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RESEARCH PAPER

Preservation and Regeneration of the Tomb of Abdul Nabi Khan (Kotli Maqbara) in District Gujranwala, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The research article is an effort to generate awareness about the architectural, cultural, and tourist value of the Mughal historic monuments which are categorized by distinctive building typology, construction techniques, and intricate details. Globally, cultural heritage is under grim threat due to natural hazards and human neglect. Selected case study, the tomb of Abdul Nabi (Kotli Maqbara) is a protected monument and, was being deteriorated due to the heavy floods. The objective of the research is to explore the project for the preservation and restoration of the monument. Desk-based research and case study methodology have been applied to document the heritage site and to assess the possible causes of decay. By the analysis of data collected by visual and pictorial surveys, it has been concluded that the monument with its surrounding area can be regenerated as a tourist site, ensuring a bright future for the neighbourhood communities.

KEYWORDS Cultural Heritage, Kotli Maqbara, Preservation, Regeneration, Tomb

Introduction

The Mughal heritage in the subcontinent elucidates the love of Mughals for art and architecture. They focused on the palaces, forts, tombs, and gardens and the most ornate were royal tombs which were purposefully constructed to display the wealth and authority of their benefactors. These tombs were constructed for the members of the royal family and holy saints (Mumtaz, 1985). The historical monuments and heritage sites are deteriorating due to various reasons such as natural agents, weather conditions, and human activities. Although the Government of Pakistan is trying to protect these historic monuments under the umbrella of the Department of Archaeology and authorities, still, there is still a dire need to revitalize these sites, focusing on their tourist value.

On the famous GT road, a few kilometers from Gujranwala, there is a junction named “Morr Eminabad” that connects to a small village “Kotli Maqbara” at 32° 2' 0.81" N, 74°30' 39.27"E that is a burial place of Sheikh Abdul Nabi, an official of Emperor Akber (Rai, 2017). The huge tomb is a magnificent structure in the green fields and it is a noteworthy feature in its context because of its sheer size and architectural characteristics. It is amazing that a grand monument was ignored for the last four centuries. It was in dilapidated condition, cracks appeared in one of the four cupolas of the tomb and the lower parts of the central part of the building were eroding. It needed the attention of authorities to be protected and regenerated (Baig, 2016).

Map 1 Location of Tomb of Abdul Nabi (Kotli Tomb) Gujranwala (Source: Google maps)

The traditional Mughal Tomb, an octagonal building with a magnificent central onion-shaped dome on the circular drum and peripheral Iwans, is erected on a terraced platform. The ground floor is plain and there are three graves in the arched chamber, the grave of Abdul Nabi is in the middle, his son in the west and his disciple is in the east (Waleed, 2016). The building was constructed in brick and finished with fair face brick, whereas, ornamented with Kashi Kari, marble, sandstone, and glazed tiles. The building is composed of four minarets with cupolas in each corner of the square platform and a basement, burial place. The architectural characteristics of the building show its high architectural value and it also resembles with Dai Anga Mosque, Jahangir's tomb, and Wazir Khan Mosque in Lahore (Architecture, 2023).

Map 1 Tomb of Abdul Nabi (Kotli Maqbara) with its context (Source: Google maps)

The Tomb in a village, Kotli Maqbara, near morr Aimanabaad is a historical landmark with architectural and cultural significance. It can be seen from far away as it is located on a mound almost 07 feet high as compared to the surrounding fields. The monument has been greatly affected by the floods and there are structural cracks in the minarets and tomb. Foundations with underground tunnels has also been damaged as no measures were taken to save the building from the heavy floods. Heavy rains and seasonal floods destroyed the building materials such as red sandstone, sunbaked bricks, chunna and pulse mesh (Amir, 2015).

There are no traces which can show the conservation and restoration of the structure before ongoing project started in 2021, the year in which preservation and restoration of the tomb has been approved by the Department of Archaeology (DOAM, 2022) (Archaeology, 2023). However, structure is repaired very poorly. Due to the negligence, this

jewel of the Architectural heritage was in desolated and deteriorated condition. The traces of lost ornamentation and crumbling stage of the structure was posturing a risk of complete devastation if not protected.

The core objective of the research is to shed light on the conservation and restoration of the monument which was in deteriorated condition due to natural disaster, weather conditions and human neglect. The monument is unique in its architectural and tourist value. There are lush green fields around the historic monuments and can be planned as a tourist place for the residents of the neighborhood and visitors. The tomb is a lost legacy of Mughal period, who were found of constructing tombs associated with royal family members and saints. There was a need to protect this tomb for the future generations to memorize the Mughal's love for art as it was built to pay tribute to a learned person who was Mughal awarded the designation of "Sadr us Sadur" by the emperor Akber (Rai, 2017).

Literature Review

Tomb of Abdul Nabi (Kotli Maqbara) Gujranwala

Tomb of Abdul Nabi has been listed as a protected monument according to Antiquity Act 1975 and Punjab Special Premises Ordinance 1985 (Wikipedia, 2022).

The tomb is supposed to be connected with Sheikh Abdul Nabi, Governor of Wazirabad at the time of Emperor Akber. It has been proved from the historic evidences that Abdul Nabi was a noticeable courtier of Emperor, during the early period of his rule. There are various myths about this tomb. There are certain references which states about the gentlemen buried in the tomb. A famous archaeologist writes in an article on monuments in Gujranwala: "The tomb is associated with Sheikh Abdul Nabi who was a tutor of the great Akbar. The Sheikh reached the status of Sadr ul Sudur but was exiled to the holy places (Makkah and Madina) when the emperor was poisoned by Sheikh Faizi and Abdul Fazal" (Ali, 2015).

Travel writer Salman Rashid and archaeologist Dr. Saif ur Rehman Dar have confirmed this, stating that AbdulNabi tutored the grand children of Shah Jahan's Prime Minister, Nawab Saad Ullah Khan. However,the Mughal emperor's biography do not mention this fact.

There is various folktales regarding construction of the tomb. It is also believed that this tomb has been built by Jinns in a single night. The Pakistani writer Salman Rashid states that: "Built as it is in the middle of a great nowhere and in the absence of any accessible historical reference to it, it has quite naturally acquired a metaphysical complexion and the locals attribute it to the jinns" (Rashid, 1992.)

Sheikh Abdul Nabi's man-made tomb in Gujranwala is believed to be linked to the reign of Akbar due to its physical characteristics. Sheikh Abdul Nabi, when Emperor Akbar, was poisoned by Sheikh Faizi and AbulFazal, was leading to his banished to holy sites. He was told not to return to his homeland until the emperor called him. In 1583, he returned to India without seeking permission of the Emperor after hearing unrest and settled in Abdulabad, Gujarat. Akbar detained and imprisoned him on Abul Fazal's charges, an old adversary of him. Another version claims that he was been murdered, while yet another contradicts it as a natural death. However, both accounts state that it happened in the year 1584." Whereas, the comparative history states that he died in 1583 (Bada'uni, 1905).

Historical Evolution of Gujranwala

According to Imperial Gazetteer of India, the town was originally founded by Gujjars, and it was retitled as "Khanpur" by Sansi Jats who came from Amritsar and laid the

foundation of 11 villages in this area. Charrat Singh, a Sansi Jat, grandfather of Ranjit Singh, constructed a fortification around these villages in 1756 and called this collection of 11 villages as Gujraoli. According to the tales of the town, the area was named after the name of "Chaudhry Gujjar" the possessor of the Persian wheel in the town for the supply of water in the whole district (Cotton & Mayer, 1907).

Mahan Singh, father of Ranjit Singh constructed four minarets around the city to fix the boundaries. Charat Singh and Mahan Singh were heads of Sikh clan. The city is famous being birth place of Maharaja Rangit Singh who laid the foundation of Sikh Empire in the subcontinent. The empire founded by Ranjit Singh was extended by his Commander, Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa who built a high mud wall surrounding the town for the protection of the city. He also constructed a fort to the North of the city. He also laid the foundations of the modern city of Gujranwala (Naz & Zaidi, 2013).

The city was annexed by the British in 1857. During the British period, on one hand, city developed and on the other hand, city lost its heritage in the result of reconstruction at the place of heritage sites by the British administrators.

Gujranwala, at present, is Pakistan's third largest industrial city after Karachi and Faisalabad and contributes in the export-oriented economies of large urban network in Punjab. The historic city of Gujranwala has experienced various historic periods such as Mughal, Sikh, British and developments after independence. The most important are Lodhi Era Mosque of Aimenabad, Haveli Ranjit Singh, Darzian Wali Kothi, Toomri Temple Gujranwala, Gurdwara Rori Sahib, Lahori Gate, Ghanta Ghar and Sherawala Bagh (Rajput T. , 2019).

Sheikh Abdul Nabi Khan – Qazi ul Qaza

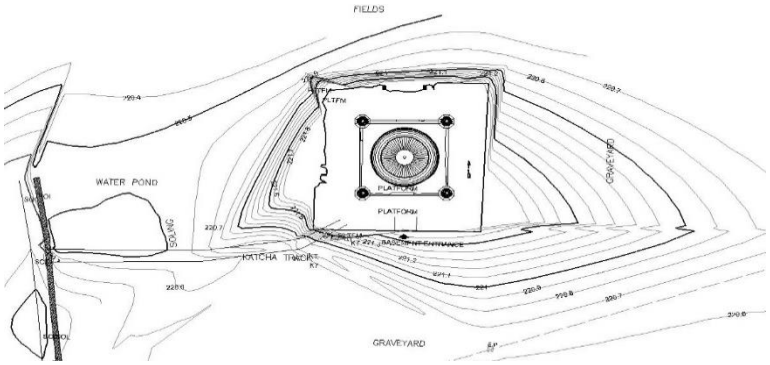
Starting off as a devoted, orthodox Muslim, Akbar's reign was distinguished by a profound commitment to religion. He prayed the five prayers aloud, cleaned up the palace mosque, and honored Shaikh Abdul Nabi and Makhdum-ul-Mulk, the two most revered religious figures. During Akbar's rule, Makhdum-ul-Mulk gained even greater influence, and Shaikh Abdul Nabi, who was named sadr-ul-sadur in 1565, held the highest religious position in the country. Akbar put his heir, Prince Salim, under Nabi's tutelage and would go to his home to hear his lessons. His religious beliefs had a vital role in his rule. "For some time the Emperor had so great faith in him as a religious leader that he would bring him his shoes and place them before his feet." (Bada'uni, 1905).

Akbar's religious assemblies in Ibadat Khana were arranged to drive him away from orthodoxy, partly due to the fault of the attendees. At the first session, disputes over precedence sparked a battle of wits among participants, leading to religious squabbles. The two great theologians, Makhdum-ul-Mulk and Shaikh Abdul Nabi, attacked each other mercilessly, losing Akbar's confidence in both. Makhdum-ul-Mulk, a powerful jurist and Shaikh-ul-Islam, used his position to persecute the unorthodox and accumulate wealth. When he died, thirty million rupees in cash were found in his house, and several boxes containing gold blocks were buried in a false. This disillusionment extended to the orthodoxy they represented (Amir, 2015).

Material and Methods

There are no historical evidences that proves the beneficiary of this building but historical data helps to assess the person under this dome. There is little data about this tomb. At first, data was collected from different sources such as historical literature and social media channels. After that, a site visit was done and surveys were conducted for the preparation of Architectural drawings showing layout and elevations. The deteriorated parts have been marked and causes of decay have also been tried to identify. All the surveys,

documentation, and assessments will help to prepare a conservation plan for the Archaeology Department. The detailed drawings will describe the architectural details of the damages and the nature of the desolation.



Map 2 : Topographical plan (according to natural levels of contours)

The tomb is in the process of conservation and work is being carried on maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the heritage site through the use of traditional materials and construction techniques.

Case Study- Tomb of Abdul Nabi

Location and Context

The tomb is strategically located in the centre of the Gujarat district, connected to a main road and a small recreational area. It serves as a centrally located monument, easily accessible to people visiting other nearby places. The tomb is also connected to other modes of transport, such as railway and bus stations, making it a popular destination for visitors (Rehman, 2021).

The Kotli Maqbra is an arched structure with conical minarets. It has two storeys, two ventilation windows, and a southern entrance. The Tomb of Abdul Nabi Khan, built by Shah Jahan, is a remarkable example of Mughal architecture. It is a massive, massive structure based on Persian Islamic architecture, with minarets covered by cupolas. The tomb spans 11504 square feet, covering 652 sq. ft. of lower ground and 3200 sq. ft. of ground floor. The construction techniques and features of the monument are remarkable in the history of Mughal architecture and resembles with multiple historic monuments and listed buildings in Lahore (Rajput, 1963).

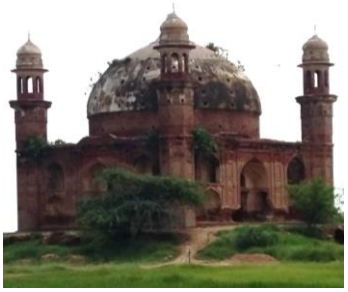


Figure 1: Northern View Perspective Figure 2 : View of Dome and Minaret Figure 3: View of Lower ground Entrance

Architectural Plans of Abdul Nabi Tomb

A monument's main platform is constructed on a square layout and has a 3200 sq. ft. (61'x61') surface area. It is built at a height of 7' above the ground and is accessed from the outside using a ramp or slope that indicates the tomb's foundation. The first floor's clear height is 12'. The tomb has a square floor design, and hexagonal minarets rise from each corner. The building's southern side has a large square entryway that leads to the 1089 square foot central octagonal corridor. Following the door, there are stairs leading to the top level on both the right and left sides.

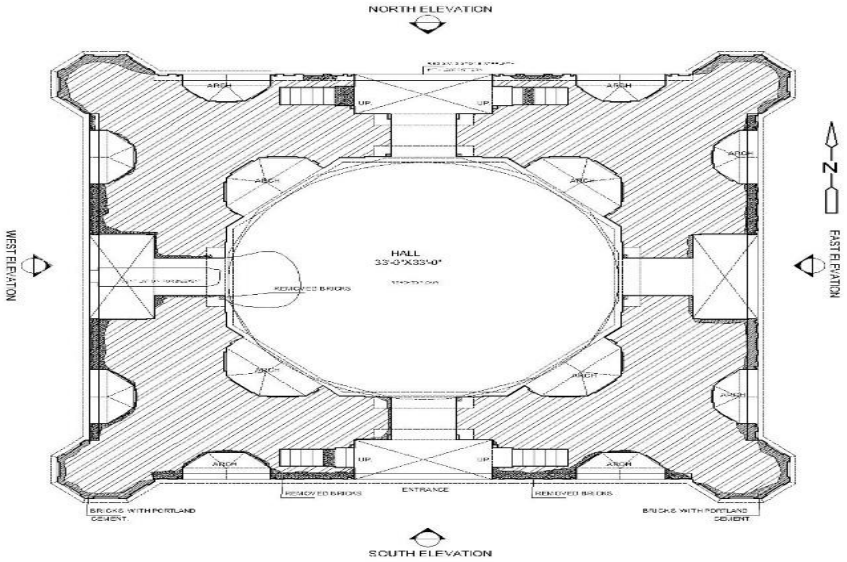


Figure 4: Floor Plan at Level 07'-00"

Lower Floor Plan (Level: 03'-00")

The tomb of Abdul Nabi, his son, and his disciple are located in the lower ground, underground below the ground floor; they are accessible from the ground level by a 5' tall entryway leading to the stair downstairs. The bottom ground's floor height is not excessive. Its height is 5' clear. There are two stairways that come in from the rear side of the lower ground in addition to the main entrance. They are carried on a square platform that is elevated 2' above the lower ground floor level by lower ground. The main entrance to the bottom level leads to a lengthy passageway that opens onto a 12-foot-by-12-foot room. The passageway leads to the cemetery hall, which is encircled by shuttered ventilation ducts from the other three corners of the platform's square shape.

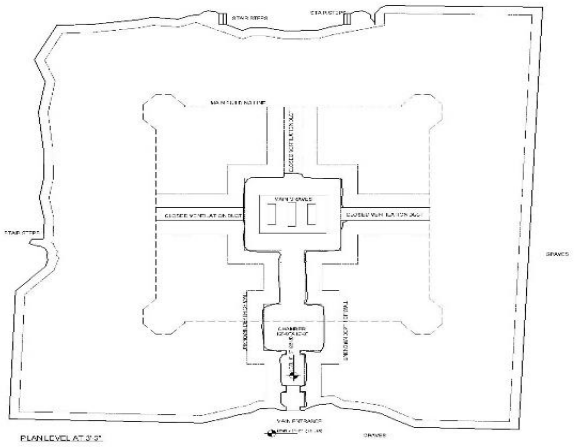


Figure 5: Lower Ground Floor Plan

Figure 6: Entrance to cemetery room

Upper Floor Plan (Level: 19'-00")

The tomb's first floor is located when the building rises above 12 feet, and there are stairways leading to it on the right and left sides of the structure at this level. With the aid of the flat roof, only the centrally located is elevated to its ultimate height; the remaining space is filled with bricks.

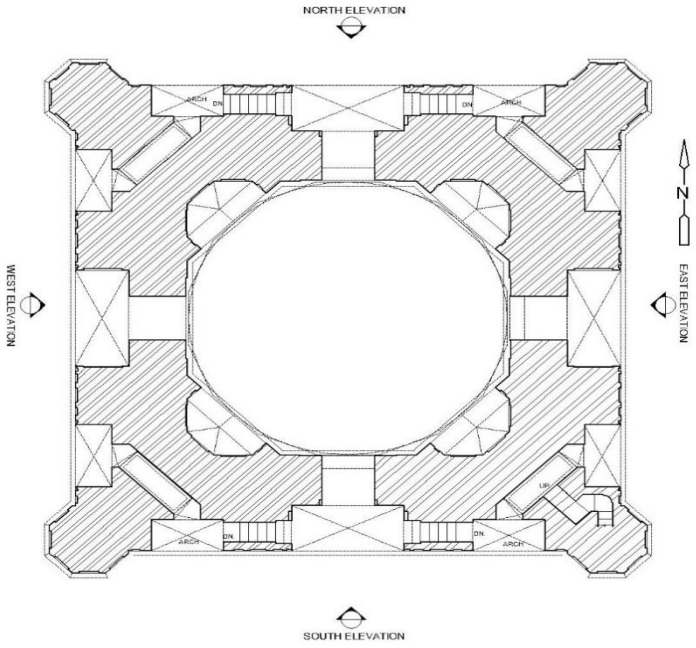


Figure 7: Upper Floor Plan

Roof Top Plan (Level: 24'-00")

The octagonal construction is built up to a height of 42' after reaching a height of 19', at which point the drum-shaped base of the dome is located. The current dome is flanked by hexagonal minarets on each side, which adds beauty and symmetry and has a total diameter of 32'-6" and a radius of 16'-3". Each minaret at this level has four stairs that go up to the cupolas, which are 57'-3" high and are accessible through these stairs.

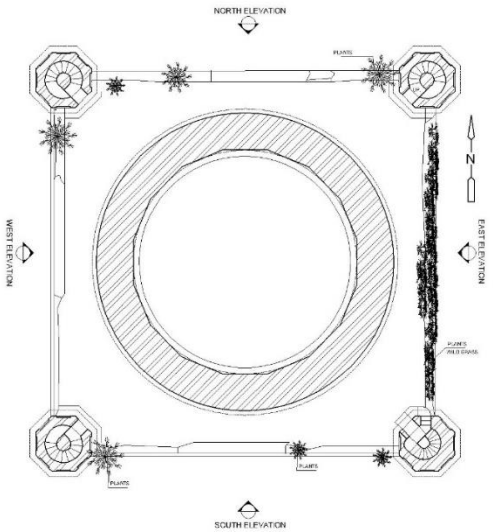


Figure 8: Roof Top Plan

Different Domes levels Plan (Level: 50’-00”)

The final floor plan is located at a height of 50', where the various dome levels are shown. The Dome has a finial at the top and is elevated to a height of 60'. The inverted lotus on top of the dome serves as ornamentation, and there are exquisite decorations known as "kashikari" on the top of the structure. The building's overall height, including the dome's minuscule embellishments, is 60'. A piece of marble is the only indication that any additional decorative elements, such as frescoes and other decorations, were employed.

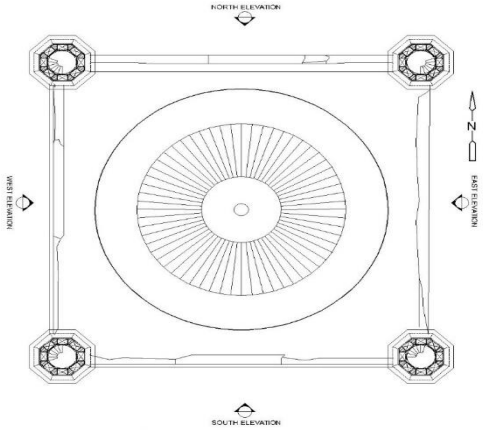


Figure 9: Dome Level Plan

Elevations of Abdul Nabi Tomb

The image depicts the west side of an elevation with a large arch for entrances, surrounded by smaller arches on both sides. The main arch measures 11'6" in width and 17'3" in height, with decorations inside square frames. The side arches have widths of 7'-41/2" and heights of 8'-9".

The central arched frame is bordered by two minarets with cupolas starting at 37'-6" and a 35' high dome starting at 25'. The lower sides of the arches have broken bricks. (Hasan, 2001) (Michell, 1978) (Rajput A. B., 1963) (Khan, 1973)

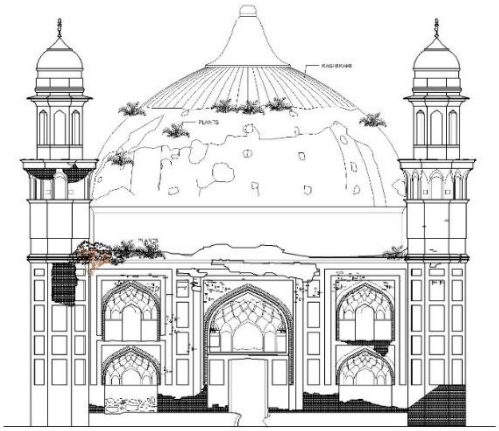


Figure 8: Western Side Elevation

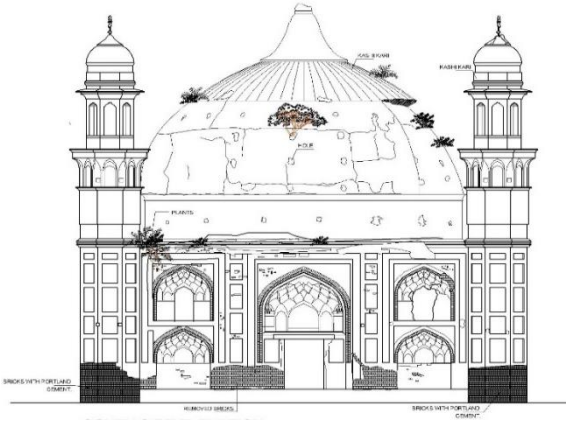


Figure 9: Southern Side Elevation

The tomb's upper parts have been damaged due to poor maintenance, resulting in the accumulation of planters and creepers. The dome is damaged from the top and the west side finial is broken. The dome features an inverted lotus with intricate "kashikari" details.

The main entrance faces the fields and is destroyed. The façade follows geometry and symmetry, with identical elevations and arched entrances. Right and left sides have smaller arches, supported by minarets at the corners. Cupolas are added as a fascinating feature of the minarets. All four sides have a main arched entrance, bordered by a square frame. The dome's conservation needs are evident in its holes, deteriorating arches, damaged finials, and a cover of plant growth, which also ruins its beauty and highlights the need for proper maintenance and repair.

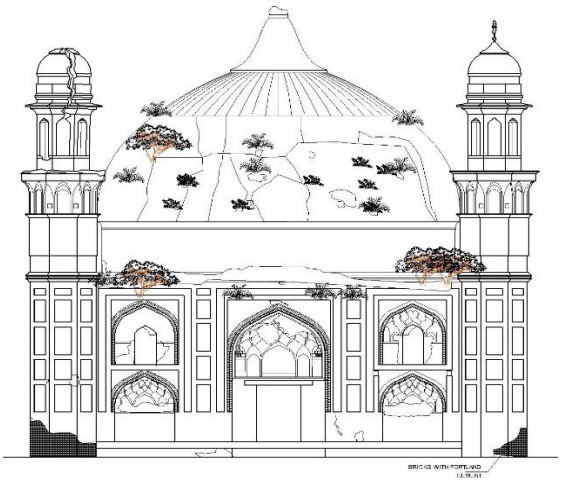


Figure 10: Northern Side Elevation

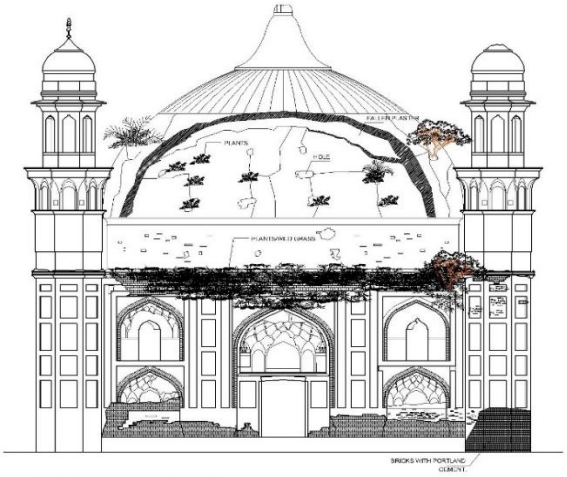


Figure 11: East side Elevation

Section of Abdul Nabi Tomb

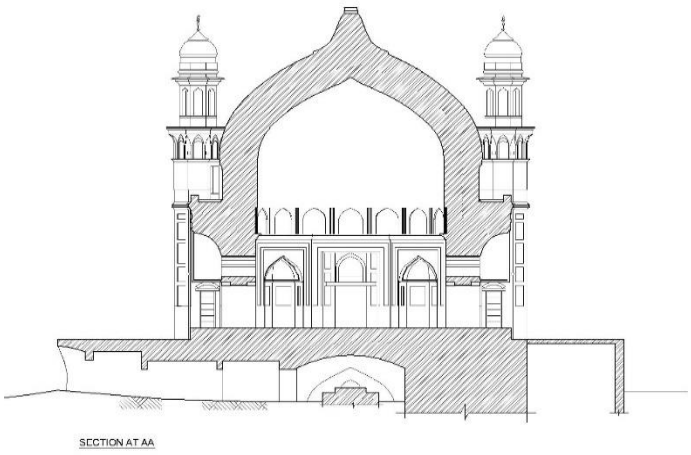


Figure 12: Main front Section

Architectural Characteristics

The tomb, initially built with red sandstone and an onion-shaped dome, was designed using a series of grids. The prime design feature is a pointed arch with a bordered triangle, applied on all scales at the unit complex for symmetry and architectural unity. This motif is evident in the pointed arches bordered by a rectangular frame, the large recessed portals dominating the exterior facades, and the small arches of the facade imitating this design.

Figure 13: Image of Tomb Abdul Nabi showing architectural details

Onion Domes

Onion-shaped domes are dome-like roofs with sharp edges, typically used at the end of a structure. They consist of a drum base with a finical ball at the top. The Abdul Nabi's dome features a finical at the top and an inverted lotus as a decorative element, initially designed by Kashi kari to enhance its beauty.

Cupolas

Cupolas are small domes, often resembling an overturned cup, placed on a circular, square, or polygonal base. They are often used to crown roofs, turrets, or larger domes in Islamic or Mughal architecture. They cover minarets or central spaces in mosques, s, and tombs, serving as decorative elements, ventilation, and light sources. They can also be placed on small pillars for support.

Pointed Arches

The Mughals' main decorative feature is their pointed arches, a characteristic feature derived from the gothic style of construction.

Causes of Decay

The Abdul Nabi is a single-story square building with a flat dome and three graves in Mughal style. It features octagonal minarets on all four corners and a large onion shape dome. The building is symmetrical with a recessed archway inside a rectangular fronton with niches on each flank. The recessed arches feature 'muqarnas', architectural vaulting and ornamentation. However, the tomb's condition before the start of restoration process was disastrous due to neglect, climatic conditions, and vandalism. The tomb has been heavily damaged over the years, resulting in a shadow of its former self. Its condition has been exacerbated by continuous battering of natural and man-made elements.

The tomb's exposure to various climatic conditions, including solar radiation, temperature, humidity, rain, wind speed, floods, and earthquakes, is primarily responsible for its unique challenges.

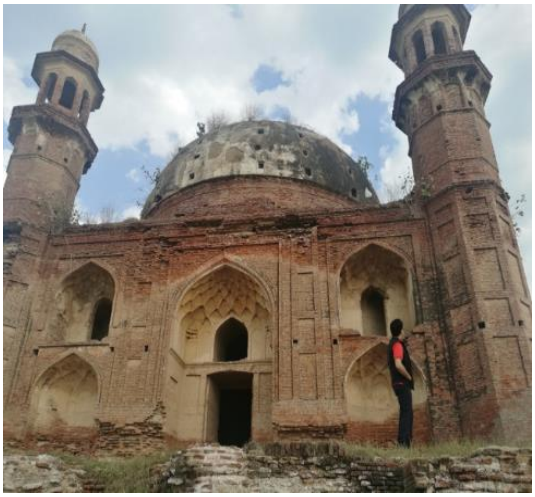


Figure 14: Façade of the tomb showing Climatic effects

Figure 15: Structural damages due lack of maintenance

Thermal Movement

Gujranwala's climate is varied, with temperatures ranging from 48°C to 0°C. Buildings exposed to solar radiation expand more, while internal and shaded parts remain cool. Thermal movements cause strain on materials, resulting in fissures and cracks between masonry joints. The Abdul Nabi exhibits these fissures and cracks, with vertical cracks on the upper portion and roof joints. Rainwater seeps through these cracks, damaging the interior. (Conant, 1954).

Figure 16: Structural Cracks in Copula of Minaret

Figure 17: seepage of rain water

Biological and Micro-Biological Causes

Bio-deterioration refers to negative changes in material properties caused by the growth of biological and micro-biological organisms. The Abdul Nabi is prone to bio-deterioration due to extensive dampness, with lichens and fungi blackening masonry, loosening, discoloration, cracking, and deteriorating brick masonry. Overgrowths of plants weaken the structure, and improper removal can further damage the monument.

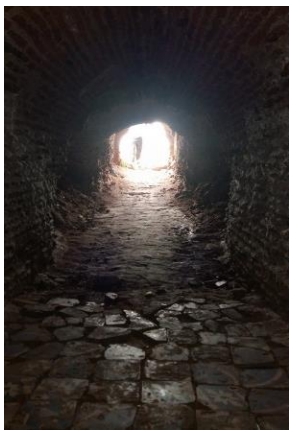
Causes Related to Nature of Land

The foundation of a building is heavily influenced by its soil and ground, which can cause cracks and structural movement. Factors like soil firmness, agricultural fields, rising water tables, and heavy structure can also impact stability. The tomb's heavy load can cause

deterioration, and the rising water table during rainy seasons can cause dampness and disintegration of masonry joints.

Rain and Moisture

The Abdul Nabi in Lahore, built of brick and red sandstone, is deteriorating due to 20 inches of annual rainfall. Rainwater penetrates the masonry, causing internal decay and destructive crystallization. Repeated dampening and drying cycles have caused contour scaling and cavity decay. Salt crystallization has also caused surface powdering. The lower ground, where the tomb's three graves are held, is at risk of rainwater damage.



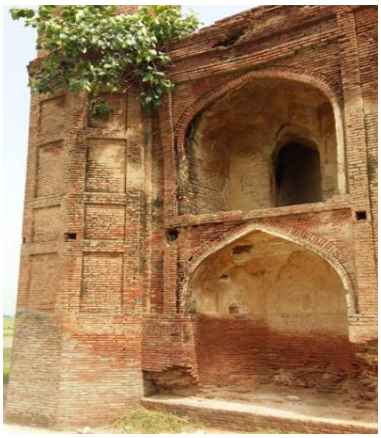


Figure 18: Deterioration Figure 19: Damages due to rain water Figure 20: Biodegradation

Causes and Deliberate Destruction

Man can simultaneously create and destroy decay due to industrial activity, urbanization, and population pressure, resulting in complex and widespread implications.

Figure 21Damages in Internal side of Dome Figure 22: Human Vandalism

The monument in the wilderness has been severely damaged by vandalism, with many names carved into the masonry due to lack of regulatory authority. The lack of boundary walls and uncontrolled visitor inflows has led to damage, such as carving names or stealing the dome. The floor has also been sagging, with evidence of a previously existing red sandstone slab. The empty building attracts vandals of all types, including bored teenagers and professional thieves. The visitors damage the monuments by writing and making marks on the walls and roof they also climb with different elements of building.

Atmospheric Pollution

Air pollution from automobile exhausts has coarsened and pitted brick masonry surfaces, causing the change of calcium carbonate into water-soluble calcium sulphate. Acidic rain percolates lime mortar away, fraying the structure. Airborne particulates like dust, fumes, and soot also disfigure brick masonry surfaces.

Poor Conservation Techniques

Poor conservation often results from a lack of technical understanding in restoration work, leading to inexpert or inappropriate materials that negatively react with the original material, causing further damage. For instance, cement, which is too sturdy in compression, bond, and strain, lacks elasticity and plasticity compared to lime mortar used in historic buildings. This imbalance can lead to additional fissures in adjacent areas, as seen in the use of cement in masonry repairs. Bernard M. Feilden, "cement is number one enemy of historic buildings".

Figure 23 : Repair with cement

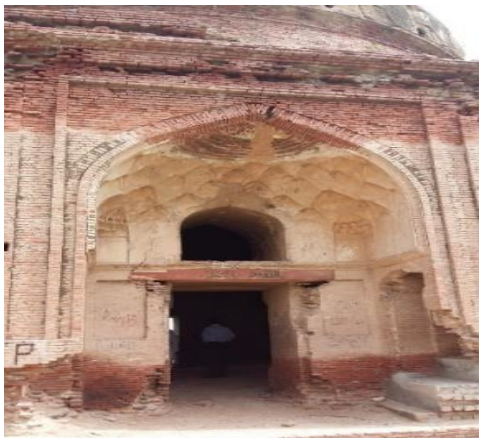


Figure 24: Poor Conservation Technique

Preservation and Restoration

The tomb of Abdul Nabi is a protected building with item number PB-2 (DOAM, 2022) and located in the village Kotli Maqbara. There are no historical evidences who has built this tomb and who is buried under this tomb. There certain references written by different historian folktales which states that this tomb is constructed by the successive Governments of Emperor Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb and the burial of this tomb is Sheikh Abdul Nabi, a courtier of Emperor Akber, Governor of Wazirabad. He also performed his duties to teach Akber's son " Salim". References also states that he died at this place while traveling from Kashmir to Delhi and he was buried here according to his will (Farmanullah, 2017).

The tomb has been designed on Persian style and bears high architectural value. It has been devastated due to multiple reasons and deteriorated due to negligence and lack of maintenance.

It is located at far off place from the main road, in the Greenfield, and been un-noticed by the authorities. Attention was drawn towards its protection by the author and some other bloggers such as Awon Ali (2015) and Tariq (2017).

Figure 25 : Work in progress at Dome

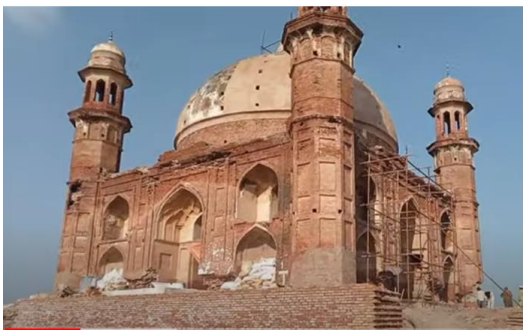


Figure 26: Façade Protection work

The efforts came into reality and Department of Archaeology added "Tomb of Abdul Nabi, Gujranwala" in the list of new schemes in 2021. The project with the title "Preservation & Restoration of Tomb of Abdul Nabi (Kotli Maqbara) was presented bearing project no. (GB # 6794) (01122100509) for approval of the monument (PnD, 2021).

Figure 27: Lime mortar preparation at site

Figure 28: Formwork at Internal side

The three years project 2021-2024 was approved on July 28, 2021 under the project no. 4842 and 65.000 million Pakistani rupees was granted for the preservation of the project (PnD, 2022). The work is in progress and it has to be completed till 2024 (PnD, 2023) A video has been uploaded by a Blogger named "Daily Vlogs" showing some images about the conservation works at site by the Department of Archaeology (Vlogs, 2023).

Results and Discussions

The Minarets in the Tomb were in a fragile state, with the top and copula potentially falling down. To strengthen the base of the Copula, bricks of the same size as the overall construction is being used in the places where they have been removed or fallen down using limestone mortar. All bases of the minarets needs to be plastered with cement sand mortar, and local intervention have to be removed. Limestone which was the principle binding material of Mughal period is being used for conservation as shown in above figure. The Copula itself will require "Jacketing" to deal with the cracks.

The removal of Red stone from the floor of the tomb has ruined it considerably, but can be easily replaced. The Dome of the tomb is in the worst condition, with holes around it with plants growing out of each one. These holes need to be closed using bricks and lime mortar after removing the plants. Chemicals like Glyphosate and arsenate water can be used to block the photosynthetic process of the plants, killing them in a couple of weeks. The recommended method is to use chemicals as they are more effective and leave a rare chance of re-growth.

Once the plants are removed and holes are treated well with bricks and lime mortar, the seepage problem of the dome will automatically be removed and the life of the structure will be reinforced. The rest of the roof is also in a bad state, with gaps between brick masonry and holes that act as a water collector during rain, resulting in seepage and further

destruction of the ceiling. All holes should be filed back with bricks and proper filling of joints should be carried out after cleaning them thoroughly with a steel brush.

A completely new layer of bricks should be applied over the roof while maintaining good slope to remove any doubt of water seepage, increasing the age and durability of the monument. A 200-foot area around the tomb should be acquired and raised about 2 feet, creating a buffer zone between the tomb and the rice fields. French Trench will be constructed around the until the depth of the lower ground with 100 feet deep bores at the corners to drain water down to the ground. This will act as a plinth protection for the structure and prevent future water attacks.

The existing graveyard on the southern side of the monument will be paved with the existing graves, and the village's graveyard may be shifted to another point located nearby. The lower ground floor is mud filled, which is an uncommon factor for historical tomb's and buildings in the region. An archeological excavation is suggested to verify the existence of a solid floor, and a brick-on-edge floor is recommended to minimize further decay and give strength to the overall structure.

Conclusions

After conducting a comprehensive visual inspection of a building, it is revealed that the monument was in dire need of urgent restoration. The building was in a state of decay for centuries, and modern restorative efforts using cement have worsened its condition. The building requires structural stability and massive restorative efforts. A parameter should be set around the monument to prevent unauthorized invasion and vandalism. Regular pointing and grouting are necessary to strengthen the structure. One of the minarets is in poor condition and needs immediate attention. The leading cause of deterioration is salinity and dampness in masonry due to capillary action. Water seepage from rain and rice fields has caused significant damage. Overgrowth of plants and destabilized flooring due to sand stone removal are also urgent issues. If not addressed, the monument could become a complete ruin.

Now the work is in progress and a milestone has been achieved and the work is in process and this historic monument will be saved till 2024 and the next stage should be to revitalize the historic urban environment around the monument to develop the site as tourist site, similar to Jahangir's tomb and Taj Mehal. This regeneration and redevelopment can introduce an economic stability to the neighborhood communities.

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