



#### ■ KABUL UNIVERSITY

In response to the crisis that faces most urban centres in Afghanistan, AKTC implemented a planning studio in the department of Architecture of Kabul University (funded by the World Bank) during 2007. The aim is to ensure that a new generation of Afghan professionals is able to effectively address the complex set of challenges posed by rapid urban growth. Building on this experience, 4th and 5th year students of architecture are being exposed during the 2009 academic year to a range of critical issues related to planning and urban management that are relevant to the current Afghan context. In addition to lectures and seminars, the students undertake site exercises in Kabul (below), through which they are expected to record and analyse urban transformations.



#### ■ BURJ E WAZIR, KABUL

Resources made available by the government of Germany have enabled work to start on restoration on Burj e Wazir, an imposing funerary structure above the village of Gozargah, beside Baghe Babur (above). Probably dating from the 18th century, the structure originally took the form of a tall arch or *iwan*, behind which was the burial site, still marked by several marble gravestones. The initial works entail detailed documentation of the remaining structure, stabilization of the eroded stone base and removal of modern encroachments.

#### ■ MONUMENTS IN BALKH & FARYAB

As part of an ongoing programme to document and register historic monuments, a joint team from AKTC and the Department of Historic Monuments spent 3 weeks during March in Balkh and Faryab in northern Afghanistan. The team made measured drawings and prepared photographic records of a range of historic structures, including an impressive brick mosque and madrasa in Tashqurghan (below). Although the nearby covered bazaar was destroyed during the conflict, the 33 domes of the madrasa complex survive, and continues to be used for religious instruction.





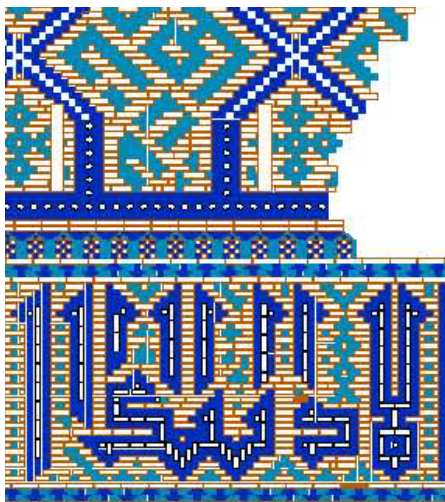
### ■ HARIVA SCHOOL

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, restoration of the Hariva school in Momandha quarter of the old city has begun. Built in the early 20th century as a synagogue, the building has since the 1980s been used for educational purposes. It retains some of the distinctive architectural features of synagogues of that era, including a central plinth within the main space and an underground pool or *mikveh* in the courtyard. Having been filled in, the latter was excavated and is being repaired. In addition to restoring the historic structure, additional classrooms, using traditional materials, will be built on the footprint of ruined buildings to the east, improving access to education for the estimated 15,000 children of school-going age who live in the old city.



### ■ QALA IKHTYARUDDIN

Following documentation of the structure and decoration, repairs are under way to the western tower of Qala Ikhtyaruddin. Sections of the decorative glazed tiles and bricks, which date from the 15th century, had become detached from the masonry structure, which had itself suffered war damage. Once sections of sandstone cladding at the base of the tower had been replaced, work began on the stabilization of damaged areas of tile-work, using specially-made copper alloy fixings. Work continues on repairing areas of damaged decoration, largely re-using the original Timurid glazed tiles retrieved from the area at the base of the tower. The work is expected to be completed by June.



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For more information about AKTC's programme in Afghanistan, contact us at Qala Moeen Afzal Khan, Gozargah Street, District 3, Kabul or Qala Ikhtyaruddin, Herat. [information@akdn.org](mailto:information@akdn.org)

### ■ CHAHAR SUQ CISTERN

The re-location of shops that blocked the entrance to the Chahar Suq cistern, restored by AKTC between 2005-7, has enabled work to begin on the reclamation of a small urban square in what remains the commercial heart of the old city of Herat. Following the removal of debris, a careful process of excavation is under way to enable documentation of surviving footings, that might provide clues as to the layout of the covered bazaars which once stood in this area. Traces of a brick domed basement have been found on the west side, along with an area of brick paving in front of the main *iwan*. Designs are being prepared for a small tea-house to be built on the south side of the public square, in which trees have been planted.

