



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

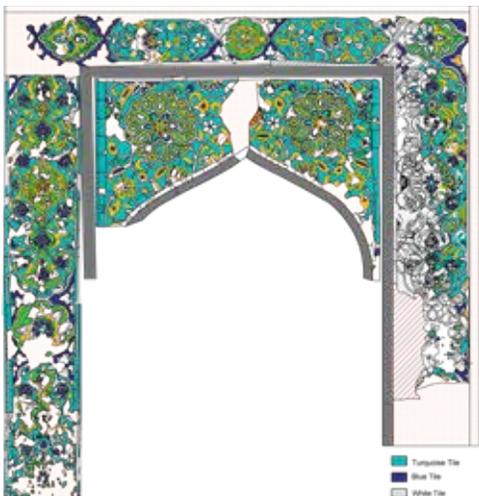
**QUTB SHAHI HERITAGE PARK,
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA, INDIA**



**Aga Khan Trust for Culture,
in partnership with Heritage Telangana
and with co-funding by the Tata Trusts
has been undertaking the conservation and landscape
restoration of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park since 2013.**

Project Brief

2018



The historical landscape of Qutb Shahi Heritage Park is adjacent to the Golconda Fort (top). Craftsmen working on the facade restoration of the tomb of Jamshed Quli Qutb Shah and applying final finish of lime plaster (centre). Following the architectural documentation of the structures, a detailed condition assessment for all the monuments (bottom).

INTRODUCTION

The Qutb Shahi dynasty was established by Sultan Quli Qutb Shah in AD 1518 and came to an end in AD 1687. The Qutb Shahi rule commenced with the building of the Golconda Fort and the adjoining area, now the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, served as a necropolis to the dynasty. Here, during the 169 year rule were buried the monarchs and other prominent nobles and the 80 monuments found here today include 40 mausoleums, 23 mosques, seven *baolis* (step wells), a *hamam*, pavilions, tanks, wells, garden structures and enclosure walls

In January 2013, a MoU was signed between the Department of Archaeology & Museums, now HeritageTelangana, the Quli Qutb Shah Urban Development Authority, Aga Khan Foundation and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture to undertake conservation works on all monuments and undertake holistic landscape development of the 106 acre Qutb Shahi Heritage Park. Following the MoU, the TATA Trusts pledged support for the conservation of 10 major monuments and more recently, the Ministry of Tourism (Government of India) has announced support for landscape development works and construction of an Interpretation Centre.

On World Heritage Day, 18 April 2018, the first phase of conservation and landscape restoration works - comprising 25 monuments and adjoining gardens - were completed and after five years of painstaking work the area opened for public access.

CONSERVATION PROCESS

Exhaustive recording, documentation, conditional assessment, surveys and research exercises were carried out by the multi-disciplinary Aga Khan Trust for Culture team to inform the Conservation and Landscape Master Plan. This has required over 2500 measured drawings, condition assessment of all monuments, topographical survey of the 106 acres including the Deccan Park and the northern and southern ecological zones Heritage Park. These drawings have been constantly updated upon commencement of works. A sustained effort at Archival research has already led to the collection of over 500 images- some dating back to 1860s. All conservation works have been preceded with a High definition 3D laser scanning of the monuments.

In order to ensure continued public access to large parts of the site, it was agreed from the onset that conservation and landscape works will be carried out in three phases. Phase 1, now completed, and has included emergency repair works on structures such as the Badi Baoli and Fatima's Tomb and conservation works on structures standing in the south-west quadrant, from the grand mausoleum of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah onwards.

Phase-2 works will include conservation works and landscape on and around the Tombs of Muhammad Qutb Shah, Hakims and Commander, Premamati and Taramati, Hayat Bakshi Begum and Great Mosque. Phase 3 will focus on the present entrance zone and include Abdullah Qutb Shah's mausoleum and surrounding structures.

Simultaneously, landscape works in the Deccan Park and in the northern and southern ecological zones will continue as will infrastructure development works such as the Interpretation Centre, amphitheatre, parking, with the Ministry of Tourism's Swadesh Darshan grant.

This major conservation effort intends to attract a significantly higher number of visitors and tourists, instilling a sense of local, national and international pride and creating potential economic opportunities for local businesses. It was agreed at the onset with the TATA Trusts that all works will be peer reviewed by national and international experts and four such peer reviews have already been held.

CONSERVATION WORKS

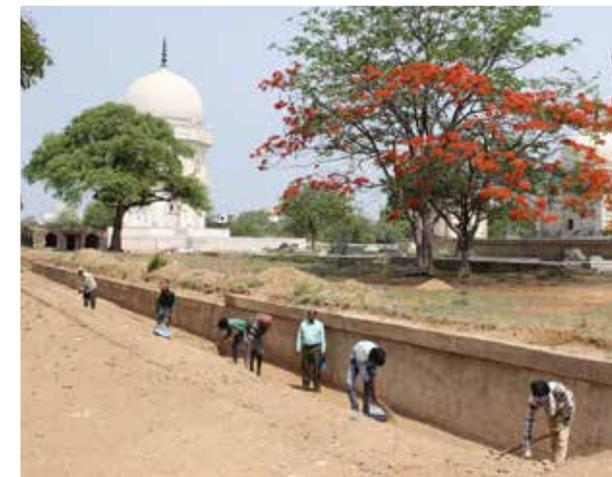
Conservation works could not commence immediately on the signing of the MoU as the Wakf Tribunal prohibited works following a petition questioning the land ownership; works could commence in November 2013, following the unfortunate collapse of the Badi Baoli. Reconstruction of the collapsed Badi Baoli required three years of continuous work by master craftsmen - using traditional tools, building materials and craft techniques. Significantly, grading of earth around the baoli has allowed over 3 million liters of water to collect here in each monsoon season.

Prominent structures conserved in phase 1, include the mausoleum of Sultan Quli Qutb Shah, Jamshed Quli Qutb Shah, Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah, Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the Idgah, Hamam, three baoli's and several smaller mausoleum, mosques, grave platforms, chaukhandis, amongst other structures.

At the mausoleum of the first king, Sultan Quli Qutb Shah, archival images revealed intricate stucco ornamentations and remnants of this were discovered on the careful removal of 20th century cement layers, thus allowing restoration to the full extent to reveal the grandeur of the structure and the original builder's intention. The tomb garden's enclosure wall was revealed during archaeological excavations and exposed grading of earth and the arcade reconstructed to restore the sense of enclosure.

Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah's mausoleum required large scale works including the replacement of cement plaster with a traditional lime plaster on the façade and interiors, restoration of the stone parapet where stone blocks weighing several tonnes have been used, revealing of mouldings and their repair on the interior wall surfaces and removal of 20th century brick lattice from the ground level arched openings to restore the historic architectural character. Here, removing excess earth from the crypt revealed thousands of ceramic tile fragments that would have originally belonged to the façade to this monumental structure.

Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah's mausoleum is still seen to be ornamented with tile work in varied patterns. Microscopic documentation of these was carried out, though with original patterns lost, the tiles could not be restored. Here, in the late 19th/ early 20th century the stucco patterns were altered and original patterns were restored where possible without destroying later masonry.



Conservation works on Sultan Quli Qutb Shah's Tomb (top) required replacing cement plaster with traditional lime plaster; and re-building of its garden enclosure wall after its original foundations were excavated (centre); Over 60 masons worked tirelessly to apply a traditional lime plaster layer on the dome of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah (bottom).



Landscape peer review being conducted with Prof. M Shaheer, the landscape architect explaining the design (top), Conservation, of the archaeological excavations using traditional materials and carried out by master craftsmen, to ensure long term preservation of the site. (centre) landscape works being carried out in the garden enclosures (bottom),

Archaeological excavations revealed the southern gateway to the complex and it is hoped that removal of minor encroachments will allow the link to Golconda to be re-established.

Archaeological Excavations supported by the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation revealed traces of a settlement north of the *Hamam* and it is considered that this area would pre-date the building of the mausoleums here. Conservation works on all structures commenced with structural repairs and have included consistent removal of cement and restoration of lime plaster containing traditional additives such as jaggery, aloe-vera and other organic materials. Stucco work, a very significant architectural element has been restored where missing and where evidence had survived in-situ. Cement flooring of the monuments and their platforms has been replaced with stone paving to ensure long term preservation. Two *chaukhandi*'s lying in a collapsed state, were fixed using original stones after repair, in a process known as anastylosis.

Rooted in the Indian context where building craft traditions have survived, and respectful of the UNESCO emphasis to retain authenticity, conservation works have been implemented by master craftsmen working with stone and lime generating over 150,000 man days of employment

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

The landscape master-plan developed by landscape architect M Shaheer, envisaged the 106 acre complex to be treated in three zones – the core archaeological zone, a visitor facility zone on the site of the Deccan Park and an ecological zone forming a buffer on the north and the south.

Landscape works completed in the Phase 1 have required significant earth movement to restore original ground levels around the monuments, reveal significant architectural and natural elements that had been buried under excess earth and to grade earth to allow rain water to collect in the baoli's. Large grave platforms as well as several isolated graves have been carefully repaired; it was discovered that several individual grave platforms had been engulfed in a single concrete platform thereby disfiguring the original character and requiring careful conservation work to reveal each significant element. Similar treatment was required in the cluster of small monuments wherein independent structures had been enclosed with a masonry platform making access difficult.

A granite plinth protection has been provided around all monuments, at its original levels, to protect the foundations from ingress of water. Pathways linking the monuments have been provided 3 feet deep foundations to ensure long term stability and with all stone used has been hand chiselled. To meet ecological objectives, an exhaustive tree survey was undertaken wherein 3300 existing trees of 72 individual species have been mapped Over 2000 tree spalng have been planted along the edge of the site to create a natural buffer.

For more information please visit www.akdn.org or contact the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Qutb Shahi Heritage Park, Towlichowki, Hyderabad 500 008, Telangana. Email: aktc@akdn.org; Tel. +91 81215 40070

Qutb Shahi Heritage Park Landscape Masterplan

The landscape plan, developed by Shaheer Associates, appropriately utilizes the space of the presently segregated 'Deccan Park' as a generously proportioned entrance zone hence establishing an effective presence on the public road, and avoiding the present anomaly of the indirect approach that does not encourage an even spread of visitor activity across the complex. Judicious modification and re-organisation of entrances and paths will increase accessibility of the older parts of the complex and allow visitors to easily traverse the whole site and understand its sequential development rather than restrict their experience to only a part. A path system based on the history of the place would play a vital role in enriching the visitors' experience of this large, deep and complex historical site.

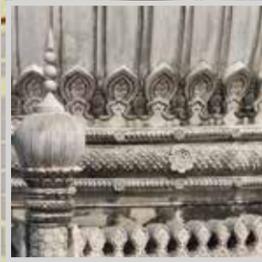
CREATING A BIODIVERSITY ZONE

The northern and southern sections of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park are to be developed as ecological zones with dense native vegetation. Towards this objective, since 2014 a mapping of all trees has been carried out, and new plantations are being done in a planned manner.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS & DISCOVERIES

Area to north of Hamaam was earlier excavated in the year 1969 - 71 but due to neglect it was found to have been buried in debris and vegetation. Explorations in this area were carried out with the support of US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation and revealed a residential settlement, remains of a mosque and several water features.

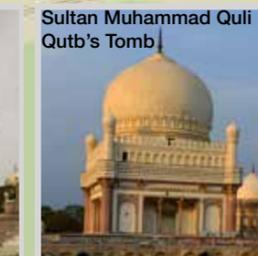
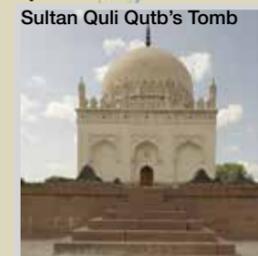
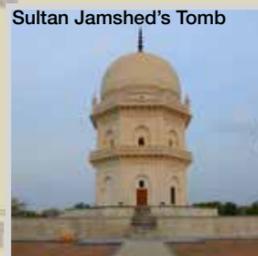


REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

The project follows a craft-led approach for conservation rather than the usual engineer led approach followed in India over the last century. It is estimated at least 300,000 man-days of work will be generated for craftsmen as a result of the project. This has led to a revival of traditional building crafts and materials in conservation.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Emergency structural repairs and conservation of 25 major monuments standing within the south-western corner of the 106 acre Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was undertaken during the Phase 1.



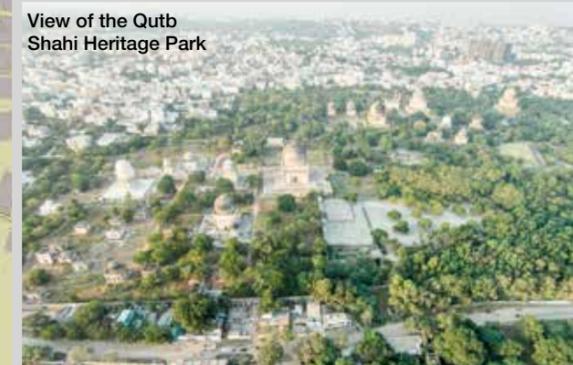
REVITALIZATION OF STEP-WELLS

The 106 acre Heritage Park boasts of seven baolis that were created here by the Qutb Shahi rulers to irrigate the orchards. The ongoing conservation effort aims to repair and revive each of these baolis as well as create ecological zones on the northern and southern edge where over 10000 native trees are to be planted.



INTEGRATION OF DECCAN PARK

Nearly 15 hectares within the northern and southern parts of the Qutb Shahi tombs can be potentially converted into an ecological zone by introducing appropriate tree species and enhancing bird habitat unique to the region. Similarly, to the east, the Deccan Park is seen as the ideal entrance zone to the grand complex thereby creating a suitable entry point to the heritage zones wrapped by ecological and formal landscapes.





Discovery of elaborate water systems and tanks



Excavation of passage leading to the South Gateway



Earth re-graded to expose the 16th century wall of Sultan Quli Qutb Shah's Garden enclosure

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS & DISCOVERIES

Upto 6" thick cement layers were removed from the dome and it was re-plastered with lime.



Remnants of original details found on the merlons were exposed and then restored.

16th century ornamentation restored on the minarets and battlements at the parapet

Mouldings, ornamental bands and pigeon holes were conserved by master-craftsmen

Removal of layers of cement plaster from the facade revealed historic stucco plaster in September 2014



Cement concrete flooring on the plinth replaced with 30 mm granite laid on base lime concrete

HERTIAGE CONSERVATION: TOMB OF SULTAN QULI QUTB SHAH