



पुरानी दिल्ली Purani Dilli

इन दिनों गरचे डेक्कन में है बड़ी कदरे सुखन,
कौन जाये ज़ौक दिल्ली की गलियाँ छोड़ कर।

*In dino garche Deccan main hai badi kadre sukhan,
Kaun jaaye Zauq Dilli ki galliyan chhod ke.*

पुरानी दिल्ली a film

Purani Dilli

Why

Why Purani
Dilli?

Which

Which city
of the city?

What

What is
the film
about?

How

How was
the film
executed?

पुरानी दिल्ली

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why पुरानी दिल्ली
Purani Dilli क्यों ?

I have often found myself wandering in the quaint streets of Purani Dilli, starry eyed, staring at the ancient doors and arches embellished with naqqashi, getting lost in it's labyrinth and imagining the ways of the city and its people during the times of galore.

why पुरानी दिल्ली Purani Dilli क्यों ?

Charm and Opulence

- » a stage for many a literary and artistic expressions
- » a sensorial delight
- » vibrant streets filled bustling life and culture

Dilli is much like an old and tired storyteller and every wrinkle and scar on its body has an anecdote attached to it and a tale to tell.

why पुरानी दिल्ली Purani Dilli क्यों ?

Historical Relevance

- » political capital for centuries
- » a witness to the various socio-economic & cultural changes

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which पुरानी दिल्ली Purani Dilli



8 different cities

1. **Lal Kot** by Tomar Ruler Anangpal, extnd. **Qila Rai Pithora** by Vignaraja IV (1153-64), **Qutb Minar** by Qutubuddin Aibak (first Sultan of Delhi) - 11th Century
2. **Siri** by Alaud-Din Kalji (1296-1316)
3. **Tughlaqabad** by Ghiysud-Din Tughlaq (1321-51)
4. **Firozabad** by Firoz Shah Tuguluq (1351-88)
5. **Dinpahan** (broken down later to build Purana Qila) by Humayun
6. **Purana Qila** by Sher Shah Suri; Akbar (1556-1605) Jehangir (1605-27)
7. **Shahjahanabad** by Shah Jehan (1628-58)
8. **Lutyen's Delhi** (1912-1931) {Post East India Company}

Dilli is much like an old and tired storyteller and every wrinkle and scar on its body has an anecdote attached to it and a tale to tell.

which पुरानी दिल्ली Purani Dilli



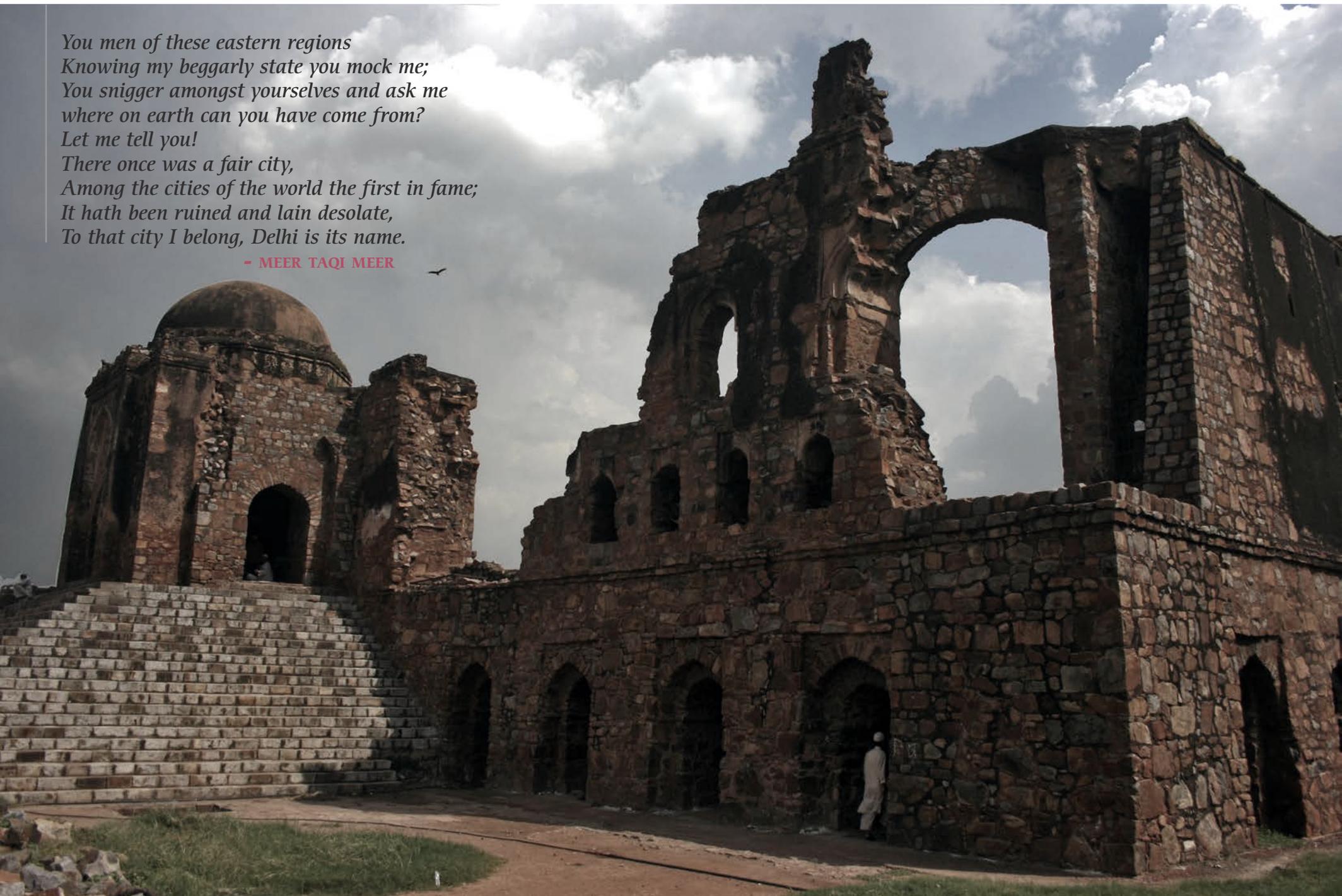
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*You men of these eastern regions
Knowing my beggarly state you mock me;
You snigger amongst yourselves and ask me
where on earth can you have come from?
Let me tell you!*

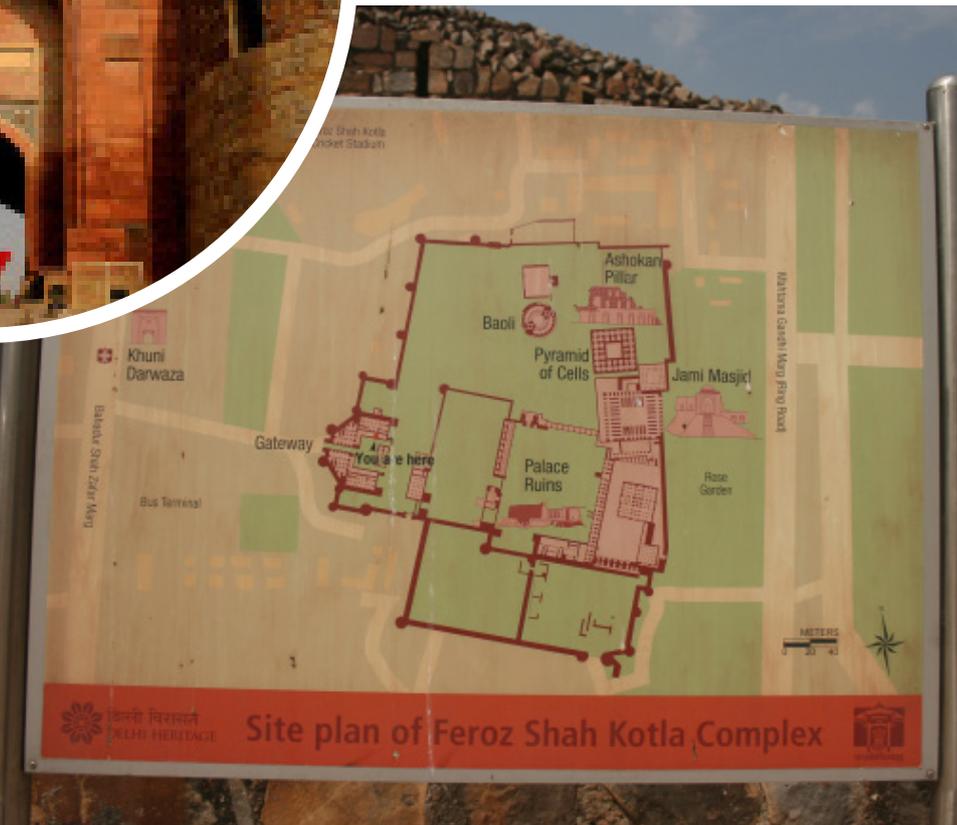
*There once was a fair city,
Among the cities of the world the first in fame;
It hath been ruined and lain desolate,
To that city I belong, Delhi is its name.*

- MEER TAQI MEER



Mosque in the ruins of Firozabad (Now Feroz Shah Kotla) | Source: Author

Preservation and recognized under The Archeological Survey of India as Delhi Heritage

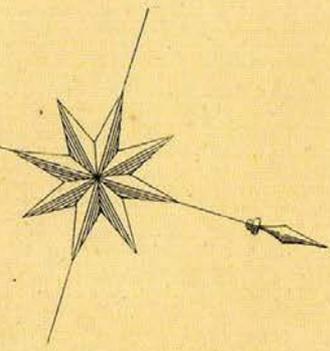
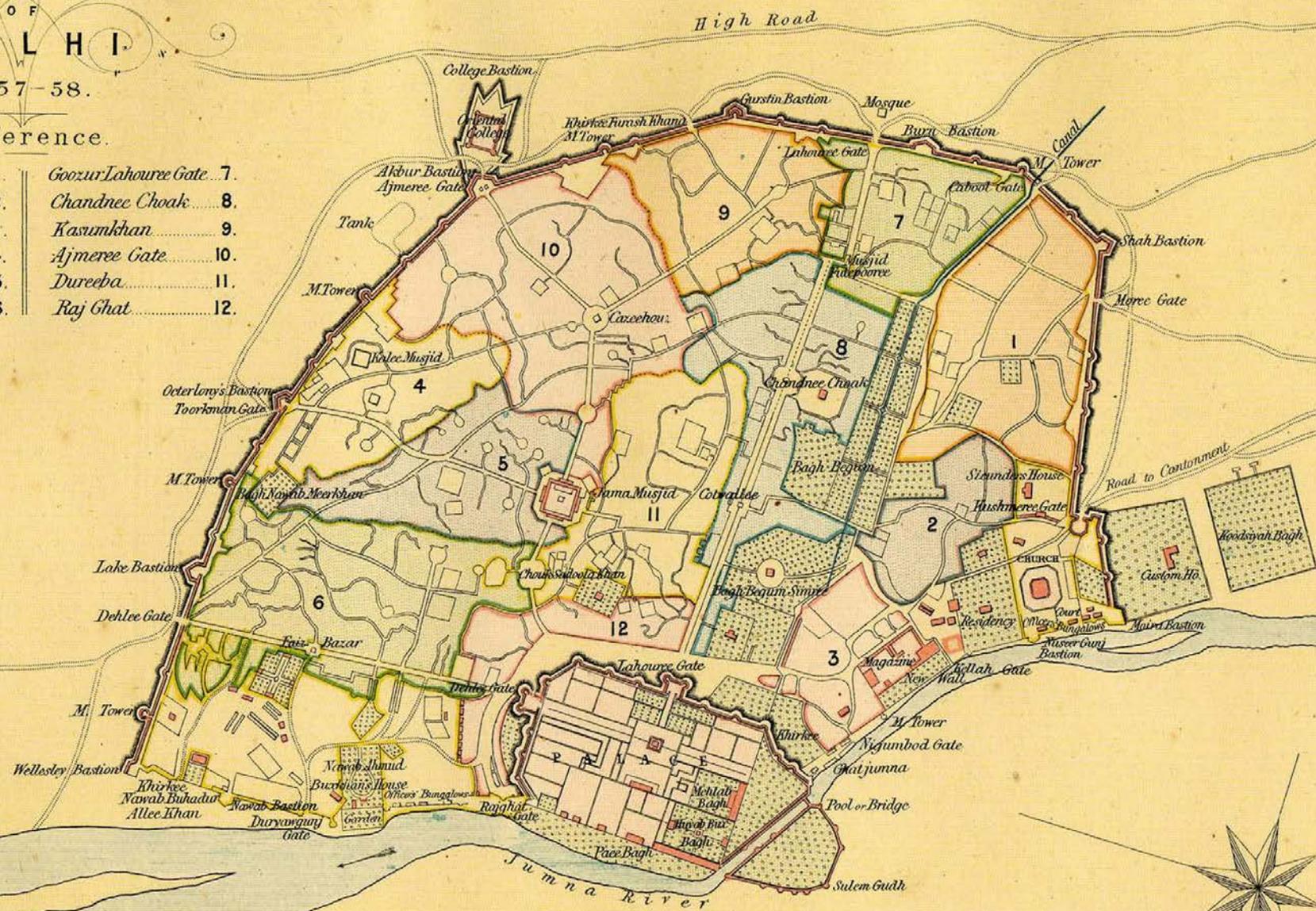


Left: Turkman Gate; Top: Purana Qila; Right: Feroz Shah Kotla | Source: Author

PLAN OF DELHI 1857-58.

Reference.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----|
| <i>Goozur Etkaadkhan</i> | 1 | <i>Goozur Lahouree Gate</i> | 7 |
| <i>Kushmeeree</i> | 2 | <i>Chandree Choak</i> | 8 |
| <i>Nigumbod</i> | 3 | <i>Kasumkhan</i> | 9 |
| <i>Toorkeman</i> | 4 | <i>Ajmeree Gate</i> | 10 |
| <i>Bhojlapuharee</i> | 5 | <i>Dureeba</i> | 11 |
| <i>Faiz Bazar</i> | 6 | <i>Raj Ghat</i> | 12 |





1. The Jamma. 2. Offshoot of the Jamma. 3. Pontoon Bridge. 4. Salimgarh, an ancient fort. 5. Palace and Gardens. 6. The Marble Hall, or Throning-room. 7. Main street of Delhi, Chandi Chawk. 8. Canal-street. 9. The Banking-house. 10. The Jamma Masjid. 11. The Fadoola Khan. 12. The Masjid Fetipora. 13. Negru Bad Gate. 14. Cashmere Gate. 15. Morve Gate. 16. Cabul Gate and Water Gate. 17. The Canal. 18. Lahore Gate. 19. Hindoo College. 20. Ajmere Gate. 21. Turkoman Gate. 22. Indialatai Gate. 23. Geol. 24. Lunatic Asylum. 25. English Chareh. 26. Magazine and Store Houses. 27. Skinner's House. 28. Custom House. 29. Martello Towers. 30. Kotah Minar. 31. Ruins of Ancient Delhi.

THE CITY OF DELHI BEFORE THE SIEGE

पुरानी दिल्ली

a film

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पुरानी दिल्ली a film
Purani Dilli

Mughal History bustle Heritage Ruins Sensorial
superficial
Motifs Havelis Lifestyles irresponsible
Neglect Indifference artificial stimulation
Structures **पुरानी दिल्ली** Wholesale Market
Purani Dilli a film going back to the roots
Religions Sights Sounds Gods Architecture Literature Poetry
Experience Taste philosophy Culture Juxtaposing
poets labyrinth Persians Smell past & present
romanticism of the past full of life spices sweets & savouries
anecdotes

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romanticism of the past full of life spices anecdotes







कृषि से रोजगार
पेट भरें साफ
कैस्टोफीन
एक सफाई का चमूनी
दूर का मलिन, लुईली, काला से जलकर
देखिएगा कि सफाई





ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸੀਸਰੰਜ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਦਿੱਲੀ-੬
ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਿਮਰਿਆ ਘਰ ਨਉਨਿਧਿ ਆਵੇ ਧਾਇ। ਸਤ ਥਾਈ ਹੋਇ ਸਹਾਇ।



D.C. HANDICRAFT
H. No. 258, PUL BULI KHANA,
BAZAR SITAPUR, DELHI-11006

DBEN





Gem & Jewels
113-120, DARIBA KALAN



VECTOR STEEL
SIGN OF STYLE
PARKER

JAIN BOX W
FANCY JEWELLERY BOX • सोने-चांदी के सामान के बक्स
PURSES • TRAYS & STANDS Etc. PH 325
जैन बॉक्स वा
ज्वैलरी बॉक्स, बर्तन बॉक्स फेंसील
119, DARIBA KALAN, DELHI 110006



Sara
STATIONERY
CHOTEY LAL PRA

पुरानी दिल्ली

Purani Dilli

Initial Objective

! AWARENESS !

Identify a Problem

Architecture, which is of historical relevance in Purani Dilli is neglected

Seek different expert and novice point of views

Architects, town planners, builders, Historians, people living in the walled city

Figure out and suggest a solution

Collate different point of views and project them against the visuals from the city, proposing a solution

पुरानी दिल्ली

Purani Dilli

~~Initial Objective~~

! AWARENESS !

Constrains

Limited knowledge and reach

Short period of time

No personal opinion and point of view

Mughal History bustle Heritage Ruins Sensorial
superficial
Motifs Havelis Lifestyles irresponsible
Neglect Indifference artificial stimulation
Structures Religions Wholesale Market
Sight going back to the roots
Sounds Experience ! MY POINT OF VIEW ! Literature Poetry
Architecture
poets Taste philosophy Culture Juxtaposing
past & present
Gods labyrinth Persians Smell sweets & savouries
romanticism of the past full of life spices anecdotes

पुरानी दिल्ली

Purani Dilli

Possible Objective

OBSERVE | REASON | NARRATE

Indifference

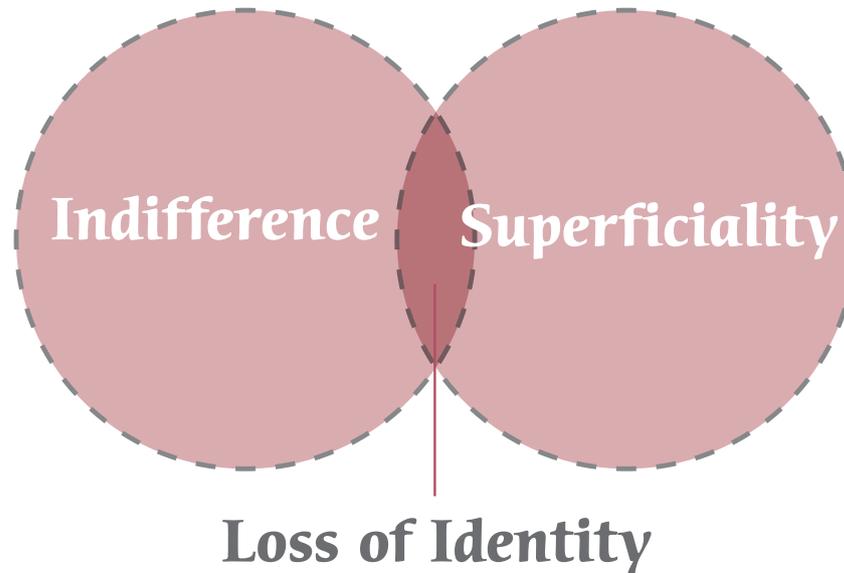
Superficiality

पुरानी दिल्ली

Purani Dilli

Possible Objective

OBSERVE | REASON | NARRATE



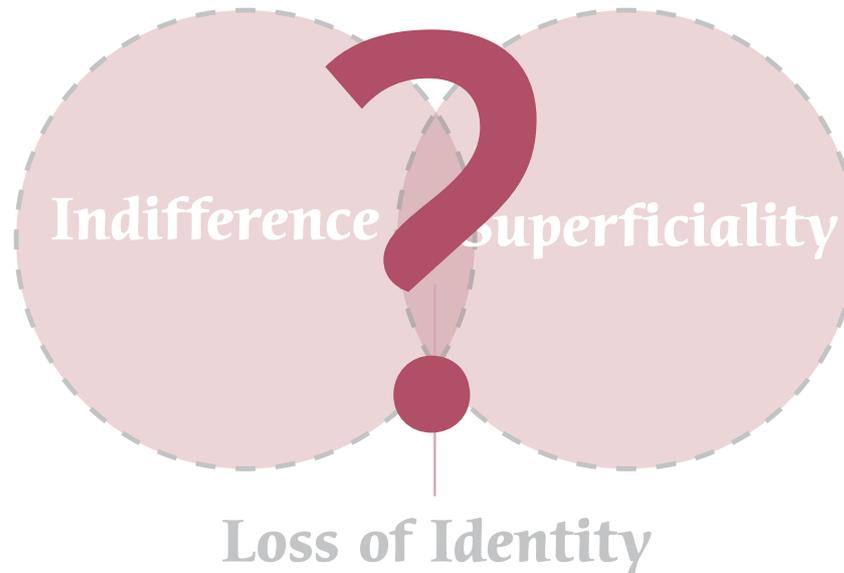


पुरानी दिल्ली

Purani Dilli

Possible Objective

OBSERVE | REASON | NARRATE



Can revisiting our roots help us understand ourselves better?

पुरानी दिल्ली

a film

Purani Dilli

Abstract

The project is an attempt to understand the probable reason behind the neglect. It tries to point out the increasing **indifference** and **superficiality** in people today and aims to reflect on **the lack of identity** that the society today seems to be ailing with. The film

tries to **suggest that revisiting the past** may help us reason and initiate our search for that lost individuality. Thus, **reaffirming the need to preserve a historical cityscape such as Purani Dilli.**

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Fight began...

Further Research

Identify exact Historical Relevance

- Narrowing down on specific *Havelis*

Any provisions in the building guidelines
and Delhi Plans

Observation and developing point of views
on culture and identity

Understanding juxtaposition of images

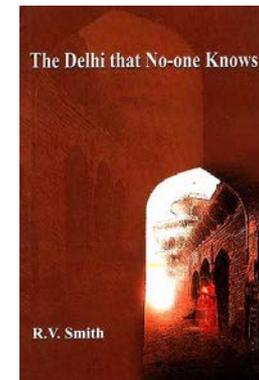
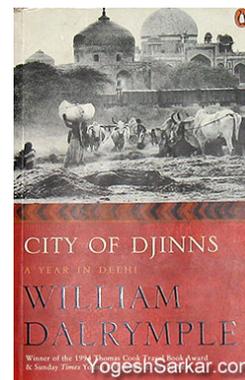
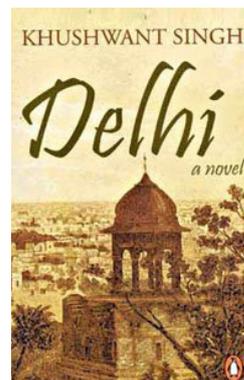
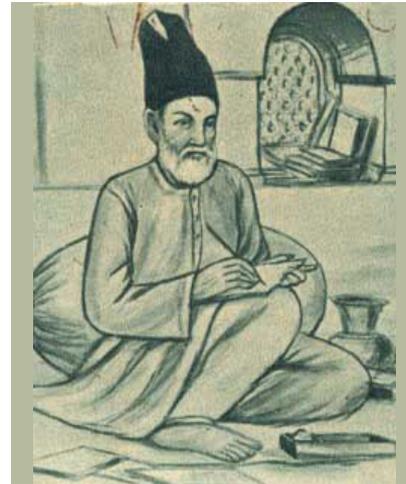
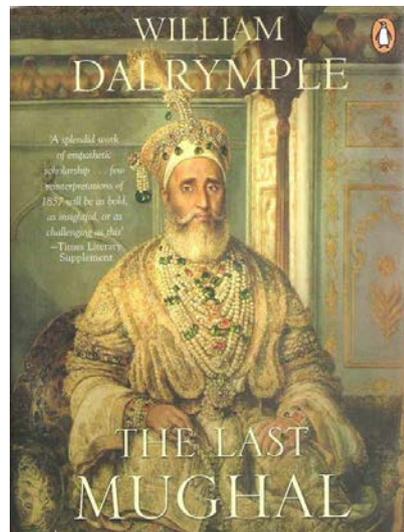
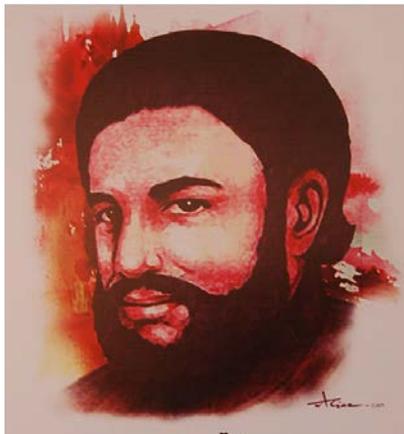
Literature

'We reclined on our couch in the Diwan-i-Khas and let our eyes rest on the ceiling. We remembered the days when it was encrusted with silver and gold leaf. Now even the plaster had peeled off in many places. We saw the marble columns and the empty sockets which once has been studded with ruby, amethyst, lapis, lazuli and cornelian. Our gaze fell on the faded lettering proclaiming the glory of the days of our illustrious ancestor Shah Jahan:

*Gar Firdaus bar roo-e-zaminast;
Hameenasto, hameenasto, hameenast.*

*If on earth there be a place of bliss,
it is this, it is this, it is this.'*

– An extract from *Delhi* by
Khushwant Singh





Literature Review

City Improbable: Writings on Delhi; Edited by Khushwant Singh
Poetry by Zauq, Ghalib and Meer
Proses and letters by Ghalib

The Last Mughal,
 William Dalrymple

City of Djinns,
 William Dalrymple

Delhi and its Neighbourhood,
 Archaeological Survey of India

Urban Theory and the Urban Experience, Simon Parker

Architecture and Identity,
 Robert Powell

Architecture and Independence,
 Jon T. Lang, Madhavi Desai,
 Miki Desai

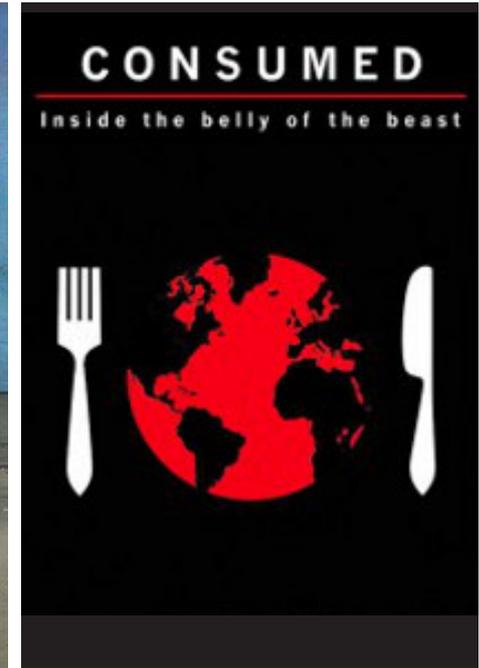
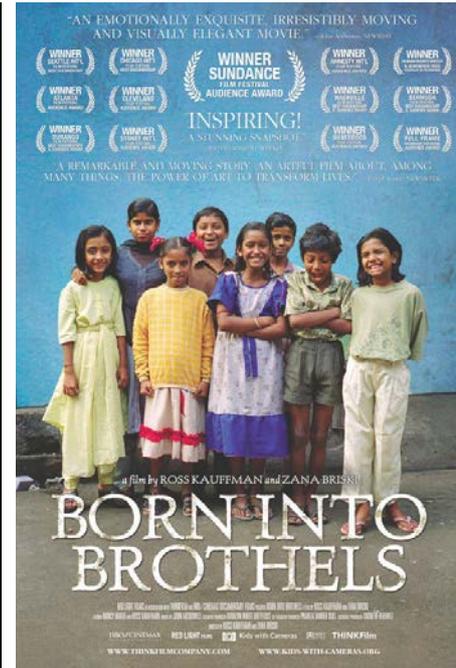
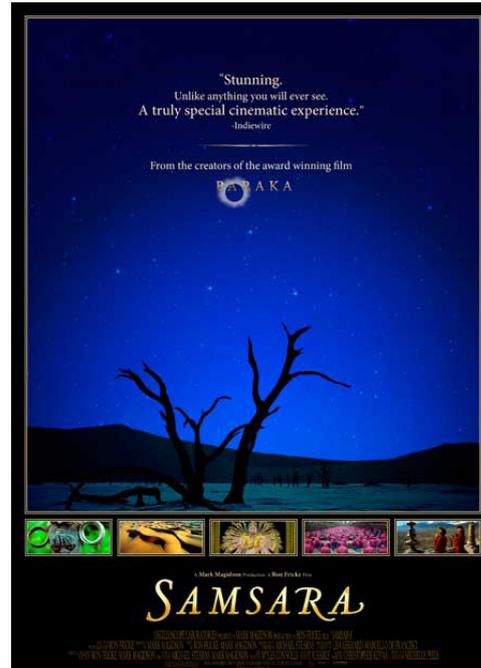
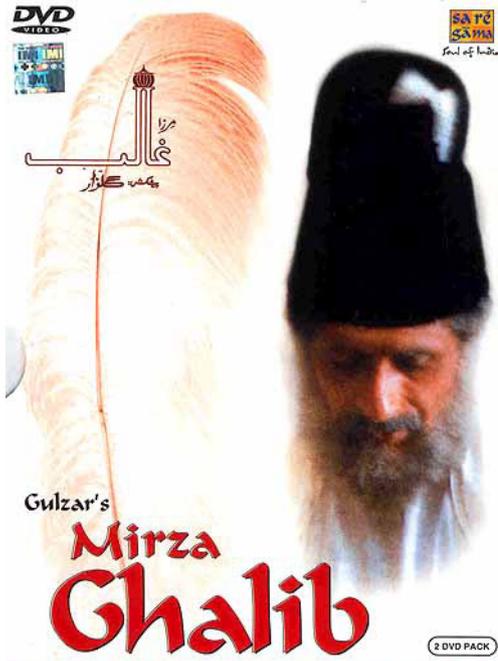
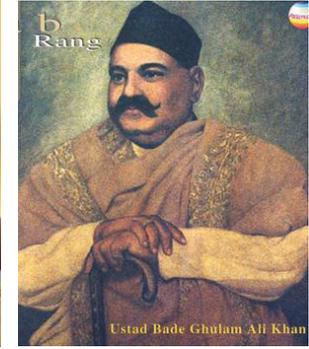
Architecture Of Delhi; <http://delhi-architecture.weebly.com/index.html>

Delhi Master Plan 2012; <http://delhi-masterplan.com/>

and other online articles.

Influences & References

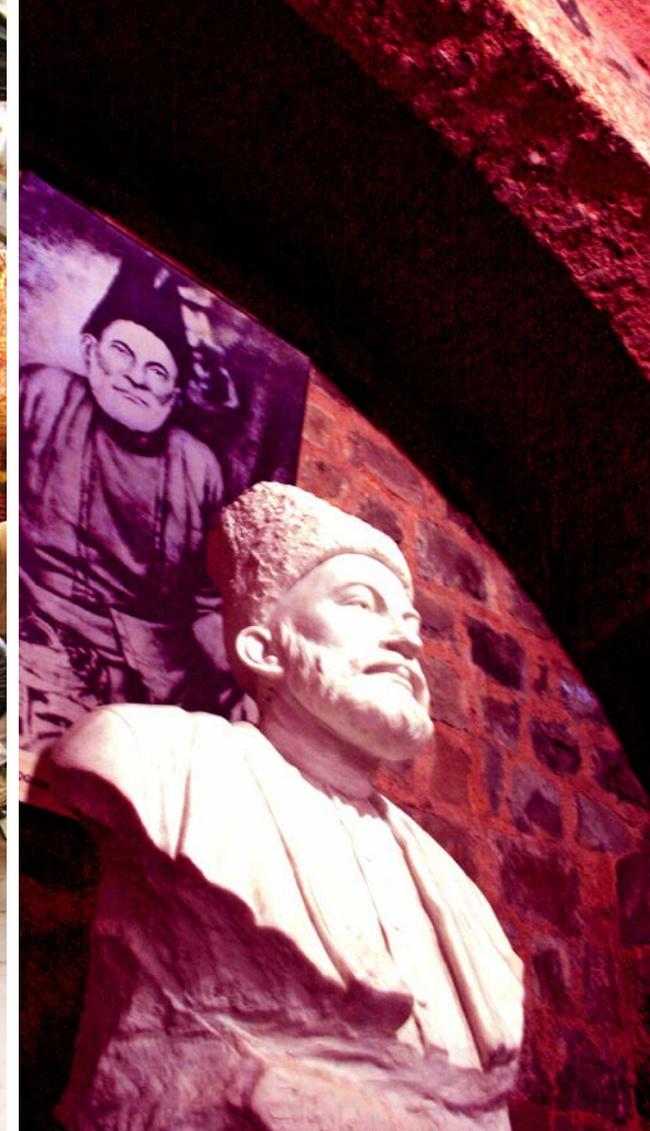
Audio and Visual





Goals for the film

- » Convey the point of view and initiate a thought process
- » Strong Visual treatment and juxtaposition of images and sounds to suggest the intended meaning.
- » Capture the sensorial part of Purani Dilli - Sight, Sound, Taste, Smell.



Personal Goals

- » To be able to write and use language to suggest the contextual and cultural relevance - Urdu and Hindi
- » Techniques of filmmaking and using a camera without intruding or disturbing the space
- » Learn to handle sound recording and mixing

Shooting Equipment

Canon 550D

18-135mm f/3.5-5.6 lens

f/1.4 50mm prime lens

Hero 3 GoPro



Visual Map

1

Introduction of the place Shahjahanabad (walkthrough into every-day life)

Exterior
Dariban Kala
Kinari
Bhagirath palace
Ballimaran
Nai Sarak
Town Hall
Chawrdi Bazar
Khadi baoli
Jama Masjid



Karkhanas - Bronzeware, Printing press
sound- ambient but with a rhythm



Food - Natraj dahi bhalla, ghantewala, parathewali gali, chainaram, (early evening)



Interior

Interior bylanes, houses n havelis, people living—life behing the bustle.
sound- Old Hindustani Classical touch to a track-mood - Seeking someone, in search..



Room of the 'Sootradhar' establish a minimal room with a table- old things around, an old bed or a mattress on the ground, a ghada with an old window in Chandni Chowk.

gets up, places coal on a clay pot and does dhoop... and smoke fills the room and frame
sound- ambient - an urdu chant fades in



2.1

History and Relevance
Mughals

time lapse - top of Jama Masjid - sunrise
Urdu chant goes on

sootradhar shuts the open window - walks to table-lights a diya / lantern - strokes the paan-dani and opens it

Red Fort (with the Sootradhar talking [intro of why was shahjahanabad made...]
sound of ghungroo)

Some visual elements- sketches and maps of past from the museums in Red Fort.

Planned Walled City and Gates (older paintings and sketches)

+ Intro to a Haveli?
Havelis - **Chunnamal Haveli (interiors), Lala Bana Mal & Gulzaree Mal (interiors)** (these are still maintained in the older manner by the owners)
sound- Old Hindustani Classical touch to a track-mood - Seeking someone, in search..

How it was a Renaissance period -
Tehzeeb and Mannerism -
Over chah growth of culture, language n poetry (Ghalib's Haveli and Zauq's Dargah)
Nauch (Chawrdi Bazaar now sound- clip of a mujraa number)

Storytelling & Sufi Music - (on the steps of Jama Masjid *sound- a sufi ghazal being sung*)



2.1.a

The State of these Now!

Badly maintained Red Fort

only remaining gates Delhi Gate, Turkman Gate, Ajmeri Gate

Bad condition of Havelis - **Khajanchi ki Haveli, **Zeenat Mahal Haveli, **Begam Samur ki haveli, Other older havelis and structures.
(sound - slow and eerie suggesting the feeling of 'abandonment' and 'despair /solitude')



2.2

History and Relevance
Mutiny & Freedom Struggle

Red Fort. *sound- sootradhar talking, sound of bangles/ jewelry n her moving.*

Some visual elements from the 1857 museums in Red Fort.

Showingcasing **Kashmere Gate** the main site of entry of the rebels



2.2.a

The State of these Now!

Showcasing Kashmere Gate today



Eye* appears

*always seeing eye will keep coming - microscope with an eye behind and moving / camera lens / clay eye / telescope's front / kul-lad with an eno tab fizzing inside it top shot.



Visual Map

3 The Indifference

in smaller houses, havelis show women watching TV
Cut to clips for TV Serials
Cut to a ruined haveli - zeenat mahal haveli

Men sitting together discussing politics | **Cut to** Clips from Lok Sabha | **Cut to** ruined mughal arches - Khajanchi

Chunnamal Haveli clock with no arms holding shot.

McDonalds in Chandni Chowk - people hovering to buy things
Cut to McDonalds ad from 1950s

Eye* appears
OR
 pours a glass of water and puts in a tablet into it- eno... starts fizzing out
OR
 puts coal burning on a platter fanning it- some of it ash some burning... showing turbulence and fight



4 The Superficiality

Focus on the 'posh' woman entering Mc Donalds.
Cut to Chandni chowk traffic filled roads focus on Big Cars
Cut to Brands, Ballimaran - Optics shops + Shoes
Cut to Busy highways / Road (night-to-day)
Cut to Malls and stores with Optics and shoes
 Eating places like Not just Paranthas, Garden of 5 senses, smokehouse deli - focus on the facade - flow of the arches n details
CUT TO Old Haveli / Red Fort.

CUT TO a romantic Bollywood number

OR Before and After poster of a Botox or Plastic surgery ad

CUT TO people clicking or looking through phones

Eye* appears

Focus on the 'posh' woman entering Mc Donalds.
Cut to Chandni chowk traffic filled roads focus on Big Cars
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Cut to Busy highways / Road (night-to-day)
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CUT TO Old Haveli / Red Fort.



5 Loss of Identity?!

Sootradhaar looks into a broken mirror - only eye available-peeking, walks to the window opens the curtains/ wooden window - bright white light enters the room. (sound - slow and eerie - pulsating)

sound of hammering metal
 White fade in - Kids playing with mirrors, holding it against their faces

-men reading newspapers

women faces covered with saree/ dupatta -some women touching up make up- against the sound of a paper press -

busy main street

Boxed apartments buildings
 cut to ad from the past 1920s looking at a boxed future
CUT TO Stacked cardboard boxes
CUT TO Boxed apartments buildings.

Eye* appears



6 Peeking into the time

chunnamal haveli clock with no arms- shot held for a while

Sootradhaar's room - table increases the lantern/ lights another diya

she turns the hourglass n sand slipping

Humayun's Tomb - restored segments, Jaalidar window sunset...

Sootradhaar's table and the hourglass and opens paan daan to pick a paan

show her wearing ghun-groo

shot of looking outside the window

crossing the room and stepping out - only feet visible

black screen sound of ghun-groo walking

Red fort - Diwan-e-aam and khaas, red fort more...



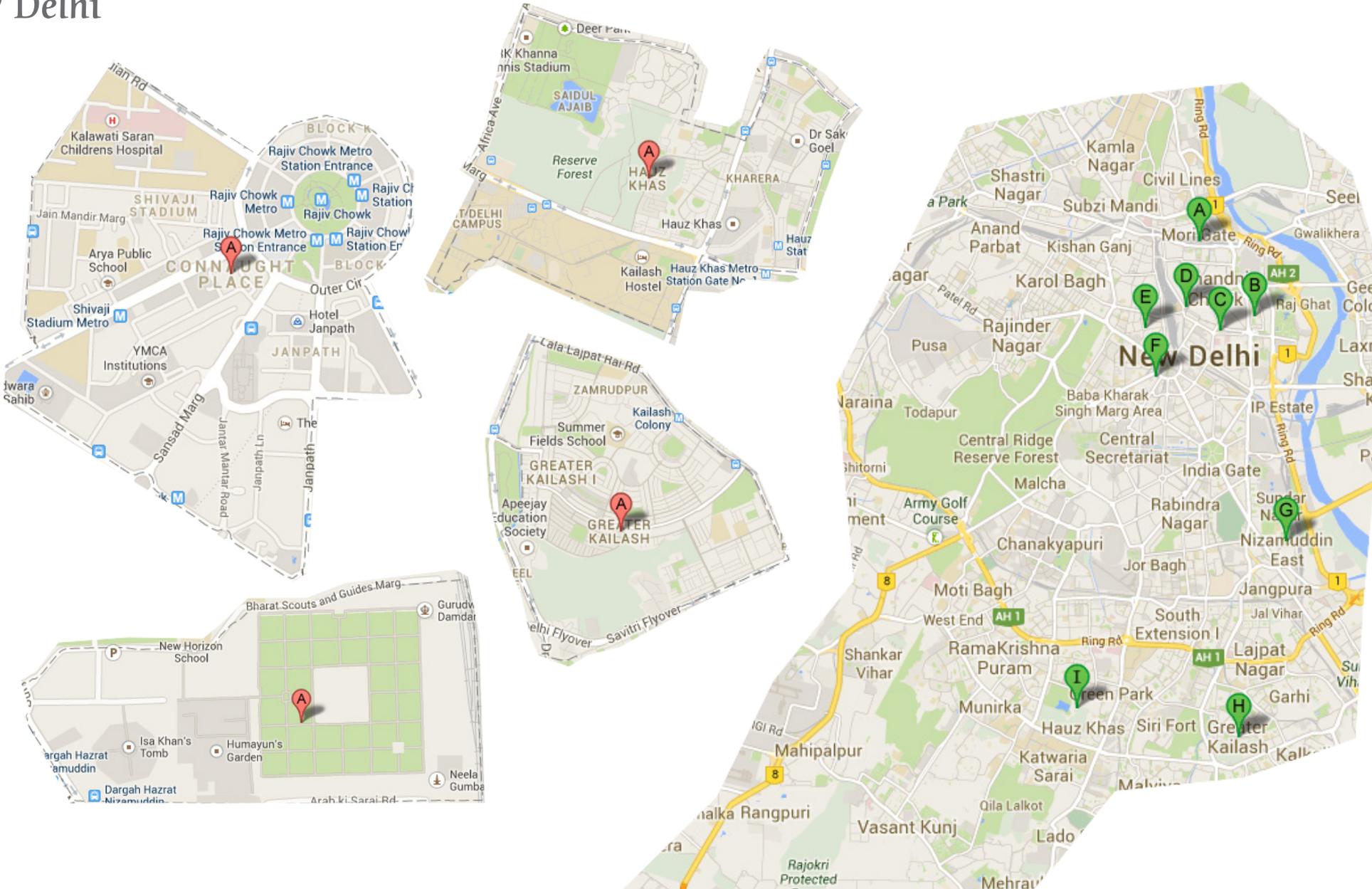
Area Covered

Old Delhi



Area Covered

New Delhi



Post Production



- » To give the essence of the place in the current times, working with **rhythm and tempo** was essential.
- » Editing of the file is done in **Premier Pro**
- » During a shooting a lot of **ambient sound** of people working as captured and is used in the film
- » At the post production stage the film took shape into a more open **interpretative image exploration**
- » The **point of view has to be conveyed** with purely through juxtaposition of visuals - it was a challenge to guide the meaning in the right manner
- » Editing also requires special attention
- » **3 roughcuts** were done on the **basis of feedback** from guide and people around - revisiting the pre-production visual map
- » **Long duration** of the film made working with sound more challenging.
- » **Narration was written in Urdu** - helped in guiding the meaning and effectively suggesting the culture of the era

Challenges & Learnings



- » Film was a new medium to explore- lot of mistakes made; lessons learnt - a jump from stills to video.
- » Steady shorts are tough...
- » It was difficult to assemble a team to work with and the space to cover was wide
- » Due to the travelling distance and onset of Delhi winters - effective shooting time was reduced - Had to plan my route in advance.
- » Meeting a lot of dead ends - required improvisation and on the location thinking
- » Capturing moments - increased post production work
- » Being organized and planning is crucial
- » Sourcing for an actor based shoot and directing was an experience
- » Meeting and greeting people



पुरानी दिल्ली
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WORK IN PROGRESS