



RESEARCH PAPER

Urban Generosity: Strategies for Rejuvenation of Historic Site- Mughal Tombs of Shahdara

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to identify Shahdara's assets to be served as a base for urban rejuvenation. The core objective is to study the historiography of Shahdara monument which is categorized by its wonderful features of architecture and artwork. The site was initially dedicated as a Royal Garden named as "Dilkushah Garden". Afterwards, it was converted into a burial place and currently, it is functioning as a recreational place. In the twentieth century, the raise in urban population transformed historic sites into modern cities. Urban rejuvenation is a process of inducing life in decaying tangible and intangible assets. This marvelous heritage site is now endangered and losing its grandeur due to the socio-economic and political factors. Though a number of laws and policies are in place inadequate implementation. In conclusion, a set of guiding principles in the field of urban studies has been developed to upgrade the built heritage.

KEYWORDS Dilkusha Garden, Heritage Upgradation, Mughal Tombs, Policies Implementation, Shahdara, Urban Revitalization

Introduction

In developing countries of the world, cultural heritage has been depicted through historic monuments, archaeological sites, and urban heritage. The changing aspects of urban regeneration have been one of the core reasons for the rising cost of urban land. The change in living patterns has shifted the socio-economic activities to political scenarios putting pressure on the cultural heritage of the region. Pakistan is an important part of this chain and socio-economic and physical characteristics of the urban fabric has also been changed intensely. Poring all the processes of these transformations reveals a reality that change is the only constant member of this world.

In the previous decades, only 10% of the population was living in urban areas but at present, urban areas have been occupied by immigrants. According to United Nations, almost 75% of the world's population will be part of urban societies. This rapid urban growth is affecting developing nations and growth is too high to touch the value of sixty percent by 2030 (Johnson, 2008).

Since the 1960s another factor was realized by the urban community that modern planning has been creating an alarming situation towards cultural heritage putting it at great threat. All the processes of modernization served as the basis for the development

of the concepts regarding heritage conservation. The link has been tried to develop between rehabilitation, regeneration of the urban areas and preservation, conservation, restoration, and conservation of the built heritage by the local, regional and international agencies of the world with the involvement of conservation practitioners, architects, and urban planners. In the last decade, the urban upgradation projects did not consider the management and monitoring of the heritage sites. All these developments need community participation and policy formulations starting from the local level to the international level.

In the result of unplanned urban sprawl around the heritage sites, chaos has been created failing to control deterioration and damage.

In a nutshell, various policies regarding the integrity and authenticity of the conservation practices adopted by the Government and different organizations will help to set a framework based on guiding principles to conserve historic monuments and urban areas. Lahore is a showcase of 109 various significant historic buildings and a number of them were built during the Mughal period (Figure 1).

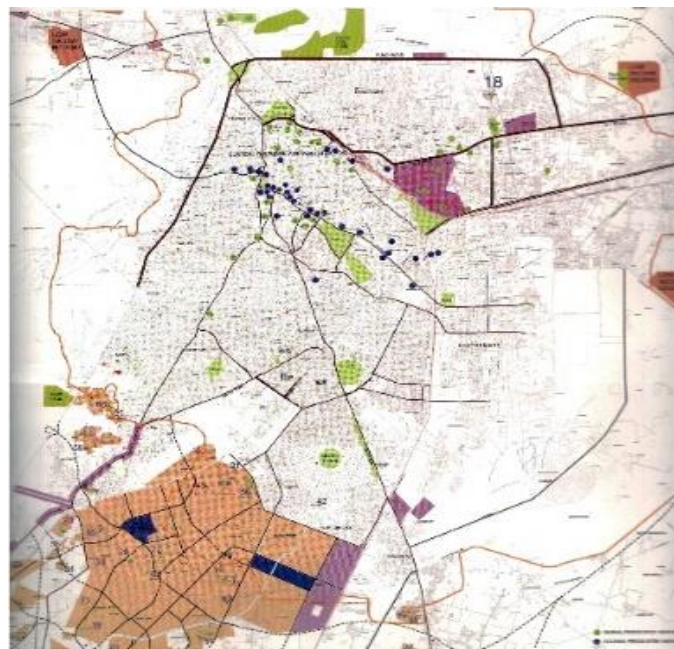


Figure 1 Map showing British and Mughal Period Buildings. Green dots show Mughal era Buildings while the Blue dots shows British era Buildings Source: Mapping Lahore: Tracing Historical Geography of a City through Maps by AbdurRehman published by Al-Meezan Publishers in 2013

These architectural monuments represent Persian architectural features in the local environment establishing new distinctive independent styles based on central Asian Traditions. Empress Noor Jahan built a large Royal Garden named Dilkusha Garden. Afterward, this marvelous garden was transferred as a burial place of three Royal members of fourth Mughal emperor at Rajaukri, Emperor Jahangir (d.1627), his wife Empress Noor Jahan (d.1645), and her brother Asif Khan (d.1641) within the close vicinity of each other. There is a distinctive relationship between the three royal tombs and a serai. It is one of those funeral places where a garden is dominant and burial places are in the secondary stage of importance.

Literature Review

The most substantial part is to understand the meaning of "Heritage". Heritage can be defined in a number of ways, one of them is "Anything which is inherited from the Past" according to McManus, 1997. The other concept regarding heritage is: the only constant is change and our heritage sites and monuments symbolize our cultural identity through various ideologies. We understand these ideologies, at times, when our cultural assets either a monument or historic urban areas are threatened to be deteriorated due to various factors. Our cultural heritage must be protected as it retains our historical, cultural values, and norms, and historic artifacts which can be used by the next generations to remember our past. Pakistani historic urban landscape is embellished by our historic monuments and heritage sites. The built heritage reflects unique features of our history and traditions.

Significance of Built Heritage

According to Ashworth and Nasser, heritage signifies the most current segment of refurbishing urban fabric (Naseer, 2003). This perception offers the motives for the confirmation that heritage is the connection between the conservation of history for its inherent worth and as a reserve from contemporary society. There are a lot of pros and cons to the rejuvenation of urban spaces and physical heritage. Various justifications support the process of urban rejuvenation and multiple arguments limit the physical conservation of urban heritage. International standards for countries and organizations to identify and protect historical assets have been developed by the Council of Europe in the Granada Convention conducted in 1985. Cornell explained that urban built heritage should be considered as a source that collects with time, we may select floor area or physical urban fabric, or both (O'Connell, 1989). With the passage of time, urban Built heritage hoards sources in multiple layers, individually layer expressive a group of rudiments from every developing historical period. The development of a city, through accompaniments of such strata, is viewed as attainment.

Safeguarding urban built heritage sites are not an easy procedure. This progression is biased and molded by challenging inconsistent standards and goods. The term rejuvenation is an alternative name for regeneration. The historic spaces of metropolises that incline to cover a noteworthy amount of heritage with reference to built practice are those which are visible to renewal. The existence of danger or hazard in the growth of a specific zone, includes the safeguarding of the built-up landscape of the area. Larkham describes that didactically it is the responsibility of human beings to recollect their forebear's achievements. He also indicates the disagreement about the monetary cost of sustaining and conserving built heritage. He proposes that destruction is cost-effective and valuable but the attitude has transformed and societies are now concerned with the impression of renewable energy. The perception of embodied energy spins around the impression of computing the energy prices of the current structure and then it is related and compared with the energy charge of destruction of that structure or substituting it with another edifice (Larkham, 1996).

William Morris David who was the founder of the Society for the conservation of Historic Structures (SPAB) trusts that preservation means safeguarding, however not related to certain styles anymore, but is also concerned with the dire evolution of contemporary buildings. Appropriate material is related to conserved in situ; any challenge to refurbish or reproduce will only result in the damage of legitimacy and the establishment of fake (David, n.d.). Urban renewal of heritage sites is an evolution of its past glory in the present time.

Urban Fabric and Conflict

Nasser states that historic environs and taking decisions about it, is a contradiction that occurs between reinstating the previous because of its inherent importance. It is an obligation for the development of society as a rejoinder to its varying values (Naseer, 2003). There is a debate while developing revitalization plans for existing buildings regarding creativity and retention. There is a big question about the authenticity and integrity of the historic assets while preserving heritage, whether new additions can be done maintaining historical characteristics or compromise is the only solution.

Considering all the points, a number of methodologies develop to achieve the desired results to restore the historic built environment. These approaches vary from each other not only in the way they are approached but also differ with respect to the outcome they produce. A few approaches with different school of thought have been selected and has been stated as under:

1. A comparison has been made intentionally between the historic and modern buildings with the goal to generate a distinction. In this pattern, Genius Loci has specified a different element. The objective for the erection of a new distinctive structure from the ancient building is not to generate disruption from pre-existing buildings.
2. Facades are currently repeatedly experienced as a procedure of renewal and restoration in conserving and preserving the built heritage environment. This tactic is grounded on memorizing the facade of a structure while a new building is constructed behind it. For many building experts, the facade performs as an elucidation to the predicament kept in the urban fabric. Though there is a difference in the method, some consider firmly that it offers an unreliable clarification of metropolitan streetscape rather than a visionary answer. However, its over-use effects in the damage of much fabric and often outdated uses, abolishing the style of a conservation piece of land, whilst casually recollecting its form (Barrett, *Investigating Townscape Change and Management in Urban Conservation Areas*, 1993).
3. Larkham describes that the native architectural period attempts to build a pseudo-vernacular thus reproducing the architectural vocabulary in the surrounding area. Inappropriately this method often results in representative energies which do not add to Genius Loci but frequently perform as a critical form of Genius Loci (Larkham, 1996).
4. The tactic of stimulation graces replicates the outdated styles, such as Neo-classical or Mughal. This attitude reflects the methods used in the pre-existing buildings.

Built Heritage and Planning Practice

It is obvious that the improvement of metropolitan areas is obligatory for the development of a specified society. If this will not happen, the metropolises would worsen. Hence, they need alteration. However, a new attitude has industrialized which emphasizes protection and pressures on it. This density is future from the general public as a whole mostly from the expert community. Protection of traditional distinctiveness is a lot more than just representative expression. Inspired communication and statements with the past act as restraints but offer a set of chances, thus allowing ground-breaking clarification of the encounters that are fashioned by the traditional and

historic environment. In preserving and maintaining historic monuments and archaeological sites, experts have a finalized object to represent.

Larkham clarifies the morphological methodology as a key tool for describing goals of progress regarding the significance of heritage sites and historic urban spaces. Morphological practices are multifaceted.

- First, it stresses the requirement for perpetuity and resemblance in the built structures. Moreover, it requires planning experts to recognize and rate the importance of *Genius Loci*.
- Second, it describes the philosophy of historicity. Historicity is a philosophy that respects various phases and cultures associated with a structure or abode.
- Third, it suggests an analytical framework i.e. how the metropolitan landscape is separated into the order of streets, buildings, and plots. The final step is supportive and very concrete. It directly affects the conclusion and strategy-making process and demonstrates precisely about the modification in charisma of urban space.

Built Heritage and Commercial Development

Commercialization of the heritage sites is an adequate solution since it is stress-free to find shareholders for merchandising developments as paralleled to public or cultural ones. Additionally, it offers a building for public usage thereby getting it to utility in modern urban life. It was established in the training of a numeral of retail orders included in the refurbishment of the historic landscape of their particular cities and towns, supported by English Heritage and CABE (Chartered Association of Building Engineers), that organization plays a vital role in the spatial organization of town hubs. City cores are a center of merchandising activity. Moreover, city cores are one of the richest fragments of the metropolitan in terms of the concentration of historic urban landscapes. Therefore, the importance of commercial expansion in historic cities cannot be neglected as it is a key to their maintainable trading activity. It doesn't only include in values and economy of cities but also proposes a long-term probability for heritage sites by the adaptive reuse of these structure.

McCarthy describes that heritage endures to show the second contrivance to financial increase and this is doubtful of adjustment (McCarthy, 2005). Rodwell identifies that the main extortions to the cultural and social heritage of habitation are from the degree of growth and dynamics symbol of huge floor space for commercial activity i.e. retail services (Rodwell, 2010). Contrarily, the above-stated development may not always lead to the destruction of our cultural and built heritage. Historical buildings can be developed by inventive and adaptable reuse that can add a new life to them.

The unavoidable influence of the growth of urban landscape will linger to oblige historical built heritage but O'Connell speaks that the metropolitan should not develop as a museum of the previous city. It is a facilitation to live in its own time. An appropriate organization augmented by monetary support can only safeguard, dialog, and suitable management of the historic built environment (O'Connell, 1989).

Material and Methods

The current situation of the nominated site is an illustration of the destruction of cultural heritage as well as environmental demolition. The urban decay of Shahdara Mughal Tombs is due to rapid urbanization, unplanned extensions, and encroachments

of commercial and residential zones. It has been identified that the core issues concerning the decay of Mughal Monuments at Shahdara are the deterioration of the built environment and the decline of infrastructure. In order to achieve the desired results, research on a macro-scale is required. In the first phase, the desk-based study about urbanization has been carried out, to find how urban sprawl has affected the cultural heritage and how it can be evaluated. The facts and figures accessible online and in libraries have been explored. The case studies are carefully chosen on the basis of

- The selected methodology is case-study based. The selected case study is a tomb complex , a burial place of royal family members.
- Data collection has been done by primary and secondary resources such as electronic media and printed media.
- Book records has been taken into special consideration.
- Current maps has been downloaded from the internet such as Google maps, and Google pro maps to record the changes over time.
- Record regarding the selected case study has been collected from the authorities and local bodies to identify the historical records.

Case Study - Shahdra Tomb Complex

During the Mughal period, when Baber took over India in 1526, a chain of marvelous gardens and serais were built at this point.

The main functions of the selected site, Shahdara:

- The site served as a halting place for the Mughal troops after crossing Ravi on the way to Kashmir, Kabul, or the shooting lands of Sheikhupura from Lahore (Figure 2).
- Secondly as a recreation zone across the river from the Lahore citadel (Beach).

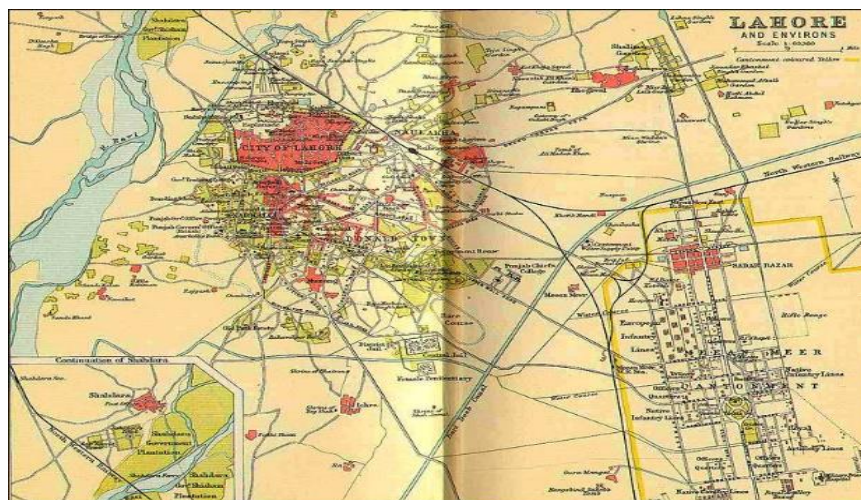


Figure 2 1893 map of Lahore showing the location of the Shahdara Monuments in relation to the Ravi River and Lahore walled city (Historical Maps of India, n.d.)

Construction of tombs during the Mughal Dynasty is very less. The tombs of Shahdara complex are one of a few examples of Mughal tombs. Shahjahan is recognized

for his love for the arts. His so-called historian Kanbo recognized his emperor's desire for buildings as a requirement of virtuous rule (Koch, 1999).

The monuments of Shahdara vividly expose the passionate building of gardens and funereal memorials in Lahore from the mid-16th to the mid-17th century. The royal family developed a number of gardens along both sides of River Ravi for pleasure and recreation making Lahore, the City of Gardens. One of them is a garden named as Mirza Kamran's Garden after the name of Mirza Kamran and the other is a splendid Dilkusha Garden erected by Empress Noor Jahan (Figure 3).

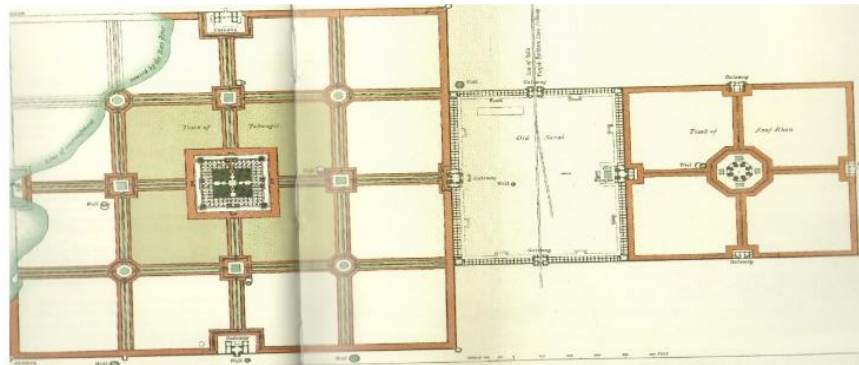


Figure 3 Plan of Jahangir's Tomb published in W. Griggs, India (Aijazuddin, 2003)

All these sets of buildings describe a distinctive amalgamation of architectural and landscape impressions: the Persian origin of the foursquare garden---charbagh, the imperial mausoleums, and the connectivity of water channels and pathways to the royal tombs.

Tombs of Shahdara is a representation of state characteristics. It illustrates not only historical but fabulous flairs of the Mughals in the sub-continent but also an evident depiction of Mughal rule. It delivers a relationship between the revitalizing commemorations of the pre-colonial past and attitudes associated with the past. It is marked as a histrionic tool for informing the present historians about numerous historical and cultural perceptions of Pakistan's past.

The tomb complex represents Mughal impressions of gardens as heaven on earth and explicitly those related to funerary landscapes. It maintains the necessary plans for historic gardens and the original distribution of constructed features, water elements, and planting zones. The tombs and their garden surroundings recall the sense of calmness and splendor formed by their artists.

Jahangir's Tomb is well conserved and preserves a decent level of reliability, taking all the measures required to recognize its importance. Its material and ornamentation have extraordinary value. While conservation, there is a substantial means of evidence of the excellent craftsperson work of the era. In 1836 Baron Charles Hugel had written that the terrace which goes around the roof of the structure is the most sophisticated work found in India, ornamented with elegant pietra dura and marble railing shown in (Figure 4) (Hugel, 1845).

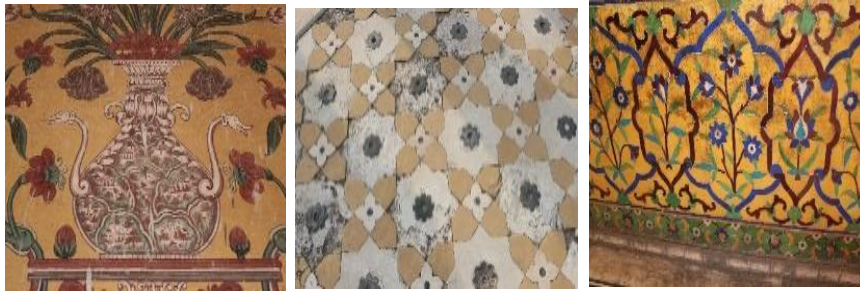


Figure 4 Pietra Dura work of Jahangir's Tomb

Akbari Serai is an important part of the mausoleum complex. It is found in its original plan and fabric and holds valuable evidence about the well-designed features of the Mughal complex.

Asif Khan's Tomb is substantial in its spatial and ancestral association to the Tomb of Jahangir. Although its once eminent ornamentation has been uncovered, the original building fabric and the garden plan are in original condition. Asif Khan's tomb is octagonal in form having a great spherical dome, constructed in the middle of Chaharbagh with pools, fountains, and paths (Figure 5). Originally external facade was ornamented with stone inlay work and the interior of the tomb has stucco patterns, ghalibkari, and tile mosaic.

Abdul Hamid Lahori mentioned in his book that the entire tomb was decorated with glazed tiles but most of the ornamentation has been destroyed due to the Sikh attack (Lahori, 1886). Maha Raja Ranjeet Singh detached all white marble and costly stone from the interior of the tomb in order to embellish the Amritsar temple and summer house in HazuriBagh of Lahore (Latif, Lahore: Its History, Architectural Remains, and Antiquities, 2005).



Figure 5 Asif Khan's Tomb

Tomb of Noor Jahan as compared to other tombs of the complex has lost its significance due to the railway line which eliminated the eastern part of the tomb (Figure 6). This addition of a railway line disconnected it from the other tombs.



Figure 6 Cenotaphs of Noor Jahan and her Daughter Ladli begum. Source

In the 19th century, during the British period, the stone covering of the tomb building has been stripped off due to the Railway line, thus causing incurable damage to the garden. The garden of Noor Jahan Tomb was also used for cultivation but in the Sikh period all cladged stone had been stolen and the tomb became in valueless condition.

After Noor Jahan's father's death, she used to appear in the meetings as a representative of his father and used her signatures on numerous official papers. She married Emperor Jahangir in the sixth year of his rule. Shortly, at the Mughal court, she turned out to be the head of the command. Noor Jahan was the only Mughal empress whose name was imprinted on royal receipts and silver coins were stamped as "in the name of the Queen Begam, Noor Jahan". She died in captivity and was buried in a tomb constructed by herself (Latif, Lahore: Its History, Architectural Remains and Antiquities, 2005).

Existing Conditions

The actual location of the Shahdara complex was on an agricultural site alongside the Ravi River and at a certain distance from the notable city of Lahore and its Fort. The existing surrounding of the Shahdara tombs has changed to a great extent. It can only be described as built-up, compact, profoundly inhabited, and contaminated. Briefly, it can be described as:

North: a road named AsharatRasulShahid Road which goes towards the east-west separating the complex from densely populated residential areas mixed with the commercial area and small industrial structures such as *Qazi Park and Shahdaratown*. **South:** there is semi-agricultural land with residences and associated arrangements towards the eastern portion to the south.

East: the flood plain of the Ravi River is at the east of Jahangir's Tomb with some structure. A famous road called *bund road on the east* goes along the boundary of the site which is about 35 meters in length.

West: a housing colony known as *Jahangir's Colony* is at the western edge of Jahangir's Tomb. A Railway line is outside this colony. There is an access road to the west. Within 2 meters of the same corner, there is an underpass known as *Shahdara Town Underpass Road*.



Figure 7 Existing surrounding of the Site Source

Flooding Impact on the Tombs

The location of the Tombs of Shahdara complex is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ km from the River Ravi and has been flooded at several intervals. Floods hit the complex in 1947, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1966, 1973, 1976, and 1988 shown by the record (Figure 8 & 9). The gardens were filled with flood water at a depth of up to 10 feet for about five days lately in 1988. Major loss had been found in the southeast corner of the site as most of the walls and garden landscapes have been eroded. King Aurangzeb made a Bund Wall of 3 miles (Latif, Tareekh-e-Punjab, 1994) after the 1661 flood in River Ravi which endangered the near vicinity of River Ravi. One of the core issues at the site of Noor Jahan's Tomb is Drainage. Even one rainy day can cause water to sit in huge parts.



Figure 8 View of Jahangir's Tomb during the flood of 1988 (Aijazuddin, 2003)

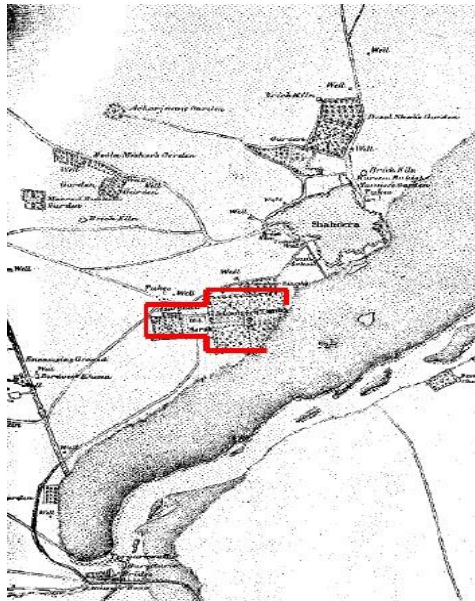


Figure 9 Map of 1867 showing damage done to Jahangir's Tomb by flood in River Ravi (Aijazuddin, 2003)

Current Use and Management of Tombs

Dilkusha garden with the royal tombs of Emperor Jahangir, his wife, and his brother-in-law is being used for tourism purposes. Visitors come to the complex and enjoy the open green spaces and relax under the shady trees with the fragrance of seasonal flowers regularly in the evenings of the summer season and in the daytime of the winter season. The most populous is the Jahangir tomb and the tomb of Empress Noor Jahan and her brother Asif Khan are two neglected corners of the tomb complex. The custody of the tomb complex is with the Department of Archaeology and Museums which is organizing, monitoring, and maintaining the site.

Conservation works are the liability of the project for the Preservation and Restoration of Shahdara Complex of Monuments (PROSCOM) conceded under the federal Government funded Master Plan for PROSCOM.

The complex is approached by the Grand Trunk Road (G.T. Road), the major route running between Islamabad and Lahore, and the Mughal route between Kabul and Delhi. Old Ravi Bridge Road from the G.T. Road leads through local districts to Jahangir Tomb Road. The alternating road is further north via Shahdara Town Underpass road which links Jahangir Tomb Road at the doorway to the complex.

As stated previously very few tombs were constructed in the Mughal period. Shahjahan had a fine insight into the arts. Shahdara Mughal Tombs complex is amongst those few tombs constructed in the Shahjahan period. There are few Mughal Tombs that are still stable and structurally strong. All these factors enhanced the historic value of the tombs and demand appropriate maintenance and management plan in order to reclaim significant importance historically. Let the people comprehend the historical value of this cultural heritage. Recreational spaces can be supplementary in this environment to draw the attention of the people. Parts of the monument can be changed into some other utility that will bring consciousness to the public. Appropriate signage is necessary on Grand Trunk Road for the public to visit this complex.

Environmental Factors Affecting Tombs

There are the issues gravely distressing the Royal Tombs:

- Infrastructure is inadequately planned and fused with monuments (Figure 10).
- The selected settlement joins the model site for a dissertation which is a blend of origins such as combined living of urban, suburban, and rural.
- The site is encroached by the neighboring residences up to the condition that the walls of the tombs are being shared by the neighboring community.
- Religious sites such as mosques, shrines with mosques and without mosques, shrines with dispensaries and without dispensaries, and graveyards should be dealt with carefully as people have religious believers and are spiritually attached to the saints.



Figure 10 Electrical Infrastructure which is glued and overshadowing Shahdara Monuments. Source Author

Laws & Policies

The royal tombs at Shahdara are being protected under the umbrella of laws at the federal and provincial levels. The legislation supports the protection of the complex with the support of other related departments with their policies regarding the environment, antiquities, historical heritage, and land usage. The list has been provided in the following table.

Table 1
List of Laws for Heritage Protection

Sr.#	Legislation (Laws)	Year
01	Land Acquisition Act,	1894
02	Antiquity Act,	1975
0.	Punjab Special Premises (Preservation) Ordinance,	1985
04	National Conservation Strategy(NCS),	1991
05	Guidelines for Sensitive and Critical Areas,	1997

Discussions and Results

Urban expansion should be planned with premeditated interventions. A structure of similar policies should be planned in order to equip the issues related to urban development, land distribution, and motorization. Royal Tombs of Shahdara are

performing as a lacuna in the metropolitan land use of Shahdara. The followings are the planned interventions and policies which can be selected:

- Strategies can be developed with the provision of enhanced urban environmental setting which is comprised of streetscape developments, improved segregated pedestrian and vehicular patterns, suggested transit upgradation, and underground utility infrastructure lines. Restrictions for building height and terminology for facades of residences can be identified and described in the policy.
- Legislation can be specified regarding the spaces in between the buildings as breathing spaces in the form of paved areas, covered sewage, and underground electric systems with no vehicular movement in the selected zone.
- The most significant apprehension, the complex of Royal Tombs is facing, these days is the splitting up and disintegration of urban growth, road transportation, and railway lines. A degree of fusion can be obtained by the introduction of pathways and various internal corridors which links Asif Jahan's tomb to the lonely Noor Jahan's tomb.
- There is a sports complex in the close vicinity of the tomb of Noor Jahan along the railway line which can also be added to the selected area of study for recreational activities. Currently, it is under the custody of a nearby community.
- Underpass bridges can be developed for the railway track crossing the tomb in the middle of monuments.
- The road surrounding the monuments can serve as a breathing space to identify the historic site as the road must be operational and dynamic. The tourism department can help to populate the area through bus routes to visit the area.
- Shahdara Tomb complex is facing infrastructure issues that should be addressed on a priority basis. There is a need to pave the street network along with shifting of electric power lines underground.

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