



Canada Council  
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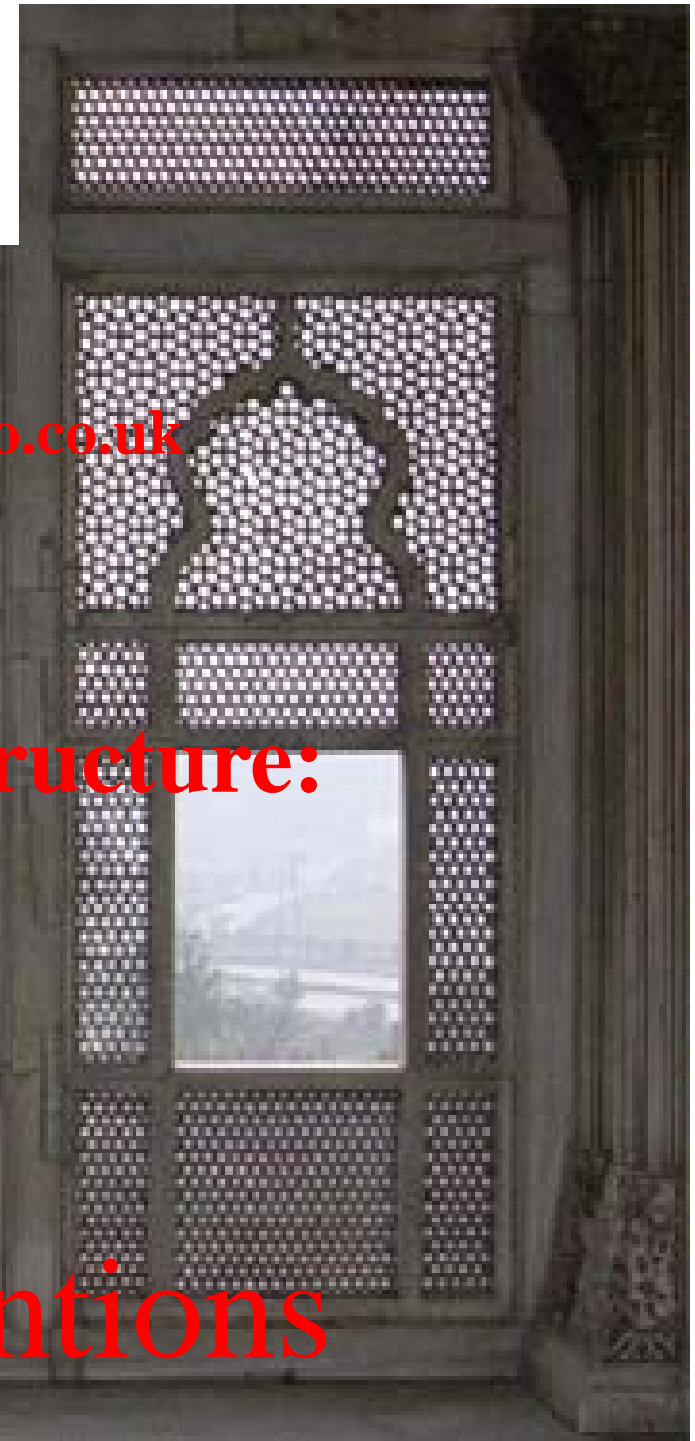
Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

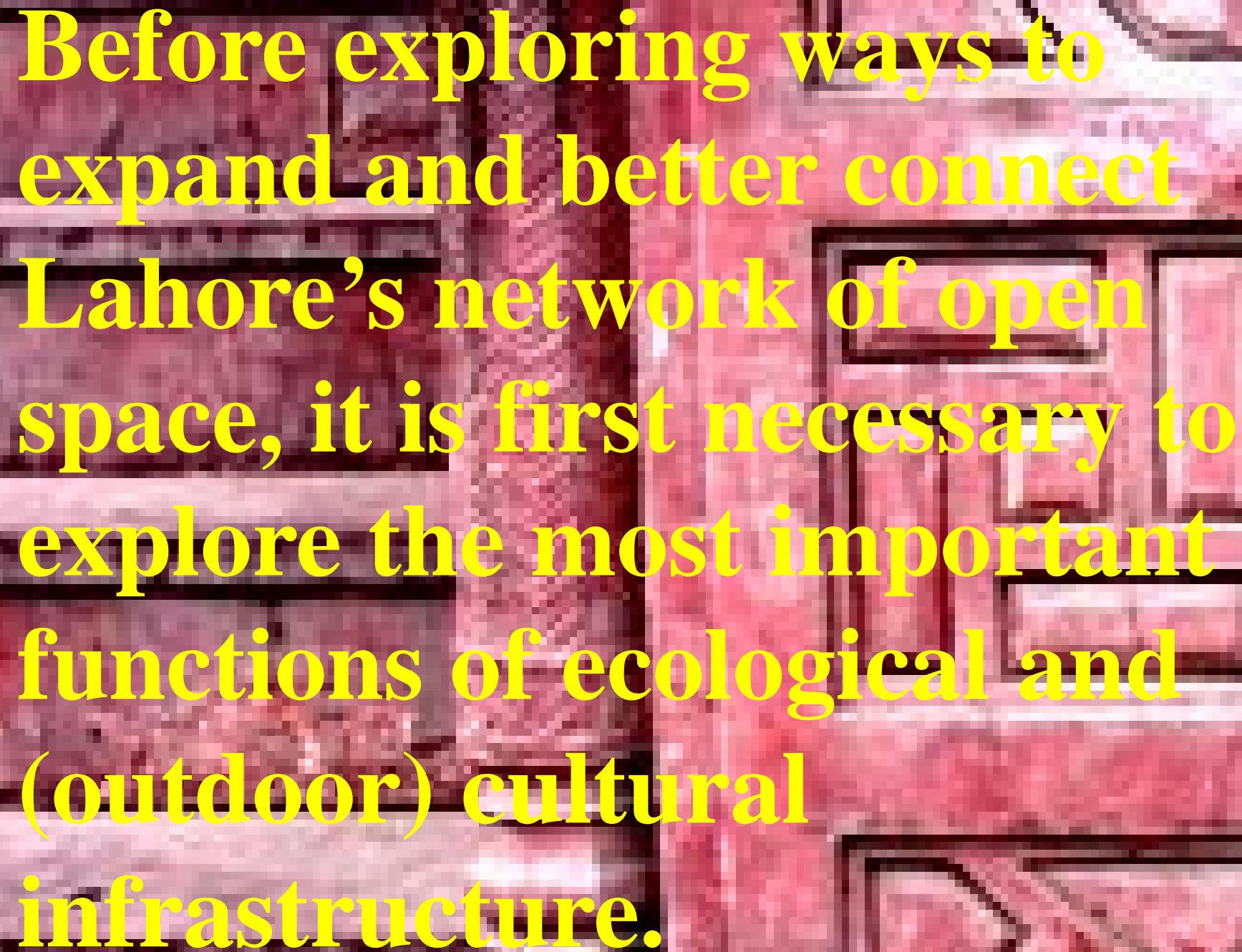
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Redesigning public  
open space as  
ecological & cultural infrastructure:  
From Vancouver to Lahore

Part 2

Processes & interventions



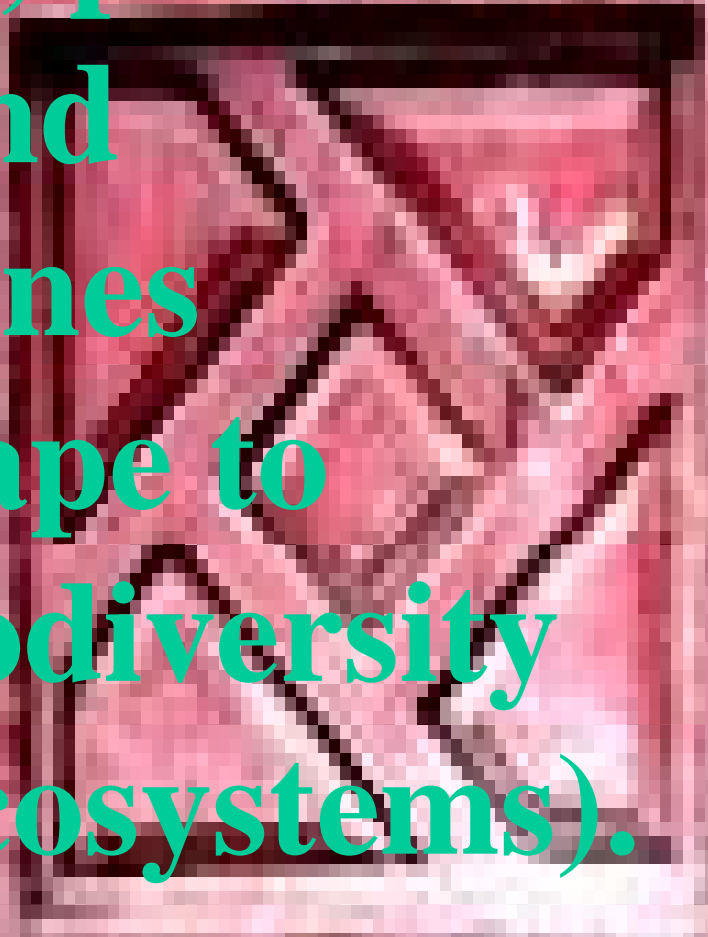
The background of the slide is a photograph of a red brick wall. On the right side, there is a window with a white frame and a door with a white frame. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Before exploring ways to expand and better connect Lahore's network of open space, it is first necessary to explore the most important functions of ecological and (outdoor) cultural infrastructure.**



**There are many ecological and cultural functions of open space. And designs and interventions for open space typically are in response to protecting or enhancing particular processes.**

**Open space, as areas without buildings, protects natural habitat and provides membranes across the landscape to maintain local biodiversity (all species and ecosystems).**



**It is open space that is most important for the replenishment of watersheds and aquifers. Open space, therefore, supports natural services.**

**Some categories of open space resources and functions for ecological and (outdoor) cultural infrastructure include the following:**


# 1. 'habitat'

- ❖ maintain & restore native habitat
- ❖ maintain & restore natural processes
- ❖ maintain & restore presence of all local biodiversity
- ❖ wild species of importance to local cultures & economies
- ❖ research
- ❖ education



A photograph of a fountain in a garden, with the text "Shalimar Gardens" overlaid in red at the bottom right. The fountain is a tall, slender column of water rising from a circular base in a large, rectangular pool. The background shows a dense line of trees and a building with arched windows. The entire image has a blue tint.

Shalimar Gardens

A blue-tinted photograph of a fountain in a park. The fountain is the central focus, with water spraying upwards. The background shows trees and a clear sky. The overall mood is serene and natural.

**Much of the concern for ecological processes in open space planning and design is involving issues of water access and quality.**



Alan Sonfist, view of 1978, Time  
Landscape: Greenwich Village, New  
York City

## **2. urban agriculture**

- ❖ (human) food production**
- ❖ urban forestry**
- ❖ forage production**
- ❖ domestic & sporting animals**
- ❖ production of traditional,  
local agricultural products**



Race Course Park, Lahore 1 2004

**Open space also provides  
outdoor cultural  
infrastructure maintaining  
aspects of heritage  
including traditional arts  
and landscape vernacular.**

### **3. heritage**

- ❖ protection of less disturbed archaeological sites**
- ❖ preservation & restoration of landscapes, gardens & public spaces**
- ❖ preservation & restoration of both vernacular & outdoor landmarks**

**Public open space provides informal areas for exercise and sports along with (healthier) alternative forms of transportation.**

## **4. recreation**

- ❖ sports and a range of physical activities**
- ❖ tourism (historical, cultural, agricultural)**
- ❖ group events**
- ❖ rest and relaxation**
- ❖ picnics, cafes & eating**

## **5. visual & other aesthetic resources**

**❖ historic and iconic views (often of landmarks)**

**❖ typical views related to historical periods**

**❖ panoramas & vistas**

**❖ intimate views & spaces**



view of Badshahi Mosque (Bilal Aziz)





# 6. contemporary culture

❖ spiritual spaces

❖ public art

❖ performance art

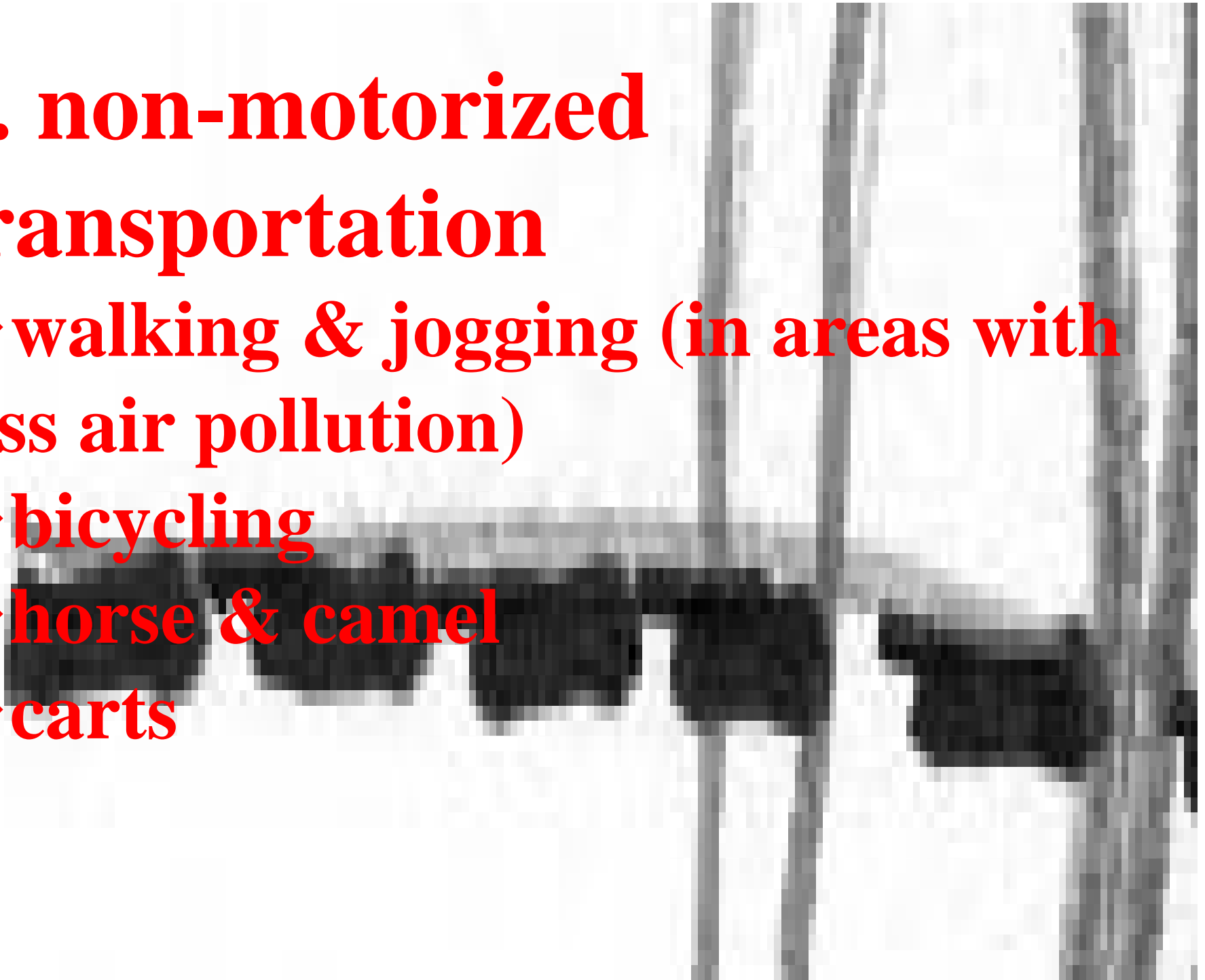
❖ exhibitions

❖ outdoor cultural events

❖ outdoor educational space

# 7. non-motorized transportation

- ❖ walking & jogging (in areas with less air pollution)
- ❖ bicycling
- ❖ horse & camel
- ❖ carts





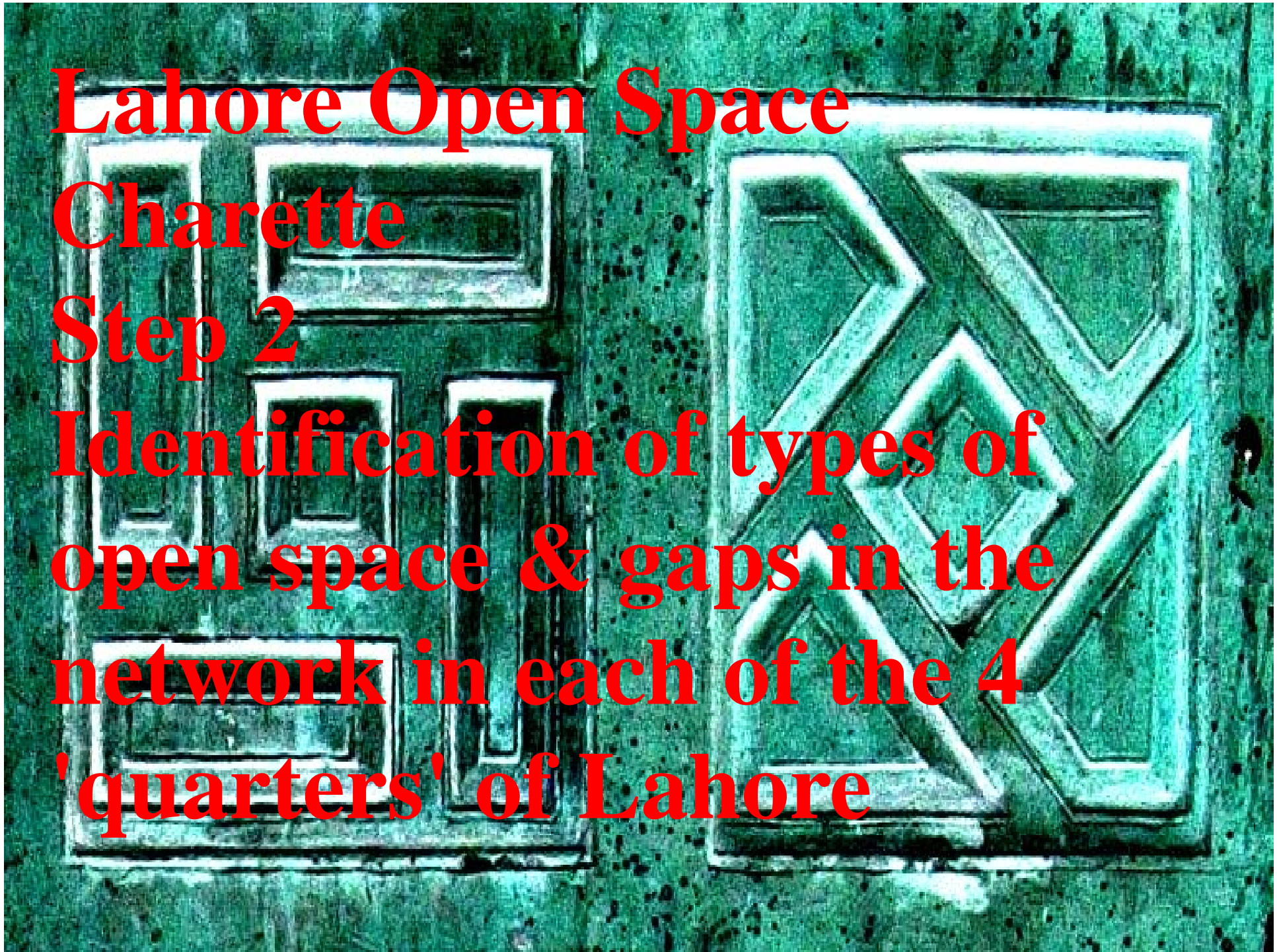
informal foot trail, Race Course Track

# Lahore Open Space

## Charette

### Step 2

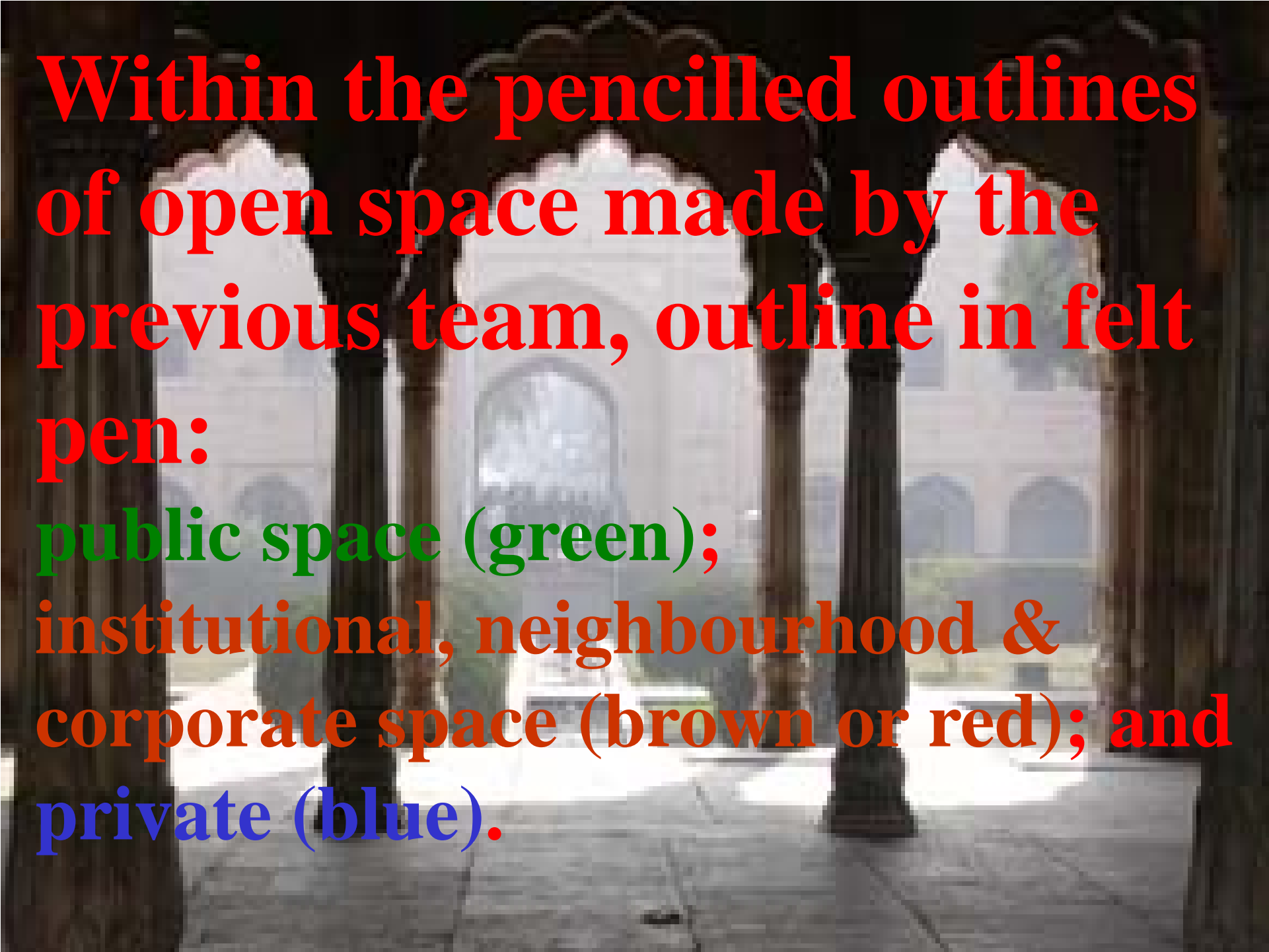
Identification of types of open space & gaps in the network in each of the 4 'quarters' of Lahore





**The 4 groups work together for another 10 minutes.**

**Take another quarter (move clockwise) of Lahore and map more of the open space on the previous group's sheet of paper.**



**Within the pencilled outlines  
of open space made by the  
previous team, outline in felt  
pen:**

**public space (green);**

**institutional, neighbourhood &**

**corporate space (brown or red); and**

**private (blue).**



**In pencil, identify important gaps and threatened open space including:**

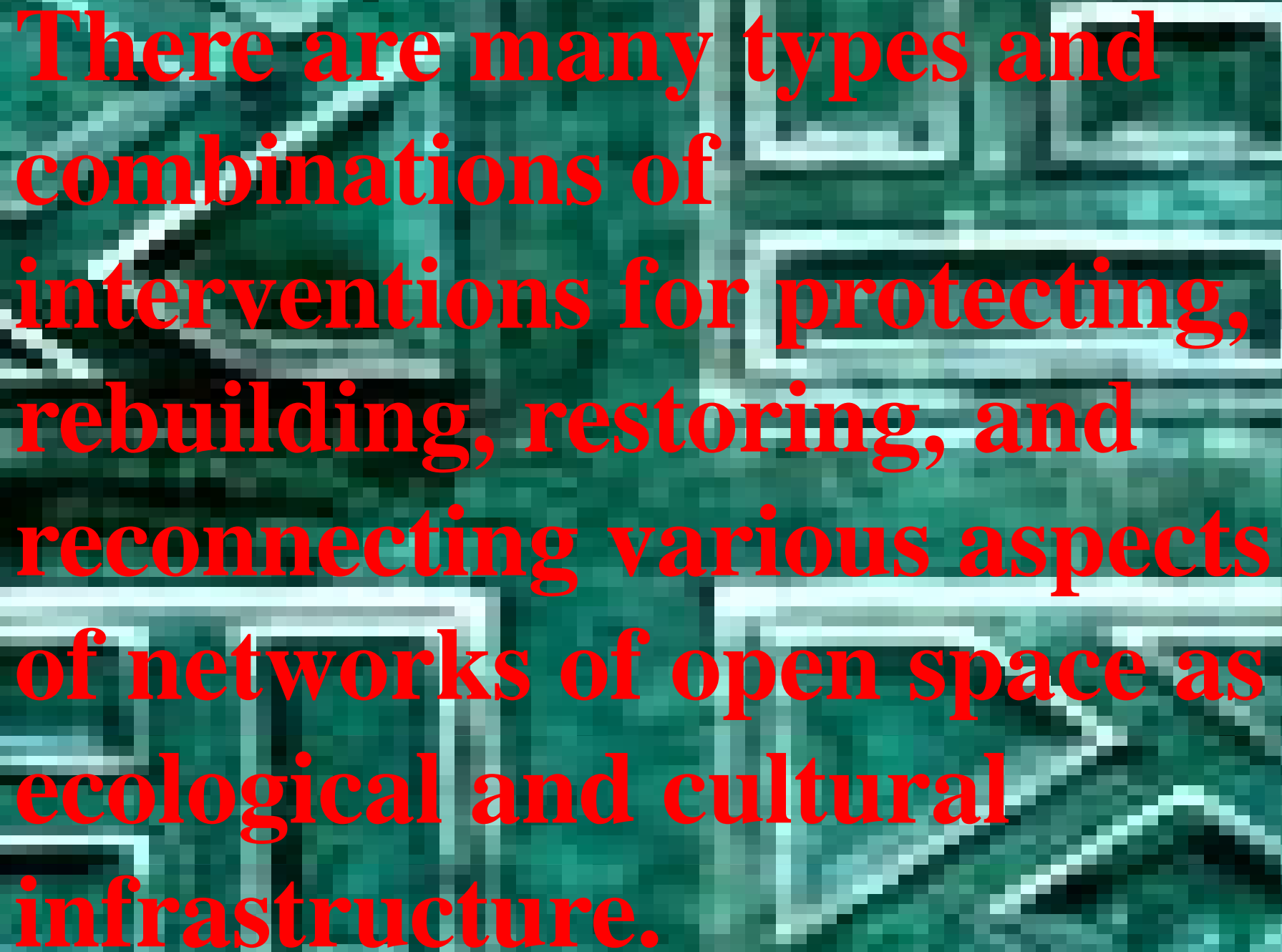
**1. gaps in connectivity (for forming a better connected network);**

**2. unprotected and threatened open space;**



**3. outdoor sites that warrant ecological and landscape design restoration and better management; and**

**4. outdoor areas that could support more culture and recreational activities.**



**There are many types and combinations of interventions for protecting, rebuilding, restoring, and reconnecting various aspects of networks of open space as ecological and cultural infrastructure.**



**What kinds of interventions will ‘work’ for Lahore is a question that can only be answered after prolonged, cross-sectoral discussions involving government, civil society, land owners, and other stakeholders.**



**1. interventions for  
protection & restoration of  
habitat**

**❖ parks & ecological  
reserves**


**❖ protected & restored  
woodland**

**❖ linear corridors**



## **2. interventions for protecting & re-establishing urban agriculture**

- ❖ community gardens**
- ❖ garden restoration**
- ❖ linear corridors**
- ❖ conservation of heritage  
crops**



### **3. intervention for conservation of heritage sites**

- ❖ **protection of unexcavated sites**

- ❖ **restoration of gardens,  
ways and complexes**

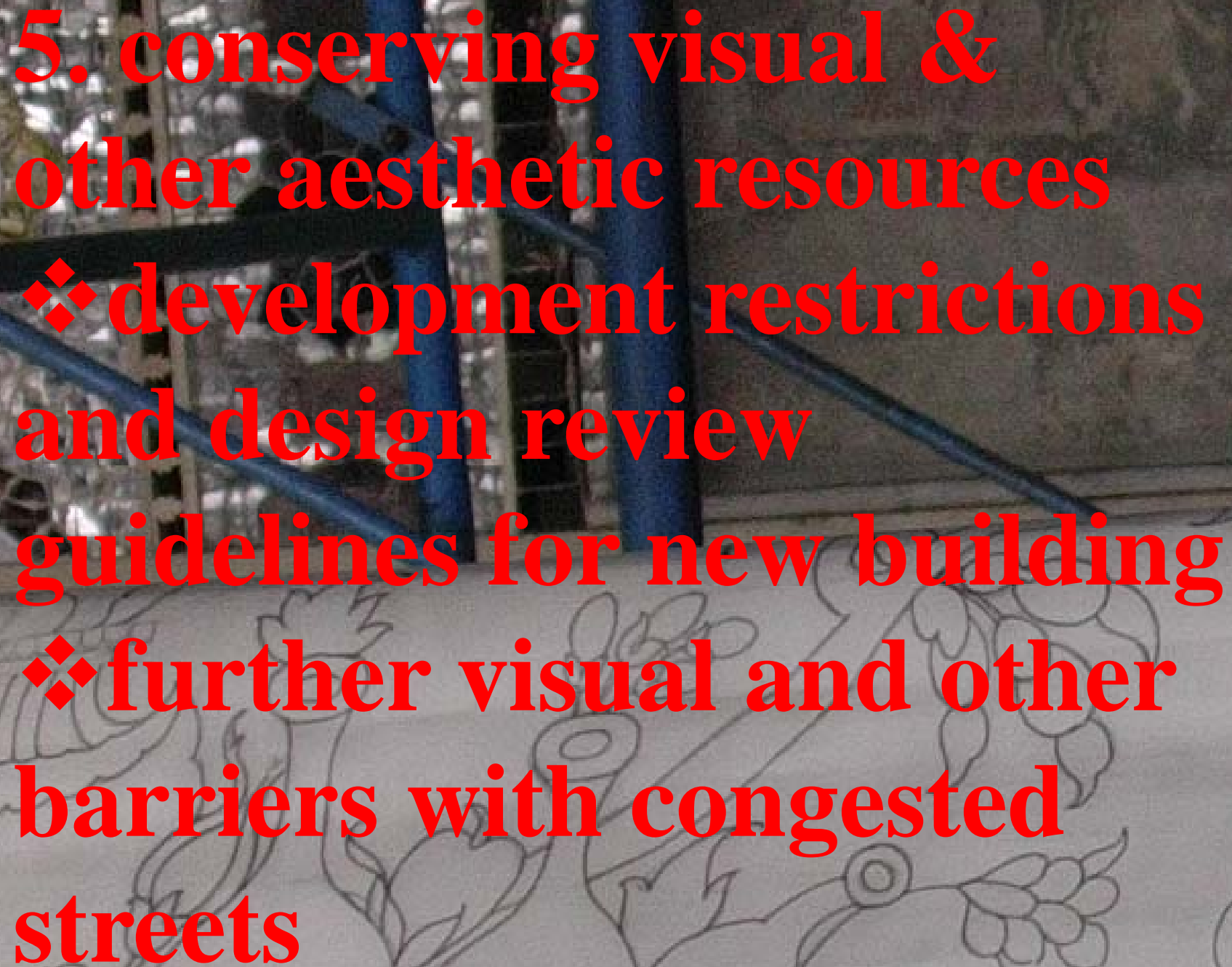
- ❖ **protection of heritage sites  
and vernacular**



## **4. expansion of outdoor recreation**

- ❖ removal of automobiles from more outdoor recreation areas**

- ❖ linkages of recreation areas through pathways**



**5. conserving visual &  
other aesthetic resources**

- ❖ **development restrictions  
and design review  
guidelines for new building**
- ❖ **further visual and other  
barriers with congested  
streets**



## **6. nurturing contemporary culture**

- ❖ programmes of urban art design and installation**

- ❖ more cultural events and festivals regularly taking place on particular sites & specific neighbourhoods**

# 7. fostering non-motorized transportation

- ❖ pedestrian and bicycle paths

- ❖ separation of bicycle and pedestrian routes from automobile routes

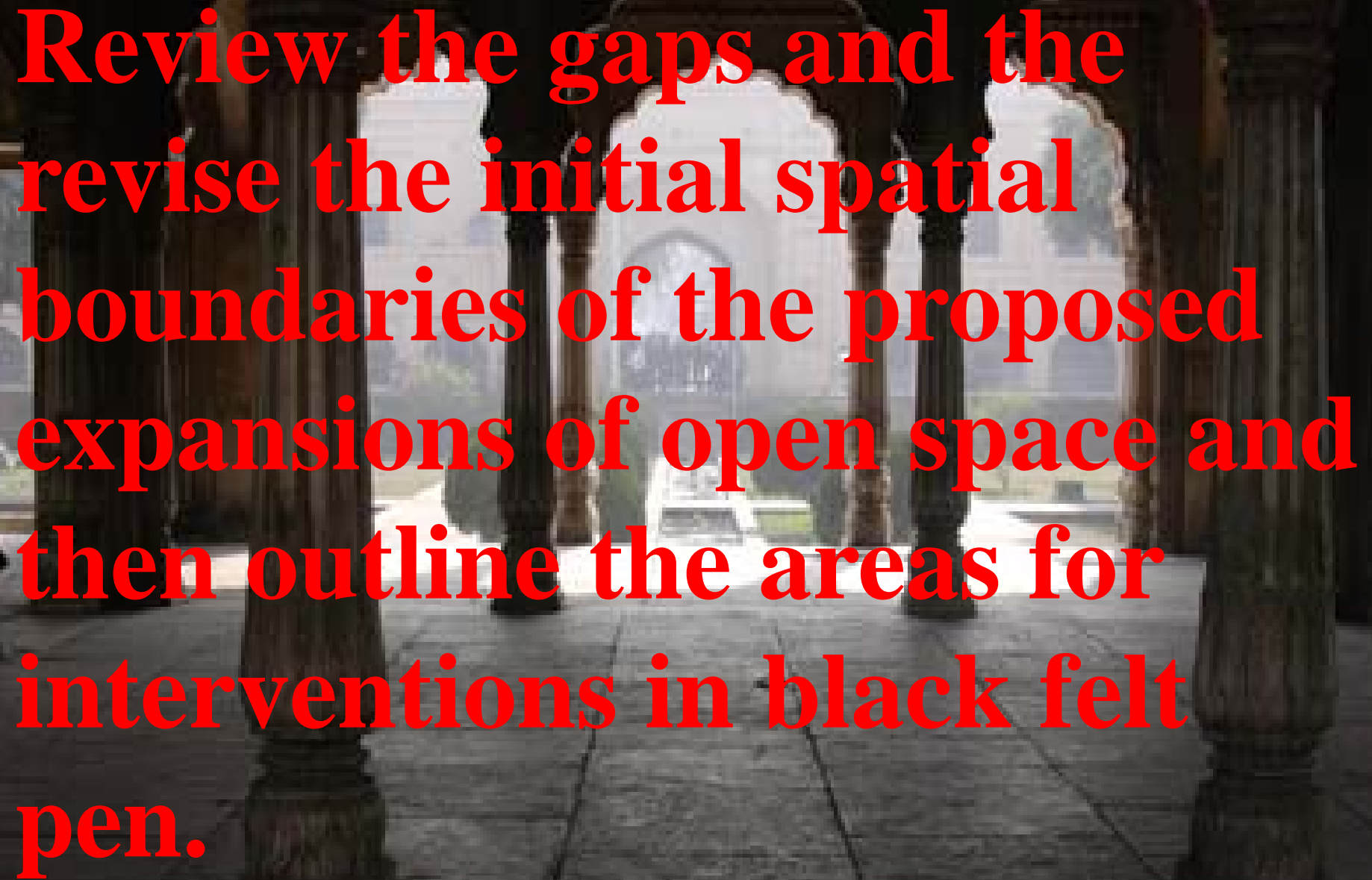


**Lahore Open Space  
Charette Step 3  
Identification of  
interventions to expand,  
better connect & rebuild the  
network of open space in  
each of the 4 'quarters' of  
Lahore**

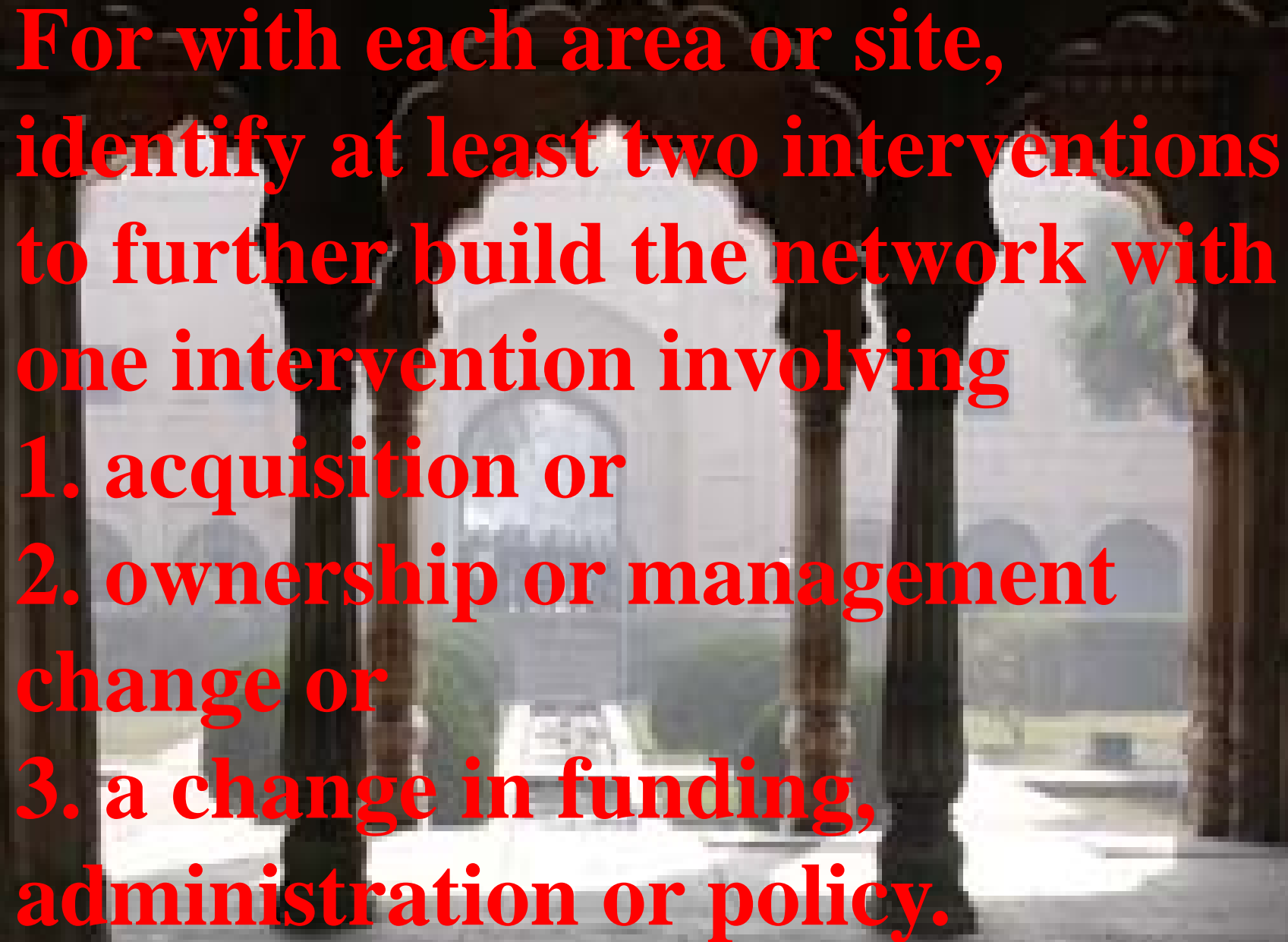


**The 4 groups work together for another 10 minutes.**

**Take a third quarter (move clockwise) of Lahore and focus on the gaps identified in pencil by the previous group.**



**Review the gaps and the  
revise the initial spatial  
boundaries of the proposed  
expansions of open space and  
then outline the areas for  
interventions in black felt  
pen.**



**For with each area or site,  
identify at least two interventions  
to further build the network with  
one intervention involving**

- 1. acquisition or**
- 2. ownership or management  
change or**
- 3. a change in funding,  
administration or policy.**



**and another intervention  
involving a physical change  
through a design or redesign  
involving**

- 1. an ecosystem and / or**
- 2. built space and / or**
- 3. art / cultural site and set  
of activities.**



**Development and choice of strategies is directly linked to priorities for social, economic and cultural development.**



**The following are some of the typical criteria used in strategy development for creation of more functional networks of open space.**

**Expansion of networks of open space as ecological and social infrastructure can be part of a project of re-assertion of local history, culture, experience, and sensibilities.**



**Some practical criteria  
often involve proposals  
being low cost and having  
a high probability of  
success and sustainability.**



**Expansion of networks of open space can contribute to economic development and revitalization of impoverished neighbourhoods.**

**Expansion of networks of open space for ecological and cultural infrastructure should contribute to social harmony and not exacerbating economic disparities.**



open space along canal near international border

**Strategies and strategizing  
for development of better  
open space networks  
remains remarkably  
simplistic -- hence my  
interest in how people do  
things in such sophisticated  
crossroads as Lahore.**

**Strategies can be simplistic  
and ideological or eclectic  
and multi-layered.**

**A central factor in the success of the acceptance of a strategy is it being understandable and inspiring to broader sectors of a community as well as various levels of government.**



# Lahore Open Space

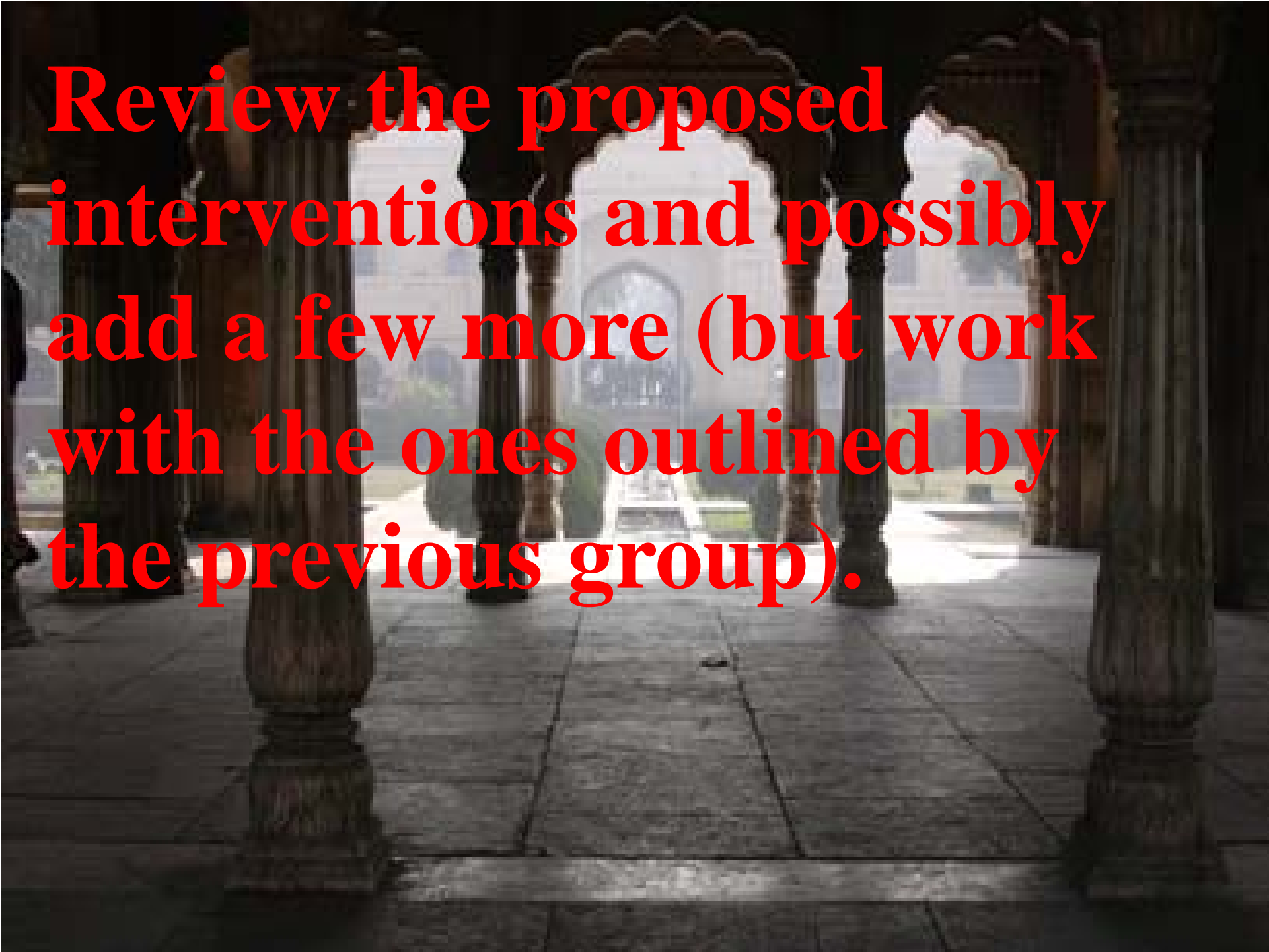
## Charette Step 4

Identification of strategies to expand, better connect & rebuild the network of open space in each of the 4 'quarters' of Lahore

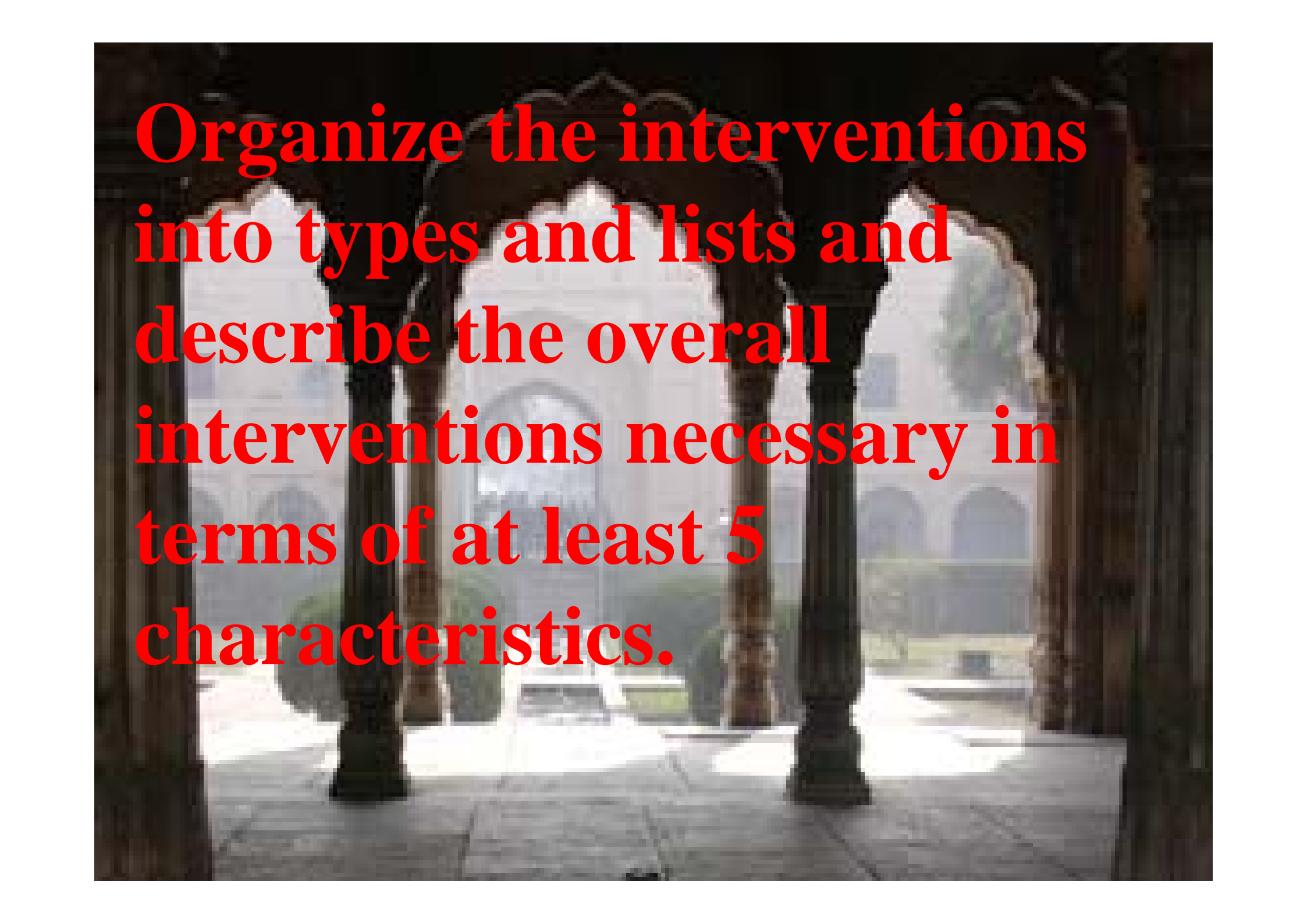
The background image shows the interior of a grand historical building, likely a palace or fort. It features a series of tall, dark columns supporting a series of pointed arches. The floor is made of large, light-colored stone tiles. In the distance, a bright, open courtyard or garden area is visible through the arches. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and architectural detail.

**The 4 groups work together for another 10 minutes.**

**Take the fourth quarter (moving clockwise) of Lahore and evaluate the set of interventions proposed by the previous group.**

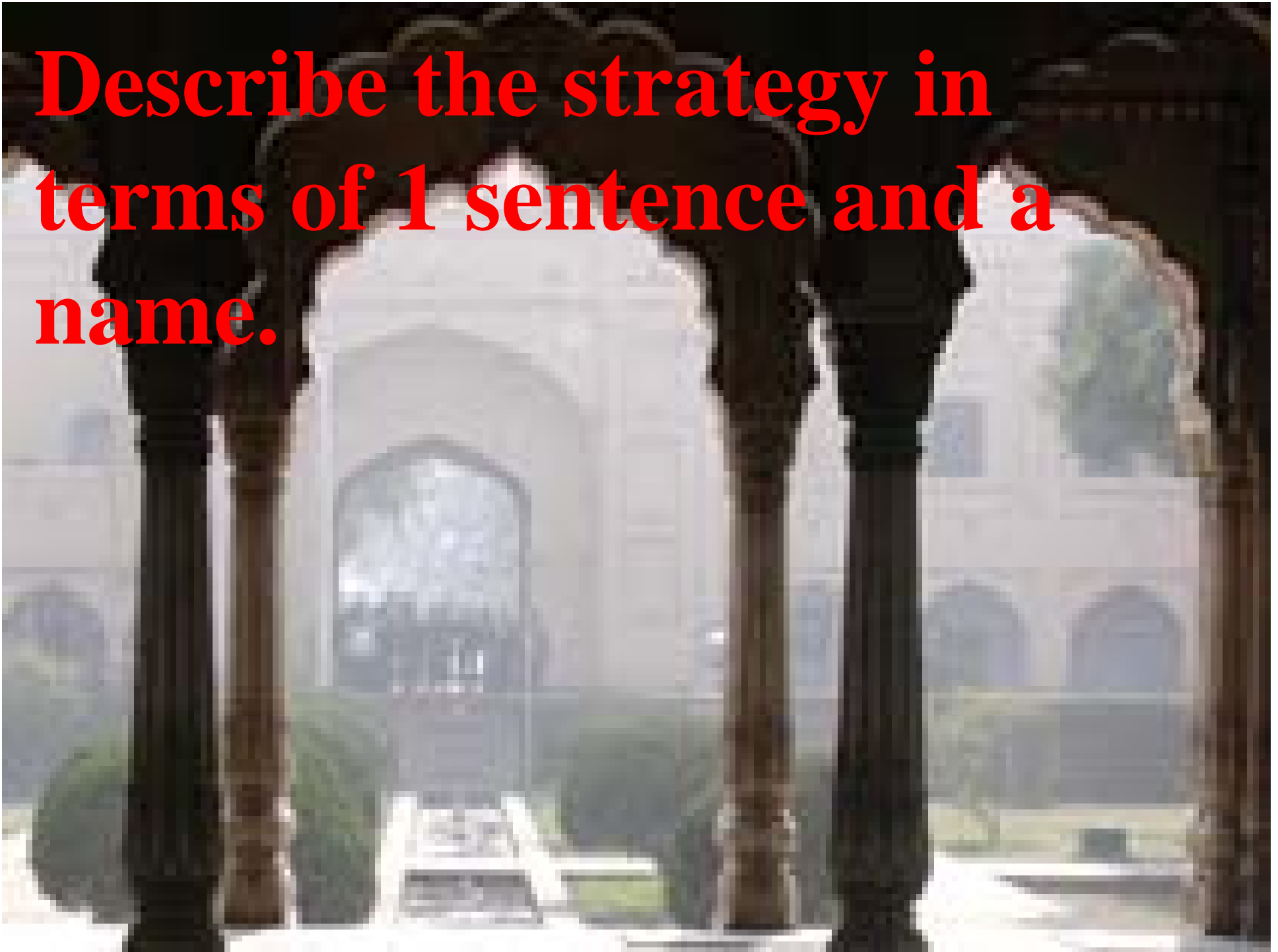


**Review the proposed interventions and possibly add a few more (but work with the ones outlined by the previous group).**

A photograph of a series of arches in a building, with the text overlaid in red. The arches are dark and frame a view of a courtyard with a fountain and a white building in the background. The text is in a bold, red, serif font.

**Organize the interventions into types and lists and describe the overall interventions necessary in terms of at least 5 characteristics.**

**Describe the strategy in terms of 1 sentence and a name.**



**In conclusion, networks of public open space provide the basis for essential forms of ecological and cultural infrastructure -- processes on which city dwellers will increasingly depend.**

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen, with the text overlaid in red. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, holding a pen that is pointing towards the left. The background is a light, textured surface. The text is written in a bold, red, serif font and is arranged in several lines, starting from the top left and moving towards the bottom left. The text reads: "Open space as effective ecological and cultural infrastructure requires careful planning, design, construction and maintenance that involve a great number of fields including".

**Open space as effective  
ecological and cultural  
infrastructure requires  
careful planning, design,  
construction and  
maintenance that involve a  
great number of fields  
including**



**architecture, landscape  
architecture, environmental  
management, urban  
planning and design,  
archaeology, ecology,  
sociology, economics, cultural  
studies, government and  
investment policy.**

**Planning, design, and restoration of open space as ecological and cultural infrastructure constitutes both art and science with place and neighbourhood increasingly linked to contemporary culture.**



**Expansion and reconnection  
of public (and private) open  
space is essential to making  
more liveable and  
prosperous cities and it  
related to**



**cultural development,  
environmental  
management, heritage  
conservation, and  
economic development.**