

Restoration of GPO, Murree
Pre-Qualification of Contractors

Concept Note

The General Post Office building stands on a pivotal location at the beginning of the Mall road of Murree. This is where the Murree Mall started and was originally developed till the Church, both being prominent old landmarks. The G.P.O Mall road was built in 1867 by the British and is now about 150 years old. The building is a historic building which adds high value to the beautification of Murree.

This historic building has undergone numerous interventions since it was originally built by the British in 1867 such that today its facade is completely different to the visual icon that it was in 1867. In 1970 the façade was torn down in the name of modernization and the original facade has been completely destroyed. The construction of high rise buildings in its vicinity has further deteriorated the environment due to the crass visual intrusions.

The Prime Minister's program for the beautification of Murree includes restoration of the environment of Murree to that of what it was originally conceived by the British as a hill station and resort. The pilot project under this vision is the restoration of the G.P.O.

The Government of Pakistan with the Pakistan Post and with the technical support of the Urban Unit has designed a project to conserve/restore the General Post Office, Mall Road, Murree in its original form. The implementation plan given by the Urban Unit, which will be design in detail by Consultants with expertise in conservation and historic preservation, will form a reliable basis for planning the long term, sustainable conservation of G.P.O, Mall Road, Murree.

The work to be carried out by the contractors on the project based on the designs that will be provided includes, but is NOT limited to:

1. The removal of existing roof trusses that are post 1970
2. The removal of some portion of front façade and verandahs that have been built post 1970. This will include taking down the concrete and masonry arches and wall portions.
3. Rebuilding the facade including verandah's in its original form as it was in 1910. This will include detailed masonry and wood works along with intricate detailing.

4. Laying of building floors in Marble as far no evidence of the original flooring is visible today
5. Restoration and preservation of the original timber false ceilings that will even be replaced where required
6. Removal and replacement of the entire roof of the G.P.O
7. Interior restoration and preservation on the basis of documentation provided

The Honorable Prime Minister approved the following tentative timelines for this project completion. It is encouraged that only those contractors that can strictly meet these timelines and have the adequate workforce to do so apply:

- 10th March 2014: Advertisement for Pre-qualification
- 20th March 2014: Submission of Pre-qualification documents
- 10th April 2014: Tenders open
- 26th April 2014: Bids come in
- 29th April 2014: Finalization of bids
- 30th April 2014: Award of contract
- 6th May 2014: Mobilization on site
- 31st Oct 2014: Completion of Phase 1 (Façade & Roof)
- 31st April 2015: Completion of Phase 2 (Interior)