

The mission of Turquoise Mountain is to regenerate Afghanistan's traditional crafts and historic areas, and in so doing create jobs, skills and a renewed sense of national identity.

The Challenge

Kabul's historic old city was once a crossroads of civilisations. It inherited the traditions of India, Persia and Central Asia and blended them to form unique traditions of arts, crafts and architecture. Afghanistan's artisans, traditional architecture and cultural richness were famous throughout the region.

However, three decades of recent conflict has led to extreme poverty, and all but destroyed the crafts industry. After seven years and billions of dollars of international aid, impoverished women and men still have difficulty accessing education, skills training, or sustainable employment. Much of the old city is still deep in garbage, there are few basic services, and historic buildings are collapsing. Afghans need jobs, skills, and a renewed pride in their nation.



Renovation of the *Double Column Serai*, Murad Khane

Our Answer

Turquoise Mountain was established in March 2006, at the request of HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and HE President Karzai, President of Afghanistan. It has the three-fold objective of regenerating historic urban areas, renewing traditional Afghan arts and architecture, and spurring the sustainable development of the nation's craft industry. Since then, we have:

- * Established the Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture, which comprises Schools of Woodworking, Calligraphy & Painting, Ceramics and Jewellery & Gem-Cutting.
- * Rebuilt homes, laid infrastructure, preserved historic buildings and opened a school and clinic in Murad Khane, the artistic quarter of Kabul's old city.
- * Sold nearly \$1,000,000 in traditional Afghan arts and crafts in Afghanistan and abroad.



The Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture

In 2006 Turquoise Mountain established the Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture. The Institute was recently approved by City & Guilds and is therefore Afghanistan's only internationally accredited vocational education institution. The Institute's master craftsmen are training a new generation of artisans, as an essential part of the revival of Afghanistan's economy and cultural identity.



Calligraphy student

Achievements so far:

- * 120 students, nearly half female, are being educated in the Schools of Woodwork, Ceramics, Calligraphy & Painting, and Jewellery & Gem-Cutting.
- * The Institute has *City & Guilds* accreditation for the Schools' curricula, as well as Afghan Ministry of Education certification. Upon graduation, students will join a community of over 1.5 million certified *City & Guilds* artisans worldwide, allowing them to work or continue their studies abroad.
- * Wider student skills are developed through additional classes in Dari literacy, English, art history, drawing, design, IT and business.
- * The Institute's Graduate Opportunities Programme will provide strong and consistent support for students as they set up their own businesses, study abroad, pursue teaching careers, or work in our Design & Production Studio. The first class graduates in December 2009.
- * The School of Ceramics has completed its move into its newly-restored home in Murad Khane, the focus of our urban regeneration work. The three remaining Schools will follow into their respective restored historic buildings in the next 12 months.

Murad Khane - Urban Regeneration

Murad Khane is a historic quarter of Kabul on the banks of the Kabul River, home to a multi-ethnic community and a thriving bazaar that attracts 10,000 visitors a week. Before we began, the area was buried under two metres of rubbish, it had no running water, drainage or electricity, and the community's homes were collapsing. In 2006, Turquoise Mountain was formally petitioned by the community of Murad Khane to preserve and restore the area. There is now comprehensive regeneration programme, which is restoring historic buildings, installing infrastructure and working to provide basic healthcare, education and employment to the community.

Achievements so far:

- * Cleared over 17,000 m³ of rubbish, repaired over 50 houses, built over 30 household latrines, dug wells, installed 700m of drainage, reconstructed shops, and paved streets.
- * Restoration of the quarter's historic buildings and the future site of the Institute's Schools to be completed in 2010.
- * Provided basic education for 200 children at the formally registered public school, and literacy training for 56 women, and 8 men.
- * Provided primary medical care and health education for over 200 people a month at the community health centre.
- * Acknowledged on the World Monuments Fund's 2008 Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites of Cultural Heritage.

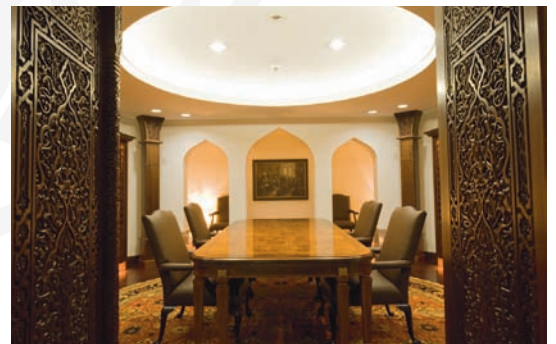


Business Development

The Business Development Programme works to expand commercial opportunities for the Afghan crafts industry by linking high quality products to existing client demand abroad in our Design & Production Studio, which is equipped to produce large scale commissions, combining design and technical expertise in wood, ceramics, calligraphy and jewellery.

Achievements so far:

- * Completed unique commissions totaling nearly \$1,000,000, including carved architectural pieces, furniture and calligraphy in embassies and private buildings worldwide, and most recently an entire suite in carved Afghan woodwork for the Connaught Hotel in London.
- * Designed a high quality gift range, from furniture and carved wall panels, to jewellery, calligraphy and ceramics.
- * Published a new *Gift Catalogue* and our new portfolio of *Fine Afghan Architectural Woodwork*.
- * Exhibited at trade fairs and art exhibition's in London, San Francisco, Venice, New York, Islamabad, Dubai and Bahrain.



Library of the Afghan Embassy, Tokyo

Turquoise Mountain
2nd Phase, Kart-e-Parwan, Behind Old British Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel. (Kabul): +93 (0) 794 397 440 - Tel. (UK): +44 (0) 1764 650 888

TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION IS THE OPERATIONAL NAME OF TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN TRUST REGISTERED OFFICE: BROICH, GRIEFF PH7 3RX SCOTLAND - TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN TRUST REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND AS A CHARITY NO. SC037343 AND AS A COMPANY NO. SC296579 - THE TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION (US) IS A TAX EXEMPT 501 (C) (3) ORGANIZATION. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAXES. REGISTERED OFFICE: 6504 MACOMB ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20016

Turquoise Mountain's activity is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the Government of Afghanistan; the Government of India; Blue Moon fund; Reach Out To Asia (ROTA); The Bonita Trust; Kathy Evans Afghan Education Trust; the Kingdom of Bahrain; HH the Amir of Kuwait; the Kingdom Foundation; Embassy of Great Britain, Kabul; the British Council; Sonoma Academy; Monsoon Accessorize Trust and our many private donors worldwide.



TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN
ARTS

