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LIGHTS OF JINDJI

SCET-GCPIA & UPCT Mobility Program

María Mestre Martí and Manuel Ródenas López

Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena.
Cartagena, Spain

Lights of India

Exhibition catalogue

Textos y fotografías:
María Mestre Martí
Manuel Ródenas López

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Escuela Técnica Superior de
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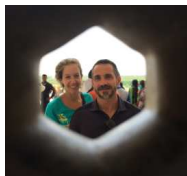
Sarvajanic Education Society
Sarvajanic College of Engineering & Technology
Towards progressive civilization...



VNSGU | VEER NARMAD
SOUTH GUJARAT
UNIVERSITY, SURAT

Exhibition hall ELDI
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena
Calle del Ángel s/n. 30202.

JANUARY, 2017



Exhibition curators and Photography:

María Mestre Martí
Manuel Ródenas López



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LIGHTS OF INDIA

SCET-GCPIA & UPCT Mobility Program

María Mestre Martí and Manuel Ródenas López

The exhibition Lights of India, commissioned by Manuel Ródenas López and María Mestre Martí, shows a tour through the visited places during the mobility to India of both teachers thanks to the European Union KA 107 Grant Program, through the Erasmus + funds. The exhibition, supported by the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, consists of a selection of photographs, mainly architecture, that offer a vision of the daily life in the country. But there are not only buildings to be found, it also contains scenes of the wandering streets and markets as well as the rural landscape of the Surat region.

UNIVERSITY
OF
INDIA

Exhibition Catalogue

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It has been two years since the first VNSGU-UPCT Exchange Program in February 2015, and this experience is getting every time better. For us, this has been the first chance to visit the institutions in Surat thanks to the European Union Key Action KA107 mobility Program (Erasmus+).

In order to improve the experience and contents of this students exchange program a better understanding of the institutions was absolutely necessary, and our travel to India made it possible. We could visit the classrooms, places and cities as well as know the academic teams of both institutions and the result have been a clearer idea of their interests and needs.

Beyond the academic value of the trip, the possibility of a short stay in India has been a gift from Life. India will not be left you indifferent at all and it will change your life perception forever. A markedly different culture, the people character, amazing contrasts and its way of life, left a deep trace on me.

The way they live their cities made me think about the fact that population density changes everything. The citizens' flows on the streets and their frantic activity modify the speed in which things happen. The omnipresent vegetation and water, and the integration of fauna on the streets reveal the intensity of the surrounding Nature and the significant respect that Indian people feel for it. Thus, the way of seeing and perceiving Architecture has to be different and also unlike will be the way of teaching and learning to produce Architecture.

This photography exhibition shows some of the former aspects that we found interesting to share with all the university community in order to let them know the excellent chance that it has been offered to us and the endless possibilities we can face.

**Manuel Ródenas López
Deputy Director for International Items
School of the Architecture and Building Engineering
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena**

In September 2016, I traveled from Spain to India and I saw many interesting and inspiring places in Delhi and Surat. The visit was possible thanks to the European Union Key Action KA107 mobility Program (Erasmus+).

We spent there ten days and we felt like showing our impressions to other people, so the interest on going to India can be awoken at the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena. For three years we have been attending students from India in a mobility program. In the last year, the option for teachers to visit the Indian Institutions was a reality. Furthermore, other exchange programs were developed, like for example a Spanish teacher has been three months there to teach the language, a cultural journey focused on Architectural visits is being organized. Little by little, the academic agreement with the Sarvajanic College of Engineering and Technology and the Shri Gijubhai Chhaganbhai Patel Institute of Architecture, Interior Design & Fine Arts (Veer Narmad South Gujarat University), both in Surat, allowed us a better understanding of their culture and customs. We found that their desire to learn, their creativity and emotions run high during their stay in Cartagena. So did ours when we came to India.

I have been in other places around the world which are known for their dense populations – México D.F. comes to mind- but somehow they seemed much more ordered. Delhi can be defined as masses of people moving in patterns and flows along the streets: beyond the people, there are many cycles (both motor-bikes and human-powered), there are big red public buses, there are trucks which have individualized, hand-painted, and brightly colored patterns all over them. There are dogs, cows, sheep, monkeys... and auto rickshaws which are used as taxis to navigate the narrow, winding streets.

For me, India seems to be a living fairy tale, every mystic aspect in the Holy Scriptures may be found in the daily life. Especially, I do admire the relationship of Indians to their nature and the respect to their Gods. You can feel that this people have a millennia-old high culture.

“Lights of India” is the name of our exhibition but also the name of a documentary made in 2012 by Holger Klusmann, where it is shown an inspiring Journey through India and its World of Gods. Our exhibition shows a tour through some places in Delhi and Surat. It captures impressions of discovered places when we visited the country: Mainly some important buildings but also the daily urban life, which creates the scenario where Architecture appears.

**María Mestre Martí
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena**



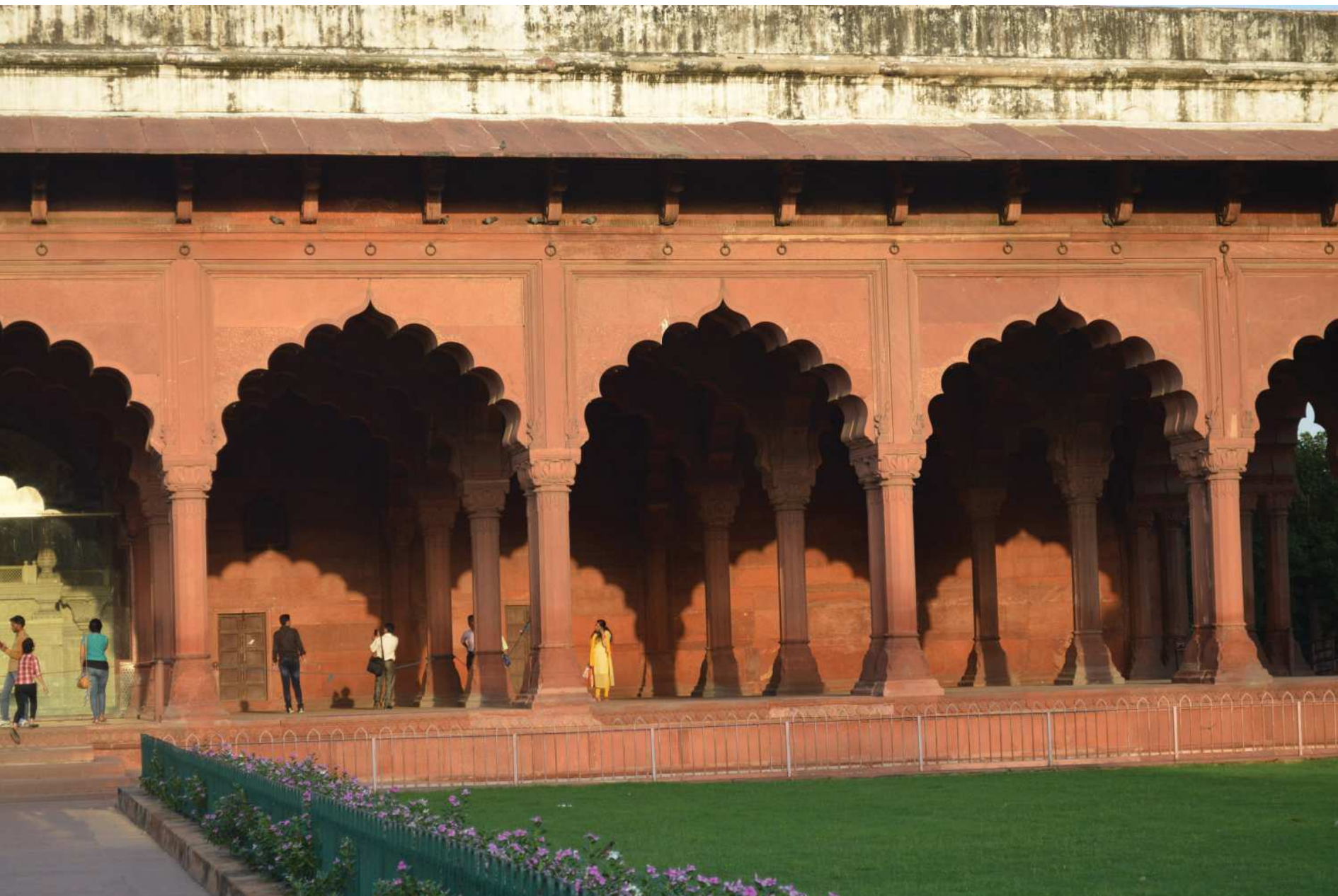
The Red Fort Complex (2016)

Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

New Delhi State, Central District, New Delhi. India

The planning and design of the Red Fort represents a culmination of architectural fusion of traditions: Islamic, Persian, Timurid and Hindu.

UNESCO World Heritage since 2007

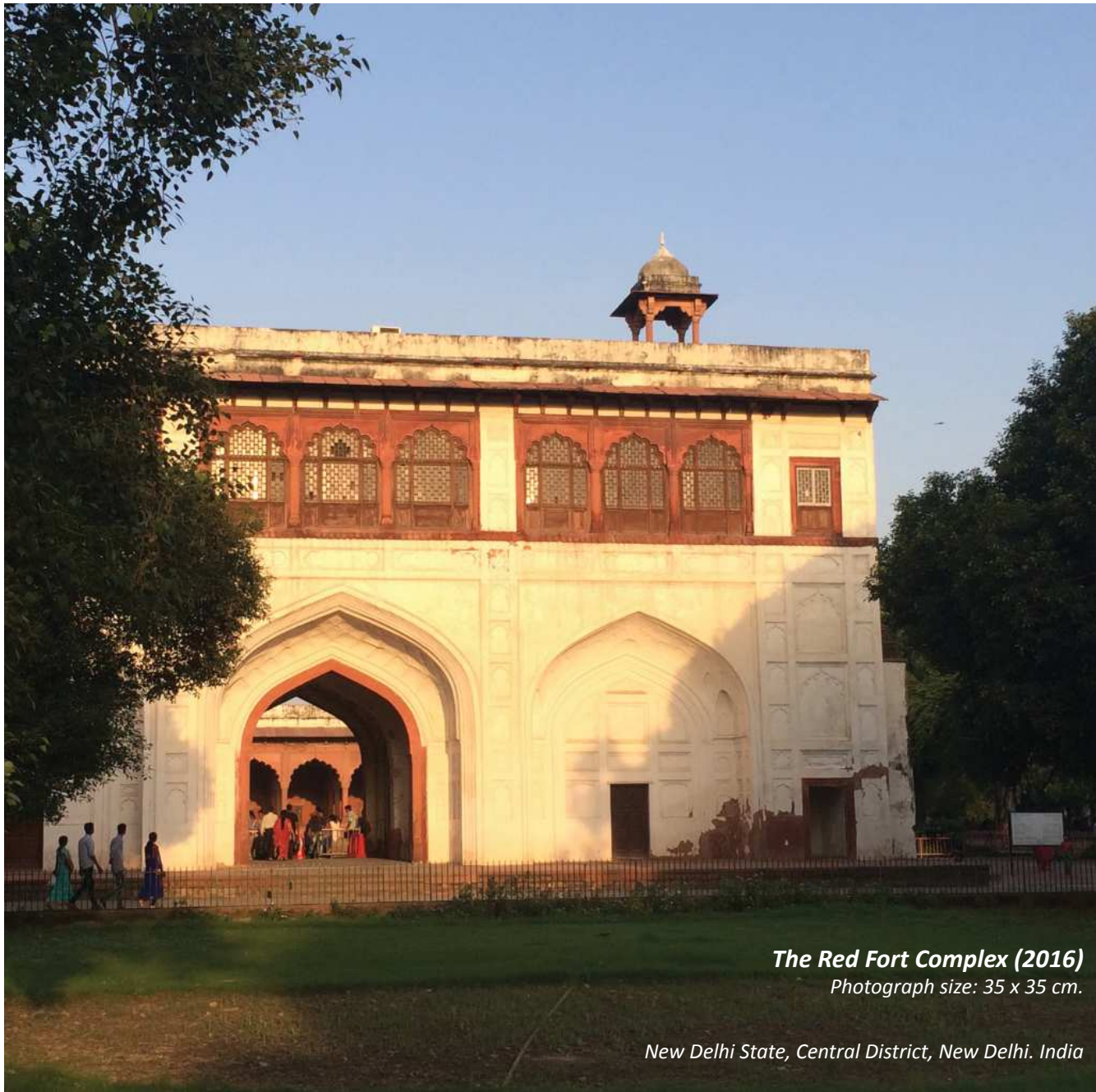


The Red Fort Complex (2016)

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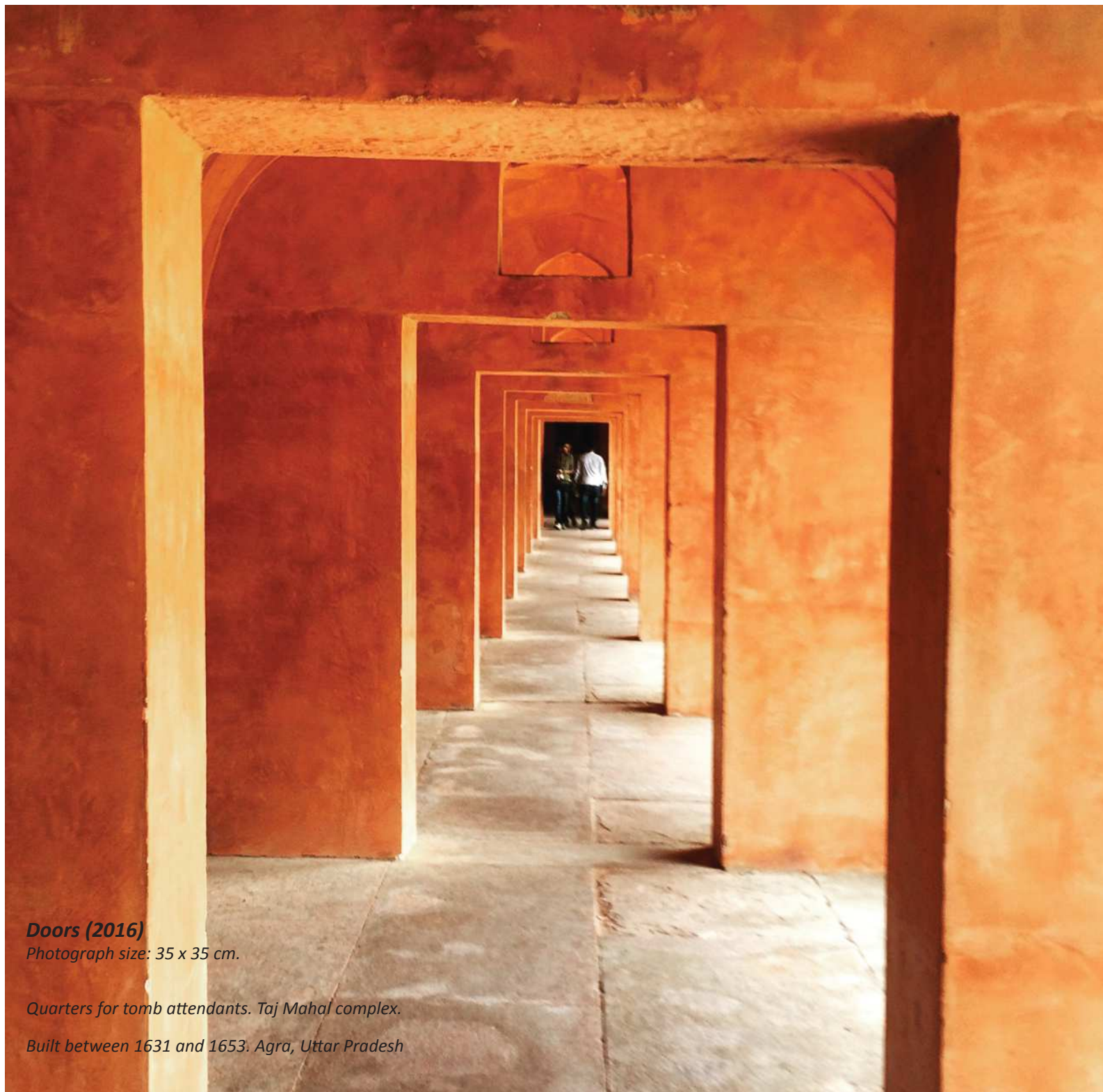
Diwan-i-Amm the built, view of red sand stone colonnades



The Red Fort Complex (2016)

Photograph size: 35 x 35 cm.

New Delhi State, Central District, New Delhi. India



Doors (2016)

Photograph size: 35 x 35 cm.

Quarters for tomb attendants. Taj Mahal complex.

Built between 1631 and 1653. Agra, Uttar Pradesh



Taj Mahal (2016)

Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage.

Uttar Pradesh, Agra District



Waiting queue beside the Taj Mahal (2016)

Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

The Taj Mahal is considered to be the greatest architectural achievement in the whole range of Indo-Islamic architecture.

Uttar Pradesh, Agra District



The Lotus Temple or Bahá'í House of Worship (2016)

Photograph size: 42 x 29 cm.

The building is composed of 27 free-standing marble-clad "petals" arranged in clusters of three to form nine sides

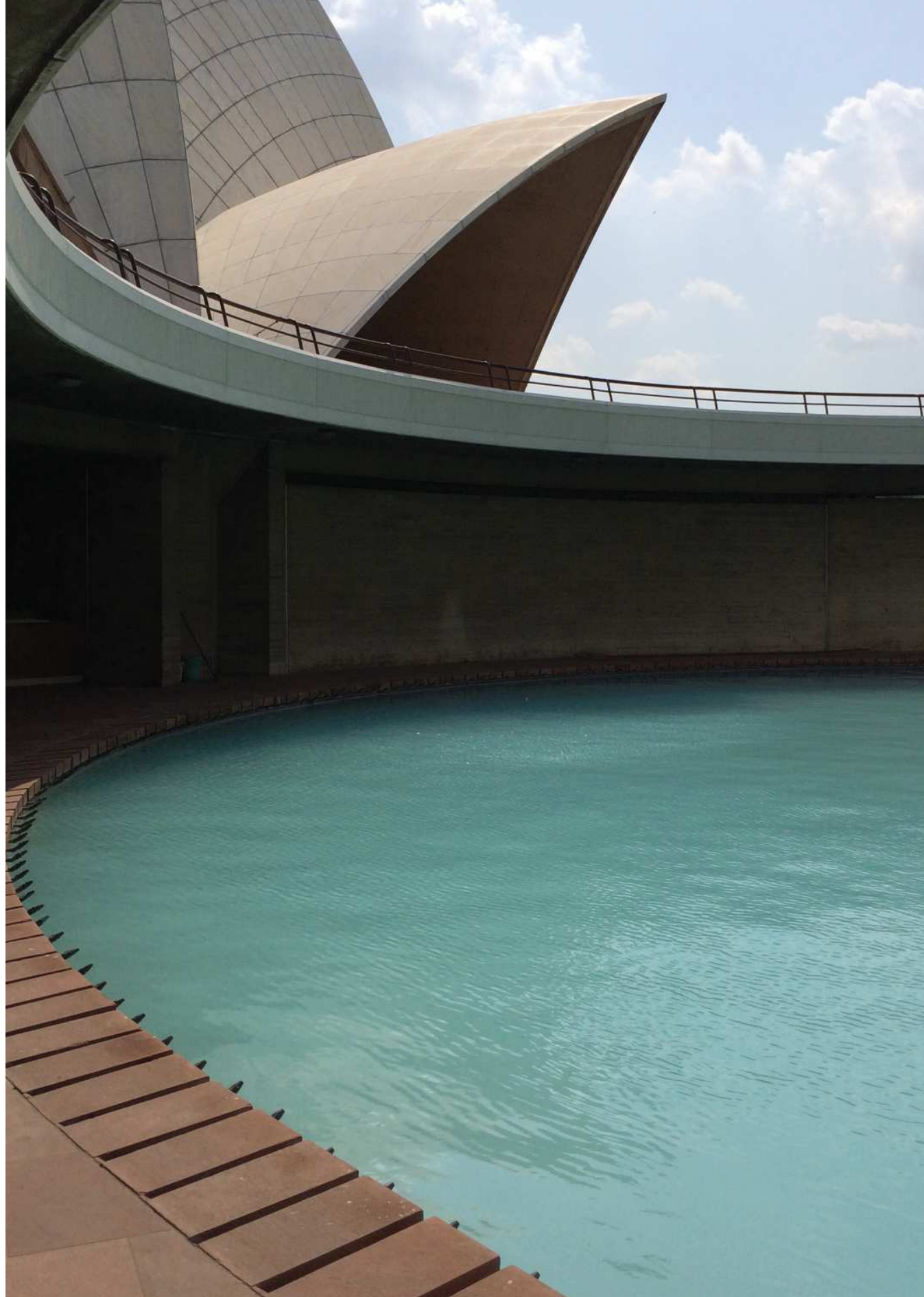
New Delhi, India (1986)

***The Lotus Temple or Bahá'í
House of Worship (2016)***

Photograph size: 35 x 52 cm.

*Lotus is a symbol of peace, purity,
love and immortality. It is this
particular specialty of Lotus
flower which makes the flower an
important icon in Indian culture
and society.*

New Delhi, India (1986)



Rander, Surat (2016)
Photograph size: 35 x 52 cm.

Building





English Cemetery Surat (2016)

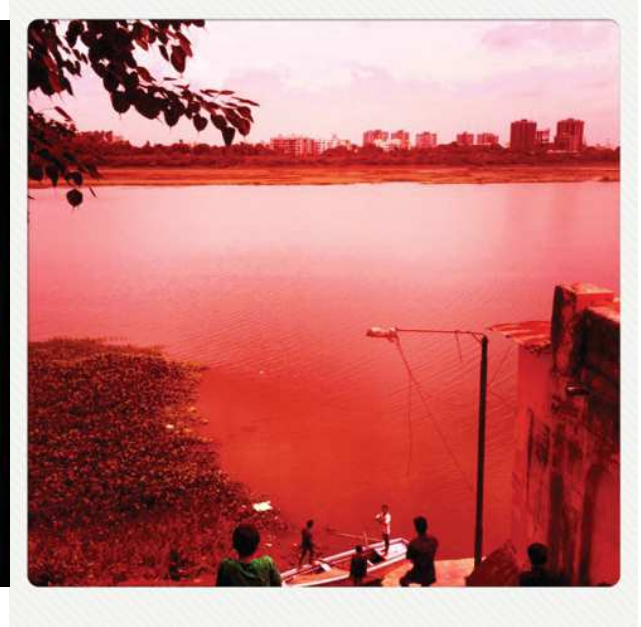
Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

The English cemetery is situated outside the city-wall (which was known as 'Alampanah') near the Katargam Gate.



At the market (near Surat) (2016)
Photographs size: 23 x 16 cm.

Sale of vegetables in the market



Red landscapes (2016)
Photographs size: 15 x 15 cm.

Landscape views around Surat city



Rural Landscapes and motorbikes (2016)
Photographs size: 23 x 16 cm.



Ornament (2016)

Photograph size: 35 x 35 cm.

Architecture detail



Lemonade (2015)

Photograph size: 52 x 27 cm.

*Lemonade stand near the Lotus Temple
entrance*



Apple stands (2016)

Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

Line of apple stands near to Surat



Countryside School (2009)
Photograph size: 22.5 x 22.5 cm.



Street daily life (2016)
Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.



Flowers stand (2016)
Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.



After School (2016)
Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

Homework Academy



Heritage Intervention (2016)
Photograph size: 34.5 x 52 cm.

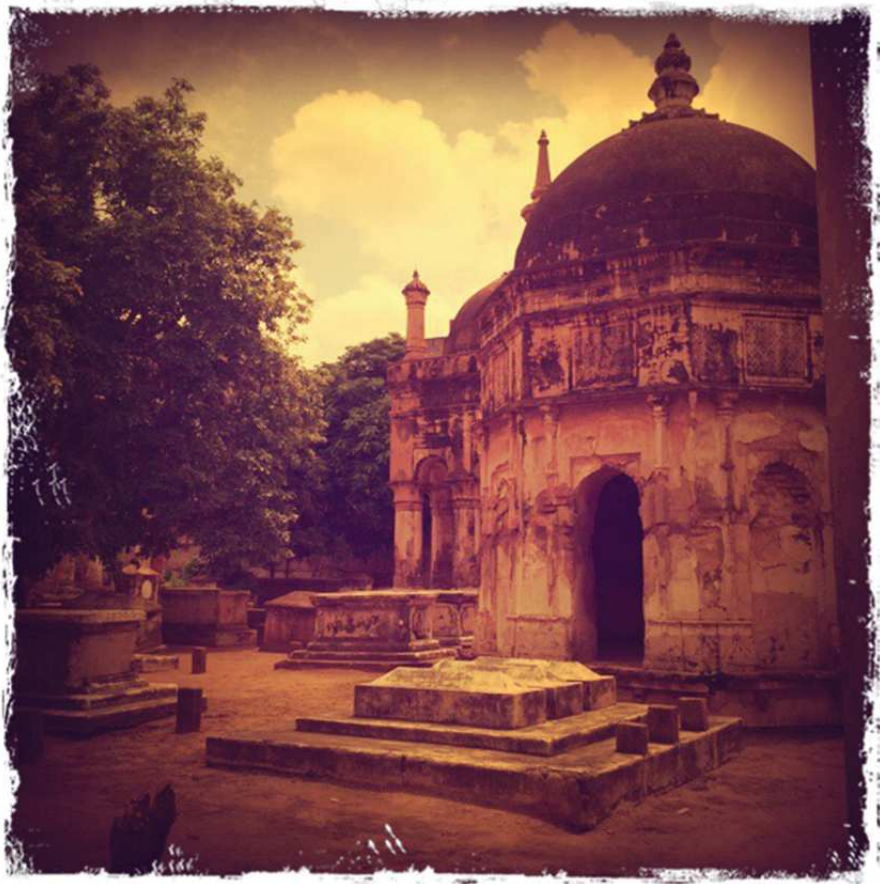
Intervention on historic building



Ordered nuts (2016)

Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

Perfectly ordered nuts in a Surat shop



English Cemetery Surat (2016)

Photographs size: 52 x 35 cm.

Many tombs of famous names in the historical narratives of the English factory at Surat who were the significant persons in the political history of the city.



Wooden door (2016)
Photographs size: 52 x 35 cm.

Detail of wood work



New meeting (2016)

Photograph size: 52 x 35 cm.

First group of participants at the SCET-GCPIA & UPCT mobility program