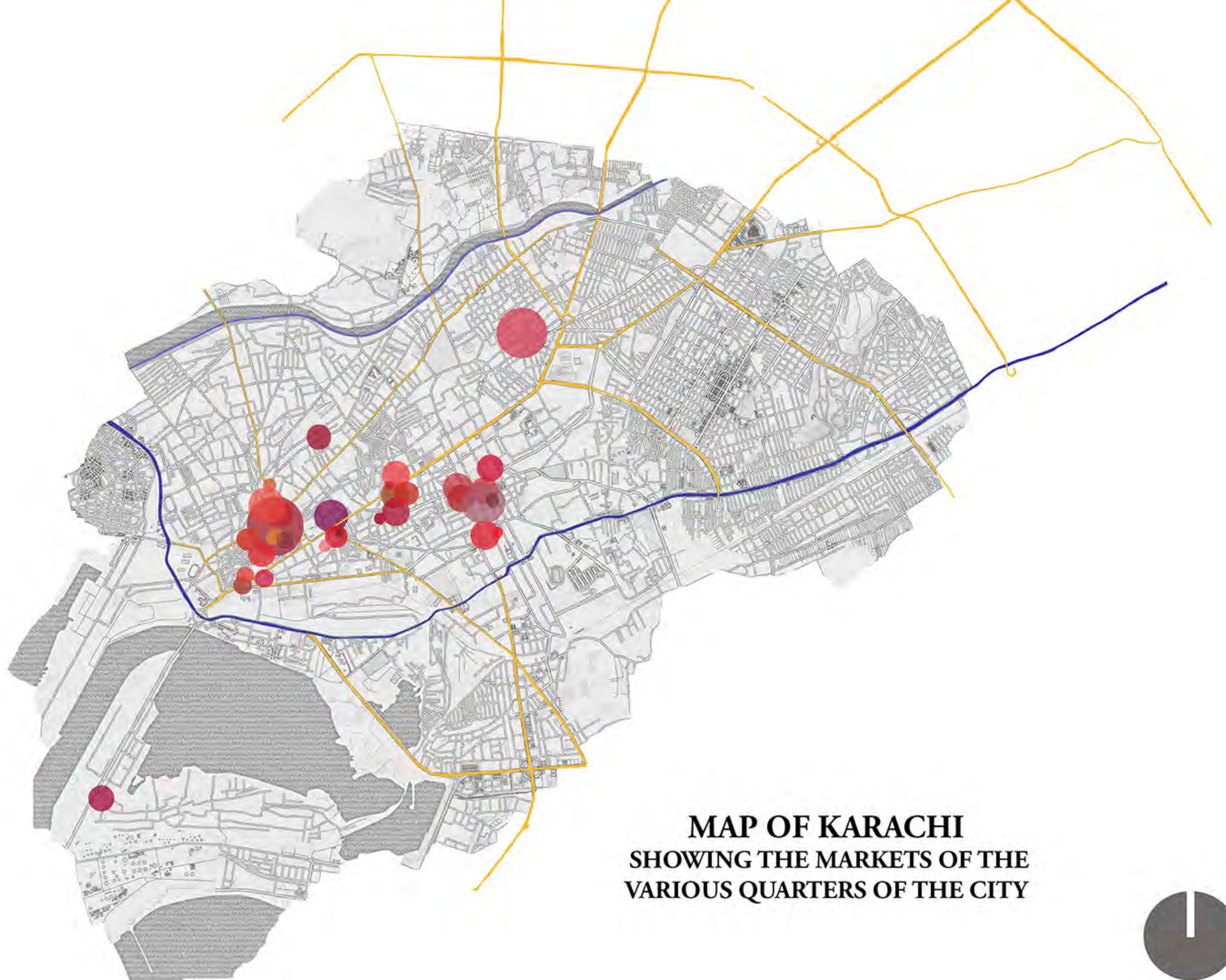


THE MARKETS OF KARACHI

A RESEARCH PROJECT OF



PAKISTAN
CHOWK
COMMUNITY
CENTRE



**MAP OF KARACHI
SHOWING THE MARKETS OF THE
VARIOUS QUARTERS OF THE CITY**



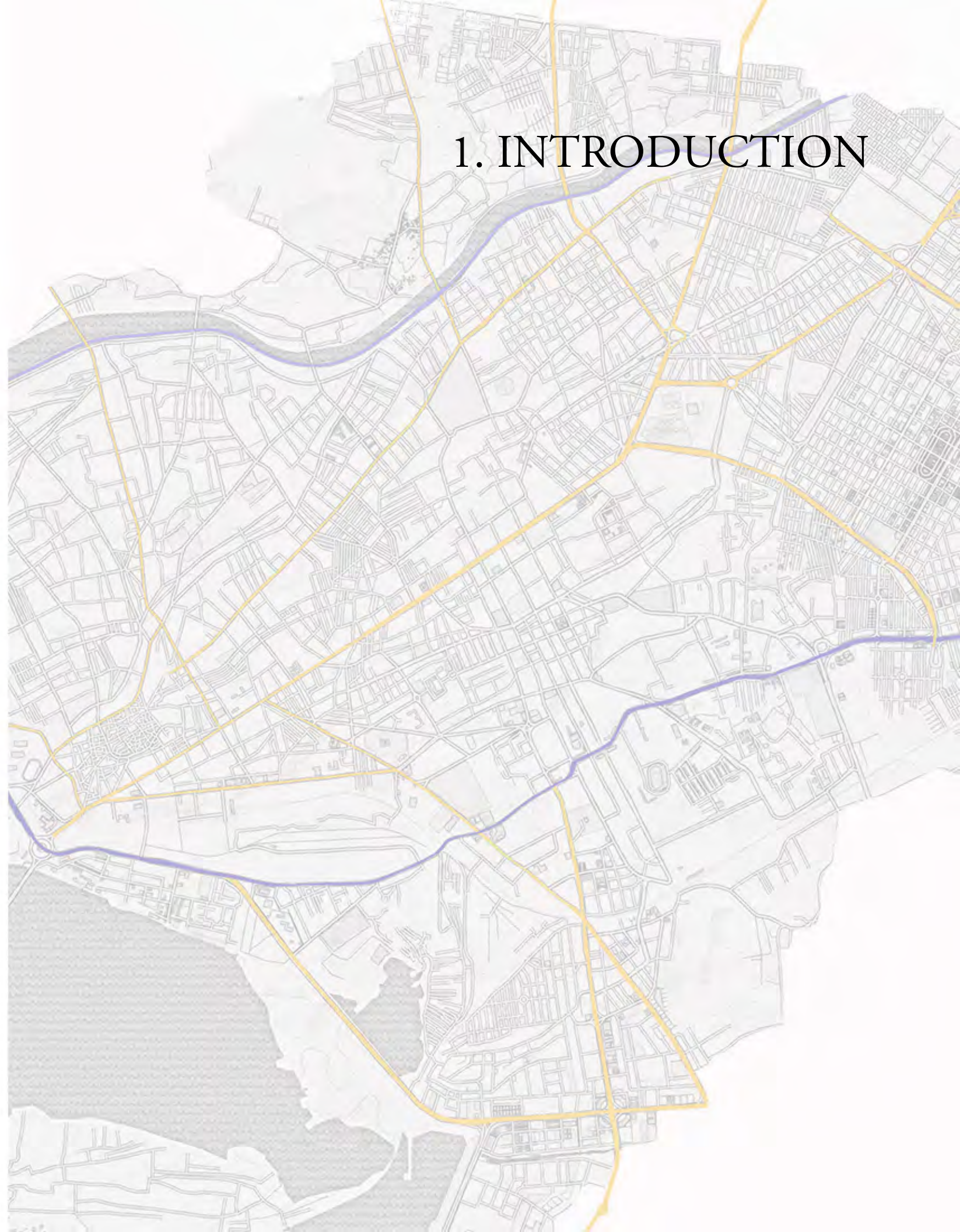
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1. INTRODUCTION



1.1 INTRODUCTION: KARACHI'S GROWTH

It can be said that Karachi's growth since the time of Charles Napier's arrival in 1843 has been unprecedented, yet expected, at the same time. With time, it has been expected how the city's population will grow further and how Karachi may expand outwards, however, the way this expansion has been occurring and the side effects are often unprecedented. Especially by the Charles Napier himself, who famously said, 'You will yet be the glory of the East. Would that I come again, Kur-arachee, to see you in your grandeur.'

This does not mean Karachi never became the glamorous town Napier believed it to be. Indeed during the years after partition, Karachi was culturally and intellectually enriched as diverse people, from politicians to students, from diplomats to servants, shared this urban space. During this time, the Saddar Bazaar area was at its peak and was home to sixteen cinemas, six libraries, seven night clubs, thirty eight bars and over twenty bookshops (Hasan, 2010). However, with time, great changes have occurred in the Old Town areas as well as in the rest of the city.

Before partition, Karachi was divided between the European city, where the Europeans lived, and the native city where Muslims and Hindus resided. The European part of the city was the area of Cantonment, Civil Lines and Saddar Bazaar whereas the native part was the area closer to the port that had existed from before the arrival of the British. In the European part, especially in the Saddar Bazaar area, the retail stores were like those in Europe and was characterized by wide roads and open areas, whereas Hindu and Muslim merchants traded in the native area where there were a number of vegetable and other wholesale markets, and narrow lanes. (Wizarat, 2010)

Immediately after partition, Saddar Bazaar emerged as the main intellectual and cultural hub of the city and Empress Market was preferred by all for grocery shopping due to an array of goods being offered. However, Karachi started to witness a large influx of people especially as it was now the capital of Pakistan and great changes were underway. More and more markets were developed in areas where people started settling like the KMC Soldier Bazaar Market built in 1954. In the late fifties, Tariq road also emerged (Noorani, 2010) which became the area of choice for many and the number of customers that came to Saddar Bazaar started reducing.

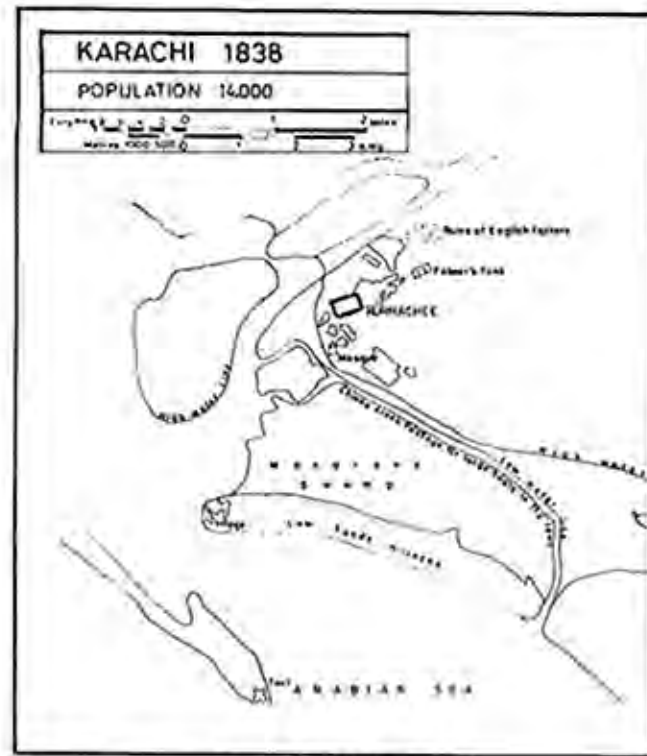
An important change came about in the 1970s when construction of medium and high rise apartments was encouraged by the government by giving subsidies, etc and a lot of the architecture in Old Town Karachi was destroyed and Karachi's skyline started to change. During this time, many markets on Bunder Road were reconstructed and their structure changed as lanes started becoming narrower. Moreover, a number of remittances from the Middle East were being invested in real estate and small businesses and this Dubai connection led to the emergence of a number of wholesale markets of electronics and household appliances, as a result.

With time, Karachi grew from a population of just 387,000 in 1941 (htt) to around 18 million in 2018. During this time, the markets in the city have evolved whereas new have opened and some have closed down with time. Some have also fallen victim to the recent anti encroachments drive. Moreover, the mall culture is also still much loved all over Pakistan and certainly, the old markets have faced the impact.



1:22 Bunder Road Karachi (Pak)

Historic Image of Bunder Road. Source: <http://arifhasan.org/images-gallery/historical-images-karachi-ii>



KARACHI 1838



KARACHI 1870



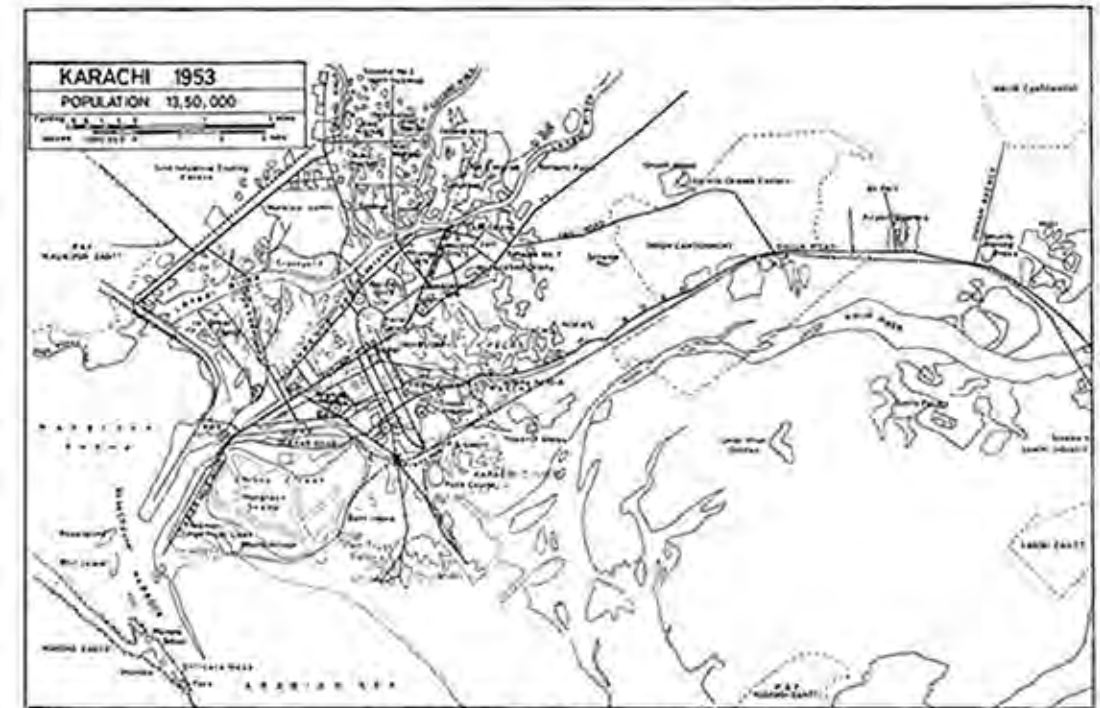
KARACHI 1890



KARACHI 1922



KARACHI 1944



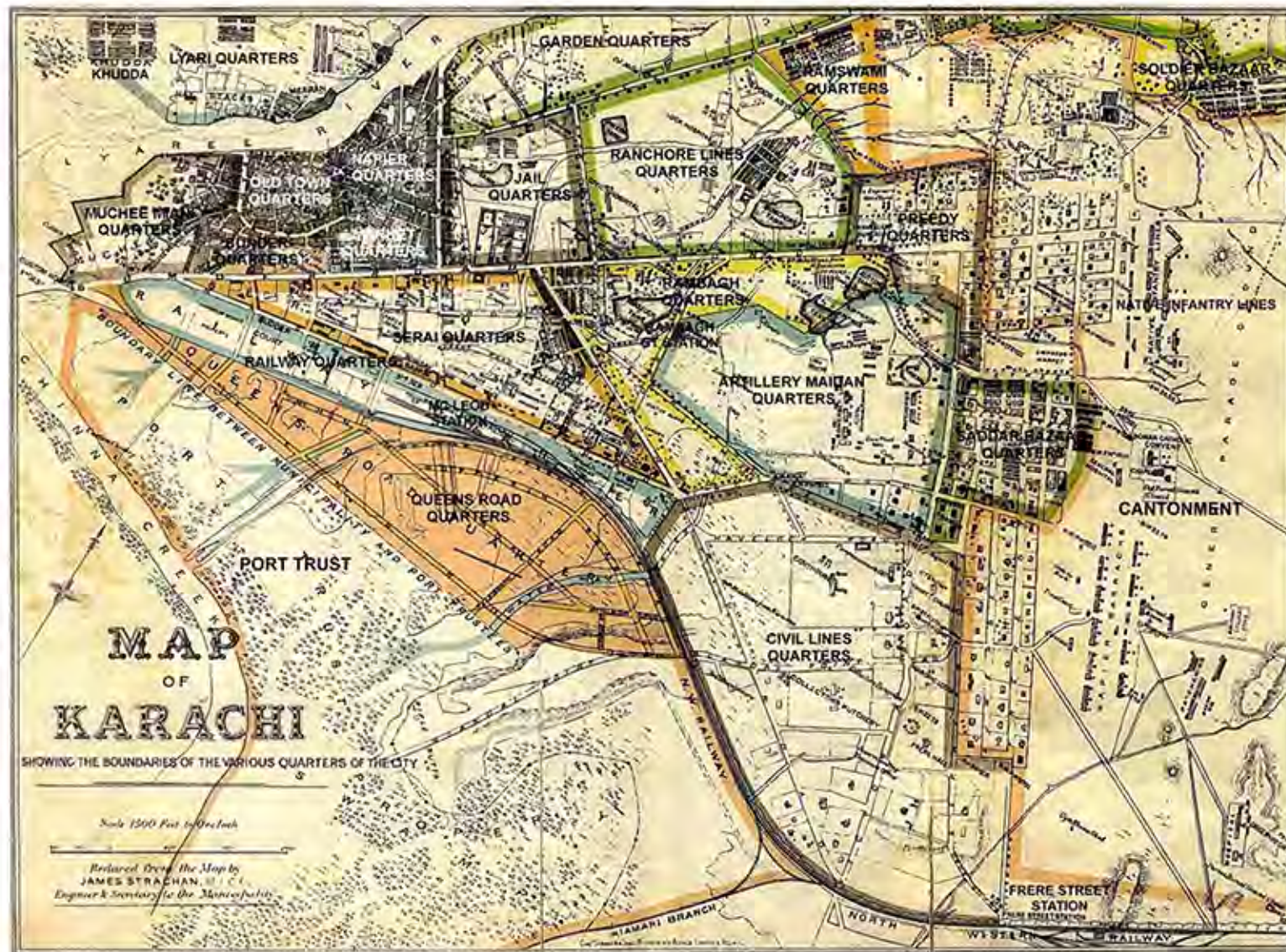
KARACHI 1953

Historical Maps of Karachi, showing the growth of Karachi from a port to a metropolis.

Source: <http://arifhasan.org/maps/historical-maps-of-karachi>

1.2 DEVELOPMENT OF KARACHI'S QUARTERS

Karachi being a port city has always been of major importance to any dynasty who has ruled the Sub-continent. The history of Karachi precedes those of its nearby areas, its historical rise came when the British took over it from the reign of the Talpurs in the 1850s. Karachi became a social hub when British Sarkar made it one of their operational cities due to which many British nobles settled here. The influence of British was a huge game changer for the society and culture of Karachi and it created an everlasting impact on its trade and architecture. After the takeover of Karachi the British changed Karachi's development plan and divided the city into quarters and made new ones as well. (Cheema, 2007). As the influence of British increased so did the population of the city.



Karachi: 1890. Showing the boundaries of the various quarters of the city. (Source: Baillie:1890)

1.3 HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF KARACHI'S MARKETS

In this essay we have focused on the markets of Karachi which were established either before the partition of the subcontinent, or immediately after it. At the time of partition Karachi had a total of seven established markets. (Salman, Karachi: Legacies of Empires, 2014) We wanted to collect and bring together the history of these markets in order to preserve it as much of it is already lost and may be gone soon as the city rapidly evolves. However, along with this, we wanted to study these markets to see how they have changed with time as Karachi expands continuously and new markets spring up almost every day, and also draw comparisons amongst these to explore how diverse Karachi's heritage and population is.

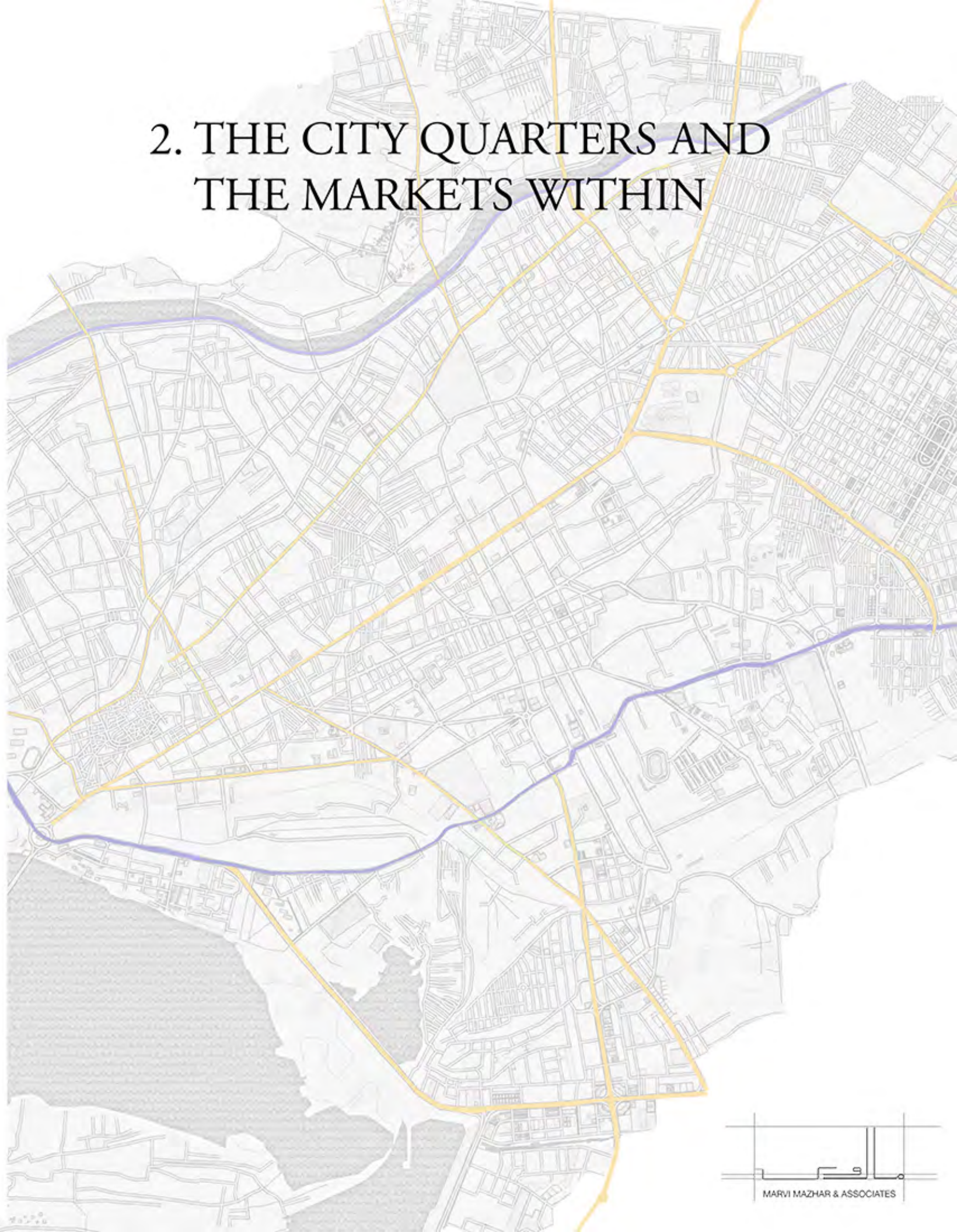
During the late 19th century the markets used to be situated outside the boundaries of Karachi, this was due to the fact that most of the trade used to take place outside the city. The markets used to be near any serai (inns) where travelers stayed for the access to trade but as the population of the city increased so did the demand for goods, to cater to the increasing demand the markets merged within the city.

At the time of partition Karachi had a total of 7 established markets which were mostly in the Saddar Bazaar and other areas near it. (Peerzada, Karachi: Legacies of Empires, 2014) It was due to the fact that these areas were where the British nobles and other high ranking officials resided. An exemption from these markets was the Lea market which was situated near the port and was established for the locals living there. (Sons H. M.)

Eventually, numerous factors have contributed to the evolution of the markets in the city. Firstly, the increase in population especially after the city witnessed an influx of migrants from India in 1947 led to the expansion of many existing markets whereas new markets like Chamra Market sprung up. As time passed by, the city has expanded considerably and more city centers have developed. Now, almost every area has its own city center with shopping malls, groceries and all basic necessities. This has certainly had its impact on markets selling groceries and more as many people switched to shopping closer to their homes. However, this has had less impact on markets selling specialized products to business like the Timber Market, Bahadur Shah Market which is known for its bukram and Urdu Bazaar due to the wide variety it has to offer.



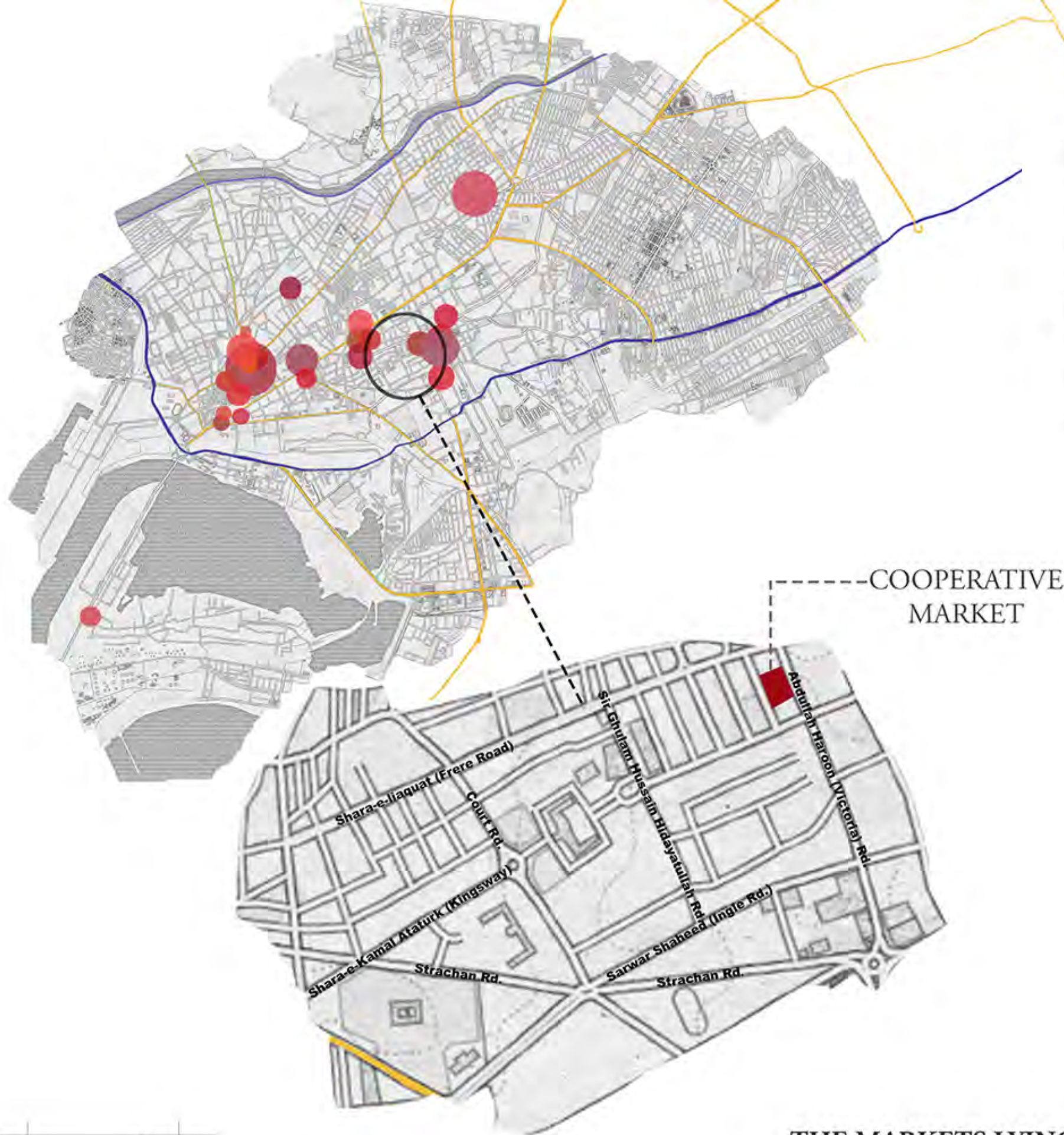
2. THE CITY QUARTERS AND THE MARKETS WITHIN



2.1 Historical Background of Artillery Mайдan Quarters

Set up as a rifle range practicing and parade ground for the British army, Artillery Mайдan Quarter emerged in 1839. It was placed strategically between the native area and the British Government area comprising of a large open ground for artillery practical services with two small areas left for residential purposes. The location prime to the commercial heart of Karachi made it an area suitable for potential growth, due to which the British army gave some of the land to the civil administration which later emerged into the civic center of the country.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



A section of Artillery Mайдan Quarter, 1874. Originally part of the Cantonment, the arsenal can be seen in the north-eastern part. (Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj, Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S.Lari)

THE MARKETS LYING IN THE ARTILLERY MAIDAN QUARTERS OF KARACHI

2.1.1 COOPERATIVE MARKET

When one looks at the new cooperative market it is hard to imagine that 80 years ago there were wooden cabins here instead of the small shops made next to each other. These different cabins used to belong to different shops, and it was after partition that the Pakistani government decided to build a building to accommodate the shops. The building was inaugurated by general Azam Khan during the 1960's.

The cooperative market is divided in two sections: grooms wear and electronics. Most of the shopkeepers in the market have been there from the past 20-30 years if not more. The interior of the market appears to be modified recently.

The internet fails to tell us more about this market and so most of the information we collected was from interviewing the shopkeepers. The market caters to the needs of the lower and middle class people who come here looking for affordable clothing for weddings. Although most of the shops are dedicated to men's clothing there were some bridal wear also.

When we visited the market it was late in the morning and most of the shops were closed in the market. Outside on the building the date of inauguration and name of inaugurator were engraved on the wall. Most of the bill boards on the building were new and some parts of the market was air-conditioned.



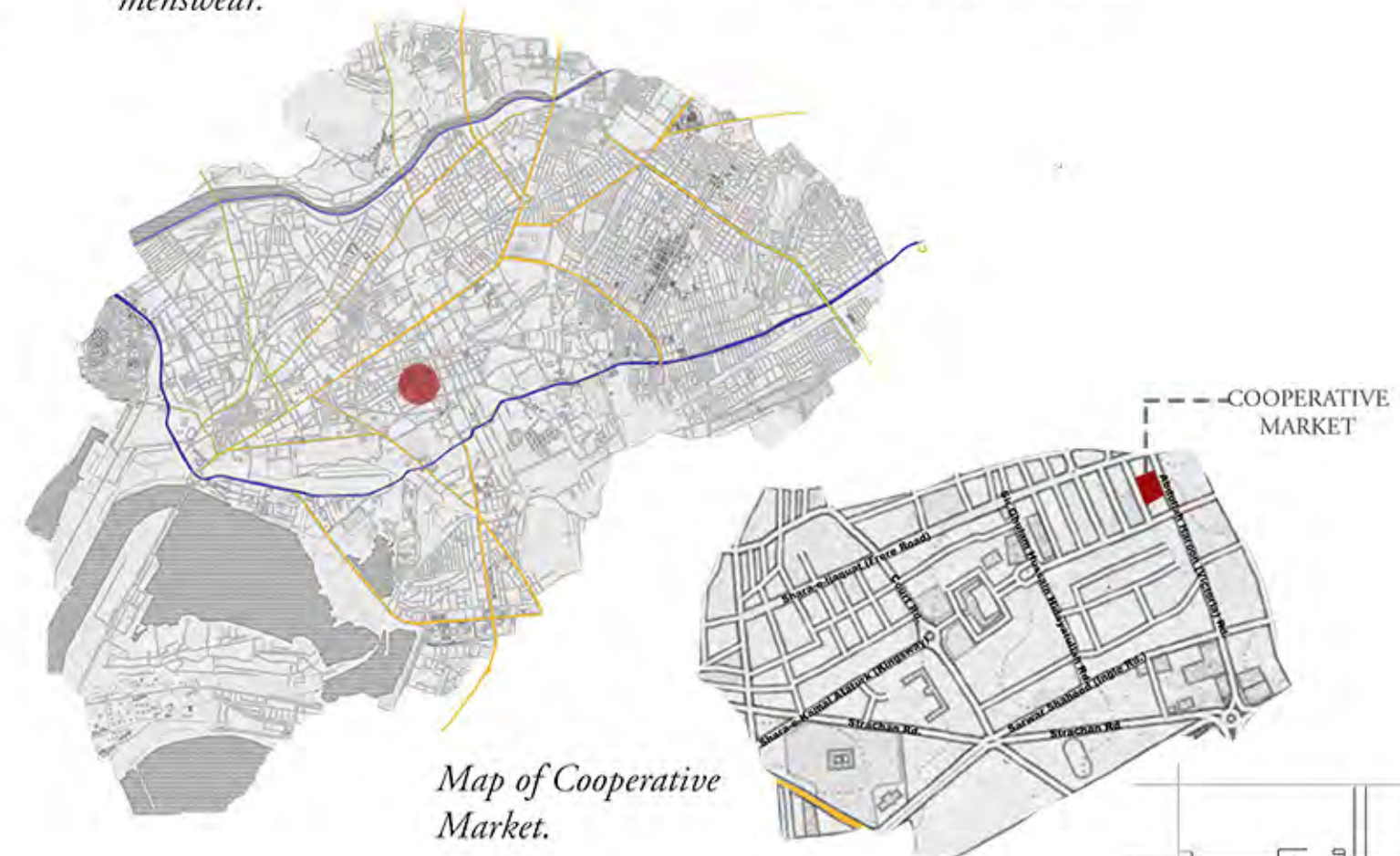
One of the many shops catering to menswear.



Entrance to the market.



View of the market



Map of Cooperative Market.

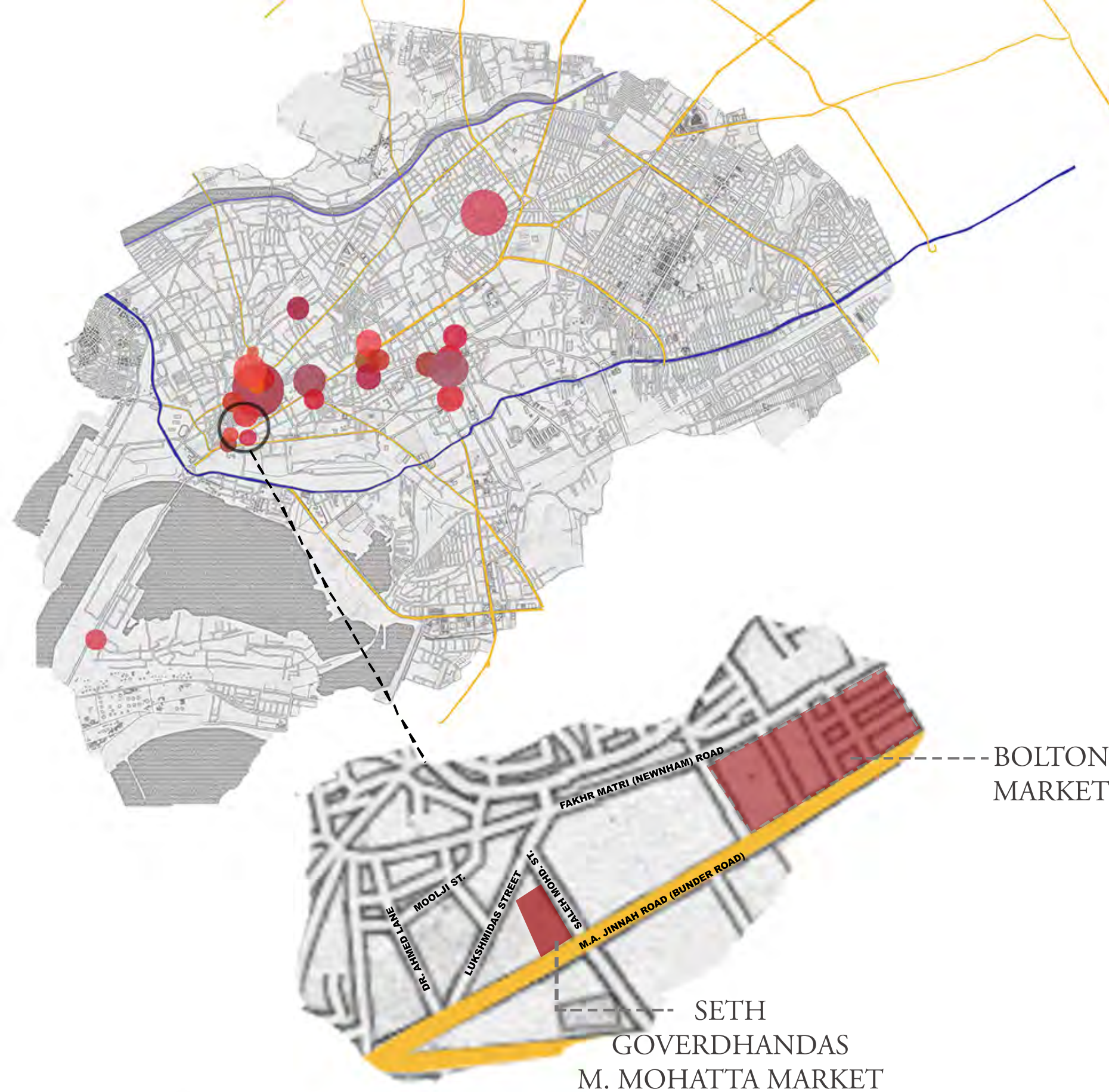
2.2 Historical Background of Bunder Quarters

Primarily serving as an open space where cattles were sold to the people of Karachi and placed between the Old Fort, the Serai Quarters and Machee Miani. Along with the cattle market, there remained a large Muslim burial ground adjacent to it. The strategic location and convenient accommodation made this place to develop into a business centre, after 1890, for native merchants and local agents for British port related activities and shipping companies.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



Bunder Quarter, 1874. Influence of more organized planning by the new rulers can be seen in the form of straight roads. (Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj; Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S. Lari 2001)



THE MARKETS LYING IN THE BUNDER QUARTERS OF KARACHI





Bolton Market, Karachi.

Source: <http://arifhasan.org/images-gallery/historical-images-karachi-i>

2.2.2 SETH GOVERDHANDAS CLOTH MARKET

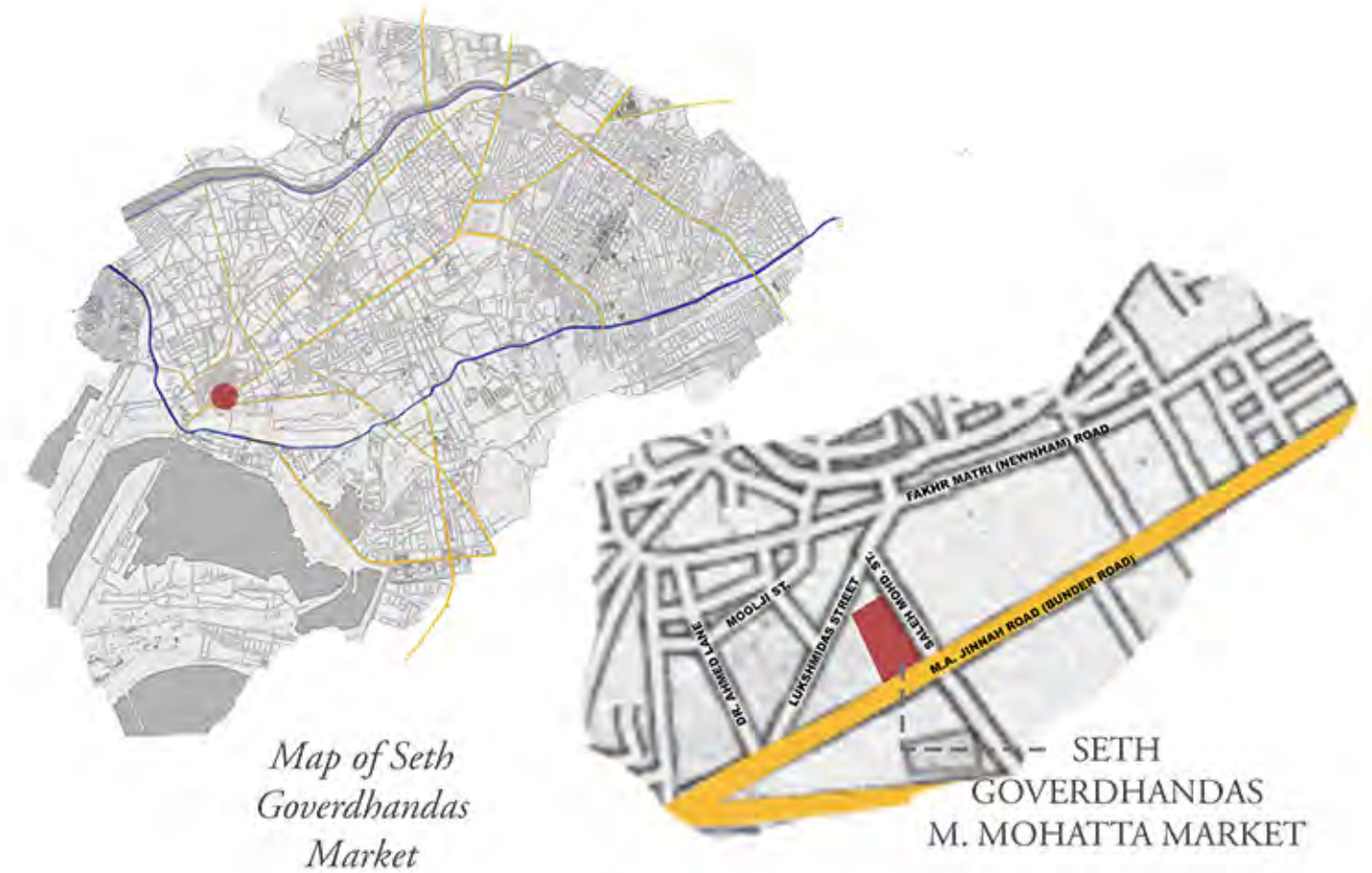
Commonly known as Goatandas Market and even more commonly as Latif Cloth Market, this market is located on the main junction of Bunder Road and Saleh Muhammad Street. The building is a beautiful stone construction with numerous arches on the first floor whereas the ones on the ground floor are concealed by the shutters of the shops. The main entrance of the building says, 'Seth Goverdhandas M. Mohatta Piece Goods Market (1895 A.D.)' however, if you ask most shopkeepers where 'Seth Goverdhandas' market is, most of them do not know. Perhaps because the name is not very clear due to the wires and worn old pieces of cloth hanging in front.

Seth Goverdhandas Cloth Market is currently owned by Latif Delhiwala and thus known as Latif Cloth Market. It offers cloth in various varieties and is just one of the numerous cloth markets on this part of Bunder Road. The second floor of the building however, has offices or satin and thread manufacturing companies. (Bashir)

It is disheartening to look at the structure of this market. Although it immediately catches your eye from afar, a closer look reveals years of decay and neglect. The shops on the ground floor have disfigured the façade on that floor due to the uneven and ill planned store shutters whereas a number of wires hang in front on the building in addition to garbage that has collected in many places. What once may have been a magnificent structure is now broken and disfigured due to years of neglect.



The old building which houses the market.



Map of Seth Goverdhandas Market

SETH GOVERDHANDAS M. MOHATTA MARKET



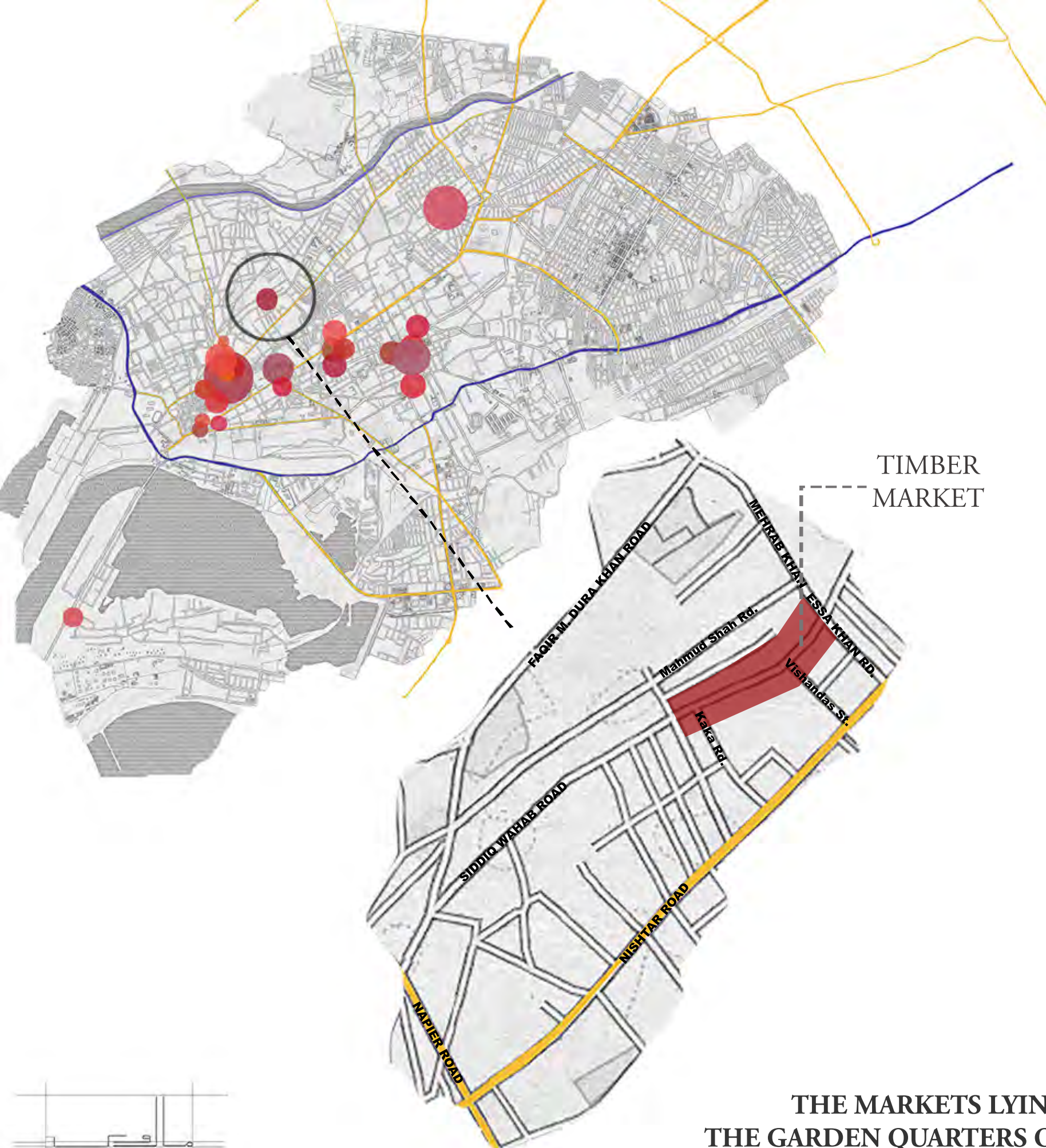
The facade can be seen disfiguring.

2.3 Historical Background of Garden Quarters

Located between Lyari River and the British Cantonment, the Garden quarter was established for vegetable cultivation, to provide vegetables to the British army. This was done by replacing the old English factories, and this 1500 acres of land was connected to the native city by Lawrence Road and to the Saddar Bazaar through Government Garden Road.

In 1913, the Goans after leasing the land from the government, built well laid out roads, areas for churches, markets and recreational facilities, transforming the quarter into a self-sufficient residential colony. By 1915, the area had flourished to a level that proper development plans were made for the area.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



THE MARKETS LYING IN THE GARDEN QUARTERS OF KARACHI



2.3.1 TIMBER MARKET

The Timber Market has existed in Karachi since as early as 1936. When the timber industry in the sub continent was rapidly expanding, Karachi was a major port for this trade as it enabled shipping to Far East Asia, Europe and Africa. The original Timber Market was located main on Bunder Road opposite the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation ground. After partition, as Karachi underwent drastic changes and witnessed a large influx of migrants, the city government shifted the market to a more spacious area in Lea Quarters closer to the outskirts of the city, where it is present till date. (Brief History Of Karachi Timber Merchants Group)

Whereas before partition Timber Market hosted mostly Sindhi Hindu and Dawoodi Bohra traders, it now mostly hosts Memon merchants who had migrated from India. (Brief History Of Karachi Timber Merchants Group) With time, it has expanded and mostly has warehouses where timber is stored for the furniture manufacturing industry. The reason behind its continuous expansion is because there is great opportunity for value addition enabling companies to conduct extensive research and development and introduce newer products as consumer demand changes. (Sons, 2019) This, along with the existence of the Karachi Timber Merchants Group (1938), which is one of the oldest trade associations in Pakistan, indicates that this market is extremely well established.

In addition, the market has a central location thus catering to people from all over Karachi however, most of these stores also have warehouses in Korangi, where their factories are located. The market is spread out over a large area with two way road in

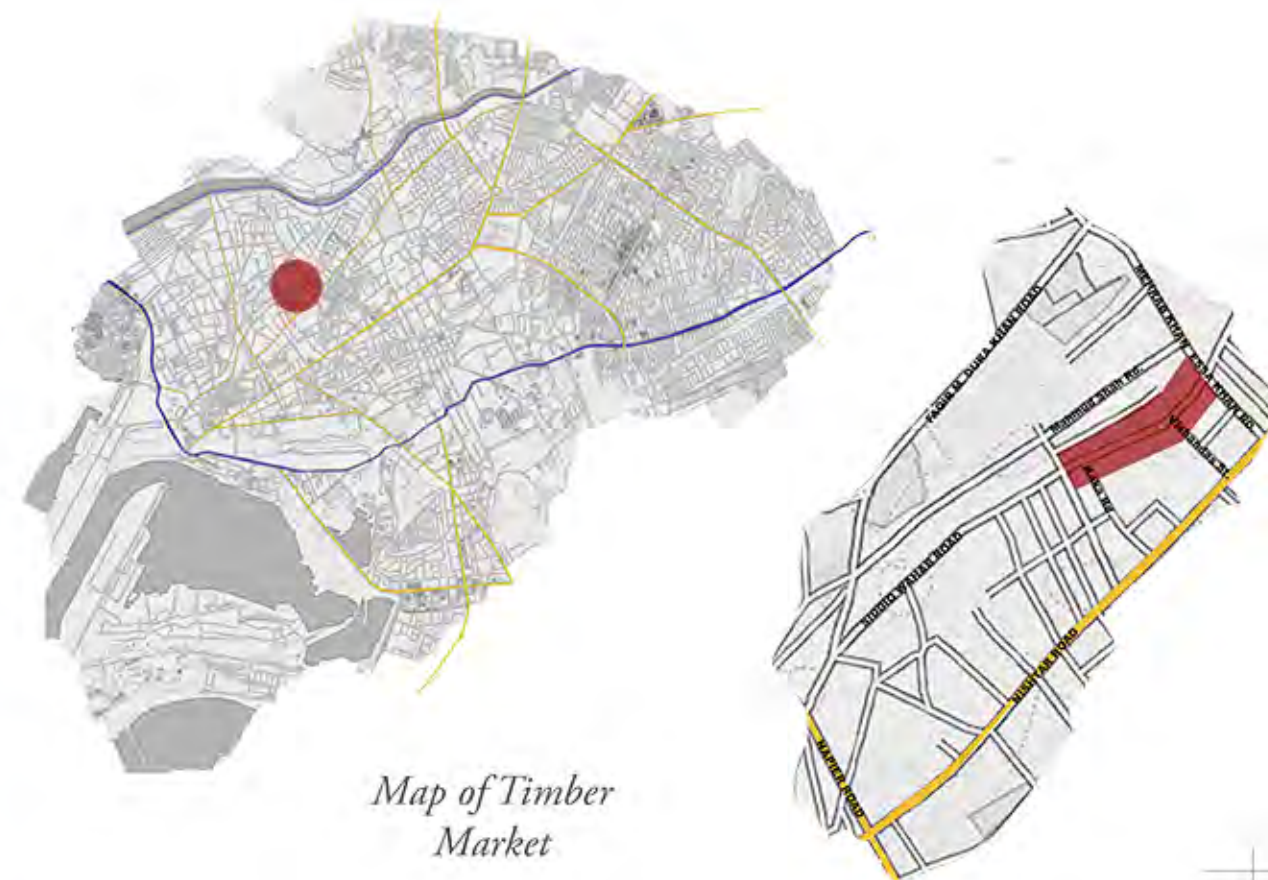
between and a densely populated area surrounding it. Some buildings in the area are as old as the 1960s however; most have been refurbished as stores have expanded by building offices, etc. A fire outbreak in 2014 had also inflicted huge damage in the area resulting in the reconstruction of many buildings, whereas it may have been a setback at the time, the timber trade continues to flourish. (Karachi Timber Market inferno incurs huge losses, 2014)



Display of acrylic wood coming from China.



Interior of a shop in Timber Market.



Map of Timber Market

2.4 Historical Background of Jail Quarters

Presently known as Wadhmal Odharam Quarter, the Jail Quarter got its name from the jail originally located on Bunder Road. The development of the quarter came majorly due to the activities of the missionaries as it was situated next to the 'Town', the extended native area. The Church, Mission Society Church, was established there "after the first Protestant missionary Dr. Wilson stepped on Sindh soil Karachi in 1850" (Urwick 1891:196).

The jail that existed there had to be shifted in some another location in 1906 and the large compound that it left behind was given to several buildings: the famous Karachi Municipal Corporation Office, the almost twin buildings of the Small Cause Court and the City Court, as well as the Police Lines.

(National Register: Historical Places of Pakistan, Lari Research Centre)



Key map of the Jail Quarter, Karachi, 1890.



(Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S. Lari 2001)

THE MARKETS LYING IN THE JAIL QUARTERS OF KARACHI



2.4.1 LIGHTHOUSE MARKET

Concealed within the facades of the old buildings, on M.A. Jinnah road, lies the famous Lighthouse Market known as Lunda bazaar among the locals. A post partition market which has bared witness to the rise and evolution of Pakistan, the market got its name from the locals who labeled it after the famous Lighthouse Cinema once situated there. (Salman, Karachi: Legacies of Empires) Selling an array of goods but especially known for selling second hand garments ranging from t shirts, gloves, shoes, jackets, wedding guest dresses, caps, belts, etc, this market has tons to offer.

A market whose streets are never empty, where people from different classes come for different purposes, this market is Karachi's very own flea market. Some come to buy clothes while some come to sell; it's a market where we can find things from all over the world. Lighthouse is one of those markets where vendors from different cultures and parts of the country come and set up their stalls to cater to the ever growing demand of Karachiites, although it's also true that most of the vendors belong to the Pakhtun community of KPK.

A walk through the market is an interesting experience as the commodities on the stalls are displayed in an appealing manner and the shopkeepers call out to the customers asking them to come see what they have to offer, as they pass by. The stalls selling t shirts are the most fun to visit as they often shirts with amusing slogans as well as merchandise of renowned brands, singers, movies, games, etc. On the other hand, the sun cap and belt stalls are some of the most aesthetically pleasing ones



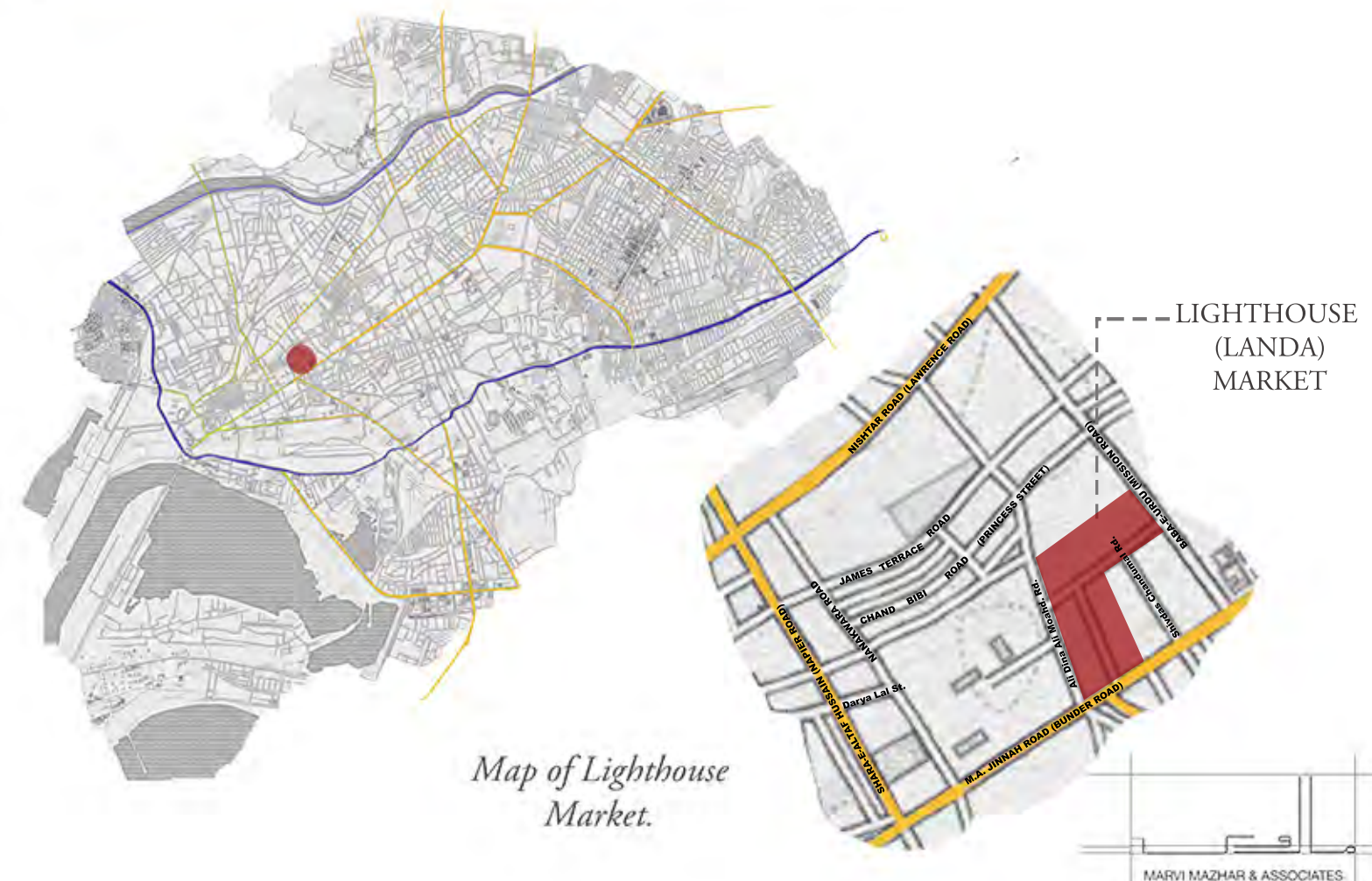
T-shirts displayed in a shop.



Entrance to the Market.



The Pakhtun Vendors in front of their shops.



Map of Lighthouse Market.

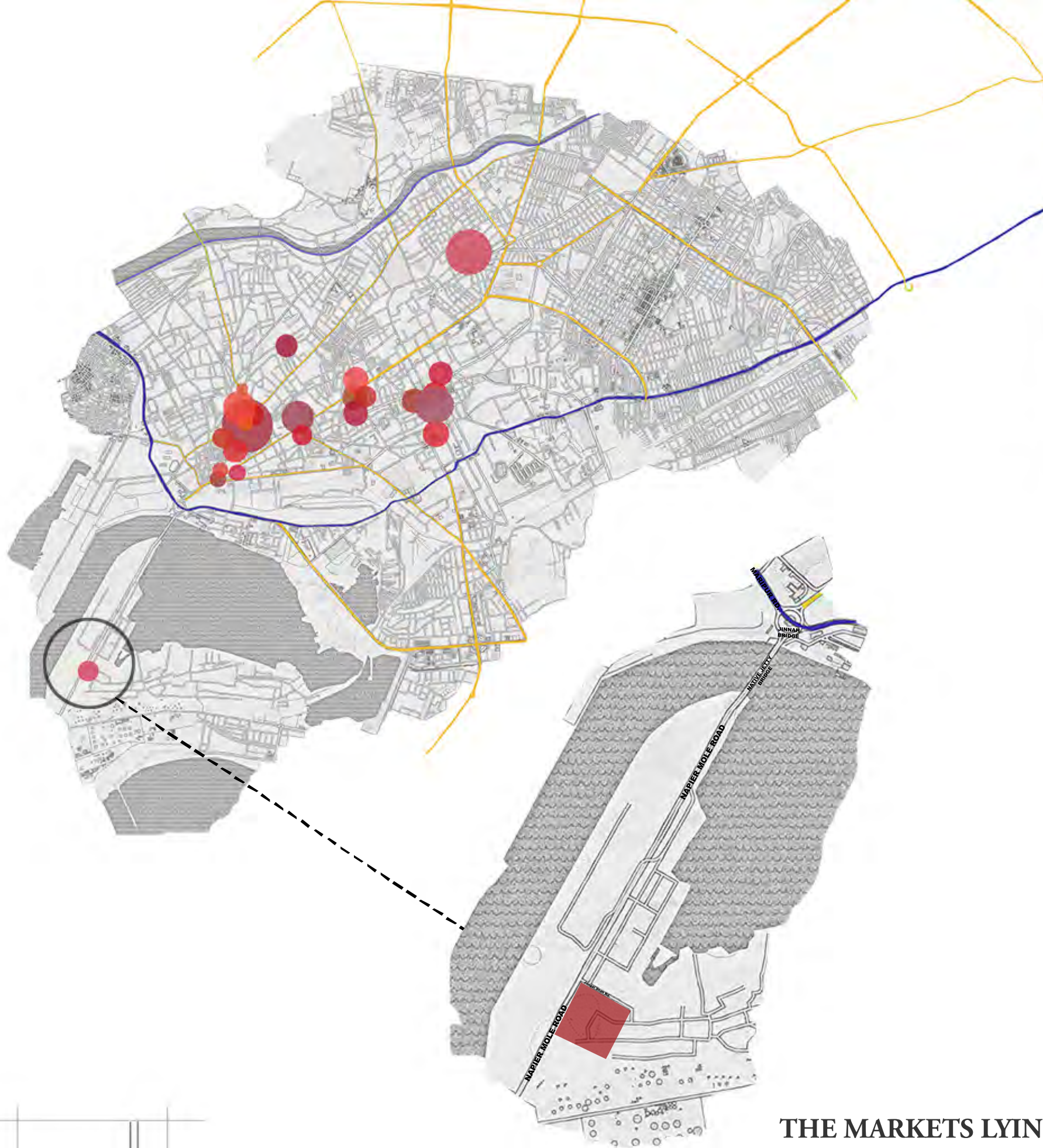
2.5 Historical Background of Keamari

Karachi's history before the 18th century mainly remains unrecorded, but this city is believed to be an ancient port of Krokala on the Arabian Sea, visited by Alexander's fleet in 326 B.C. Keamari is one of the many small islands which protect the natural harbour of Karachi from storms.

Talpur Mirs of Sindh built a mud fort here in the 18th century due to which the small village of Karachi transformed into a trading post. Again, in the mid-19th century, British conquered Sindh and transformed its harbour.

Keamari then served as a landing place for all goods and passengers coming to the city of Karachi.

(Source: <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery>)



**THE MARKETS LYING IN
THE KEAMARI, KARACHI**



2.5.1 JACKSON MARKET

As soon as you turn onto the Native Jetty bridge leading towards Napier Mole Road, you are surrounded by huge vehicles, some carrying containers and some headed to the port to load up on new ones. However, what catches your attention are the bright floral patterns, sceneries and Urdu as well as English calligraphy that these trucks are adorned with.

A short, albeit slow drive on this congested road brings us to Jackson Market on our left. We are greeted with a colonial stone structure building named 'COWASJI & SONS STEVEDORES & DOBASH 1903'. The facade of the building is not entirely visible due to a street food vendor in front of it who has set up a few benches for his customers, a common sight in this and numerous markets of Karachi. Another side of the buildings reveals a warned small black sign saying 'Jackson Street'. While no one can tell for sure who this Jackson might be, we can assume that the market is named such due to this street. However, this is just the beginning of the market and this street sells numerous goods from tiny stores with groceries stacked on top of each other to vendors selling chappals, from hardware stores to stores offering travel bags and ru-maals.



Map of Jackson Market.

A little deeper into the market we see what the market is known to offer, electronics. As we stand in a street, it is lined on both sides with electronics ranging from LCDs, air conditioners (window and split), refrigerators, sewing machines, etc. Like most markets in Karachi, the shops display their wide range of appliances onto the sidewalk itself and the motorcycles lining the edges of the road means customers walk on the road itself. We were often taken by surprise at the sound of the horn of a motorbike if we paused to take a picture

Whereas the old markets in Saddar are narrow, this market is much wider and cars, rickshaws and motorbikes pass by. A shopkeeper confirmed that the market roads were cleaned everyday thus it was much clean relative to the markets in Saddar area. Another commodity that is offered in a wide variety at the market is bicycles. These are mostly second hand bicycles and Jackson market is known for selling good quality and well priced bicycles. At the edge of the bazaar we came upon several stalls selling chadars, phoolon ki chadars and rose water indicating a mazaar nearby and as we tread on there it was, the mazaar of Ghaib Shah Ghazi Bukhari. It is a beautiful mazaar inside with landscape mosaics made with mirrors and next to the mazaar is a mosque. A mosque is again a common feature in most markets in Karachi however, mazaars aren't too uncommon either.



An Old building in the market.



The architecture in the market is uncertain. There are some very old buildings like the one in Figure X (pic in attachment) whose name is unclear but the year says 1936. However numerous others are relatively newer constructions, some in 1980s and some as late as 2000s. The shopkeepers there told us that a number of old buildings were dilapidated and thus were destroyed and gave way to newer ones. These are mostly residential apartments.

An enquiry about the history of the market from a shopkeeper who jokingly claimed that he has been in the market ever since the market has been here lead to us finding out that initially the market sold the items brought by ships to the Karachi seaport. These were basic items like perfumes and groceries. However, with time second hand electronics from Japan started coming in and now most of the commodities are those that arrive on Karachi port, go to Afghanistan and then return back here. Thus, this market, which was initially around 20 stores selling basic items, now houses 250 stores, the larger and central ones selling the electronics this market is known for, and the ones on the outskirts selling other items.



A shrine in the vicinity of the market.



The Street scene.

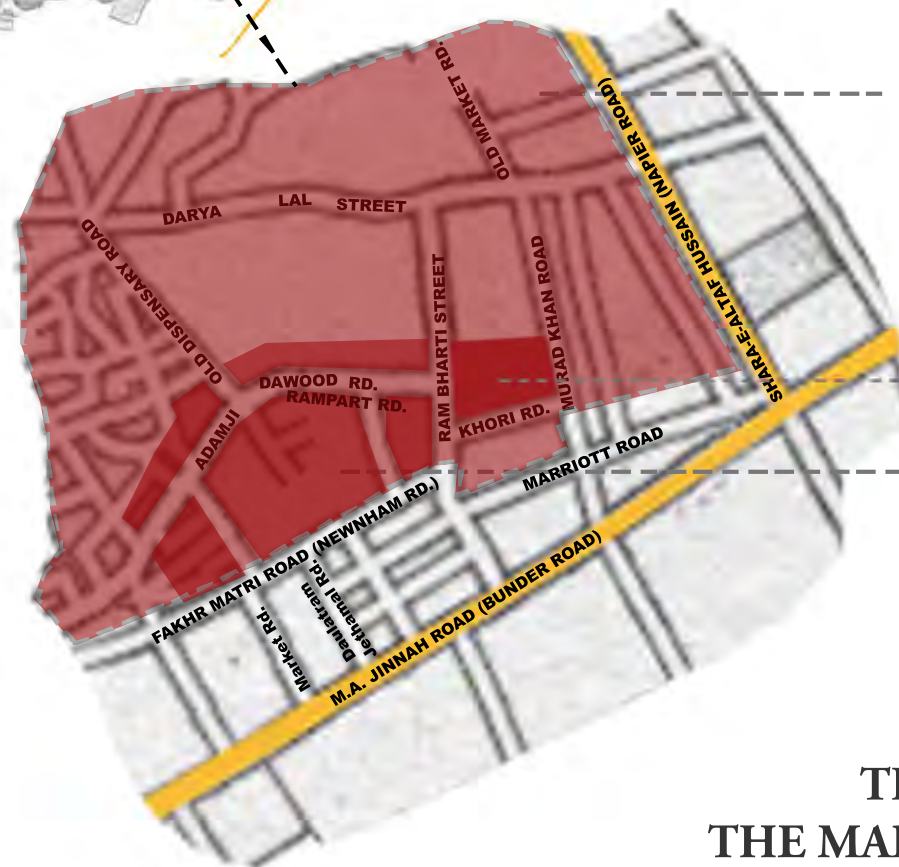
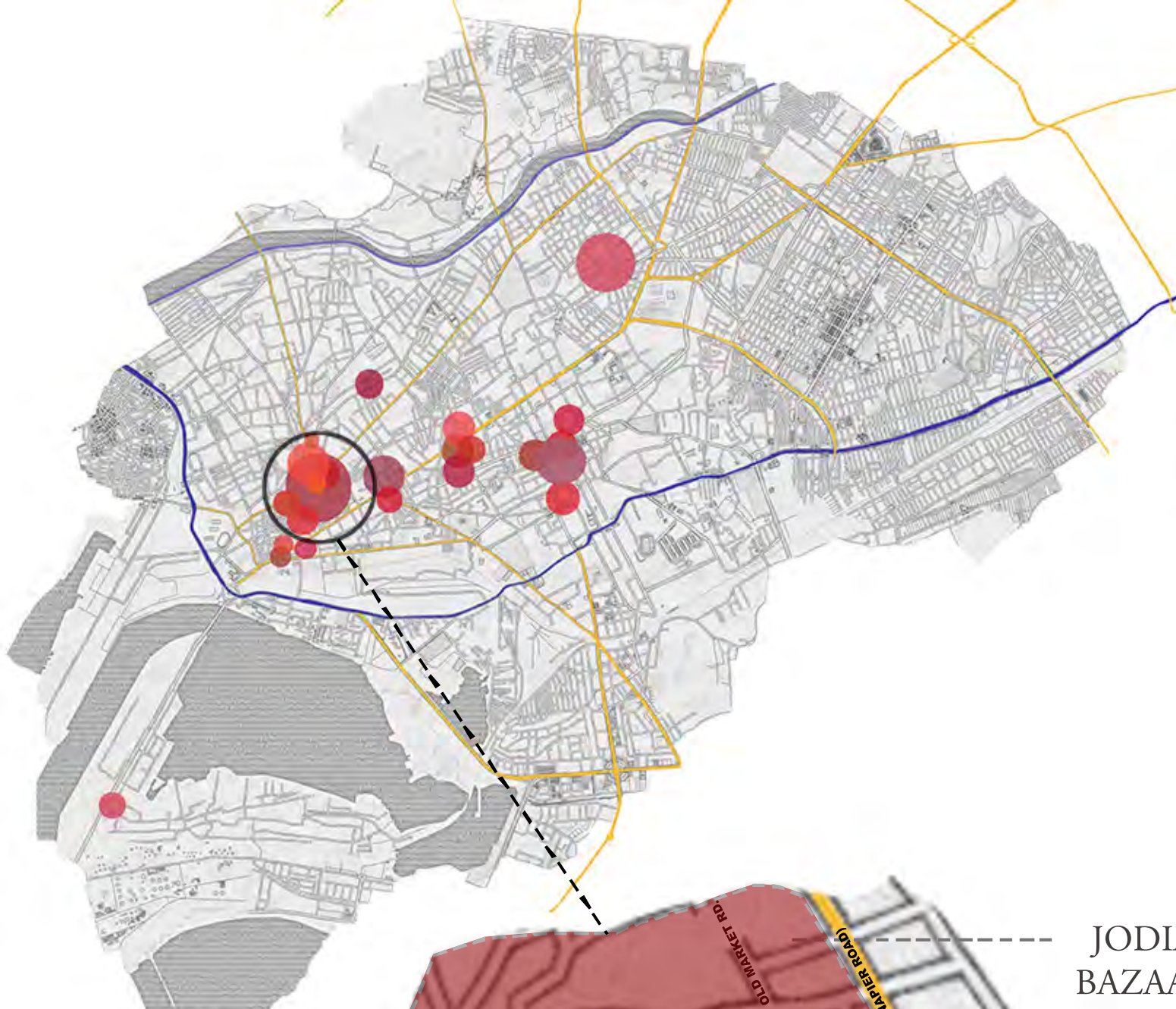
2.6 Historical Background of Market Quarters

Established as an open ground, Market quarter as suggested by the name itself, served as an open market for caravan traders who worked and operated from temporary sheds.

Later, the market was updated as an open fish, vegetables and meat market providing to the needs of dock workers and residents of the native quarters in the vicinity. In the middle of 19th century, the Karachi Municipal Authority incorporated this quarter into the Municipal limits, developing it.

Boulton Market came into existence replacing the earlier open market. Residential area was laid out for the army officers. In 1856, Denso Hall was constructed and Khori Gardens were laid out.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



JODIA
BAZAAR

KHOURI
GARDEN

BOMBAY
BAZAAR



Market Quarter, 1874, showing location of a Muslim Graveyard that lay outside the fortification (replaced by Rampart Road after annexation) of the original 'Old Town'. (Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj; Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S.Lari 2001)



Market Quarter, 1874, showing continuity of the organic form of the 'Old Town'. (Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj; Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S.Lari 2001)

THE MARKETS LYING IN THE MARKET QUARTERS OF KARACHI

2.6.1 BOMBAY BAZAAR

Bombay Bazaar is just one of the numerous bustling markets around Bunder Road and one often finds himself curious to take a different turn while following the route to this bazaar. We were victims to this curiosity twice but discovered that every other gali has another route to this bazaar. This reminded us of what Peerzada Salman writes in his book, “Karachi: Legacies of empires”, about there being as many ways to enter Bombay market as there are to enter a Sufi’s heart.

This bazaar’s history dates back to 1869 when Sir Henry Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay, held an exhibition at Frere Hall promoting handicrafts made in the province. A number of traders participated in this exhibition including those from Bombay. This market was set up by these very traders when they found some empty land near Bunder road and decided to settle here, eventually setting up shops. (Balouch, 2014) With time, the market has grown from those few small shops to one that is brimming with life all year round.

The bazaar caters to people from all age groups and offers a large variety of products from garments to household items like crockery, perhaps because this area contains not one but a number of markets which are integrated into one another. Whereas Jodia Bazaar mainly offers grain and groceries, Sarafa Bazaar, gold and dry fruits, and Bolton market, cloth, Bombay Bazaar seems to offer some of all. With time, the bazaar has moved from retail to a wholesale market and warehousing has also increased. (Salman, Karachi: Legacies of Empires, 2014)



Map of Bahadur Shah Market.



BOMBAY BAZAAR



The ground floor of a residential building house multiple shops.



A board named, ‘Bantva Memon Jamat’, painted in English, Urdu as well as Gujarati.

This bazaar is a rather vibrant sight with multi colored awnings in front of shops to provide shade protecting everyone from the summer sun. Another common feature is the large orange water coolers placed outside many shops which shopkeepers use and shoppers are welcome to drink from, a feature seen in many markets in this area.

Bombay Bazaar is just one of the many Bombay’s that are found in Karachi and in Sindh linking it to its mother province, Bombay or the city Mumbai (once Bombay) which is often considered Karachi’s twin city. Truly, it is a remnant of the city’s past and this heritage is celebrated in the Bazaar’s architecture.

We visited this Bazaar one early morning to observe the buildings in the area which are usually just a backdrop during the hours when hundreds of transactions occur here. As we explored the area, we found a board named, ‘Bantva Memon Jamat’, where the name was painted in English, Urdu as well as Gujarati. Most of the ancient buildings in the area are unsurprisingly in a dilapidated condition as the façade is disfigured due to years of neglect and for some, it is all that remains.

2.6.2 JODIA BAZAAR

When one hears the name they think of a bazaar filled with cloth and laces or things sold in pairs but it comes as a surprise that Jodia Bazaar is a wholesale grocery market where grain, wheat and rice are traded in tons.

My visit to this bazaar was an unforgettable experience with the aroma of the spices still engraved in my mind. The market was filled with countless vendors and buyers negotiating the prices, men loading and unloading the supplies while children roamed the street.

I was greeted with the sight of multiple shops facing each other on both sides of the streets, most of them selling an array of spices and grains and donkey carts entering and leaving the market leaving trails of grains on the road. The rich colors of the spices were a perfect contrast with the faded yellow bricks of the old buildings that surrounded the market.

The ambiance of the market was such which cannot be found in any other bazaar of Karachi which indicates that not much has changed since colonial times except that



The Street scene.

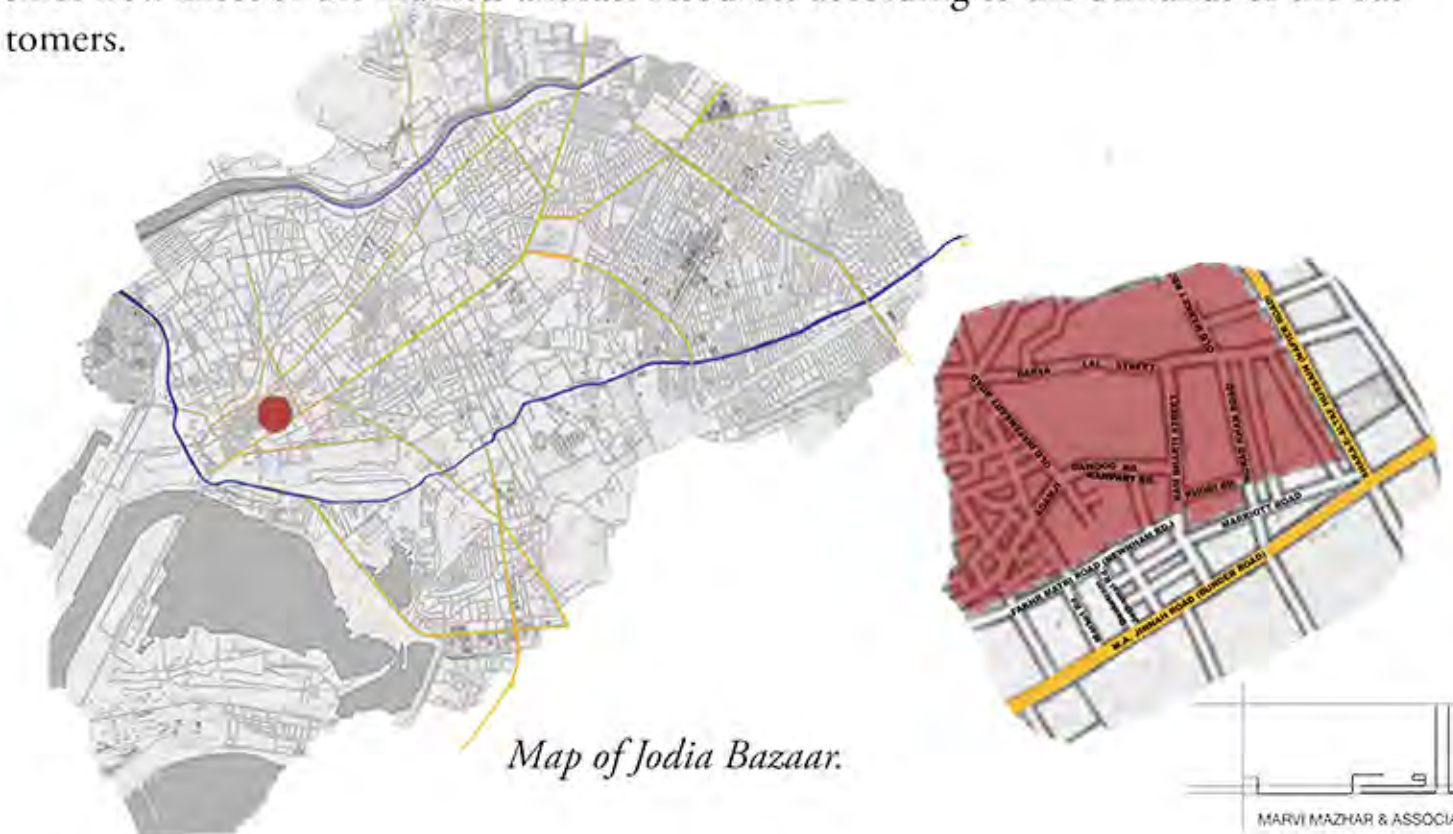


Spices and grains set up in a unique display.

that the roads aren't washed everyday anymore. A unique feature of this market is the various donkey carts that are seen, laden with grain; it really does give the bazaar a nostalgic vibe.

We visited the market at 11am on a weekday and found it to be full of life. Most of the stores has extended their set ups onto the street in order to display their varieties in an appealing manner to the customers, however, vendors had also set up their carts/tables for the day in the middle of the street occupying most of the space. What remained now were two narrow lanes in every street where shoppers and motorbikes were passing from. The most stunning feature of this market were the hues of red and oranges, not just around us due to the various spices being sold, but also casting a hue on the streets itself as sunlight fell on colored cloth draped over shops to protect from the sun during Karachi's summer.

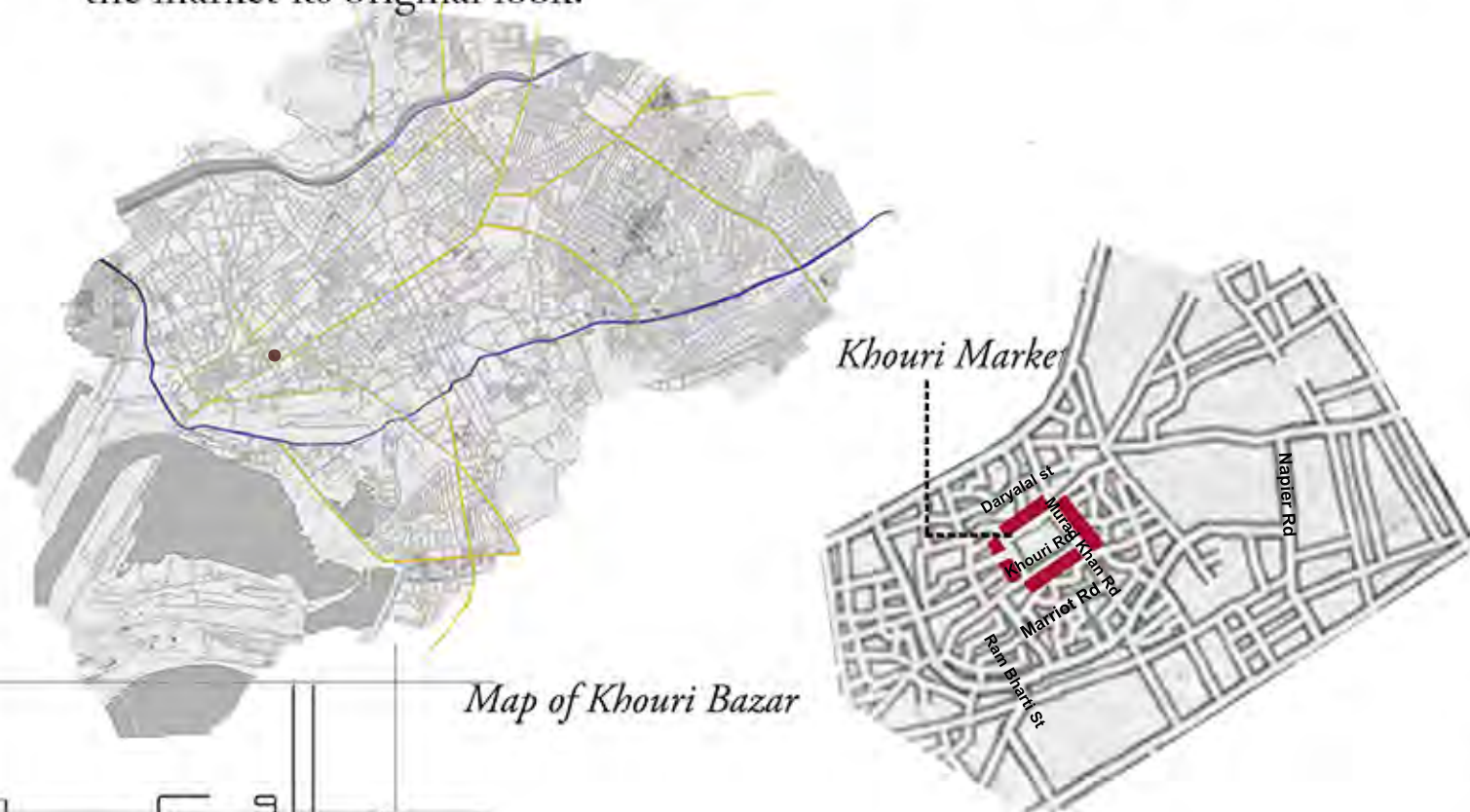
The Jodia Bazaar has been a part of the infamous Juna market for a long time. The Juna Market is a name given by the locals to the area where all the small markets such as Bombay Bazaar, Saraffa Bazaar and Jodia Bazaar intersect with each other. The juna Bazaar was initially a market where old things were sold before partition. The origin of the Jodia Bazaar is unknown, it is a pre-partition market, almost a century old. It is surprising to say that Jodia bazaar still sells the same commodities that it sold a century ago since now most of the markets allocate resources according to the demands of the customers.



2.6.3 KHOURI GARDEN

The partition of 1947 led to the Khori Garden vicinity becoming a commercial area from the residential area it was before partition. After the migration of the original owners, the land became an empty area for the merchants of Karachi to set up their businesses. Located along the Murad Khan Rd, Ram Bharti St, Khori Rd and Para lane lies the Khori Garden market, famous for being an extremely cheap whole sale market. Here you will find all kinds of stuff, ranging from powders, bleaches, soaps and surfs, to spices, dates, toffees to books, stationary and toys.

The place around the Khori Garden is a cluster of heritage buildings, all screaming the identity of the long forgotten residents. A number of balconies of these buildings had carvings and scriptures reminiscent of the olden days. The buildings were peering through colorful canopies of blue, green and orange, tied haphazardly from one end to the walls of Khori Garden and on the other to the heritage building right across the streets. Draped over the heads of the stalls, their purpose is to protect the stall keepers and customers from Karachi's scorching heat and glaring sun. It is underneath these heritage buildings, the shops are placed. The heritage buildings give the market its original look.



Map of Khori Bazar

Along the Murad Khan Rd lie the shops having all kinds of edible material (spices and dates), and toiletries and along with other stuff such as small electronic devices, cells and stationary. The road was a total mess with masses of mud (keechar) everywhere, courtesy to the rains that took place in Karachi in August 2019. The roads were broken, and litter (comprising of fabric, threads, vegetable and fruit peels) had been dumped all around. This added with dirty puddles, made it very difficult to move around. The Khori Rd is dedicated to cheap, second hand magazines, and old books in good condition. Some stalls had also been placed along the road. These stalls sold shoes, perfumes, and really cheap diaries. This road was filled with stagnant water. Along the Ram Bharti St, lie shops that have toys for children. These include board games, remote controlled toys, stuffed toys and toys that work on cells. The market was extremely busy at 11 am on a Saturday morning. There were customers both on foot and on motorcycles, making it a very congested place to walk in.

What was saddening to see was that the heritage buildings were extremely deteriorated. The buildings are now being used as go downs and storage places for the shopkeepers below. These structures have been painted, spat upon, and laden with posters: destroying the stone underneath. Masses had been added upon the roofs to produce extra storage spaces.

The first picture - shows the condition of the street alongside muddy rain water.

The second picture - a stall of dates under the colourful awnings



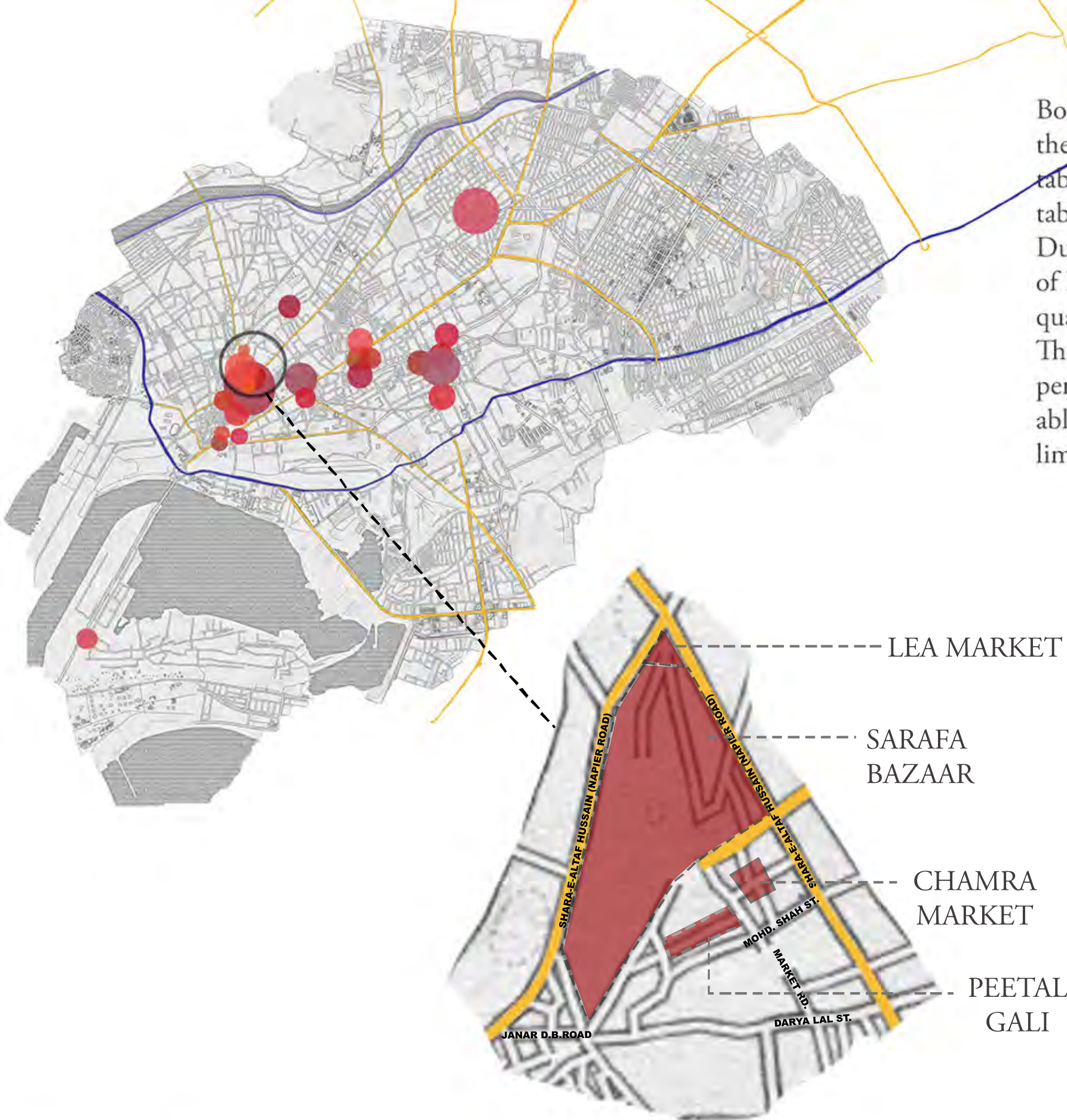
2.7 Historical Background of Napier Quarters

Bordering the north-east of the fort city, Napier Quarter is situated on the south-west bank of Lyari Ravi. It is one of the first quarters to be established by the British and was formulated into an open fruit and vegetable market-cum-residential area, by 1820.

Due to functional changes because of an upgrade in the maritime trade of Karachi city and the business expansions of the native traders, the quarter added some offices in its domain after 1927.

The former growth of the quarter had an organic pattern which got superimposed by the gridiron pattern of road networks. Lea market established and the quarter remained in a hold of both Hindus and Muslims.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



Key map of the Napier and Market Quarters, Karachi, 1890.

(Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S.Lari 2001)

THE MARKETS LYING IN THE NAPIER QUARTERS OF KARACHI



2.7.1 CHAMRA MARKET

The facade of old buildings is what compiles the viewer to enter and explore the century old market and unveil its history. Leather market, commonly known as Chamra Market to the locals is one of the oldest markets in Karachi. The old buildings in the market have stood witness to the rise and fall of the leather market and how it has evolved over the years. The once crowded streets of the market now stand abandoned as locals are the only ones who roam the streets of the market. The ambiance of the market can easily relate to that of late seventeenth century, creating an atmosphere of nostalgia for the older people.

In this market we were able to explore a part of the city not known to many and abandoned by those who remember it. Once a red light district and later a milk market, the leather market was established here during the 1960s by the leather manufacturers who had migrated to Pakistan from Delhi and Calcutta. Settling their families elsewhere, the men chose to come to Karachi and set up trade due to the facility of a sea port. These men stayed in kothis with around 100-150 rooms and set up a mess system. As the market flourished, the leather trade was so enriching that soon they were able to afford housing for themselves and their families in Nazimabad, later Bahadurabad and eventually, Defence. (Leather, 2019)

Until the 1970s, the market was extremely well established however, after Bangladesh separated from Pakistan in 1971, the market faced two major setbacks. Firstly, the population of the country greatly reduced, in turn reducing the demand for leather, and secondly, leather from Bangladesh stopped coming. Due to this, the shopkeepers started exporting the leather to UK, Italy, etc where it was booked in advance. After this, the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 once again, benefited the market greatly as people from



The main street of the Market.

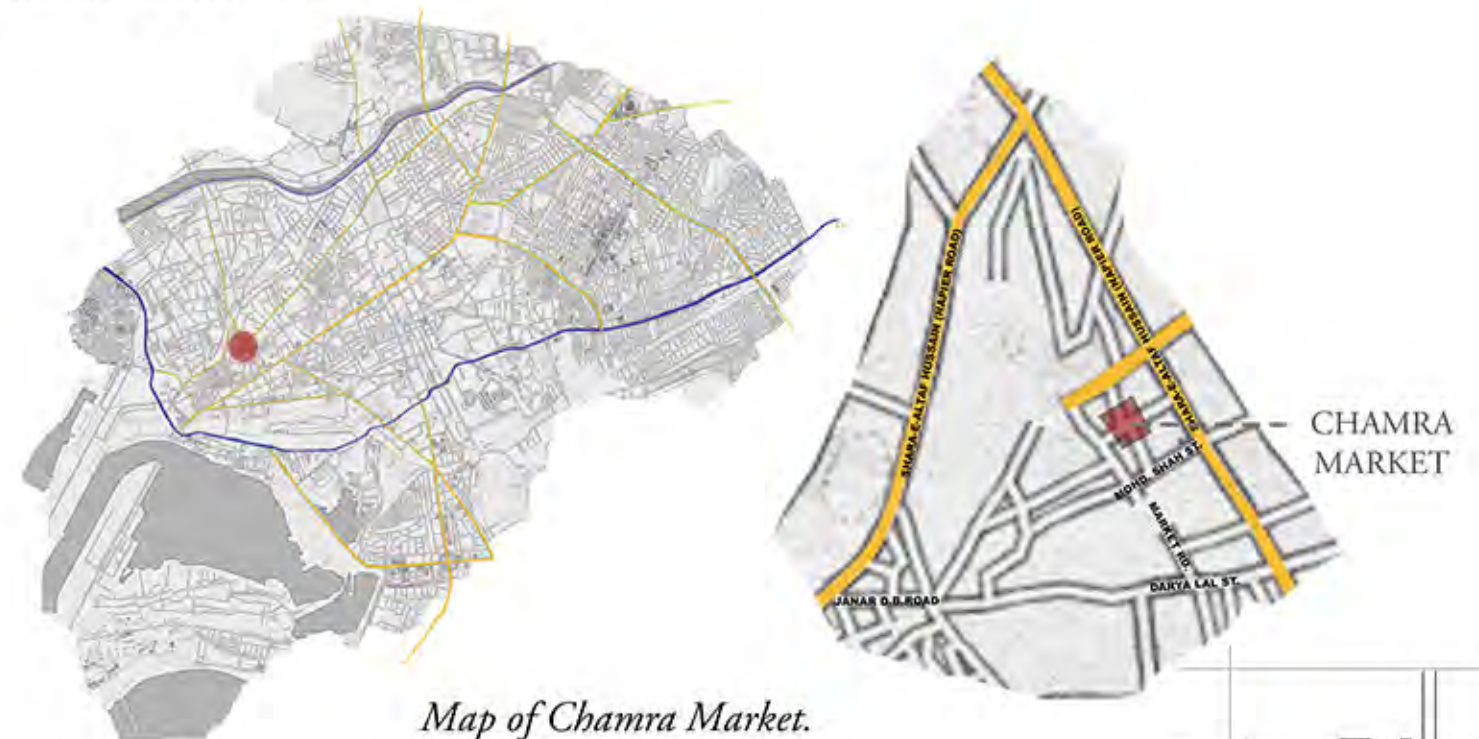
the newly freed countries like Azerbaijan came here and, as per a shopkeeper, cleared the market. During this time, people from abroad used to come to shop here and stayed in the numerous hotels located in this area. Most of these were owned by Iranis and were known for their neat systems, thick white crockery as well as white table cloths. (Leather, 2019)

Today a few shops remain there selling scraps of leather. After 2005, the availability of artificial leather from China coupled with the increasing crime rate in the area has led to a steady decline in the leather business. It is sad to witness Chamra Market has passed its peak stage and is now close to disappearing. Some stores in the market have switched to selling seasonal products in order to make profits. We visited this market a month before the festival of Eid-ul-Azha and thus witnessed a number of stores selling decorative ornaments for animals.

The main street where the market was once most active, has a number of old architecture that stand till date, however, is varying conditions, one of these is the Nadiri Rehaishi Hotel, once a bustling hotel, it now stands abandoned. The main gali in this market, Ghulam Shah Street, is an ideal place to stand and reminisce about this market's rise, evolution and decline.



Shopkeepers seen waiting for buyers.



Map of Chamra Market.

2.7.2 LEA MARKET

The years may have gone by, the structure may have changed but what has not changed is what this market offers. The market mainly offers fruits and vegetables, as well as meat. However, a street that joins the market from the right is a cloth market thus offering the element of choice to the customer. It is divided into sections, the area around the clock tower is the vegetable market whereas one street leads to a meat section (Salman, Karachi: Legacies of Empires) Whereas once it was visited by people from all over the sub continent, it later moved to being a market for fishermen who used to live in the area.

This market was built in 1927 (City Landmarks – Lea Market, 2016) and named after Measham Lea, an Englishman who was the chief engineer of the Karachi Municipality. A president of Lea Market says that the meat section of the market was once a library and the grocery market started afterwards. When it did, Karachi had no other market that catered to these needs and since it had a small population of its own, people from all over the country came here. It is said there was a market in this very location even before the British arrived and its location is such that it forms links with Bunder Road, Jodia Bazaar, Sarafa Bazaar and the other numerous markets situated in this area. Lea Market was the main market for quite some time also due to the fact that it lay on a trade route at that time and a known sarai (inn) was nearby. The main market label eventually moved away from this market during Ayub Khan's time when the vegetable market shifted elsewhere. (Salman, Karachi: Legacies of Empires)



A unique and useful feature in the market was the slabs on which shops are constructed. These make the display for shopkeepers much effective, eliminating the need for table to keep the product at a high level for the customer to reach easily and the shopkeepers don't require a chair for sitting either. In the same way, the meat section is also efficiently planned and laid out, with the stores having a slab on top of the other where they can cut the meat.

Whereas most sources we read talk about how this market is always full of customers, it came as a surprise to use when the market was mostly empty on at 2:30 pm on a Monday. This is perhaps owing to the fact that the condition of the bazaar has deteriorated over the years and the market now features garbage in its narrow lanes making it increasingly difficult to walk. This garbage is usually vegetable peels or the waste generated from the meat and other stores. An awful smell was wafting in the air which was suffocating as it was a mix of the smell of the fish, meat, vegetables and waste.

Like many other markets in Karachi, this market was also the victim of a bomb blast due to which its foundation was weakened. The clock tower of the market, albeit beautiful, does not work since a number of years and can only be viewed at a distance due to the stalls around it covering it up. As compared to the other old clock towers in Karachi, like that of the Empress Market, this is much simpler in design perhaps indicating that the market was intended to be an everyday market selling basic necessities.



A clock tower in Lea Market.

2.7.3 PEETAL GALI

Petal means brass, no one knows who named the street petal gali or what its origin was but the one thing that people know is if anyone wants to buy old and antique utensils than this is the place. Although today only 2 or 3 shops remain in the gali who actually sell old and authentic antique utensils, the other shops have modified and evolved and now most of them are selling new crockery.

The shops which were selling old utensils had a variety of them from large cooking pots to small and all kinds of spoons, forks and knives. The prices of the utensils were also inexpensive compared to the glass and crystal crockery who prices change frequently.

As mentioned before the origin of the market is not known but by looking at the architecture of the shops and buildings that surround the Gali one can tell that the market must be at least a century old or of pre-colonial times. Most of the buildings were made from gizri bricks with broken wooden window frames hanging off them.



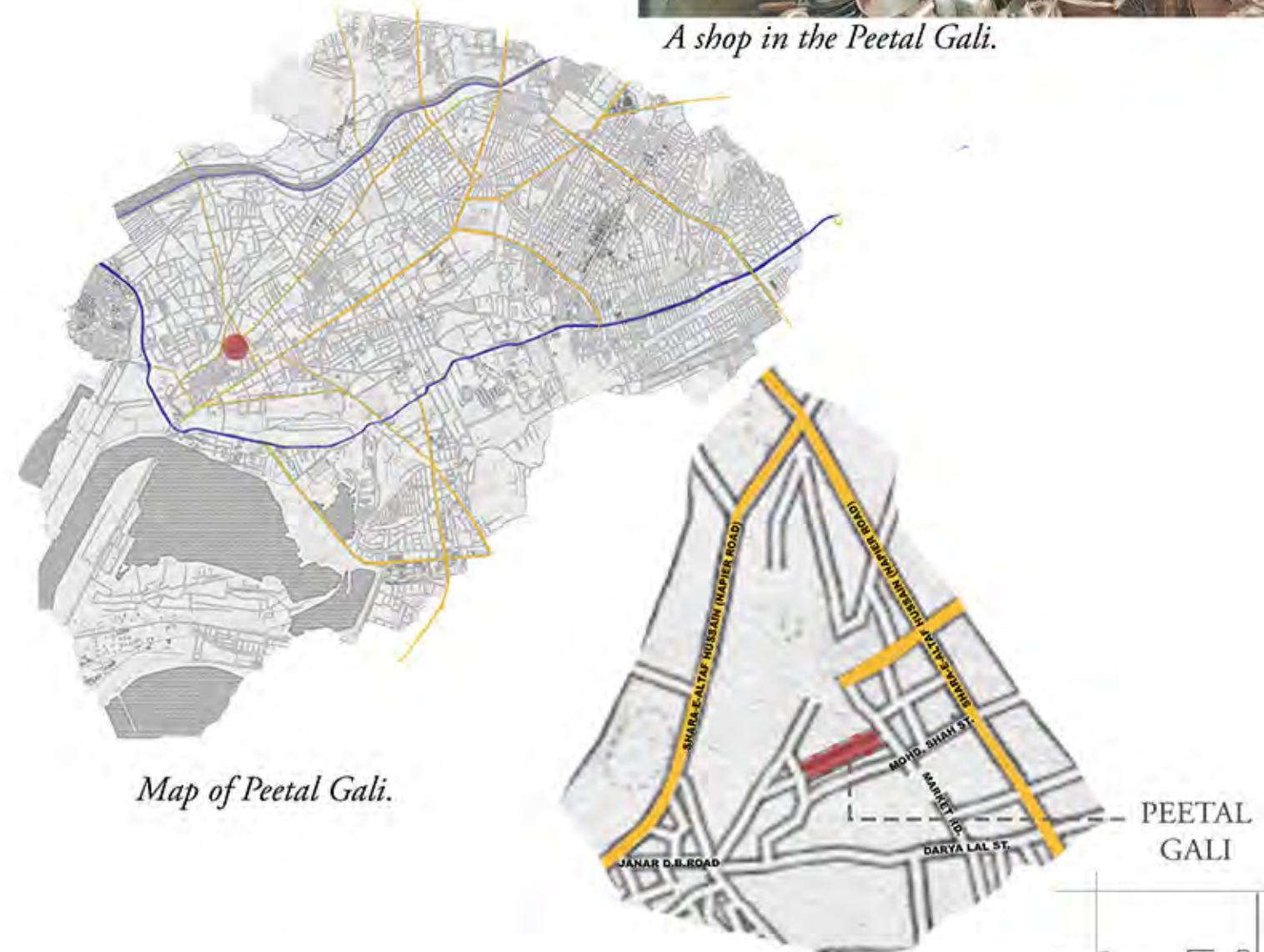
During my visit to the market I was shocked to find that the gali was bustling with life, customers were entering and leaving the market. The reason behind my shock was that the market is deep in the galis and lanes and a person can get lost while searching for it. The route to get to the gali was quite difficult as the gali is between markets there is no as many vendors have extended their stalls on the road covering it and leaving no space for driving.

The many types of utensils placed on top of each other forming a unique setting.

Not much history can be gathered about the gali from the web, not even the coordinates. It is due to the efforts of the residents of the Gali that some locals of Karachi are familiar with the market.



A shop in the Peetal Gali.



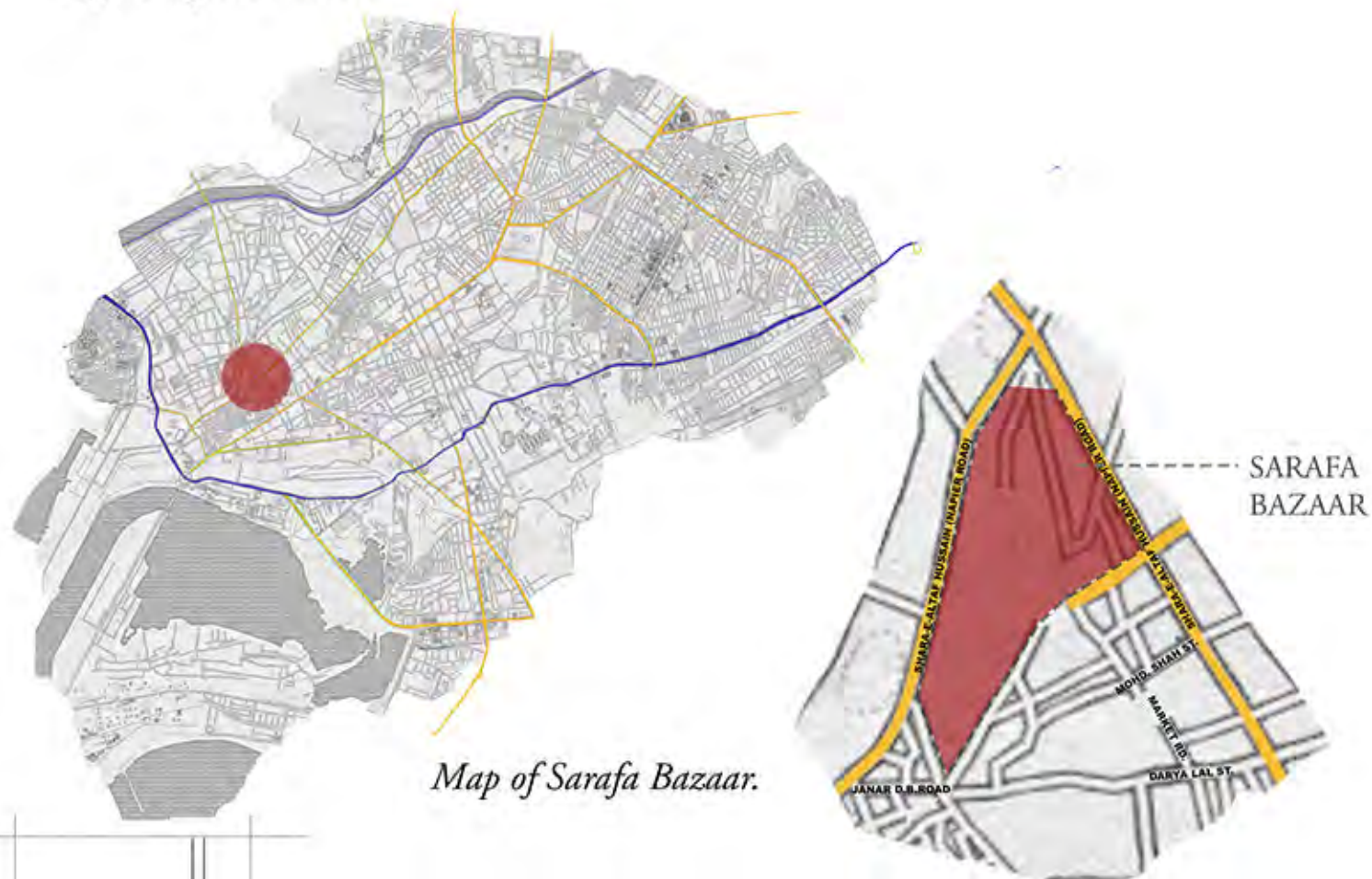
Map of Peetal Gali.

PEETAL GALI

2.7.4 SARAFA BAZAAR

The bazaars of Saddar play an important part in the depiction\illustration of Karachi's history. One of them is the famous, century old Sarafa bazaar. The name of the bazaar originates from the jewelry stores that were first established here because jewelers are known as 'Sarafs'. The main features of the bazaar are the countless gold, antique shops and the historical architecture that stand witness to the years of the trade that has taken place. It is hard to imagine that this bazaar bustling with life, initially were just a few dry fruit and jewelry stores. Today, countless people enter and leave the market, some feeling content and some regretting that they lost the bargain with the vendor.

After being a firsthand witness I can guarantee that the ambiance of the bazaar has not changed much except for the extension of the shops. My visit to bazaar was worthwhile as I conducted primary research and found valuable information about the market from the shopkeepers. A number of shops were established pre-partition and are almost a century old, whereas many are as old as Pakistan and due to this a nostalgic vibe was created. The shopkeepers were friendly and co operative who were eager to share their memories regarding the market.



Map of Sarafa Bazaar.

A shopkeeper from Chottani jewelers told us about how the market has evolved with time and how the shops have expanded on the roads due to which the space to walk is restricted. The market was established before partition and was famous among the locals. From the beggars to the nobles all kind of people came here to purchase the products. The one thing which fascinated me was that most of the shops has original owners who have been there for the past 80 years. The original buildings of the Saraffa Bazaar was made out of wood as the years passed the market developed but the foundation of the buildings is still the same. The market still functions today the same way as it did before, the roads are washed every day and the shops open at the same time.



One of the many old buildings present in the bazaar.



The bazaar before it opens and bustles with life.

2.8.1 KAGHEZI BAZAAR

A colorful gali, the Kaghezi Bazaar is a lane of multi-colored draperies and seems to have an equal number of people on foot and on motorcycles. Connected to Sarafaa market and Jodia market through a crossroads that older shopkeepers here refer to as the Phool Chowk, this market has tons to offer, including bangles, imitation jewelry, hair accessories, laces, embroidered necklines, shoes and shops that offer beautiful piko designs for dupattas.

When we visited this market, on a Wednesday afternoon, it was brimming with life. A walk through Phool Chowk led us to a dry fruit shop, Haji Moosa & Sons, where the shopkeeper told us stories about the markets in this area from long ago like it was yesterday. He warned us about how we would lose our way once we entered Kaghezi Bazaar because people cannot distinguish the entrances and the exits and also that this is the exact reason why a robbery scene of a 'Muhammad Ali' movie was shot here. He continued to ask us whether we knew who Muhammad Ali was and we shook our heads, but we now know that he was a renowned Pakistani actor.

This bazaar one of the most colorful bazaars in Karachi due to the fact that the items sold here are sold in various varieties and colors and most of them are glittery, shiny or clad with sequins or gems. In addition to this, the multicolored awnings add to the unique look of this market.

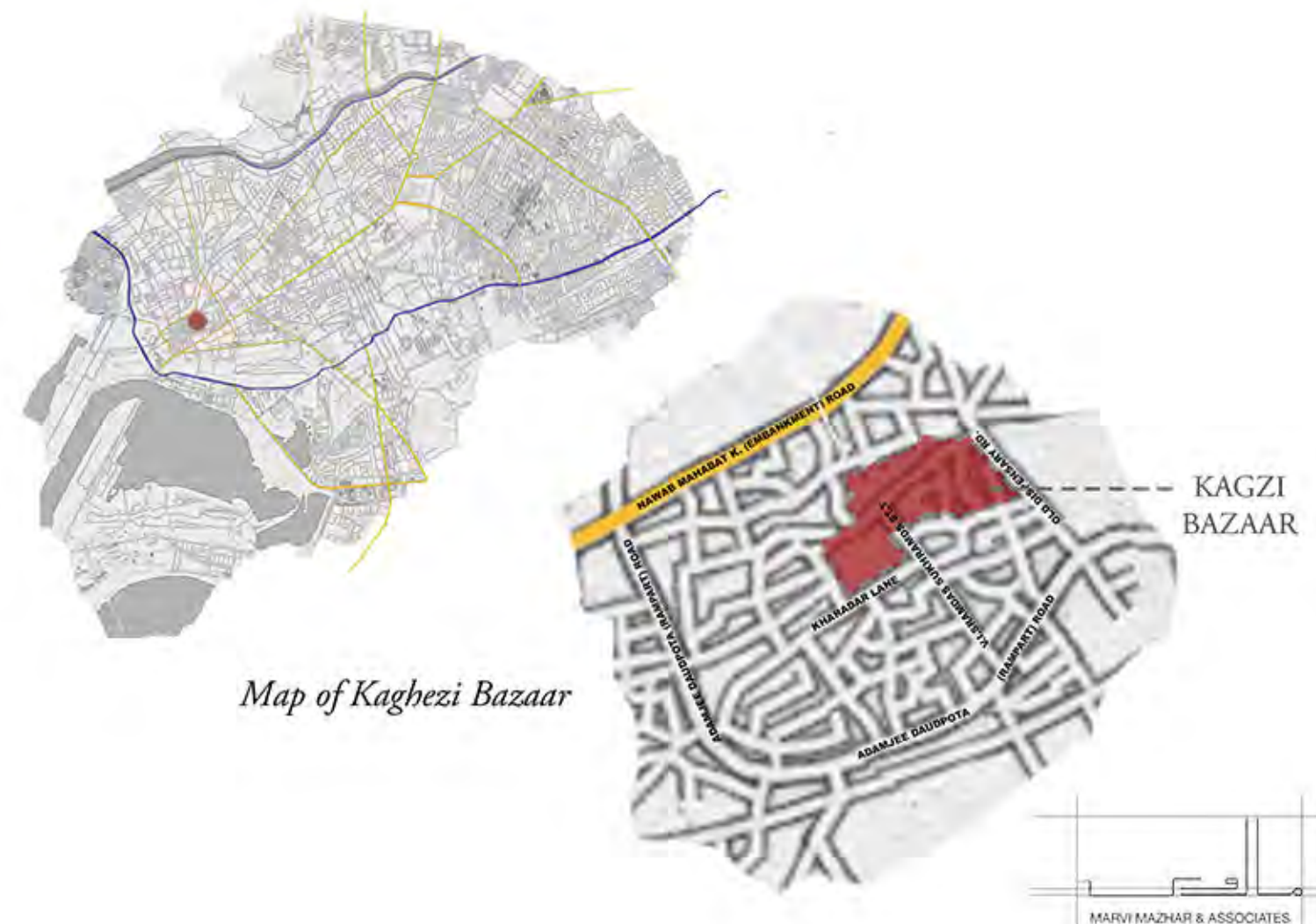


The street scene in Kaghezi Bazaar.

Although a number of people still visit this market, it is not as popular amongst the locals as it once was. The fact that Karachi has expanded greatly and now has not one, but a number of city centers means people often tend to shop in areas closer to their residence thus, the market does not cater to all of Karachi anymore. This, coupled with the gang wars in the Lyari which had led to considerable insecurity in the area, means the inflow of customers to this market has reduced with time.



Laces, buttons and embroidered necklines being sold at a shop.



Map of Kaghezi Bazaar

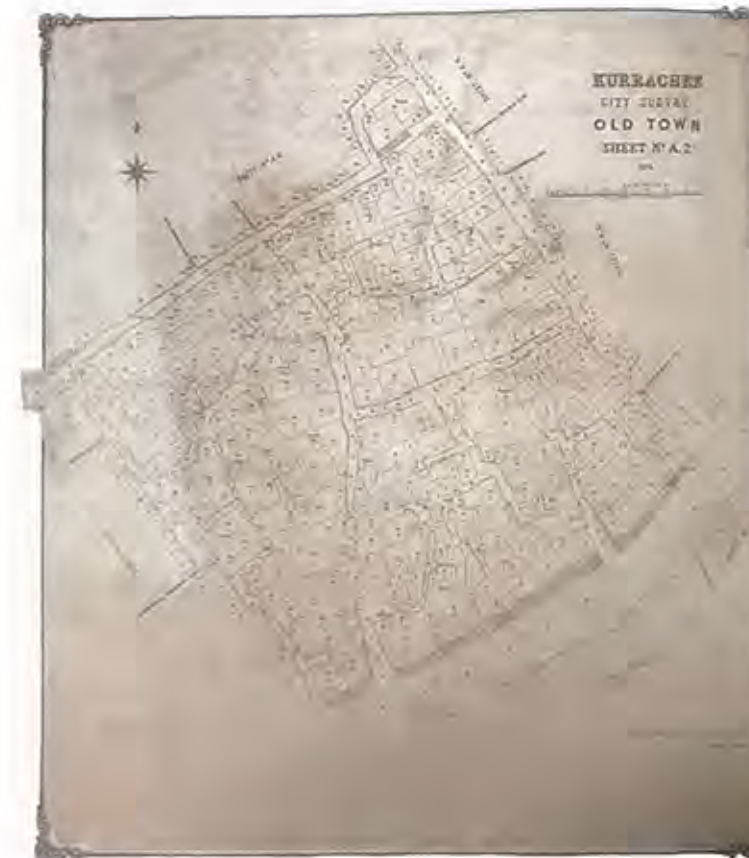
2.8 Historical Background of Old Town Quarters

The eastern bank of the Lyari River is where the Historic Karachi dwelled, the British renamed it as 'Old Town Quarter'. Consisting of shops, workshops, and open squares always busy with activity, the quarter followed an organic pattern. The streets of the mohallas consisted of Dharamshalas, temples and mosques, hence forming a very harmonious society.

The main bazaar, the mandirs and the dargahs were places of cultural interactions and religious activities. With time many bazaars sprung up as the population of the old town increased.

The British annexation brought the delineation of the fort wall with a ring road. The British influence resulted in the infiltration of tea houses, bars and billiard rooms in the area.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



Part of the Old Town Quarter, 1874, showing the organic form of the original native town. (Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S. Lari 2001)

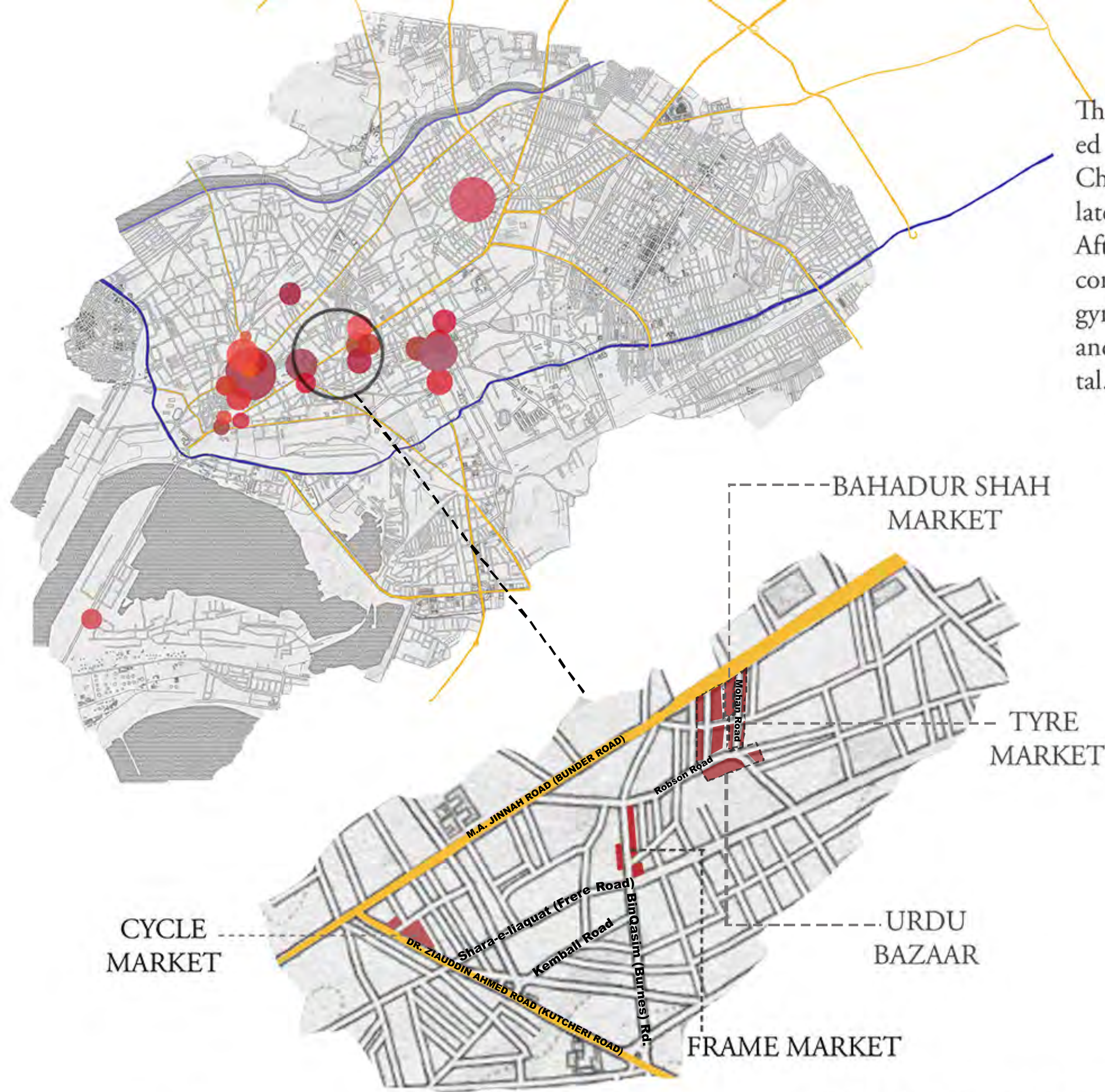
THE MARKETS LYING IN THE OLD TOWN QUARTERS OF KARACHI



2.9 Historical Background of Rambagh Quarters

The name of the quarter comes from one the three tanks that existed here, called Rambagh. The sacred garden of hindus had a Ram Chandar Temple and several wells along with the tanks. The wells later supplied water to the British army camp and the cantonment. After 1902, the British turned this area into a major civic centre constructing in this area, the Police Lines, Hindu and Muslims gymkhanas, Victoria and Albert Museum, NED University, YMCA and its grounds, D.J. Science College and Sobhraj Maternity Hospital.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



*Map of Rambagh Tank and Temple, 1874.
(Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S. Lari 2001)*

THE MARKETS LYING IN THE RAMBAGH QUARTERS OF KARACHI

2.9.1 BAHADUR SHAH MARKET

It is not difficult to interpret that the Bahadur Shah Market is named after the last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. Built in the late 1850's, not much of the history of the market has been preserved. The building has been reconstructed under the orders of the Karachi municipality corporation.

The market lies in the heart of the Urdu bazar and is also an intersection between the tire market and the Urdu Bazaar. The Bahadur Shah Market does not share the same rich history as Urdu Bazaar but has witnessed its uruj and zawal (rise and fall).

Now under the control of KMC the two story building has been divided into quarters and shops. The first floor of the market is dedicated to the old market and has more than 20 shops. While the second floor is quarters for the people working in the KMC. The market appears to be a wholesale market as most of the shops sell the same product named as 'buqrum' and hundreds of kinds of threads and buttons. The target market of this market appears to be tailors and garment industry.

Although the current construction of the market is post-partition, it appears to be forty years old and most of the boards of the shops appear to be made in the 1960's as the boards are hand-painted on the walls. One of such boards is the board of Shaikh Brothers who have been there from the past 40 years. During our exploration of the market we came upon their shop, the shopkeeper having been there for many past years provided us with information regarding the market. The iconic thing which happened was that most of the shopkeepers mistook us for FBR officers which came for inspection. After this misunderstanding got cleared the shopkeepers showed generosity and answered our interview.



The building housing almost twenty old shops on the ground floor.



Stacks of 'buqrum' lying in front of the shops.



Inside of a shop in the market.



Map of Bahadur Shah Market.

2.9.2 TYRE MARKET

Connected with the Urdu bazaar lies the obscure Tyre Market, known only to the locals who live there. The market is a host to numerous pre partition buildings that have been situated here for more than 80 years. Where once the tyre shops crowded the area, now lay only fragments of those shops. The reason behind this is that the demand for the market has fallen due to the increasing showrooms.

Despite all of this, the tyre market is a must visit place for heritage lovers who will fall victim to the feeling of nostalgia when they roam these streets and observe the facades. Some of the must see buildings are the Mama Parsi building, Aziz Manzil, Tufail buildings and the Kalvati Nivas, but the most important is the corner building whose balconies are a piece of art and have carvings of Mahatma Gandhi's face on them. It might just be one of the very few remnants from the time when the subcontinent was one as most have been destroyed; indeed in one balcony someone had made a hasty effort of covering up Gandhi's face with a grey plaster. At the end of the street lies another piece of history that seems closed to everyone since years and no one seems to know who has the key to it, this is a beautiful temple that locals seem to call Ramchandra Mandir (Salman, Karachi: Legacies Of Empires, 2014).

Although the buildings are not maintained, they have not lost their former glory and still have the ability to leave people mesmerized by their design. The tyre market is a perfect mixture of architecture of today and yester-years. The gizri bricks create a perfect contrast with the grey painted buildings and balance out the picture. The shops in the older buildings have not been transformed much and no



Piles of tyres displayed in front of the shops.



efforts have been made to conceal the architectural elements of the original building, as is the case with many stores on Zai-bunissa Street, rather the pillars and arcs are clearly visible and the walls are also those of the building itself.

Some of the old buildings overlaid by the new adjustments.



2.9.3 URDU BAZAAR

Where there is now Urdu Bazaar, there was once a nala and just a few tailor shops. Then bookshops started opening and KMC built a building on the nala in 1950s to accommodate those stores and that was Urdu Bazaar. However, before this bazaar was created, the old Urdu Bazaar was located on Mission Road at the time of independence and 'Pioneer Book House' is located there till date. During that time, the market was also victim to a bomb blast in 1922 and had to be rebuilt. (Urdu bazaar: The world of books, 2011) With time, the market has expanded from just that one KMC building in every direction with a number of buildings, old and new.

This bazaar is a hub of publishing and printing services and offers wholesale course books, test preparations books and stationary. True to its name, almost every piece of Urdu literature can be found here, some even first editions. (Juman, 2016) However, the main market of the new Urdu Bazaar also allows customers to purchase commodities at retail prices and is a heaven for book lovers.



These days, Urdu Bazaar is mostly a wholesale market however the main building also sells retail books. These are mostly course books for colleges and universities. When it was first established, it was at a central location and near to schools and colleges and people from all over Karachi used to come here. In recent years, business has slowed down due to the growth of electronic forms of media which has led to a decline in demand for books. In addition to that, more people now prefer to buy course books from book stores near their houses. Despite this, Urdu Bazaar still offers a large collection of books that people from all over Sindh purchase.

The streets of Urdu Bazaar.

The shopkeepers in Urdu Bazaar still reminisce about the old times. We spoke to a shopkeeper at Faridi Book Store who started coming to his father's shop in Urdu Bazaar when he was just a boy. A time when trams used to run on Karachi's roads and dictionaries imported for five and a quarter rupees were then sold for six and a quarter rupees. His passion for books and this market was evident when he told us about how he imported a book in 2005 and priced it at Rs. 1500 whereas today that book should cost much more as its price in USD is \$34.99, however he says, 'Ilm se muhabbat hai' and that's why doesn't mind selling it for Rs. 1500. Sadly, as the Market is now being demolished due to the recent anti encroachment drive, the shopkeeper says it is like they are on a ventilator and the order for bulldozing the bazaar can come anytime now. Moreover, no alternate has been offered to them yet whereas they have been here since 1960s and pay all taxes and dues. The destruction of this historic market would indeed be a great loss specially as the main Urdu Bazaar is a retail market and students won't be able to find all their course books at one place. (Centre, 2019)



Map of Urdu Bazaar.

2.9.4 FRAME MARKET

Saddar has several specialty markets in the streets connecting with Bunder road on either end. Some of these markets are planned and some of them just grew organically. Over time these shops have multiplied and gotten an identity. Framer Gali is one such market which had more than 30 shops before current anti-encroachment drive wiped almost half of the shops built on one end of the road. The market is known for catering the demands of the people residing in Karachi, as well as civilians from all over the country. The market is also known for its dealing in wholesale rates.

What was formally a tent market, Framers Gali or Frame Market today accommodates shops that sell printed images; most popular are the ones with calligraphy, landscapes and national heroes. All of the shops are very well decorated with essential and decorative lighting because the vendors aim to distract people taking the busy road to Bunder road or Burns road food market. Although the anti-encroachment drive had resulted in the removal of most of the shops on the footpath, some stalls have recently sprung up, displaying their products on the walls.

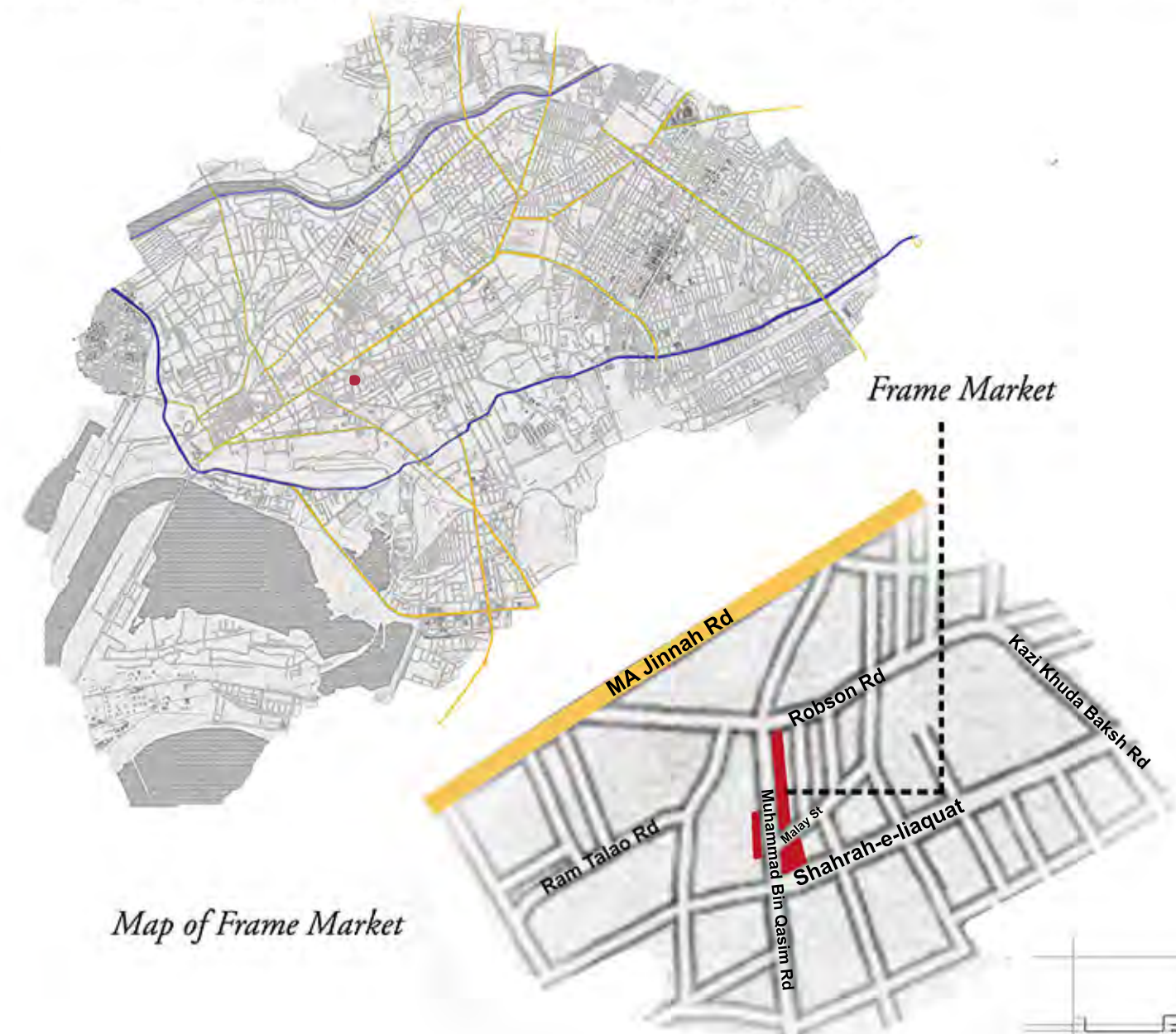


Products displayed on the footpath after shops were demolished.



Shopkeeper sitting outside his shop in frame market

The shops along the right of the Muhammad Bin Qasim Rd have been setup underneath heritage buildings, so we see a variety of old residential structures. Architectural elements including balconies, round arches, cornices, pilasters, garlands and festoons on the buildings add to the charm of the market. Many of the shop keepers that we talked to knew little to nothing about the market, because they had opened up their shops in the area quite recently. There were no customers there at 12:30 pm on Saturday, but it is said to be busy in the evenings. Before the encroachment program, the presence of the frame shops along the foot path created hindrance to pedestrian movement, and create horrendous traffic jams along the Muhammad Bin Qasim Rd.



2.9.5 CYCLE MARKET

Located along the Kutchery Rd, Feroze Shah Rd, and Masjid St, in the area called Garikhata (formally Gari Ahata) lies the cycle market, which as the name suggests is a market that deals in cycles, tires and spare parts. The market has all kinds of bicycles, ranging from smaller ones for kids to larger ones for adults. Started in the 1950s, the market was first a handful of shops located along and across the Kutchi Memon Masjid Garikhata, on Feroze Shah Road. The market then grew alongside the Katchery Road and the Masjid St. The market was fairly empty at 12 pm on a Saturday afternoon, but is known to be very busy in the evening and at night. The place is a residential area, with the buildings above the market all catering to the Kutchi Memon community that resides there.



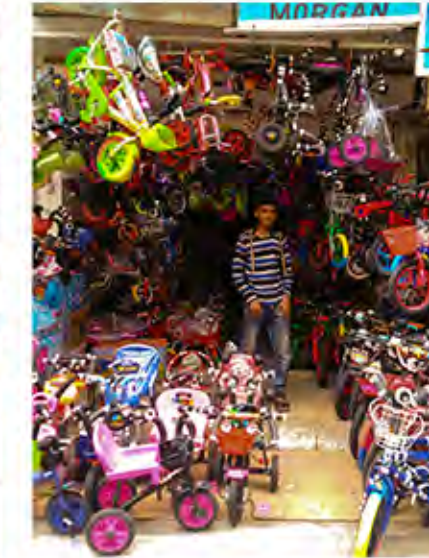
Map of Cycle Market

Cycle Market

The shopkeepers had displayed their cycles on the footpaths outside of their stores so as to display their stuff to the general public in an attractive way, and also because the shops are extremely small and all the stuff cannot be displayed inside. This setting up of cycles outside hinders the pedestrian movement and creates a traffic jam on the extremely narrow roads in front of the shops. The shop keeper we talked to told us that the market had sprung up sometime in 1957 and that his own shop was around 40 years old. The market is still visited by a lot of kids and adults every day, to buy the cycles of their choice. The shopkeepers are people who live in the vicinity, Garikhata. Some of the shops are owned by the shopkeepers, while most of them have been rented.



A vendor repairing cycles outside his shop.



View of a typical shop in Cycle Market.



Dealers setup their bicycles outside their shops to attract customers

2.9.6 AURANGZEB MARKET

Aurangzeb Market is named after the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir. It has been built by Karachi Municipal Corporation in 1961 and now famous as a Motorcycle Market. The two story building is still under the control of KMC, the ground floor are shops and the upper storeys have been converted to offices & warehouses. Previously lawyers had their chambers here. A monthly 'Khawateen Digest' is still published and distributed from here.

It is the first market of Pakistan, where motorcycle accessories and spare parts are made and sold.

The market lies in the Old Town on the main MA Jinnah Road formerly Bunder Road, in Bohrapir Area. The market has four entrances, the main entrance on MA Jinnah Road, with a marble plaque on the main façade with "K.M.C Aurangzeb Market 1961" written on it. There are two entrances on the side streets and one at the back.

It is post partition market, with a well maintained building. Initially the market had a general store, milk shop, informal draftsman (*Munshi*) with typewriter, tax lawyers & printing press. With the introduction of motorcycles in the city, this market started selling accessories and spare parts and the business flourished and the area has become a Motorcycle accessory and spare parts market.

The shopkeepers were reluctant to speak about the market and kept referring to other shopkeepers for the information of the market. They were afraid to talk about this market, as a year ago, this building was going to be demolished. It has been built on a sewage (*nala*). The shopkeepers wanted to know why we are gathering the information of the Market, most of the shopkeepers mistook us for FBR officers or some government agency which came for inspection.



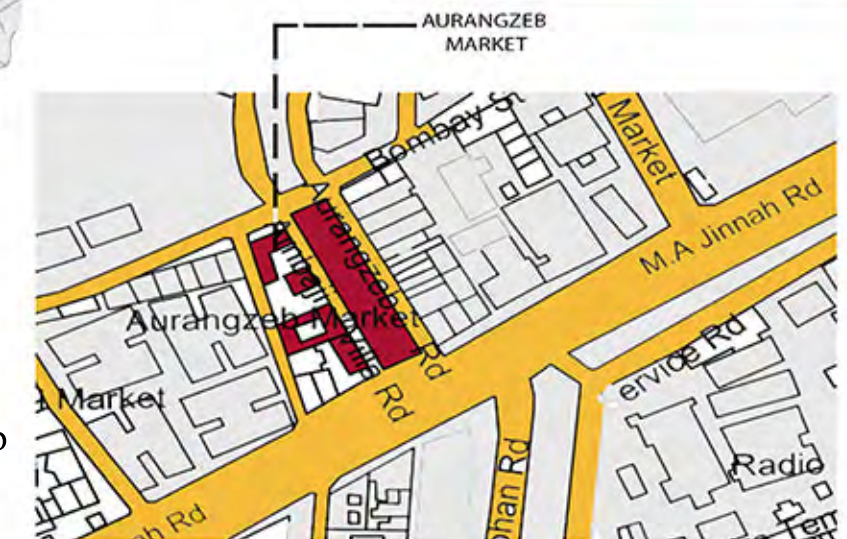
Front Facade



Market view



Map of Aurangzeb Market.



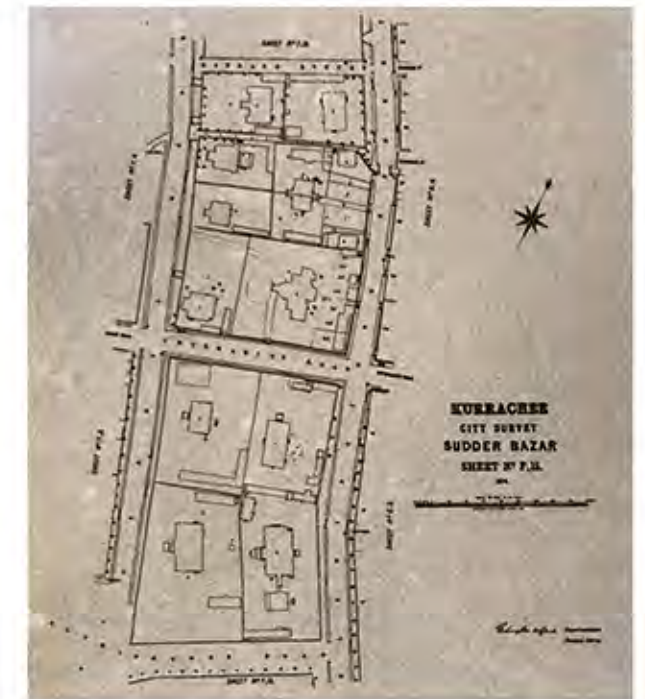
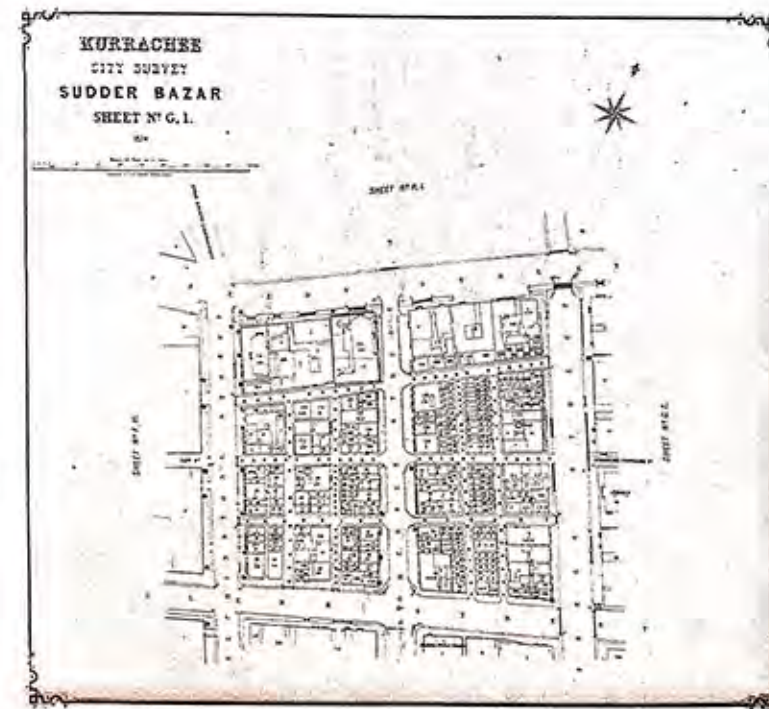
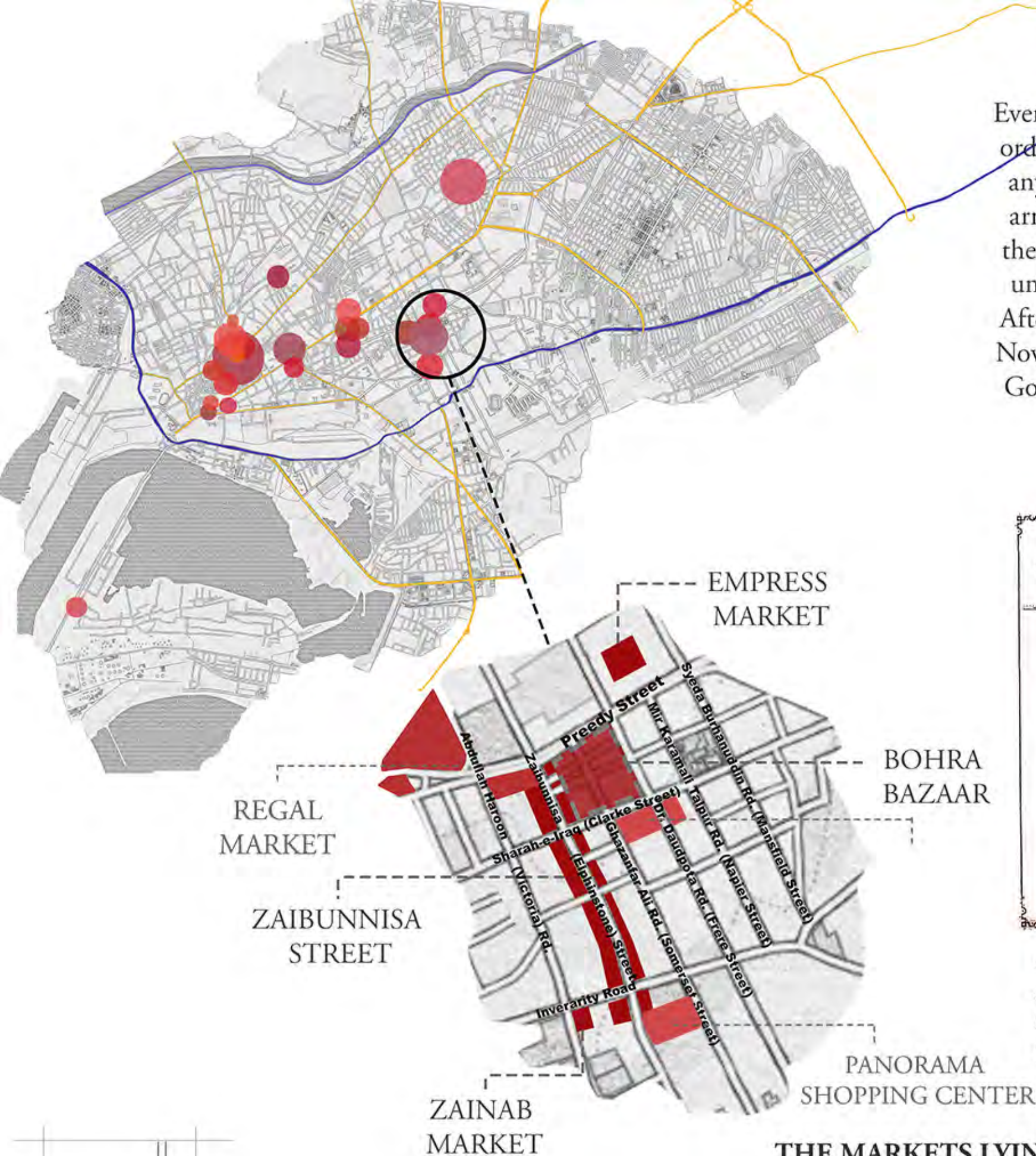
A marble plaque on the main façade with "K.M.C Aurangzeb Market 1961" written on it.

2.10 Historical Background of Saddar Bazaar Quarters

Even before the British annexation of Sindh, the Saddar bazaar was formulated in order to serve the British presence. The early stages of the bazaar did not observe any development and was in a poor condition despite the efforts of the British army. This was due to the imposed waving duty on goods sold in the shops by the Mirs. Eventhough the roads were laid out in 1852, the quarter remained an untidy area visited by the servants of British officers.

After 1857, the bazaar flourished into a high-class market with residential areas. Now the British officers with their families frequented the bazaar. The Parsis and Goans were deeply interested in the development of this area and worked most on it.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



Left: Map of present Bohri Bazaar, Saddar Bazaar Quarter, 1874, originally laid out to accomodate followers, hucksters and sutlers of the British army.

Right: Large establishments in the Saddar Bazaar Quarter, 1874.

(Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S.Lari 2001)

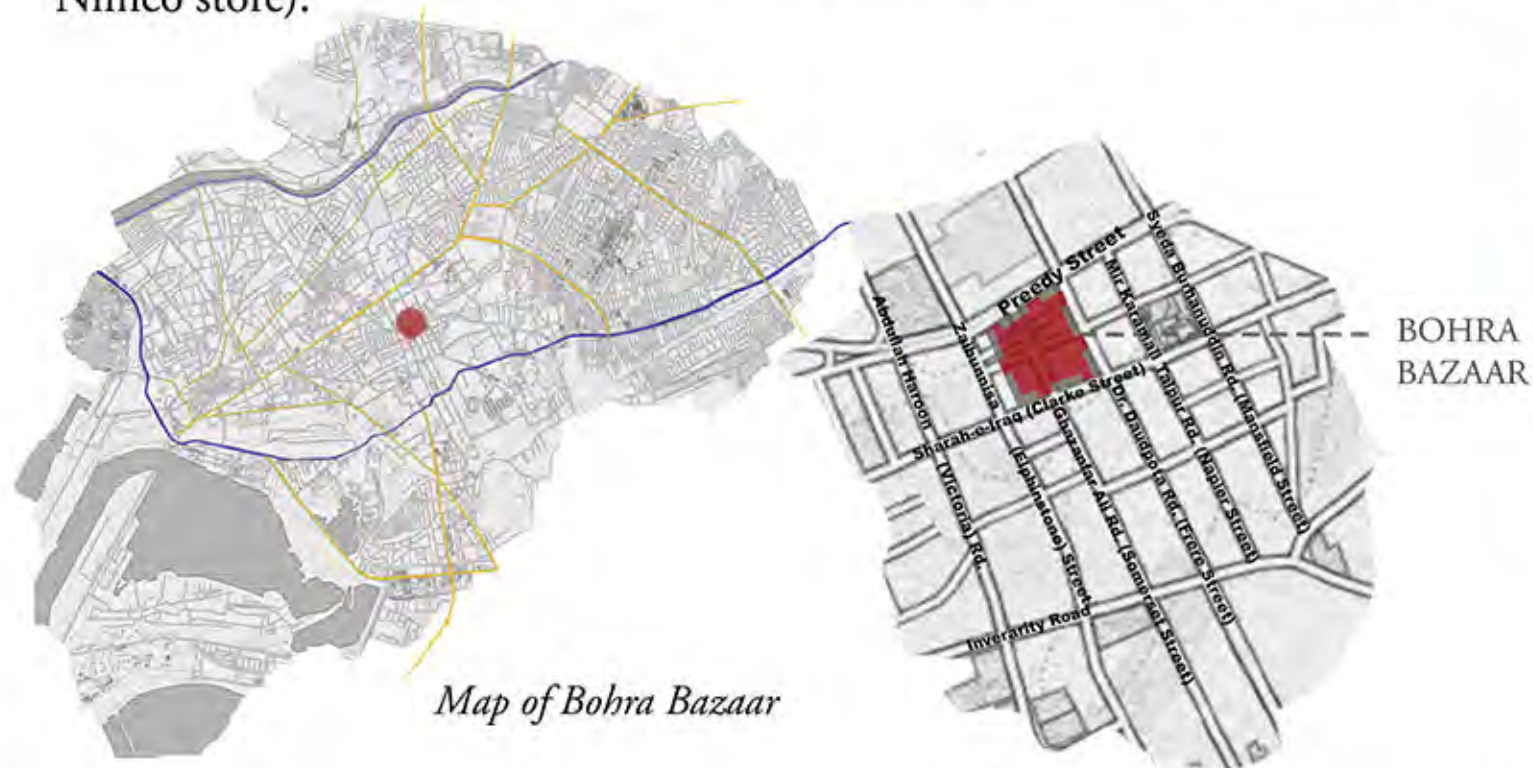
THE MARKETS LYING IN THE SADDAR BAZAAR QUARTERS OF KARACHI



2.10.1 BOHRA BAZAAR

Stretching from Preedy street to the Clarke street and connecting to the Zaibunisa street, Bohra Bazaar is said to have been one of the oldest markets of Karachi. The fragments of age-old structures remain overlaid by the present day adjustments and the many winding streets, formed in an organic pattern since its origin, remain occupied with numerous vendors extending from the shops. And hence providing us with a great many goods and services. The bazaar, no doubt, speaks of the multi-layered culture that it has developed on to, forming into a unique setting that has enticed people through ages.

One can see clothes displayed on hangers in front of the shops, all types of pots and pans placed on top of each other forming a unique display in front, an array of shops selling school uniforms, variety of electronics lined up in the shops, multiple number of kiosks and thelaas selling variety of things. Where one vendor has casually spread his sheet on the road with stuff toys on it waiting for the buyers, another vendor has customized his place by setting up variety of footwear on a stand. People visiting cannot remain deprived of the famed food items occupying most of the bazaar; the jalebis, samosas and chaat (at the original Nimco store).



Map of Bohra Bazaar

The bazaar now remains inflicted with motorcars, when once this street used to have trams passing through it. The Victorias i.e. the horse drawn carriages were always lined up here providing the users of the bazaar with an economical mode of travelling. The bazaar was formulated by the Bohri community, hence explains the name. However, a large number of Bohri community now has moved out leaving only a few back. The bazaar also observed some setbacks when it got affected by a fire outbreak in 1952 leaving many buildings in a bad condition and also when in 1987, twin bomb blasts ripped right through the bustling bazaar, hundreds of people died.



'Karachi Nimco', written on a board.



Awnings extended giving shade.



Vendors lined up on the road.



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Left: Historic image of Empress Market

Right: Recent image of Empress Market.

The market has incurred great changes with time and the gardens on the edges were converted to a parking area, and are now under construction as part of the recent anti-encroachment drive.



2.10.2 EMPRESS MARKET

The tour of Saddar old town is incomplete without the visit to the Empress market, true to her name the market offers best quality of dry fruit to the customers. Over the course of years the state of Karachi has changed drastically however, the architecture of the market is faded but remains unchanged. The market is more than 120 years old but still stands hard as a rock and can last another 100 years. With a gothic style from British raj era, the halls and clock tower of the market stand proud.

The clock tower acts as the main doorway to the market with KMC 1889 written on the left wall. When one enters the market from the east doorway, the spectator is greeted with the smell of the dry fruit and a feeling of nostalgia. This magnificent building was built by the A.J Attfield and two Indian contractors on the orders of the British government. (Peerzada, Karachi: Legacies of Empires, 2014) With four halls, galleries and a spacious courtyard, the building stands to please. With the tower 140ft high and intricate designs carved on it, the market can be seen from a distance. Similar to a number of markets in Karachi, this market was also victim to a fire outbreak on March 25, 2011 due to which numerous shops were burnt, however the impact was not very severe on the market's structure as it is built using strong gizri stone. Unfortunately, when the market was rebuilt, it was so that business could be resumed, not a heritage site saved. (Salman, Karachi: Legacies of Empires, 2014)

Due to the recent anti encroachment drive, all the shops from the market were removed. Whereas those in the building and in the inner courtyard have now returned, they are not as many as before and a number of the stores still remain shut. The Karachi Walla talks about a Kite Gali in Empress Market which is also nowhere to be seen. Going to Empress Market has been a weekly ritual of a number of families from all over Karachi and it is sad to see that the life of the market is gone. However, it is true that this market is an essential part of Karachi's heritage and it is sad to see how it has deteriorated over the years due to lack of maintenance. We can now hope that this drive to restore the market to its former glory brings back the true spirit of the Empress Market.



Entrance of the Empress Market.



Shops lined up on the inside of Empress Market.



Map of Empress Market.



Left: A historic photograph of Zaibunissa Street. (Source:<http://arifhasan.org/images-gallery/historical-images-karachi-i>)

Right: A recent photograph of Zaibunissa Street.

A comparison of the images shows how the buildings have dilapidated with time as well common ways in which their facade is disfigured i.e. territorial marking, by painting the building, and store shutters.

2.10.3 ZAIBUNNISA STREET

It's ironic how the area once known as the Oxford street of Karachi and visited only by the 'well-heeled' and that too for imported and reputable goods, is now visited more due to the nearby Zainab market, where much cheaper imitations of renowned brands are readily available.

Formerly known as the Elphinstone Street (1920), it was named such in honor of Mount Stuart Elphinstone, a British official who played an important role in the colonization of India. The name of the street was changed after partition by the Pakistani Government to Zaibunnisa Street, named after the famous Pakistani journalist. Once known as the prime shopping area of old Karachi, a variety of imported clothes, wines and cheese were available here. The street is lined with several historic colonial buildings constructed during the colonial times which are half a century old. One of the oldest stores here is that of Jafferjee & Co. however, most others have disappeared with time.



1948: The procession of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's funeral passing through Zaibunissa Street.
Source: Jafferjee & Co.



Vendors lined up on a pedestrian walkway.

Due to the increasing crowds of the shoppers the government had to ban parking in the street, this, coupled with the low residency rate in Saddar has led to the closing of a number of shops as they incurred considerable losses. The street suffers from persistent traffic all-round the year and this fact has discouraged shoppers from visiting the street. Now the market streets are mostly aloof with little to no customers at all. The shopkeepers here call it doomed of all the markets in Karachi. However, some people do visit a section of the street which has a number of shoe stores located together due to the variety being offered.

The colonial buildings on the street are in dissipated condition with some turning into facades. Comparing historic images of Zaibunissa Street with those of today reveal stark differences as the buildings have suffered great wear and tear due to lack of maintenance and territorial marking through painting the area around the stores as well as introduction of uneven store shutters have disfigured these buildings. The proper preservation of these buildings could contribute considerably to preserving our heritage and giving this street a lively outlook again.



Map of Zaibunnisa Street.



MARVI MAZHAR & ASSOCIATES

2.10.4 ZAINAB MARKET

The most versatile market that I have seen in a long time is Zainab Market where one can find clothes and garments from different countries and different brands. For the past forty years the market has only seen its rise. Built in the late 1970s the market mainly caters to the needs of the middle class. It is crowded with retailers and customers, who come here to buy the commodities this market is known for.

My visit to the market was nothing short of an expedition, where we travelled to a different part of Karachi to explore the 40 year old market. Our expedition was successful and worthwhile as we collected a lot of information. Zainab market is known for its imitation garments, handicrafts and traditional Pakistani garments, it is a place where every Pakistani will feel nostalgia, where products ranging from balochi tantras to Levi's pants can be easily found.

Although the market is forty years old the interior of the market building is fairly new, after inquiring about it from the vendors we came to know that the reason behind this was the continuous inflow and outflow of shop owners. The part of the market selling handicrafts has wide lanes, large stores and well lit corridors with ceiling fans. We spoke to a shopkeeper at VIP's CREATION, manufacturers and exporters of onyx, brass and wooden crafts, who said that with time the demand for Pakistani handicrafts has declined. This is particularly owing to the handicrafts coming from China which are cheaper and thus people prefer to buy. However, he said this market is visited more nowadays by the Pakistanis who live



A handicraft shop in Zainab Market.

abroad and want to display truly Pakistani handicrafts in their homes and offices. In addition, he told us that a number of these stores also sell online nowadays due to the increasing trend of online shopping in Pakistan. This market is surrounded by heritage buildings including the beautiful Jehangir Kothari Trust building which Mr. Abdul Malik of Hanzala Malik & Co. says may be destroyed soon. On the other hand is the once renowned Zaibunissa Street where inflow of customers has considerably declined however, Zainab Market seems yet to be flourishing.



Map of Zainab Market.

ZAINAB MARKET



The building that houses Zainab Market.

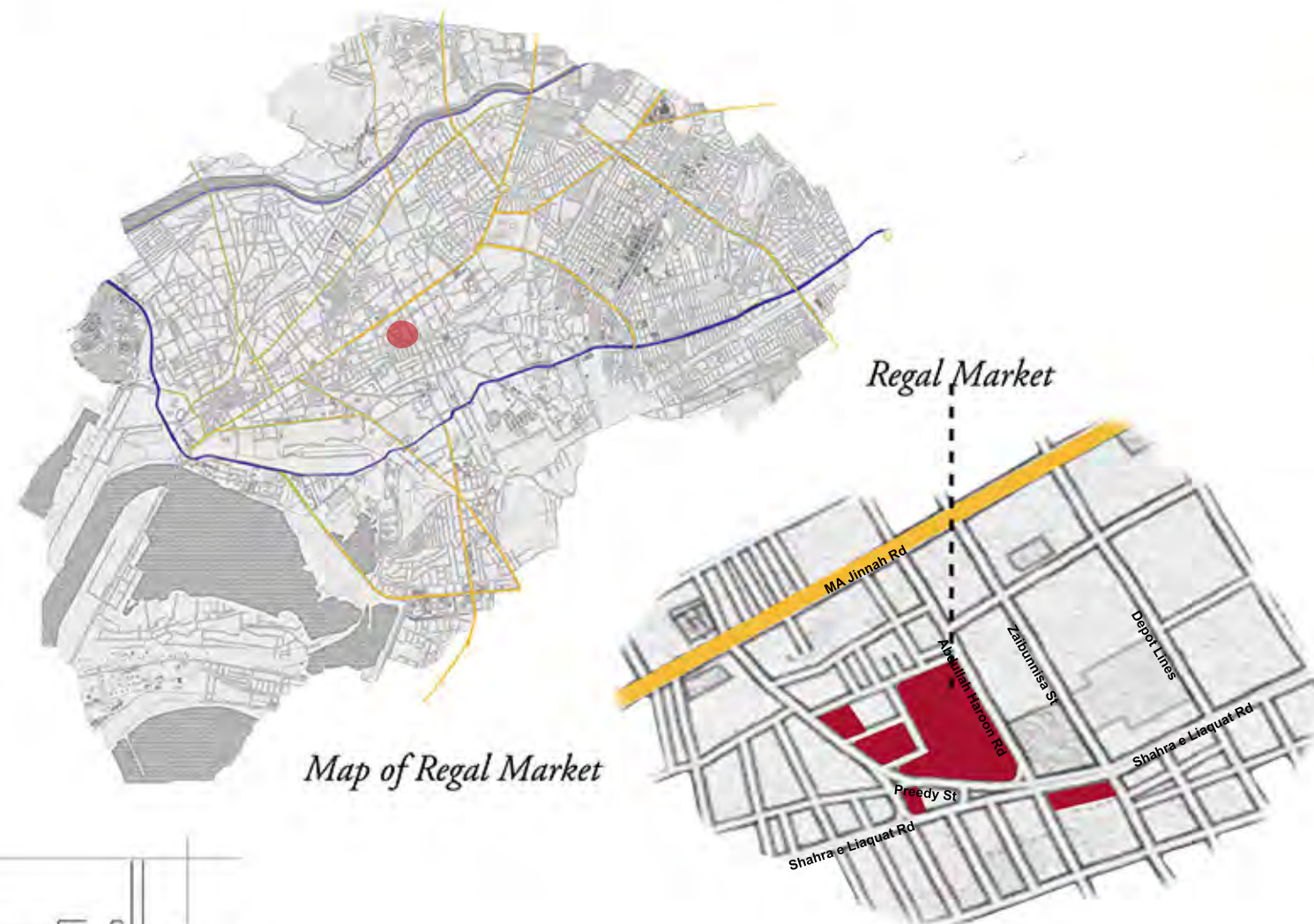


'VIP's CREATION', a shop inside Zainab Market.

2.10.5 REGAL MARKET

Saddar became the centre of the city of lights as it grew, and by the 1940s cinemas, restaurants, bars, billiard-rooms, and bookshops, had sprung up, in addition to markets, churches, community halls and libraries. The architecture prevalent, was built of Gizri stone, was human in scale, and was in the Gothic and Renaissance revival styles.

After Partition, Karachi became the new capital and Saddar continued to be its social and cultural centre. The wives of government officials and foreign diplomats went shopping for their provisions at Empress Market, and the Saddar tea houses and bookshops were the haunts of students, intellectuals and politicians. Today, Saddar houses a wide variety of consumer electronics, clothing, jewelry, and antiques. The place is always brimming with activity, and caters to the needs of people from all over the city.



The Regal Chowk is an attraction for those looking to buy electronics. Regal Trade Centre was named after Regal Cinema, and has now been converted into a shopping centre. This is the place people turn to be if they're looking to buy camera equipment, sound systems, and loudspeakers for mosques, marches, parades and their cars. The area is also home to photography studios and is constantly buzzing with the chatter of families getting group photos to mark important events, and students and job candidates getting passport size photos for their various applications. The place was crowded at 12:30 pm on Saturday, providing evidence on how busy the place actually is. Here the shopkeepers parked their motorbikes on the footpaths, causing hindrance in pedestrian movements.



Shops selling cameras and equipment.



An exterior view of Regal Market.



Regal Market viewed from across the street: traffic congestion can be seen.

2.10.6 PANORAMA MARKET

Situated on the infamous Zaibunnisa St, the Panorama Market was said to be Pakistan's biggest leather market. Initiated by the Russians, the market first sold genuine leather products. The corruption then seeped into the pores of the shops here, and before anyone knew it, fake leather, being portrayed as real one, was being sold. This why the business of the once flourishing shops in the market went down the drain.

Panorama Center is said to have been the first market that had an electronic escalator. Placed right in the front of the entrance, this escalator is now old, rusted and out of function. There were numerous shops, but all of them empty and with no customers at 1pm on a Saturday afternoon. The market is a huge monolithic structure, with little to no colonial elements in the façade. The shopkeepers have made sure to make their shops look good on the outside as well on the inside. While the interior looks fine, the façade somehow looks like it has been neglected for a long time. We saw signage in Russian Language, silently speaking of the bazaar's origin.



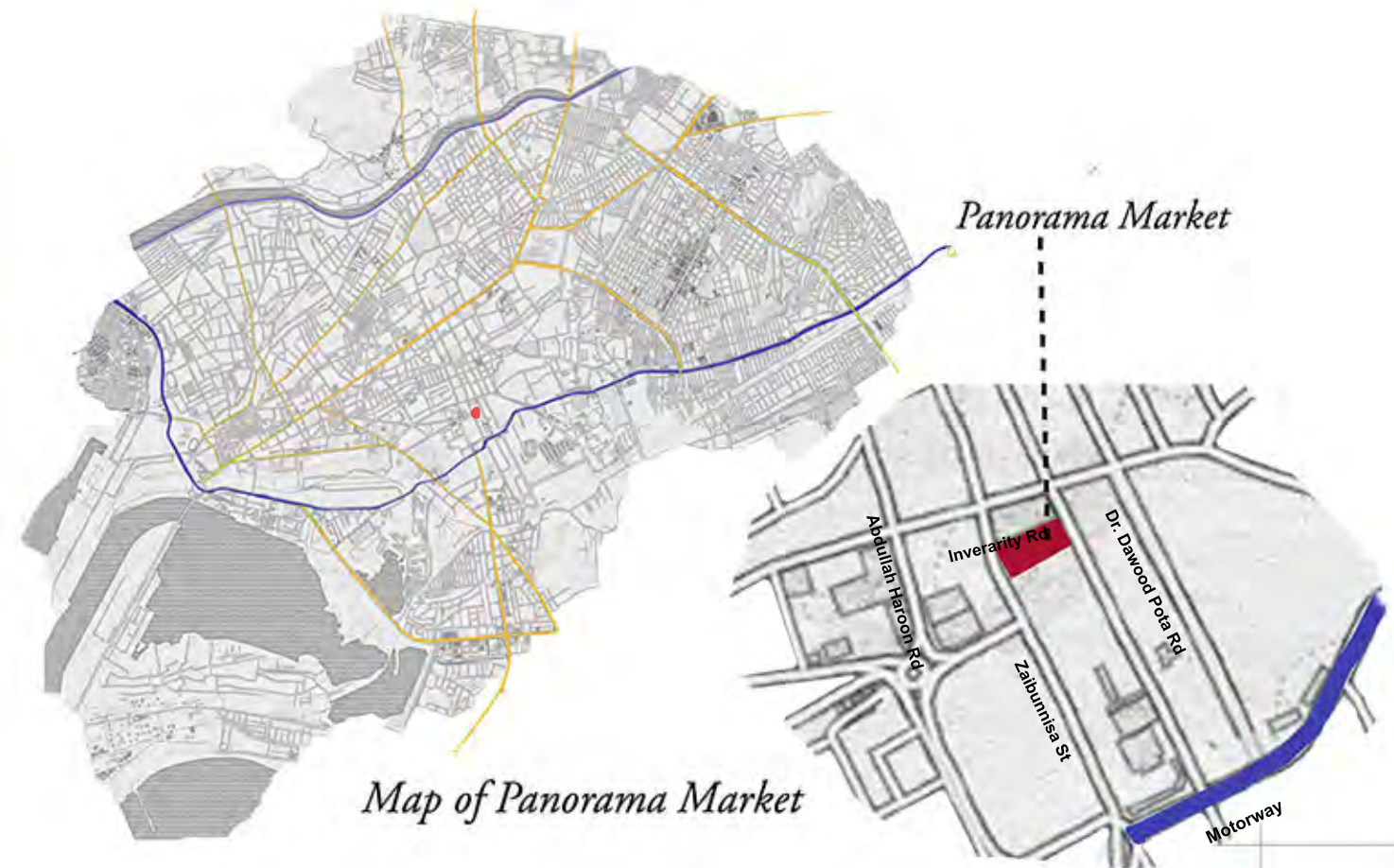
The entrance to the market. The Russian sinages can be seen on the board, along with the escalator: one the first to be installed in any market place.



The picture shows the exterior of the Panorama Market building.

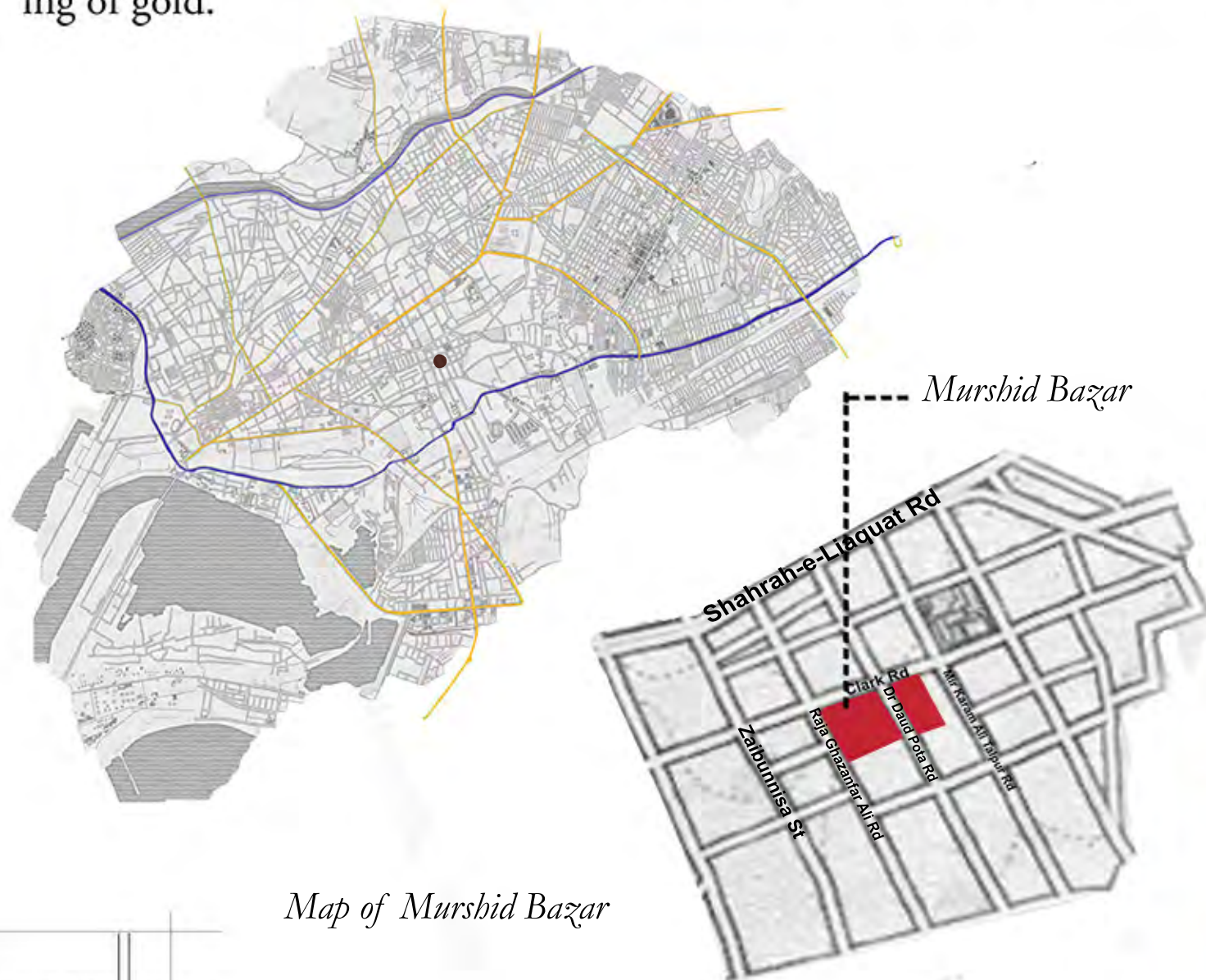


A view of the leather shops inside.



2.10.7 MURSHID BAZAR

Located on Dr. Dawood Pota road, Murshid Bazar is a high rise, simple and minimalistic building. The shops built underneath the high rise structure comprised mainly of jewelry shops. The bazaar was once a cloth market, and had a variety of garments available. It did not look as if it is always brimming with activity because the shops were closed at 1 pm on Saturday. The shops are supposed to open at 11:30 am and close at around 9pm at night. Almost a century old building at the beginning used to be the one that sells garments but now the market is solely dedicated to the buying and selling of gold.



Map of Murshid Bazar



"Murshid Garment Tower" embossed on the facade of the building



An early morning scene of Murshid Bazar



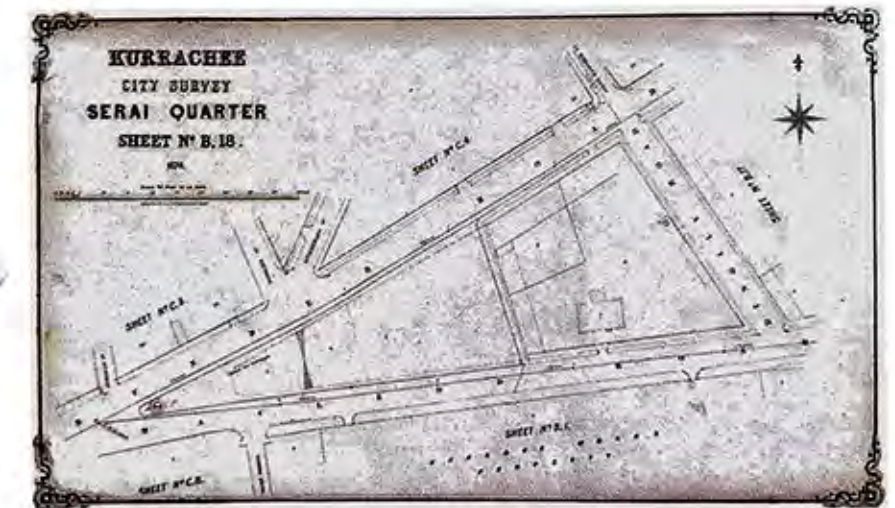
Bundles of fabric and a vendor at his stall preparing -paan

2.11 Historical Background of Serai Quarters

Named after the Kafilah Serai, the serai “had existed for many years, and had been assigned to the Afghans, a turbulent race, whose Kafilas came down to Kurrachee and whom the quieter folk of the town thought well to keep at a safe distance from their city gates”.

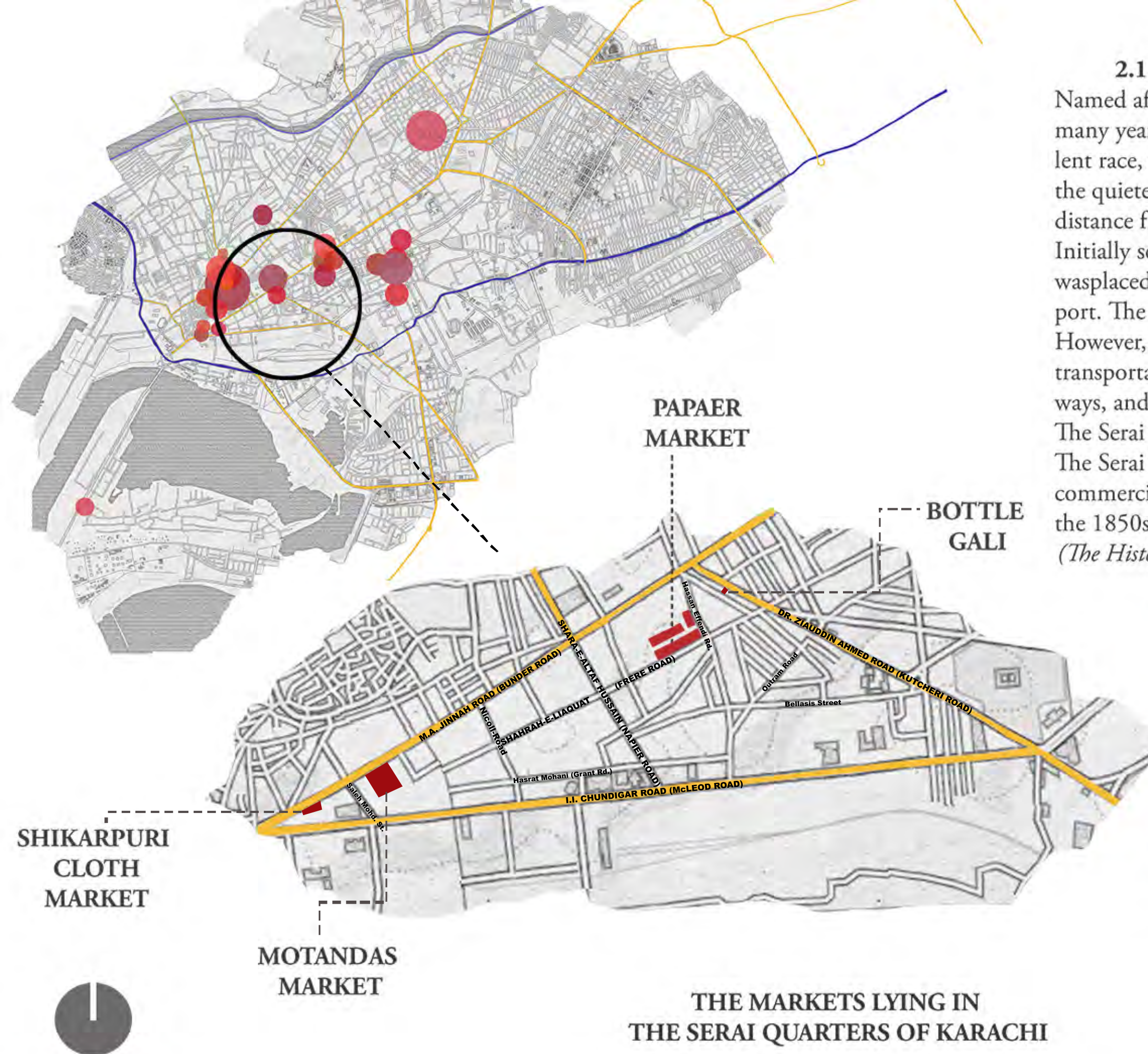
Initially serving as a camel caravan terminal, the quarter was placed at a very suitable distance from the city and the port. The caravans would arrive from the Asian inland cities. However, in 1873, there occurred a change in the mode of transportation, people shifted from caravan trails to railways, and leaving the Kafila Serai redundant of its function. The Serai therefore got replaced by Sindh Madrassa (1889). The Serai Quarter was formulated as an indigenous hub for commercial and business activities. In the interim, between the 1850s and 1860s.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



Part of Serai Quarter, 1874.

(Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S. Lari 2001)



THE MARKETS LYING IN THE SERAI QUARTERS OF KARACHI

2.11.1 BOTTLE GALI

Located opposite the magnificent Karachi Municipal Corporation building on main Bunder Road, is Bottle Gali. The gali offers exactly what it promises, bottles! Every store in this street offers bottles in numerous shapes, sizes, colors and materials. These are mostly second hand bottles however thoroughly cleaned and ready to be used for something new.

The Bottle Gali had existed in Karachi for a long time however, immediately after partition it was known as Parsi Gali due to the large number of Parsis who had emigrated from India and resided here. With time, it turned into a commercial area (Rashid, 2013) instead and the gali also underwent changes in its architecture.

Walking in this street gives one a great feeling of nostalgia as not only are there a number of old buildings that have stood witness of the rise and evolution of this market, but even the shopkeepers talk about the past like it was yesterday. They talk about the time when

this used to be a busy street however the condition of the market has slowly deteriorated with time and the inflow of customers has greatly reduced.(Rashid, 2013) The architecture in the area has been left to decay and is thus in a dilapidated condition similar to a number of markets in Karachi. Relatively recent constructions are a sharp contrast to the older buildings and are not a very pretty sight either. The main gali of the market is not maintained either and is quite uneven. This, coupled with the crime rate in the area has not been very favorable for the market. Rather crime is the main reason why business had declined as robberies were common occurrences in the area, making people feel insecure.



Unique display of glass bottles, seen in front of a shop.

A walk through Bottle Gali is an interesting experience and the stores are unlike those found in any other market. A typical store in this gali has glass bottle as small as you finger to large glass vases and these are stacked neatly in numerous shelves as well as hung from the sides of the cabinets. The bottles are from numerous brands of alcohol as well as of products we use everyday like Nescafe coffee and Langnese honey. Most of the bottles are green glass and when the sunlight hits the glass in the afternoon, the glare makes the stores seem even more appealing.

Tucked within Bottle Gali is Perfume Gali, a narrow dark alley inside a building selling perfumes and ittars. A walk through this gali gives one numerous sensations as a different smell greet them with every step, this is due to the shopkeepers burning essential oils and spraying scents, a common way to attract customers. The gali is lit from the numerous light bulbs in the stores and looks like what one may imagine Bottle Gali to be, however, sadly, this just shows that the Perfume Gali seems to be doing much better lately.



Map of Bottle Gali



Shopkeepers setting up their shops.

2.11.2 MOTANDAS MARKET

A short walk on M.A. Jinnah road from the Tower and we reached the New Memon Masjid. A little chat with the shopkeepers led us to find that this area was once a Hindu burial ground and later the Muslims constructed the roof over the graveyard and the Masjid over it. This Masjid has worshippers coming and leaving any time of the day.

Opposite the New Memon Masjid is the Motandas Market. Under the English signboard, we could see the name of the market written in Urdu and Gujrati. Inside the market, hallways were dark as even at 1:30pm, almost half the shops were closed. A walk around the market led us to find that most of the shops sold kids' garments where history books speak of the time when it was a market offering much more. Surprisingly though, the shopkeepers now do not seem to know much about the history of the market.

Although the market had existed here before partition, its current building looks like a much recent construction. Whereas the building's color resembles that of red bricks, there seems to be no such material used, rather it looks like the hastily built apartment complexes often found in Karachi.



The view of the market.



A board that marks the entrance of 'Motandas Market.'



Map of Motandas Market.

2.11.3 SHIKARPURI CLOTH MARKET

Fallen victim to the brutal parking mafia of Karachi is another historical building named the Shikarpuri Cloth Market built in 1924. What was once considered an important part of Karachi's shopping area is nothing but a façade today. Not much information can be found on the market except for its name and year which have been carved on the entrance, it appears that people have disregarded and forgotten about it.

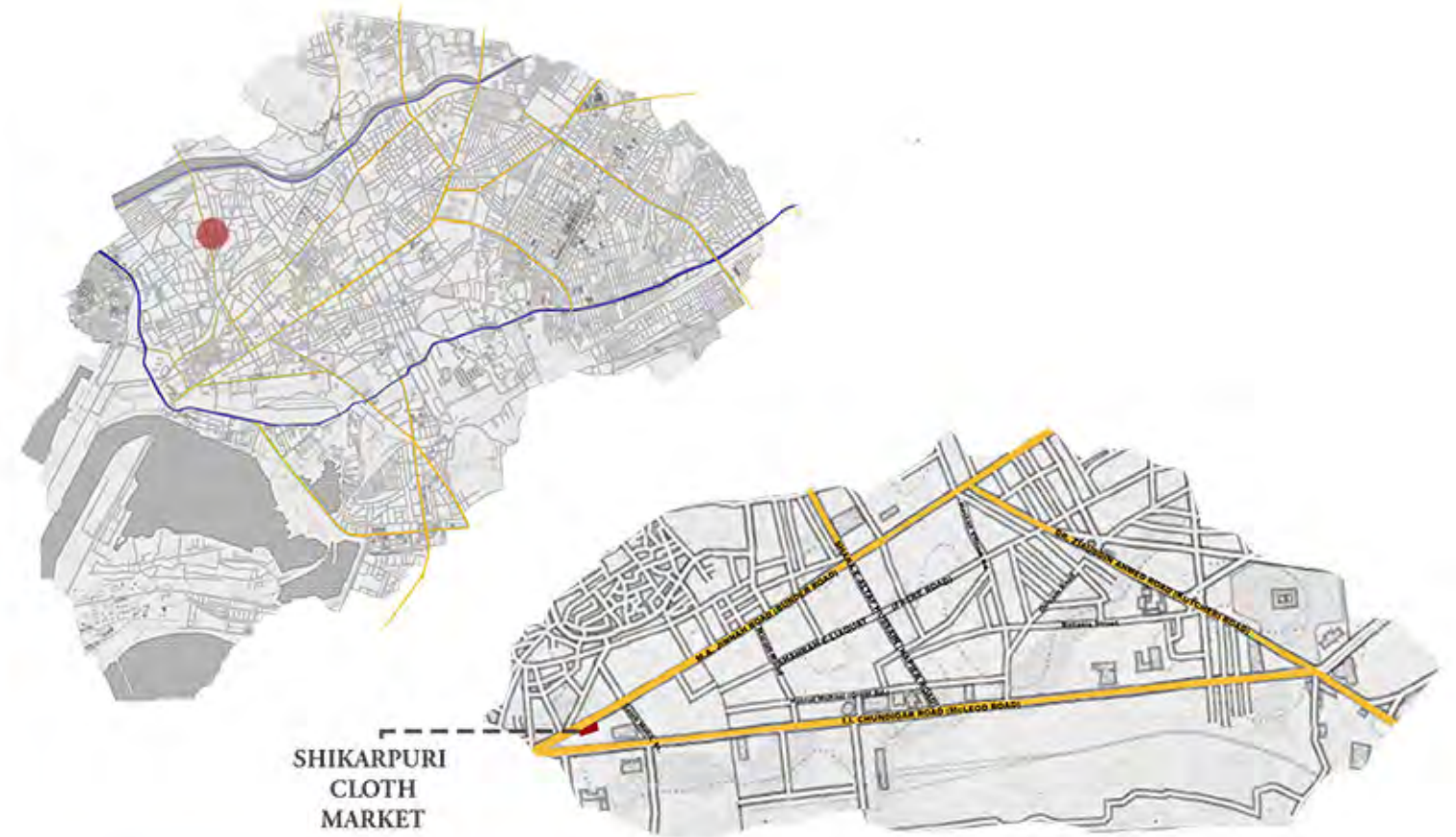
It was during one of our field visits when we stumbled on the facade of this market where there was once a bustling market now lies a car parking lot. It is hard to believe that the mesmerizing architecture of the market entrance is nothing but a facade and the inside is empty. When we inquired about the market from the Pathan guard working there, he knew nothing. It is sad and disheartening to see that Karachi and Karachiites don't seem to care what is happening to its heritage.



The name tag present on the entrance of the market.



View of the Market from the road.



Map of Shikarpuri Cloth Market.



The entrance of forgotten Shikarpuri Cloth Market.

2.11.4 PAPER MARKET

The Paper Market, more commonly known as the Kaghaz Bazar, was first established along Campbell Street and Share-e-Liaquat. Later, with the increase of trade, it spread over the entire area of Serai Quarters. The Paper Market is situated along Hassan Ali Effendi Road, and Frere Road, and spreads out to Faiz Muhammad Fateh Ali Road. In 1950, it infiltrated into the study area, when 277 shops were constructed on a nala along Ali Dina Road. Today the Paper market consists of 500 shops. These consist of waste paper retail and whole sale workshops, and are supported by the main paper market located in the Serai Quarters. Its presence creates traffic congestion and paper waste disposal on the road, which is a fire hazard and adversely affects the health of the residents. The market's warehouses are located in other areas, where rentals are cheaper. The paper is transported to and from the outlets by trucks, throughout the day. The parking for loading and unloading of goods takes place in front of the outlets, creating severe traffic congestion. The police support all these activities.

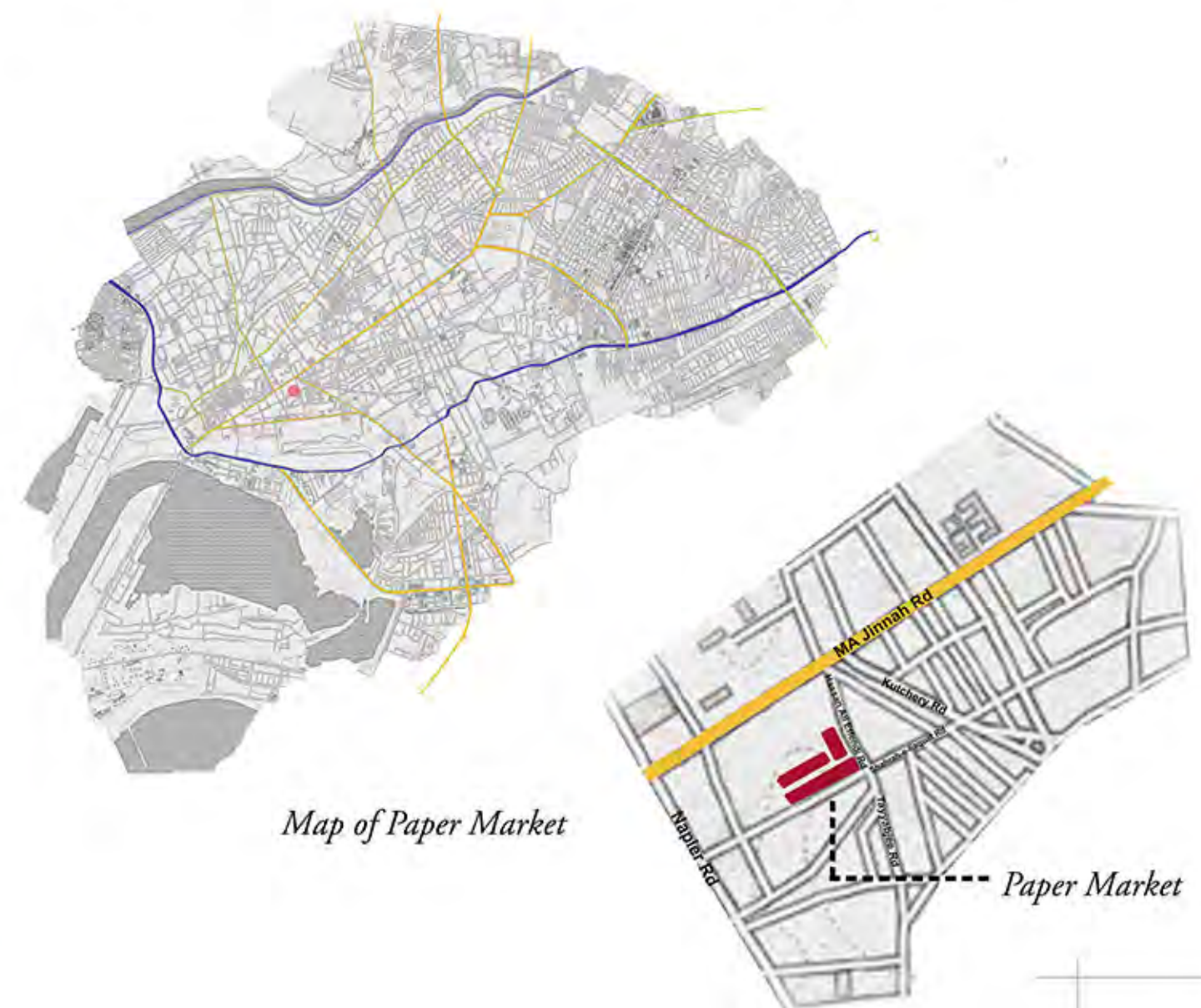
The place sells all kinds of paper related material, be it cards of any kind (invitation or visiting), blank or printing papers, decorations, or even flags. We saw numerous stacks of colored paper, and printed bags of various outlets displayed in the street. The market, as we witnessed it, was fairly empty at 11:30 am on a Saturday morning. There was no hustle of the shoppers or the sellers seen anywhere. The street that had originally started off as the paper market was extremely narrow, but cleaner than the rest of the place. The side of the market that opened on the road was filled with stagnant water, a combination of both rain and sewage water, which made it difficult to roam around.



The main entrance of Paper Market



'Multicoloured sheets are stacked and paper bags hang across the street



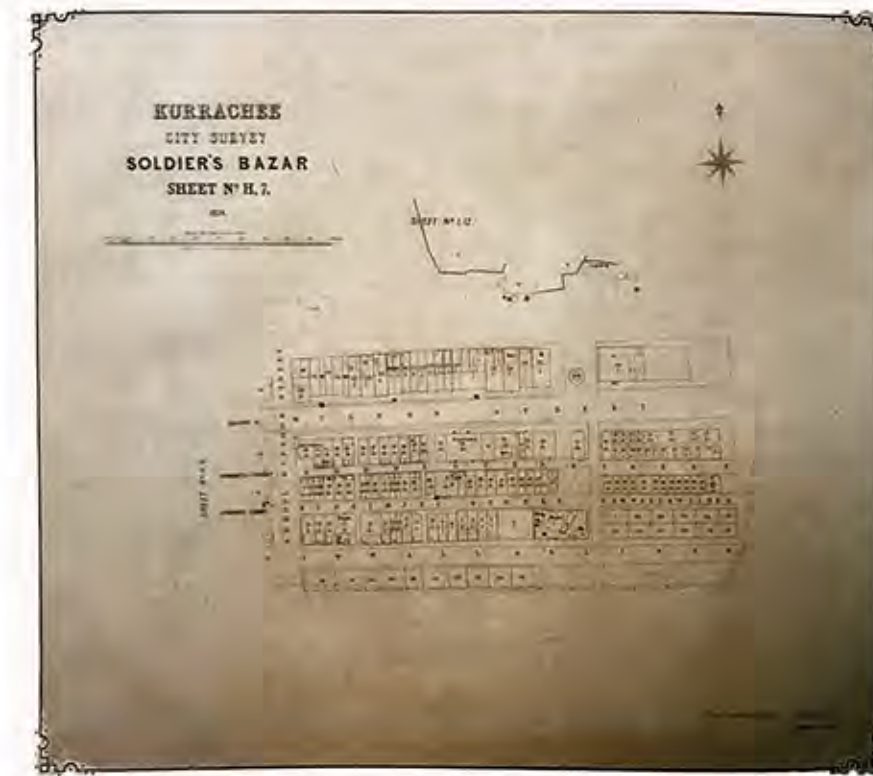
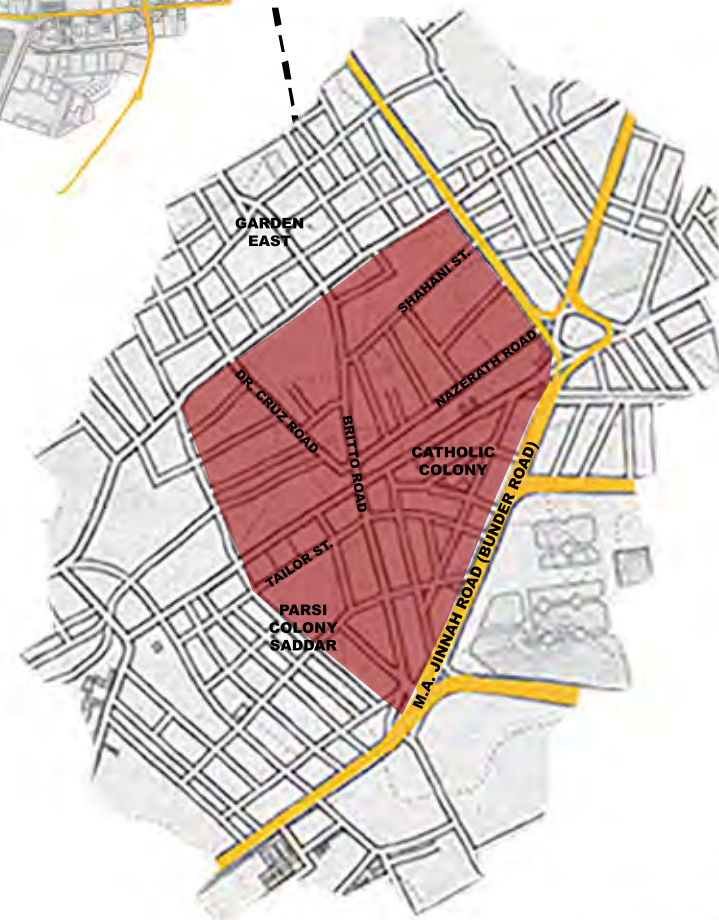
Map of Paper Market

2.12 Historical Background of Soldier Bazaar Quarters

One of the oldest quarters developed in Karachi, the soldier bazaar quarter was meant to be for the native soldiers after the annexation of Sindh by the British. Developing the Napier barracks and the Saddar bazaar for themselves, the soldiers were allocated the 'Soldier Bazaar' area. The quarter remained disconnected from the city as there were no road links till 1915. But after the establishment of other residential societies, a road network was laid to the M.A. Jinnah road.

Soldier bazaar, near Jamshed Town in the Garden East area of Karachi, houses a beautiful, diverse society where people with all sorts of backgrounds coexist and support each other. The majority is Muslim, but mixed in them are Hindus, Christians and people belonging to all sorts of ethnicities.

(The Historical Quarters of Karachi by Yasmin Cheema, 2007)



A section of Soldier Bazaar, 1874, showing tightly-knit rows of small lots for the use of native troops.

(Source: The Dual City: Karachi During the Raj: Yasmeen Lari, Mihail S.Lari 2001)

THE MARKETS LYING IN THE SOLDIER BAZAAR QUARTERS OF KARACHI



2.12.1 SOLDIER BAZAAR

Once the prime area of Karachi where anyone who was anything lived. Considered as one of Karachi's expensive residencies Soldier Bazaar was the social hub of Garden East. Today it is nothing but a commercial area with apartments built for people to live in.

The social hub of Garden East got its name from the locals as the market is pre partition and was established when the British ruled India. The bazaar was not a part of the city and was towards the north where the British Soldiers resided, it was after partition that the KMC started to develop the area and include it in Karachi. (Salman p. , 2014)

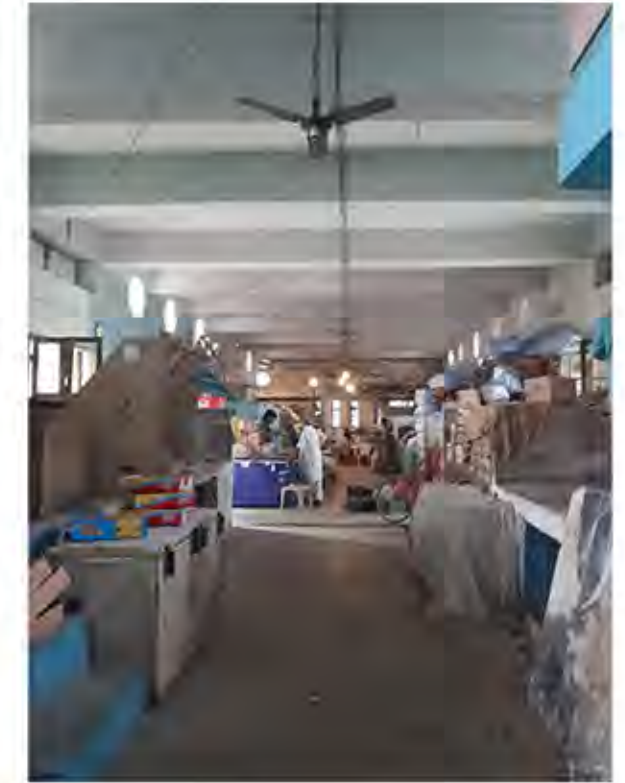


An old building that says "K.M.C, SOLDIER BAZAR MARKET, 1954.

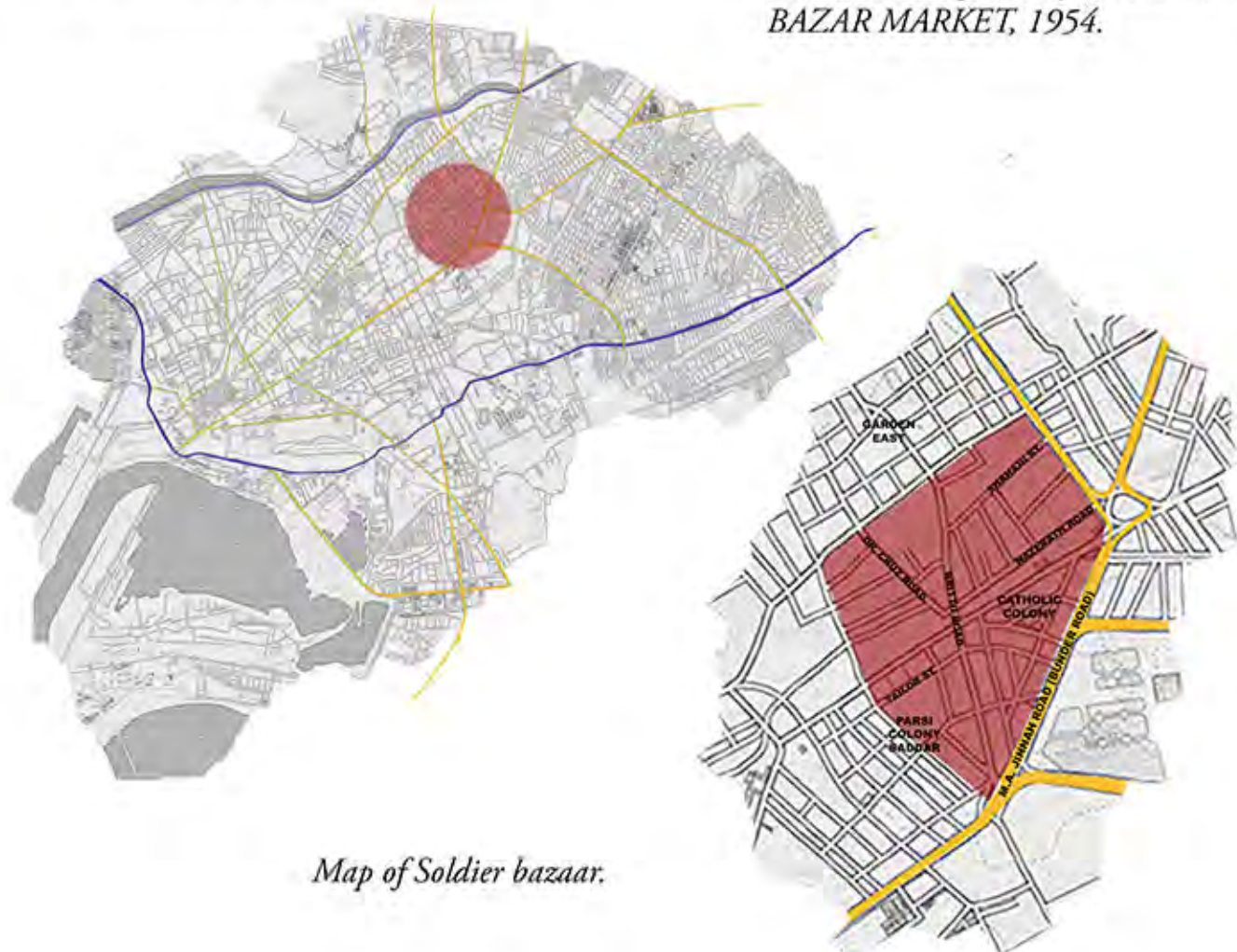


Fruit Vendors.

Today most of the colonial architecture has been demolished and new urban buildings have taken their places, leaving a few old historical buildings, one of these buildings is the KMC market built in 1954.



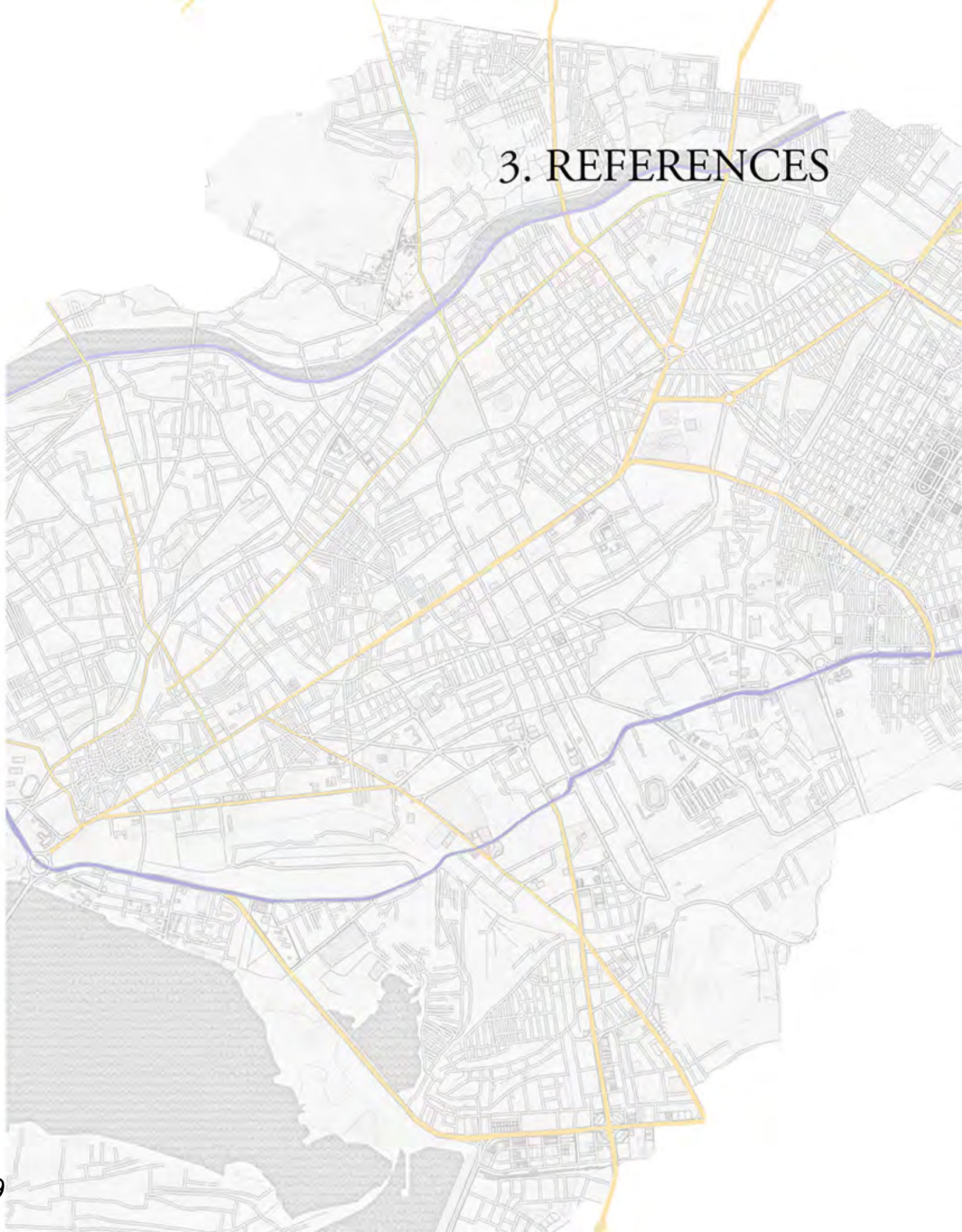
Inside an old building.



Map of Soldier bazaar.

Usually in the layout plan of every suburb a market is made to make groceries accessible to the people who live in the market. The same was done in Soldier Bazaar area where in 1954 the Pakistani government built a solid concrete building and gave those shops to the vendors of the original Soldier Bazaar market. This order was carried forward by the Karachi Municipality Corporation in the 1950's.

The condition of the market has dissipated overtime and parts of the market have been closed down. During our visit to the market two sections of the market were closed which in my view appeared to be the meat and vegetable section. The vegetables and fruit section had moved to the boundaries of the buildings and now the vendors has set up the stalls outside the building. The only section of the market which was still functioning was the area where plastic and crystal products were sold. Only a few shops were left in the original market. When we visited the market it was late afternoon but the market was mostly empty except for the vendors and shop owners. The color of the market was also fading.



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