



# PRESERVATION OF TOMBS OF SULTAN IBRAHIM & AMIR SULTAN MUHAMMAD, WH MAKLI

## 1<sup>ST</sup> CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### *Folio III—Significance and Values*



## BASIS OF OUV (OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE)

- **Represents a masterpiece of human creative genius over a period of 400 years;**
- **Exhibits an important interchange of human values over a span of time within a cultural area of the world;**
- **Exhibits developments in architecture, monumental arts and town planning (as in planning of a necropolis);**
- **Bears a unique and exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition, to a civilization which is living and which has disappeared;**
- **An outstanding example of a type of buildings or architectural ensemble which illustrate significant stages in human history;**
- **An outstanding example of a traditional human land-use which is representative of a culture, especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;**
- **Directly associated with events concerning with beliefs, religion and rituals.**

***[Reference for values: English Heritage:2008) and Getty Foundation:2002].***

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

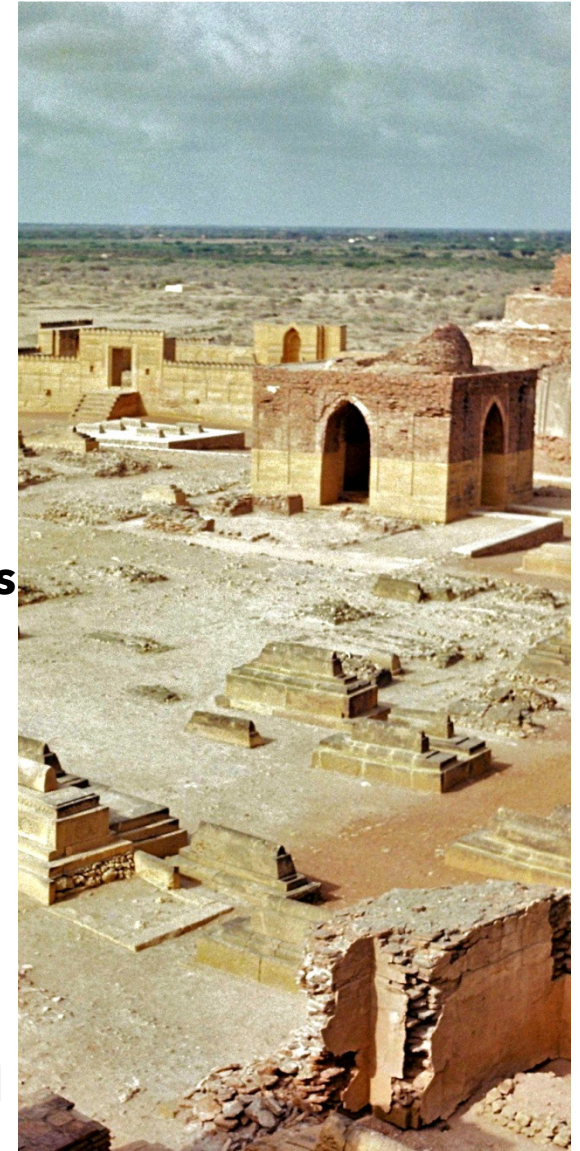
MAKLI, THATTA, IS A UNIQUE NECROPOLIS (SHAHR-E-KHAMOSHAN)  
PLACED ON UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN 1982.

### Reason for Developing Attributes For Determining Values and OUV

- **Every applicable Value requires consideration, in order that conservation is carried out in the context of the values embodied by the site as a whole as well as individual historic structures. It is for this reason that detailed values have been developed for the necropolis as well as for the individual monument.**
- **The identification of the Values, that the site and monument encompass, are the basis upon which Conservation Principles are to be based in order to pursue an organized, well-thought-out, informed and logical preventive conservation process.**
- **Detailed Values have been developed to form the understanding for the conservation process in order to retain the integrity of the Makli Necropolis as well as individual heritage structures.**

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE - HISTORICAL VALUE

- The regional dynastic and contextual history of the site defines the rich Historical Value through tangible evidence of surviving tombs;
- The site embodies the historical past of the region, each one of its objects adding to the historicity of the site;
- Its Historical Value is gauged from the time span (14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century); its association with Sufis, saints and rulers, the structures express a well-documented development of architectural styles over the period;
- Presentation of transitional architecture - Hinduism to Islam, encompassing pre-Mughal, Mughal and Late-Mughal periods - leads to its uniqueness;
- Its technological innovations in the use of stone and brick - from trabeated domical structures to fully formed arcuate construction of true arches and domes - portrays local technical expertise.



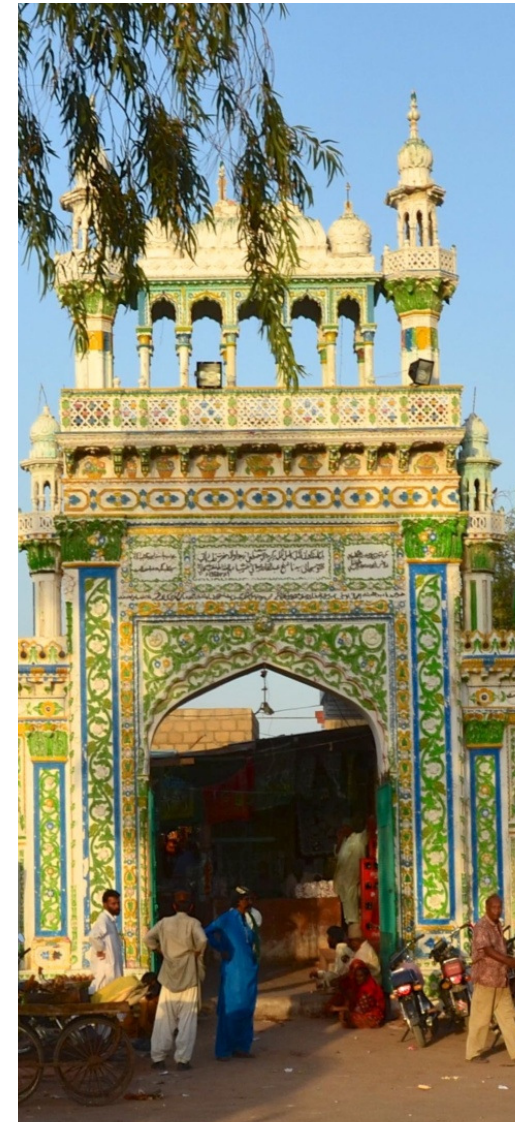
## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – INFORMATION/EDUCATION/ACADEMIC VALUE

- Its educational value lies in providing an understanding of the period - Early Islam through arrival of Sufis and saints, revered equally by Hindus and Muslims, and propagating the message of peace to humanity;
- The existence of the monuments and their ruins can be gainfully utilized as material culture enabling archaeologists, historians and ethnographers to study ancient and traditional cultures;
- Individual monuments being part of their original context can provide researchers and scholars with a unique insight into the age and its traditions



## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

- Its unique ambiance is due to intangible heritage associated and generated by the necropolis, eg mysticism, devotion, veneration towards ancestral dynasties, respect for history, and identity generated by the presence of shrines;
- Being a 'necropolis' it has its attractions and advantages spawned by association with noted saints and their devotees;
- Associations with the site are often based on religious and cultural beliefs. For example the healing power of saints attributed to their closeness to God and metaphysical associations;
- HF studies have shown that many people frequent the site to get away from tensions created by urban living, to find peace and solace or for praying on hallowed ground to seek redemption.



## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – COMMUNAL / SOCIAL VALUE

- **Historic Makli represents the spirit of continuity of veneration and devotion towards the last resting places of generations of ruling dynasties and saints enabling communities to foster spiritual connections and associations with them;**
- **The culture of reverence, mysticism and reflection through visits to the dead generates an exceptional intangible aspect to this necropolis;**
- **As a significant resting place, the necropolis continues to attract devotees and others to gather and offer prayers for attaining inner peace;**
- **The opportunity for congregation and assemblies facilitates social interaction and networks especially during the periods of celebrations and annual *urs* and festivities, commemorating the legacy of those interred in the tombs.**



## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – INTENTIONAL/PURPOSE/FUNCTION/USE VALUE



- **To build / mark this area as a necropolis was the original intention at the time when the first grave tombs, mosques and monasteries were built, and its uninterrupted and continuous use has generated its Intentional Value.**
- **It may be surmised that Makli is the only surviving purpose-built necropolis of its time in the country.**
- **The site is still used as a necropolis but its importance has increased multifold as it is not only a necropolis but also among the oldest surviving graveyard of the early Muslim rulers and saints.**

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – COMMEMORATIVE / SYMBOLIC VALUE

- The history of the Sind, its ruling dynasties and saints, and amazing craftsmanship establishes the meaning of this place for those who draw their identity from it, be it emotional or devotional:
- These tombs are the physical reminders of the rulers of this area and they were built as grand memorials representing their rule, war victories, appreciation of arts and crafts, evoking past lives and events.
- The symbolism of the site is all-pervading as resting places and associated rituals that endow it with a special ambiance, along with the political nuance due to the wealthy rulers representing an elite class as patrons of culture and arts of Sindh.
- The patronage has resulted in elaborate and diverse techniques from the laying of bricks to the use of kashi, stone carvings and lime stucco decoration.



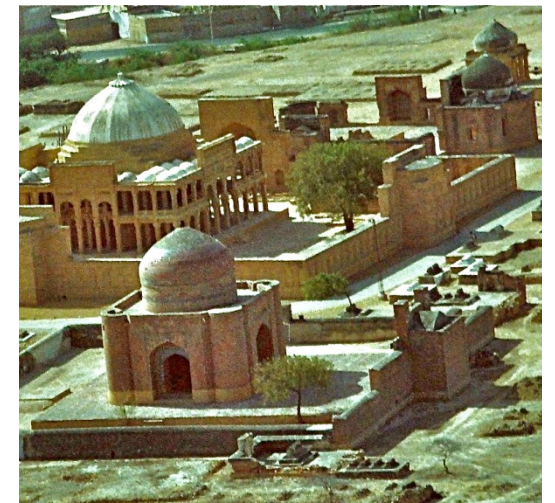
## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – SOCIAL VALUE

- **This Value is interlinked with the Communal and Commemorative attributes of the site, veneration of communities, social interaction, commemoration of ruling dynasties, noblemen and saints, arts and crafts;**
- **The site was declared a World Heritage Site in 1982 indicating the willingness of both the people and the government to recognize the site as a precious historical asset. It is now incumbent on all stakeholders to save these monuments for future generations;**
- **As an important resting place, the site is regularly visited by groups of devotees and families, offering communal and individual prayers and participation in celebrations etc.**



## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – SPIRITUAL / RELIGIOUS VALUE

- The site is imbued with a sacred meaning as the religious requirement of providing the utmost respect to the departed souls. The religious and spiritual character permeates Makli in its entirety imbuing the site with wonder and awe;
- The spiritual ambience, devotional attachments and mystic beliefs augments the Spiritual Value of this area which also reflects religious beliefs and teachings;
- The Spiritual Value of this area far exceeds when consideration is given to its continuity as a royal and saint's grave site;
- The site is appropriately characterized as *Shehar-i-Khamoshan* - The City of Silence - requiring extreme sensitivity and care in carrying out any conservation work in order to retain the special ambience and character of the entire site.

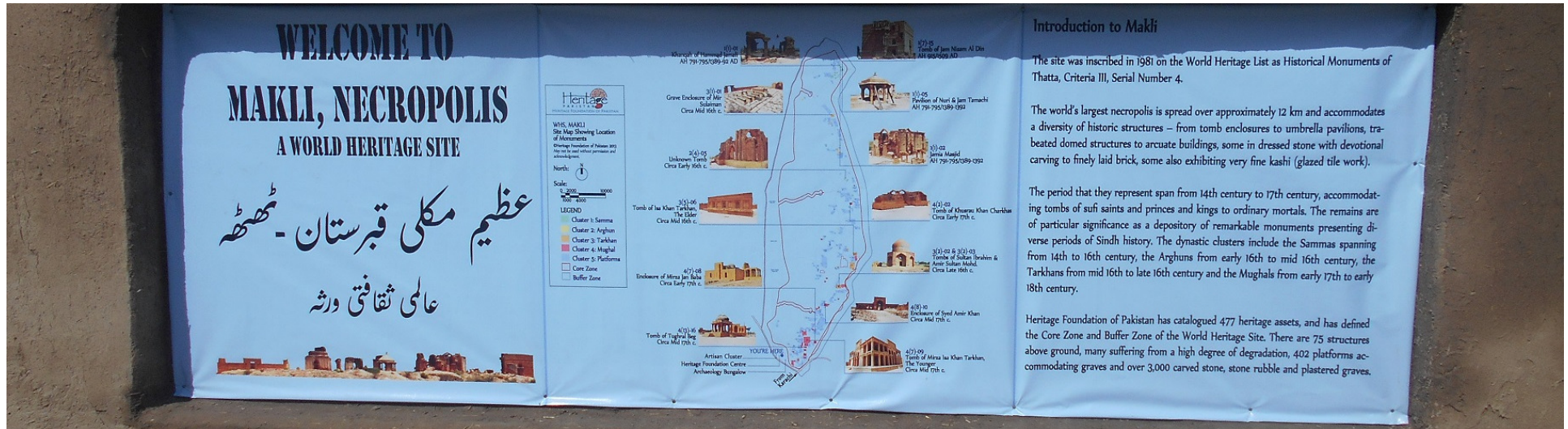


## SITE SIGNIFICANCE – ECONOMIC /USE VALUE

- The work of conservation, particularly the making of burnt brick, stone dressing and *kashi kari* work utilizes low and high level artisans leads to employment for those that are mostly neglected. It would be fair to relate a non-use value to the monument.
- The conservation work will spread awareness amongst the public regarding the importance of the monument and the historicity of the site of Makli, thus attracting large number of visitors which can economically benefit the local community
- There are several aspects that could be considered Use Value: entry or viewing fee, the wages of workers who have been engaged in its conservation, and the Heritage Interpretation walls and enclosure.



# SITE SIGNIFICANCE – NON-USE/ EXISTENCE/OPTION/BEQUEST VALUE



- **Non-Use (Non-Market) Value** can be considered as being for public good. The site provides benefit to all without excluding anyone and is not for the use of a single beneficiary, thus provide the basis for the enjoyment of the general public.
- **Its Existence Value** is based on its existence alone being valuable even though there may not be any benefit being accrued in monetary terms.
- **The Option Value** exists for everybody to enjoy it at a future date.
- **Its Bequest Value** is the safekeeping of inheritance for future generations.

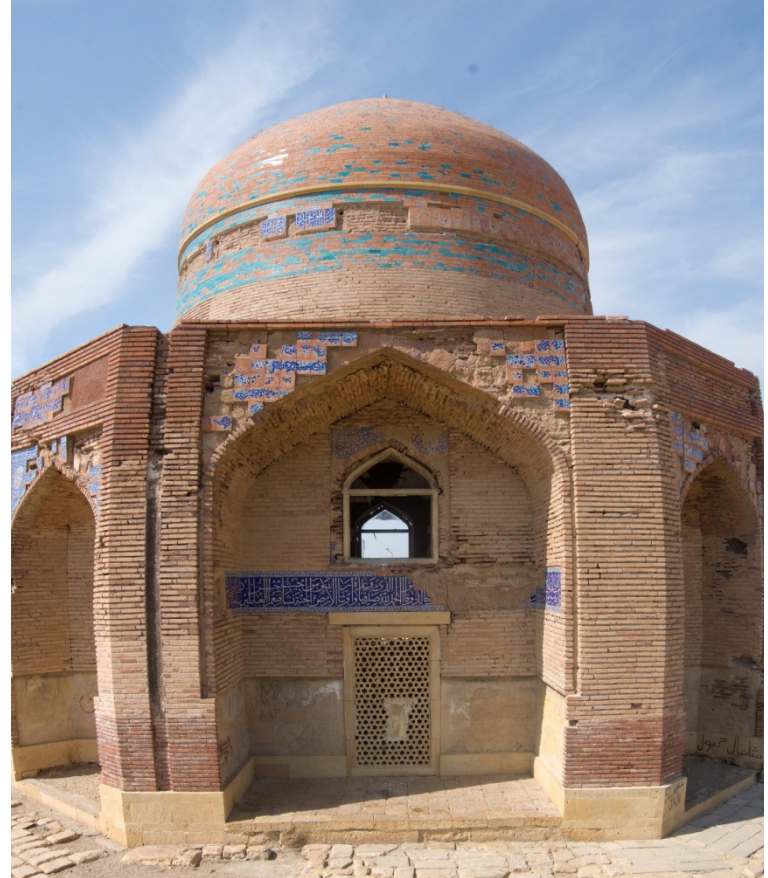
# MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE

**The tomb of Sultan Ibrahim is one of the most prominently placed and eloquently designed tombs at the site of Makli.**

**Its massive dome placed atop a drum, its brick treatment and traditional glazed tile work (kashi) generates dignity and grandeur to the entire structure.**

**Some of the identified Values embodied in the tomb are:**

- **Artistic Value**
- **Illustrative Value**
- **Associative Value**
- **Aesthetic Value**
- **Design Value**
- **Age Value**



## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – ARTISTIC VALUE



- Turquoise glazed tile work around the drum of the dome;
- Stucco decorated interior of the dome, squinches and pendentives;
- Elegant carving of the stone sarcophagus;
- Geometric stone latticework;
- Floral pattern of the glazed tiles used as border for *kashi* work and inside the spandrels;
- Floral patterned hexagonal glazed tiles in the interior of the tomb and along the external dado level;
- Calligraphy bands executed in blue and white glazed tile work at the top of the drum of the dome, as well as at lintel level of external vaults. The calligraphy is done in the *Thuluth* script, in the Persia tradition for inscriptions on mosques and mausoleums.

## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – ILLUSTRATIVE VALUE

- **The sensitivity and skill in construction of the tomb provides an insight into the knowledge & advanced craftsmanship within this society.**
- **This structure is one of the earliest Islamic mortuary examples present in the region of South Asia.**
- **The structural properties of the tomb are visible through the unique construction of the external vaulting, also representing the constructional skills of crafts artisans.**
- **The interior treatment of the phase of transition through a combination of internal squinches and pendentives is unique.**
- **These convert the square base into an octagon which then directly supports the drum of the dome. There are eight pendentives in between 4 squinches and 4 arched ventilators.**



## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

- **The association of the Tomb of Sultan Ibrahim with the 16<sup>th</sup> century rulers of Tarkhan Dynasty in the region of Sind establishes its Associative Value.**
- **This tomb represents the unique style in which the rulers and nobles of this dynasty built their tombs but it also demonstrates the evolution of tomb building activity in early Islamic societies.**



## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – AESTHETIC VALUE

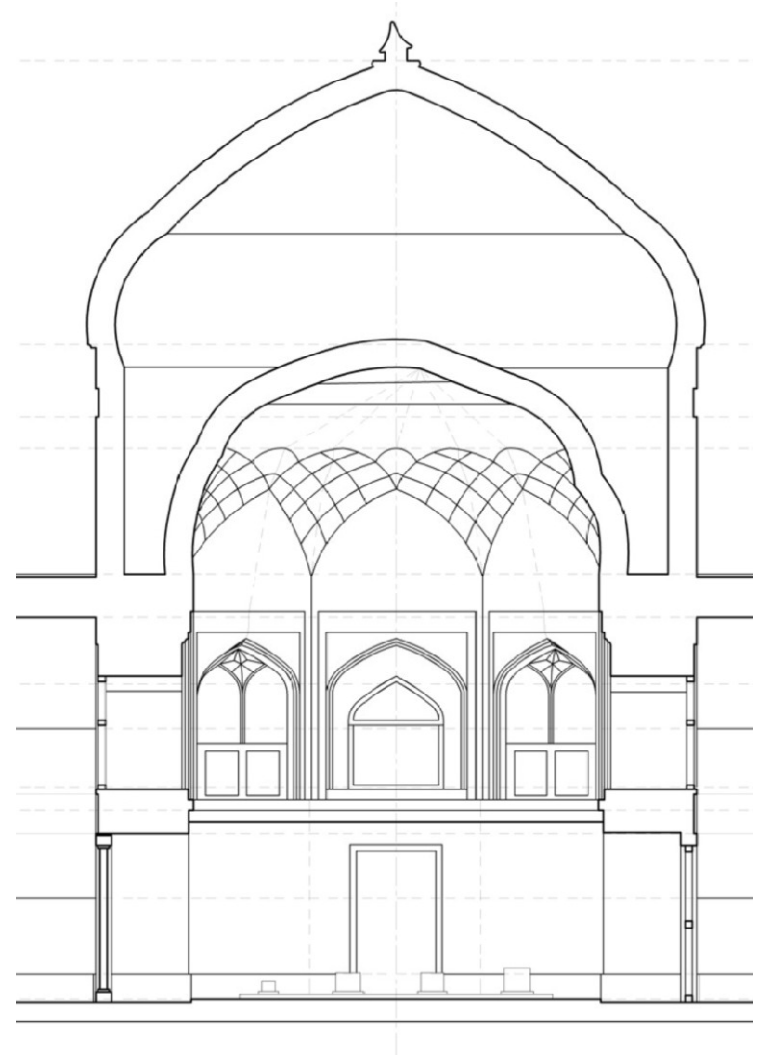
- **The positioning of the tomb and its grand scale provide visual dominance;**
- **The brick structure on a stone platform, sports an octagonal exterior and a square interior. The eight external sides are divided into two sets of four, with one set having full length vaults atop a three-sided rectangular alcove with a door and a ventilator opening. The other set constitutes three-sided hexagonal niches.**
- **The internal square space carries four corner squinches and four ventilator arched openings, converting the base into an octagonal top. 8 pendentives in between the squinches and ventilators are decorated with *qalib kari*;**
- **The decorative elements showcase a unique blend of regional, Persian and Islamic vocabulary promoted by Timurid India and the newly established Muslim dynasties in Sindh;**
- **Along with aesthetically driven tangible attributes and grand proportions, its intangible characteristics providing rare emotions and sensations.**
- **The viewing and study of the monument provide an emotionally enriching experience to the visitor, its architectural features providing contemporary artists with inspiration for creative artistic works.**

## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – DESIGN VALUE I

- Its contextual setting, cluster formation with other tombs, a solid octagonal brick mass punctured with alcoves and niches and its placement near the ridge within its own stone enclosure led by a gateway are consciously designed to create an impact by the original builders.
- The structure represents a strong composition: a symmetrical brick form based on a regular octagon, crowned with a bulbous dome placed on a drum, its proportions balanced with rhythmic bands of recessed panels.
- The prominent presence of the tomb close to the main entrance of the necropolis and amongst the bigger and more elaborate structures provides prominence and visibility.
- Its intricate combination of brickwork, stone work and glazed tile work provides a unique balance popularized by the Timurids.
- The structure has traces of fresco and other decorations, such as *qalib kari (stalactites)*, and glazed tile work in the interior.
- Through architectural documentation it has been observed that the structure has two dome shells, an exterior bulbous cupola, and a much smaller interior semi-circular dome. Through the sectional drawings it has been established that the inner semi-circular dome is contained within the drum area of the outer dome.

## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – DESIGN VALUE II CONTD...

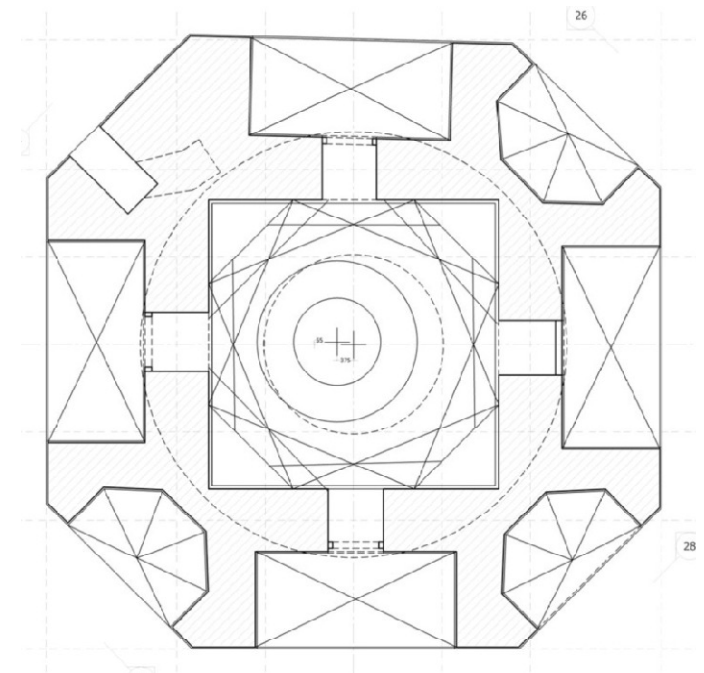
- **Internal Phase of Transition:**
  - **Base: 4 semi-vaulted squinches placed at an angle of 45 degrees and alternating 4 arched ventilator alcoves, converting the base into an octagon.**
  - **Midway: 8 pendentives springing not from the -base but from the springing points of squinches and ventilator alcoves, converting the octagon into a hexadecagon (6 & 10 sided). From the exterior this part is the drum and the base of the outer bulbous dome.**



## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – DESIGN VALUE II

**Springing: 8 pendentives are topped with 16 small triangles, converting hexadecagon into a 32 sided polygon.**

**These triangles are topped with the semi-circular dome and when looked along with the circle these triangles form a 16 pointed star; the triangles become the points of the star.**



## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – DESIGN VALUE III

- **Remarkable maturity in the layout plan creating an introverted sense of place, an ambience which is created around the buried body of the nobleman as this is the space which will be used as his last resting place.**
- **The *Kashi Tile* works of varied types adorning various surfaces add to the design and aesthetic value of the structure.**
  - **The traditional turquoise *kashi* band running around the drum topped with a concave course of yellow glazed brick.**
  - **The calligraphic band of blue and white kashi running the entire above the level of the doors in the external alcoves.**
  - **The floral dado band of blue and white *kashi* work in the external alcoves bordered with concave brick tiles.**
  - **The floral dado band of hexagonal glazed tiles of blue and white *kashi* work in the internal walls.**

## MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE – AGE VALUE

- **The structure is generally in a good and stable condition, showing the construction style and architectural grandeur of the early Mughal era. This establishes the Age Value of the tomb and hence it would be required to conserve it in a manner which still manages to retain its heritage value, heritage-defining elements and the integrity of the tomb.**
- **To enhance the Age Value of this structure consideration will be given towards the enhancement of different elements while conserving.**
- **Preventive approach towards the safeguarding of the historicity defining elements will be adopted, whereas the general approach of conservation will be the combination of preservation and restoration.**

