

Protibesh, the journal of the Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, is a peer-reviewed academic publication dedicated to presenting latest research findings in order to keep abreast with developments in architectural and technical knowledge relevant to the teaching and practice of Architecture. This issue of Protibesh offers seven research papers on the topical issues of architectural history, housing, urban design and the environment.

The first of the papers, titled *The Thin Line between Tradition and Modernity: The Poetics of Vernacular Dwellings of Chittagong Hill Tracts* is based on primary fieldwork of the Mru architecture found in the hills of Bangladesh, conducted for a study in Australia. D. R. Ara and M. Rashid in this paper on housing, discuss a very close connection between the seemingly dissimilar concepts of tradition and modernity. The paper focuses on characteristics of vernacular dwellings of Chittagong Hill Tracts, arguing that the local building tradition is closely akin to the ideas of modernism in Architecture as propounded by the Masters. The paper also investigates some aspects of mainstream modernist design concepts as imbued in the broader vernacular of Asia. It focuses on such ideas and concepts such as modular or incremental design, standardization, flexible and temporal concept of designed space.

In Defence of Others: Culture and Context in Sustainable Housing Typology by S. Maher and J. McIntosh is a New Zealand entry on housing issues. In a critique on the way sustainability is addressed in contemporary solutions to housing, the paper argues that the ever-popular technofix of eco-design is predominantly theoretical and as a result alternative designs are effectively side-lined in the sustainable housing typology. The often inflexibility of layout, consumption of space and elision of the dynamics and particularities of context are instrumental in making housing solutions less than sustainable. After discussing the cultural frame of sustainable housing, the paper elaborates on an emerging form of housing, called conjoined housing, which receives only scant mention in present-day sustainable housing literature. The need for an exercise in vernacularising eco-housing so as to make room on the housing typology for other models, such as conjoined housing, and placing these models in a contextual frame can generate local solutions outside of the West. This enables the possibility of appropriating different models and methods of sustainability rather than narrowly relying on the one standard model of eco-housing, which is appropriate in some contexts but cannot be for all.

This issue of Protibesh includes two papers on environment. The first, H. M. Maruf's paper on MM5 Simulation study of Urbanization Influences on the Climate of Tokai

area, Japan, is a highly technical paper explaining methods of using computer simulations to chart influences of land-use on climatic variations, specifically on surface temperatures. The paper is based on the premise that the heat island phenomenon becomes an obvious outcome of climate change in urban areas and shows consistently higher temperatures compared to surrounding rural areas. An attempt is made through this paper to present the use of computer modelling and simulation to identify areas of temperature difference found around the Tokai region in Japan of which Nagoya is the biggest urban centre. The results of the simulation show a significant change in the surface energy fluxes caused by land cover changes. The paper concludes that given the good agreement found between simulation and measured data, future work should involve developing a regional climate map and formulating a design strategy for urban planners and architects in order to mitigate the urban heat island effect and create comfortable and energy efficient urban environments.

The theme of environment is further elaborated in the UK-Zimbabwe paper titled *Influence of Landscape Architecture on the Contemporary University Campus Design* by M. S. Zami and S. I. Umenne. The paper contends that the success of the learning process in University campuses is related to the articulation of the campus spaces both in the interior and the exterior, and as much of the social, cultural, and recreational activities take place in outdoor spaces therefore, landscape design should play a major role in the organisation of these outdoor activities. The paper introduces a discussion of the key attributes which should feature in a fully established university campus, whether homogenous or heterogeneous, concentric, zonal or linear, viz it should present the notion of a quiet, comfortable "oasis" in an otherwise busy city while being able to adapt to dynamism or change in time and space. Elements of landscape design like ground forms, buildings, trees, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, green open spaces, soft- and hard-paved open spaces, water forms, are discussed related to the activities they generate.

Revitalizing the Mughal Settlements in Old Dhaka by M. S. Hossain is a paper on architectural history. This paper argues that the social characteristics of the historic areas of 400 year old Dhaka have undergone changes and patterns of invasion-succession of immigrant population, which have subsequently been superimposed onto successive and contemporary development in which the historic fabric has been allowed to deteriorate and be abandoned. Historic buildings need to be considered within the context of urban-settlements in order to cope with development. This paper discusses ways in which Mughal artefacts of old Dhaka can be prevented from decay and dam-

ages, and be integrated within the urban fabric while ensuring social and economic viability. The paper through a discussion of the possible interventions at macro- and micro-level, outlines a comprehensive approach for architectural conservation, revitalizing these historic areas and incorporating the aging artefacts into contemporary urban life.

F. Ferdous and F. Nilufar's paper on Morphological Transformation and Evolution of Panthapath as a Commercial Belt of Dhaka City, is the second paper on urban design in this issue. The paper centres around the Begunbari Khal, one of the oldest canals in Dhaka, which in the early 90s was converted to a box-culvert and an arterial road Panthapath, paved along a natural depression. It is the expansion of the city that has created demand for new spaces for required urban activities at convenient locations with ease of accessibility and improved environment, thereby continually changing the urban fabric. This paper is an attempt at comprehending the evolution of this busy commercial spine, carved from waterways in the historic city of Dhaka, which has emerged due to densification and physical expansion.

The final paper of this issue, Water Prospect and exigency for regenerating natural waterways of urban Bangladesh: focusing the case of Buriganga by S. S. Hakim, also relates to the design of urban areas. The paper highlights the dominant hold that rivers have played in the historic development and flourishing of Bengali society and culture. But current issues like unplanned development, rapid urbanization, ecological hazards, unlawful encroachment and overall negligence are now challenging the very origin of the socio-cultural and ecological foundations once laid by these rivers. The paper, focussing on intense examination of the Buriganga of Dhaka, advocates revitalization of historic rivers, based on a redefinition of their role in light of the historic contribution they made through the ages. The process, along with policy intervention, calls for reclamation of the natural shape and composure of the rivers and regeneration following identification of the impacts caused by degeneration of rivers in urban Bangladesh.

It is expected that the seven papers included in the journal will throw light on contemporary thoughts of researchers and academicians in their attempt to theorise the issues pertinent to architecture. On behalf of the Board of Editors, I would like to extend my thanks to the Authors of these papers for their painstaking efforts to write the papers and then to modify them during the post-review phase. I would also like to thank the Reviewers for their thoroughness in the review process and for their intellectual input in suggesting modifications and corrections, suggestions which have no doubt added greater

depth to the works. After the modifications, the Editorial Board had the responsibility of editing and finalising these papers for publication, while keeping the contents unchanged. Despite all the interventions at different phases, it is however the Authors' own thoughts and opinions that are expressed in the final contents of the papers, and the success, intellectual and academic value of their papers, likewise, belongs to them alone. We have merely served as instruments in their presentation.

Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed

Professor, Department of Architecture,
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
Dhaka

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