

Tankshal Pol Masjid

CEPT Conservation Site School

An initiative by Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF supported by Ahmedabad Sunni Muslim Waqf Committee and funded by donations. This report summarises the site school activities from January '22 to September '23. We thank all the donors and contributors for supporting this initiative.



NDT MDT workshop at Tankshal (photograph by Zeus Pithawalla)

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Timeline of Activities

March 2022

Site coordinator's workshop: Discussed the learnings from Tankshal Pol masjid Site school

May 2022

Careful dismantling of the entrance wall of the Mosque.
Presentation to WAQF Committee on the site activities and way forward

June 2022

Pre-monsoon preparation of the Site

July 2022

Monsoon checkup to document the efficiency of precautions taken and the impacts of Monsoon.

August 2022

Cataloging of material samples collected during the dismantling of the entrance area for analysis.

September 2022

Meeting with WAQF Committee: to discuss the progress of TDR processing and the way forward

January 2023

YHEP at Tankshal - 'Digital twinning: a case study of Tankshal mosque.

February 2023

Workshop: Non and Minor destructive testing.

April 2023

DRP Thesis on Conservation Management Plan for Tankshal ni pol masjid.

May 2023

Site School as a pedagogical tool.

1. Careful Dismantling

7th -20th May 2022

Undertaken in May 2022, the activity involved dismantling the entrance wall of the Mosque, located on the South-west portion of the site. The local municipal body had issued a notice regarding the unsafe condition of this wall as it was out of plumb and posed a threat to the neighboring residents. This entrance wall is part of an extension to the site and not within the core structure.

The initial steps of dismantling were to carefully remove the roofing sheets, partially unhinged timber door and window frames, sensitively cut the timber logs/beam, dismantle the unloaded first-floor wall, and carefully remove the flooring (cement layer on an earlier brick and lime composite) while retaining the I-sections and timber purlins frame. The ground floor wall was then dismantled brick by brick; the challenge was to retain the structure's entrance door archway with intricate stucco work. All materials retrieved during dismantling stand as a record of the earlier construction and have been cataloged and stored methodically for archiving purposes and to reuse for later stages of repair/rebuilding.



Steps in safeguarding and careful dismantling of the entry structure (photographs by Zeus Pithawalla)

2.Safeguarding for monsoon

20th June 2022

In preparation for the monsoon in June 2022, the roof of the Jammata Khana was covered with Tarpaulin/Canvas sheets to prevent water seepage. The roofing sheets had been damaged, resulting in water ingress and dampness, especially along the walls. In the case of the Imam’s room and the store room, the roof had deteriorated beyond repair; it was carefully removed and temporarily covered with canvas sheets supported on the timber frame. The northwest corner of the structure, identified as a weak point, was covered from the roof to the ground to prevent further exposure. All the furniture was moved indoors, and the dismantled materials stored on site were also covered with tarpaulin sheets to prevent rain damage. Regular checkup of the precautionary measures was done over the period of monsoon to ensure its efficient functioning.



Covering the roof and north west corner of Jammata Khana in preparation for monsoon (photographs by Zeus Pithawalla)

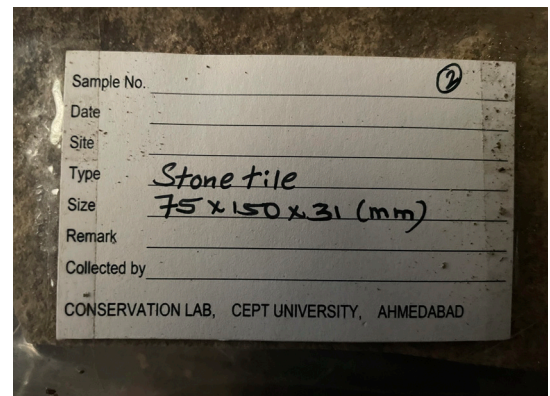
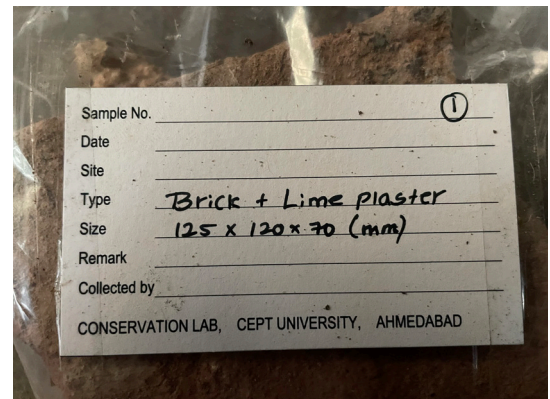
3. Cataloguing Material Samples

10th August 2022

Sufficient samples for material characterization tests were collected from the site during dismantling. The samples were meticulously cataloged, where each sample was photographed and tabulated with a number, type, dimensions, location within the structure, and any site observations.

These samples are to be further tested to understand the material composition and properties. This would aid in suggesting compatible materials for the conservation of the structure.

| Sample Number | Sample Image | Sample Type | Sample Size (L x B x H) (mm) | Remark |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| 1 |  | Brick and Lime Plaster | 125 x 120 x 70 | |
| 2 |  | Stone Tile | 75 x 150 x 31 | |
| 3 |  | Brick and Lime Lime Mortar | 160 x 70 x 100 | |
| 4 |  | Stone Tile | 200x 180 x 30 | |



Material cataloguing and tabulation format (photographs by Sirajuddin Mohammed)





4. On-going Activites

i. Application for permission to repair

Being a Grade IIA structure, for carrying out any conservation work on the property, a commencement letter (Raja chithi) is to be acquired from the AMC Heritage department which could be further submitted for processing TDR (Transferable Development Rights). A detailed plan for the conservation and repair of the structure developed by CHC, along with all necessary documents, has been submitted to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) for approval.

ii. Monitoring the site

Bi-weekly visits are conducted to monitor the weak points in the structure. A checklist and photographic documentation are maintained as records for the site condition and observations. Certain identified weak points in the structure are monitored regularly to document the changes.

| A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------|--|
| Tankshal Pol Masjid - 603 | | Key plan link | | | |
| Sl no | To Check | Observations | | | Link to Photos |
| 1 | Termites | | | | |
| | Beams | No visible termite infestation (TI) on beams, except on beam 6-10 and junction at capital 2 | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/18MTsPm1-iC63zjynDp-91_cwmlIloSF/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/16s0KNwakyGivwR63gPQSDcN5NbrVnF3b/view?usp=drive_link |
| | Columns | Major TI on columns 1, 9, 20, minor TI on columns 4, 8, 13. Bores at the column base-probably due to termites. | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/164Qc-DN7udRMwI5yE3Yz0I26Ch6w/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/17c4tnzTgrV6KmuTFHkK3_MHCeBh78r/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Dn3v4BpKDnu55wfy3w5SSMHCYrE/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/17EK28GHwSTkVBeag9maTkjgPmIq7nB-view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/17mYD9pbwGwMBUdtrPCDvY4naevn/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/188bam5NvsDU4P2XegVzOEqaY_dru-view?usp=drive_link |
| | Flooring members | Termite infestation/Decay in Flooring elements between columns 3-10-13-14 and 1-2-5-6 | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/18LMX-ktvBg5ohbpr28vV7FPtKvsvF0/view?usp=drive_link |
| | Temporary door | NIL, observed decay and dampness at bottom | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/18NVpflUJUG-DLIRgTASiZm5yVudkeJl/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/18r3UaBf_o9kwP4CEZD9HmQJ4_dgKQ920/view?usp=drive_link |
| 2 | Safeguarding checks | | | | |
| | 1. Mihrab wall | | | | |
| | Loosened joints | No | | | |
| | Bends in members | No, slightly leaning to wards right | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/19EsmYIGSLIBrN0ppTvFci9C86lpFqYrL/view?usp=drive_link |
| | Missing supports | No | | | |
| | 2. Entry area | | | | |
| | Rust | Yes, Need oiling | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/19YVnpFYQ3Bl_z5Y7UJd6_oe7Th_4UJl/view?usp=drive_link |
| | Loosened joints | No | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/19WlJ0EKMBaaqR55VEf3uRmq67EMS3/view?usp=drive_link |
| | Bends in members | No | | | |
| | Missing supports | No | | | |
| | Major visible damages | Main door left shutter bottom pivot missing, cracks and damage at locations of embedded columns in the entry foyer, Temporary door decay and dampness, crumbling of wall Adjacent to column 20, dislocation, decay and damage to col 2 capital and junction, Dampness of entire JamatKhanaa flooring, Dampness and crumbling of column base 10 and 11 | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AZyocwpu0e2aDLEJ-3rP3zoo-IHrXGLq/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/19a50qskCa3TKmEgV15myBCah01fL_7R/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/18DdVbBN7xEBrpx7XaxpM6wCR9uNY761/view?usp=drive_link |
| 3 | Tree branches leaning on roof | Large branch leaning onto the roof, branch affecting neighbors occupying 2nd floor of south Go-down | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/1616IG9ZV0aZHKUwEnX-dLUz-7XtrV/view?usp=drive_link |
| 5 | Burning of waste near Mihrab corn | No | | | |
| 6 | Waste around site | Waste accumulation in and around the site, municipality not cleaning surroundings | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/19c9Dv4ehMXw6w5X5lWavYvMo2lrgJGP/view?usp=drive_link |
| 7 | Other issues | mosquito breeding in ablation tanks, and other water storage facilities on site. | | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/16b62LjXccVJdg130MC2F6Ke'loomDGch/view?usp=drive_link https://drive.google.com/file/d/16eN0zMMeLzVGjh83VU-S7ts31hr5lakw/view?usp=drive_link |
| Sl no | To Document | Reference images | | | Link to Photos and observations |
| | Ground floor | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | |
| 1 | Mihrab wall corner decay |  |  | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/19IL7r00a0bN6LD6RiCR4Bv2_zQVqACV9/view?usp=drive_link |
| 2 | Northern wall decay |  |  | | https://drive.google.com/file/d/19pNcUowJ57V0NeynkalyKwZY0BKfSG/view?usp=drive_link |

Site monitoring checklist format for Tankshal pol Masjid



II. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Site Coordinator's Workshop

20th March 2022

A site coordinator's workshop at the CHC office discussed the progress of all the site schools and exchanged the critical learnings. In the case of Tankshal Pol Masjid, the meeting discussed the timeline of activities from the launch of the site school, to ongoing activities along with the proposed activities for the upcoming year.

The major upcoming tasks as identified in the session included a meeting with WAQF board to discuss the timeline, estimate and detailed schedule of the conservation activity, the dismantling and documentation of the south-east entrance structure as suggested by AMC and planning a Non and Minor destructive testing workshop to be conducted at Tankshal. The workshop also provided an opportunity to raise concerns regarding the site school and brainstorm possible solutions. The delay in process of acquiring permission to repair and TDR from AMC was a major concern raised. The need for improving the user interface of the site school website and alternative methods to improve the donation process were also discussed in the meeting. Being the first site school to be adopted by CHC, experiences from Tankshal pol Masjid are important learnings for the other site schools.



Discussions during Site Coordinator's Workshop held at CHC (photographs by Komal Gandhi)

2. YHEP workshop II-Digital Twinning:

Case Study of Tankshal Mosque

22nd January 2023

Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CEPT Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), in collaboration with The Hive (Ahmedabad), conducted a workshop on ‘Digital Twinning: Case Study of Tankshal Mosque’ on 22 January 2023 at CEPT Conservation Site School in Tankshal, Ahmedabad. This is the second workshop in the Young Heritage Explorers’ Program (YHEP) series, aimed to introduce and educate young people about the significance of heritage sites and the role of history and heritage conservation in our contemporary lives.

The workshop introduced young students to three activities: ‘Is this an XRay or Picture?’, ‘Playing with Clouds and Mirrors,’ and ‘Why we Draw/Visualize.’ Through a projector setup on-site, the workshop encouraged participants to explore the 3D Point Cloud data of the timber mosque v/s panoramic images captured. The curious explorers were also introduced to the structure through stories and narratives of the history and an exhibition of material specimens from the dismantled area of the structure. Kits, which included puzzles, treasure hunts, postcards, and other interactive tools, were created to engage the participants better.



Young explorers understanding the technology and possibilities of Lidar Scanning (photographs by Komal Gandhi)

II. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3. Workshop: NDT and MDT

20th & 22nd February 2023

As a part of the structural conservation course offered to the students of second-semester masters in Conservation and Regeneration program (MCR at Faculty of Architecture CEPT University), a two-day workshop was organized on 20th & 22nd February 2023 to understand the different non and minor destructive testing methods available to aid structural conservation. The workshop was conducted by Nigar Shaikh (Conservation Engineer and Course Tutor) and supported by Zeus Pithawalla (Conservation Architect, Site-In charge for Tankshal Pol Masjid). This workshop introduced students to the theory and different techniques used for Non-destructive and Minor-destructive testing and gave them hands-on experience to engage with the equipment of UPV, Rebound Hammer, Borescope, and Moisture meter.

The workshop was aimed to create an understanding of the different non-invasive testing methods and how the combination of these tests helps investigators gain a comprehensive understanding of a building's condition without causing damage to the historic fabric. These methods are vital for preserving the maximum historic fabric while providing relevant information regarding the building material and structure. The recommendations made based on the tests will help preserve the historic building's structural integrity and historic fabric for future generations.



Non and minor destructive testing being conducted on Tanshal Pol Masjid (photographs by Komal Gandhi)

II. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4. Site School as a Pedagogical Tool.

19th May 2023

A display of educational, outreach, and safeguarding activities conducted by CHC at each Site school, along with potential studio themes for each site, was conducted at CRDF on 19th May 2023. This led to interesting discussions on the wide-ranging educational potential of these historic buildings and various pedagogical directions that can be undertaken by engaging with them.

The presentation on Tankshal Pol Masjid included a brief description of the site, the structure, and its significance in the world heritage city of Ahmedabad, along with a detailed description of all the on-site and educational activities associated with the site. Focusing on “Counter-narratives”, “The rarity of timber mosques in Ahmedabad”, and “Designing with the community” were the three potential studio themes discussed for Tankshal Pol Masjid. Studios focusing on any of these themes would help in designing the future of the structure while retaining the sanctity of the space.

The event marked a step forward by the CEPT Conservation Site Schools program toward encouraging collaborative processes and approaches of academic exploration in Architecture and Design, Landscape Design, Urban Studies, and Construction Technology.

For further details visit: <https://www.ceptconservationsiteschool.com/projects-2>



Site School as a Pedagogical Tool presentation held at CHC (photographs by Komal Gandhi)

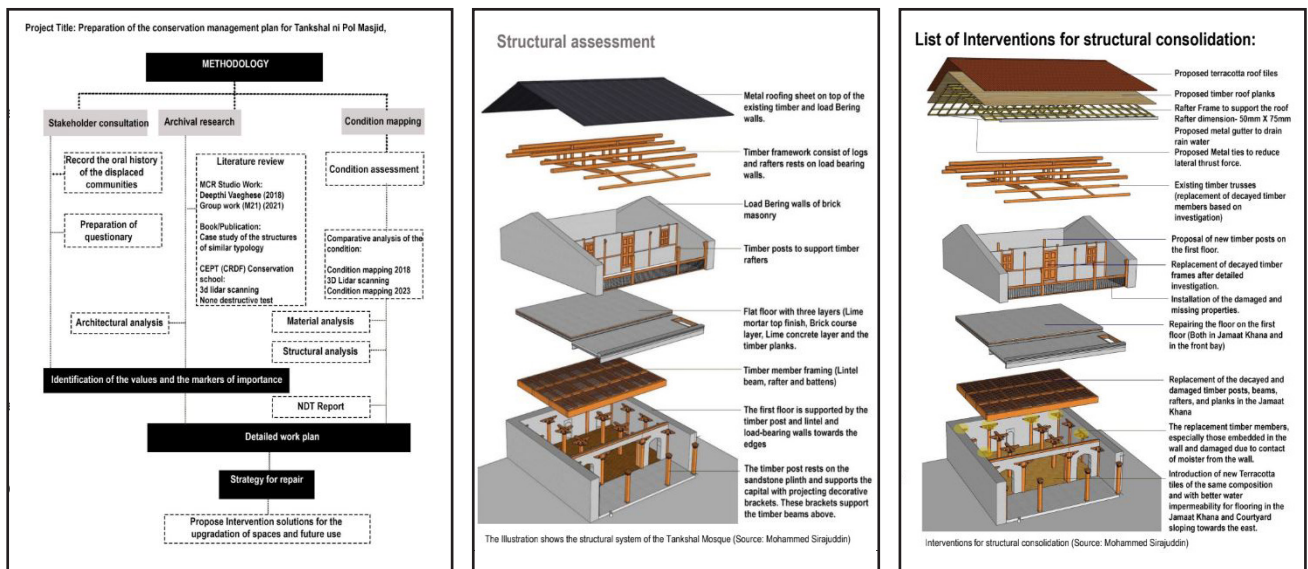
5.DRP Thesis

Conservation Management Plan for Tankshal Pol Masjid.

April 2023

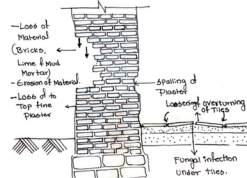
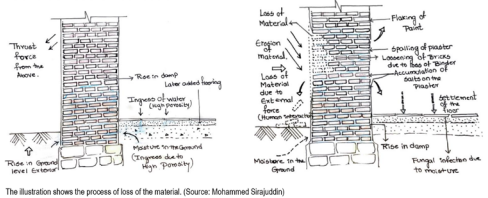
The Directed Research Project (DRP) by Sirajuddin Mohammed of the fourth semester Masters in Conservation and Regeneration on Tankshal Pol Masjid was aimed at preparing a conservation management plan for the structure. Through the project, detailed documentation and condition assessment based on visual observations were done for the site. Along with a detailed understanding of the structural system and the materials, to map the issues and damages to the structure.

The project also focused on community engagement to develop context-specific design solutions. Based on the initial studies and analysis, options for safeguarding and structural conservation solutions specific to the different issues observed on the structure were discussed, along with guidelines for maintenance and monitoring. The report also gives a statement on the potential future directions for the use of the structure.

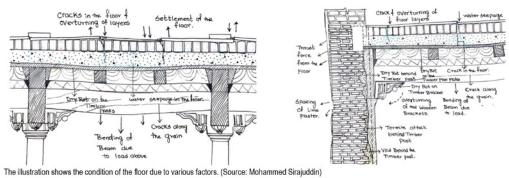


Condition assessment (possibilities for the condition)

Condition at the Foundation



Condition of the floor on the Jamaat Khana



Illustrations from DRP report Sirajuddin Mohammed (DRP presentation - by Sirajuddin Mohammed)

6. Site For Masters Studio

Meaning: Building - Crafting , Masters in Architectural Tectonics (FA)

September 2023

The property is selected as the site for the design studio, Meaning: Building – crafting offered to Third-semester students of masters in Architectural Tectonics at CEPT University. This studio, in its emphasis, is designed to ignite among the students a critical discourse on the production of architecture as an artefact, through the questions of resources and the processes of construction. The studio exercises are designed to enable the students to investigate, analyse and extract ‘values’ embedded in built forms through perspectives of the various acts and actors of the execution team. Understanding of these processes- of construction, crafting, assembly, amalgamation- will largely inform their own design projects aimed at expressing architectural thought as a coherent whole, from macroscopic context (‘the structure’) to microscopic detail (‘the construct’). This detailed-based studio is expected to come up with exciting solutions for combining the old and the new by retaining the sanctity and the values of the space.



Site visit and introductory session conducted for MAT students (photographs by Ann Shojan, Drashti Nakrani)

III. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Community Engagement Workshop

Recording Oral Histories and memories

Designing with the community has been decided as one of the potential directions for the site. Considering a site that has a significant history of transformations, a thorough understanding of the context and the associated community is essential for making informed design decisions. Therefore, a proposal for a bi-weekly community engagement workshop is under consideration.

The present community, the available earlier occupants, and representatives from WAQF and CHC will be conducting active discussions on several themes associated with the property. This will also be an opportunity to record the stories and memories of the people associated with the structure, which will form an oral history archive for the property.



Credits

Team: Dr. Jigna Desai, Zeus Pithawalla, Ann Shojan, Ashna Patel, Nigar Shaikh, Mrudula Mane, Gauri Bharat, Jayashree Bardhan, Saatvika Pancholi, Komal Gandhi, Drashti Nakrani, Sirajuddin Mohammed, Sarvesh Alshi, Deepthi Varghese, Juhi Bafna and Lakshmi R from Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF (CEPT Research and Development Foundation) along with the team at Ahmedabad Sunni Muslim WAQF Committee.

We thank Chintan Mewada, Hitarth Nandi, Khushi Shah, Nitya L.Iyer, Paridhi Goyel, and Taral Patel for volunteering their time and skills towards this initiative. We extend this thanks to the participants of the '3D LiDAR Scanning Workshop' and the students of the Masters in Conservation and Regeneration (MCR) program at FA, CEPT that have contributed through workshop/studio processes.

Experts in the field have lent their support to Site School. We thank Dr. Aryanti Tutin, Dr. Gauri Bharat, Khushi Shah, Mehul Shah, Pavan Bakeri, Suren Vakil, and the team at Shayona Management Services Pvt. Ltd. for their time and effort.

We are grateful to all the well-wishers who have kindly donated to this initiative: Abbas Mansuri, Christopher Benninger, Deepak Kaw, Gaurav Desai, Girish Dariyav Karnawat, Harsh Bafna, M and R, Mehul Bhatt, Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Pervin Desai, P and G, Quaid Doongerwala, Radhika Dhumal, Ratna Shah, Sarvesh Alshi, Shilpa Ranade, Shobhit Tayal, Sunil Alshi, Surya Kakani, Swapna Desai, Trupti, and all the donors who wished to keep their identities anonymous.

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