



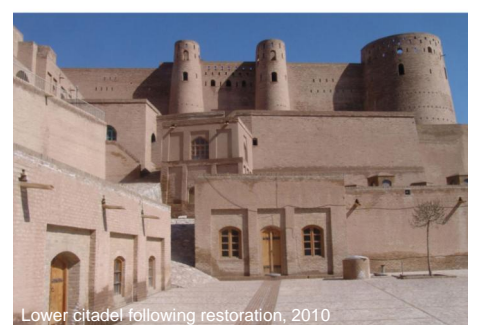
QALA IKHTYARUDDIN: THE CITADEL OF HERAT

Following an extended period of disrepair in the early and middle half of the 20th century and further destruction caused during the subsequent period of conflict, the complex project to consolidate and restore the Qala Ikhtyaruddin, commencing in late 2008, was successfully concluded in mid-2011. The initial project to rehabilitate the site, undertaken by UNESCO in 1976, was put on hold temporarily at the outset of military conflict in 1979, delaying the process that led to the full restoration of the site to a period spanning 35 years.

The restoration of the site was made possible through joint effort between the Department of Historic Monuments and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), supported by the US Ambassadors' Fund for Cultural Preservation. Archaeo-

logical excavations and the establishment of a museum within the citadel were undertaken by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and the *Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin*, with support provided by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Managed directly by the Afghan authorities, the restored citadel will be used for public cultural functions, including an extended display of archaeological artifacts and manuscripts in the newly established National Museum and a permanent exhibition of historic drawings and photographs of Herat in the National Archives gallery. Additional spaces will enable the display of temporary exhibitions, theater performances, and musical recitals. A draft operations and maintenance plan for the Citadel has been formulated and shared with local counterparts.





TRANSITION FOR THE CITADEL

A formal ceremony marking the completion of conservation and consolidation works and the handover of the site back to the custodianship of the Ministry of Information and Culture was held in October 2011. The event was hosted by H.E Minister Sayed Makhdoom Raheen and Governor Daud Saba, with the US Ambassador Ryan Crocker and German Embassy Cultural Affairs Counselor, Bertram Dierkes-Leifeld and other dignitaries in attendance.

The completion of restoration works on the Ikhtyaruddin Citadel represents the culmination of the area development project for the Old city of Herat initiated by AKTC in 2005. This initiative encompassed a wide spectrum of conservation

activities, resulting in the restoration of some of Herat's key monuments, including the Shrine of Abdullah Ansari and the Namakdan Pavilion in Gazurgah, and the Char Suq and Malik cisterns amongst many other noteworthy historic structures.

Tangible progress was also made towards improving the livelihoods of local communities through sustained planning, upgrading and socio-economic activities in several quarters of the Old city. During this time, extensive support was also provided by AKTC to the Old City Commission and the Department of Historic Monuments in Herat, and towards ensuring the participation of civil society groups in advocacy activities aimed at protecting the city's rich built heritage.



Ribbon cutting ceremony with H.E. Minister Raheen (Centre), Herat Governor Daud Saba (Left-Back), US Ambassador Ryan Crocker (Left) and German Embassy Counselor Bertram Dierkes-Leifeld (Right). Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy



Artifacts on display at the newly established museum



Manuscripts on display at the National Museum



ترمیم خانه‌های تاریخی
Restoration of Historic Houses

خانه‌های تاریخی شهر هرات میراث ارزشمند تاریخی و فرهنگی هستند که در طول قرن‌ها شاهد تحولات و تغییرات اجتماعی و فرهنگی بوده‌اند. این بناها نه تنها نماد معماری و هنر سنتی هستند، بلکه بازتاب‌دهندهٔ سبک زندگی و ارزش‌های فرهنگی جامعهٔ هرات در طول تاریخ هستند. با گذشت زمان، بسیاری از این بناها به دلیل فرسودگی و بی‌توجهی به مرمت و نگهداری، در معرض خطر نابودی قرار گرفته‌اند. این پروژه ترمیم و بازسازی خانه‌های تاریخی هرات با هدف احیای این میراث فرهنگی و تاریخی و تبدیل آن به یک مقصد گردشگری و فرهنگی است.

این پروژه شامل ترمیم و بازسازی خانه‌های تاریخی در مناطق مختلف شهر هرات است. از جمله این خانه‌ها می‌توان به خانه‌های تاریخی در محله‌های مختلف شهر هرات اشاره کرد. این خانه‌ها دارای معماری و هنر سنتی هستند و بازتاب‌دهندهٔ سبک زندگی و ارزش‌های فرهنگی جامعهٔ هرات در طول تاریخ هستند. با گذشت زمان، بسیاری از این بناها به دلیل فرسودگی و بی‌توجهی به مرمت و نگهداری، در معرض خطر نابودی قرار گرفته‌اند. این پروژه ترمیم و بازسازی خانه‌های تاریخی هرات با هدف احیای این میراث فرهنگی و تاریخی و تبدیل آن به یک مقصد گردشگری و فرهنگی است.

The historic houses of the old city represent an invaluable heritage of building techniques, fine decoration and social intercourse. AKTC has carried out full-scale conservation works on twelve private residences in the walled quarters of the old city, restoring the premises to the owners. Following the completion of works, the Khatib house, fully restored by AKTC in 2006, received the First Award of Excellence in the 2008 UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

Built in the early 20th century by a distinguished Herat physician, the Khatib house retains several characteristics of large family houses of that era, with a northern (bunnet) and southern (bainet) range of rooms around a central courtyard. The upper sections of both wings are accessed via external colonnades of timber posts decorated with plaster. An array of timber panel window screens shield the rooms facing the inner yard. As with other homes of this period, the Atashkhan house has a secondary service wing to the west, with an octagonal (bashi) courtyard giving on to a domed kitchen with a large fireplace. In the eastern wing, close to the stable and guest entrance, an unusual family bathroom was discovered and restored.

The Western Dax house stands out for its rare figurative painted decoration as well as the internal plasterwork. These paintings resemble the late 19th century coffeehouse frieze that usually provided a backdrop for storytelling and religious rituals, particularly during Mahramen, but is not clear how this small domestic space might have been used in the past.

The facade of the Haji Akim Qondhari house – probably built in 1852 and remodelled in mid 20th century – is unusually covered with the glazed tiles normally found in public buildings.

پانل‌های ترمیم و بازسازی خانه‌های تاریخی هرات در تالار نمایشگاه ملی موزه ملی افغانستان به نمایش درآمده است.

Panels of restoration activities carried out by AKTC, on display in the foyer of the National Museum



View of Baghe Qazi looking north with central Kabul in the background. July 2011

BAGHE QAZI RECLAMATION

Named after *Qazi Fayzollah Khan Dawlatshahi*, reclamation works on the Baghe Qazi or the Judges Garden – a 3.5 hectare site in the heart of the Old city of Kabul – were completed at the end of 2011. *Qazi Dawlatshahi* began his career in Herat as a judge, imam and, crucially, as private teacher to young prince Timur in the mid 18th century. When his former pupil ascended to the throne and became better known as Timur Shah, the *Qazi* followed him to Kabul and became one of the king's trusted advisers and was promoted to the position of supreme judge (*qazi-l-qozat*). His legacy was remembered through the garden he established between the Old City of Kabul proper and the walled Chindawal enclosure to its west. After Mohammad Nader Shah's ascendance in 1929, the garden was used as an ice reservoir and later converted

into an ornamental garden and planted with numerous trees. The garden sustained heavy damage during the conflict in the early 1990's, when the adjoining historic fabric was extensively destroyed and the area became largely depopulated. When reclamation works commenced in 2009, a large portion of the site was occupied by temporary constructions used to store and distribute grain, while the remaining area was used by local authorities and the surrounding community as a dump site for waste.

Reclamation activities during 2009-11, co-funded by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and USAID, included support for the relocation of traders into appropriate food distribution centers established by Kabul Municipality and the demolition of temporary structures within the garden. Simultaneously, work was undertaken to reconstruct the

perimeter enclosure wall, build a large water reservoir, and lay a network of paved pathways and drainage channels throughout the site. Gardeners worked to replant the site with species of hardy trees (mulberry, eglantine, poplar and oleaster) and plants that could withstand high-levels of ground pollution and thrive in the rocky composition of the soil. Family recreation areas and a large sports field have been incorporated into the design of the garden, enabling local youth soccer and cricket teams to practice and compete.

Additional works include the construction of a perimeter draining system to manage flash floods, external pathways to enable better access to the site, upgrading of existing visitor facilities, the provision of a tree nursery and several deep wells and surface channels for the irrigation of the site.

BAGHE BABUR ENHANCEMENTS

A series of small enhancements have been designed and constructed to improve the visitors' experience of the garden. These additions included the construction of a wooden pergola in the swimming pool, the excavation of an additional deep well for irrigation, turfing areas of the family-dedicated terraces and the provision of a child friendly, shallow pool for use during the hot summer months. Visitor catering facilities have been improved with the expansion of the greenhouse cafeteria, along with the construction of a limited number of small wooden pavilions for use by the itinerant vendors providing public refreshments in the garden.

Since its inception, one of the most difficult operational challenges for the Baghe Babur Trust related to the orderly entry of visitors to the garden. This problem was particularly acute during the summer months and on public holidays when tens of thousands of people



Newly constructed shallow pool for children in Baghe Babur

would visit the site each day. An essential activity carried out under this project entailed increasing visitor safety through the provision of durable visitor management, crowd control and ticketing structures at the entrance to the garden.

Support for these enhancements was provided by the US Embassy and all activities were undertaken in consultation with the Baghe Babur Trust, established in 2008 and tasked with overseeing the management and operations of the Garden.



Wooden pergola beside the swimming pool



AKTC survey team interviewing local residents in Faizabad, Badakhshan

FAYZABAD SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

In coordination with local authorities, a comprehensive socio-economic survey was carried out by AKTC personnel in the most densely populated neighborhoods of Faizabad in Badakhshan, targeting a population of more than 51,000 inhabitants. The survey commenced in early October, preceded by a one week training seminar on survey techniques. The questionnaire used in the house-to-house survey was designed to cover a broad range of indicators such as population numbers, age range, education, employment, access to basic services, income and saving, expenditure and debt, health, access to open spaces and quality of life. Analysis of the data collected through this survey will provide an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic realities of the population and will enable the design and implementation of appropriate cultural and development initiatives.

AKMI UPDATES

Musical Instruction. 64 students of the Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI) schools in Kabul and Herat successfully sat the year-end examinations in October in instruments such as the *dilnawaz*, *rubab*, *tabla*, as well as vocals. As part of the ceremony marking the completion of their training, young students in Kabul received their certificates from Deputy Minister Omar Sultan (MoIC) followed by a demonstration of their skills in front of a supportive audience (below right). A similar event was held for students of the Herat school in the restored *Karbasi* house.

Subsequently, a further 178 new recruits of which 20 were female candidates, enrolled in the programme in both cities.

Dissemination. The Guldasta-e Kharabat orchestra, a group supported by and composed of AKMI *Ustads*, participated in a folk music festival organized by the Ministry of Information and Culture in the Queen's Palace in Babur's Gardens in late October. Furthermore, as part of an ongoing collaboration with the Afghani-



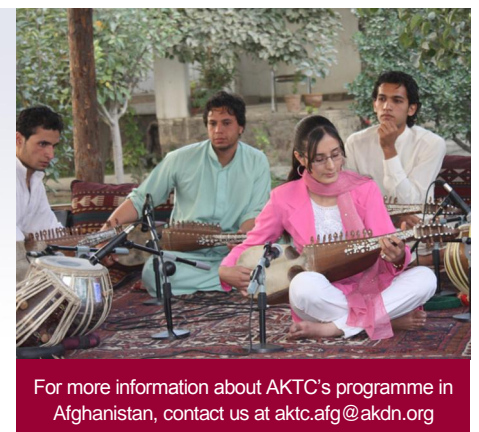
Guldasta-e-Kharabat orchestra performing together with students of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Kabul University.

stan National Institute of Music (ANIM), the French Institute of Afghanistan and Radio Killid aimed at disseminating classical music, the Guldasta-e-Kharabat masters performed together with music students of the department of Fine Arts of Kabul University during a *ghazal* concert (above) at the French Cultural centre auditorium in late November.

Research and Recording. As part of the research and documentation project on traditional Afghan music, CD-DVD

box-sets of newly recorded folk music from Herat and Badghis (below left) have been disseminated to Afghan authorities, cultural and educational institutions, donors and other partners. The collection includes more than 6 ½ hours of folk songs, recorded in extensive studio sessions in Herat, and videos made during performances over a two-day period in Kabul in early 2011.

The project was supported by the Governments of Norway and the United States.



For more information about AKTC's programme in Afghanistan, contact us at aktc.afg@akdn.org