

RESTORATION OF شاہی باورچی خانہ LAHORE FORT

the ultimate change



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Lahore was a different world in its own; the busy life, the rich history, the colourful culture, and the unfamiliar faces



A 'no go area' transformed
into a perfect tourist spot

THE ROYAL KITCHEN

This Royal Kitchen also known as *Shahi Bawarchikhana* or *Matbakh Shahi* (in Arabic) was once the aromatic area — filled with enticing cuisines being cooked for the royals and aristocracy that resided or visited the Lahore Fort. The history of the building articulating, that it was one of the most utilised buildings at the time of the Mughals. It was the center of all majestic festivities. In 2015, the conservation of the Royal Kitchens was taken up by the Walled City of Lahore Authority. Initially the photographic documentation was made and then came in the technical documentation using Total Stations and other tools.



The documentation revealed that according to the plan of Lahore fort a major portion of Royal Kitchen was missing while the eastern side had collapsed and turned into relics. During investigation and documentation phase of Royal Kitchen it was validated that the original entrance was located on northern wall in the approximate alignment of existing Musaman Darwaza which had also collapsed and its remains could be seen from the Royal Kitchens.

During British era, when the functions of building were changed, a new entrance was introduced from north east corner with gentle slope connected to courtyard than the arcaded rooms of kitchen though, the same entrance is functional to date. The Conservation Wing of Walled City of Lahore Authority started the on ground conservation and initially took up the excavation process. During excavation, pots and pottery was also found. The most amazing thing revealed was the fresco wall of Temple of Prince Loh. Special small bricks, kankar lime plaster and other mortars were prepared which were to be used in this conservation. The structures were strengthened and the missing ones were re-built as the available references.

Royal Kitchens or Shahi Bawarchi Khana, an astounding revelation inside Lahore Fort, has fascinated many who are now visiting the Fort. A 'no go area' inside the fort has surprisingly altered into 'a tourist spot' but still many are unaware of the magnificence of this undetected portion inside the magnificent Fort of Lahore. You will see a mesmerizing structure now conserved aesthetically and delicately by the Walled City of Lahore Authority. Walled City of Lahore Authority holds cultural evenings and gathering at Royal Kitchens now and soon it will be converted into a Mughal themed restaurant.