periphery of the site, allowing for the smooth movement of EVs (battery-operated cars and buses) for visitor mobility.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The construction of a 350-meter-long cement concrete stretch along the southern periphery of the site, connecting the car parking, lake, mound, special garden, badi baoli, and hamam forecourt, has been completed this year.
- The process involved preparing the bed for laying plain cement concrete, installing cross-over pipes, setting up kerb stones along both sides of the road edge, shuttering and tying of reinforcement, and finally laying 300 metric cubes of M30 grade concrete.

(Below) Laying of RCC vehicular road as per proposed landscape development plan

NEXT STEPS:

- The next step involves laying two additional stretches of 45 and 40 meters, respectively. The first stretch will start from the lime chakki setup and connect to the badi baoli, while the second stretch will connect the lower lake to the car parking.


498.13
90°
Bench
Drop off/Pick up
point for BOV
CCTV room
498.0
97.5


496.9

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

15. Trees & Embankment

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

Qutb Shahi Heritage Park is home to a variety of native trees, which make up over 30% of the core heritage zone and Deccan park. These trees have a lush foliage and canopy, and the landscape development plan was designed to incorporate them in a thoughtful way that preserves this important green cover. As a result, the plan includes carefully crafted spaces that protect these trees and the surrounding environment.

(Top) While regrading, toe walls were constructed west of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum to retain the earth around the large trees; (Right) Toe walls have been built in the charbagh at the Bagh Baoli to provide support and prevent erosion.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The construction of toe-walls around the large trees to retain the earth, as per the grading plan, has been completed on the west side of the mausoleum of Abdullah Qutb Shah.
- The grading work for the north mound has been completed, along with the completion of the wall around the temple to retain the existing earth levels. The construction of a planter to retain the Jamun tree near the temple has also been completed.
- Additionally, three granite planters have been built along the path connecting Bagh Baoli and Central Lake Plaza to retain the neem and mango trees.
- Two retaining walls have been constructed on the northwest side of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum, which is an ecological area, to act as bunds that slow down the movement of surface water during the rainy season.

(Top) Retaining wall constructed along the ecological area to slow down surface water movement;
(Bottom) Toe walls built around trees at the Mound in Deccan Park

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

16. Plantation

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

(Above) Pomegranate orchard developed north of Commander's mausoleum

The plantation scheme for the Qutb Shahi heritage park was prepared after several round of discussions held among historians, landscape consultants, ecologists, architects, and naturalist.

The Heritage site holds the character both tangible and intangible heritage that can be seen in its built form and the ecology. Further moving towards conserving this ecosystem and centuries character of space, three major zones were identified that need to be planted discretely to provide a character to the space and maintain an ecological balance.

These three zones are: Core Heritage Zone, Ecological Zone and Peripheral Walkways & Avenues.

CORE HERITAGE ZONE

- This includes the immediate spaces around the major monuments and other structure that possess a great build heritage character. Native species to be planted in these areas to revive the original ecological character. This includes planation of fruit orchards, ground covers and cluster of trees. A vineyard, at east of hamam forecourt is constructed in which the native variety of grape (Anab-e-Shahi) local variety would be cultivated.

ECOLOGICAL ZONE

- This includes the area at the north, south-west, and south side of the site. The trees and plants in this area shall possess a greater ecological value, should be bee and butterfly loving in nature. There should be an intermix of slow and fast-growing dense trees for this area. Species like Akash neem, Banyan (Ficus Benghalensis), Jamun, Tamarind, Karanj to be planted along the periphery and trees like Ticoma (Yellow Flowers), Amla, Starfruit, Bheelawa to be used for infill plantation.
- South-West zone is ideal for peacock and other ground nesting birds. Therefore, intermittent planting is followed in this area. A mix of slow growing fruit trees and tall dense fast-growing trees are planted here.
- Construction of landscape bunds in the ecological zone to hold the access rainwater and irrigate the area with same during hot summers is being planned.

PERIPHERAL WALKWAY & AVENUES

- Tall trees shall be planted along the site boundary to hide the modern buildings and fruit trees like jamun, Reetha, Cyprus, Palash, African Tulip, and Mulberry shall be planted in the middle of the area. Plantation along the peripheral walkway should be of low maintenance. Combination of Fast and growing dense and slow growing trees shall be planted which have greater ecological value and nature.
- Ornamental trees shall be planted in the major avenues like lake pathway leading to heritage zone, along road for EV, interpretation centre, vehicular parking and Deccan Park area.

(Below) Plantation in the Core Heritage Zone

LIST OF TREES BEING PLANTED

Core Heritage Zone

- **Ber (Ziziphus mauritiana)**, native to India is a drought-tolerant, evergreen tree. Its fruit is often called the "poor man's fruit" due to its nutritional value. It thrives on a medium-sized evergreen tree with a spreading crown, featuring graceful, drooping branches.
- **Mango (Mangifera indica L.)** is renowned as the "King of Fruits" for its opulent taste and vibrant flavor Its origins are believed to be rooted in the Indian subcontinent, where it has been cherished for generations.
- **Maulsari (Mimusops elengi)**is an evergreen tree with fragrant flowers that grace the landscape with their enchanting aroma.
- **Starfruit(Averrhoa carambola)** is a tropical tree, notable for its unique, star-like shape fruit when sliced. It offers a sweet and tangy flavor, making it a delightful addition to both culinary dishes and refreshing beverages.
- **Sapota (Manilkara zapota)**, an evergreen fruit tree, is known for its wind-resistant qualities. Notably, the tree's bark is a valuable source of white, gummy latex known as "chicle," which has been traditionally used in chewing gum production.
- **Guava (Psidium guajava)** is a tropical evergreen tree known for its resilience and adaptability. The fruit of this tree is considered a superfood, and it attracts birds.
- **Rain Tree (Samanea saman or Albizia saman)** is a majestic, wide-canopied tree native to tropical regions. In peak summer, the tree sprays water droplets on the ground beneath, and so aptly named the Rain Tree. This phenomenon is caused by the insects that reside on it.
- **Common Fig tree(Ficus carica)** is celebrated for its delicious, sweet fruits known as figs. They have a unique, bulbous shape and a sweet, honey-like flavor, making them a favorite ingredient in both culinary dishes and desserts.
- **Jackfruit tree(Artocarpus heterophyllus)** is a tropical evergreen tree, renowned for producing the world's largest fruit. This tree yields massive, spiky-skinned fruits that can weigh up to 80 pounds, with a sweet and uniquely flavored pulp often used in various culinary applications, both ripe and unripe.
- **Citrus trees are** emblematic of the evergreen trees producing a wide range of tangy and sweet fruits like oranges, lemons, and mosambi rich in Vitamin C.
- **Pomegranate trees(Punica granatum)**are known for their vibrant red, jewel-like fruits filled with sweet-tart seeds. These small, deciduous trees are drought resistant. The vibrant colored fruits of this tree attract a variety of insects and birds.
- **Bauhinia purpurea,** often referred to as the Indian Orchid Tree, is native to Eastern Asia. This medium-sized deciduous flowering tree is cherished for its ornamental value, featuring beautiful, orchid-like blooms that adorn its branches, making it a delightful addition to gardens and landscapes.


Ber


Maulsari


Sapota


Rain tree


Pomegranate

Ecological Zone

- **Reetha tree (Sapindus mukorossi)** bears soapberries used in natural cleansers. This evergreen produces with small, fragrant flowers that attract bees and butterflies.
- **The Bael tree (Aegle marmelos)** is known for its sacred and medicinal significance. Native to India, this tree is reputed to grow in places other trees cannot. The large woody fruits of this tree appear all year, while the flowers bloom in April and May.
- **Amla(Emblica officinalis)** is celebrated for its vitamin C-rich, sour-tasting fruits. It is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree also known as Indian gooseberry, and is often used in Ayurveda for its medicinal properties.
- **Jamun (Syzygium cumini),** a tropical evergreen tree of the Myrtaceae family, is celebrated for its sweet-tart, dark-purple fruits, prized for both culinary and medicinal purposes.
- **The Tamarind tree (Tamarindus indica),** a legume-bearing tree from the Fabaceae family, produces tangy, pod-like fruits. Native to tropical regions, this evergreen tree is prized for culinary and medicinal uses.
- **Sitaphal (Annona squamosa)** is a tropical fruit tree known for its sweet and custard-like fruits, often referred to as "sugar apple". This highly drought-resistant tree is small tree is semi-deciduous and semi-evergreen in nature.
- **Palash(Butea monosperma),** a symbol of the Indian summer is often reffered as the ''flame of forest'' due to its vibrant orange-red flowers.
- **The Banyan tree(Ficus bengalensis)** is a majestic, evergreen, long-living tree native to India and other tropical regions. It's celebrated for its immense canopy and aerial roots that create an awe-inspiring natural spectacle.
- **Karanj (Pongamia pinnata)** is native to tropical Asia, is valued for its oil. This fast growing tree is helpful in soil reclamation, and also to stop soil erosion.
- **Akashneem(Millingtonia hortensis), i**s a tall ornamental tree known for its fragrant white flowers. Native to South and Southeast Asia, it is appreciated for its aesthetic and aromatic qualities.
- **Badam or the Indian almond tree (Terminalia catappa)** belongs to family Combrettaceae has horizontal growing branches, with broad leaves. It is valued for the edible nuts it produces.


Reetha


Bael


Tamarind


Palash


Banyan

Peripheral Walkway and Avenues

- **Copperpod (Peltophorum pterocarpum)** is a striking, deciduous tree with vibrant yellow flowers. Native to tropical regions, it's prized for its ornamental and shade-providing qualities.
- **Champa,** commonly referred to as the Temple Tree, is a fragrant flowering tree native to India. It holds cultural and religious significance, often planted near temples and homes for its aromatic blooms.
- **Magnolia champaka** is a tall, evergreen tree with a tapering canopy. It is native to Southeast Asia, and is a popular ornamental tree in many parts of the world, valued for its glossy green leaves, fragrant yellow flowers,
- **Saraca asoca,** commonly known as the Ashoka tree is a culturally signficant tree in the Indian subcontinent. This evergreen tree is prized for its foliage and fragrant flowers.
- The **Coconut** tree, scientifically named Cocos nucifera, is a tropical palm tree celebrated for its versatile uses. It provides not only nutritious fruits but also materials for various products, from food to fibers and cosmetics.
- **African Tulip tree (Spathodea campanulata)** is a tall, elegant ornamental with spreading branches and bright flowers. It boasts vibrant red or orange tulip-shaped flowers and is cherished for its striking beauty in tropical landscapes.

Palash, Bahunia purperea, Badam, Akashneem and Frangipani trees are also being planted in the peripheral walkway and avenues.

Copperpod

Temple tree

African Tulip

Plantation at the peripheral walkway on the northern area of the necropolis

Ground cover and Shrubs

- **Wadelia trilobata,** commonly known as trailing daisy, is a hardy creeper from the Asteraceae family. Resistant to pests and diseases, it produces charming yellow daisy-like flowers, adding a touch of elegance to landscapes.
- **Hamelia patens**, also known as Firebush or Hummingbird Bush, is a tropical shrub. It is cherished for its brilliant red or orange tubular flowers, which attract hummingbirds and butterflies, enhancing gardens and landscapes.
- **Jasmine**, scientifically known as Jasminum sambac, is a fragrant flowering plant known for its delicate white blossoms. It is prized for its aromatic qualities and is commonly used in perfumery and traditional ceremonies.
- **Henna (Lawsonia inermis)** is a small shrub cultivated for its leaves, which are used to create a natural dye with a reddish-brown hue. It has a rich history in traditional body art and hair coloring practices.
- **Perennial roses** are enduring flowering plants that come back year after year. Known for their elegance and fragrance, they enhance gardens with their diverse colors and shapes.
- **Verbena** is a genus of flowering plants known for their clusters of small, colorful blossoms. These hardy perennials or annuals are prized for their versatility in gardens and as bedding plants.

Wadelia trilobata

Jasmine

Verbena

Rose and Champa planted south of Commander's mausoleum

HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

(Right) Plantation of Sita Ashok trees to the west Hakims' tombs

ACTION TAKEN:

- Earth grading and the completion of pathways were undertaken along the enclosure wall west of Sultan Mohammad Qutb Shah. Around 150 trees, including orchards of Mango and Sweet Lime, were planted in this area.
- Earth grading and the plantation of more than 100 trees, including Mango, Jamun, and Karanj, were completed at the terrace garden west of Abdullah Qutb Shah Tomb.
- The invasive Subabul growth was removed, earth grading was undertaken at the south and east of the Tomb of Ibrahim Quli, and a Jackfruit orchard (120 saplings) was planted.
- • At the special garden south of Commander's Tomb had seven Plumeria/Temple Trees planted, and a banana orchard was also established by transplanting trees from the Deccan Park area.
- Fifteen trees were transplanted from the Decan Park and car parking area to the Eidgah area. These include species like Neem, Casia, Banana, Tamarind, and Ashoka.
- The north and east area of Fadma Khanum Grave was cleaned, and earth grading was done as per the landscape proposal.
- Two thousand verbena (ground cover) saplings were planted at the east side of Hamam Forecourt along with fifty grape saplings below the stone trellises.
- The nursery area prepared 250 saplings of plants like Jasmine, mehndi, Retha, Yellow trumpet, and Tecoma.
- Manual dressing and grading of earth on the north, west, and south side of the mausoleum of Abdullah Qutb Shah were completed, along with the plantation of seven Raintrees at the south as per the plantation plan and schedule.
- Additional pits for Ramphal plantation were dug on the west side of Hayat Baksh Begum Tomb.
- Excavation of two hundred pits for mixed plantation in the northern ecological zone along the informal pathway was undertaken.
- Cleaning of all the baolis, removal of excess vegetation, and monuments cleaning were undertaken before the 15th September baoli inauguration event. Digging of pits and planting of Jamun (27 no.) at the south and east of Eastern Baoli, along with the dressing of the area, was undertaken.
- Plantation of Jatropha shrubs near the toilet block was completed along the vehicular road.
- Plantation of 15 Sita Ashoka trees near Hakim's tomb was completed.
- Clearing of invasive Subabul trees and digging of 100 pits were completed on the east side of the Idgah. Further 70 trees of mixed variety were planted in this region.
- Laying of carpet grass in the Charbagh of Bagh Baoli was undertaken along with the dressing of green patches at the east side of the fire tender path.
- Laying of carpet grass in the southwest corner of the lake was undertaken.
- Extension of the mango orchard near the west enclosure wall of the mausoleum of Muhammad Qutb Shah was carried out.
- Ninety white Hibiscus trees were planted at the west slope of the Incomplete tomb and along the west edge of the eastern Baoli wall.
- Plantation of four Champaka trees in the lake plaza was completed.

DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

As per the framed guidelines, an Irrigation network of around 3300 mts was laid across the site for Horticulture work and water connections has been provided through the nearby baolis.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The excavation work for laying the irrigation line, which spans 700 meters, has been completed. It started from the south of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum and leads to the Eastern Baoli.
- An extension of the irrigation line was carried out along the enclosure wall of the Tomb of Mohammad Qutb, and it was connected to Hamam Baoli.

Plan showing the irrigation network to be laid across the site to ensure efficient water utilization for horticulture works.

NEXT STEPS:

- Installation of submersible water pumps and electricity control panels into the Baolis, connecting them with the main irrigation lines to control water consumption and recirculation.
- Digging and preparing tree pits before the monsoon, and procuring tree saplings based on the approved landscape scheme.
- Plantation will continue in the area where conservation activities have been completed, based on the approved landscape scheme.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

17. Grading of Earth

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

(Top) The land west of Abdullah Qutb Shah was formerly being used as a parking lot, but it has been transformed into a terrace garden with the addition of mango saplings after the earth was regraded

ACTION TAKEN:

- Grading works on the northwest and south side of the mausoleum of Abdullah Qutb Shah has been undertaken. This involved removing of over 300 cubic metres of existing morum and earth. A 150 mm thick layer of good earth from the mound in Deccan Park was then laid to levels as final earth level.
- The grading of earth in the remaining portion of the terrace garden west of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum has been completed, along with the plantation of 25 mango saplings.
- Earth has also been graded on the south and east sides of Hayat Baksh Begum's mausoleum according to the desired landscape scheme. Excavation of additional pits has been carried out at the southeast corner of the mausoleum.
- Building debris and excess earth on the northwest side of the Hammam and the northeast corner of Taramati's mausoleum have been removed.

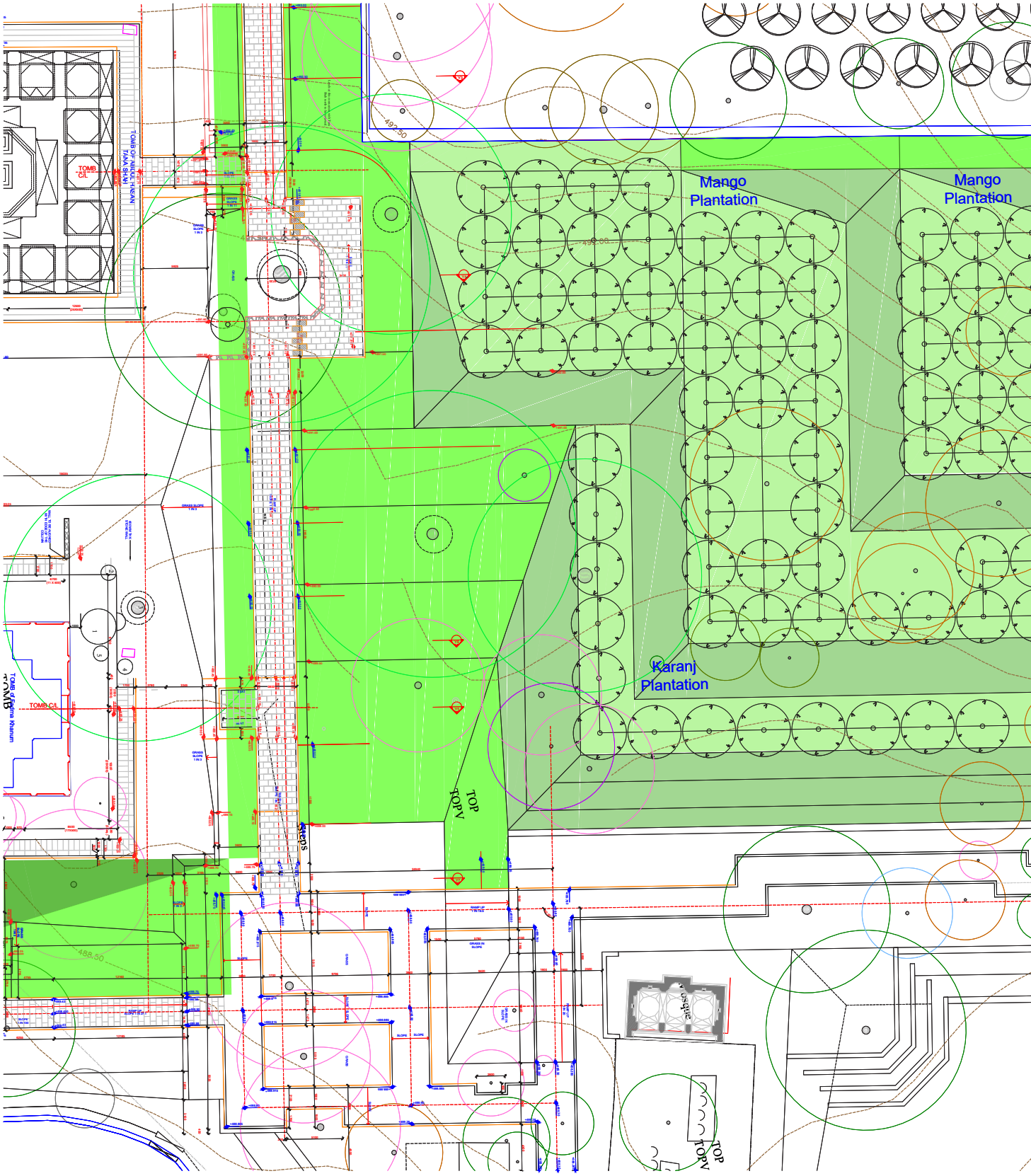
Before Landscape Restoration

Regrading of earth for plantation of mango orchard

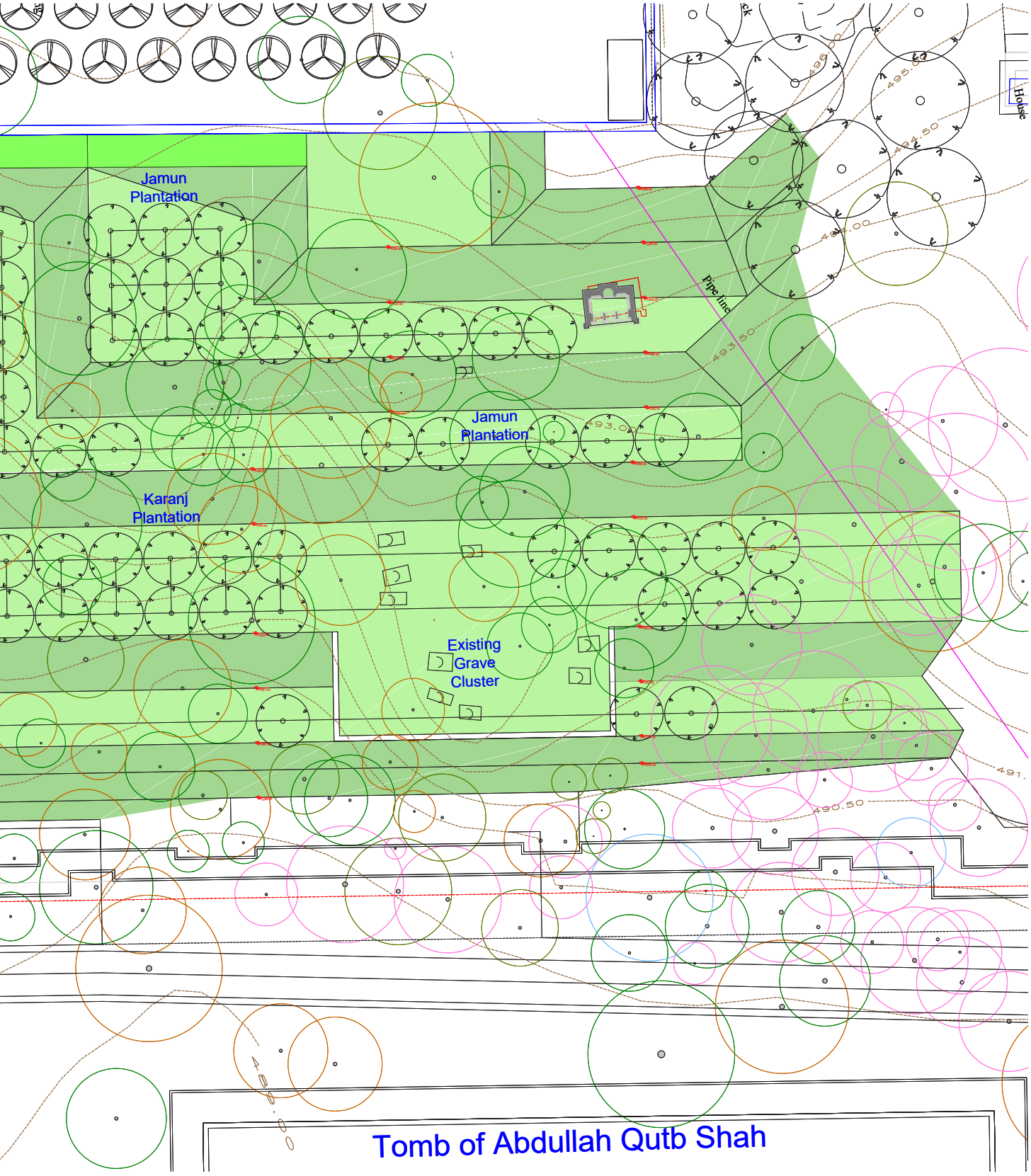
Laying grass in the area surrounding Abdullah Qutb Shah's tomb

IMPACT:

With the adequate development of the area surrounding the mausoleum of Abdullah Qutb Shah, there has been a significant increase in tourists visiting the monument. This structure was once left unattended, with visitors driving along the monument up to the parking near the unfinished mausoleum of Mirza Nizamuddin. However, now, with the development of pathways around the monument, the shifting of the parking to the eastern edge of the site, and the development of a stepped garden, the area around the tomb has been reinstated, making it a prime point of interest for visitors.



Plantation scheme for the terraced garden

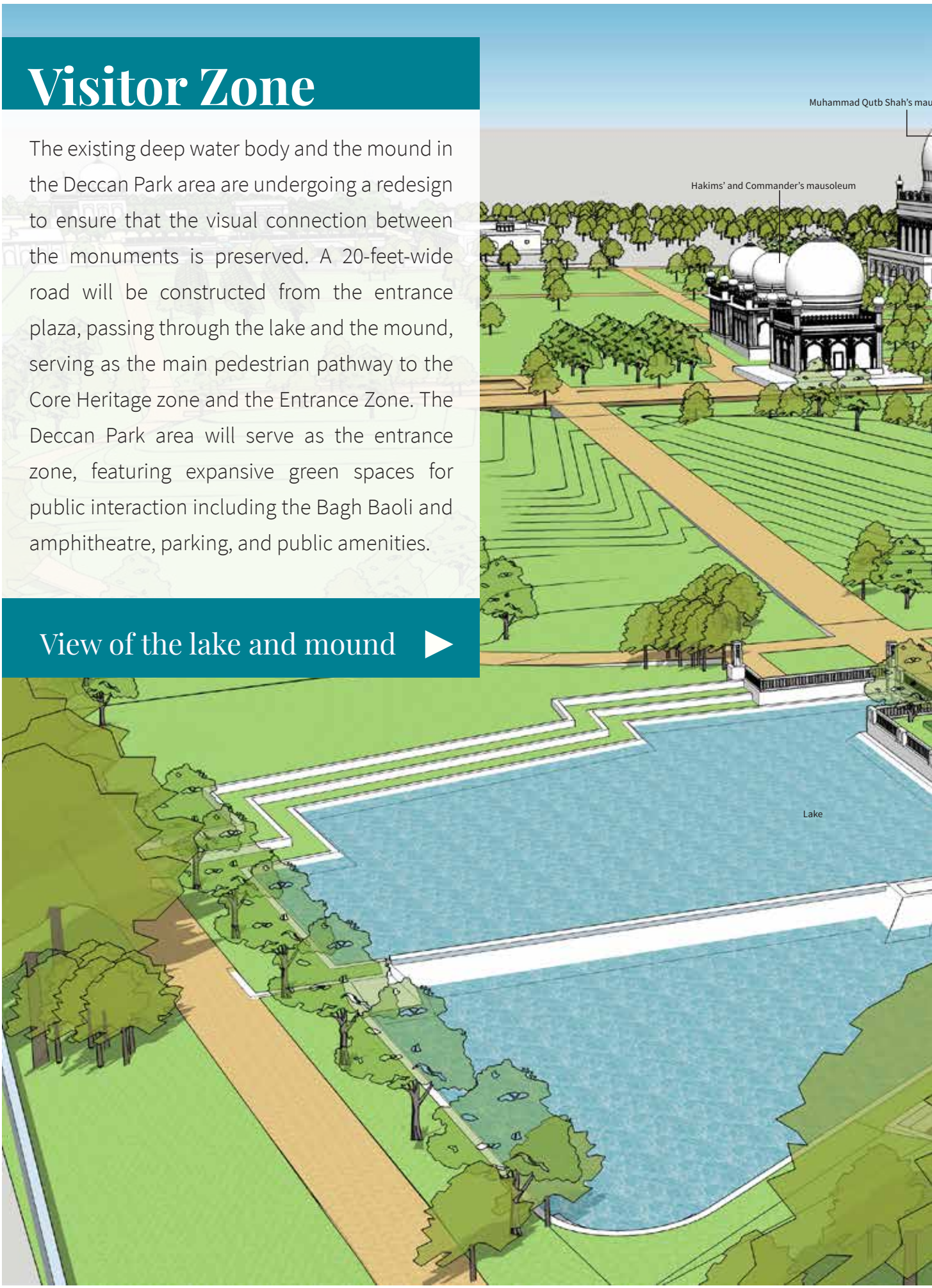


west of Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum

Visitor Zone

The existing deep water body and the mound in the Deccan Park area are undergoing a redesign to ensure that the visual connection between the monuments is preserved. A 20-feet-wide road will be constructed from the entrance plaza, passing through the lake and the mound, serving as the main pedestrian pathway to the Core Heritage zone and the Entrance Zone. The Deccan Park area will serve as the entrance zone, featuring expansive green spaces for public interaction including the Bagh Baoli and amphitheatre, parking, and public amenities.

View of the lake and mound ▶




usoleum
Abdullah Qutb Shah's Mausoleum
Fatima Sultana's mausoleum
Mirza Nizamuddin Ahmed's
mausoleum
Fadma Khanum's mausoleum
Mound
Central Plaza

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

18. Lake

Water is one of the most beautiful and meaningful features of the landscape development. The baolis in the Heritage Zone of site inspired the incorporation of similar kind of feature in the Deccan park area.

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

The water-body in the Deccan Park was in the deteriorated condition. The outline profile of the water body was retained and a shallow lake is being created in the region. The lake will not only enhance the serene experience for visitors walking towards the archaeological zone but also controls the micro-climate of the area. Additionally, it will serve as a transition element from the activity zone to the archaeological zone. The depth of the lake, which was over 10 feet, has been reduced to 2 feet by filling excess earth removed from various parts of the complex.

ACTION TAKEN:

- Stone masonry retaining wall, along with finishes, has been completed on both the lower and upper portions of the lake.
- A 100 mm thick rough granite edging stone has been placed around the perimeter of the lake. A 1" conduit pipe has been laid under the edging stone for the recirculation of water from the lower to the upper lake. Additionally, 5 ft of sand has been retained in the lake for growing aquatic plants, making the lake self-sustainable for fishes and turtles.
- Two RCC bridges have been constructed, as per design, to connect the central plaza of the lake with the eastern and western parts.
- The base work for the wall of the central plaza, above the stone lining, has been completed in brick masonry. Atop this, 150mm red granite stone cladding has been installed as the final finish.
- The finished granite stone masonry wall, along with a stone railing for the central plaza, has also been completed.
- Laying of 30mm thick Tandur stone on the central and west side plaza of the lake has been completed, along with the laying of Tandur stone on the pathway connecting the lake plaza and Bagh Baoli.
- The construction and erection of 23 red granite stone light pillar is in progress.
- The installation of 8 solid granite benches was completed in central and western plaza of the lake.
- Construction of RR masonry at south west and south side of lake to retain the soil has been completed.

Construction of bridge

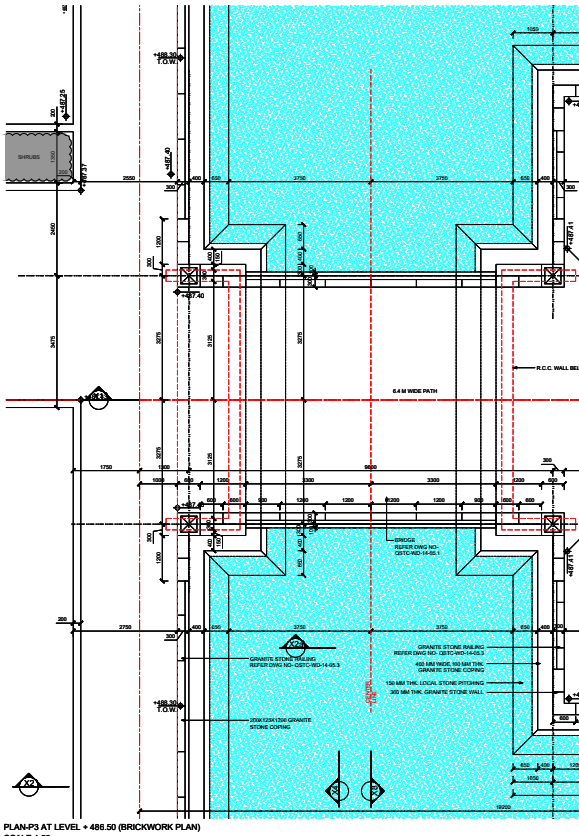
Installation of granite light pillars

Basework for pathway

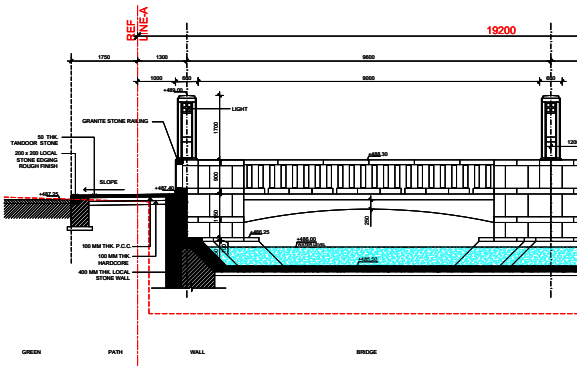
Pathway connecting the lake to the core heritage zone was laid

NEXT STEPS:

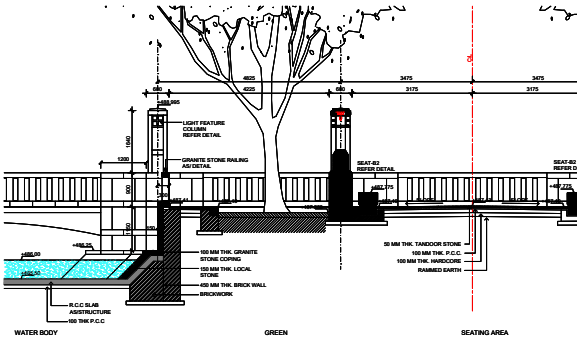
- Completing the erection and installation of red sandstone light pillars with approved light fixtures.
- Installation of tree uplighters and light fixtures along the lake according to the approved lighting scheme and sample.
- Finishing the base work and laying of Tandur stone for the curved pathway connecting the western lake plaza and CC road to ensure it is completed in its entirety
- Additionally, Tandur stone will be laid over the base work for the pathway connecting the Rose garden and lake plaza.



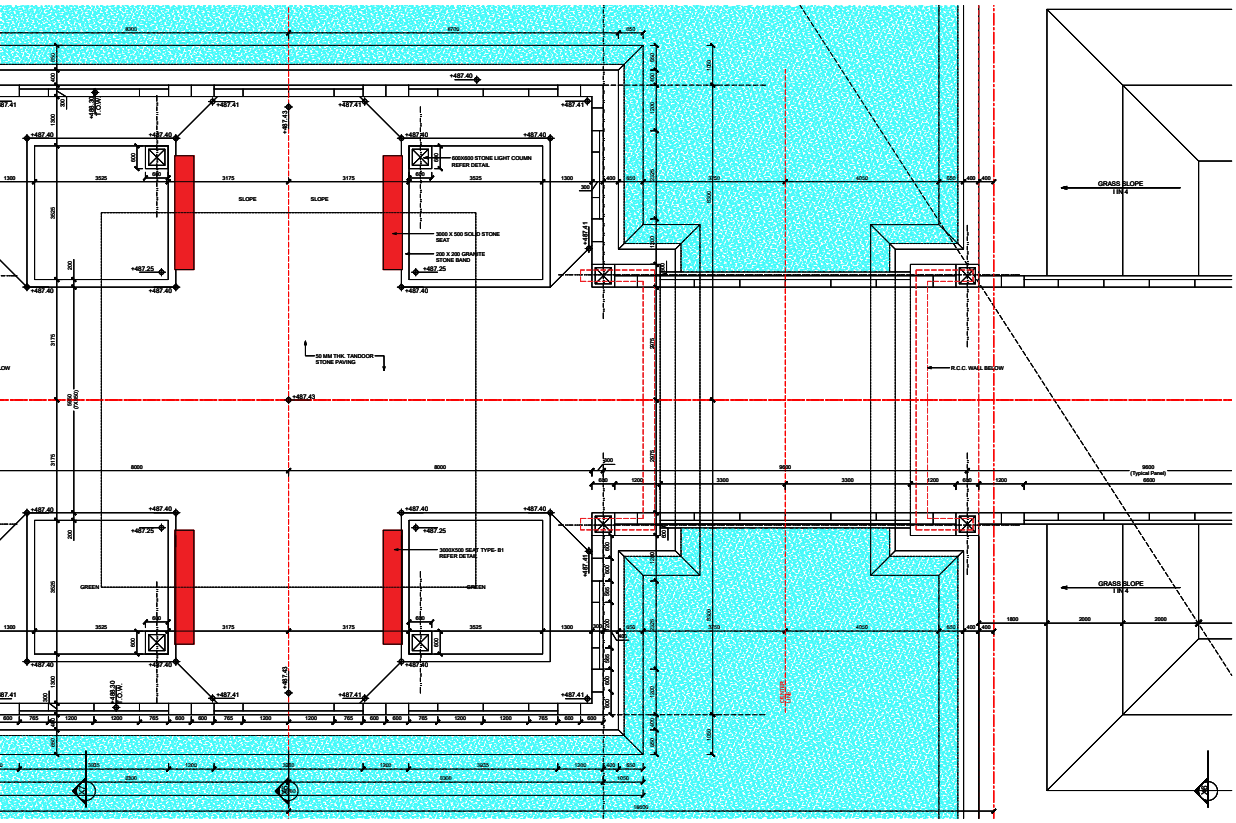
PLAN-P3 AT LEVEL + 486.50 (BRICKWORK PLAN)
SCALE 1:50

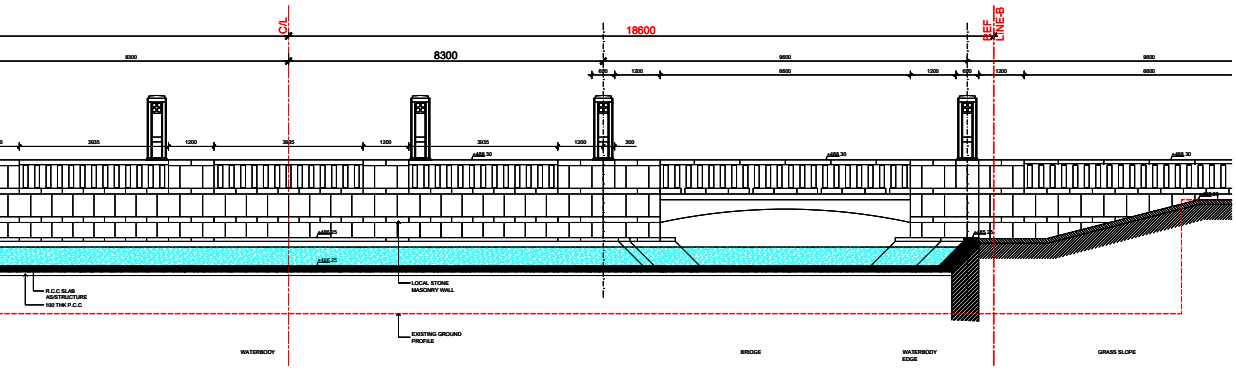


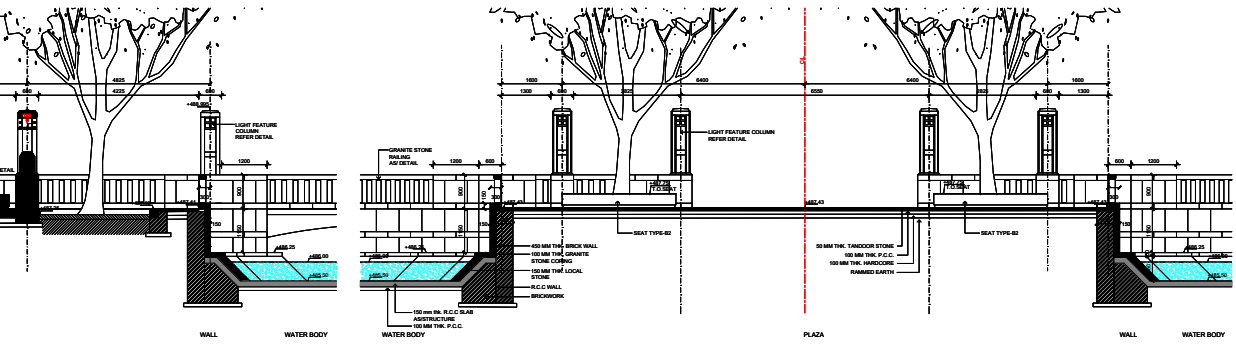
SECTION X2
SCALE 1:50



SECTION X2a
SCALE 1:50







SECTION X5
SCALE 1:50

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

19. Mound

The mound, constructed in the early 2000s on the west side of the lake, obstructed the view of the monuments. Portions of the mound are being altered to allow for the primary pathway and maintain visual connections to the monuments. Currently, work is underway to develop the lake and mound according to the proposed design.

Supported by:
सत्यमेव जयते
SWADESH DARSHAN

Mound in 2017

Pathway constructed

Good earth was spread after grading the mound for laying grass

ACTION TAKEN:

- The mound in the Deccan Park was cut from centre to form a central path to connect the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park and Deccan Park. This central axis starts from Bagh Baoli connecting lake central plaza, north and south mound and ends at special garden, south of Commander's mausoleum.
- This area will serve as an additional space for tourists and young visitors to unwind and relax outside the busy core heritage zone.
- The height of North mound has been reduced by 3.5 metres to have a desired view of the several domed structures in core heritage zone. The earth profiling of the four sides has been done considering the existing structures around like temple, eastern baoli and the existing trees cluster at north side.
- Similarly, the south mound has been lowered by 2 meters to achieve the desired view. The steep slope of the mound has been reduced, using the cut and fill method, and making this area easily accessible for the visitors.
- After grading the mound, a layer of good earth was spread in preparation for laying the grass.

NEXT STEPS:

- Laying of grass on the mounds has been contracted out and work will commence in next quarter.

USER FACILITIES

20. Parking

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

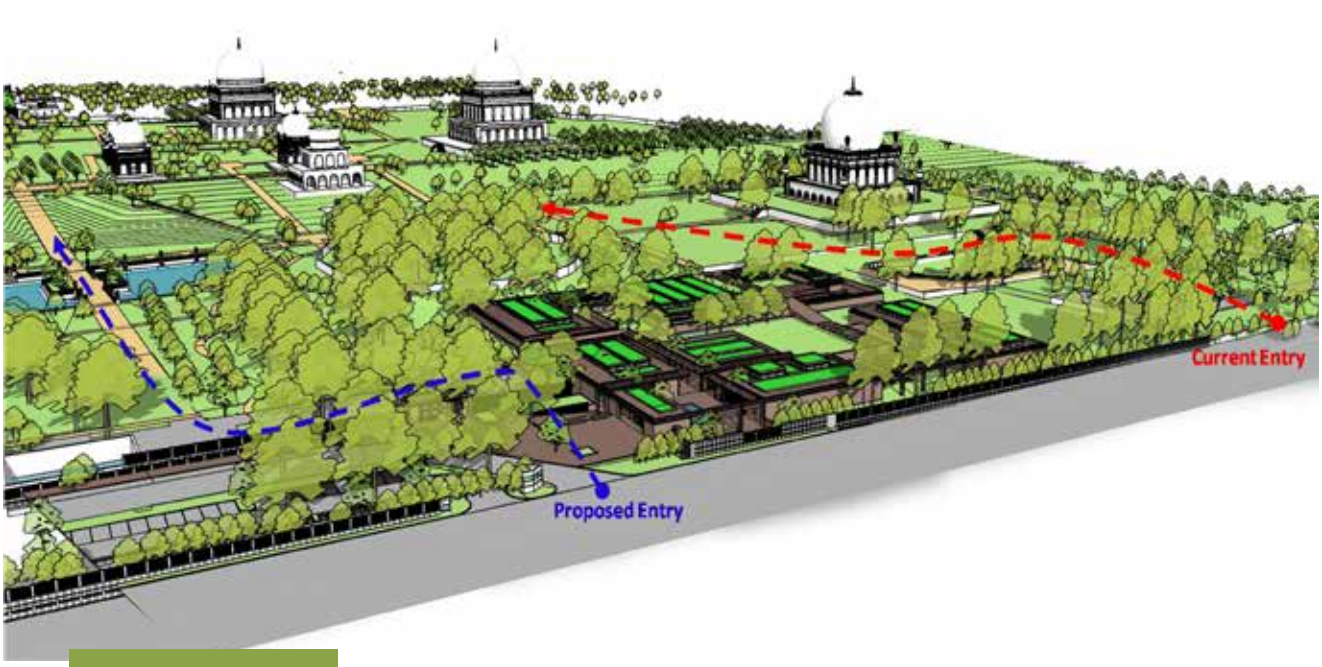
Parking at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park has been planned sensitively to accommodate the expected increase in visitor footfall following the completion of ongoing works. The parking area has been laid out with proper delineation for cars, two-wheelers, and buses, and provides ample frontage along the main Fort Road in the Deccan Park area.

ACTION TAKEN:

- Cobblestones have been laid at the entrance and exit portions of the car parking in Deccan Park. Additionally, other work such as laying 30 mm stones in the median has also been undertaken.
- The installation of a 300mm thick solid stone block for the entry and exit signage has been completed, and work related to the boundary wall has been finished, except for the stretch adjacent to the Museum building.

NEXT STEPS:

- Construction of one and finishing work of two guard rooms will commence.
- Construction of boundary wall along the east side of museum building in consideration with museum design.



USER FACILITIES

21. Eastern wall & Signage

To give the 106-acre necropolis, which contains over 100 structures, a suitable frontage, it was proposed that the existing 400-meter-long frontage of the Deccan Park boundary wall be redeveloped in a way that emphasizes the entrance to the complex.

The proposal was to replace the existing front boundary wall with 300 mm thick granite stone blocks installed in a pattern with columns and metal grills above. The same wall is also being built on the inner edge of the parking area to separate it from the park for better visitor control. Construction of the wall began in 2020 and has continued since then.

Supported by:
सत्यमेव जयते
SWADESH DARSHAN

(Top) Schematic render showing the current and proposed visitor entry to the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park through Deccan Park; (Right) A portion of the wall installed

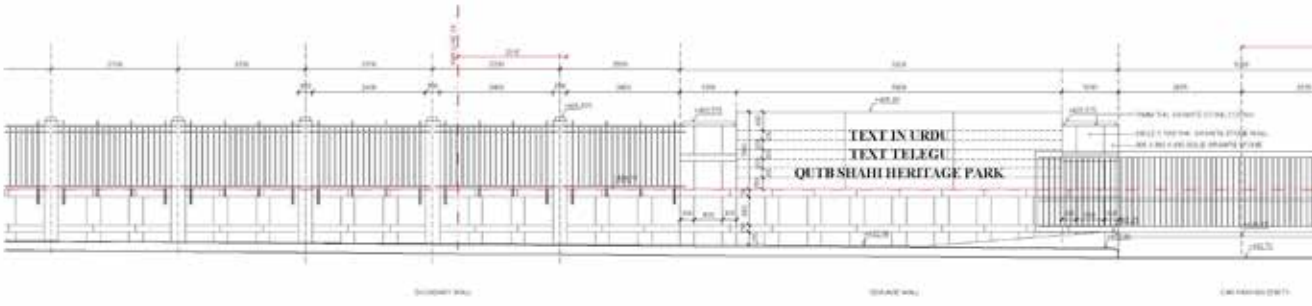
ACTION TAKEN:

- Construction of 100 meter stretch of monolithic granite stone boundary wall has been carried out in the front of Deccan Park.
- Stone blocks for the signage at the entrance and exit along the wall have been installed as per design.
- The installation of 300 mm thick solid stone block for the entry and exit signage has been completed.
- Work related to the boundary wall has been completed except for the stretch of the Museum building.

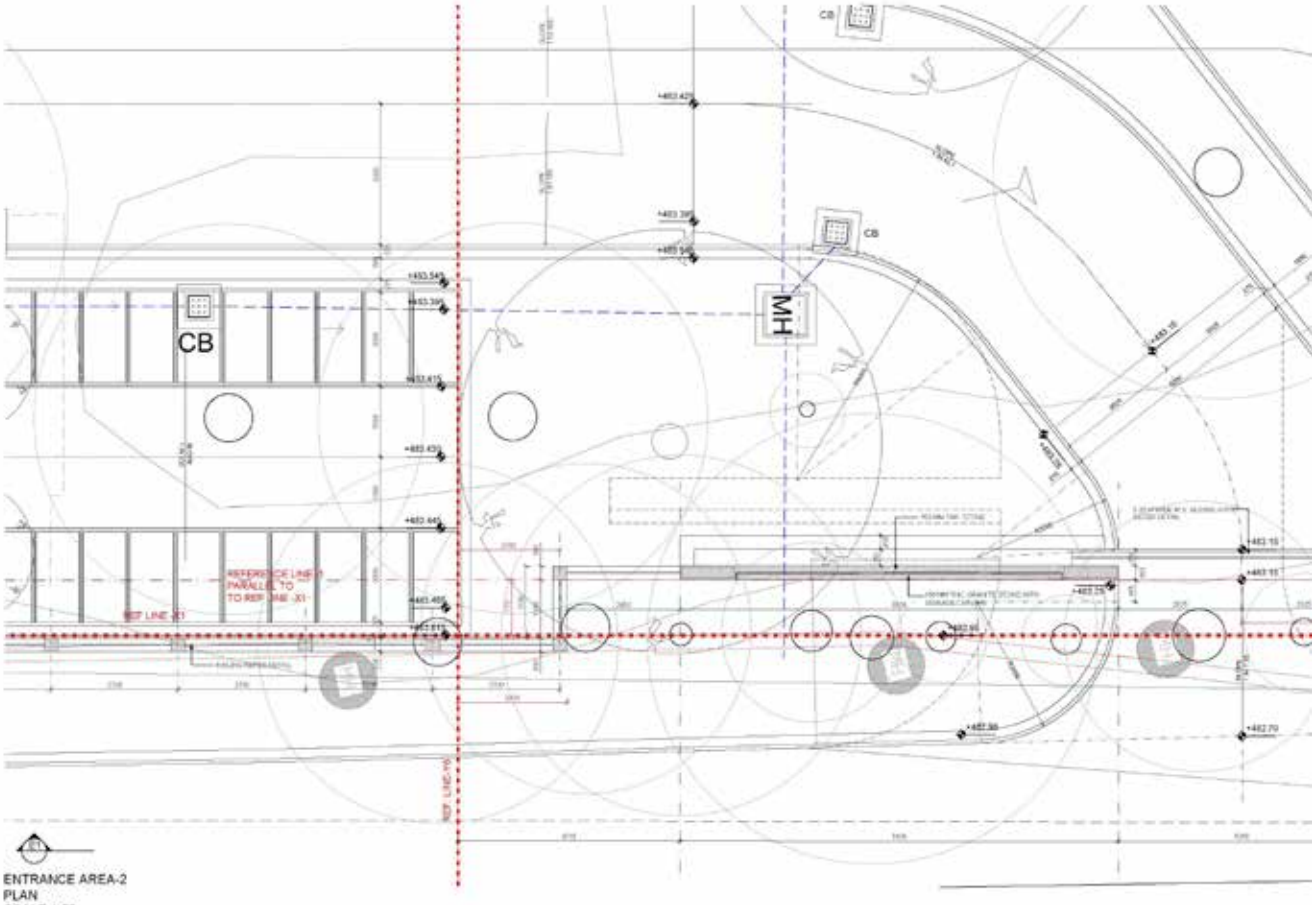
(Top and right) Proposed views of the boundary wall at the entrance to the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.

NEXT STEPS:

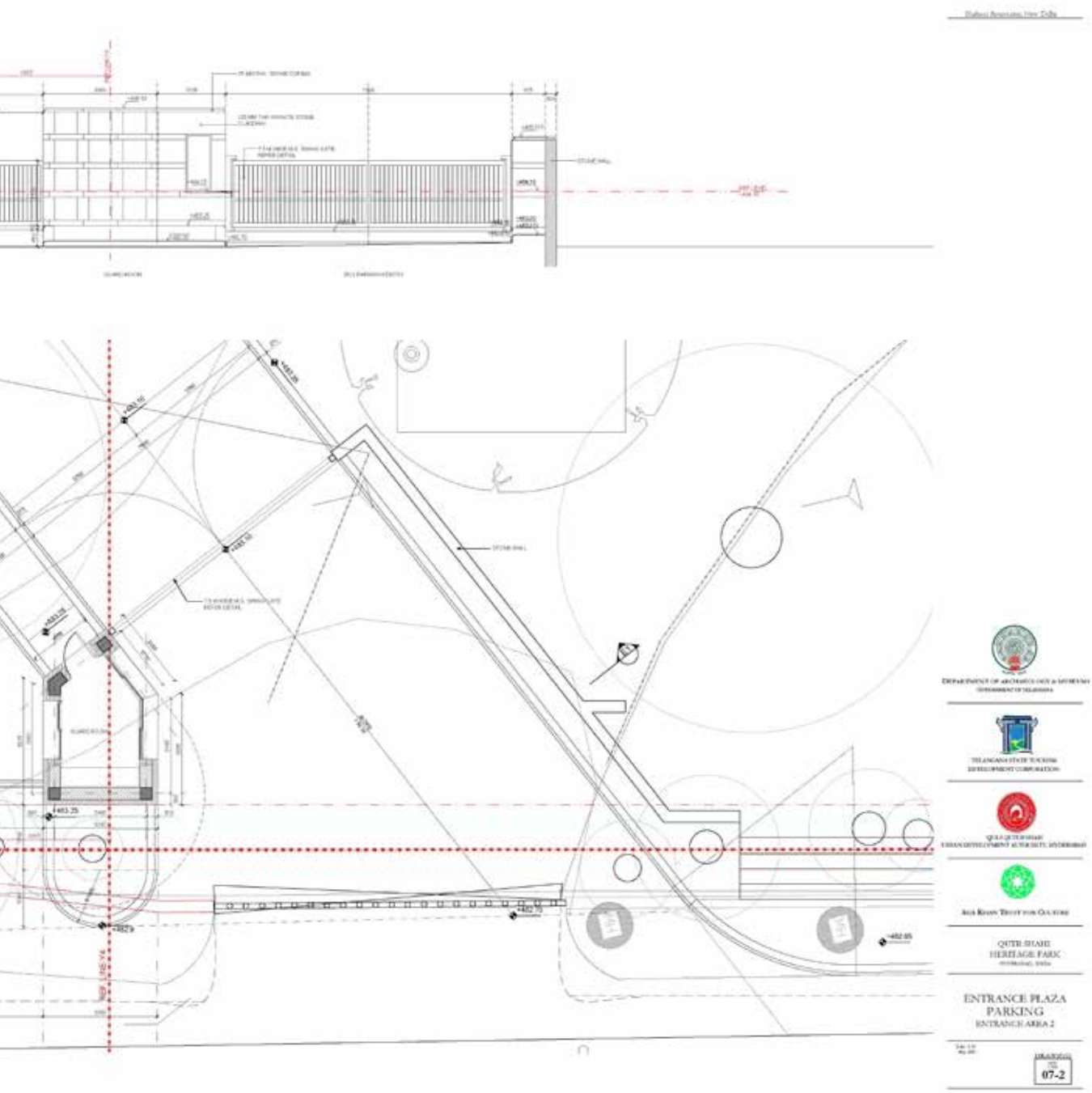
- Signage wall work will be completed. This includes lettering work and installation of lights.
- Encroachments on the pavements along the site will be cleared by the concerned government authority.



ELEVATION E1
SCALE 1:50



ENTRANCE AREA-2
PLAN
SCALE 1:50



DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & MUSEUMS

TELANGANA STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, HYDERABAD

AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

QUTB SHAHI HERITAGE PARK

ENTRANCE PLAZA
PARKING
ENTRANCE AREA 2

DRAWING NO.
07-2

USER FACILITIES

22. Visitor Amenities

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN

The landscape masterplan includes proposals for multiple public amenities, which are being developed under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of the Government of India. These amenities include the establishment of visitor facilities like restrooms, installation of benches, and development of signage, along with the installation of a security system consisting of CCTV network for enhanced surveillance of the site. Works on all these amenities is near to completion.

DEVELOPMENT OF USER FACILITIES & PUBLIC SECURITY MEASURES

ACTION TAKEN:

- A CCTV control room (12ft x 14ft) was constructed at the location of the old dilapidated toilet building near the newly constructed toilet block. Electrical work, such as laying conduits and panel switches, has also been completed and handed over to the operating consultant for monitoring and vigilance purposes.
- Another room has been constructed to cater to the water tanks for the toilet block. This room will also hold the facility of a drinking water purifying plant and other related facilities.
- The toilet block was made functional for visitors after testing and commissioning work.
- Street furniture, such as solid stone benches and temporary waste bins, were also installed.
- The information panels at the site exhibit, which provide historical and cultural context on the necropolis and inform the public about the ongoing conservation and landscape restoration efforts, were recently updated.

(Clockwise from left) Toilet blocks; stone bench installed across the Core Heritage Zone; site exhibit updated with relevant information

NEXT STEPS:

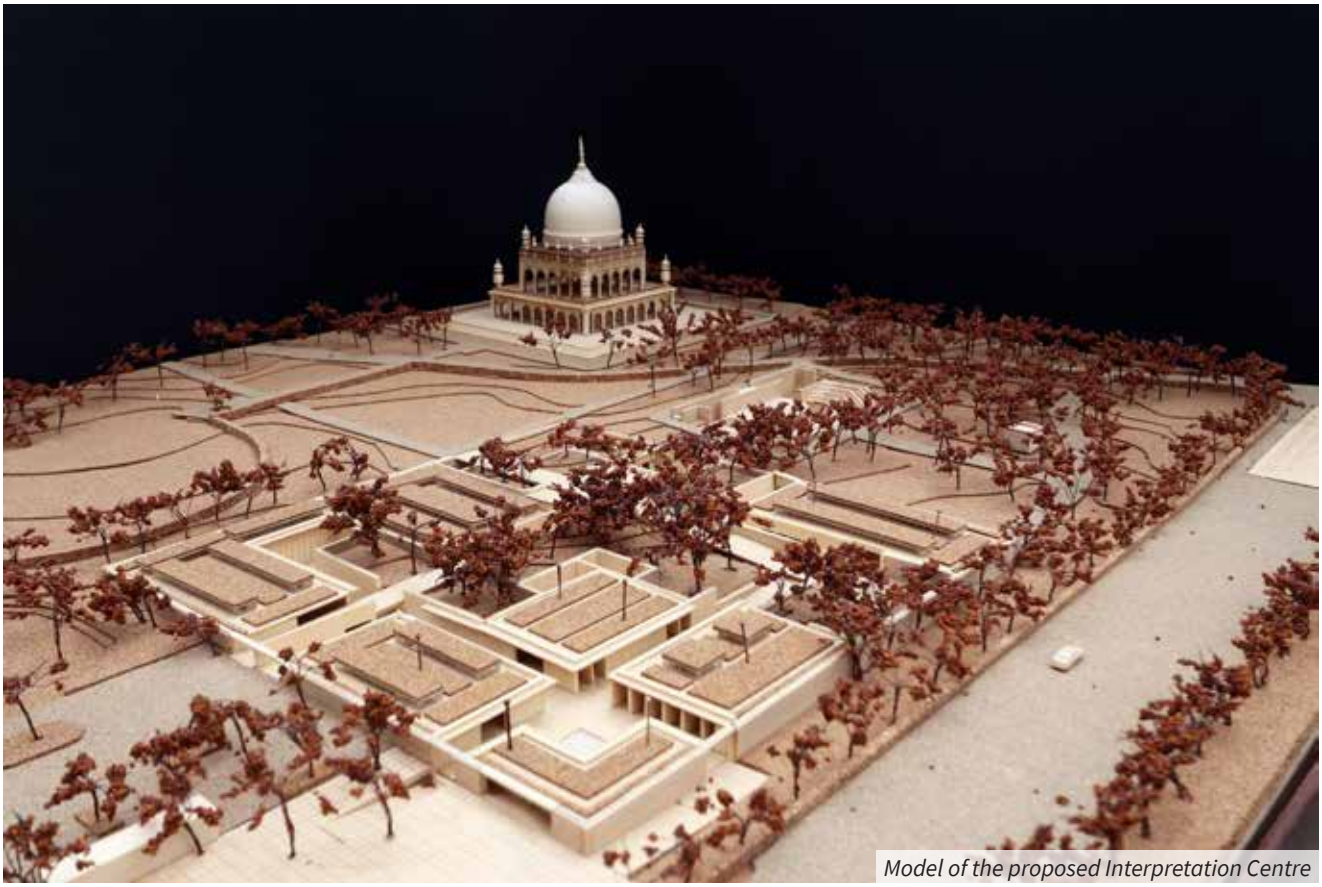
- Installation of screens, audio equipment, and servers in the CCTV room for monitoring and surveillance purposes.
- Installation of a drinking water filtration plant.
- Provision of a feeding room in the user facility block.

Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre

UNESCO guidance for the 'Role of Interpretation centres in UNESCO designated sites' clearly states that 'besides being the main interface of a heritage site with visitors, Interpretation Centres in some cases act as an entry to the sites. They are the gateway through which visitors access the site offering a strategic opportunity to guide and influence the entire visitor experience. In these cases, interpretation centres are fundamental to filtering access through opening hours'.

The Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre is being built along the entrance zone in the tentative World Heritage Site. Visitors will walk through this new age museum to learn about the significance of the site and the Qutb Shahi dynasty and result in a meaningful visit.


Supported by:
सत्यमेव जयते
SWADESH DARSHAN



Model of the proposed Interpretation Centre

23. Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre

The Interpretation Centre at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park will serve as the nodal repository for disseminating information and enhancing understanding related to the Qutb Shahi heritage of Hyderabad. Here, visitors will experience and learn about the history, achievements in art and architecture of the Qutb Shahi rulers as well as their contemporary Deccan sultanates.

The unique and distinct architectural styles of the Qutb Shahi's and other Deccan sultanates are not well known. The Interpretation Centre will draw upon primary research and learning through the ongoing conservation effort to engage visitors. The distinctions are apparent in the use of materials, ornamentation, architectural forms, emphasis on creating baolis, using granite rather than sandstone, profusely ornamental stucco plasterwork rather than sandstone screens, bulbous domes dominating the skyline rather than slender minarets or canopies. It is hoped that the building of the Interpretation Centre will lead to a significant increase in visitor numbers to the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, which stands 80 major monuments.

Golconda Fort, which abuts the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, is visited by over 1.5 million domestic visitors annually along with 20,000 foreigners. With the proposed reintegration to the Golconda Fort and proposed future nomination as a World Heritage Site, development of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park as the exclusive urban archaeological park in the city of Hyderabad and Deccan region at large, tourist inflow is expected to increase manifolds.

PROJECT BRIEFING

- MoU between Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Department of Archaeology, Quli Qutb Shah Urban Development Authority was signed on 9 January 2013.
- The ownership of the Interpretation Centre and its exhibition rests solely with the Department of Heritage, Government of Telangana.
- AKTC has initiated a grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to build the Interpretation Centre at the site and implement construction of visitor facilities, implement landscape works. As per the MoU between the Government of Telangana and the Aga Khan Development Network agencies, 'private parties will organise the final architectural and exhibition design for the interpretation centre with funds earmarked for these services under the said Swadesh Darshan grant'. Under this Rs 99 Crore was given to Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.
- AKTC invited six architects to submit designs for this important site. These submitted designs were evaluated by representatives of Government of Telangana, Department of Heritage Telangana, Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation, Quli Qutb Shahi Urban Development Authority, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, members of the Telangana State Museums Committee, members of the Department of Heritage Technical committee, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the Archaeological Survey of India, independent invited experts.
- The design by STUDIO Lotus, Delhi based architectural firm got shortlisted, and is now being built. Shaheer Associates, Delhi based landscape firm is responsible for the landscape development in and around this building.

Extended garden on the roof of the Interpretation Centre

Proposed view of the gallery

BUILDING DESIGN

- **Modest and Contextually Sensitive:** The building is envisioned as a partly or largely sunken facility, to respect the view corridors and historical character of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park's entrance zone.
- The Site Interpretation Centre building will bear the following architectural attributes:
    1. The notion of 'Craft' is central to creative Indian culture and the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park Interpretation Centre shall consciously seek to integrate traditional building crafts in the building's architectural design. AKTC has employed the use of traditional building crafts for the on-going conservation effort.
    2. The proposed building will be designed in a manner that is integrated with the site and setting and benefits from its location in a heritage-ecology zone.
    3. Use of traditional materials on the façade in a contemporary design
    4. The building will be designed in a manner that the building mass will be of modest proportions and to human scale.
    5. The building will make no architectural statement that either competes with the heritage character of the site or disfigures the heritage character.
    6. The entire building will be wheelchair accessible.
    7. Architectural details will be elegant and not complicated, to build in the Indian context.
    8. No tree is to be cut to build the Interpretation Centre.

OBJECTIVES

- **Inform:** The centre will acquaint the tourists about the history of the area, monuments and its evolution such that it helps the tourists to catch a glimpse of it, before they visit it in its original splendor.
- **Engage:** The Centre will narrate the evolution and consolidation of the area into one large historic precinct by engaging visitors through a multitude of information conveyed through numerous user-friendly mediums.
- **Layers of information:** The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park has undergone major changes over the period of 400 years. During the rule of Nizams, Salarjung III had undertaken major restoration works in the complex which were otherwise in a state of neglect and disrepair. Numerous investigations have been carried out at site revealing significant information about the site. All this information depicting the contributions of Qutb Shahi dynasty in the field of art and architecture would be displayed at the Centre.
-
- **Re-learn:** Our disappearing building crafts and performing arts and crafts traditions are still alive in portions of Hyderabad and reflected in its umpteen architectural gems scattered all over the region. Proposed Interpretation Centre will play a vital part in not only documenting these but also exhibiting them in an ever-evolving space targeted at primarily threekind of visitors. It will offer a range of itineraries with multiple durations. First time visitors would ideally dedicate more time towards exploring and appreciating the exhibition spending a relaxed time experiencing the 'interpretation of the site'; whereas the frequent ones will intend to glance through the exhibits, though their visit will be no less meaningful.
- **Visitor facilities:** Visitor surveys have revealed a desire by tourists for better facilities such as restrooms, refreshments, souvenir shops, better signage and information on the site. The planned Interpretation Centre will provide excellent visitor facilities ensuring a comfortable experience for the scores of visiting tourists.

Open courtyards in the gallery will display art and object from the Qutb Shahi architecture

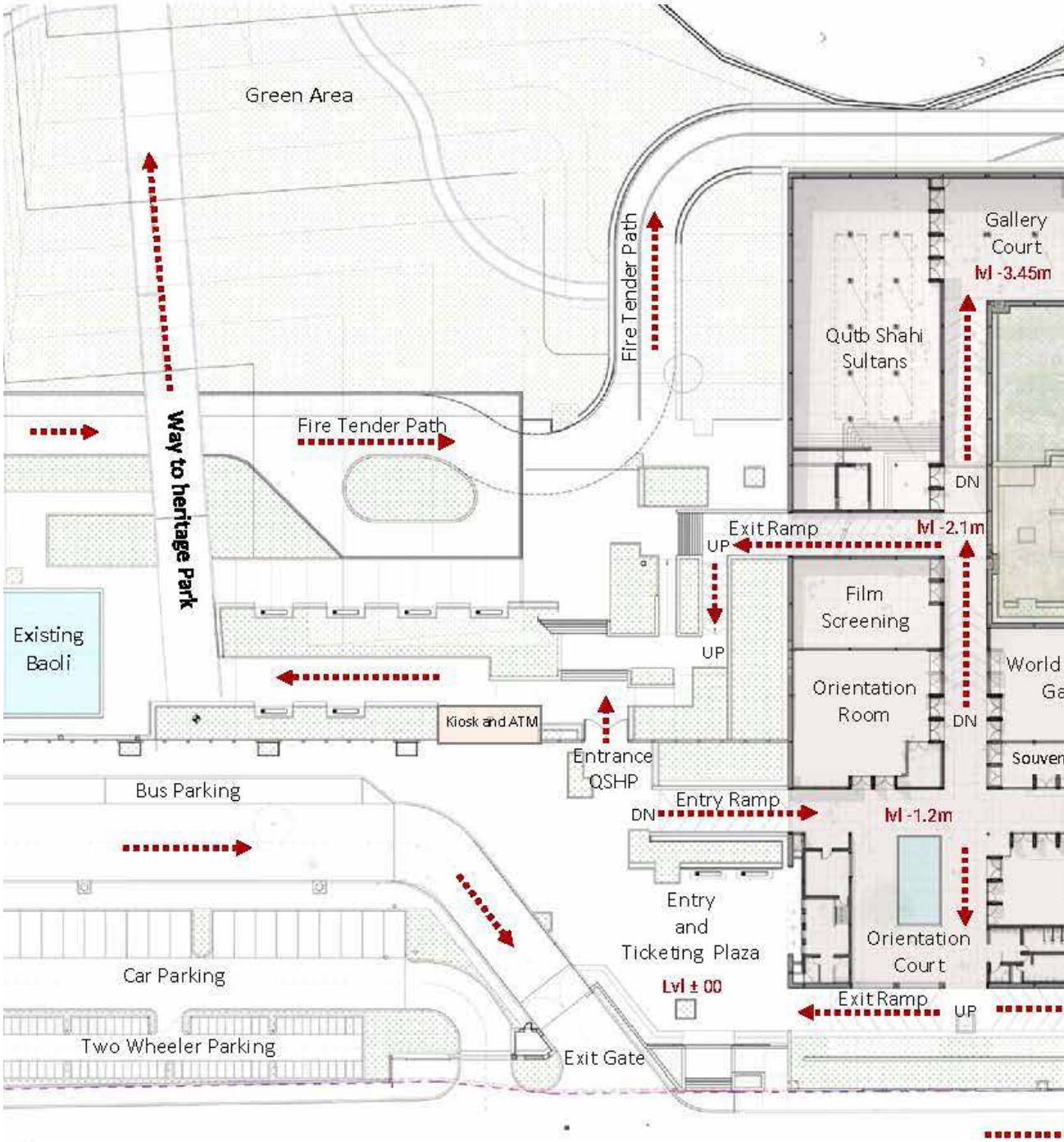
Museum is built in local granite and is naturally lit

DESIGN ATTRIBUTES

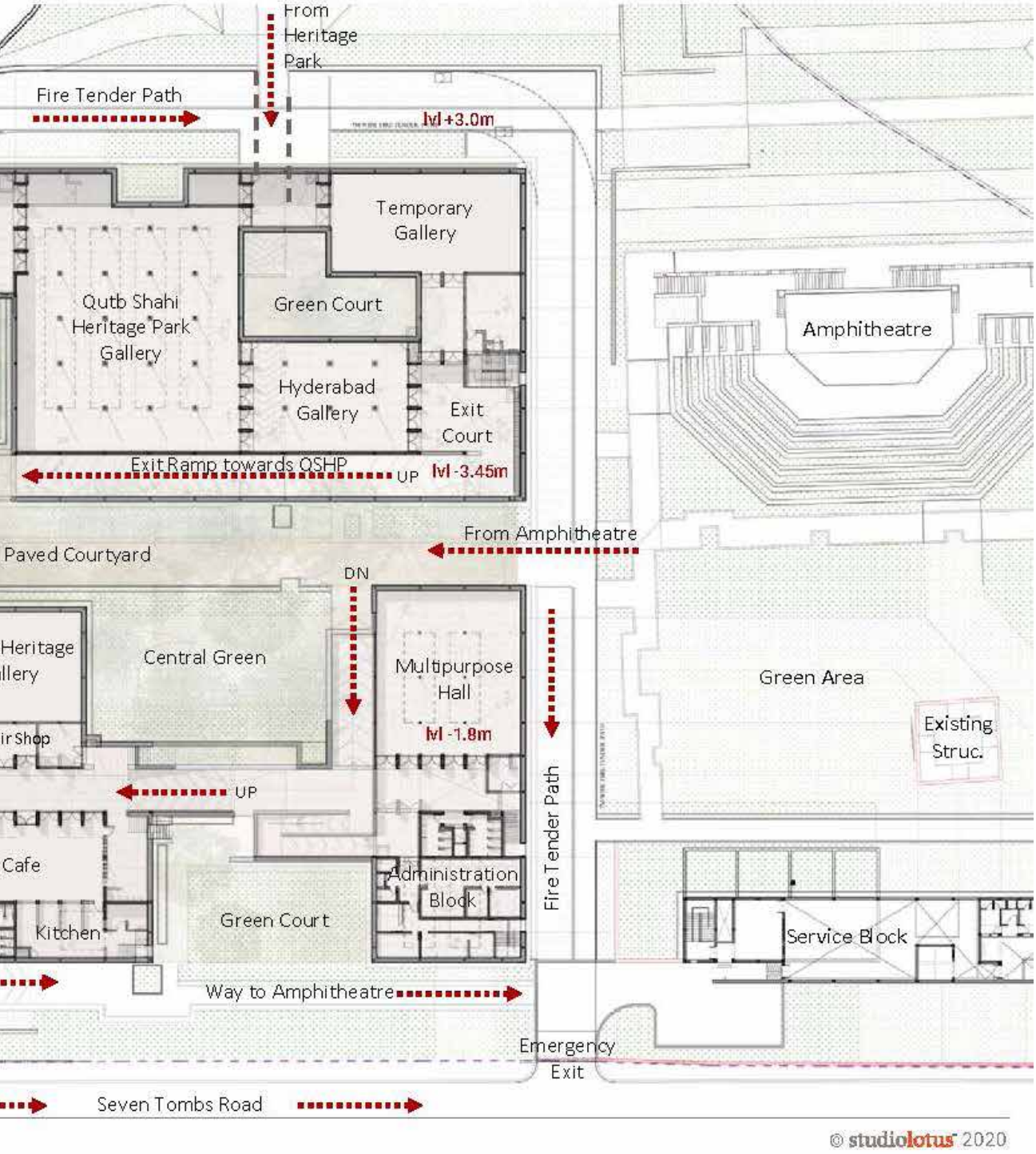
- Structure, materials, details, and circulation of the Centre will be well-resolved and logical while remaining capable of meeting the needs of the centre in an elegant yet pragmatic manner. The building will be a credible connector between the Golconda and Qutb Shahi Heritage Park so that visitors will almost effortlessly traverse across with a 'continuity of thought'.
- Qutb Shahi style's architectonics inspires ample cues for the Centre's building. The exhibitions experienced in the Interpretation Centre, evoking references to the Qutb Shahi Architecture, will be articulated by proposed building set in formal geometry. Distribution of the building's volume will be made through smaller indicatory structures to serve as markers while always maintaining unobtrusive forms and preserving the natural setting. Keeping in view with the architectural layouts of existing monuments, skewed wall profiles and wall corners need to be avoided.
- Light filtering through open spaces will articulate interior spaces allowing visitors to connect with the external surroundings while appropriately located pools (Haus) will enhance ventilation in the building. Considering, large number of visitors, the interior spaces will be voluminous, contain expansive foyers, and wide movement paths.

BUILDING SPACES

- Proposed Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre should primarily encompass the following:
    1. **Visitor Facilities** - these will include areas like the reception foyer, shops, cafeteria etc. This area will have an abiding inflow of visitors and require efficient management and seamless access to facilities and amenities. For example, the reception foyer will have group of volunteers and resource people who would guide the visitors to all the visitor queries related to directions and personnel. There will be informative display panels with easy visitor friendly maps. The foyer will have digital displays showing mobile app and AR enabled availabilities.
    2. **Exhibition Areas** - these include prominent areas like the exhibition rooms, permanent gallery, crafts demonstration area, seminar rooms, auditoriums etc. The panels in the galleries and exhibitions will be specially designed; Use of Augmented reality icons in the signage and panels which will link the visitor to more information on the AR world and so on. The building design needs to be robust yet malleable, adaptable to future technologies thus reinvigorating the value of their building as an asset for the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.
    3. **Open Spaces** - these will include areas such as courtyards, roof etc. The emphasis is to create these spaces into leisure venues and explorative at the same time. These spaces can also act as zones of uninhibited spaces where visitors can engage with the site.
    4. **Ancillary spaces** - these include spaces for office, restaurant with kitchen and pantry, restrooms, store, security office and services rooms etc.
- Interpretation Centre will also act as the single point of control for the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park Management. It would house the Management and Security team. Effective spaces for storage in negative areas can be developed. Specific service rooms such as HVAC, MEPF should be adequately placed for an effective management of the Centre and the entire complex as well. Allocation of spaces will be made for large storage rooms temporarily housing display material during changing of exhibitions. Spaces for back-end operations need to be designed strategically as they must be screened from main exhibit areas and galleries and yet need be pragmatically connected.



QUTB SHAHI INTERPRETATION CENTRE | Hyderabad


From Heritage Park
Fire Tender Path
lvl +3.0m
Temporary Gallery
Qutb Shahi Heritage Park Gallery
Green Court
Hyderabad Gallery
Exit Court
Amphitheatre
Exit Ramp towards QSHP
UP
lvl -3.45m
From Amphitheatre
Paved Courtyard
DN
Heritage
llery
Central Green
Multipurpose Hall
lvl -1.8m
Green Area
Existing Struc.
ir Shop
UP
Cafe
Administration Block
Fire Tender Path
Kitchen
Green Court
Service Block
Way to Amphitheatre
Emergency Exit
Seven Tombs Road
© studiolotus 2020

Museography for QSIC

Within this space, visitors will explore the intriguing narratives behind the artefacts, gaining an understanding of the historical significance of the Qutb Shahi Sultanate's reign in the Deccan. The primary objective of the Interpretation Centre is to provide context, historical background, and educational information, thereby enriching the visit to Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.

The forthcoming interpretation centre will captivate visitors through a variety of multimedia presentations that employ interactive displays, audio-visual demonstrations, and immersive experiences. These innovative presentations will breathe life into Qutb Shahi architectural elements and artifacts, utilizing 3-D reconstructions and informative videos.

Detailed explanations and historical context will also be provided through information panels, assisting visitors in grasping the significance of each exhibit.

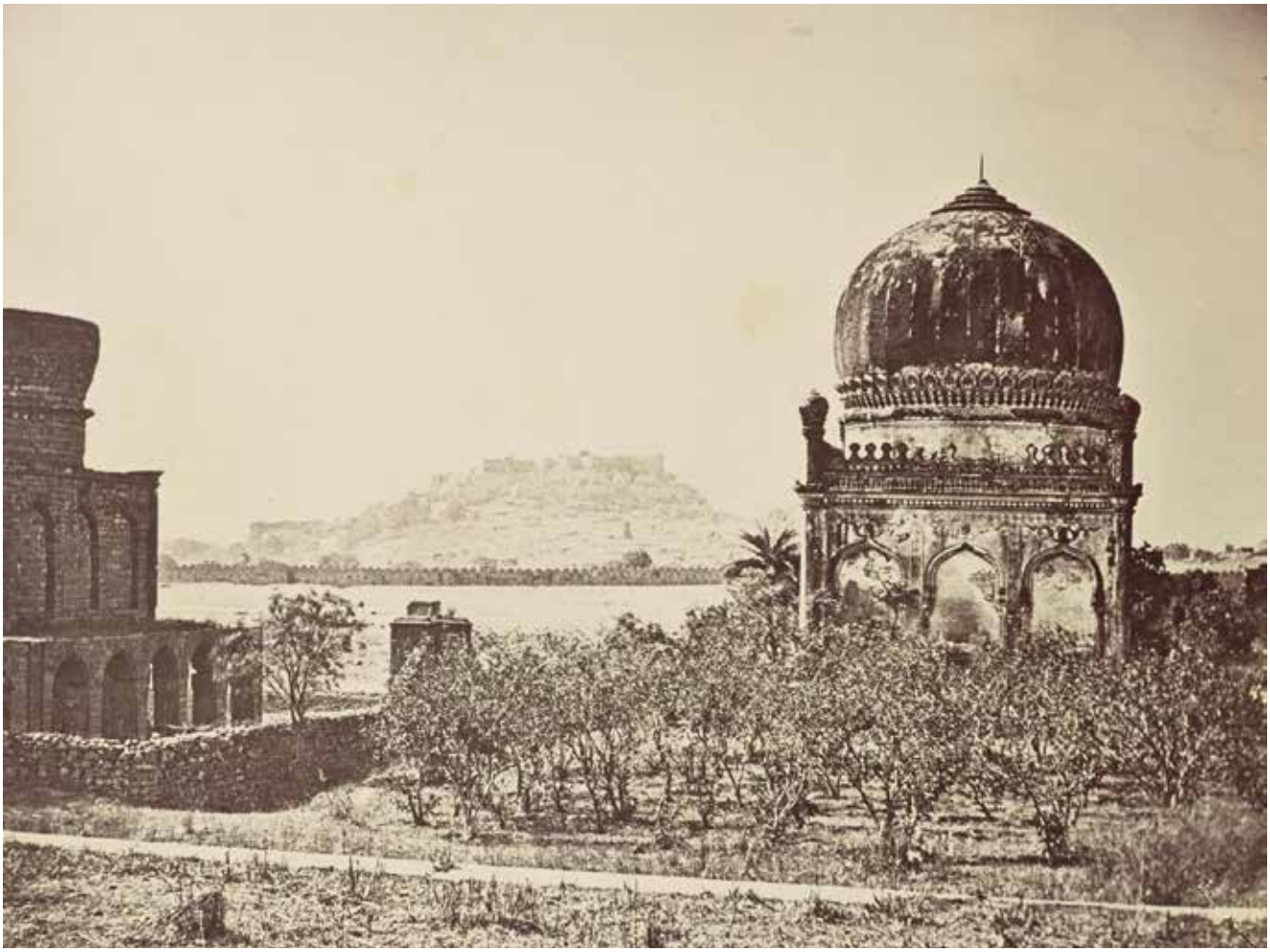
The Interpretation Centre is divided into the following six galleries:

1. Deccan Gallery/ World Heritage Gallery
2. Orientation Gallery
3. Qutb Shahi Sultans
4. Qutb Shahi Heritage Park Gallery
5. Vestibule Gallery
6. Temporary Gallery

DECCAN GALLERY/WORLD HERITAGE GALLERY

- The Deccan Gallery will showcase the emergence of the regional Deccani Sultanates from the larger Bahmani Sultanate. During the 14th-15th century, the Bahmani Sultanate encompassed a significant portion of the North Deccan, stretching from east to west. It was established by Alauddin Bahman Shah, who rebelled against the Delhi Sultanate's rule and proclaimed himself Sultan, thus founding the Bahmani dynasty. Initially, the Sultanate's capital was Gulbarga (now in present-day Karnataka), but it was later relocated to Bidar.
- The narrative of the Deccan Gallery will primarily revolve around the urban power centers of Bidar, Bijapur, Gulbarga, and Ahmednagar.
- Through an extensive collection of manuscripts, paintings, coins, archival images, inscriptions, farmans, calligraphy folios, maps, drawings, textiles, and bidriware, this space aims to educate visitors about the rich material culture of the entire Deccan region.
- The Bahmani Sultanate played a crucial role in the cultural, architectural, and linguistic development of the Deccan. It promoted the use of the Persian language, which became the administrative and literary language of the Sultanate
- Magnificent structures such as forts, palaces, mosques, and mausoleums were constructed during the rule of the Bahmani Sultanate.
- The lasting impact of the Bahmani Sultanate can be seen in the history and culture of the Deccan region. It contributed to the development of a distinct Deccani style of architecture, literature, and music.
- The Deccan Gallery will focus on the evolution of this unique architectural style within the regional context, highlighting the forts and necropolises from the power centers across the Deccan.

Miniature Painting showing a Prince of Bijapur - on horseback with soldiers



Archival images will be used to illustrate the evolution of monuments in the necropolis

(Left and Centre) Sample of porcelain objects, and (Right) Kalamkari textile at the State Museum

ORIENTATION GALLERY

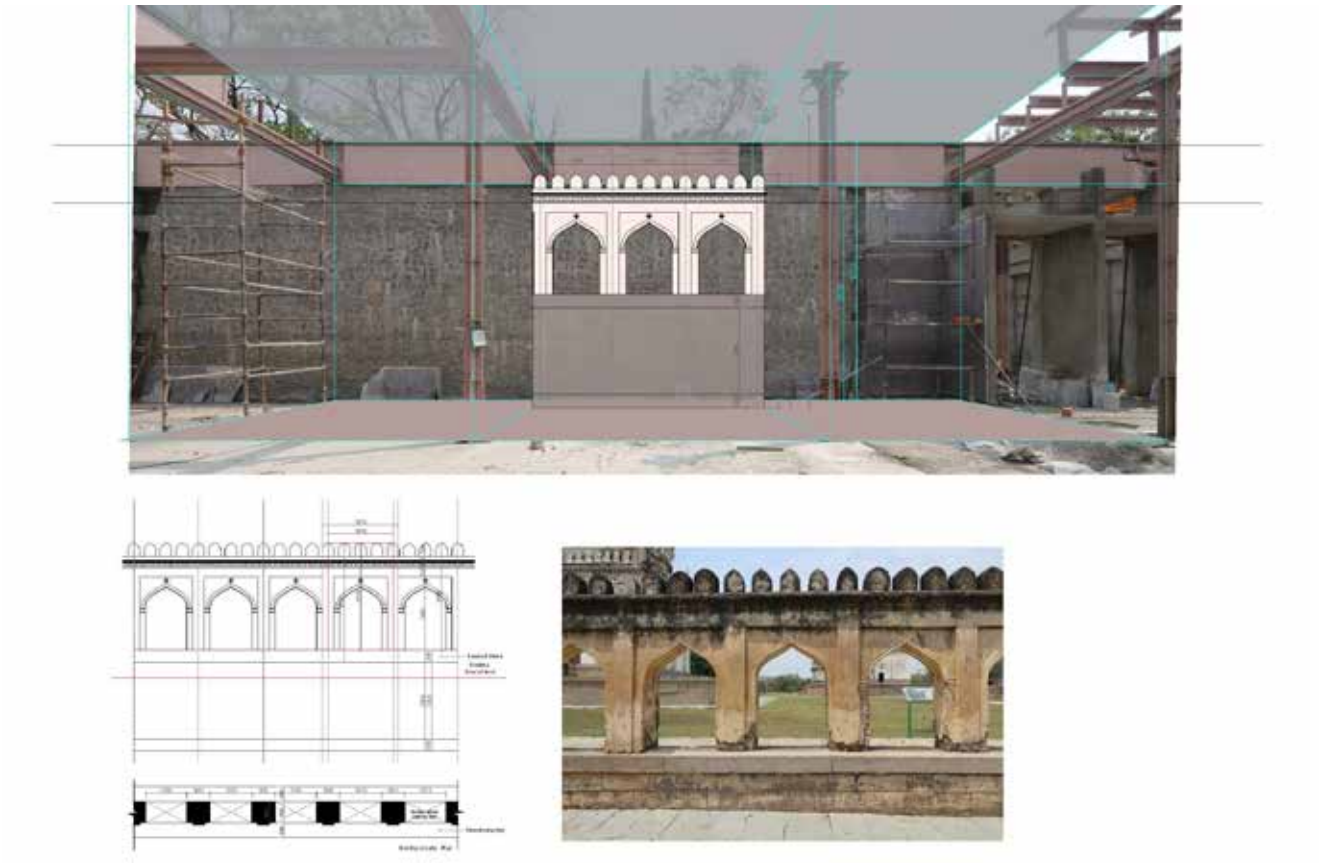
- This gallery will consist of two distinct clusters: an orientation room and a film screening room, both designed to enlighten and guide visitors about the rich history of the Qutb Shahi necropolis
- .The orientation room will serve as an initial introduction to the Qutb Shahi necropolis and its connection with the Golconda fort.
- It will utilise a replica of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, captivating films, and archival images to weave a complete narrative that immerses visitors in the necropolises historical significance.
- Spanning an area of 106 acres, the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park houses over 100 structures, including tombs, funerary mosques, a hammam, an idgah, garden enclosures, stepwells, grave platforms and other architectural structures. To showcase the diversity and complexity of these architectural works, the gallery will feature a 1:1 model of the Qutb Shahi necropolis. The primary goal is to educate and guide visitors about this unique necropolis, providing a glimpse into the grandeur and architectural brilliance of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.
- In addition, the gallery will utilise captivating audio-visual presentations to illustrate the architectural evolution of the Qutb Shahi necropolis during the 16th and 17th centuries.
- Furthermore, it aims to demonstrate the historical connection between the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park and the Golconda fort, which served as the primary residence and garrison during the dynasty's reign.
- With the rapid urbanization witnessed in areas surrounding the two historic sites in since 1990, the built heritage in the region faced significant threats. Consequently, the original form of the built heritage became inaccessible. Through this gallery, visitors will be informed about the original entrance of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park on the western side, leading towards the Patancheru Darwaza of the Golconda fort.

QUTB SHAHI SULTANS GALLERY

- The Qutb Shahi Sultans Gallery will unveil the captivating story of the Qutb Shahi Sultanate.
- This gallery will offer a glimpse into the grandeur, social life, and lesser-known aspects of the Qutb Shahi Sultanate.
- The gallery will delve into the lives of the Qutb Shahi Sultans, offering a comprehensive exploration of their architectural endeavors and shedding light on their cultural contributions.
- Visitors will gain valuable insights into the court life and the crafts patronized by the Qutb Shahis, enriching their understanding of the Sultanate's vibrant heritage.
- To comprehend the political histories of the Deccan, the gallery will utilise a rich collection of archives and material objects, providing a nuanced explainattion of the intricate dynamics between the Qutb Shahis, the Mughal Empire, and the Safavid Empire. Furthermore, the involvement of European actors in the Qutb Shahi economy will be a explored, offering a fresh perspective on the Sultanate's interactions with the wider world.
- Building upon the established connection between the Golconda Fort and the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, the gallery will also elucidate the architectural and political history of the Golconda Fort. Through the use of meticulously curated maps, drawings, manuscripts, and other relevant materials, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of this iconic fort and its significance in shaping the region's history.
- An exhibition highlighting the Diamonds of Golconda will further showcase the historical importance of the area as the world's largest diamond-producing region until the discovery of Brazilian diamond mines in the 18th century.
- This gallery will also focus on the relationship between Sufism and the Sultanate. Visitors will have the opportunity to delve into the world of the Sufis of the Golconda Sultanate and their pivotal role in shaping the religious, political, and cultural life of the Sultanate.

QUTB SHAHI HERITAGE PARK GALLERY

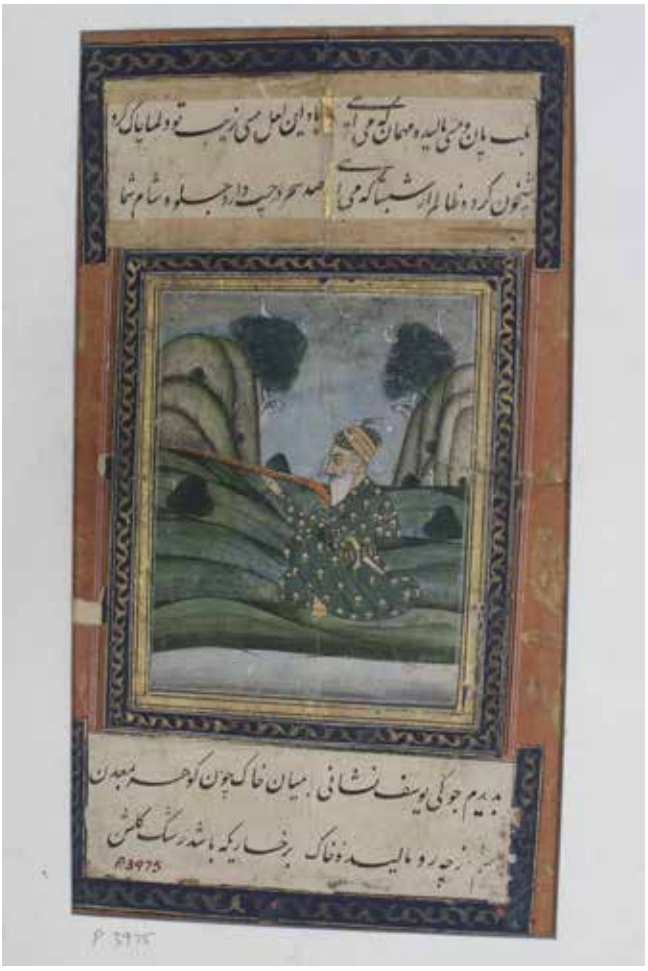
- This gallery, which will serve as the largest gallery space, aims to provide comprehensive information about the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.
- It will utilize diverse tools such as 3D models, replicas, conjectural reconstructions, drawings, archival images, and archaeological findings to create an immersive and engaging experience.
- The primary focus of this gallery is to answer questions regarding the architectural elements of the Qutb Shahi necropolis. Visitors will be guided and informed about various architectural features, including garden spaces, unique building typologies, and stucco work found within the necropolis. The content is carefully planned to cover all the major monuments within the necropolis, enabling visitors to deeper their understanding of the architectural splendor and historical significance of each structure.
- Furthermore, this gallery will highlight the archaeological excavations conducted at the Qutb Shahi necropolis. The archaeological objects displayed will shed a light on this fascinating period. The exploration of archaeology would allow visitors to envision the past and explore Golconda's connections with other polities around the world, fostering a broader understanding of its historical and cultural context.
- One notable feature of the gallery will be the use of meticulously crafted replicas of ornamentation works found at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. These replicas would serve as invaluable tools, allowing visitors to marvel at the exquisite details of the lime stucco or tile craftsmanship. Often imperceptible to the naked eye, these replicas would offer the visitors a unique opportunity to closely examine and appreciate the minute details of several structures, providing a deeper appreciation for the exceptional artistic skills of the Qutb Shahi artisans.



A true-scale replica of a portion of the enclosure wall of Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk's garden-tomb showing the original extent of below the ground level will be showcased in the Qutb Shahi

VESTIBULE GALLERY

- The Vestibule Gallery will showcase the political, architectural, and material history of Hyderabad.
- The gallery is planned to be divided into two clusters. The first cluster will explore Hyderabad under the rule of the Qutb Shahis, utilizing paintings, farmaans(royal decrees), manuscripts, coins and other artefacts. This cluster will narrate the story of Hyderabad's foundation and delve into its historical significance. It will highlight the city's enduring prominence in the cultural and political landscape of the Deccan region.
- The second cluster will center around Hyderabad during the Asaf Jahi rule. It will also highlight the contributions of the Nizam's Archaeology Department. This department, established in Hyderabad, played a significant role in rediscovering and redeveloping the heritage sites of the Deccan. This cluster would showcase the Department's efforts and contributions in rediscovery and preservation of India's past.
- Overall, the Vestibule Gallery presents a comprehensive picture of Hyderabad's history, encompassing its political dynamics, architectural heritage, and material culture.
- Visitors will be able to explore the city's rich history This gallery will serve as a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding the cultural and political world of the Deccan and the significance of Hyderabad.



(Left) Miniature painting of Asaf-Jah I, Hyderabad school
(Right) Deccani Miniature painting - Hunting Scene, Asaf Jah

The digital museum will allow the visitors to view historical artifacts(like arms and armory) in intricate detail from various angles, gaining a deeper understanding of their craftsmanship and historical significance.

Detailed inscriptions, such as the one depicted above, using high-resolution images and 3D photogrammetry will be displayed on the website. Visitors will be able to closely examine artefacts from various perspectives, providing a more immersive experience

Digital Museum

The digital platform of the Qutb Shahi Interpretation Centre will aim to offer a diverse range of information using multimedia features, inluding high-resolution images, audio-visual recordings, and educational content. Through the use of 3D scanning and modelling technology, the platform will bring physical objects to life through virtual replicas, allowing visitors to examine them in close detail from multiple perspectives.

The digital platform of the Interpretation Centre will bring forth numerous benefits. It ensures accessibility to a broader audience, including those who may be unable to visit physical museums due to geographical limitations or mobility constraints. Additionally, the digital platform allows for the display of a larger collection and facilitates the presentation of temporary exhibitions that might not be feasible in a physical setting.

Furthermore, the digital platform can provide additional context, historical background, and multimedia presentations to enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of the exhibited items.

Overall, digital museums present an innovative and immersive approach to explore and learn about the art, history, and various aspects of the Qutb Shahi past in Golconda and Hyderabad. By making cultural heritage and educational experiences more accessible to a global audience, these digital platforms contribute to a wider appreciation of our shared heritage.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

24. Monument Illumination

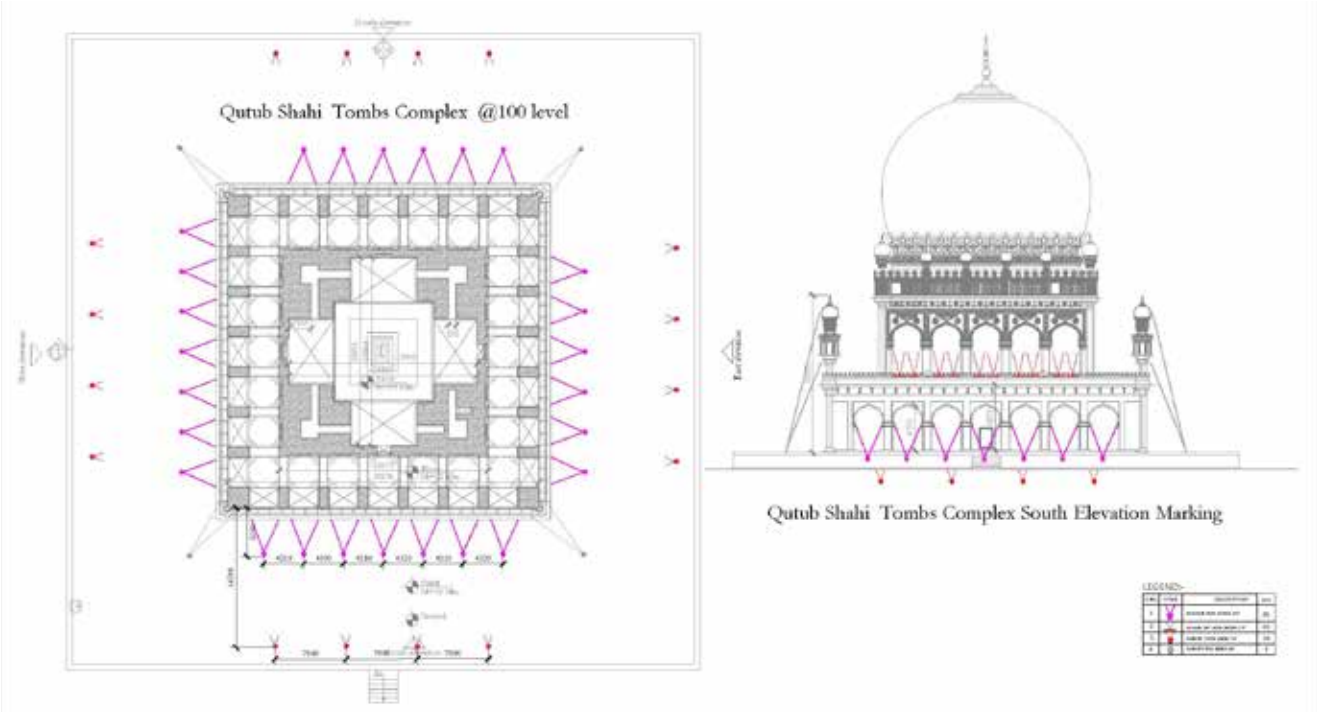
The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park is open to visitors from sunrise to sunset. While most people visit these landmarks during the day, the structures also can be viewed at night by tourists and residents alike as they see them illuminated from afar. Illumination will increase their visibility, sparking people's interest.

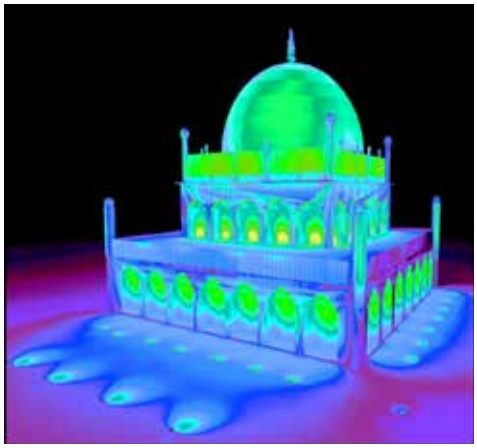
The lighting scheme—subdued and controlled — is aimed to echo the historical site's sentiment and heritage value. Under the ongoing project, it is proposed for outdoor illumination to light up the major monuments to enhance the aesthetic character of the site and provide for security during the night-time. The sensitively designed lighting solution of this historic landscape will mimic moonlight and will showcase the craftsmanship of the conservation works and therefore, help in the awareness about the site and making it central and integral to city's urban fabric. Lights can bring a bit of magic to the tomb-garden's settings and will be used to highlight architectural features and make glorious vistas.

There is a "special joy" at seeing spectacular places lit up at night when normally they would be closed, and the experience will encourage the visitors to look at these places in a different way. Illumination of the monuments will be a visitor attraction and transform the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park Site as a beacon for the city of Hyderabad.

Supported by:

SWADESH DARSHAN





(Top) Facade lighting scheme for Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum; (Bottom) Illustrations showing the proposed views of the mausoleum

ACTION TAKEN:

- Ranger Lights and cables from Havells India Ltd. were procured. The work for laying the cables and fixtures was contracted out to a third-party vendor. All the light fixtures and cables were checked and approved by the TSTDC team on site, and sign-off was given to execute the work.
- As a result, all the domes of six major tombs and minarets of the Funerary mosque of Hayat Baksh Begum were illuminated.
- The testing and commissioning of lighting and cabling have been completed, and the same has been approved by TSTDC.

IMPACT:

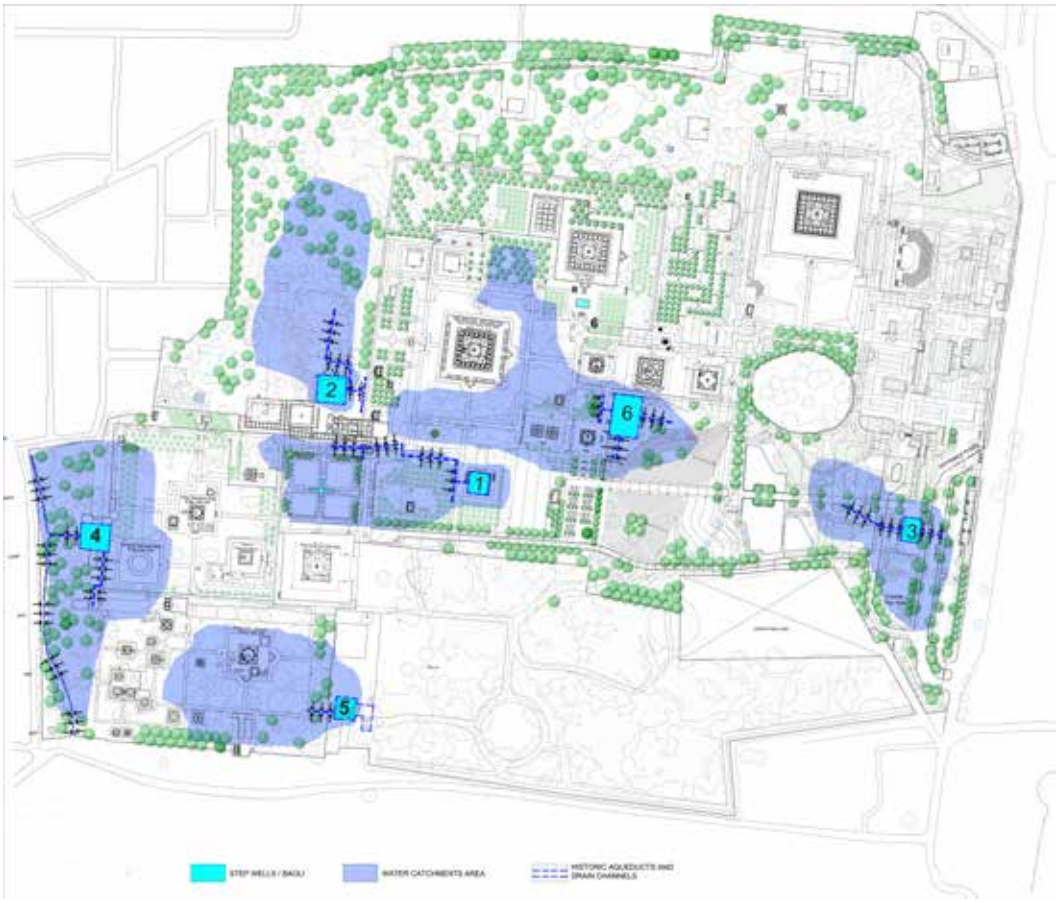
The illumination of the domes will help us redefine the skyline of the city. It will enable people to distinguish the core heritage zone, which is currently obscured within the urban fabric.

ENVIRONMENT

25. Impact Assessment

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has partnered with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to undertake a net zero carbon rating analysis of the conservation and landscape development works being undertaken at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. The collaboration primarily focuses on water, carbon, and energy aspects of the project. The collective efforts of AKTC and IGBC aims to analyse and further develop an environmentally responsible and sustainable model at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.

(Top) Badi Baoli, which since its conservation collects over 3.5 million litres every year;
(Right) Members of IGBC, Ar. Srinivas Murthy in discussion with Team AKTC



(Above) Illustration showing the catchment area of the 6 baolis across Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.

ACTION TAKEN:

- To facilitate the net zero carbon rating analysis, AKTC has provided detailed information on various aspects of the conservation works. The conservation works have been categorized into large, medium, small structures, and Baolis (stepwells). For each category, AKTC shared data on quantities of lime mortar, removed cement plaster, and aggregates used, along with the location and distance of material sources from the site. Building waste has been effectively reused as a base for stone flooring of pathways in the landscape works.
- Concerning Baolis, AKTC has shared catchment area information for each Baoli, including data on the water collected. Moreover, details of orchard plantations around monuments and ecological zone plantations have been provided, along with information on the height, girth, and canopy of each existing tree mapped on the site for estimating carbon sequestration.
- An initial report from IGBC stated that through reuse of construction waste material, the project team has potentially reduced 29,052 tonnes of CO_2.
- Numerous meetings and site inspections have taken place with the IGBC team, enabling the exchange of critical data.
- Currently, IGBC is analyzing the provided information to develop an appropriate rating system for the project.

NEXT STEPS:

- As the analysis of data progresses and the IGBC develops an appropriate rating system, AKTC will continue to collaborate closely with them.
- IGBC and AKTC will further work together to analyse the water and energy aspects to determine the overall affect on environment.
- IGBC will share the final report for on the analysis of the carbon footprint of the project.

OUTREACH

26. Sharing Learnings

(Top)The project team conducted a comprehensive walkthrough of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park for the Korean Ambassador, H.E. Chang Jae-bok, and other delegates.

Every year, the project engages with academic institutions, cultural organizations, civil society groups, opinion leaders, conservation professionals, students, and policy makers who are interested in learning from the project's experiences or replicating its model or elements in their own work areas

(Clockwise from left)
1. Heritage walk conducted for enthusiasts, explaining the conservation of the six stepwells at the site.
2. Gloria Berbena, Minister-Counselor of the US Embassy, receives a walkthrough on the conservation and landscape restoration of the necropolis, focusing on monuments supported by USAFCP.
3. Dr. Lynn Meskell, professor of Anthropology, and Deepika Sorabjee from Tata Trusts, guided by the project team during a walkthrough.
4. Michaela Küchler, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of India, Chennai, briefed about the conservation and landscape restoration works at the necropolis, with a specific focus on the Hakims' and Commander's mausoleum, supported by the German Embassy.




Institutions	Description of Activity	Output
Trainees from various cadre of All India Civil Services Office visited the site in January and February, 2022	The group visited Qutb Shahi Heritage Park as a part of their exposure visit to understand conservation and landscape restoration works that are being carried out based on the public private partnership model.	The visits aimed to explore the historical and cultural significance of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, while also highlighting the link between heritage conservation and improving the quality of life of citizens.
Korean Ambassador, H.E. Chang Jae-bok visited the site on Feb-2022	The Korean Ambassador, accompanied by other delegates, paid a visit to the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park to gain a better understanding of the site's rich historical, cultural, architectural, and social significance. They were also able to learn about the ongoing conservation and landscape restoration efforts undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).	The visit by the Korean Ambassador and delegates to the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park provided an opportunity to explore its cultural and architectural significance, learn about ongoing conservation efforts by the AKTC. Visits like these can be an important as it promotes cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect.
Trainees from different Cadres from Geological survey of India visited the site on June -2022	The visit was focused on understanding the historical, cultural, architectural and social significance of the Qutb Shahi necropolis. The visit also highlighted the ongoing conservation and landscape works to enhance the visitor experience of the park.	16 administrative officers learned about the historical and cultural significance of the site, as well as ongoing architectural conservation, landscape restoration, and stepwell restoration efforts at Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. The visit provided valuable insights into the role of different stakeholders in a public-private partnership.
Foreign officials from Taiwan visited the site in October,2022	Officials from Taiwan visited Qutb shahi tombs to learn about the various conservation and landscape restoration efforts being carried out by AKTC.	The officials appreciated AKTC's conservation and landscape restoration works at the Qutb Shahi Tombs during their visit. They also gained insights into the site's unique architectural features and its historical and cultural significance.
Students from CSIIT (architecture school) visited the project site in October, 2022	The group visited Qutb Shahi Heritage Park to understand its historical and architectural significance, as well as traditional construction techniques and materials.	Architectural students visiting the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park gain first-hand experience of ongoing conservation work and learn about unique architectural features, construction techniques, and historical context. They also learnabout the public-private partnership model for heritage conservation.

During 2022 several articles have been published on the project. Some of these were:

S.No.	Date	News Article (Newspaper/Website)	Article Title
1	09-Feb-22	Eenadu	A grave to care for
2.	19-Apr-22	The New Indian Express	Heritage Feeling the Pinch of Climate change.
3.	30-May-22	The New Indian Express	Speaking to Trees
4.	08-Aug-22	The Siasat Daily	Hyderabad Baoli's being restored in Qutb Shahi Heritage Park.
5.	15-Aug-22	The Siasat Daily	Restoration of six ancient wells at Golconda's Qutub Shahi Tombs.
6.	15-Aug-22	Newsletter	Restoring history: Dilapidated baoli's of Qutb Shahi Heritage Park reclaim their lost beauty.
7.	16-Sep-22	Deccan Chronicle	Qutb Shahi Heritage Project thrills US Consul General
8.	16-Sep-22	The New Indian Express	KTR to inaugurate 6 restored baoli's in Hyderabad on Sept 15.
9.	16-Sep-22	The Hindu	Restored Qutb Shahi tombs will make case for Heritage City.
10.	16-Sep-22	The Hans India	Govt working to restore Hyd's historic places :KTR.
11.	16-Sep-22	The Siasat Daily	KTR inaugurates stepwells at Qutb Shahi Tombs.
12.	16-Sep-22	Times Now	U.S. Consul General, KTR visit U.S.-funded project at Qutb Shahi Tombs.
13.	18-Sep-22	The Print	Move over Golconda, Charminar—Aga Khan Trust is bringing back to life a hidden Hyderabad necropolis.
14.	27-Sep-22	NDTV	Hyderabad's Step Towards UNESCO Tag: 16th Century Stepwells, Tombs Restored.
15.	18-Oct-22	The New Indian Express	Complete revitalisation of Charminar on the cards.
16	21-Oct-22	The New India Express	Step Wells Reviving travel.
17.	28-Oct-22	Civil Society	Baoli's tumble out of Hyderabad's Past.

18.	26-Nov-22	Deccan Chronicle	Golconda stepwells, Kamareddy fort among UNESCO winners.
S.No.	**Date**	**News Article (Newspaper/Website)**	**Article Title**
19.	27-Nov-22	Telangana Today	Qutb Shahi stepwells, Domakonda Fort win UNESCO Awards.
20.	27-Nov-22	Deccan Chronicle	UNESCO Honours Golconda Stepwell, Domakonda fort.
21.	27-Nov-22	The Hindu	Double win for state at UNESCO conservation awards.
22.	27-Nov-22	Telangana Today	Hyderabad marching forward to get World Heritage City status.
23.	28-Nov-22	The New Indian Express	UNESCO honours Qutb shahi era baoli's restoration.
24.	28-Nov-22	India Times	Telangana Scores Double Win at UNESCO Heritage Conservation Awards.
25.	28-Nov-22	Newsroom ODISHA	UNESCO Award highlights restoration of Stepwells at Qutb Shahi Tombs.
26.	16-Dec-22	The Hindu	Stepwells to snag heritage tag?
27.	16-Dec-22	India Today	Qutb Shahi restoration Giving the past a future.
28.	24-Dec-22	Ap7am.com	Hyderabad's Saidani-Ma Tomb to be restored by Aga Khan Trust.
29.	25-Dec-22	Deccan Chronicle	Saidani-Ma tomb to be restored soon.
30.	26-Dec-22	Times of India	Reviving a slice of History in Hi-Tech Hyderabad.

OUTREACH

27. Social Media Presence

The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park project has a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The social media pages, managed by the AKTC team, uses the social media to engage with a wider audience, sharing updates on ongoing conservation and landscape restoration, cultural insights, visits and programmes, and visuals of changes at the site.

facebook.com/QutbShahiHeritagePark

instagram.com/qutbshahiheritage

twitter.com/qutb_shahi_park

CONTENT STRATEGY:

The AKTC, Hyderabad's approach to social media encompasses a diverse range of content that informs and engages with the viewer on the various projects.

- **Project Updates: The social media pages** are consistently updated with information regarding the ongoing conservation and restoration efforts at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. These updates provide transparency into the progress and challenges faced during these projects.
- **Historical and Cultural Insights:** The pages share information about the site's rich history and cultural significance is shared regularly. These posts shares information about the Qutb Shahi dynasty, their architectural heritage, and the evolution that the site has undergone over the last 600 years.
- **Announcements and Events:** The pages keep the visitors updated about upcoming events, programs, and exhibitions at the Heritage Park, encouraging their participation and interaction.

(Left) A post on twitter promoting the online exhibition in collaboration with the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany

(Right) A tweet from Mr. K.T. Rama Rao, for Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development; Industries and Commerce; and Information Technology, Electronics and Communications of Telangana after the restoration of Baolis at hte Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was recognized by UNESCO.

12,000 followers on Facebook
2,649 followers on Instagram

IMPACT:

The incorporation of social media into the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park's communication strategy has yielded a multitude of benefits:

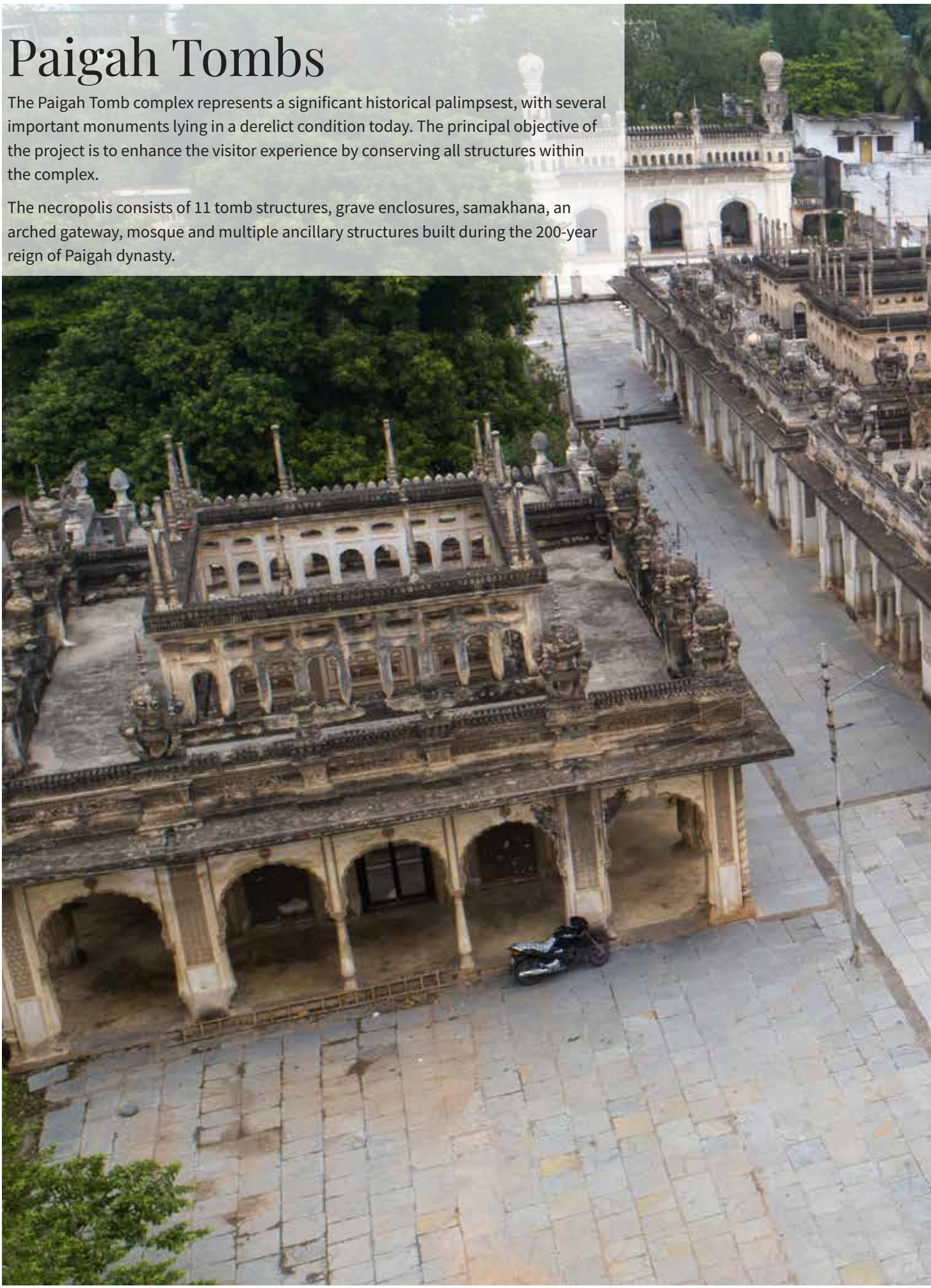
- **Awareness and Cultural Understanding:** One of the primary accomplishments has been raising awareness of the historical and cultural significance of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. Through our social media platforms, many individuals previously unfamiliar with the site's heritage have now gained valuable insights into its importance.
- **Support for Conservation:** Our robust social media presence has facilitated deeper connections with people who are passionate about history, heritage, and culture. This has led to increased support for the conservation and landscape restoration projects undertaken at the park.
- **Engagement with Government Officials and Donors:** Social media has also allowed us to engage directly with government officials. Notably, several important government officials have taken to Twitter to share their admiration and support for the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. Their tweets have not only highlighted the significance of the site but have also amplified.

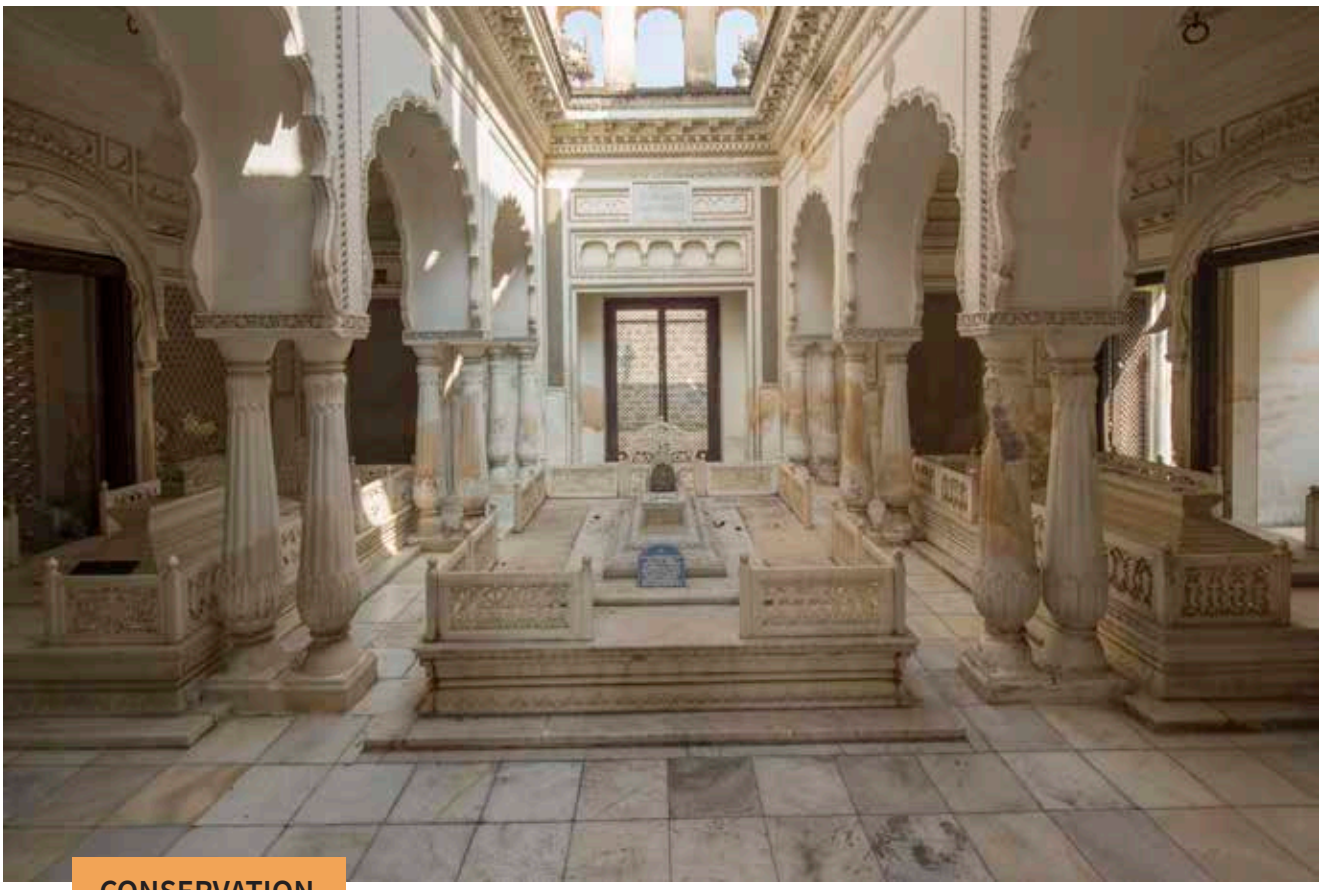
In conclusion, the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park's social media strategy has proven to be a powerful tool for expanding its global outreach. The active engagement with followers, the dissemination of information, and the support from government officials are indicative of the positive impact our online presence has had on the preservation and promotion of this invaluable cultural heritage. The Qutb Shahi Heritage Park remains committed to continuing these efforts in the coming years to ensure that this remarkable site receives the recognition and care it deserves.

Paigah Tombs

The Paigah Tomb complex represents a significant historical palimpsest, with several important monuments lying in a derelict condition today. The principal objective of the project is to enhance the visitor experience by conserving all structures within the complex.

The necropolis consists of 11 tomb structures, grave enclosures, samakhana, an arched gateway, mosque and multiple ancillary structures built during the 200-year reign of Paigah dynasty.





CONSERVATION

28. Paigah Tombs

Built in the 18th century, the Paigah Tombs complex is a unique ensemble of intricately carved mausoleums with no comparative site elsewhere in the world. The Paigah Tombs are the resting place of the Paigah family – the second most influential family after Nizams during the period.

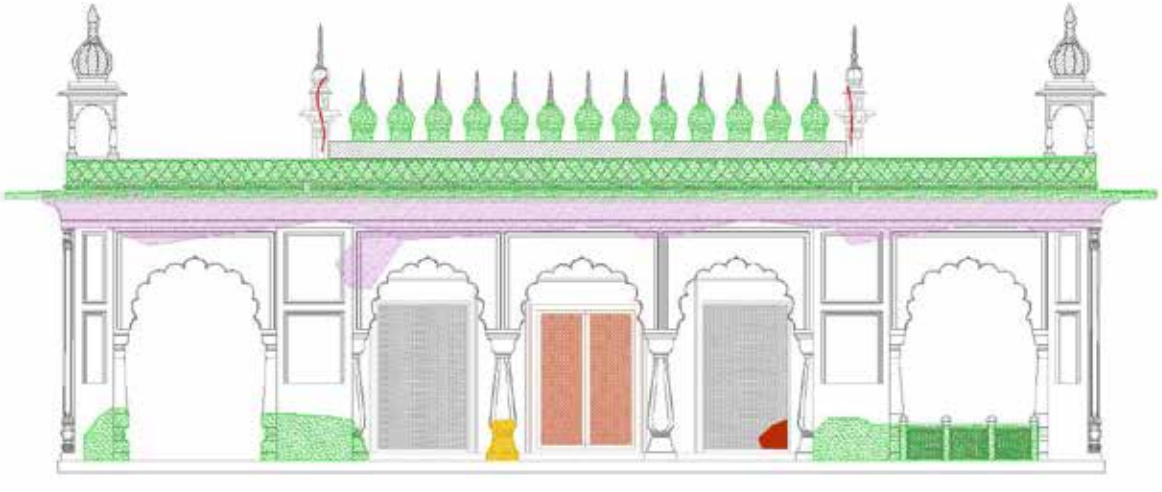
Conservation works include restoration of the damaged ornamentation on all parts of the monument. Works have commenced with the cleaning of the monument surfaces both on the internal and external surfaces of the monuments. This includes removal of vegetation, algae deposits on the external surfaces and layers of paint on the internal and external surfaces. Besides, mobilization of adequate resources – manpower and materials is in progress. Samples of terracotta tiles which form the skeleton of the ornate lattice screens is in progress. Documentation of the monuments are also simultaneously in progress. The details of the existing ornamentation is being documented meticulously for further conservation.

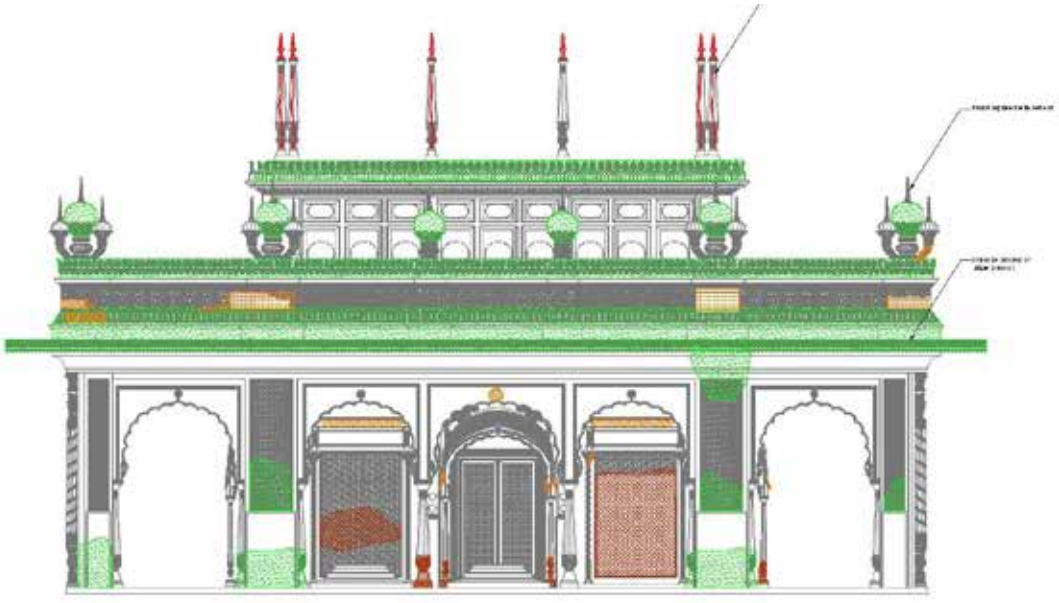
SAMAKHANA

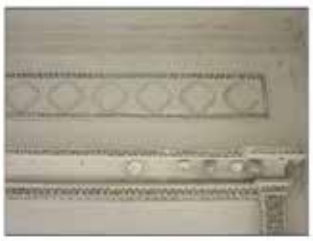
The Samakhana is a utilitarian, rectangular building located to the west of Ghansimiyan's Tomb. It comprises an open central chamber, one enclosed chamber in the southwest corner of the central chamber, two enclosed chambers in the northwest corner of the central chamber, and a lengthy open corridor running along the eastern edge of the building.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The internal and external façades of the monuments have been repaired using lime mortar and finished with a fine layer of lime putty.
- Minor structural cracks on the internal and external surfaces have been repaired, and grouting has been done using traditional lime.
- Intricate stucco details on the corner band, projected eave, arch crowns, and arch mouldings of the internal and external surfaces have been repaired, reconstructed, and restored using lime, based on existing evidence at the site.
- After the removal of the existing cement flooring, a layer of lime concrete flooring has been laid with an adequate slope, and 30mm thick granite stone has been installed.


LEGEND:


LEGEND:

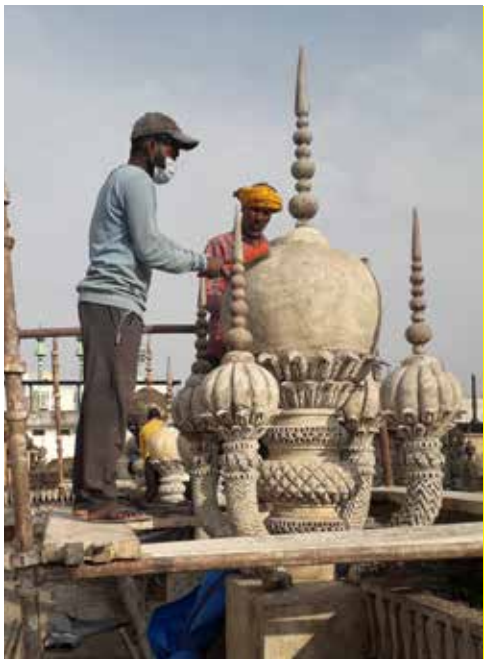


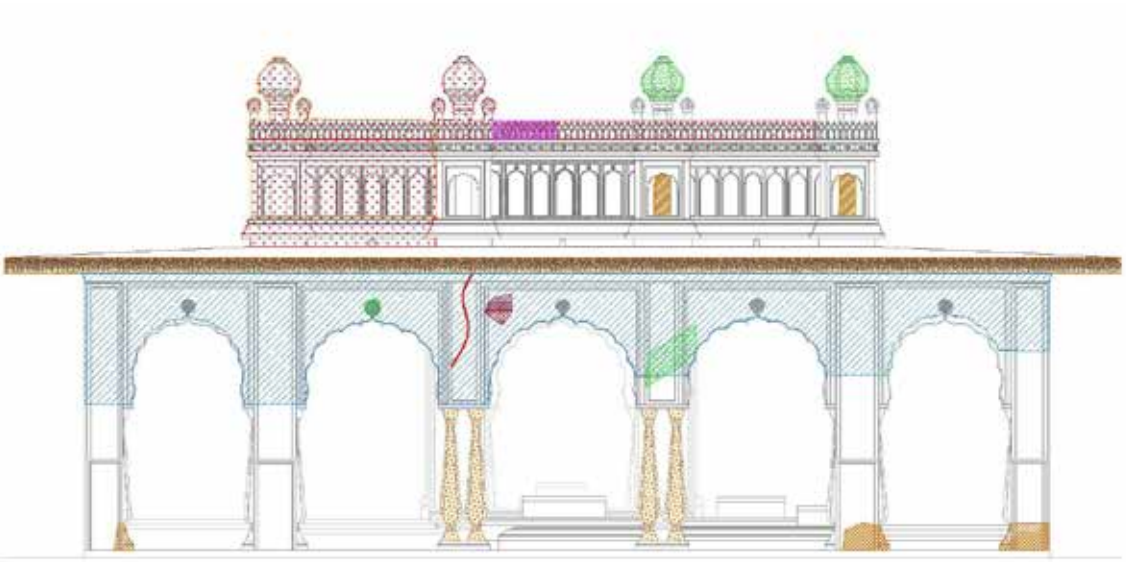
ABUL FATEH KHAN'S TOMB

This tomb was built in honor of Abul Fateh Khan, who was given the title of Paigah by the second Nizam of Hyderabad, and he became the founder of the Paigah family. Abdul Fateh Khan Tegh Jung was the first person to be buried here in 1786, and over the generations, the site became the family Maqbara, with subsequent members of the Paigah noble family also being buried here. The first mausoleum built in the Paigah necropolis served as a blueprint for the legacy of the funerary architecture of Paigahs to follow. The structure is an open mausoleum with corridors on the exterior. The spaces are separated by eight intricate lattice screens in lime, which went on to become an iconic feature of the necropolis. The open tomb also hosts a marble cenotaph raised above the ground, which houses the tombstone. The parapet is adorned with turrets topped with finials, adding to its grandeur.

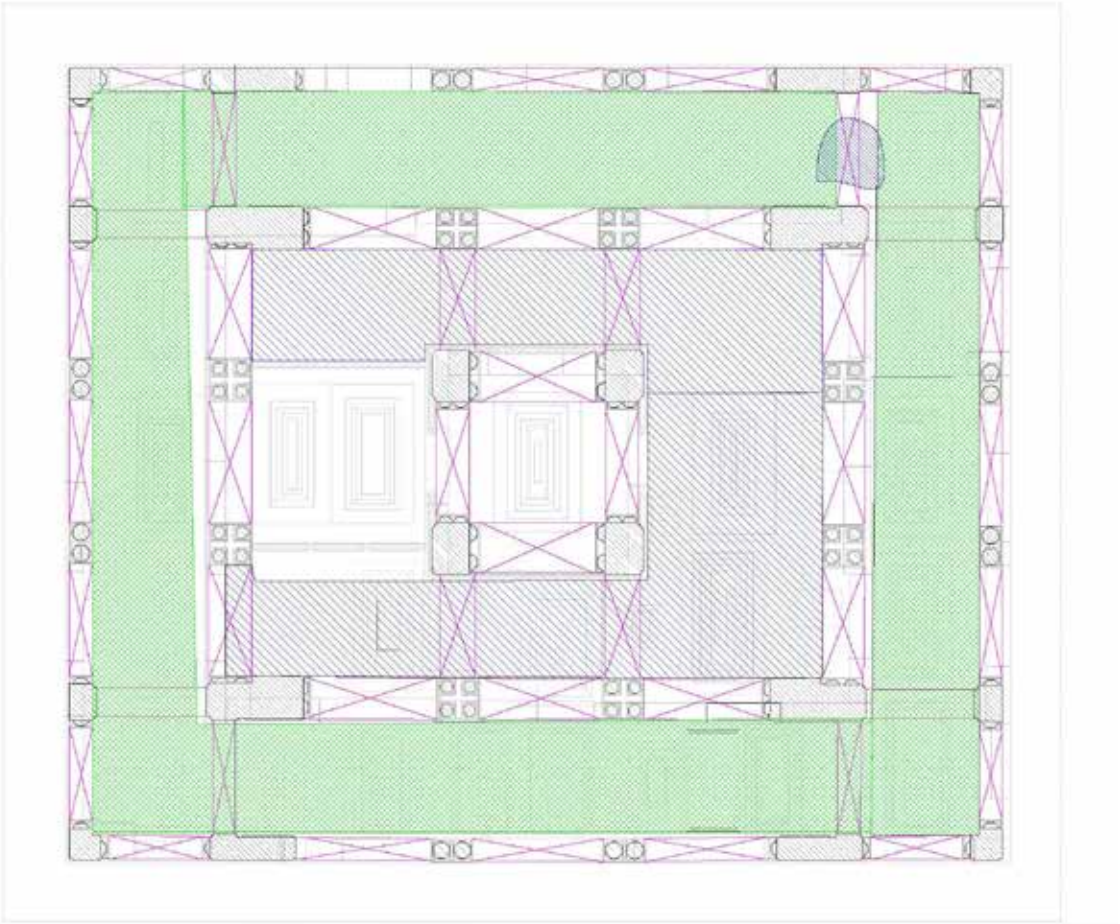
ACTION TAKEN:

- Detailed documentation of the tomb, including condition assessment, has been carried out.
- Vegetation growth, algae deposits, and debris have been carefully removed from the terrace.
- Manual cleaning with soft brushes and sandpapers was undertaken on the surfaces to remove the 20th-century paint layers from the Chatris, inner parapets, facades, and inner bays.
- The marble cenotaphs have been cleaned with utmost care using non-abrasive techniques.
- Dust particles from lattice screens were removed using a soft brush manually.
- The stormwater spouts have been cleaned.
- The channels directing water from internal portions of the monument to the external areas beyond the raised plinth have been cleaned, which included manual removal of the choked drains, repairs, etc. to make them re-functional.





East Elevation



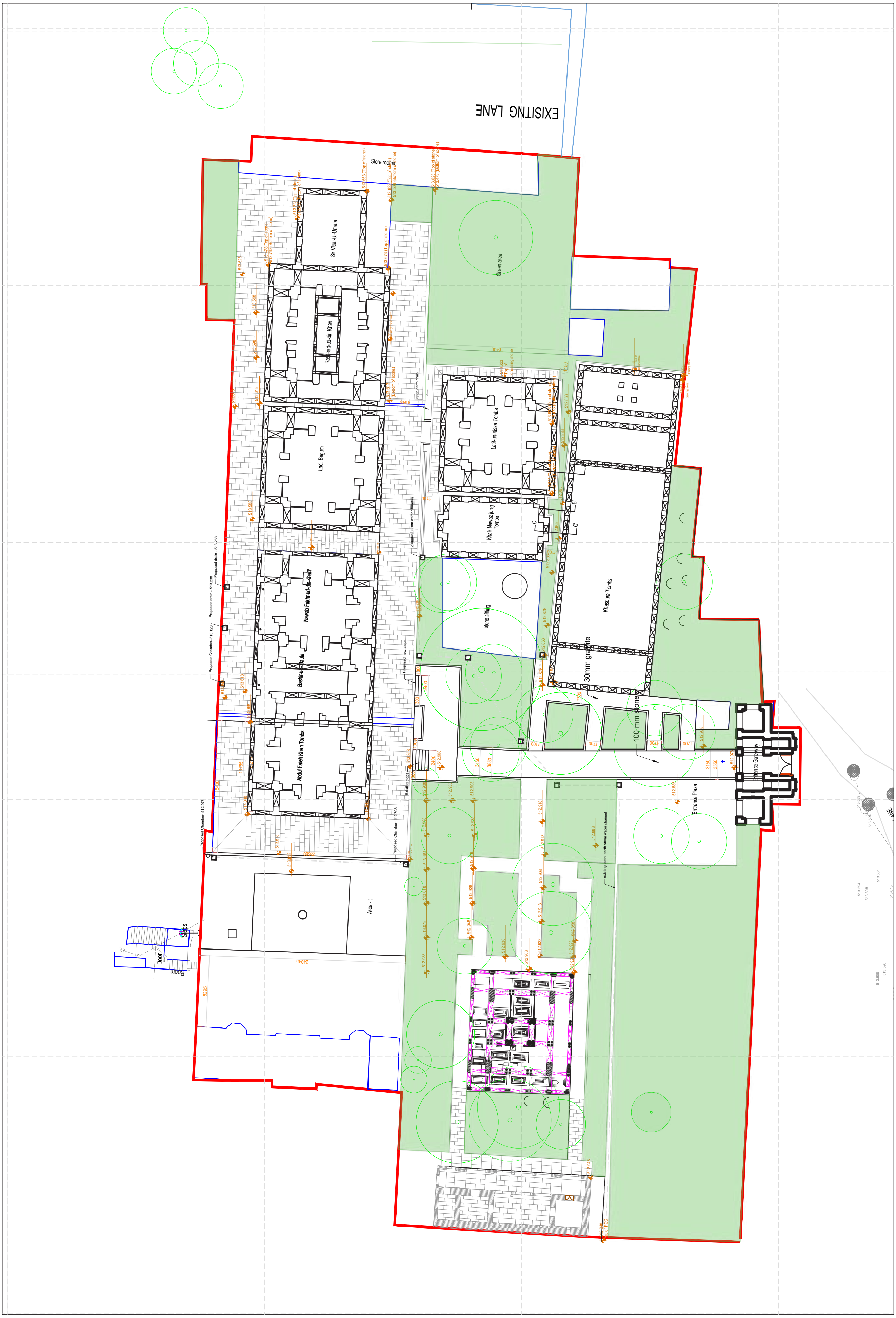
GHANSIMIYAN'S TOMB

This tomb is located in the southwestern corner of the Paigah Tombs Complex. It was constructed for Sardar-ul-Mulk Ghansi Miyan, a former commander in the Nizam's army and a close relative of the Paigah noble Nawab Tegh Jung. The conservation efforts at this monument aim to reinstate the lost architectural elements and replace inappropriate cement repairs with traditional materials and techniques.

(Clockwise from Left) Reinstating lattice screen around the graves; Reconstruction of parapet by mastercraftsman; Based on existing evidence, interlocking jaali work reconstructed using terracotta pieces; Broken or missing minarets are being restored

ACTION TAKEN:

- Layers of distempered loose plaster and cement were removed from the internal and external surfaces of the monument.
- The external façade was cleaned using a mechanical tool to remove biological growth.
- All stucco details on the corner band, projected eave, and arch mouldings of the internal and external surface have been repaired, reconstructed, and restored.
- Ornate pillars and pilasters on the base of the arches have been repaired and restored using traditional lime mortar, based on existing evidence.
- The lattice screen situated around the central tomb of the monument was documented and studied to understand the original construction technique used.
- 500 terracotta pieces, each measuring 50mmx50 mmx2mm sizes were used to repair and reconstruct the lattice screen around the main tomb.
- The formwork of the lattice screen was fixed using terracotta pieces of size 50mm x 50mm x 2mm, upon which lime plaster and punning were done following the original construction technique.
- At the parapet level, the missing portion (3.5 meters) on the southeast corner was reconstructed using stones and base mortar, following which details such as arch crowns and bands were reinstated.
- 25 stone discs, each 4 inches thick, were cut and used to reconstruct the fallen or broken minarets and domes.
- Based on the existing evidence, a skeletal system made of terracotta pieces was used to recreate the intricate interlocking Jaali work which was then finished with lime putty.


EXISITING LANE
Store rooms
Green area
Ladi Begum
Khaspura Tombs
30mm granite
100 mm stone
Entrance Plaza
Area - 1
Abdul Fateh Khan Tombs
stone sitting

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

ACTION TAKEN:

- Scientific investigation and clearance were undertaken to determine the original levels surrounding the monuments.
- The existing PCC layer and 20mm granite stones were removed to ascertain the original level of the plinth.
- Investigations were carried out to determine the workings and slope of the historic drainage system around the monuments. These were then exposed, cleaned and made functional.
- The existing tandoor stones at the eastern side of Latifunnisa's tomb were dismantled and removed.
- On the west of Abdul Fateh's tomb, investigations revealed a 20th-century blocked drainage line. The drain was cleared, and adequate grading was done. The historic pipeline now connects to this to help drain water away from the monuments.
- After dismantling the non-proportional approach steps on the south side of Abdul Fateh's tomb, they were replaced by 6 granite steps of 1500 mm x 370mm X 14 mm, which were hand chiselled and dressed.
- The broken northern elevation plinth wall was repaired and plastered with lime mortar. The slopes on the elevation plinth were regraded, and the edging stone was aligned in a straight line.

Flooring around the monuments was relaid in an appropriate slope based on the workings and slope of the historic drainage system

NEXT STEPS:

- The completion of domes and minarets at the parapet will be carried out at Ghansimiyan's tomb.
- Similarly, repair work of intricate stucco details on the pillars, corner band, projected eave, ceiling medallions, arch crowns, and arch mouldings on the internal and external surfaces will be carried out.
- Conservation works will commence at Latifunissa Tomb.
- New pipes, 50 meters in length, will installed with adequate manholes at a distance of 6 meters from each other to help drain storm water from the east to the west part of the tombs complex.
- The main entrance pathway will be installed with 100mm thick stones and a PCC layer.

Public Agencies - 2022

Government of Telangana

- Mr. Somesh Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Telangana
- Mr. Arvind Kumar, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, MA & UD Department
- Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Telangana, Youth Advancement, Tourism
- Mr. Lokesh Kumar D.S., IAS, GHMC Commissioner, Govt of Telangana
- Mr. B. Santhosh, IAS, Additional Commissioner, GHMC, Govt of Telangana

Department of Heritage Telangana:

- Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS, Director, Department of Heritage Telangana
- Mr. B. Narayana, Deputy Director, Engineering
- Dr. D. Ramulu Nayak - Deputy Director, Technical
- Dr. P. Nagaraju - Deputy Director, Museums
- Mr. N. Narsingh, Assistant Director, Engineering
- D. Ganga Devi - Assistant Director, Arms, Paintings, and State Museum
- D. Bujji - Assistant Director, Porcelain, Textiles, Archaeology, Bronze Artifacts and Mahbubnagar Museum
- B. Malu Nayak -Assistant Director, Coins Sections & Warangal Museum
- N. Sagar - Assistant Director, Manuscripts and Karimnagar Museum
- V. Naga Lakshmi - Assistant Director, Museum at Department of Heritage Telangana
- Mr. A. Raju, Office Superintendent
- Mr. K. Charan Babu, Site Supervisor, Engineering
- Mr. Ch. Subhash, Senior Caretaker, Qutb Shahi Heritage Park
- Mr. Junaid, Site Supervisor, Qutb Shahi Heritage Park

Quli Qutb Shahi Urban Development Authority (QQSUDA)

- Mr. B. Santhosh, I.A.S, Administrator, QQSUDA.
- Mr. Shankar Lal , Secretary
- Mr. Guruveera, In charge Secretary
- Mrs. M. Lalitha, Assistant Director of Horticulture
- Mr. S. Venkateshwara Rao, General Supervisor

Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC)

- Mr. Boinapally Manohar, Managing Director
- Mr. Shankar Reddy, Executive Director Projects
- Mr. Venkata Ramana, Chief Engineer
- Mrs. Saritha Galla, Superintending Engineer
- Mr. Ashok Kumar, Superintending, Engineer
- Mr. Samiuddin, Superintending Engineer
- Mr. Ch. Parshavedi, Deputy Executive Engineer
- Mr. Damodar Reddy, Deputy Executive Engineer
- Mr. Ajay, Executive Junior Engineer
- • Mr. Aliya, Júnior Architect
- • Mr. Ramprasad, Júnior Architect
- • Mr. Adil Shah, Legal Officer

Aga Khan Development Network

- Mr. Ratish Nanda, CEO
- Mr. Rajpal Singh, Chief Engineer
- Ms. Archana S Akhtar, Senior Programme Officer
- Mr. Somak Ghosh, Finance Manager
- Mr. KP Singh, Chief Horticulturist
- Mr. Yoshowant Purohit, Project Manager
- Mr. K. Ganesh Reddy, Manager Operations
- Mr. Faneendra Nath, Project Engineer
- Ms. Poojan Kumar, Project Architect
- Mr. Saif Siddiqui, Project Architect
- Ms. Aditi Keshav Deshpande, Conservation Architect
- Mr. Syed Tajuddin Conservation Architect*
- Mr. Sandeep Raj, Conservation Engineer
- Mr. Arshad Jamil, Site Engineer
- Mr. Raghavender Goud, Finance Officer
- Ms. Lipi Bharadwaj, Photographer
- Mr. Umang Kochhar, Research Assistant
- Mr. Venkatesh Dandigi, Admin Asst
- Mr. Vinod Kumar, Field Supervisor
- Mr. Ramesh Singh, Field Supervisor
- Mr. Mamunuri Sandeep, Horticulturist
- Mr. M. Rajesh, Office Chauffeur

Principal Consultants

- Shaheer Associates, Landscape Consultants
- Mr. Sajjad Shahid, Advisor
- Studio Lotus, Architects, Qutb Shahi Interpretation Center(QSIC)
- Prof. Kolluru V.L Subramaniam, Founder Head, Dept of Civil Engineering, IIT Hyderbad - Consultant, QSIC structure
- Mr. Shafeeq Rehman Mohajir, Legal Consultant, Brainstorm Legal Advocates
- Ms. Poornima Balakrishnan, Consultant (Conservation Architect)