ઢાળ ની પોળ નું પુનરુત્થાન

Revitalization of Dhal Nī Pol

MHT

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Dignified Home | Dignified Work | Dignified Life

MHT was founded in 1994 by the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a union of poor, self-employed women workers, in order to facilitate better housing and infrastructure for its members in the state of Gujarat.

Approach

Mahila Housing Trust's approach has been to empower the group of women through self-organization. Wherever MHT works, the model of engagement remains the same- build a Community Based Organisation (CBO) where at least one member from each household in the slum is represented, following which the executive committee of the CBO is formed-Community Action Group (CAG), where 10-12 women lead the community and act on their behalf. This process of leadership development is a combination of emergence, iteration and facilitation. Following this, these women leaders are given training under 10 different modules. The idea is to capacitate them in different aspects of slum development, access to services, monitoring quality of civil work, and prevention against vector-borne diseases among other areas. This training helps them in understanding the plans and schemes of the government in their region better. With the help of MHT, they then begin the process of planning and linking their communities to these schemes. This demystification of government plans and schemes is a key aspect of MHT's work. So far 858 CBOs have been formed across the 14 cities where MHT works.

Foreword

Cultural heritages play a strong role in both economic and social life as they are the main institutions that connect history, territory and society, defining the cultural context of social life. Heritage is not limited to buildings, monuments, bridges, sites – 'Values' are at the heart of conservation. They are as important as economic and social values.

In 2014, as the Chairperson of the Gujarat SEWA Co-operative Federation, I had the opportunity of restoring SEWA ni Haveli in Dhal ni Pol under the project from National Cultural Fund. This not only helped conserve the haveli as a heritage structure but also contributed to enhancing the livelihood of women within the community.

Later, being a trustee of Mahila Housing Trust (MHT), it dawned upon me that such conservation and revitalisation can also be expanded to benefit the larger community of Dhal ni pol. MHT was already actively working with the women of the community, and it was a natural expansion of our initiative to take up such a conservation and revitalisation project that not only improves the physical environment but also significantly improves the value and quality of life of the women and their families.

Dhal ni pol is a dynamic lived-in precinct with multiple layers of rich heritage and traditions. Spearheading various initiatives in the restoration of structures and landmarks and awareness generation helped us engage with the community and partner with various agencies which eventually translated to the 'Revitalisation of Dhal ni pol' project.

'Revitalisation of Dhal ni pol' is an unprecedented initiative to leverage the tangible and intangible heritage value of the pol to revive livelihood opportunities and revitalise the community.

Our experience has indicated that community participation is the key while carrying out such transformative projects that make heritage relevant for the younger generation. It not only instils a sense of belonging but also pride amongst community members and residents of the pol as caretakers of the centuries-old living heritage.

Revitalisation of Dhal ni pol is a unique project with a vision to develop a model for improving the living environment of the heritage precincts of old areas as it adds to the heritage value and heritage status of the city.

I hope this pilot project sets an example for improving other pols within "The World Heritage City of Ahmedabad" and other cities across India. Heritage and culture are continuous. 'Preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future'.

I very much appreciate the contribution and hard work put in by the entire team, persons and funders involved in this pilot project.

Lalita Krishnaswami
Trustee, MHT

Preface

All major cities in India, have residential areas, illustrating the cultural heritage, through its built environment. This live heritage, is a unique feature in India. However, in most cities, rampant urbanisation has degraded the heritage, with depleting, age old infrastructure, unregulated commercialisation, polluted environment and overcrowding.

Heritage revival and conservation in India, has largely been restricted to historical monuments. 'The revitalization of Dhal ni Pol' is a unique experiment of Mahila Housing Trust, in local area planning, which improves the quality of life of the people, by developing a precinct (public realm) area with enhanced heritage characters.

This document focuses on how this transformation was led by women inhabitants of the Pol, who were empowered by MHT. The document also elaborates sustainable development, through installation of efficient energy systems, water recharge and resource management, revival of heritage fire hydrants and innovative street design.

It unfolds how leadership, innovative urban planning, community management and partnerships with urban local body, private-sector have converged, to showcase how living heritage can be conserved.

The cities of the future across India, will have to scale up such efforts to maintain the unique and uncomparable heritage that the city has to offer, along with affordable housing.

The purpose of this document is not to only to share MHT's learning journey, but also to influence heritage conservation plans of Ahmedabad and other similar cities in India.

Above: Rasik Chowk after the public area improvement works.

Bijal Brahmbhatt
Executive Director, MHT

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MHT

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1

The **initiative**
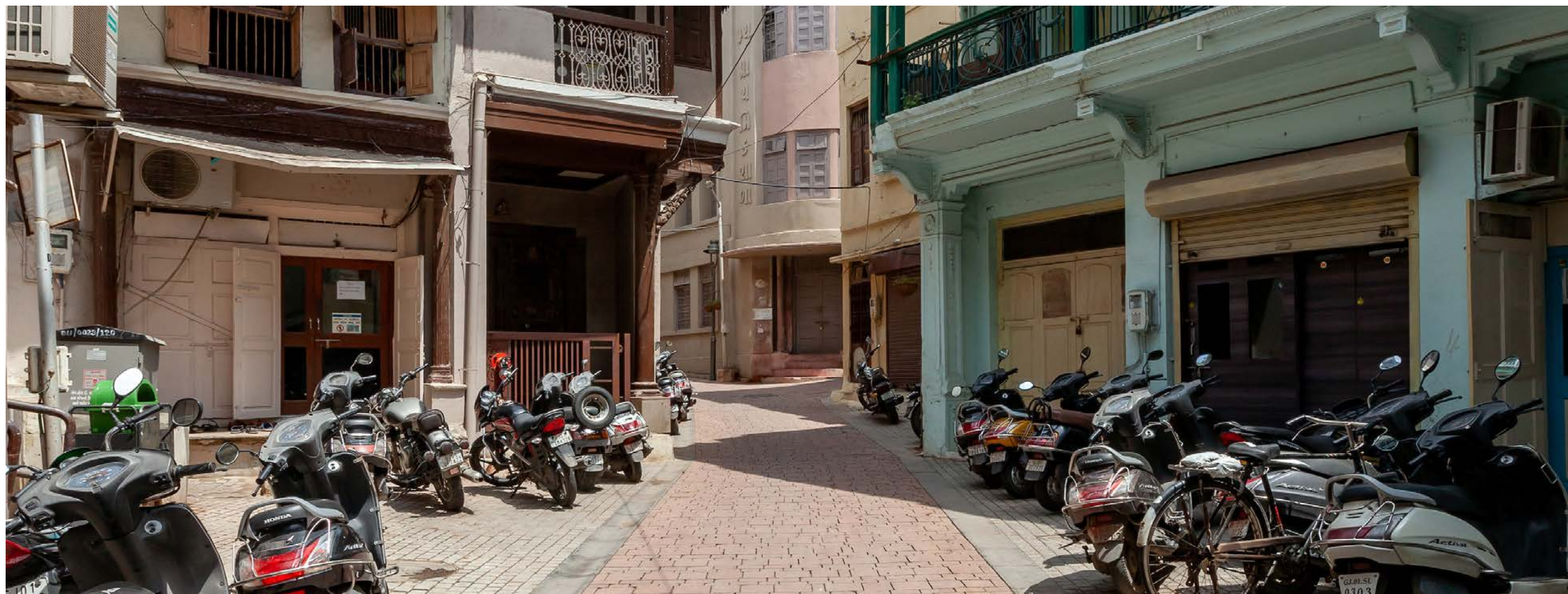
1.1
About **the** **initiative**

Mahila Housing Trust is a non-government organization with/focused on the mission to improve living conditions and environment for women of primarily weaker sections of the society. MHT does this in various ways by empowering the women, organizing them for causes of livelihood generation, improving their housing conditions and living environment, and generating awareness in the community. Beyond improving the slums and informal settlements, MHT also works with women of the core city to generate awareness, organize and empower them to improve the condition of pols and the heritage precincts they live in.

Revitalization of Dhal ni Pol is a unique initiative by Mahila Housing Trust. Pols are the most important and integral component of the urban fabric of Ahmedabad, the first UNESCO world heritage city of India. These residential precincts rich with both tangible and intangible heritage, however, have been gradually turning into less desirable places to live in, primarily owing to the old infrastructure, aging housing stock and increasing indifference towards maintainance and improvement of the public components of the pols such as streets, chowks, plazas etc. To address these issues, Mahila Housing Trust decided to take up the unprecedented initiative for Revitalization of Dhal ni Pol with a larger vision of developing it as a prototype and a pilot for revitalizing many other such lived-in heritage precincts of the city.

The initiative for Revitalization of Dhal ni Pol emerged as a convergence of ideas and efforts from multiple directions, much before the walled city of Ahmedabad received the World Heritage City status from UNESCO in July 2017. MHT was already working with the women of the pol to organize them and improve their conditions since much before the first community workshop was organized in 2016 under the initiative, and had carried out the surveys to understand

Above: A stretch of Dhal Ni Pol from entrance of pol towards Rasik Chowk after the public area improvement works.
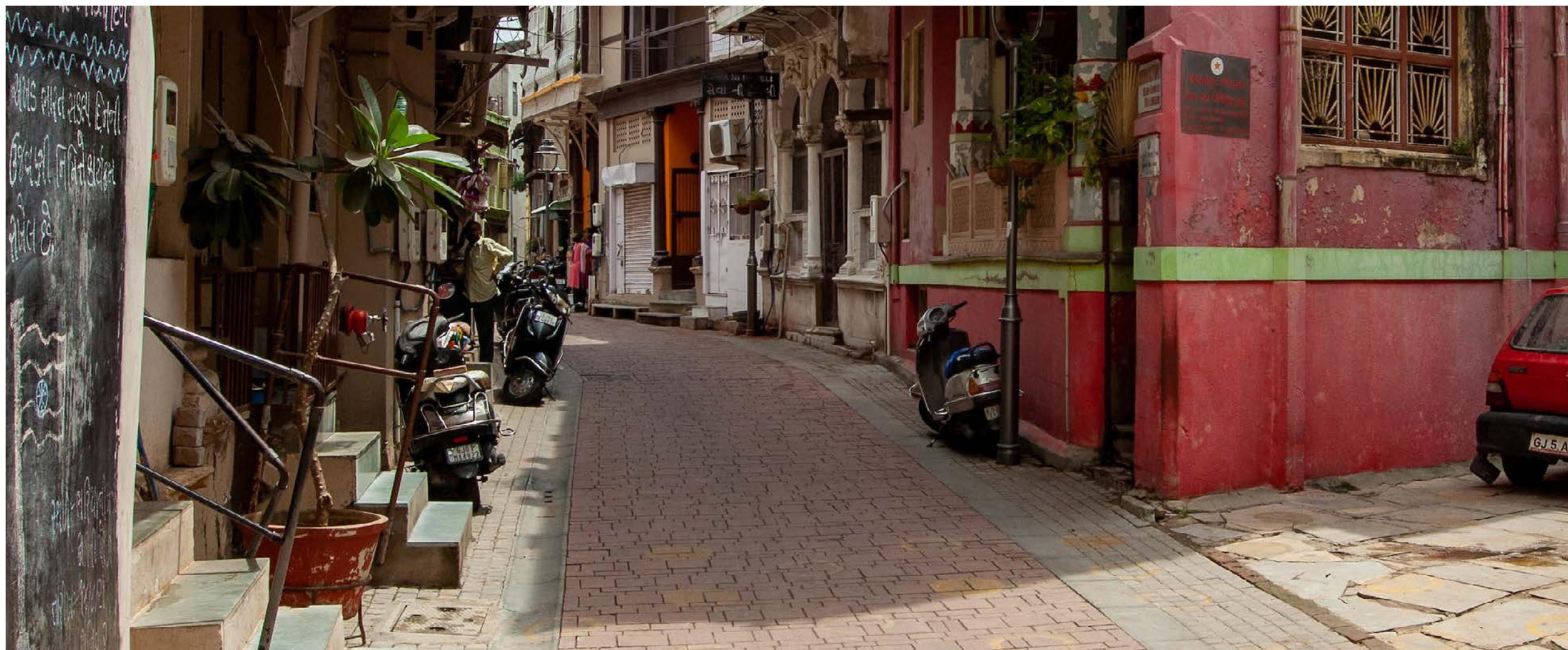
and uplift their status in the community. On the other hand, an old haveli was already acquired, conserved and restored for purpose of training and employment of the women by SEWA Federation, which was subsequently called SEWA ni Haveli. In 2016, these different initiatives converged when a couple of urban planning and design experts introduced the idea of improving and revitalizing the pol as a heritage precinct using local area planning approach, and took up Directed Research Projects at CEPT University for exploring ways to improve the public and private domain of the precincts, using Dhal ni Pol as a case.

The initiative for revitalization of Dhal ni Pol gradually evolved and crystallized after initial workshops with the women members of the pol in 2016 and 2017, and subsequently it was shaped up into a

concrete project with primarily three components.

1. Improving the Public realm of the Pol (including streets, chowks, infrastructure, chabutara, well etc)

2. Improving the private realm of the pol (through conservation of private structures and elements such as tankas etc using TDR and other incentives).

3. Awareness generation for the heritage value of the pol

While MHT is simultaneously working on all of the three components, the first component for improving the public realm was identified as strategically the most important to be taken up first.

Above: A stretch of Dhal Ni Pol from Rasik Chowk to Jagabhai Pol after the public area improvement works.

2
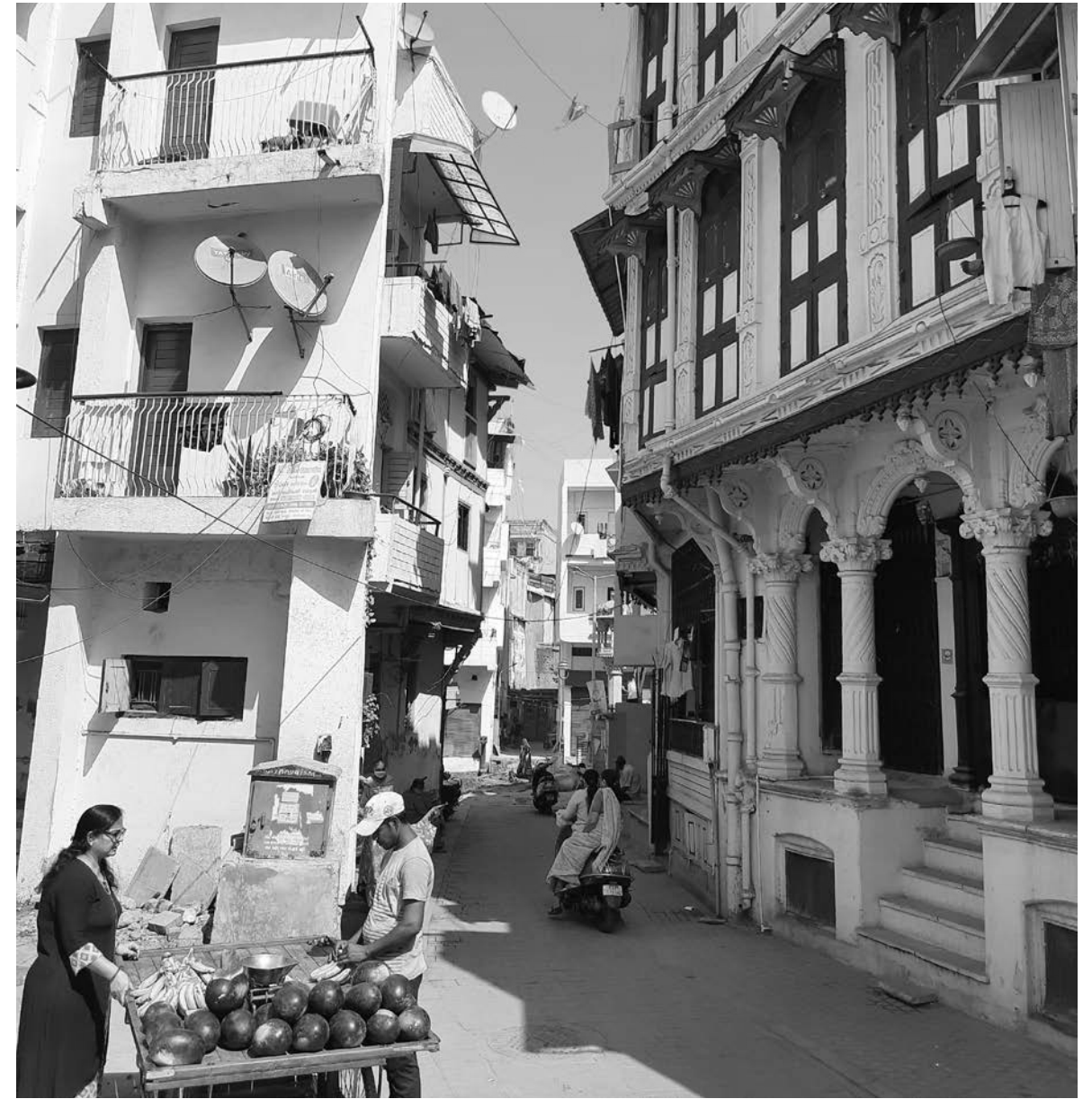
The **precinct**

Historical Context

Above: Evolution of Walled city of Ahmedabad, Source: (1). World Heritage Nomination Dossier - Historic City Of Ahmadabad, AMC; (2). UNESCO; (3) Dr. R. N. Mehta, as Shared with Prof. R. J. Vasavada Ahmedabad, AMC

Far Right: Map of Ahmedabad 1855 published in the Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency. (1896) by James M. Campbell, Source: https://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Historic_City_of_Ahmadabad#/media/ File:Ahmedabad_1855.jpg
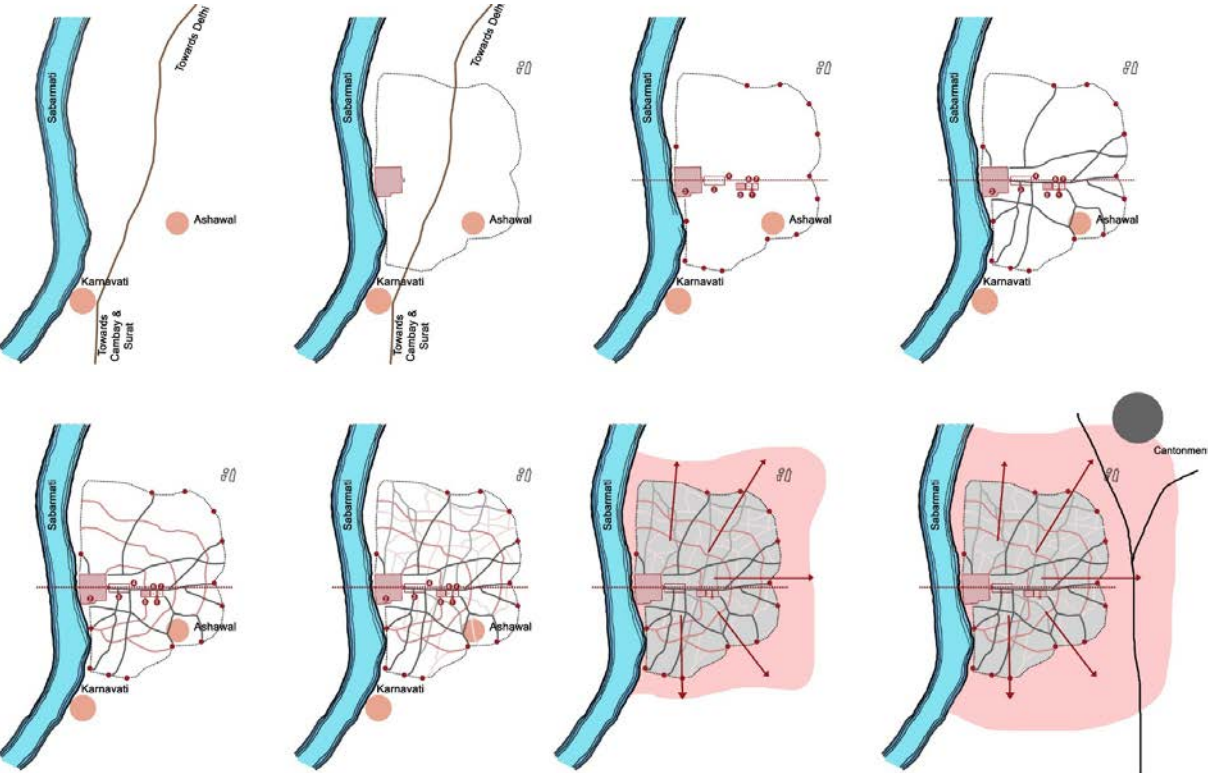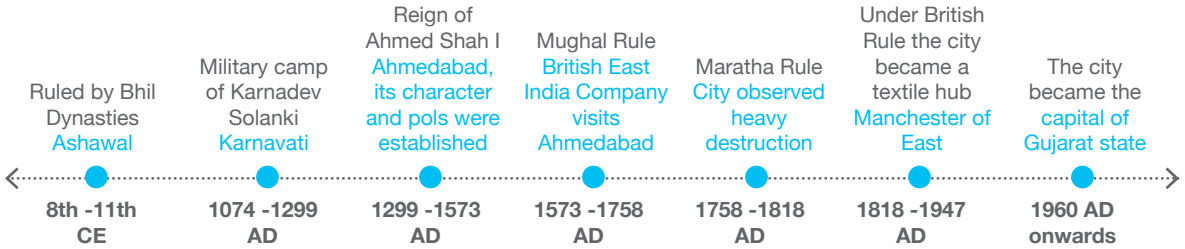
2.1.1 Origins & The Evolution

Dhal ni Pol, meaning a Pol on slope, owes its significance to its location. It is located on a hillock known as Ashabhil no Tekro, which is believed to be the origin and the highest point of the historic town of Ashawal settled here since 9th and 10th century AD. It is believed that Ashaval was originally settled by bhil community, and both Ashaval and Ashabhil no Tekro were named after the chieftain named Asha Bhil. In the 11th century, King Karnadev Solanki of Patan conquered the area and established a camp which came to be known as Karnavati. Subsequently in 1411 AD, Ahmed Shah I founded Ahmedabad on the eastern bank of river Sabarmati. However, Ashaval continued to remain a thriving city until later part of 15th century, and it became part of the walled city of Ahmedabad when the new fort wall was built by Sultan Ahmedshah. The area of Ashaval around of Ashabhil no Tekaro later came to be known as Astodia.

Since early days, Ashaval was a trading center for the region, and known for its textile and brocade work. The Ashavali Sarees and Textile prepared here were worn by the royalty and the nobles of the time.

|	Reign of Ahmed Shah I	Mughal Rule		Under British Rule the city	
	Military camp of Karnadev Solanki	Ahmedabad, its character and pols were established	British East India Company visits Ahmedabad	Maratha Rule City observed heavy destruction	became a textile hub Manchester of East	The city became the capital of Gujarat state
Ruled by Bhil Dynasties Ashawal	Karnavati				
8th -11th CE	**1074 -1299 AD**	**1299 -1573 AD**	**1573 -1758 AD**	**1758 -1818 AD**	**1818 -1947 AD**	**1960 AD onwards**

Clockwise from Above: 1. Walled city of Ahmedabad, Source: Colonel Biggs ,1866

2. Bhadra Fort in 1872, Source: Nomination Dossier-Historic City of Ahmedabad, AMC

3. Rani Sipri mosque with Balaji Temple in the background in 1866, Source: Architecture at Ahmedabad, the Capital of Goozerat, photographed by Colonel Biggs, ... With an historical and descriptive sketch, by T. C. H, ... and architectural notes by J. Fergusson, etc.

Later, in 1573 the city came under the Mughal rule and continue to flourish as a textile hub of the region. In 18th century, when Marathas defeated the Mughals, the city experienced significant destruction. But it regained its prominence as the textile hub of the country during the British rule since 19th century. The city expanded towards east when the textile mills were established beyond the city walls and across the railway station. Later after construction of Ellisbridge in 1892 the city began expanding across the river in the west, and propelled the migration of wealthier class from within the walled city towards the suburbs. Also the southern areas towards and around Kankaria lake began getting populated.

In 1980's with the closing of textile mills and shifting of the employment opportunities, many of the families began moving away from the congested areas of the walled city into the other areas. Also the infrastructure of the walled city continued show signs of
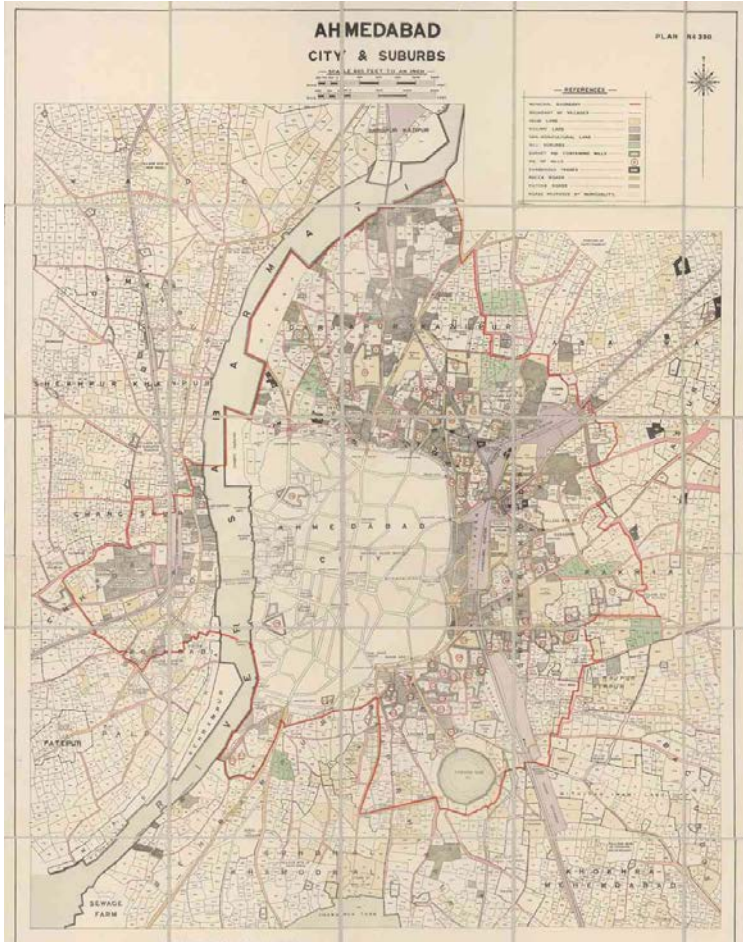
aging and stress, and with increasing vehicular movement increased congestion. In 1997, for the first time the Walled City Revitalization Plan was prepared by AMC and a non-profit organization with US AID support.

In 2007, AMC introduced the heritage related regulations which provided guidelines for listing, conservation & management of heritage properties. However, it was with the second revised Development Plan 2021 sanctioned in 2014 when the Core Walled City for the first time became a formal zone with specific regulations and incentives for the listed heritage structures in the zone. The Development Plan also recommended preparation of Local Area Plans for the identified heritage precincts in the zone. This recommendation was subsequently incorporated in the guidance provided by UNESCO upon conferring the World Heritage status to the walled city of Ahmedabad in 2017.

Draft
Comprehensive Development Plan 2021
(Second Revised)
Part III: General Development Regulations - Draft

Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority
અમદાવાદ શહેરી વિકાસ સત્તામંડળ
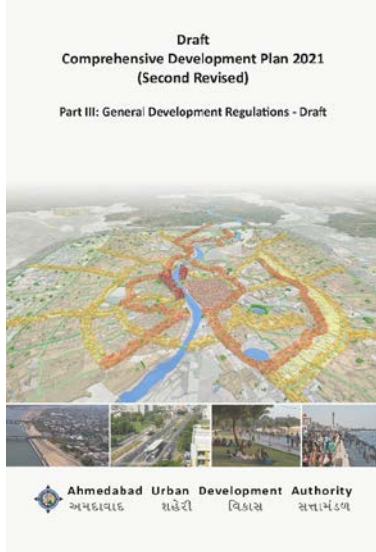
Clockwise from Above: Images of Chabutro, Kuvo, plaza and otla at Dhal Ni Pol, Source: MHT
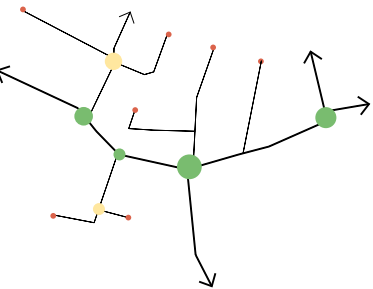
● Chowks on main pol street

● Nodes inside the Khancho

● Dead Ends

Size of the bubble indicates the level of activity observed throughout

2.1.2 Urban Fabric & The Pols

The distinct settlement pattern of the walled city is a result of the urban fabric made of Pols. The pols, located along the major arterials of the city, are residential precincts with only one main entra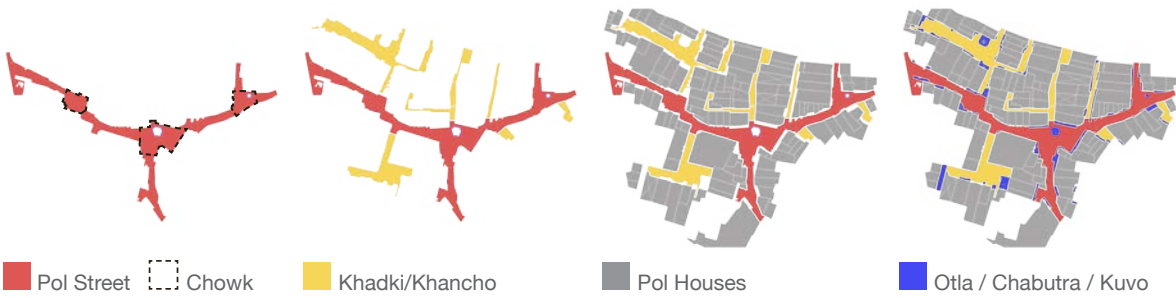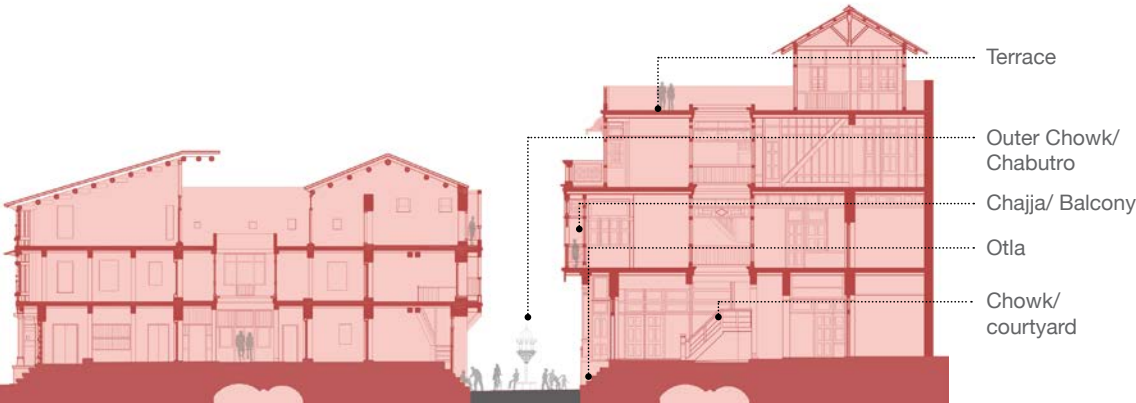nce or gate opening on the arterial street. Inside the pol, the main street goes meandering and interspersed with chowks, branching out into smaller streets, khadakis and Khanchas. The streets of the pols are lined with ornamented wooden houses and havelis with typical elements such as otla, chowk (central courtyard), zarukha (balcony) etc. in the earlier times the pols used to be lived in by the households belonging to the same community and occupation and used to have gates that could be closed in event of external threats.   The pol in itself used to be a self-sufficient entity having elements such as a bird feeder (Chabutra), a well (Kuvo), a temple, Khadki (inner entrances of the pol), Khancho, houses with chowks, underground tankas and grain storage as its

Pol Street ┊ Chowk   Khadki/Khancho   Pol Houses   Otla / Chabutra / Kuvo

Terrace

Outer Chowk/ Chabutro

Chajja/ Balcony

Otla

Chowk/ courtyard

integral part. The scale and proportion of these pols also responded to Ahmedabad's hot and dry climate. Mutually shaded row houses with two or three side shared walls reduce exposure to the extreme climate of the city. The Pols exhibits heritage values and cultural significance because of the lived-in community that carried these values in their traditions and unique art and architecture of pol houses.

Today, the walled city of Ahmedabad continues to face issues related to stress infrastructure, aging housing stock and congestion. These issues combined with diminishing image of the area has impacted the people's willingness to continue living in these centrally located and highly liveable precincts rich with history and heritage. And these are the issues that the MHT's initiative for Revitalization of Dhal ni Pol is aimed to address.

Above: 1. Diagrams showing the components of a pol in the walled city of Ahmedabad, Source: Arun Kumar

2. Section showing various components constituting the character of a pol, Source: World Heritage Nomination Dossier-Historic City of Ahmedabad, AMC, reillustarted by Arun Kumar, Husen Kharodawala

Dhal Ni Pol
Khadia II Ward
BRTS Lane
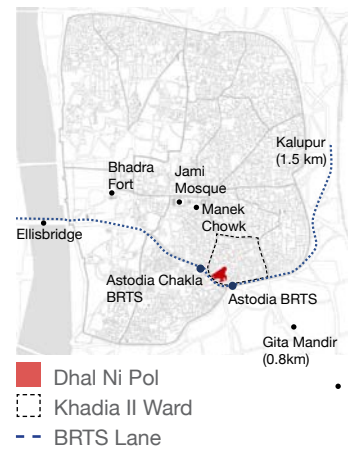
Right: Entrance gate of Dhal Ni Pol accessed from Swami Vivekanand road, *Source: MHT*

Above: Key Map showing the location of Dhal Ni Pol, *Source: World Heritage Nomination Dossier-Historic City of Ahmedabad, AMC, reillustarted by Arun Kumar,*

2.2

Dhal Ni Pol

Dhal-ni-pol is situated in the Khadia II ward within the walled city zone as mentioned in the Development Plan of Ahmedabad. The Pol is accessed by its main entrance opening on the main road connecting with Ellis Bridge on one side and with Astodia Darwaja and Railway Station on the other side. There are also other entry points in the pol through other pols, but they are narrower and primarily used by locals only. Dhal-ni-Pol is easily accessible and is well connected due to the presence of BRTS station within a 100-200 m radius from both entrances of the pol. Although it lies on the edge of the walled city, yet it displays the rich architectural, cultural, historical character of dense built fabric and urban structure similar to other areas of the Walled city of Ahmedabad. Its location is significantly important as it lies in close proximity with historically important and ASI listed monuments such as Astodia Darwaza, Dastur Khan's Mosque, Raipur Darwaza, and Rani Sipri's Mosque. The area surrounding the pol has seen various changes over the span of time, including the Relief Road, Ellis Bridge, and the Astodia road, yet the pol has managed to retain some of its

unique character as compared to other areas within the walled city. It consists of around 81 listed heritage structures out of which 24 are within the precinct boundary selected for the pilot project. The main spine of the pol is the primary street providing access to the pol from Swami Vivekananda road abutting the pol boundary. This street comprises of significant Chowks and Chabutras such as Rasik chowk and Jagabhai no Chowk, which are major activity hotspots where most of the public activities and gatherings take place. With the changing lifestyle and commercialization of the pol, these spaces are being occupied by parking vehicles. But the pol is rich in its tangible as well as intangible heritage
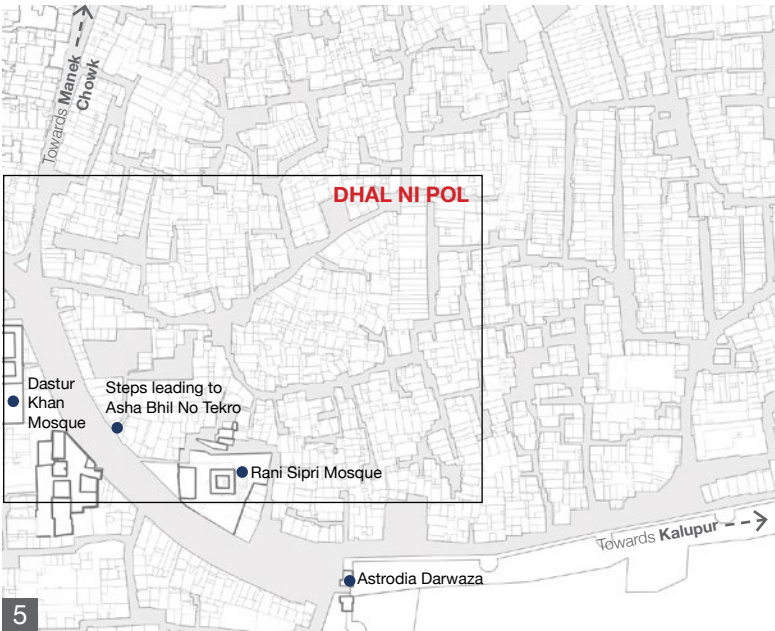
Clockwise from Below: 1. Steps leading to Ashsbhil No Tekro which is supposed to be the genesis of Ahmedabad, Source: Arun Kumar

2. Dastur Khan's Mosque across the road facing the Dhal Ni Pol Gateway, Source: Arun Kumar

3. Rani Sipri mosque and tomb complex adjacent to the steps to Asha Bhil No Tekro, Source: Arun Kumar

*4. Astodia Darwaza roundabout, Source: http://in*gujarat.net/astodia-darwaja-in-ahmedabad-check-of-details-astodia-darwaza/

5. Key Map showing the landmarks around Dhal Ni Pol Source: World Heritage Nomination Dossier-Historic City of Ahmedabad, AMC, reillustarted by Arun Kumar,
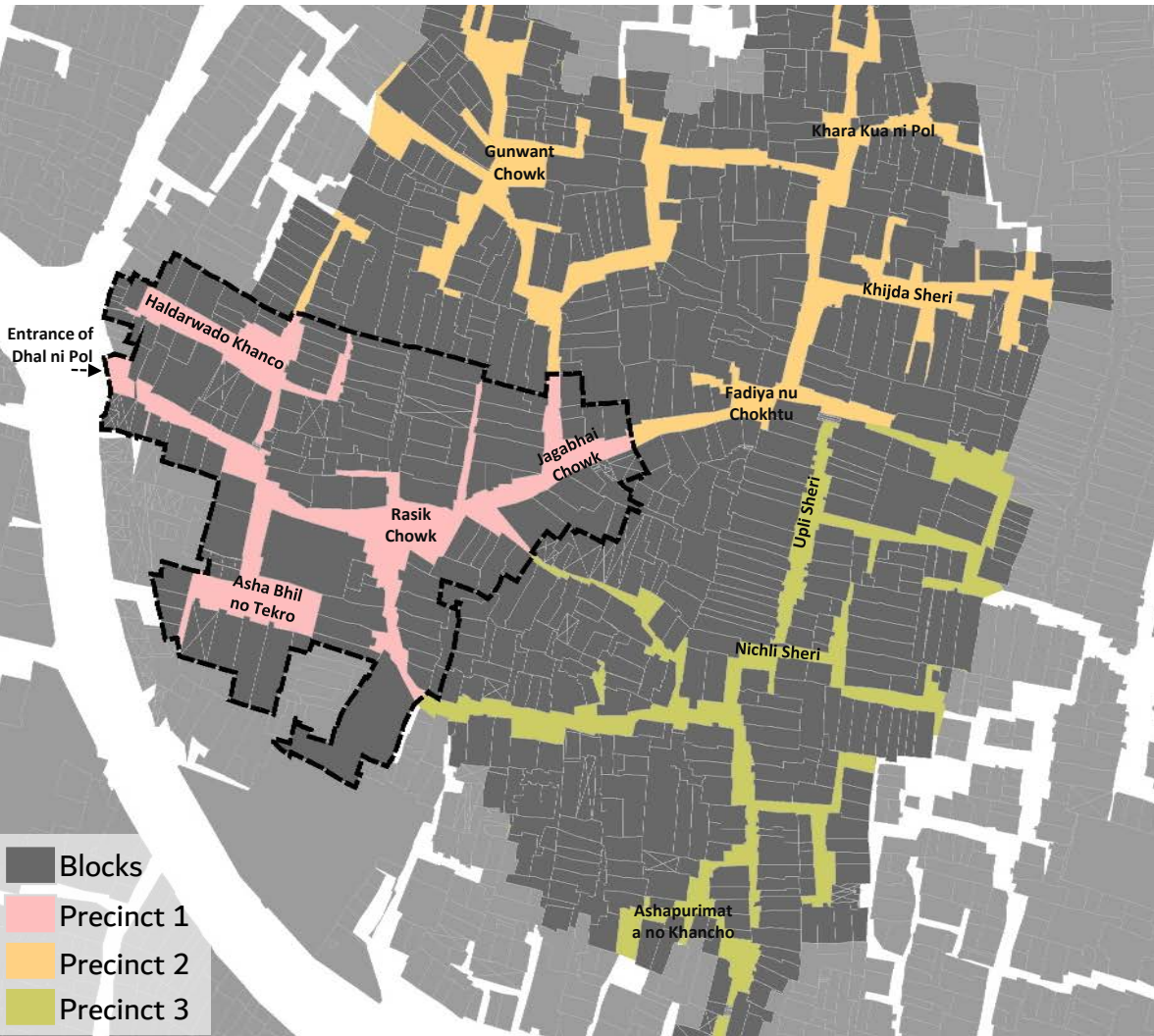
Above: Map showing the delineated site area for pilot project in Dhal Ni Pol, Source: Aditi Rai

2.2.1 The Pilot Project Site

While Dhal ni Pol is much larger and includes multiple other sheris, khanchas and Khadkis, for purpose of this pilot project, a smaller but important part of the pol was taken up for improvement of the public domain. The pilot project under the revitalization dhal ni pol initiative included the streets, chowks and the area in public domain starting from the entrance gate of Dhal ni Pol to Rasik Chowk, the area from Rasik Chowk to Jagabhai Chowk, and the area from Rasik Chowk to Balaji Mandir on the other side. The pilot area covered approximately 240m length of the pol's streets which also includes chowks, and chabutaras. The total area of the Precinct is 0.8 hectares, having a total of 126 households.

2.2.2 The Heritage Structures

There are a total of 24 listed heritage structures of grade-IIA, IIB and III, in the precinct. Can be broadly categorized into structures in public and community domain and private domain

1. Heritage Structures in Public and Community Domain

Balaji Temple (Grade IIB)

Balaji Mandir is again a Grade IIB heritage listed structure. The temple is taken care by the Mahant of the Temple. The temple shares its wall with Rani Sipri Mosque, which was commissioned by Queen Sipri one of the Hindu Wives of Sultan Mahmud Begada in 1514.

Below: Map of Dhal Ni Pol highlighting the key landmarks and AMC listed heritage structures, Source: Arun Kumar

1. Entrance Gate
2. Dilipdada ni Haveli
3. Kuvo
4. Dhaliya Hanuman
5. Rasik Chowk
6. Vasant Haveli
7. SEWA ni Haveli
8. Chabutara at Jagabhai ni Pol
9. Chakli ni Khambhi
10. Balaji Temple
11. Asha Bhil no Tekro
12. Haldarwalo Khancho
13. Mamajijiya Pirdada Dargah

Clockwise from Above: 1. Courtyard of Balaji Temple provides a much required open community space, Source: Arun Kumar

2. 100 year old chabutra at Jagabhai Chowk

3. Kuvo at Hardarvalo Khancho

Chabutro at Rasik Chowk & Jagabhai Ni Pol (Grade IIB)

A traditional Chabutara marks identity of the chowk, local people also call it a Parabdi sometimes. This is where grains and water are kept for the birds to feed. Birds and animals are given special importance in Gujarati culture. Chabutro at Jagabhai Ni Pol is also a grade IIB structure and was built in Samvat 1973 that's exactly 100 years back. The brackets of the dome has musicians playing different instruments. While, Chabutaro at Rasik Chowk is a grade IIB structure made up of stone.

Kuvo at Hardarwalo Khancho (Non Listed Heritage)

This 200 year old kuvo is a community asset which went dry some years back. In 2018, the well was restored and converted into a ground water recharge well by MHT. A new system was installed for this purpose that collected the rainwater from the surrounding roofs and diverted it into a filteration tank before bringing it into the well for ground water recharge. The well was refurbished with concrete shoring for structural stability and percolation pipes were inserted at the bottom of the well.

2. Heritage Structures in Private Domain

SEWA Ni Haveli

This Haveli is called SEWA ni Haveli. It belongs to SEWA organization. It is an institute for women artisans. They come here and get training and make various handicrafts. They do block printing, embroidery, applique work, tie and dye work, puppet making and many such interesting crafts here. This is amongst the first heritage listed structure to avail the benefits of HTDR incentive for conservation works.

Dilipdada ni Haveli

The haveli is Grade IIA listed structure which is the highest grade marking the most important structures in terms of their heritage value. From the style of architecture, the Haveli looks like around 120-150 years old with clear influences of Victorian style on the front side combined with motifs of Hindu Gods. It has a Krishna Motif on the door, two angels on the first-floor balcony, Victorian columns and roof. The house is built on a slope with front entrance at road level and back entrance at a plinth of almost 1.5 to 2m. it is located on a hillock named Astodia.

Vasant Haveli

This haveli is also Grade IIA heritage listed structure. It is named after its current owner. But it was built around 120 years ago by Ranchodlal Damodardas. This haveli also showcases similar elements of Victorian Style.

Below (Left to Right): SEWA ni Haveli, Dllipdada ni Haveli & Vasant Haveli, Source: Arun Kumar, MHT
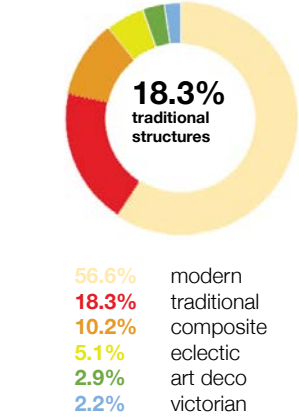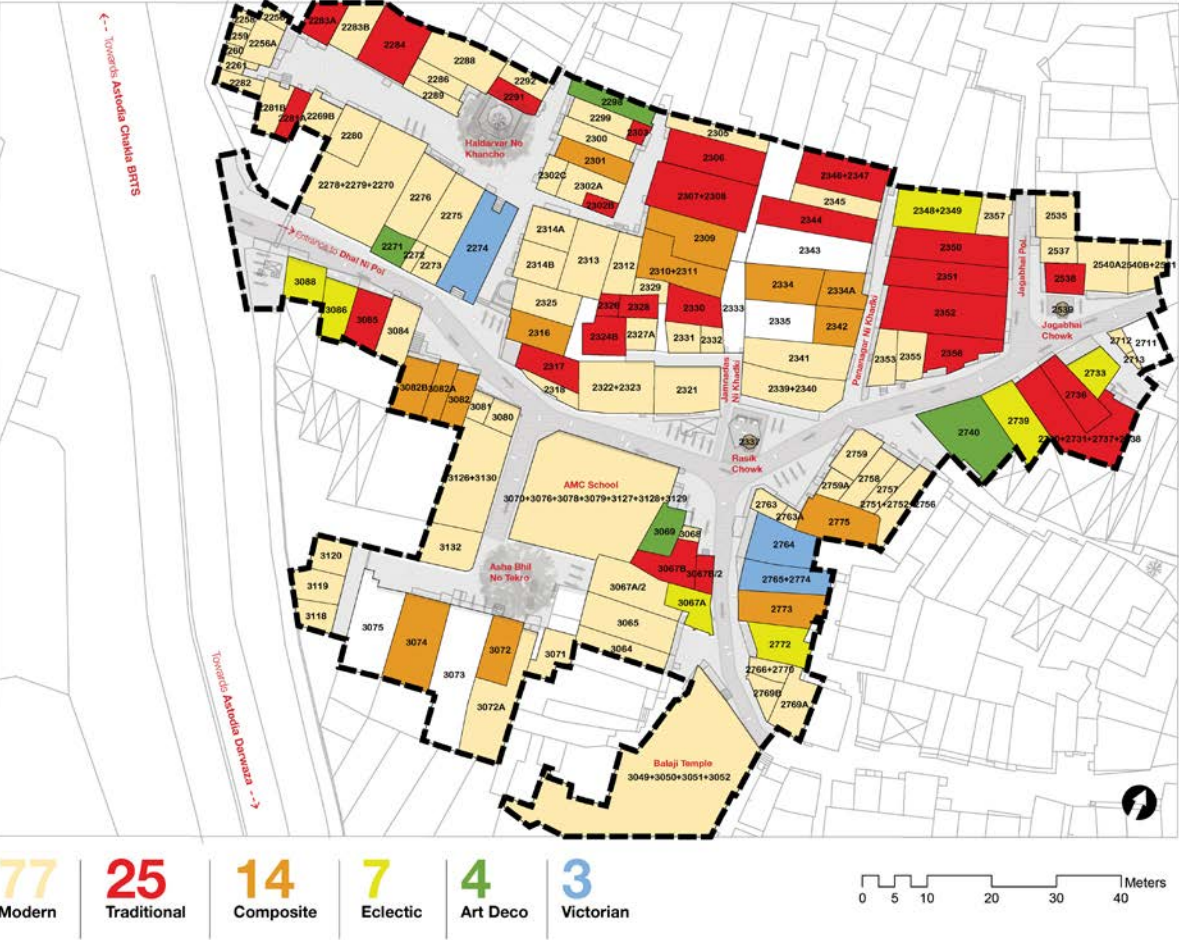
77	25	14	7	4	3
Modern	Traditional	Composite	Eclectic	Art Deco	Victorian

18.3% traditional structures

56.6% modern
18.3% traditional
10.2% composite
5.1% eclectic
2.9% art deco
2.2% victorian

2.2.3 The Architectural Style

Dhal Ni Pol is amongst the oldest pols of the city and has observed several cultures, traditions, and beliefs whose influence is reflected in the art and architecture in the surrounding physical environment. Architectural style within pol is influenced by different reigns of the empires and their culture and art. The architectural style of the 12th Century is one of the oldest inherited architectural styles found in pol. It has facades depicting Hindu, Islamic, Jain, and Maratha architectural elements such as Jharokhas, S-shape brackets, and figures of god that are the strong influence of the religious ideologies of Swaminarayan, made out of intricate wooden carvings.

Out of a total of 24 listed heritage structures three are of Victorian style and belong to the mid-late 19th Century; fourteen are composite in style, having characteristics of both traditional Gujarati and Colonial; seven Eclectic and four of Art Deco style.

Traditional (Hindu, Jain, Muslim, Maratha)
It originated in 12th Century with the Provincial Gujarati style architecture during the reign of Solanki dynasty of Patan, later on, influenced by Jain and Mughal styles. Wooden ornamentation on 1st floor with Zarukhas S'- shape bracket. The figure of God: Strong influence of the religious ideologies of Swaminarayan.

Below: Details of facade, chajja, brackets in traditional style structures in Dhal Ni Pol Source: Husen Kharodawala
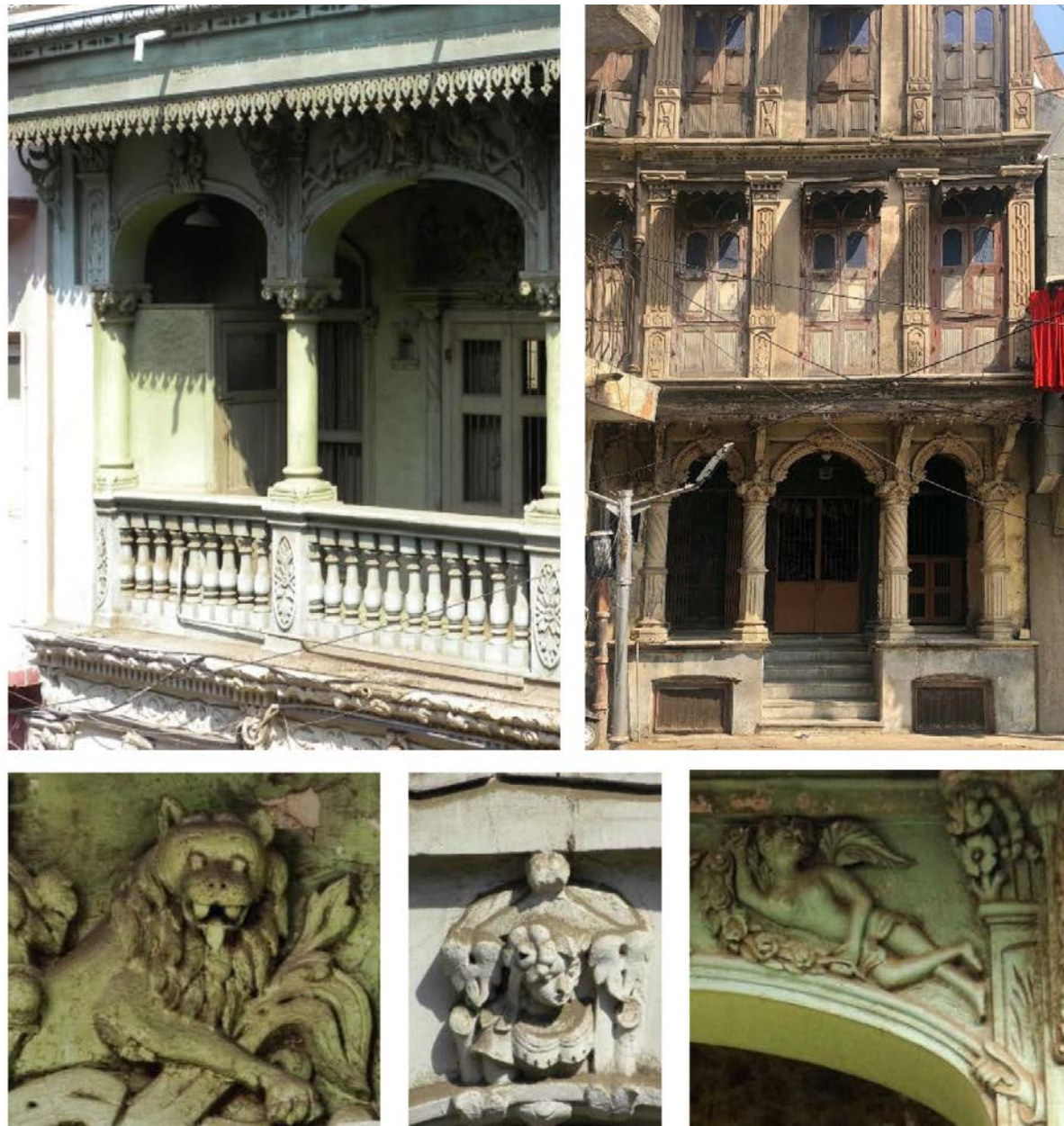
Eclectic

Use of ornamentation on the wall. Use of bright colours on building facade. Usually three windows with full-length shutters on the upper storey facade (Top part has louvres, the bottom is a flat panel). Transoms are flat arched or semi-circular with glass. Column or pilasters framing the windows. Timber window & door leaves. Simply carved timber air vent on ground floor facade.

Composite (Traditional+Colonial)

Began in the late 18th Century, it is a fusion of Gothic, Renaissance styles with traditional style.The composite style structures can be identified through elements such as leaves, flowers on the column, and facade embellishments, elliptical arched openings with stain glass and balcony with cast-iron railings. The column style resembles to a Doric column, fused with Indian column order.

Above: Details of facade in victorian style structures in Dhal Ni Pol Source: Husen Kharodawala

Victorian

Victorian architecture is a series of architectural revival styles in the mid-to-late 19th century. Despite the variance in types of Victorian homes. Victorian style structures have steep-gabled roofs, round angles, towers, turrets and dormers, bay windows, stained windows, stained glass, decorative woodwork, and have bright colours on the facade.
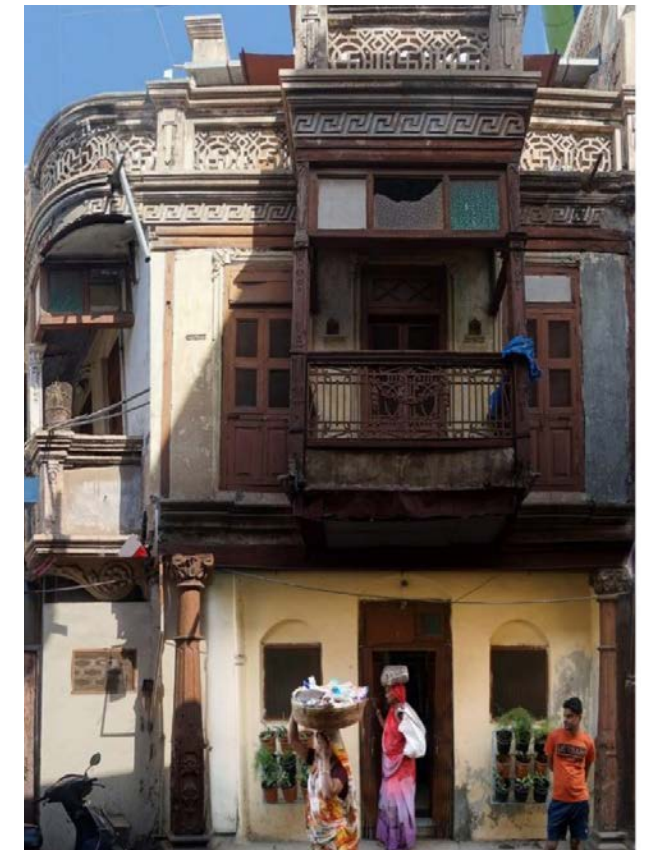
Art Deco

Began in mid 20th Century. Decorations with cement and plaster because of European Influence. Bold geometric forms of Cubism, bright colour facades. Balconies and flat terraces, that gained much popularity during this period resulted in the development of cement plaster parapets. Influence of sun– geometrical pattern.

Above: Details of facade, column,brackets in art deco style structures in Dhal Ni Pol Source: Husen Kharodawala

48.9% Good | **42.9%** Fair | **7.9%** Poor | **7.4%** Demolished

Above: An art deco structure in a dilapidated condition near the entrance of Dhal Ni Pol, *Source: Arun Kumar*

Right: Maps highlighting the exisiting built condition and built use within the pol, *Source: Arun Kumar*

2.2.4 Dhal Ni Pol Today

Dhal ni Pol, even today, exhibits a rich mix of heritage structures of different styles. The pol has also retained its residential character in spite to the pressures for commercialization and conversion of structures into non-residential uses. However, the stresses felt by the community are apparent and reflect in the conditions of the houses and public areas. As the well-to-do families of the pol have chosen to move out into other areas of the city, the pol houses are rented out to other looking for cheaper housing. These new occupiers generally do not have the same associations and respect for the community traditions and tangible and intangible heritage, and result in further deterioration of the pol. Also, such transitions impact the property prices in the area, and the owners do not have the incentive to improve or refurbish their properties. Today, in the area around 15% houses are either in poor, unhabitable condition or demolished and only 49% in good condition. Another casue of deterioration is the reverse gentrification of residences into godowns and warehouses. Currently, only 58.4% area of the precinct is purely residential while 10.8% is converted to mixed-use with retail shops, eateries etc.
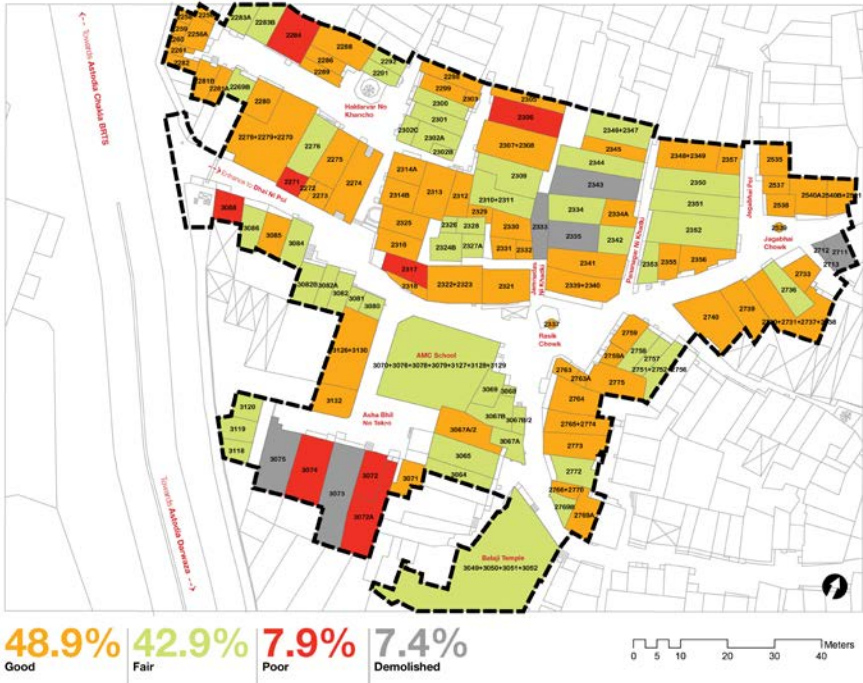
58.4% Residential | **11%** Commercial | **10.8%** Mixed | **7.1%** Religious | **5.1%** Education

5% Vacant | **2.5%** Abandoned
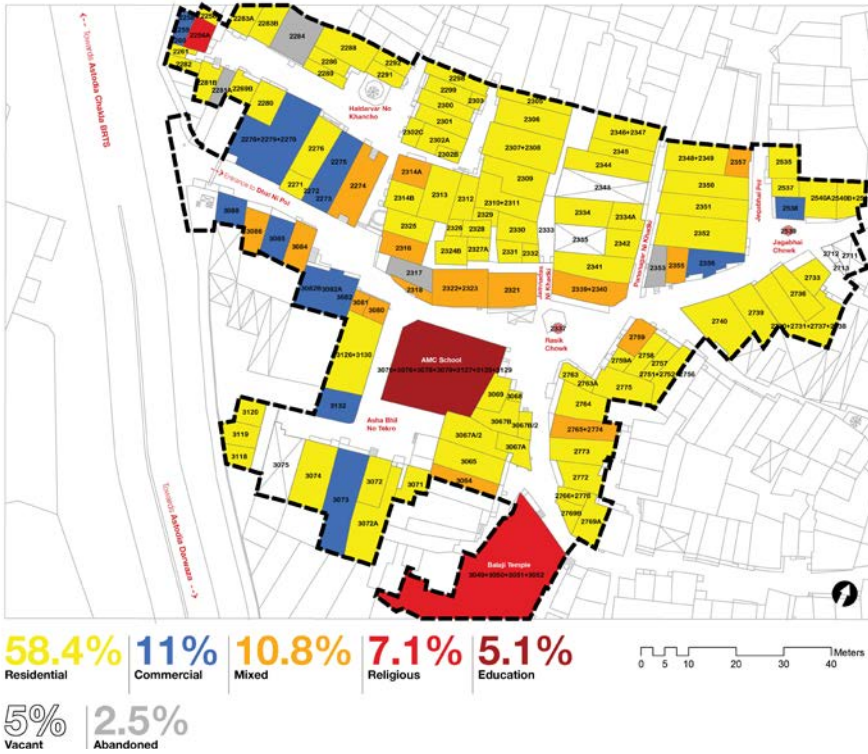
2.2.5 The Issues & Concerns

The multiple workshops and interactions with the residents of the pol combined with visual surveys and observations revealed the following issues that were needed to be addressed while improving the pol.

Old and dilapidated infrastructure

Sewage and water supply pipelines are leaking and getting mixed as they were laid down in 1921 and over the time only repaired and not replaced completely. People are complaining of backflow of sewerage in their houses and also suffering from water borne diseases like typhoid and jaundice due to poor water supply.

Irregular street profile not suitable for vehicular access

Urban morphology and street character of the precinct is 600 years old and were not meant for vehicular movement as the width of street changes after every 2-3m and only 3m of clear space is available for the movement of vehicles which is also encroached by parking or illegal extensions.

Parking encroaching the community public space

Chowk and khancho, which were community public spaces, used by elders to sit, interact, feed birds, kids to play and community to congregate during festivals, have been encroached by parked vehicles and merely become garages and parking lots. It has disrupted the life in public space.

Visual pollution on building façade and spaces between them hampering the heritage character

AC units, shop shutters, fabricated canopies, aluminium composite panels, hanging wires and cables, down-pipes, non-uniform design of streetlights and signages, and finally the jarring colour scheme completely taking away the heritage character from the precinct.

Below: Two-wheelers parked haphazardly at Rasik Chowk in Dhal Ni Pol, Source: Arun Kumar

Above: A redeveloped pol house with lost heritage value in Dhal Ni Pol, *Source: Kamaldeep Kaur*

Half of the total properties in the precinct are not contributing to its heritage character

50% of properties have been redeveloped with a changed typology and style that is not contributing to the heritage character of the precinct. This change has happened majorly due to the increasing number of members in the family and subdivision of plot amongst them. Typology has been changed in order to accommodate more people in a structure. Styles have been changed due to unavailability of craftsmen, expensive nature of work in earlier styles, availability of cheaper material of construction in the form of RCC.

Structures located on the main pol street are more susceptible to change in type and use

70% of the properties, that have converted their built use from residential to either commercial or mixed-use, are located on the main pol street. Also, 37.7% of structures located on the main pol street have been redeveloped. These changes have occurred mostly on the pol streets due to increasing commercial activity on the arterial and sub-arterial roads which are than pouring inside the pols.

Addition and alterations over time have reduced chances of structures to be protected as heritage

Only 38.7% structures out of the ones that have not been redeveloped are notified heritage and protected from demolition through statutory provisions. Additions and alterations within the structures have reduced their chances of getting a heritage tag. People are also reluctant to get the tag due to fear of strict regulations.

More than half of the lived-in structures in poor condition

62.5% of the structures that are in poor condition are still lived in and only 40% out of that are listed heritage and protected by statutory provisions. Remaining 60% are the most vulnerable structures and require urgent structural retrofitting. This has happened due to the poor economic condition of the residents, many of them are living on rental basis and do not own the house. Owners are reluctant to maintain the structure due to rent control within the walled city.

Below: A collage of visual pollution, hanging wires, additions to exisitng structures, use of materials not in congruity with heritage character in Dhal Ni Pol, *Source: Arun Kumar*
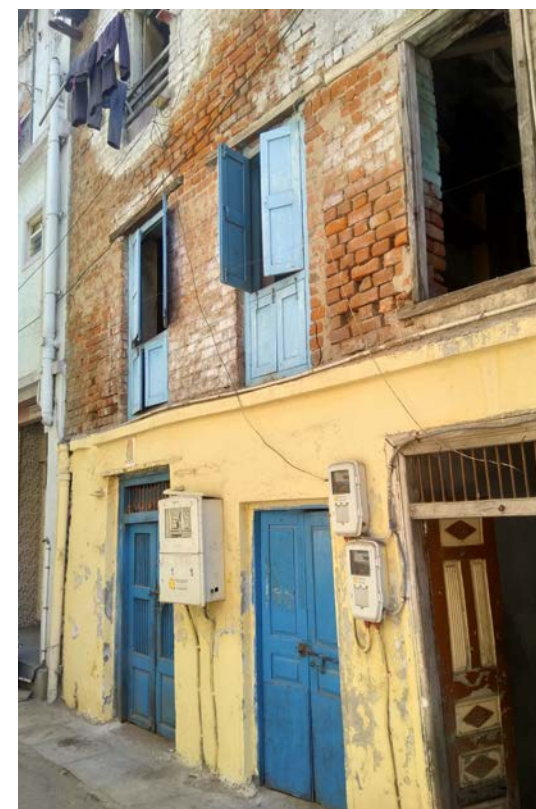
Subdivision of land creating problems for achieving minimum habitable standards

30% structures of the precinct fall below the minimum habitable standards and 72.5% structures out of them have redeveloped due to the subdivision of land into family members.

Multiple & disputed ownership has led to dilapidation of structures

The walled city has properties as old as 600 years with no paperwork and multiple stakeholders as per the family lineage. This multiple ownership causes half of the problems as the properties get into legal hassles or gets sub-divided into smaller non-habitable plots. 30.8% properties within Dhal Ni Pol precinct do not have a property card and 39% have complicated multiple ownerships.

Costly conservation works

Due to inability to finds local craftsmen, masons and contractors skilled in conservation works, the cost of conservation often gets hiked as experts from other places are called to execute the works, who charge a higher fee. Also, the cost of conservation comes out to be similar to the cost of new construction including demolition, superstructure, and finishing. At the same cost, residents can redevelop their old pol houses.

Older regulations were detrimental to the heritage character of the precinct and allowed amalgamation and change of built typology

Before the DP-2021, commercial uses were allowed within the walled city that caused a change in the built use of several pol houses into shops and godowns, leading to dilapidation. Vacant properties were also a prime target for such conversions. Uses permitted within the walled city were also same as other residential zones having regulations based on road width which was quite difficult to determine due to organic street pattern. There was no special focus on the conservation and preservation of the traditional character of the city. Later in DP-2021, special regulations were prepared for the Core Walled City which distinguished it in two parts: Heritage areas & Non-heritage areas with a restriction on uses in listed heritage buildings. Parking requirement in both the DP, 2002 & 2021, had been mandated for building units more than 80sq.m. But due to narrow road widths in the walled city, people are either unable to follow the regulation or causing congestion by parking their vehicles on pol streets. Although In DP-2021, heritage buildings are exempted from parking requirement but still non-heritage structures outnumber them and the congestion continues. 93% of the plots in Dhal Ni Pol falls below the category of 100 sq.m. with an FSI consumption of 2-2.5 hence most of the regulations prepared were redundant for majority of the area and are only possible with the amalgamation of plots. In the DP of 1986, the amalgamation of plots was allowed with a permissible FSI of 3, this additional FSI was utilised by tearing down the pol houses, amalgamating the plots and redeveloping it into multistoried buildings. The change was detrimental for the traditional character and morphology of the walled city.

3

The **project**

area planning approach, and took up Directed Research Projects at CEPT University for exploring ways to improve the public and private domain of the precincts, using Dhal ni Pol as a case.

The initiative for revitalization of Dhal ni Pol gradually evolved and crystallized after initial workshops with the women members of the pol in 2016 and 2017, and subsequently it was firmed up as a concrete project with primarily three components.

1.Improving the Public realm of the Pol (including streets, chowks, infrastructure, chabutara, well etc)

2.Improving the private realm of the pol (through conservation of private structures and elements such as tankas etc using TDR and other incentives).

3.Awareness generation for the heritage value of the pol

While MHT has been simultaneously working on all of the three components, the first component was identified as strategically the most important one to be taken up first, and became the Pilot project under the MHT initiative.

Far Left: School children attending the Dhal Ni Pol No Varso Heritage Walk.

Below: An image of the asset mapping workshop with the residents of Dhal Ni Pol

3.1
The **Genesis**

The initiative for Revitalization of Dhal ni Pol emerged as a convergence of ideas and efforts from multiple directions.

Since much before the walled city of Ahmedabad received the World Heritage City status from UNESCO in July 2017, Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) was already working with the women of Dhal ni Pol to organize them and improve their conditions. As part of that effort MHT had carried out the surveys to understand and uplift their status in the community.

On the other hand, an old haveli was acquired, conserved and restored for purpose of training and employment of the women by SEWA Federation. The haveli was subsequently called SEWA ni Haveli.

In 2015 and early 2016 these different initiatives converged when a couple of urban planning and design experts introduced the idea of improving and revitalizing the pol as a heritage precinct using local

51% male
49% female

51%
Male residents

Sex-ratio

41% above 60 years
36% 30-60 years
15% 10-30 years
8% below 10 years

41%
Above 60 years

Age of Residents

15% more than 70 years
52% 40-70 years
29% 10-40 years
4% less than 10 years

52%
residents are staying here from 40-70 years

Living Duration

62% less than Rs.10,000/month
22% Rs.10-15,000/month
16% more than Rs.15,000/months

62%
earn less than rs.10,000/month

Income Levels

57% matriculation
20% graduate
6% none
3% post graduate

57%
only matric pass

Education Levels

74% family's member have shifted outside
26% full family staying within the precinct

74%
families have members shifted outside the precinct

Migration

54% willing to stay if gets better quality of life
39% don't want to shift
7% planning to shift

54%
willing to stay if gets better quality of life

Aspiration

3.2
The Beginning:
Preparing the Platform

While the idea of improving Dhal ni Pol was evolving, it was important for the team to understand the socioeconomic make up of the community living in the pol. Also it was deemed crucial to initiate a dialog and generate awareness regarding the heritage assets located in the pol and understand various issues faced by the community members. But before any of these interventions, a socio-economic survey of Dhal ni Pol was conducted to understand the demographics of the community.

3.2.1 Socio-economic survey

A total of 95 households from Dhal ni Pol took part in the socio economic survey carried out by MHT in 2015. The survey revealed that about 84% of the working residents within the pol were earning less than 15,000 Rs/month. This would make it very difficult for them to spend money after even basic maintenance and upkeep of their houses, leave alone spending money on expensive conservation works. Also, the survey revealed that family members of almost 74% of the households have shifted out of the pol. However, on the other hand, more than 54% of the household said that they are willing to stay if they get better quality of life in the pol, and 39% said that they do not want to shift away from the pol regardless.

Far Left: Women of Dhal Ni Pol working towards conservation of Chabutro at Jagabhai Chowk.

Above: Results from the socio-economic survey.

Above: Bijal Brahmbhatt and Lalita Krishnaswami at the panel discussion.

3.2.2 Initial Community Workshops

After the socio-economic survey an initial workshop was held with the community on 28th June 2016 to understand the various issues faced by them and to map the heritage and cultural assets of the precinct. The workshop was followed by a panel discussion with the experts from heritage and architectural field including Prof. Jigna Desai and Prof. Jay Thakker from CEPT University, Ms. Madhavi Joshi from CEE, Mr. Debashish Naik from Ahmedabad University, and Mr. P.K.V. Nair from AMC. The experts spoke about the importance of heritage, traditional architecture and craftsmanship and AMC's effort in heritage conservation.

The workshop helped achieve two major goals:

1.Mapping of architectural, community and cultural assets within Dhal Ni Pol.

a) Architectural assets: beautiful wooden façade, carved columns & brackets, beautiful doors & jaalis, shared walls: earthquake resistant, chowk for natural ventilation – stays cool in summer and warm in winter, Tanka: traditional rain water harvesting system.

b) Community assets: chowks, khadki, otlo, reading room/library, religious places, memorials.

c) Cultural assets: feeling of community, sense of safety, easy access to daily need items, celebration of festivals like Uttrayan, Navratri, Diwali, Holi, Janmashtami, Ganesh Utsav, Chaitra etc.

2.Identify issues faced by the community

(a) Image of Pol: Quality of life is perceived to be low, thus impacting Marriage-ability

(b) Neglect of Pol elements such as Chabutara, Kuvo, Chowk etc.: Redevelopment using new construction materials have resulted in loss of Heritage character

(c) Deteriorating Condition of Pol Houses: Lack of monitory resources, Heritage Buildings are being demolished

(d) Parking: haphazard parking blocking the narrow streets

3. Potential Actions Identified

Several potential actions were identified to be taken up which included development of a pol heritage walk, installation of information plaques, improvement and restoration of community heritage like well, chowk, chabutra, parabdi and gates, clear demarcation of parking spaces on street, repair and restoration of pol houses and availing the HTDR incentive for conservation.

Below (Left to Right): An image of the asset mapping workshop with the residents of Dhal Ni Pol

Map showing the mapped assets by one of group of participants

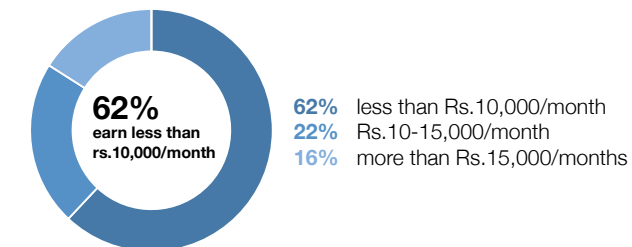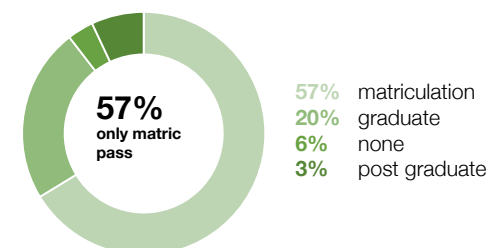*Above: Dhal ni Pol street after the yellow band trial marking the movement and non-movement area, 2016*

3.2.3 Initial interventions

Since 2016, MHT initiated several interventions within the Dhal Ni Pol area in collaboration with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), CEPT University, Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and State level women's cooperative federation. With this investment, MHT believes that it is well equipped to play a vital role in the revitalization of Dhal ni Pol through its time-tested processes of community empowerment and community development. These interventions can be further classirifed under 4 broad categories:

1. Awareness drives

2. Capacity building trainings & workshops

3. Conservation of community heritage

4. Events

Awareness Drives

Sughad Sheri: In November 2016, a trial was conducted to make the residents of pol aware about the movement and non-movement areas and organising the parking in the pol streets, a yellow band was marked on the street based on an initial design sketch to mark the movement and non-movement areas, and manage parking in non-movement area only.

Swachh Sheri: Several cleanliness drives within the pol have been initiated by the MHT in collaboration with AMC.The objective was to make people understand the importance of maintaining cleanliness, hygiene and how it helps in creating a positive image of the pol further enhancing its value. As a token of honour AMC workers who were involved in the cleaning were felicitated by the MHT.
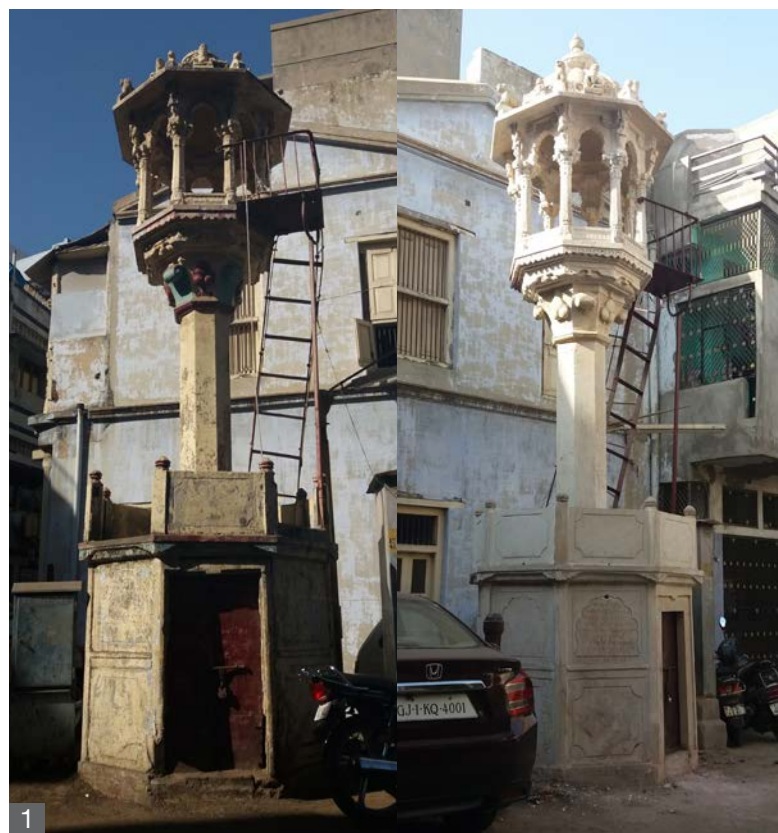
Capacity Building Trainings & Workshops

In order to create awareness about heritage of pol and HTDR, which is a government policy to incentivize conservation of private heritage

Above: AMC workers felicitated during the Swachh Sheri initiative by MHT, 2016.

structures within the walled city of Ahmedabad, several workshops were held which were attended by more than 200 pol residents. 7 women leaders were trained to conduct heritage walks for the school children visiting the pol. A pilot application was undertaken for acquiring HTDR Certificate. A community-based organization of women members has been set up to lead the next initiatives at the pol and act as the watch dog for the upkeep and general maintenance issues.

Conservation of community heritage

Revival of Well at Haldarvalo Khancho: The 200 year old well which went dry 50 years ago was revived by MHT by connecting it with the rain water harvesting system. Around 6000 sq.m of roof tops of surrounding buildings were conencted with two pipes, one for waste water which would drain out the water acidic water during the first rain and the second pipe is connected with a filter tank which would take the water down till the well. It was inaugurated in 2018 by Gautam Shah, former mayor of Ahmedabad.

Conservation of Bird Feeders: Bird Feeders at Rasik Chowk and

Jagabhai Chowk which are AMC listed heritage structures of Grade IIB were conserved by MHT to further enhance the heritage character of the precinct.

Revival of a Bird Memorial: Chakli ni Khambi, which was erected in the memory of death of a bird which occurred 40 years back in 1978 was also conserved and revived by MHT in order to conserve the intangible heritage. It was also inaugurated in 2018 by Gautam Shah, former mayor of Ahmedabad.

Tanku restoration: A pilot project was undertaken for restoration of Tanku (roof rain water harvesting) in one of the pol houses. Old dilapidated pipes connecting roof tops to the tanka were replaced with PVC pipes, while the access area around the tanka was refurbished with stone and a removable glass cover.

Conservation and Adaptive Reuse of SEWA ni Haveli: The SEWA ni Haveli which is a Grade IIB heritage structure was conserved and is now vibrant with access to efficient energy systems to promote livelihood and training to about 250 artisans.
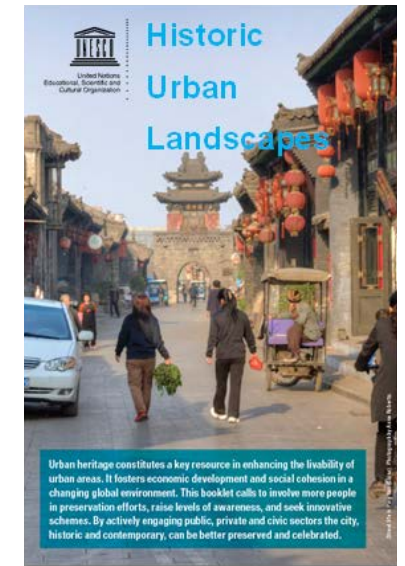
Events

Dhal ni Pol No Varso Walk: A heritage walk has been designed specially for Dhal Ni Pol for which the community women are trained to conduct it. So far eleven walks have been conducted exposing 365 school children to the heritage of Dhal ni Pol.

Cultural Night

Pol Pol Pol Street Play

Treasure Hunt

Historic
Urban
Landscapes

Urban heritage constitutes a key resource in enhancing the livability of urban areas. It fosters economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment. This booklet calls to involve more people in preservation efforts, raise levels of awareness, and seek innovative schemes. By actively engaging public, private and civic sectors the city, historic and contemporary, can be better preserved and celebrated.

Above (Left to Right): Women of Dhal Ni Pol during one of the community workshops.

Image from a brochure of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape approach,
Source : UNESCO

3.3
Approach & Synergies

3.3.1 Community Centric Approach

Unlike the monuments under ASI, the heritage structures and precincts of Ahmedabad are lived in properties mostly under private ownership. These are places where people have lived in since generations and the streets and chowks are used for long standing traditions. Therefore, it is critical to engage the community members in the planning, design and execution process for improvement of the pol. Following this, MHT conducted multiple workshops initially with women of the community and later with all community members with objective identify issues faced by them and also engage them in arriving at commonly agreed upon solutions. for other such heritage precincts in the city. The plan would cater to the improvement of both the public as well as the private realm of the precinct. This vision further helped in formulating the project for the public area improvement of the heritage precinct of Dhal Ni Pol.

3.3.2 The HUL Approach

In addition to the community centric approach, the approach taken in this project also follows the principles of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Approach for conservation. This approach integrates the goals of urban heritage conservation with those of social and economic development. It views urban heritage as a catalyst for socio-economic development of the community through generating employment opportunities and increasing property values, and thereby providing revenues to pay for maintenance and restoration of the properties and the precinct.

3.3.3 Collaborative Approach

Beyond community engagement, the project required close collaboration with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and its various departments, including the engineering detp, heritage dept, esate dept, fire dept et. Also MHT team collaborated with service providers such as Torrent (Electricity), GTPL (Cable TV), BSNL (Telecom) etc.

1. *Upgradation of underground infrastructure including sewerage, stormwater, electricity, cable, fire-fighting etc.*

2. *Upgradation of on-ground infrastructure including street width, paving, drainage, street light, signages, dust bins.*

3. *Improving the green infrastructure by adding more parks, greenery wherever required and possible.*

4. *Providing the required social infrastructure by utilizing vacant plots and structures.*

5. *Proving urban design guidelines for improving aesthetics and street facades.*

Improving private realm through regulations, incentives and guidelines

Private realm constitutes the major part of any precinct. Regulation of the private realm is required to ensure minimum safety, hygiene, and livable standards for the residents, but is also useful for facilitating conservation and redevelopment of heritage precincts. By adding an extra layer of aesthetic and facade guidelines the character of a precinct can also be conserved.

3.3.4 Approach for Dhal Ni Pol

In alignment with the basic principles of Historic Urban Landscape Approach following approach for urban conservation and regeneration of Dhal Ni Pol was considered.

Improvement by conserving tangible & intangible heritage

Conservation of heritage triggers the revival of traditional practicescreating a sense of pride within the community. It also increases the tourism potential which further creates more demand for conservation.

Improvement in public realm through projects and guidelines

Infrastructure up-gradation is the most important part of urban renewal that uplifts the standard of living as well as the property value within the precinct. Thus, it becomes important to prepare comprehensive proposals for improvement of the public realm with the help of professionals and NGO's etc.

1. *Preparing character and form-based regulations suitable for conservation of the precinct*

2. *Providing enough incentives to facilitate quality conservation and redevelopment practices.*

3. *Preparing conservation and facade guidelines to maintain a harmonious character in the precinct.*

Improving the institutional framework and funding mechanism through recommendations

To prepare plans and implement projects a clear and effective institutional framework is required to works towards a common goal.

1. *The local authority must build its capacity by hiring professionals, experts from diverse fields working under one roof for better efficiency and coordination.*

2. *An SPV mode is recommended to implement the local area plan*

3. *Funding from multiple public and private agencies along with a robust revenue generation system.*

3.4
Planning & Design
Process

For the design and planning of the public realm of Dhal ni Pol, Prof. Jignesh Mehta and Ruchi Mehta got the stakeholders and the community, involved at several stages during the design and execution process to ensure a successful and acceptable implementation of the project. The process that was followed is described in the flow chart given below:

3.4.1 Community Involvement in Design Process

Initial observations and interactions with pol community

From the initial interactions it was realized that lack of interventions to improve the Pol resulted in deterioration of the physical environment such as streets, infrastructure, and aesthetics of pol. This led to the reduction of the property value that further resulted in common community issues like diminishing quality of life, people's pride, and

Initial Observations and interactions with Pol community

↓

Stakeholder Engagement- Workshop 1

↓

Detailed Survey

↓

Base map preparation and analysis

↓

Conceptual Design and Vision

↓

Stakeholder Engagement- Workshop 2

↓

Preparing Schematic Design

↓

Meetings with Authorities

↓

Costing & Finalizing Funding

↓

Stakeholder Engagement- Workshop 3

↓

Finalizing Detailed Design

↓

Commencement of Work on site

Above: A collage of images showing the issues with streets like frequent digging, incongruent paving material, unorganised street at Dhal Ni Pol.

sense of belonging. Moreover, community concerns eventually caused either abandoning of pol houses or change of land use to commercial units, facilitating issues obstructing the heritage character of the pol. The tangible issues that formed the basis for common community concerns or intangible issues are divided into two broad categories namely, issues with streets and issues with facades. These are discussed in detail.

Issues with Streets

• Paving material not coherent with heritage character

• Increased street level due to resurfacing

• Frequent digging due to old/deteriorated infrastructure

• Un-organised street with no clear indication of movement & non-movement areas

• Lack of street furniture

• Cleanliness not maintained

• Hanging cables creating visual noise

• Hoarding and signage design not coherent to heritage character

• Fire protection not guaranteed due to narrow & varying street widths

• Lesser plantation within the pols

Issues with Facades

• Residences converting to godowns & commercial use resulting in changed style and typology

• Traditional materials being exchanged with concrete, glass, etc.

• Colour schemes not harmonious with the listed heritage structures

Below: A collage of images showing the issues with facades like change in material, change in arhcitectural style, incongruent color scheme at Dhal Ni Pol.

Stakeholder engagement- Workshop 1

Stakeholder/community engagement was carried out on 17th February 2018 to generate initial dialogue and bring awareness about the project within the Dhal-ni-pol residents. The workshop/meeting included residents/community of the pol, local councillor of Khadia ward, and other influential community leaders. The agenda for the workshop was to identify the strengths and issues of Dhal ni Pol and potential solutions to the issues that came up in initial observations and through community interactions. The workshop included a presentation from MHT followed by focus group discussions in which further concerns and issues of the residents were identified. The workshop helped to gain in-depth knowledge of issues that further helped to prioritise issues that needed the utmost attention. The three issues that became priority for the project were:

1. Improve the standard of life of pol residents by improving the physical infrastructure

2. Induce a sense of belonging in residents with precinct by involving/engaging residents in planning the precinct.

3. Improving the aesthetics of the Pol to bring back people's pride.
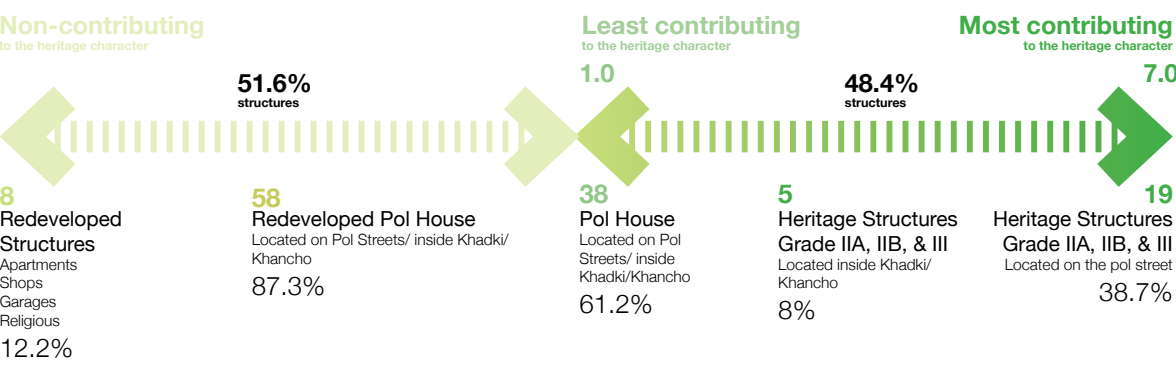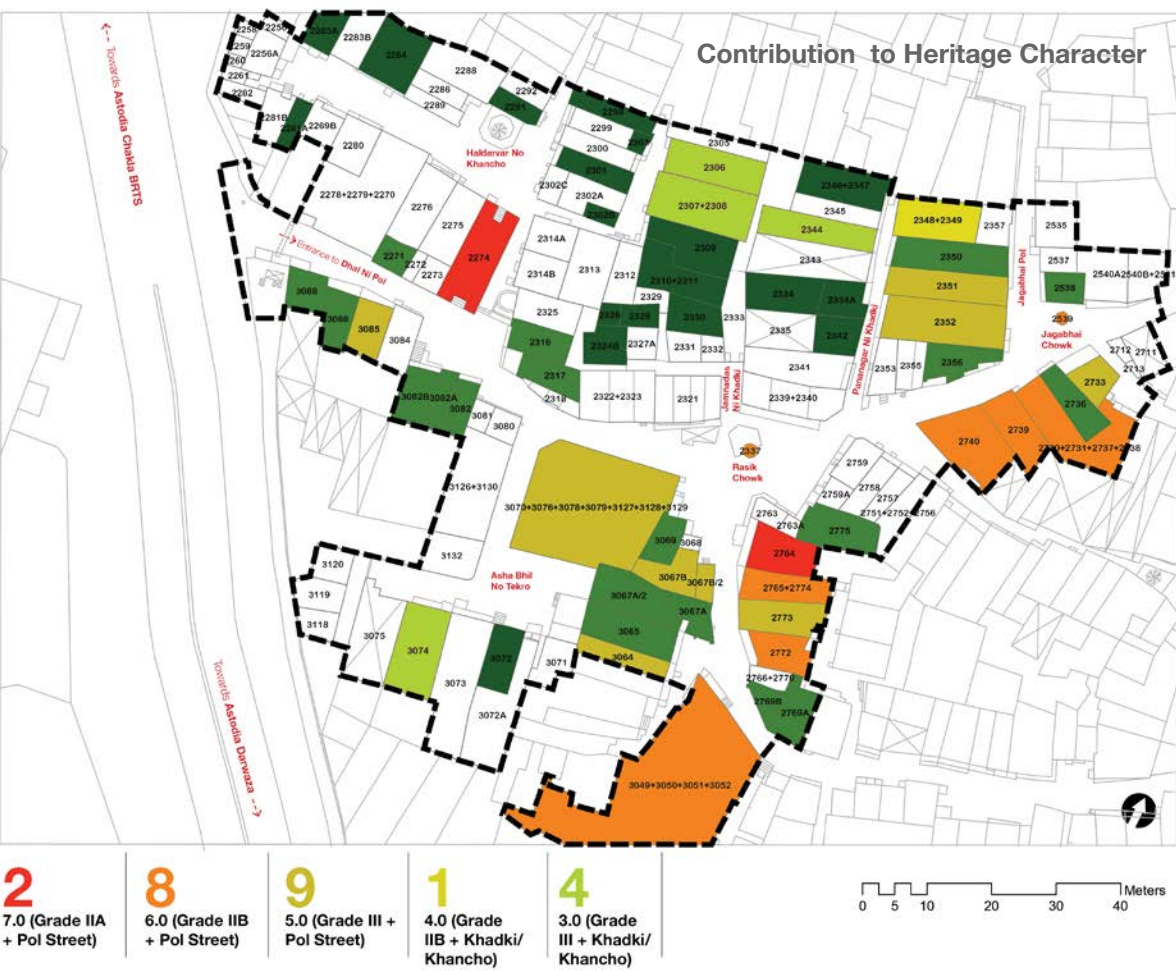
Base map preparation and analysis

A base map was prepared for the delineated precinct area with the help of surveyors. Different layers of mapping was done on top of the base map for analysis. These layers of maps were prepared by students from CEPT University as part of their capstone research projects to analyse the existing condition of parking, vending, underground infrastructure, street lighting, furniture, and street edges, etc. The analysis helped to identify the location of different street elements; infrastructure present in the precinct that further helped in tracing issues pertaining to the same. The analysis was done based on; site visits, workshops, physical features, and neighbourhood surveys.

Above (Left to Right): Residents of Dhal Ni Pol participating in stakeholder engagement workshop to identify the issues and need for revitalization of the pol.

Surveyors doing a total station survey to prapare an accurate base map of the delineated pilot project.

Next Page: Maps and graphics showing various important layers analyzed before going into the concept and design for the project.

Components of Public Realm

30.8% Pol Street

- **30.8%** pol street
- **29.2%** khadki/khancho
- **20.2%** otla/wash
- **19.8%** chowk

Pol Street | Khadki/Khancho | Wash/Chowkdi | Chowk
Otla | Chabutra | Well

0 3 6 12 18 24 Meters

Significant Spaces in Pol

Historical
Chabutras and Well

Religious
Temples

Cultural
Otlas, chowkdis and trees

0 3 6 12 18 24 Meters

Active Spaces in Public Realm

Morning
High activities

Afternoon
Less activities

Evening
Moderate activities

Night
Least activities

0 3 6 12 18 24 Meters

Contribution to Heritage Character

0 5 10 20 30 40 Meters

2 7.0 (Grade IIA + Pol Street)

8 6.0 (Grade IIB + Pol Street)

9 5.0 (Grade III + Pol Street)

1 4.0 (Grade IIB + Khadki/ Khancho)

4 3.0 (Grade III + Khadki/ Khancho)

19 2.0 (Pol Houses + Pol Street)

19 1.0 (Pol Houses + Khadki/ Khancho)

66 No Contribution to Heritage Character

Non-contributing to the heritage character

Least contributing to the heritage character
1.0

Most contributing to the heritage character
7.0

51.6% structures

48.4% structures

8 Redeveloped Structures
Apartments
Shops
Garages
Religious
12.2%

58 Redeveloped Pol House
Located on Pol Streets/ inside Khadki/ Khancho
87.3%

38 Pol House
Located on Pol Streets/ inside Khadki/Khancho
61.2%

5 Heritage Structures Grade IIA, IIB, & III
Located inside Khadki/ Khancho
8%

19 Heritage Structures Grade IIA, IIB, & III
Located on the pol street
38.7%

Above: Conceptual design sketch of Dhal Ni Pol entrance.

Far Right: 1. Conceptual design sketch of street leading from Rasik Chowk towards the entrance of pol.

2. Street leading from Rasik Chowk towards the entrance of pol after the yellow band trial marking the movement and non-movement areas.

Before

Proposed

1

Conceptual Design and Vision

The outcome of stakeholder/community engagement workshops and mapping analysis gave key components/interventions for the improvement of the heritage area in Dhal ni pol. From this, a conceptual design for the improvement of Dhal ni pol. The design included visuals of existing condition and proposed design demonstrating proposals including movement and non-movement area, lighting, organized parking and vending areas, directional signages, public spaces, removal of hanging wires, billboards, etc.

Yellow Band Trial

Earlier in November 2016, as part of the Swachch Sheri initiative, a trial was conducted to make the residents aware about the movement and non-movement areas in the pol streets, a yellow band was marked on the street based on an initial design sketch to mark the movement and non-movement areas, and manage parking in non-movement area only.

2

Stakeholder engagement- Workshop 2

The workshop was conducted on 7 April 2018 by MHT to follow up with the Pol community. The purpose of the workshop was to present the conceptual design to the community and get their feedback and suggestions. A conceptual design presentation was presented followed by an open discussion for further recommendations in the design. The parking management system was decided along with stakeholders. The workshop helped in finalizing interventions and their priority according to the pol community.

Further suggestions were made to include in design,

- *Fire Fighting System* - as houses are made of wood so there is a constant fear of fire hazard. Moreover, the narrow streets of pol add to the vulnerability.

- *Sewer Line Replacement* - as sewer lines were old, thus many houses in the pol faced blockage issues.

Preparing Schematic Design

Schematic design was prepared with a detailed list of improvements to be implemented. The design included improvement of infrastructure below surface, on surface and above surface.

1. **For improving underground/ below surface infrastructure** following components of the design were detailed out :

   - *Sewage line, water supply pipeline, storm-water network, fire-fighting system on one side (wet services)*

   - *All electrical cables for torrent, telecommunication, and street lights on the other side of the street. (dry services)*

   - *Cross over pipes to avoid excavation for future services.*

2. **For improving on surface infrastructure** following components of the design were detailed out:

   - *Distinct and heritage sensitive paving material for movement, non-movement areas and public plazas.*

3. **For improving above surface infrastructure** following components of the design were detailed out:

   - *Street lights, dustbins, benches fire hydrants, otlas, parking, and vending areas.*

Far Left: Residents of Dhal Ni Pol participating in the stakeholder engagement workshop 2

Below: 1. Schematic design of the public realm area of the project prepared after incorporating suggestions from the stakeholder engagement workshop

2. Schematic design of Rasik Chowk showing a well orgaised street activities with different pavers for movement and non-movement area and a plaza around the Chabutro.


Before

Proposed

Proposed

3.4.2 Coordination with AMC & Other Agencies

After the preparation of detailed schematic design, several meetings with different concerned authorities were conducted. The multi-stakeholder meeting included authorities from AMC, AWHCT, private agencies like GTPL, Torrent, BSNL, etc. Multiple general and internal meetings and site visits were conducted to discuss phasing and other requirements pertaining to different proposals mentioned in 4.1.1.

Declaration of Cooperation

A Declaration of Cooperation was signed between Ahmedabad Municipal corporation and Mahila Housing Trust in August, 2018 which offcially mentions the collaboration of MHT with AMC to conserve the heritage character and improve the quality of life in the pol. This further helped to kick start the process of funding.
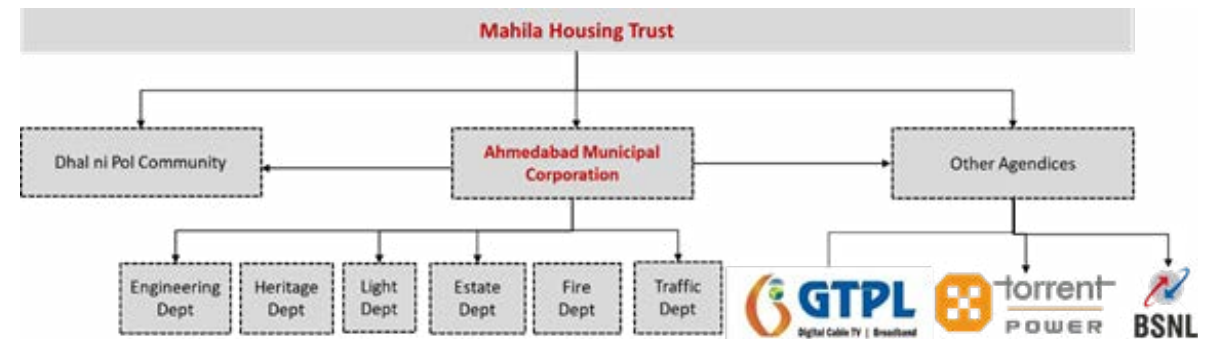
Above: Visualisation of the propsed works at the entrance of Dhal Ni Pol

Far Right: Detailed perspective section showing the proposals for upgrading the underground infrastructure, Source: Aviral A

Next Page: Detailed proposed plan of the project, Source: Kamaldeep Kaur
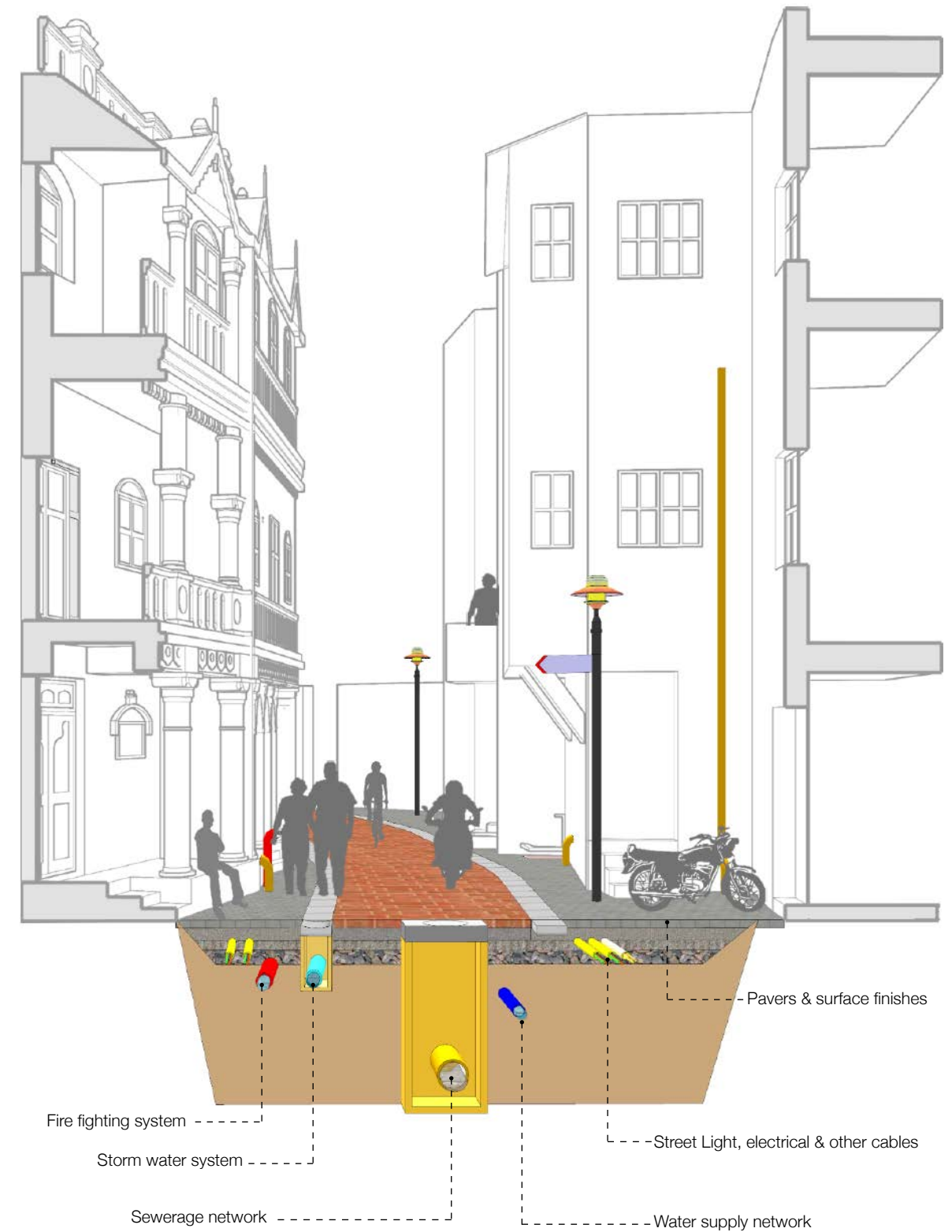
3.4.3 The Design & The Visualization

After various community engagements and meetings with authorities, the detailed design was finalized. Design plan for developing each of this element has been discussed in detail with the additional city engineer at AMC and his team, and the plans were refined based on their suggestions, to ensure coherent implementation. Experts from the fire department and the lighting department of the AMC have also given their inputs.
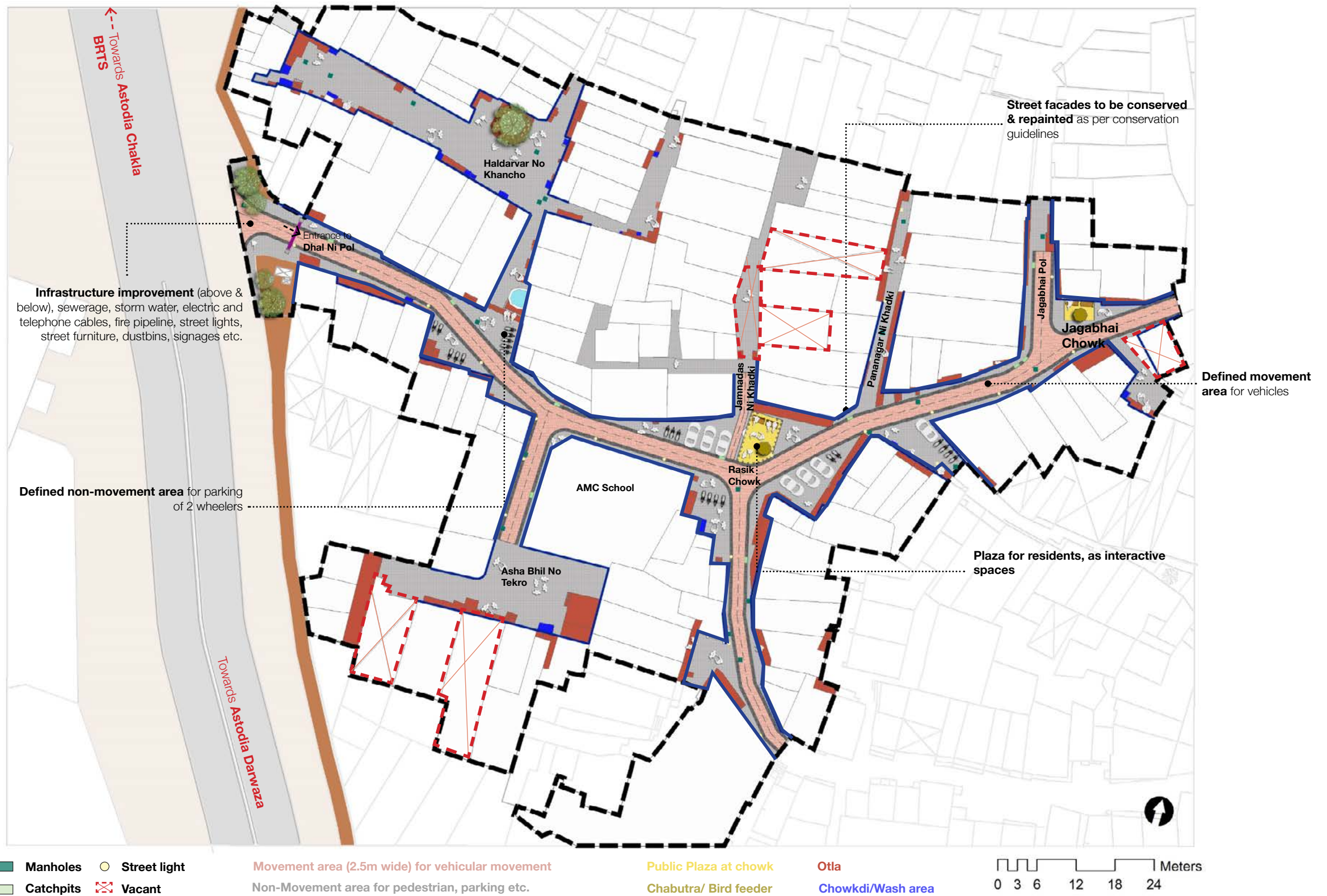
Improving quality of life of pol residents
- Defining movement and non-movement area
- Reducing street levels
- Improving underground infrastructure i.e. water and sewerage to avoid frequent digging
- Improving fire safety by installing fire fighting system
- Installing storm water drainage and ground water recharge
- Establishing parking management system

Improving aesthetics of precinct
- Reorganizing the public spaces like chowks
- Removing visual chaos i.e. removing hanging wires and organizing signage
- Removing visual chaos i.e. removing hanging wires and organizing signage
- conservation or improvement of facades of the houses and structures

Pavers & surface finishes

Fire fighting system

Storm water system

Sewerage network

Street Light, electrical & other cables

Water supply network

Towards **Astodia Chakla**
BRTS

Towards **Astodia Darwaza**

Street facades to be conserved & repainted as per conservation guidelines

Entrance to **Dhal Ni Pol**

Infrastructure improvement (above & below), sewerage, storm water, electric and telephone cables, fire pipeline, street lights, street furniture, dustbins, signages etc.

Haldarvar No Khancho

Pananagar Ni Khadki

Jagabhai Pol

Jagabhai Chowk

Defined movement area for vehicles

Jammadas Ni Khadki

Defined non-movement area for parking of 2 wheelers

AMC School

Rasik Chowk

Asha Bhil No Tekro

Plaza for residents, as interactive spaces

	Manholes	○	Street light		Movement area (2.5m wide) for vehicular movement	Public Plaza at chowk	Otla	
	Catchpits	⊠	Vacant		Non-Movement area for pedestrian, parking etc.	Chabutra/ Bird feeder	Chowkdi/Wash area	

Meters

0 3 6 12 18 24

Before

Before

Proposed

Proposed

Stakeholder Engagement- Workshop 3

Stakeholder engagement-workshop 3, held on 29th December 2018, was conducted to discuss implementation details and phasing. Final design proposal and implementation phasing was the key agenda for discussion in this workshop. Suggestions regarding the same were taken from residents, councillors, AMC officials, and other leaders of the community. Following this, suggestions from community and AMC officials were taken for selection of paving material, paving design, and street lights. Involving stakeholders in each step helped in uplifting their sense of belonging with the Pol.

Clockwise from Above: 1. Residents of Dhal Ni Pol, officials from AMC Heritage Dept. and consultants of MHT selecting paver design at Stakeholder engagement workshop 3

2. Testing luminance levels of street lights to be installed

3. Different variations of paving designs from which the final design was selected.

3.5
Funding

Considering the unprecedented nature of the project, the complexity and higher cost of the project, MHT carried out a careful yet rigorous initiative to identify appropriate funding partners for the project, and approached various organizations. After MHT held multiple meetings and hosted site vistis, the project received funding from SELCO foundation, HT Parekh Foundation and Indial Oil Corporation Ltd. Also MS Khurana Engineering provided a part of funding to cover specific costs. Also, AMC supported and facilitated the works for water and sewerage network refurbishment.

Clockwise from Above: Collage of image showing site visit by the funding agencies.

local community adds up in the project cost. Thus, a special tender was floated for the appointment of consultants and contractors based on their past experience and the quality of construction.

3.6
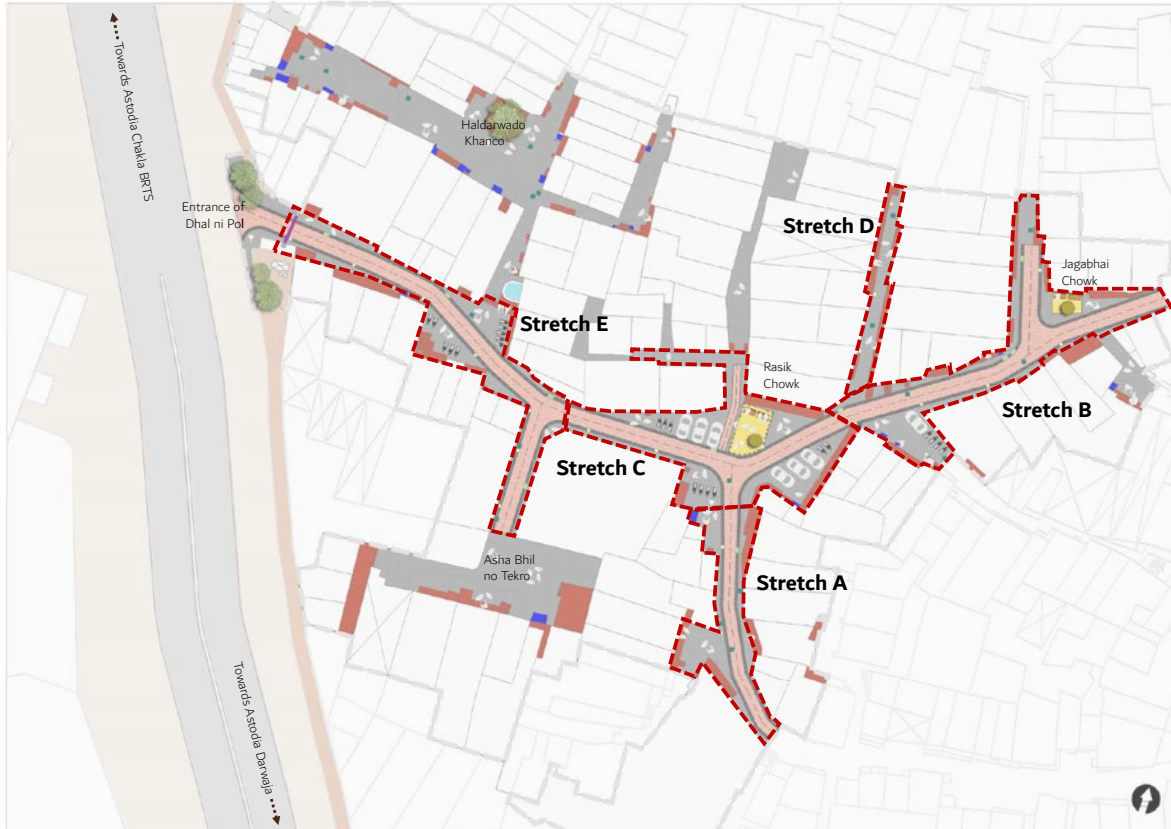# Appointment of **Consultants & Contractors**

A core team including planners, engineers, urban designers, and architects from MHT, and AMC was formed and the project was phased in 5 stretches. Team from MHT and AMC has been identified for the implementation on site: constituting of Mr. Ashish Patel (Ass. City Engineer), Mr. Kishore Nadia (Deputy City Engineer), and a team of site engineer, social experts, community mobilisers and Architect from MHT. They are guided by the Additional City Engineer AMC (Mr. Amit Patel), expert from CEPT University (Mr. Jignesh Mehta), and senior management at MHT.

Tendering System

The current tendering based approach wherein the tender is awarded to the lowest bidder was not supposed to function in such projects as the material and construction techniques required in heritage precincts are not standard items that are covered under SOR (Schedule and Rates). Moreover, the complexity of work phasing and unforeseen challenges in underground work as well as dealing with

design were shown in these posters.

Parking management system

The parking management system was initiated. The community was involved to print two-wheeler and four-wheeler parking stickers. Stickers were distributed in the community, for their use, and for their visitor's parking.

Mahurat by community

To encourage community and increase their involvement in the project, the mahurat ceremony was performed by the residents of pol before the commencement of execution work.
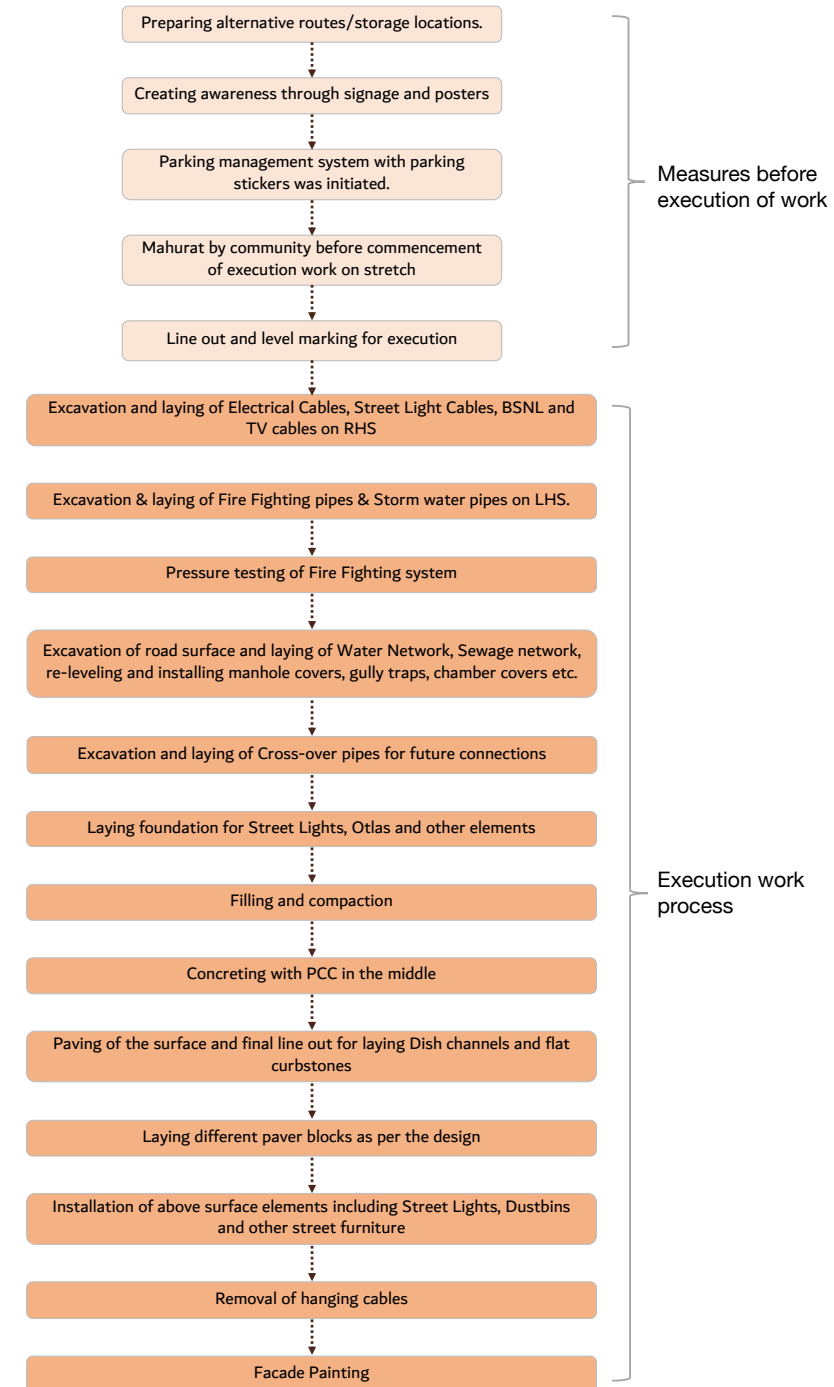
Line out and level marking

Lines and levels were marked on the streets before the commencement of work. Marking was made for movement and non-movement areas.

3.7
Phasing & **Execution**

3.7.1 Phasing

The project was divided into five stages for execution and a sample stretch of 30m was selected in the first stage. Currently, stretch A, B, C are complete and stretch E is under execution.

3.7.2 Measures taken before the execution

Preparing alternative routes & storage location

Alternative routes for vehicular movement were arranged to avoid hindering their movement. To prevent blockage of streets and visual chaos, locations such as abandoned and closed houses, temples for storing construction material and tools, etc. were identified.

Creating awareness through signage and posters

Posters and signages were made to create awareness among the community and visitors regarding the project and construction. Sample stretch, its plan, and 3D visuals of existing and proposed

3.7.3 Process of execution of work

The execution work on first 30m sample stretch of the pol was started in November 2019.

Preparing alternative routes/storage locations.

Creating awareness through signage and posters

Parking management system with parking stickers was initiated.

Mahurat by community before commencement of execution work on stretch

Line out and level marking for execution

Measures before execution of work

Excavation and laying of Electrical Cables, Street Light Cables, BSNL and TV cables on RHS

Excavation & laying of Fire Fighting pipes & Storm water pipes on LHS.

Pressure testing of Fire Fighting system

Excavation of road surface and laying of Water Network, Sewage network, re-leveling and installing manhole covers, gully traps, chamber covers etc.

Excavation and laying of Cross-over pipes for future connections

Laying foundation for Street Lights, Otlas and other elements

Filling and compaction

Concreting with PCC in the middle

Paving of the surface and final line out for laying Dish channels and flat curbstones

Laying different paver blocks as per the design

Installation of above surface elements including Street Lights, Dustbins and other street furniture

Removal of hanging cables

Facade Painting

Execution work process

Excavation and laying of electrical cables, street light cables, BSNL and television cables on one side

Excavation of trench on the one side of the street was done for laying all the dry infrastructure like electrical cables, street light cables, BSNL, and TV cables. The trench was excavated on the non-movement area. Temporaray access to houses on the excavated side was given. Coordination was done amongst various agencies providing the services, to lay their cables. MHT did the laying of street light cables whereas Torrent, GTPL, BSNL laid electrical and telecommunication cables.

Excavation & laying for fire fighting pipes & storm water pipes on the other side

Excavation of trench on the left-hand side of the street was executed for laying firefighting and stormwater pipes. Dry UPVC pipe was installed for the underground firefighting system.

Pressure testing of fire fighting system

Fire post was installed and the hydro test was conducted to ensure reliability by determining the pressure and rate of flow of water under any fire hazard.

Excavation of road surface and laying of Water Network, Sewage network, re-leveling and installing manhole covers, gully traps, chamber covers, etc

The road surface was excavated and the level was lowered by work for the water network & Sewage network was carried out by AMC's engineering department. AMC team extended its full support for the project. The work included replacing old, deteriorated, and damaged pipes and joints, replacing and lowering the manhole covers, gully traps, chamber covers to match the new lower levels, etc.

Excavation and laying of Cross-over pipes for future connections

Excavation of trench was executed for laying cross-over pipes. Installation of crossover pipe will enable future service cables to cross the street unlike existing cables covering the heritage buildings.

Laying the foundation for Street Lights, Otlas and other elements

Earlier Otlas and Chowkdis were demolished to lower the increase in street level. Therefore, the foundation for street light, Otlas, Chowkdis, ramps were laid by MHT.

Filling and compaction

After laying all services, backfilling was executed followed by compaction. Soil compaction and level checks are conducted to ensure soil is compacted and level is even throughout.

Concreting with PCC in the middle

After compaction, concreting with PCC was executed above compacted soil. Concreting will ensure the load distribution of vehicular movement.

Paving of the surface and final line out for laying Dish channels and flat curbstones

The final line out was executed for laying dish channels and flat curbstones. Dish channels and flat curbstones were laid on top of PCC with cement mortar. Laying dish channel at curvature was time consuming and required skilled labour.

Laying different paver blocks as per the design

Different pavers blocks for movement and non-movement areas were laid on top of PCC with cement mortar. Due to curvature in street, pavers were cut into numerous shapes that required skilled labour and time.
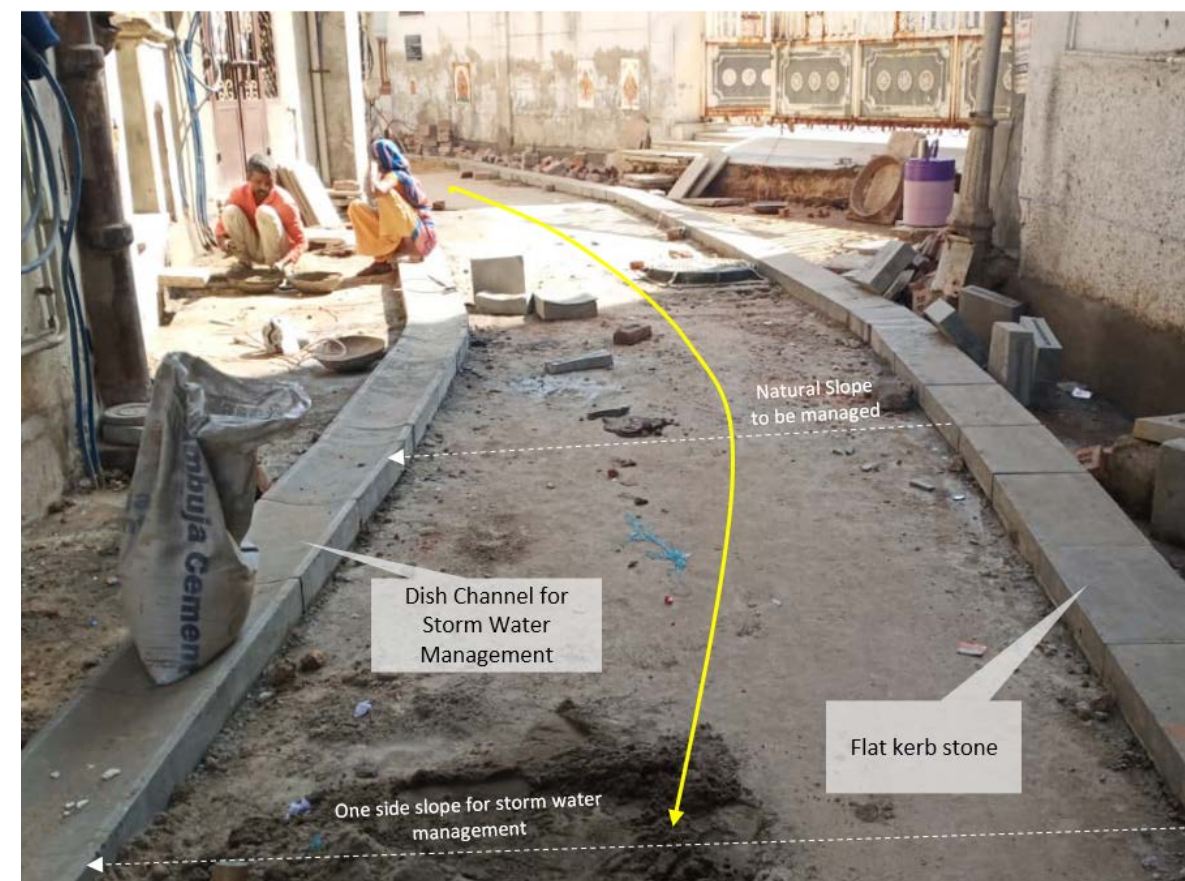
Natural Slope to be managed

Dish Channel for Storm Water Management

Flat kerb stone

One side slope for storm water management

Installation of above surface elements including Street Lights, Dustbins and other street furniture

After completion of road surfacing, the installation of the above street elements was executed. Street lights, dustbins, fire post, and other street furniture were installed, construction of demolished ramps and Otlas was conducted.

Removal of the hanging cables

Electrical, telecommunication, TV cable, and various other hanging wires were removed to clear the visual chaos in the precinct.

Facade Painting

Facade painting was executed as a final step in the execution project. Facades were treated wherever minimum plaster work was required and then these were painted according to the original colour scheme.

Execution Process At Glance

Improving street edges by painting and conserving facades.

Installing street light, fire hydrants, dustbins, benches, different pavers for plaza, etc

Different pavers for movement & non-movement area to define movement path and organise street

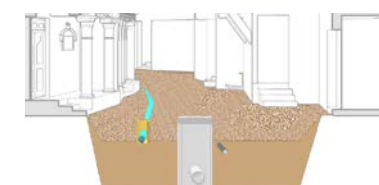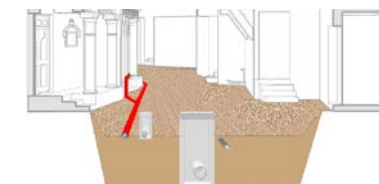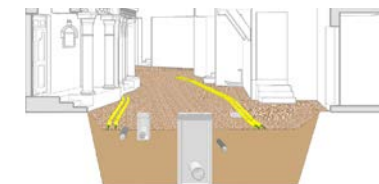**Above Ground**

Below Ground

Laying underground electrical line and other cables to remove visual chaos of hanging wires

Installing underground Fire Fighting System to improve fire safety

Installing Storm Water system to avoid blockage on streets

Improving Water Network to avoid frequent digging for repairs

Improving Sewerage Network to avoid frequent digging for repairs

4

The **impact**

electrical, tv, broadband, telephone etc. in the non-movement area, cross-over pipes for future connections. The renewed infrastructure has been upgraded keeping in mind the demands of future.

Enhanced Heritage Character

Through the painting of facades in a manner congruent to the heritage character of the precinct and conservation of listed heritage properties the overall heritage value and image of the pol has been enhanced, making it a pleasant experience for the tourists as well as the community.

Voices
from the Pol

There is a change in the perception of the people about the Pols. The restoration of the Pol has created a good atmosphere. It is good to live in the Pol as a result of work done by MHT

- Punitaben Vaidhya

Roads have started looking like that in foreign countries, they are cleaner and looking wider than before. The community living in our Pol like the work done by MHT. This should be replicated by other Pols.
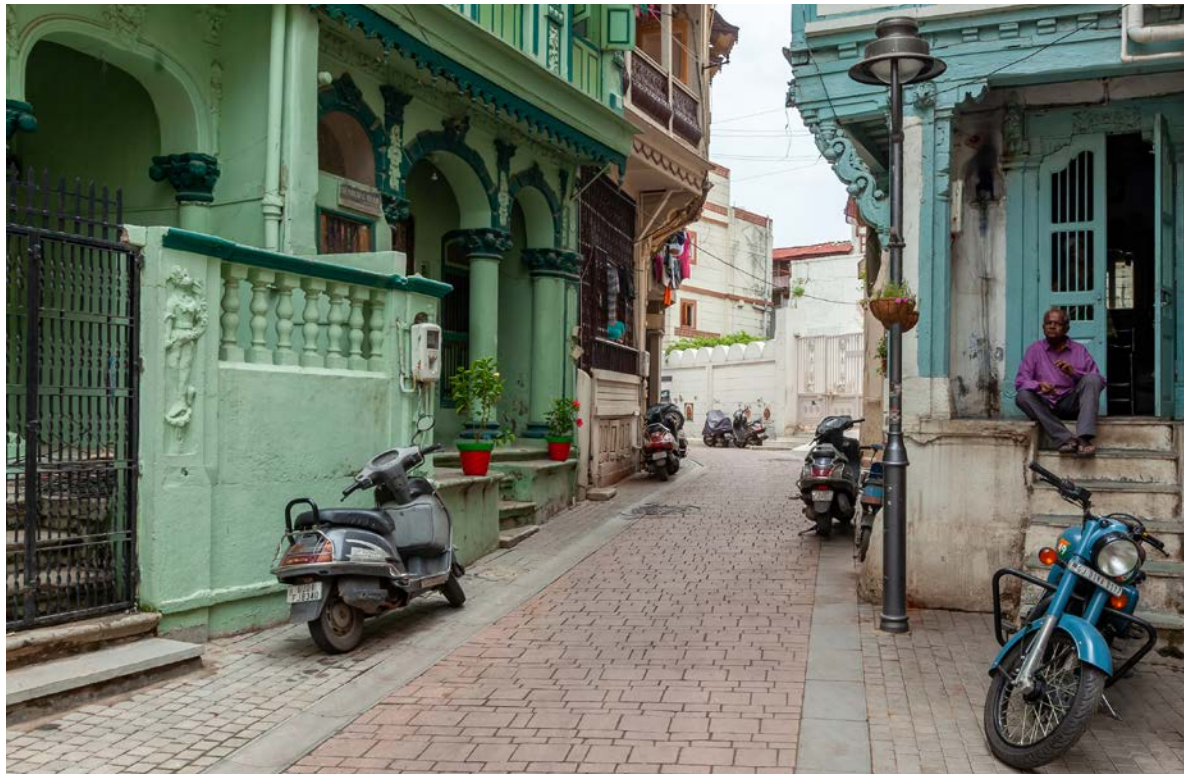
- Purnimaben Gandhi

Earlier, roads were uneven, there were parking troubles. The streetlights weren't sufficient and the elctric wires were sagging - spoiling the view of the space and increasing electrocution hazard for residents. MHT's work in Dhal Ni Pol has enhanced the view of the Pol.

- Narmadaben Prajapati

4.1
Improvements
Observed

Since the project started in 2016, the community of Dhal Ni Pol has gained a renewed sense of pride in their precinct. They are getting more aware of the value and importance of their tangible and intangible heritage and have observed several improvements in the quality of living. Following are the improvements observed by the community:

Improved Street Design

With the new and organised street design in place, the community spaces earlier encroached by haphazard parking, waste disposal etc, have now been used by the community to socialize and to perform daily rituals, activities etc. There are dedicated parking spaces, spaces for people to sit in the plaza, well-lit streets during the night, Cleaner and even surface paving with heritage character.

Improved Infrastructure

Renewed underground infrastructure with separate storm water, sewage, and firefighting network, organised conduits for cables –

4.2
Acclaim &
Recognition

Since the initial days the project has been receiving a lot of acclaim and recognition and is been constatnlty covered in Ahmedabad Mirror, DNA & Times of India. Recently, in 2020, the project was awarded with a *Certificate of Appreciation by HUDCO Awards for Best Practices to improve the Living Environment 2019-20'* underthe theme of 'Urban Design and regional planning, Inner city Revitalization and Conservation'.

Dry since 50 years, Khadia heritage well to be revived

The decision comes ahead World Heritage Day

Gunvant Mistry near the 200-year well that has been dry for 50 years

Fire safety uphill task for AMC

Possible rebirth of the fire hydrant

Another proposal being mooted to prevent fires spreading quickly through the old city is that of the revival of fire hydrants, a relic of a bygone era in Ahmedabad but one still in use in most developed countries.

The AMC set up a pilot project in this regard at Dhal Ni Pol, the one next to Surdas Sheth Ni Pol where the recent fire took place. Trambadiya said that the pilot or sample was done in conjunction with CSR funds from Mahila Housing Trust. Its results are still being assessed.

However, the fire department is not too enthused by the project with a senior officer making it clear that the hydrants may provide water, but they still need to be attached to the motors of firefighting vehicles to work, again losing time in the process. However, it would save the department time in having to fetch water.

Pol women restore legacy connect to Ahmedabad kids

TNN | Nov 26, 2017, 04.02 AM IST

ઢાળની પોળના વારસા અંગે ગાઇડ પુષ્પા પંચાલે કહ્યું

'ઢાળની પોળમાં 215 વર્ષ જૂના હેરિટેજ ઘરો આજે પણ હયાત

સ્કૂલના વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઢાળની પોળમાં ફરીને જનજીવનને જાણ્યું

Heritage Walk

સિટી રિપોર્ટર | અમદાવાદ

હેરિટેજ વિક નિમિત્તે સીઇઈ અને મહિલા હાઉસિંગ ટ્રસ્ટ દ્વારા ઢાળની પોળનો વારસો નામે હેરિટેજ વોકનું આયોજન કરાયું હતું. જેમાં સંત કબીર સ્કૂલ અને બ્લુવેલ સ્કૂલના 23 વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ભાગ લીધો હતો. આ વિદ્યાર્થીઓની ગાઇડ પોળમાં રહેતી જ મહિલાઓ જ હતી. જેમને સ્ટુન્ટ્સને પોળના જનજીવન અને આ પોળની વિશેષતાઓએ અંગે માહિતગાર કર્યા હતા. વિદ્યાર્થીઓના ગાઇડ રહેલા પુષ્પા પંચાલે કહ્યું કે, 'હું આ પોળમાં 27 વર્ષથી રહું છું. અહીં 215 વર્ષ જૂના મકાનો છે. આ મકાનો 100થી 150 વર્ષ જૂના છે. આ સાથે 15થી વધારે હવેલીઓ આવેલી છે. આ પોળ ઉપરથી નીચે ઢાળ હોવાથી તેને 'ઢાળની પોળ'ના નામથી ઓળખવામાં આવે છે. જેમાં ખાસ કરીને જે મકાનો છે તે લાકડાના છે. જેમાં બારીકાઈથી કોતરણી કામ કરાયું છે. અહીં આજે પણ વોટર કન્ઝર્વેશન માટે ભૂગર્ભ કુવાઓ છે. આ સાથે હાજીપીરની દરગાહ છે, જ્યાં હિન્દુઓ પણ શ્રદ્ધાપૂર્વક આવે છે. આ પોળમાં ગાયક ફાલ્ગુની પાઠકે પણ બાળપણ વિતાવ્યું છે.' જ્યારે ટ્રસ્ટના કન્સલ્ટ્ન્ટ ઋચી મહેતાએ કહ્યું કે, 'વિદ્યાર્થીઓની સાથે અહીં રહેતા લોકો તેમનાથી સચવાયેલા વારસાને વધારે જાણે તે હેતુથી આ વોક બીજા વર્ષે પણ યોજી છે. આ સાથે અહીંની બહેનો એક ગાઇડ તરીકે પણ આગળ જતા કામ કરી શકે છે.'

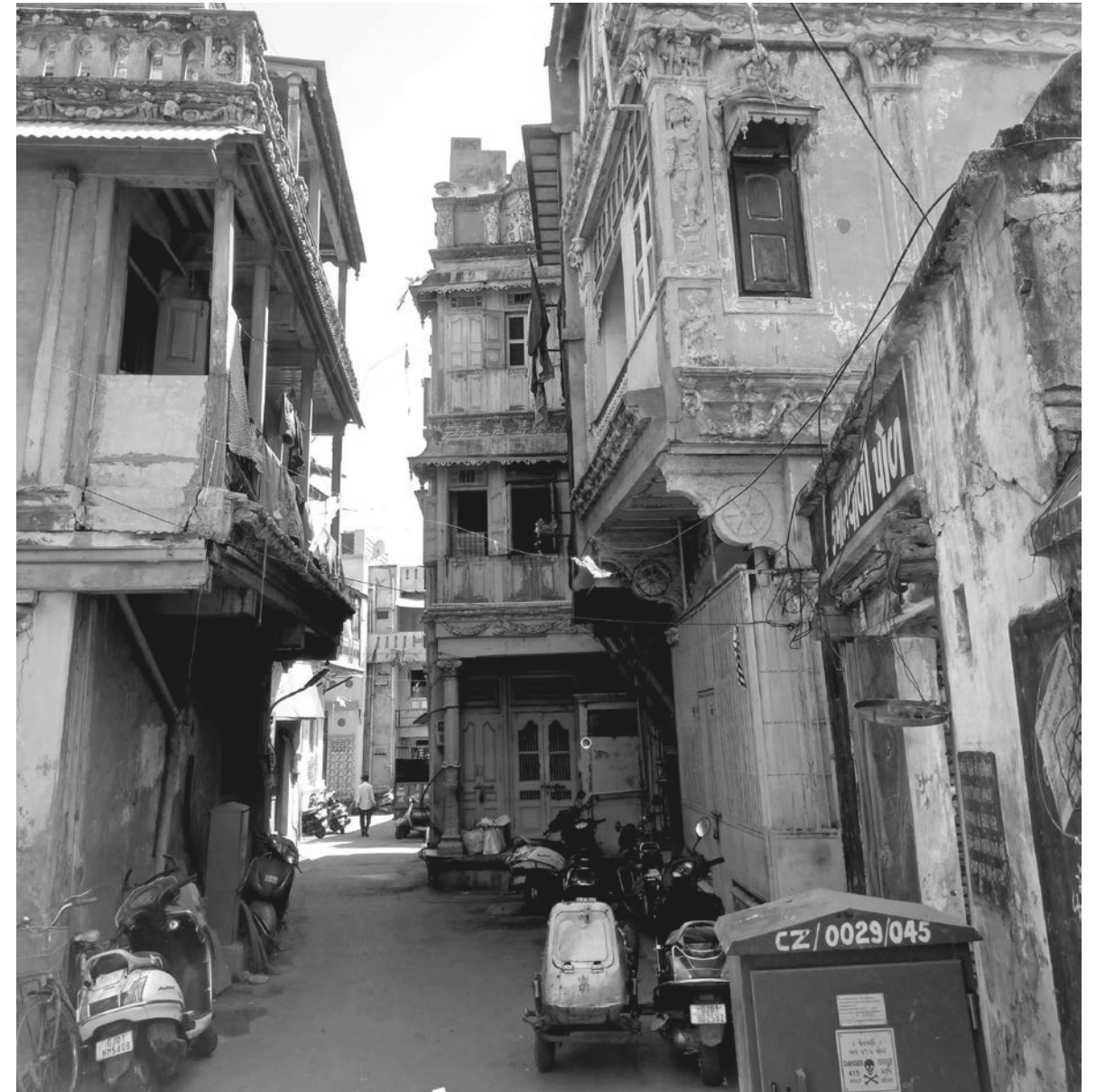• આ હેરિટેજ વોકમાં સંત કબીર અને બ્લુવેલના સ્ટુન્ડ્સે ભાગ લીધો હતો

Dhal ni Pol's living heritage to be revived

TNN | Nov 19, 2016, 04.00 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: As part of its new initiative marking the celebration of the World Heritage Week, Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) has launched the revival of 'living heritage' at Dhal ni Pol near Astodia. To create awareness about the need for conservation of the pols, MHT has involved residents of Dhal ni Pol to undertake activities, which include a heritage walk for children, a cleanliness drive, and cultural programmes including plays written and performed by community members.

"As part of the Sughad Sheri drive, we also aim to regularize and organize parking in the pol so that there is a clear pathway for movement," said Ruchi Mehta, an architect and a consultant to MHT. "Since there are a lot of commercial activities going on in the pols, even auto-rickshaws were parked in the pol, creating hindrances. We've helped create a map for ideal parking and this will be enforced by the women of the pol."

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) has also joined hands with MHT to help conduct 'Dhal ni Pol no Varso', a heritage walk for children. "The culture at the pol is living heritage and it needs to be passed on to the next generation with some value addition," said Lalita Krishnaswamy, trustee, MHT. "We have tried to identify little aspects that define the pol culture and included them in the walk." Around 40 kids are likely to participate in the walk which will be organized on Saturday and Sunday.

5

Learning & **Replicability**

Constant engagement with the community at each step

Design and planning through surveys and multi-stakeholder consultations

Engagement & coordination with various authorities

5.1
Learnings
from the
Project

The project has aimed for a holistic development of the community, enhancement of their living conditions and heritage value of the precinct. Key takeaways and learnings from the project are as follows:

Multi-disciplinary Team for Design and Planning

Such projects deal in various domains that requires a multi-disciplinary team of designers, planners, engineers, social scientists, historians, and conservationists whose inputs needs to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged in this process.

Coordinated Design, Planning and execution

The project showcased that for improving Heritage precincts a well-coordinated design and planning effort followed by coordinated project execution is crucial to take the project ahead and be acceptable by the community. Stakeholder engagement with multiple agencies, community members and various experts becomes a cumbersome and complex task and requires a team of coordinators and managers to make the operations smoother.

Investing more time than usual projects

It was also observed that such projects require more time because of stakeholder engagement process. Moreover, during the execution process, due to narrow streets micro-phasing is required to manage

execution and sometimes, the project gets stalled due to hinderances by unsocial elements of the community. Hence, such projects require more time for designing and execution which is typically not accounted for in the typical tendering system.

Investing more money than usual projects

Such projects need more money/ budgetary provisions than regular road projects or street improvement projects as it requires custom size pavers, street lights, furniture that enhances the heritage character of the precinct. Therefore, Heritage precinct improvement projects shall not be modelled similar to regular road or infrastructure projects.

Changing the tendering approach (L1 to QCBS)

The current tendering approach wherein the tender is awarded to the lowest bidder (L-1) is not suitable for such projects as the material and construction techniques required in heritage precincts are not the standard items covered under SOR (Schedule of Rates). Moreover, the complexity of work phasing and unforeseen challenges in underground work as well as dealing with local community adds up in the project cost. Therefore, the L-1 system of tendering shall result in low quality and will fail to ensure the Heritage character envisioned for the precinct. The project shall be considered a special project, and a separate empanelment/ selection of qualified contractors shall be made through competitive bidding on Quality and Cost basis (QCBS).

Investing more time & money than usual (bringing CSR funding)

Appointment of special contractor and monitoring expert based on QCBS tendering

The contents of the Local Area Plan should be:

- **LAP Report**

- **LAP Maps (1:500)**

- **Regulations, Guidelines & Incentives**

- **L-Form** (Form showing property numbers, details of plot and built up area, TDR available for the plot etc)
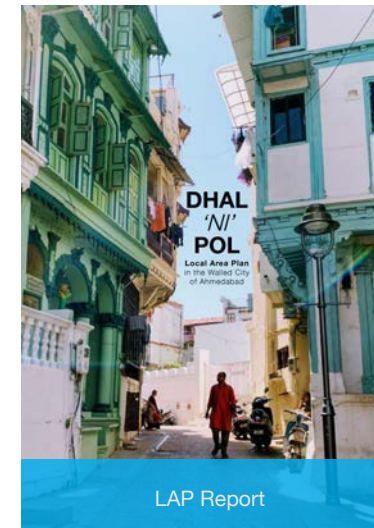
| LAP Report | Statutory LAP Maps | Detailed Regulations, Guidelines & Incentives |

5.2
Replicability

The project was envisioned to serve as a pilot which could be replicated in the whole walled city of Ahmedabad. AMC needs to adopt the following process in order to ensure no area is left behind and revitalisation of the walled city is done in a cohesive manner.

Delineation of various precincts covering the whole of walled city

Walled city needs to be divided into various smaller precincts having distinct characters (ex- Dhal Ni Pol, Desai Ni Pol etc, Teen Darwaza etc.)

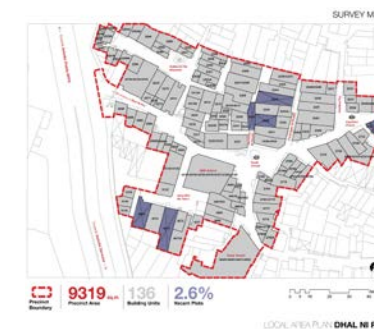**Preparation of Local Area Plans for the delineated precincts**

AMC must prepare statutory local area plans for each of these precincts including proposals for public and private realm improvement along with the detailed guidelines of conducting community and stakeholder workshops.

L-Form (Dhal Ni Pol)

Pol_Khancho_Khadki	Style	Grading	Floors	Built_Use	Condition	Plot Area (in sq.m) (A)	Original Built up Area (in sq.m.) (B)	Deduction (in sq.m.) (C)=A-B	Revised_Built up Area (in sq.m) (D)	Applicable TDR Multiplier (E) = D*C	Available TDR (in sq.m) (F)	Jantri (Rs /sq.m) (G)=F*E	Amount (in Rs.)
Balvrad Khadki	Modern	Contributing	0	Vacant	Demolished	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.30	0.0	18000	-
Balvrad Khadki	Modern	Contributing	0	Vacant	Demolished	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.30	0.0	18000	-
Balvrad Khadki	Vacant	Contributing	0	Vacant	Demolished	31.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.30	0.0	18000	
Dhal Ni Pol	Art Deco	Contributing	3	Residential	Poor	23.3	62.8	0.0	62.8	1.30	81.7	18000	14,70,079.41
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	3	Residential	Fair	19.4	52.4	0.0	52.4	1.30	68.2	18000	12,26,812.03
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Fair	6.0	16.2	0.0	16.2	1.30	21.0	18250	3,83,670.79
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Mixed	Fair	13.1	35.4	0.0	35.4	1.30	46.0	19250	8,84,869.17
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Mixed	Fair	19.2	51.9	0.0	51.9	1.30	67.4	19250	12,97,610.22
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	7.0	18.8	0.0	18.8	1.30	24.5	18000	4,40,483.00
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Commercial	Good	8.4	22.5	0.0	22.5	1.30	29.3	18000	5,27,554.32
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	15.1	40.9	0.0	40.9	1.30	53.1	18000	9,56,191.29
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	15.2	41.0	0.0	41.0	1.30	53.3	18000	9,59,687.54
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Mixed	Good	15.6	42.0	0.0	42.0	1.30	54.6	18250	9,96,948.05
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	16.1	43.4	0.0	43.4	1.30	56.4	18000	10,15,038.47
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Commercial	Good	18.8	50.7	0.0	50.7	1.30	65.9	18000	11,85,826.80
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	3	Commercial	Fair	25.9	69.9	0.0	69.9	1.30	90.8	19250	17,48,705.02
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	3	Commercial	Fair	28.7	77.6	0.0	77.6	1.30	100.9	19250	19,42,405.16
Dhal Ni Pol	Eclectic	Contributing	3	Mixed	Fair	37.8	102.1	0.0	102.1	1.30	132.8	19250	25,55,880.98
Dhal Ni Pol	Traditional	Contributing	3	Abandoned	Poor	38.0	102.6	0.0	102.6	1.30	133.3	18250	24,33,405.74
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	38.3	103.5	0.0	103.5	1.30	134.6	18250	24,55,910.85
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	3	Commercial	Good	41.3	111.4	0.0	111.4	1.30	144.8	19250	27,88,026.22
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	44.7	120.7	0.0	120.7	1.30	156.9	18000	28,24,745.72
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	53.7	145.1	0.0	145.1	1.30	188.7	18250	34,42,885.00
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	3	Residential	Good	63.8	172.4	0.0	172.4	1.30	224.1	18000	40,33,017.86
Dhal Ni Pol	Eclectic	Contributing	4	Residential	Fair	31.9	114.7	0.0	114.7	1.30	149.1	18250	27,21,752.59
Dhal Ni Pol	Art Deco	Contributing	4	Residential	Fair	32.3	116.3	0.0	116.3	1.30	151.1	18250	27,58,057.43
Dhal Ni Pol	Eclectic	Contributing	1	Commercial	Poor	34.9	31.4	0.0	31.4	1.30	40.8	19250	7,85,242.35
Dhal Ni Pol	Composite	Contributing	4	Mixed	Good	41.1	147.9	0.0	147.9	1.30	192.3	18250	35,09,303.95
Dhal Ni Pol	Modern	Contributing	4	Mixed	Fair	42.7	153.8	0.0	153.8	1.30	199.9	18250	36,48,856.38

L-Form

Project TImeline

Convergence of ideas to focus on improving the heritage precinct of Dhal ni Pol and Inception of the Initiative

February

1st Chabutara work completed

May

HTDR Training Session

July

Ahmedabad awarded with the title of first world heritage city of India

November

Heritage Week 2

2015　　　2016　　　2017　　　2018

June 18th

First Internal Brainstorming Session at MHT

Completion of Tanku Restoration

June 28th

First Workshop (Asset Mapping)

July 30th

Second Workshop (with Guests)

November

Heritage Week 1

February 2nd

Street Design Workshop 1 with Community, AMC officers from Engineering and Heritage Dept invited

April 10th

Street Design Workshop 2 with Community

July 28th

Kuvo and Chakli ni Khambhi work inauguration

September 9th

Meeting with Municipal Commissioner to show the work

November

Treasure Hunt organised as part of Heritage Week 3

January

2nd Chabutara work completed

April 9th

Selection of pavers with community

May 12th

Starting of the on-site execution work

May 15th

Selection of light fixtures with community

May 27th

Start of work at Balaji Temple stretch

August 27th

Recieved grant from HT Parekh Foundation

February - August

Execution work for the last stretch up to the Entrance of Dhal ni Pol complete

October

Formal completion of the project and Handing over the as-built drawings and letter to AMC

2019   2020   2021

February 13th

Start of work at Jagabhai Chowk stretch

February 26th

Received funding letter from Indian Oil Corporation Limited

March - June

Nationwide full lock down due to COVID

June 20th

Lockdown partially lifted, execution work re-started on the same day

Project Credits

The project would not have been successfully completed without the continuous sup... individuals and organisations who have participated and assisted in the research, ... engagement workshops, design development and implementation of the project since past ... years. Special thanks to :

Mahila Housing Trust

Ms. Lalita Krishnaswami, Trustee, MHT
Ms. Bijal Brahbhatt, Executive Director, MHT
Mr. Jignesh Mehta, Urban Planner, Urban Designer, Advisor to MHT
Ms. Bharati Bhonsale, Programme Manager, MHT
Ms. Ruchi Mehta, Design Consultant, MHT
Ms. Nishi Shah, Development Associate, MHT
Ms. Urvashi Patel, Field Organizer, MHT
Mr. Darshan Suthar, Site Engineer, MHT
Ms. Prachi Bandal, Development Associate, MHT
Ms. Sukruti Pathak, Development Associate, MHT

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Mr. Amit Patel, Additional City Engineer, AMC
Mr. Kishore Nadia, Deputy City Engineer, AMC
Mr. Ashish Patel, Assistant City Engineer, AMC

Ahmedabad World Heritage City Trust

Shri P.K. Ghosh, IAS (Retd.) Chairman, Heritage Conservation Committee, Ahmedabad
Late Mr. P.K.V. Nair, Heritage Department, AMC
Mr. Ashish Trambadia, Director, Ahmedabad World Heritage City Trust.

DRP Students, CEPT University

Prachi Bandal, Master of Urban & Regional Planning, 2017, CEPT University
Meghana Patel, M.Arch (Urban Design), 2017, CEPT University
Nishi Shah, M.Arch (Urban Design), 2018, CEPT University
Sneha Shanbhag, M.Arch (Urban Design), 2018, CEPT University
Kirti, Master of Urban & Regional Planning, 2018, CEPT University

Husen Kharodawala, M.Arch (Urban Design), 2019, CEPT University
Aditi Rai, Master of Urban & Regional Planning, 2019, CEPT University
Kamaldeep Kaur, Master of Urban Planning, 2020, CEPT University
Arun Kumar, Master of Urban Planning, 2020, CEPT University

Invited Experts for Community Engagement Workshops

Ms. Madhavi Joshi, CEE
Prof. Jigna Desai, CEPT University
Mr. Debashish Naik, Ahmedabad University
Prof. Jay Thakker, CEPT University

Special Thanks to

Shri Gautam Shah, Former Mayor
Smt. Bijal Patel, Former Mayor
Shri Mayur Dave, Municipal Councillor
Mr. Krishnavadan Brahmabhatt
CAG Women-leaders and community of Dhal Ni Pol

Execution by

Mishra Associates, Civil Work Contractor
Jhaveri Associates, MEP Consultants

Publication Editing & Design by

Mr. Jignesh Mehta, Urban Planner, Urban Designer, Advisor to MHT
Mr. Arun Kumar, Urban Planner

Above: Women CAG leaders and residents of Dhal Ni Pol

Above: MHT Team

Dhal ni Pol's living heritage to be revived

TNN / Nov 19, 2016, 04.00 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: As part of its new initiative marking the celebration of the World Heritage Week, Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) has launched the revival of 'living heritage' at Dhal ni Pol near Astodia. To create awareness about the need for conservation of the pols, MHT has involved residents of Dhal ni Pol to undertake activities, which include a heritage walk for children, a cleanliness drive, and cultural programmes including plays written and performed by community members.

"As part of the Sughad Sheri drive, we also aim to regularize and organize parking in the pol so that there is a clear pathway for movement," said Ruchi Mehta, an architect and a consultant to MHT. "Since there are a lot of commercial activities going on in the pols, even auto-rickshaws were parked in the pol, creating hindrances. We've helped create a map for ideal parking and this will be enforced by the women of the pol."

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) has also joined hands with MHT to help conduct 'Dhal ni Pol no Varso', a heritage walk for children. "The culture at the pol is living heritage and it needs to be passed on to the next generation with some value addition," said Lalita Krishnaswamy, trustee, MHT. "We have tried to identify little aspects that define the pol culture and included them in the walk." Around 40 kids are likely to participate in the walk which will be organized on Saturday and Sunday.

Pol women restore legacy connect to Ahmedabad kids

Appendix

26th November 2017

ઢાળની પોળના વારસા અંગે ગાઈડ પુષ્પા પંચાલે કહ્યું

'ઢાળની પોળમાં 215 વર્ષ જૂના હેરિટેજ ઘરો આજે પણ હયાત

સ્કૂલના વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઢાળની પોળમાં ફરીને જનજીવનને જાણ્યું

Dry since 50 years, Khadia heritage well to be revived

The decision comes ahead World Heritage Day

Gunvant Mistry near the 200-year well that has been dry for 50 years

Printed from
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Mahila Housing Trust helps enhance public spaces in Ahmedabad's living heritage

TNN | Nov 18, 2021, 07:33 PM IST

AHMEDABAD: Ahmedabad-based Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) successfully implemented a project to help enhance public spaces in Dhal ni Pol – which is one of the many pols – the living heritage of the UNESCO World Heritage City of Ahmedabad.

As part of the pilot project, MHT has helped revamping a 250-metre stretch in the pol, by organising parking spaces, restoring heritage structures – both public and privately owned, and modernising basic amenities including water-supply pipelines and drainage systems, telephone and DTH cabling and even street lights in the pol.

"Lack of awareness of the heritage value, financial and technical resources were the primary factors contributing to the continued deterioration of the heritage structures and precincts in the pol. The public realm improvement project of Dhal ni Pol is part of bigger initiative that MHT took up was aimed at improving living conditions within the pol and make the neighbourhood more liveable.

'Include Dhal ni Pol in heritage walk'

Times News Network

Ahmedabad: A heritage walk conducted by residents of pols – a piece of living heritage in the world heritage city of Ahmedabad – may soon be a reality. Ahmedabad-based not-for-profit organisation Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) is pushing for the inclusion of Dhal ni Pol as part of the Ahmedabad heritage walk. A proposal in this regard has been presented to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), MHT officials said.

"Representation of MHT held a meeting with the AMC to include Dhal ni Pol in the Ahmedabad heritage walk. The civic authority considered the proposal positively after working out the nitty-gritty of the matter. This walk will be unique because it will be guided by residents of pols themselves," said Bijal Brahmbhatt, director, MHT, during a press briefing on Thursday.

The proposal was arrived after MHT succeeded in implementing a pilot project on revitalising public spaces at Dhal ni Pol. As part of the project, MHT has not only designed the heritage walk but also trained seven women residents of the pol as conducting these walks.

"On a pilot basis over the past three years, some 500 schoolchildren already taken in the Dhal ni Pol heritage walk which was conducted by pol women," said Brahmbhatt.

MHT teams have created manuals for a guided tour of the pol.

MHTએ ઢાળની પોળ માટે ભવિષ્યની યોજના રજૂ કરી

અમદાવાદ, તા.૧૮

વારસાનું સંરક્ષણ કરવામાં સામુદાયિક સહભાગીદારી એ દેશના પ્રથમ હેરિટેજ સિટી અમદાવાદના જીવંત વારસાને દેશની નવી પેઢી અને મોટાપાયે લોકો માટે જીવંત અને પ્રાસંગિક રાખવા માટે ખૂબ જ મહત્ત્વપૂર્ણ છે. આ વિચારને આગળ વધારવા માટે અમદાવાદ સ્થિત મહિલા હાઉસિંગ ટ્રસ્ટ (એમએચટી)એ ઢાળની પોળ ખાતે હેરિટેજ રિવાઈટલાઈઝેશન પ્રોજેક્ટનું નેતૃત્વ કરી અમદાવાદના જીવંત વારસા સમાન અમદાવાદની પોળોને વધુ રહેવા યોગ્ય બનાવવાની ભવિષ્યની યોજના દર્શાવી હતી.

MHT Demonstrates The Way Forward To Make Living Heritage Liveable Through Revitalisation Project At Dhal Ni Pol In Ahmedabad

વારસાના રખેવાળ: અમદાવાદમાં MHTએ ઢાળની પોળમાં રીવાઇટલાઇઝેશન પ્રોજેક્ટ મારફતે જીવંત વારસાને રહેવા યોગ્ય બનાવવા માટેની ભવિષ્યની યોજના રજૂ કરી

MHT Demonstrates the Way Forward to Make Living Heritage Liveable Through Revitalisation Project in the Walled City of Ahmedabad

November 30, 2021

Rasik Chowk after MHT intervention

COMMUNITY IMPACT   Read Time: 4 Min

Decade Old Ahmedabad's Dhal Ni Pol Gets A New Life

Kumar Manish
November 20, 2021   f   v   in   ⊠

Rasik Chowk after MHT intervention

Dhal ni Pol – A city within a city

Saloni Brahmbhatt | Updated: November 22, 2021 12:32 pm

All India Radio , 24th November 2021

Interview of Ms. Bharati Bhonsale, *Programme Coordinator, Mahila Housing Trust*
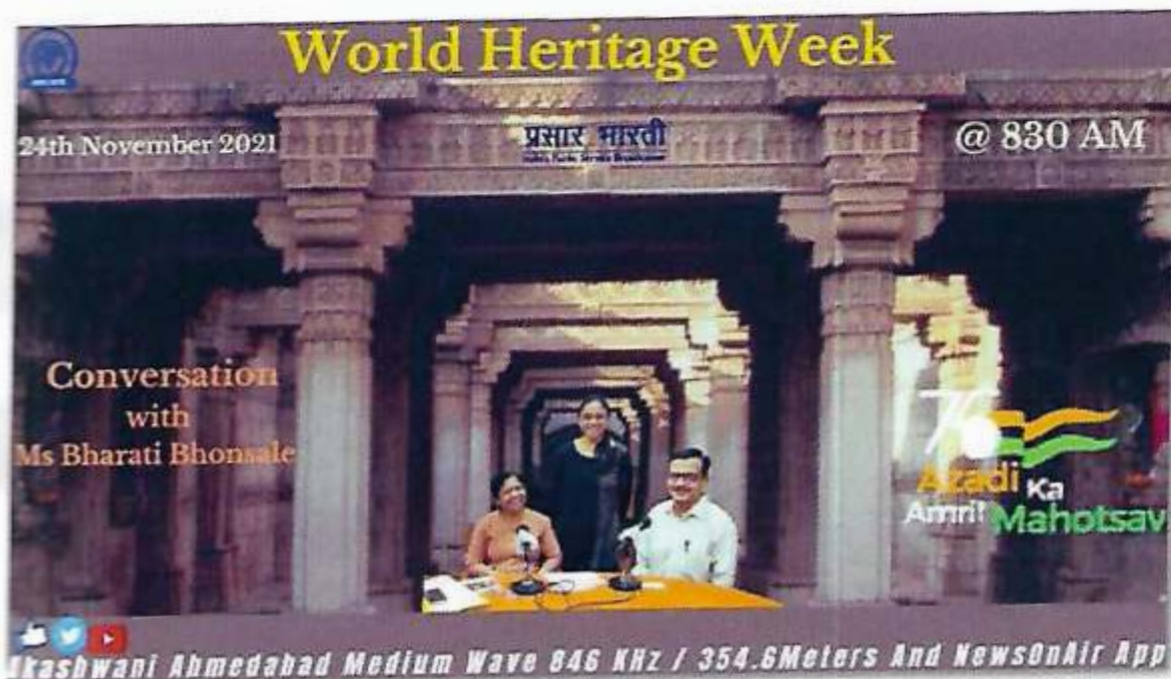
Twitter, 19th November 2021

Tweet by Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Principal Secretary, *Urban Development & Urban Housing Department, Govt of Gujarat, Ex- Municipal Commisioner of AMC*