

## PAKISTAN

# Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore

### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1981

Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Northern Circle of Archaeology  
Dept. of Archaeology & Museums (DOAM)  
Government of Pakistan  
Old Fort, Lahore  
Pakistan

### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C i, ii, iii

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed by the State Party  
The Shalamar Gardens, the Versailles of Pakistan, is an embodiment of the Mughal conception of a perfect garden, and represents their chaste aesthetic sense of landscape architecture at its best. Its deliciously cool and pleasant atmosphere, the calm waters of the canals, the 31 large tanks, 414 jetting fountains, 4 rippling and singing cascades, numerous cypresses and 15,700 feet of Khayabans (walkways) have endeared it to many. Perhaps there is no other garden in the World where nature and man have combined to make so much loveliness, and where history and legend have woven so much romance. [...] The Shalamar Gardens are laid out in three terraces descending 5m south to north, covering an area of 16 hectares, and surrounded by a high perimeter wall and corner turrets. It is a perfect garden divided into symmetrical parterres containing murmuring canals, the calm mirrored surface of ornamental tanks, splashing fountains, singing cascades, swaying cypresses, rosebushes, open-fronted pavilions, shady promenades, raised platforms and above all a deliciously cool and pleasant atmosphere.

Lahore Fort is the only monument in Pakistan that represents a complete history of Mughal architecture. It has a long history which has witnessed the dramatic rise and fall of the Mughals, the Sikhs and the Colonial rulers. The building of the Fort provides a link from the Emperor Akbar the great (1556-1605) to Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir (1658-1707).



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The Fort contains 30 monumental buildings erected in different periods which have added to its grandeur.

The architecture of Akbar's period is characterised by the use of red sandstone and cut brickwork. The use of animal figures such as lions, elephants and peacocks as well as sculptured gargoyles as brackets to support the *chajja* (eaves) in Jahangir's Quadrangle shows the Hindu elements in Mughal architecture. [...] The use of marble in place of red sandstone and the exuberance of Persian motifs, pietra dura and glazed tile mosaic work are the chief characteristics of these buildings.

The Fort is irregular in plan being about 1400 feet east to west and some 1100 feet north to south. It is girdled round by a strong fortification wall constructed in small burnt bricks. At intervals the wall is provided with bastions and loopholes for muskets. The main gates are located in the east and west walls. A gateway providing access to the private apartment of the royalty is located in the northwest corner. Essentially the Fort was a fortress palace that also served as a royal treasury and stronghold in the event of war.

The Fort has some 21 different monuments in it including Shish Mahal, Naulakha Pavilion, Diwan-e-Khas, Diwan-e-Aam, Jahangir's Quadrangle, Moti Masjid, Masti and Alamgiri Gates and the Pictured Wall.

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders of the Shalamar Garden are not considered adequate.
- "Due to rapid urbanisation, heavy encroachments around the Shalamar Garden have developed after the decline of the Mughal Dynasty.....a buffer zone/monument zone is desired to protect and preserve the monument and its surrounding".

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The World Heritage values of the property are considered to have been maintained.
- "New roads altering the original design and specifications, vehicular traffic, industrial installations and encroachments near and around the monument" are affecting the Shalamar Gardens.

## II.4 Management

### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The Director of the Northern Circle of Archaeology, DOAM, based in Lahore, is responsible for its management.
- The property's Management Plan describes the system of administration of the site.
- The property is protected under the Antiquities Act, 1975.
- Proposals are under consideration to amend and strengthen the Antiquities Act.

### Present State of Conservation

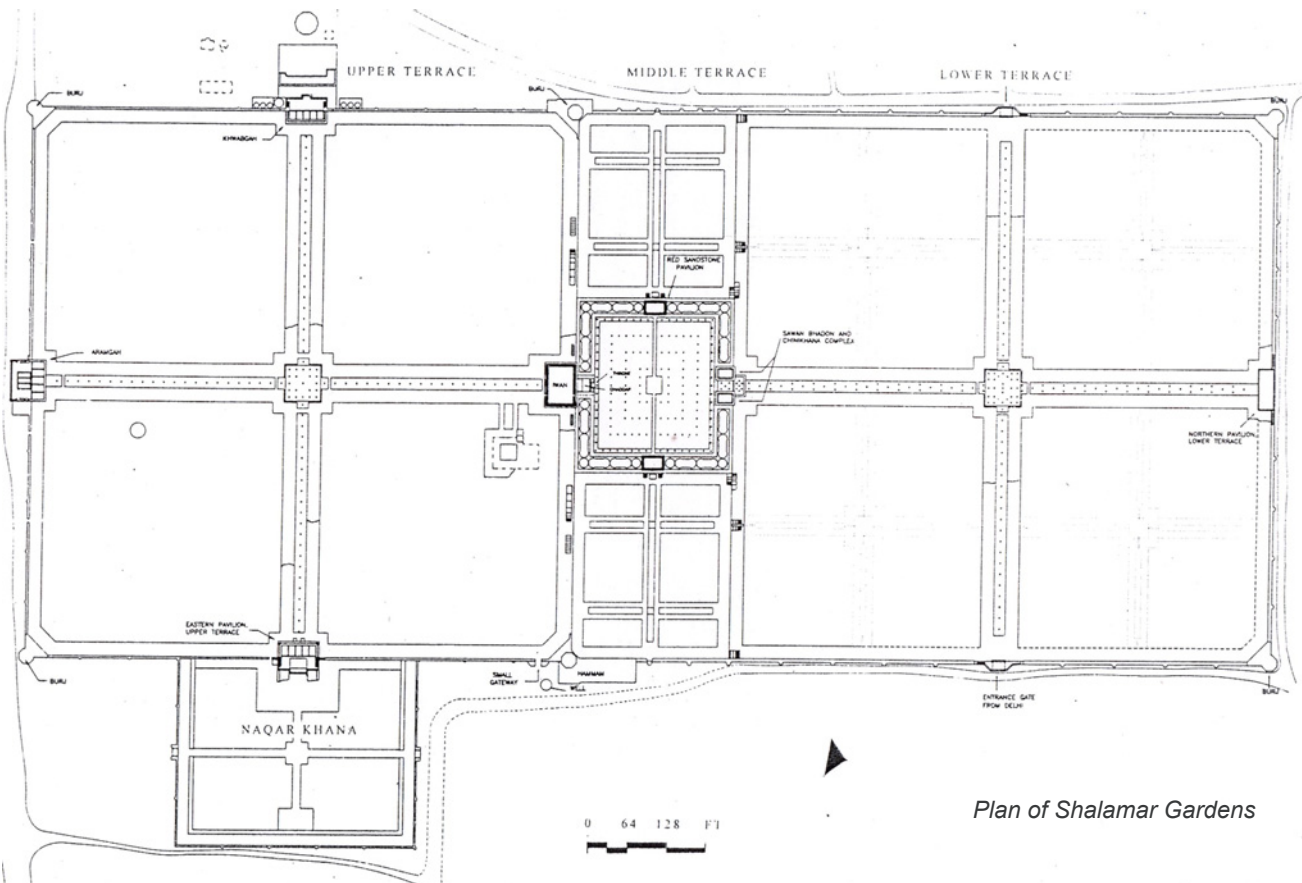
- Six conservation projects are underway in the Lahore Fort and four in the Shalamar Gardens.
- Staffing and Training Needs.
- The Fort contains the offices of the Northern Circle of Archaeology including curatorial staff, conservation cell, central archaeological laboratory, tile and mosaic laboratory, antiquity trade control branch, library and garden section.

*"Specific emergency plans are in process for Shish Mahal and other monuments in the Fort, and to address problems of encroachment and the hydraulic system in the Shalamar Gardens."*

- Shalamar Gardens has a Project Director/Senior Architect, archaeological conservator, garden staff, clerks and attendants. Staffing levels are viewed as inadequate and the Dept. is seeking to obtain more staff.
- Training needs are identified in the fields of curatorship, and conservation of wood, brick, stone, marble and frescoes, chemical treatment, hydraulics and landscaping for conservators.

### Financial Situation

- Funding for the site comes from the annual Regular Budget of the Ministry of Culture and other Government programmes.
- Funding is recognised as inadequate.
- \* International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1981, US\$39,000 Emergency Assistance for Lahore Fort; (ii) 1981, US\$11,000 Emergency Assistance for Shalamar Gardens; (iii) 1999, US\$5,000 Promotional Assistance for on site signage; (iv) 1999, US\$10,000 Technical Assistance for archaeological, soil and design research for Shalamar Gardens; (v) 2000, US\$50,000 Emergency Assistance for elaboration of a comprehensive management plan.



Plan of Shalamar Gardens

### Access to IT

- There is no access to IT at the property.

### Visitor Management

- The Fort had 1.53 million visitors in 2001 (1.43 million Adults, 105,958 Students, Children and Soldiers, and 7,325 Foreign Tourists).
- Shalamar Gardens had 308,373 visitors in 2001 (217,089 Adults, 87,604 Students and Children, and 3,680 Foreign Tourists).
- Shop, refreshment and toilet facilities are available on the site, but the need for improved visitor information and children facilities has been identified.
- The need for a Visitor Management Plan is recognised.
- An information booklet is available at the site, but there is no education programme.
- Inscription on the WH List is seen as a major factor affecting the number of visitors to the site.

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Inappropriate alterations, additions & damage in the period before Pakistan's independence.
- Age, water, humidity, temperature and wind.
- Chemical & electrochemical pollution.
- Uncontrolled growth of vegetation.
- Insect infestation.
- Earthquakes, floods & sudden downpours of rain.

### Counteractive Plans

- There is an acknowledged need for an emergency or risk preparedness plan.
- Specific emergency plans are in process for Shish Mahal and other monuments in the Fort, and to address problems of encroachment and the hydraulic system in Shalamar Gardens.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- The Ministry of Culture's Planning Section monitors projects.
- The Science and Technological Universities of Pakistan, Soil Investigation Laboratory Lahore, the Geological Survey of Pakistan, Environmental Dept. and others have been involved in monitoring exercises.
- The Dept. provides regular site monitoring according to Sir John Marshall's Conservation Manual.
- "Some studies of the factors of deterioration have been carried out, like pollution responsible for deterioration of Lahore Fort"

### Monitoring Indicators

- An Environmental Monitoring System, chemical laboratory and documentation centre are proposed as keys to developing site-monitoring indicators.



*Eastern Pavillion at Middle Terrace  
before restoration*



*Eastern Pavillion at Middle Terrace  
after restoration*

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- The present management plan is recognised as not sufficient to care for the site. The principal natural threats are identified under four headings: (i) Physical: age, water, humidity, temperature and wind; (ii) Chemical and Electrochemical; related to pollution; (iii) Botanical: uncontrolled growth of vegetation; and (iv) Biological: insect infestation.
- Specific emergency plans are in process for Shish Mahal and other monuments in the Fort, and to address problems of encroachment and the hydraulic system in Shalamar Gardens.
- Programmes for the implementation the above plans have been prepared for implementation in 2003-2004.
- Both financial and technical assistance is required from the WHF.

### \* State of Conservation Reports

1999 WHC99CONF.204/5 An ICOMOS expert mission visited the site (Oct-Nov 1998) to report on the state of conservation and evaluate the 1998 Master Plan. The ICOMOS report noted general disrepair, damage to the perimeter walls due to changes in ground levels, failures in the hydraulic system and inauthentic garden layouts. A WHC mission was undertaken in March 1999 and reported inappropriate use of materials in repairs on Lahore Fort, an urgent need for a visitor management plan, and serious concern about the condition of the ceiling of Shish Mahal. An ICCROM mission to report on Shish Mahal would take place in May 1999.

2000 WHC2000CONF.202/5 The Bureau heard that a report from the authorities concerning remedial measures following the destruction of the hydraulic system had not been submitted. A reactive monitoring mission should take place before the 24<sup>th</sup> session.

2001 WHC2001CONF.205/4 In view of the destruction of the Gardens' hydraulic system, the deterioration of the Gardens' perimeter walls, public works being implemented without reference to the site, the variable quality of conservation work carried out, and the need to enhance capacity to manage and protect the site, the site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. A plan of action for elaborating a comprehensive management plan and undertaking corrective measures was drafted by the secretariat. The Deputy Director of the Centre visited Lahore in April 2001 with a view to developing a proposal for submission to the Asia-Urbs programme and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A UNESCO expert mission also took place in April 2001 to prepare 15 rehabilitation proposals for the Gardens.

2001 WHC2001CONF.208/9 The Committee requested the State Party and Centre to ensure that an integrated conservation, management and development plan will be elaborated, adopted and implemented.

2002 WHC2002CONF.202/18 The Committee heard that the plan for the use of US\$50,000 Emergency Assistance to develop a comprehensive management plan was being re-formulated. A proposal would be submitted to the Asia Urbs programme in September 2002 in a partnership between Lahore, Nancy and Salford.