

2009

MIRZA GHALIB'S TOMB

TASK

Landscaping and Conservation of Mirza Ghalib's tomb enclosure

PURPOSE

- To enhance the cultural significance of Mirza Ghalib's Tomb
- To restore serenity to the tomb enclosure despite being located on a busy street
- To create a setting that brings dignity to the enclosure and allows visitors a place of contemplation.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The landscape design aims to create a courtyard effect to allow small gatherings and enhance the character of the enclosure as well as the street.
- The design uses traditional building materials and craft techniques.
- Following the completion of the landscape works at Chaunsath Khambha works were commenced at Mirza Ghalib's Mazar.
- The paving of red and buff coloured sandstone is nearly complete.
- Tree pits left in the enclosure have had 1.5 m deep brick walls built around them to prevent damage from mongoose.
- The enclosure wall, including sandstone screens is nearing completion.

NEXT STAGE:

- The sandstone gateway needs to be built.
- The marble paving in the immediate vicinity of the tomb is to be implemented.
- Conservation, including restoring missing sandstone cladding on the outer face of the northern enclosure wall of Chaunsath Khambha will be carried out.

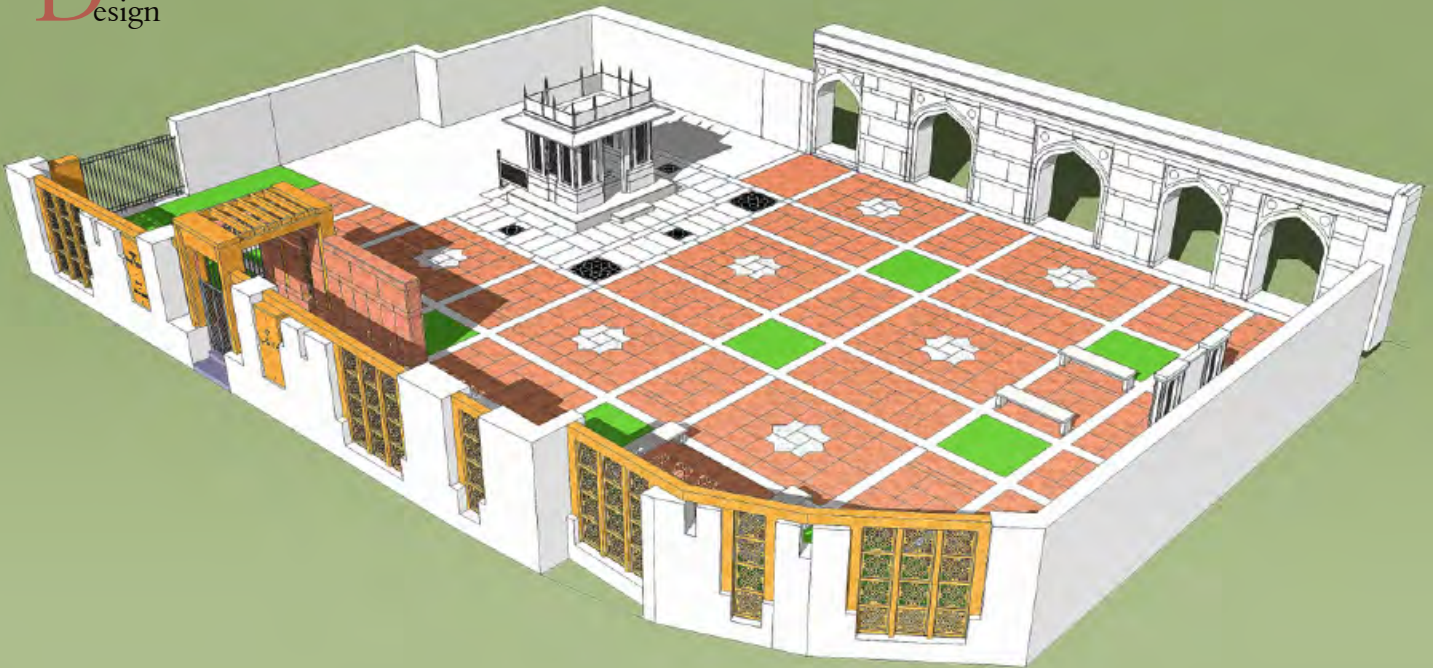


Mirza Ghalib's Tomb

Mirza Ghalib was a very significant personality of Hindustani culture and his tomb's setting needs to sensitively reflect that – as the ongoing works will' – K.N. Shrivastava, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

Mirza Ghalib's tomb stands on a busy street, the existing paving was not considered of a historically appropriate design and the proposed works aim to provide a serene space that allows contemplation and holding an occasional mushaira, in honour of the famous 19th century poet

Proposed Design



Landscape works include white marble inlay work in sandstone and aim to create a place of peace, where admirers of the poet can collect to pay their respects

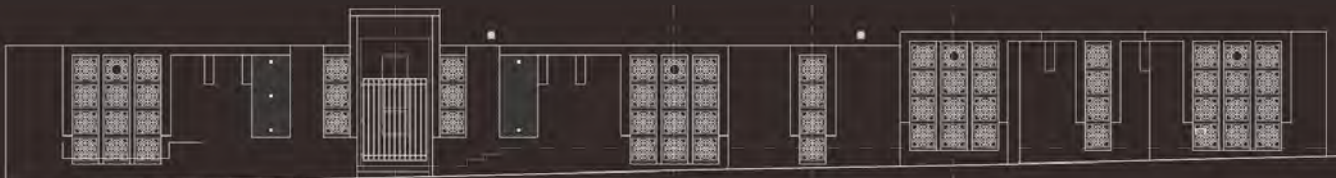


The iron fencing of Mirza Ghalib's tomb enclosure is being replaced with a stone masonry wall with sandstone lattice screens that will help create a courtyard effect and also lend considerable historic character to the principal street leading to the Dargah



The hand crafted sandstone screens, using contemporary motifs, have been prepared by master craftsmen using traditional tools and craft techniques.

Boundary wall of Mirza Ghalib's Tomb

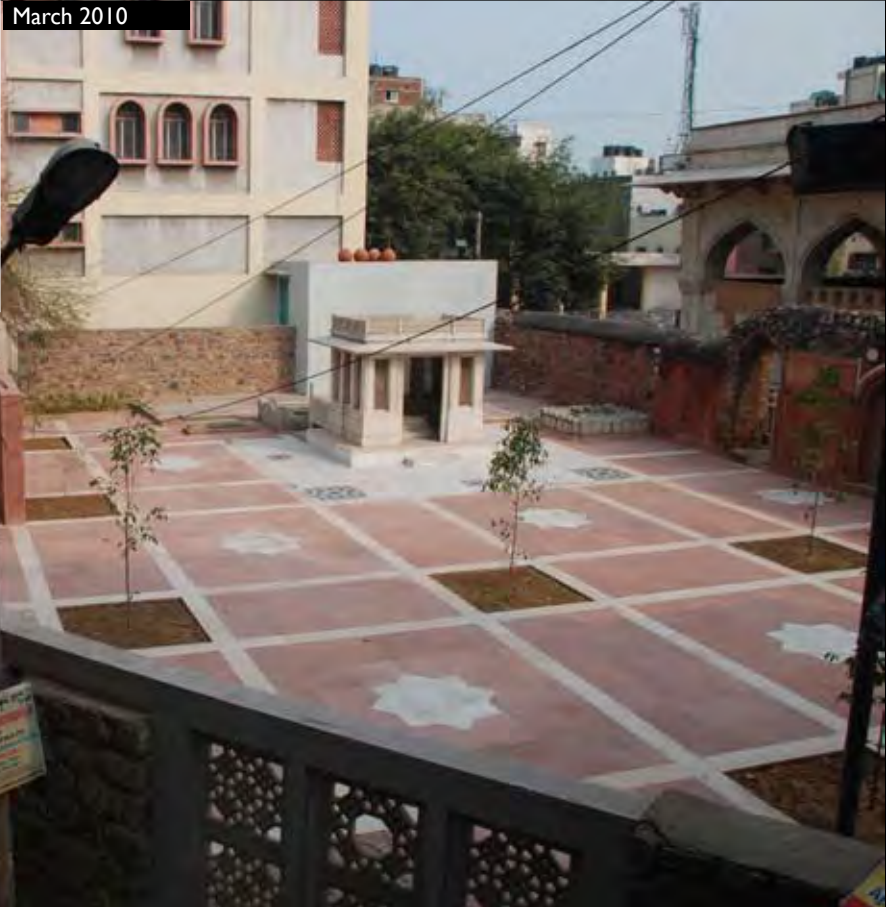


2010



Landscaping of Mirza Ghalib's Tomb

The area comprising of Chausanth Khamba, Urs Mahal courtyard and Mirza Ghalib Tomb, form the largest open space in Nizamuddin Basti. It is proposed to implement a sensitively designed landscape scheme integrating the three monuments, thereby enhancing the cultural significance of the place.





TASK:

Landscape the setting of the famous poet's tomb.

PURPOSE:

- To provide dignity to the tomb and enhance the historical character of the Protected Monument.
- To create a space that could be used to hold poetry recitals in memory of the poet.
- To enhance the urban setting of the tomb. This includes a primary access to the Dargah of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The metal rail of the tomb was replaced by a stone wall with lattice screen reliefs.
- The paving in hand-chiselled sandstone and marble significantly enhances the historic character.
- A marble inscription with a couplet of the poet inscribed on it was also erected.

Noted poet Mirza Ghalib's tomb setting was enhanced by landscaping the court and creating an enclosure with stone jallies to be used for mushairas to also enhance a major public space in Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti.

NEXT STAGE:

Conservation works need to be undertaken on the southern enclosure wall.



2014



23 Poets Within : Ghalib

The poets within element of the programme include work on other cultural icons and poets like Mirza Ghalib who is also buried in the vicinity of the Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.

Action Taken:

- On the 217th birth anniversary of Mirza Ghalib a two day event (15-16 February) was organized in collaboration with Ghalib Academy, Ghalib Institute and Anjumann E Taraqqi Urdu. School children were taken for a heritage walk at the Mirza Ghalib complex and a poetry recitation competition was organized which had students participating from Urdu, English and Hindi medium schools. An international seminar held on the occasion had 23 research papers reviewing the *kalaams* of Ghalib followed by a *mushaira*. The event ended with Begum Muneer Khatoon, rendering the Persian *ghazals* of Mirza Ghalib.
- The Museum dedicated to Mirza Ghalib at Ghalib Academy, Nizamuddin has hundreds of objects representing the life and times of Ghalib without any inventory. A team constituting of museum professionals and research scholars have completed the documentation of 550 art objects including paintings, coins, seals, and stamps in a specific format with number, title, date, provenance, description, dimensions, and language with photo of each object. Preparation of status report of paintings has been completed.

Next Stage:

Discussions are ongoing with Ghalib Academy to undertake an upgrading of the exhibit/museum on Ghalib as well as carry out renovations to this important public facility.

Mirza Asad Ullah Khan Ghalib (1797 – 1869) is acknowledged as the greatest literary figures of the modern age. Given the captivating spell and extreme quotability of his poetry, Ghalib today ranks with the best and undoubtedly qualifies as a world class poet. He spent the majority of his life in Delhi at a time when the city saw great change and turmoil. Deeply affected by his surroundings, he served as a chronicler of the city and the events that changed it, including the revolt of 1857 and the displacement of the Mughals by the British.

The team has catalogued over 550 art objects in the Museum at Ghalib Academy consisting of paintings, coins, seals, stamps capturing the essence of the life and times of Mirza Ghalib.

