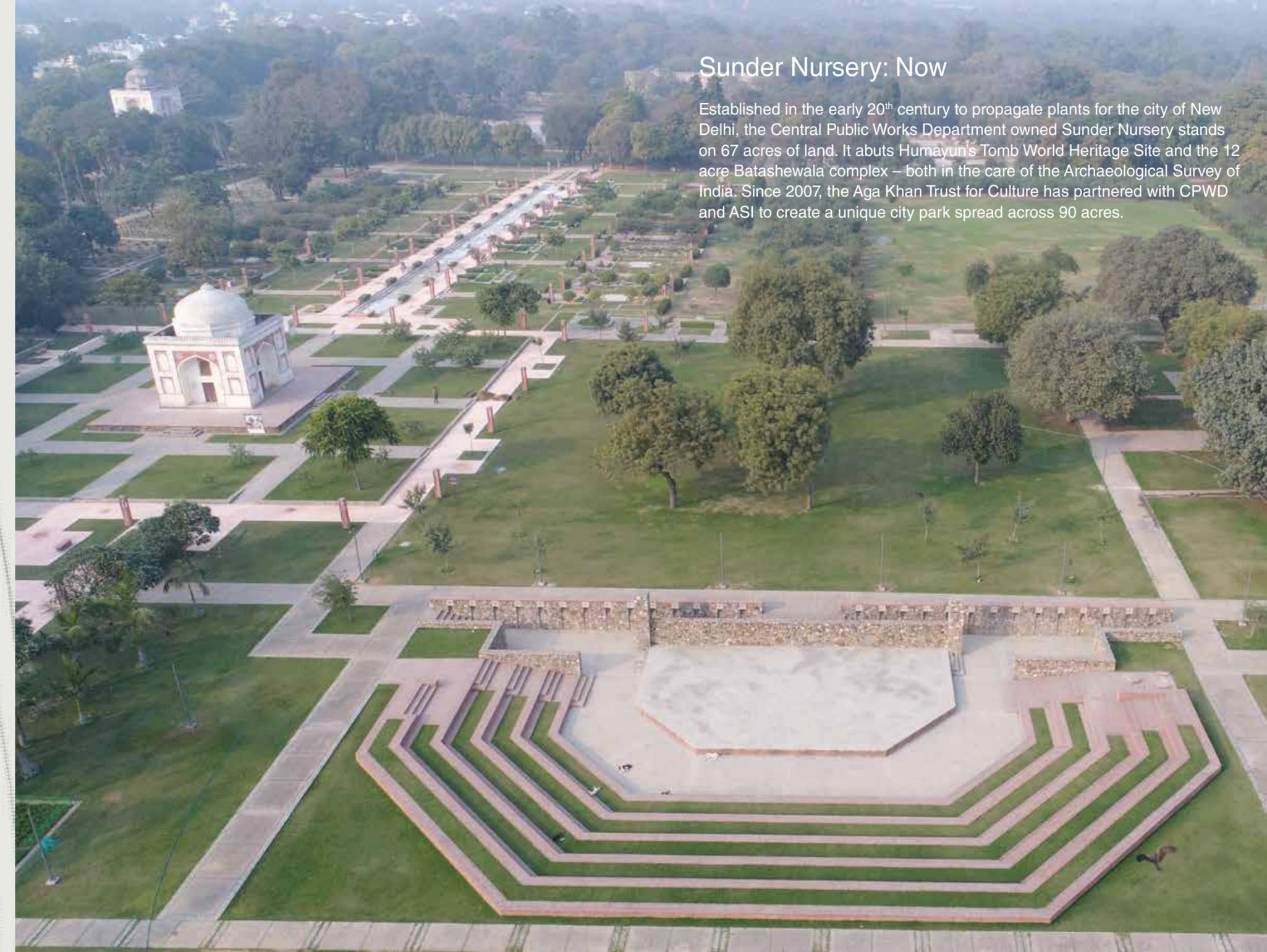


## SUNDER NURSERY Landscape Masterplan

The landscape master plan, designed by Shaheer Associates has created a truly urban scale, deriving inspiration from the traditional Indian concept of congruency between nature, garden and utility coupled with environmental conservation. In addition to the formal landscape in the setting of the monuments, a micro-habitat zone has been created for flora that occupies Delhi's ridge, river edge, plains and other specialised zones.

To upgrade CPWD nursery operations, 20 acres are dedicated for nursery functions. An effective irrigation system has also been installed to optimize the use of water and ensure rainwater harvesting.

To create a haven for birds, large portions have been planted as bird habitat and being secured to protect ground nesting birds. The water bodies will also encourage migratory birds.



### Sunder Nursery: Now

Established in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to propagate plants for the city of New Delhi, the Central Public Works Department owned Sunder Nursery stands on 67 acres of land. It abuts Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site and the 12 acre Batashewala complex – both in the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. Since 2007, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture has partnered with CPWD and ASI to create a unique city park spread across 90 acres.

Sunder Burj, 2008



Sunder Burj: Now

The landscape master plan includes a ceremonial heritage corridor - the Central Vista stretching from the shared entrance with Humayun's Tomb Complex in the south and leading to the Mughal-era Azimganj Serai in the north



Sunder Nursery, 2008



Sunder Burj Garden: Now

The entrance zone of Sunder Nursery comprises a lotus pond, a series of sunken gardens and spaces for annual flower beds at various levels.



Sunder Nursery, 2008



## Sunder Nursery Amphitheatre Area

To provide a platform for local musicians and music traditions within the picturesque setting amidst monuments, an amphitheatre has been created, which will serve the large school groups and used for cultural performances.



Sunder Burj and adjoining area in 2008-09



Sunder Burj Garden: Now



Sunder Burj and adjoining area in 2008-09



Sunder Burj Garden: Now



Sunder Burj and adjoining area in 2008-09



Sunder Burj Garden: Now

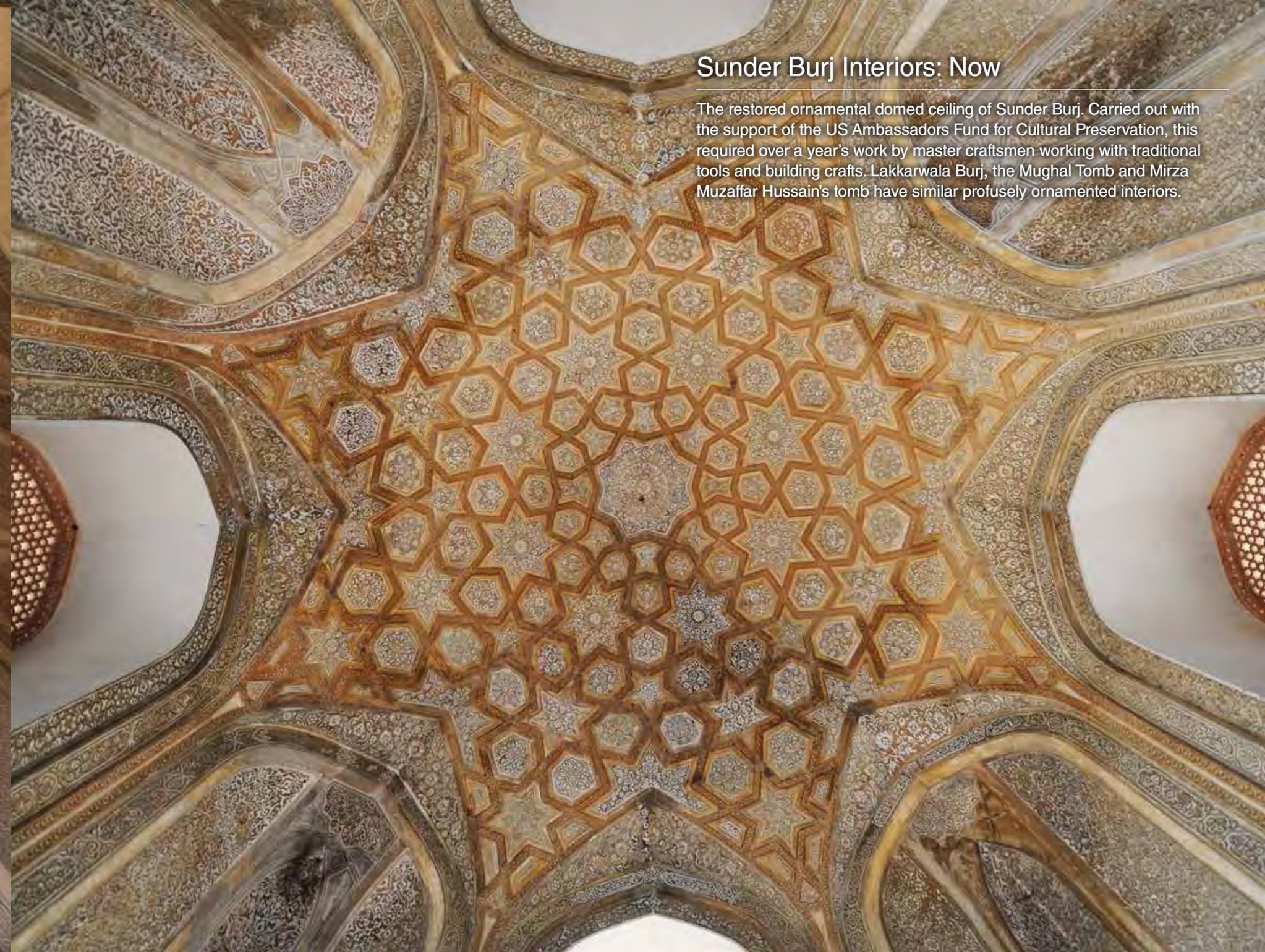


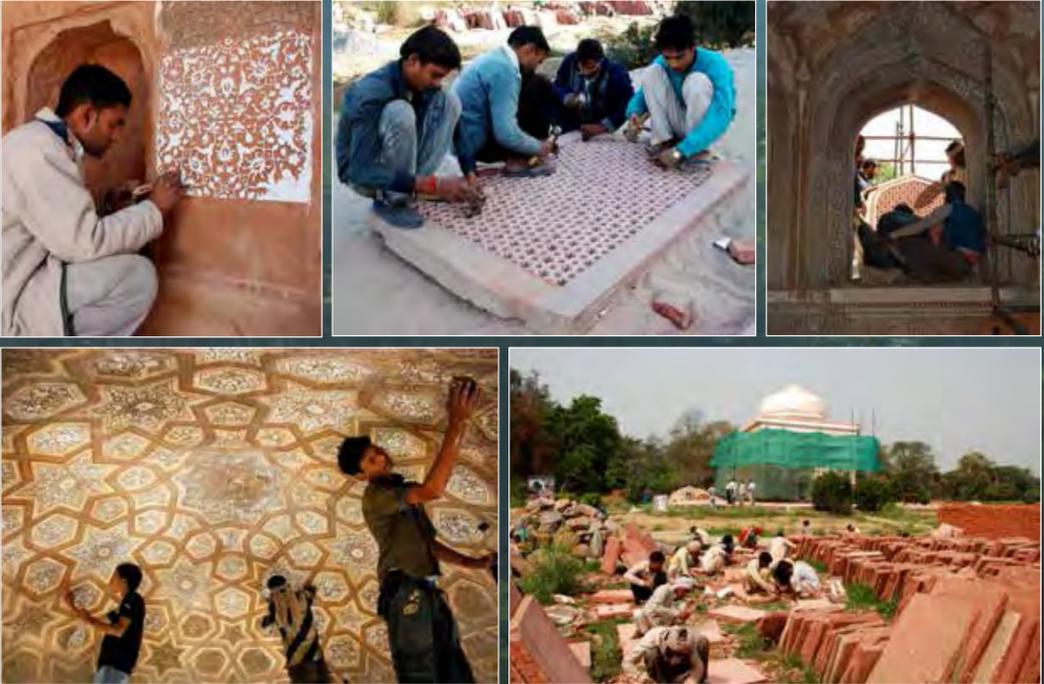
Sunder Burj interiors  
in 2008-09



Sunder Burj Interiors: Now

The restored ornamental domed ceiling of Sunder Burj. Carried out with the support of the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, this required over a year's work by master craftsmen working with traditional tools and building crafts. Lakkarwala Burj, the Mughal Tomb and Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's tomb have similar profusely ornamented interiors.





Sunder Burj: Various stages of conservation



# Sunder Burj & Garden

## CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE

View of the nursery from  
Sunder Burj in 2008



View of Sunder Nursery from Sunder Burj: Now

An amphitheatre on 1/3rd acre would serve as a venue for school groups and cultural performances in a garden setting



View of the nursery around  
Sunder Burj in 2008-09



View of Sunder Nursery around  
Sunder Burj: Now



Area around Sunder Burj  
in 2008



## Sunder Nursery Central Axis

The design of this 560 m vista is inspired by the Persian carpet design and includes a central portion that in future years will form the heart of Sunder Nursery for visitors.

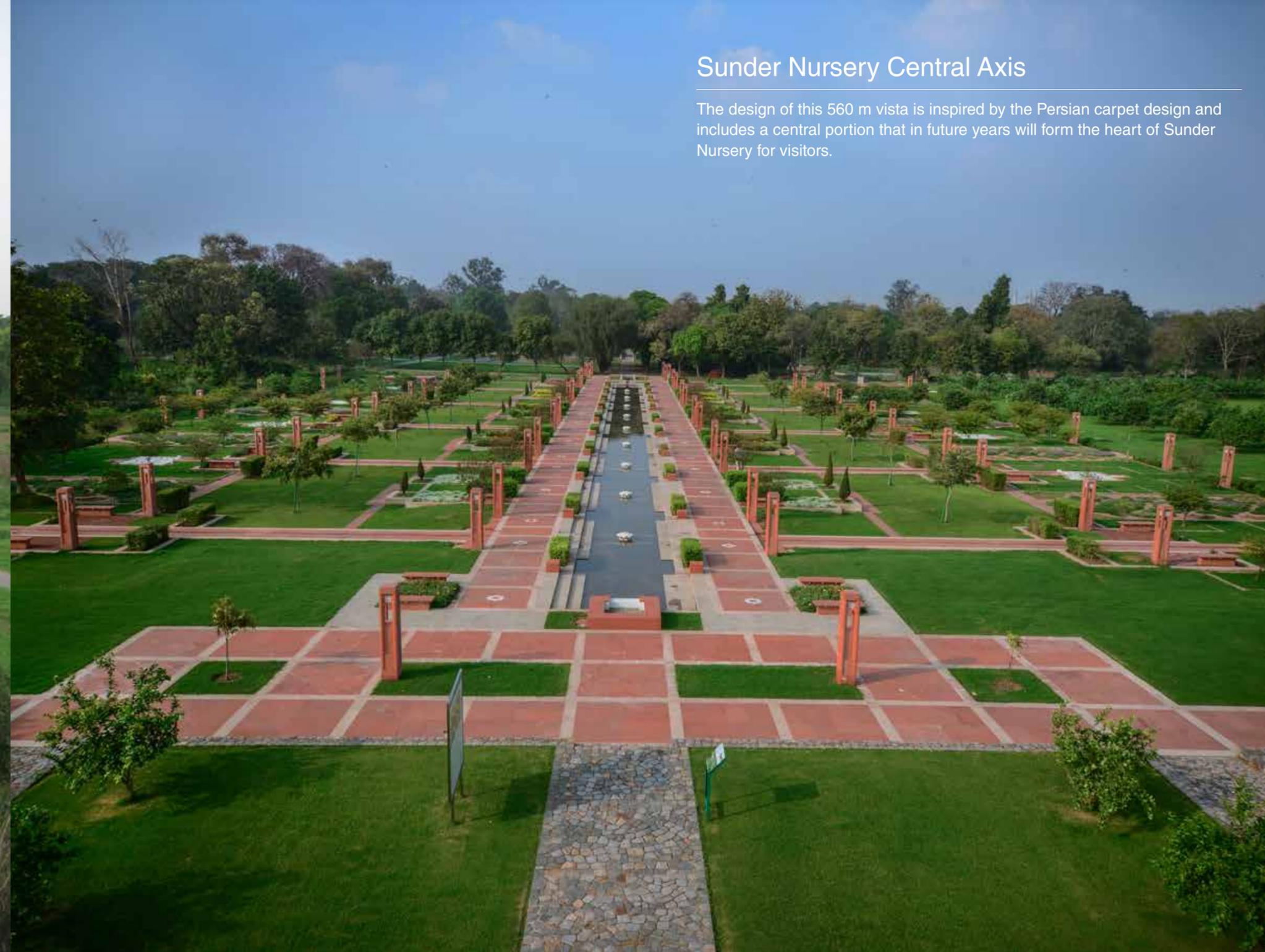


Area around Sunder Burj  
in 2008



## Sunder Nursery Central Axis

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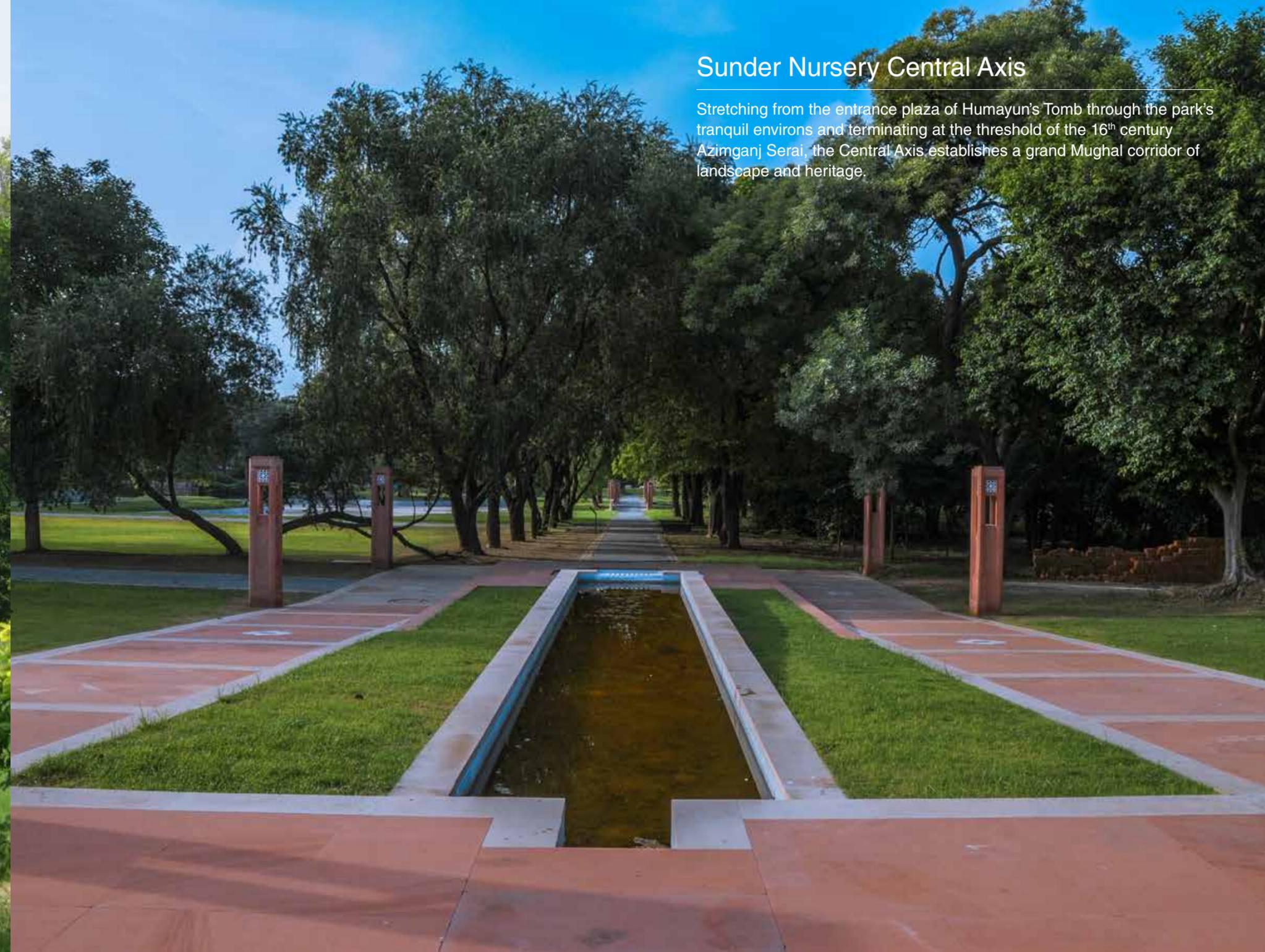


Sunder Nursery in 2008



Sunder Nursery Central Axis

Stretching from the entrance plaza of Humayun's Tomb through the park's tranquil environs and terminating at the threshold of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Azimganj Serai, the Central Axis establishes a grand Mughal corridor of landscape and heritage.



Area around Sunder Burj  
in 2008



Sunder Nursery Central Axis



The 550 m long central vista at Sunder Nursery is inspired by 16<sup>th</sup> century garden traditions. Flowing water, monolithic marble fountains, formal flowerbeds, form the heart of this vista, at the end of which is a 4 acre lake.

Viewed from the higher plinth of the Sunderwala Burj, with the sun behind the visitor, the garden would appear to be spread like a carpet, a fascinating foreground to the massed vegetation behind.

## **THE GRAND VISTA**

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### **Gardens of Central Axis**



Sunder Burj and Lotus Pond  
in 2008



Sunder Burj and Lotus Pond: Now

The design of this 560 m vista is inspired by the Persian carpet design and includes a central portion that in future years will form the heart of Sunder Nursery for visitors.



After restoration of lotus pond, a plaza has been built around it, which is based around three mature trees, making it a quaint area within the nursery.



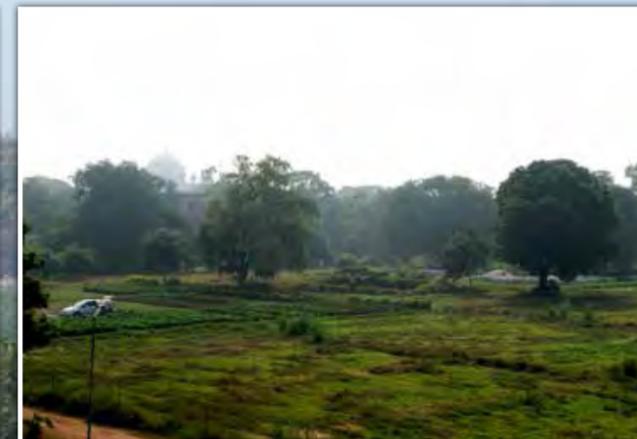
Sunder Nursery in 2008-09



**ENTRANCE ZONE**  
**Creating Formal Gardens**

Sunder Nursery stands within the Sufi landscape and also home to 700 years of living culture and musical traditions. Hāzrat Amir Khusrau 'Dehlavi', who created the Qawwali music traditions here in the 14th century.

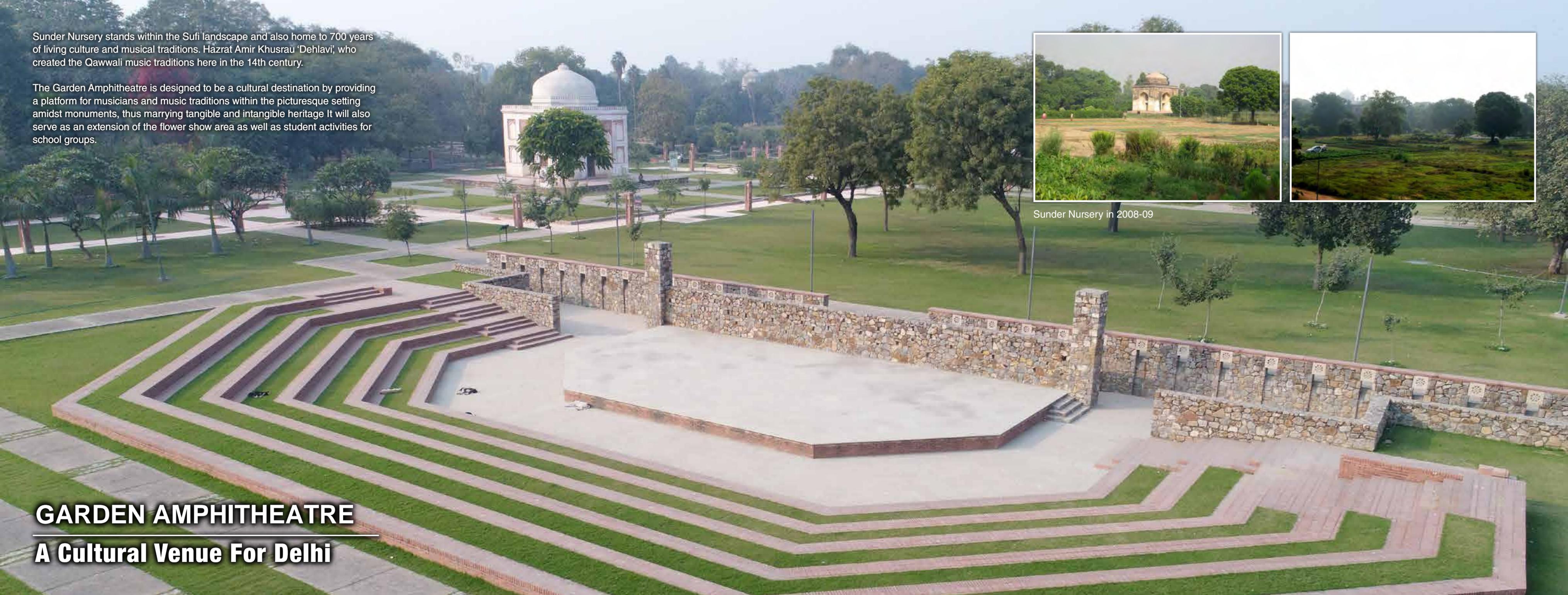
The Garden Amphitheatre is designed to be a cultural destination by providing a platform for musicians and music traditions within the picturesque setting amidst monuments, thus marrying tangible and intangible heritage. It will also serve as an extension of the flower show area as well as student activities for school groups.



Sunder Nursery in 2008-09

## **GARDEN AMPHITHEATRE**

### **A Cultural Venue For Delhi**





Sunder Nursery illumination during night: Now



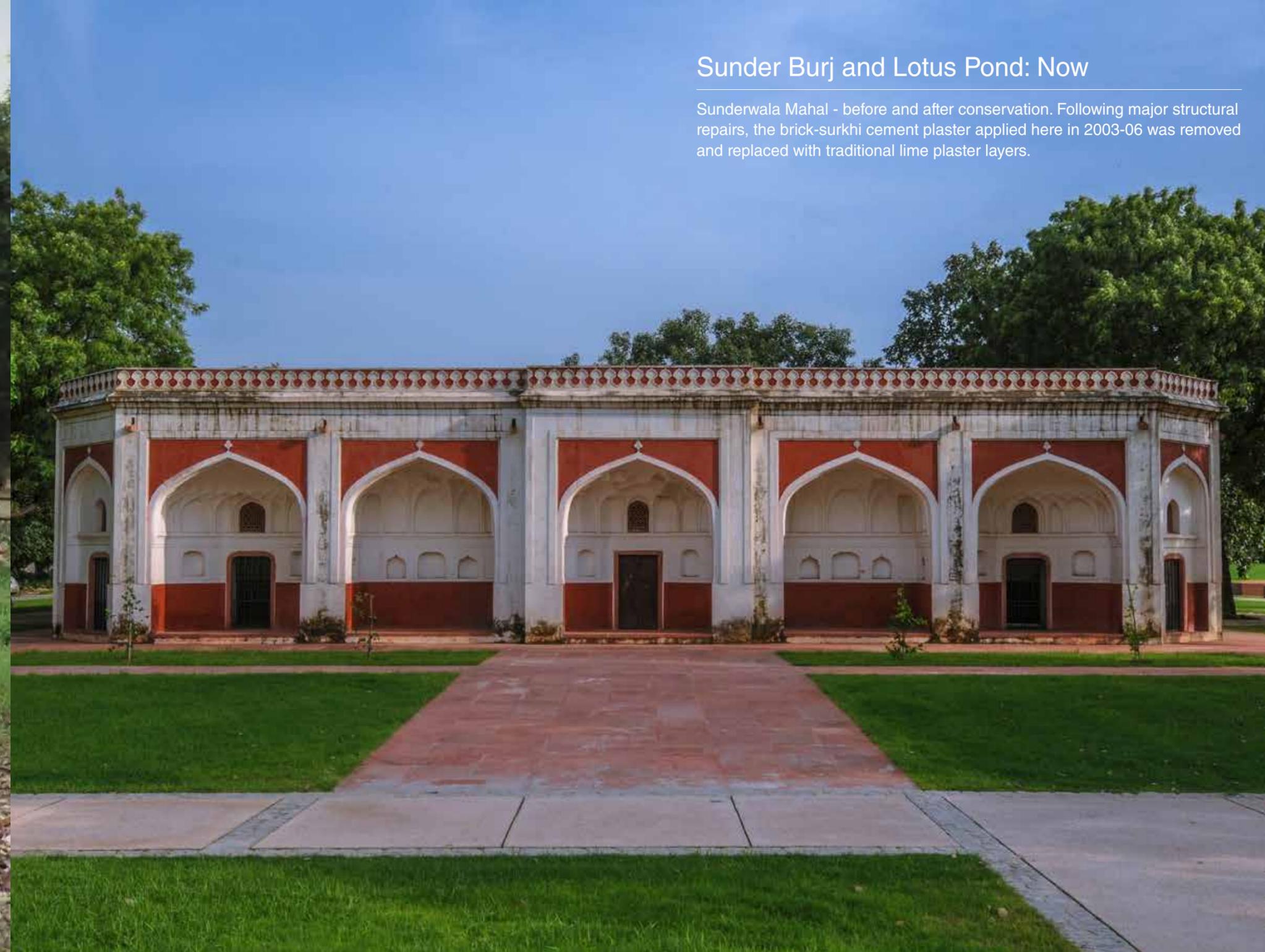
**SUNDER NURSERY**  
**Delhi's Central Park**

Sunderwala Mahal  
in 2008



Sunder Burj and Lotus Pond: Now

Sunderwala Mahal - before and after conservation. Following major structural repairs, the brick-surkhi cement plaster applied here in 2003-06 was removed and replaced with traditional lime plaster layers.



Area around Sunderwala Mahal  
in 2008



Sunderwala Mahal and its Garden: Now



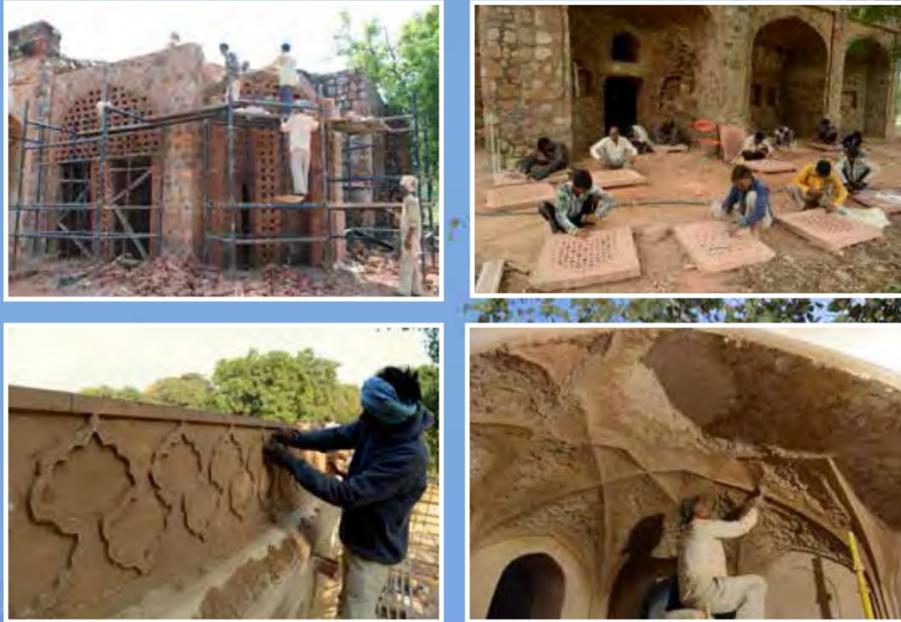
Area around Sunderwala Mahal  
in 2008



Area around Sunderwala Mahal: Now



Sunderwala Mahal and its Garden: Now



Various stages of conservation of Sunderwala Mahal



**Sunderwala Mahal & Garden**  
**CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE**

Lakkarwala Burj in 2008



Lakkarwala Burj and its Garden: Now

To the east of Lakkarwala Burj, a rose garden was created in 2010, which has 31 beds with 19 rose varieties.



Lakkarwala Burj interiors in 2008



Lakkarwala Burj interiors: Now



Area around Lakkarwala Burj  
in 2008-09



Lakkarwala Burj and its Garden: Now



Area around Lakkarwala Burj  
in 2008



Lakkarwala Burj and its Garden: Now

Creating a pleasant garden and enhance the historical setting  
of the Lakkarwala Burj, a 16th century Mughal monument.





Various stages of conservation of Lakkarwala Burj



**Lakkarwala Burj & Garden**  
**CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE**

Sunder Nursery in 2008



Sunder Nursery: Now



Sunder Nursery Lake:  
work-in-progress



Sunder Nursery Lake:  
Craftsmen hand-carving the stone chaddar/  
cascade which is landscape element in the lake.



Various stages of craftsmanship of the sandstone *chaddar/ cascade*



Sunder Nursery bonsai collection in 2008



## Sunder Nursery Bonsai House

To store the Bonsai collection in a manner befitting its significance and allowing appropriate display, a Bonsai houses, displaying 373 bonsai of 34 varieties was built in 2012.



Arched Platform in  
2001



Arched Platform: Now

This structure is recorded to have been profusely ornamented with glazed tiles, no fragment of which has survived. Conservation works were required to stabilize the platform as well as reconstruct the collapsed archway.



Mughal Pavilion in 2008



Garden Pavilion,  
2013



Mughal Garden Pavilion: Now

Mughal Pavilion Garden  
in 2009 during landscape  
development works



Mughal Pavilion Garden: Now



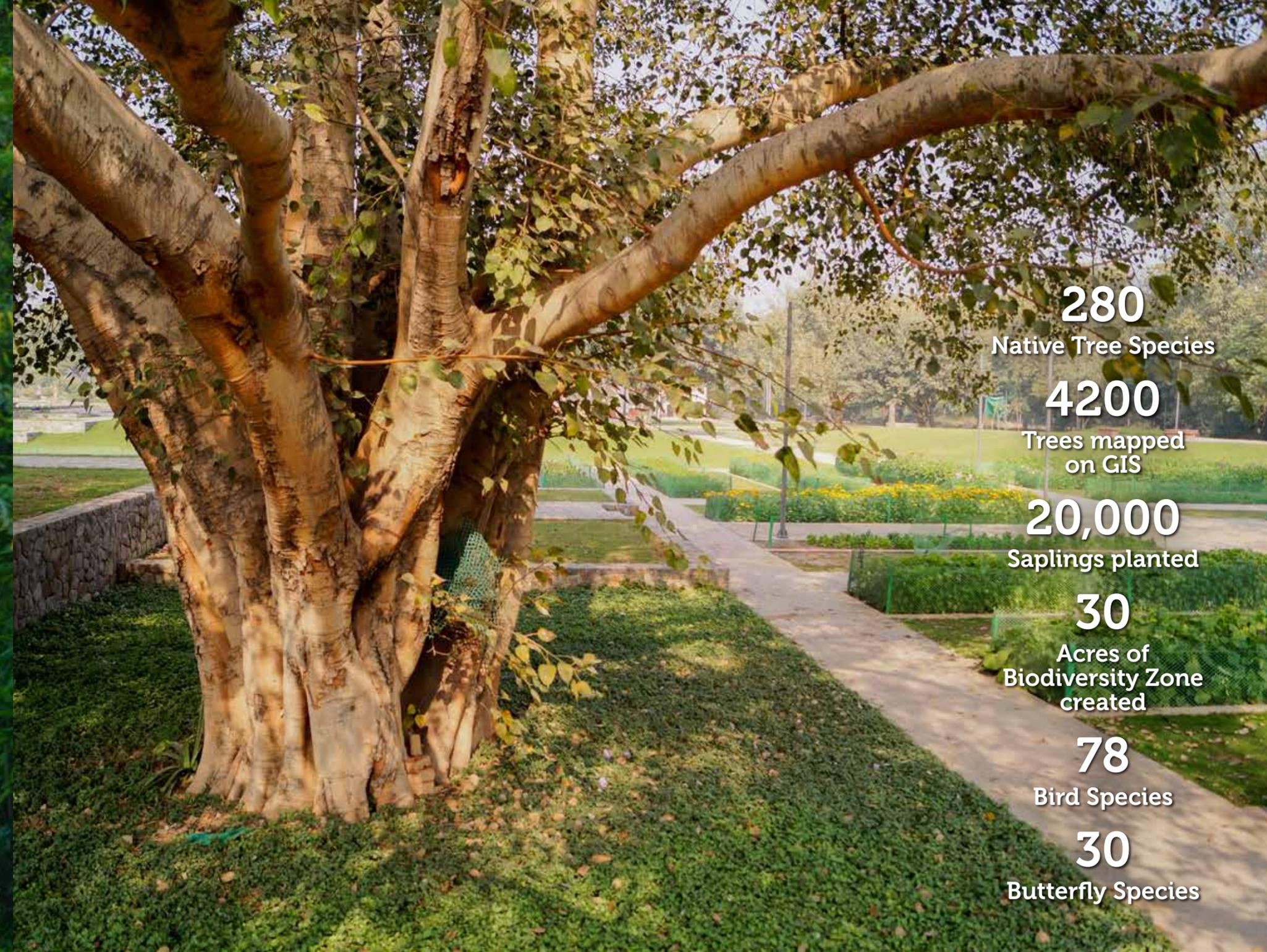


This unique structure could have also been a mausoleum or simply a garden pavilion. Built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Lakhori brick, the façade is ornamented in a floral style. The building was in a ruinous state with the red sandstone brackets, lattice screens and parapet removed from here – all requiring restoration together with the missing stucco plasterwork. Major repairs were also required to the flat dome – portions of which had caved-in.

**Mughal Garden Pavilion**  
**CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE**



**Sunder Nursery**  
**BIODIVERSITY ZONE**



**280**  
Native Tree Species

**4200**  
Trees mapped  
on GIS

**20,000**  
Saplings planted

**30**  
Acres of  
Biodiversity Zone  
created

**78**  
Bird Species

**30**  
Butterfly Species



**BIRD MAPPING**



**BUTTERFLY MAPPING**



Sunder Nursery: Marking of rivulet boundaries in 2012-13



Sunder Nursery rivulets area: Now



Sunder Nursery in 2008.



Sunder Nursery Lake: Now

A Lake has been created in the low-lying area, which will also serve as a holding tank for water required for irrigation.



Sunder Nursery in 2008-09:  
before landscape development



## Sunder Nursery Biodiversity Zone

Over 20,000 saplings of over 280 tree species have been planted at Sunder Nursery over the past decade. A 30 acre ecological zone has been created for awareness amongst visiting school children. This zone boasts of micro-habitats representing those historically found in the Delhi region such as ridge, riverine, marshy areas complete with their associated planting.





## Creating Microhabitat Zone

To enhance the ecological significance of the region, a 30-acre microhabitat zone has been created within Sunder Nursery to simulate Delhi's once rich and now quickly disappearing biodiversity, including kohi (hilly), khadar (riverine), bangar (alluvial) and dabar (marshy) zones featuring over 100 regional tree species unique to the region.





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**Microhabitat Area**  
**BIODIVERSITY ZONE**

Sunder Nursery northern  
edge in 2008-09



**Creating Nursery Beds**  
**NURSERY DEVELOPMENT**

## Enhancing Nursery Functions

As part of the project, over 20 acres of nursery beds have been created for the Central Public Works Department as central Delhi's largest nursery. Nursery infrastructure such as glass house, mist chambers is also being built.



Sunder Nursery northern edge in 2008-09



Sunder Nursery northern edge: Now



Sunder Nursery in 2008



Azimganj Serai forecourt garden: Now



Wasteland on northern edge has been converted to a 10 acre nursery beds suited for CPWD horticultural operations

Sunder Nursery in 2008



Sunder Nursery: Now



Sunder Nursery in 2008



Sunder Nursery: Now



View of the Azimganj Serai from Sunder Nursery in 2009



View of the Azimganj Serai from Sunder Nursery: Now



Northern area of  
Sunder Nursery in 2008



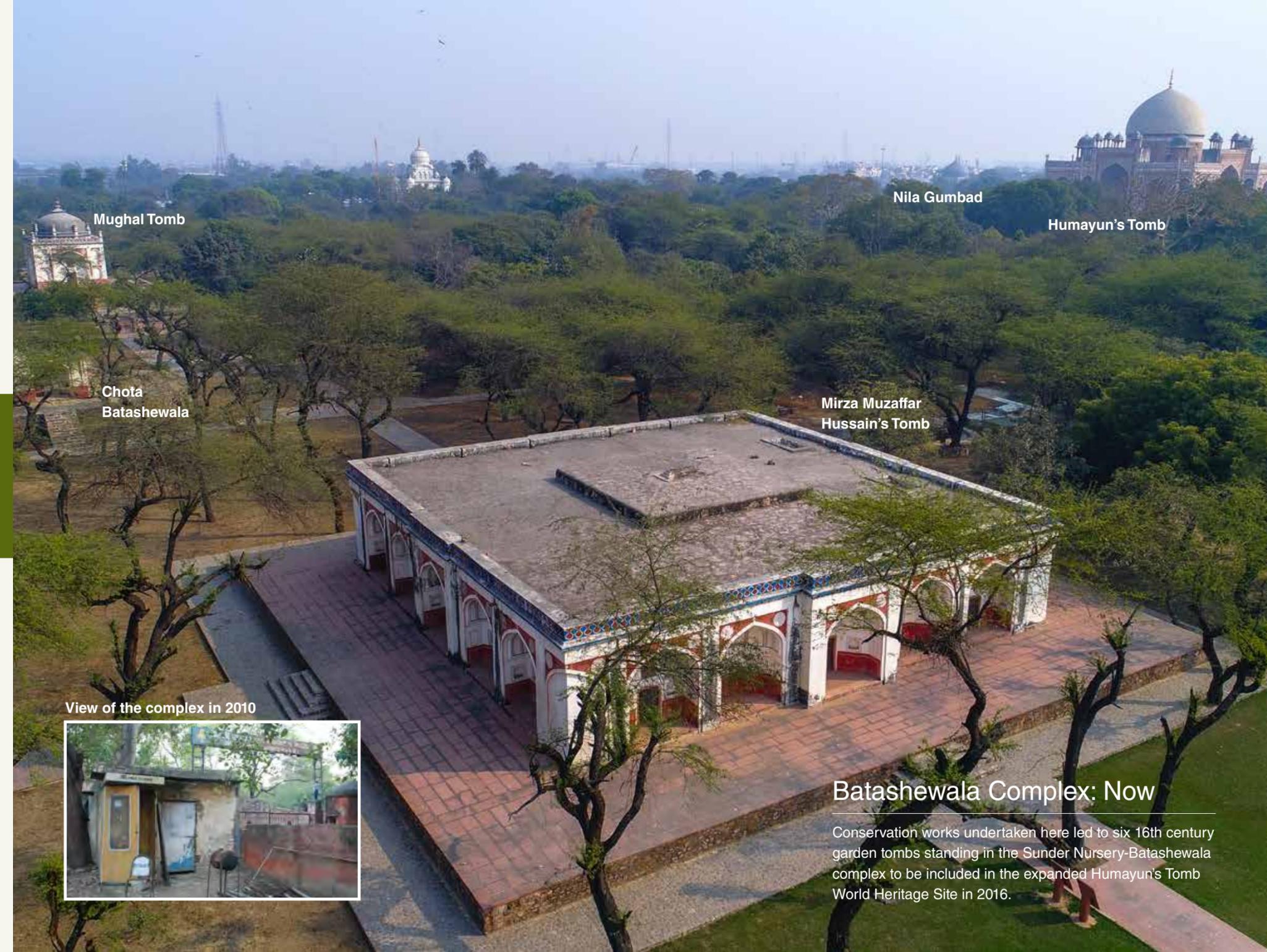
Northern Edge of Sunder Nursery: Now

Introduction of a 3 km long road along periphery keeping vehicular traffic at the boundary of the site rather than allowing traffic to indiscriminately mingle with pedestrian movement as was occurring



# BATASHEWALA COMPLEX

Development works carried out since 2011



Mughal Tomb

Nila Gumbad

Humayun's Tomb

Chota  
Batashewala

Mirza Muzaffar  
Hussain's Tomb

View of the complex in 2010



## Batashewala Complex: Now

Conservation works undertaken here led to six 16th century garden tombs standing in the Sunder Nursery-Batashewala complex to be included in the expanded Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site in 2016.

## Batashewala Complex in 2010

In 1989, over 150 'temporary buildings' were erected within the enclosed gardens. Following over 10 years of effort by AKTC which included litigation, these were demolished in 2010 and land reclaimed by the Archaeological Survey of India.



## Batashewala Complex: Now

Conservation of monuments was coupled with landscape restoration within the enclosed garden setting.



Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's  
Tomb Interiors in 2010-11



Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's  
Tomb Interiors: Now

Geometric patterns in incised plaster-work were restored where missing or damaged by master craftsmen using traditional tools, materials and techniques that would have been used by the Mughal era builders.





Views of Batashewala Complex in 2010-11



## Tomb of Mirza Muzaffar Hussain

### CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE

In the 1950s, the ownership of this complex was given to the Bharat Scouts & Guides to serve as a camping ground. This led, in 1989, to the construction of 150 structures. Enclosure walls were demolished, disfiguring the landscape and the historic character. The levelling of land required to build the buildings also led to collapse of the Chota Batashewala – a protected monument – when its foundations were exposed. Following twelve years of effort by the ASI and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), the ownership was restored to the ASI in 2010, allowing systematic conservation and landscape restoration to be undertaken by the AKTC.

A grant from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation allowed an intensive three year conservation programme on the three monuments and their garden enclosures. On 18-April 2015, a completion ceremony of the project was presided by Mr. Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture (Government of India) and held in the presence of Dr. Michael Pelletier, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy.

With the completion of conservation works on this significant ensemble of sites, these three monuments are now part of the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site.

Mughal Tomb in 2012-13



Mughal Tomb: Now





Views of Mughal Tomb Garden in 2010-11

This lofty domed Mughal-era tomb stands on an elevated stone masonry plinth, giving it a fort-like appearance. The domed, decorative tomb, which is visible from afar, affords spectacular views of, and from, Humayun's Tomb.

The structure had suffered from inappropriate repairs in the 20th century. Careful interventions were required to restore the architectural intentions of the Mughal builders, including rebuilding the lower platform and removal of cement plaster, which was used here extensively.

Re-plastering with lime plaster included restoration of the intricate plasterwork on the parapet, interiors and facade. The sandstone lattice screens openings have been restored using Mirza Muzaffar Hussain's tomb as a model.

Collapsed portions of the comparatively low enclosure wall were rebuilt on the original foundations. Because the north-eastern portion had suffered from damage caused by landslides in the past, these portions were raised six metres. A neem orchard has been planted within the garden enclosure.

As with the larger Batashewala enclosure, the garden setting and enclosure wall of the Mughal tomb was required to be restored by AKTC together with conservation works on the monument.



**Mughal Tomb Garden**  
**CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPE**