

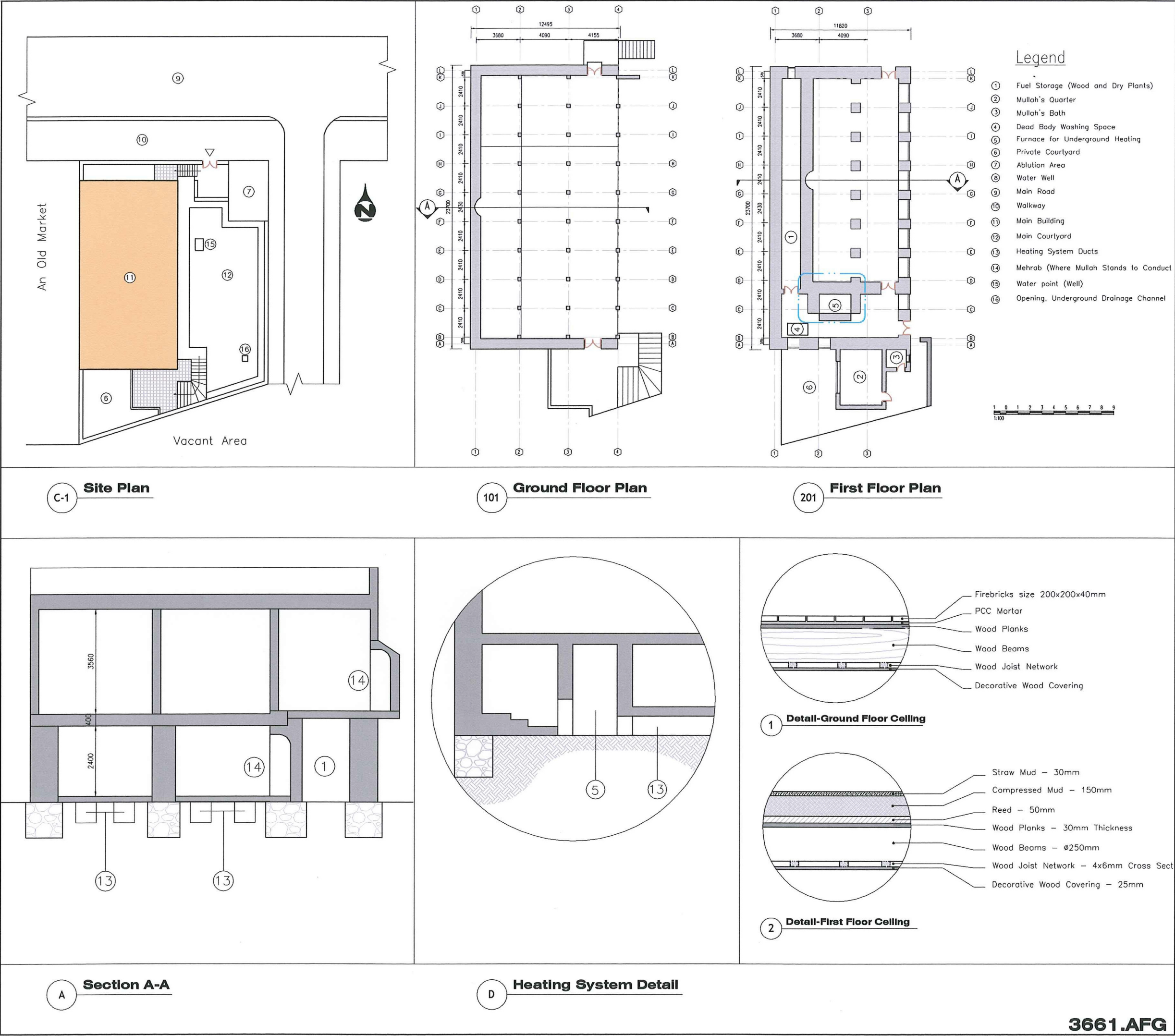
Rehabilitation of Mullah Mahmood Mosque

Sang Tarashi, Shur Bazaar Kabul, Kabul Old City  
Kabul, Afghanistan

Architects	Abdul Rahim Khurram Kabul, Afghanistan
Clients	Afghan Governement, US Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan
Commission	n.a.
Design	2003
Construction	2003 - 2005
Occupancy	2005
Site	758 m²
Ground floor	311 m²
Total floor	637 m²
Costs	90,500 USD

**Programme** By the early 21st century, the 400-year-old Mullah Mahmood Mosque was suffering from years of neglect and bomb damage, its walls marked by bullets and shrapnel and its ruined interior frequented by criminals and drug addicts. At the instigation of the Afghan Department of Historic Monuments, a programme was launched for the mosque’s rehabilitation. Particular attention has been paid to the mosque’s fine ornamented wood and gypsum relief panels. As well as preserving an important monument, the programme has provided a place for 1000 residents of the old city of Kabul to pray, a community gathering place and a space for teaching children.

DRAWINGS OF MULLAH MAHMOOD HISTORIC MOSQUE





# Mullah Mahmood Historic Mosque

## About the Project

Name: Rehabilitation of Historic Mullah Mahmood Mosque

Location: Kabul Old City – Kabul – Afghanistan

Donation: Ambassador Fund of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul

Budget: US\$ 90,796

Period: November 11, 2003 to May 18, 2005

## Present Status

- The structure is in excellent condition
- The place is used five times a day by the local residents for prayers
- The mosque is used for teaching children two shifts a day
- Gathering place for the residents on special events such as deciding upon important issues, election activities etc.
- The water well serves as a reliable source of potable water for the residents of the area

## Significance

The significance of the mosque lies in:

- Historic value of the structure
- The magnificent wood working and material used
- Its key position/location in the ancient and present Kabul City

## Impact of Project

Rehabilitation of a four hundred years old structure, an important part of Afghan cultural heritage, is a great achievement in itself. The project was important for the country and the donor. Participation of the US ambassador in Kabul, ministers and high officials of the government in the two ceremonies; initiating of the reconstruction, and inauguration after completion, and vast covering of the inauguration ceremony by media (a dozen radio channels, a number of TV channels and print media) clearly shows the significance of the project. The impacts of the project could be listed as follows:

- A 400 years old historic monument was rehabilitated and saved from total destruction
- The mosque providing prayers (for over 1000), educational (for 50 children) and gathering space for the residents of the Kabul old city was prepared for usage
- The view of the related part of the city positively changed
- The nest of crimes and drug addicts destroyed in the heart of the Kabul old city



Photo 1: An internal view of Mosque after rehabilitation

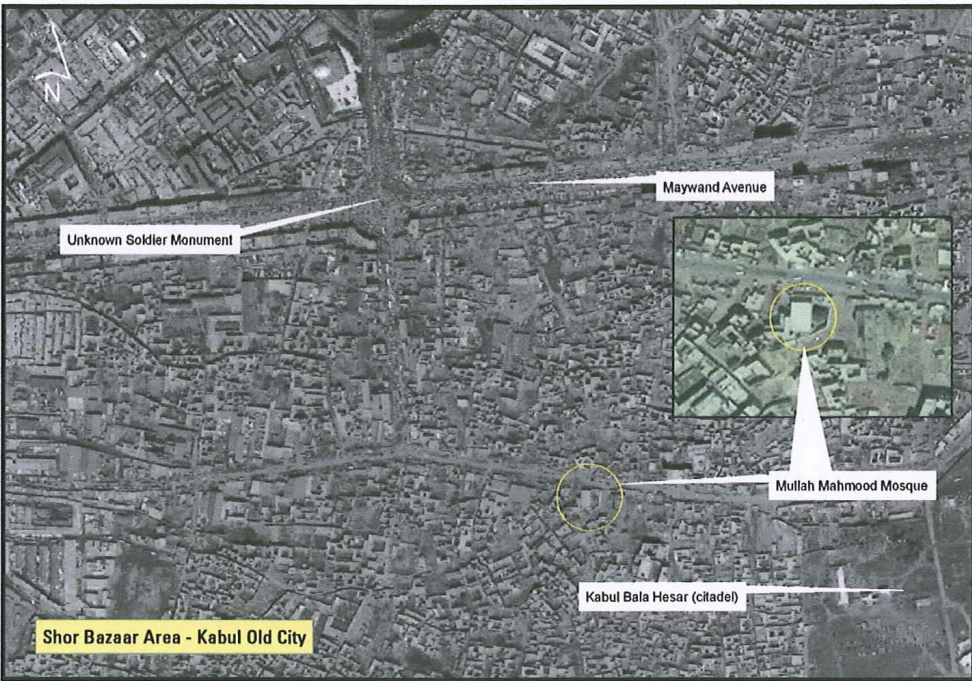


Photo 2: Geographic setting of Project Site

## Photo Description

### Before Reconstruction

File	Description	Photographer	Date
B-1	The condition of the upper floor before reconstruction	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003
B-2	Southern wall of the building upper floor. The lower floor wall is hidden under piles of soil and debris.	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003
B-3	The single piece of carved wood remaining from the destroyed main gate	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003
B-4	The fallen roof destroyed by missile explosion	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003
B-5	South Eastern view showing the status of the building and the boundary wall.	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003
B-6	Upper floor ceiling with broken wood beams	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003
B-7	The northern door of the upper floor opened to the road. Later we found the actual foundation stonework of the boundary wall 2.60 meters to the roadside and reconstructed the boundary wall in its original location so that about 62 square meters stolen land of the mosque was regained. The door now opens inside the mosque compound.	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2003

### During Reconstruction

File	Description	Photographer	Date
D-1	Construction of the wooden doors, windows and decorative ceiling cover of the first floor by a team of professional carpenters	Abdul Rahim Khurram	May 2004
D-2	Construction of the wood joist network and ceiling cover of the ground floor ceiling in progress	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Feb. 2004
D-3	The furnace of the underground heating system after plastering and firebrick flooring of the opening	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Oct. 2004
D-4	Construction of the ablution area; plumbing, plastering and flooring in progress	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Nov. 2004
D-5	The roof of the building is removed so that the destroyed and rotten wood beams, ring beams and lentils could be replaced	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Dec. 2003
D-6	The heap of soil removed from the top of the roof before dismantling	Abdul Rahim Khurram	Dec. 2003
D-7	Plastering the Eastern boundary wall reconstructed with firebricks and mortar of lime and sand in progress	Abdul Rahim Khurram	June 2004

### After Reconstruction

File	Description	Photographer	Date
A-1	The wooden arch, columns and ceiling after reconstruction	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009
A-2	A view of the Mehrab (alcove) of the mosque after repairs, plastering and painting	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009
A-3	Upper floor of the mosque ready for use	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009
A-4	Column top and the windows after reconstruction	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009
A-5	A view of the Eastern façade of the building. The stairs leading to the Southern door of the first floor could be seen	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009
A-6	Roadside view of the gate and the building	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009
A-7	The main gate, ablution area, the lawn and the water point seen from inside the courtyard	Casey Johnson	Oct. 2009

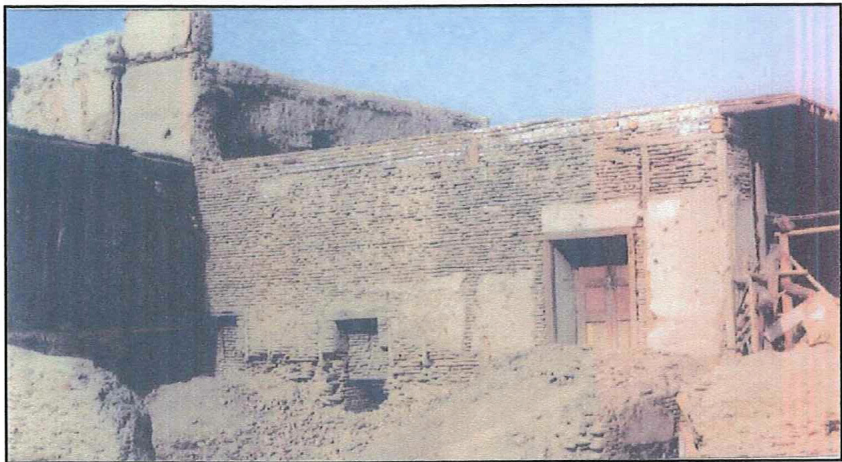


Mullah Mahamood Historic Mosque

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B-3



B-4



D-1



D-2



D-3



D-4



A-1



A-2



A-3



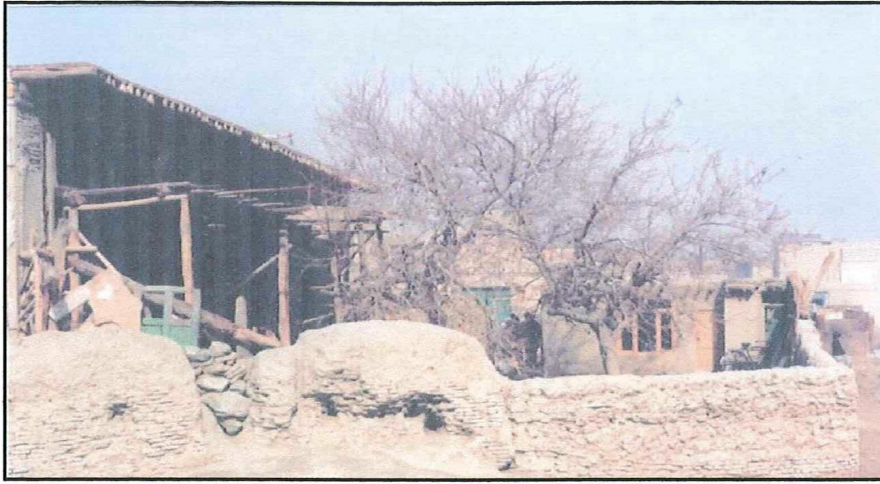
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# Mullah Mahamood Historic Mosque

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A-6



B-7



D-7



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