

Mandu (12/5/2007 to 12/9/2007)

The collection of villages now scattered across the Mandu plateau sit in the shadow of a deserted capital dotted with ruined mosques, palaces, and tombs. It was once a capital and fortress of a Muslim dynasty that ruled the area during the 15th and early 16th century. Today it lies in a shadow of its former glory, but nevertheless a spectacular and relaxing place to visit. While power in my guesthouse was sporadic at best, and I had nightly visits by members of the village's rodent population, I managed to easily stay four days in this place. As anyone who has been to India will tell you, the best of India is rural India, away from the garbage strewn streets and puddles of sewage that dot most cities in India. Mandu was a pleasant place to walk or cycle among the ruins, through fields and villages. The relative difficulty in reaching the place keeps the numbers of foreign tourist to a mere handful at any given time. As a result, most of the time I had the ruins to myself; able to sit and contemplate in silence on grandeur of this fort city in its prime.



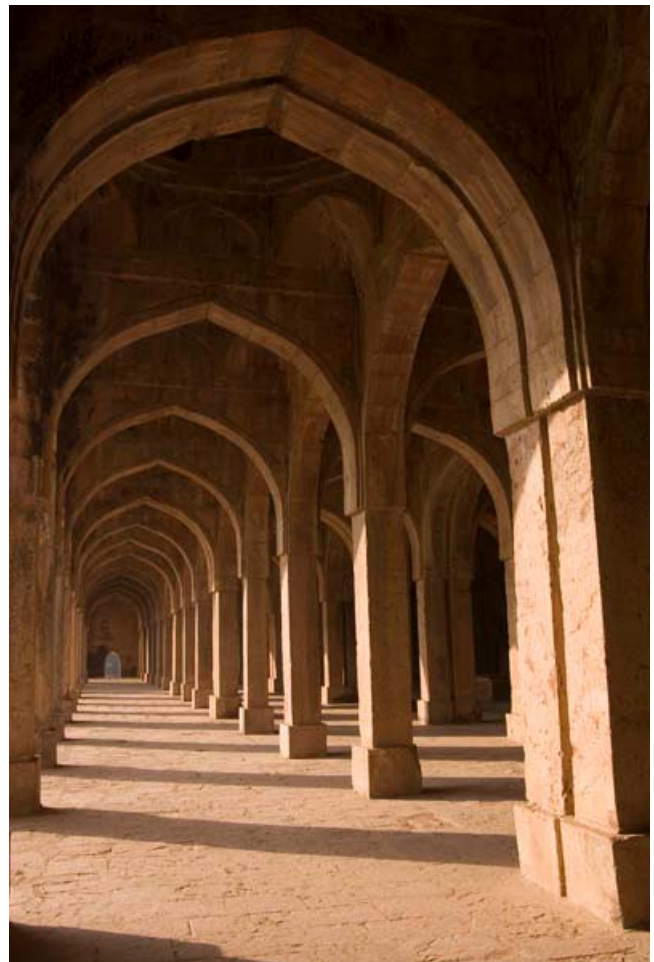
Royal enclave, Mandu.



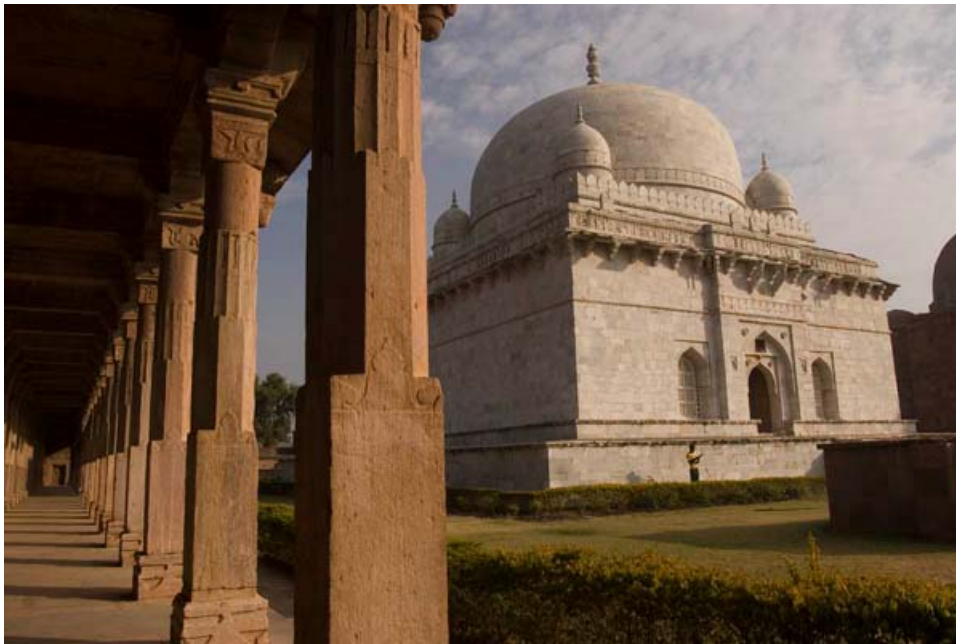
**Jama Masjid (mosque),
finished in 1454, Mandu.**



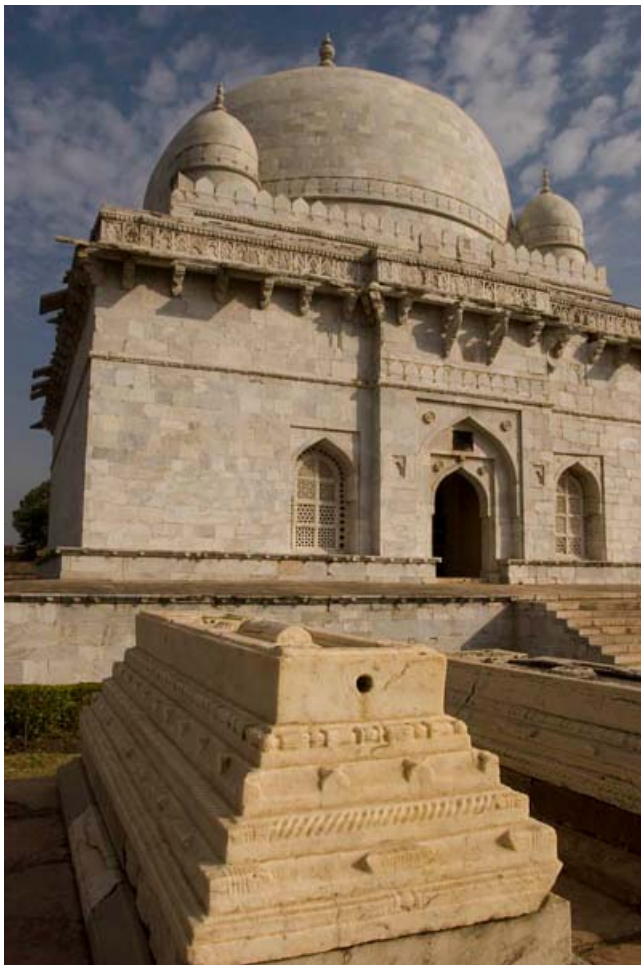
Jama Masjid (mosque), Mandu.



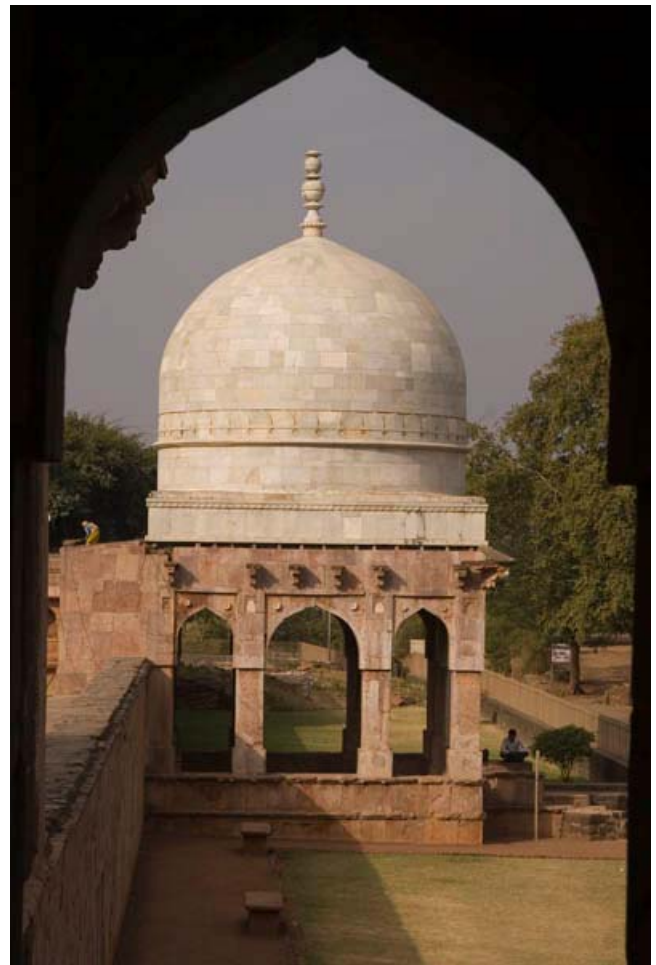
Jama Masjid (mosque), Mandu.



**Hoshang's tomb,
Mandu.**



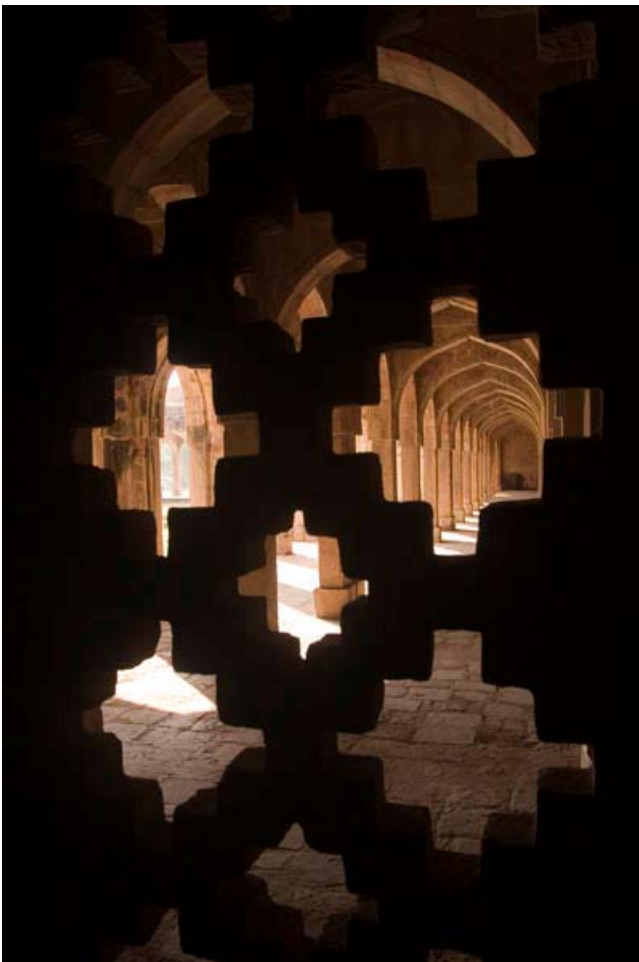
Hoshang's tomb, Mandu.



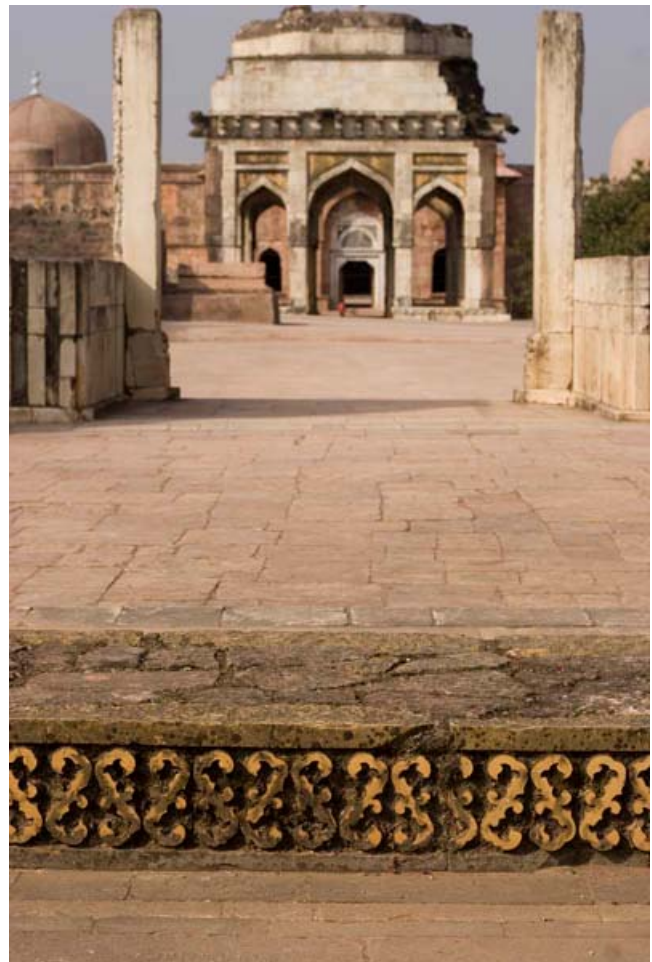
Hoshang's tomb, Mandu.



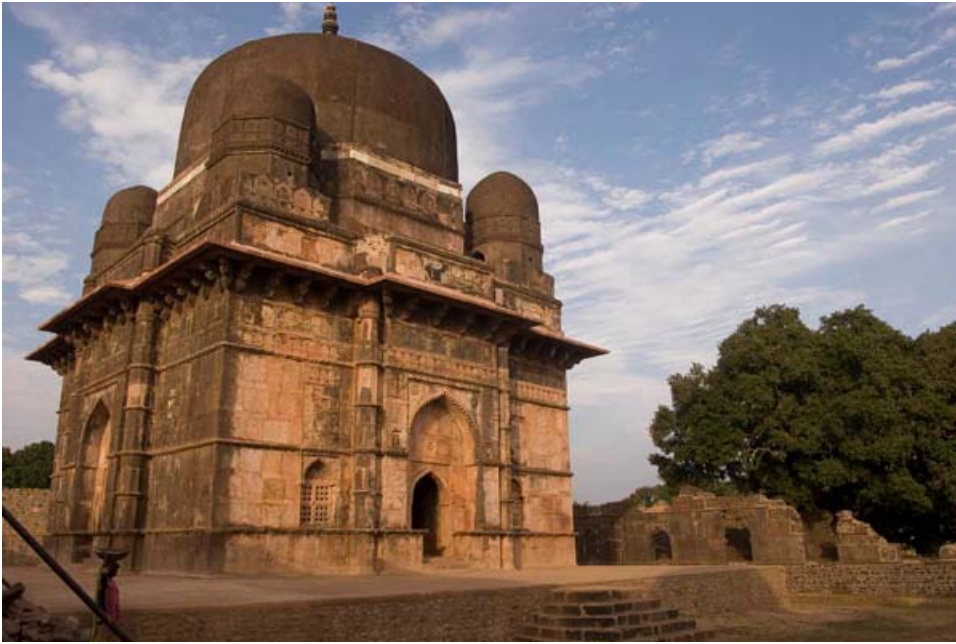
Royal enclave, Mandu.



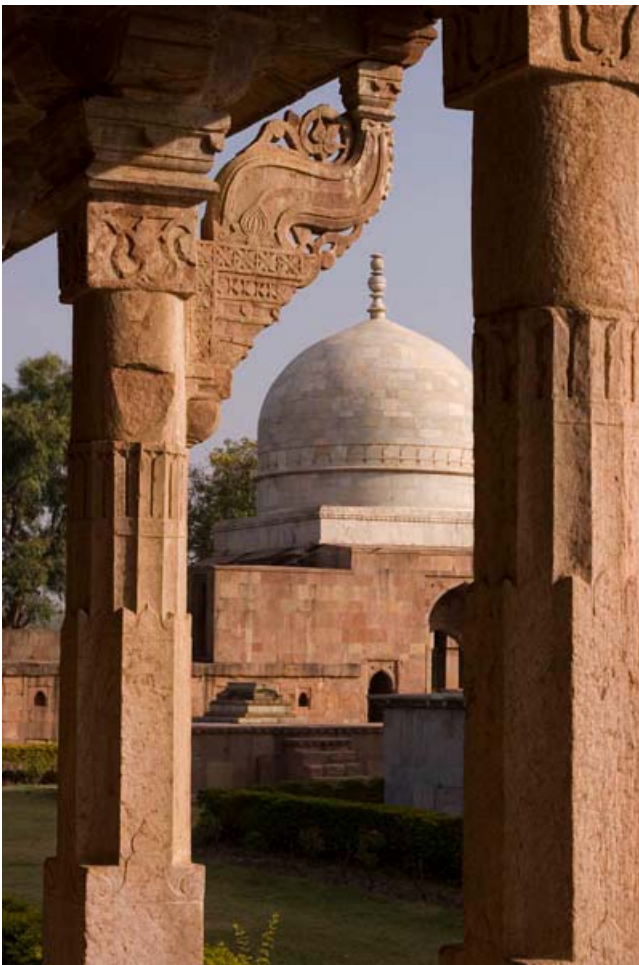
Jama Masjid (mosque), Mandu.



Ashrafi Mahal, Mandu.



**Darya Khan's tomb,
Mandu.**



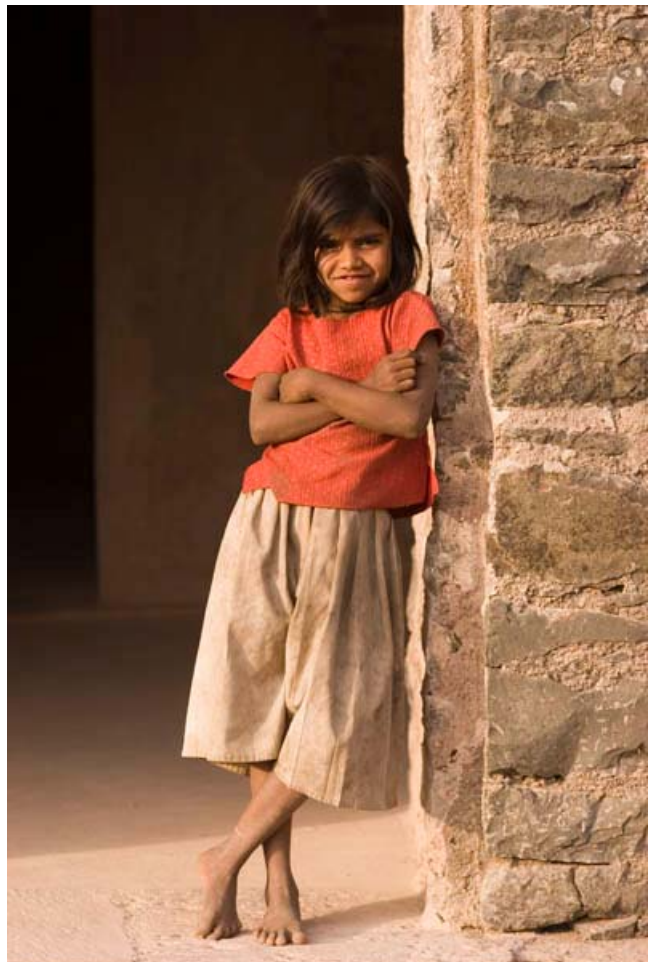
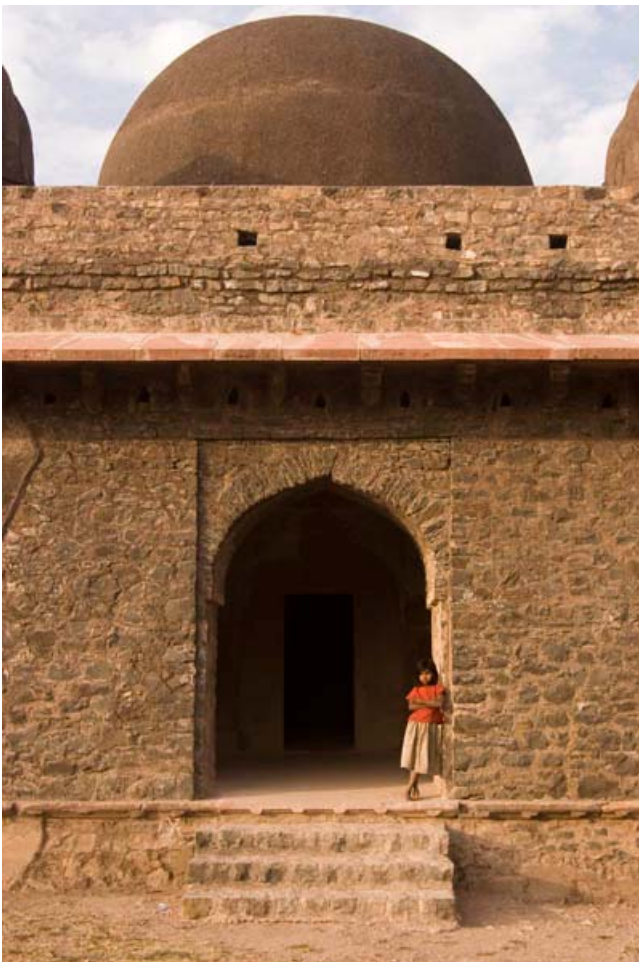
Hushang's Tomb, Mandu.



**Flowers near Darya Khan's tomb,
Mandu.**



Village homes, Mandu.



Little girl posing near Darya Khan's tomb, Mandu.



Monkey, Mandu.



Near Darya Khan's tomb, Mandu.



Sister of the wet Nurse's tomb (no kidding), Mandu.



Jahaz Mahal, Royal Enclave, Mandu.



Royal Enclave, Mandu.



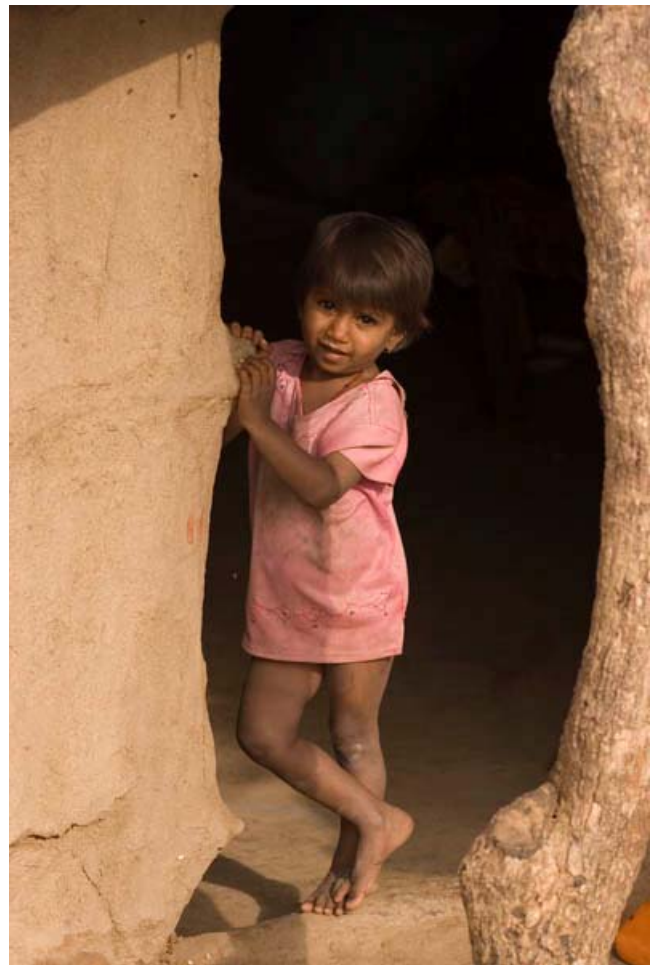
Royal Enclave, Mandu.



**Malik Mughith's Mosque,
Mandu.**



Mandu.



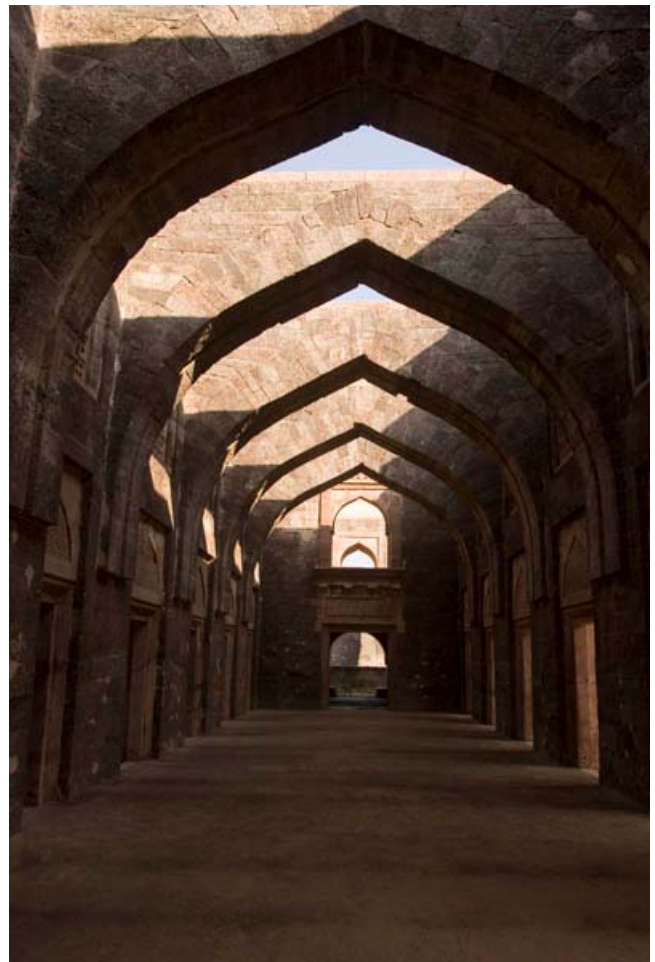
Mandu.



Jahaz Mahal, Royal Enclave, Mandu.



Jahaz Mahal, Royal Enclave, Mandu.



Hindola Mahal, Royal Enclave, Mandu.



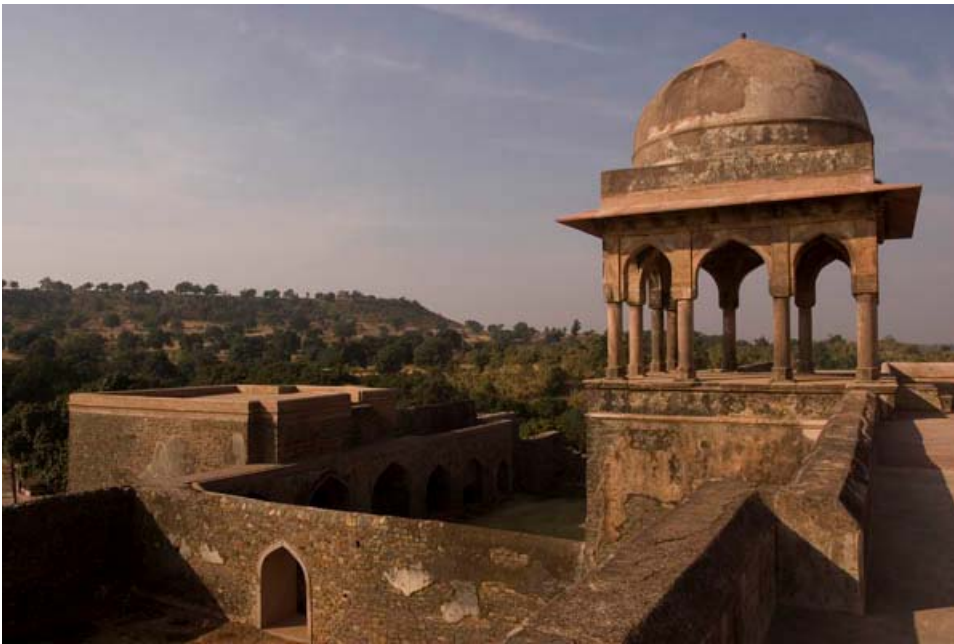
Royal Enclave, Mandu.



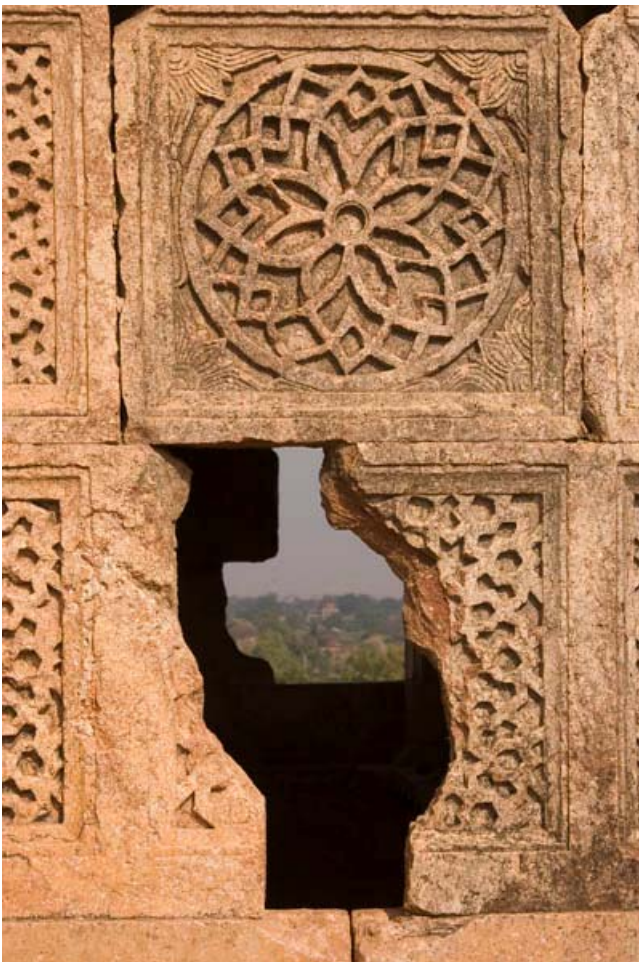
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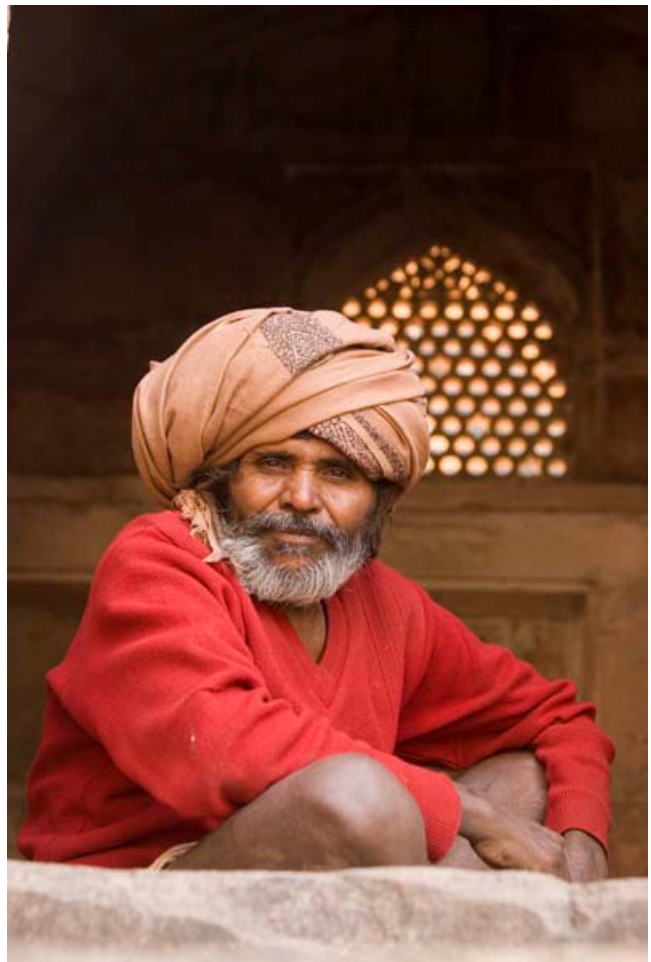
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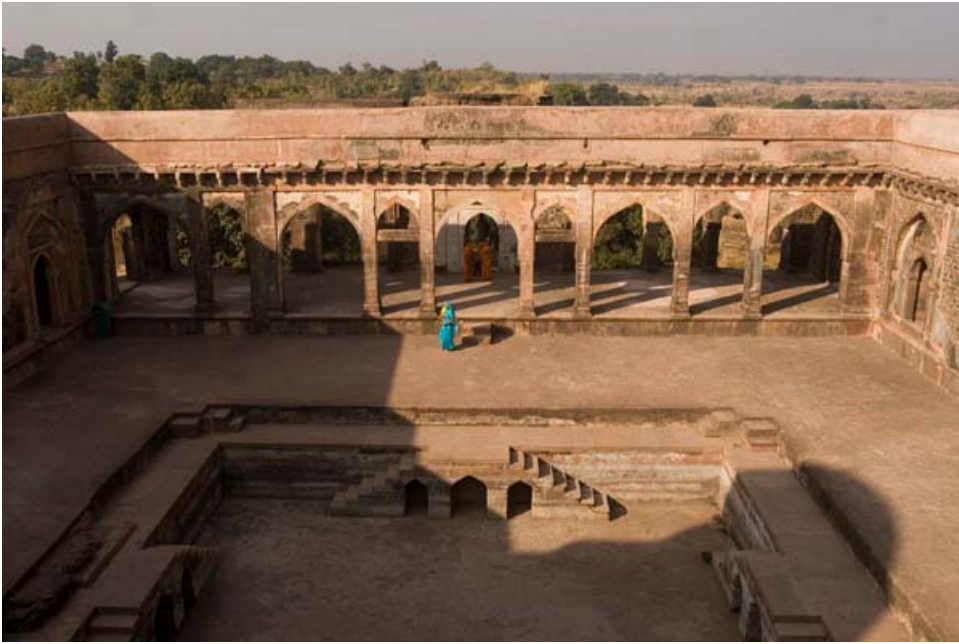
**Baz Bahadur's Palace,
Mandu.**



Jali Mahal, Mandu.



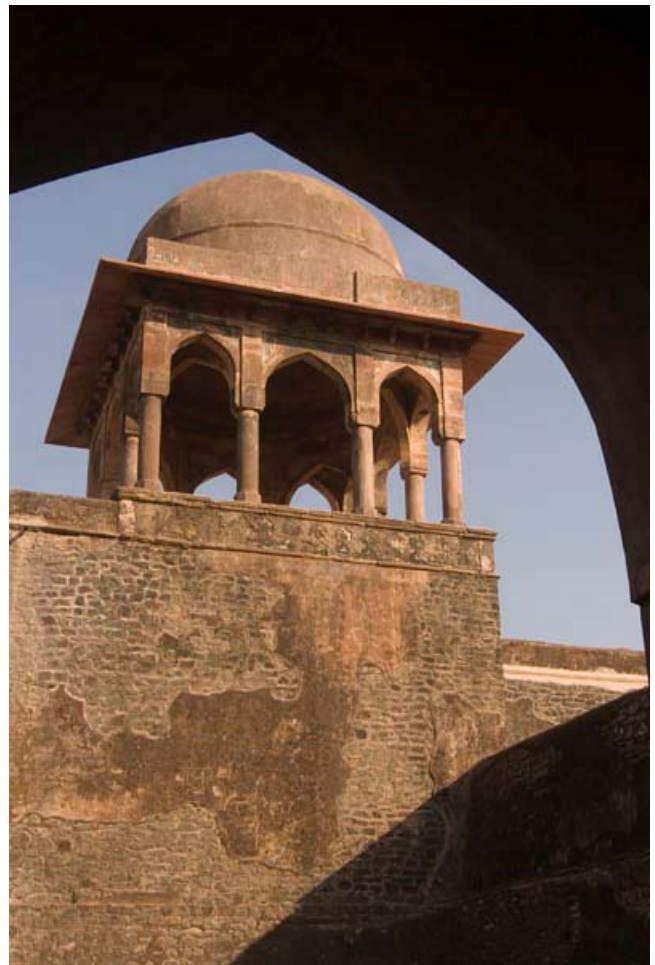
Nil Kanth, Mandu.



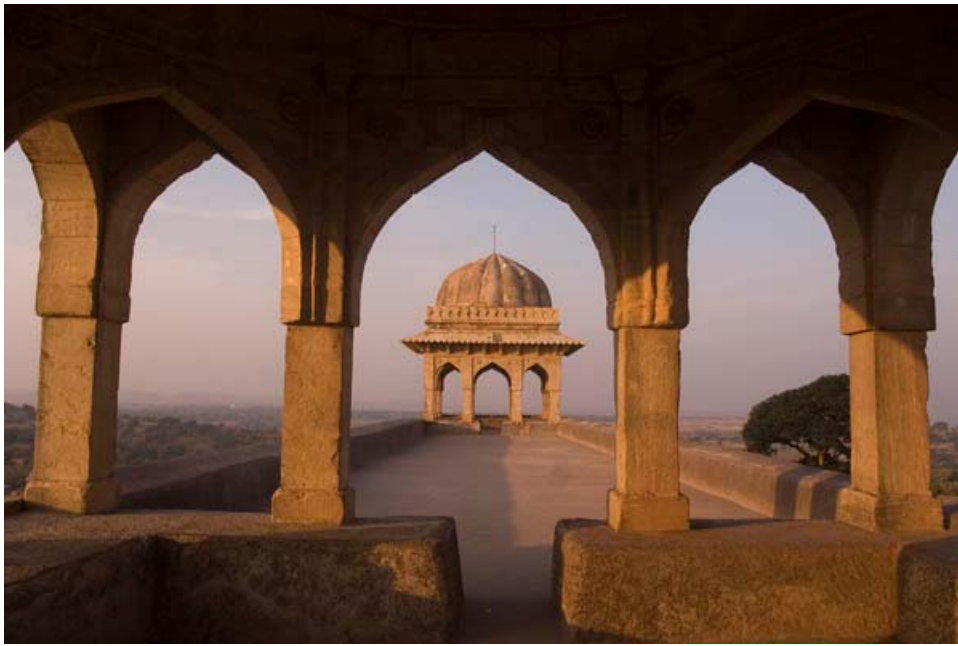
**Baz Bahadur's Palace,
Mandu.**



Rupmati's Palace, Mandu.



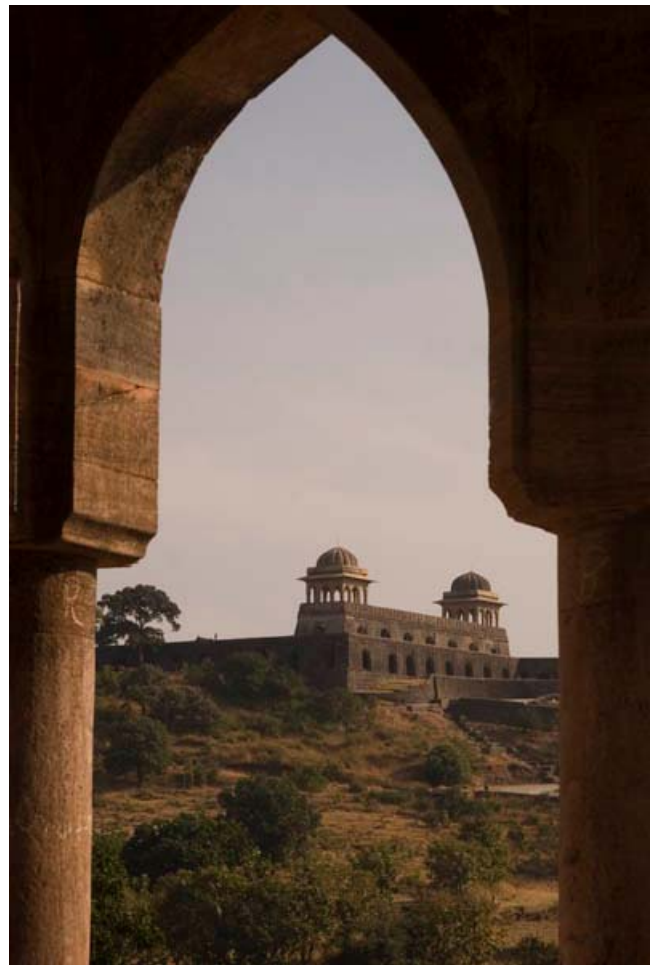
Baz Bahadur's Palace, Mandu.



**Rupmati's Palace,
Mandu.**



Poinsettia, Mandu.



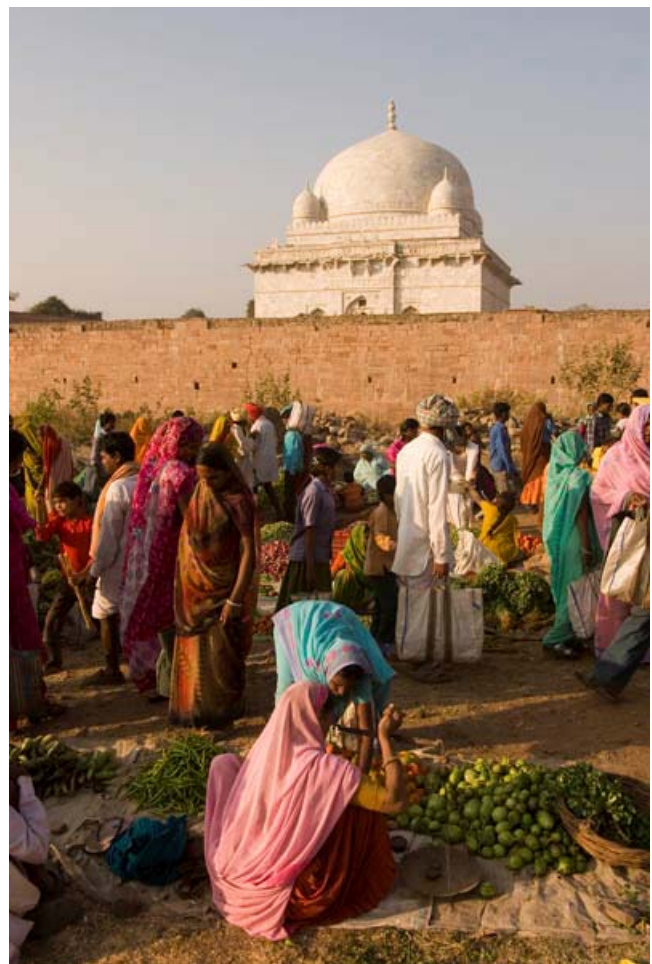
Rupmati's Palace, Mandu.



Jama Masjid, Mandu.



Hushang's Tomb, Mandu.



Saturday market in front of Hushang's Tomb, Mandu.



**Rupmati's Palace,
Mandu.**



Market, Mandu.



Market, Mandu.



Mandu.



Mandu.



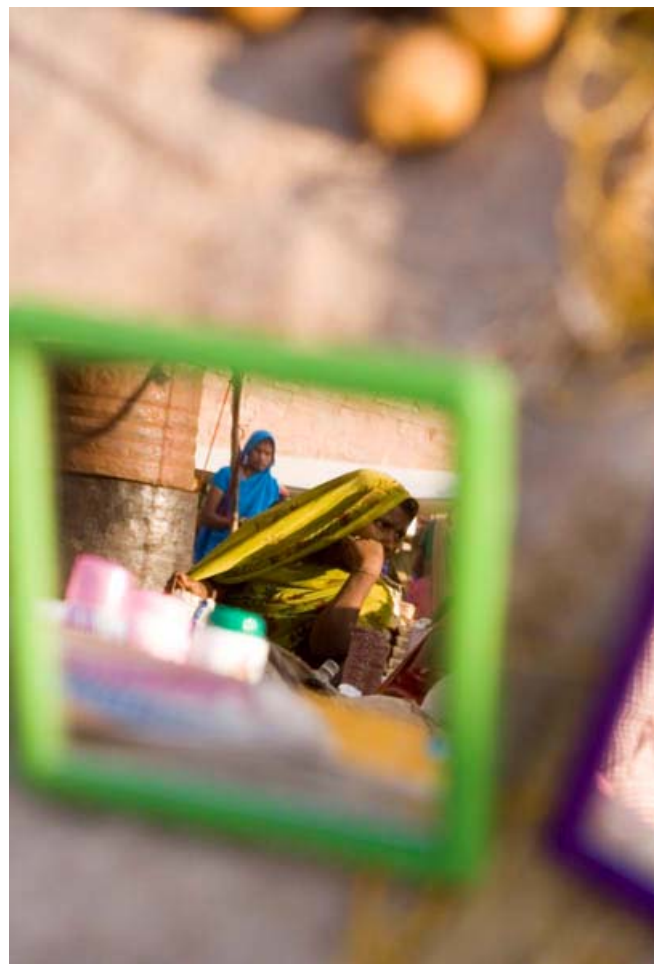
Mandu.



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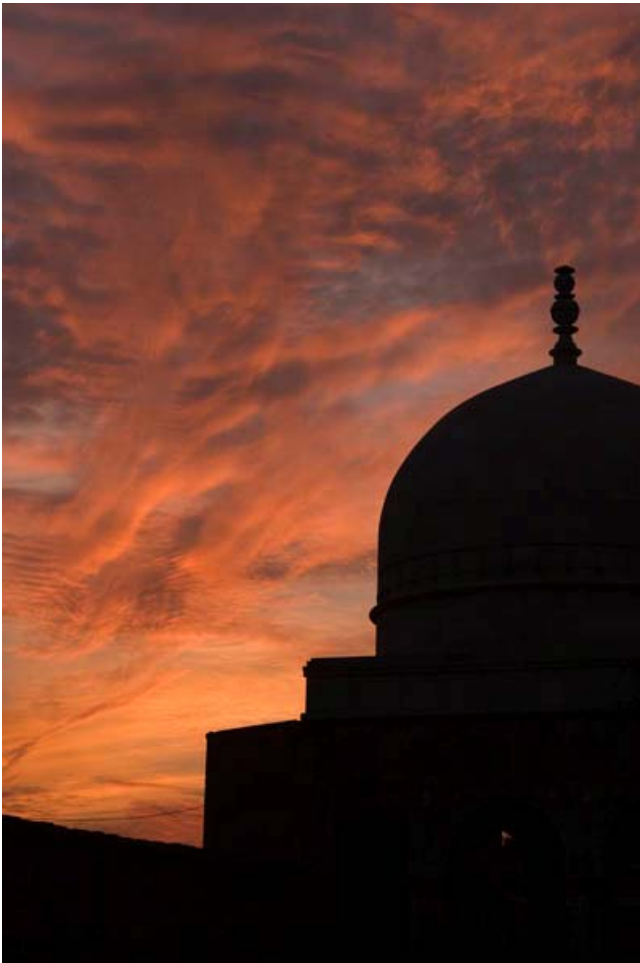
Market, Mandu.



Mirror vendor, market, Mandu.



Mandu.



Mandu.



Market, Mandu.