



## RESEARCH PAPER

### Wadudia School and Swat Museum: Lost Heritage of Swat

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#### ABSTRACT

In the last decade, two significant buildings of the swat state's era were deteriorated and damaged due to natural and man-made disasters, the wadudia school and swat museum. This paper aims to document, analyze and compare these events and subsequent reconstruction of these buildings. Conservation and preservation of built heritage is the collective responsibility of the state and citizens, due to its role as a valuable resource for present and future generations. Heritage buildings not only contain the material evidence of their time but carry itself the long history. This research used a case study as the primary research method combined with a descriptive research method. This study emphasizes the basic consideration for the protection and conservation of numerous heritage sites and buildings of the swat region. This is high time to consider built heritage as assets and resources, for their long-listed benefits including economic educational, and cultural tourism.

**KEYWORDS** Architectural Heritage, Conservation, Swat Museum, Swat State, Wadudia School

#### Introduction

Swat state was renowned for architectural design, street patterns, and structures. The structures of the state's time reflect the highest quality of architecture and engineering excellence. Some famous structures include public and administrative buildings. It was, once, one of the most visited areas and had a major tourism industry. A tourist visiting Swat Valley first reaches Saidu Sharif, the capital city, and its twin city Mingora. Saidu Sharif is the capital city of Swat. In recent years, some major events led to the downfall of tourism, which was one of the major sources of income. These events had not only affected the valley's attractions, but also the built heritage of the region. Conserving these structures can strengthen a feeling of society by enhancing the mental associations of the masses, which may give a vital contribution to the domestic economy through the promotion of tourism of the heritage industry (Watt, 2015). These structures should not be left as antiques and ruins of a former period. conservation and restoration of archeological assets and architectural heritage is a great and skilled activity that needs a specialized skill set (Addison & Gaiani, 2000). The buildings of Swat State times were designed and planned by foreign experts and architects. These buildings have a matchless architectural vocabulary and are recognized as landmarks. The structures of the Swat state Era include the government Wadudia high school and Swat Museum among many others. These buildings indicate the past architectural style of their time. Generally, Stone Masonry was found in footings and load-bearing walls, and Reinforced Cement Concrete in slabs. Arches were used as an important feature in all the buildings. Due to terrorism and natural deterioration, these buildings were replaced with new ones.

This research aims to shed light on the aspects of documentation and conservation of heritage buildings for their numerous advantages. The approval of the conservation plan must be taken from the relevant authority and the conservation field experts should consider the beneficial outcomes of the new territory and should also see the general picture of the preservation site (Mazzarella, 2015). The structures which have social and historical significance should be documented. The alteration during the conservation process also needs to be documented so that differentiation between original and altered work could be easily identified. This would also help in the future for more conservation work if needed (Ben & Steemers, 2014). A panel of experts who will recommend the authorization for the conservation of any heritage structure as well as demolition or reconstruction in any heritage site will be under the authorization of that panel (Mynors, 2006). The alteration of such buildings traversed the breathing spaces of the heritage building, we should take them back both vertically and horizontally to the limits of the heritage site as per the bylaws of heritage sites. Conservation of heritage structures and sites plays a very important role in any urban fabric. The Historic Building Conservation institute states, many heritage sites and structures are playing a vital role in the revenue generation of a city through the tourism industry, and it is acting as a catalyst for the economy of this region. Locals are investing and creating new jobs and business opportunities, which is also strengthening the economy of the present time, but also for future generations of the region. (Forsyth, 2013). The reuse commonly referred to as the revitalization of heritage structures for commercial or any other purpose is more effective than Reconstruction (Latham, 2016). Historic structures and heritage sites have active participation in creating economic opportunities. "Importance in structure transformation or re-use as inverse to overall modern speculation, significantly more occupations through and large, regarding heritage established the tourism industry and spent money for seeing these fascinating heritage spots, which is coordinated through many methods of use in the revenue generation (Forsyth, 2013). Public participation is very important, which can create a sense of ownership for these heritage sites (Murzyn-Kupisz, Monika, & Działek, 2013). Heritage sites and Ancient structures may be recovered by creating awareness in the public through local groups of experts. In conservation, we see the basic building components, and history, and discover answers for its assurance inappropriate way rather than demolition (Baer *et al.*, 2015). For the heritage structures and their environments, the key legal protocols are defined by professional bodies like UNESCO (United nation education, science, and culture organization), and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), which works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage sites around the world (Rodgers, 2013).

To protect these heritage structures, from both natural and man-made disasters, it is vital to understand the problems they face, this requires genuine consideration by specialists. Over time, an ancient structure can start to communicate its problems. Climatic and atmospheric changes affect materials; resources like wood can be harmed or eroded when faced with exposure to moisture. Thus, the structural material itself is likewise harmed (Costa, Guedes, & Varum, 2013). Cracks and squashing can occur in the structure due to settlements inside it. The constituents of development, which have been utilized for numerous decades include timber, soil, stone, and strands of plants. These constituents are utilized in a manner that many of those ancient structures are still standing to this day. The conservation of these structures is essential as they are a matter of great significance to the public. (V. Brancu and Guerreir, 2011). To properly protect and preserve a structure, it is essential to be aware of the quality and the capacity of the structure in its current form, only after this information has been attained that any actual work or solutions can take place (Branco & Guerreiro, 2011).

## **Material and Methods**

This research used a case study as the primary research method. Data about both cases was gathered through site visits, maps, and photographs. In the second phase, qualitative data about the buildings was collected through documentation and published

resources, and the results were analyzed, compared, and represented through descriptive research methods.

### **Case Studies**

#### **Wadudia School**

the first school in swat, known as the Anglo-Vernacular school later renamed Wadudia school after the ruler of swat Miangul Abdul Wadud in 1940, (Khan, 1963). there are different views about the exact date of its construction year. Different authors mentioned different years like 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1926 as the year of its establishment. (Khan,1963; Dinakhel, 2019; Shirazi & Yasin, 2015; Anderson,1986; Sultan-i-Rome2008). Among these conflicting dates, most of the studies confirm 1923 as its year of establishment. (Uddin, 2022). This School is among Swat's first architectural landmarks. It is said that this building served as the state's fort and prison before its conversion into a school in 1928, by Miangul Abdul Wadud. the building was renovated in 1960, by Miangul Abdul Haq Jahanzeb the last ruler of Swat state.



Fig 1: Front view of Waduadia School old building

It is the oldest historic school in the region, which was the first formal and modern education center in swat after 2000 years of Gandhara. The building was reconstructed in 2013 because of damage done by the earthquake and in the 2008 war on terror, terrorists destroyed the old building. Experts suggest different ways of conservation, preservation, and revitalization of buildings of historical significance. when a new building has to be constructed, proper analysis and understanding of the legacy and site are required for a better design solution. contextual responsive design may be considered the last resort in such cases. This way of design not only takes care of the building but the site and context.



Fig 2: Waduadia School old building



Fig 3: Waduadia School new building

### Swat Museum

The Swat Archaeological Museum is located at the center of the rich archaeological territory of Malakand Division, on the main road of Mingora, Saidu Sharif, approximately 1 km from Mingora city of Swat. The compound of the Museum also consisted of the Reserve collection storage building, the offices, a guesthouse, and the living quarters on an area of about 30 acres (Marati, & Vassallo, 2013). This Museum was built by the Wali of Swat in 1959 through contributions by the Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan. The building was expanded in 1970 and the prospect in the front was constructed in 1979 (Khaliq, 2011).

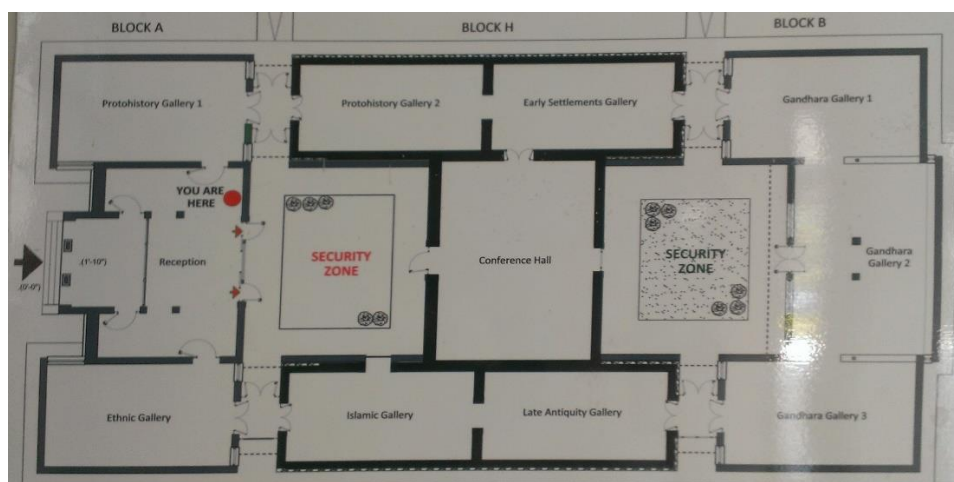


Fig 4: Floor Plan of the old Museum of Swat

The building was made up of brick masonry walls and foundations, the roof was made of reinforced brick concrete with reinforced cement concrete beams. The exterior walls were clad with random rubble limestone masonry (Marati & Vassallo, 2013).

After about 30 years of its construction, the structure of the Museum showed structural defects due to improper execution of its different construction phases. In 2005 the Museum's structure was partially damaged by the earthquake that hit north Pakistan, and in February 2008 it was seriously damaged by an explosion, during the war on terror. Due to its huge collection the Swat Archaeological Museum attracted a large number of researchers and tourists from Pakistan as well as other parts of the world. Before the demolition and eventual closure, the collection of the swat museum was about four thousand of which about 75 percent were collections related to Gandhara.



Fig 5: Swat Museum's old design

Two years later, the Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan was called upon for an extraordinary recovery exercise of Swat's archaeological heritage, which was denoted as the ACT-Field School project. (Olivieri, 2017). Luca Maria Olivieri, head of the project and co-director of ISIAO, has suggested a traditional style of architecture for the reconstruction of the swat museum (Khaliq 2011).



Fig 6: Proposed conceptual design for swat museum



Fig 7: As-built design of swat museum

In the Swat area, there are numerous buildings, which need immediate attention for preservation and conservation. It is important to comprehend the attraction of heritage buildings. A person visiting any heritage building, the ambiance of that building traces back him/her to the time in which it is constructed through the perfect craftsmanship of that structure provided that it is in its original form. These heritage structures reflect our culture and values as well as history. Though it is a difficult task to restore the building to its original condition, they at least be protected from further deterioration. It is by seeing and observing the architectural ensemble that one can sense its quality. Only by visiting a building or ensemble, one may appreciate its value of aesthetics.

For the continuity of the architectural style of this region, it is a prior need to conserve these buildings which are the perfect examples of that era. Because reconstructing these buildings in a modern way is like to vanish our own cultural and architectural heritage, which is the identity of any region.

The process of revitalization of a historic site must be according to the rules and regulations given by ICOMOS and UNESCO Charters. The building conservation should be done by the local craftsmen under the supervision of the archeology department comprising a team of experts from the relevant field. The existing conditions of the objective structure should be documented in advance if any modification or mediation is started. Any alterations should be the least necessary. It should be repeatable or may be reversible. The interventions must not harm the existing building.

## **Conclusion**

This study about the two important architectural heritage buildings of Swat showed that it is of prime importance to pay due attention to the preservation and conservation of built heritage. Heritage buildings need to be protected and conserved in the first place. If recommended by relevant experts, the process of demolition also needs to follow careful relevant protocols followed by a consultative process of reconstruction.

- Relevant laws for the protection of heritage sites and buildings need to be implemented.
- Documentations of important buildings and site needs to be carried out on a priority basis including distinctive features such as material, size, and scale.
- When the construction of new structures is essential, the historical context needs to be considered for the architectural style and vocabulary.

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