Journal of Educational Research & Social Sciences Review (JERSSR)

Reintegration of Urban Built Heritage for the Socio-cultural Sustainability in Pakistan:

Case of Nadira Begum's Tomb in Lahore

1. Asia Jabeen (Corresponding Author)

Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, LCWU Lahore

Email: asiajabeen@ymail.com

2. Shama Anbrine Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, UET Lahore

Email: shama.anbrine@uet.edu.pk

3. Areej Sohail Student, Bachelor of Architecture, LCWU, Lahore

Email: areejsohail800@gmail.com

Abstract



The research article is an effort to explore the socio-cultural benefits of the reintegration of the open urban spaces around the historic monuments. In the Mughal period, tomb construction got the principal significance and the Royal tomb was constructed amid the spacious gardens. The selected case study, the Tomb of Nadira Begum, is a royal tomb, which was constructed in a sunken water tank. During the British period, the tank was filled and transformed in the garden. The Tomb was declared as a protected monument in 1956 and restored by the Archaeology Department in 2020. Now, the garden around the tomb has been transformed into a recreational place. Site surveys and pictorial surveys have been conducted for the evaluation of the current status. Walk thorough analysis was done to identify the dynamics of the site. It has been concluded that there is a dire need to reintegrate the space around the royal tomb for the socio-cultural sustainability of the neighborhood communities.

Keywords: Reintegration, Urban Built Heritage, Socio-cultural Sustainability, Tomb of Nadira

Begum

Introduction

The historic city of Lahore is famous for its historic monuments built during the Mughal rule in the sub-continent due to its magnificent structures and elegant architectural styles. Mughals constructed various categories of historic buildings and focused on the development of gardens, following the Persian landscape (Khalid, 2021). They built tombs for the royal family members and holy saints. Each type of tomb was designed in a distinctive style; tombs of the holy saints were built to create the religious environment, usually, at the place of their meditation while royal tombs were constructed amid the spacious gardens to please the soul of the buried royal family member. The precious metals and stones were used to ornament these royal tombs, reflecting the status of the burial. Royal tombs were built amid the gardens with water channels beside the causeways (Chishti, 2006).

Globally, it has been accepted that historic buildings, open urban spaces, and archaeological sites are assets of the nations that possess them and represent tangible and intangible characteristics of the relevant communities. The protection of the built heritage is the responsibility of the conservation experts and authorities, ensuring the integrity and authenticity of the heritage sites. The concept of the "living heritage" introduced the adaptive reuse of historic sites to diminish the abandoned human activities of the past and play with the contemporary dynamics of changing life patterns. Conservation techniques and practices need to be improved minimizing the chances of error, in documenting, managing, and monitoring historic buildings and heritage sites (Siddiqui et al., 2009).

The key objective of the research is to evaluate the cultural identity, historical continuity, Tourism and economic benefits, educational resources, community engagement, cultural tourism, symbols of National pride, and interfaith harmony for the restoration and adaptive reuse of historic monuments and open urban spaces, around these historic monuments (Goulding, 1924). The selected case-study tomb of Nadira Begum is a prominent place, showcasing the historical legacy of the built heritage in Lahore. It also contributes to the collective cultural identity of the historic city of Lahore.



Figure 1: Tomb of Nadira Begum after conservation, showing causeway and houses on the backside

It also ensures the historical narrative of Lahore during the Mughal era and witnessed the human activities of the past age. Through the holistic approach towards the conservation of the monument and adaptive reuse of the urban space, around this monument, tourism can be stimulated to generate revenue for the financial support of local communities within the legal and ethical restrictions. The valuable and significant heritage site can be a source of academic learning and it must be done with the involvement of the community (Tufail, 1952).

The tomb of Nadira Begum, a royal tomb was built on a raised platform amid a huge water tank. Princess Nadira Begum was the beloved wife of Prince Dara Shikoh, son of Emperor Shah Jahan.



Figure 2: Prince Dara Shikoh and Princess Nadira Begum (Source: Majid, 2020)

Mughal Royal tombs were built in the center of a large garden but this tomb was constructed in the middle of a large water tank, resembling it Baradari of Kamran at River Ravi and Hiran Minar at Sheikhupura (Majid, 2020). Due to its location in the middle of the water tank, it gave the concept of a floating tomb. During the British period, the tank was dismantled and ruined by the contractor Mian Sultan, who dug all the bricks and used them in the construction of colonial Lahore. The precious metals, marble, and stones were already stolen by the Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh. The grand tomb was transformed into a divested place by the Sikh and British (Bryant, 2020).

The projects of restoration of monuments and adaptive reuse of the urban spaces around them can be a symbol of National pride and it can represent the country's obligation towards the protection of heritage sites and can foster inter-cultural understanding between the stakeholders. The site is located in a historic environment and can promote peace and respect, among various cultural communities. Department of Archaeology and Museums, Punjab is trying its best efforts to safeguard these historic places in their original setup but the main focus is the monument, without giving respect to the context in which they are located. The spaces around the historic monuments are still being neglected by the conservation authorities and the spaces around these heritage sites have been transformed into the vagabond hub, occupied by beggars, nightmares, and druggists. The tombs have lost their identity under the layer of modern education and the monuments were dilapidated by the waves of time and climatic changes. Concluding the evidence and observations, it is mandatory to design the spaces around the monuments following the current dynamics of life along with safeguarding urban and architectural heritage.



Figure 3: Fountains in front of Tomb, a silent witness of Human Vandalism

Literature Review

The historical architecture of the sub-continent owes to the Delhi Sultanate, the provincial, and the great Mughals, expressed through significant building projects of various typologies such as forts and palaces, mosques, and tombs. These intrinsic architectural styles evolved through various stages and a blend of indigenous and invader styles (Farhan, 1995). Mughals invaded the sub-continent and decided to place their royal throne in Lahore. Mughal Emperor Akbar laid the foundation of Lahore Fort as a Royal residence on the bank of River Ravi. Mughals were fond of constructing magnificent structures including palaces, gardens, and tombs for the Royal family members and holy saints (Latif, 1992).

Historical Significance of Mughal Monuments

Technically, Mughal Architecture started to gain dominance in the period of Emperor Akbar, but it started to evolve during the reign of the emperor, who brought two Iranian architects with him, Ustad Mir Mirak Ghiyas from Hirat and Ustad Shah Muhammad from Khurasan. Both of the architects supervised the initial Mughal Architectural projects (Rezavi, 2014). The concept of Chahar Bagh with the central platform was transformed into a funeral structures for the Royal family members. The most striking feature of the funerary architecture is the water courses. Almost, all the tomb structures are influenced by the Iranian architectural style (Schimmel, 2003).

The members of the Mughal Royal families and their courtiers also developed spacious gardens with the concept of Chahar Bagh, focusing central raised platform and water courses leading to that platform (Lowry, 1987). These gardens were afterward, converted into Tomb gardens (Koch, 2008) and after the modern interventions, these tomb gardens have been transformed into Tourist places and influenced the socio-cultural sustainability of the neighboring communities. It's a two-way process, both the heritage monuments and neighboring residents are responsible for the enhancement of the socio-cultural values of the historic environment (Schimmel, 2003).

The royal tombs, being located, amid the huge gardens, are significant due to the sociocultural and tourist values as they are the hub of various types of cultural activities. The tomb of Jahangir is one example of such a place, which has had a great influence on the neighboring communities through the adaptive reuse of the heritage. It was initially a garden and then converted into a tomb garden and currently, it's a favourite place for tourists and visitors for entertainment and recreation. The maintenance and sustainability of such types of heritage sites have become a challenge due to the changing life patterns and modern needs of societies.

Tomb of Nadira Begum - Socio-cultural Sustainability

Urban-built heritage is facing challenges such as urbanization, neglect, lack of resources, encroachments, and illegally occupied spaces by the adjacent residents. Urban sprawl is not only on the outskirts of the cities but it can be observed within communities due to the change in social and cultural activities. These heritage sites are living parts of modern cities and people living, around these sites have a sense of belonging, cultural pride, and identity for them (Hankey, 1999).

The tomb of Nadira Begum is one of the rare examples of Mughal monuments which were constructed on a raised platform amid huge water tanks, generating the concept of floating architecture. Government and local bodies are interested in generating revenue from these heritage sites and the existing legal framework, including preservation policies and conservation laws, is not supportive of the authenticity and integrity of historic monuments, but rather to fulfill the current needs of the societies. The regeneration of historic urban places needs holistic approaches, keeping in consideration architectural preservation, community participation, and sustainable development around them. The main objective is to achieve cultural identity, social sustainability, and economic development of the historic area in which the heritage site is located.

Selected case study, the Tomb of Nadira Begum, is also located amid a huge garden, currently, the hub of multiple social activities which are influencing its cultural and historical significance under the umbrella of the Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM), Punjab, Punjab Horticulture Authority (PHA) and Municipal Corporation of Lahore (MCL). The tomb has been conserved by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, (DOAM) Punjab; a quarter of the garden has been allocated for the cricket playground. According to word of mouth, several renowned players, Imran Khan, Umer Akmal, Rashid Latif, and Hafeez started their careers, at this place, as it is the only spacious ground in the vicinity. Another part of the garden has not been well maintained and has been developed as a favorite place for the vagabonds of the community, a corner part of the

garden has also been converted into a children's park and toilets have been constructed in one of the corners. The place adjacent to the toilets has been occupied by the Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department of Punjab, being utilized as a Parking Place. The tomb plays a significant role in the social and cultural sustainability of the area through the upgradation of economic status.





Figure 4: Cricket ground (Left) & Playground (Right)

Research Methodology:

The study is not solely related to the protection of historic monuments, but it focuses on the activities in the urban open space around the monument, causing significant damage to the socio-cultural sustainability of the neighboring community. Multiple surveys have been conducted to analyze the type of community, historical environment, basic infrastructure, and interests of the stakeholders. The historic monument has been closed in a boundary at a distance of 08 feet from the outer boundary of the tomb. The rest of the space has been isolated from the historic monument, leaving a non-historic context.

Visual surveys and pictorial surveys have been conducted to record the present condition of the open urban space (Groat & Wang, 2013). The tomb presenting the concept of floating architecture, due to its location on a raised platform, amid a huge water tank, has been a place of lost legacy, showcasing multiple activities, having no relation with traditional and cultural sustainability, stating the story of mercilessness.

After the visual and pictorial surveys, face-to-face interviews were conducted with the visitors (Ibrahim & Zainah, 2007), present in the Park, at the site, to assess the impacts of the local community on the historical significance of the site and the influence of the monument and park, on the socio-cultural sustainability of the residents.

Architectural plans of the site and monument have been drawn by the researchers to analyze the magnitude of the area, in terms of current interventions. A special analysis has been done to conclude the research and to outline the set of recommendations for the reintegration of the whole historic urban space, in terms of multiple activities, maintaining the authenticity and identity of the urban built heritage.

Case-Study: Tomb of Nadira Begum

The tomb of Nadira Begum is a lost legacy of Mughal period architectural heritage, showing the grandeur of the Mughal kingdom during the 17th century. Mughal period architectural heritage is strongly associated with Persian architectural elements such as intricate marble work, beautiful carvings, elegant domes, and monumental arched gateways, reflecting the Mughal's love for buildings. The tomb of Nadira Begum was constructed in the style of Baradari, as it was built amid a water tank. Raised platform, and created the concept of the floating structure. There were turrets on the corners of the garden, marking the boundary. Only two are remaining, telling the story of the negligence of the authorities regarding this cultural heritage.

Location & Context

The tomb of Nadira Begum is located in the Umar Colony, neighborhood communities, in the close vicinity of the Tomb of Hazrat Mian Mir which was constructed in the context of the historic city of Lahore at the place of his meditation. It was constructed during the Mughal period, from 1693 to 1698. It was constructed by the Hashim Mirza, under the patronage of Emperor Aurangzeb. It is stated in history that construction was started in the life of Prince Dara Shikoh (Tufail, 1952).

The Main access is from the "Infantry Road" through small streets, leading to the Tomb of Hazrat Mian Mir and Tomb of Nadira Begum. Another, secondary road "Skinder Road" leads toward the tomb of Nadira Begum and Mian Mir Graveyard.

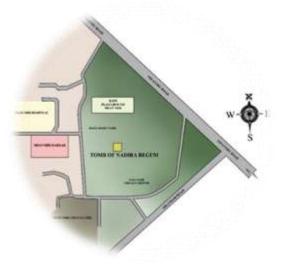


Figure 5 Location map of the Tomb of Nadir Begum with its context (Drawn by Authors)

Before British annexation, the tomb was amid a water tank, enormous enough, to create the concept of a lake, and it seems to be floating. The reflection of the tomb in the surrounding water creates an illusion through movement. The tomb was isolated from the land but it has been linked with the gateways through a 5'-9" wide causeway, in the North and South direction.



Figure 6 Side view of the causeway (Left) & Top view of the causeway (right)

There were 32 openings, in the form of pointed arches, with a square-shaped, central platform. The central platform, with the closed opening, is 11'-9" long and 11'-9" wide. The turrets, which were constructed to mark the boundaries, have been damaged, near to diminishing. Only signs, near to earth are remaining.



Figure 7: turrets in the corners of Tomb Garden. (Only two left)

Historical Background:

Princess Nadira Begum Bano was born in 1618 and was the beloved wife of Prince Dara Shikoh, son of Emperor Shah Jahan. She was the daughter of Prince Sultan Pervez Mirza and the granddaughter of Emperor Jahangir. She was married to Prince Dara Shikoh, son of Emperor Shah Jahan, in 1633 who took charge of Lahore as Governor in 1640. After the death of Emperor Shah Jahan, his successors Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb, fought for the Mughal throne and Aurangzeb defeated Dara in the battle of Deorai. Dara, with his wife Nadira Begum, tried to escape to Iran but, unfortunately, Prince Nadira Begum deceased in 1659, because of dysentery and exhaustion. Her dead body was brought to Lahore and she was buried in a garden, developed by herself, in the close vicinity of Holy Saint, Hazrat Mian Mir, who was her spiritual guide.

Architectural Characteristics

Nadira Begum was buried in a garden, amid a huge man-made water tank. The construction of the tomb was started in the life of Prince Dara Shikoh, but it was completed in Emperor Aurangzeb's period, under the supervision of contractor Hashim Mirza. The tomb is square, double-story structure

of massive brick masonry. The characteristic feature of the tomb is its construction which was done, amid an enormous water tank, rather, than in the garden following the concept of a Baradari.



Figure 8 Layout of Nadira Begum Tomb Garden, showing 11 Plots (Drawn by Authors)

The size of the tank was "200 x 200" Mughal gaz (Mughal unit of length), almost equal to 580 feet. There were pavilions on each corner of the tank and there were lofty gateways in the center of each wall. There is a bridge on the north and south gateways, giving access to the main structure of the tomb. There is no gateway, at present, but, a causeway still exists, although, its function has been abolished due to the conversion of a tank into a garden, during the British period.

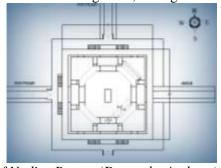


Figure 9 Layout Plan of Tomb of Nadira Begum (Drawn by Authors)

The tomb was constructed on a 10' high raised platform, with a flat parapet on the four sides. There is no dome, at the cenotaph, like the other Mughal tombs. Therefore, it resembles with pavilion, rather than a tomb. Most of the area was occupied by the residents, and encroachments can be seen adjacent to the boundary walls. The causeway stands on 30 arches. The central chamber is 14 'wide and is enclosed by an ambulatory.



Figure 10: Main Chamber before conservation (Majid, 2020) (Left) & After Conservation (Right)

The square of the main structure measures 44 on each side and the height of the tomb is 32' - 6". The first level is with square-headed apertures at 13' height. There are staircases to access the first floor on southeast and northeast corners. The size of the grave is 6'-10" long, 2'- 10" wide and 1'-8" high. On the north face of the grave, Quranic verses have been inscribed in Nastaliq script. While, the southern face of the grave has been inscribed with the name of Nadira begum, the date of demise.

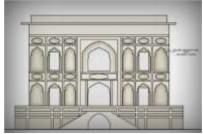


Figure 11 Elevation of Tomb of Nadira Begum (Drawn by Authors)

For the provision of light, in the grave chamber, there are small arched holes on the southern end of the grave to place the oil lamps. Cuspid arched openings were made in the pavilions. The central opening is arched while on both sides, the shape of the opening is flat. The size of the openings on the lower story is 3'-3" wide and 6' high. The remarkable feature of the geometry is that all eight corners of the lower and upper story, form a small pavilion, in each of the corners. All four facades of the pavilion were with blind cuspid arches and panels.

Massive brick masonry was used for the construction of the tomb and the pavilion was constructed with burnt bricks. During the renovation, the whole pavilions, roofs, and platforms were plastered with lime.

Present Condition of Outer Areas:

The tank has now been developed in pretty lawns, bearing pathways. Numerous evergreen trees have also been planted in it and flowerbeds have also been prepared for seasonal flowers. This new arrangement has converted the area of the spacious tank into a beautiful park, an attractive spot for the inhabitants of the locality. But it has also made it into a sports ground where the causeways seem ideal for a cricket pitch.







Figure 12: Present condition showing negligence and contemporary vandalism

The two sides of the monument are surrounded by dense clusters of housing, disturbing the view of the tomb while the other two sides are followed by the roads and a narrow winding street, linking the monument with the tomb of Hazrat Mian Mir and with a little market, a selling place of holy items, such as Chaadrain, flowers, and sweets, creating a religious environment.

Interior Decorations





Figure 13: Galib Kari in the interior of the Tomb

Similar to the other tombs, the interior walls were decorated with Galib Kari, panels of various geometrical shapes. Currently, only traces can be seen in red, green, and black color. The trench of the upper story was brilliantly, embellished with multicolour glazed tiles. The removed tiles have been preserved in the Lahore Museum. It is said that all the precious stones and decorations were shorn during the Sikh period and it is very unsympathetic that costly materials were removed, and the tomb of Nadira Begum was also captured by the Sikh Vandalism. The tomb was also captured by contemporary vandalism as wall chalking is visible at various places, giving an ugly look. All the challenges and impacts influenced the tomb to reach a dilapidated condition.

After 1947, the tomb was ignored due to the issues faced by the newly born state of Pakistan, but, it was declared a protected monument in 1956 and a comprehensive conservation plan was prepared by the Department of Archaeology and Museums. The plan couldn't be completed and the monument remained a silent observer of the Cricket matches, played in one of the corners and it was continually, injured by the soccer balls, being played in one part of the garden. This cricket ground produced several National players and one of them, proposed to demolish the monument, converting it as a proper cricket ground. But the tomb is still, standing with its glory.

Key Challenges

Reintegration of urban built heritage, in the context of sociocultural sustainability, is facing a lot of challenges and pressures.

- Rapid urbanization leads to encroachments and illogical occupancies. The urban sprawl within cities is diminishing the historic environment. The area around the tomb of Nadira Begum has been populated and transformed into a congested area and the urban space, around the monument is the only, spacious garden, currently the hub of multiple activities.
- Neglect of authorities and poor maintenance by the administrative organizations are also damaging the historic urban landscape of the historic cities. There are no protective measures taken against the natural agents? Tomb of Nadira Begum is managed by four authorities, the Archaeological Department of Punjab, the Horticulture and Parks Department, the Auqaf Department, and the Municipal Corporation of Lahore. All are taking care of their occupied space.
- Lack of financial resources and funding opportunities are a great obstacle in the process of safeguarding built heritage. This deficiency of economic resources is causing damage to conservation activities, including the provision of skilled labor and heritage experts. The tank around the monument was converted into a garden during colonial rule in the sub-continent. However, after the urbanization, the absence of such a large space in the close vicinity created multiple activities in this historic environment.
- Heritage sites are lacking in terms of basic infrastructure such as accessibility, security
 management, and linking roads to enhance tourist and cultural activities at the site. Toilets
 were built by the authority but they are in very poor condition and become a source of illsmelling due to the poor maintenance. The children's park has been abandoned due to a lack
 of swings and facilities.
- Inadequate implementation of conservation laws, leading to illegal alterations, human vandalism, and additional, horizontal and vertical encroachments. A part of the garden has been illegally occupied by a factory, closing one of the entrances to the garden.
- The local community's participation is mandatory for the protection of the historic environment. It can enhance the sense of ownership, promoting tourism. But it is least important, here in Pakistan, leading towards chaos. Residents of the local communities in the premises come to play cricket, to engage their children in the children's Park, to park their vehicles but the tomb is a deserted place, suitable for the drug users and nightmares.

Taking into consideration, all the above-stated challenges and issues, an integrated approach is needed to develop strategies for the conservation of, not only monuments but the open urban spaces around these monuments.

Previous Interventions & Conservation works

Tomb of Nadira Begum was declared a "Protected Monument" in 1956 (Nadira Begum Tomb and Tank, Mian Mir, Lahore Cantonment, Lahore as written in the List of Protected Monuments) and a comprehensive plan was prepared by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, but it can't be executed due to insufficient resources and financial issues. However, few modern structures were added in the historic context, ignoring the traditional style of construction.







Figure 14: Newly Built Structures, Public Toilets, Rest Rooms, Parking Area

The tomb was captured by various challenges and deteriorated under climatic and human threats. After a long time, authorities took notice of this lost legacy of the Mughal period, and another effort was made to preserve and restore the monument with item no.3871 dated 30-09-2018, with a 10 billion grant and the work was completed in 2022 by the Department of Archaeology, Punjab (PnD, 2022). At this time also, the context of the monument was left untreated and the historic environment couldn't be saved. The contemporary activities conflict with the traditional functions of the heritage site.

According to Director /Architect Maqsood Ahmad, Directorate General of Archaeology, in a statement to Dawn, the conservation plan was completed as per traditional methods of construction and it includes lime pilaster, fresco paintings, stucco tracery and floor marble tiles. Wooden Benches were also placed for the visitors in the pavilions of the Tomb. Arrangements were made to illuminate the tomb but, the forgotten princess is still waiting for the past grandeur.

Results and Discussions

The historic monument and its garden are being managed by four Departments, Auqaf and Religious Affairs Punjab, WASA, PHA, and MCL Lahore.

The protected monument, Tomb of Nadira Begum was preserved by the Department of Archaeology, Punjab with a smart amount of 10 billion. The Department tried its best to use traditional methods to preserve, whatever, remaining, but its historic context has been destroyed, creating room for the contemporary activities being performed in the historic garden of Nadira Begum. The garden has been divided into eleven plots by the Pakistan Horticulture Authority, One has been allotted for Cricket, rest of the ten, are on the list of Green. On the outskirts, on the eastern side, there is Children Park, in devastated condition, there are public toilets, adjacent to Children Park, constructed by the Mayor of Lahore, Colonel Mubasher. Adjacent to the public toilets, space was fixed for the Parking of the staff of Auqaf & Religious Affairs, Punjab.

Figure 15: Contemporary activities need to be organized to save the historic tomb garden (Source: Majid, 2020)

- First of all, a metal railing, fixed around the structure of the tomb at a distance of 8'-0" blocked the view of the monument that was initially designed amid a water tank, giving the concept of the floating structure. The concept was ignored during the preservation process, minimizing the tourist value of the monument. On the contrary, the lost princess was pushed into a silent place at the mercy of a druggist. The causeway and its adjacent lane of fountains, with a walking pathway, now, has been converted into a pitch for cricket lovers, damaging the fountains. The boundary wall between the places, allotted for the Cricket ground, has been removed and a soccer net has also been placed in the near vicinity of the tomb, converting the north corner of the tomb for playing activities.
- The understanding of indoor and outdoor edges and the relationship between heritage sites with neighboring communities has been ignored, in terms of urban fabric. The private and public spaces are overlapping due to illegal occupancies. This is not only visual but also functional.
- The adjacent street is a favorite place for moveable food stalls (Raries) and is a source of congestion and leftovers, thrown by the visitors. The sense of "in-between-spaces has been ignored by the organizers.
- The sense of security of the tomb has also been violated as it is exposed to any visitor, without security checks. The metal boundary wall has separated the historic tomb and its garden, now this garden is a recreational place, rather historic context of a protected monument.

- One of the gateways is closed by a factory owner, who has developed his factory adjacent to the boundary wall of the garden, illegally occupying the access road. Similarly, the house adjacent to the plot used as a cricket ground, looks like a part of the ground.
- The turrets (Small Burjies) have been in dilapidated condition. Only two are remaining in the eastern wall of the garden.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Historic monuments should be restored and conserved with their context, preserving their historic environment. During the conservation process, it must be tried to restore these monuments with their basic design philosophy, so that, intangible assets may also be protected. Physical protection of the heritage sites, can't generate the concept of living heritage. The protection of cultural heritage contains both tangible and intangible elements. The tomb of Nadira Begum was located in a huge water tank, and a garden, around this water tank. It was developed on the pattern of "Chahar Bagh" with four gateways, with causeways.



Figure 16 Layout showing Green Plots of Tomb Garden (Drawn by Authors)

Observing the results of the visual, pictorial survey and walkthrough analysis of the monument and its context, a few recommendations for the preservation of this heritage can enhance the socio-cultural values of the neighborhood communities, by inviting heritage lovers, to revive the memories of forgotten buried princes, to revise the memory of "Mughal Grandeur".

- Preserving the monument, on its original philosophy, a water tank should be developed around the tomb. It can be scaled to accommodate contemporary activities.
- The cricket ground should be separated from the tomb, The Government can take action against illegal occupancies and land can be added to the cricket ground, by acquiring the adjacent houses. The soccer net should also be removed and shifted to the outer edges, rather adjacent to the causeway.
- The original function of the causeway, water passing from the arches, should be revived. It will add aesthetic and tourist value, and ultimately generate more revenue if the number of visitors will be increased. Finally, this amount can be spent on the development of infrastructure in the area.
- There will be a segregation of spaces, considering all the functions, maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the monument, and promoting social life, financial activities, security, culture, and ecology. The in-between settings enable major functions of the place.
- There must be a sense of security within the site and there must be emotional attachment of the residents, with the opportunities for communal gathering, the presence of proper markets, vendor shops, and playgrounds, supported by change in experience at every moment, for all the age groups.

Originally Nadira Begum Tomb, but now is being used as a place of recreation, as a playground, a temporary marriage ground, and even a parking lot, sometimes. The heritage site is endangered due to complete negligence and continually exposed to destruction of the site. The tomb needs to be restored to its original condition to keep this heritage safe for the coming decades.

References:

Bryant, J. (2020). Colonial Architecture in Lahore: J. L. Kipling and the 'Indo-saracenic' Styles. South Asian Studies, 36(1), 61–71. https://doi.org/10.1080/02666030.2020.1721111

Chishti, N. A. (2006). Tehqeeqat e Chisti. Al Faisal Publishers, Lahore

Farhan, R. (1995). The Tomb of Asif Khan Lahore, Pakistan. In UNSW, Sydney.

Goulding, C. H. R. (1924a). Old Lahore. Survey of India, Map Department, Lahore.

Goulding, C. H. R. (1924b). Old Lahore. Survey of India, Map Department, Lahore.

Groat, L., & Wang, D. (2013). Architectural Research Methods. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey.

Hankey, D. (1999). Culture in Sustainable Development Case Study: Lahore, Pakistan Conservation of the Walled City.

Ibrahim, & Zainah. (2007). Urban conservation: A framework for community involvement in Malaysia. http://shura.shu.ac.uk/19853/

Khalid, A. (2021). Conservation Challenges and Emerging Trends of Digital Preservation for UNESCO Architectural Heritage, Pakistan. Conservation, 2(1), 26–37. https://doi.org/10.3390/conservation2010003

Koch, E. (2008). Mughal Architecture. Indian Islamic Architecture, 27–33. http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1163/j.ctv4cbgx7.7

Latif, S. M. (1992). Lahore: Its History, Architectural Remains and Antiquities. Lahore: New Imperial Press.

Lowry, G. D. (1987). Humayun's Tomb: Form, Function, and Meaning in Early Mughal Architecture Linked references are available on JSTOR for this article: Humayun's Tomb: Form, Function, and Meaning in Early Mughal Architecture. 4(JSTOR), 133–148. https://www.jstor.org/stable/1523100

Majid, M. A. (2020). Nadira Begum's Tomb: A Tragic Tomb for a Tragic Princess. Youlimn Magazine.

PnD, P. (2022). Archaeology: Summary of ongoing projects.

Rezavi, A. N. (2014). Mughal_Architecture_Organization_Inspira.pdf.

Schimmel, A. (2003). The Empires of the Great Mughals.

Siddiqui, S., Anwar, H. N., & Perveen, S. (2009). Socioeconomic milieu of depression among aged in Punjab, Lahore-Pakistan. Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences, 7(1), 21–24. http://www.pjlss.edu.pk/pdf_files/2009_1/21-24.pdf

Tufail, M. (1952). Naqoosh: Lahore Number. Adara Farogh e Urdu, Lahore.

Weh links

https://www.makeheritagefun.com/the-forgotten-tomb-of-nadira-begum/

https://www.dawn.com/news/1553065

ttps://pakhheritage.org/tomb-of-nadira-begum/

https://doam.gov.pk/public/heritage-sites/607

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/236520232/nadira-banu-begum

https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/694741-Three-Jewels-fading-from-Lahore-architectural-crown