

Protibesh, the journal of the Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, is committed to disseminating research and technical knowledge relevant to the teaching and practice of Architecture. This issue of the journal includes seven research papers on varying topics, which the Editorial Board considers as having the potential to contribute new knowledge to the practice and teaching of Architecture.

The issue contains two papers on architectural history. The first, by M.M Rashid from the NUS, Singapore, discusses the transformation of the Stupa to the Stupa Shrine, relating it to changing Buddhist religious practices. The paper delves into the morphological transformation of the central religious edifice of the Buddhist belief, in terms of form, function and meaning with reference to the changes in religious creeds, practice and symbolism. In its earlier days Buddhism did not require any dedicated structure, as the religion put more emphasis on philosophical aspects of living, than on rituals. The later stupa-shrine, however, has a huge cruciform structure in the centre, that works as focus, surrounded by cells. Given the configuration and size of the cruciform structure, according to the author, it played an important role in the religious practice of the monastery. The paper presents an interesting way to interpret archaeological information architecturally and construct conjectures regarding lifestyles and historical space usage.

The second paper on architectural history by H. Rahaman and K.M. Darain from Khulna, provides a description of buildings in Khalifatabad City, Bagerhat, the ancient capital city of 'Ulugh Khan Jahan', one of the 15th Century saint-generals who ruled over the region. According to the authors, the brick construction, stone plinths and supporting systems adorned with terra-cotta ornaments display a vital interaction of foreign and local building tradition. The paper aims to examine how this indigenous building style responds towards climate and context, and is based on observations on twelve monuments in the area which according to the authors are in a condition well enough to be studied for any architectural research.

There are also three papers on urbanization and human settlements in this issue of Protibesh. The first is on Chittagong, a port city of Bangladesh, situated in a zone where a major earthquake may occur at any time. Its rapid urban growth is causing further deterioration and increasing the vulnerability of human lives, economy and infrastructures. In this paper, Civil Engineers, Ansary and

Alam, discourse on the seismic vulnerability of Chittagong and suggest some non-structural, social mitigation measures to ensure protection of life and property of the inhabitants.

As Chittagong is the most important trade centre for Bangladesh, the loss from a major earthquake is likely to affect the whole nation. To make matters worse, the growth of Chittagong for the last few decades has been haphazard and population density of the city has increased manifold. The paper gives an inventory of buildings in the city, showing that more than two-thirds of the houses are of temporary materials, which make the inhabitants especially vulnerable to earthquake damage. Non-structural mitigation measures suggested to reduce vulnerability involve increasing public education and awareness of the general population, where not only the Government, but also NGOs can play significant roles. The paper is an important one which carries important lessons for Architects as well as non-technical stakeholders.

The next paper concerns the vagaries of rampant unplanned urbanization and related increasing demands for new shelters and infrastructure support. Shrestha, the author expounds on the situation in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal. The paper attempts an analysis of three different planned residential precincts developed under different techniques on a comparative basis, relating them to the inhabitants' responses. As a basis for the comparison the paper first establishes a theoretical framework of good residential neighbourhoods from published sources. The three case studies are compared with respect to their size, scale and integration with surrounding areas, the street and open space hierarchy within the neighbourhoods, architectural characteristics, opportunities for socialisation, social networks and community institutions and the sense of place and community within the neighbourhoods. The authors conclude with a list of recommendations for enhancing the intrinsic qualities of neighbourhoods in Nepal.

In the following paper, A.K.M.K Islam discusses urban revitalisation through place making, focusing on the case of Khulna, the third largest city of Bangladesh. Considering that the provision of open urban spaces is one of the basic factors for improving the living environment, the paper presents current status of such spaces in Khulna and discusses ways of ridding the city of this

dearth. Based on surveys and observations, the paper lists some of the measures that are imperative for enriching urban life and community participation, both for quality recreation as well as for greater economic growth.

This issue of Protibesh concludes with two papers on environment and design. The first of these presents an observation on daylight inclusion in the lighting of offices in Dhaka. Z.N. Ahmed and M.A.R. Joarder in this paper report the findings of a study of existing office buildings in the City, describing and analysing the luminous environments found within. The paper presents an understanding of the nature of, and influencing factors of, these luminous environments, under the dense conditions found in Dhaka city, through the study of three typical office typologies. The results of lighting measurements in typical spaces in these offices show that despite abundant daylight in Dhaka, it is given little consideration in design of the overall luminous environment. The paper compares the different daylighting strategies available to designers and how they are addressed in the Dhaka situation, finding that most possibilities are neglected. The case is made for supplementary lighting, i.e. using daylight in design and only supplementing deficits by artificial lighting, thus calling for energy efficiency.

The last paper of this issue concerns the consequences of human interventions and over-utilization of natural resources, and takes as a case study the fishing community living along the mangrove forests of Karachi, Pakistan. The authors, Khiani and Dholandas, examine how awareness of the issues that lead to preservation of the mangrove ecosystem can prevent its misuse or commercial exploitation and thereby keep poverty at bay. The paper presents a documentation of the physical realities of the built environment and socio-economic conditions of the community, while advocating for improved accessibility to services and infrastructure. Certain measures taken by the WWFP have been cited with particular emphasis on ways in which the community itself has been made to participate in steps to preserve the mangrove ecosystem.

In order to maintain the standard of Protibesh, the Authors have had to work hard, to finalise the drafts based on the comments and guidance of the Reviewers and the Editorial Board. All concerned, the Authors, the Reviewers and members of the Editorial Board have had to work hard to modify, edit and finalise the papers, and I am indeed grateful for the cooperation that they have all

extended. The contents of the papers and opinions expressed in them, as they are presented here are however the Authors' own, and the success, intellectual and academic value of their papers, likewise, belongs to them alone. We have merely served as instruments in their presentation.

In conclusion, I hope that the objective of Protibesh to contribute new knowledge to the teaching and practice of Architecture will be achieved through this issue.

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On behalf of the

Editorial Board, Protibesh,

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