

Endowment Fund Trust

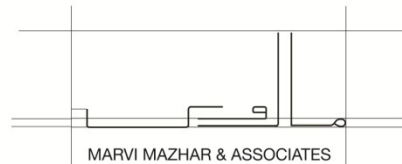


Ghulam Shah Kalhora

Hyderabad, Sindh

Introduction to an Extraordinary Funerary Architecture

Compiled by Architect Marvi Mazhar



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Tomb of Ghulam Shah Kalhora, Hyderabad, Sindh
-Introduction to an Extraordinary Funerary Architecture-
By Arch. Marvi Mazhar

Location: The mausoleum of Ghulam Shah Kalhora, the oldest and the most refined and impressive of the Kalhora monuments in Hyderabad, is located to the west of the residence of the Inspector General of Prisons, Sindh, which is situated on the north of the National Highway near City Gate Hotel, Hyderabad.

Context: The mausoleum and the courtyard have been surrounded with high mud walls and bastions which make the place look like a military post rather than the last resting place of a ruler. The fortification wall was built with burnt bricks laid in mud mortar with its core filled with mud bricks. It is 14 feet wide at the base and rises to a height of 25 feet.

Exterior: The mausoleum is built on a raised rectangular platform, three feet ten inches high, measuring 118 feet by 114 feet. The low parapet wall which runs right around the raised platform on which the building stands is constructed of thin panels of perforated stones. The panels are divided by means of small pillars placed at regular intervals. The perforated patterns on the panels and the surface tracery of the cornerstones are reminiscent of similar work at Fatehpur Sikri. Another interesting feature of the raised platform at the masons marks cut into the flagstones of the platform.

Tomb of Ghulam Shah Kalhora itself is 36 feet high-a great massive square building 56 feet across on each side. The entrance, on the eastern side is in the form of recessed, tall, pointed archway. The lofty exterior is divided into three horizontal panels above the dado level. Each panel was once covered with glazed colored tiles having two floral patterns alternating with each other. Many of those tiles are now badly damaged, and those of the facade are totally missing and have been plastered over by way or repairs.

Interior: Main monumental entrance on West Facade lead one into an enclosure where the walls of the chamber were once totally covered with elaborate frescoes with bands of Persian scrip. On the southern side inscribed couplets set in relief, in marble medallions. There is a gallery at the squinch level which can be reached through flight of steps built into the thickness of the wall. In the north-western corner of the chamber, which also leads to the roof o the mausoleum. The introduction of a gallery at the squinch level, again is an interesting feature of Muslim Architecture.

Funerary Memorial Architecture: The Tombs, especially of the royalty are generally constructed at a conspicuous place. Sometimes, the gardens laid out by the royalty during their life time, were converted into a mausoleum garden upon their death. The central pavilion in the garden became the main burial chamber. During the Sultanate Period a novel idea of constructing a tomb within a fortress came into being. Sultan Garhi situated near Mehrauli at Delhi is the first monumental mausoleum in the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent. Sultan Garhi has a high plinth, strong bastions at corners and high enclosing walls and looks more to be a fortress than mausoleum. The Kalhora's followed this very practice in designing some of their tombs.

Researchers have shown that the majority of tombs built in our region, before the middle of 12th century AD are square plan. Subsequently, the tombs were also constructed on the octagonal base. Tombs constructed on octagonal base are those of the saintly persons. The other view is that the square tombs were mostly built for nobles and the octagonal type was conventionally reserved for the royal personage. According to Hillenbrand, the square tomb were equated with Sunni reverence for the four Caliphs (1994:269).

Reference:

The Tombs of Kalhora Chief in Hyderabad. Mohd Siddique G Memon. Oxford Islamic Architecture of Pakistan. Ahmad Nabi Khan
The Islamic Architectural Heritage of Pakistan. Shaikh Khurshid Hasan

DAWN

Rs29m restoration work on Ghulam Shah Kalhoro mausoleum gets under way.
Mohammad Hussain Khan — Published 4th July 2015.



HYDERABAD: The restoration work of the mausoleum of Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro (1757-1772 AD), a famous ruler of the Kalhoro dynasty, which had fallen into decay due to official neglect and vandalism in the shape of encroachments finally got under way under the aegis of the Endowment Fund Trust (EFT) for Preservation of the Heritage of Sindh.

The project costs Rs29.816 million and is scheduled to complete in June 2017.

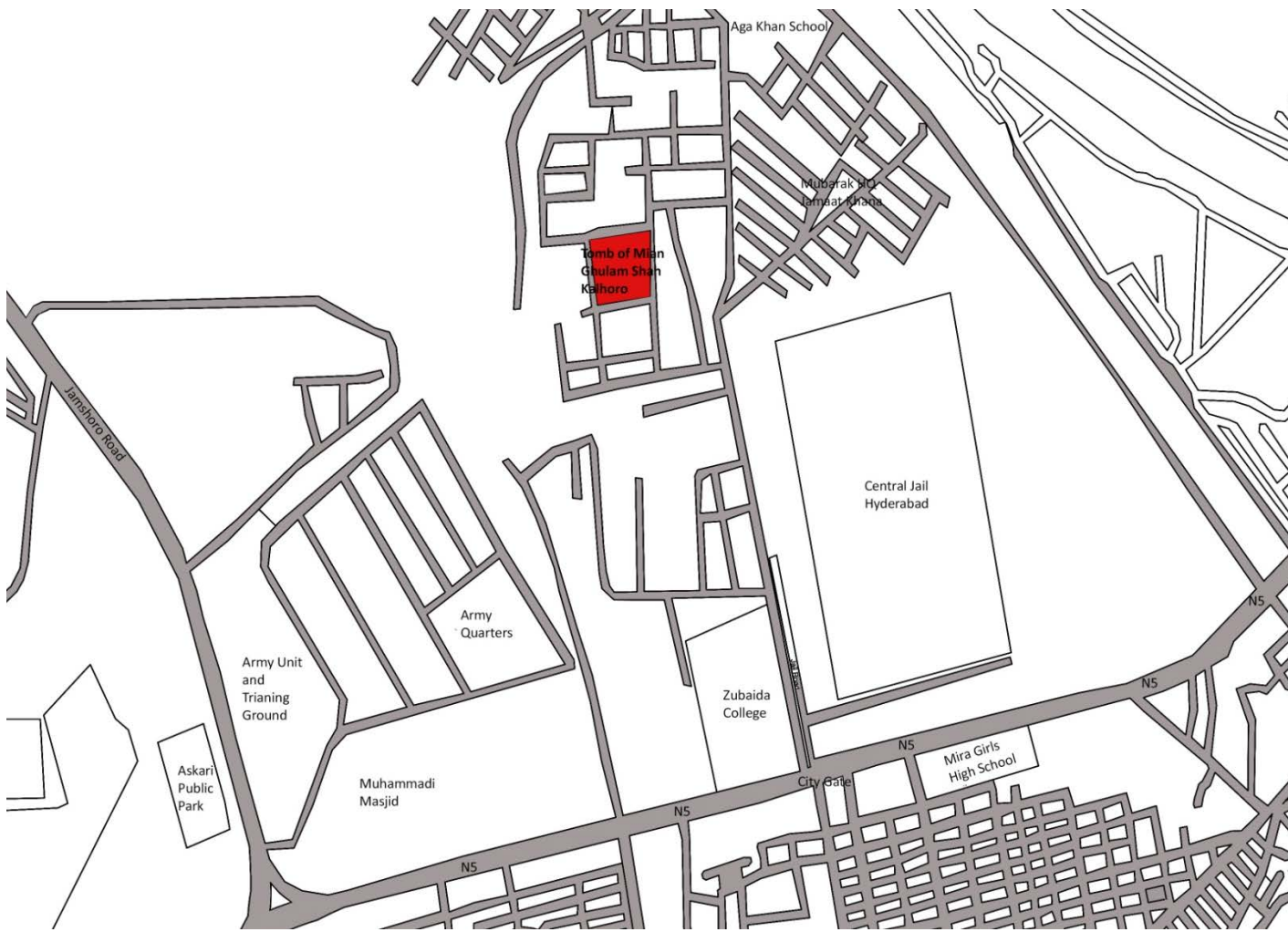
The EFT, a non-profit organisation working for the preservation of heritage, organised on Friday evening a consultation meeting and an exposure visit of the site for the trustees of the EFT to have quality technical input from different experts on how to go about conservation of this monument and others like it across Sindh.

... Marvi Mazhar, a heritage consultant, was quick to point out that students interested in the subject should be engaged and be given stipends. "We must have assistance of craftsmen and artisans," she said, adding that the EFT should finalise a programme and she would offer her full cooperation to which Mr Akhund reminded her that any such a programme must be developed by her and the EFT would assist her fully.

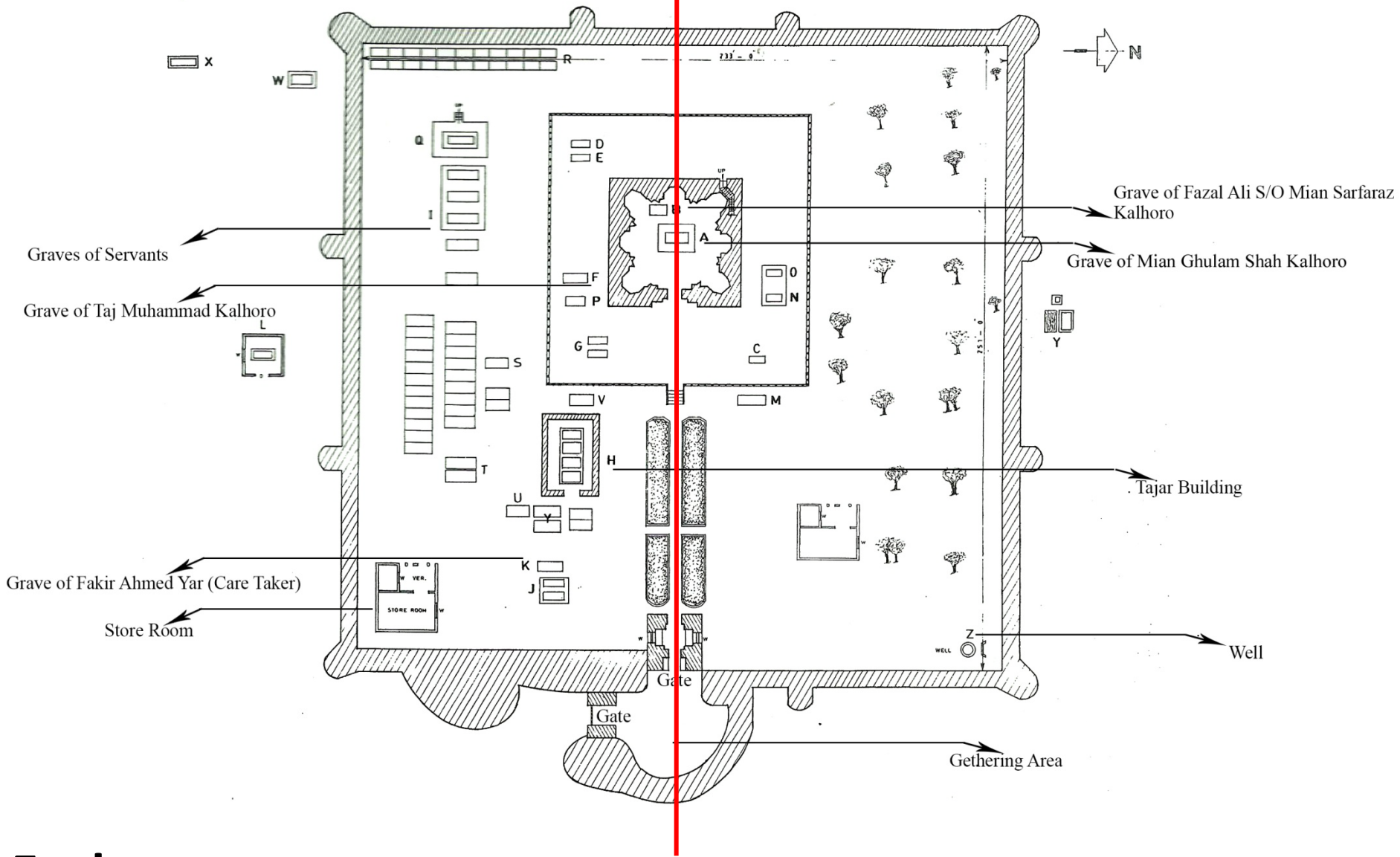
Arch. Marvi Mazhar, Dr. Nafisa Shah and Mr. Jehangir Siddique



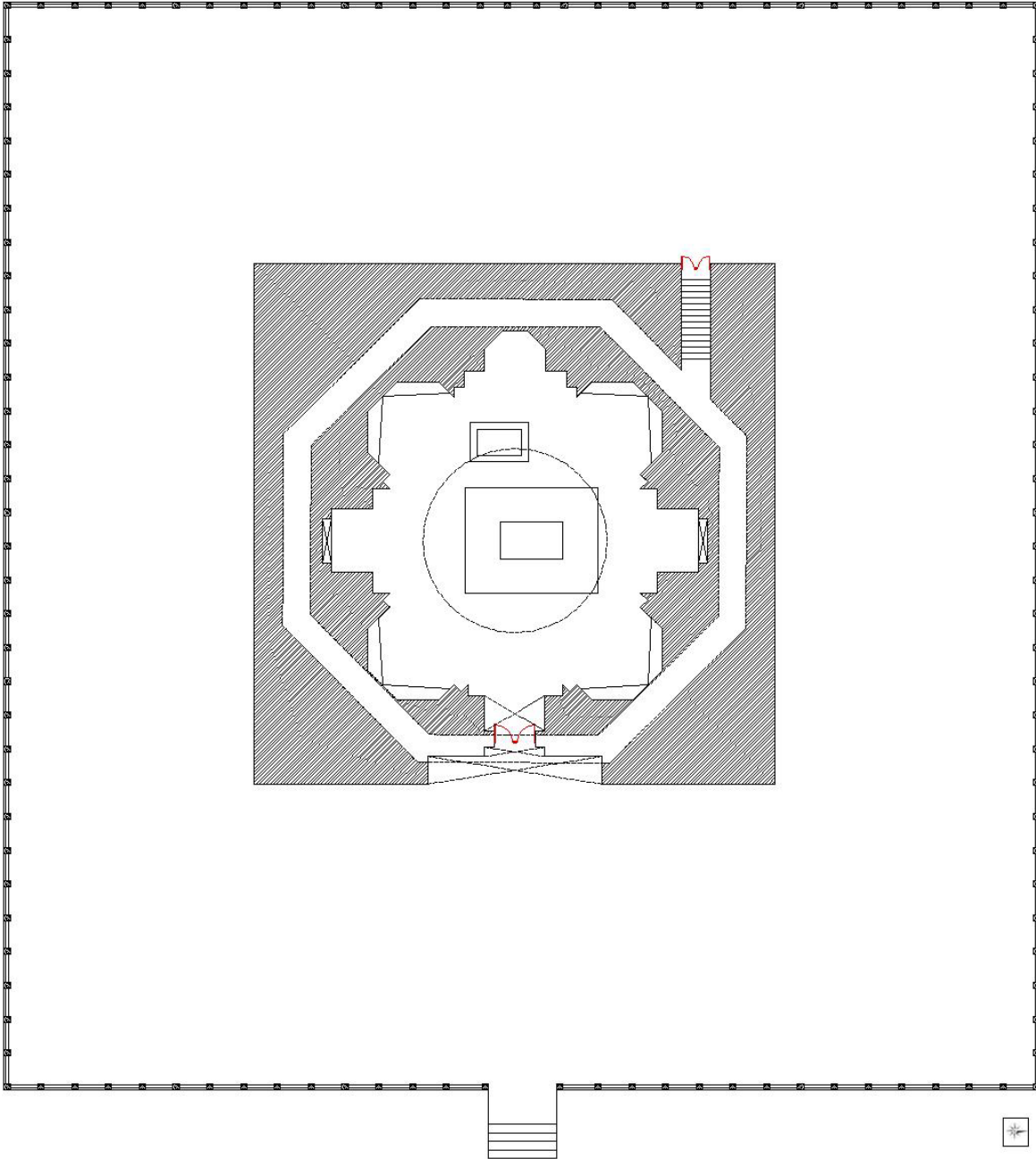
Site Context



Location: The mausoleum of Ghulam Shah Kalhora, the oldest and the most refined and impressive of the Kalhora monuments in Hyderabad, is located to the west of the residence of the Inspector General of Prisons, Sindh, which is situated on the north of the National Highway near City Gate Hotel, Hyderabad



Enclosure: Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhora Tomb is located in a rectangular enclosure. From the distance, it appears like a gigantic fort instead of a funerary building



Plan: Tomb of Ghulam Shah Kalhora itself is 36 feet high-a great massive square building 56 feet across on each side. It is built on square plan, the main arched entrance which open to west, leads to main chamber of the tomb. The tomb is octagonal from the interior.

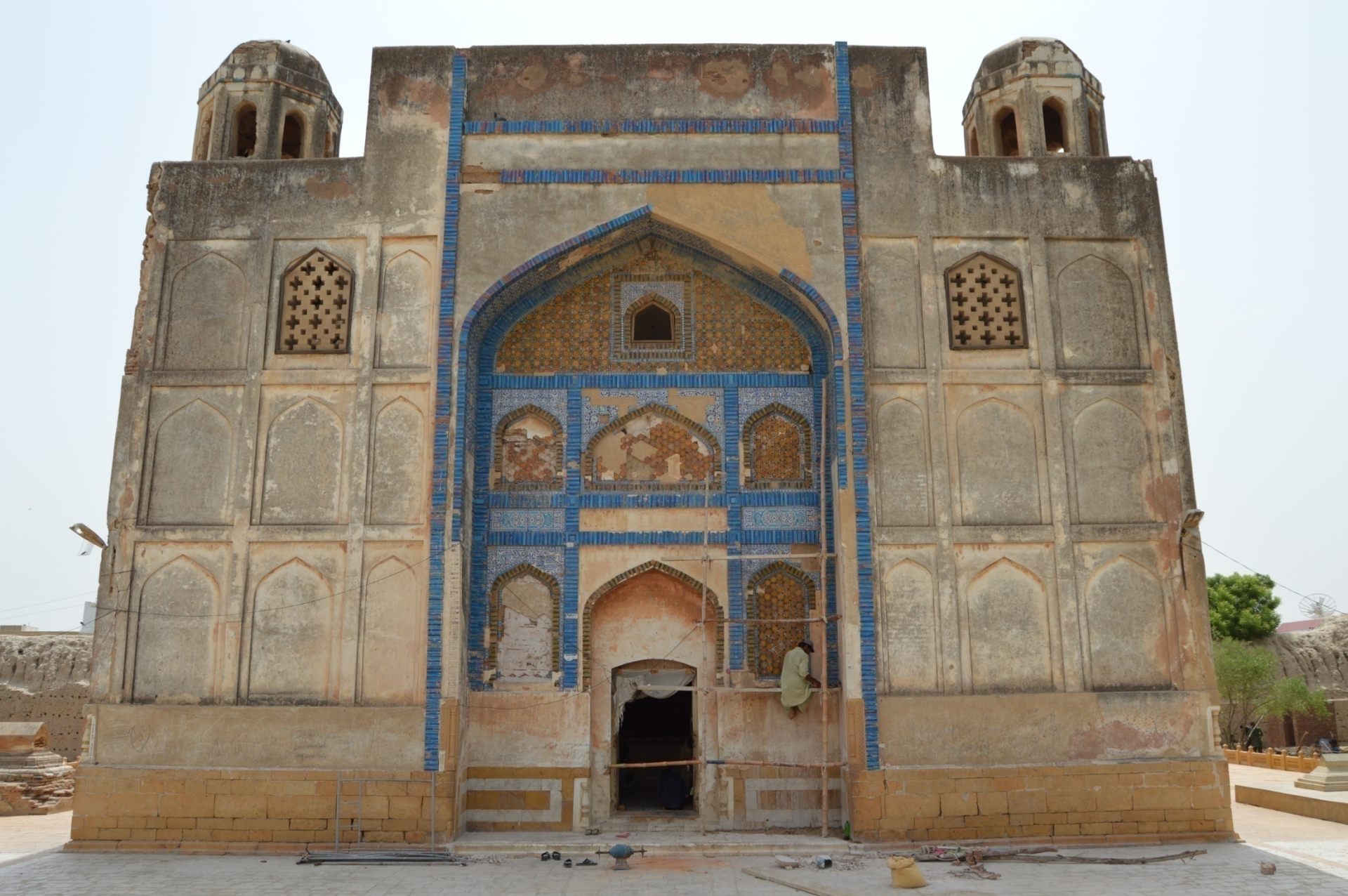


Monumental Entrance (West)



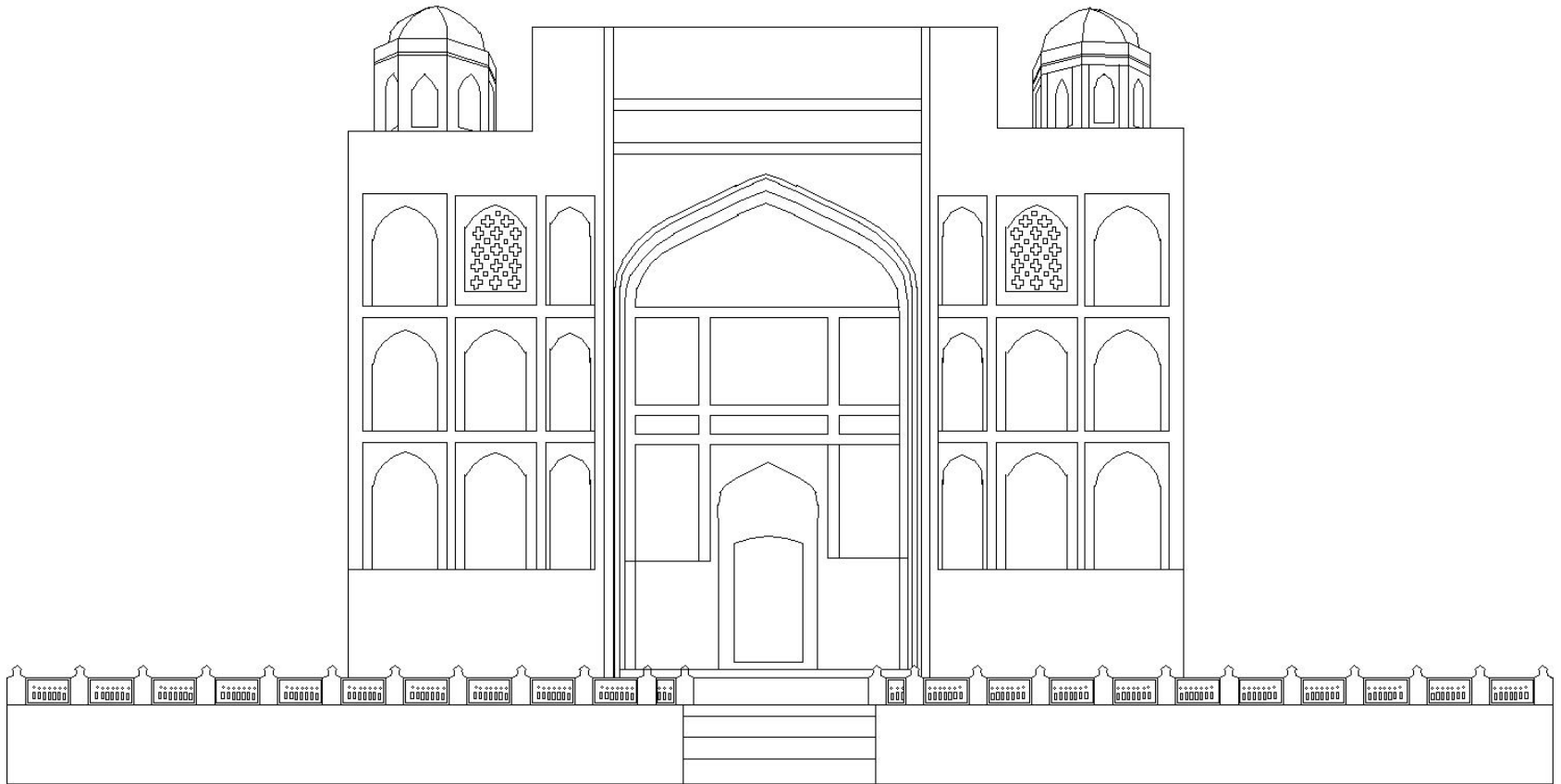


Main Elevation of
Tomb of Ghulam Shah Kalhora



West Elevation

Entrance to the Main Tomb of Ghulam Shah Kalhora



Elevation Details: The facade of the tomb is marked with sunken panels. These panels repeat on all four sides. The facade of the tomb looks as if the structure has got three storey's. This has been achieved by dividing each side of the facade in three ornamental storey's. Each side of the entrance contains double blind arches, one upon the other.



North Elevation



East Elevation- entrance to upper gallery



South Elevation



Interior of
Tomb of Ghulam Shah Kalhora



Central *Mehrab* on East Wall

Vaults



South West
Elevation



North
Elevation



East
Elevation



South East
Elevation



North East
Elevation



South
Elevation



North West
Elevation



The interior of the dome



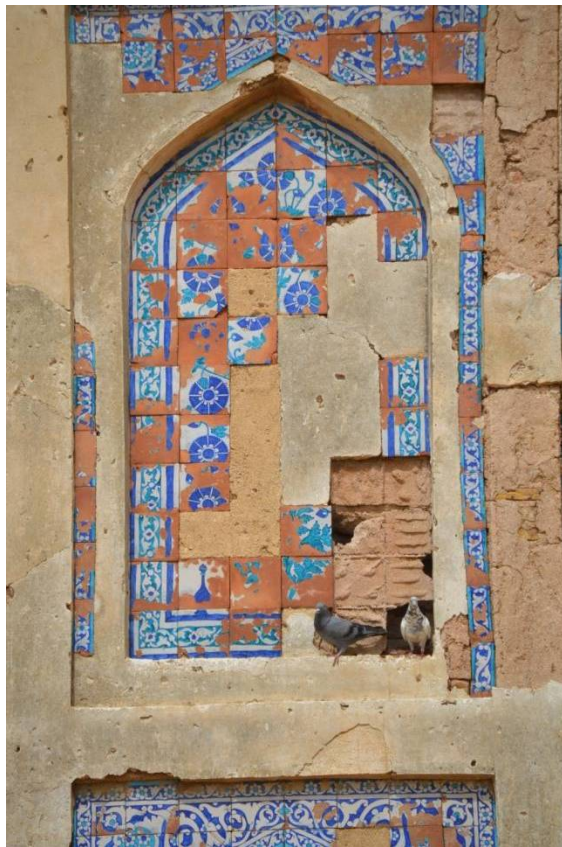
Carved Calligraphy On Marble Panels



8 Squinches acting as structural as well as aesthetical elements



Marble Cladding on the graves inside the tomb

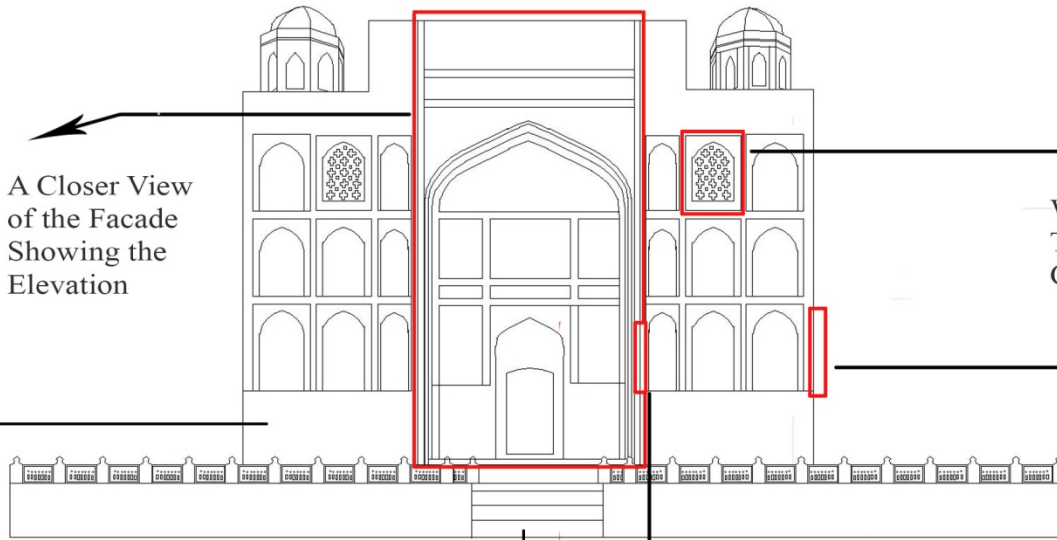


Aesthetics and Details

Various Parts of Tomb in Front Facade



A Closer View of the Facade Showing the Elevation



Window of Tomb Which Closed Bricks

Lower Part of Tomb Stone Masonry is Used



Steps are Constructed with Marble Stone

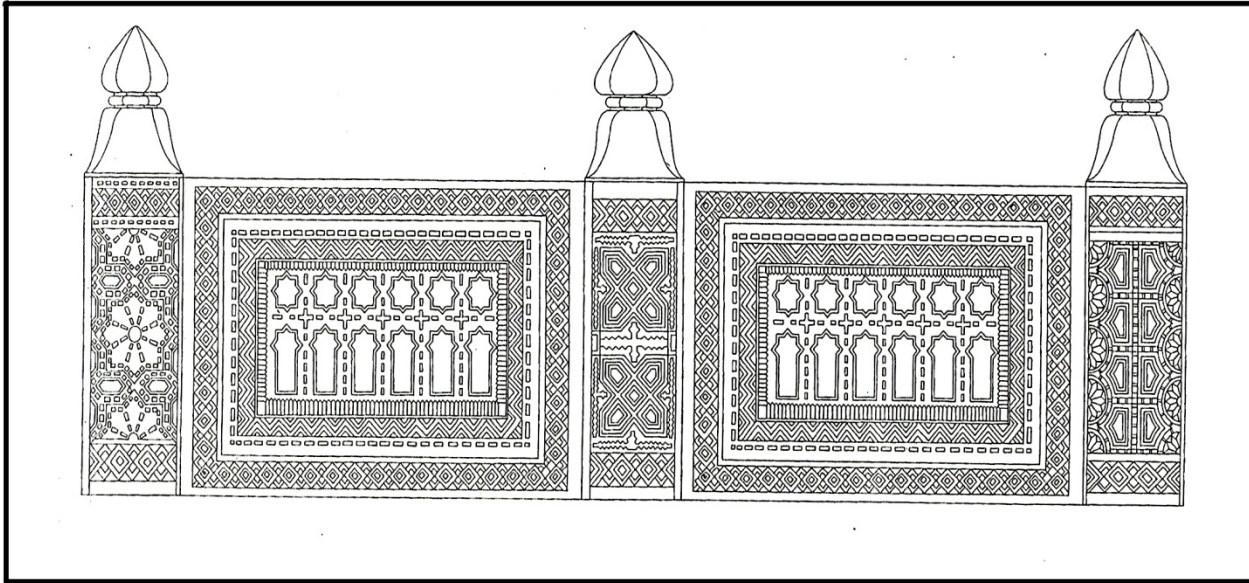


Perforated stone Carved Corner Pillars



Finely Marble Carved Corner Pillars

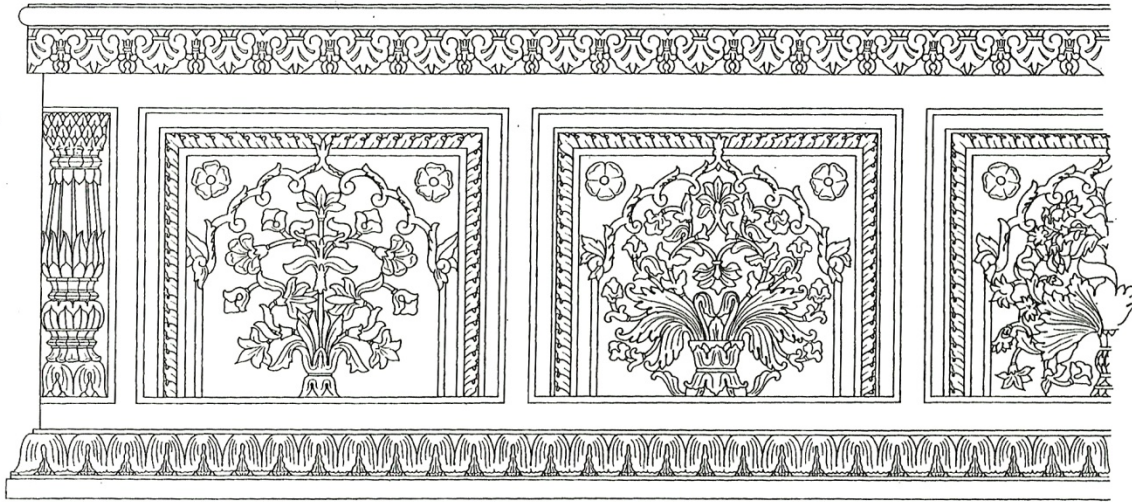




Parapet Wall Constructed of Thin Panels of Perforated Stone

The Perforated on the panels on the surface tracery of the corner stones are reminiscent of similar work at Fatehpur sikri.



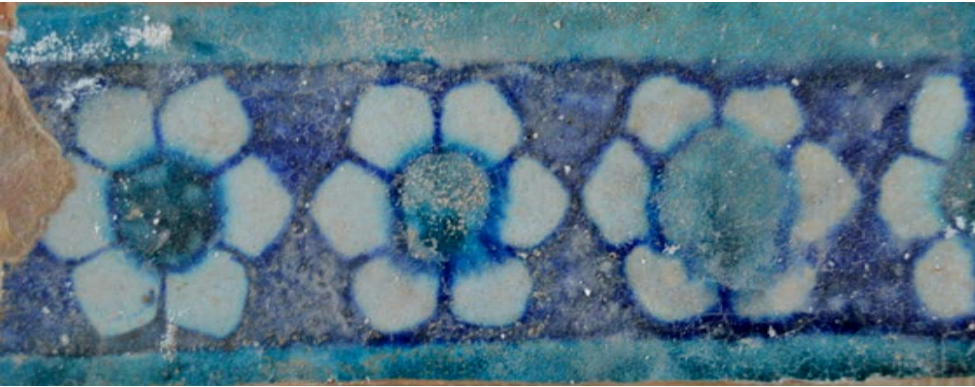


Marble panel and railings
from Mian Ghulam Shah's
Tomb.

Finely
Carved
marble
panels



Types of Floral Patterns



Types of Floral Patterns





The facade of the tomb is ornamented with an amulet pattern. Above it, are glazed blue tiles that give beauty to the facade. Blue tiles were profusely used by the Kalhoras in their buildings.





Axial entrance leading to the Tomb