

NEW MUSEUM SHOWCASES HIMALAYAN BUILDING CRAFTS in LEH

(from the June 2013 ACHR E-News bulletin)



Take a break for a minute from the poverty, the evictions and the homelessness and feast your weary eyes on this beautiful building. It has recently been completed by our friends in the Tibet Heritage Fund, in the old town of Leh, where they have been working for many years to restore the town's traditional houses, neighborhoods and infrastructure. The Central Asian Museum, which was designed by Andre Alexander and built by the team of artisans he trained, has been built to showcase the history of Ladakh, which was once an important crossroads on the Central Asian caravan trade routes. Ladakh's culture and artisanship have been shaped by the transmission of goods and ideas from such far-flung regions as Tibet, Yarkand, Kashmir, Afghanistan and the city states of Samarkand and Bukhara - all connected by various branches of the Silk Road. And Andre's museum has been designed to feature those influences. Each of the four floors has wood structures and architectural detailing carefully and authentically reproduced from the building traditions in East Turkistan (1st floor), Kashmir (2nd floor), Tibet (3rd floor) and Baltistan (4th floor), and a long hand-woven rope hangs down from the roof lantern to the ground floor, symbolizing the connection which binds these different cultures.



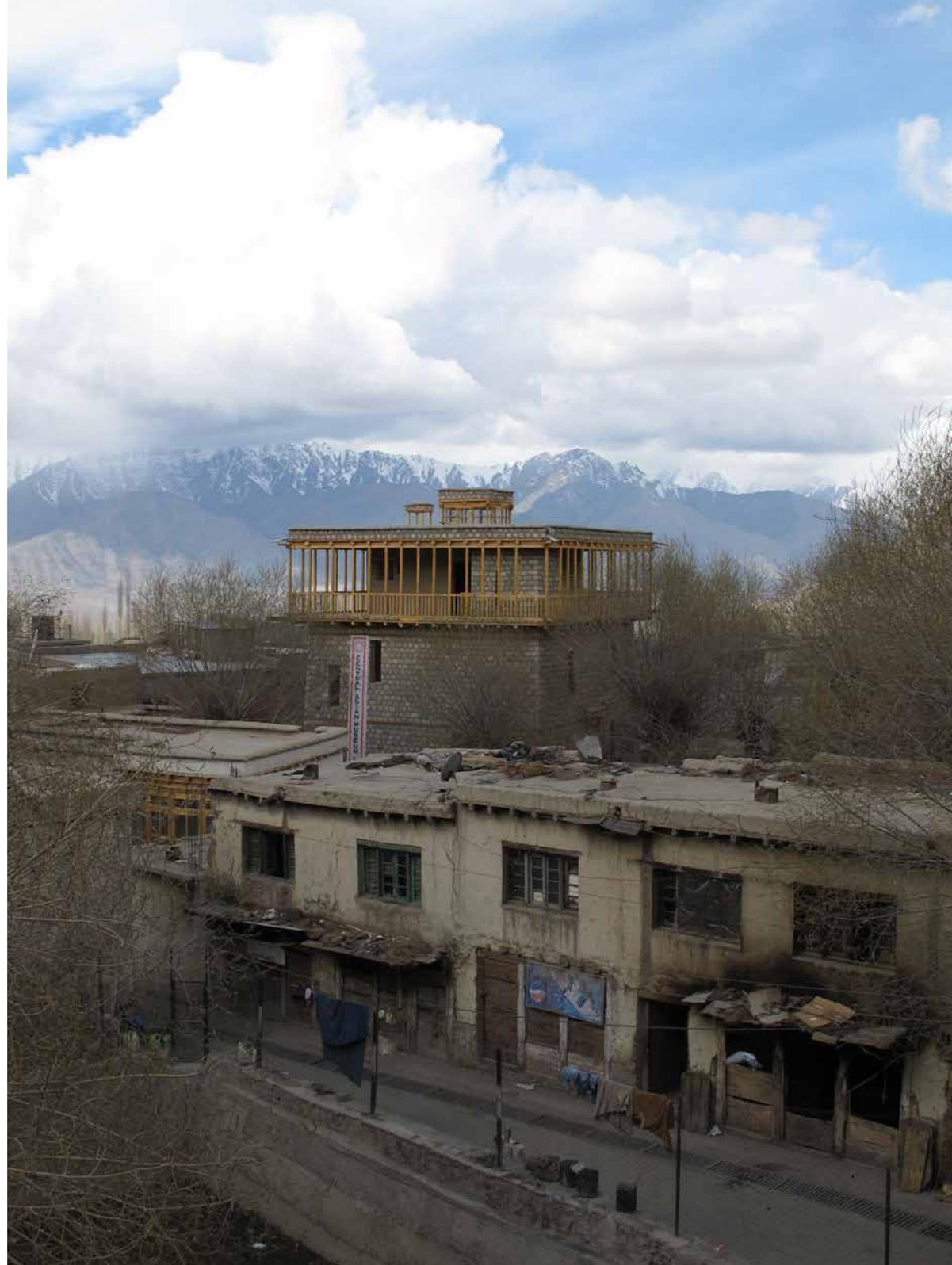
The museum has been built in the Tsas-soma garden, on land where the caravans used to camp after they arrived in Leh. Today, when Leh has become a bustling city with traffic jams, the Tsas-soma garden is still a secluded, peaceful area in the heart of the old town, and water for the agricultural fields down the valley still flows through the garden's willow trees. Besides the main museum, the complex includes a historic mosque, a Trans-Himalayan Research Library, a Ladakhi Kitchen Museum, a bakery and conference rooms - all either designed and built or restored by the THF team. The museum is being developed in cooperation with a local organization, which provided the land and will manage the museum complex after it's finished. If you can't get up to Leh to visit the museum, the THF has produced a beautiful brochure which summarizes its features and beauties.

For a PDF copy of the brochure, contact Pimpim at:
pemamarpo@yahoo.com.hk



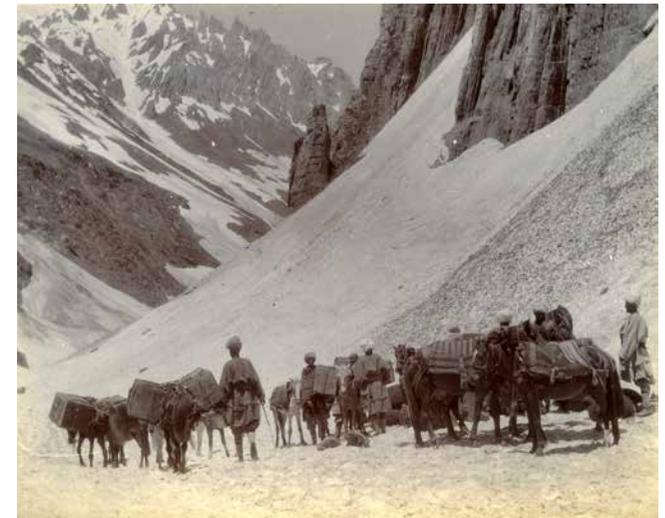
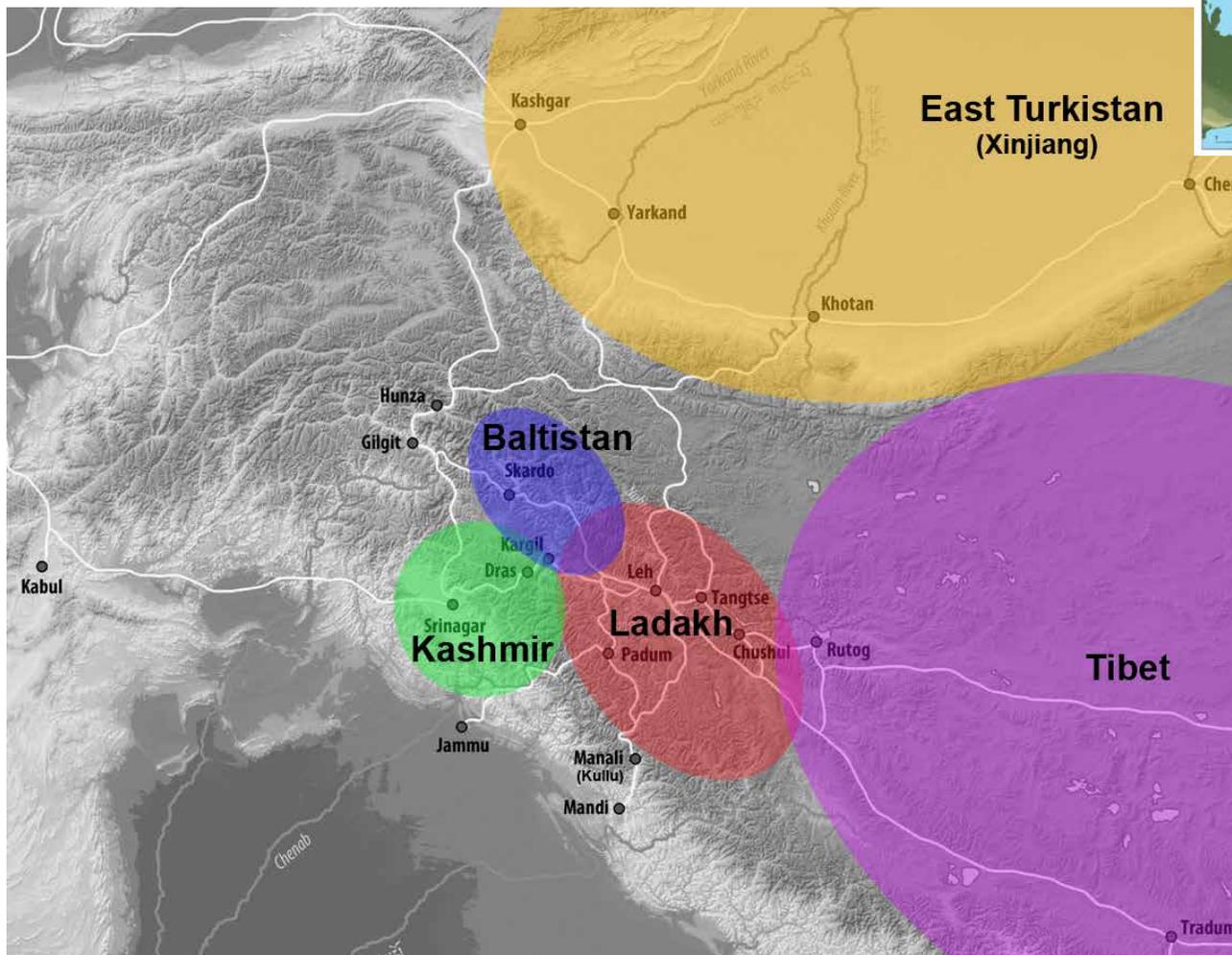
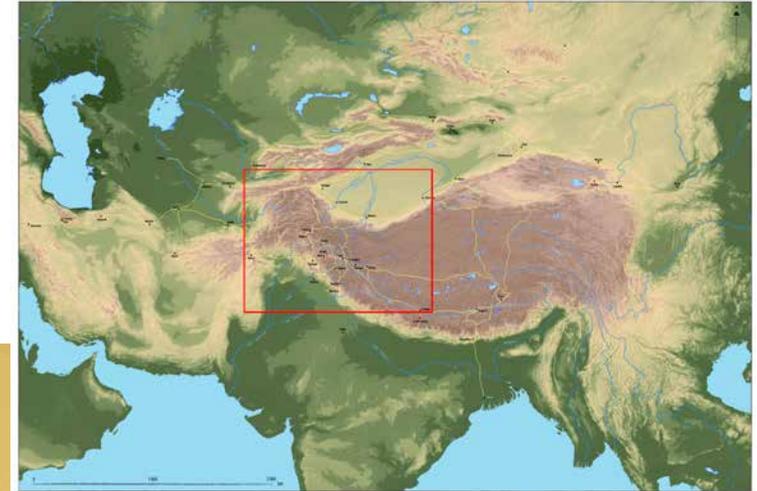
Central Asian Museum Leh

in Tsas-soma garden complex



Geographic setting

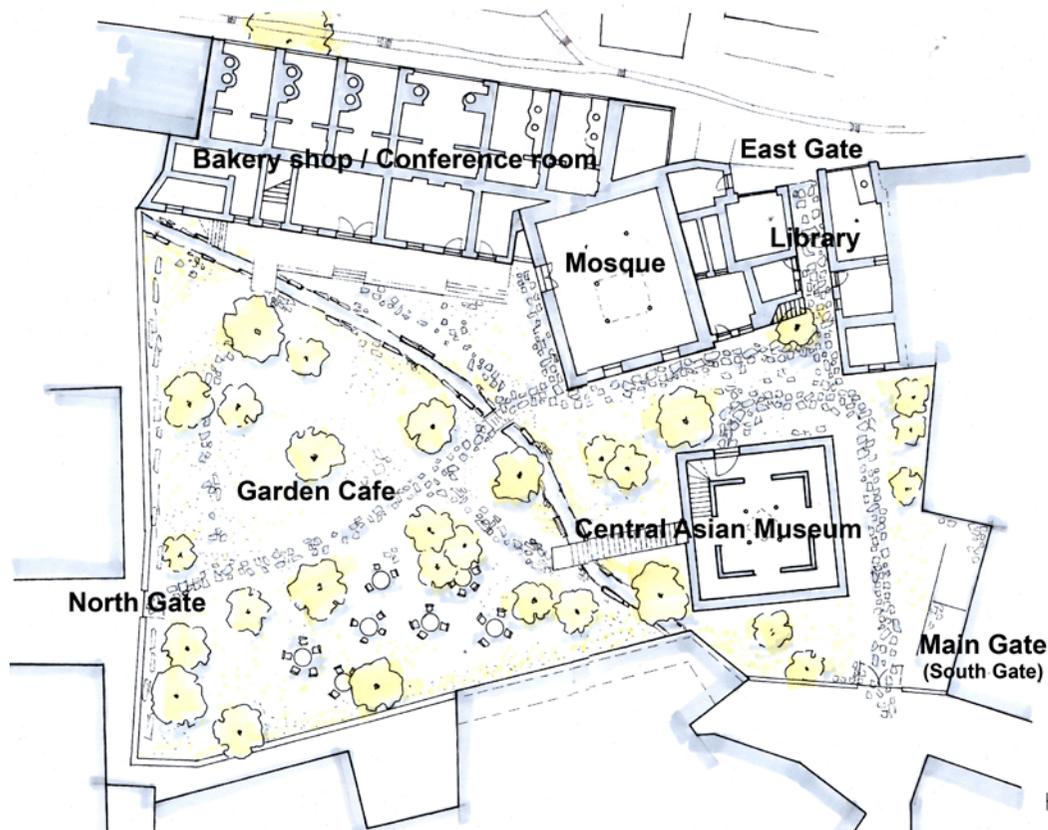
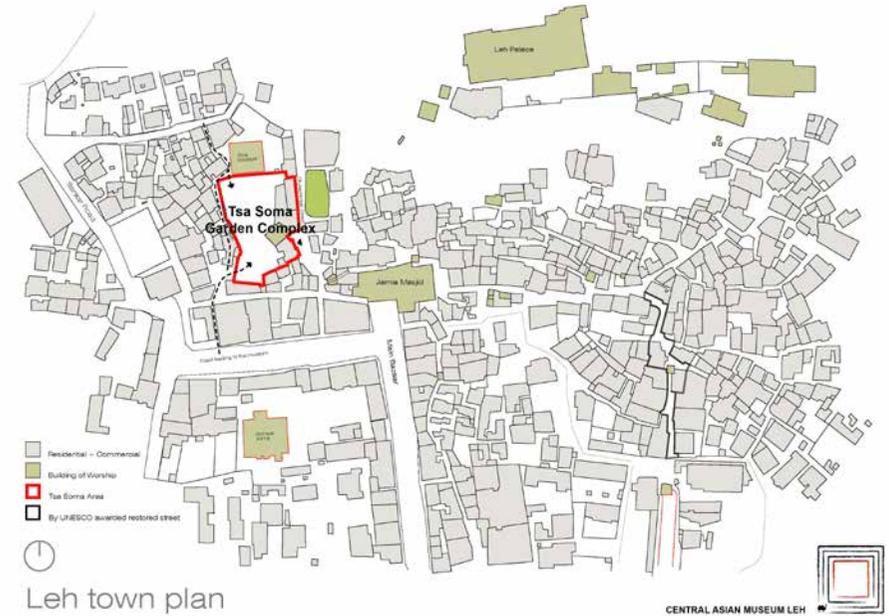
The Central Asian Museum Leh has been set up to introduce the important facet of Ladakh's history, which was once Ladakh has been an important crossroad of Central Asian caravan trade. Ladakh's culture has been shaped by the transmission of goods and ideas from such disparate regions as Tibet, Yarkand, Kashmir, Afganistan and city states like Samarkand, Bukhara, conected by the various branches of the Silk Road.

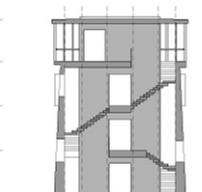
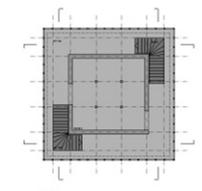
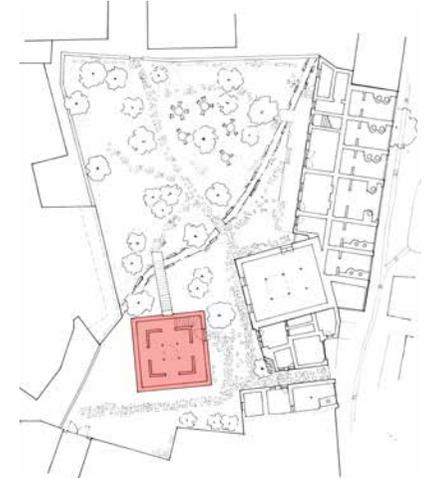


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Location

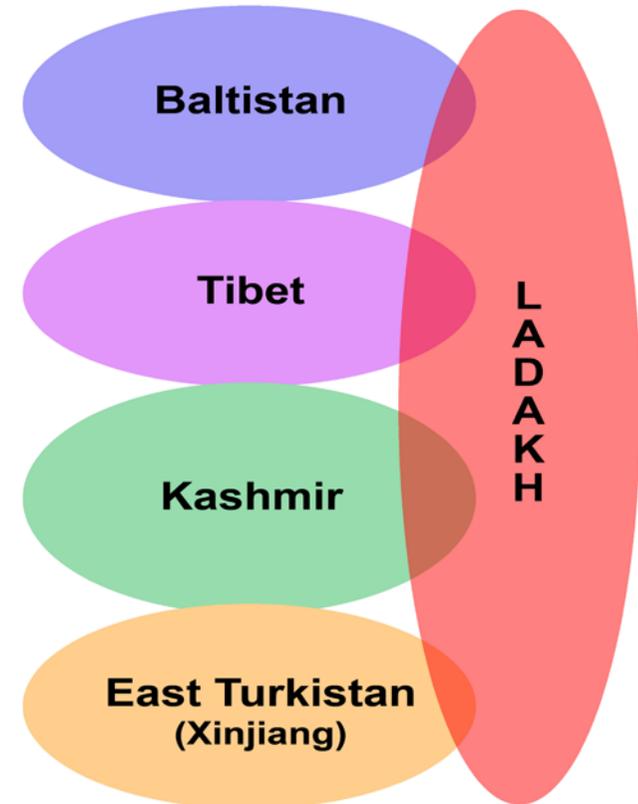
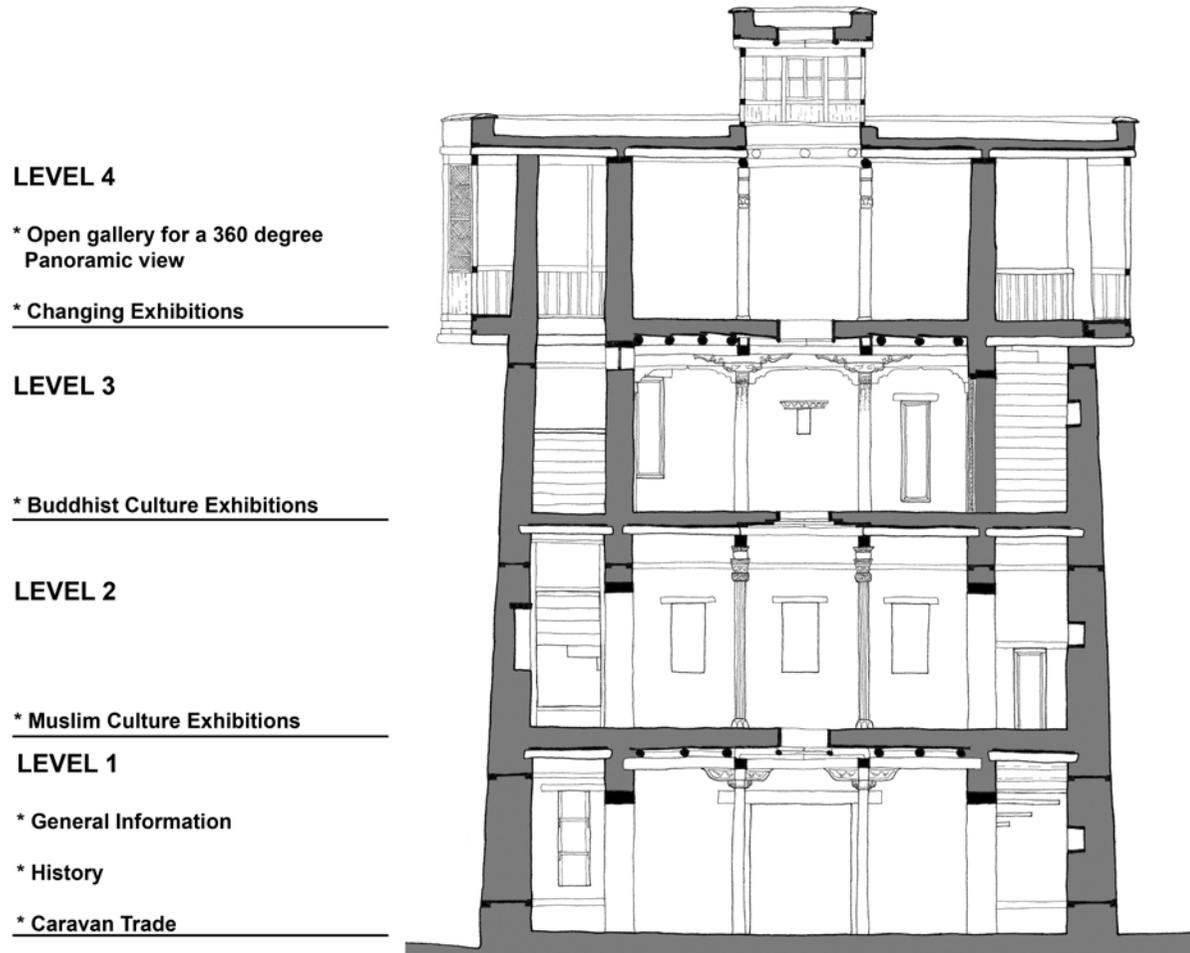
The Central Asian Museum Leh is currently being built in the Tsas-soma garden, on land where the caravans used to camp after their arriving in Leh. Today, with Leh no longer a quiet traditional settlement nestled behind hills but a bustling city with occasional traffic jams, the Tsas-soma is still a secluded peaceful area in the heart of the old town, and the water for the agricultural fields down the valley still flows through the Tsas-soma garden and there are numbers of willow trees produce the peaceful atmosphere with its green curtain.



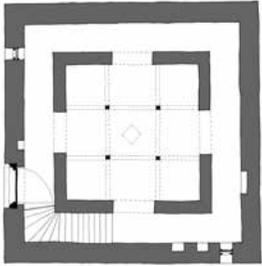


Central Asian Museum Tower

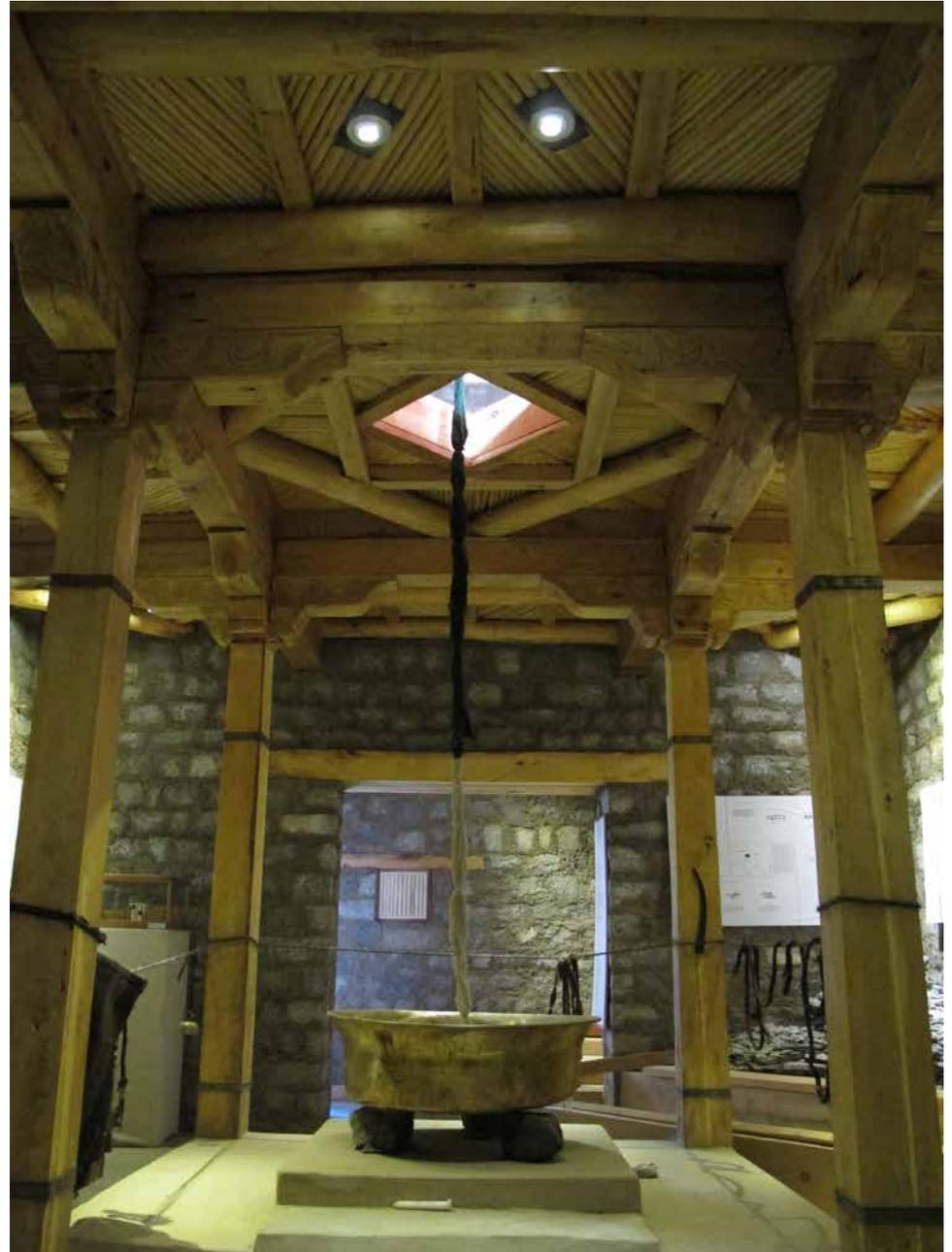
Space concept



Level 1. East Turkistan floor

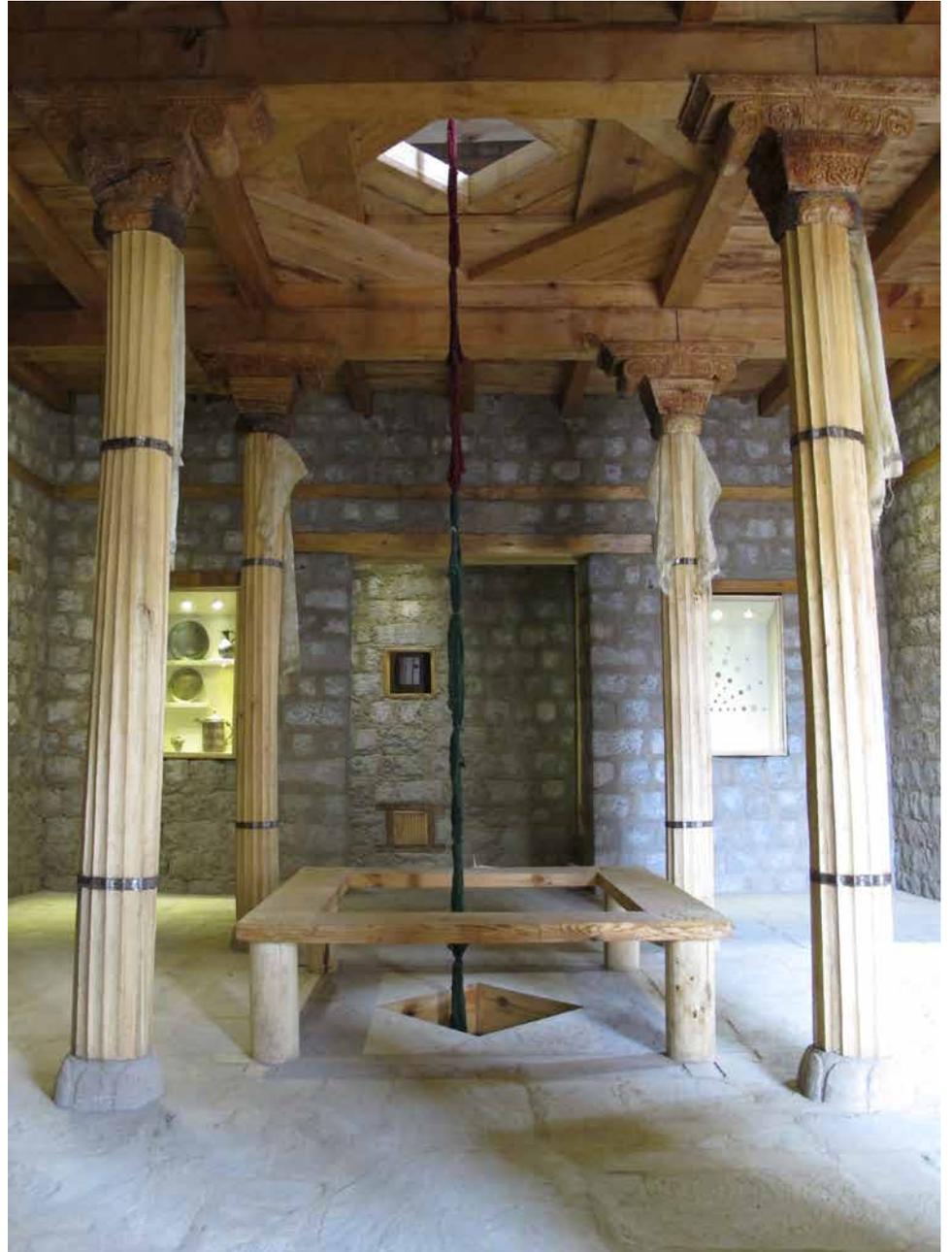
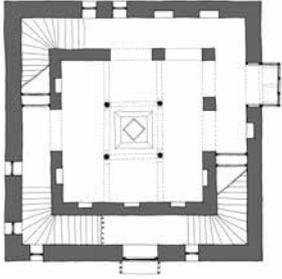


Historic photograph of caravan trade and kitchen artefacts, rock carvings have been exhibited, Central Asian motives designed basin displayed at center.

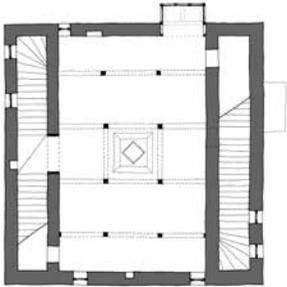


Level 2. Kashmir floor

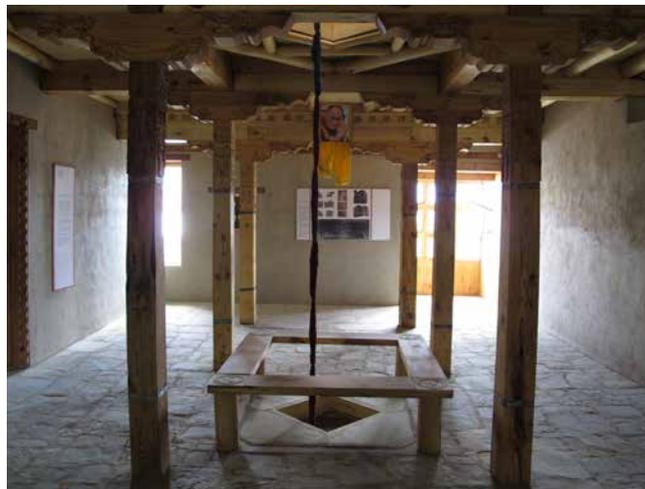
This floor designed with Kashmiri architectural style, so far there are coins, kitchen wears, horse saddle, and Koran book have been exhibited in the light up niches.



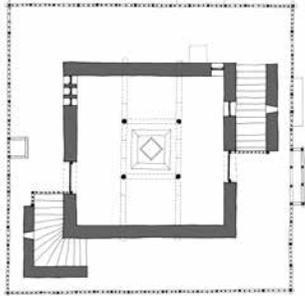
Level 3. Tibet floor



This floor designed with Tibetan architectural style, so far there are Buddha face fragment, wooden carved masks, 3D models of cave with 15th century murals have been exhibited.



Level 4. Baltistan floor

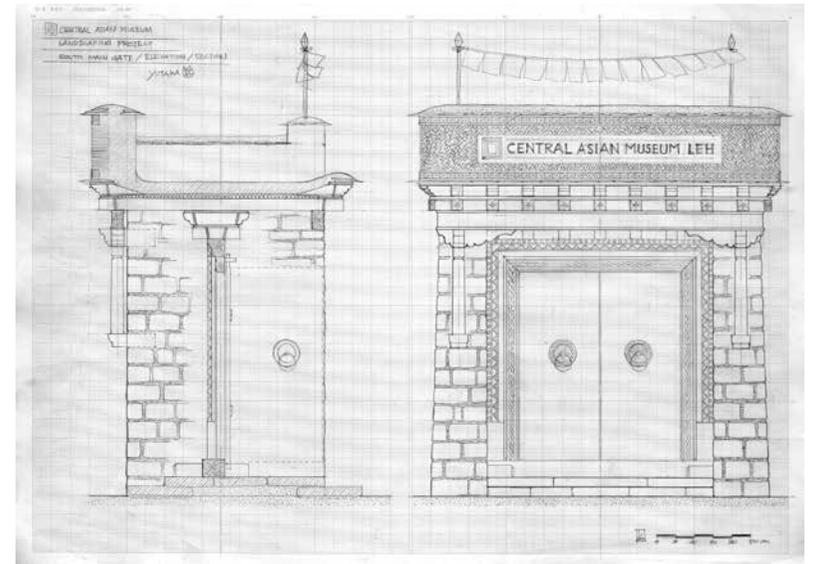


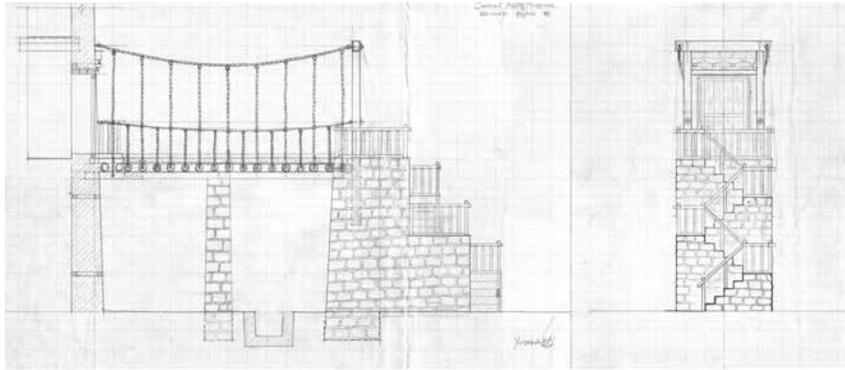
This floor designed with Baltistan architectural style, which have timber framed open balcony where visitors can enjoy the 360 degrees panoramic view of the Leh town. This floor arranged for changing exhibition.



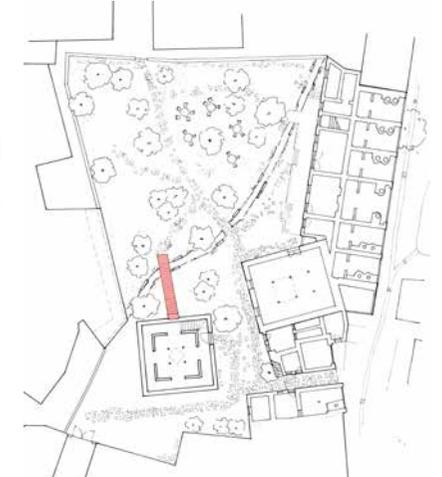


Museum main gate
(South gate)



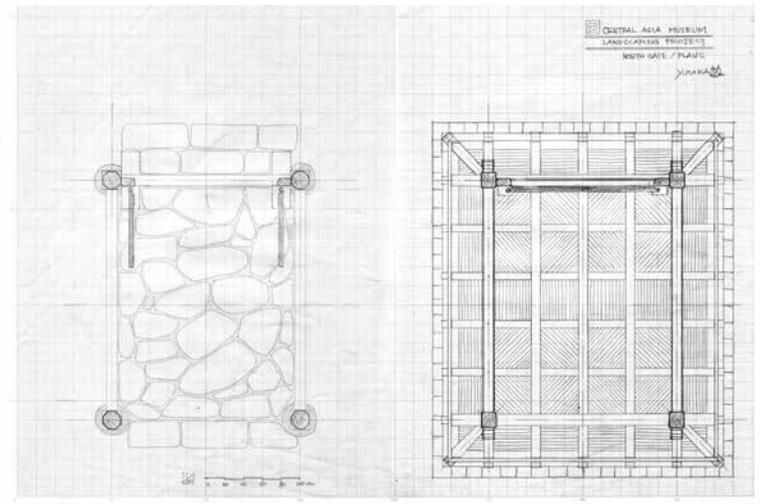
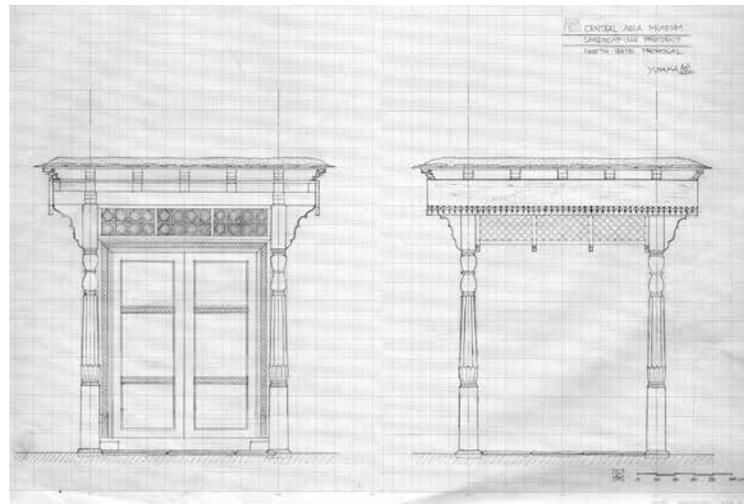
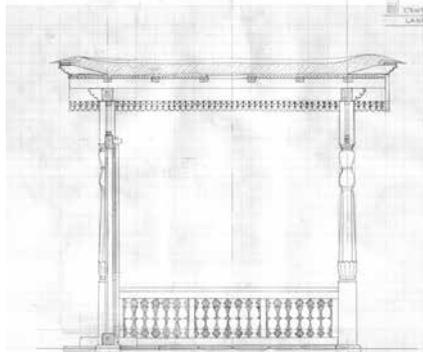


Museum exit bridge



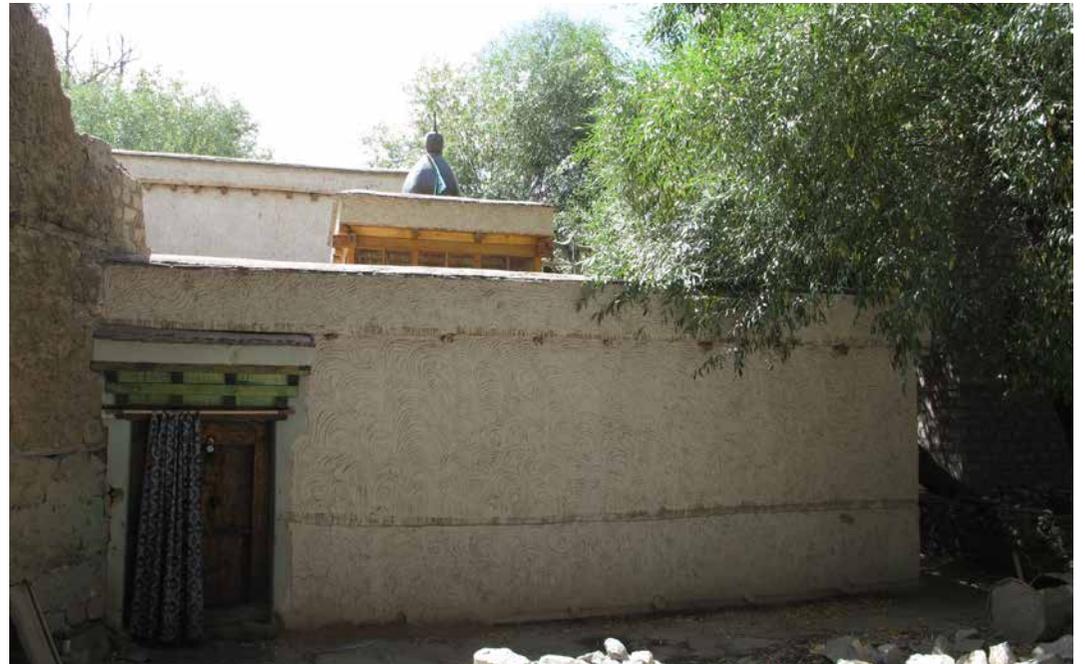


Kashmir gate
(North gate)





Masjid Sharif mosque
-restored by THF/LOTI in 2007-



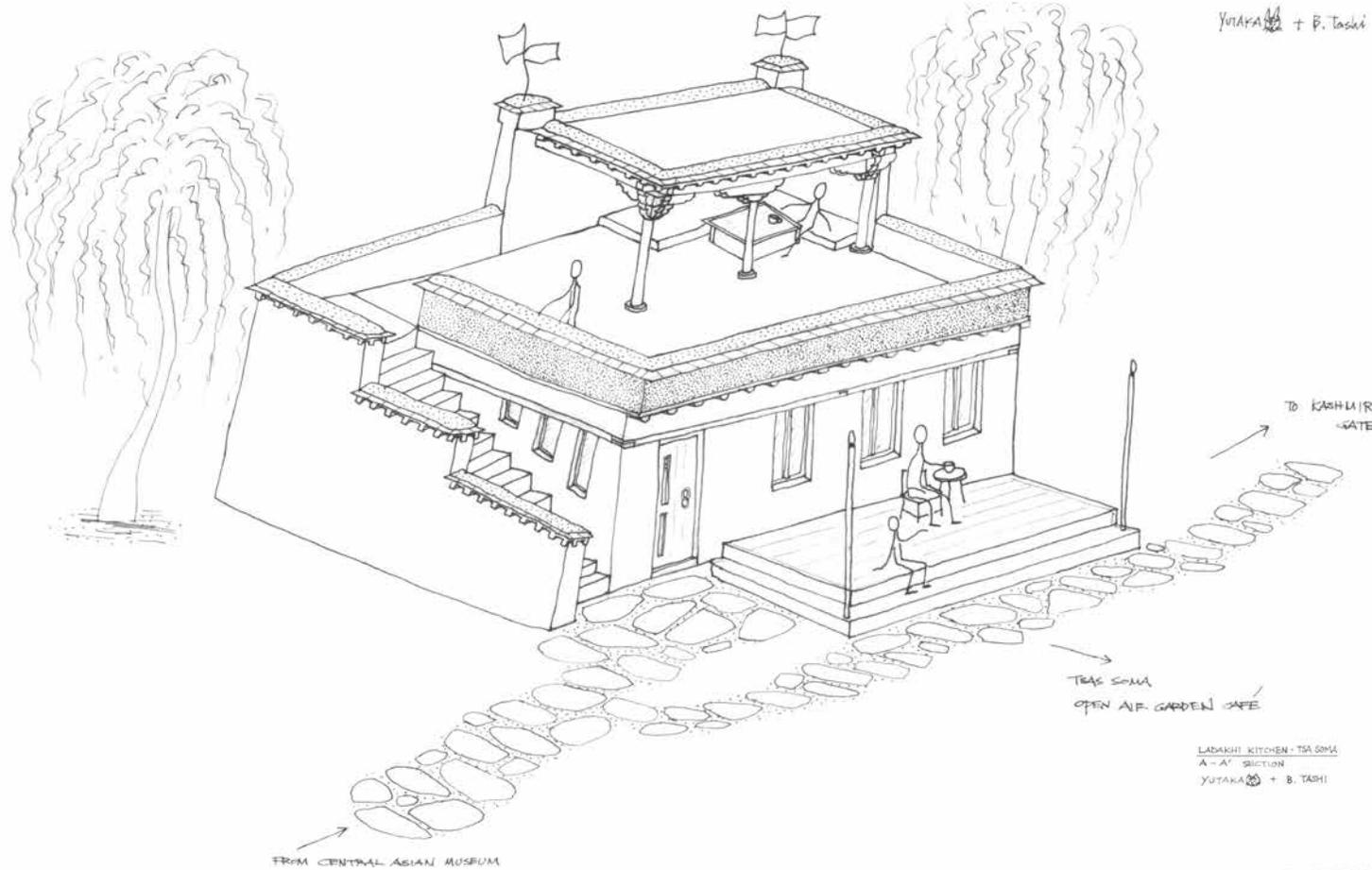
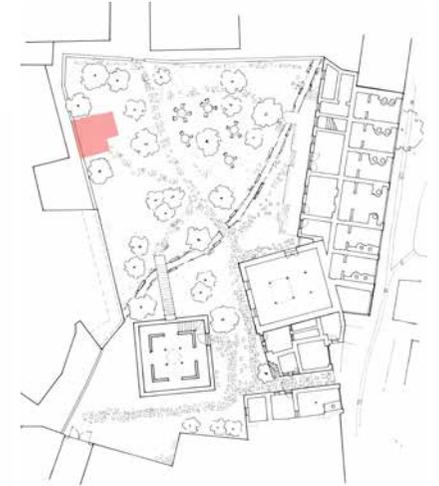
Trans-Himalayan Research Library



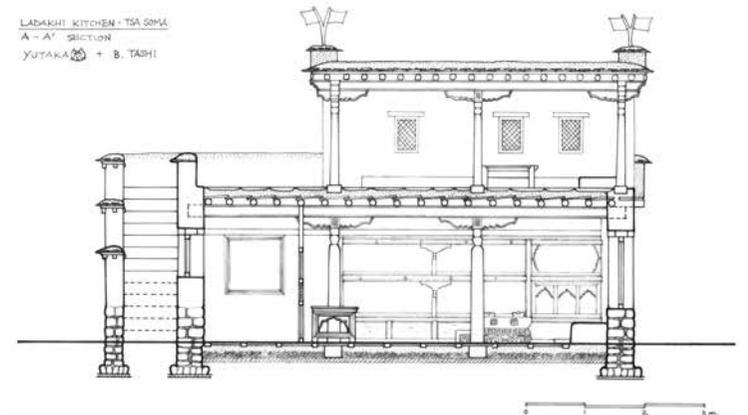
Ladakhi Kitchen Museum -coming in 2013-

LADAKHI KITCHEN - TSA SOMA

YUTAKA + B. TASHI

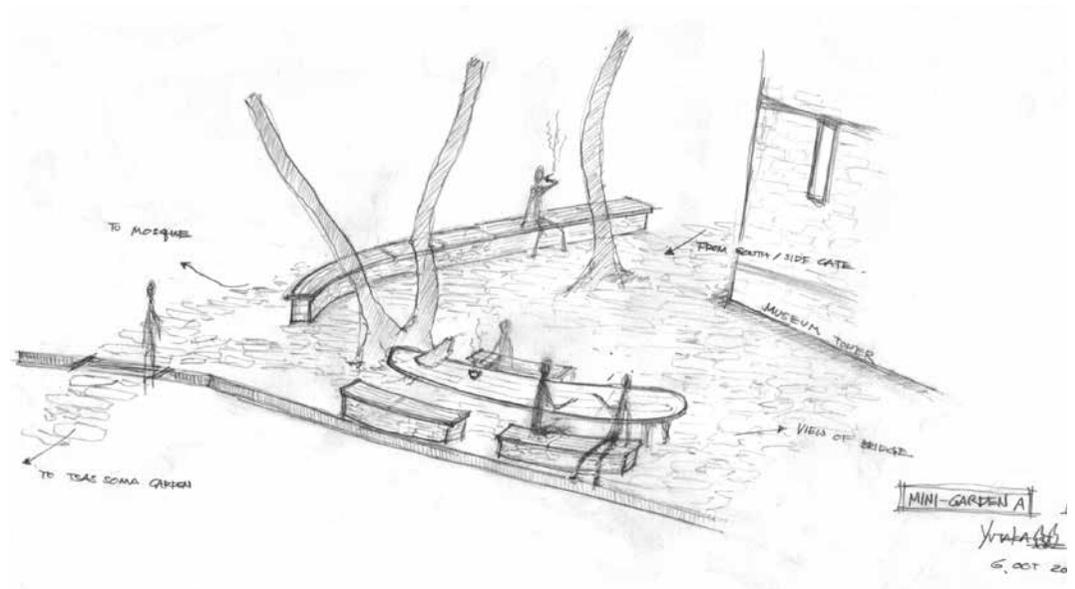


LADAKHI KITCHEN - TSA SOMA
A - A' SECTION
YUTAKA + B. TASHI



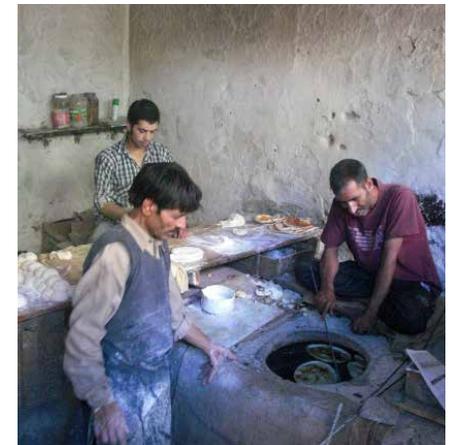


Caravan garden
-coming in 2013-





**Bakery building and
Conference/study room
-coming in 2013-**





Sponsors

the Ministry of Culture and Tourism,
Jammu & Kashmir State, India

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Contact

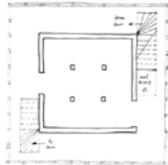
Tibet Heritage Fund

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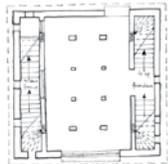
ARCHITECTURE + ART



Level Four



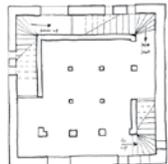
Reminiscences



Level Three



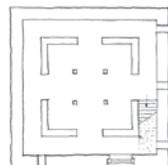
Artefacts



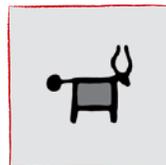
Level Two



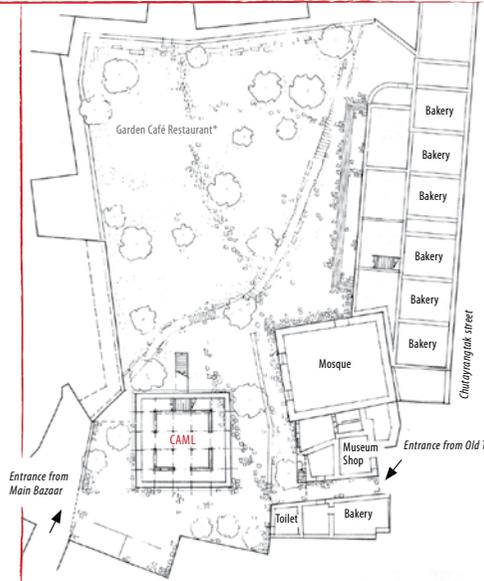
Fabrics



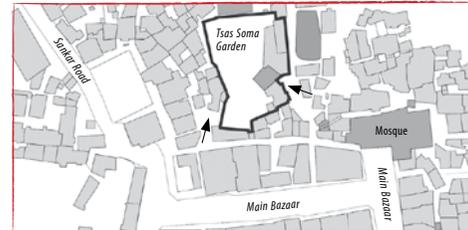
Level One



Petroglyphs



*in planning



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