

PROJECT CONSERVATION



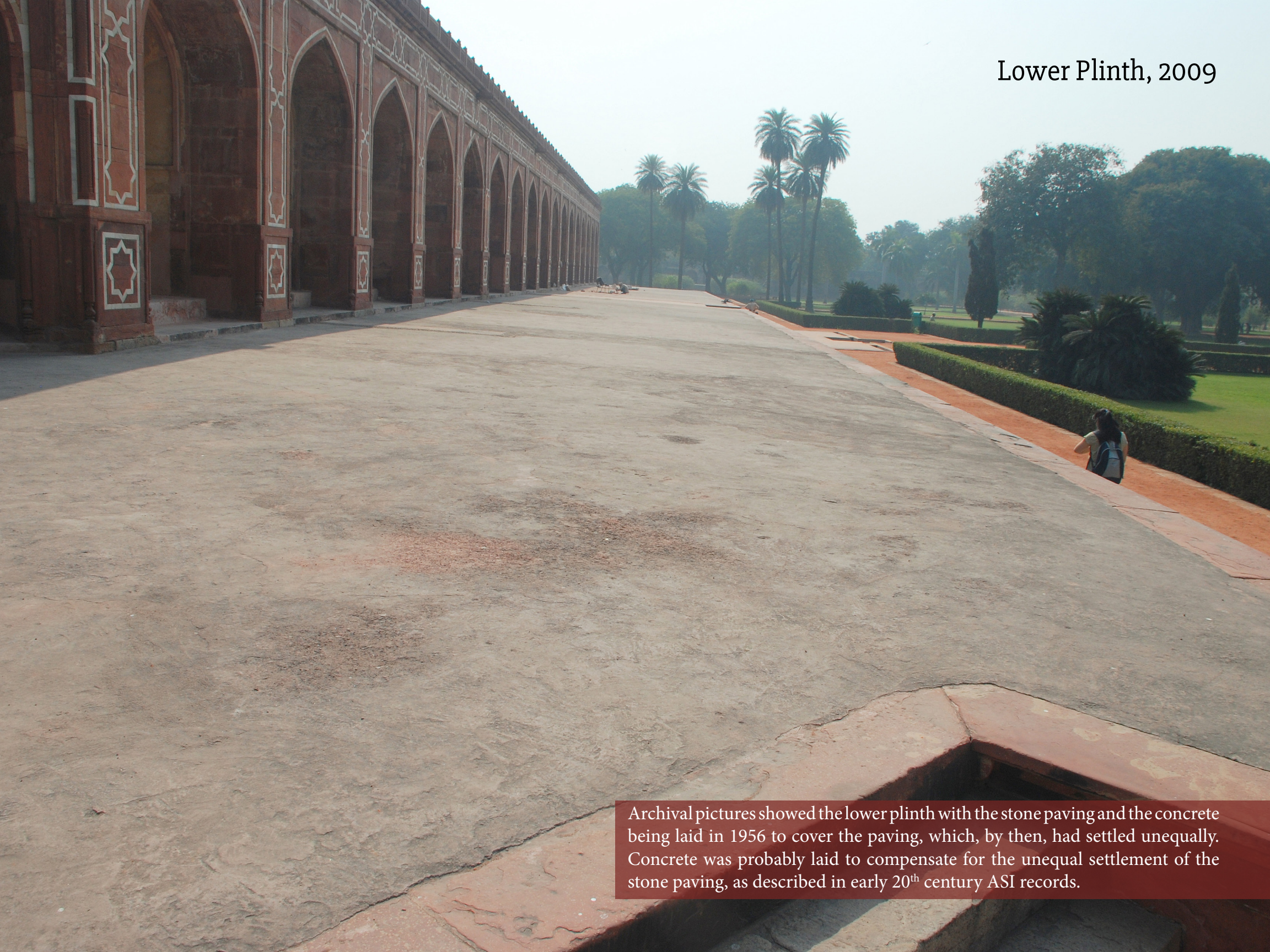
Humayun's Tomb, 2009



Humayun's Tomb, 2013



Lower Plinth, 2009



Archival pictures showed the lower plinth with the stone paving and the concrete being laid in 1956 to cover the paving, which, by then, had settled unevenly. Concrete was probably laid to compensate for the unequal settlement of the stone paving, as described in early 20th century ASI records.

Lower Plinth, 2011



12,000 sqm. of plinth restored to the original architectural details

A photograph of the interior of a vaulted tomb chamber, showing the lower arcade. The walls are covered in ornamental platerwork, featuring a repeating geometric pattern of hexagons and stars. The plaster is aged and shows signs of deterioration, with some areas appearing lighter and more worn than others. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the stone and plaster. The overall scene is a close-up view of the architectural details.

Ornamental platerwork on
lower arcade in 2008

Water percolation from the red sandstone platform onto the vaulted ground level tomb chambers led to much of the lime plaster deteriorating and, in the late 20th century, being replaced by cement plaster. This modern plaster caused further damage and deterioration of the stonework and significantly altered the character of Humayun's Tomb.

Ornamental platerwork on
lower arcade in 2013

Restoring the ornamental plasterwork on the 68 half-domed alcoves as per
original details and reviving the architectural integrity of the monument



Upper Plinth, 2010

Due to replacement and partial repairs carried out in the 20th century portions of the plinth were facing water logging thus causing serious structural cracks in the ceilings of the cells below.



Upper Plinth, 2012

Restoring the original slopes and replacing damaged stones of the upper platform of Humayun's Tomb. 4725 sq.m. paving area was required to be completely lifted and re-laid again to provide appropriate slopes and original layout.

Entrance Chamber in 2010



Lime plaster was gradually replaced with cement plaster and the entire wall surfaces covered with coats of lime-wash.

Entrance Chamber in 2012



Layers of cement plaster and limewash were carefully removed prior to replastering in layers with a final 1mm coat of lime and marble dust to restore the original appearance

Entrance Chamber Ceiling, 2009





Entrance Chamber Ceiling, 2012

The decorative ceiling of the entrance chamber was cleaned using water based techniques using soft brushes to reveal the original surfaces. Here, the original decayed incised plaster work is consolidated using lime water

Main Hall, 2011

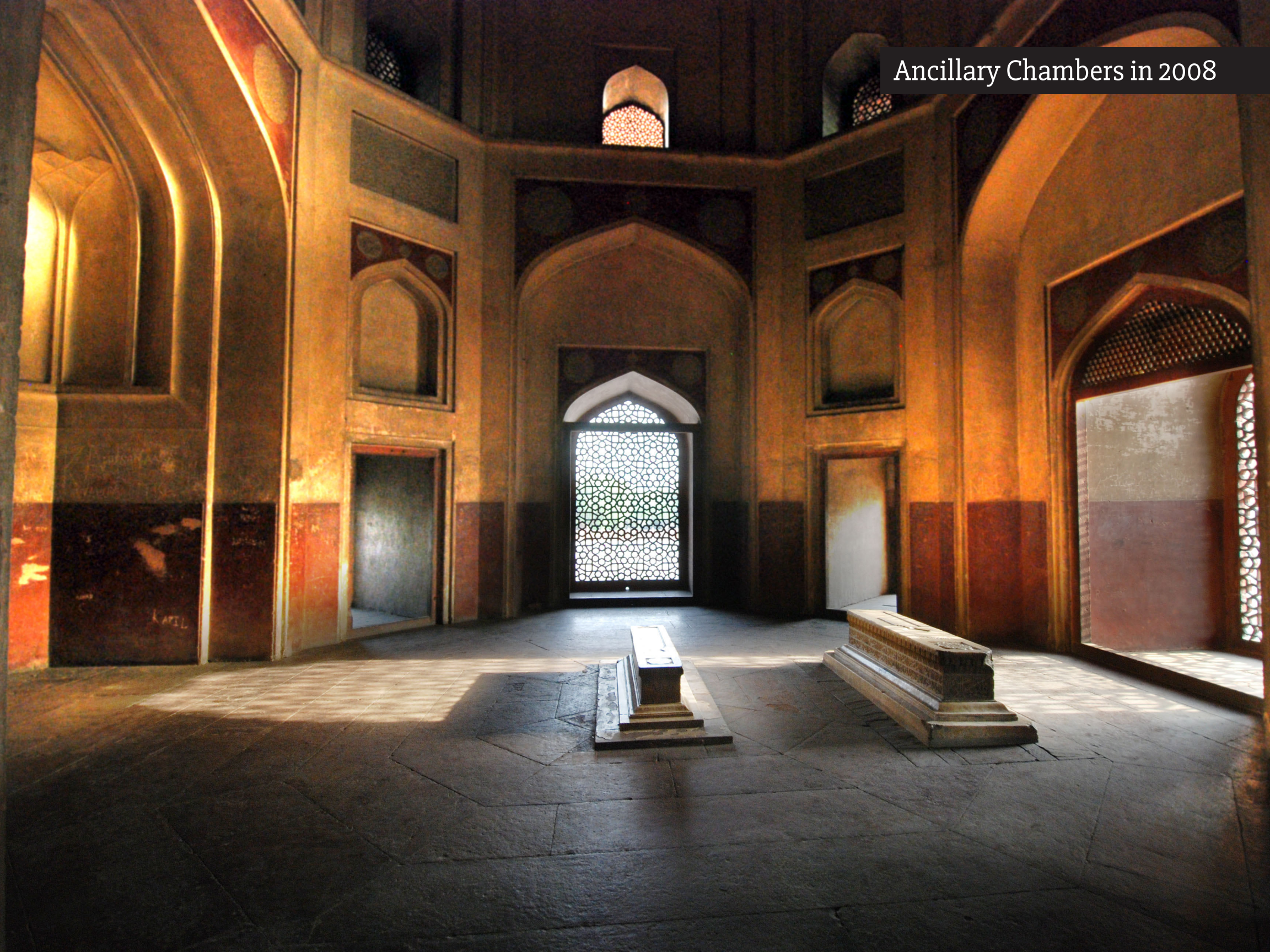


Layers of cement plaster and limewash were carefully removed prior to replastering in layers with a final 1mm coat of lime and marble dust to restore the original appearance

Main Hall, 2013



Layers of cement plaster and limewash were carefully removed from the 80' high dome chamber of the main hall of the mausoleum and original appearance restored. The lattice screens from the chambers have been removed, allowing visitors to access these chambers from the Main Hall



Ancillary Chambers in 2012



Conservation of the tomb chambers on the upper level which included removal of several layers of lime wash, cement and decayed lime plaster from the walls and the ceiling.

Humayun's Tomb Terrace, 2007



A photograph of the terrace of Humayun's Tomb in Delhi. The structure is built with red sandstone blocks and features a set of three steps leading up to a platform. The terrace is surrounded by a low wall, and a body of water is visible in the background. The sky is clear and blue.

Humayun's Tomb Terrace, 2009

Removing over a million kilos of concrete from the terrace, which was laid in the 20th century, allowing easy rain-water and lifting unnecessary dead weight off the building.

Humayun's Tomb Terrace, 2007

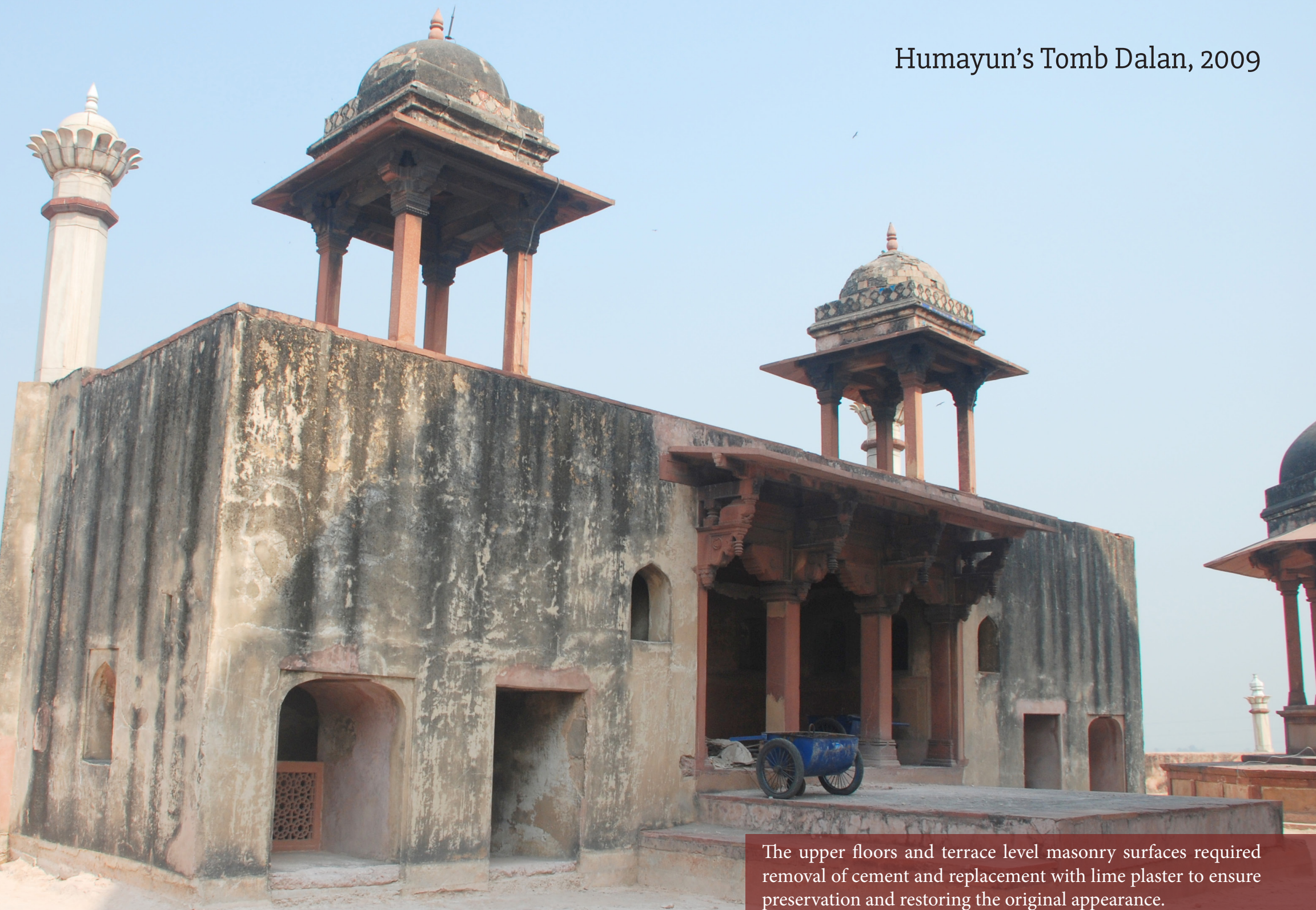
Humayun's Tomb Terrace, 2007



Humayun's Tomb Terrace, 2013



Humayun's Tomb Dalan, 2009



The upper floors and terrace level masonry surfaces required removal of cement and replacement with lime plaster to ensure preservation and restoring the original appearance.

Humayun's Tomb Dalan, 2013



Restoring lime plaster on the roof pavilions

Humayun's Tomb Canopies, 2010



Humayun's Tomb Canopies, 2013



Following three years of sustained research and with help from craftsmen from Uzbekistan authentic conservation of Mughal tilework on canopies was undertaken in 2011.





Barber's Tomb (2008)



Barber's Tomb (2014)



Restoring architectural integrity of the monument

North Pavilion (2008)



Neglect and inappropriate repairs had significantly disfigured the architectural homogeneity and historical character of the north pavilion.

North Pavilion (2014)



Conservation work have been aimed at reviving the original architectural character of North pavilion.

East Pavilion/Baradari (2007)



Though a principal structure in the complex, the east pavilion had suffered from use of inappropriate materials such as cement in conservation works in the 20th century.

East Pavilion/Baradari (2013)



The application of a 1mm thick lime punning layer comprising lime mixed with marble dust was applied on the entire surface in 2010.



Reviving the lost architectural character of west gate and making space to be reused for public lectures.



Conservation and reviving of the lost architectural character of South Gate- the historic principal Royal gateway of the Humayun's Tomb garden enclosure and making space to be reused for public lectures.



Enclosure wall (2009)

The Outstanding Universal Value of the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site is today understood to be in the complex being an ensemble of 16th century enclosed garden tombs. Thus effort to reconstruct collapsed portions of the enclosure walls has been undertaken both to restore the lost architectural integrity as well as provide improved security.



Enclosure wall (2011)

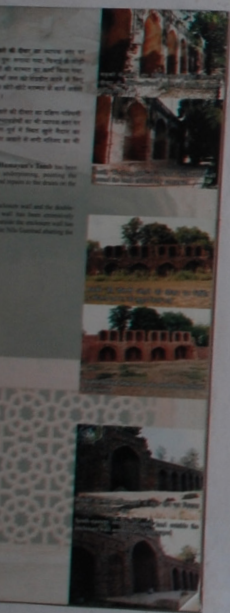
Collapsed portions of the enclosure wall were reconstructed using traditional materials and techniques

West Gate, 2010





Restoration of original details, removal and replacement of cement plaster with lime plaster, and cement flooring with sandstone, and installing sandstone lattice screens of original design in openings blocked with masonry at the West Gateway.





A site exhibit was installed at the west gate to both showcase significant features of the site and project components.

Nila Gumbad (2010)



A photograph of the Nila Gumbad, a historic Mughal-era tomb in Delhi. The structure is an octagonal white building with a large blue and gold tiled dome. It features arched niches with red and white decorative patterns. A metal fence is in the foreground, and trees are visible on the sides. In the background, another dome is visible under a clear blue sky.

Nila Gumbad (2016)

Conservation works on the earliest Mughal-era tomb in Delhi and restoring its historic linkages with the World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb

Nila Gumbad Ceiling (2011)



The image shows the interior of a dome, looking up at the ceiling. The ceiling is a light beige color with a complex geometric pattern of thin blue lines forming a grid of diamonds and triangles. In the center is a large, circular, highly detailed medallion with a scalloped edge, featuring intricate floral and geometric designs in dark blue and gold. Surrounding this central medallion are eight smaller, circular medallions, each with a similar but less detailed design, arranged in a ring. The corners of the dome are decorated with arched, recessed areas containing a grid of small, square, golden-brown tiles. The overall appearance is that of a well-preserved but possibly over-restored historical structure.

Nila Gumbad Ceiling (2013)

Several layers of cement plasters had replaced much of the lime plasters on both interior and exterior building surfaces, thereby accelerating the decay process and disfiguring the historic character.

Arab Serai Gateway (2010)



This 48' high gateway served as the southern entrance of the Arab Serai

Arab Serai Gateway (2013)



Following a detailed condition assesment and architectural docuementation of the Gateway, tilework on the canopies was restored, thus putting the finishing touches to a conservation effort that has without doubt ensured that a Mughal era structure stays standing in its original grandeur.

Bu Halima Gateway (2010)





Bu Halima Garden (2011)





Early 20th century British-era carriageway disfigured the historic character of Bu Halima's Tomb - Garden and the entrance zone of the World Heritage Site. Works underway on the landscape and restoration of the enclosure wall

Isa Khan's Gateway (2010)



Following structural repairs to the domed ceiling, the battlemented parapet wall was re-built using traditional materials, tools and building techniques

Isa Khan's Gateway (2013)



The reconstruction was possible as the missing column was found embedded in the earth.

Isa Khan's Tomb (2010)

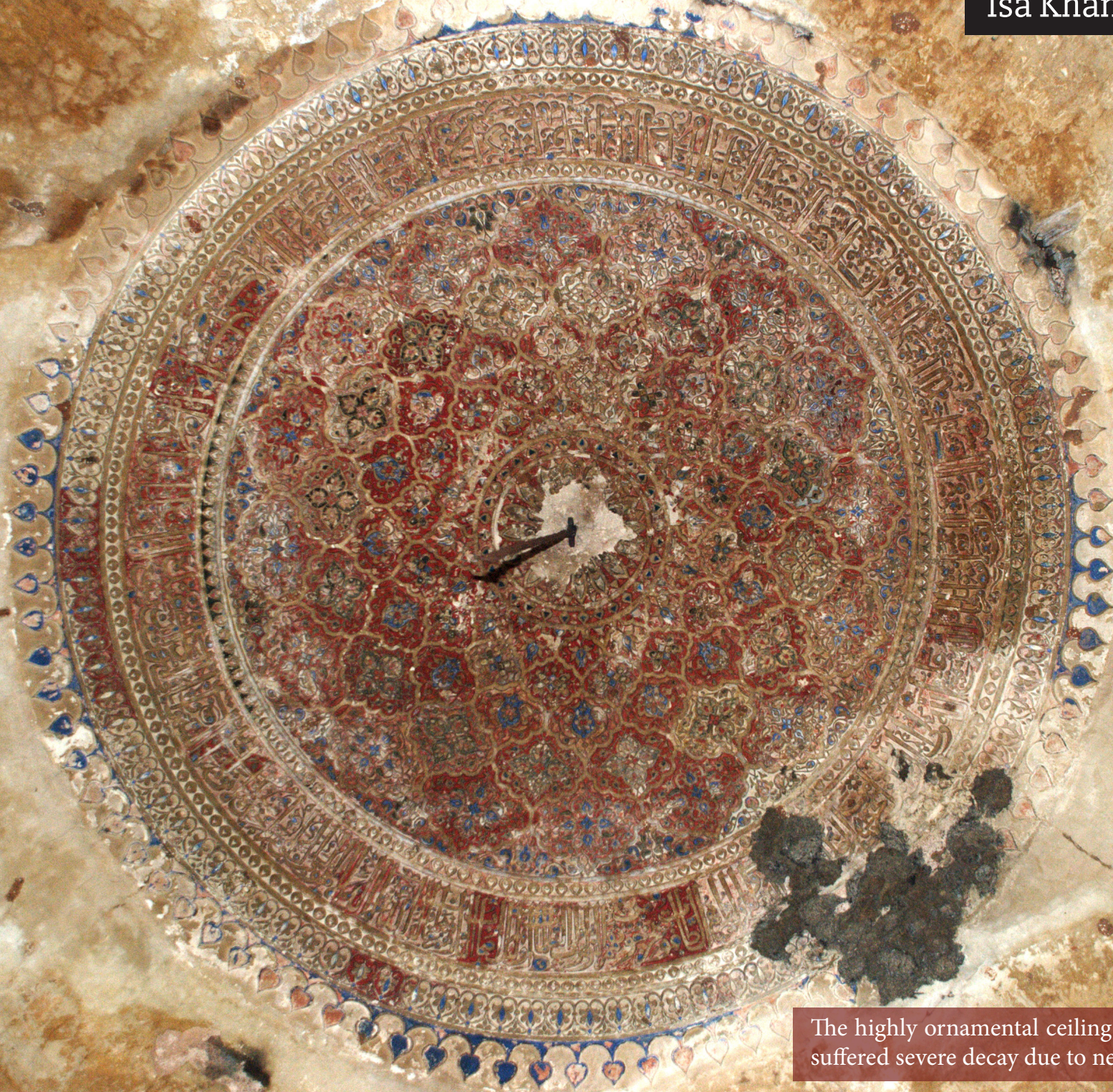


Isa Khan's Tomb (2013)



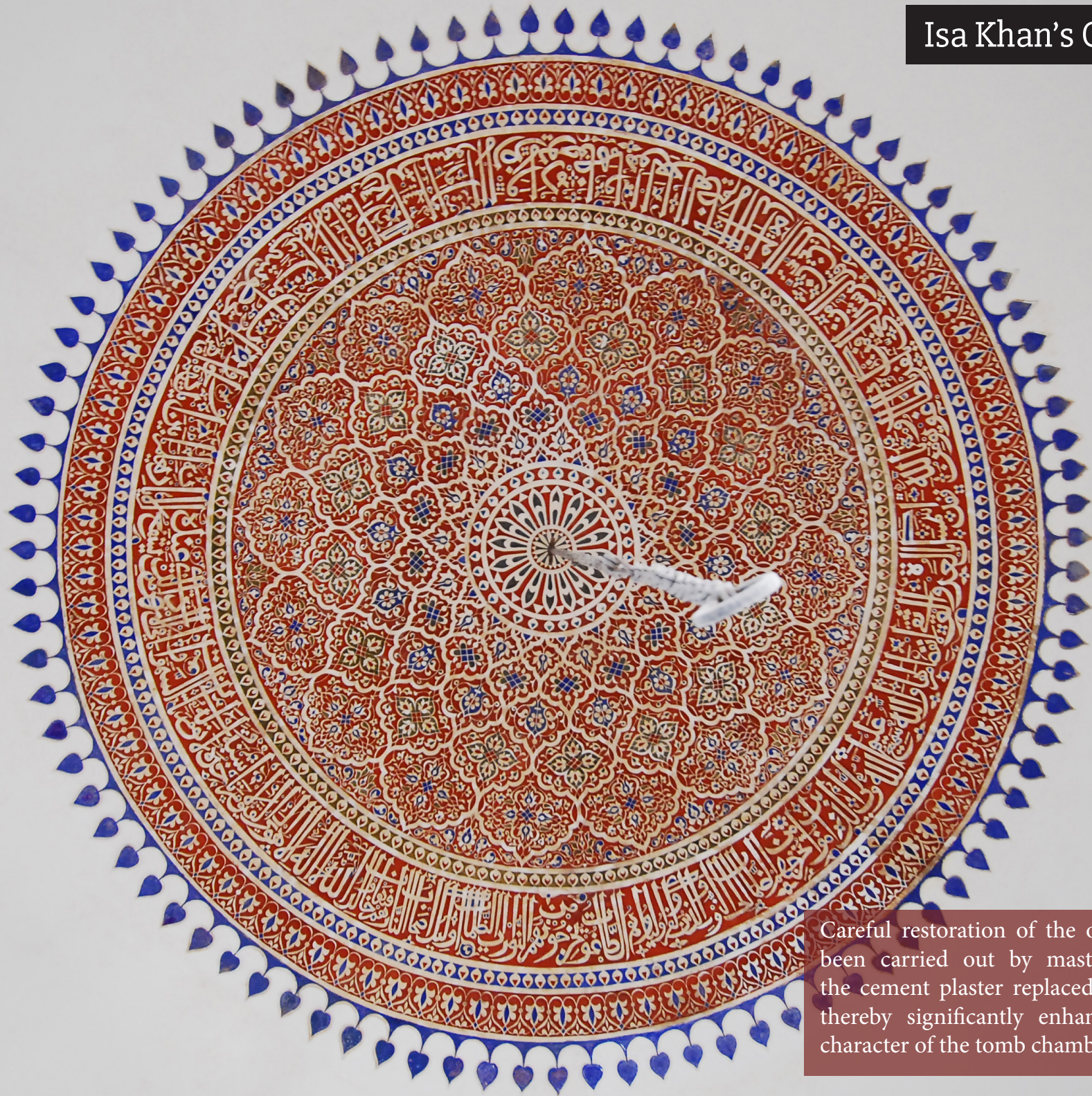
Restoration of the earliest known/ surviving sunken garden
and in turn the original/ historic setting of the mausoleum.

Isa Khan's Ceiling (2010)



The highly ornamental ceiling of Isa Khan's Tomb had suffered severe decay due to neglect and water ingress.

Isa Khan's Ceiling (2011)



Careful restoration of the ornamentation has been carried out by master craftsmen and the cement plaster replaced with lime plaster thereby significantly enhancing the historic character of the tomb chamber.

Isa Khan's Mosque (2013)



Isa Khan's Mosque (2015)



Abdur Rahim Khan-I-Khanan (2014)



Abdur Rahim Khan-I-Khanan (2015)



Ceiling Pattern (2013)



Ceiling Pattern (2015)

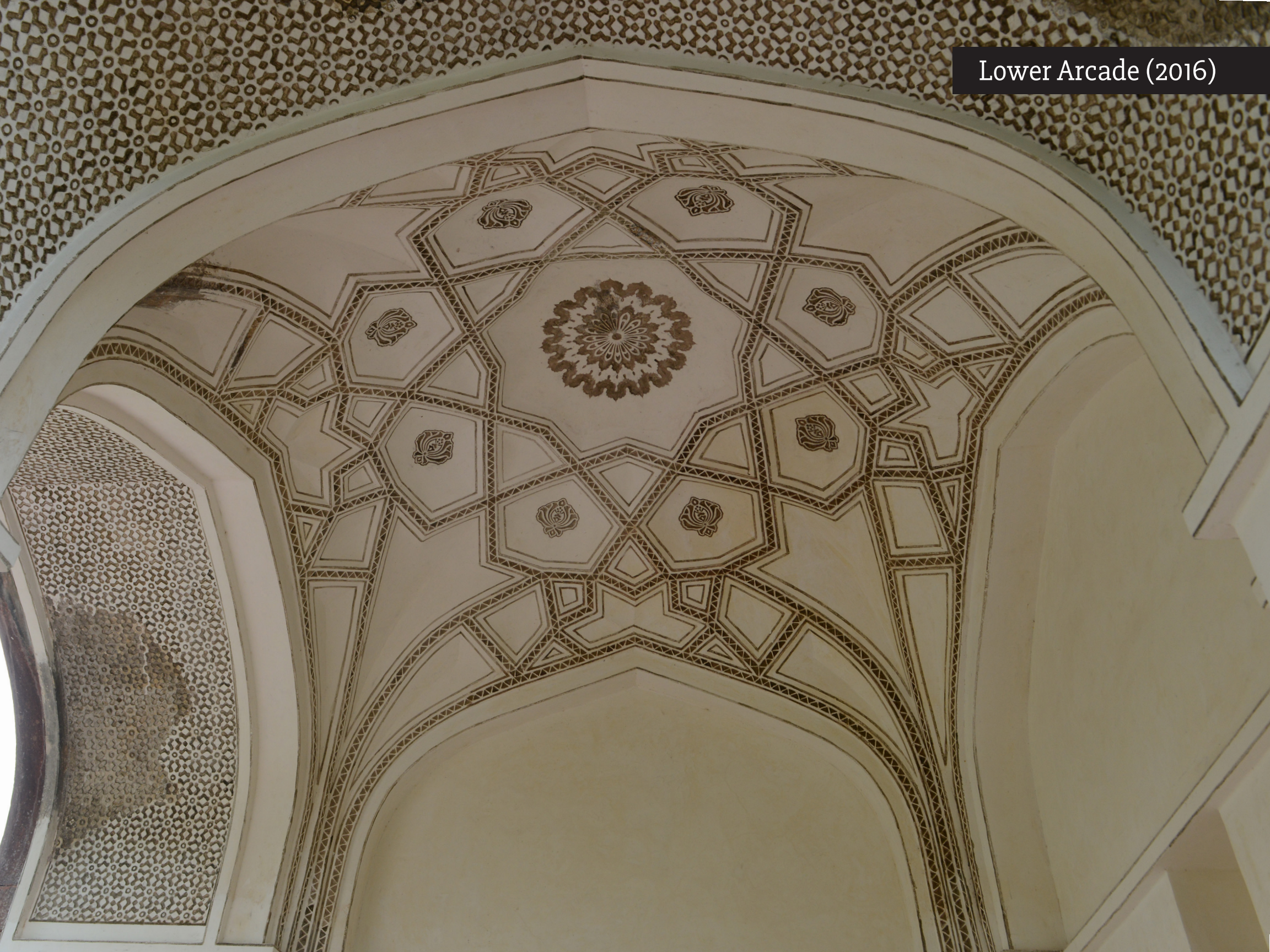


The domed ceiling of the principal tomb chamber after conservation that required careful cleaning using soft brushes

Lower Arcade (2014)



Lower Arcade (2016)



Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's Tomb (2010)



Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's Tomb (2015)



Ceiling Pattern (2013)





Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's Tomb after the restoration of missing geometric patterns in incised plasterwork on the interior wall and roof surfaces

Mughal Tomb 2010



Mughal Tomb 2015



This lofty domed Mughal-era tomb stands on an elevated stone masonry plinth, giving it a fort-like appearance. The domed, decorative tomb, which is visible from afar, affords spectacular views of, and from, Humayun's Tomb.





In 2005-06, the ASI reconstructed the arcaded plinth wall of this tomb. Conservation works during 2011-15 have focussed on removing the cement plaster applied during 2005-06 on ornamental surfaces, and has employed master craftsmen using traditional materials such as lime mortar to carefully restore the Mughal-era details.

Ceiling Pattern (2012)





Ceiling Pattern (2015)

The domed ceiling of the Mughal tomb required removal of cement, restoration of sandstone lattice screens in the four openings and a final 1 mm layer of lime plaster prepared with marble dust.

Azinganj Serai: before conservation in 2010.





Collapsed portion of the Serai were carefully stabilized by master craftsmen building with techniques and materials used by the original builders.



Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative

a People Public | Private Partnership

Archaeological Survey of India | South Delhi Municipal Corporation | Central Public Works Department
Aga Khan Foundation | Aga Khan Trust For Culture