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Analyzing Masjid Wazir Khan to Enhance the Built Environment of Walled City, Lahore.



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Abstract: Masjid Wazir Khan, situated in the Lahore historical Walled City, is a unique architectural master piece that took part in improved the city's built environment. The mosque, which was Built-in the 17th century during the Mughal empire, the mosque reflects the rich architectural cultural and heritage legacy of Lahore. The built surrounding and culture are deeply associated with each other. In addition, The events or activities that organized around the Wazir Khan mosque bring to the vibrant cultural fabric of the Walled City. Both visitors as well as residents are attracted to the region's numerous festivals, religious gatherings, and cultural celebrations. Traditional markets, known as bazaars, offer a wide range of handicrafts, textiles, and local cuisine, providing a unique shopping and dining experience. Without taking into consideration the conditions of the built environment around our site or any selected historic building, we cannot really say we're keeping our heritage alive. To understand the current situation of the built environment around our site we've developed a "built environment assessment tool". All the data for the tool was carried out through on-site visits, observation-based surveys, and peer interviews which later helped to conclude the current situation of the site.

Keywords: Heritage, Built Environment, Link between built environment and the heritage, assessment tool

Introduction

A culture or community's collective legacy is referred to as its heritage, and it includes all of the tangible, intangible, and timeless elements that have been passed down from one generation to the next (Zulfiqar et al., 2024). It stands for both concrete and abstract manifestations of human creativity, history, and identity. Historical, architectural, or artistically significant physical buildings, monuments, objects, and landscapes are all considered to be

part of tangible legacy (Bhatti et al., 2024). Ancient temples, archeological sites, historic structures, museums, works of art, or natural landscapes preserved for their aesthetic, cultural, or historical significance can all qualify. The ability to understand and appreciate the accomplishments and traditions of earlier generations is made possible by our tangible heritage, which acts as a concrete link to the past.

Oral traditions, performing arts, rituals,

festivals, languages, and traditional handicrafts are all examples of intangible heritage, which includes all activities, expressions, knowledge, and abilities that are passed down from one generation to the next. It contains all of a culture's inherent traits, that contributes to its richness diversity and shows its uniqueness and distinctiveness (Naukkarinen 2017).

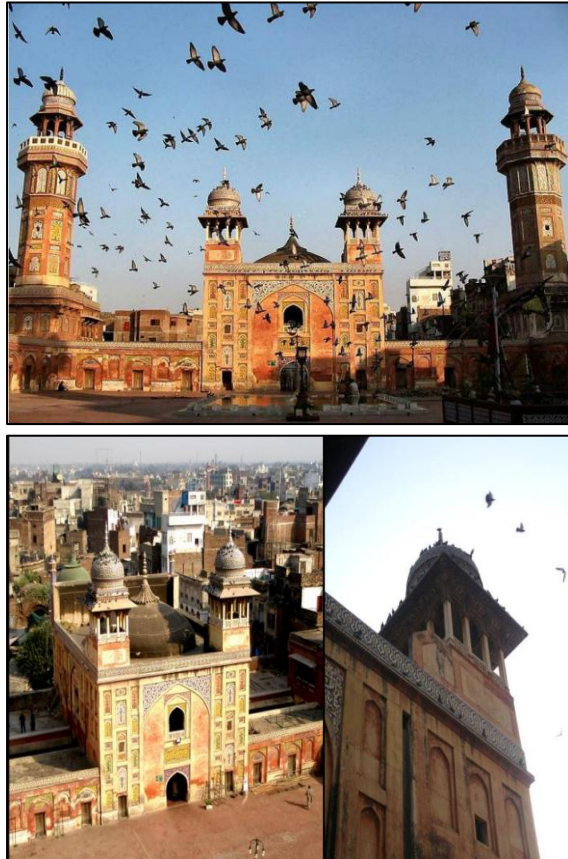


Figure 01 Wazir Khan mosque perspective views (F. Khan, 2020, Abid, 2017)

Our background plays an integral part in shaping our collective identity and encourages a sense of pride and community. It encourages multigenerational communication and comprehension by serving as an outlet of information, motivation and multicultural interaction. For the purpose to assure the viability and accessibility of our societal economic, cultural and environmental legacy for future generations legacy preservation and conversation are vital (Irvine, 2012).

With the goal to safeguard cultural diversity, foster sustainable growth and promote social harmony. Legacy must be honored, acknowledged and preserved. It promotes a feeling of community identity in conjunction

with boosting tourism and economic growth. Legacy is a representation of our common human heritage, connecting us to our forefathers and creating the foundation for a vibrant, diversified community (Vardopoulos, 2019).

Heritage is very essential because it connects us to our roots, history, and cultural identity. By conserving our traditions, artwork, architecture, and ideals, it promotes a feeling of pride and community (Raheem et al., 2008). By serving as a source of inspiration, knowledge, and travel, it promotes economic growth. Legacy directs us toward a sustainable and socially prosperous future while assisting us in recalling our past achievements. The advancement and diversity of human growth depend on its preservation.

Cultural heritage has great impact on tourism. A place which have many architectural marvels, customs and rich history serves as many popular tourist destination. Preserving and promoting a community's cultural history not only safeguards the community's legacy but also stimulates the tourism sector, which in turn generates jobs and promotes cross-cultural interaction between residents and tourists. Cultural history and tourism work together to support a destination's overall growth and profitability.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The constructed environment around Masjid Wazir Khan in Lahore's Walled City confronts challenges that restrict its development. In order to preserve and enhance the overall quality of the surroundings, the purpose of this research is to identify and address issues related to infrastructure deterioration, inadequate landscape management, limited cultural activities, and accessibility barriers.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Analyze the way, by achieving an equilibrium among historical significance and modern involvements, green spaces and landscape planning which boost the region's visual attraction and ecological sustainability. Analyze the connection between landscape planning, development of infrastructure, and the overall improvement of the physical surrounding in the vicinity of masjid wazir khan.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Conservation of Our Heritage Walled City Lahore

In the walled city of Lahore, heritage salvation is of the absolute emphasis. The walled city is a expression of the city's magnificent past because of its considerable cultural and historical connotation (A. Khan, 2011). The Lahore Fort, Badshahi Mosque, and Wazir Khan Mosque, among other architectural marvels, must be preserved. Preservation drives commitment to zero in on organizing and keeping up with these designs, advancing durable the travel industry, and bringing contention to light about their valid merit. We not only protect our cultural legacy but also create opportunities for economic growth, tourism, and a sense of community pride by safeguarding the walled city's heritage (Sinha 2019).

By and large, a heritage trail is a straightforward plot with a particular subject that interfaces different destinations, attractions, and tourism organizations by giving data and storytelling en-route (Awan et al., 2014). The structure and length of heritage trails can change incredibly, from short city strolls to extended hikes and beautiful drives. By highlighting the features along the trail, these trails serve conservation purposes and aim to create engaging experiences for visitors. Particularly, urban heritage trails are essential to the preservation of the urban heritage identity, which includes the social fabric and historic urban quarters (Din, 2018). They offer options like self-guided tours and contribute to visitors' engagement with the spaces they visit. Self-guided tours, specifically, are becoming more popular because of their adaptability and lower cost. Heritage trails frequently use signage, information boards, leaflets, audio recordings, and mobile apps to give available information to users. As part of their efforts to promote historical heritage areas and develop tourism in the city, Kuala Lumpur City Hall has successfully implemented thirteen heritage trails, each with a distinct storytelling theme.

Evolving morphologies: Public squares of the Walled City of Lahore

The Wazir Khan Mosque's forecourt, which was constructed with Shah Jahan's support by his governor Wazir Khan, is the sole public space that accurately captures the political and cultural nature of Lahore during the Mughal era. Depicts its majesty and distinctive architecture. According to Kamran and Talbot, the city attracted traders and merchants from as far away as Central Asia, and the bazaar next to the Wazir Khan Mosque was a hub for international trade in books and writing supplies.

On the east-west guzar of the walled city that runs between Taxali Gate and Delhi Gate is the Wazir Khan Mosque and Square. The eastern entry to the Walled City of Lahore is the Delhi Gate, which connects to the road coming from Delhi, the former capital of the Mughal Empire. From there, the Taxali Gate path continues to Kabul in the west. Near the Delhi Gate on the eastern end is the Wazir Khan Square. It was a part of Guzar Rarra that had recently been created and was situated outside the walls of the Sultanate Period Walled City.

WCLA and AKCSP recently conducted conservation work on the Wazir Khan Mosque square and were successful in removing a number of encroachments. A concrete retaining wall was constructed around the forecourt after it was excavated to determine the square's original level. Together, the wall and the level difference have divided the area and isolated the mosque's forecourt from its surroundings and activities. The WCLA and AKCSP's planned activities in the forecourt will encourage gentrification in the neighborhood and drive locals away from their social and cultural spaces. A more thorough strategy that prioritizes preserving this location's cultural identity is needed.

Because of the square's clearly defined geometrical layout, which is even more apparent as a result of the removal of encroachments, the Chowk Wazir Khan has a very strong sense of enclosure and spatial definition. The Wazir Khan Mosque's massive and distinctly classical façade and the elaborate facades of the nearby 19th- and early 20th-century residences contribute to the square's architectural character, which is also quite uniform.

The Walled City of Lahore's urban morphology is highly fascinating since it displays a startling contradiction. The imperial mosque and the fort are located in the citadel, which also houses the fort, and the rest of the Walled City has an almost organic labyrinthine morphology with formal geometric examples like the Wazir Khan Mosque complex. Below the citadel is the imperial mosque, which has a perfectly formal layout based on formal Islamic geometry. This duality raises some very important considerations about the function of geometry and its usage as a tool for structuring the historical process of constructing cities for future reference.

Phenomenology of contemplative Spaces:

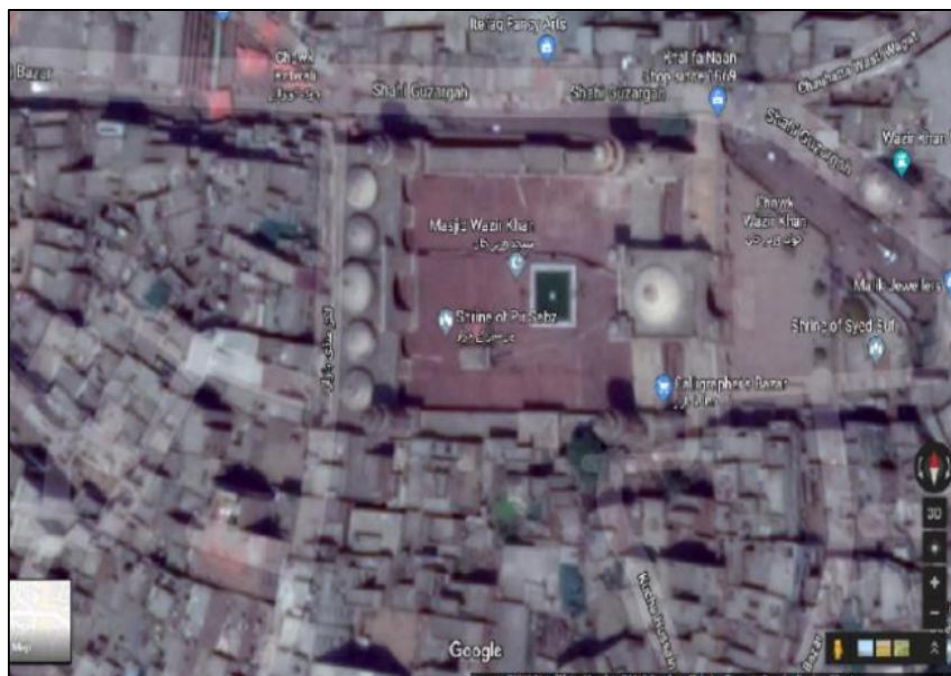


Figure 02 Aerial view of the Wazir Khan Mosque, Lahore (Malik et al., 2022)

Due to the mosque's symmetry, visitors can already get a sense of the types of spaces on the other sides that haven't been explored on their first visit. While standing within Masjid Wazir Khan, the visual brain receives information about the big colored facades, flying birds that surround the mosque, and the ability to situate oneself in the walled city while receiving information about motion. All of them point to the process by which the brain creates the perception of space.

The building's spatial experience is influenced by a wide range of variables, many of which

Case of Masjid Wazir khan.

The main concept of the mosque and its design, according to the creator, is geometry. This is influencing how the space is experienced. It provides a methodical entrance for the user into the outside courtyard before leading them into the mosque, where they will find a vestibule. The mosque's main idea, which is an interpretation of the process that the research has focused on, is reminded by the entry on the axis and how numerous architectural features are arranged in its direction. The brain regions in charge of spatial recognition and memory are the hippocampus and the bronco, respectively.

depend on how connected a person is to the phenomenology of the space. The sensitivity of a man's sensory investigation strengthens this connection. The project necessitates rigorous examination of the brain and introduces new avenues for questions about the mapping of neural networks that one creates in a space that affects perception.



Figure 03 Master plan of the Wazir Khan Mosque, Lahore (Malik et al., 2022)

However, a set of standards and a comparative study can provide the fundamental knowledge needed to develop the concepts underpinning meditative environments. The research can be used to map the visual cultures and experiences of historic sites/contexts, analyze neural networks in cityscapes, desolate regions, and more.

The Importance of Heritage Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration in Pakistan

Heritage conservation entails the preservation and management of cultural, historical, and natural heritage sites for future generations.

There are several archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage sites in Pakistan. Considering a variety of valid reasons, these places ought to be secured, properly maintained and rebuilt. Firstly, it helps contribute to the conservation of Pakistan unique cultural heritage and promotes an atmosphere of identity and pride within the local people. Furthermore, such spots entice tourist from all over, encouraging tourism for cultural reasons and improving the regional economy.

Important cultural objects, historical accounts, customs, and architectural along with archeological data are also safeguarded via

heritage conservation. It makes it possible for historians, academics and archeologist to analyze and study the past, increasing our comprehension of ancient societies and cultural customs. Still a lack of monetary support, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of education and awareness about preservation encroachment and urban sprawl adjacent to heritage sites, and natural disasters are all challenges to historic preservation in Pakistan. The local community, government, heritage organizations and international authorities must work together to create efficient polices, create awareness, give funding and carry out conservation and restoration projects in order to address these problems.

Some major key reasons are also mentioned regarding why conservation is essential in Pakistan.

1. Pakistan's rich history, cultural identity and customs are represented by heritage sites. By connecting local communities to the history and ancestral roots, the conservation and preservation of these sites promotes a sense of belonging and pride.
2. Sites that highlight Pakistan's past

civilizations. Archeological designs and cultural customs are often considered historically significant. They are great teaching resources that teach present and future generations about their customs history and the achievement of their ancestors.

3. Well preserved historical landmarks draw tourist from both foreign and domestic countries, stimulating the tourism sector and generating the revenue for people living nearby. Moreover, tourism creates jobs and promotes local economies.
4. In Pakistan, natural landscapes and ecosystems are interconnected with some heritage monuments. Long term development, biodiversity and ecological balance are all safeguarded by the preservation and conservation of these regions.
5. Pampered heritage celebrations can enhance Pakistan's standing abroad, encourage cultural change and strengthen diplomatic relationship with other nations. They strengthen the country's soft power and worldwide recurrence.

In Pakistan must prioritize the creation of thorough heritage conservation policies, allot sufficient funds, involve local communities and work with international organizations to guarantee the successful preservation and restoration of its varying heritage sites in order to maximize these benefits.

Preservation, Conservation and Heritage: Approaches to the Past in the Present using the Built Environment.

The essay, Preservation, conservation and heritage: Approaches to the past in the present to the built environment, was written by Gregory Ashworth in the Asian anthropology. It talks about major concerns on heritage conservation and preservation as it applies to built environment. The article examines the complexity and challenges in safeguarding cultural and socio-economic historic treasures.

Ashworth emphasizes the changes in views and emerging approaches in heritage conservation by emphasizing the importance of multidisciplinary approach to the issue, taking into account social, cultural, economic and political aspects. The essay examines the concept of heritage as a social construction and its implications in relation to the society in general and individual and collective memories. Two of the methods of heritage conservation that the author discusses are the preservationist approach where authenticity and historical faithfulness are the key principles, and the approach of adaptable usage where heritage sites are expected to become part of the modern contexts through adaptive transformations. The other problem that Ashworth raises is related to a possible conflict of interest between the commercial interest and the preservation ideals, and tourism attribute to historic preservation. Another important point that is mentioned in this article is the importance of the community and the involvement in the historic preservation projects. He states that the cooperation between the heritage professionals and local and other interested parties is crucial in the sense that the long-term management and interpretation of resources of heritage are realized. Overall, the article offers a critical analysis of the problems and strategies associated with the maintenance and preservation of heritage in the built environment with particular references to the significance of the interdisciplinary cooperation and the contribution of the community to the successful preservation of the heritage.

Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia, one of the historical wonders in Istanbul, Turkey, boasts of an impressive built environment architecture, accessibility, extensive activities, and an attractive surrounding landscape. We shall discuss every aspect in greater detail:

Built Environment Infrastructure: Hagia Sophia is a Byzantine-Ottoman architecture that is a masterpiece. It was constructed in the sixth century as a cathedral of Byzantium, converted into a mosque, and currently turned into a museum. The structure of the edifice is a marvel to the ancient engineering due to its massive

dome, high minarets, and finalized mosaics and paintings. It is a known icon in the skyline of Istanbul due to its grandeur and historicism.

Attempts are undertaken to enhance the access of Hagia Sophia so that everyone with any ability can have a taste of wonders. It has ramps up to the wheelchairs and elevators to ensure an easier time by persons with walking problems to navigate through the different levels of the building. Also, it has audio guides in diverse languages, which enable the visitor with a visual or hearing disability to have a comprehensive understanding of the historical and cultural themes.

Activities: Hagia Sophia, a museum offers a very diverse range of activities to ensure that tourists are not bored. Tourists can view the awe-inspiring interiors and absorb the compound Byzantine and Islamic artworks after entering. The museum is also guided by the tours, where the qualified professionals are able to share their expertise on the historical value, architectural designs and art that they could observe in the building. It also allows visitors to experience the property through the special exhibitions, concerts, or cultural activities that take place almost every now and then and makes the experience richer.

Scenery: The location of Hagia Sophia is the heart of Istanbul in the highly popular Sultanahmet neighborhood and is surrounded by a scenic view. It is a plunge of architectural opposites, the structure and the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque) that is located next to the former. Well-decorated gardens make the area around Hagia Sophia beautiful, which makes the area attractive and peaceful. Tourists will have an opportunity to enjoy peaceful walks and enjoy the calm environment and capture indelible images of the magnificent monument in the backdrop of Istanbul in its hectic metropolis.

To sum up, Hagia Sophia, its physical environment brings out the architectural genius of the building and at the same time allows people of any disability to experience the place due to its accessibility features. The wide variety of activities such as guided tours and cultural

events meet the needs of the diverse interests of people. The beautiful landscapes of the monument with gardens and excellent vistas also contribute to the appeal of the significant landmark.

Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal in India is one of the most renowned world buildings that are great examples of brilliant architecture. The Taj Mahal is a marvelous representation of a masterpiece in the built environment. This white marble mausoleum was constructed between 1632 and 1653 and was designed and made with a lot of intricate detailing and meticulous workmanship.

The Taj Mahal is easily accessible by visitors across the world and the various regions of India. It is located in Agra, an accessible city through air, rail and road in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. The Taj Mahal is also well accessible to the tourists due to the well-established transportation network in Agra. The Agra Airport is also connected both at the national and international level and the city has a railway station.

The historical and cultural heritage of the Taj Mahal is open to visitors to explore by the help of different programs. Visitors are able to enjoy the beautiful architectural designs of the mausoleum and walk through the large gardens to know the story of love that made the mausoleum to be constructed. The other important structures in the complex of the Taj Mahal are the Taj Museum and the Taj Mahal Mosque. By visiting these attractions, it becomes possible to get a clearer idea about the history and cultural importance of the location.

The Taj Mahal is encircled by a magnificently splendid scenery. The tomb falls in the heart of the Charbagh which is a large garden divided into four parts by water canals. The green grasses, the neatly trimmed grasses and the trees positioned strategically enhance the overall aesthetics of the monument. The Taj Mahal is located in a scenic location where Yamuna River is flowing behind.

An ancient cultural icon and a wonderful

architectural structure, the Taj Mahal receives millions of tourists annually. The monument has been maintained and maintained up to date through the work of the Indian government and many groups to ensure that people are still able to visit the monument and maintain the structure. In order to preserve the Taj Mahal against pollution there are strict regulations and the measures undertaken to restrict the number of tourists.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research on Masjid Wazir Khan as the

surrounding of the Walled City of Lahore, a mixed-method approach was employed. The analysis of past academic works, research papers and relevant publications were the starting point of the literature review part of the study. Primary data was collected through field surveys, stakeholder interviews and observation of the built environment. There was quantitative data obtained by means of organized questionnaires and mapping exercises. The data obtained was analyzed statistically and thematically to get to know more about the improvement of the built environment around Masjid Wazir Khan.

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

Table 01 Data collection

Questions		Age Group 18-24	Age Group 25-34	Age Group 35-44	45 above	Total
Number of legs Intersecting.	One way	5	1	1	2	9
	Two ways	2	4	3	1	10
	T intersection	1				1
Presence of curbs	Yes					0
	No.	4	3	3	1	11
	Some places	4	2	1	3	10
What type of road exist?	Three lanes					0
	Two marked lanes	5	2	3	2	12
	No mark lanes.	3	3	1	1	8
Observed any specific speed limit??	Yes		1	1		2
	No	8	4	3	3	18
What parking options are available?	Parking Plaza.					0
	On street parallel or angled.	1				1
	Parking lots.	6	3	2		11
	None of the above.	1	2	2	2	7
Availability of Street lights??	Street lights present but inadequate	6	3	1	1	11
	Street lights frequently out of order	1	1	1		3
	Inadequate seating and infrastructure	1	1	1	1	4
	Present, but poorly positioned.	0	0	1	1	2
Availability of trails and paths?	Multi- Use.	1	1	1	2	5
	Biking.	2	1	1		4
	Walking route.	5	3	2	1	10
Presence of Urban furnishing.	yes	5	3	2	2	12
	no	3	2	2	1	8
Do you notice appealing landscape elements? Such as fountains, sculptures or	yes		0	0	0	0

Art?		8	5	4	3	20
	no					
Is the maintenance of the building satisfactory?	0-25%	1				1
	25-50%	1	1	1	1	4
	75-100%	1	1	1	1	4
	50-75%	5	3	2	1	11
Access of disable people to the site?.	yes	3	3	2		8
	no	5	2	2	3	12
Souvenirs shop available on the site?	Yes.	8	5	4	2	19
	No.				1	1
Type of eateries available near the site?	Restaurant.					0
	Café.	3	2	2	1	8
	Street food.	5	3	2	2	12

As per shared above in table 01, the research examined the issues of accessibility in Masjid Wazir Khan in the Walled City of Lahore, and it concentrated more on the problems of the visitors in accessing and visiting the locality. The study provided some valuable information about the accessibility matters. The following are these issues.

Infrastructure of roads is very limited. The small and congested streets of the Walled City are also a significant obstacle to accessibility. There is lack of proper road infrastructure to facilitate movement of vehicles and people with mobility problems or any other form of disability might find it hard to access Masjid Wazir Khan. This limitation is not only to the visitors but also to the locals, and can make some individuals unwilling to visit the place. There are inadequate Pedestrian Facilities. The research found out that there is lack of infrastructure that allows people to walk in the area around Masjid Wazir Khan. Sidewalks are either nonexistent or in bad conditions offering difficulties to the pedestrians especially the impaired ones. Poor signages and crosswalks make the plight of the pedestrians even harder and they find it hard to move safely in the area. The other notable accessibility challenge that was observed was that there were few parking spots around Masjid Wazir Khan. The limited parking options also ensure that visitors have to park their cars some distance

away to the mosque, which makes it hard to access the place especially by people with mobility problems. The paper has further found that the region does not have fundamental facilities in regard to the People with Disabilities. It highlighted the shortage of amenities that cater to the needs of persons with impairments. The surroundings at Masjid Wazir Khan did not have available ramps, lifts and parking lots. This becomes a challenge to the individuals with mobility problems and they are limited to visiting and participating in the activities of the mosque. In the study, it was also found out that the availability of transport to the Walled City, especially Masjid Wazir Khan is inadequate. People depending on the public transport might have problems with accessing the region because of a small number of bus routes and unreliable schedules. This limitation limits the access of locals and tourists.

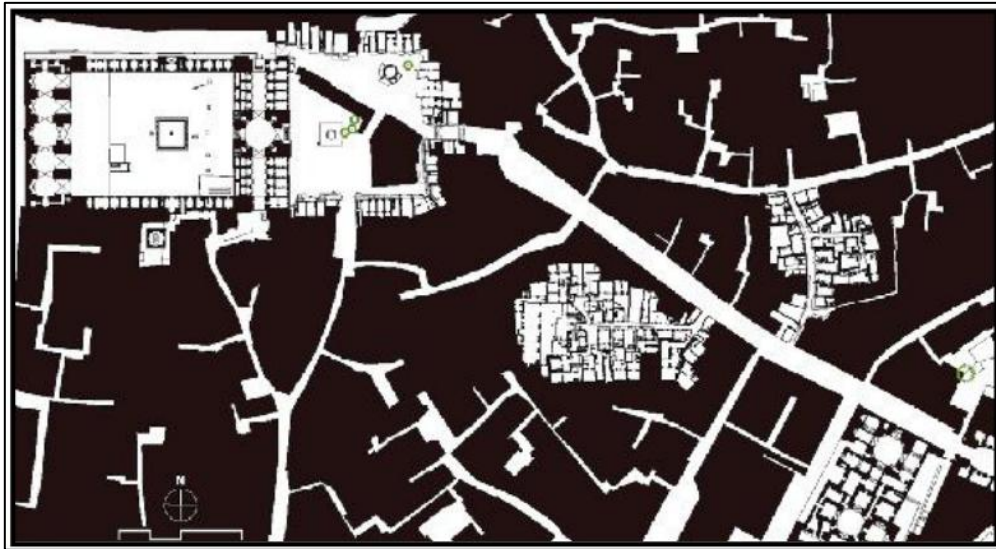


Figure 04 Site & Contextual plan of the Wazir Khan Mosque (Abid, 2017)

In general, the research showed significant problems with accessibility in the neighborhood of Masjid Wazir Khan in Walled City of Lahore. The results illustrate the need to have better road infrastructure, better pedestrian facilities, increased parking space, and introduction of

accessible features to ensure an inclusive environment to all visitors of this historic place. Not only will these concerns be improved to make accessibility better, but would also make the tourist experience more positive and fulfilling.

Built Environment Infrastructure

Table 02 Data of Built Environment & Infrastructure

Crosswalk available on site		Availability of traffic lanes.		Availability of Street lights		Availability of trails and paths?		Is the maintenance of the building satisfactory?	
yes	No	Yes	No	yes	no	Yes	No	Yes	No
	*		*		*		*		*

As shown in table 02 above, case study of Masjid Wazir Khan to enhance the built environment of the Walled City of Lahore shows that infrastructure should be given attention. The infrastructural developments of the built environment, comprised of roads, walkways and buildings, are the foundation of the functionality and attractiveness of the space. By paying close attention to such factors and upgrading them, Masjid Wazir Khan surroundings can be enhanced in order to meet the needs of the

visitors and residents. This may involve conserving old structures and incorporating new amenities, ensuring proper maintenance and access to them and considering urban planning principles to maximize the movement of people and cars. These enhancements will contribute towards a more sustainable and attractive visual appearance of the entire environment to everyone who visits and resides in the Walled City.

Accessibility

Table 03 Accessibility Data

site	Parking options are available?		Access to Site			Access of disabled people to the site??		Are there ramps for access/entrance?		Are direction signs present?	
	yes	no	Walkable	Car drive	bike/ricksha	yes	no	Yes	No	Yes	No
1	*		*		*		*		*		*

The analysis of Masjid Wazir Khan in the framework of the enhancement of the architectural environment of the Walled City of Lahore shows the necessity of accessibility. Assessment of the existing level of accessibility gives information about the difficulties that visitors face upon entering and moving within the area. It is important to note the limitations with regard to road infrastructure, walking/ walking facilities, parking options and infrastructure to accommodate the disabled, so that such issues can be dealt with through putting in place necessary initiatives. The upgrading of the access will not only contribute to the ease of movement, but will also ensure the inclusiveness

and will allow more individuals to experience the historical and cultural legacy of Masjid Wazir Khan. This will ultimately improve the total architectural setting of the Walled City and that will be a more enriching experience to everyone. In conclusion, the analysis of the role that the Wazir Khan Mosque has played in improving the built environment of the Walled City of Lahore implies the importance of accessibility and the necessity to take the corresponding measures so that the existing issues could be mitigated and the site became more inclusion-oriented and engaging in terms of receptiveness to the historical and cultural significance of the site in question.

Landscape

Table 04 Landscape Data

site	Do you notice appealing landscape elements?		any noticeable appealing softscape?		Presence of Urban furnishing.	
	yes	no	Yes	No	yes	no
1		*		*		*

The Lahore Walled City landscape analysis case study on Masjid Wazir Khan to improve the created environment on the existing built-in landscape is important in developing the serene setting and the view of the environment. The deeper examination of the landscape elements around the mosque, such as gardens, courtyards, paths, etc., enable learning more about their present state, their maintenance as well as the improvements that can be made. The landscape enhancement may be conducted to conserve the

heritage where new comforts will be introduced through research on the history and building designs. This discussion gives the opportunities on how to incorporate green spaces, introduce more of horticultural activities, and make the environment of the Walled City relaxing and peaceful, and thus improve the overall built environment in the Walled city.

Activities

Table 05 Activities Data

activities			
site	Eateries available near the site?		Souvenirs shop available on the site?
	Yes	No	Yes
1	*		*

Masjid Wazir Khan analysis, in particular, on the topic of improving the built environment of the Walled City of Lahore, namely the issue of activities is essential in the creation of the vibrant and culturally vibrant environment. It is only a thorough grasp of the historical and cultural values of the mosque that will enable the local governments and other interested groups to understand the opportunities of popularising the activities that will not interfere with its heritage. Such activities could include conducting of religious conferences, festivals and cultural celebrations which highlight the distinguishing features and practices of the area. Furthermore, the re-inventing and the marketing of the ancient markets and local enterprises in the area of the mosque can not only offer the substitution of the cost-efficient opportunities but also help to recreate the nature. Masjid Wazir Khan can also be transformed into a bustling Centre that will attract its residents and visitors, therefore, such a massive input in the enhancement of the built environment in the Walled City. Finally, the thorough examination of how the activities enhanced the richness of the Walled City of Lahore will help to realize that there was a need to establish the atmosphere of the rich and culturally engaging place. Upon knowing the historical and cultural value of the mosque, these officials and interested parties in the region can come up with strategies of fostering activities that are in line with the heritage of the mosque. This can be through conducting religious meetings, festivals and even the cultural festivals, which highlight the traditions of the location. In addition to that, ancient markets and local companies in the region surrounding the mosque can be advertised and revived with economic prospects without harming the originality of the environment. Having a variety

of activities evolving and nurturing, the Masjid Wazir Khan can become a colourful Centre of Interest that serves not only the inhabitants, but also makes the visitors and helps improve the general enhancement of the built environment in the Walled City.

DISCUSSION

This study has put forward a complex and multifaceted situation within and surrounding Masjid Wazir Khan in that the richness of cultural heritage is equalized with the colossal deficiency of any element of built environment. This contrast can be seen in an architectural conservation perspective, which brings out the biggest paradox in the mind of most historic urban centers, namely, the preservation of authenticity and at the same time the responsiveness to the demands of the contemporary city. The following discussion critically interprets the following empirical findings in the prism of the already existing conservation theories, the principles of sustainable urbanism as well as other analogous experience in the international arena, and emphasizes the necessity of the holistic restoration and conservation strategy.

Fundamentally, the Wazir Khan Mosque is not just an architectural object, but an inhabited cultural landscape that is within the socio-spatial context of the Walled City of Lahore. The analysis reiterates the fact that one cannot separate heritage out of context but instead it is highly intertwined with the surrounding urban morphology, activities and community practices. But the problem of poor infrastructure, the lack of integration between landscape planning and environmental control endangers this association. The lack of attractive landscape features (100 percent of the

respondents responding that none) is quite concerning especially when considered on the background of the historical background of the Mughal garden construction. The environmental context of Wazir Khan Mosque is not integrated ecologically and aesthetically as the Charbagh structure of Taj Mahal, which supports ecological symbolism and environmental comfort. This dissociation is not only decreasing the experiential quality of the site but it is also replacing its historical authenticity.

Besides, the discontinuity created by recent conservation projects including the building of retaining walls has literally and symbolically separated the forecourt of the mosque with its urban environment. Even though these actions might have been meant to maintain the integrity of archaeological sites, it unintentionally opposes the concept of continuity in cities which is highlighted in conservation literature. The heritage should not be isolated as a monument that it used to be in the past but should be incorporated in the modern life as Ashworth has proposed in his adaptive reuse theory. The most important implications of this study include the critical inaccessibility. The statistics are a clear indication of the lack of infrastructure and facilities that support pedestrians, vehicles, parking space, and the disabled. Conservation In conservation terms, accessibility is not only a functional necessity but is also an ethical necessity that is linked to inclusivity and social sustainability.

Comparatively, the world heritage sites such as Hagia Sophia have demonstrated that facilitation of the access, via such means as ramps, guided way patterns, and inclusive design can co-exist with the preservation objectives. Quite to the contrary, the Wazir Khan precinct lacks even the bare minimum facilities such as continuous sidewalks, clear signage and crossings. This leads to spatial exclusion especially to the elderly visitors and people with disabilities. The confined congested streets of the Walled City are also a challenge. Nevertheless, instead of considering this as a constraint, this should be redefined to reflect a chance to advance the idea of pedestrianization. The international best practices indicate that the historic districts have

the benefit of fewer intrusions by vehicles, which means safer and more immersive experiences. The properly planned pedestrian net taking the form of peripheral parking and shuttle systems could greatly improve the accessibility without damaging the historic fabric.

The paper points to massive infrastructural inefficiencies, such as the roads, which are in poor condition, lack lanes, the street lights are not sufficient, and there are no urban structures. All these shortcomings lead to poor functionality and perception of the environment. In the case of environmental design, infrastructure is very important in defining user experience and space cognition. The phenomenological description of Wazir Khan Mosque restates the functions of the sensory experience, since the density of the visual image, space stratification, mobility pattern, in the production of valuable experiences. However, when the immediate surrounding is characterized by a weak lighting, weak seating and weak circulation arrangement, continuity of the experience is interrupted.

What is further more, underdeveloped infrastructure is mirrored directly on safety and security. The dark streets and lack of laid down walk paths do not make evening activities popular thereby reducing the energy of the place. It is quite disturbing bearing in mind that the mosque is a socio-cultural centre historically. The strengthening of the infrastructure is not a matter of physical improvement, though, but it is also a strategy to revive cultural life. The absence of plotted landscape interventions in the circumstance of the mosque is a missed opportunity of the introduction of sustainability in heritage conservation. In the past, the Mughal architecture showed the developed experience of climatic specific construction having used the water bodies, shading courts and planting to regulate microclimates.

Quite on the contrary, the current condition of the location suggests the lack of ecology thinking. One of the effective ways of the improvement of the environmental performance could be green infrastructure, such as native vegetation, permeable surface, and water-

sensitive design. To illustrate, the addition of a fountain or a water channel on the foundation on the concept of classical Islamic gardens would add thermal comfort and the degree of authenticity to the history. Secondly, urban vegetation was also found useful to the psychological well-being and social assimilation. Even small scale intervention like pocket gardens or shadowy sitting spots can help in a crowded urban space like the Walled City. Nevertheless, these interventions have to be made in a high-quality manner so that they do not cause any form of visual and material dissonance to the historical character of the site.

The location of the street food sellers and the souvenir shops according to study is relatively active so that the locality might not be completely dead in economic terms. However, the lack of organized cultural activities and mediated experiences is one of its weaknesses that limit its possibilities as an active heritage site. Wazir Khan Mosque and the bazaar that was adjacent to the mosque were a historically known مرکز (center), where intellectual and commercial activities, in particular, book trading and calligraphy, were conducted. To revive this heritage, it is not just enough to reinstate it on a physical level, but there is also need to reawaken intangible heritage. The cultural programming such as festivals, exhibitions and traditional craft workshops can be critically determined to do this. However, commercialization and gentrification is one trap that should not be fallen. Heritage-led development in literature has been reported to pose a risk to the displacement of the locals and loss of the social authenticity. In order to ensure that the process of revitalization is not only inclusive but sustainable, the community-based approach, which implies the involvement of the local stakeholders in decision-making, is essential.

As the analysis demonstrates, the existence of street food and souvenir shop is to some extent dynamic, which means that the area is still economically active to a certain extent. However the lack of any organized cultural events and cultural experiences curate limits its potential as an active heritage destination. Conventionally,

the Wazir Khan Mosque and the bazaar surrounding the mosque could be a مرکز (center) of intellectual and commercial life, particularly that of book selling and calligraphy. In order to reclaim this heritage, it is not enough to carry out a restoration which is done physically, it is a reactivation of a physical heritage. In this respect, especially cultural programming i. e. festivals, exhibitions and traditional craft workshops can have effect. There should be a warning, however, not to fall into the traps of commercialization and gentrification. The literature further states that heritage-led development may be harmful to the community living in the region of development since it has a tendency of moving the locals and ruining the social authenticity. The local stakeholders model, in which they are involved in the decision making process is crucial so as to ensure that the revitalization efforts can be inclusive and long lasting at the same time.

This paper has conclusively shown that the overall issue that the Wazir Khan precinct represents cannot be addressed with a single-faceted intervention. The answer is a holistic conservation model that takes into consideration the necessity to conserve architecture, planning of the city, the environmental sustainability, and the rejuvenation of the socio-cultural aspect.

The following guidelines should form the basis of such a framework:

1. **Contextual Integrity:** The work of pahpanian should observe the historical and spatial integrity of the site.
2. **Sustainability:** the environmental factors must be incorporated in every design intervention.
3. **Inclusivity:** the community should be involved and made accessible.
4. **Flexibility:** historical sites must be left to progress with the current demands.

It is also important to have an institutional collaboration. Companies like the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) should collaborate with the local communities, learning institutions, and foreign conservation agencies to come up with and enforce holistic strategies.

These issues that were found in this research are not bound to Wazir Khan Mosque alone but are indicative of the larger problems with heritage conservation in Pakistan. The underfunding, ignorance, and poor policy frameworks still remain as barriers to successful preservation.

In order to deal with these challenges, there is need of:

1. **Policy Reform:** formulation of explicit guidelines on the conservation of heritage and urban development.
2. **Capacity Building:** education of specialists in conservation procedures and sustainable design.
3. **Public Awareness:** programs to inform the community of the worth of heritage.
4. **Funding Mechanisms:** provision of resources on maintenance projects and restoration projects.

Further more, combining heritage conservation with tourism development can offer economic incentives toward preservation. This should however be done with a lot of care so that there is no over-commercialization and environmental degradation.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The research that has been conducted on the built environment surrounding Masjid Wazir Khan illustrates that there exists a complex association between the historic value and the contemporary concerns of the city as well as there exist considerable gaps that directly affect the functionality, accessibility and sustainability of a particular location. Inappropriateness of the infrastructure employed in the area where the mosque located is to accommodate the heritage value of the mosque which adversely affects the user experience and conservation objectives is one of the key conclusions of the research. This is characterized by narrow crowded lanes in the road system where the arrangements are not proper since most of the lanes have not been marked or demarcated. The curbs are missing in most of the roads; this has only contributed to the break down of space demarcation between the motorized and the pedestrian space resulting

in unsafe and inefficient circulation patterns. Furthermore, the fact that the speed limits and the mechanism of the traffic control are not well-defined suggests the lack of the regulatory control of the movement that contributes to the chaotic movement and decreased user comfort. This absence of infrastructural attributes not only complicates movement, but also influences the aesthetic integrity and overall quality of the environment of the heritage precinct in general.

Closely associated with the problem of infrastructure is the crucial problem of accessibility that became one of the key concerns in all data sets. The results demonstrate that the pedestrian amenities are either poorly built or they are poorly maintained and the continuous walking paths are sparse and there are not enough crosswalks. This is especially troublesome in a heritage environment where foot traffic should be of priority. Moreover, the disabled people severely lack accessibility, which is expressed in the lack of ramps, special routes, and assistive infrastructure. The information also indicates the lack of parking facilities, most of the respondents using informal parking facilities or parking facilities which were far away, thus making the physical exercise to get to the mosque more demanding. Accessibility through public transport is also relatively low and this decreases accessibility of the site by both local people and even tourists. Taken together, these results indicate the necessity of the inclusion of design interventions that are consistent with universal accessibility requirements.

The other important discovery is associated with the state and access of urban facilities and services. Street lighting, though available in some regions, is generally insufficient in both number and position which leaves the street to be illuminated with low light in the dark thus unsatisfactory and unsafe areas hence unsuitable in use especially during the nighttime. Equally, the presence of city furnishings like seating, waste receptacles and shade features is minimal and sporadic. Although other respondents have confirmed that there was urban furnishing, it was discovered that the total quality and upkeep of the same was below standard. All these

shortcomings lead to a recession of comfort and deter any engagement with the space beyond a short time, hence depriving it of its promising future as a lively shared space.

One of the most important gaps that are identified in the research is given in the landscape analysis. The total lack of attractive landscape elements, even the softscape features like vegetation, gardens or bodies of water, represent a major departure of the classic Mughal design philosophy, which has traditionally emphasized the space of nature in the built environments. This absence of greenery does not only reduce the aesthetic value of the site, but has a negative impact on microclimatic conditions, especially in the semi-arid environment of Lahore. Moreover, the lack of organized landscape planning shows the loss of the possibility to improve ecological sustainability and environmental comfort. This observation points to the necessity of context-specific landscape interventions to be able to reclaim the historical nature of the site and address the modern environmental issues.

In section maintenance, the scores are average of maintenance with majority of the interviewees saying that buildings were at 50-75 percent satisfaction scale. Though this demonstrates that some conservation has been carried out, it can also imply that there is inconsistency to the maintenance work and that no long term conservation plan is being followed. These derogatory aspects and conserved structures become a fragmented visual and spatial experience, and this undermines the authenticity of heritage space. This kind of mismatch is a sign of even greater problems in heritage management like lack of funding, technical expertise and lack of coordination between authorities in charge.

The socio-cultural processes and economic operations have been compared to show that there is a hybrid situation. On the one hand, the local economy is not stagnant and the presence of street food and souvenir stands prove that there is cultural life. On the other hand, the inability to organize structured cultural events, curated heritage experience, and structured activities in the form of the general population,

does not lead to the potential of the site as a vibrant cultural center. In past, the Wazir Khan precinct used to serve as a center of intellectual and commercial exchange and the present absence of these activities is a major loss of intangible heritage. The results indicate that as informal economic activities keep surviving the region, there is the need to have strategic planning that is capable of promoting the cultural interactions but still, at the same time, maintain authenticity.

Moreover, the study indicates that there is a lack of connection between the new conservation initiatives and the reality of the local community. The site has changed in terms of physical changes including the addition of retaining walls and the elimination of encroachments, which have transformed the spatial dynamics of the site in isolated instances resulting in the isolation of the forecourt of the mosque in relation to its surrounding context. Although these interventions might have been meant to create historical truth, it has also broken down the social and cultural relations that were present before. This conclusion highlights the significance of community-based conservation, in which the local stakeholders actively participate in decision-making activities, to make sure that interventions are both contextually and socially inclusive.

Overall, the findings of the study emphasize the fact that the concept of heritage conservation should be approached in an integrated and holistic manner that cannot be applied on the conservation of individual buildings but the urban environment as a whole. The case of the current-day Wazir Khan precinct is reflective of a series of interdependent problems that also include the absence of infrastructure, inadequate accessibility, the absence of proper landscape planning, poor maintenance, and poor utilization of the cultural potential. In order to address these issues there is need to have a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates the preservation of architecture, urbanism, environmental sustainability, and social cultural renewal. This not only would enhance the physical and functional aspect of the site but it would also ensure that the site could be sustained as a

heritage living site in the long run.

RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The surrounds of Masjid Wazir Khan in Lahore, the Walled City, reflect a dynamic landscape of intersection of accessibility, infrastructures, landscape, and activity. In this research, the light has been shed on various challenges and problems faced in these areas and how the situation should be improved and enhanced. The review established significant accessibility limitations in the nearby locality. Lack of accessibility is enhanced by narrow and crowded roads, poor pedestrian infrastructure, limited parking space and poor amenities to people with disabilities. All of those restrictions not only hamper the mobility of individuals but also make potential tourists unable to fully enjoy the historical and cultural value of Masjid Wazir Khan. The built environment is largely dependent on infrastructure and the findings indicated that it should be reformed. The current road network in the Walled City is not well planned and the design is ineffective to access with the vehicles, the transportation is harder with congestion. Also, there is a shortage of adequate pedestrian facilities, which contributes to access challenges, and individuals cannot move around the area without injuries. The landscape around Masjid Wazir Khan can be used to enhance the general aesthetic of the location. The research however noted that there was need to invest more in green areas, well-kept gardens and landscaping that was pleasing to the eye.

With such elements, the space will be able to create a serene and aesthetically pleasing environment where the guests will experience the space better and attract more visitors. Although it is mentioned that the Walled City has a good cultural fabric, the organization and promotion of events and festivals within the area of the Masjid Wazir Khan should be better. Additionally, the maintenance and growth of authentic markets and local businesses would also add to the beauty and genuineness of the region, which presents the visitors with unique experiences. Lastly, the surroundings of Masjid Wazir Khan in the Walled City of Lahore

experience accessibility, infrastructural, topography, and activity challenges. Such problems, though, provide prospects of growth and improvement. The built environment of the environment can be transformed into a more welcoming, approachable, and aesthetically pleasing place by solving accessibility problems, enhancing infrastructure, working on landscaping, and arranging cultural events. Not only this will help to benefit the local population but this will also attract more tourists thus establishing a bigger respect to Masjid Wazir Khan and the Walled City of Lahore in general.

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