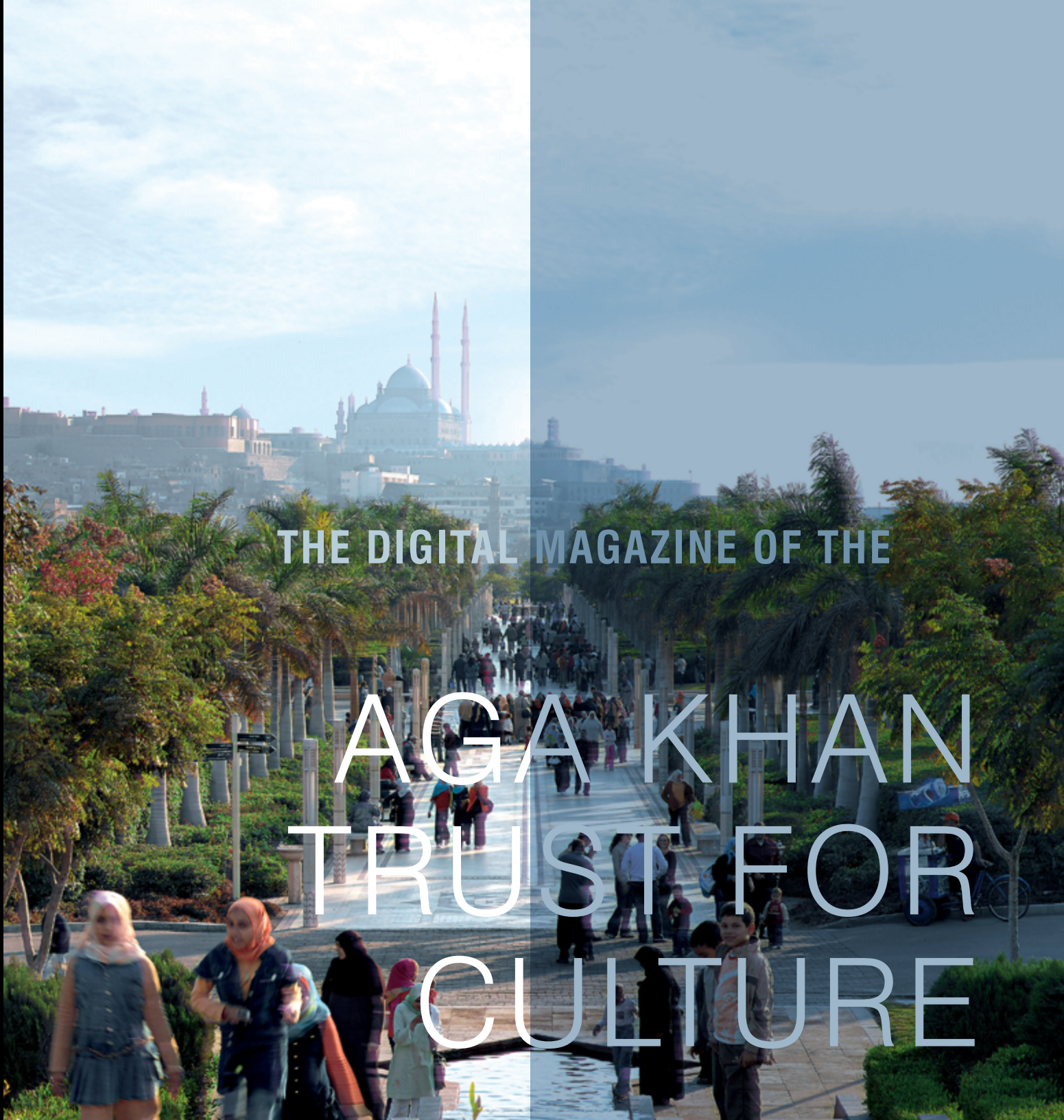


AT HOME

ISSUE 4, MAY 2020

Spotlight:
PARKS AND
GARDENS

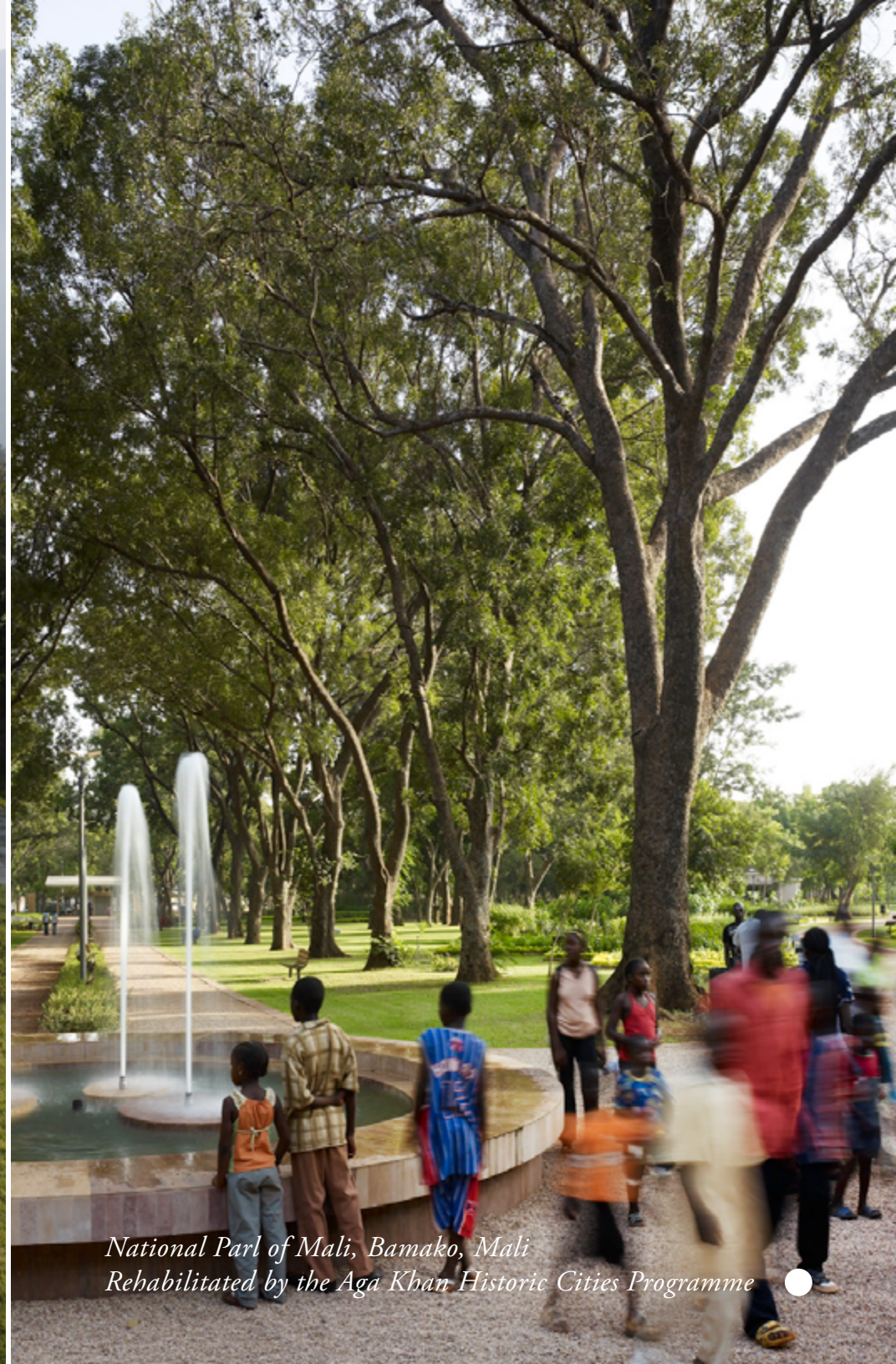


THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE

AGA KHAN
TRUST FOR
CULTURE



*Baghe Babur, Kabul, Afghanistan
Restored by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme* ●



*National Park of Mali, Bamako, Mali
Rehabilitated by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme* ●

YA ALI MADAD

Thirteen of the planet's 20 fastest growing cities are in areas of the developing world where the AKDN works. In many of these cities, green space has often been overwhelmed by growth, migration from the countryside and a lack of planning. Encroachment has gradually swallowed up forests and grassland, diminishing green space. Overwhelmed by financial demands, municipalities have neglected the problem, assuming that green space was unproductive and therefore of little value -- or worse, a financial liability.

It is in this context that the Aga Khan Trust for Culture began experimenting with the notion that, rather than being financial liabilities, green spaces themselves could be catalysts for positive economic and social change. Issue 4, focuses on parks and gardens, a major component of AKTC's portfolio.

This is the last issue of AT HOME. The newsletter sought to provide the Jamat information about the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. We hope that Issues 1-4 were informative, engaging, and that they provided a better understanding of Mawlana Hazar Imam's vision of improving quality of life through culture.

*Cover image: Al Azhar Park, Cairo, Egypt
Created by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme*

As you read through the newsletter, clicking on the ● leads to content.

PARKS & GARDENS PROGRAMME

Luis Monreal, General Manager, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, presents an overview of the evolution of the Trust's portfolio of parks and gardens. To provide context, Luis provides a brief history of gardens in Muslim cultures before expanding on the role Al Azhar Park in Cairo played in creating a model of cultural development that was replicated in Kabul and Delhi. ●



Aga Khan Park, Toronto ●

GARDENS: CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

Gardens seek to improve people's quality of life by providing spaces for reflection, spirituality, education and leisure. This short film explores their significance, including their role as spiritual and communal spaces, in environmental stewardship, and their role as educational spaces to teach about the rich diversity and heritage of Muslim cultures. ●



*Sunder Nursery, Delhi, India
Rehabilitated by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme* ●

KABUL HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

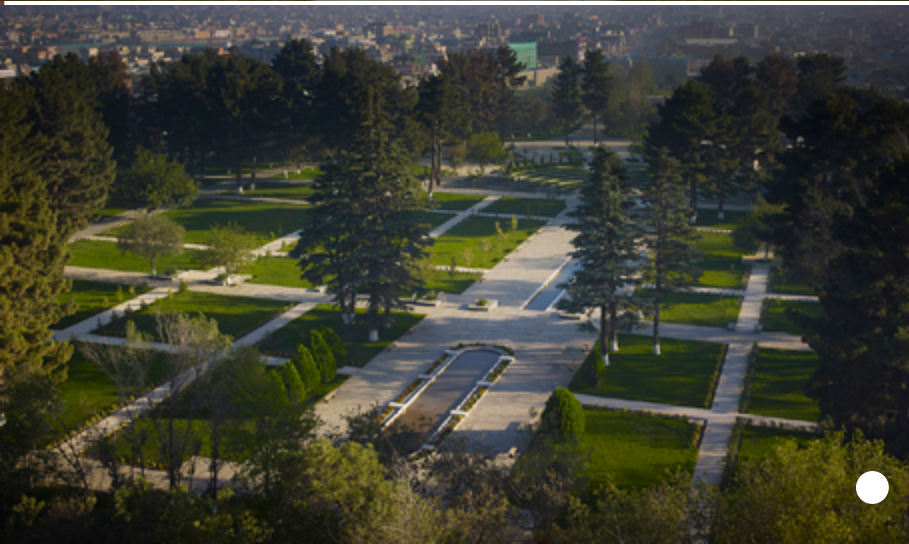


Ajmal Maiwandi, CEO, Aga Khan Cultural Services - Afghanistan, describes the process of creating beautiful and magical spaces in this war-weary nation. AKTC has rehabilitated three major green spaces in Kabul:



Baghe-Babur, a walled and terraced garden containing the tomb of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, and pavilions, a mosque, caravanserai and palace.

Timur Shah Garden has been reclaimed and replanted making an intimate connection with the riverfront.



Chihilsitooon Garden, a 12.5-hectare public site and Kabul's largest historic public garden, which now provides high-quality public spaces for social and cultural interaction, educational programming, and sport and recreational activities. ●

Baghe Babur, Timur Shah Garden and Chihilsitooon Garden, Rehabilitated by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme

GARDENS IN ISLAMIC ART

More than 130 verses in the Qur'an mention Paradise in some way, a clear indication of how central this theme is to Islamic faith and spirituality. Its atmosphere is repeatedly described, too, not only in the Qur'an, but endless works of spiritual literature and poetry - lush, green and shady gardens, irrigated by rivers, ponds and fountains.

Ulrike Al-Khamis, Director of Collections and Public Programmes, Aga Khan Museum presents a lecture on gardens and their representation in Islamic art. ●



GARDENS AT THE AGA KHAN CENTRE

Islamic gardens come in many different types, styles, shapes and sizes. Characteristic features include water, geometrical patterns, and architectural elements.

Each roof garden, terrace and courtyard in the Aga Khan Centre echoes Islamic architectural and garden styles. These contemporary landscaped spaces represent the diversity of Muslim cultures around the world and over time. The modestly sized but beautiful spaces range from contemplative and secluded to open and social. ●



AGA KHAN GARDEN

Inspired by some of the world's foremost Islamic architecture and landscapes, the Aga Khan Garden in Edmonton, Canada, uses a delicate play of geometry, water, light and shadow to create a visually stunning experience.

The Garden features secluded forest paths, granite and limestone terraces, still pools that reflect the prairie sky and a waterfall that tumbles over textured stone.

Introduced by Breck Gastinger, Senior Associate, and Nathan Foley, Associate, at Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, and who both worked passionately on this project for 3 years.

IMPACT OF PARK PROJECTS

Jurjen van der Tas, Director, Partnerships and Development, describes how AKTC parks are having a real and lasting impact on the lives of people. Using real-time data and measurement systems, provides the Trust a basis to fine-tune development initiatives with the goal to make them better.



LANDSCAPE WORKS FROM THE AWARD

Farrokh Derakhshani, Director, Aga Khan Award for Architecture, once more digs into the Award archives to introduce two projects that highlight the importance of open spaces and landscapes in transforming cities and positively shaping peoples' lives.

These two projects in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia show how a culture of stewardship can help create a more beautiful and equitable world. ●



AKMP: MUSIC AND ARTS EDUCATION

"Improvise! Teaching Music Today" is a new film about arts and music education. The Aga Khan Music Programme supports the efforts of musicians and music educators to preserve, revitalise, and further develop Muslim musical heritage in contemporary artistic languages. It also offers school children and aspiring young professionals an opportunity to study with master musicians. The film is introduced by Fairouz Nishanova, Director, Aga Khan Music Programme. ●



City Park, Khorog, Tajikistan
Rehabilitated by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme ●

AT HOME

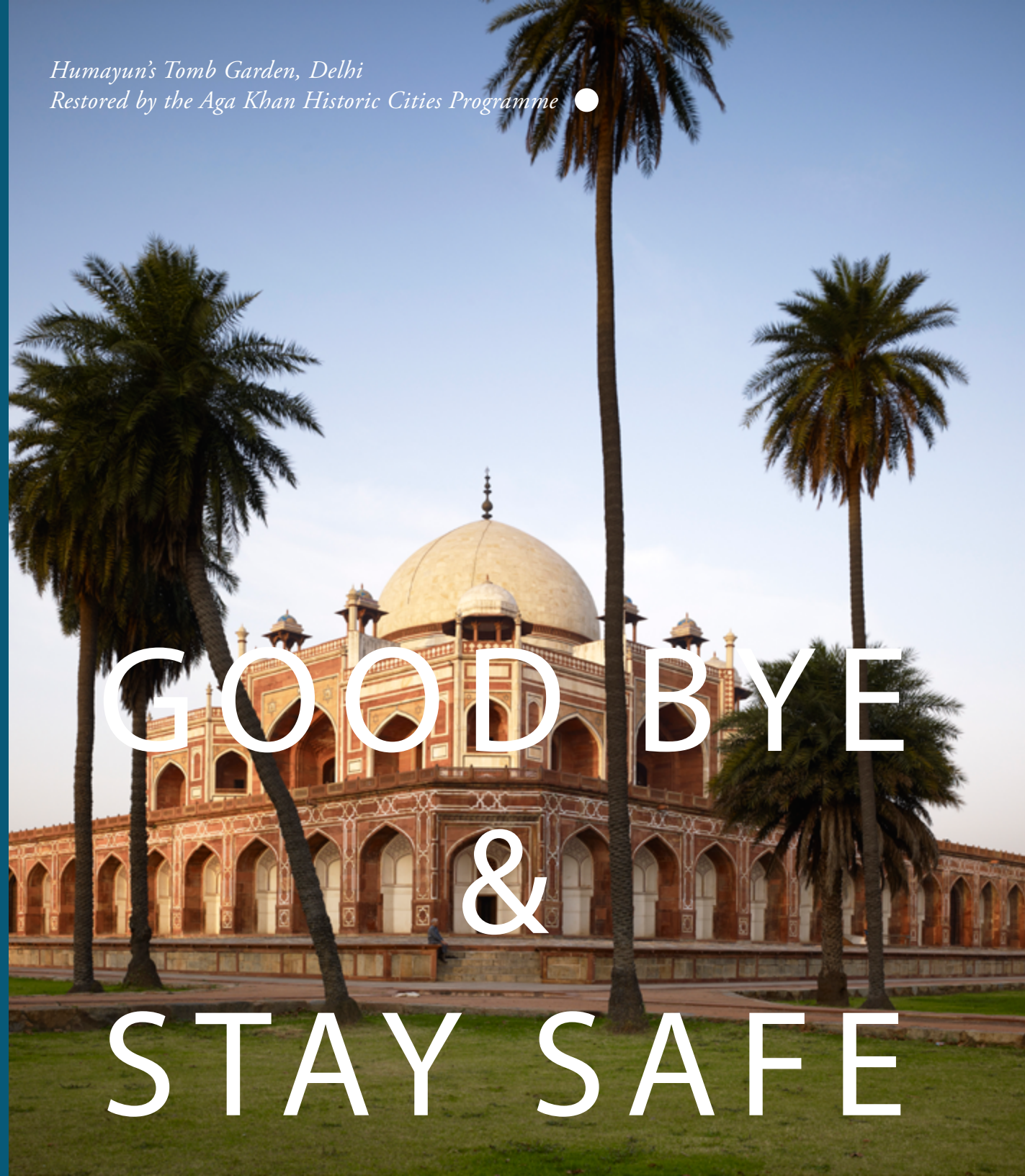
All of the programmes of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture generate and disseminate a wide variety of resources, materials, and outputs. To learn more about the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, please consult archnet.org and akdn.org.

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Humayun's Tomb Garden, Delhi
Restored by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme ●



GOODBYE
&
STAY SAFE