



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

Historic Cities Programme

# HERAT OLD CITY: MALIK COMPLEX



Cistern used by locals as a waste dump, AKTC, 2004



Repaired areas are distinguishable, Christian Richters, 2009



The Malik Mosque and Cistern complex prior to restoration, AKTC, 2004

## ■ MALIK MOSQUE & CISTERN, BAR DURRANI QUARTER



The summer and winter mosques that adjoin the domed Malik Cistern are thought to have been built on the site of a Ghorid-era Sufi place of worship (*khanāqa*). The winter mosque follows the traditional form, with three semi-subterranean domed bays lit from above and accessed from the courtyard through a brick vault on the eastern side. The high brick-arch in the summer mosque dominates the southern side of the courtyard.

Restoration of the Malik complex began in early 2005 with the clearing of waste from the interior of the cistern and removal of accumulated earth from the dome. Following inspection, work was begun to support the brick dome spanning over the semi-underground rectangular cistern, with repairs carried out using traditional fired bricks laid in lime mortar. During the course of repairs, traces were found of a plinth that had been reconstructed in order to protect the building from traffic along the adjoining street. Restoration work on the Malik Cistern was completed at the end of 2006.

Restoration work was initiated in early 2006 on the summer mosque. Using fired bricks applied with lime mortar, repairs were carried out to the *ivan* over the main prayer space. Following the removal of a modern concrete floor in the prayer space, the substructure of parallel brick vaults was repaired, and the area was repaved. Prayer rooms on the upper level were repaired and their wooden screens were restored. Restoration work was completed by early 2007. During the course of work in 2006, modern cement plaster and flooring were removed from the interior of the winter mosque, and modern plaster on the east elevation was removed. The restoration of this elevation has entailed the reopening of the central arch to the courtyard and the installation of traditional windows in the openings on the upper floor. This project received an Award of Excellence in the 2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.



The masonry dome of the cistern was cleaned and structurally consolidated during restoration works, AKTC, 2005



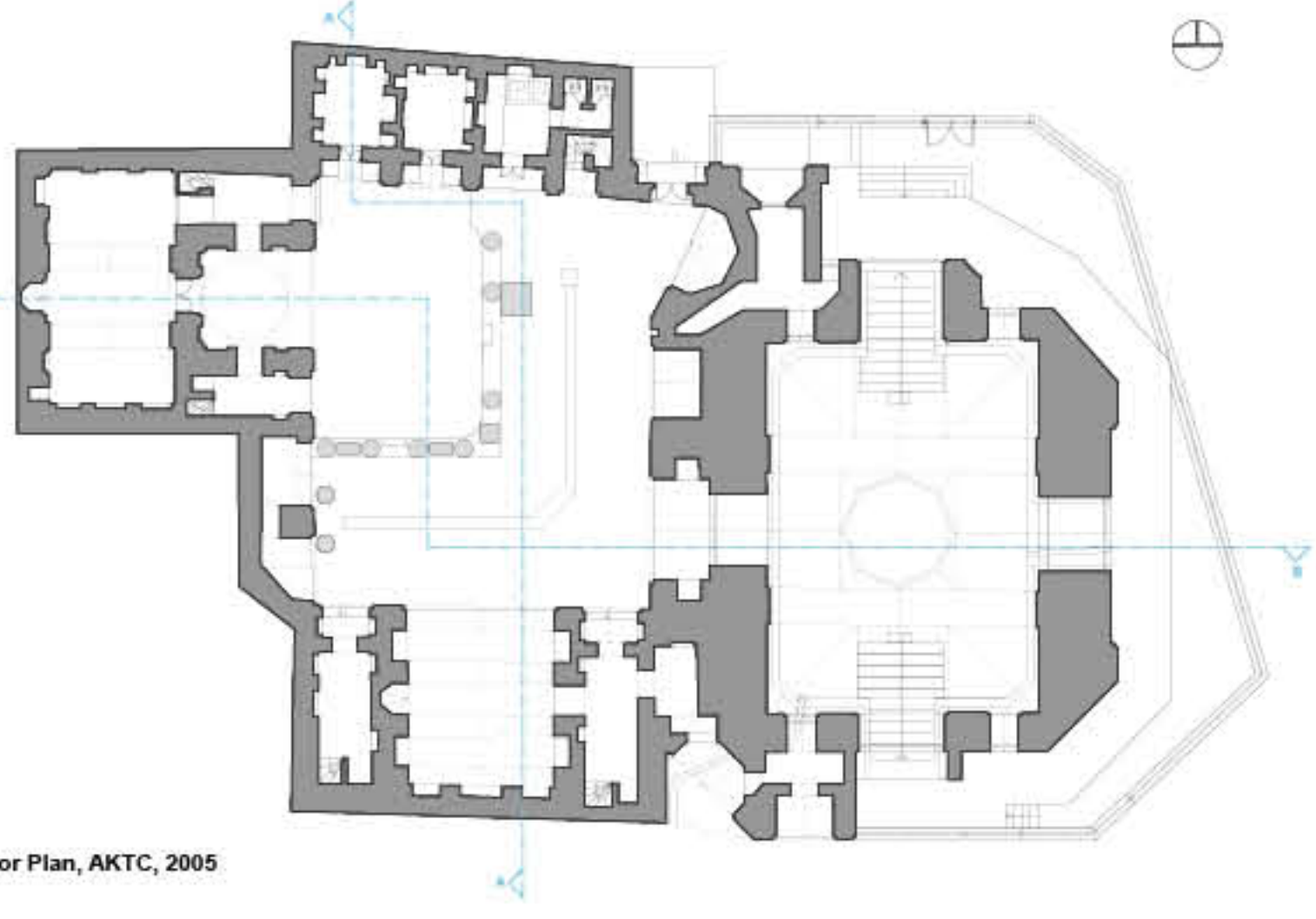
Mason repairs bricks at the entrance to the mosque, AKTC, 2005



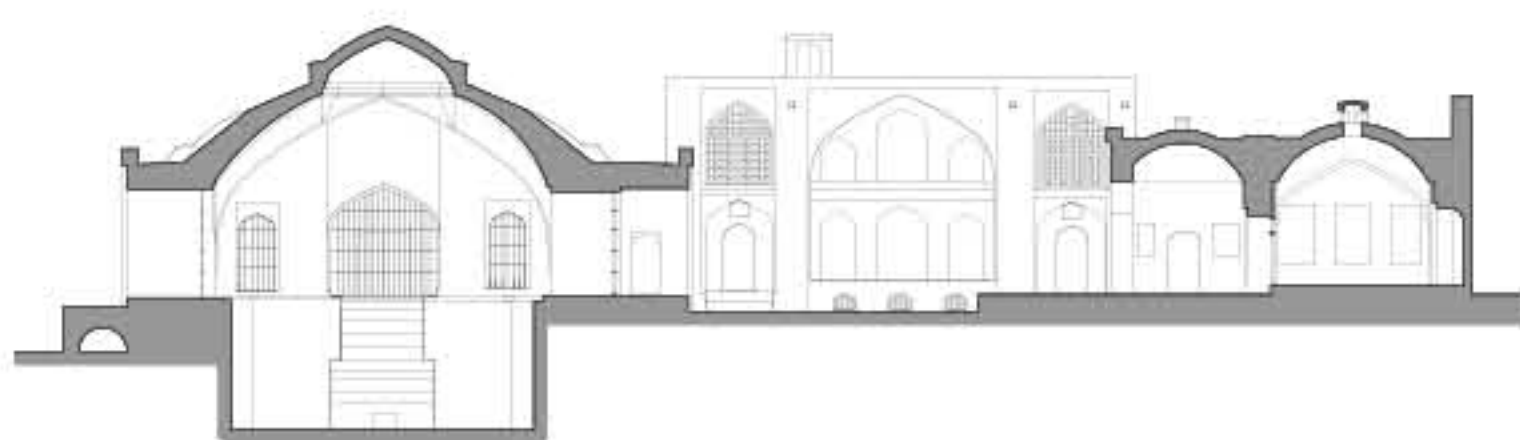
Flooring being prepared for the application of brick pavers, AKTC, 2005



Removal of debris from the roof of the mosque ahead of consolidation works, AKTC, 2006



Ground-Floor Plan, AKTC, 2005



Section B-B, AKTC, 2005

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Restored cistern used as a venue for cultural activities, AKTC, 2010



The main façade of the mosque after restoration, AKTC, 2008



A view of the restored Malik Cistern, AKTC, 2010