



THE RESTORATION OF ITUMBAHA MONASTERY

BUDDHIST KATHMANDU CAMPAIGN – ITUMBAHA INITIATIVE | A CAMPAIGN FOR ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION INITIATED BY
THE KATHMANDU VALLEY PRESERVATION TRUST IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KATHMANDU MUNICIPALITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL)

PROJECT PROPOSAL | NOVEMBER 2012

SUBMITTED TO

ALLIANCE DE PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ASIATIQUE
ORIENTAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES PROTECTION ALLIANCE, PARIS, FRANCE



KATHMANDU VALLEY PRESERVATION TRUST

36 WEST 25TH STREET, 17TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10010, USA
TEL: 212 727 0074

P.O. BOX 13349, KATHMANDU, NEPAL
TRUST OFFICE: PATAN DARBAR SQUARE
TEL: (977 1) 55 46 055

info@kvptnepal.org | www.kvptnepal.org

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Itumbaha monastery | Nov 2002
 When the restoration of Itumbaha was first proposed in 2002 only a small portion of the roof in the North-East corner still retained its historic mud and terracotta cover. All other historic roofs had been lost and were rebuilt employing corrugated steel sheets. The shapes of the roofs had been significantly changed: note the shed roofs in the foreground and the addition of a projecting balcony as seen on the south-west corner of the building.



Itumbaha monastery | Sep 11, 2006
 Following a three-year construction period 80% of the monastery was restored with funds from the German Foreign Office, the World Monuments Fund and the monastery's own contributions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Most international attention paid to the architectural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley is focused on its World Heritage sites. While beneficial, this attention is paid at the expense of other significant sites which remain largely neglected. Despite the march of insensitive modern development, a number of historical monuments of outstanding historical and artistic importance survive in the core of this capital city. Until now overlooked by preservationists, who in broad strokes describe Kathmandu as “lost”, hundreds of individual monuments and a dozen townscape ensembles survive, many deserving of documentation and international preservation efforts.

Itumbaha, one of the five principal monasteries of Kathmandu, is one such worthy site not only for its ritual importance in Newar Buddhism, but also for its wealth of early woodcarvings and its retained architectural configuration, which remains largely intact and dates back to the 13th century. Itumbaha preserves its original two-story configuration and roof form as well as numerous building components

including carved windows, pillars, and roof struts from the 13th century. The courtyard is dotted with additional votive structures, some of great artistic importance such as the 17th century *caturmukhi caitya* (lit. “four faced stupa”). In 2001 the World Monument Watch included the Buddhist monastic complex of Itumbaha in its list of the 100 most endangered sites in the world.

The Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust is currently applying for funding for a 15 month project which offers the opportunity to complete the restoration of the Itumbaha monastery located in the heart of Kathmandu in a rapidly developing area north of the Darbar Square. The cluster of early Buddhist architectural monuments in and around this monastic quadrangle represents the last opportunity to save an ensemble of historic structures of exceptional artistic importance. Of some 83 Buddhist monasteries in the old city, only three preserve their historical shape without modern encroachments. Due to the fact that the monastery’s ownership is still controlled

by the *sangha*, the monastic community of elders, makes it one of the very few monuments in the city where interventions are still possible and feasible. Additionally, the lack of vehicular access in and around the outer courtyards of Itumbaha guarantees the restored complex an appropriate atmosphere and provides respite from chaotic modern Kathmandu.

Between 2002-2005 the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust restored the west- and south-wings of Itumbaha as part of its Buddhist Kathmandu Campaign. From 2005-2006, Itumbaha’s private religious trust (*guthi*) restored the north wing. The Trust is now proposing to restore the east wing in order to complete the building’s restoration. This restoration effort will include the rebuilding of all dilapidated masonry walls, the rebuilding of the roof in traditional style, and the conservation of all historic carved timber elements. In addition, the Trust will incorporate seismic strengthening methods, ensuring that the structure is safeguarded in the event of an earthquake.



PROJECT TIME FRAME AND BUDGET

PROPOSED TIME FRAME

The Trust estimates a project time frame for the complete restoration of Itumbaha's East Wing at 15 months. Three months will be required for mobilization, site preparation, and material procurement. The actual construction period is estimated at 12 months. The Trusts aims to keep the project period to a minimum in order to save on overhead and administrative costs.

PROPOSED FUNDING SCHEME

KVPT has always successfully funded its restoration projects with combined efforts from a diverse variety of funding sources, involving both local community groups and international public and private donors in

its restoration projects. In this same spirit, the Trust anticipates a joint funding scheme for the restoration of Itumbaha.

To complete the restoration of the monastery, a total amount of €75,000 will be required. The Alliance de Protection du Patrimoine Culturel Asiatique has kindly offered to be the primary supporter. In addition to their generous contribution of €40,000, the Trust has already secured matching funds from the World Monuments Fund (approximately €10,000). The monastic community has pledged 5 Lakh Nepali Rupees (approximately €5,000). This totals an amount of €55,000 in confirmed contributions. The remaining €20,000 will be raised by KVPT from local and international supporters.

PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

About 50% of the total project cost will be needed within the first 3 months in order to be able to procure building materials such as timber and specially manufactured bricks. Once materials are secured restoration work can be completed within 12 months. 40% of funds

ITUMBAHA MONASTERY: THE RESTORATION OF THE EAST WING

Cost estimate, Oct 30, 2012

S.n.	Description of works	Qt.	Unit	Rate	Amount in Nepali Rs.	Amount in Euro
Construction and restoration costs:						
<i>General</i>						
1	scaffolding	240.00	s.m.	400	96,000.00	905.66 €
2	dismantling of roofs, floors and damaged walls	1.00	l/s	45,000	45,000.00	424.53 €
3	disposal of demolition debris	50.00	trucks	1,200	60,000.00	566.04 €
<i>Ground Floor</i>						
4	repair and rebuilding of <i>ma apa</i> brick walls	60.00	c.m.	11,700	702,000.00	6,622.64 €
5	repair of timber columns on courtyard side	8.00	pcs	3,500	28,000.00	264.15 €
6	repair of main entrance steps and of two lion pedestals	1.00	pc	25,000	25,000.00	235.85 €
7	repair of main door including new door leafs	1.00	l/s	54,000	54,000.00	509.43 €
8	repair of two small blind windows besides the main entrance	2.00	pcs	5,500	11,000.00	103.77 €
9	new wooden cornice	30.00	l.m.	2,200	66,000.00	622.64 €
10	2 layers of brick soling in lime surkhi mortar on ground floor after compaction	40.50	s.m.	900	36,450.00	343.87 €
11	paving with 15 x 15 cm floor tiles	40.50	s.m.	1,425	57,712.50	544.46 €
<i>First Floor</i>						
12	wall plates	0.96	c.m.	158,805	152,452.80	1,438.23 €
13	floor joists	3.33	c.m.	88,230	293,805.90	2,771.75 €
14	planking above joists in main entrance (<i>dalan</i>)	20.00	s.m.	3,750	75,000.00	707.55 €
15	marine grade plywood above joists and planking	60.00	s.m.	915	54,900.00	517.92 €
16	2 layers of brick soling in lime surkhi mortar	60.00	s.m.	900	54,000.00	509.43 €
17	installation of new 15 x 15 cm terracotta floor tiles	60.00	s.m.	1,425	85,500.00	806.60 €
18	repair of large carved windows (2 on East façade, 2 on West façade)	4.00	sets	9,000	36,000.00	339.62 €
19	repair of small carved windows (2 on East façade, 2 on West façade)	4.00	sets	4,000	16,000.00	150.94 €
20	one new carved window (which was lost from the east façade)	1.00	set	70,000	70,000.00	660.38 €
21	installation of new sal wood lintels above all (9) windows	1.02	c.m.	176,450	179,979.00	1,697.92 €
22	restoration of 4 blind windows on the courtyard façade	4.00	sets	3,000	12,000.00	113.21 €
23	repair of existing historic struts	6.00	pcs	5,000	30,000.00	283.02 €
24	new plain struts	17.00	pcs	9,500	161,500.00	1,523.58 €
25	securing main entrance tympanum (<i>toran</i>) from theft with stainless steel braces	1.00	pc	22,000	22,000.00	207.55 €



<i>Roof Level</i>						
27	ridge beam	0.63	176,450	111,163.50	1,048.71 €	
28	capitols	0.18	176,450	31,761.00	299.63 €	
29	ridge posts	0.35	176,450	61,757.50	582.62 €	
30	cross beams	1.56	176,450	275,262.00	2,596.81 €	
31	base beams	0.33	176,450	58,228.50	549.33 €	
32	purlins	0.26	176,450	45,877.00	432.80 €	
33	sal wood wall plates	1.92	c.m.	158,805	304,905.60	2,876.47 €
34	pine rafters	8.70	c.m.	88,230	767,601.00	7,241.52 €
35	eaves boards	54.00	l.m.	1,450	78,300.00	738.68 €
36	metal straps for eavesboard	92.00	pcs	125	11,500.00	108.49 €
37	planking above ratfters	245.00	s.m.	3,750	918,750.00	8,667.45 €
38	marine grade plywood above planking	245.00	s.m.	915	224,175.00	2,114.86 €
39	water proofing membrane (multiplas)	245.00	s.m.	810	198,450.00	1,872.17 €
40	laying of traditional roof tiles (<i>jhingati</i>) on mud bed	245.00	s.m.	1,320	323,400.00	3,050.94 €
41	ridge tile	29.00	l.m.	2,260	65,540.00	618.30 €
<i>Miscellaneous</i>						
42	concealed electrical wiring and electrical installations	1.00	l/s	30,000	30,000.00	283.02 €
43	upgrade courtyard drainage	1.00	l/s	12,000	12,000.00	113.21 €
44	rebuilding of plinth with <i>ma apa</i> in lime surkhi mortar	17.25	c.m.	11,700	201,825.00	1,904.01 €
45	plinth edge stone	30.00	l.m.	4,000	120,000.00	1,132.08 €
46	15 x 15 cm floor tiles on plinth	75.00	s.m.	1,425	106,875.00	1,008.25 €
47	final site cleanup	1.00	l/s	30,000	30,000.00	283.02 €
				sub-total 1 in Nepali Rupies:	6,502,421.30	
				sub-total 1 in Euros:		61,343.60 €

Site office and staff expenses:						
1	Documentation (photography, report printing, measured drawings)	1.00	l/s	35,000	35,000.00	330.19 €
2	Office supplies and communication	15.00	mon	4,000	60,000.00	566.04 €
3	Site management (overseer and helper)	15.00	mon	42,500	637,500.00	6,014.15 €
4	Architect part time	15.00	mon	30,000	450,000.00	4,245.28 €
5	Conservation consultant	1.00	l/s	225,000	225,000.00	2,122.64 €
6	Nepal Government liaison, permits, financial auditing, meeting allowances	1.00	l/s	65,000	65,000.00	613.21 €
7	Final report production	1.00	l/s	25,000	25,000.00	235.85 €
				sub-total 2 in Nepali Rupies:	1,497,500.00	
				sub-total 2 in Euros:		14,127.36 €
				GRAND TOTAL in EUROS:		75,470.96 €
Confirmed contributions:						
Alliance de Protection du Patrimoine Culturel Asiatique						40,000.00 €
Contribution from the World Monuments Fund						10,156.25 €
Itumbaha Guthi (private religious trust of the monastery)						5,000.00 €
				Total committed funding:		55,156.25 €
				Shortfall – to be raised by KVPT from other local and international supporters:		20,314.71 €





Historic view of Itumbaha's East Wing | pre 1934

This undated photograph was most likely taken before the great earthquake of 1934. Already in poor structural condition as indicated by the sagging central section of the building, the monastery still retains its original square shape. The ground floor has no other doors and windows except the central entrance. The door and tympanum to the left of the building leads to a narrow passageway between buildings. It is likely that sometime during the post-earthquake rebuilding efforts this door was moved further to the right as seen in the contemporary photograph.

Itumbaha East Wing | Oct 2012

The current condition of the East Wing is generally poor and bears witness to many previous misguided repair efforts. One historic window has been lost, and several new openings were created when inappropriate modern doors and windows were installed. All surface brick is in need of replacement and historic carved doors and windows will require extensive restoration. The roof will have to be rebuilt.





BUILDING AND RESTORATION HISTORY

Itumbaha is first mentioned NS 361 (1240 AD) in a chronicle called Gopalarajavamsavali as the Yatumbahara fort in the southern half of Kathmandu. According to a colophon of a manuscript dated NS 478 (1357 AD), the full Sanskrit name and title of Itumbaha is recorded as “Sribhaskaradevasamskaritasattasrikesavacandrakrt-aparavatamahavihara”.

Both the 1357 and 1491 AD documents state that this (Paravata) mahavihara “Pigeon Monastery” was built by Kesavacandra (kesavacandrakrta) and consecrated by Bhaskara Deva (bhaskaradevasamskarita). In addition, the Wright chronicle gives a legend recounting that the vihar was made by a Kesavacandra. The Bhasa Vamsavali also attributes this vihar to Kesa(va)candra. In addition, several inscriptions in the Itumbaha compound refer to Kesavacandra as the founder of the vihar.

According to Wright’s *History of Nepal*, the vihar was founded during the reign of the vaisya thakuri king Hari Deva (a king not mentioned in other histories) by a certain Kessavacandra who was the son of King Bhaskar Deva of Kathmandu.

John K. Locke provides a detailed story of the origins of the vihar in *Buddhist Monasteries of Nepal*.

The earliest stone inscription found in Itumbaha is dated 1381 AD and concerns the offerings of the icons of Dipankar, Yamaraj and Arya Tara by the family of Chief Minister Jayasiharama Varddhana of Palanchok.

An inscription carved on soft stone in the main courtyard records that the main chaitya was repaired during the reign of King Bhupalendra Malla in 1700 AD. The inscription on the vajradhatucaitya at Kaygunani (in front of the main entrance) is dated 1668 AD and records the renovation of the caitya.

The 1934 earthquake badly damaged the monastery necessitating extensive repairs. An inscription on the facade of the north wing attests to these repairs and the donation of the copper-plated Triratna icon by the head man Kulaman Simha, his wife Laksmi and his whole family, residents of Itumbaha, in VS 1990 (1934 AD).

The photograph at left, taken from a taller modern building to the south of Itumbaha, documents the dilapidated condition of the complex before 2002. Over the past 60 years the courtyard has undergone many changes but still preserves its historic character and original square footprint. Continuous encroachment and illegal use of the building has resulted in haphazard repairs and inappropriate

additions such as the raised structure on the south-west corner of the building. In the year 1999 the roof of the southern wing, threatened by collapse, was covered with tarpaulins to protect it from the heavy monsoon rains.

In cooperation with the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, and with financial support from the German Embassy and the Itumbaha *sangha*, the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust restored the south and west wings from 2002–2005. Following extensive research and preliminary documentation by conservation architects, engineers, and draftsmen, restoration of the south wing began in March 2003. A prime goal of this conservation effort by KVPT was to reverse these damaging changes and bring the building back to its original configuration, covered by a traditional tile roof.

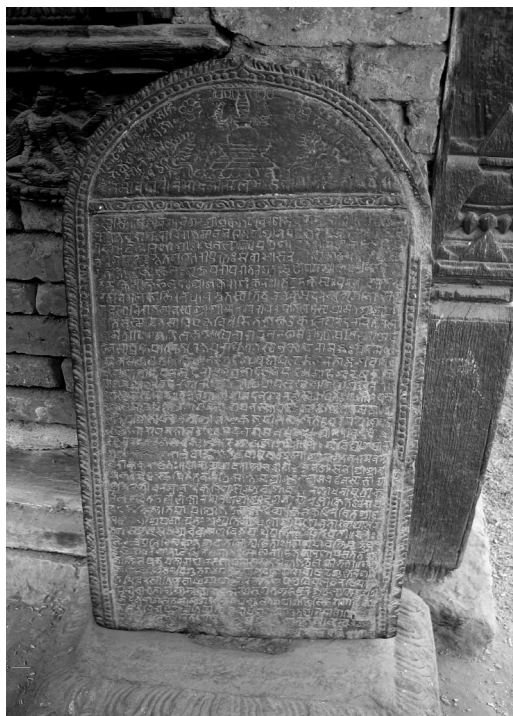
The north wing and parts of the east wing were restored by Itum’s north wing *Gutthi* between 2005 and 2006.

Documentation, design and implementation was guided by Bijay and Anil Basukala, in cooperation with KVPT advisors Niels Gutschow and Thomas Schrom and Narayan Bohara from the Nepal Department of Archaeology.



CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

by Dr. Alexander von Rospatt



Stone stele leaning against the chaitya temple of Itumbaha
The inscription dates from the period of chief minister Jayasiharmavardhan NS 502 (1382 AD).
Photograph November 8, 2004



Seven of the Ten Elders of Itum Baha, standing with their ceremonial robes and caps in Nasalchok of the Royal Palace of Kathmandu at Hanuman Dhoka. They have just been initiated into the office of elder by an elaborate sequence of tantric rituals. This happened in preparation for the ordination ceremony performed in February 2001, which requires the participation of the elders.
Photograph Pragma Shakyas



Gyanaratna Shakyas on the day of his ordination into the Sangha of Itumbaha.
Photograph Pragma Shakyas, February 4, 2001

Itumbaha is one of the very few monasteries in Kathmandu that preserves the original square plan of a traditional Buddhist monastery. However, it is not only an invaluable architectural monument but also an active monastery with a history of some eight centuries or more. As one of the eighteen “main monasteries” (mu baha) of Kathmandu, it is at the forefront of Newar monasticism and an important force for Newar Buddhism at large, because, as in other Buddhist societies, the backbone of Newar Buddhism is its monasteries. Traditionally, they function as repositories of Buddhist learning in the widest sense, guarding ritual and tantric traditions. Furthermore, with their shrines and consecrated images of Buddhas and other deities, the monasteries serve as temples for the Buddhist community. In addition, their members contribute to the maintenance of Buddhist traditions

inside and outside the confines of the monastery. Moreover, through their community of Vajracarya monks, the monasteries provide priestly service for the Buddhist population. The Vajracaryas perform the obligatory life-cycle rituals (including mortuary and post-mortuary rites) and also officiate in other ritual contexts such as house building and healing.

Naturally, the Newar monasteries are most important for the members themselves. Even though they do not live here, the monasteries traditionally function as an extension of their homes, in which they spend much of their time and to which they devote much of their energy. As members, they are collectively responsible for the monastery, taking care of specific duties by rotation. Most importantly, it is periodically their turn, which in Itumbaha lasts for one week, to carry out the

daily worship (nityapuja) of the monastery’s deities. But even when not obliged by their turn, members come to the monastery frequently for worship and here casually meet friends and neighbours, play cards or other games, and often spend hours in leisure. This is also the place where they celebrate their important family feasts and other functions. In a word, much of their life revolves around the monastery. This is, however, less true nowadays. As a consequence of globalisation, Kathmandu has undergone dramatic changes in the last decades, and its citizens increasingly live in a world determined by consumerism and television. This, of course, undermines the role of the monastery in the daily life of its members. It is to be hoped that the renovation of Itumbaha will send out new signals, conveying a sense of pride and ownership that will invigorate the community.



PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN

The Trust proposes to restore Itumbaha's east wing in the same spirit that it previously restored the south and west wings. The restoration plan primarily includes the rebuilding of all damaged masonry walls, the replacement of all damaged structural timbers, the introduction of seismic strengthening measures, the installation of a traditional tiled roof, as well as the restoration of all historic carved timber elements. This comprehensive approach will both restore the building's damaged and dilapidated sections and bring back the authentic facade configurations and roof profile.

Facade and roof configuration:

The historic roof has been completely lost and the exterior facade has been altered and also extended to the south. A number of new openings have been made in the facade, including the addition of two doors and windows, which the Trust will eliminate in order to restore the facade to its original configuration.

Foundations

The conditions of the brick foundation will have to be thoroughly examined. If necessary, KVPT has devised several methods to strengthen the foundation and to reinforce it with a ring beam to guard against seismic damage.

Walls

The masonry walls in the east wing are in quite poor condition, and it is anticipated that most walls will need to be extensively re-built using traditional *ma apa* and *daci apa* brick in mud mortar. In order to preserve as much historic fabric as possible, recycled original bricks will be reused whenever they are in good enough condition.

Plinth and entryway ensemble

The exterior plinth, built with *ma apa* bricks and edgestone will have to be entirely re-built. The plinth has suffered a number of damages due to past hastily-made repairs: for example, the existing plinth was re-

built in the improper width during a later intervention. Additionally, the two stone lions flanking the main entrance will have to be dismantled and reinstalled on new pedestals.

Carved timber elements

Most of the carved timber elements, such as windows and door frames, are in fairly good condition and can be retained. Some of these carved timber components date back to the 13th century, making their proper conservation all the more important. In cases where elements are missing, replacement pieces will be rendered by the Trust's experienced wood carvers. These replicas will be modelled following historic design examples. The timber columns of the east wing's entrance arcade need only minor repairs but require extensive cleaning.

Seventeen of the original carved roof struts have been lost. In absence of historical evidence documenting the iconography of the original struts, the Trust prefers

to replace them with uncarved, plain timber struts. In the case the monastery decides desires traditional carved roof brackets for religious purposes the Trust will assist in the research to determine the appropriate iconography. However, any additional costs for this carving will be borne by the monastery.

Joists

Floor joists are in poor condition, and it is estimated that less than 30% of the members can be re-used. Most joists are damaged by wet rot as a result of rising damp, and are weakened beyond repair. All damaged joists will be replaced with new members made of pine.

Wall plates

All wall plates have been damaged and weakened by rising damp. As important structural elements, the wall plates will be replaced with new hard wood (*sal*).

Rafters

The existing roof rafters are inauthentic replacements, dating from repairs after the 1934 earthquake when resources were scarce. The rafters are widely spaced and improperly sized and only able to support the current light weight corrugated tin roof. The Trust will replace the entire roof framing including ridge beams, ridge posts, the timber base for ridge posts, and capitals. All rafters will be made new out of properly sized pine, spaced closely together in the historical manner and thus strong enough to support the traditional terracotta tile and mud roof cover.

Floor cover:

Following the replacement of joists, a layer of wood planking and a layer of marine-grade plywood will be installed above. The plywood will act as a diaphragm providing horizontal bond in case of an earthquake. Next, brick soling in lime surkhi mortar will be laid. All floors will be finished with traditional terracotta floor tiles (*telia*).

Roof cover:

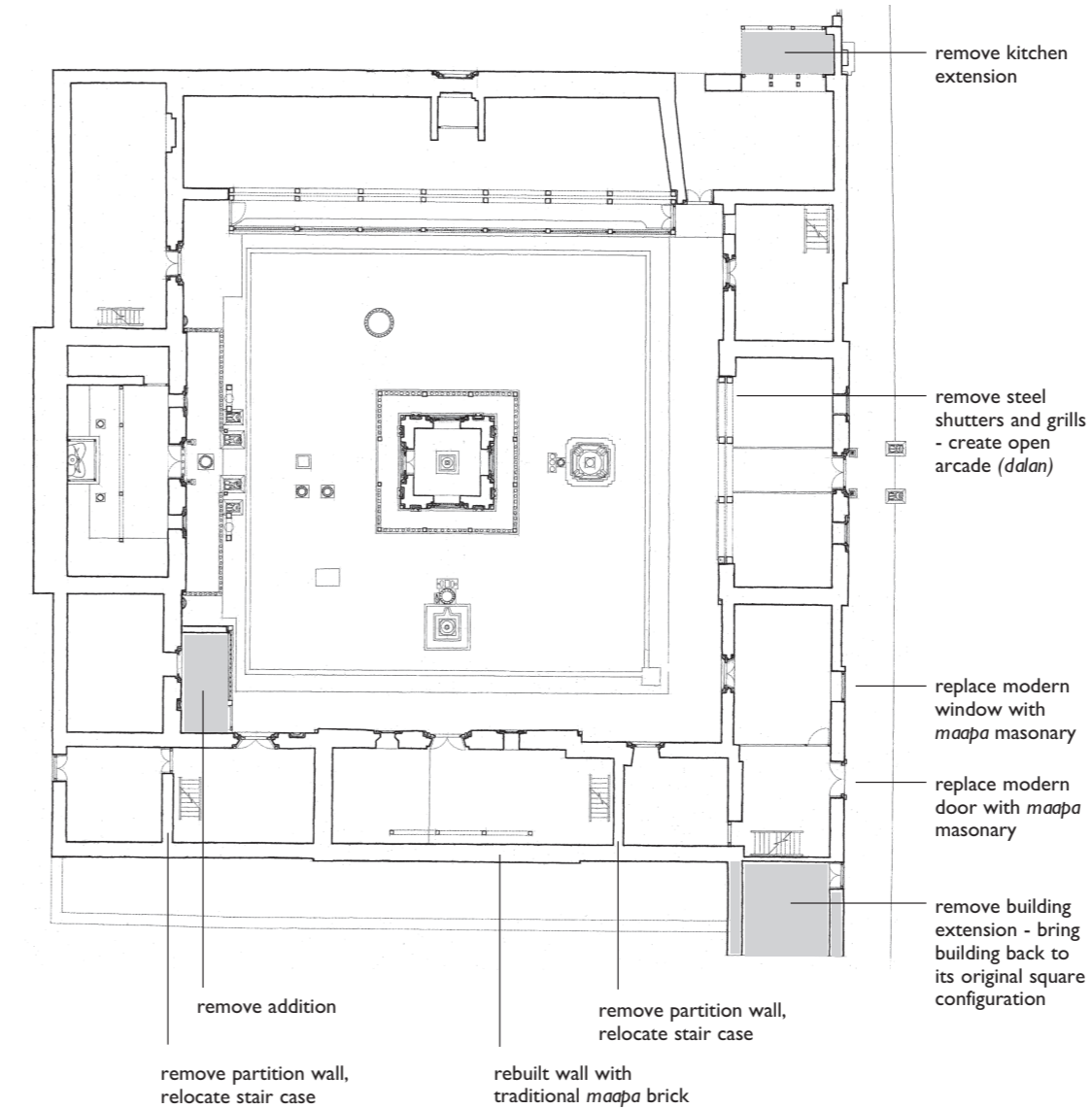
The timber-framed roof will receive a layer of marine-grade plywood to reinforce the structure against seismic damage. A waterproofing membrane will be introduced above the marine-grade plywood in order to protect the timber roof structure from future water penetration. The traditional roof tile (*jinghati*) will be installed in a mud bed over the waterproofing membrane.



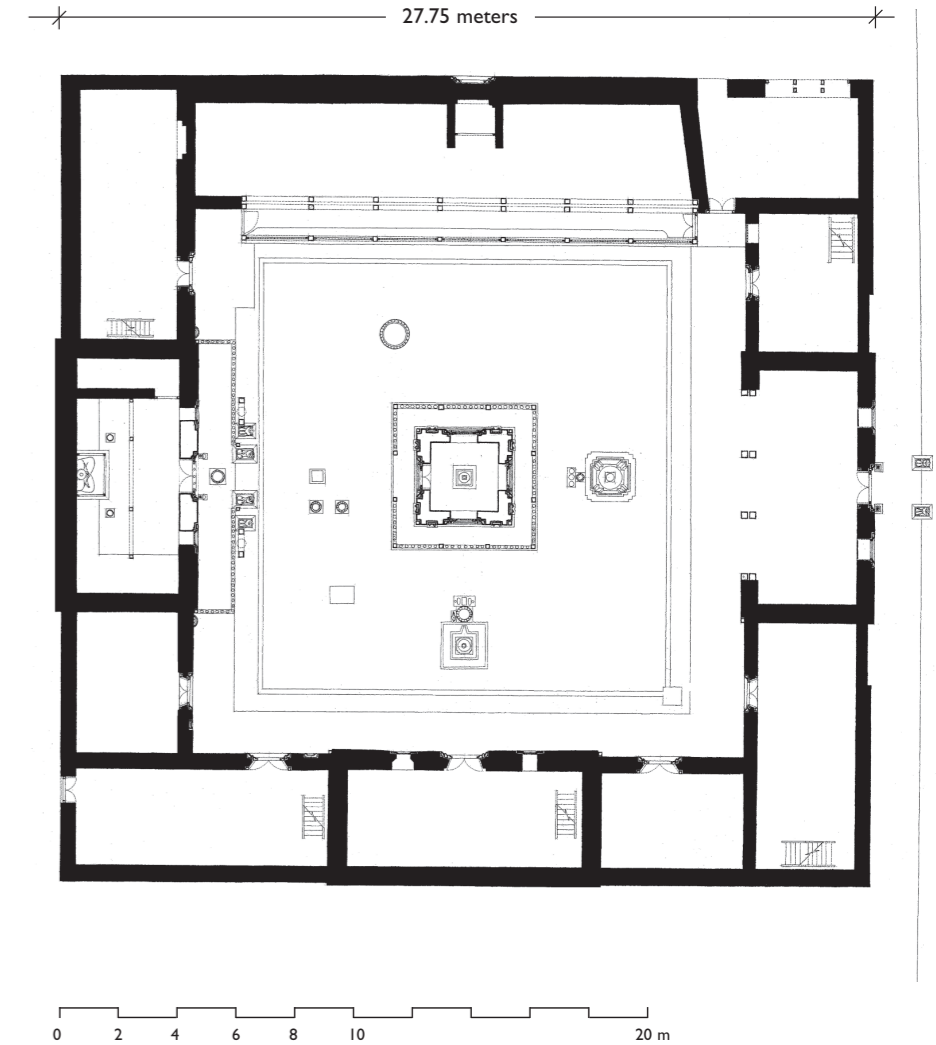
- Kathmandu
Detail of the core area with four of the seven main monasteries (*mūbāhā*) of the central section (*dathutoā*) of the city:
- 7 Makhanbāhā
 - 8 Itumbāhā
 - 9 Janabāhā
 - 10 Mūbāhā
- 8a Kayāgunani
 - 8b Bakunani
 - 8c Tārānani
 - 8d Sasunani
 - 8e Dhanajucāitya,
 - 8f Yetkhabāhā
 - 11a Tunchenbāhā (a branch monastery of Savalabāhā)
 - 12a Laykubāhā (a branch monastery of Sikhamūbāhā)



Itumbaha courtyard is located directly north of the Kathmandu Darbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Ground floor plan: existing situation and proposed changes



Ground floor plan proposed



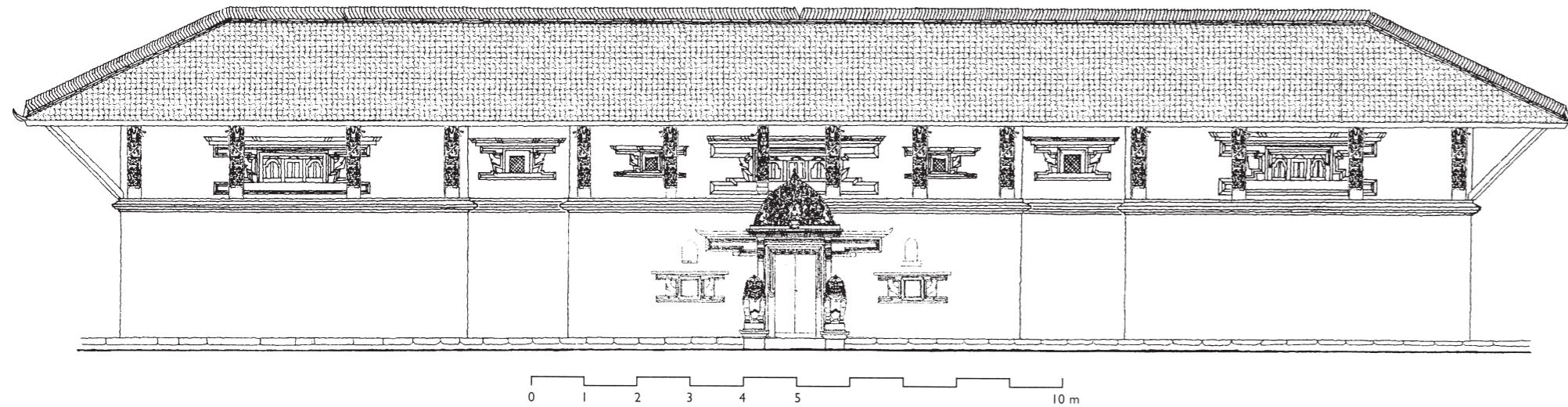
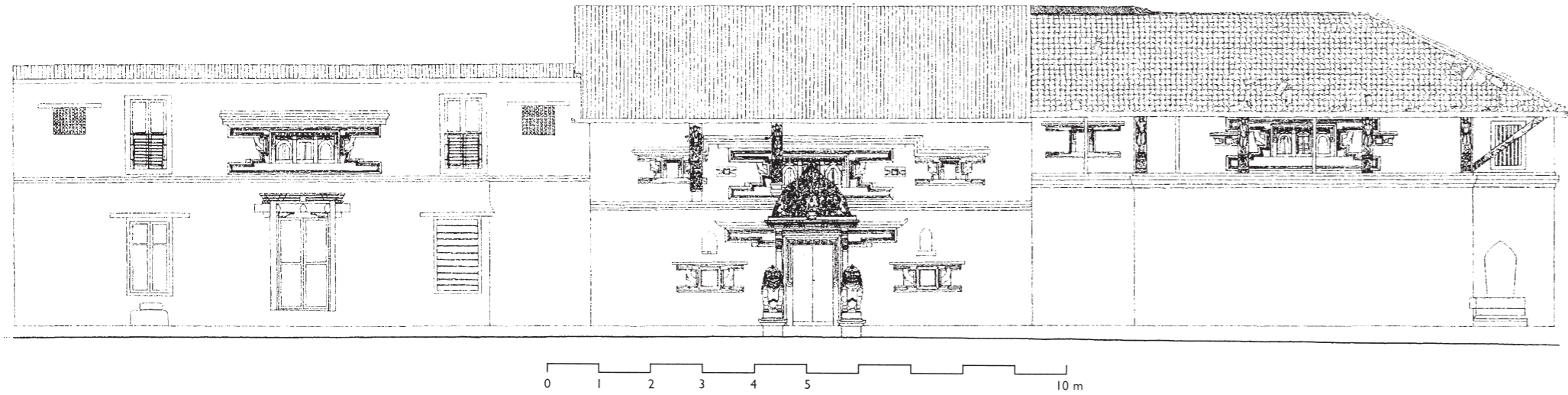


South wing courtyard elevation before restoration | March 20, 2000



South wing courtyard elevation after restoration | November 5, 2006





East wing - east facade: existing conditions and proposed restoration

THE EAST WING EAST FACADE



East wing, east facade, existing conditions | 2006

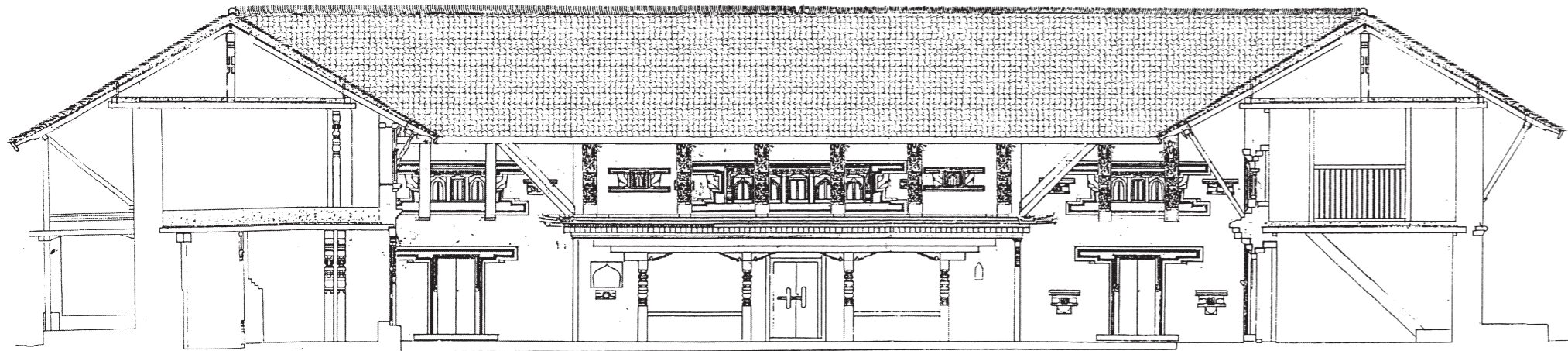
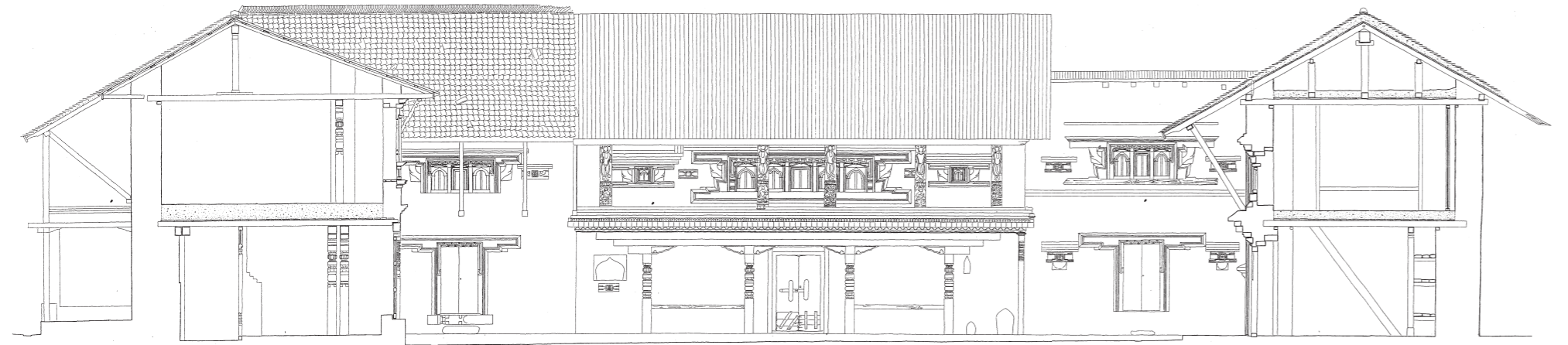
This photograph illustrates how the east wing has been extended to the south, and the dilapidated condition of the facade, including the unhistoric windows and doors, is obvious. The project aims to bring back the building to its historic four-sided square configuration.



East wing, main entrance, existing conditions | 2012

This photograph illustrates the need to restore the deteriorated facade brick and the historic carved windows, many of which are missing their lattice work. The lions will be re-installed on proper stone pedestals and the plinth will also be restored. All roof struts will be replaced with properly sized hardwood brackets.





East wing - west facade: existing conditions and proposed restoration

THE EAST WING WEST FACADE



East wing, courtyard facade, existing conditions | 2012
 Similarly to the east facade most brick work requires extensive repairs and replacement of material. The steel shutters will be removed and the timber elements of the open arcade (*dalan*) cleaned and restored.



East wing, courtyard facade, existing conditions | 2012
 A typical example of how rising damp has destroyed both the wall fabric as well as the lower parts of this historic door.





KVPT WORKING METHOD & RESTORATION MANAGEMENT

The Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust is the only international not-for-profit organisation exclusively dedicated to safeguarding the extraordinary and threatened architectural heritage of Nepal. The Trust, notably Nepal's first private sector team in the conservation area, was founded in 1991 in response to the UNESCO International Campaign for Safeguarding of the Kathmandu Valley. The Trust's mission is to identify and help save endangered monuments in the Kathmandu Valley, and it can now claim twenty years of achievement in this field, saving over fifty monuments including temples, rest-houses, monasteries and historic houses.

KVPT is currently the only INGO active in architectural preservation, implementation, and strategy development in Nepal. Projects are developed in cooperation with local community groups as well as the Department of Archaeology. Noteworthy is the Trust's unique mix of funding from private, public, local and international sources. The restoration of Itumbaha's east wing, as is the case with all Trust projects, will include substantial contributions from the local community, particularly the local *guthi*. The

Trust is the only international organization with this successful track record of local fund raising in Nepal.

All restoration projects are implemented on a turn-key basis under full direction of the Trust with technical interface with the Department of Archaeology, the Municipality, and a steering committee including community and government representatives. The Trust operates with a Nepali team of architects, draftsmen, project managers, and engineers complemented by supervising international consultants.

The partnership model by which KVPT works to nurture local craftsmen is unique and has proven to be very effective. The Trust provides the academic and historical research to locate all relevant historic documentation, and to guide the restoration designs, which are then executed to the highest artistic standards by the craftsmen. The Trust has a history of successful collaboration with international academic institutions, such as the University of Vienna, which has resulted in significant technological achievements in solving the challenging problems inherent in restoration and preservation work.

The entire project to restore Itumbaha's east wing will be coordinated, overseen and managed by local expertise. Over the past twenty year's KVPT has put together a world-class architectural team headed by chief program architect Dr. Rohit Ranjitkar. KVPT has used a private sector model which has allowed for the long term apprenticeships of Nepali professionals, resulting in the creation of South Asia's leading team of conservation experts.

Work is reviewed by an international body of experts who advise the Trust including:

- Dr. Eduard Sekler, Professor Emeritus Harvard University
- Dr. Niels Gutschow, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg
- Elizabeth Newman, Preservation Architect, KVPT
- Thomas Schrom, Co-executive Director
- Erich Theophile, Founder, KVPT





KATHMANDU VALLEY PRESERVATION TRUST