# Dharmaj Heritage Collaborative

An effort to safeguard the heritage of Dharmaj through a series of conservation efforts

Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CEPT Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), Ahmedabad and Avichal Heritage Foundation, Dharmaj have collaborated in an effort to safeguard the heritage of Dharmaj.

A series of four initiatives focusing on the conservation and regeneration of valuable heritage assets of the village has been proposed through educational, research and outreach activities.





CRDF CEPT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPME FOUNDATION



### **Project team**

#### **Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC)**



Jigna is the Program Chair for Masters in Conservation and Regeneration at the Faculty of Architecture at CEPT University. She has national and international experience in working with traditional environments and framing how they may be understood, studied and transformed. She is an architect with a

Executive Director, CHC

Masters Degree in Sustainable Design from Cardiff University and a PhD in Conservation Studies from CEPT University.



Research Associate, CHC

Ashna is an architect graduated from CEPT University and holds a Masters degree in International Architectural Regeneration and Development (IARD) from Oxford Brookes University, UK. She practices as senior architect and partner at Fifth Column, an architectural practice based in Vadodara and is visiting faculty at the Masters in Conservation and

Regeneration program at CEPT University. Her key research interests include cultural tourism and urban regeneration.

#### **Avichal Heritage Foundation**



Founder, Director Avichal Heritage Foundation Alpita, a 2nd generation born Zimbabwean, is the Founder & Director of Avichal Heritage Foundation whose purpose is to save the rich tangible heritage in the Charotar region, beginning with Rhodesia House in Dharmaj, her ancestral home. Through collaborative restoration and regeneration projects of heritage sites, the goal is to create job opportunities to support the local ecosystem in these villages and reconnect the broader diaspora and next generation to their roots. A way to give back to the community that began her migrant journey from India-Africa-USA-India with a deeper outcome. She is also the coauthor of The African Odyssey - A hundred years of a Gujarati family in the lands of the Zambezi. Her background in corporate project management in the pharmaceutical industry while in the USA and involvement with the Board of the American Welcome Association (AWA), allow her to apply her vast experience and passion towards the goal of the Foundation.



# Dharmaj: a 'Global Village'





### **About Dharmaj**

- Dharmaj is a small village in the Charotar region of Gujarat (Anand district)
- It is often referred to as a 'global village' considering due to the constant phenomenon of foreign migration of its residents since 1895
- Reasons for outmigration primarily include higher education, economic growth and curiosity of discovering new avenues in life
- Part of the Baroda State during the Gaekwad rule, Dharmaj has been an integral part of many progressive educational and social reforms such as the Library movement and public health awareness.
- Today, Dharmaj is home to 11300 inhabitants and the NRI diaspora migrated to different parts of the world over the years.

Information sourced from: 'Global Dharmaj', https://avichal.org/global-dharmaj/ 'Charotar Migration - Role of Gaekwad Rule', https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Gyo1SHrj24&t=103s

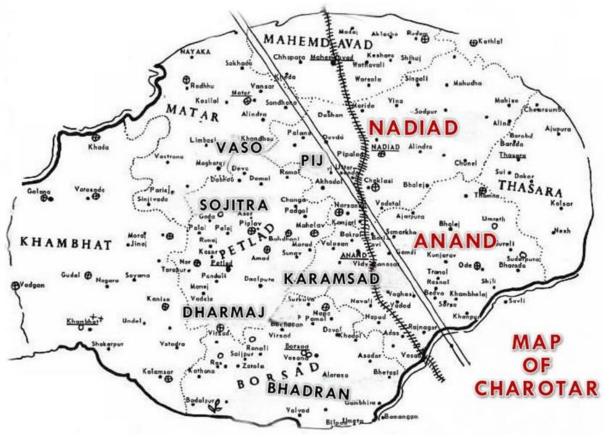


Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



### **About Avichal Heritage Foundation**

Avichal Heritage Initiative is a movement that will implement the engagement of the NRI diaspora and next generation through rebuilding and repurposing of Heritage Homes in Dharmaj, with Rhodesia House being the first example to tell the story of the Indo-African connection by conducting events to build cultural tourism.



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



#### **Reviving the Rhodesia House**

Adaptive reuse of a heritage home to create a multifunctional precinct with opportunities for engagement between residents and NRI diaspora.



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



### Tracing Ro(u)tes

A platform for the residents and diaspora of Dharmaj to re-visit and re-connect with their ancestral roots and their motherland.

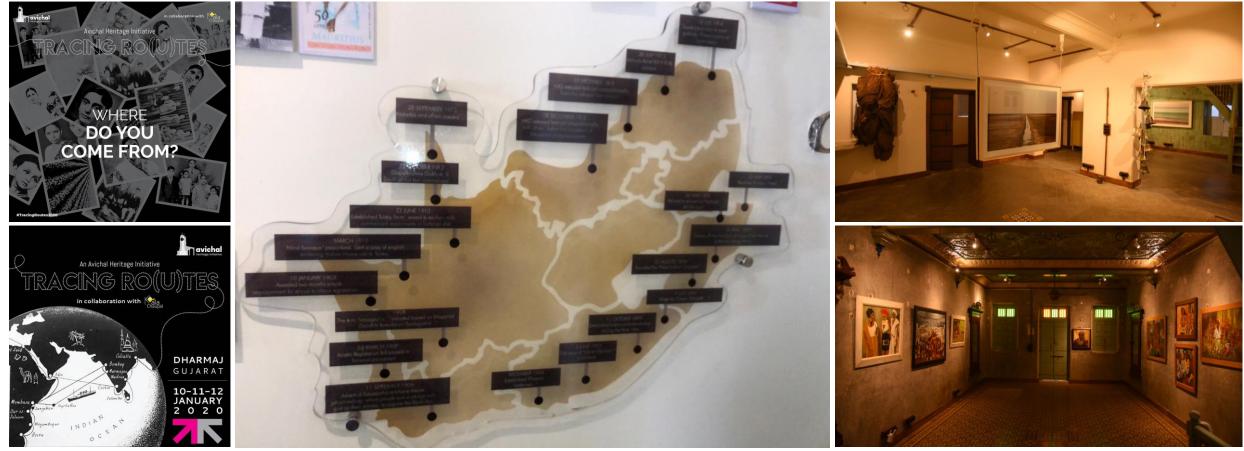


Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



### Heritage walks

Curated walks mapping the early Patidar homes and their journey in the village.



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



#### An African Odyssey - A Hundred Years of a Gujarati family in the lands of the Zambezi (by Vikram Patel & Alpita Patel)

This is a recollection of an era of challenge, adventure, family, community, triumph, tragedy, reconnection and migration from the late 1800 to present day. A true story of a Patidar couple who sailed the seas to Southern Africa from a small town in Gujarat, Dharmaj and how they brought a piece of Africa back to India and continue to do so.



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



# Dharmaj Heritage Collaborative





### **About Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC)**

Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CEPT Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), Ahmedabad has a vision of becoming the focal point in research, advisory and capacity building of the practice and policy of heritage conservation in the country. With a firm belief in the ethics of conservation and sustainability, the Center intends inform practices on the ground to create sustainable and equitable solutions.



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF



## Educational and awareness activities at Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC)

#### **Professional Development courses**

Short and long courses on processes in conservation for architects and engineers



### **'Documentation of Cultural Heritage – from analog to digital'** An online certificate course on recording, surveying and methodical documentation in the Indian context spread over four consecutive weekends

#### Material-based workshops

Hands-on experience of working with traditional building materials



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

#### Material analysis and testing

Traditional mortars, plasters and bricks are tested in the Conservation laboratory equipped with instruments and apparatus for chemical and physical tests.



### Educational and awareness activities at Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC)

#### Workshops for conservation education in collaboration with national and international universities

These workshops are conducted on-site and designed for heritage enthusiasts, students and professionals from multidisciplinary backgrounds

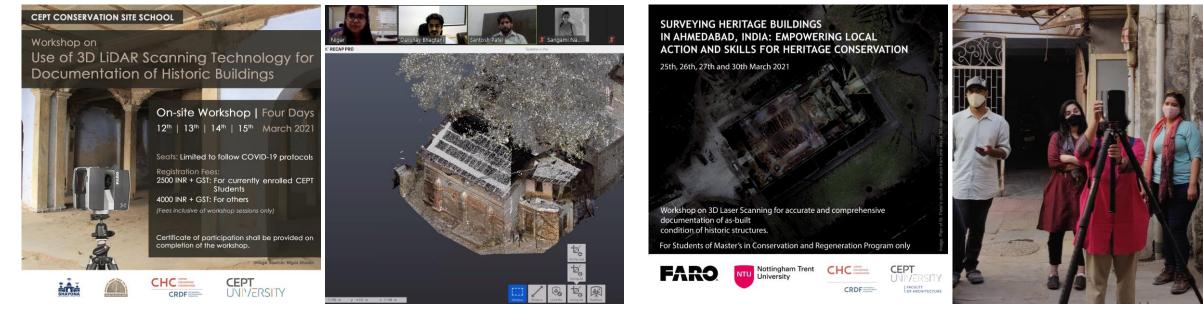


Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

'Use of 3D LiDAR Scanning Technology for Documentation of Historic Buildings' A four-day workshop organized in collaboration with Shayona Management Services
Pvt. Ltd., an agency Building Information Modelling (BIM for Heritage) and LiDAR
Scanning at the Conservation Site School, Tankshal ni Pol Masjid, Ahmedabad

#### Surveying Heritage Buildings in Ahmedabad, India

A four-day workshop organized in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) on 3D laser scanning technology for documenting historic buildings aimed towards capacity building for recording, surveying, protecting built heritage in India.



### Educational and awareness activities at Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC)

#### Panel discussions and webinars

Guest lectures and academic dialogue for conservation advocacy and awareness



#### **Open lectures and talks**

Conversations with practitioners, policy makers, researchers and educators

#### OPEN LECTURE

Salvage Archaeology and its Role in Preserving our Past 16th April, Friday | 4:30 pm IST | Zoom

#### Speaker

V.N. Prabhakar, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Humanities & Social Sciences, Archaeological Science Centre, IIT, Gandhinagar

CEPT

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTU

Zoom Details: Meeting ID: 988 3739 8056 Passcode: h8Bpma

Organised by: Center for Heritage Conservation, CRDF and Masters in Conservation and Regeneration, CEPT University



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

FOR HERITAGE





Image credits: (left to right) Dr. Jigna Desai, Avichal Heritage Foundation, Avichal Heritage Foundation, Dr. Jigna Desai





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Image credits: (left to right) Dr. Jigna Desai, Avichal Heritage Foundation, Avichal Heritage Foundation, Dr. Jigna Desai



A resource for people who live and have lived in Dharmaj and the Charotar region to be able to access and understand the history and heritage of Dharmaj through a single digital platform.

#### Introduction

- Dharmaj has a long history of outmigration that began in 1895 and continues till today.<sup>1</sup>
- This project involves mapping the history of settling and outmigration in Dharmaj in an attempt to reconnect Dharmajians settled all around the world to the history of Dharmaj.
- The process will include mapping of tangible and intangible cultural heritage assets including material culture, traditional knowledge systems, lifestyle and oral narratives of Dharmaj



Image credits: Dr. Jigna Desai



1 'Global Dharmaj', https://avichal.org/global-dharmaj/

#### **Project deliverables**

- Mapping of heritage assets through fieldwork
- · Collation and analysis of available archival resources on Dharmaj
- A digital interactive map of heritage assets in Dharmaj including a series of maps showing the historic timeline of settlement and outmigration
- A digital archive of community experiences, oral narratives and traditional knowledge systems linked to the interactive map
- Public exhibition showcasing ideas for the regeneration of the heritage assets

#### **Project outcomes**

- A platform for the diaspora of Dharmaj to revisit and celebrate their heritage
- An opportunity for local residents to engage in the process of managing the heritage assets
- Increased public awareness for heritage conservation in the village



Image credits: Dr. Jigna Desai

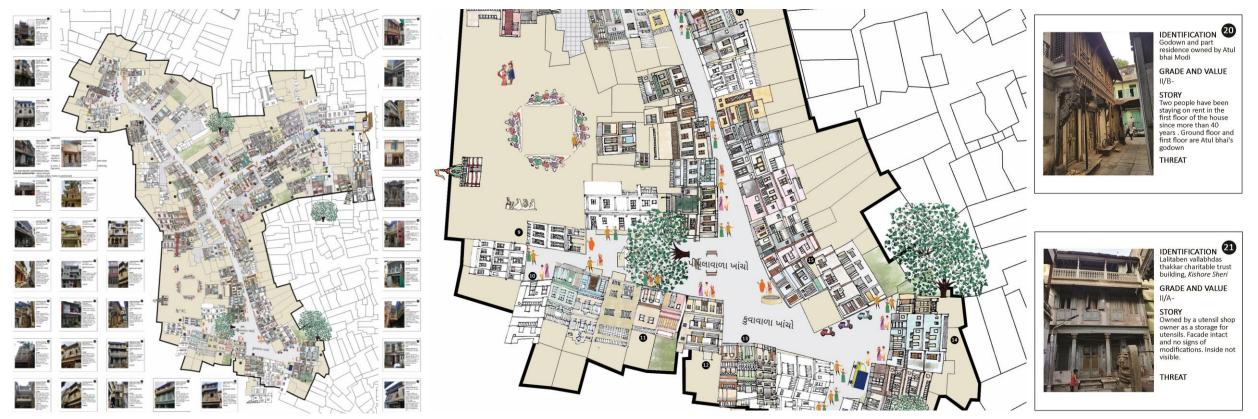






#### Mapping heritage assets

An illustrated map showing the built fabric along primary streets at Harkishandas Sheth ni pol, Mandvi ni pol, Ahmedabad with identification of structures of heritage value



Drawing credits: Ananya Das and Deepthi Varghese, Semester III, Masters in Conservation and Regeneration, CEPT University



#### **Community interaction**

Mapping occupational histories, oral narratives, collective memory and experiences that the residents identify and associate themselves with through interactive activities

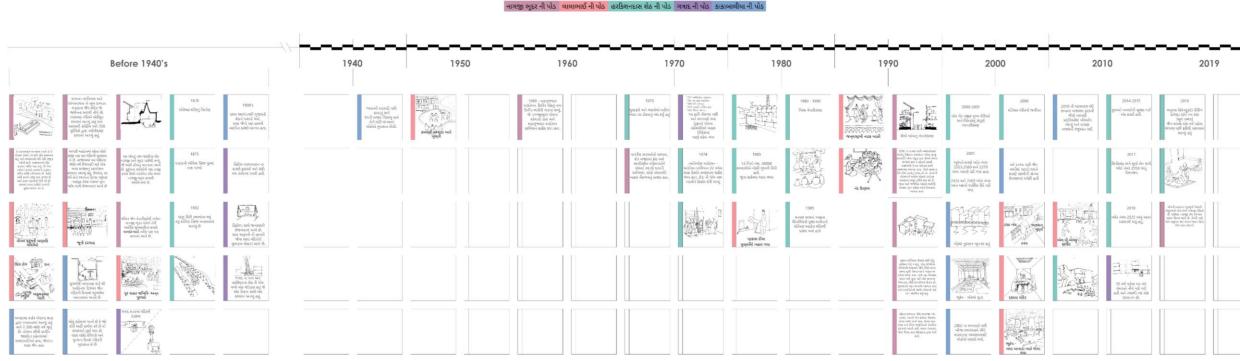


Image credits: Harshil Parekh



#### **Historic timeline**

A historic narrative developed based on community interaction and collective memory of the pol residents layered with historical facts



**સમયરેખા** માંડવી ની પોડ

Drawing credits: Aishwarya Jain, Ananya Das, Deepthi Varghese, Juhi Bafna, Priya R., Shreya Jain, Sruthi Rao and Yash Gupta, Semester III, Masters in Conservation and Regeneration, CEPT University



#### **Example: Syrian Heritage Archive Project**

Part of a network comprising of multiple projects of the Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin focusing on the documentation, preservation and presentation of Syrian heritage

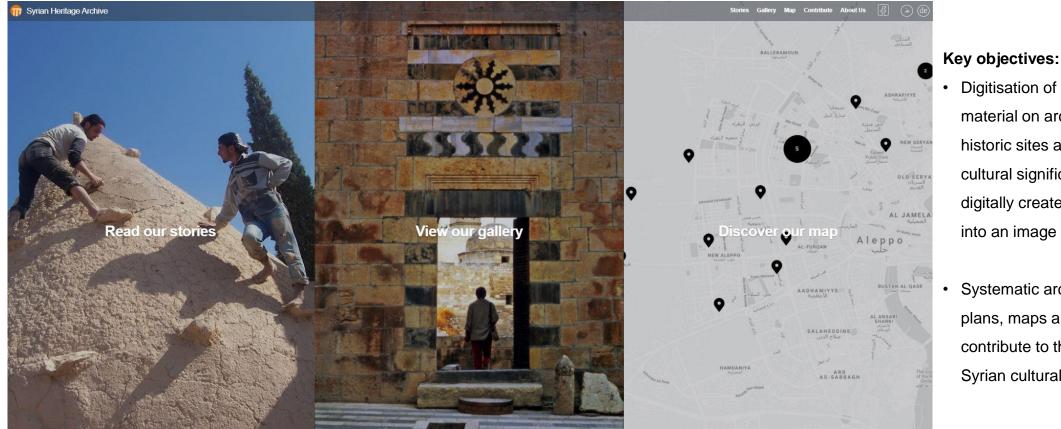


Image credits: https://syrian-heritage.org/. Accessed on May 13, 2021. Screenshot by Ashna Patel



Digitisation of abundant existing

historic sites and structures of

into an image database.

material on archeological and other

cultural significance including new

digitally created material integrated

Systematic archiving of photos,

contribute to the documentation of

Syrian cultural and natural heritage.

plans, maps and reports that

#### **Example: Syrian Heritage Archive Project**

A virtual platform where one can explore, learn about and get in touch with Syria's unique cultural landscape

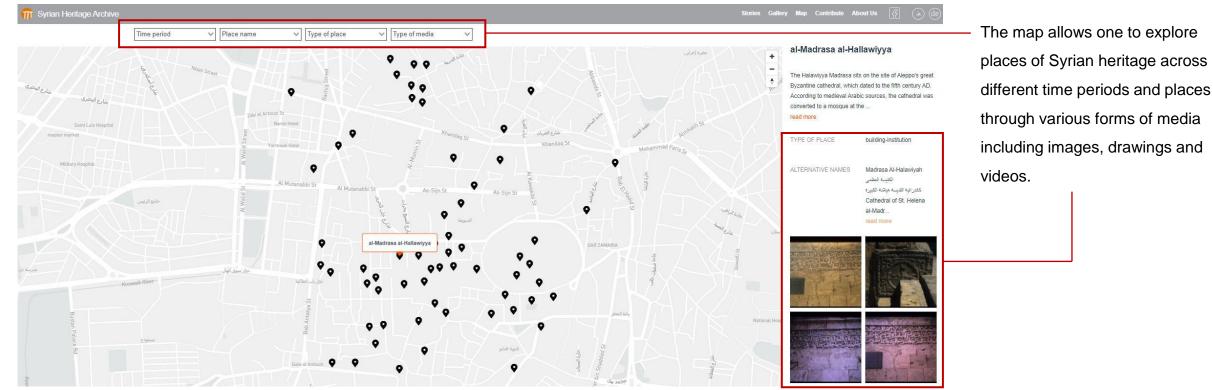


Image credits: https://syrian-heritage.org/map/. Accessed on May 13, 2021. Screenshot by Ashna Patel



#### **Example: Syrian Heritage Archive Project**

Stories on various aspects of tangible and intangible cultural heritage through articles, personal accounts, etc.

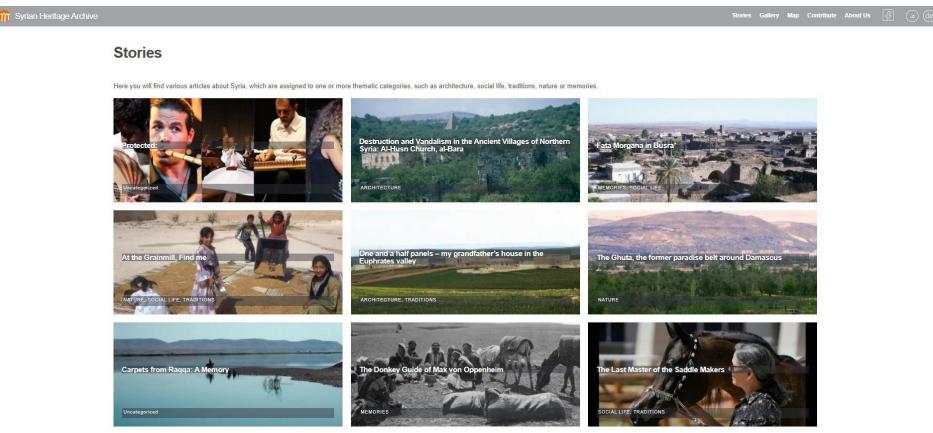
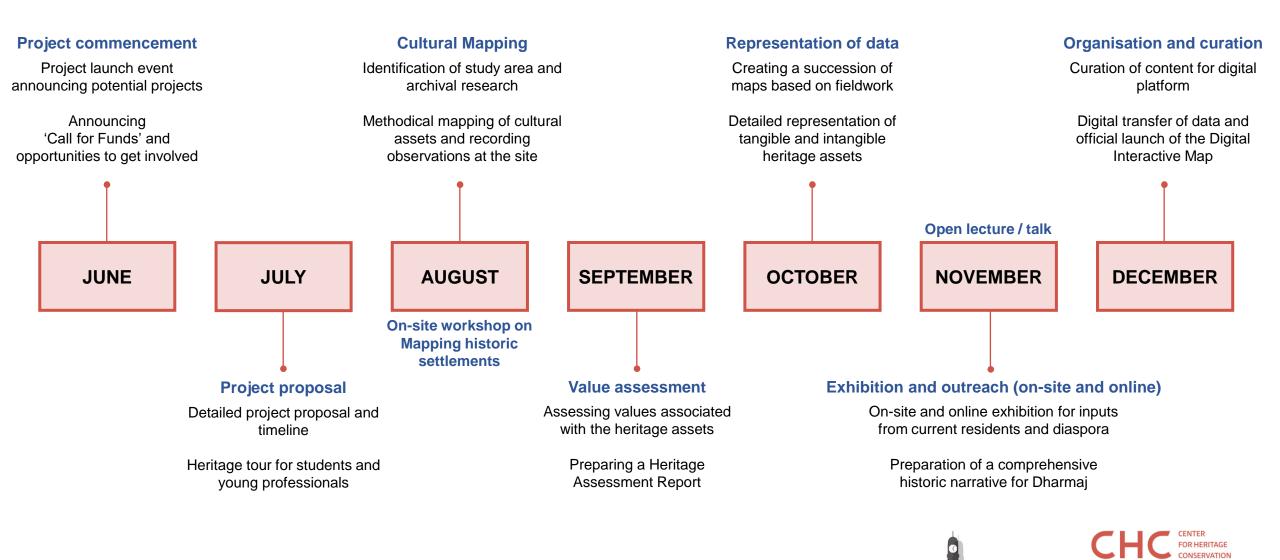


Image credits: https://syrian-heritage.org/map/themes/. Accessed on May 13, 2021. Screenshot by Ashna Patel

- Articles organized into thematic categories describing memories, experiences and information related to architecture, social life, traditions and nature in different places across the country.
- Most of these articles are written by scholars, experts and practitioners from the field of architecture and heritage conservation.





avichal

#### Estimated project costing

Experts and technical staff (documentation, digital transfer and historic narratives):

Rs. 8,00,000/-

Softwares and Hardwares required:

Rs. 3,00,000/-

Stationary, Printing and Publishing (for public meetings):

Rs. 4,50,000/-

Capacity Building Workshops for Long Term updates and operation:

Rs. 2,00,000/-

Travel and hospitality:

Rs. 5,00,000/-

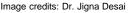
Administrative charges and overheads:

Rs. 2,50,000/-

Total:

Rs. 25,00,000/-









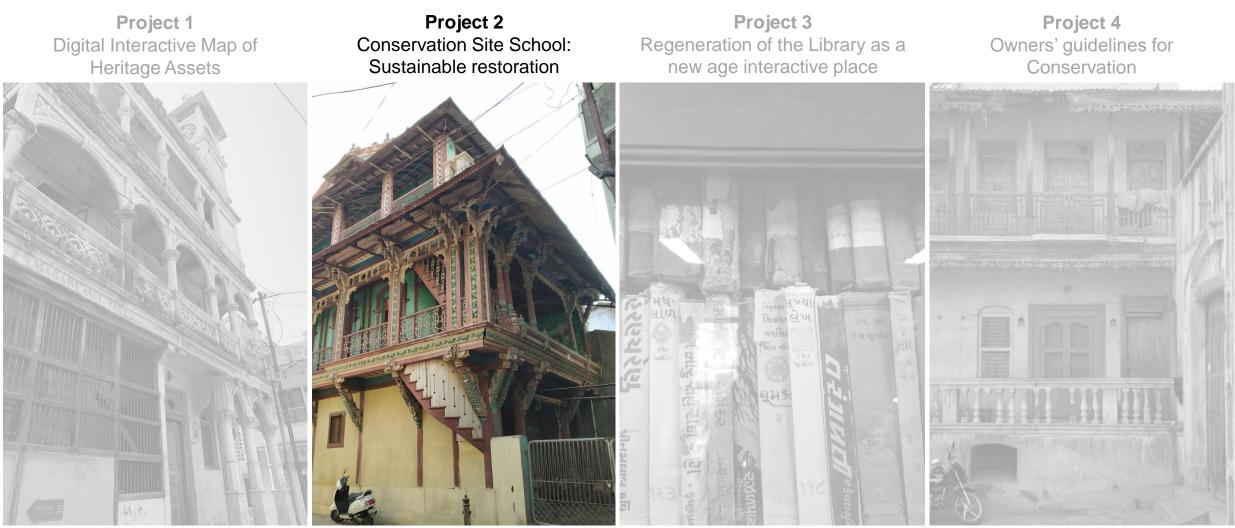


Image credits: (left to right) Dr. Jigna Desai, Avichal Heritage Foundation, Avichal Heritage Foundation, Dr. Jigna Desai



A pilot project demonstrating the process of conservation through educational and outreach activities, appealing to people who own a house in Dharmaj and want to give it a new life by conserving.

#### Introduction

- The built heritage of Dharmaj is representative of its traditional knowledge systems, local identity and historic narrative of the place.
- Considering the ongoing phenomenon of outmigration, much of this heritage remains neglected due to lack of active use or lack of funds and resources for maintenance.
- This project is an attempt to safeguard the built heritage of Dharmaj from deterioration through a pilot conservation project.
- It seeks to actively engage local residents and heritage enthusiasts through various training and volunteering opportunities.



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



#### **Project deliverables**

- Adopting two heritage structures in need of conservation interventions
- Detailed documentation and condition assessment including scientific investigation of issues
- On-site capacity building workshops and short courses for architects, site managers, craftspeople and students
- Conservation of the structures parallelly with the workshops and courses
- Public exhibitions and seminars showcasing ideas for conservation proposals

#### **Project outcomes**

- Active use of the sites through community consultation
- A digital platform showcasing the process of conservation along with site experiences and challenges
- Triggering action for heritage conservation in Dharmaj
- A team of skilled professionals, local craftspeople and site managers capable to conserve similar heritage assets in Dharmaj



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



#### CEPT Conservation Site School, Tankshal ni Pol Masjid, Tankshal ni Pol, Kalupur Ward 1, Ahmedabad

The Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF adopts a site in need of conservation interventions



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

CEPT Research & Development Foundation (CRDF) and Ahmedabad Sunni Muslim WAQF Committee (ASMWC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the first Conservation Site School at the Tankshal ni pol Masjid. The project is based on a premise that many heritage sites holding historic importance, are neglected due to the lack of active use or funds and resources. It aims to educate and sensitize people about conserving the various heritage sites around the city.



#### CEPT Conservation Site School, Tankshal ni Pol Masjid, Tankshal ni Pol, Kalupur Ward 1, Ahmedabad

Workshops and short courses on digital documentation of built heritage conducted at the site



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

The Conservation site school offers short courses to professionals, administrators, site supervisors, crafts people and students for developing an understanding of architectural conservation and urban regeneration. These short courses and workshops will be run from the site and in the process repair, restore the site that can eventually be handed over to the owner/custodian of the site.



#### CEPT Conservation Site School, Tankshal ni Pol Masjid, Tankshal ni Pol, Kalupur Ward 1, Ahmedabad

The first Open House for CEPT Conservation Site School at Tankshal Ni Pol Masjid held on 20th February 2021



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

Following COVID-19 protocols, on-site sessions were held with 15 registered participants in three sessions and one being reserved for the local community.

An inaugural lecture by Dr. Tutin Aryanti is a Ph.D., Head, Architecture Program, Department of Architectural Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, "On Segregation and Patronage: Making Women's Space in Indonesian Mosques" lent a new perspective to the site.



#### CEPT Conservation Site School, Tankshal ni Pol Masjid, Tankshal ni Pol, Kalupur Ward 1, Ahmedabad

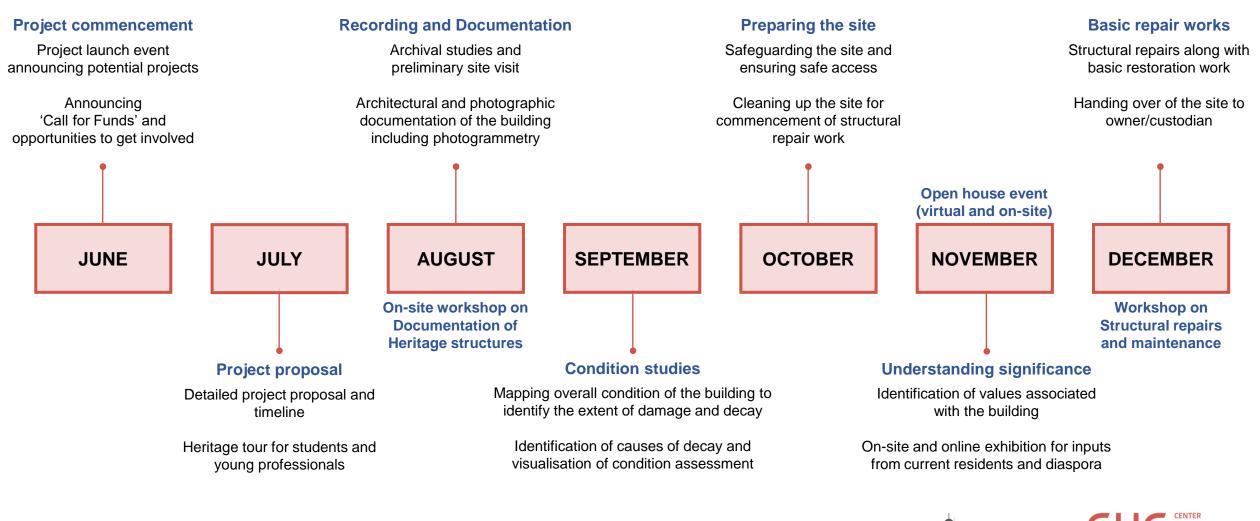
The first Open House for CEPT Conservation Site School at Tankshal Ni Pol Masjid held on 20th February 2021



Image credits: Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF

Local participation added to the success of the event by initiating interaction and awareness amongst the site's neighbours. An online orientation session was held where Dr. Jigna Desai, Executive Director, CHC presented a background of our site school initiative. CHC aims to raise funding through Crowd Fund, CSR Funds and voluntary contributions process in order to cover the cost for the Conservation Site School.







#### Estimated project costing

Recording, Documenting and Condition Studies:

Rs. 5,00,000/-

Shoring, Strutting and Cleaning:

Rs. 2,50,000/-

Basic Structural Repair Works (Tentative):

Rs. 15,00,000/-

Repairing services (Tentative):

Rs. 2,50,000/-

Total:

Rs. 25,00,000/-



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation



## How can you contribute?

#### Funds

Funding is now open for the following projects:

'Digital Interactive Map of Heritage Assets'

Rs. 25,00,000/-

'Conservation Site School: Sustainable Restoration of two structures' Rs. 25,00,000/-

#### Pledge your donation

We request you to donate generously to this initiative. Your support will be acknowledged on all information disseminated around this initiative through the web presence of Center for Heritage Conservation (CHC), CRDF and Avichal Heritage Foundation through newsletters about the project.

Fill out the form below to 'Pledge your donation' https://forms.gle/cpY69MS48uTP2xdB9 We will respond back to you with our bank details.



Image credits: Avichal Heritage Foundation





FOR HERITAGE

### **Get involved**

Nominate your building

Suggest heritage structures in Dharmaj for the Conservation Site School initiative.

#### Permission for access

Grant permission to access sites that can be included as part of documentation and research activities undertaken as part of the initiative.

Fill out the form below to nominate or grant access to a building: <u>https://forms.gle/mEyNywoVtX3Y8wEC6</u>

#### Share your personal archives

Share your photographs, memories of Dharmaj with us. Write to us at <u>chc@cept.ac.in</u> or <u>info@avichal.org</u>

#### Volunteer

We welcome you to volunteer for various project-related activities. Fill out the form below to volunteer with us: <u>https://forms.gle/mEyNywoVtX3Y8wEC6</u> We will reach out to you with available opportunities.



Image credits: Jayeshbhai Patel (Culcuttawala), Dharmaj



### Spread the word

Help us by spreading the word about the Dharmaj Heritage Collaborative and encouraging donations and volunteers.

Follow us on our social handles:



@chccept | @ceptresearch@avichalheritagefoundation



facebook.com/chccept/ facebook.com/AvichalHeritageFoundation/



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