



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

Historic Cities Programme



*Photo: Majid Kacimik*

CONSERVATION PROJECT OF THE  
ASLAM AL-SILAH DAR MOSQUE

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

January – March 2008

## TABLE OF CONTENT:

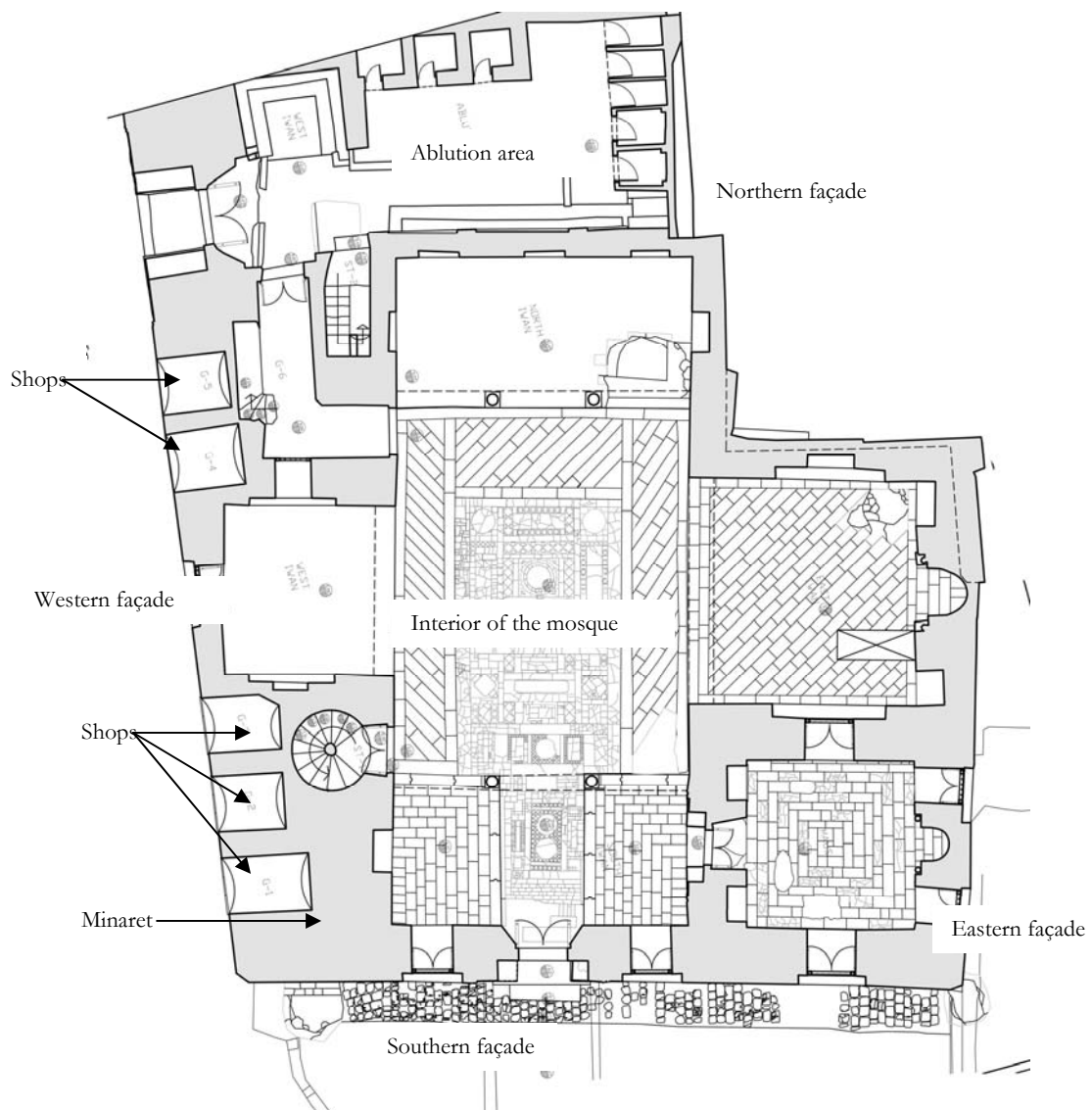
### 1. Description of the Project's components

#### 2. Technical Report

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. The exterior elevations:    | ASLAFACA   |
| 2. The roof:                   | ASLAROOF   |
| 3. The minaret:                | ASLAMIN    |
| 4. The interior of the Mosque: | ASLAMOSQUE |
| 5. The ablution area:          | ASLAMIDA   |

### 1. Description of the Project's components

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. The exterior elevations:    | Southern façade, eastern façade, northern façade, western façade |
| 2. The roof :                  | Roof of the mosque's courtyard, iwans and rooms                  |
| 3. The minaret:                | Minaret platforms and elevations                                 |
| 4. The interior of the Mosque: | Interior floor, elevations and ceilings of the Mosque/mausoleum  |
| 5. The ablution area:          | Ablution area and electro-mechanical items                       |





## 2. TECHNICAL REPORT

### Summary

The work in 2008 will concentrate (as mentioned in the previous report) mainly on two components of the project: 1-ASLAMOSQUE (the interior of the prayer area and the interior of the mausoleum) and 2-ASLAMIDA: the construction of the ablution area.

The other components were all finalized in 2007 with very few remaining activities that will take place when the scaffolding is removed.

In the previous period, the shops on the western façade were completely restored and returned to their owners with the assistance of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

The documentation activities of the intervention drawings are in progress.



*Detail of the marble decoration of the west façade – after cleaning*

*Photo: Matjaž Kačičnik*

## 2.1. THE EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

## ASLAFACA

### Work achievements during the period January – March 2008

- Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern facades

Most of the activities on the four façades were finalized in 2007. Minor activities will be taking place after the dismantling of the scaffolding in the second quarter of 2008.

The restoration of the shops on the western façade were finalized, their wooden doors completely restored and installed in place. The shops were returned to their owners through the Supreme Council of Antiquities.



*Two of the shops on the western façade after their restoration – representatives from the SCA with one of the owners*



## 2.2. THE ROOFS

ASLAROOF

Work achievements during the period Jan - March 2008O

None.

All roofs are insulated and no works are remaining on the roofs.

## 2.3. THE MINARET

ASLAMIN

Completed in September 2007.

## 2.4. THE MOSQUE AND MAUSOLEUM INTERIOR

ASLAMOSQUE

Work achievements during the period January - March 2008

### Mosque Interior

- Mezzanine, first floor and second floor rooms
  - Painting of the wooden ceilings of the rooms started and is in progress.
  - The wooden grills of the rooms' windows were manufactured, painted and put in place.
  - Applying the plaster layer in rooms where brick repairs took place is proceeding.
  - Applying the final finish plaster layer of the rooms started and is in progress.



*Room 1.3 after finalizing the painting of the ceiling*



*Painting the wooden grills and installing them in the rooms*



*Plastering activities in the rooms*



- Mosque courtyard

As mentioned in the previous reported, during December 07, cleaning tests were carried out for the stucco decorations of all four sides of the courtyard, as well as injection activities and removal of the fine dust. The work is proceeding on the northern, southern and western wall, while the eastern wall will start later to document by pictures the difference of the condition before and after intervention.

The injection activities continued and are now finalized. Cleaning the plaster layer as well as the stucco decorations of the roundels, the lozenges and the inscriptions around the windows is proceeding. First, the non-decorated surfaces were cleaned using poulticing. As for the roundels, the lozenges and inscription, if a recent limewash layer was applied this is removed mechanically; then depending on the situation poulticing is applied.

Some roundels and lozenges were completely lost and completed in an earlier restoration in a plain manner, meaning without completing the decoration. As the pattern was known, it was decided for the roundels and lozenges to complete them with gypsum as they were originally.

The stone arch of the western façade was cleaned using the micro-sand-blaster.

After cleaning the wood of the *shokhsbaykha* covering the central courtyard, it was painted; the work is completed.



*Injection activities of the plaster*



*Activities of cleaning the gypsum decoration*



*Mechanical cleaning of the limewash layer on the stucco decoration*





*Detail  
showing the  
earlier plain  
completion*

*Completing the roundel with gypsum decoration as the original existing design pattern*



*The roundel after completion and during cleaning*





*Stucco decoration reconstruction*



*General overview of the north façade of the courtyard during cleaning*





*Detail of the stone arch (cleaned versus non-cleaned part)*



*Cleaning the stone arch on the west façade of the courtyard using the micro-sand-blaster*





*Activities of cleaning the dust from the interior of the shokhsbaykha*



*Painting the shokhsbaykha*





*Painting the steel beams carrying the wooden shokhsbaykha*



*The shokhsbaykha after cleaning and painting*



### Mosque Iwans:

Restoration and conservation activities are started and are taking place in the Qibla (east) iwan, west iwan and south iwan. The north iwan is currently used as the storeroom and the work in this iwan will start in the third quarter of the year after moving the storeroom to a different space.

The activities in the 3 iwans started by similar treatment of the plaster like for the plaster of the courtyard in terms of injection, plaster cleaning using poulticing, cleaning of stucco decoration and filling the cracks in the plaster.



*Activities of injecting the mortar; view of the iwan before cleaning*



*View of the qibla iwan after cleaning the upper part of the main façade of the qibla iwan*





*Completing the missing (and lost) parts of the stucco decoration in the west iwan*





- Woodwork restoration

As mentioned in the previous report, the woodwork restoration of doors, windows and shutters is currently in progress and will be proceeding during the following months. In general, depending on the state of conservation of the item, carpentry restoration takes place followed by fine cleaning and conservation of the wooden elements.



*Cleaning activities of the wooden door of the entrance of the mausoleum (D2)*



*Architectural repair of damaged parts in the wooden shutters (D3)*



### Interior of the dome

On the upper part of the dome, cleaning and injecting the plaster surfaces was taking place along with cleaning the stucco grills. The conservator, Erico Peintner started also short mission and with the team carried out some cleaning tests on the upper stucco inscription band.

Manufacturing the second level windows (on the square part) started and is in progress. As some remains existed it was decided to complete and carve them in-situ.

The work in the middle part of the dome concentrated on injecting the plaster and its cleaning mechanically by removing the limewash and then by poulticing. There are several cracks in the lower part and these will be repaired in April and May.

On the lower level, the stones were cleaned and the salt removed mechanically. Stone replacement of completely damaged stones took place.

In the mihrab area, it was necessary to remove the remaining marble decoration as they were totally detached from the background. The stones behind were in a bad condition and full of salts. The marble slabs were documented and will be returned in situ after the restoration. Also one marble column was leaning and not well fixed in place; it was temporarily removed.



*View of the dome during the cleaning of the plaster and the stucco grills – also showing a part of the plaster not cleaned*





*The conservator, Erico Peintner, carrying out cleaning tests of the inscription band*



*Different views of the inscription band covered with a hard crust of limewash and dust*





*Completing the stucco windows and carving them in-situ where old stucco was remaining (right one complete)*





*Removal of limewash in the middle part of the dome*



*The middle part of the dome after the cleaning of the plaster surfaces: The cracks will be treated in April-May, as well as the cleaning of the stucco carved decoration around the windows.*





*Stone replacement activities in the lower part of the dome*







*The condition of the marble of the mihrab*



*The numbering of the dismantled marble*



## Scope of the work in the Mosque and Mausoleum during the period April - June 2008

### Interior of mosque rooms

Ongoing painting of the wooden ceilings.

Finishing of the plaster layer.

Design of glass shutters and start of their manufacturing.

### Interior of the mosque

Continue the conservation and restoration work of the gypsum plaster in the mosque courtyard and iwans.

Start the cleaning of the wooden inscription band.

Start the cleaning of stone arches and marble columns.

Start with the fine restoration of the wooden decorated ceilings of the iwans.

### Interior of the dome

Start the cleaning of the stucco inscription band.

Finalize the ongoing activity of manufacturing and repairing gypsum windows.

Start and finalize all brick repair of cracks.

Finalize stone replacement activities in the lower part of the dome.



*Detail of the ceiling of the West Iwan to be conserved in the period from April – June 2008*



## 2.5. THE ABLUTION AREA

## ASLAMIDA

### Work achievements during the period Jan – March 2008

It was originally planned to construct the ablution area during 2007; nevertheless it was decided to move this activity in 2008. The old ablution area was completely dismantled and temporary toilets were built in another space. Archaeological remains of a Comite intervention were discovered after the demolition and these were taken into consideration in the design of the ablution area; The remains were numbered and temporarily removed to be able to level properly the land before putting in the foundations.

### Scope of work during the period April - June 2008

Start the construction activities of the ablution area and finalize the foundations, the sanitary works, the brick and stone works and the wooden ceilings. Finishes are planned for the third quarter of the year.



*The space of the ablution area after the demolition of the old one; the archaeological remains in view*



*The design of the ablution showing the archaeological remains in view*



## 2.6. THE SITE SUPERVISION TEAM

ASLASUPER

### Work achievements in the period Jan – March 2008

Concerning documentation activities, intervention drawings are being carried out.  
The daily site supervision activities are in progress.

### Scope of work in the period Jan - March 2008

Continue on carrying on site supervision activities of architectural, structural and fine restoration activities.

Intervention drawings indicating stone replacement, new wooden elements, etc. started and are in progress.

### Composition of the team and responsibilities at end of December

#### The Aga-Khan Trust for Culture:

- Christophe Bouleau, Conservation architect – Project Manager
- Dina Bakhoun, Engineer - Site manager.
- Mohamed Lashien, Architect
- Lara Iskander, Architect
- Radwa Abou el-Seoud, Architect
- Hamdi Sultan, Main Forman
- Reda al-Sayed, Site Supervisor
- Walid Omar, Procurement officer
- Mina William, Scaffolding specialist

#### Consultant (during the reported period)

- Erico Peintner, Conservator

Date: 13 April 2008

Signature: Christophe Bouleau

Dina Bakhoun

