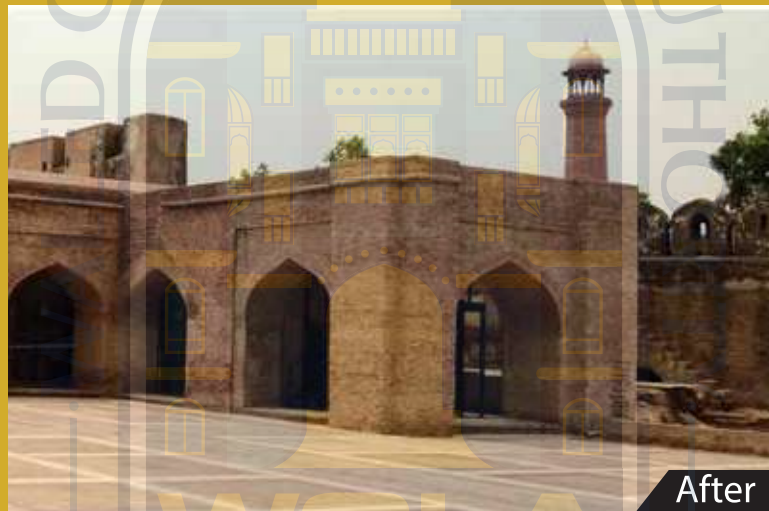
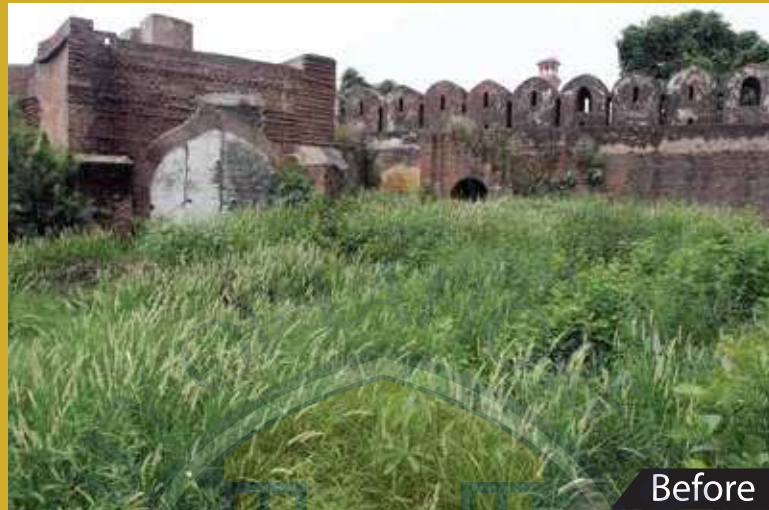


On May 4th, 2019, the inauguration of the Royal Kitchens by Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, served as a testament to the remarkable achievement of conserving this cherished piece of history.



Adaptive Re-use of the Kitchens



At present, with the untiring efforts of Walled City of Lahore Authority, the Royal Kitchens stand preserved, seamlessly blending with the fort's surroundings. The restored building has been rejuvenated, breathing new life into its architectural grandeur. To celebrate this cultural triumph, the Walled City of Lahore Authority organizes regular cultural and Sufi events within the Royal Kitchens, ensuring its vibrant presence resonates with visitors.



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📷 [walledcityoflahoreauthority](https://www.instagram.com/walledcityoflahoreauthority)

📞 042-99204196

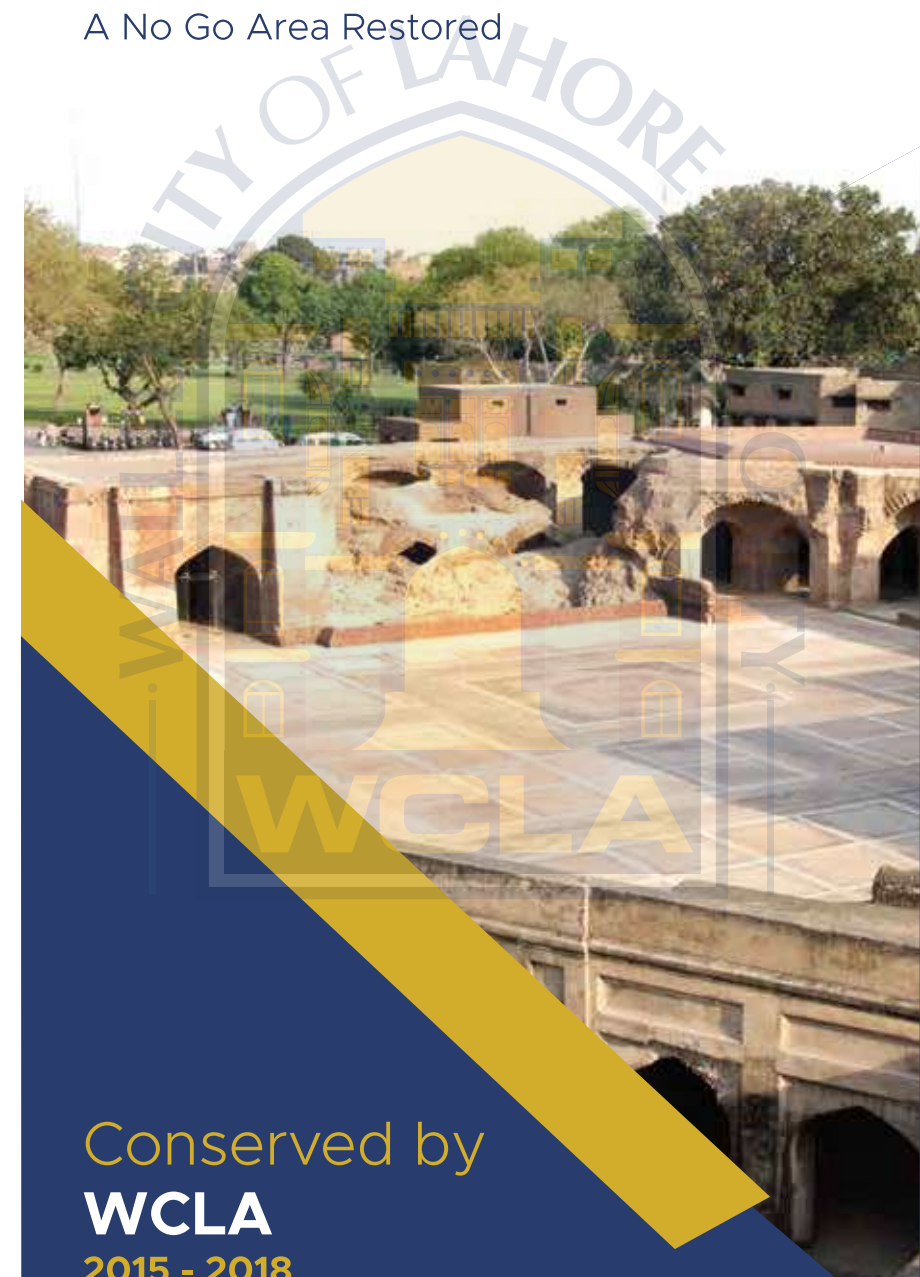
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The Royal Kitchens

Inside **Lahore Fort**
A No Go Area Restored



The Royal Kitchens Shahi Bawarchi Khana



An astounding revelation of Royal Kitchens “**Shahi Bawarchi Khana**” inside Lahore Fort has mesmerized many who are now visiting the Fort. A no go area inside the Fort has unexpectedly altered into a tourist spot but still many of us are unaware of the majesty of this part hidden inside the grand fort of Lahore. This is the Royal Kitchens which was once the aromatic area filled with enticing cuisines cooked for the royals and aristocracy that resided or visited the Lahore Fort.

Location



These kitchens are located at the backside of Alamgiri Gate and as you climb up the royal ramp while entering the fort through British era postern gate you will find it on your right. A narrow passage will lead you to this kitchen and as you enter there you will be awe stunned with the beauty and its open courtyard. You will see a mesmerizing structure now conserved aesthetically and meticulously by the Walled City of Lahore Authority. Walking amidst these 400-year-old arches, you can envision the bustling activity of chefs and helpers preparing meals for kings and queens of bygone eras.

Pages from History

The Royal Kitchens were originally built during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan. They served as the hub where a wide variety of food, drinks, sweets, and appetizers were prepared. The diligent helpers would then transport the delicacies to the private chambers of the king, queen, princes, princesses, and other esteemed courtiers.



Sikh Occupation

During the Sikh occupation of Lahore Fort, the Royal Kitchens, like many other buildings, suffered damage. They were repurposed as a food storage room and stables for horses and other animals.

British Control

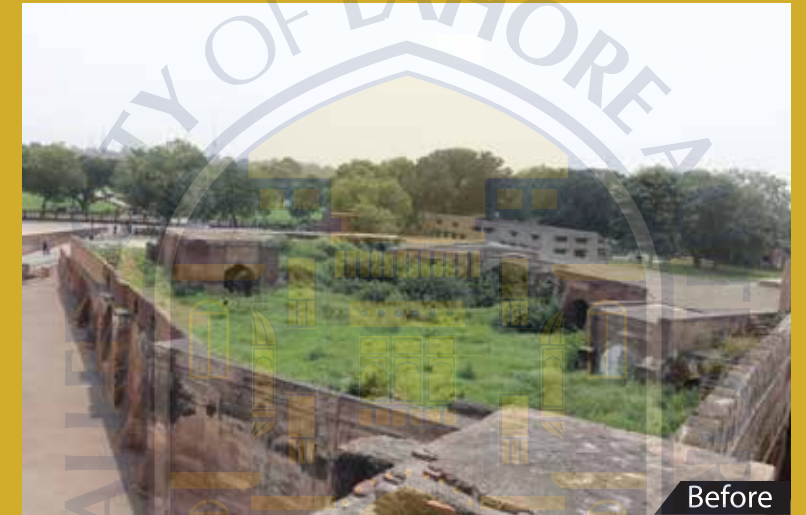
In 1849, when the British took control of the fort, the kitchens were transformed into interrogation cells and jails. The open verandas were sealed with bricks, and new structures such as iron doors and beams were added. An additional storey was constructed, serving as offices for policemen. The British period also witnessed the installation of electricity supply lines, sewage systems, and water drains.

Post 1947

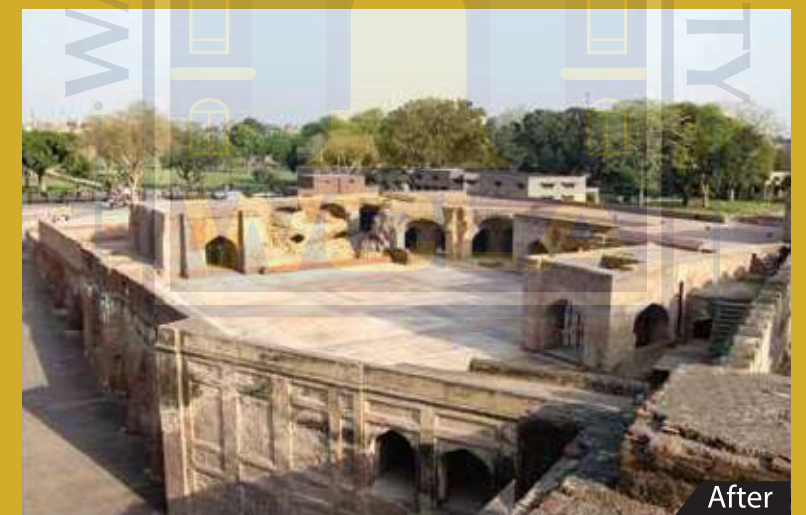
Following the partition, the fate of the Royal Kitchens took a further downturn. It is said that they were used as interrogation cells by the Police Department until the late 1980s, after which they were handed over to the Archaeology Department. Over time, the building fell into severe disrepair. Beams, wooden doors, and windows were removed, possibly destroyed during the riots. Subsequently, the dilapidated sections were demolished, and new offices were constructed. What remains today is a testament to the grandeur of the original vast kitchen complex.

Conservation of the Kitchens

In 2015, the Walled City of Lahore Authority and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture embarked on a conservation project to restore the Royal Kitchens. Through meticulous photographic and technical documentation, using 3D Scanning and Total Station, the hidden elements of this historical site were unveiled. Excavations brought to light other structures, including walls adorned with exquisite frescoes that had been concealed underground over the centuries. Similar to the successful preservation efforts at Shahi Hammam and Wazir Khan Chowk, the restoration work revealed the original ground level and unveiled extensions and interconnected structures, offering a glimpse into the rich heritage connecting to the temple of Loh.



Before



After

A remarkable discovery within the Royal Kitchens was a 400-year-old Tandoor, providing authentic evidence of its historical culinary role during the Mughal era.