

Guzara

Catalogue

Ziyaratgah, Qal'e (Ziyāratgāh, Qal'e)

Cat. No. Gz 1
Position Lat. 34° 11' 28.98" (N) Long. 62° 08' 55.13" (E) Height 872 (m)
Location 17.5 km south of Herat, 1 km southeast of the town of Ziyaratgah, 6.7 km west of the road from Herat to Kandahar; at the brink of the desert. Maps pp. 501; 502
Size circular, diameter c. 100 m, area of 7,800 m²
Type settlement, fortified (?)
Date 13th/14th CE (?) (pottery)
Condition walls almost completely decayed, only traceable as clay embankments



Fig. 1083 General view, from northwest



Fig. 1082 Aerial view of the site

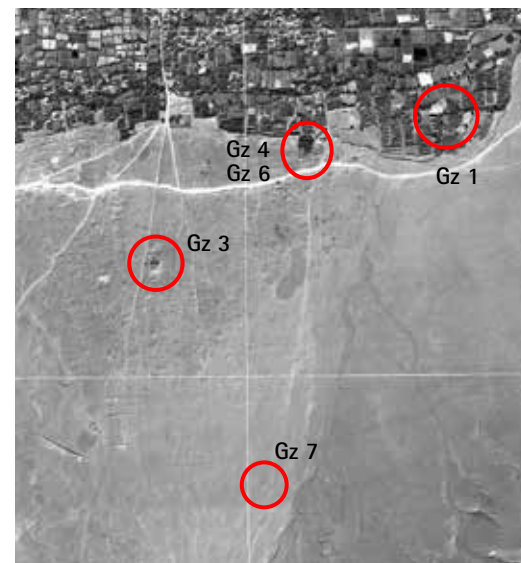


Fig. 1084 Location of Gz 1; Gz 3; Gz 4; Gz 6; Gz 7, aerial view



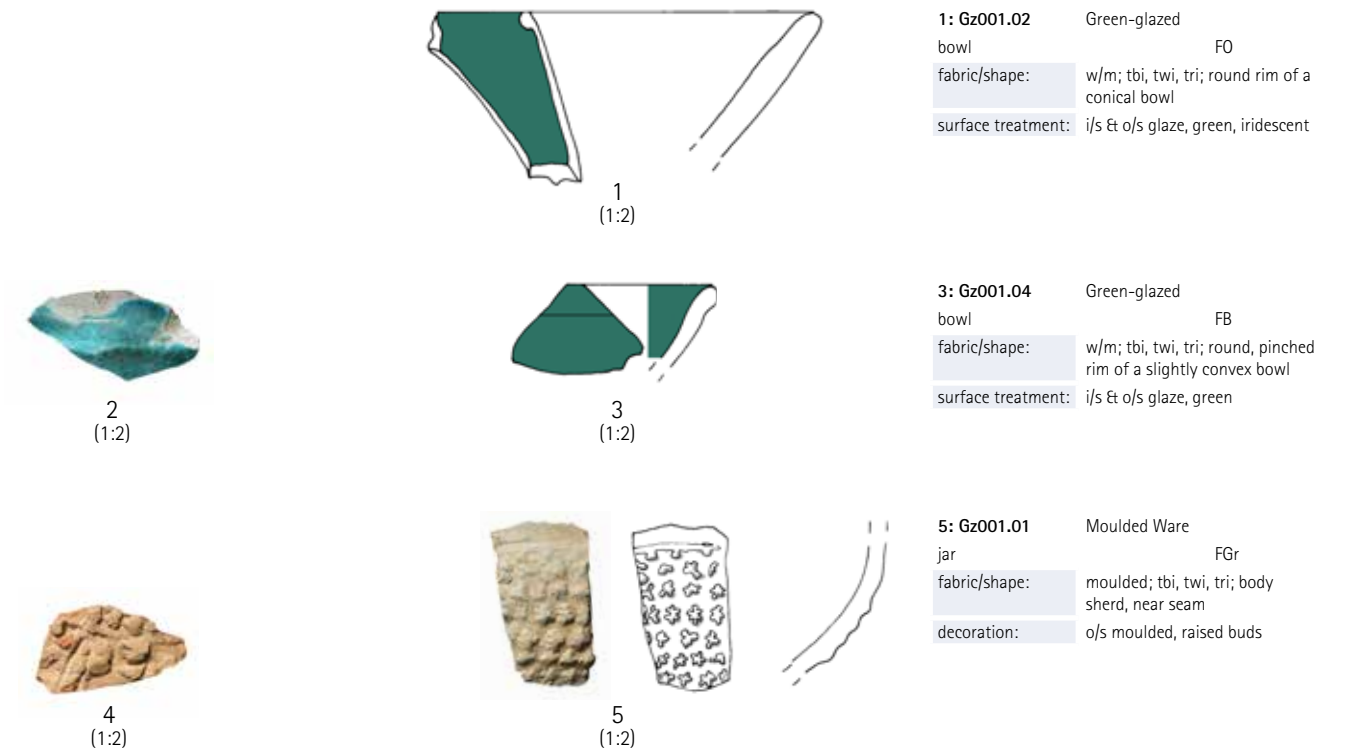
Fig. 1085 View from the wall remains towards the inside

A decagonal site with a diameter of c. 100 m, surrounded by a wall, possibly with bastions and a moat, is clearly identifiable in the aerial photograph (Figs. 1082; 1084). In the southwest remains of a mud-brick tower were visible on the ground, and a gate was possibly located at the southern edge. The interior is used for grape cultivation, traditionally grown along earthen walls.

Finds: No finds were made in the internal space, but some potsherds were found in the earthen walls of the vineyard. They include rim sherds of green-glazed bowls (nos. 1; 3), a shoulder fragment of a small turquoise-glazed fritware pot (no. 2), relief-moulded sherds of water jars (nos. 4; 5); one with applied dots. Yet, they do not reliably date the site.

زیارتگاه قلعه

یک ساختار دایره‌ای با قطر ۱۰۰ متر که توسط یک خندق احاطه شده و در عکس‌های هوایی به آسانی قابل مشاهده است. در بخش جنوب‌غربی بقایای یک برج خشتی قرار دارد که احتمالاً در لبه جنوبی آن یک دروازه وجود داشته باشد. سه چهارم بخش درونی با درخت‌های انگور کاشته شده که به‌طور طبیعی در امتداد حصارهای زمین در استان هرات رشد می‌کنند.



1: Gz001.02 Green-glazed
 bowl FO
 fabric/shape: w/m; tbi, twi, tri; round rim of a conical bowl
 surface treatment: i/s ft o/s glaze, green, iridescent

3: Gz001.04 Green-glazed
 bowl FB
 fabric/shape: w/m; tbi, twi, tri; round, pinched rim of a slightly convex bowl
 surface treatment: i/s ft o/s glaze, green

5: Gz001.01 Moulded Ware
 jar FG
 fabric/shape: moulded; tbi, twi, tri; body sherd, near seam
 decoration: o/s moulded, raised buds

Tepe Gz 2

Cat. No. Gz 2
Position Lat. 34° 12' 20.16" (N) Long. 62° 15' 42.68" (E) Height 989 (m)
Location 16.5 km south of Herat, 3.3 km east of Herat Airport; 1.3 km south of the road from Herat to Pashtun Zarghun, 1.5 km south of the irrigated oasis belt in the Dasht-e Yelan. 2.3 km north of Gz 26. Map p. 503
Size 68 (N-S) m x 75 m (E-W)
Type settlement; qanats
Date 13th/14th CE (?) (pottery)
Condition a few pits

A shallow, nearly square site with remains of eroded mud-brick-wall linings, hardly visible on the ground, but more clearly in the aerial images, without recognisable internal structures. Illegal excavation pits in the centre have exposed stone clusters, probably of wall foundations (Figs. 1086; 1087).

The site is marked by pottery scatters on the entire surface and on the elevated rectangular

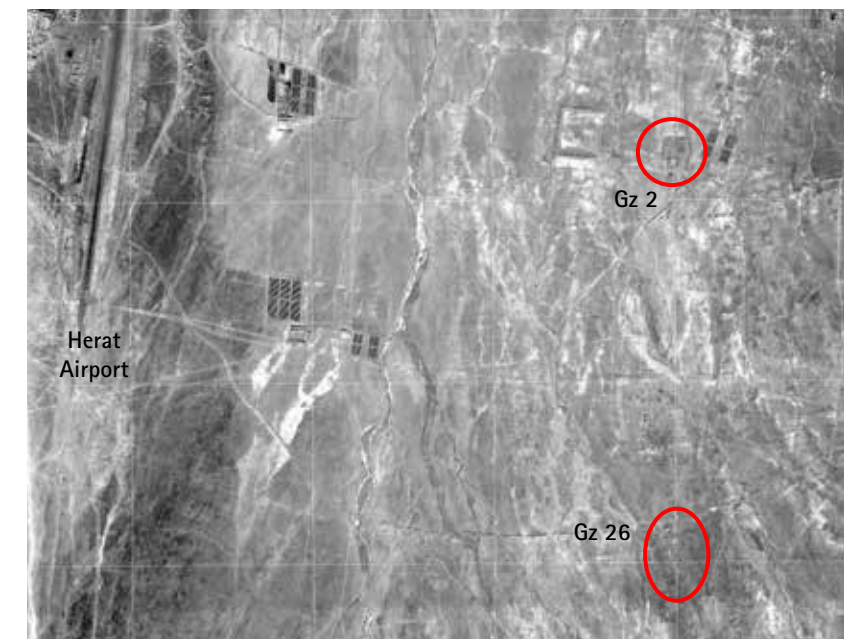


Fig. 1086 Location of Gz 2 and Gz 26, aerial view

structure on the southeastern edge. Another larger enwalled and almost square compound is located just to the west.

Farther south and north of the sites run long lines of circular pits, placed at roughly regular distances from one another (54 m, 42 m, 49 m), for a long distance in east-west direction, indicating the presence of large qanat systems which supplied the central oasis with water from the Koh-e Sanghar.

Finds: the sherds (Fig. 1088) include a few thick-bodied turquoise-glazed earthenware bowl sherds (nos. 1; 2) and unglazed fine red or buff plain and heavy body sherds of larger jars and bowls, often slipped, some with folded triangular rims (nos. 7–9). Apart from a few larger, wavy incised body sherds (nos. 10; 11), some relief-moulded fragments are present, some thick-walled, others fine with a cross-hatched band and turquoise-glazed dots or a fluted panel pattern (nos. 3; 4; 6). The assemblage lacks the typical green-glazed bowls, but indicates a 13th/14th-century date.



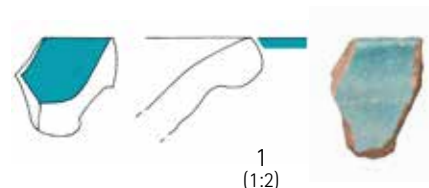
Fig. 1087 General view from south

تیپه ساختاری تقریباً مربع‌شکل متشکل از دیوارهای فروریخته در مرکز یک چاه تخریب‌شده (یا یک چاله حفاران غیرمجاز). در تمام سطح این محوطه و همچنین در بلندی‌های کم ارتفاع بخش جنوبی محوطه سفال پیدا می‌شود. با کمی فاصله از محوطه در جهت جنوب ارتفاعاتی با اندازه و بلندی و فاصله کم و بیش برابر از یکدیگر با جهت شرقی-غربی قرار گرفته‌اند (قنات).

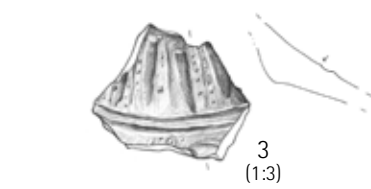


Fig. 1088 Surface collection, pottery

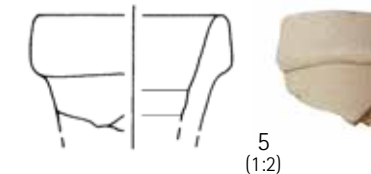
1: Gz002.03 Turquoise-glazed
bowl FSB
fabric/shape: w/m; 5 YR 7/4, tbi, twi, tri; rolled, pinched rim (o/s) of a conical bowl
surface treatment: o/s glaze, turquoise, craquelé



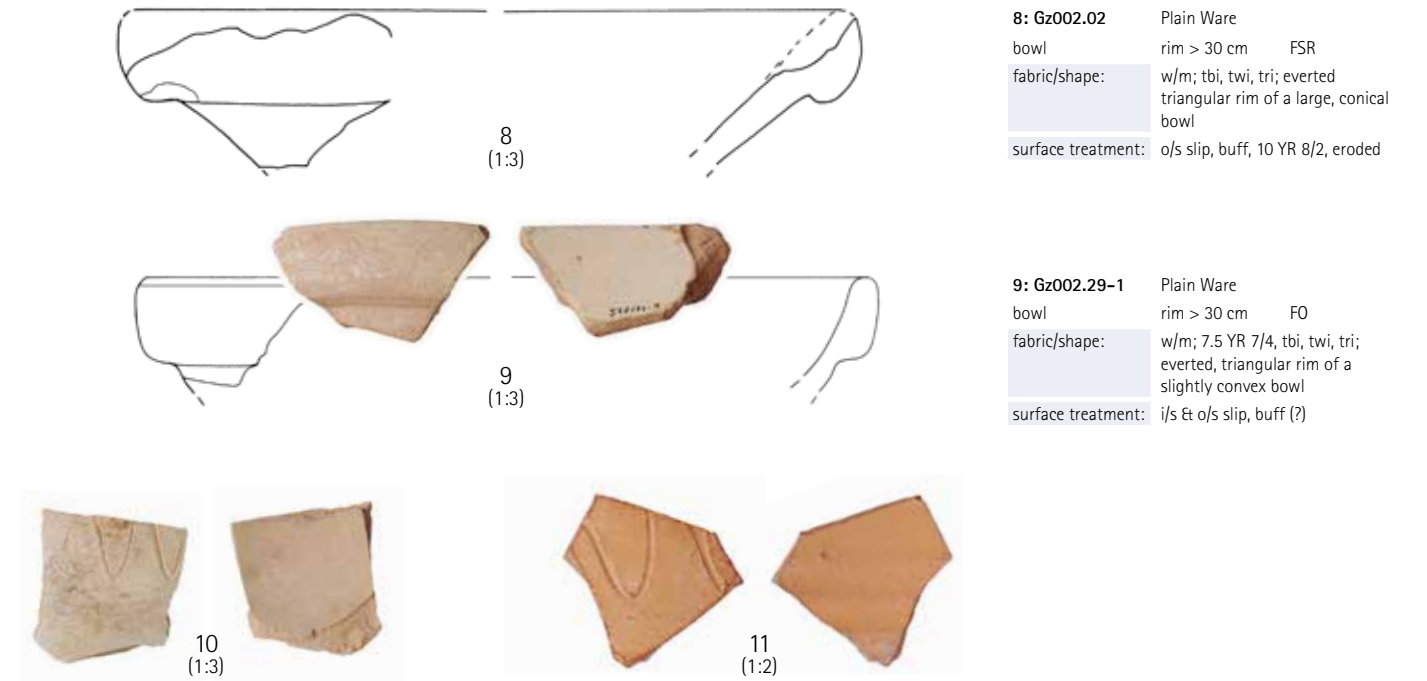
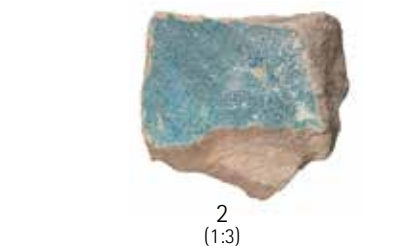
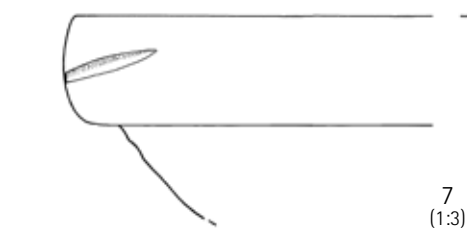
3: Gz002.04 Moulded Ware
jar mbd 10 cm FSB
fabric/shape: moulded; 7.5 YR 7/4, tbi, twi, tri; body sherd
decoration: o/s moulded, vertical pattern



5: Gz002.29-2 Plain Ware
bottle rim c. 5 cm FO
fabric/shape: w/m; 7.5 YR 7/4, tbi, twi, tri; pointed triangular rim of a narrow-mouthed bottle
surface treatment: i/s & o/s slip, buff



7: Gz002.01 Plain Ware
bowl rim > 30 cm FO
fabric/shape: w/m, carved; 7.5 YR 7/4, tbi, twi, tri; everted, pointed triangular rim of a slightly convex bowl
surface treatment: i/s & o/s slip, buff, 2.5 Y 8/2



8: Gz002.02 Plain Ware
bowl rim > 30 cm FSR
fabric/shape: w/m; tbi, twi, tri; everted triangular rim of a large, conical bowl
surface treatment: o/s slip, buff, 10 YR 8/2, eroded

9: Gz002.29-1 Plain Ware
bowl rim > 30 cm FO
fabric/shape: w/m; 7.5 YR 7/4, tbi, twi, tri; everted, triangular rim of a slightly convex bowl
surface treatment: i/s & o/s slip, buff (?)



Fig. 1089 Location of Gz 2, aerial view

Khaneqah Molla Kalan (Ḥāneqāh-e Mollā Kalān)

Cat. No. Gz 3

Position Lat. 34° 11' 16.16" (N) Long. 62° 08' 22.99" (E) Height 968 (m)
Location 21 km south of Herat, 1 km to the south of the town of Ziyaratgah, 400 m into the gravel plain; 500 m southwest of Gz 4 and Gz 6.
Maps pp. 501; 502

Size 19.70 x 21.10 m

Type khaneqah; tomb (venerated); cemetery

Date c. 1470–1500; probably built by 'Ali Shir Nawa'i; late 14th–17th CE (pottery)

Condition in ruins; dome and vaults missing, large cracks in the remaining masonry; while erosion has visibly continued since the 1960s, some consolidation measures are also apparent, e.g. at the north-eastern walls and in the northern *iwan*

The building stands on the gravel plain between the oasis and the mountain feet, 1 km south of the Jame Masjed Ziyaratgah (Gz 10, Fig. 1131). A wide stretch of the plain is covered by cemeteries, underlining the importance of this area, with the Khaneqah Molla Kalan in its centre and two *ziyarat*s nearer to the oasis (Gz 4 and Gz 6; Figs. 1084; 1090; 1131).

The khaneqah is associated with Shams al-Din Muhammad b. Amin al-Din Ziyaratgahi (d. 778|1376), a contemporary of Shah Rokh, but it was built by 'Ali Shir Nawa'i (1441–1501) in the later 15th century. The *pir*'s tomb is located just northeast of the entrance.

The monument is discussed in detail by O'Kane (1987, no. 49) and by Golombek/Wilber (1988, 352 no. 124, further references in the bibliography).



Fig. 1090 General view of the northern surroundings, from northeast

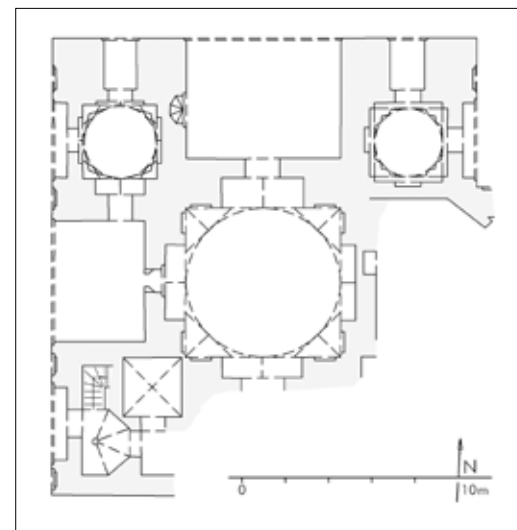


Fig. 1091 Ground plan



Fig. 1095 Western façade in 1973, from northwest (Photo: L. Golombek)



Fig. 1096 Western façade in 2004, from southwest



Fig. 1092 Northern façade in 1960 (Photo: L. Golombek)



Fig. 1093 Northern façade in 1973 (Photo: B. O'Kane)



Fig. 1094 Northern façade in 2004

The monument, constructed with fired bricks (24/25 x 24/25 x 5 cm) and bonded with straw-tempered mud mortar, is in a ruinous state of preservation; the dome, vaults and large parts of the 2nd storey had collapsed before the 1960s. While parts of the *iwan* halls are preserved in the north and the west, the southeastern part of the building was also already destroyed then. Pugachenkova (1968, 51; 52) questioned the presence of a southern *iwan*, assuming instead that the wall was plain. In 2004, the ground plan and structural details were further obscured by the accumulation of debris.

The plan of the monument is almost square, with a central-domed room and attached side rooms and, at least, three corners (Fig. 1091). Two stairs lead to the upper floors in the south-western and northeastern corners, the latter



Fig. 1097 Western iwan, detail, from southwest

were covered by rubble in 2004, but visible in older plans. Access to the central room was possible from the north and, originally, from the west and south (see below). In the east, remains of an oblique wall (Fig. 1091) and the spring of an arch indicate that the building once continued beyond the square base, as also noted by O'Kane (1987, 319).

Northern façade (Figs. 1092–1094)

The main entrance *iwan*, facing towards Ziyaratgah, with its raised pointed-arch portal, is still visible in photos taken in 1960 by L. Golombek. The portal arch collapsed in May 1975, struck by lightning or an earthquake (Samizay 1981) shortly before B. O'Kane's (1987, 320) visit in June. It is flanked by passages with segmental arches on the lower floor and by twice as wide ogee-arched niches on the upper floor, all leading to side rooms. The portal, passages and niches are bordered by rectangular frames but, in

contrast to the east and west façades, there are no blind niches in the façades in between. The western wall of the *iwan* has a semi-octagonal *mihrab* on the ground level, already planned at the beginning of the construction, and pointed-arch openings in the upper part of both lateral walls.

Below, at a level just beneath the upper floor, a recessed horizontal field reveals the position of a circumferential calligraphic frieze, of which only the southern parts are preserved (see below), apparently mostly unchanged since the 1960s, as traces of plaster partly covering the inscription are visible in O'Kane's images, too (O'Kane 1987, Fig. 49.3).

A passage with a rather low segmental arch leads to the central room, which received additional light from a pointed-arch niche above (Figs. 1092; 1093), only partly preserved in 2004. The old images show that a blind niche was constructed on top of the latter; together with the rear corners of the *iwan* they formed the - now collapsed - transition zone of the *iwan* dome (Fig. 1092), possibly originally lined by *muqarnas*.

Western façade (Figs. 1095–1097)

The western *iwan* is of a lower overall height than the one to the north, marked by a lower base point of the central arch, about halfway up to the upper floor. It is flanked by two superimposed niches on either side. In contrast to the northern façade the niches are all of equal width and have pointed instead of ogival arches (Fig. 1096). With a depth of c. 70 cm they are also significantly shallower than the more than 2 m deep niches in the northern façade; narrow passages lead on to the corner rooms on both floors. The design of the western façade is completed by groups of vertically aligned blind niches with pointed, rectangular and overlong pointed arches (from bottom to top).

The northern lateral wall of the western *iwan* has openings to the lower and upper corner rooms (Fig. 1097). Two superimposed openings in the rear wall open up to the central room, as in the northern *iwan*, however, the niche above is absent and the design is less complex. The passage into the domed hall was blocked at a later stage by the addition of a *mihrab* in the central room, already noted by O'Kane (1987, 320) and confirmed by remains of the angular back of the *mihrab* inserted into the passage (Fig. 1101). They show that the *mihrab*'s back wall must have protruded into the western *iwan* hall.



Fig. 1098 General view, from south



Fig. 1099 Eastern façade

Southern façade (Fig. 1098)

In a photo taken by O'Kane, some parts of the southern façade are still visible (Fig. 1095). The plain wall in the east was interpreted by Pugachenkova (s. a.) as an indication of a smooth southern façade without *iwan*, but given the poor preservation, O'Kane (1987, 319) and Golombek (1988, 353) left this question open. Yet, the frame of an opening preserved in the southwestern niche of the central room indicates that a passage was present (Fig. 1101).

Eastern façade (Fig. 1099)

Only the northern part of the two-storey eastern façade is preserved. It shows three superimposed blind niches framing two wide, but only 70 cm deep niches in the centre. These are pierced by passages with windows above, leading to the side rooms on both floors but not to the central room. The arrangement is the same as on the western façade, with an important difference: an oblique wall running towards the east at an angle of 45° and remains of an arch as well as wall attachments indicate a continuation of the building towards the east. This point was also discussed by O'Kane (1987, 319) and Golombek/Wilber (1988, 353. See Figs. 1091; 1099).

Central Room (Figs. 1100–1104)

The central room covers the entire height over two floors. It has a cruciform ground plan with four large niches in the main axes, the northern one being the deepest. It was accessible through a relatively low passage from the large northern entrance *iwan* and probably through the southern and western niches, as argued above, but not through the eastern access. The western passage was later blocked by the *mihrab* (Fig. 1101). The dome has collapsed long before the 1960s. Samizay (1981) assumed that it probably was a double dome, the lower one with stucco decorations and paintings (Samizay), but O'Kane (1987, 320) believes that the dome was most likely a single-shell construction.

The room was plastered with clay and covered with layers of white and red paint. The decorative scheme consists mostly of 'painted architectural plaster ornaments' (Golombek/Wilber 1988, 353). The beginning of the transition zone is marked by a single-brick layer cornice, running along all extant walls, including the eastern one. Above begins the plasterwork of ribs and squinches with *muqarnas*, followed by pendentives (Figs. 1100–1104). The niches, ending in pointed-barrel vaults, received *muqarnas* applications in the corners and were thereby transformed into more elaborate semi-domes. The corner squinches of the central room were likewise decorated with *muqarnas* (Figs. 1100; 1104).

The arch of the northern niche and the adjacent semi-dome are decorated with a repetitive geometrical stucco ornament of intersecting bands, generating different forms grouped around a five- and a ten-pointed star. The same basic motif is repeated on the semi-dome behind the arch, not extant anymore, but visible in O'Kane's image (O'Kane 1987, Fig. 49.4). Golombek mentions glazed-tile strips in joints in the gallery of the northern *iwan* and as revetments in the *dado* zone of the dome chamber (Golombek/Wilber 1988, 353).

O'Kane (1987, 319) points out that the patterns were created by carving through the red into the underlying white layer. The white bands along the ribs and in the stellate pattern are enhanced with carved zig-zag lines standing in relief, a detail also noted in the Masjed-e Nawas Hazrat-e Sheikh in Kohsan (Ko 10).



Fig. 1100 Central room, northern niche, muqarnas



Fig. 1102 Central room, northeastern corner in 1960 (Photo: L. Golombek)



Fig. 1104 Central room, northern niche with muqarnas, dome recess (Photo: L. Golombek)



Fig. 1101 Central room, southwestern corner, from northeast



Fig. 1103 Central room, northern niche, from south

Three layers above the arch of the niches, constructed with bricks laid on edge to enhance stability, begins a circumferential recess of c. 7 cm; above follows the dome, built in ring layers (Figs. 1102; 1104). Nothing remains of the decoration on the dome, apart from the transition zone and, below, parts of the *muqarnas*.

Side rooms

Three of the side rooms are still accessible, all on the lower level. The two northern ones have squinch-net domes above 16- and 20-pointed stars. The upper rooms are still recognisable, but have no ceiling anymore. In the southwestern corner only wall protrusions, in the southeastern corner only the angle of a wall were extant, leaving no room for a reliable reconstruction.

Inscription (Figs. 1094; 1105; 1106)

The only preserved faience mosaic is the large, but fragmentary inscription fixed on the western, southern and eastern walls of the north *iwan*. Only the very last part of the western band and the two parts flanking the doorway in