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Architectural Analysis Old Town - Karachi

by the students of University Of Karachi, Department of Visual Studies under the supervision & in collaboration with Ar. Marvi Mazhar, Pakistan Chowk Community Centre & Heritage Walk Karachi



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Old Town - Saddar (Photograph: Muhammad Osama Baig)

Abstract:

Karachi's Old Town has been a subject of great interest for activists, architects and heritage enthusiasts. Much of the Old town is in ruins and many records of the existing and demolished heritage buildings have been lost. This document consists of research and analysis that assisted in finding the exact area of Old Town through the demarcation of quarters and colonial era buildings. This involved an elaborate process of mapping and marking any heritage buildings that could be found in Karachi's quarters. This compilation of research became a jump start for a campaign that aims to spread awareness about the current turmoil being faced by an essential part of Karachi's history, its colonial era architecture. Proper documentation and research can allow the people of Karachi to learn about the city's origin and it would also help them detangle whatever distorted version of history they have been told over the years. The aim of this document is to do the same.

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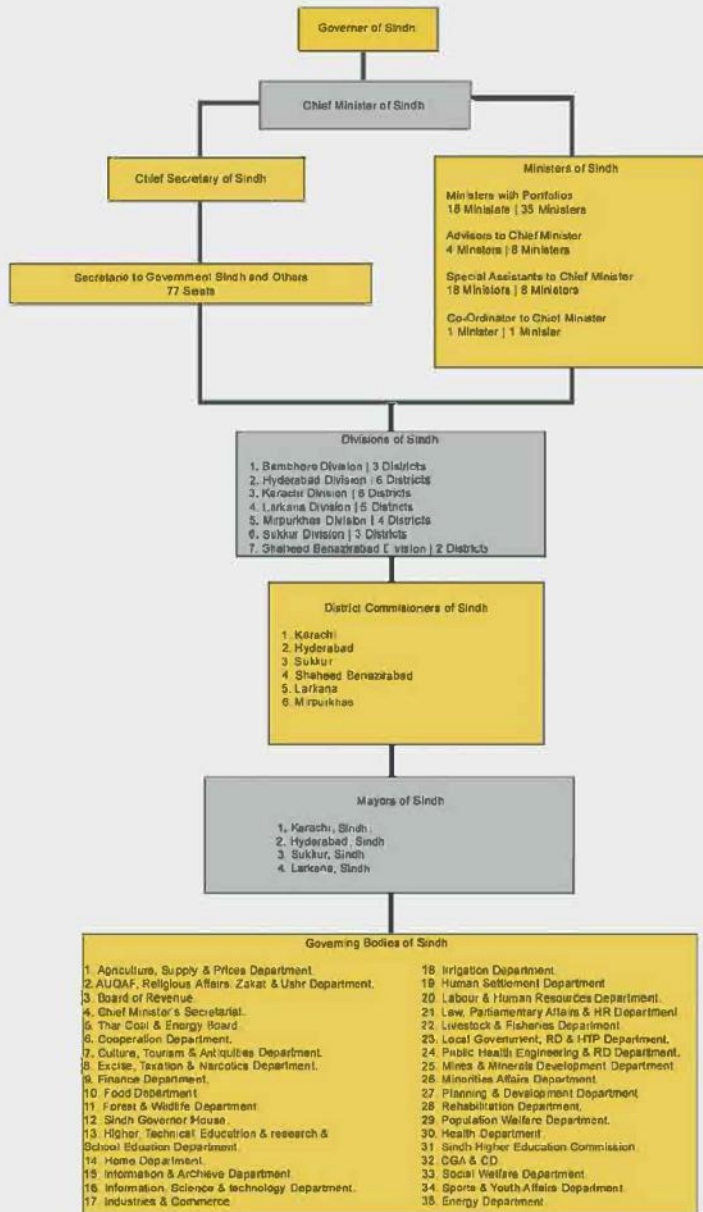
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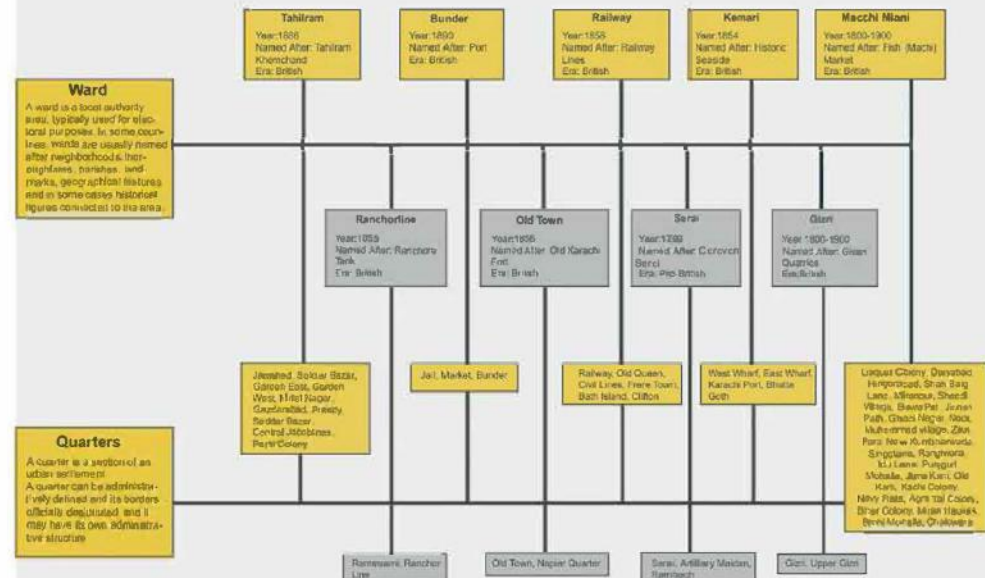
Sarnagati Building (Photograph: Muhammad Osama Baig)

GLOSSARY OF KARACHI

Infrastructure of Sindh



Infrastructure of Old Town



Union Councils

S.No.	District	Union Councils
1.	Central	Azizabad Karimabad Aisha Manzil Ancholi Nasirabad Yaseenabad Water Pump Shafeeqe Mill Colony Rizvia Society Firdous Colony SuperMarket Dak Khana Qasimabad Bandhani Colony Sharifabad Commercial Area Mujahid Colony Nazimabad Abbasi Shaheed Kalyana Sir Syed Fatima Jinnah Colony Godhra Abu Zar Ghaffari Hakeem Ahsan Madina Colony Faisal Mustafa Colony Khawaja Ajmeer Nagri Gulshan-e-Saeed Shah Nawaz Bhutto Colony Paposh Nagar Pahar Ganj Khando Goth
2.	East	Akhtar Colony Manzoor Colony Azam Basti Chanesar Goth Mehmoodabad Pechs I Pechs II Jut Line Central Jacob Lines Jamsheed Quarter Garden East Soldier Bazar Pakistan Quarters Delhi Mercantile Society Civic Centre P.I.B. Colony Essa Nagri Gulshan-E-Iqbal Gillani Railway Station Shanti Nagar Jamil Colony Gulshan-E-Iqbal II Pehlwan Goth Metrovill Gulzar-E-Hijri Safoora Goth
3.	South	Agra Taj Colony Darya Abad Nawabad Khada Memon Society Baghdadi Shah Baig Line Behar Colony Ragiwara Singo Line Chakiwara Allama Iqbal Colony Old Haji Camp Garden Kharadar City Railway Station Nanak Wara Gazdarabad Millat Nagar Islam Pura Saddar Civil Line Clifton Kehkashan Bhutta Village Sultanabad Kemari Baba Bhit Machar Colony Maripur Shershah Gabo Pat
4.	West	Gulshan-E-Ghazi Ittehad Town Islam Nagar Nai Abbadi Saeedabad Muslim Mujahid Colony Muhajir Camp Rasheedabad Mominabad Haryana Colony Hanifabad Mohammad Nagar Madina Colony Ghaziabad Chisti Nagar Bilal Colony Iqbal Baloch Colony Ghabool Town Data Nagar Mujahidabad Baloch Goth Pak Colony Old Golimar Jahanabad Metrovill Pathan Colony Frontier Colony Banaras Colony Qasba Colony Islamia Colony
5.	Korangi	Bilal Colony Nasir Colony Chakra Goth Mustafa Taj Colony 100 Quarters Gulzar Colony Korangi Sector 33 Zaman Town Hasrat Mohani Colony Muzaffarabad Colony Muslimabad Daud Colony Moinabad Sharafi Goth Bhutto Nagar Khawaja Ajmer Nagri Landhi Awami Colony Burmi Colony Korangi Sherabad Natha Khan Goth Pak Sadat Colony Drigue Colony Reta Plot Moria Goth Rifah Aam Al Falah Society Ibraheem Hyderi Rehri Cattle Colony Quaidabad Landhi Gulshan-E-Hadeed Gaghar- Murad Memon Goth
6.	Malir	Darsano Chana Gadap Gujro Songal Maymarabad Yousuf Goth Manghopir Model Colony Kala Board Saudabad Khokhrapur Jafar-E-Tayyar Gharibabad Ghazi Brohi Goth

Karachi Master Plan & Timeline

Karachi Master Plan 1952:

After the independence the government asked a Swedish company for the planning of Karachi city and the result came in the form of MRV Plan 1952 which also included railroads and roads that linked the city back to its main center. Unfortunately the turmoil in the university resulted in a decision that the federal government should be considered near the university including the refugees who took part in it.

Greater Karachi Resettlement Plan 1958:

This plan was proposed by Doxides. The ethnic division was an aspect of The Greater Karachi Resettlement Plan 1958. For example the majority Urdu speaking were to live in one area followed by Sindhis and Pathans in their other respective areas. Unfortunately this plan was not entirely successful and ended up creating division between rich and the poor.

Karachi Master Plan 1975-1985:

In this plan the proposal of two satellite colonies namely, Landhi and Korangi were formed for the working class. This divided the rich and poor even further. However this generated difficulties for the working class as they had to travel a lot for their jobs and had to bear high transportation costs.

"So how can you find peace in a city with so many problems?" Quoted Arif Hassan

Karachi Development Plan 1986-2000:

The Karachi Development Plan was initiated by Master Plan & Environment (MPECD) of KDA (1986-2000), this new masterplan proposed several strategies to control and divide population and de-concrete population from the city cores, however due to lack of responsibility of the government most of the ideas stayed unimplemented.

Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020:

The Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020 was initiated by CDGK, the ideology of this master plan was to develop Karachi into a world class metro city and most of its proposals are already in progress. The idea was to densify city cores and promote high density developments as this plan is linked up to economic factors.

According to the current scenario CDGK is dissolved which has affected the implementation of KSDP in a bad manner.



Karachi - 1944
Population - 399,000



Karachi - 1953
Population - 1,350,000



Public-Private Partnership Projects

* Following table contains only selective few Public-Private Partnership Projects from past 10 years.

S. No	Project	Project Detail	Sector	Funded By	Costing	Duration	Status
1.	Port Grand	Is a hub of shopping, dining, cultural and coastal recreational activities in the city. Joint efforts made by the Karachi Port Trust and a private company Grand Leisure Corporation in this project.	Recreational	Funded entirely by the private sector on (build-operate-transfer) BOT basis with the KPT.	Around PKR 1 billion	2011	Completed
2.	KMTC - Karachi CNG Bus Project	The CNG bus initiative has been launched in Karachi in collaboration with the Govt. of Sindh and the City District by inducting 4,000 environment-friendly dedicated CNG buses.	Transport	Discontinued due to no funding.	USD 30 million	2010-	Discontinued
3.	Karachi Circular Railway	A Karachi based urban rail transit project to cater 698,955 passengers a day.	Transport	Sindh provincial government.	USD 1.58 billion	2017	Completed
4.	Karachi Thatta Dual Carriageway Project - KTDC	A 49 KMS road project. The main objective of this project was to enhance the road quality of the existing NS National highway from Karachi to Thatta.	Transport	Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited, Meezan Bank Limited and MCB Bank.	PKR 8.8 billion	2017	Substantial Completion
5.	National Institute of Child Health Safety & Security	Largest tertiary care and teaching hospital for children in Karachi. It covers around 20 million people in Karachi alone and deals with 300,000 patients per annum. The aim of this project is to establish a full proof security, safety and fire system at NICH to manage and secure the entire premises of the hospital.	Health	Poverty Eradication Initiative (PEI) and Government of Sindh	PKR 389.86	2020.	Preparation Stage
6.	Malir Expressway Project	The aim of this project is to connect Karachi from Qayyumabad to the M9 Motorway. It will be 38.5 kilometres-long and its width will be 30.9 metres. It will not only resolve traffic congestion issues but will add to the aesthetics of the city.	Transport	JN Company, Habib Construction, and NKB Constructions.	PKR 28 billion	2020-	Preparation Stage
7.	Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (M-9)	Conversion of existing 4-lane Highway into 6-lane Motorway	Transport	UBL, MCB, Meezan Bank, Alfalah, Faysal Bank, Askari Bank and Bank of Punjab.	PKR 44,251 million	2015-	Under Construction
8.	Bagh Ibn Qasim (Old Clifton Park)	IDA has a core goal of seeking to promote Town prosperity, through the creation and advancement of a healthy business climate. At Bagh Ibn Qasim IDA plans renovation and beautification of the park.	Recreational	Industrial Development Agency (IDA)	PKR 40 million	2020	On going
9.	People's Square	The initiative was taken by the Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project [KNIP]. Basement parking capacity of 350 cars and motorbikes, food stalls installation, and moreover space is filled with old artistic paintings that depict the cultural values of the city.	Recreational	World Bank	PKR 1.5 billion	-2020	Completed

Public-Private Partnership Projects

S. No	Project	Project Detail	Sector	Funded By	Costing	Duration	Status
10.	Regional Blood Centre in Karachi	The fourth Regional Blood Centre established by the German government through the (German Development Bank) at the Qatar Hospital Karachi.	Health	German Development Bank	PKR 710 million	2019	Completed
11.	1 Million Peelu Tree	Tree plantation campaign to plant over a million Peelu (Salvadora Persica) trees and other native species in Karachi's coastal areas including beaches and islands.	Environmental				
12.	Burns Road Food Street	The project proposed to resolve sewerage and drainage issues along the food street, and will also cover paint work on the facade of the buildings along the street, installation of standard-sized woodwork and signboards, and the evening traffic plan for the street.	Recreational			2020	On going
13.	Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP)	To enhance public spaces in targeted neighborhoods of Karachi, and improve the city's capacity to provide selected administrative services.		World Bank	USD 85 million	2017	On going
14.	Paint Karachi	Students of different institutes gather on different streets in Karachi to beautify the city walls in collaboration with the District Municipal Corporation (DMC) East.	Recreational	DMC & JAM KARACHI		2019	On going
15.	Technology Zone	Sindh government in collaboration with NED University plans to build a 20 storey state of the art building as a technology zone. IT professionals and experts would set up their businesses at the building.	Business		PKR 12 Million	2019	Preparation Stage
16.	Pakistan Deep Water Container	Hutchison Ports Pakistan, the country's first and only deep-water port capable of berthing the world's largest container vessel.	Port	Hutchison Port Holdings and Karachi port trust	USD 1 Billion	2010	On going
17.	Narayan Jagannath Vaidya High School (NJV) in main MA Jinnah Road	Akhawat adopted the school in 2015 with a mission to restore NJV to its former glory and preserve its heritage.	Educational	Akhawat Foundation in cooperation with the Sindh Government		2015	Completed
18.	Children's Emergency Centre at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital	To provide free-of-cost, quality emergency care to the children living in the northern part of Karachi. Sindh Govt has allocated Rs 900 Million in budget for ChildLife Foundation	Health	Sindh Government	PKR 900 million	2018	Completed
19.	Eduljee Dinshaw Road Project	To transform the road into pedestrians, renovate the temple and facade of a custom house building.	Restoration	Sindh Government	PKR 65 Million	2014	Completed
20.	Sindh Plantation Project	Plantation project is planned to improve the ecosystem of Karachi, which is under the threat of many environmental issues like air pollution.	Environmental	UNAP	PKR 1 million	2019	Completed

Political Parties

* Following table contains list of few political parties of Karachi.

S.No	Name	Year Founded	Founder	Synopsis	Wing	Emblem
1	Muttahida Qaumi Movement	18th March 1984	Altaf Hussain	MQM, which was previously known as Muhajir Qaumi Movement, was formed to safeguard the Muhajir community residing in Karachi. It was the strongest political force for the last three decades in Karachi. MQM was targeted by the military due to its alleged connections to terrorism within the city, which ended up demolishing its reign.	Mainstream	
2	Pakistan Peoples Party	30th November 1967	Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto	Roti, Kapra, Makan with this slogan, PPP is one of the major political party of Pakistan with its reign in Sindh. When democracy returned after 2008 in Pakistan. PPP was the major party of Sindh, however MQM was in power in Karachi so in order to control Karachi PPP and MQM had to coexist.	Left	
3	Jamaat-e-Islami	26th August 1941	Syed Abul Ala Maududi	Naimtullah Khan was elected as the mayor of Karachi. During his period he worked on the redevelopment and renovation of Karachi city. Jamaat e Islami played an important role in fighting against encroachment and china cutting mafia. Jamaat e Islami also holds a strong influence among the academic politics of Karachi. It is considered that Ji is connected with banned terrorist entities like TTP.	Right	
4	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	25th April 1996	Imran Khan	Imran Khan's PTI has risen as the strongest political party of Karachi after winning the 2018 general elections. Karachi has a disproportionate number of youths within its population and a high number of internet users. This appears to have made up for the fact that PTI did not hold any political rally in the city during the election campaign. PTI was able to reach voters in a 21st Century way by using the internet to target voters. PTI's cooperation with PPP within Karachi's political fabric has been a major issue for the Karachiites i.e. The PTI's "Clean Karachi" drive didn't make a difference beyond earning the party prime time in local news and social media appreciation. Within a month of its launch, the drive was scaled back on accusations that PPP's provincial government was hindering the initiative.	Right	
5	Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan	1 August 2015	Khadim Hussain Rizvi	Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan is one of the major religious political party of Pakistan and has a major influence over Karachi city. Their main goal is to get Islamic Shariah to be imposed as the fundamental law of Pakistan and to raise voice against blasphemers through a gradual legal and political process. Most of the party's members belong to the Bareilvi school of Islamic thought.	Right	
6	Pak Sarzameen Party	23 March 2016	Syed Mustafa Kamal Anis Kaimkhani	PSP is the latest political party which emerged as a replacement to MQM for the Muhajir majority of Karachi. PSP's chief Mustafa Kamal is a former member of MQM who left the party due to the corrupt policies and doings of MQM, this is also the scenario which led him to make his own political party to take a stand against MQM.	Mainstream	

Movement | Activism

* Following table contains some of the movements and activists related to Karachi's development and urbanization.

S. NO	MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVISMS	AGENDA	MONTH	DURATION
1.	Climate March	We are directly embracing the impacts of climate change which is badly disturbing the ecology. The reason was to create awareness of the risks posed by climate change, and with holding politicians to account for their lack of action on the climate crisis.	September	2019
2.	Sahil Bachao Tehreek	"Tehreek Chalao, Sahil Bachao" was initiated by different NGOs and people from different professions to protest against the Waterfront Development Project. A walk was held along Karachi's coastline in the Clifton area, to protest against the DHA's Beach Development Plan.	April	2007
3.	Shehri for a better Environment	Shehri was created for public awareness on issues pertaining to the organization and maintenance of a healthy and secure physical and social environment. One of the prominent causes it has worked for is for the fishermen community.	November	1988
4.	Pakistan Mahigeer Tehreek	It is a network for Fishing Communities. Hundreds of small fishermen anchored their fishing boats outside the Kemari harbour on the call of All Mahigeer Biradri and the Pakistan Fishermen Community union to record their protest against "rampant corruption in the fisheries department and highlight their sufferings because of it". Owners of big trawlers can catch fish, but a poor fisherman is not allowed to earn a livelihood. The movement was generated by PTI against nepotism and injustice with small fishermen and raise voice for their rights,	July	2020
5.	Women's Action Forum	Protecting women's rights, Advocacy, Media attention, direct-appeal campaigns, lobbying	September	1981
6.	Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	Non-governmental organization, Works for social, economic, cultural and political rights of fishermen and fishing communities. It has gathered 25,000 volunteers; the stated objectives of the group target a wide array of issues which are directly or indirectly associated with about 4 million fishers in Pakistan.	May	1998
7.	Awami Tahreek	It was formed by the leading writers, activists, intellectuals in Hyderabad, Sindh. At the first party meeting, the leading theoretician Rasool Bux Palijo was elected as its first general secretary. Later evolved into a national party and supported the anti-feudal elements against the PPP-P and PML-N in Sindh and Western Punjab; Awami Tahreek and PTI were the two main parties supporting anti-feudal-lords and social democratic ideals in the country.	March	1970
8.	Fixit	Alamgir Khan, a member of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), started "Fix It" as a campaign against the inability of authorities to cover Karachi's manholes that were left open for way too long. Fixit basically was an initiative by Alamgir Khan to highlight problems faced by inhabitants of Karachi, during unstable socio-political times.	January	2016
9.	I AM KARACHI	Walls of Peace - public art movement, aimed at reclaiming the streets of Karachi by removing negative graffiti from the walls and converting them into unique displays of art with messages of hope, pride and diversity. It started with Cantonment Railway station where walls were filled with distasteful slogans. Within a month and a half, artists and citizens alike rose to the occasion and reclaimed 16, 8X10 walls in the Cantonment Area alone, epitomizing the sense of pride and responsibility this movement represents.	—	2014
11.	Clean My Karachi	CM Murad Ali Shah decided to launch a one month long massive drive to "Clean My Karachi" in which over 600 dumpers, shovels, tractors and over 4000 people around the city participated.	August	2019
12.	Haq Do Karachi Ko	The rally was a part of the Ji's prolonged campaign for Karachi's development. 10,000 of Ji workers, political and social activists and people from different walks of life participated. Demanding basic facilities and civic rights for the megalopolis home to some 30 million people. Quota system should be abolished, thousands of educated youth of Karachi should be given their right in government jobs.	March	2021
15.	Anti Encroachment Dive	An operation was launched to demolish encroachments spread over a 100 feet area at Gujjar Nullah in Karachi. The residents were urged to vacate their home urgently for the operation to run.	February	2021



Zainab Manzil (Photograph: Muhammad Osama Baig)

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Columns



Dissection Through Column (Fig 1.1)

Column is one of the most prominent elements of Karachi's Old town buildings. It is basically a vertical supporting component, erected from the base to bear load. Placement of relatively larger columns on the facade of the building served the purpose of showcasing power, which the Britishers did not shy away from. Upon observation at site one will come across Greco Roman orders in columns. Some of the main elements of columns that are inspired by Greco Roman columns are; capital, Abacus, echinus, shaft, fillet and base. Moreover, carvings and scriptures found on many of these columns narrate history. They were embellished with carved capitals in relation to its facade. Beautifully articulated mosaic designs are visible on columns and pillars.

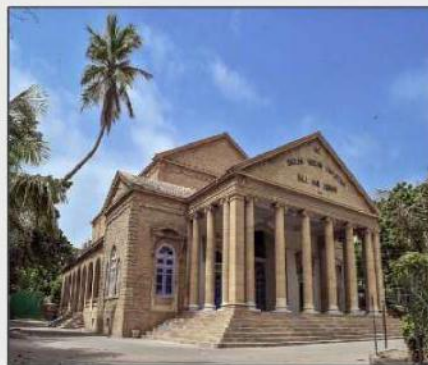


Mendoza Building (Fig 1.2)

Columns are a big part of Old town heritage buildings. They are found, designed at regular intervals on buildings and create what we could call a kind of rhythm in the facade. Many of these are Roman style columns. In colonial era architecture, these columns do not only serve the purpose of support but also ornamentation.



Division of column to give a sense of scale (Fig 1.3)



Khaliq Dina Hall (Fig 1.4)

Corbels



Menghraj Dwarkadas Nagpal Building (Fig 1.1)

Corbel in architecture is deeply keyed inside the wall to support the projecting parapet, windows and balconies.

They also define the cultural and religious aspects through carvings, their shapes and placement. Beautiful carvings embedded in them speak of their belief system and history.

Corbels in a building are protrude from the walls and are designed to add superincumbent weight and decoration in the building, an embroidered element which can streamline efficient, functional usage.

In some buildings of old town Karachi, they are used as rows of simple boxy columns supporting the roof parapet and the balconies. (Fig 1.1 and 1.5)

Two, three and four S-shaped columns gets divided into three layers on the facade. If three sets of corbels are keyed inside the walls then the middle layer usually has prints of animal skin or series of sun are drawn on it, both indicates the symbol of Hindu religion. (Fig 1.2 and 1.3)

They are also used to draw attention to a particular part of the building, like in some buildings in the corner facade we can see same structured corbels but the middle one is slightly enlarged as if marking the territory of a royal person, drawing attention. (Fig 1.2)

Moreover, the purpose of corbel is not restricted to support the skeleton but also add symmetry and balance like we can see in (Fig 1.4). Linear repetition creates a beautiful rhythm thus celebrating facade.



Morriswala Building animal (beast) embroidered on a corbel (Fig 1.2)



Saima Building three sun drawn on small corbels (Fig 1.3)

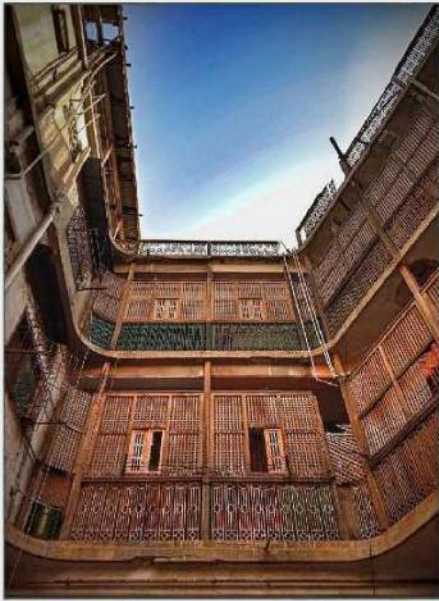


Unidentified building near Leather Bazaar (Fig 1.4)



Denso Hall (Fig 1.5)

Courtyards



Adamjee Building, (Fig 1.1)



Adamjee Building (Fig 1.2)



Menghraj Dwarkadas Nagpal Building (Fig 1.3)



Menghraj Dwarkadas Nagpal Building (Fig 1.4)

Courtyards are used as a breathing space for the buildings of old town Karachi. Every building has some interesting aspect in there courtyards whether it be different sort of ornamentation on the walls or a screen wall for privacy.

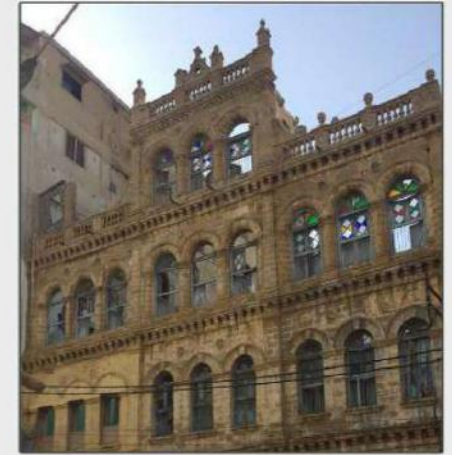
The courtyard of Adamjee building was comparatively larger with walls covered with wooden screen (Jafri) for privacy purpose. The wooden screen creates a semi open space for light, air and visual connection as shown in (Fig 1.1) and (Fig 1.2).

The Menghraj Dwarkadas Nagpal building particularly consists of Hindu deities carved on its walls. Unfortunately sewage pipes are being drilled from the center of them destroying the heritage building. The courtyard itself is encroached, much of it now enclosed and used as storage space makes the building congested as shown in (Fig 1.3) and (Fig 1.4).

Crowns



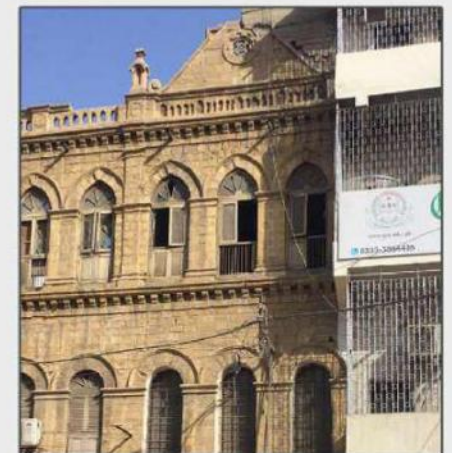
Adamjee Building (Fig 1.1)



Kanji Building (Fig 1.2)



Mendoza Building (Fig 1.3)



(Fig 1.4)

Crowns in terms of British Colonial Architecture are the symbol of power and wealth, crowns also become the identity of a certain building as shown in (fig: 1.1)

They are often designed as a central grand crown as shown in (fig: 1.2) or multiple crowns relatively smaller than the central crown or similar crown at equivalent distance as shown in (fig: 1.3)

Due to poor conditions of heritage buildings in Old City - Karachi some buildings have been demolished either partially or completely and new structures are constructed replacing and obstructing the heritage as shown in (fig: 1.4)

Doors



(Fig 1.1)

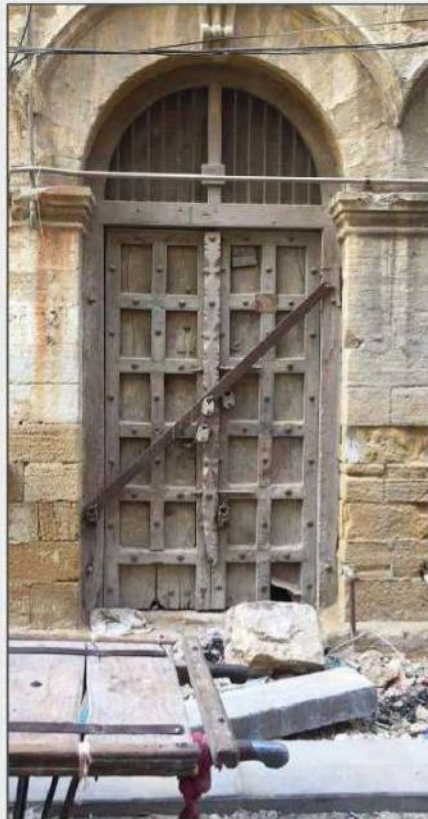


Fig 1.2



Fig 1.4

In heritage walk we have seen the execution details of the doors were very typical. Different types of carved columns on both sides with aesthetic, symbolic, ritualistic purpose. In some of the doors there were no bottom rails and threshold, every door has panels one or more than one.

There were doors made of different materials like wood and steel with various sizes and scales of the door in which some were very unique and stood out.

Ventilators were provided in every door and chain lock system for security. Some of them had signs and labels too.

Railings



(Fig 1.1)

Railings are an important part in colonial era architecture. It enhances the facade of the buildings. As times have changed the design and formation of railings have also changed, nowadays modern railings are designed to be minimal but the railings in colonial era are much more detailed depending on the material. Railings in Old town were designed in different materials including steel, gizri stone, etc. During heritage walk it was observed that railings had signages. Names carved on the railings, the religious signs were carved through which you could tell which religion the original owners belonged to. These names and religious symbols celebrate the culture and the people who resided there ages ago, it also becomes a symbol of identification for the onlookers.



Utilization of different materials.(Fig 1.2)



Adding details in facade(Fig 1.3)



Names carved on the railings.(Fig 1.4)

Creating different types of patterns in a detailed manner with different heights and different designs gave meaning to the facade and identification to the building. Nowadays the railings are designed just for the sake of safety and kept very minimal but in Old town the railings have their own strong impact on the facade. The railings were very expressionist that time.



Floral patterns.(Fig 1.5)

Balustrades



Adamjee building main staircase railing. (Fig 1.1)

A balustrade is a row of small columns topped by a railing seen on staircases, balconies or railings and the shape of these columns was inspired by blossoming pomegranate flowers. The common materials used in its construction are wood, stone, and less frequently metal and ceramic. Balustrades are very prominently seen in Karachi's heritage buildings. They had been introduced in the colonial era. They play a crucial part in the aesthetics of a building's exterior and interior. Balustrade is an important heritage element seen in most of the colonial buildings across the world.

Some of Karachi's heritage buildings with Balustrade railings are:

- Adamjee Building: Balconies of the library with minimal ornamentation. (Fig 1.1)
- Mendoza Building: Jharokha style balconies in Mendoza building. (Fig 1.2)
- K.M.C Building: On the rooftop bringing beautification to the elevation. (Fig 1.3)
- P akistan Chowk: Balustrade railing all around the chowk. (Fig 1.4)
- Kanji Building: Balustrade are placed Infront of jharokha style balconies. (Fig 1.5)
- Denso Library: On the hallway balconies of city court. (Fig 1.6)

This ornament in today's era have been neglected throughout Old Town Karachi and are deteriorating. Balconies have been replaced with parapet walls killing the facade and beauty of the building.



Mendoza building jharokha style balconies. (Fig 1.2)



KMC Building (Fig 1.3)



Pakistan Chowk (Fig 1.4)



Kanji building (Fig 1.5)



Denso Hall (Fig 1.6)

Windows



Unknown building, Four parts of a window (Fig 1.1)

One of the most important element of Karachi's heritage buildings are their windows. During the heritage walk we observed different types of windows which are designed according to the building typology.

Mostly the height of windows are of six to seven feet because their ceiling height is also high and so they were designed according to passive cooling system.

- Unknown Building: Four parts of window can be seen in which at the bottom there is a safety grill. Above it there is a casement window which is the main part of the whole window, from where the cool air enters and above is the ventilator which helps the hot air to pass out. Above the ventilator, there is fixed arched glass window from where sunlight enters at daytime. (Fig 1.1)
- Hyderabad Building: Three part windows are just like four part windows but there is a difference that there are no ventilators are present in these types of windows but they function the same. (Fig 1.2)
- Bank of India: Punched windows were also seen which were punched from inside in order to protect from direct harsh sunlight and rain. (Fig 1.3)
- Essajee Ibrahimjee Building: Rose windows which were seen in Gothic cathedrals and churches are visible here in some buildings, in which stained glass is used to beautify them. (Fig 1.5)
- Adamjee Building: In some windows grills were present on the outer side and wooden panels on their inner side so they wouldn't get damaged by rain. (Fig 1.6)



Hyderabad building, Three parts of a window. (Fig 1.2)



Bank of India, Punched windows (Fig 1.4)



Essajee Ibrahimjee building, Rose windows (Fig 1.5)

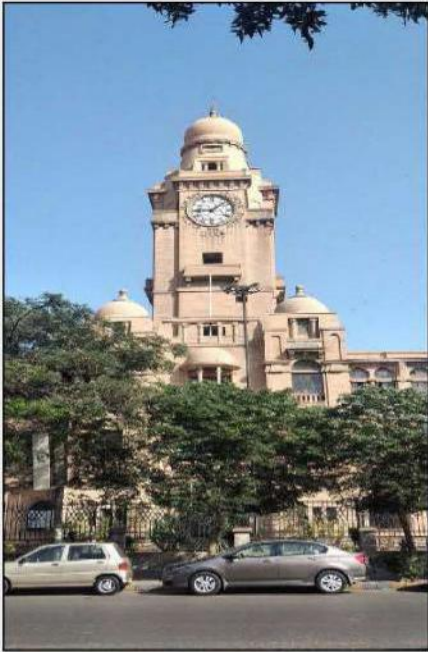


Adamjee building, Grill on the outer side (Fig 1.6)



Zainab Manzil, Grill on the inner side (Fig 1.7)

Stones



KMC Building, Karachi

Old town has been constructed and developed over the years, this development and construction in perspective of architecture and design had been at peak in the British Raj. The love of design and architecture was incomparable. Standards were measured with material that was used and the design that was implemented, material was one that big part of architecture and history of old town.



KMC Building is one public building which was constructed in late 19th century, the Jodhpur sandstone and yellow Gizri stone are used in the structure while the structure was one state of the art, Yellow stone being used was then a show of standards while at the same time structure like Sarnagati were privately owned that were built with stone that came from a different region was also a showcase of power and wealth.



Since the material which is seen now and was used in construction during the colonial era was not a local material but stone that was transported from the opposite corner of the sub-continent region the cost of which was very high. Sandstone and yellow stone are 2 vastly used materials in Old town.

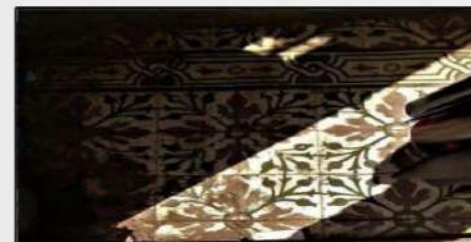
Tiles



The use of the color red was a symbol of power during the colonial era. Many of these tiles are taken out of the ground and sold in the black market for hefty profits. These tiles are then bought and used in modern commercial and residential projects of today. It is a simple concept of supply and demand. The dilemma of the buyers is that they are aware of the existence of black market but still choose to buy these stolen tiles. If they were to become more aware of the consequences of how these tiles are sourced they would make more informed decisions.



The tiles present in many colonial era building in old town are very ornate and delicately made. It can be seen in the designs and use of color. Due to lack of awareness of the people residing in heritage buildings many of the tiles have been destroyed and defaced.

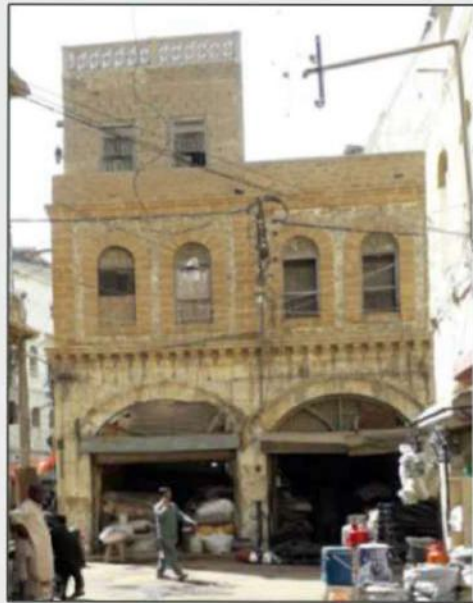


Facades



(Memorial facade) (Fig 1.1)

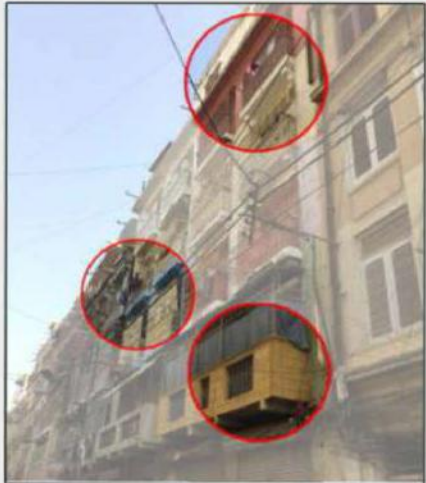
Facades in Colonial British architecture are mostly aligned and symmetrical, palladian type windows with glass art are the main hallmark of heritage. Local bearing stone walls are often seen in the British facade which became a main attribute of their architecture, several types of galleries and balconies are also executed in a symmetrical fashion. Facades in Colonial British architecture are often symmetrical and proportionate, palladian style windows with stained glass are the key feature of the heritage buildings as I observed during the walk.



(Windows in Facade) (Fig 1.2)

Windows type: double casement or double hung, having wooden shutters, are often used.

Colonial era buildings and homes are based on different types of structures, buildings normally have medieval details like sharp and vertical roofs, compact windows and simple decoration while homes are executed in a quite symmetrical way which have everything aligned; equal number of windows for both left and right side of the center main door. Palladian windows are used in the architecture of building which are consistent with the symmetry. Central staircases in the house to the upper floor are used to reach the upper rooms. Apart from that three sided pediment is used as shading device



(different type of balconies and windows) (Fig 1.3)

A walk through old areas of Karachi expose viewers to British colonial Architecture and the most dominant balconies of the buildings. Mostly, the grills speak of the families that once resided inside. Religious symbols, names and years make it much more easy to know about the people but sadly, the traces are being eraser due to the loss of value for heritage in Karachi.



(Marking territory) (Fig 1.4)

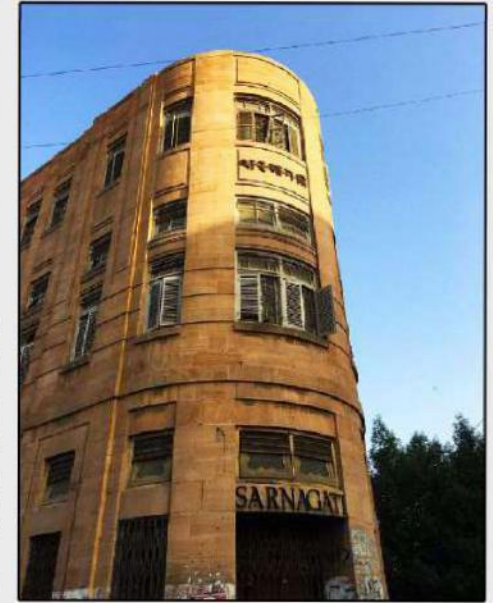
Signages



(Memorial Signage) (Fig 1.1)

Signage can be utilized externally to recognize a building by its road number or name. Inside, signage can be utilized to recognize rooms or territories by name, number or capacity. Signage can be utilized to pass on data in and around buildings through text or images. The tones, text styles, shapes, materials and size, all things considered, ought to be verifiable sensitive to the building. Signage upgrade the design of a structure and the uniqueness of Old town.

Signages were also used as dedication or in the memoriam of the loved ones who passed away. (fig1.1).



Signs are positioned in such a way that they respect the age, architecture and scale of historic build-ings as well as the historic nature of the overall streetscape.



(Advertising through signage) (Fig 1.3)

Signage are used as a tool to mark territory in Heritage. Identification, not advertising is a primary reason for placing signs on historic buildings. Signage and signs are also used to mark the community residing in the building. Color choice are based on a heritage palette. Signs shall be illuminated only from an external, shielded source. (fig 1.3, 1.4).



(Marking territory) (Fig 1.4)

Balconies

The styles of heritage buildings of Karachi are a blend of European styles such as the Baroque, Gothic and Neoclassical. During the colonial era the British just like the Mughals built very elaborate buildings as a projection of their power. During this time Indo-Saracenic style, a fusion of British and Indo-Islamic elements also developed. Taking a walk through some parts of the city's old town one can come across many architectural features that can not be found in the city's more modern architecture. One of the distinguishing features of the colonial era buildings are ornate balconies.



Different variations of Jhaokha. (Fig 1.2)



Signages on the railings of the balconies (Fig 1.3)



Floral patterns.(Fig 1.4)



Mughal style balcony (Jharoka). (Fig 1.1)

A jharokha (or jharoka) is a type of overhanging enclosed balcony used in Indo-Islamic architecture. Jharokha jutting forward from the wall plane could be used both for adding to the architectural beauty of the building itself or for a specific purpose. One of the most important functions it served was to allow women to see outside without being seen. Alternatively, these windows could be used to position archers and spies. Being an essential element of Indo-Islamic architecture, Jharoka would serve its purpose as decoration and as a viewing gallery or platform. The chajja – sloping eaves that projected out above the balconies – increase protection from both the summer sun and monsoon rain. Some of these heritage buildings have corner facades which have a different balcony styles than the front facade of the buildings.

Proportions



Kanji Building (Fig 1.1)

There is strong relationship between geometry, nature and architecture. Architects through history were interested in human body proportion and tried to link these proportions to the building design in various ways. Proportioning systems provide an aesthetic rationale for the dimensions of form and space. They can visually unify the multiplicity of 3 elements in an architectural design by having all of its parts belong to the same family of proportions. They provide a sense of order in the facades and spaces of architectural works. A number of theories of proportions have been developed in the course of history and became one of the key elements to analyze and understand Architecture. Some of the most commonly known are;

- Golden section
- Regulating lines
- Classical orders
- Renaissance theories
- Modular
- Ken
- Anthropometry

These proportioning techniques developed were used to shape architecture in different periods and countries. Such as Egyptian and Greeks used Golden Section and Ratio excessively for beauty and balance in the design of their architectural work.

Similarly, we can witness such master level of craftsmanship in our old heritage buildings which makes it even more unique and important for the city. Most of the buildings observed during a Heritage Walk seemed to have used "Rules of Thirds" and "Regulating Lines" as a guiding principle for deciding the proportions. Be it a whole structure or minute details on windows and balconies, space occupied by the boundary of each element were proportionally divided into three spaces. For instance space between 2 columns also had either 3 openings or 3 smaller pillars. That is just a glimpse of what we got. However, there is much left to learn from these historic buildings.



Essajee Ibrahimjee Building (Fig. 1.2)



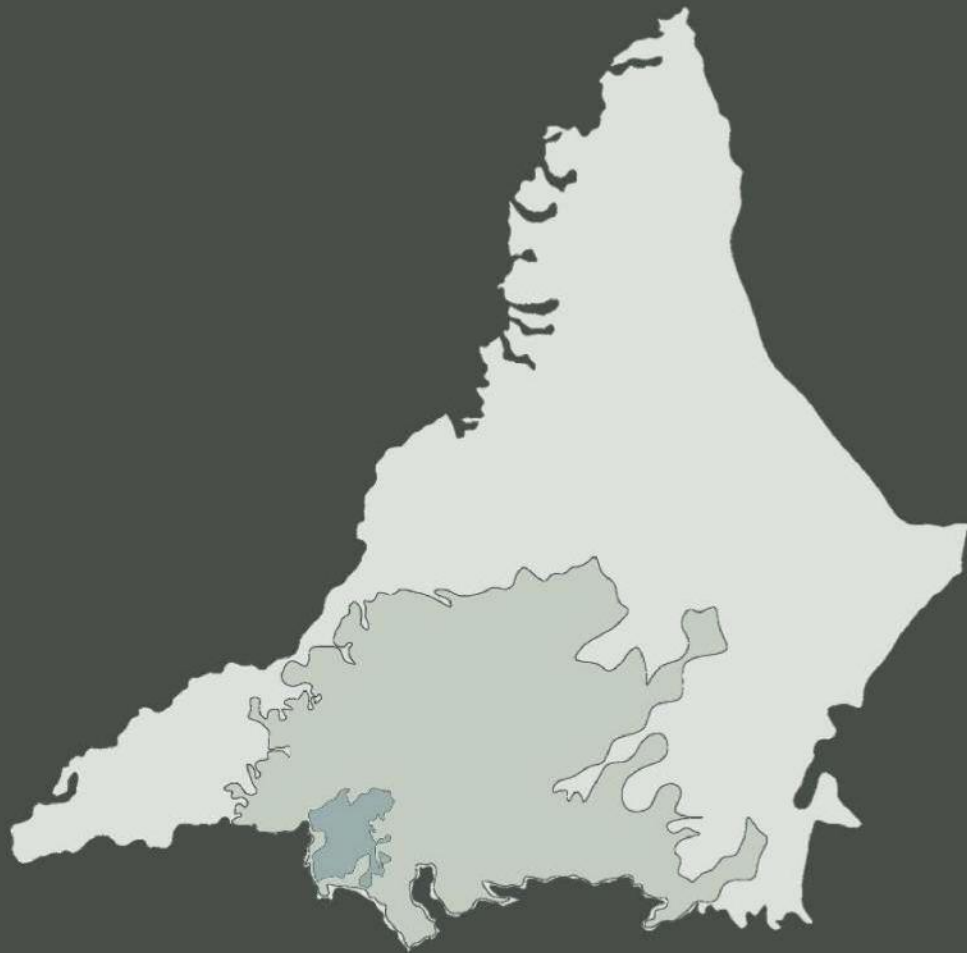
Unknown Building (Fig 1.3)



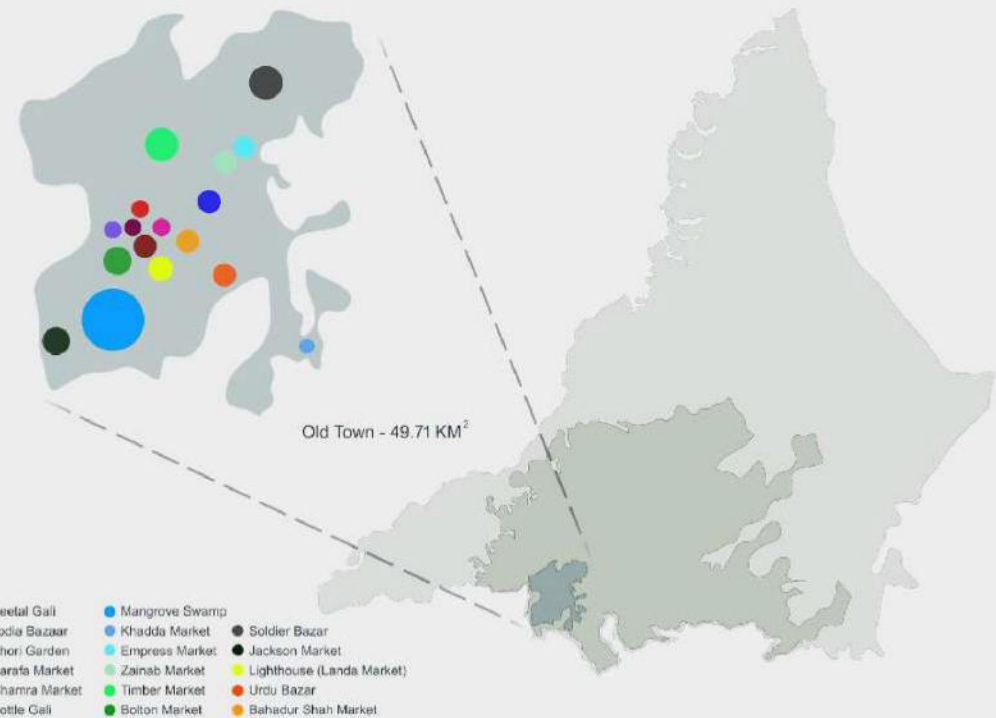
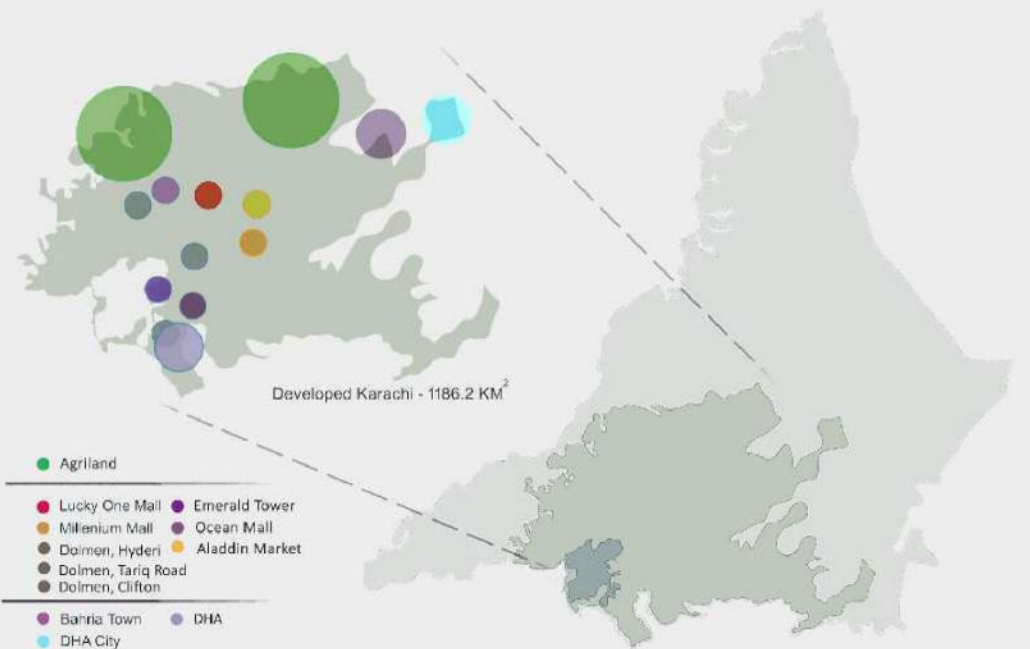
(Photograph: Hasan Raza)

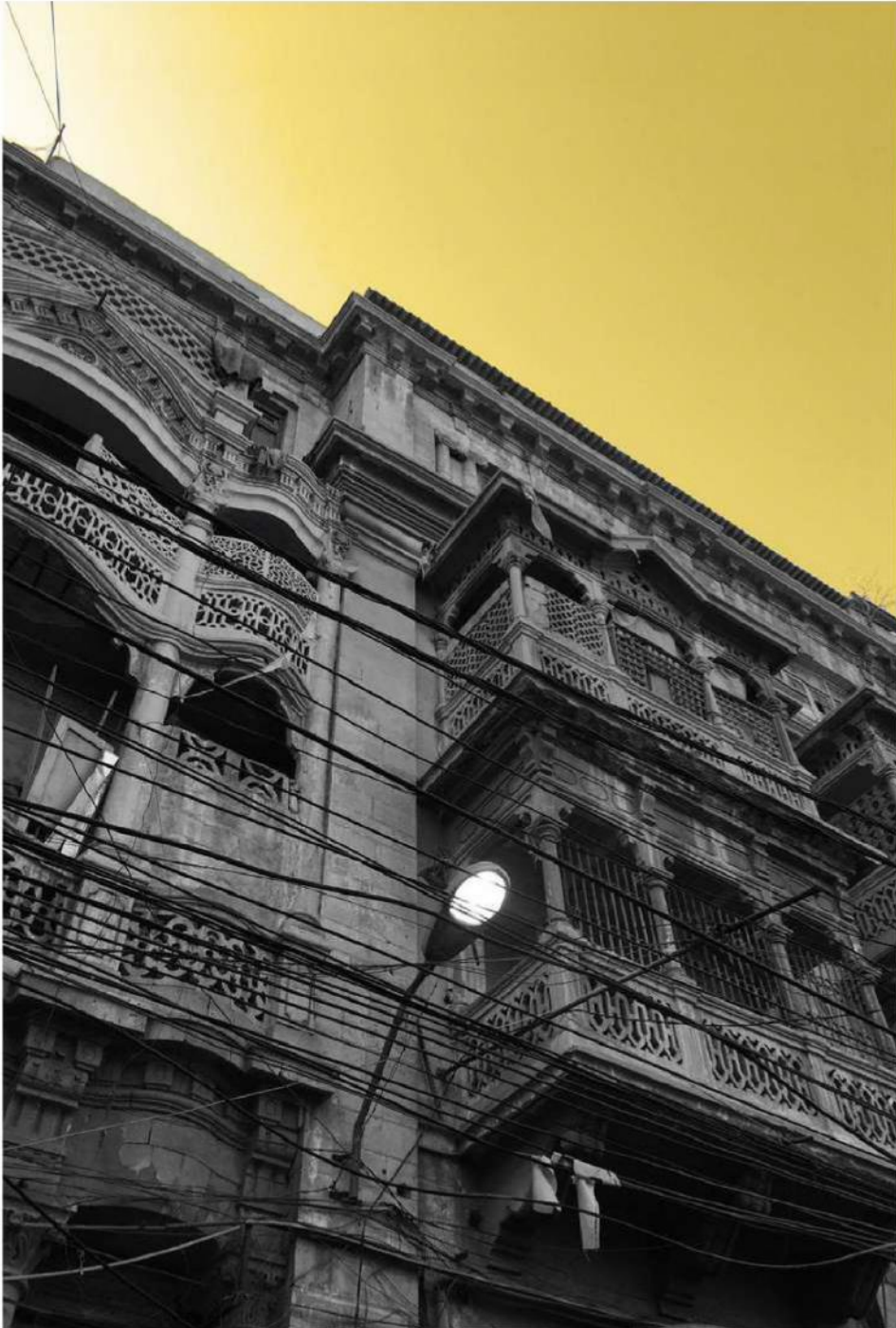
SCALABILITY - KARACHI - OLDTOWN

Scalability Comparison Karachi



- Karachi Sprawl - 3780 KM²
- Developed Karachi - 1186.2 KM²
- Old Town - 49.71 KM²





(Photograph: Hasan Raza)

DIVISION OF OLD TOWN

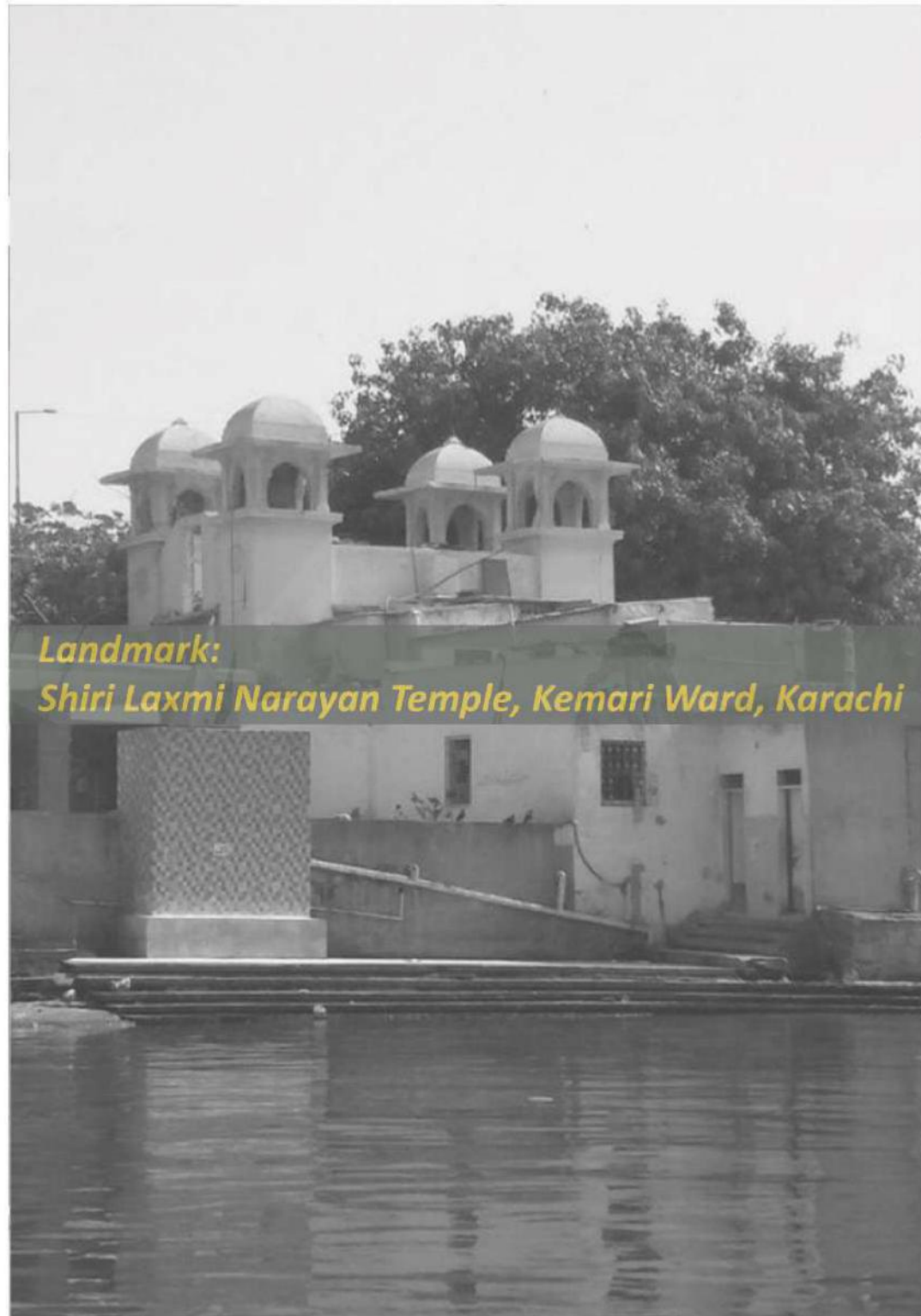
Kemari Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

2-KEMARI WARD 7.79 KM.SQ



- 1- WEST WHARF QUARTER
- 2- EAST WHARF QUARTER
- 3- KARACHI PORT QUARTER
- 4- BHUTTA GOTH QUARTER



Landmark:
Shri Laxmi Narayan Temple, Kemari Ward, Karachi

Heritage Buildings

KEMARI WARD



1. Sri Laxmi Narayan Temple



2. Native Jetty Bridge



3. St George Church



4. Seamens Resthouse



5. Mules Mansion



6. Sydenham Passenger Pavilion

Serai Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

2- SERAI WARD 0.71 KM.SQ



1- SERAI QUARTER

2- RAMBAGH QUARTER

3- ARTILLERY MAIDAN QUARTER

Landmark:

Mereweather Tower , Serai Ward, Karachi

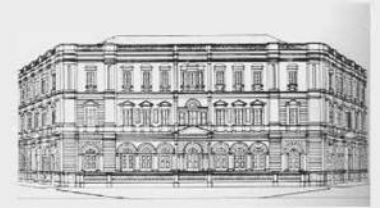


Heritage Buildings

SERAI WARD



1. Merewether Tower



2. Rustomji Building



3. Shikarpuri Cloth Market



4. Mollai (Bhagwani) Mansion



5. Talpur Building



6. Zubaida Mansion



7. Government Veterinary Hospital

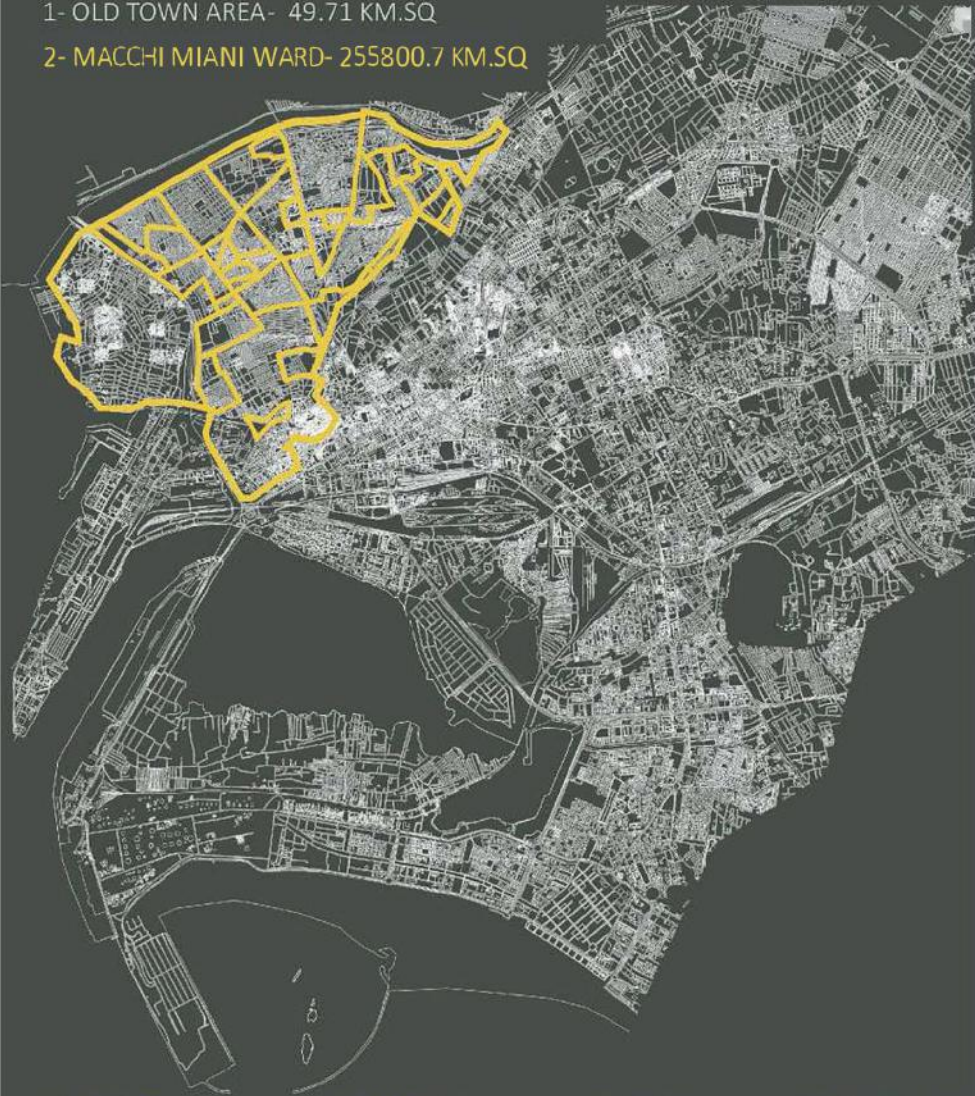


8. Sindh High Court

Macchi Miani Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

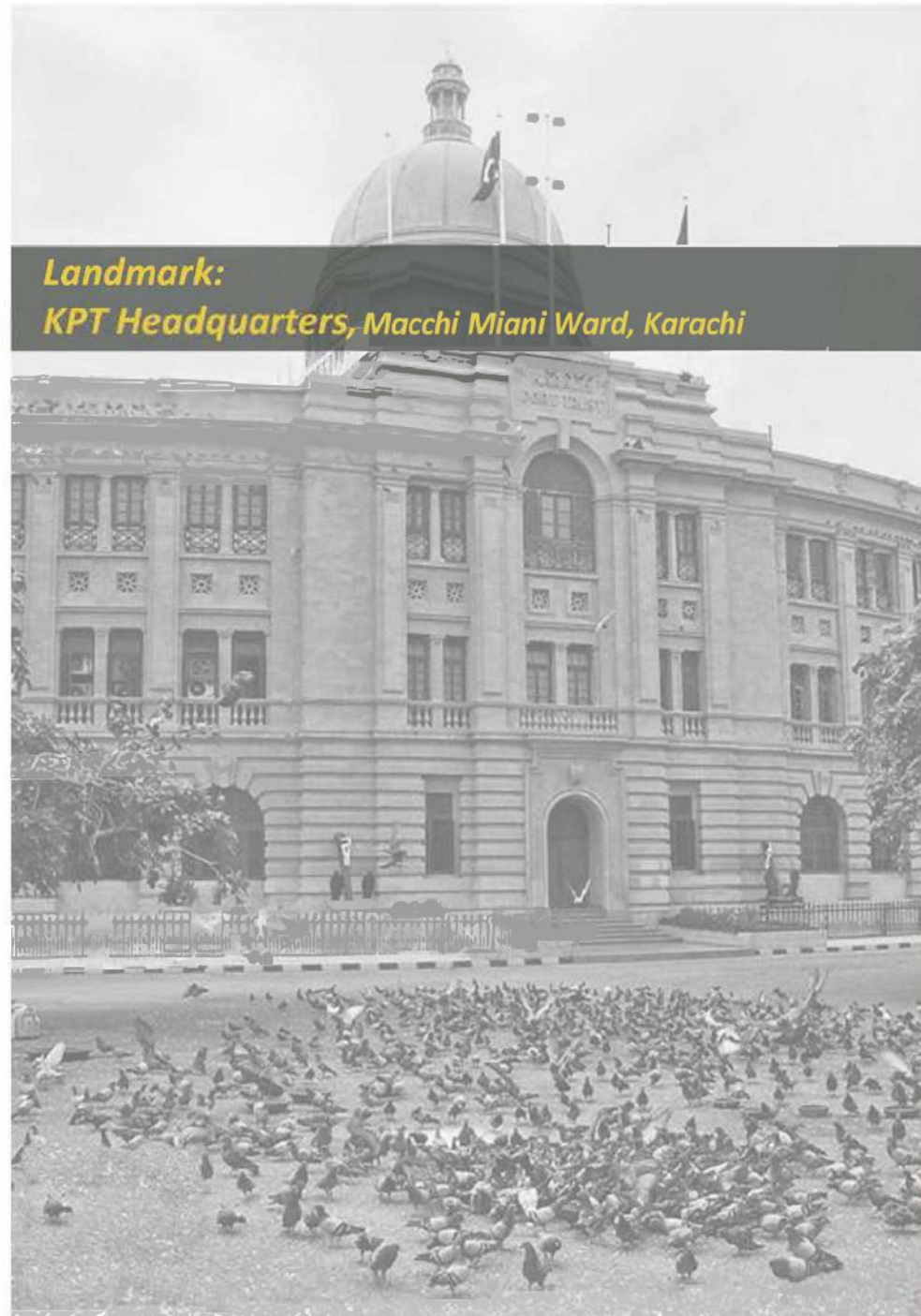
2- MACCHI MIANI WARD- 255800.7 KM.SQ



- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1- LYARI QUARTER | 8- BROHI MOHALLA | 15- KACHI COLONY | 22- SHAH BAIG LANE |
| 2- ZIKRI PARA | 9- CHAKIWARA | 16- JUNA KARLI | 23- DARIYABAD |
| 3- NOOR MUHAMMAD VILLAGE | 10- RANGIWARA | 17- IDU LANE | 24- LIQUAT COLONY |
| 4- GHAZINAGAR | 11- PUNJ GURI MOHALLA | 18- OLD KARLI | 25- MIRAN PUR |
| 5- MIRAN NAKA | 12- BIHAR COLONY | 19- NEW KARLI | 26- SHIDDI VILLAGE |
| 6- SINGO LANE | 13- AGRA TAJ COLONY | 20- MACHAR COLONY | 27- BAWA PAT |
| 7- NEW KUMBHARWA | 14- NAVY FLATS | 21- HINGORABAD | 28- KHARADAR |

Landmark:

KPT Headquarters, Macchi Miani Ward, Karachi



Heritage Buildings

MACCHI MIANNI WARD



1. Agha Diagnostic Centre



2. Allah Rakha Park



3. Macchi Miani Market



4. Jaffer Fadoo



5. Jamshed Katak Building



6. Eastern Fedral Union



7. KPT Head Office



8. Old Custom House

Old Town Ward

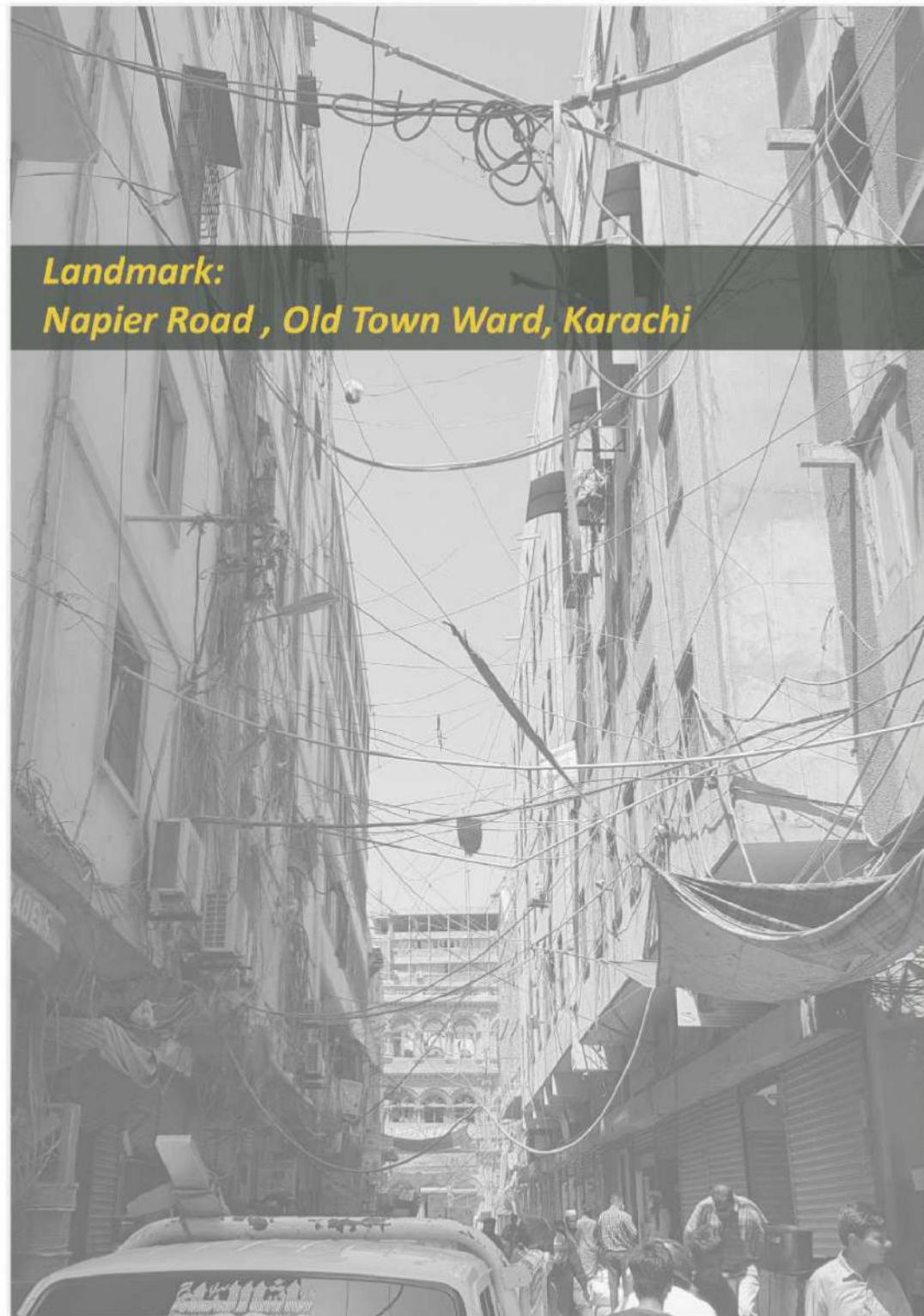
1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

2- OLD TOWN WARD- 0.31SQ-KM



1- OLD TOWN QUARTER

2- NAIPER QUATER



Landmark:
Napier Road , Old Town Ward, Karachi

Heritage Buildings

OLD TOWN WARD



1. Lea Market



2. Marri Building



3. Muhammad Yousuf Building



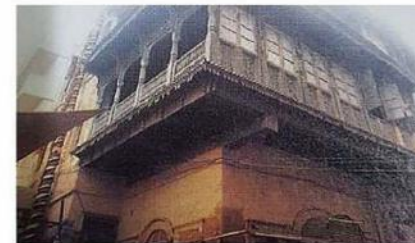
4. Gulzar Building



5. Ashrafi Manzil



6. Trust Building



7. Muhammad Manzil

Railway Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

2- RAILWAY WARD- 11.4 KM.SQ



1- RAILWAY QUARTER

3- CIVIL LINE QUARTER

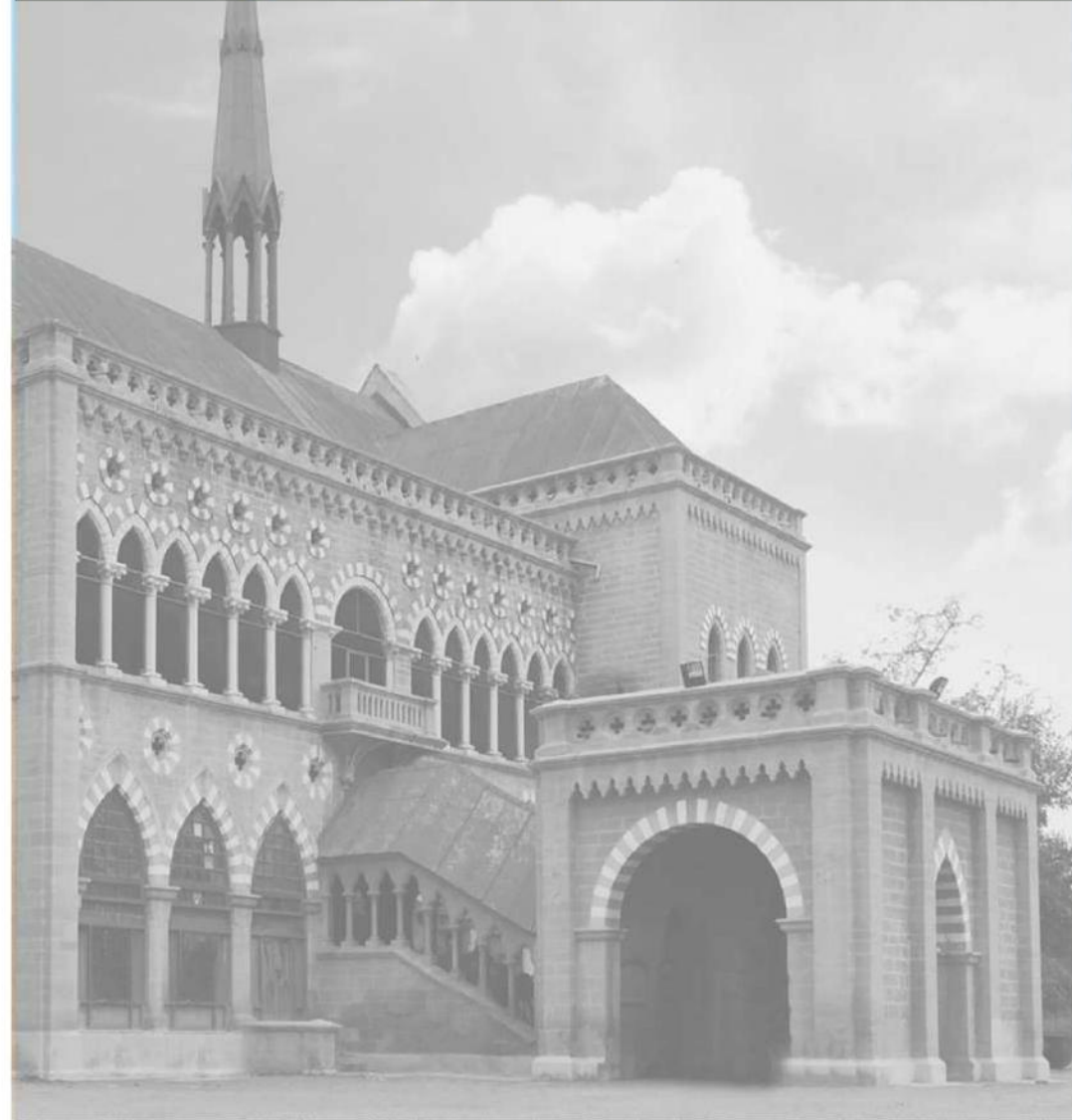
5- BATH ISLAND QUARTER

2- OLD QUEEN QUARTER

4- FRERE TOWN QUARTER

6- CLIFTON QUARTER

Landmark:
Frere Hall , Railway Ward, Karachi



Heritage Buildings

RAILWAY WARD



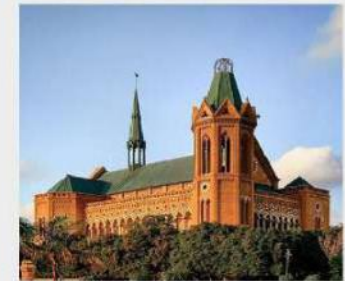
1. Standard Chartered Bank



2. City Railway Station



3. Chief Minister office



4. Frere Hall Landmark



5. Teen Talwar Monument



7. Jehangir Kothari Parade



6. Do Talwar Monument



8. Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple

Bunder Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

2- BUNDAR WARD- 0.62 KM.SQ

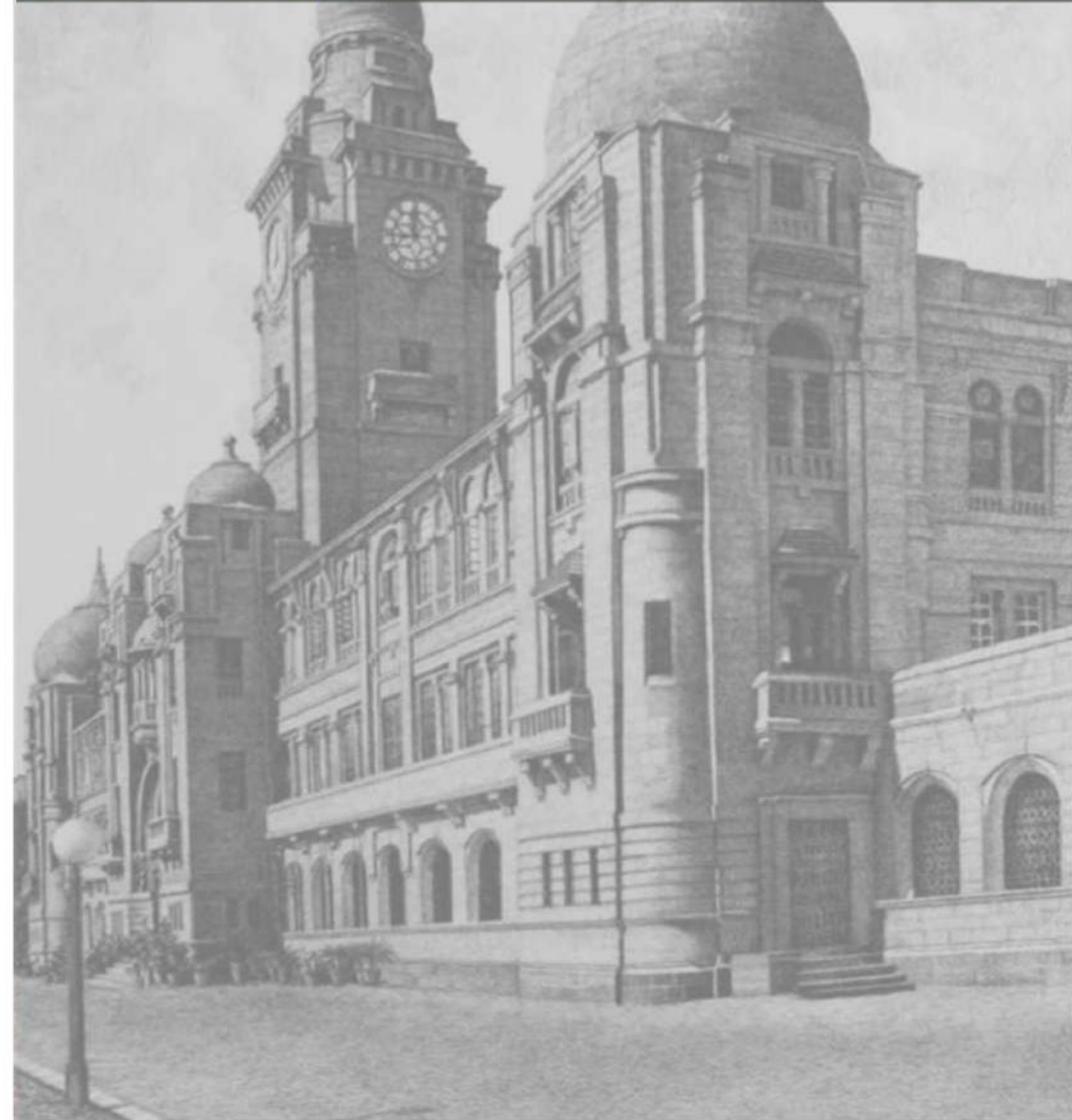


1- JAIL QUARTER

2- MARKET

3- BUNDER QUARTER

Landmark:
KMC Building, Bunder Ward, Karachi



Heritage Buildings

Bunder Ward



1. Faiz-e Hussaini Trust Building



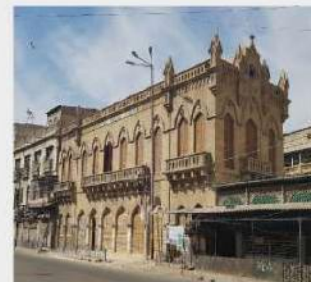
2. Karachi Municipal Cooperation Building



3. Small Causes Court



4. Jehangir Kothari Building



5. Max Denso Hall and Library



6. Hamid Market



7. Fadoo Building



8. Seth Goverdhandas M. Mohatta Market

Ranchoreline Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

2- RANCHORLINE WARD- 0.86 KM.SQ



1- RAMSWAMI QUARTER
2- RANCHORLINE QUARTER

Landmark:
Khaliq Dina Hall, Ranchorline Ward, Karachi



Heritage Buildings

Ranchoreline Ward



1. Sindh Electro X-ray Institute



2. N.J.V Higher School (Old Sindh Assembly)



3. Sir Abdullah Haroon Trust Building



4. Saira Mansion



5. Molvi Mussafir Khana



6. Khaliq Dina Hall

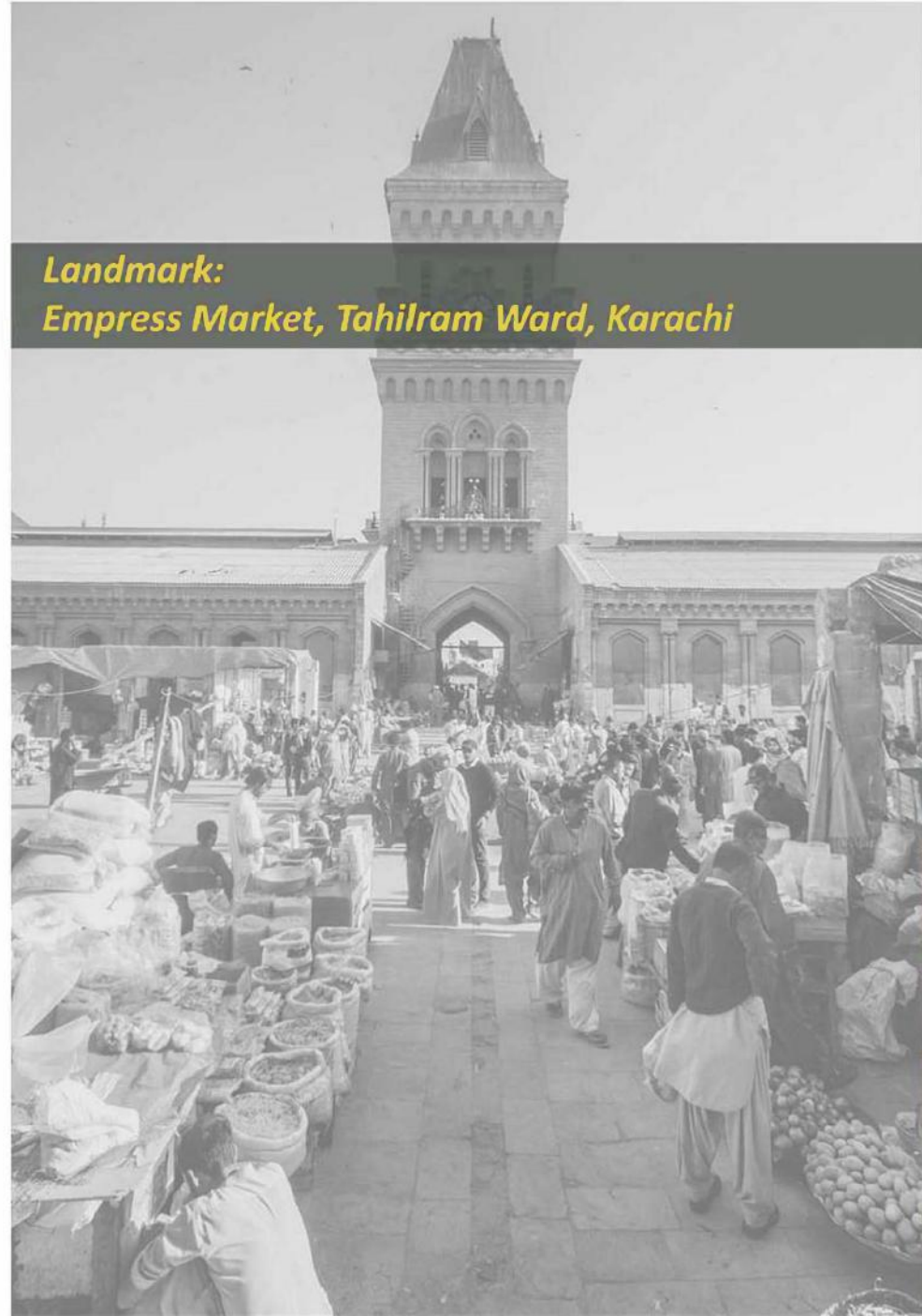
Tahilram Ward

- 1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ
- 2- TAHILRAM WARD- 8.43 KM.SQ



- 1- JAMSHED QUARTER
- 2- SOILDER BAZAAR
- 3- GARDEN EAST QUARTER
- 4- GARDEN WEST QUARTER
- 5- MILLAT NAGAR QUARTER
- 6- GAZDARABAD QUARTER
- 7- PREEDY QUARTER
- 8- SADDAR BAZAR
- 9- JACOB LINES QUARTER
- 10- PARSİ COLONY

Landmark:
Empress Market, Tahilram Ward, Karachi



Heritage Buildings

Tahilram Ward



1. Ida Rieu College For Blind and Deaf



2. Badr Villa



3. Hanif Mansion



4. Pakistan Coast Guards Headquarters



5. Khyber Hotel



6. Pehlvi Restaurant Building

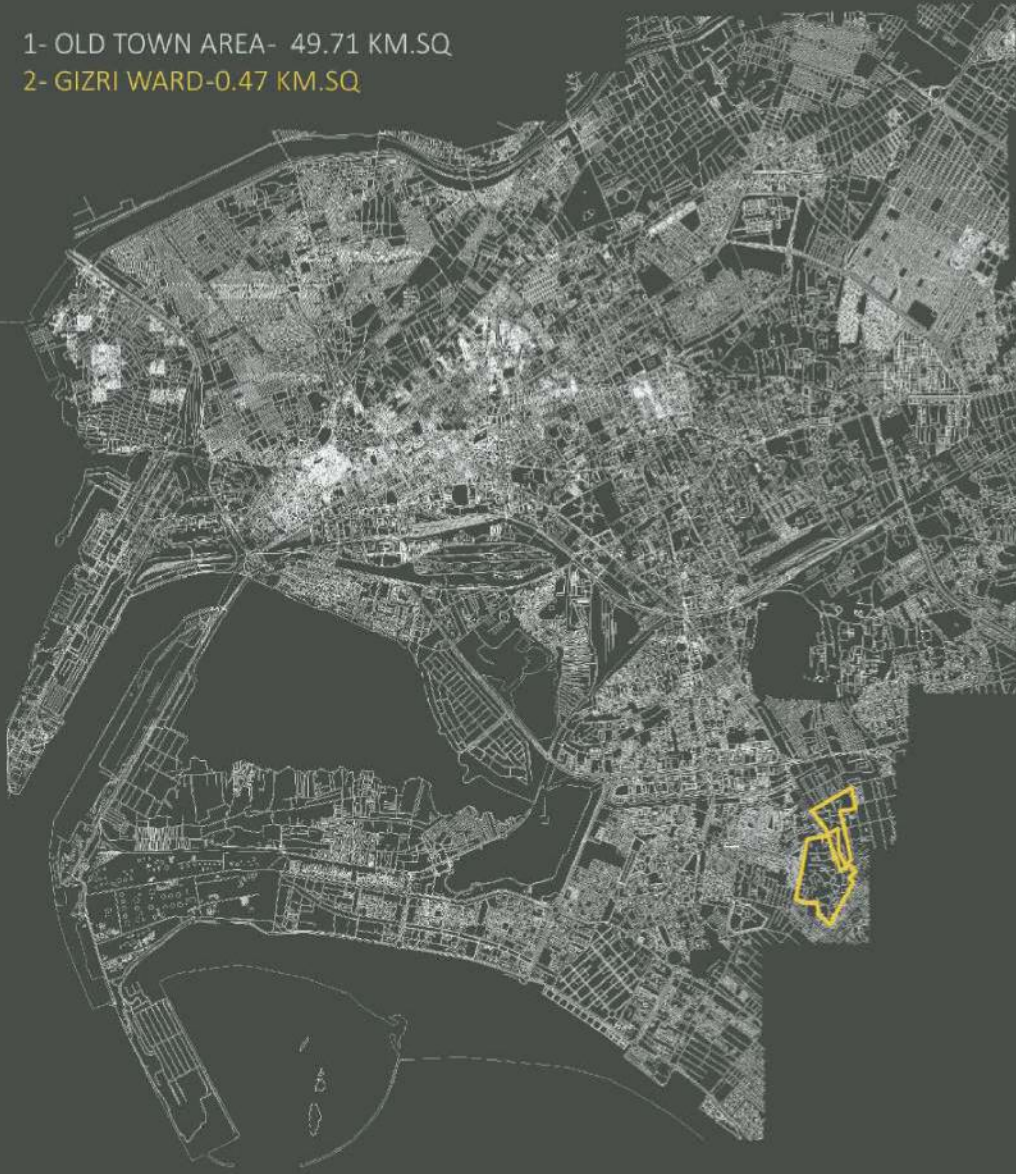


7. Empress Market

Gizri Ward

1- OLD TOWN AREA- 49.71 KM.SQ

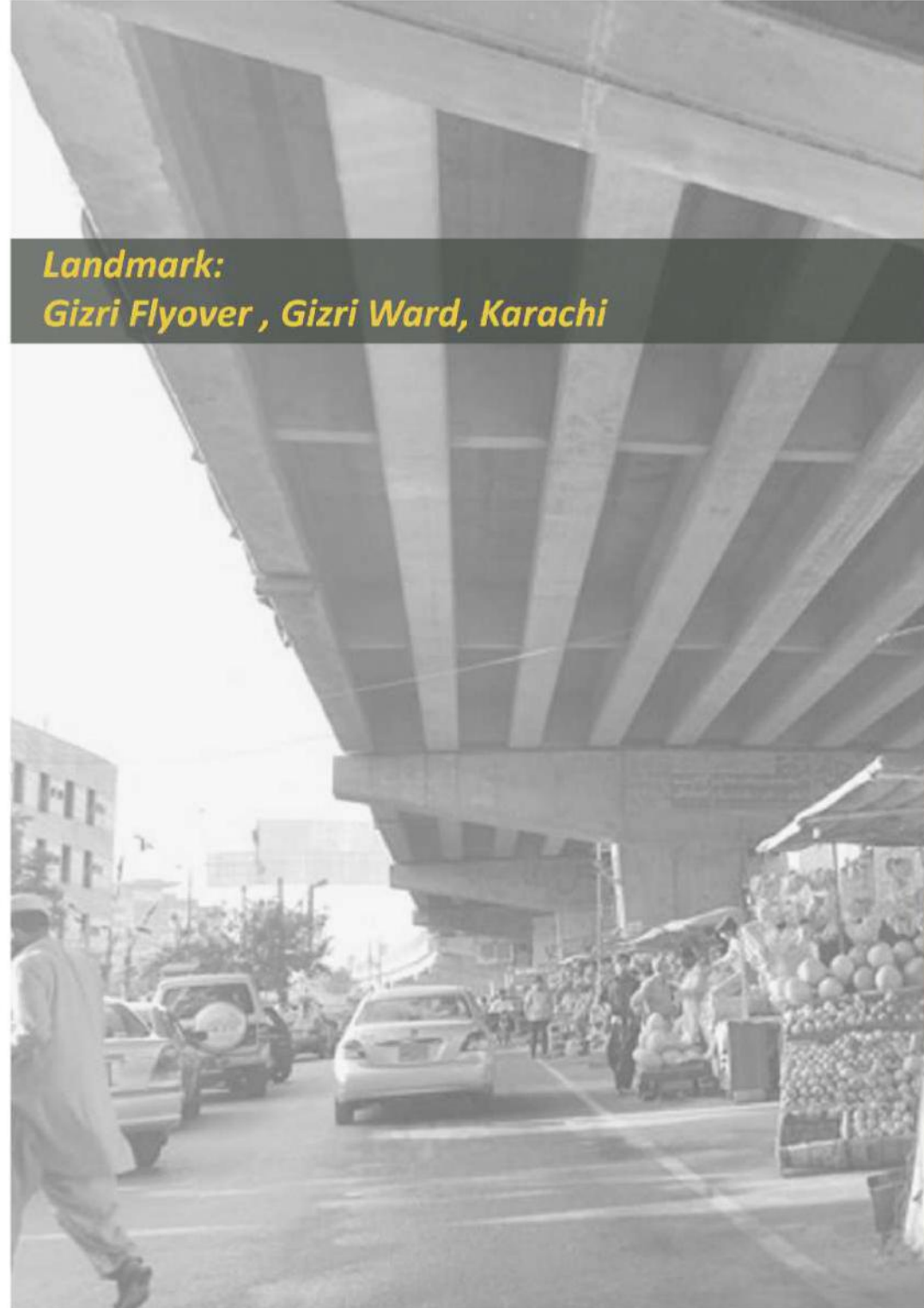
2- GIZRI WARD-0.47 KM.SQ



1- UPPER GIZRI QUARTER

2- LOWER GIZRI QUARTER

Landmark:
Gizri Flyover , Gizri Ward, Karachi





Old Town - Saddar (Photograph: Muhammad Osama Baig)

#HERITAGEBACHAOCAMPAIGN - POSTERS

WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE FACADE IS THE **REAL CRIME!**

Real Crime

Preservation of heritage buildings is limited to the facade, the interior is demolished and given a newer purpose with modern day construction techniques this act is backed up by the government and as a result we are losing major part of our heritage.

Preservation of heritage buildings is limited to the facade only and the interior is oftentimes demolished and given other purposes, by this practicing this act we're losing major part of our heritage and culture.

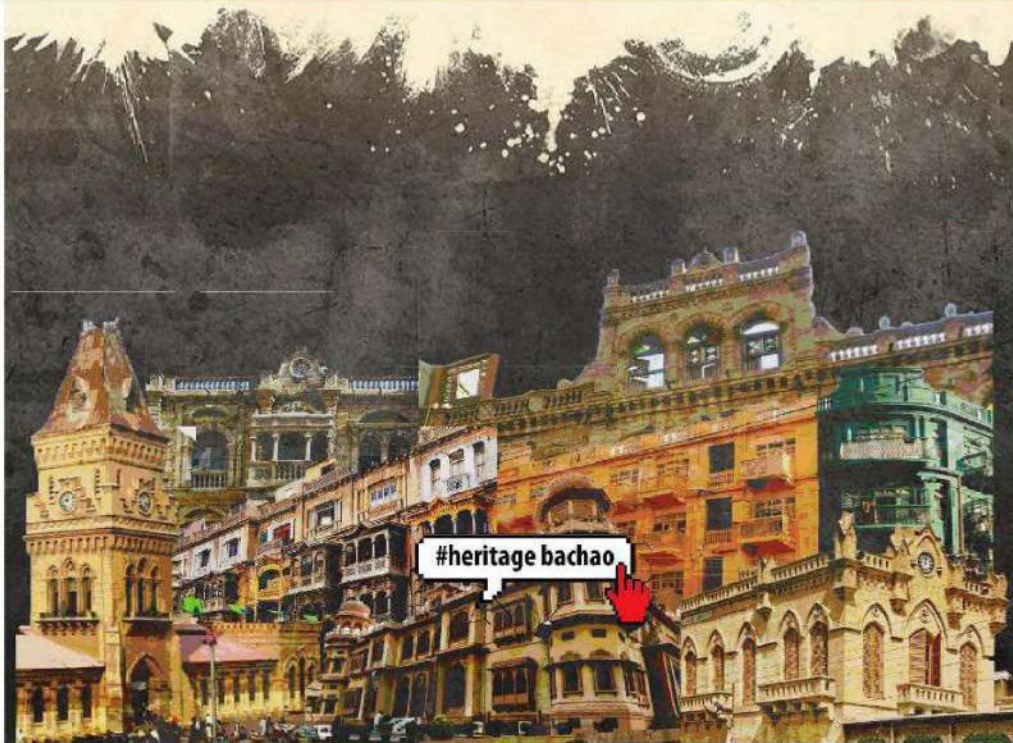
Interior architectural elements are of certain value which are ignored in a brutal manner, sold in the black markets, demolished, etc.

Public buildings aren't accessible to the general public that's a major issue to, this is how the brutality of demolishing and ignorance continues without the general people knowing about it

-Muhammad Osama Baig



DONT BURY YOUR HISTORY!!



Don't bury your History.

We are losing our culture and history with time, the constant act of demolishing heritage buildings throughout Old town is a process through which we're burying our history and heritage. We need to put a stop on this in order to save our cultural identity and heritage.

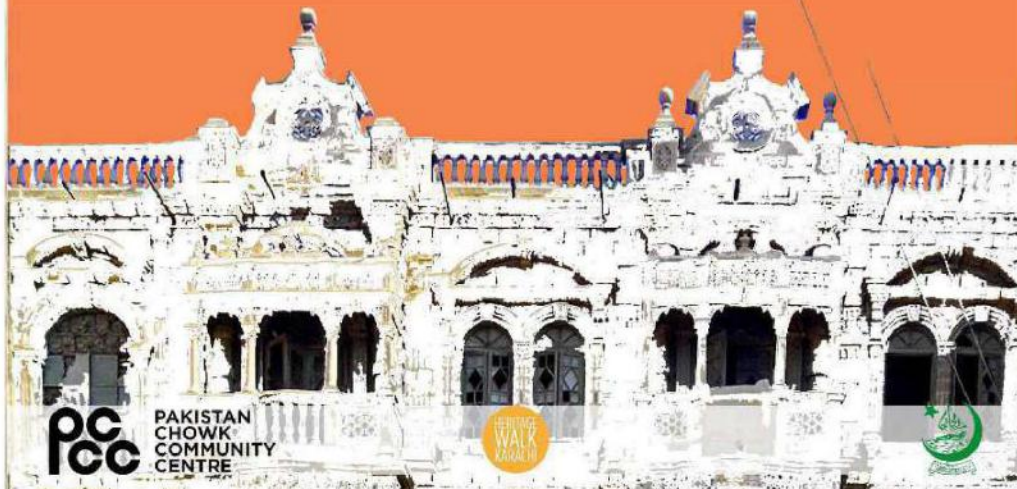
-Hasan Raza



TAKE CONTROL

endangered heritage needs your attention

#heritage bachao



PC
PCC
PAKISTAN
CHOWK
COMMUNITY
CENTRE



Heritage In Danger

In her foreword for the book 'Vanishing Karachi', Zohra Yusuf explains, "There is a lot disappearing in Karachi ... street names that were once a part of the city's history now changed in a denial of the past ... consigning the contribution of the city's non-Muslim forefathers to the dustbin of history ... The multi-culturalism that once defined Karachi has also vanished with its architectural heritage ... Our history textbooks fail to acknowledge the contribution of the Goans, Parsis and Sindh Hindus, the original guardians of this city — from philanthropy to education, to the arts and architecture ..."

It is worrying to stand witness to the deterioration of Karachi's heritage buildings as the city officials continue to disregard old for the new. However important development may be, maintenance of heritage buildings is just as important. Instead of adding to the city's urban archeology and carbon footprint, the structures and functions of these heritage buildings need to be preserved first. In this series of posters I have tried to highlight some of the main concerns about Colonial era heritage buildings.

-Ilsa Ahmed

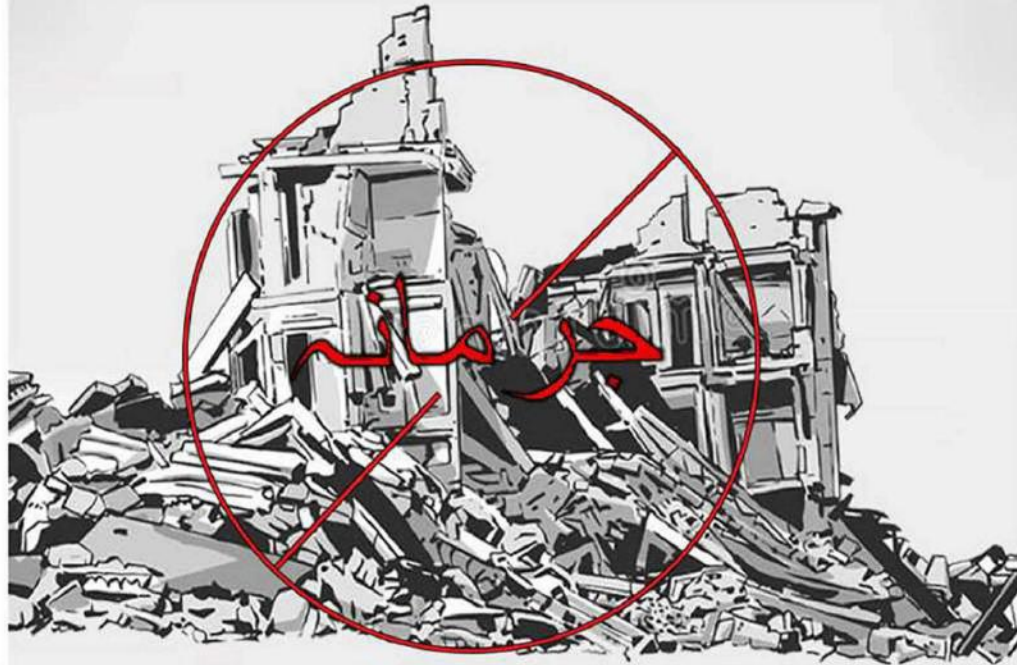


Find the full series of posters here: <https://tinyurl.com/mre893f5>

جرمانہ برہاؤ وراثہ بچاؤ

#heritage bachao

وراثہ مسمار کرنے پر
جرمانہ صرف 1 لاکھ؟

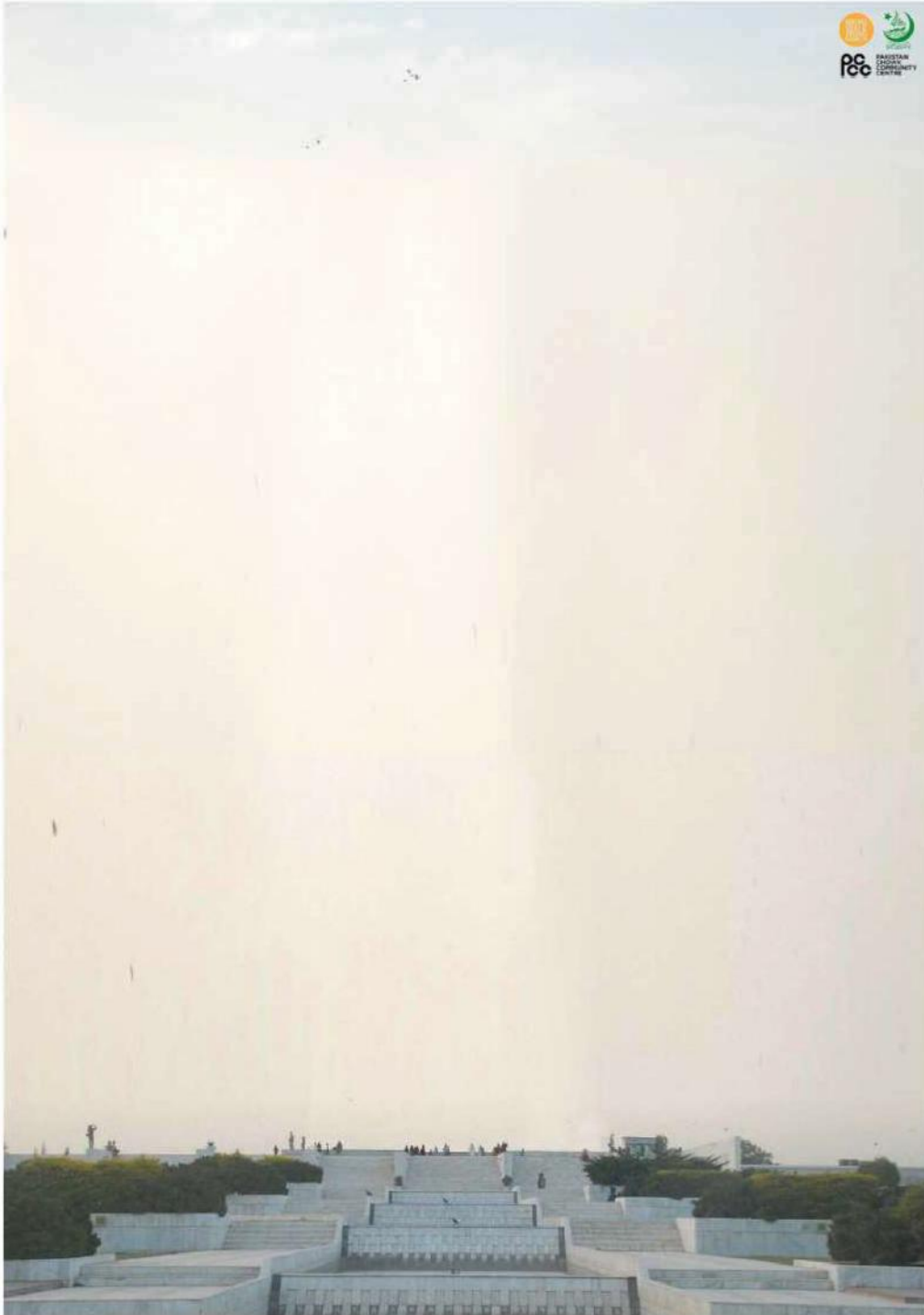


Under Sindh heritage law, destruction of heritage property shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupee

Penalty

According to Sindh heritage law (1998) penalty for demolishing heritage property is just one lakh ruppees. This poster is designed to demand increment in the penalty charges of any type of heritage destruction and in order to save guard our heritage from vandalism and destruction we need amendments in the current law.

میرزا خازینہ سیددیقی
-Khazina Siddiqui



Guess What?

These images look like any other photos of Karachi but if you look closely and pay attention you will find that important heritage buildings have been edited out of them. Heritage buildings left behind from the colonial era are a representation of our history. This history is far too precious to be lost. Our question to you is, what if our heritage disappears? What if these historic structures that tell a tale of our cultural history were to vanish over time? These heritage buildings are a part of our identity, without them we lose Karachi's legacy.

-Mahum Zubair

Poster Series



STOP DEMOLITION OF HERITAGE



Stop Demolishing Heritage

“It is a public property” - Land grabbing is one of the most prevalent practices when it comes to the exploitation of Old town's heritage buildings. These buildings need to be protected and stricter laws need to be enforced.

-Owais Patni

“Karachi Heritage”

Destiny;
Black Market?



Heritage Destiny

Most of the heritage buildings get demolished and their elements like doors, windows, railings, and grills are stolen for the sake of being sold in the Black Market. We need Government to take security measures to stop this vandalism otherwise there wouldn't be any heritage left to introduce to the future generations.

-Mahnoor Khalid



#heritage bachao

STOP
VANDALISM



Vandalism

Action involving deliberate destruction of public or private property is known as vandalism. Heritage buildings have become subject to all types of vandalism be it chalking on walls of heritage buildings or disfiguration of mortise inside the heritage buildings. This poster highlights the lack of awareness towards heritage throughout our generation. Heritage inside out portrays a story of its time but if those walls are covered with spray paints and banners those ancient walls will have no meaning left. Preservation of these buildings and prevention of vandalism can help preserve history in its true form for our upcoming generation

-Shabbar Raza

#PEHCHAAN BATAO



Markings and Signages can help us navigate Old Town.

NO MARKINGS???

When did I enter this Quarter.



How To Identify?

As we tried to find the boundary of Old town, our biggest obstacle to overcome was the shortage of records about each of the quarters. The government needs to do a better job at collecting data and making it public information. Signages could help people in identifying parts of Old Town. Navigation of Old town could also be made easier this way.

-Shahzaib Amjed

S tate B uilding S b V S P rivate B uilding P b H eritage P olitics

Karachi Municipal Corporation Building Vs. Kanji Munji Building

Your condition seems not looking good to me Kanjil

My façade is only for show off but my remaining body is eaten up internally by the builders, as the termite eats the wood.

I am very sorry to say that in coming years, you might not be there between us.

Yeah! this is easy for you to say so, as you are a state property, no one can harm you.

I am included in heritage building according to Sindh Cultural Heritage Act, 1994. So there is great penalty if I am harmed.

I was already registered in 1995 but being a private property nobody spared me.

State vs Private Heritage; A Conversation

This series has been made to show and explain the clear difference between state and private heritage buildings which is found these days in Karachi as how the state heritage buildings are given preference whereas private heritage property are totally neglected when it comes to preservation and maintenance.

-Tazeen Afshan



Find the full series of posters here: <https://tinyurl.com/5e89b77p>

کراچی کا ورثہ کراچی کی پیچان

تیری تخلیق نہیں، تو اسے برباد نہ کر

#VirsaBachao

Virsa Bachao

A city is identified by its buildings even after hundreds of years and then those buildings speak for the history of skills and tools that the workers during that time possessed. It speaks for the preferences, beliefs and morals those peoples had within that city. Karachi is also identified by its heritage buildings so we must save them from being sabotaged as it erases our history and efforts of all labourers that were put into crafting these beautiful structures.

-Hamid Raza



STOP DETERIORATING
START OWNING

KARACHI

میں ٹوٹ چکا ہوں ہاں کوئی نہیں ہے میرا

Deterioration of Old Town

There are still numerous historical buildings in this country that have flaws, whether they be in their facade, structure, or have been renovated without sufficient conservation work. Some structures have been abandoned by their owners and are not adequately maintained due to a lack of understanding about conservation issues and a lack of funds and the owners' initiative to maintain the structures. According to my observations, several historic buildings have a lack of sufficient upkeep, their design, building materials, and architectural style have lost their authenticity. Massive renovations are being carried out on the structures. The difficulties in maintaining such a cultural treasure have resulted in major structural and fabric flaws.

-Faiq Wasim

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