In October 1993, a major earthquake shook Cairo, causing great damage throughout its monument-rich medieval district. The Khoja Mosque is a relatively large complex, covering 2,000 m² of ground and comprising 5,000 m² of built surface and 1,000 m² of wall surface. Severely damaged by the earthquake, particularly in areas where different load systems meet, the Mosque was closed to the public.

The hardwood beams were tilted by the ground movement. The main support columns and decorative materials buckled and collapsed. The facades suffered from cracking action, damaging masonry courses from the ground to a height of several meters. While the mosque was closed, water seeped uncontrolled through the wooden roof, rotting the wood and undermining masonry and the 12th century decorations. When the Aga Khan Trust for Culture began its restoration work in 2003, structural threats were addressed to ensure the building’s longevity and the interior decorations, including delicate inlaid marble panels and pink ceramic tiles, were painstakingly restored.