

ST. PHILOMENA'S CHURCH

MYSURU



SAVANI
SINCE 1995



ST. PHILOMENA'S CHURCH



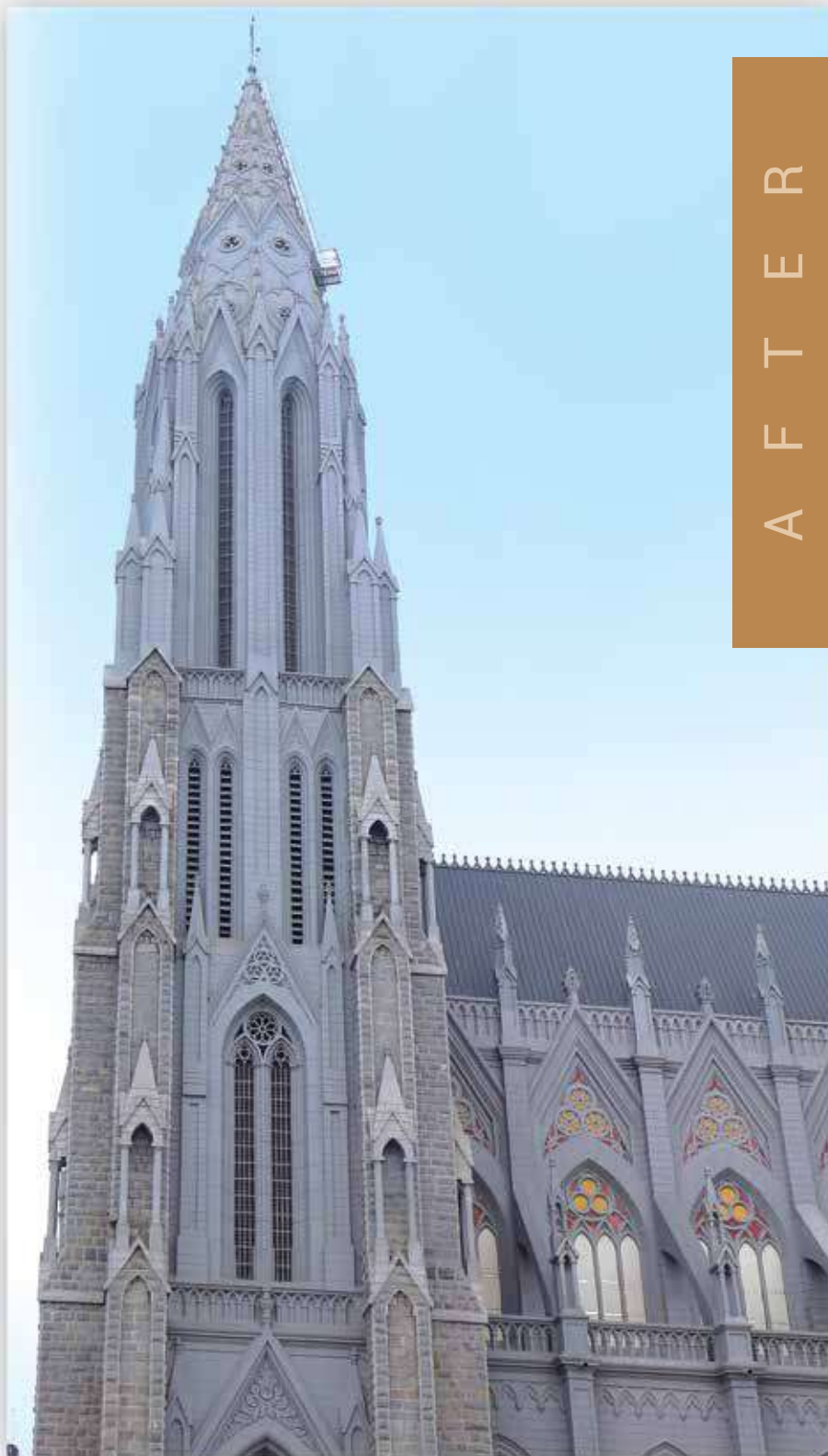
Mysuru's St. Philomena's Church, is a grand religious structure standing tall and is a unique example of heritage church in India with a history and deep religious significance.

St. Philomena's Church is one of the largest churches in India and was first built to serve the British officers stationed at Mysuru and Srirangapatna. The present church, completed in 1936, was designed by the French architect, Daly, in the Neo Gothic style, and is modelled along the Cologne Cathedral in Germany. The church is dedicated to St. Philomena's, a Grecian princess who was martyred in the 4th century. Her relics were found centuries later in one of the Roman catacombs, and in 1926 the relic was handed over to Father Cochet, who requested the then king of Mysore, Maharaja Krishnarajendra Wadiyar to construct a church in the honour of St. Philomena's. The remnants of the St. Philomena's have been preserved in this church even today.

St. Philomena's Church has been made in the shape of a cruciform. Besides the height of the church, another important feature which is not very common is the height and length of the church being of the same that is 175 feet. The Church's Trust is bound by the virtue of spreading, peace, and brotherhood. It also serves the underprivileged with utmost love and affection. Church's Trust being the caretaker also has the responsibility of retaining the iconic structure in a good state. It was recognized by the trust that the church building was in a state of colossal despair. It needed restoration on war footing as it was losing its sheen and becoming a fragile structure by each passing day.

The task of restoration was humongous which needed a specialist and the responsibility of restoration was bestowed upon 'Savani Heritage Conservation Private Limited'. Being the recipient of 7 international awards and having the expertise and experience of restoring various heritage structures all over India, the credentials were more than enough to entrust the restoration responsibility of "St. Philomena's Church"

Today, St. Philomena's Church is fully restored and looks stunning as ever. It is interesting to note about the legacy of church dedicated to Greek saint, built by a French architect in German Style, for the British soldiers and paid for by a Hindu king.



AFTER

The restoration work of the ancient St. Philomena's church was initiated. The chevet encloses within apse and an ambulatory. The chevet is the identity of the church and acts as a focal point of the church from a distance.

It is adorned with different styles of windows at various levels and hence breaks the monotony of horizontal structure. The chevet is typical of church's design irrespective of the style of architecture it belongs to.



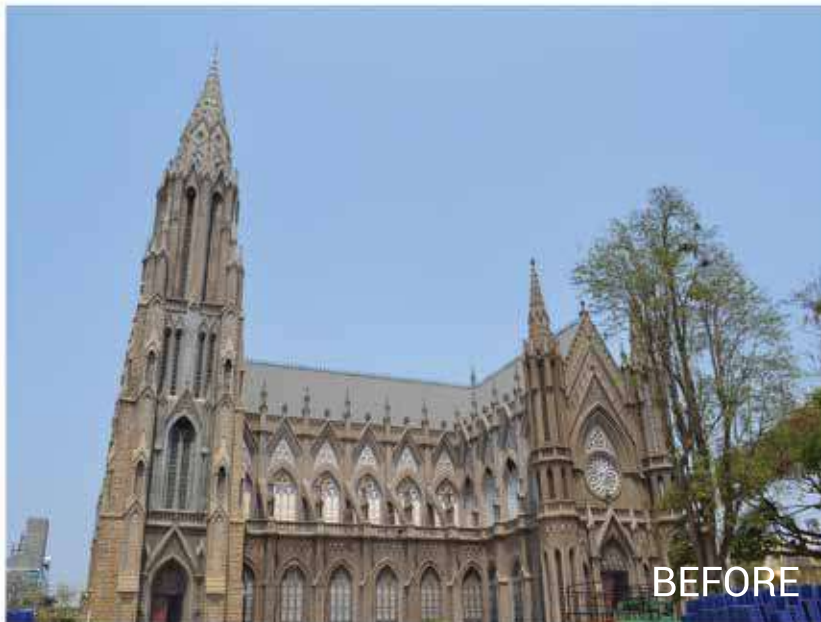
BEFORE



A F T E R

The plan of the church is always in the shape of cruciform where the main axis crosses at right angle between the nave and the choir. The exterior of the structure was in a state of colossal despair and required urgent restoration and repairs. Also, it was severely infested with moss growth and water seepage.

The facades were cleaned, treated in the shade of gray with the use of lime.



BEFORE



AFTER

Structurally the building is sound supported by flying buttresses on the exterior which strongly grasps the church building. The buttresses appear to be holding the structure together and blend with other architectural elements making the buttresses look like a part of the structure yet standing free.

One of the transept can be seen which forms the part of the cruciform plan. This transept has an entrance door adorned with a rose window above it.

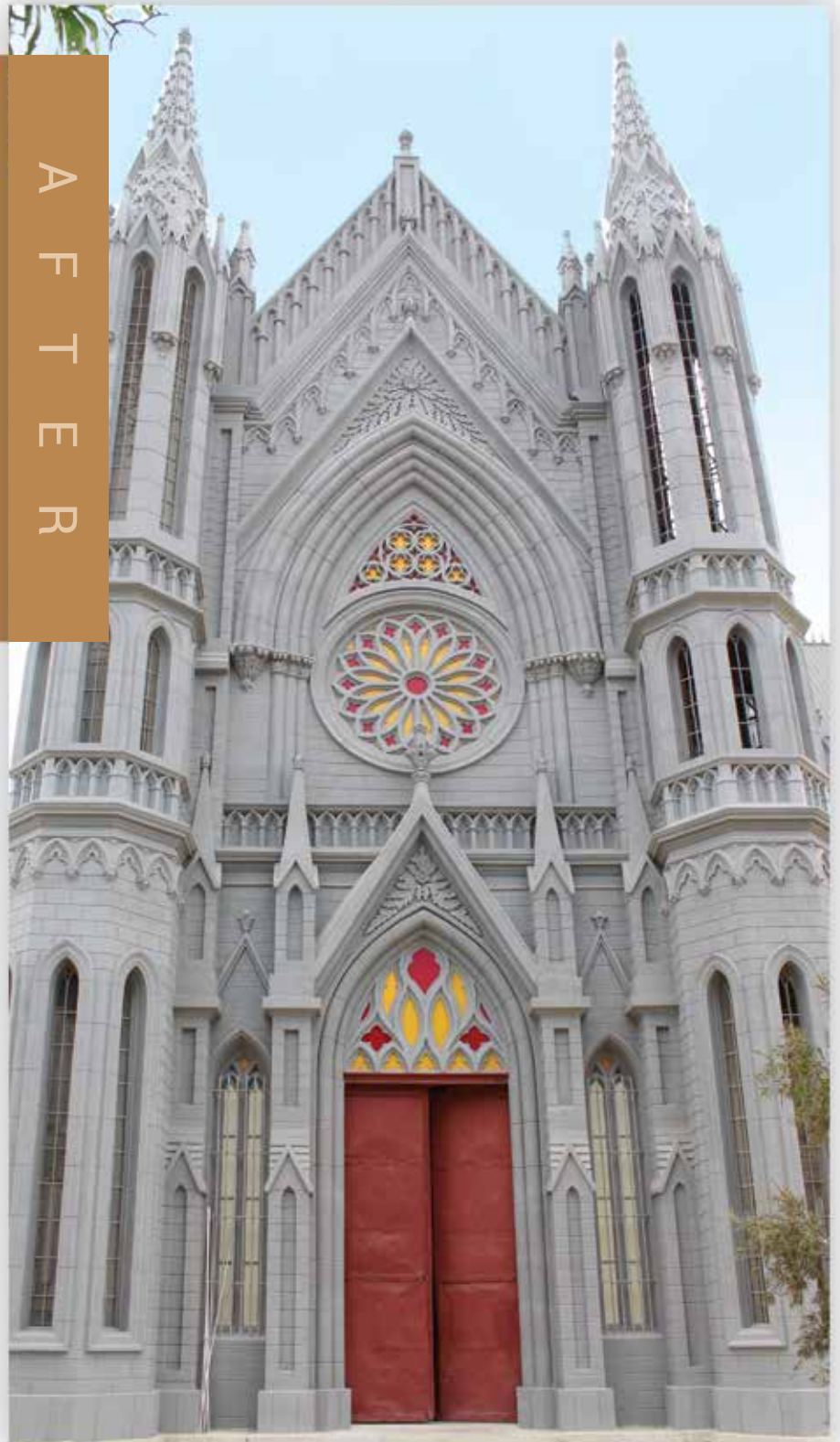


BEFORE

A church has two transepts and both have entrances from either side. These entrance doors are enclosed well into the frame and extended by facade which is typically gothic oriented. Hence, the doors along with other architectural decorative were restored and the door was replaced with a new one.

The centre of the transept is adorned with a rose window and pointed arch above it. Thus the transept helps to achieve the shape of the cruciform in plan which is the basic layout of any church and no different in the case of St. Philomena's church.

A
F
T
E
R



B
E
F
O
R
E





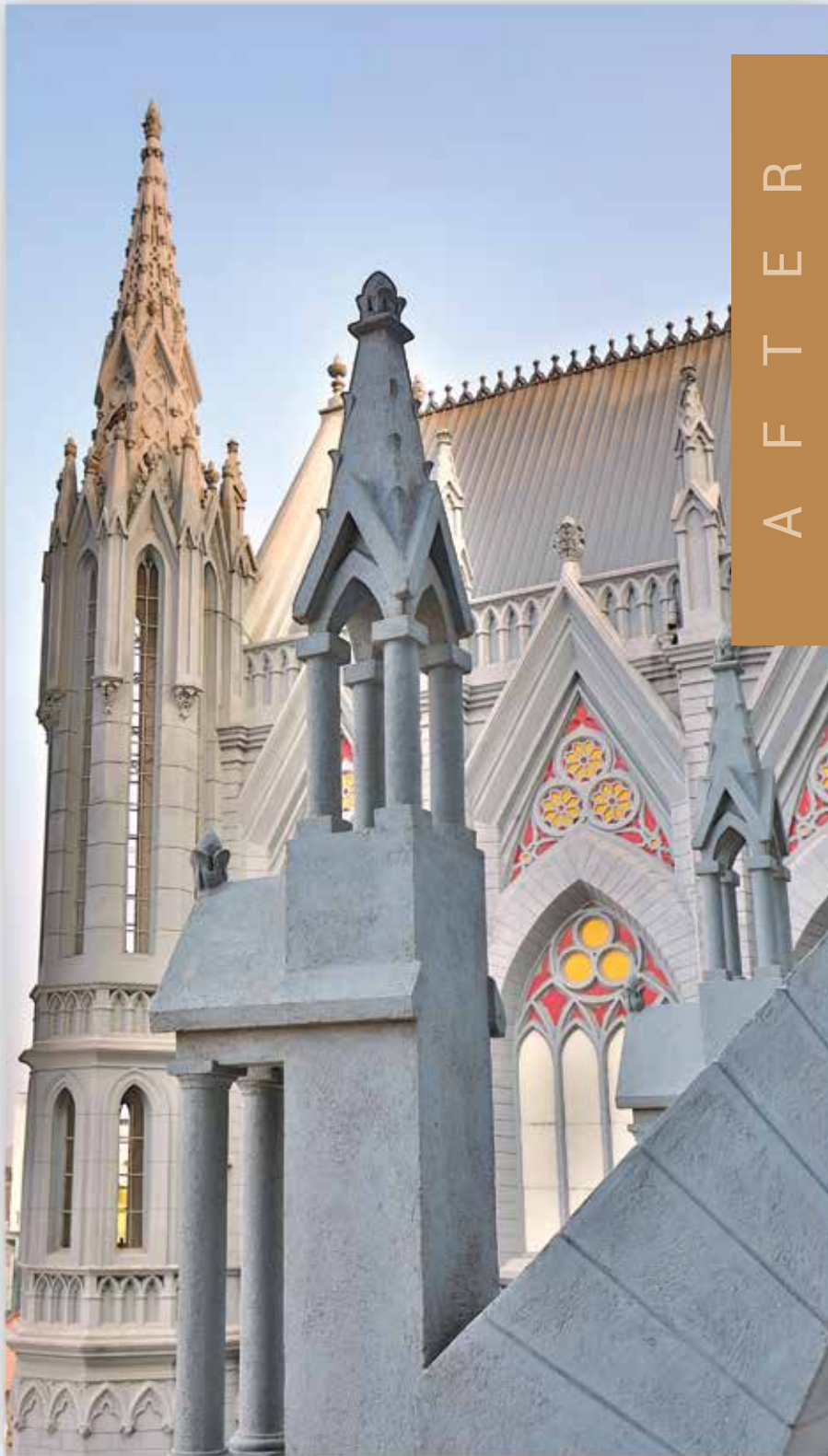
A F T E R

The triforium is an arcaded storey in a church between the roof and the series of the arches below. The clerestory and the vault of the church were soiled with dust accumulation and lack of cleaning at higher levels. The triforium is adorned with a series of coloured glasses fused with the shades of yellow and pink.

These glasses are fixed into iconic pointed arches, typical of a church. The dossier being a supplementary capital above the column receives the thrust of the arch. The chandelier at the triforium level was changed to suit the overall ambience.



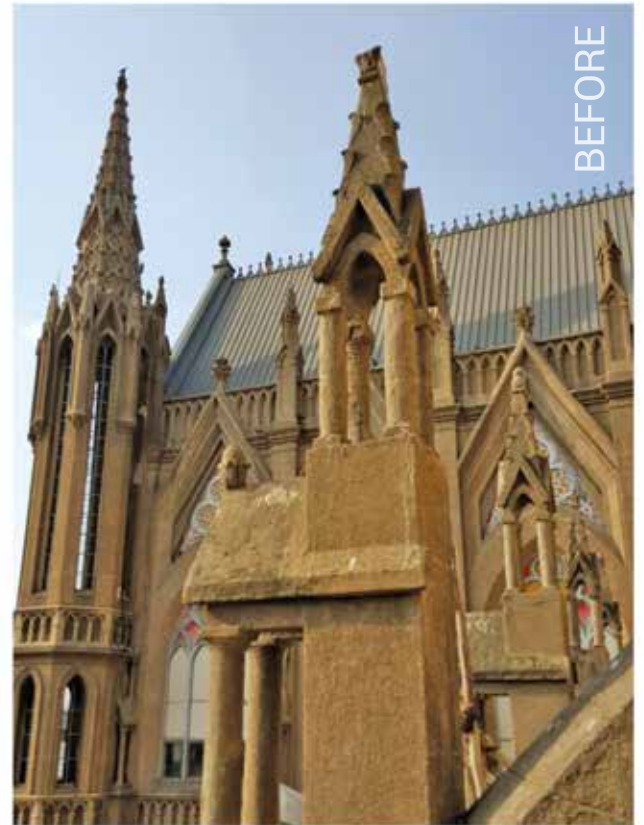
BEFORE



AFTER

The minaret and adjoining spires which are typical of the gothic architectural style adorns the mysore church by giving an appearance of extended height to the structure. These spires are present over the flying buttress and the corner steeples in the form of spires and minarets.

The presence of decorative over the spire is visually appealing and lends unique characteristic identity to the church's structure.

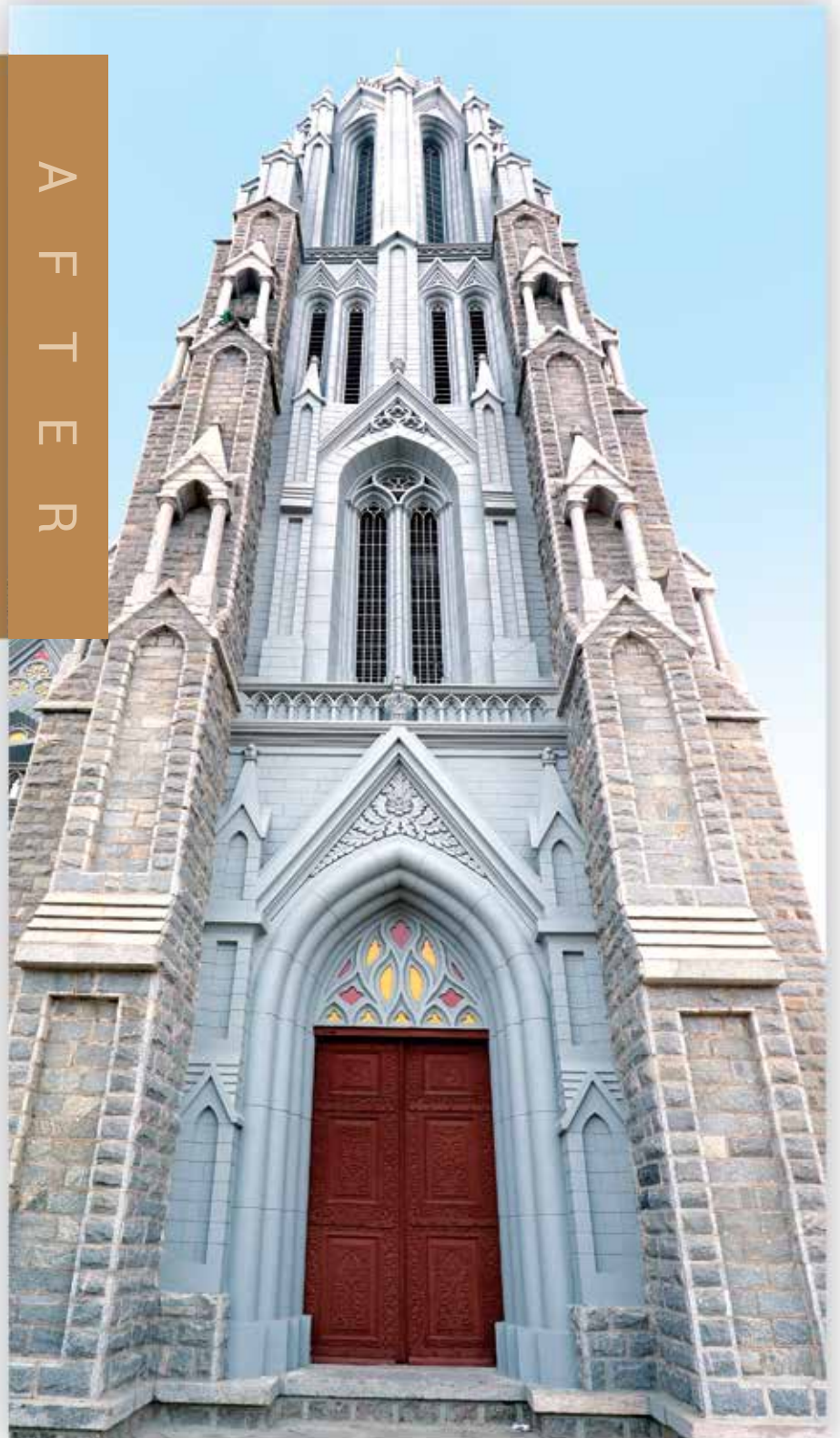


BEFORE

The steeple located at either ends of the church act as entry and exit points. It has doors placed in a pointed arch. The upper portion of the steeple is connected to the triforium and consists of slender windows. Externally, the windows and the door are separated by a horizontal band.

The steeple is a nice blend of bricks and stone works. The steeple is decorated with multiple decorative such as foliages and miniature spires.

A
F
T
E
R



B
E
F
O
R
E





A F T E R

The flying buttresses are an important structural element of the church. The upper portion is arched which transfers the load below. The previous interventions were done in cement where the threat of further deterioration was possible.

Therefore, the restoration for the same was finished with lime. The intermediate floor below the arches was cleaned and checked for any leakages.



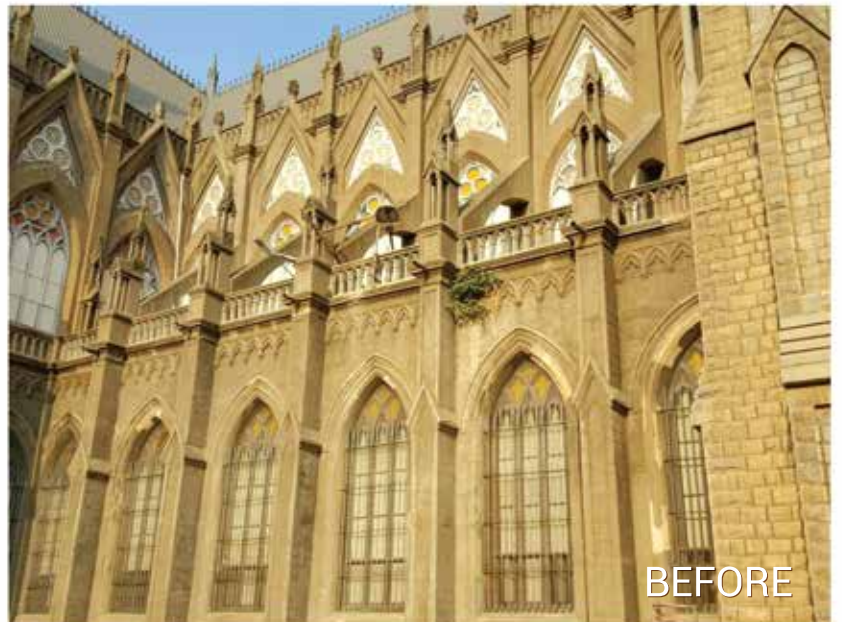
BEFORE



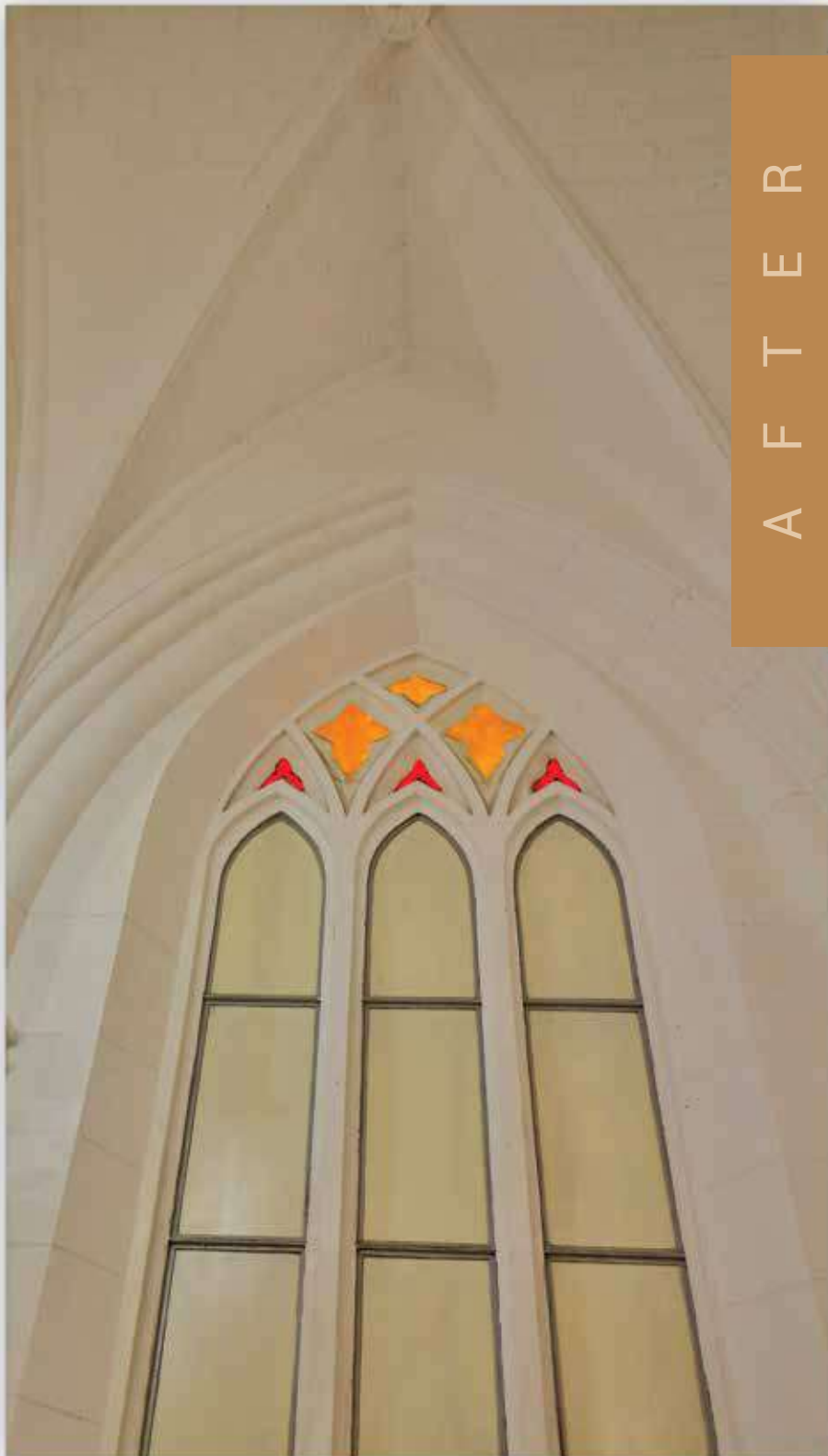
AFTER

The dominating character of the windows and arches at two different levels can be clearly seen.

The facade and the windows were restored and interventions executed were necessary.



BEFORE



AFTER

The pointed arch window was severely affected with damp which had caused flaking of the paint layers and the number of windows all together caused a dullness.

Lime wash followed by lime plaster method was implemented to arrest the water leakages as lime plaster cures the dampness and gave a fresher appearance in the aisles. The window frames were resealed to avoid water ingress.



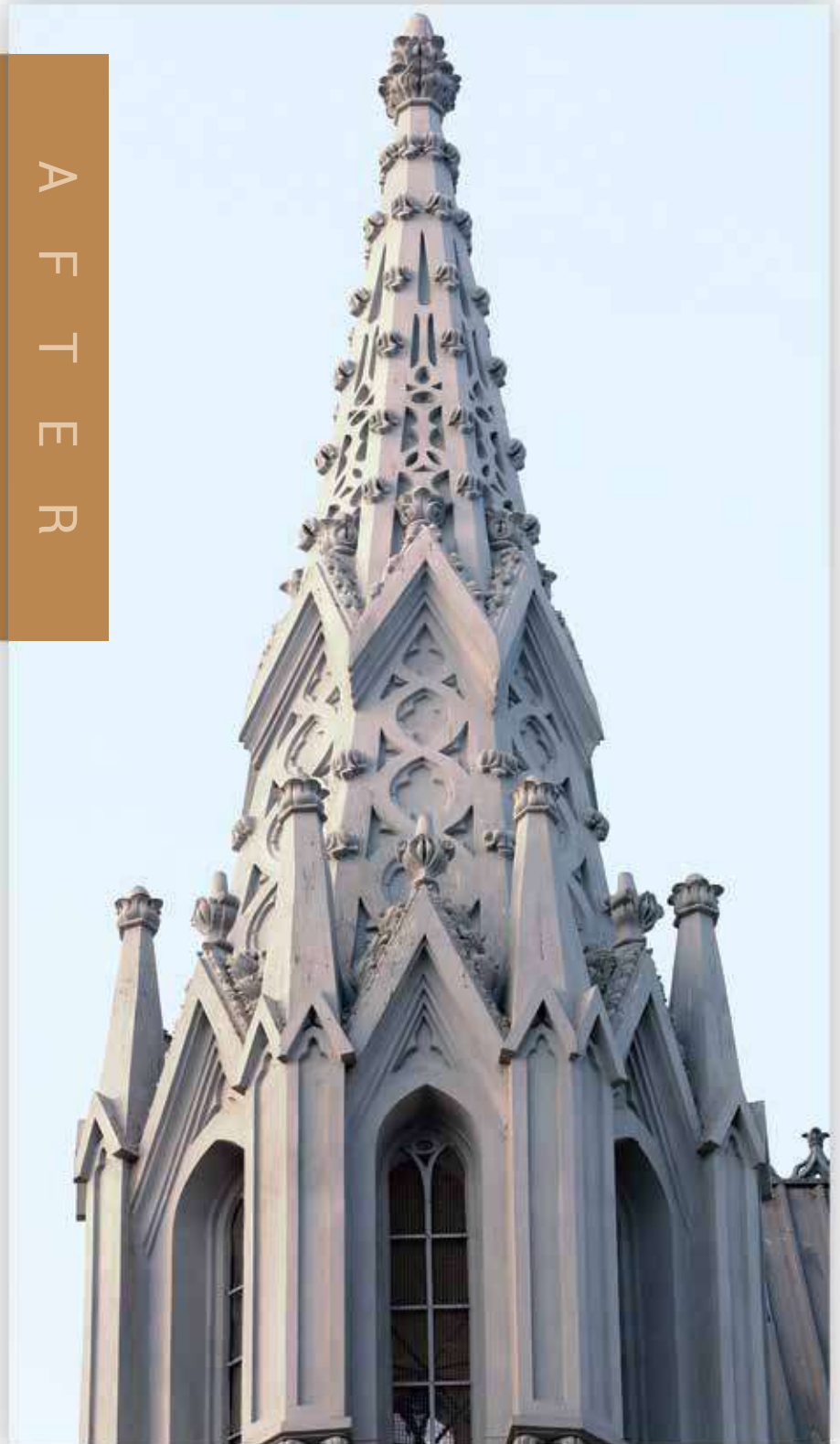
BEFORE

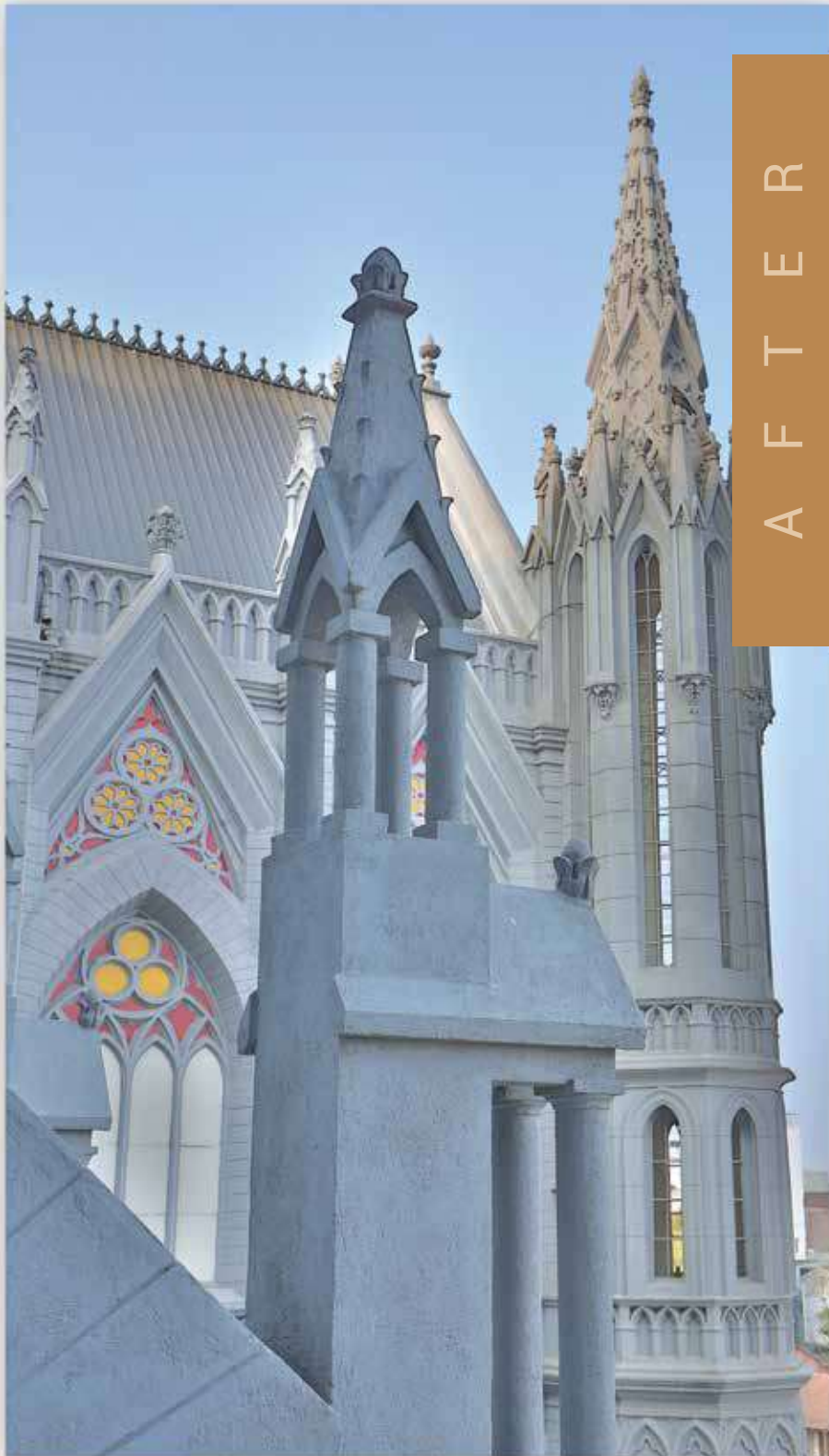
The spire being the top most part of the tower is acutely tapering pyramidal structure. The spire exhibits its gothic character due to the presence of trefoils and various forms of foliage patterns. The top of the spire is adorned with a finial, a small foliated ornament terminating at the peak of spire.

Being the top most point of perspective, the restoration of its adjoining members was one of the preliminary concerns of church restoration.

A
F
T
E
R

B
E
F
O
R
E

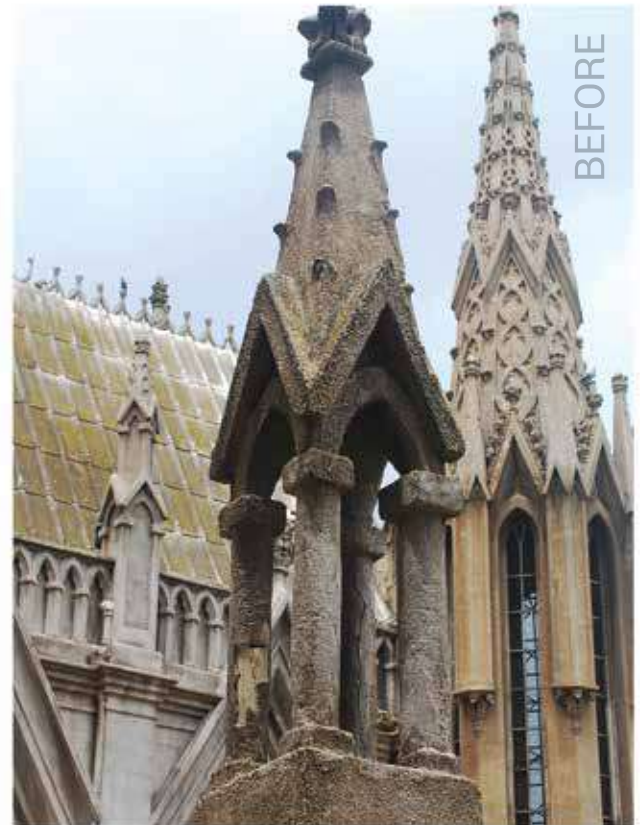




AFTER

The spire of the church is a member which is tall, acutely tapering pyramidal which surmounts the tower. The tower has long slender windows just beneath the spire and smaller windows at middle level. Hence the spire and the turrets were Restored with traditional Lime mortar.

These foliated ornaments terminate at the peak and add distinctive character of the church at the roof level.



BEFORE



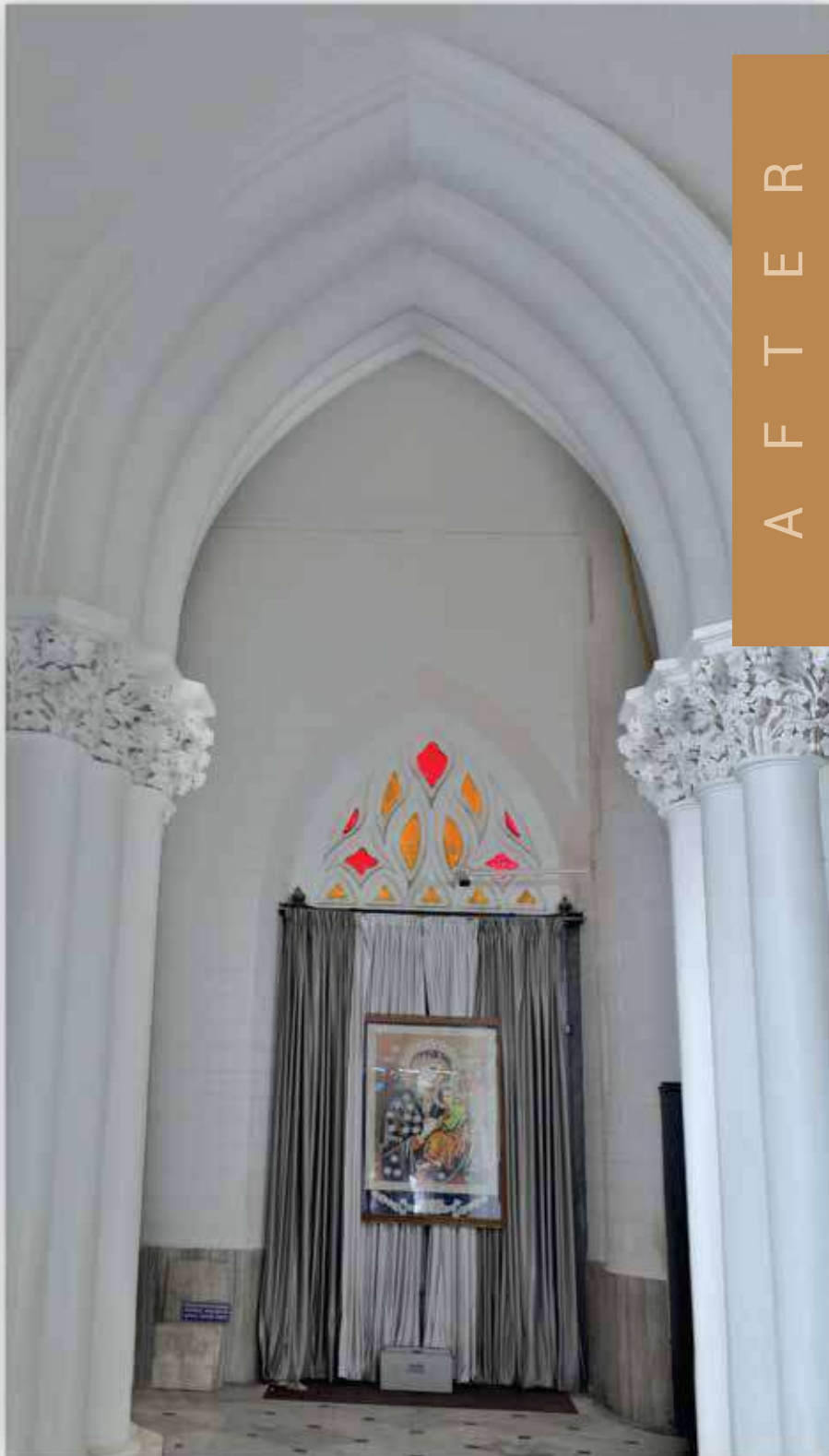
AFTER

The series of arcades supported on piers in the interior of the church along the isles needed repairs, which received lime and was followed by lime plaster. The arcade did not show major signs of dampness but was in a dire need of a facelift. Some of the crockets showed signs of cracks and few were in a broken state. The fine moldings were restored back skillfully using lime.

The lime plaster was rendered to the columns so that it can reflect the light back. The reflection of the light helps to illuminate the space to some extent, thus driving away gloominess.



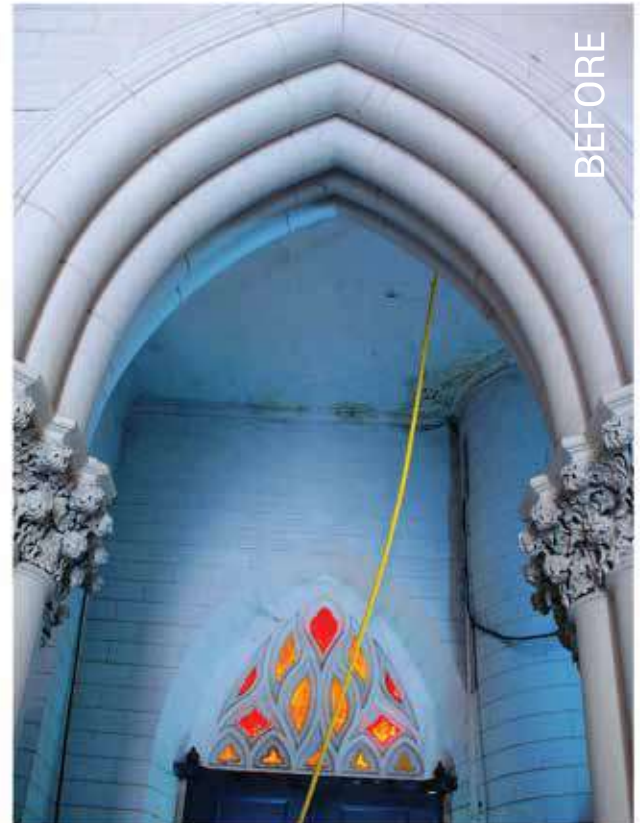
BEFORE



AFTER

The interior side of the facades show prominent signs of dampness. The dampness had led to moss growth in the areas of water seepages.

The seepage can spread through capillary action and deteriorate other members further. The door has been closed down for the use of entry and exit.

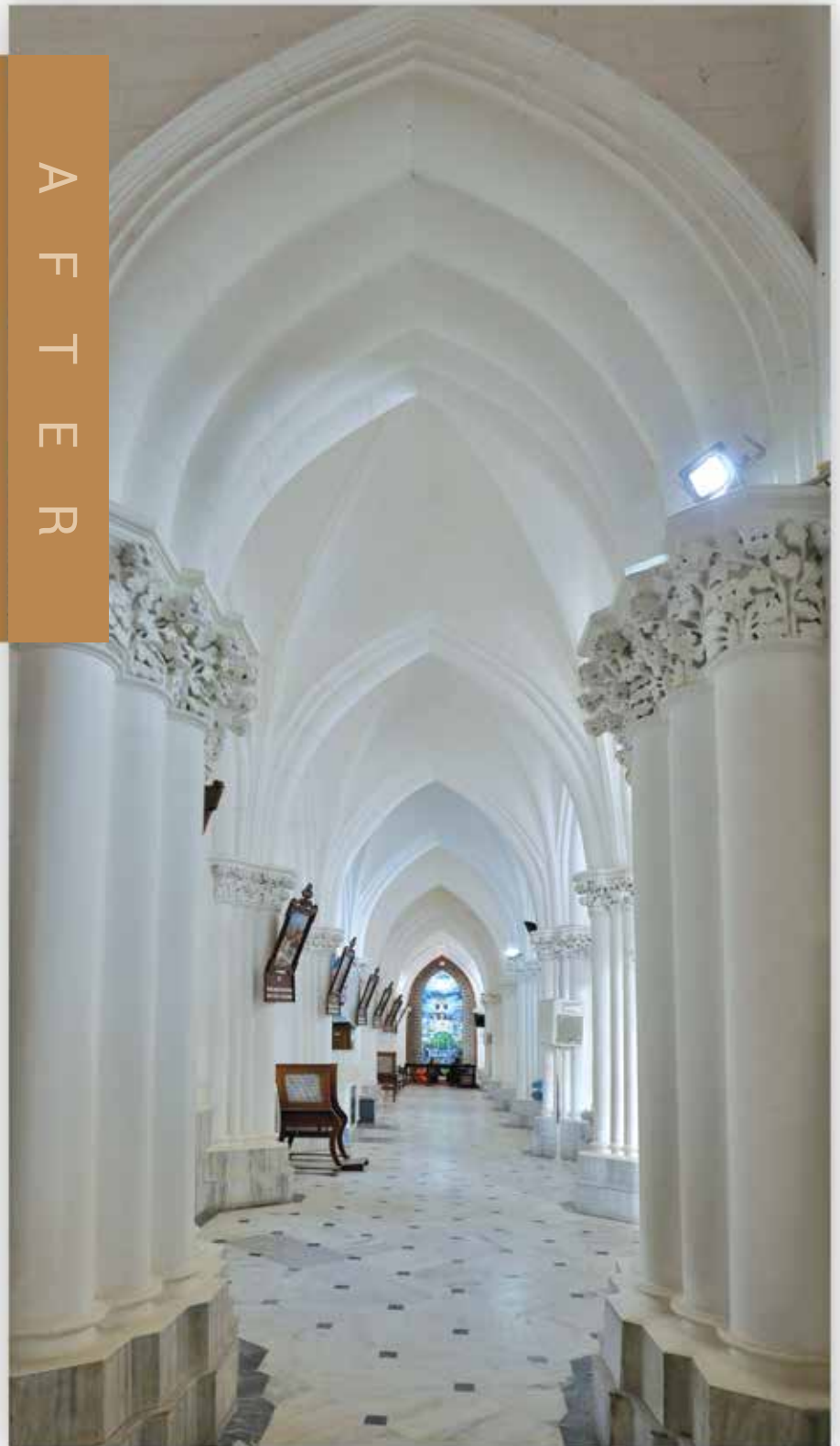


BEFORE

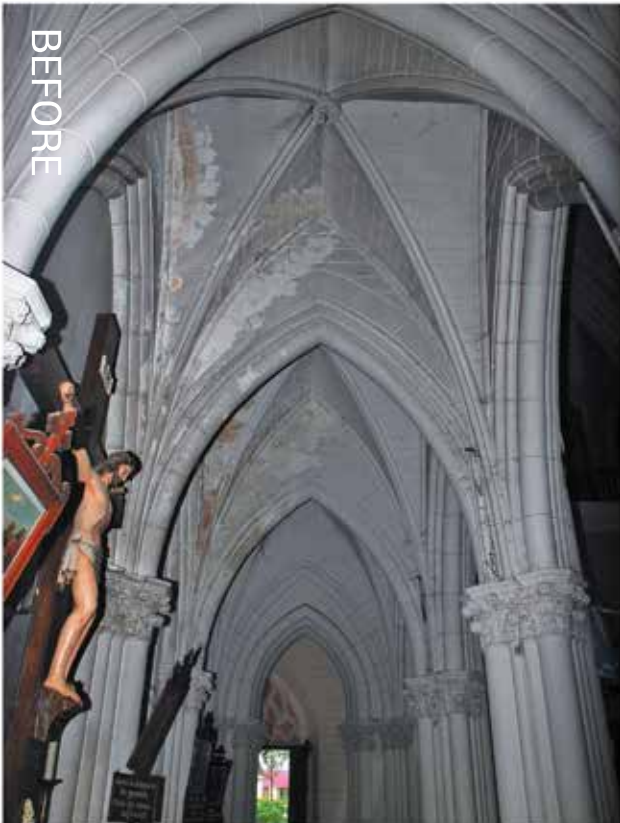
The vaults of the arcades in the aisles showed signs of flaking and required lime plaster. The vaults of the arcade are an important structural members which hold two or more other members should not be weakened due to dampness which can lead to structural instability.

The crocket which were deteriorated were also mended with the help of lime.

AFTER



BEFORE

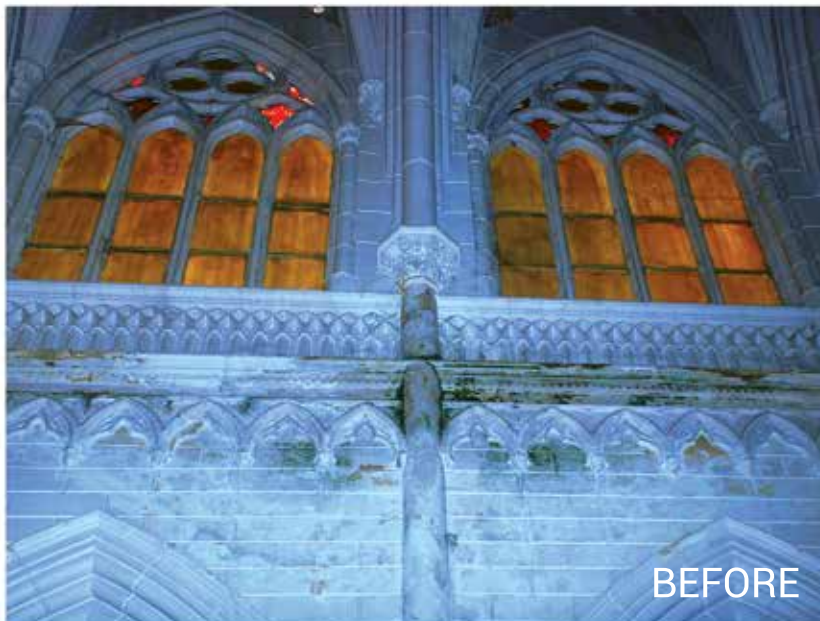




A F T E R

The water seepage over the years can cause patchy moss growth, especially to the members facing the exterior. The triforium level here can be spotted with a green patch which was cleared and treated later on.

The horizontal band of crocket was delicately treated with the help of lime wash.



BEFORE



A F T E R

The problem of dampness and flaking was grave throughout the church building. The corners were especially damp and wet. Hence it became very important to treat the leakage to stop seepage further. All the windows in the church were made water tight.

The use of lime has played an important role as a finishing material making it damp proof.



BEFORE



AFTER

The rose window also known as wheel window has distinct radiating mullions or bars. It is also known as Catherine wheel or marigold window.

The vaults around the rose window showed signs of dirt accumulation thereby affecting the appearance. The dirt was cleared and the rose window was restored.



BEFORE



AFTER

The architectural elements such as the altar, choir, the arcades and the triforium were restored step by step to address multiple problems such as water ingress, dampness and biological growth.

The stained glass at the rear end were checked for any previous interventions and dampness. The old chandelier was replaced with a new one which is more grand.



BEFORE







SAVANI HERITAGE CONSERVATION PVT. LTD.
(Formerly known as SAVANI CONSTRUCTION CO. PVT. LTD.)

Bldg. No. 8, Rajabhadur Mansion, 2nd Floor,
Ambalal Doshi Marg, Behind Bombay Stock Exchange, Fort, Mumbai 400 023.

☎ +91 93245 46378 / 93242 23157 ☎ 022 2261 5442 / 022 2261 5445

✉ info@savaniheritage.com / savaniheritage@gmail.com 🌐 savaniheritage.com