

The journal Protibesh, meaning environment, is committed to bring forward challenging concerns of all - the unprecedented explosion of urban population, approaches to current and historical built-forms and communities, erosion of social values and plummeting memories. Everyday we, the professionals dealing with physical environment, are indeed faced with fresh challenges in every sphere of our lives. At the same time, often in the name of development we find resolutions and images that are falling short in addressing the concerns. Any decision or project or attempt may be one of a kind, even unconventional but it ought to be desirable. It would be naive if we are not ready to accept attempts in any physical design that may not be extraordinary but it has to be significant — at least habitual. Under such constraints we are to strive for a congenial, vibrant and viable physical environment that improves understanding and compassion among people. The more we indulge ourselves into these endeavors we bring greater benefits to the nation, to the young minds and to the profession.

As the profession grows in society and the deeper the reach and influence of the thoughts are the stronger becomes the voice of design. Consequently when Bangladesh is in pursuit of articulating a language, a vocabulary and a style in its physical design arenas, these would indeed be able to capture the true spirit of the nation. Often a question may come up, is the current attempts a valid extension of tradition? In fact what is seen around triggers, of the many, two common notions - firstly whether the design is culture bound and secondly whether it suits the people's personal liking. These notions to some extent, may be, are pre assumed and cynical. There could be lots of arguments running back and forth on what should

be the true nature of physical environment of Bangladesh. The continual presence of juxtapositions of different features in the streets and in architecture of our cities we may have developed a taste for organic image of contrasts and incongruity reinforcing a baseline - search for harmony in diversity.

This issue of the journal highlighted several current concerns, which are foundations of architecture, urban areas and cities. The articles focus on the message they uphold and consider adaptation of processes for implementation. Be it landscape design, creation of natural as well as artificial environments, housing for the urban poor, understanding of an urban space or morphological evolution of a city - the contributions of the authors are acknowledged with appreciation.

The journal also stresses the need of assessing the role of professional community; calls for further research and critical debate among people. Inter disciplinary and multicultural experts to review and understand significance of environments, physical in particular. Thus there is the greater likelihood of giving the people congenial physical environment they deserve. What better means can there be than a journal as Protibesh to publish research, dialogue, educational news, opinions and public outreaches incorporating both the Department's mission and the profession's focus? Comments on any aspect of the journal are welcomed. The Protibesh Committee, look forward to build the journal to be a national and regional resource for information and analyses on architecture, environment and related issues.

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