

# +921 HeritageTalks

## Webinar Report 1.0

Understanding history through a dialogue  
by analyzing politics of heritage and preservation  
in Pakistan.



# Special Acknowledgement

+921HeritageTalks is generously supported  
by Goethe Institute Pakistan



# The Way Forward

In South Asian urban centers, the fabric of the cities is held together by the tenuous warp and weft of historic buildings and modern infills transformed continuously by the changing aspirations of its people. This dialectic of the past and present is an unavoidable reality and yet, it is this interface between old and new, the historic and the modern, that makes for the intriguing physical and visual dynamics within a city. Therefore, each abstract and title of the session in the ten webinars were conceptualized by keeping the struggles, non-progressive heritage regulations and ruptured agencies as the foundation of +921HeritageTalks. It was extremely important to have inclusive dialogues with several cities like Calcutta, Mumbai, Nashik, Rawalpindi, Tehran, Kochi, and Karachi.

I am extremely grateful for Goethe Institute-Pakistan (Karachi) for generously supporting Pakistan Chowk Community Centers (PCCC) Projects since 2017. This year the grant helped my team to conceptualize and develop +921HeritageTalks project where where we hosted discussions dedicated to discussing the politics of Heritage and Preservation in South Asia.

With the framework of understanding heritage and preservation systems, +921HeritageTalks; first webinar organized by PCCC in collaboration Goethe Institute with an intention to highlight the roles, challenges and opportunities of heritage discourse understood by activists, architects, and cultural makers drew a comprehensive state of play of heritage and culture in the South Asian continent, while reflecting on possible synergies and conceivable steps to leverage heritage and culture for development. Speakers gave an insight into the implementation of the various heritage milestones, struggles and experiences as an overview which helped the audience to learn from shared knowledge the complexities and fractured-ness in the South Asian context.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging my incredible team to help me develop the project conceptually and working out all the technical mechanisms from digital support to networking with our panellists across the border. The backbone for +921HeritageTalks was (PCCC Internship Program 2023) research interneers and design thinkers like Fizza Muhammad Ali, Aqsa Hakeem Baloch, Huzaifa Ahmed Idrees and Anza Mashooque (MMA Architect). Your support, time, and willingness to bring this project to life will always be humbly appreciated.

No doubt +921HeritageTalks webinar was a reaction to our continuous struggles through observation, documentation and on ground advocacy through Heritage Walk Karachi. It is critical to acknowledge the hard work of our Project Coordinator and City Guide Shaheen Nauman, and on field coordinator Vishal Singhara.

May these conversations / dialogue / activism on heritage, preservation across South Asia continue.

**Marvi Mazhar** (Architect / Spatial Heritage Advocate  
Founder of Pakistan Chowk Community Center

# Pakistan Chowk Community Centre

## Introduction

Pakistan Chowk Community Centre was established in August 2017 with the aims to provide a space for community engagement, advancement of arts and culture, and democratic and literary discourse in the Old Town. PCCC's vision is to collaborate and form alliances to bring arts, culture and community advocacy. At PCCC we aim to engage in a comprehensive dialogue by bringing together architects, researchers, urban planners, policymakers, designers, artists, journalists, film makers, bloggers and activists to brainstorm ideas for the protection, dialogue, conservation, rehabilitation & accessibility of heritage sites & public spaces.





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HERITAGE  
TALKS

a project of pakistan chowk community centre

# **+921HeritageTalks**

## **Introduction**

+921HeritageTalks is a project of Pakistan Chowk Community Center (PCCC), where we are going to host webinars for three days every six months dedicated to discussing the politics of Heritage and Preservation in Pakistan.

The dialogue on Heritage is a global conversation which must take into account the local contexts. In a rapidly changing world, the dialogue around heritage preservation is shaped by many and relatively new factors. The parameters of what constitutes heritage are expanding and take into account not just the past and tangible heritage sites but our present and as well as our current relationship with the spaces we inhabit as communities.

At PCCC we aim to engage in a comprehensive dialogue on the above questions by bringing together architects, researchers, urban planners, policymakers, designers, artists, journalists, film makers, bloggers and activists to brainstorm ideas for the protection, dialogue, conservation, rehabilitation & accessibility of heritage sites & public spaces. +921HeritageTalks hopes to bring all the stakeholders together under one multidisciplinary setting so that together they may present solutions feasible for concerned authorities.

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# THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



## Talk 1 Real Estate and Heritage



**Shaheera Pesnani**  
MSc in Architectural Conservation



### *Webinar on 'Real estate and Heritage'*

Shaheera Pesnani is an academic researcher and her work and scholarship lies at the crossroads of the study of architecture, heritage and communities. She has experience in conducting interdisciplinary research and fieldwork related to oral history, heritage documentation and preservation, urban conservation and building analysis. In 2021, she graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a MSc in Architectural Conservation. Her dissertation focused on assessing the internationally recognised HIA (Heritage Impact Assessment) framework and using it to analyze the impact of large-scale infrastructural development on the built heritage and local communities in Gwadar, Pakistan. Currently, she is working with Historic England, a public advisory body on the historic environment.

**Date: 30th December 2022**  
**Time: 5:00 PM GMT / 9:00 PM PST**



# Talk 1

**Date: 30th Dec 2022 Time: 9:00 PM PST**

## **Abstract: Real Estate and Heritage**

Pakistan's heritage is centuries old and remnants of the past can be seen everywhere - from coastal towns to the mountains up north. Historical sites and architectural buildings are a testament to our diverse history. However, many of these sites are threatened by erasure in the form of neglect but also by development projects.

As our cities continue to expand and modernize, it is important for us to inquire what obstructions come in the way of heritage preservation. In rapidly changing urban and rural landscapes, what options do we have to safeguard historic buildings? Can we find a common ground between development and preservation of heritage sites? What solutions can there be for the preservation of communal identities that are threatened by urbanization and real estate developers.

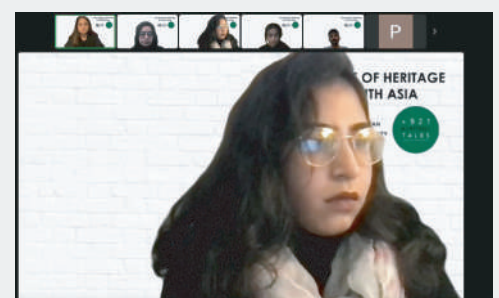
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# Visuals from the Webinar



*Real Estate  
and  
Heritage*



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 2

## Policies & Bylaws: Gaps in Heritage Management



### Mariyam Nizam

Senior Heritage Assessment  
Officer at Heritage NSW



### *Webinar on 'Policies and Bylaws Gaps of Heritage Management and Preservation'*

Mariyam Nizam is a Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW, in the Department of Planning and Environment in Parramatta, Australia. She has worked as a heritage consultant. Ms. Nizam is most prominently known for her work in building conservation sciences, historic assets assessments, conservation management of world heritage sites and policy & implementation. She completed her Bachelors in Architecture from the renowned National College of Arts in Lahore.

**Date: 6th January 2023**  
**Time: 7:00 PM GMT+11 / 1:00 PM PST**



# Talk 2

Date: 6th Jan 2023 Time: 1:00 PM PST

## **Abstract: Policies and Bylaws: Gaps in Heritage Management**

Who plays the key role in preservation, protection and restoration of heritage sites and antiquities? Is the government responsible for these tasks? The current policies and procedures of conserving heritage in Pakistan are largely a continuation of the British Raj: mostly based upon the guidelines of the 'Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904'. Since independence, in 1947, these legislations have been altered from time to time, with a major development in 2011, with the passing of the 18th amendment, that transferred power from the national to the provincial level. The issues and gaps in the current legislation have placed our history under threat.

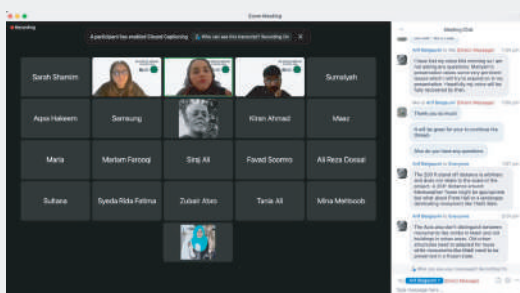
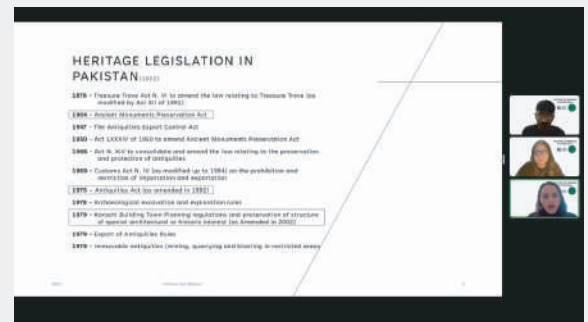
As current challenges unfold, we need to have active and engaged governance of our cities which accounts for present-day urban challenges and the urgent need to protect our shared heritage. As the country continues to expand in multiple directions, combined with a steady increase in population, the urban space becomes contested. Under these circumstances how is the state's relation with its citizenry redefined, and in times of change what is the role of heritage preservation. Who should step up to shoulder the responsibility?

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# Visuals from the Webinar



## Policies and Bylaws: Gaps in Heritage Management



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 3 Heritage Preservation and Local Communities

#### *Webinar on 'Heritage Preservation and Local Communities'*

**Date: 8 January 2023**  
**Time: 7:30 PM IST / 7:00 PM PST**



Amrita Gangatirkar is a quantitative research analyst turned researcher and documentary filmmaker who after working in Mumbai for many years making non-fiction films and teaching filmmaking at a prestigious design school in Pune finally settled in her home town, Nashik to start a travel experience company called Nashik Heritage Trails. Through this company she is trying to tell the untold story of Nashik's unique cultural and built heritage.



Studio Urban Dialogue is co-founded by Mrunmayee Akshay Chaudhari and Shilpa Dahake, which is a consulting agency that focuses on the work of architecture, ecology and upcycling in Nashik.



# Talk 3

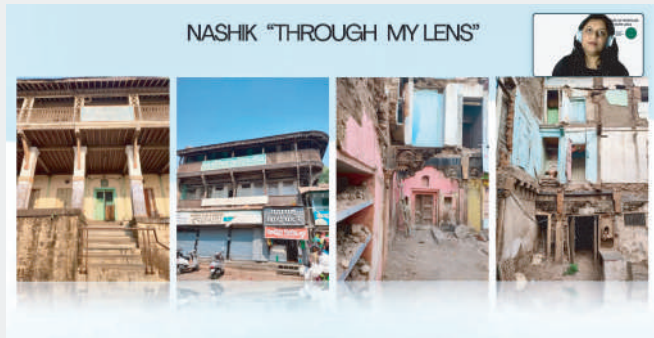
**Date: 8th Jan 2023 Time: 7:00 PM PST**

## **Abstract: Heritage Preservation and Local Communities**

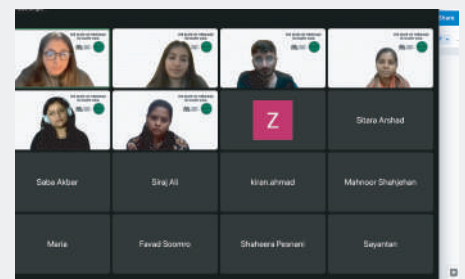
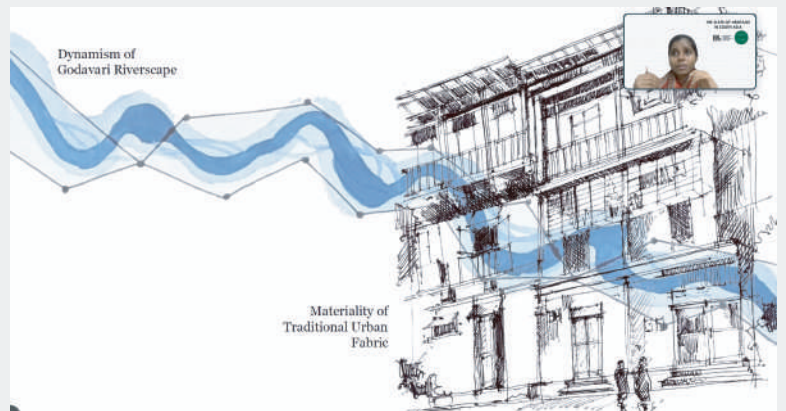
In an effort to preserve history some laws are passed and actions are taken that harm that heritage's future. It is easier to place objects into a museum as they more easily fall out of use, but it is not possible to do that with architecture and areas. An alternative form of preservation is required to secure their history. That form requires taking into consideration the communities already using that infrastructure. Preserving infrastructure in a way that forces it out of use, stops its history in its tracks and produces a codependent relationship with authorities that do not have a vested interest in sustaining that structure is an ineffective form of preservation. The preservation of heritage should be viewed through the lens of "placemaking", where the past helps build new meanings for the future. (Richards, 2020, Heritage and tourism)

Viable alternatives can include the involvement of the local communities in their own cultural tourism so that witnessing culture can help add onto cultural production. The involvement of the local community in the preservation of their history helps provide factual information and creates sustainable formations of preservation as they have a vested interest and have historical knowledge of maintenance. It is important to highlight proper forms of preservation so that we don't end up losing more in our effort of saving. With it being easier than ever to find indigenous voices, there needs to be a discussion on the importance of centering those voices in their own cultural exportation. It is also important to bring in expert voices to raise awareness and provide the knowledge needed to best maintain those cultural heritages. The biggest issue, faced nowadays, is to divide the responsibilities in such a way that the local communities create a system of informed and sovereign form of maintenance.

# Visuals from the Webinar



## Heritage Preservation and Local Communities



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 4 Future of Preservation



**Tania Ali Soomro**

PhD (Candidate) in Preservation of  
Architectural Heritage



#### **Webinar on 'Future of Preservation'**

Tania Ali Soomro is an Architect who completed her Masters in Architecture from KU Leuven, Belgium in September 2015 and completed her Bachelors from Mehran University, Jamshoro in April 2009. She is associated with NED University as a lecturer in the department of Architecture and Planning. Presently she is on study leave for her Ph.D at Politecnico Di Milano, Italy.

**Date: 13 January 2023**  
**Time: 9:00 PM PST**



# Talk 4

**Date: 13th Jan 2023 Time: 9:00 PM PST**

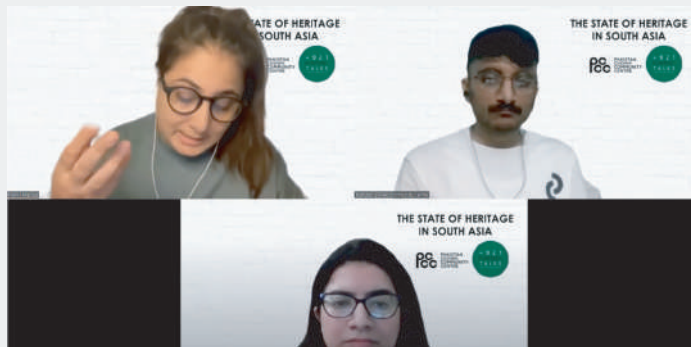
## **Abstract: Future of Preservation**

The concepts regarding preservation and the future of heritage have evolved considerably over time. Heritage initially referred exclusively to monumental remains only, however with time the parameters of what is considered as heritage have expanded to embrace living and contemporary cultures.

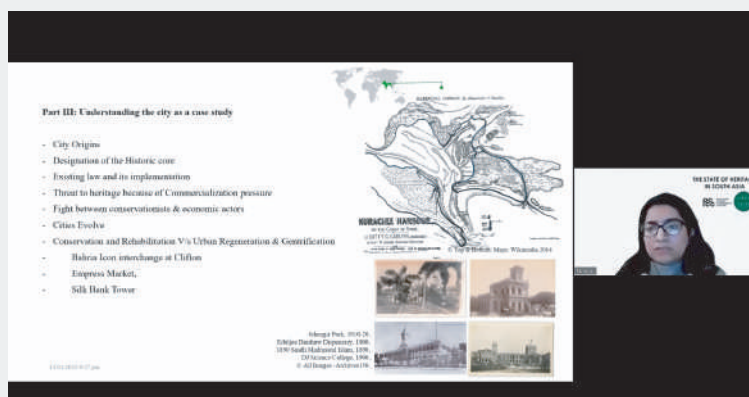
In the age of urbanization, a very important question that arises in the context of rapidly urbanizing cities is: How important is it to preserve heritage sites for future generations? If yes, then how can we develop resources and sustainable conservation plans needed to protect shared heritage, when both do not exist on a governmental level.

In Karachi's context, the preservation largely comes under the Sindh Cultural Heritage Act 1994, which still hasn't been utilized to its full potential due to the lack of interest shown by the authorities. Arif Hassan, referring to Karachi, expressed, "While affection for buildings and history exists in the city, there is no respect for their conservation." Furthermore he has reiterated in his books that due to the negligence of government and stakeholders the heritage sites of Pakistan are rapidly deteriorating. What accounts for such neglect on a state level? Moreover, what role can citizens and communities play in preserving their heritage sites?

# Visuals from the Webinar



## Future of Preservation



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 5 Politics of Walking and Witnessing

#### Webinar on 'Politics of Walking and Witnessing'

Date: 15th January 2023  
Time: 7:30 PM IST / 7:00 PM PST



#### That Hyderabad Boy

With over 10 years of experience in reporting, Yunus Lasania is a journalist who has worked with 3 national dailies in his career. With a deep love for Hyderabad and its history, he also runs the Instagram page The Hyderabad History Project, and is also the host of Beyond Charminar, a podcast series on the history of Hyderabad, focusing on the lesser known aspects of his city (and oral history).



#### Heritage Walk Karachi

Heritage Walk Karachi actively engages people from around the city with Old Town and other areas of historical significance.

HWK believes that the way to experience the milieu of vibrant living culture of Old Town Karachi is to walk through it.



#### Pamaljeet Singh Sidhu

Pamaljeet Singh Sidhu is an architect and Industrial designer. Currently he is practising contextual and cultural oriented architecture under his studio 'tubb'. His passion for heritage also triggered the curiosity for understanding 'Chandigarh', the city which defined the very beginnings of modernism in architecture in the South Asian region. It was from here that the idea of Chandigarh Architecture Walks emerged.



#### Pindi Heritage Tour

An initiative started with the aim of discovering, collecting and documenting Rawalpindi's rich historical past (cultural and religious) through heritage walks around architectural sites in Rawalpindi.



# Talk 5

**Date: 15th Jan 2023   Time: 7:00 PM PST**

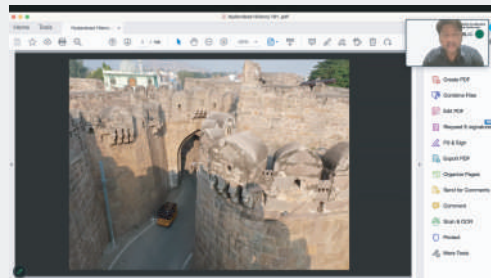
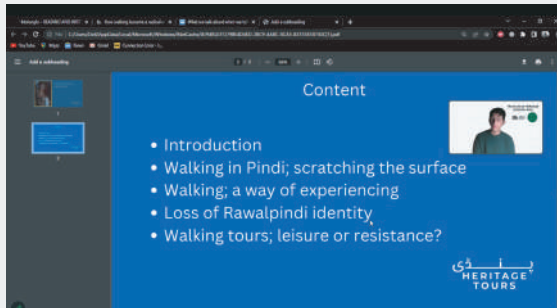
## **Abstract: Politics of Walking and Witnessing**

Walking is inherently a political act that places an individual in an active conversation and engagement with their spatial surroundings. The idea of walking in a heritage zone, the lived experience of witnessing the deterioration and decay of buildings while walking in and around them opens up a venue of experience that you cannot find in theoretical works or museums. It stimulates all our senses with sounds, smells, textures, and other physical qualities of the heritage site.

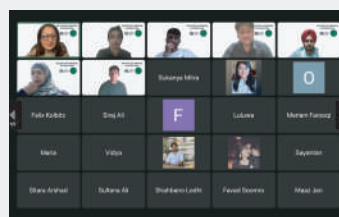
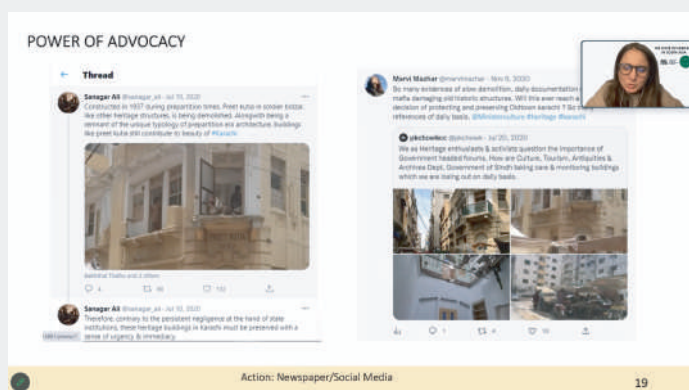
The artifacts of heritage are no longer housed in white rooms or behind glass boxes but they are experienced in highly activated living and breathing spaces - in narrow streets and cramped up bazaars. Heritage walks help us connect with elements of heritage in a holistic way by expanding our understanding of what heritage means. One must then ask how heritage walks challenge the binary categories of what constitutes heritage, and help us in looking for more local and grounded methods of heritage preservation?

What new meanings do we give to these long-forgotten heritage sites and their surrounding areas when we engage with them? As De Certeau says in his essay "Walking In the City" that urban walking gives a new meaning to spaces and streets which originally weren't assigned to them. He goes further and terms walking as an act of resistance. In this sense, then one must ask how do heritage walks contest dominant and hegemonic historical or cultural narratives?

# Visuals from the Webinar



## Politics of Walking and Witnessing



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 6 High-rise Invasion into Historic Quarters

#### Webinar on 'High-rise Invasion into Historic Quarters'

Date: 17th January 2023  
Time: 12:00 PM PST



#### Arif Belgaumi



Arif Belgaumi is an architect based in Karachi, Pakistan. His office, Arif Belgaumi Architects, draws on nearly three decades of diverse architectural experience gained in the United States and Pakistan, in a practice grounded in the regional and cultural context of Pakistan.

#### Dr. Masooma Shakir



Masooma is an architect and urbanist. She completed her doctorate from the Bauhaus University in Weimar, Germany in 2018 and has been faculty at the Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University since 2007.

#### Manzoor Ahmed Kanasro



Director General of Department of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Archives, Sindh.

The Department under government of Sindh is tasked with promoting cultural heritage of Sindh, supporting literary activities and conservation of archaeological sites.



# Talk 6

**Date:** 17th Jan 2023 **Time:** 12:00 PM PST

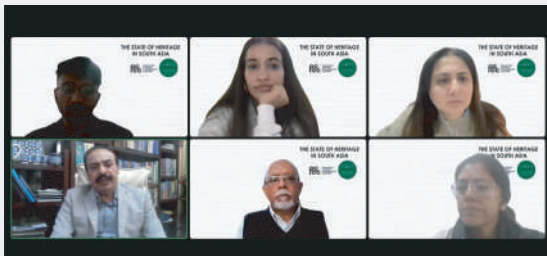
## **Abstract: High-rise Invasion into Historic Quarters**

Heritage is a selection from the past chosen for contemporary purposes, be they economic, political, social or cultural. Historic urban quarters are particularly valued as they are coherent entities with traditional character and architectural value. These quarters exist in all continents and reflect the accomplishments of many cultures. They are increasingly threatened by destruction due to decay, changing social and economic conditions and inappropriate reconstruction work. Initially, heritage protection focused on monumental buildings but with a more holistic understanding has since expanded to include historic areas and neighborhoods. It then becomes a concern, where the lines of protection should be drawn.

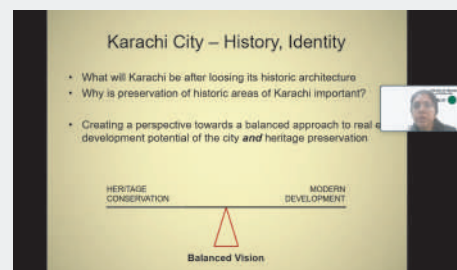
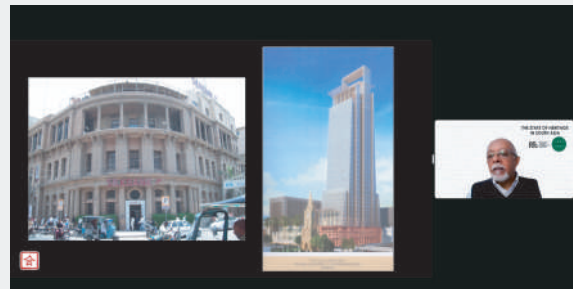
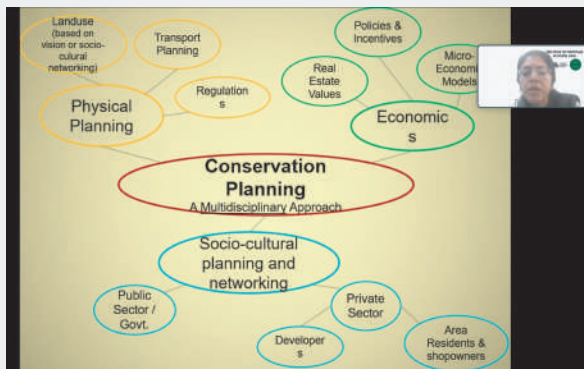
Modern real estate development in particular raises important questions about the ethics of the scale of development and the threats it poses to historic neighborhoods. The verticality of new high-rise buildings stands in contrast to the rhythm and height of the quarters. Heritage monuments end up looking like quaint structures enveloped in the shadow of modern architecture. It ends up removing the visitors from the historical significance of those buildings as they end up seeming out of place. Other than the destruction of the heritage's aesthetic, there are material consequences of high-rise developments that include invasion of privacy for the residents of those quarters. The environment of a quarter also shifts as the built-in ventilation systems are not able to account for the change in airflows. The arguments for development should be taken into account and carried with the conservatory project in such a way that protects the heritage while at the same time allowing change. The main purpose of conservation is to protect heritage in a continuous manner. Preservation that stops development and forces people to leave urban centers ends up making that history a stumbling block. It is important to integrate our history with the present while protecting its larger character from being destroyed due to financial interests. This is a line that has yet to be properly demarcated.

# Visuals

from the Webinar



## *High-rise Invasion into Historic Quarters*



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 7 Situating Historical Bungalows in the South Asian Urban Bustle

#### Webinar on 'Situating Historic Bungalows in the Urban South Asian Bustle'

Date: 19th January 2023  
Time: 8:00 PM IST / 7:30 PM PST



#### CALCUTTA HOUSES

##### Calcutta Houses

Manish Golder is a serial entrepreneur, photographer and filmmaker who is a founder of the Calcutta Houses Project and helmed it for close to a decade. A bilingual and multidisciplinary creative professional, he loves words and images with an enduring love for cinema.



##### Art Deco Mumbai

Art Deco Mumbai is an initiative that attempts to showcase Mumbai's Art Deco by advocating for its conservation, chronicling its history and photo documenting its Deco neighbourhoods.



##### Maaz Jan

Maaz Jan is an architect and illustrator based in Karachi. His illustrations explore Karachi's built environment and its people through representative illustrations.



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# Talk 7

Date: 19th Jan 2023 Time: 7:30 PM PST

## **Abstract: Situating Historic Bungalows in The South-Asian Urban Bustle**

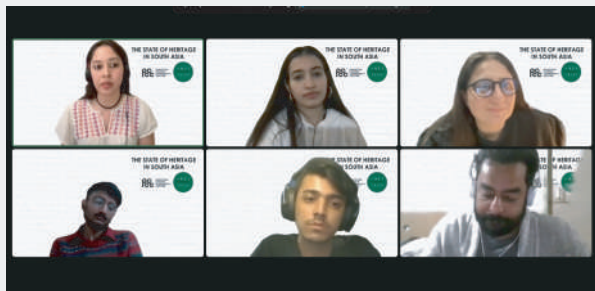
What is the history we wish to protect? In contemporary preservatory practice, "Adaptive Reuse" is seen as a beneficial compromise in protecting our heritage. In this practice, buildings that have lived past their original use are renewed such that they carry their character while adapting to uses in different situations. The advantage of this process includes breathing life into buildings that were left behind. However, in practice, these processes might be employed for the sake of preserving heritage but to increase profitability of a piece of land. In the worst-case scenarios, sometimes Adaptive Reuse ends up damaging the building to the extent that it is completely destroyed.

There are prevalent examples in our local context that have seen the destruction of heritage sites due to loopholes in The Sindh Cultural Heritage Act of 1994. Due to the inability to properly define which parts of a building require preservation, the Homi Katrak Mansion (refer to the Sindh Cultural Heritage Act of 1994) in Karachi was sold to developers who took to hollowing it out, while stating that they were preserving the structure.

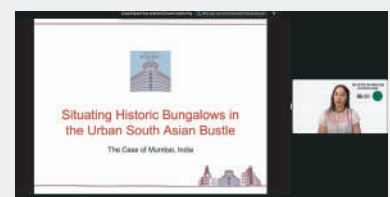
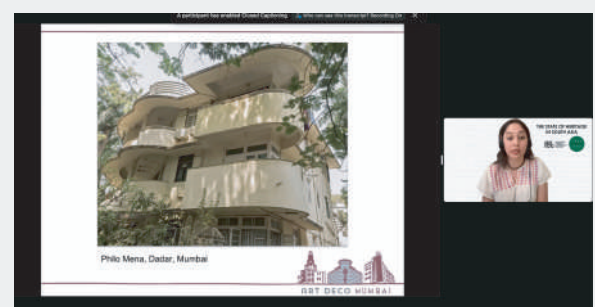
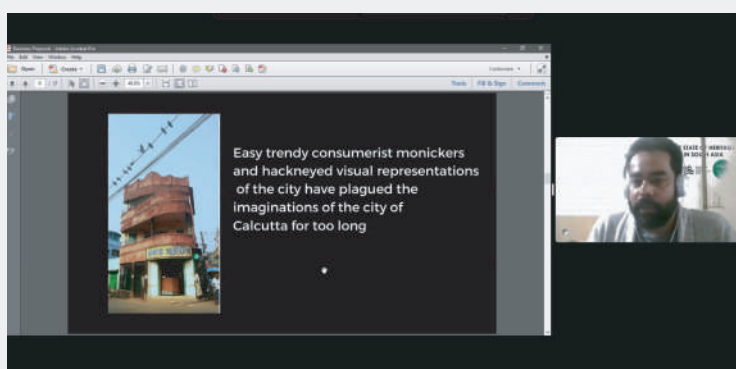
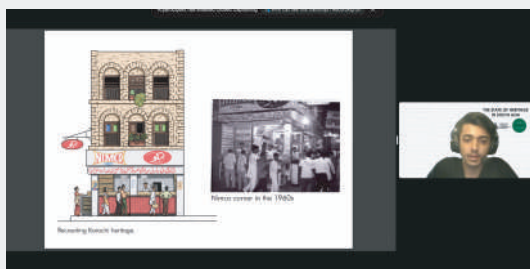
This raises the question, what is the "soul" of a structure? Ornamental and structural details of heritage buildings carry with it a unique cultural legacy of the past. They are living embodiments of past lifestyles. Private residences, like historical bungalows, preserve the socio-economic understanding, culture and sensibilities of its owners (old and new), as well as the architectural norms and aesthetics of the time periods in which they were built and then further renovated. As such, the documentation and preservation of these structures that embody a unique space in the public imagination reflects the heritage values of the community. These residencies represent the values of an era that did not have to worry about the constraints placed due to urbanization. The current architecture, however, has a focus on extracting the greatest use from the smallest piece of land which ends up overlooking the importance of grandeur that is a part of South Asian aesthetic heritage. In urban cities, in an attempt to increase efficiency of the space used, historical residences are adapted in a way that completely alters its insides.

Even if Adaptive Reuse allowed the outside of a building to stay intact while its inside functioned like any other corporate office, would we say that the heritage has been successfully preserved? The hollowing out of the internal ornamentations, leads to a discardment of the soul of our heritage, an exorcism of the past. Are the cosmetics of our heritage, just the skin of our history, enough for us to pass onto future generations? What is the place of historical residences, like bungalows, in South Asian urban centers?

# Visuals from the Webinar



## *Situating Historical Bungalows in The South-Asian Urban Bustle*



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 8 Learning from Archives, Walking and Documenting

#### Webinar on 'Learning from Archives, Walking and Documenting'

Date: 20th January 2023  
Time: 8:00 PM PST



#### Alex Shams

Alex Shams is an Iranian-American writer and an editor-in-chief of Ajam Media Collective (ajam-mc.com). He is a PhD student of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, and previously worked as a journalist.



#### Ahmer Naqvi

Ahmer Naqvi is a freelance journalist who focuses on popular culture. He has been researching the food of Karachi for the past few years, and runs food tours of the city called "Khanay Mei Kya Hai".

#### The KOCHI HERITAGE PROJECT

#### The Kochi Heritage Project

The Kochi Heritage Project aims to stimulate the curious visitor to learn and carry away with them a deeper and broader understanding of the city's heritage, sufficient to enrich the mind and to cause them to pause and look life from a new point of view and a new vision.



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# Talk 8

Date: 20th Jan 2023 Time: 8:00 PM PST

## Abstract: Learning From Archives, Walking and Documenting

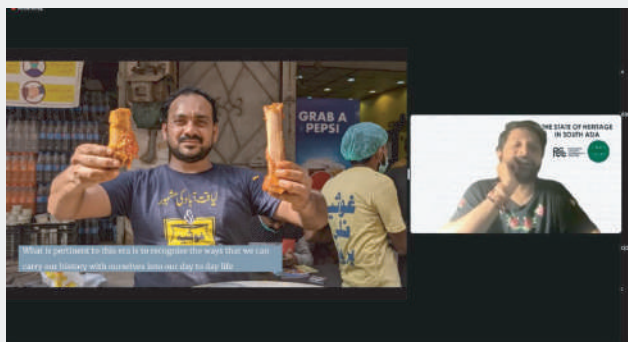
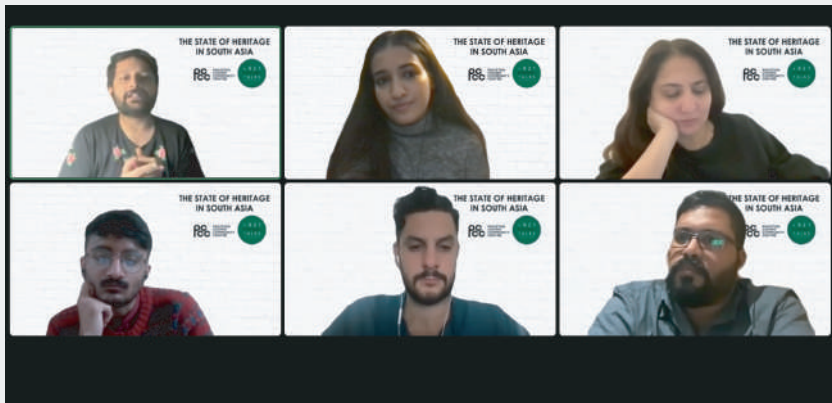
The idea of history as neatly categorized events, which occur in a linear, chronological order is being greatly challenged in this day and age. The history passed through official sources, stored in books, is only a fraction of what has occurred. History is best explored through a multifaceted approach that challenges the hegemonic historical narratives and by doing so democratizes the process of documenting history. As learners and observers of history and heritage, it becomes imperative for us to not limit our observations and our methodologies. Perhaps, this is where the independent practice of archiving comes in.

Independent methods of archiving are inherently a political practice of documenting our history and our present. As a method it is more participatory, opening up the venue of history to those cultures and communities who otherwise are obscured from national historical accounts. In that sense, one can perhaps ask how independent archives have helped uncover syncretic histories of our cities?

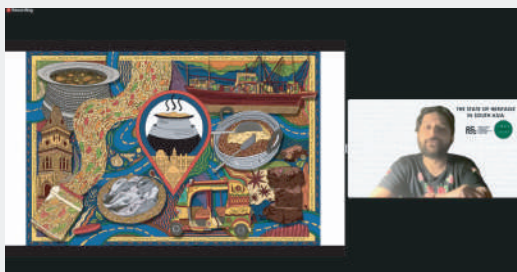
There are alternative forms of understanding what has previously happened. Our environment carries with it the marks of history, it is produced in response to and damaged because of previous events. And as our cities experience increased urbanization and urban development, a collaborative approach to experience and record history becomes more important than ever. It is important for us to get a holistic sense of our own heritage. What is pertinent to this era is to recognise the ways that we can carry our history with ourselves into our day to day life, as the objects that carry our history are slowly decaying and being replaced.

Migratory patterns can be witnessed in cities along the Indian ocean, which have always been home to a multitude of cultures, languages, faiths and as well as cuisine. To fully experience the heritage of these cities would require us to connect with the "Mohallas" or local neighborhoods, which often are a living example of our histories and heritage. Any archival practice will require us to go beyond the traditional objects and include in its parameters the diverse markers of cultural history, such as food and culinary. It is important that students of history and city practitioners interact with the less tangible aspects of our cultural heritage to experience history in a much more holistic sense.

# Visuals from the Webinar



## *Learning From Archives, Walking and Documenting*



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



+ 9 2 1  
HERITAGE  
TALKS

### Talk 9 The Feminist Lens of Mapping (Illustrating) the City

#### Webinar on 'The Feminist Lens of Mapping (Illustrating) The City'

Date: 21st January 2023  
Time: 7:00 PM PST

+ 9 2 1  
HERITAGE  
TALKS

#### Priyanka K



Priyanka teaches at the undergraduate Illustration program at MICA part-time, and was recently appointed art director at the South Asian Avant Garde anthology. Her personal work spans across visual narrative, printmaking and murals.

#### Adan Shaikh



Adan Shaikh is an artist and illustrator who graduated from Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. Her illustrative work explores gender, class, and identity within Pakistani society mostly through satire.

#### Bibi Hajra



Bibi Hajra's work addresses themes of urban segregation and development, and more recently is concerned with religious symbolism/aesthetics and the city. For the last two years, she has explored the prominent shrine of a female saint in Lahore, Bibian Pak Daman, and documented and depicted the lives of female devotees and various saintly narratives that are intertwined within that space.



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CHOWK  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE



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# Talk 9

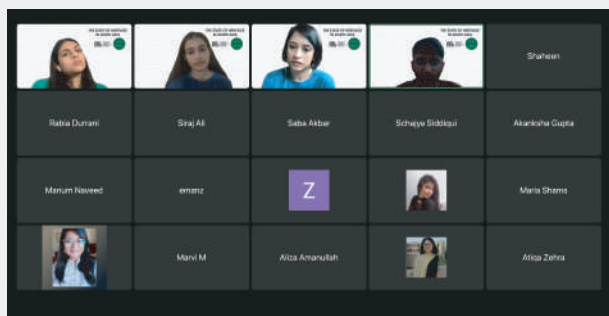
Date: 21st Jan 2023 Time: 7:00 PM PST

## **Abstract: The Feminist Lens of Mapping (Illustrating) The City**

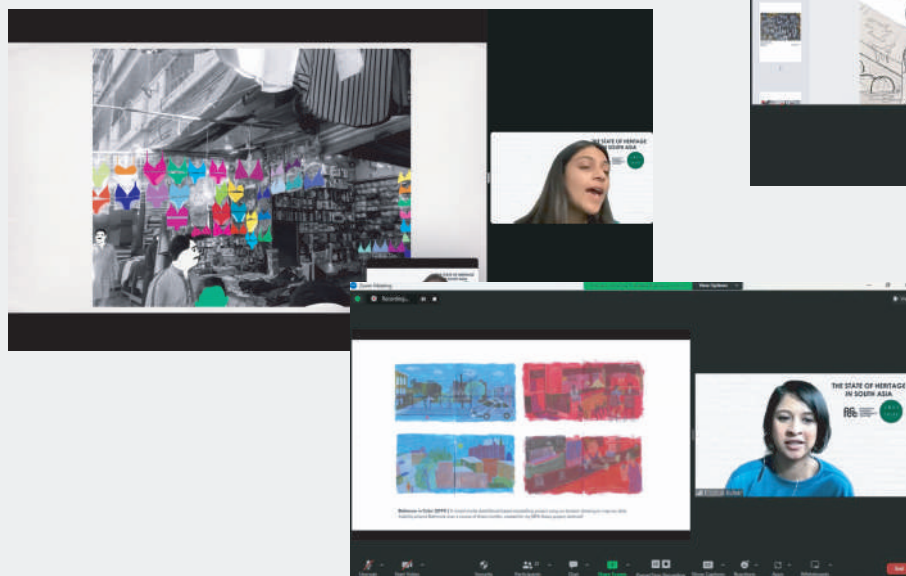
As Nishat Awan talks about in "Mapping Otherwise: Imagining Other Possibilities and Other Futures", maps have often been used to assert power and control over territory. However, they can also be used to challenge dominant narratives. All maps present a selective view of reality, emphasizing certain information over others, and as such, they should be understood as political documents. It is important to recognize that all maps are partial and subjective, even if they present themselves as objective and authoritative.

Similarly the mapping process is not a process merely limited to cataloging street names, house numbers and famous locations. It is a process that defines what is to be seen and noticed and what is overlooked. The data gathered in mapping can be analyzed in a multiplicity of ways. Thus, it is very pertinent that we bring in voices that have been historically overlooked. The voices of women and how they interact with the city is such a voice that needs to be pushed to the forth. This talk is another step in the movement that has started in Pakistan to center women's relationship with the city.

# Visuals from the Webinar



## *The Feminist Lense of Mapping (Illustrating) The City*



## THE STATE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA



### Talk 10 Understanding Heritage Through Ethical Tourism



#### Zain Mustafa

Architect and Cultural  
Anthropologist. Founder  
of CUBE Edutours and IRVI



#### *Webinar on 'Understanding Heritage Through Ethical Tourism'*

Zain Mustafa is an Architect and Educationist based in Islamabad. He is also the founder of IRVI (Indus River Valley Institute) and Cube Edutours – an unique heritage architecture education tourism initiative, taking learning about bio regional shared history to heritage sites across Pakistan.

From 1995 – 2000 Zain taught at the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. From 2010 to date he has continued to explore Pakistan through Edutours and designed projects like NIC Karachi. He is president of the Society for the Protection of Animal Rights, on the advisory board Pakistan Chowk Community Center and a trustee on the board for The Garage School.

**Date: 24th January 2023**

**Time: 8:00 PM PST**



# Talk 10

Date: 24th Jan 2023 Time: 8:00 PM PST

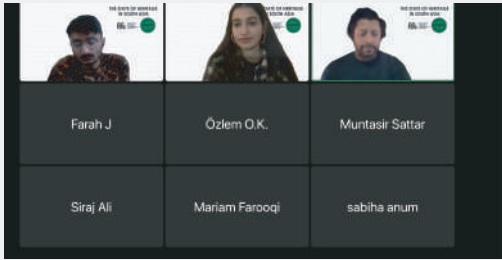
## Abstract: Understanding Heritage Through Ethical Tourism

Preservation of heritage sites demands foremost an acknowledgement of its existence, and a sense of belonging and ownership among those who claim to inherit it, as the basis for any substantial conservation work. Areas where official institutions have lacked in properly educating the public, individuals have arisen to provide alternatives, like education oriented tourism.

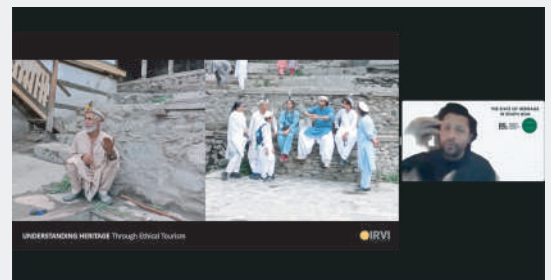
Educational tours, and a collaborative approach that involves local indigenous communities, which live in and around the heritage sites, can be considered as an alternative to commercial models of tourism. Instead of commercial consumption, can ethical tourism become a dissemination point for cultural knowledge, mobilize communities in this regard and thus by doing so push regulatory bodies to take better care of our heritage sites?

Given the political leadership of Pakistan is busy in rebranding Pakistan, specifically Northern Pakistan, as a tourist attraction on the world scale. However, the fast tourism that is promoted here has shown its ugly consequences in the form of heavy littering in Northern Pakistan and the imbalance of power between the natives and the tourists that leads to it. Questions arise, like how can one weave together systems of sustainable tourism that aren't extractive, protect local systems of knowledge, are inclusive and help us build a sustainable relationship with our heritage?

## Visuals from the Webinar



# Understanding Heritage Through Ethical Tourism



# Credits

A project of PCCC

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