



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

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ULYA MADRASA

While religious students have continued to use parts of the building during the course of conservation, work on the Ulya *madrasa* is now complete and is expected to be formally handed back to representatives of the community in the coming weeks. An important example of early 20th-century public architecture in the old city, where there has long been a tradition of religious instruction in such facilities. Work on the *madrasa* included repairs to sections of brick walling that had been exposed after the looting of most of the corrugated roof sheeting and steel structure, both of which have been replaced. An important aspect of the project has been the reconstruction of the upper section of a distinctive brick masonry tower (see image on right) that was badly damaged during factional fighting in the area in 1993. The conservation of the Ulya *madrasa* was made possible through support by the US Embassy in Kabul.



SHANASAZI MOSQUE

Also in the old city, conservation work on the Shanasazi complex, comprising a *hammam* and two historic mosques, was completed during December. The focus of the last stage of this project, which began in 2008 was on a war-damaged annex which was close to collapse when work was initiated in March 2010. Funded by the government of Norway, sections of the brick masonry walling that had been affected by settlement were reconstructed, incorporating the original timber ties and roof structure, which was re-used. Facilities for sanitation, for use by the residents of the neighbourhood, have also been upgraded. With the adjoining restored *hammam* already in operation, the two religious buildings at Shanasazi are expected to be handed back to the community in January.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

On 25 December, eighteen students received certificates upon successful completion of a carpentry course, which forms part of efforts to contribute to improved livelihoods through a range of vocational training initiatives in District 7. With more than 430 students having participated in these courses to date, seven of the recent graduates will continue to assist in the ongoing training, while another five have already received private orders for carpentry items from the community in which they live. Students are provided with a set of basic tools upon successful completion of the course. AKTC's District 7 training program is co-funded by the government of Norway.



HERAT



For more information about AKTC's programme in Afghanistan, contact us at Qala-e-Moeen Afzal Khan, Gozargah Street, District 3, Kabul or Qala Ikhtyaruddin, Herat. aktc.afg@akdn.org

POSTEEN DOZ HOUSE

Conservation work on the Ghulam Haider Posteen Doz house in the Abullah Mesri quarter of the old city of Herat was completed in December 2010. With highly unusual figurative painted decoration in the 'coffee-house' style, dating from the 19th century (see AKTC Newsletter #17) as well as fine internal plasterwork, the house is one of the most important examples of residential property to be recorded as part of AKTC's surveys in the old city. The project has also provided opportunities for on-the-job training of Afghan professionals and craftsmen in the conservation of painted decoration and carved plaster. The final stage of the project, co-funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, entailed reconstruction of sections of mud and fired brick walling, repair of the distinctive moulded brickwork on the courtyard elevations, internal plaster and repair of the roof and the colonnaded veranda. In order to reduce the risk of future flooding of this low-lying property, measures were taken to improve drainage in the wider area.



TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Of the 58 students who successfully sat the year-end examinations held in the Aga Khan Music Initiative for Central Asia's (AKMICA) music school in Herat, 34 opted to continue 'advanced' instruction in a second year. Those who successfully graduated had received instruction in the playing of traditional instruments such as the *dilnawaz* (image below), *rubab* and *tabla*, as well as voice. The 10 best-performing students attended a month-long winter music workshop in Kabul, made possible through a partnership between AKMICA and the Afghan National Institute for Music (ANIM).



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