



THE SHEKHAWATI PROJECT

how to save and give new life to an exceptional heritage



LE PRINCE
Haveli



Shekhawati has hundreds of beautiful abandoned *havelis*. By promoting this project we hope to spread the enthusiasm for safeguarding local heritage and at the same time boost the regional economy of Fatehpur and the Shekhawati Region. *The Shekhawati Project* today attracts many enthusiastic participants who are motivated to associate traditional methods with modern techniques of restoration in order to perpetuate the art and architecture of the *havelis*.

HISTORY

The *Marwari* merchants, who made their fortune thanks to the Caravan Trade, built the *havelis* in the 19th century to showcase their wealth and attract clients. However, most of the *havelis* had been deserted by the 1950s, their owners having moved on to bigger cities. Today it is urgent to save the remaining *havelis* and their unique frescoes. For example, fifty of them have already been destroyed, to mention but the city of Fatehpur.

LE PRINCE HAVELI, AN EXAMPLE IN THE REGION

Le Prince Haveli was purchased by the French painter Nadine Le Prince in 1999. Over an 18-year-period, she commenced the restoration and reconversion of this mansion. She created a Cultural Centre, a place where international artists could meet and create, with two art galleries. Thus the *Haveli* is open every day to visitors with tours conducted by volunteer students. Today, the *Haveli* is owned by Nadine's son and his wife: they turned it into a homestay in November 2016. The *Haveli* is a « must-see » monument in Fatehpur, figuring in many guidebooks and well-known by the locals.



CRAFTMANSHIP UNIQUE TO SHEKHAWATI

The frescoes covering the walls of the *Haveli* present a unique hindu and mogul iconography with a particular style. Very few craftsmen still master the traditional fresco techniques, which is why we think it is important to restore and conserve the existing murals. Our workshops aim to study basic techniques of restoration, specific painting styles and raw materials, one example being *arayish* (*shimla*), the base for fresco paintings. *Arayish* is a mixture of marble and shell powder, sugar, lime and curd; a delicate, complex and expensive recipe which unfortunately is rarely used today.

Despite important restoration work already carried out in the *Haveli* by local craftsmen, a lot of frescoes are still deteriorating. Indeed, the increasingly harsh climate makes maintaining the paintings more and more difficult with each passing year. That is why our experts need to establish a protocol which follows the rules of restoration, so it can be passed on to other owners of *havelis*. Some of them attempt to restore the frescoes by painting directly on the walls with acrylic paints, but sadly this technique leads to rapid degradation and does not do justice to the work of the original artists.

The first phase of *the Shekhawati Project* will take place from February to April 2017. Our goal is the transmission of traditional techniques and knowledge to young Indians in an onsite setting, preparing new generations to become the guardians of their own heritage.



WHO ARE WE ?



Cécile Charpentier

Project Manager, French-American Conservation and Restoration expert, graduate of the *École du Louvre* in Museology, Paris. Master in Cultural Conservation Restoration, University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Cécile heads many major restoration sites world-wide with more than 20 years' experience.



Giovanna Carravieri

Conservation and Restoration expert, specialized in Italian frescos, graduate of the School of Cremona, Italy. Giovanna studied Art History at the University of La Sapienza in Rome and at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne. She worked as a Conservator for numerous frescoes in Rome, Florence and Vatican City.



Namita Jaspal

Conservation and Restoration expert, specialized in Indian frescoes, graduate of Chemistry, Botany and Cultural Heritage at the University of Delhi. She is the head of several teams and restoration projects in India, including the prestigious restoration of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.



Anthony Pontabry

Franco-Italian expert in material conservation techniques, Conservation and Restoration specialist of fresco paintings. Graduate of the *Istituto Centrale per il Restauro* of Rome.



Paola Centurini

Paintings Conservator and Restorer, graduate of Conservation Institute of Botticino in Brescia, Italy. She worked on many paintings and monuments in Italy.



Jean Pouvelle

Professor of English and History, Jean is a French specialist of the Shekhawati region. He translated the book « *The Painted Towns of Shekhawati* », a reference in Shekhawati Art and Architecture (Ilay Cooper, Prakash Books, 2010, new edition 2017).



Anu Khandal

Indian student specialized in Conservation of Heritage, she studied History of Architecture and at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is writing her research paper about how *havelis* can be converted through local and political initiatives.



Mitul Sharma

Indian graduate of the *University School of Architecture and Planning* in Delhi, she is specialized in Conservation of Heritage. She has chosen *Le Prince Haveli* to complete her Bachelor research and studies.

OUR PARTNERS

- UNESCO, through Mrs Uvrashi Srivastava ;
- Mody University in Laxmangarh, through Pr. Mangar, Dean of Design and Architecture ;
- The Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management ;
- Bern University of the Art (Switzerland)
- Institut National du Patrimoine in Paris (INP) ;
- Istituto Centrale per il Restauro in Roma (ISCR) ;
- La Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI) ;
- CTS, international leading company in material providing for restoration, conservation and archiving cultural and historical pieces.

BUDGET : 1 470 000 ₹ PER YEAR

Labour and travelling costs	50 %	750 000 ₹
Equipment and scaffoldings	40 %	576 000 ₹
Insurance and fees	10 %	144 000 ₹
Total	100 %	1 470 000 ₹

We estimate this amount will be necessary each year to cover new restoration work in the *Haveli*. The homestay activities are not sufficient to finance *the Shekhawati Project*. That is why we are currently seeking private funds to finance the project. Free accommodation in the *Haveli* will be provided for our sponsors, as well as original photographs and reading matter. A plaque will be installed in the entrance of the *Haveli*, bearing the name of our benefactors.

The country has seen a few other restoration initiatives, such as the one at Nagaur Fort, financed by the *Leon Levy Foundation* and managed by the *Courtauld Institute*. But the case of the *havelis* is different because they are private properties. Consequently, the Indian Government provides no support whatsoever.



PLANNING 2016 - 2017

September 2016 - Phase 1: the studies

- arrival of the team led by Cécile Charpentier and Giovanna Carravieri ;
- analysis and preparatory studies to establish a restoration protocole ;
- site preparation.

From February to April 2017 - Phase 2: international training workshops

- arrival of the professors and students ;
- Inauguration on Thursday February 9th ;
- collective workshops ;
- restoration of the second courtyard ;
- evaluation.

OUR GOALS

The restoration of the *Haveli* will:

- promote tourism in the *Haveli*, Fatehpur and the Shekhawati Region ;
- boost local employment ;
- establish a durable restoration protocol based on authenticity and adapted to the Rajasthani climate ;
- set an example for other owners and encourage restoration of their *havelis* ;
- help transmit traditional techniques to future generations ;
- encourage the conversion of other abandoned *havelis* into dynamic spaces such as museums, guesthouses, malls, cultural and social centres... ;
- raise collective awareness about this heritage and the importance of preserving the *havelis*.

SUPPORT OUR PROJECT MEANS...

- contributing to the preservation of an outstanding historic monument ;
- helping to preserve a meaningful hindu and mogul iconography ;
- transmitting rare artistic techniques and unique knowledge ;
- participating in the economic development of the region ;
- creating new opportunities for local populations.



CONTACTS

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Haveli Le Prince

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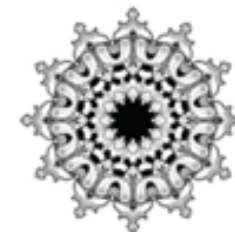
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