buried next to her.

PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and happening things And especially for those who just like looking at pictures Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see Photomail is available for free subscription by emailing me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com

The Story Behind the Pictures: "Vintage India: Taj Mahal"

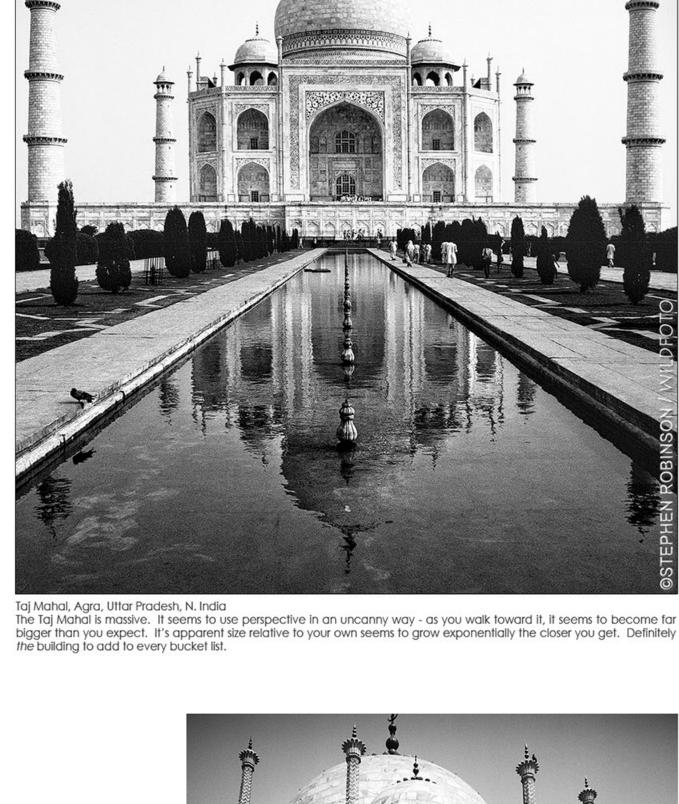
In this PhotoMail, some old photography of India's 'monument to love'. Last week we had news that the Taj Mahal is to

undergo a mud-pack treatment to remove the yellowing effects of pollution. This reminded me that photographs made at the Taj Mahal some 25 years ago are still sitting in the files, waiting to be processed for prints.

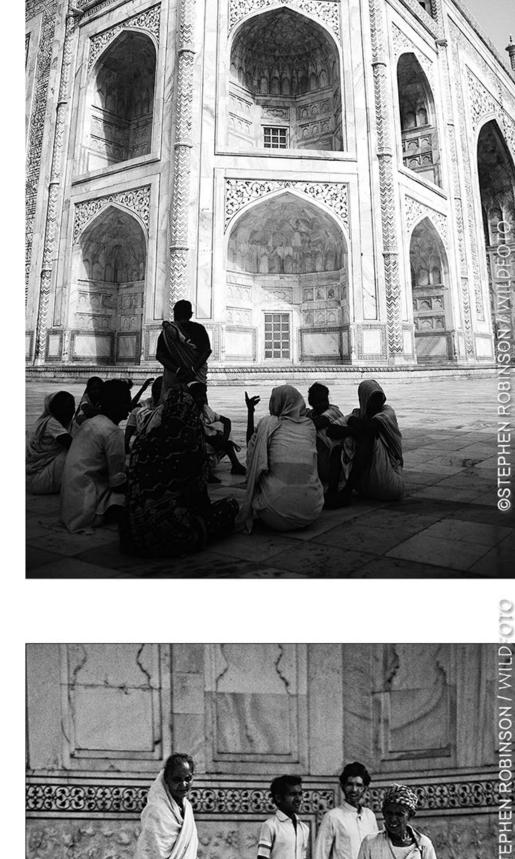
The Mughal Dynasty ruled northern India for some 250 years from the early 16th century to the mid 18th century. Shah Jahan ruled through it's most prosperous period from XXXXXX. In 1631, his third and favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, died giving birth to their 14th child. Shah Jahan was grief stricken and

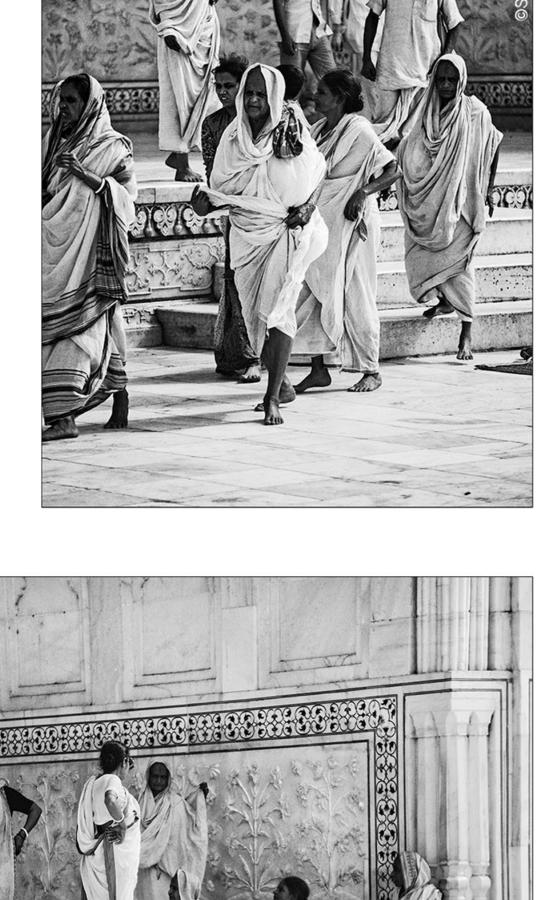
embarked on the construction of the Taj Mahal as a mausoleum complex for her. Instead of using the usual red sandstone, he chose to build the palace using white marble, inlaid with semi-precious stones. The entire complex took some 21 years from 1632 to 1653 to complete. The work employed some 20,000 workers and specialist craftsmen from across northern India, the Ottoman Empire and Europe, plus some 1000 elephants. In 1658, Shah Jahan was deposed by his third son, Aurangzeb, who placed Jahan under house arrest in a tower at Agra's Red Fort. From there, the captive Jahan could look out at a view of his beloved Mumtaz's mausoleum. He died in 1666 and was

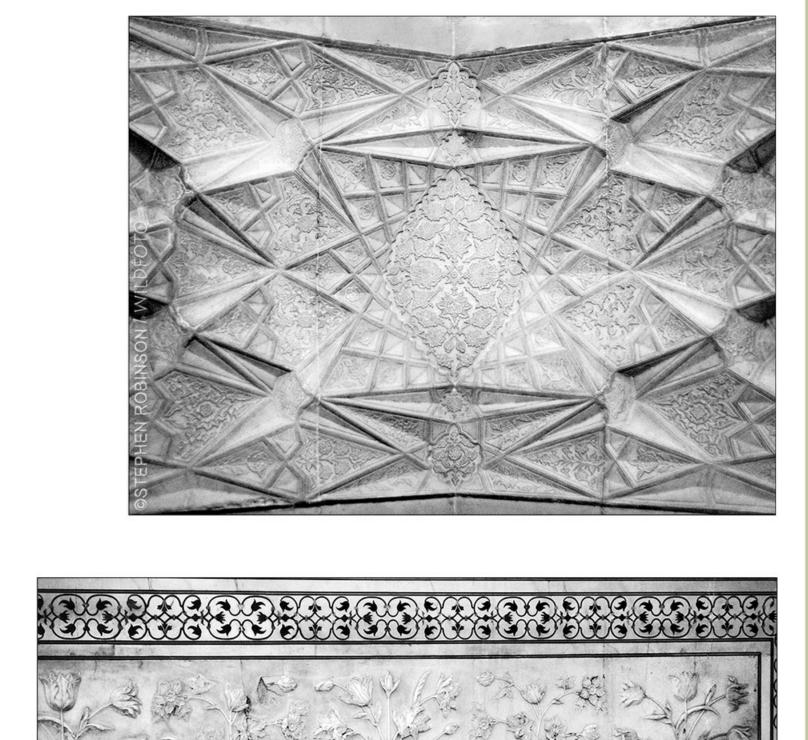
With the decline of the Mughal Dynasty, the Taj Mahal was left to degrade and delapidate, until the turn of the 20th century when the Brtish colonial Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, restored it as part of an effort to preserve India's rich artistic and cultural heritage. It became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.



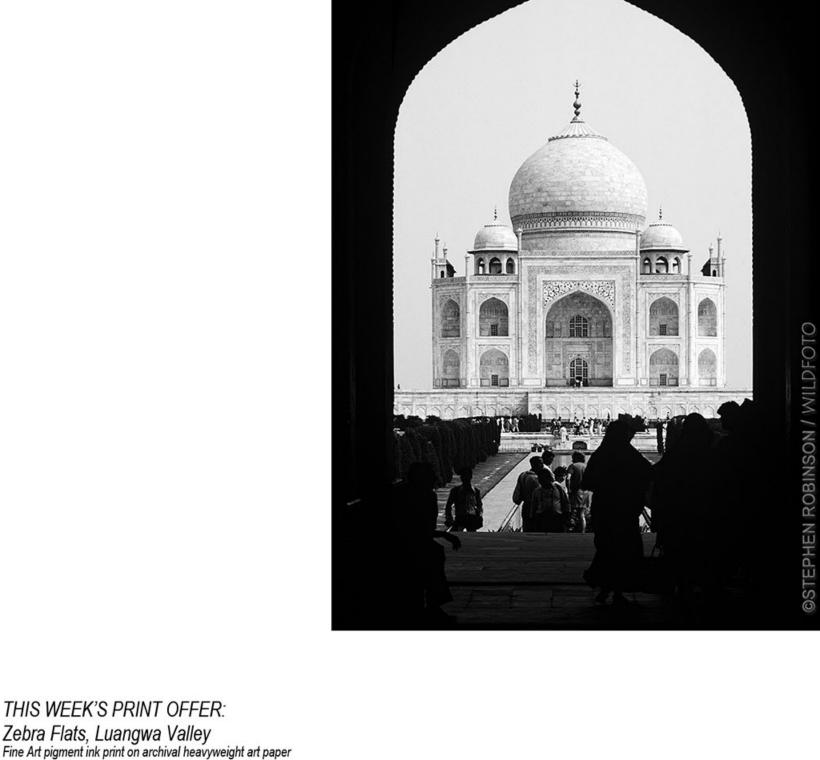
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