

Major Activity of Heritage Cell in the current session

- Heritage Cell in collaboration with Centre for Excellence in Islamic Architecture, Department of Architecture has organized a short term training Programme on "Traditional & Modern Materials and Techniques of Façade Adornment in Islamic Structures" from 9-14 Feb, 2015. It was the first initiative of Aligarh Muslim University to revive the traditional materials and techniques of façade treatment and to sensitize the people and provide awareness for restore the incredible heritage at Aligarh Muslim University.
- The Training Programme was intended to benefit Consultants, Professionals, Engineers, Architects, Faculty, Research scholars and students working in the field of Architecture and Civil Engineering. Ninety nine participants including twenty seven faculty members have registered from various disciplines in this hands-on training programme.
- Dr. Ayub Akram and Abdul Quddus Khan Faculty at K.A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies at Aligarh Muslim University have provided hands-on training on the Islamic Calligraphy.



Picture 1- Vice Chancellor appreciating the Calligraphy Panel produced by the participants

- Mrs Sangeeta Bais, Senior Conservation consultant and the key role player in the conservation of Humaun's Tomb by Aga Khan Foundation have provided her expert talk on the preparation and use of Lime mortar in the Heritage buildings.



Picture 2-Islamic Calligraphy in lime Plaster Panel

- She is an expert in lime mortar and has provided hands-on training to the participants in preparation of lime mortar and lime plaster.
- The participants have developed Lime plaster panels and have done carving of Islamic Calligraphy and inlay various materials in the carved lime plaster panels.



Picture 3-Participants with their work

- On the third day of the short term training programme Mr. Moinuddin and his team of artisans from TajMahal, Agra has provided hands-on training on the cutting and inlay of stone on the façade of heritage structures.



Picture 4-Faculty Members inquiring about the Inlay process

- They have taken with them the traditional tools of cutting the stone along with the modern equipment's, so that the participants can also have the knowledge of traditional construction methodology.



Picture 5-White Marble inlayed in Red Sandstone

- Now coming onto the fourth day, we move on to the Stone Jali & Pillars Carving & Methodolgy. Artisans from Jaipur headed by Mr. Mahesh Chandra Saini & Team were called upon for the Jali work.



Picture 6- Learning the single piece jali carving in stone

- A **jali** or *jaali*, the term for a perforated stone or latticed screen, usually with an ornamental pattern constructed through the use of calligraphy and geometry.



Picture 7-Final product of Jali Work

- Early jali work was built by carving into stone, while later by the Mughals who employed the technique of inlay, using marble and semi-precious stones.
- On the fifth day we headed towards Jama Masjid, Sir Syed Hall for the cleaning of its interior arash plaster which got blackens with the passage of time. Mr Arvind Kumar was present as an expert that day, who started with the Chemical Cleaning (Potassium Hydroxide & Ammonium Hydroxide) process.



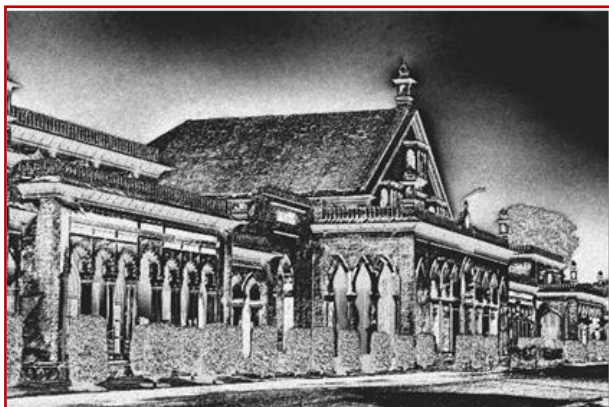
Picture 8-Chemical Cleaning of Jama Masjid

- Under the guidance of Mr. Arvind Kumar, the cleaning process of the left part of masjid was done and that part regained its original shine back.
- This cleaning was just a sample cleaning of the Jama Masjid, the heritage cell is preparing a project report and is going to take up the conservation of Jama Masjid as its first heritage conservation project in the campus.

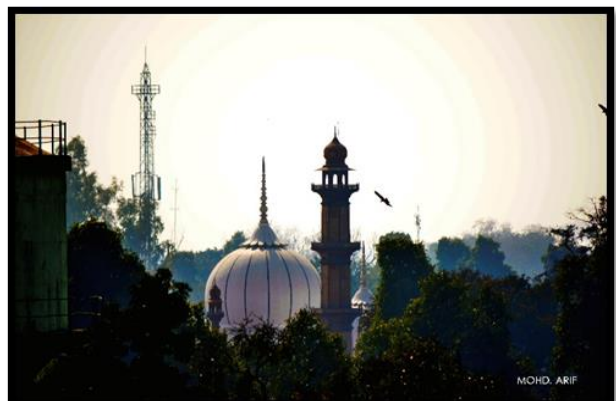


Jama Masjid of Aligarh Muslim University requires an urgent restoration in terms of its interior floral paintings and calligraphic inscription which are getting faded. The exterior require the strengthening of the sandstone cladding which is chipping off at various places in mosque.

- The participants were given time to sketch, paint & do photography of the various heritage buildings of Aligarh Muslim University. The groups were subdivided and the participants were asked to complete the task.
- Thus the workshop provided an excellent opportunity for all the participants to get their hands of the canvas and their eyes behind the lens, to see behind the scenes.



Picture 9-Sketch of Strachey Hall



Picture 10-Photography of Jama Masjid

- During this entire workshop the construction of the free standing arches was side by side going on.



Picture 11-Arch Construction

Through this Training Programme the Heritage Cell has provided its participants a platform to recognize and revive the traditional knowledge system of construction and the material used in the Heritage Buildings which is getting obsolete day by day. It helped in understanding the importance of Cultural Heritage and will revive the traditional materials like lime and lime mortar and techniques like Islamic Calligraphy, Stone Carving, Stone Inlay and Chemical Cleaning in lime plaster.

The cell will further do such kind of activity in the coming years to sensitize the students, faculty and engineers, so that they can have a feel of such a rich cultural heritage with them.