

COMPLETION REPORT MAY 2024

MOOSA KHATIAN TOMB COMPLEX



ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST



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In search of lost time

Beneath the shade of the thick forests of district Hyderabad, is a beautiful tomb. The same forests oversaw one of the most deterministic battles for the province of Sindh; the battle of Miani, fought against the encroaching British under the command of General Charles Napier. The tomb of the Khatian Jagirdars can be found around 30 kilometers from the battlefield. The decisive battle was won by the colonialists, annexing the province of Sindh and incorporating it in the ill-gotten lands of British India. Many Sindhi warriors and lords were martyred on that eventful day which was, hitherto, to be the last unified Sindhi war effort.





The tomb was built by Muhammad Moosa Khan Khatian – I, to commemorate his father Muhammad Ismaeel Khan Khatian, a celebrated general of the Talpur Dynasty. Muhammad Ismaeel Khan Khatian fought alongside Mir Fateh Khan Talpur at the battle of Halani in 1783 A.D. against the Kalhora Dynasty. The battle resulted in the end of the Kalhora rule and the advent of the Talpur Dynasty in Sindh.

It is said that Muhammad Ismaeel Khan was first the part of the Kalhora army. When the Talpurs rose to power and contested the Kalhora regime, Muhammad Ismaeel Khan defected, possibly due to Baloch sentiments.

The surname ‘Khatian’ is of Baloch origin. The tribe was locally called ‘Khetran’ in the region of Dera Ismail Khan. The shift in regional pronunciation and dialect led to it morphing into ‘Khatian’ after the tribe settled in Sindh.





The beautiful tomb comprises of 11 graves of the Khatian tribe. The first personality to be entombed was Muhammad Ismaeel Khan Khatian who fought in the war of Halani, all the way to, Shaheed Karimdad Khan who was martyred in the battle of Miani.



Alongside the buried, the first hand history of all the wars fought during the Talpur Dynasty lays forever entombed in the earthly embrace of the magnificent structure enshrouded by the swaying forests of Hyderabad.





Site Details

- Coordinates: 25.466557, 68.523011
- District: Hyderabad
- Nearest Landmark: Village of Moosa Khatian.
- Period: Talpur
- Constructed in: Early 19th Century

The entombed include: Muhammad Ismaeel Khan; Muhammad Moosa Khan-I; Ghulam Muhammad Khan; Ghulam Shah; Ghulam Hyder; Jan Muhammad; Ghulam Hyder; Mubarak Khan; and Shaheed Karimdad Khan along with others.





Materials Used

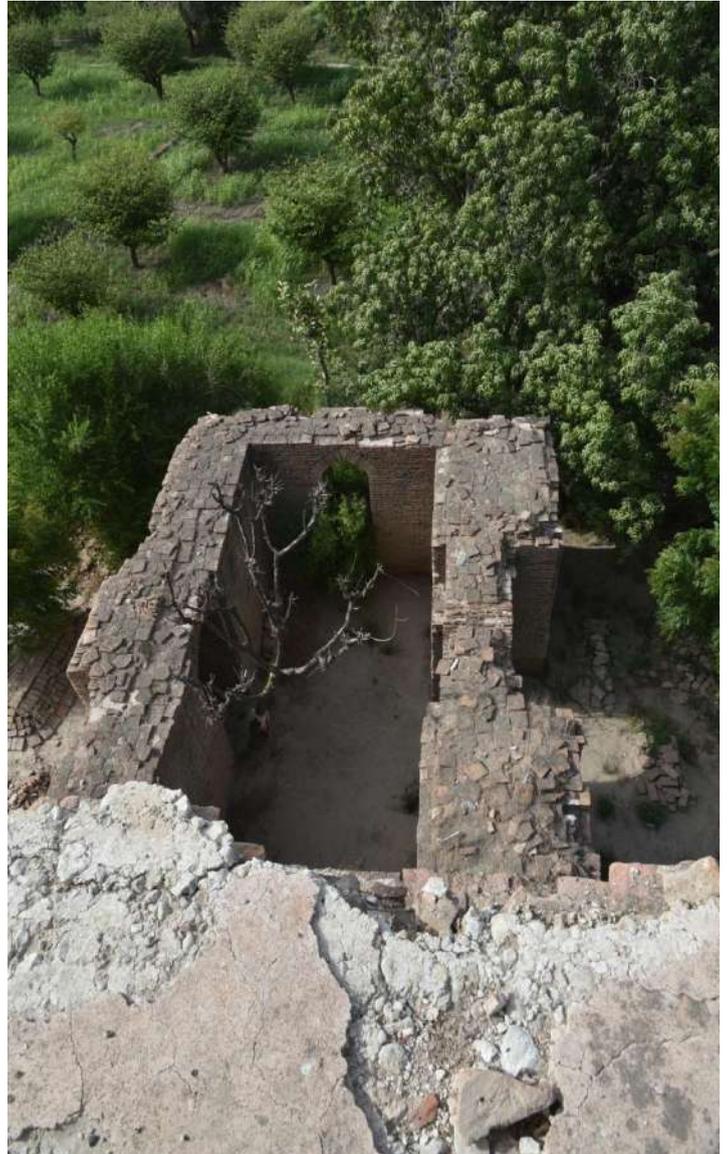
- (9"x9"x1.5") Burnt bricks
- Chiroli
- Lime plaster
- Mud mortar
- Kashi Tiles
- Stone





Architectural Description

- The structure has strong elements of Mughal Architecture.
- Extensive Kashi work can be observed.
- The structure entombs 11 graves.
- The façade arch is 4-centred.
- Stone is used in the doorframe and the façade.
- The height of the structure is 35' without the drum and dome.
- The height of the drum and the dome is 8'-9" and 14'-6" respectively.
- The plan of the structure is a square with 35'-6" by 37'-3".
- The area it encompasses is 1322.375 square feet.
- A staircase leads to the roof.
- '*Jali*' Ventilators can be observed.
- The outer plastering at the panels is thick with almost 5 to 6 inches of plaster between the atmosphere and the masonry.
- Fresco work and kashi tiles adorn the interior of the tomb.





Condition Report

- The condition of the structure is not bad.
- The weathering damage it has sustained is mainly cosmetic.
- No evidence of any major structural damage is observable.
- The interior is in a good condition.
- The graves have already been renovated.
- The Fresco-work is still extent.
- The most damaged element is the drum.
- 90% of the kashi work on the drum is missing.
- Almost 30% of the tiles in the façade need to be replaced.
- The drum needs to be re-plastered as most of the plaster has fallen off.
- The flooring of the roof is to be plastered by lime concrete.
- The turret and finial atop the dome is missing.
- The turrets on the front crown are missing.
- The platform has to be unearthed.
- The doorway has to be polished.
- Ventilator *Jalis* are missing.
- The interior needs to be cleaned.

Further details on the pictorial report





Pictorial Report



The view from the front of the structure showing the missing finial of the structure.

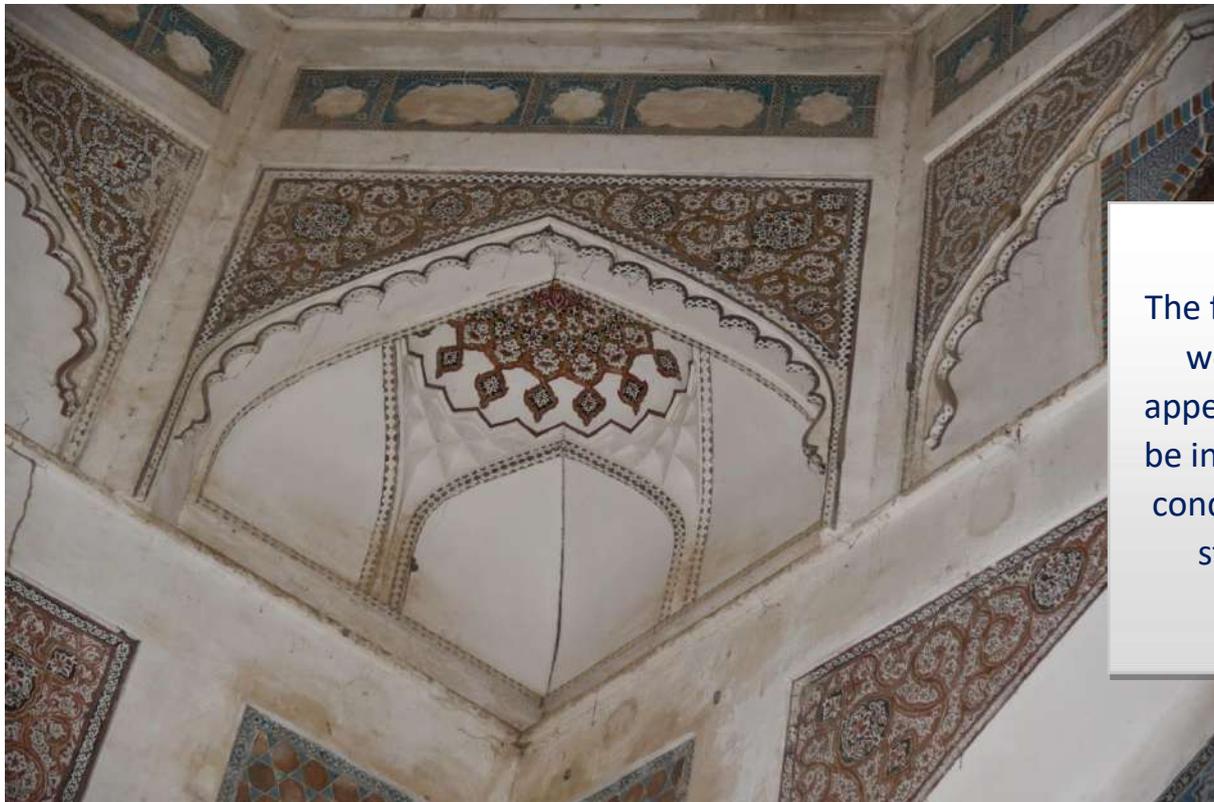


The front façade of the structure showing the cosmetic damage .





The view of the interior of the structure showing the condition of the artwork and the walls



The fresco work appears to be in good condition still





The magnificent dome and the artwork adorning it.



The graves appear to have been restored at some point in time.





The backside of the structure showing weathering damage.



Signs of animal vandalism are evident with birds pecking nests in the thick plaster.

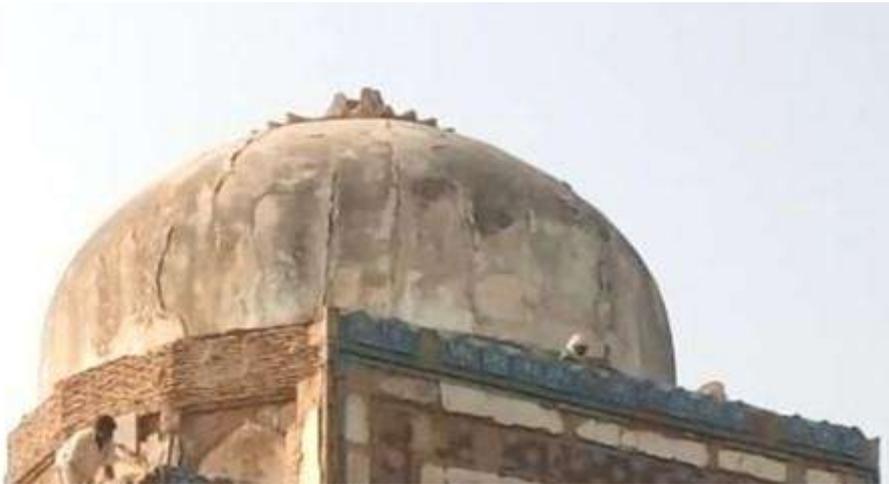
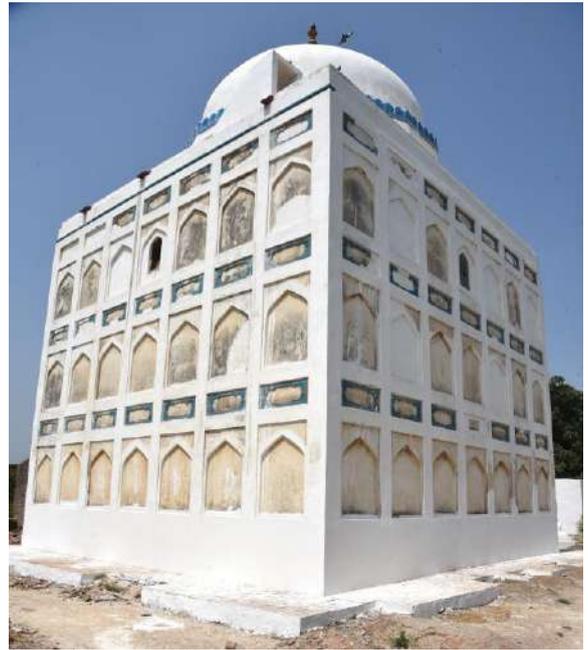
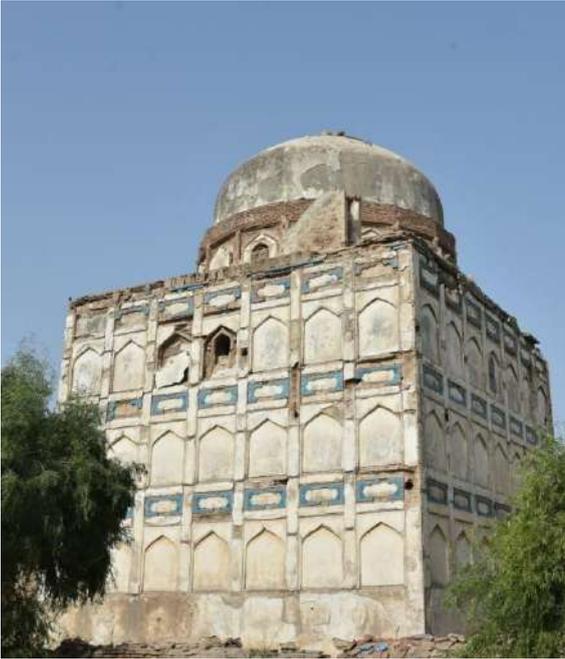




MOOSA KHATIAN TOMB

(BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS)







BOUNDARY WALL

The main tomb is surrounded by a deteriorated Kalhora-era boundary wall. As a result, the site was made accessible from all directions, resulting in incidents of vandalism by humans and animals. This led to the degradation of the tomb and the adjacent graves. Furthermore, the tombs and graves have been elevated above ground level. The lack of walls allowed water to flow off the complex, causing harm to graves on the outskirts, with the potential to eventually affect the tomb. Preserving the historic wall and creating a drainage outlet are crucial for maintaining the site's integrity.

(BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS)







GATEWAY

The entrance gate from the Kalhora dynasty opens the boundary wall on the approach to the tomb. The gate of the tomb complex is severely deteriorated and close to collapsing, which adversely affects its appeal. Without appropriate intervention, the gate will soon collapse, negatively impacting the holistic authenticity of the ensemble.

(BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS)







MOSQUE /JANAZEGAH

Additionally, a Janazah-gah was built next to the tomb. It's an open-air mosque structure constructed for the funeral prayers of individuals who were to be buried at the location. The structure is impressive and complements the Moosa Khatian tomb ensemble. Because of the tomb's close proximity, conserving the structure became an essential component of the project.

(BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS)









WALKWAY PHOTOGRAPHS





BANYAN TREE PHOTOGRAPHS

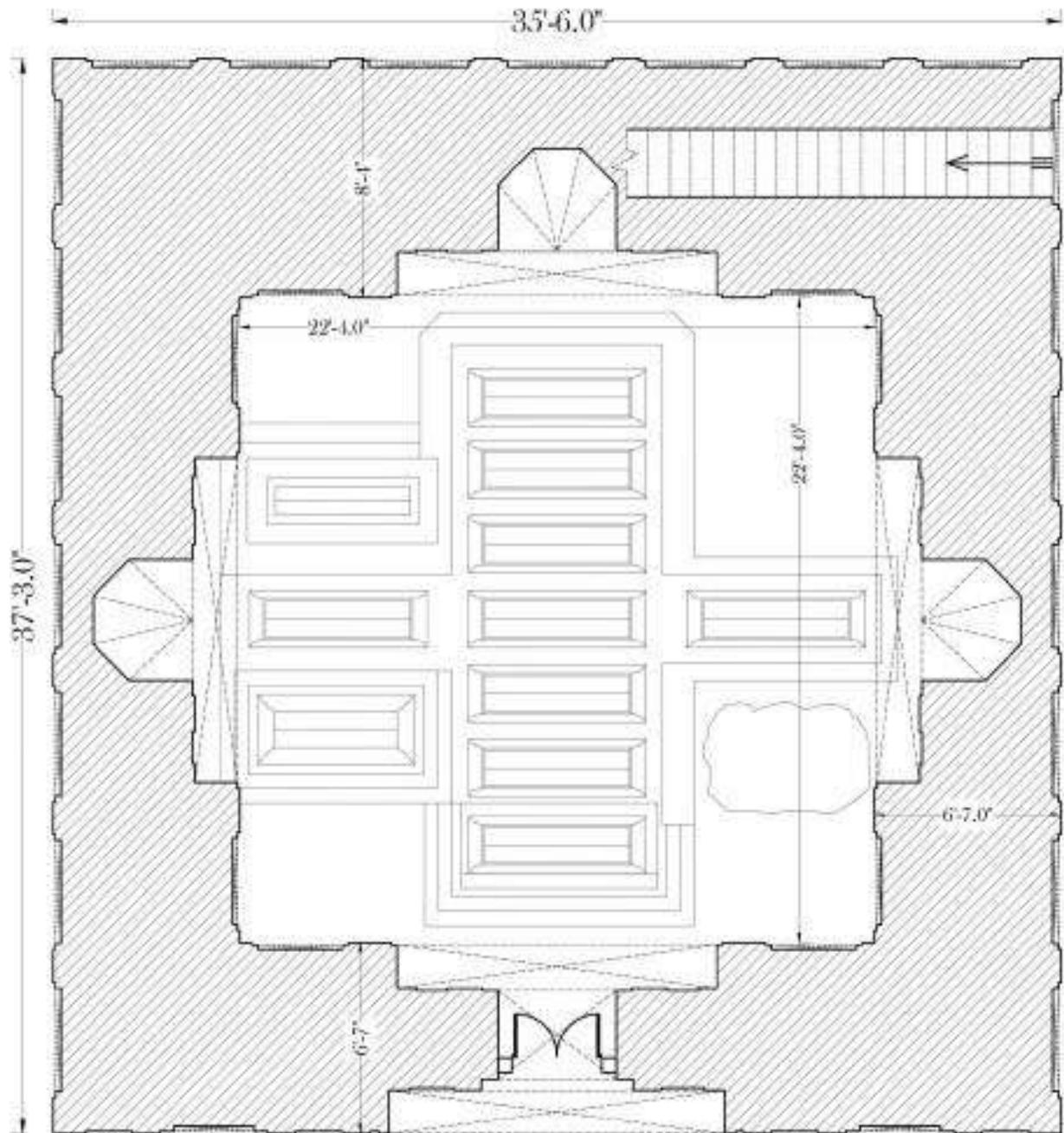


A cemented bench was built encircling the tree to act as a sitting area for tourist/visitors

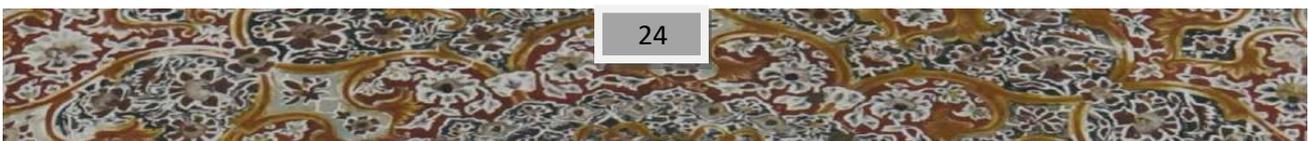


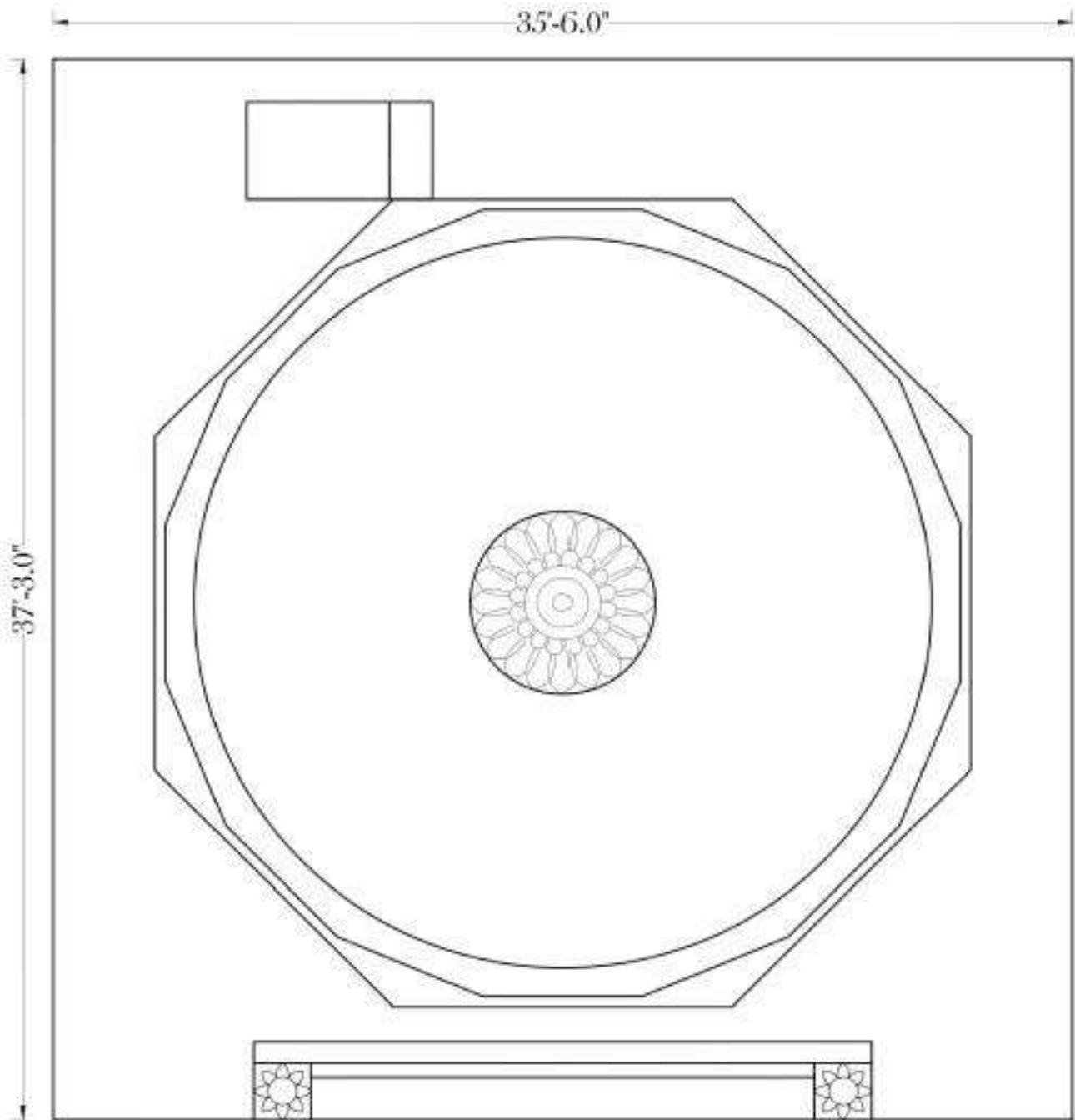


Architectural Drawings



PLAN OF MOOSA KHATIAN TOMB





TOP ROOF PLAN OF MOOSA KHATIAN TOMB





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