

THE VOID IN BETWEEN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD
THE URBAN CONTEXT OF DHAKA

A Thesis

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In partial fulfillment of

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By

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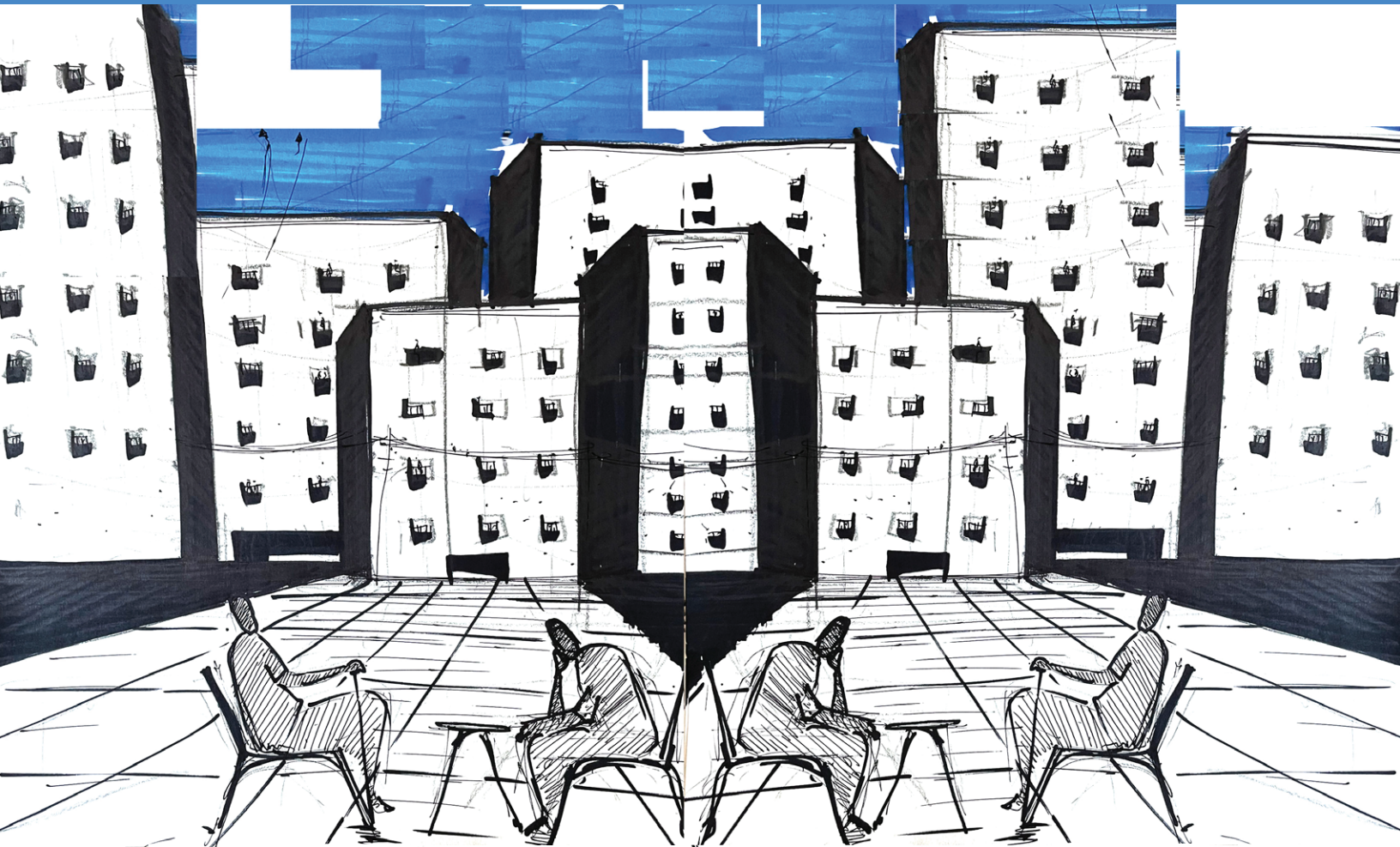
(Jeff Kruth)

Reader _____

(May Khalife)

**“CITIES HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF PROVIDING
SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY,
ONLY BECAUSE, AND ONLY WHEN, THEY ARE
CREATED BY EVERYBODY”**

- Jane Jacobs



THE VOID

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[1] Abstract

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh and one of the most crowded cities on earth, is almost three times as dense as Manhattan. The city's edge is constantly evolving to respond to the never-ending needs. In this thesis, I am interested in applying lessons from the old part of Dhaka to new developments amid urbanization by questioning the unrestrained commitment to western urban design principles in a city like Dhaka from South Asia.

In this contemporary global context of constantly changing technological, socio-economical, and political paradigms, traditional neighborhoods in different cities in South Asia are constantly creating room for change. However, the lacking sense of belonging and social integrity in contemporary city design makes the new neighborhoods vulnerable and isolated and this creates an invisible social void. Le Corbusier, one of the pioneers of modern city design, completely ignored the diversity that must be kept in mind while designing a city in South Asia. When we follow Corbusian city planning, we mostly forget about the coexistence of diverse demographics in our traditional cities. Without these cultural spaces, the people living in the cities loses the sense of belonging. This thesis is about addressing those social and cultural voids in a city like Dhaka and bringing back the cultural dynamics in the urban design by building critical references from different traditional and new neighborhoods.

In this thesis, I will consider Jane Jacobs's theories in urban space and how her criticism of the failings of modernist planning theories in her book "The Death & Life of Great American Cities". Then, I will define the notion of "Social Void" and why it is necessary to address it now. Through different case studies from the old Dhaka, I will first try to find all the traces of diverse coexisting demographics. The analysis of the findings in those



traditional spaces will include the story of its street, people, culture, sense of belonging, and socio-economic and political contexts. Secondly, I will study different neighborhoods of newly developed Dhaka and try to find out, how some of them lost their identity while following the western city design pattern and how some of those neighborhoods are constantly trying to get back to their organic growing pattern of the city. Last, I will investigate multiple cultural and social spaces in a neighborhood in the new Dhaka and propose where and how these cultural values should be integrated into the design of a city. These solutions can play a crucial role in designing a new kind of communal neighborhood space where its inhabitants will have the ability to grow and have strong social integrity.

This thesis will create room to question Modern City Planning and how we as architects or urban designers should look at the development of a new city planning and its neighborhood in the context of the Global South.

[2] Questions:

The questions my thesis asks include,

1. What is Social Void?
2. What are the formal and informal characteristics of the traditional city that support the social life of the street?
3. What public spaces and private spaces open to all, such as temples, tea stall etc. underpin the social life of the city?
4. Why are the new urban environments lacking the rooted norms and values?
5. How have designers attempted to factor in street life and community space into designs for the modern city, and how do they compare to the traditional city?
6. How might we translate aspects of the traditional city to the modern city in order to improve the street life and sense of community?



Figure 1: Hussaini Dalan Road, Dhaka.

[3] Project Description

The urban environment has a great influence on it's every child, every inhabitant. The laughter, the story, the tiny connection, that little interaction between its inhabitants create a great neighborhood. A child of that little neighborhood carries that memory throughout his whole life, and it will become a part of his nature. In every aspect of his life, he tries to knot that tie everywhere where he can. The story that I explain is typical for a person like me who grew up in this neighborhood. This thesis starts from the very core of my heart, where it always seeks that community, that urban environment.

When I look back to my past urban environments, those were full of diverse people and cultures. Cities like Dhaka in a third-world country like Bangladesh have their own pattern of catering to the norms of their inhabitants. Specifically, if we focus on Dhaka, it has a vast range of cultures regarding religion, lifestyle, socioeconomic conditions, and work. But this old neighborhood environment is now called "old" as the cities are expanding to facilitate their growing population. Sadly, these new cities are designed in a way that they miss all the inner value of the community. These all-new urban environments are fulfilling with all new inventions and technology, but they constantly create isolating individuals. There is less effort to cater to those communal values.

Those old neighborhoods are still working and creating room for new changes, however, there is little effort to take them into action and implement them in the new urban design of the neighborhood. The "VOID" is not about only the empty spaces in urban development; it's more than that; it's more about the void of emotion, the void of socio-cultural norms among the people. This thesis will focus on fulfilling those voids by analyzing the resourceful old neighborhood and its multi-diverse culture.



Figure 2: Polashi, Dhaka, Mixed Used Neighborhood



Figure 3: A tea stall in Dhaka



Figure 4: The Buriganga River & Gol Talab Pond

Keywords

Streetscape, Open City, Urban Neighborhood, Urban Void, Cultural- communal space, Place-making, Urban Transition, Human Scale.

[4] Literature Review

Urban Voids:

Urban voids are usually defined as unused, underutilized, abandoned, or in-between places between the public and private sectors. Sometimes, these void spaces in a city act as breathing spaces and cater to public life. But in this thesis, the void that was mentioned is more than an urban leftover space it mostly focuses on the Social Void that had been created because of unplanned industrialization and the lack of knowledge. So here are two photographs (Fig 5/6, Fig 7), one from old Dhaka and the other from new Dhaka; one is vibrant, and the other is unplanned but orderly. It has a lot of people, and they're all integrated, and they know each other, interact, and chit-chat with one another and have a connection with this neighborhood. Another picture is from New Dhaka, and it depicts the common scenario of most of the streets in New Dhaka being mostly empty; empty means missing life. They have certain places for recreation facilities and everything but like the way Jane Jacob said, in this neighborhood, they miss the eyes in the street, the security, the connection, the integrity they're mostly isolated. But if I just change this picture of old Dhaka like a little bit in those elements like that tea stall; if I remove though to remove them these people will be gone so there will be no difference between the picture I'm showing

left and the picture I'm showing right so there actually my project begins that social void that is existing in and new Dhaka. Jane Jacobs' emphasis on the importance of ordinary quotidian activity, as well as her critique of orthodox modernism, is mirrored in Gehl's emphasis on the importance of ordinary quotidian activity and her critique of orthodox modernism: not because of what it looks like, but because of its failure to provide spaces that people can inhabit in sociable ways. It's odd that conventional modernism was often referred to as functionalism, even though it didn't work. Gehl in his book, "Life Between Buildings", highlights a number of modern developments in which people are unlikely to meet as a result of the way spaces are formed, and if they do, their circumstances are unlikely to encourage their desire to connect socially. The majority of rest of the book is devoted to developing design characteristics that can foster social interaction. Some models can be found in unplanned or vernacular communities, but Gehl identifies a number of contemporary examples, including Ralph Erskine's house, Siedlung Halen, and Dutch woonerfs. The importance of the elaborated barrier between public and private space:

1. "The Death & Life of Great American Cities" - Jane Jacobs

2. "Life Between Buildings" - Jan Gehl



Figure 5: Analysis of Social Void(1) in a neighborhood, Dhaka

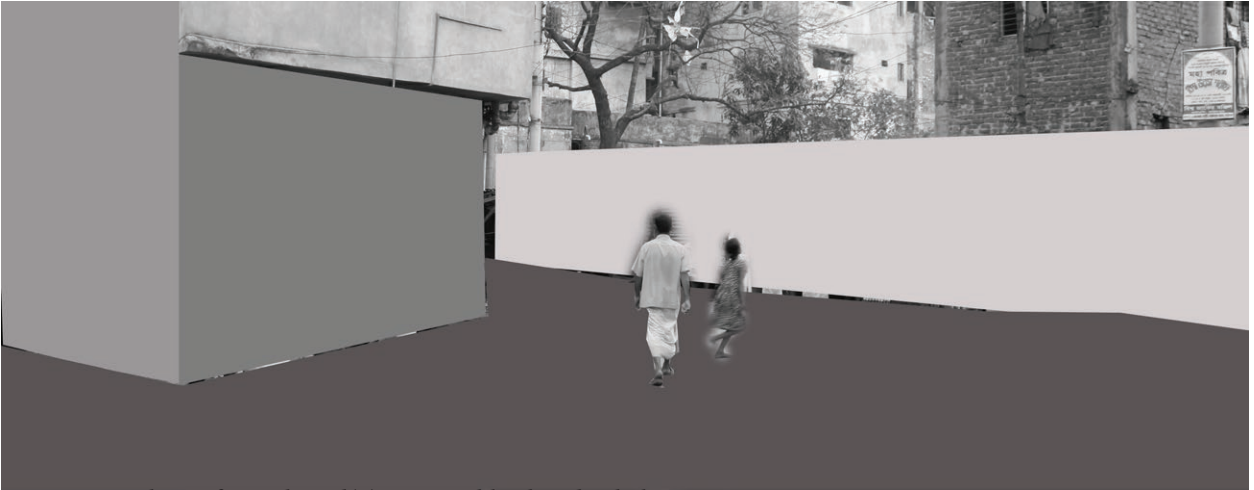


Figure 6: Analysis of Social Void(2) in a neighborhood, Dhaka



Figure 7: Uttara Housing society, Dhaka.

the front yard, the porch, the veranda, and the stoop is a recurring motif. I think this book will dictate to me in my thesis to find out the activities and life in between neglected spaces outside our apartments or building; those spaces which connect the neighborhood and create a strong bonding among the people.



Figure 8: *Life Between Buildings* - Jan Gehl

Urban Neighborhood:

Urban Neighborhoods are the core of the city. Jane Jacobs in her book "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" responds to the United States' postwar urban redevelopment's disastrous impacts. Published in 1961, Jacobs' landmark critique of "orthodox" city design and reconstruction is a seminal work. She looks at the flaws in modernist planning theories and claims that the roots of intellectual planning history are all built on a misunderstanding of how cities work. In the United States in the 1960s, Jacobs' argument that the best ideas for livable cities originate from close observation of city life rather than deductive theories or master plans was a radically new approach. It has altered the way planners and city residents perceive cities today. She deduces the factors that lead to thriving communities. These communities have safe streets, sidewalks, and parks that allow people to interact and children to be observed and taught. Jacobs examines what variables contribute positively to each area and what factors detract from each—in terms of visual presentation and functioning and rental cost, variances in the ages and shapes of buildings in a neighborhood matter. People find

applications in a variety of small commercial establishments. Whether they are pubs, restaurants, or art galleries, these establishments are why people visit the region. In the first part of *Death and Life of Great American Cities*, titled "The Peculiar Nature of Cities," Jacobs advances the notion of close-grained diversity of uses, buildings, and people by investigating the utilization of various urban features such as sidewalks, neighborhood parks, and city neighborhoods. In addition to moving pedestrians, sidewalks provide a number of other purposes. Bustling sidewalks increase street safety, foster social contact by bringing people together, and aid in the integration of youngsters into society. During the time Jacobs was writing *Death and Life*, crime and the fear of it were pervasive in New York and other large American cities.

Streetscape:

According to Jacobs, rather than the police, a sophisticated network of voluntary controls and standards among individuals maintains public calm in cities, notably on their sidewalks. This is es-

1. "The Death & Life of Great American Cities"- Jane Jacobs

pecially visible on busy city streets, where residents, passers-by, and street-level merchants all keep an eye on the street, limiting opportunities for street crime (Jacobs, 1961). Due to a lack of voluntary limitations by residents and merchants, several city districts, such as public housing projects and streets with high population turnover, have concerns with street safety. For secure city streets, a clear demarcation between public and private area is essential. "There must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to people we could term the natural proprietors of the street," says a second criterion of safe city streets (Jacobs, 1961, p.35). Buildings must be oriented to the street so that residents can observe street life. Effective neighborhood design, according to Jacobs, sidewalks should be used frequently and planners should focus on developing attractive and vibrant streets that are connected to a continuous network throughout a metropolitan district. After reading this book, I remembered the resemblance with how I grew up in my neighborhood in my country; the similarities I found in her book will push me to work on my thesis topic, which will most probably be related to small urban leftover spaces in any neighborhood in the USA.

according to Jen Gehl (*Cities for People*), when more people move around and stay in city space, the possibility of a safe city increases. A city that encourages people to walk must have a generally unified structure that includes short walking distances, attractive public places, and various urban services. In and around city spaces, these factors encourage activity and a sense of security. From the surrounding residences and buildings, there are many more eyes along the street and a larger incentive to watch what's going on in the city.

1. "The Death & Life of Great American Cities"- Jane Jacobs
 2. "Cities for People"- Jen Gehl

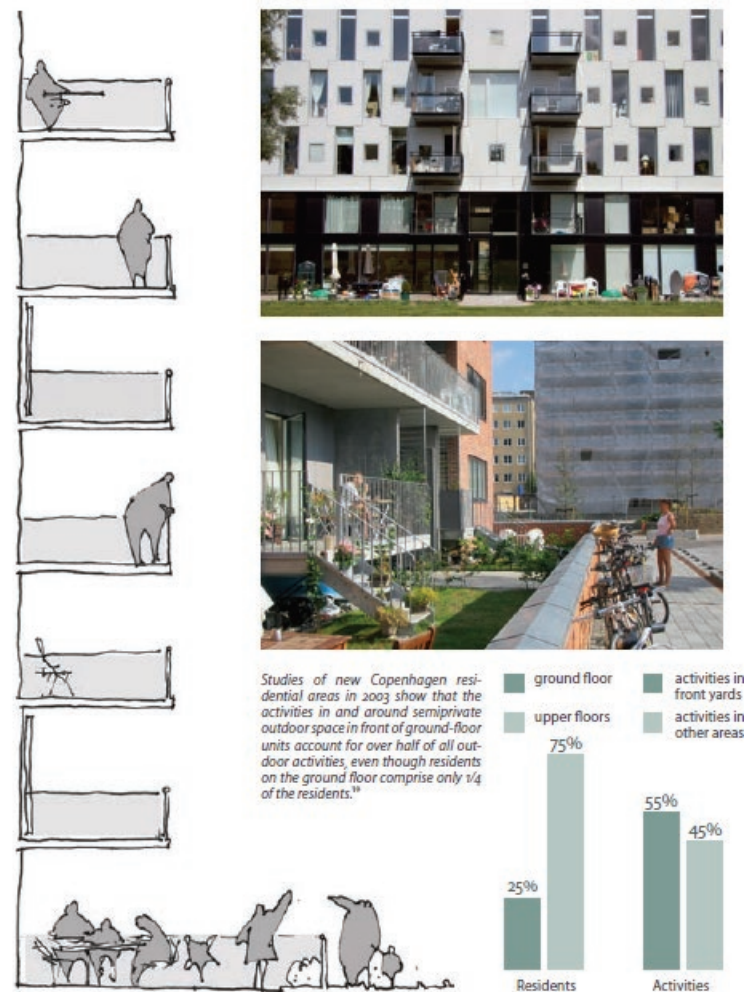


Figure 9: Pg 84_Cities for People_Jen Gehl

The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning:

Le Corbusier was a forerunner in the field of utopian city and city planning, proposing the idea of living in a city that is actually planned, produced, and built. He got people to think about what it would be like to live in a predetermined environment. He was able to build a similar setting in the end. Le Corbusier's envisioned settlements might be anywhere: they lack context, history, and tradition. He didn't have much tolerance for circumstances that had developed over time on their own. "A city's planner should regard it as if it were a blank sheet of paper, a clean tablecloth, on which a single, cohesive composition is imposed." His new cities were supposed to be calm, strong, airy, and well-ordered. In this setting, Le Corbusier was drawn to the Soviet Union and developing countries, as well as their formidable rulers. He anticipated that there, unlike in the West, the high-modernist social engineer would not be constrained by a dispersion of power among numerous contending organizations and individuals, allowing him to practice exclusively what he called "orthopedic architecture." It is impossible to read Le Corbusier or see his architectural drawings without noticing his craving for simple, repetitive lines, and complexity. "In such a maze of possibilities, the human intellect loses itself and gets exhausted." He explained, "Control becomes difficult." "I eliminate all those things", he said, stating, among other things, that "I insist on right-angled intersections." The rigorous division of society functions was one of Le Corbusier's core design principles. Workplaces, dwellings, shopping and entertainment areas, as well as monuments and government buildings, would be divided into various zones. Work zones were to be separated into office buildings and factories whenever practicable. For the majority of the century, this notion became conventional urban-planning philosophy in Western countries. The argument for rigorous function separation is that shaping

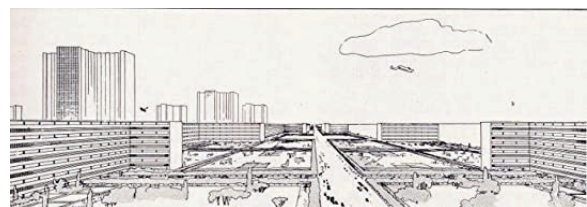
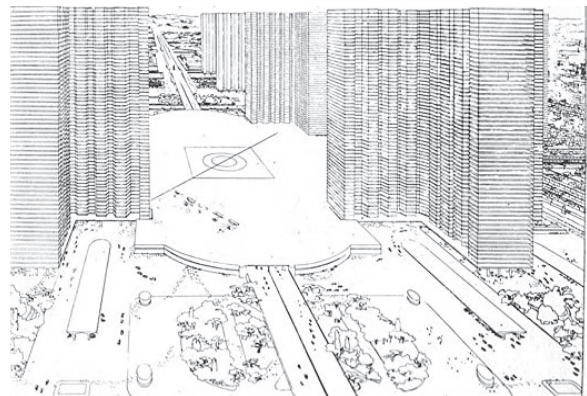


Figure 10: The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning
-Le Corbusier, Frederick Etchells (Translator)

1. "The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning
-Le Corbusier, Frederick Etchells (Translator)

an urban zone with only one purpose is significantly easier for a planner. The variables that the planner must juggle begin to test the mind when several or many purposes must be considered. Controlling all factors was a favorite pastime of Le Corbusier's. He analyzed the amount of air, heat, light, and space required by humans and came up with a figure of 14 square meters per person, which he said could be reduced to ten square meters if community activities like meal preparation and laundry were undertaken. The theory of Le Corbusier demanded ultimate centralization. In his cities, the "higher" functions were undertaken by a centrally placed core. "The directives that bring order to the world emanate from its offices. This book is the complete contrast to Jane Jacob's Book. To know the existing town planning of most of the modern cities and where it has gone wrong, one must read this book.

responsible for placemaking. Starting the placemaking process makes sense only if it has the support of numerous communities in the near vicinity. The objective is to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including local people, children, schools, businesses and institutions, entrepreneurs, and other types of initiators, to express their visions for a place and then put them into action. The "zealous nuts," visionaries with a poorly developed sense of dread and no understanding of the odds against them, are the (unofficial) leaders of placemaking. They are capable of accomplishing the seemingly impossible.

Human Scale & Placemaking:

A conversation with Fred Kent & Kathy Madden in "The city at eye Level" said, It's not just about a single location, such as a park, a plaza, or a structure. The goal of placemaking is to return the street to a collection of places and activities. This was formerly commonplace: we would walk down the street to the post office, then to the hardware store, cheese shop, baker, deli, and so on. The art of the path is what we call it. These are all destinations that draw visitors in different ways. These activities and frontages were continuous in a way that we don't see today. We've lost the opportunity to construct spaces or nodes of activity along the street thanks to modern development patterns. We need to be considerably more engaged in gaining a better grasp of street life and sidewalk life. The community, in the broadest sense, is

1. *"The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning-Le Corbusier, Frederick Etchells (Translator)*

2. *Streets as places_a conversation with Fred Kent & Kathy Madden (placemakers)_The city at Eye Level*

Urban Machines: Public Space in a Digital Culture:

The impact of digitization on urban environments, office buildings, and other consumer-centric sites is palpable. High-street firms have been compelled to modify their business models as a result of the expansion of digital services, as demonstrated by disruptors like Amazon and their introduction of checkout-free locations. On a bigger scale, Smart Cities' continual evolution is changing how we define mixed-use urban areas, with integrated digital services like live updates and interactive information boards becoming the standard. Although the use of Smart and Responsive technology to reimagine shared space experiences is not a new notion, the prospect of a post-lockdown world has accelerated the need for urban transformation.

Digital technology impacted city life at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The usage of ICTs (information and communication technologies) has drastically altered how we live and work in cities. Architects, artists, urban and media designers have defined a specific landscape of projects that use information technology as a catalytic tool for expanding, augmenting, and altering public and social interactions in the urban space over the last few decades through increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary work. This book (*Urban Machines: Public Space in a Digital Culture* by Marcella Del Signore & Gernot Riether) attempts to provide a critical historical overview of the impact of information technology on physical public space through articles, case studies, and conversations, as well as an inspiring vision of possible future scenarios for the public realm in a digital culture.



Figure 11: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Under Scan, Relational Architecture, Lincoln, 2005 & Leicester, 2006.

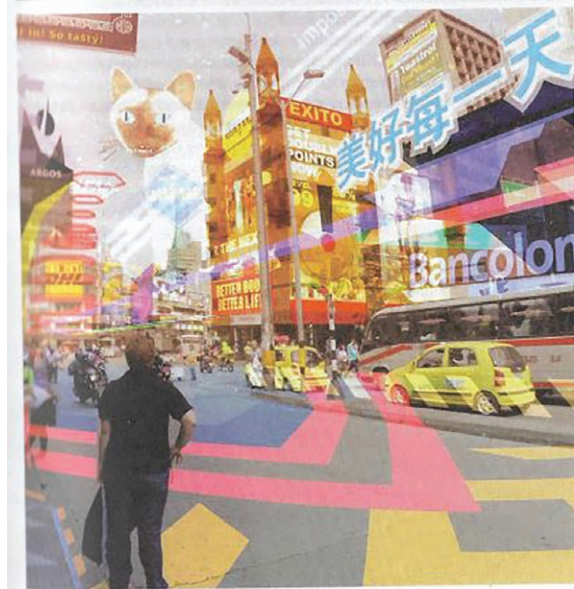
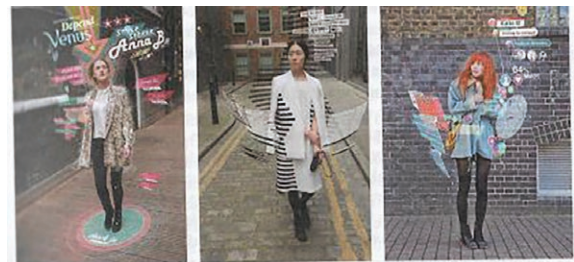


Figure 12: Keiichi Matsuda, Hyper-Reality, 2013.

1. *Urban machines: Public Space in Digital Culture- Book by Gernot Riether and Marcella Del Signore*



Figure 13: Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the Cultural Shed, New York, 2011

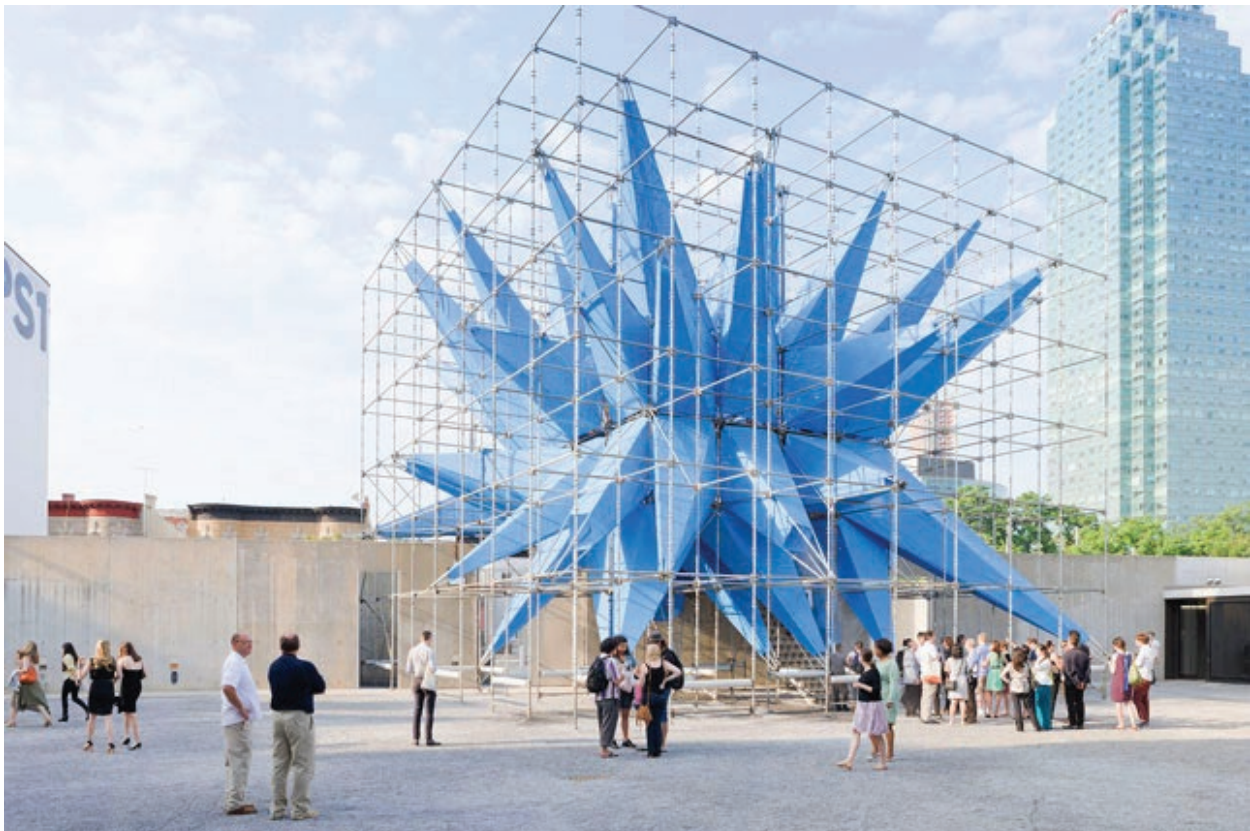
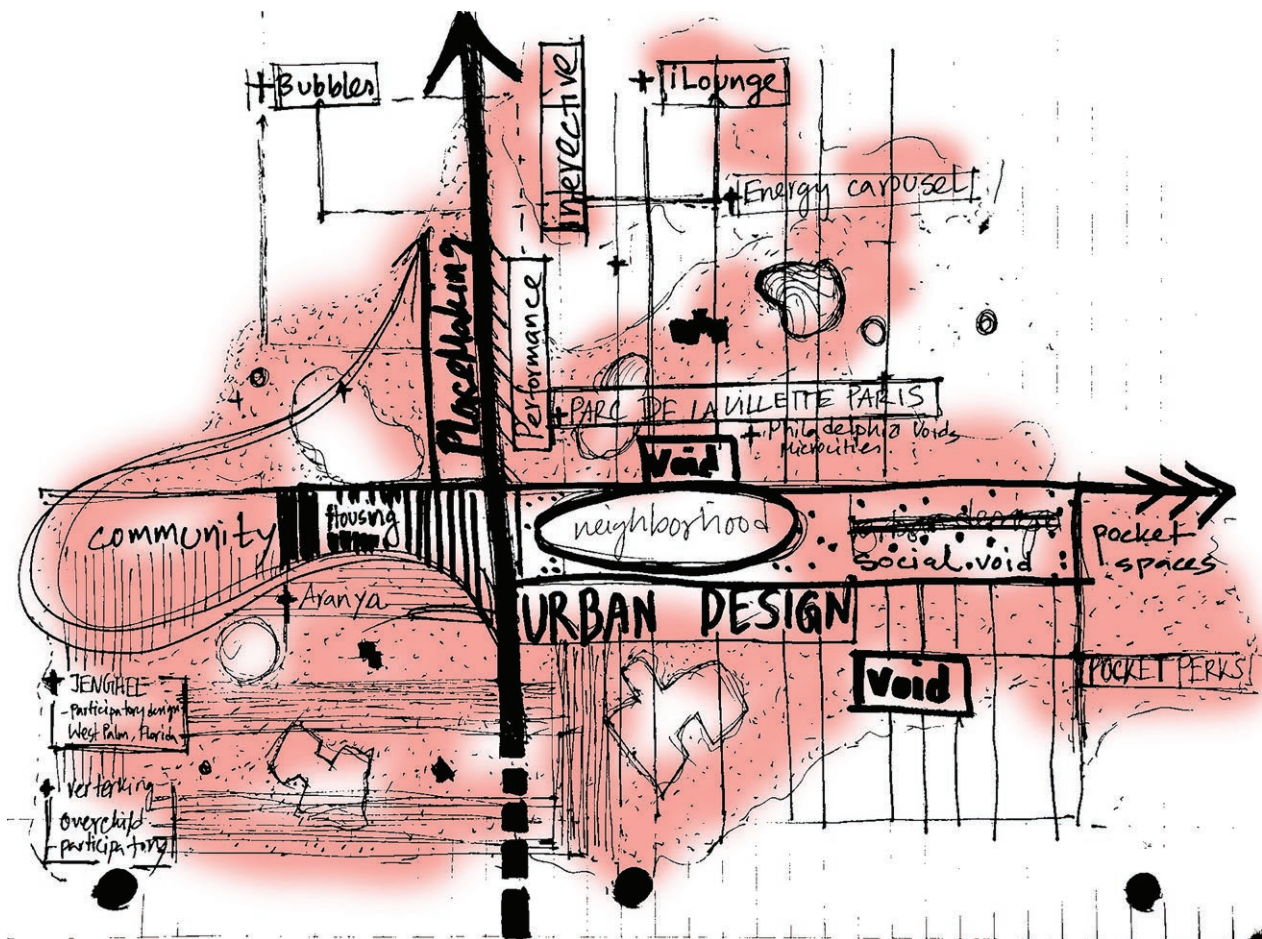


Figure 14: Wendy by HWKN

[5] Precedents

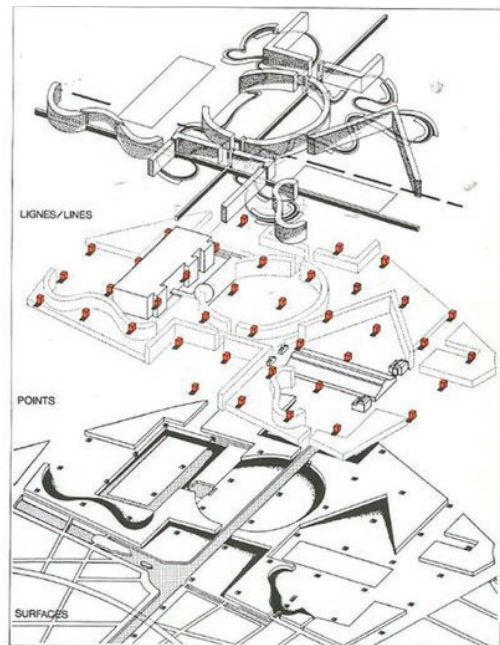
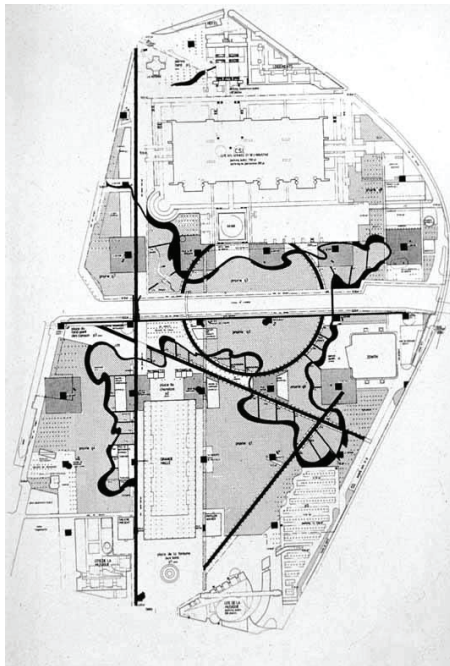
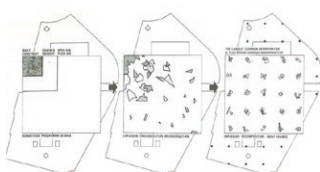
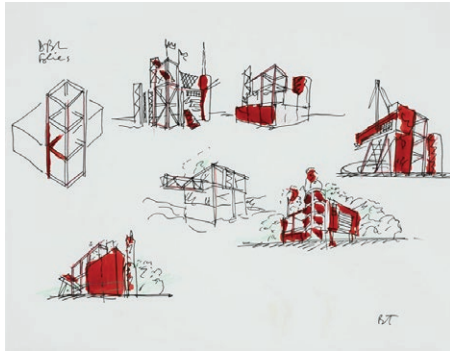
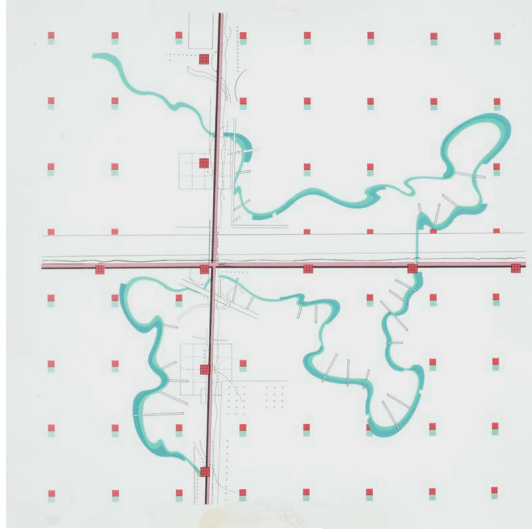
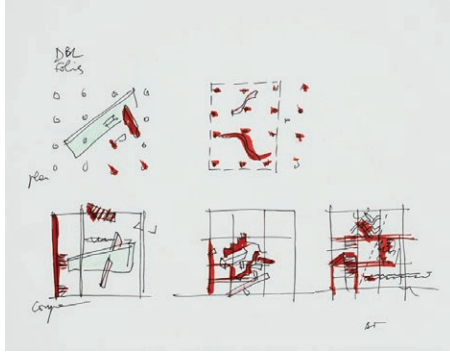


The area of architecture, as well as many others, leans on historical precedent to offer as a framework for new and innovative developments in design. The importance of architectural works is not just based on their appearance. While some precedents choose to focus on specific features of a design, architectural precedent has a broader scope. The reasons for its architectural primacy are just as essential as the features and forms themselves; the thoughts that the details and forms express to the rest of the world.

PROJECT NAME : PARC DE LA VILLETTE PARIS

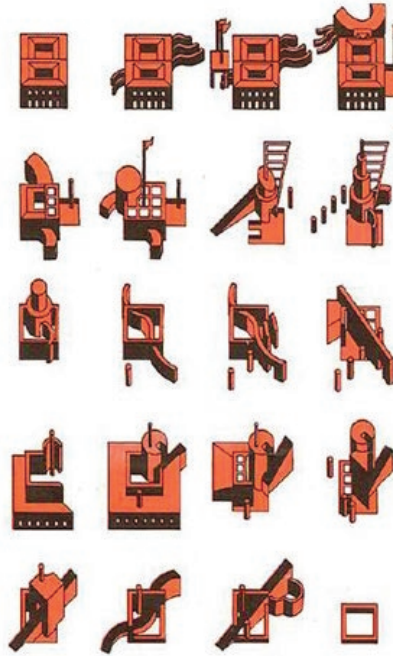
| Bernard Tsumi

CLIENT: CITY OF PARIS[DESIGN COMPETITON
LOCATION: PARIS, FRANCE
SITE AREA: 137 ACRES
STATUS: COMPLETED 1998



Parc de la Villette is described as “urban park of The 21st century” which provides cultural and recreational facilities in that certain area of Paris. It seems like a discontinuous building but different segment of one building or its different parts emerge in whole landscape. Every part offers different activity with its non-similar design aspects and functions. Different structure offers different activities like, gymnasium, playgrounds, bath facilities, exhibitions, concerts. Science experiments.

This project is a great precedent for me to understand the effectiveness of different structure which is providing different functions and help the place to cater different groups of people with different interest. As a whole the whole landscape or the whole area become a active public space. Instead of designing a certain area, this project shows how a certain area can be more effective and usable if we don't design a single structure but designing different segments of a certain goal can offer more effective design solution. I think, a diverse city like Dhaka and it's neighborhood needs segments of solution rather a certain design solution.



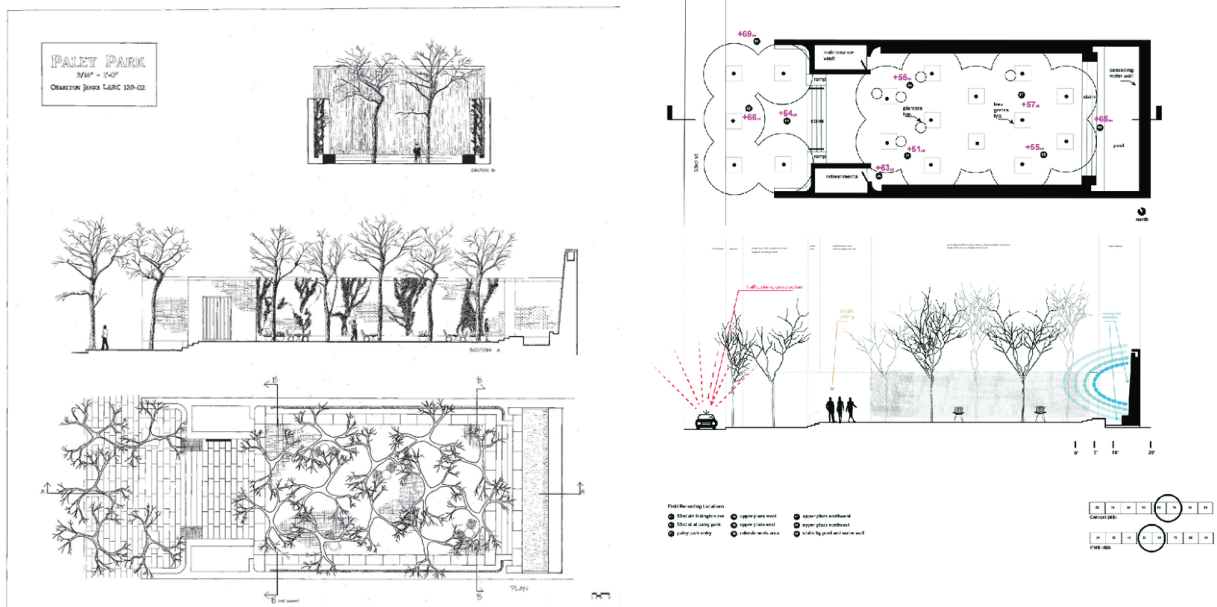
REFERENCE:

1. <http://www.tschumi.com/projects/3/>
2. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/304555993525845662/>
3. <https://www.frac-centre.fr/collection/collection-art-architecture/index-des-auteurs/auteurs/projets-64.html?authID=192&ensembleID=599>

PROJECT NAME : A COLLECTION OF POCKET PARKS & LIMINAL SPACES

in Various Places by Robert Zion & Zion & Breen Associates

LOCATION: New York, USA
 STATUS: Opened in 1967



These pocket parks are designed by Zion & Breen partner. These pockets parks can be described as urban living rooms. A busy city like New York has a shortage of relaxing spaces whereas these pocket parks in different locations bring a halting space for the busy people of New York. These projects teach me in a way that though it seems a city like Dhaka doesn't have enough space to offer that much public realm space, maybe some abandoned spaces like the shady space in between buildings, and abandoned important buildings can be redesigned with new functions to rejuvenate its surrounding spaces.



REFERENCE:

- <https://www.tclf.org/pioneer/zion-breen-associates>
- https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Park-Soundscape-Mapping-Interpretations-Plan-and-section-elevation-site-scaled-sound-maps_fig4_338514305

PROJECT NAME : Aranya by Balkrishna Doshi
_Housing, neighborhood community

LOCATION: Indore, India.
SITE AREA: one square kilometre
STATUS: completed 1989



REFERENCE:

1. <https://www.cca.qc.ca/en/articles/issues/12/what-you-can-do-with-the-city/58317/balkrishna-doshis-aranya>

This housing project is a perfect example of how a housing project could be design still in Corbusier's influence but in the context of local culture and norms in India. This project is designed for low-income people. This project of Doshi enables people to practice their daily chores and activity and let people celebrate their traditional culture. Both material and climatic conditions were considered while designing this housing.

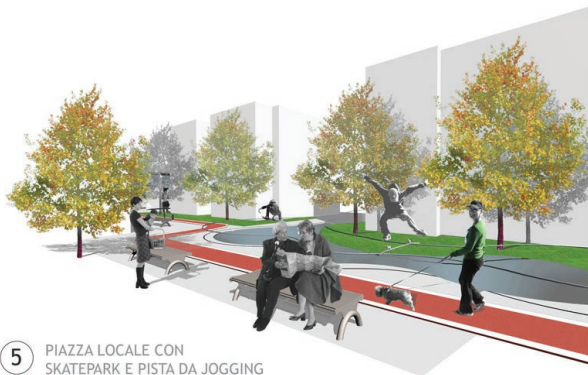
In every aspect, this project is designed for human-scale which we miss in most of the housing projects of today's world. Aranya is a great precedent for my project as it shows how a neighborhood can be designed considering local norms, culture, and climate. How a little solution in the alley, in the entry of the house can offer micro public spaces. These micro public spaces become a living room for every family living in that neighborhood. Most importantly this project shows how to cater social life of the people considering the context. Indian contexts are very similar to the context of Dhaka in the climatic, social, and economic aspects which makes this project the most relevant precedent for my thesis.

PROJECT NAME : PHILADELPHIA VOIDS I Microcities by Ecosistema Urbano Architects

CLIENT: Van Alen Institute NY and the Municipality of Philadelphia

LOCATION: PHILADELPHIA, USA

STATUS: competition design



5 PIAZZA LOCALE CON SKATEPARK E PISTA DA JOGGING



STATO ATTUALE:
Una rigida griglia di strade carribili attraversa le zone di Philadelphia correlate dai vuoti



PROGETTO (fase 1)
Conversione di alcune strade carribili in "livable streets"



PROGETTO (fase 2)
Introduzione di percorsi pedonali e ciclabili che attraversano i vuoti all'interno dei lotti.



PROGETTO (fase 3)
Le Livable streets, i percorsi interni ai lotti e i vuoti, interconnessi, costituiscono un sistema continuo di spazi aperti pubblici

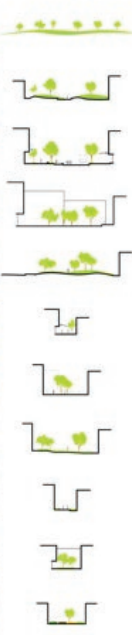
1. DEFINIZIONE DEGLI ELEMENTI DELLO SPAZIO PUBBLICO

- PARCHI URBANI
- CORRIDOI VERDI
- LIVABLE STREET
- PIAZZE DI QUARTIERE
- PARCHI DI QUARTIERE
- STRADE DI COLLEGAMENTO TRA LOTTI
- PIAZZE LOCALI
- GIARDINI PUBBLICI
- STRADE INTERNE AI LOTTI
- SPAZI DI QUIETE
- COMMUNITY GARDEN

RIFERIMENTI



SEZIONI TIPO



REFERENCE:

1. <https://www.e-architect.com/america/philadelphia-urban-voids>
2. <https://ecosistemaurbano.com/ecological-reconfiguration-of-an-urban-center/>
3. <http://microcities.net/portfolio/philadelphia-voids-city-strategy-philadelphia-usa/>

Philadelphia's ecological reconfiguration draws on the city's long history of citizen participation to create a landscape that is both sustainable and economically successful. The goal of the idea is to develop strategic mechanisms as a starting point for the self-repair of the urban tissue. Ecological corridors, new ecological mobility, and urban catalysts- are the strategic concepts that were used in this design idea. The urban voids transform abandoned places into strategic rethinking zones for the urban infrastructure system, forming a green network that connects to existing municipal parks. Single voids, along with the new channels that intersect them, are converted into a continuous system of collective open spaces at the local level.

This project is a nice precedent for my project as it shows only architecture cannot solve the lack of urban life, but it needs to focus on multiple aspects like social networks, environment, and multiple physical elements. A city like Dhaka which has its own rooted norms and cultural aspect needs a holistic approach while designing its neighborhood or urban spaces. Three design strategies that were used in this project would be a good start while designing those spaces in the context of Dhaka.

PROJECT NAME : FROM ABANDONED SPACE TO COMMUNITY HUB | JEN GHEL

participatory, community engagement

CLIENT: City of West Palm Beach Office for Public Life
LOCATION: West Palm Beach, Florida, USA.

Pilot Project Ambitions

1

Create a place for the community to gather in the Historic Northwest

2

Use the pilot process as a strategy to engage the community, gather information about civic needs and aspirations, and test solutions at a 1:1 scale.

3

Gather insights to inform future long-term interventions across the neighbourhood

4

Strengthen the relationship between the city and the community and built the neighbourhood's 'civic muscle'.

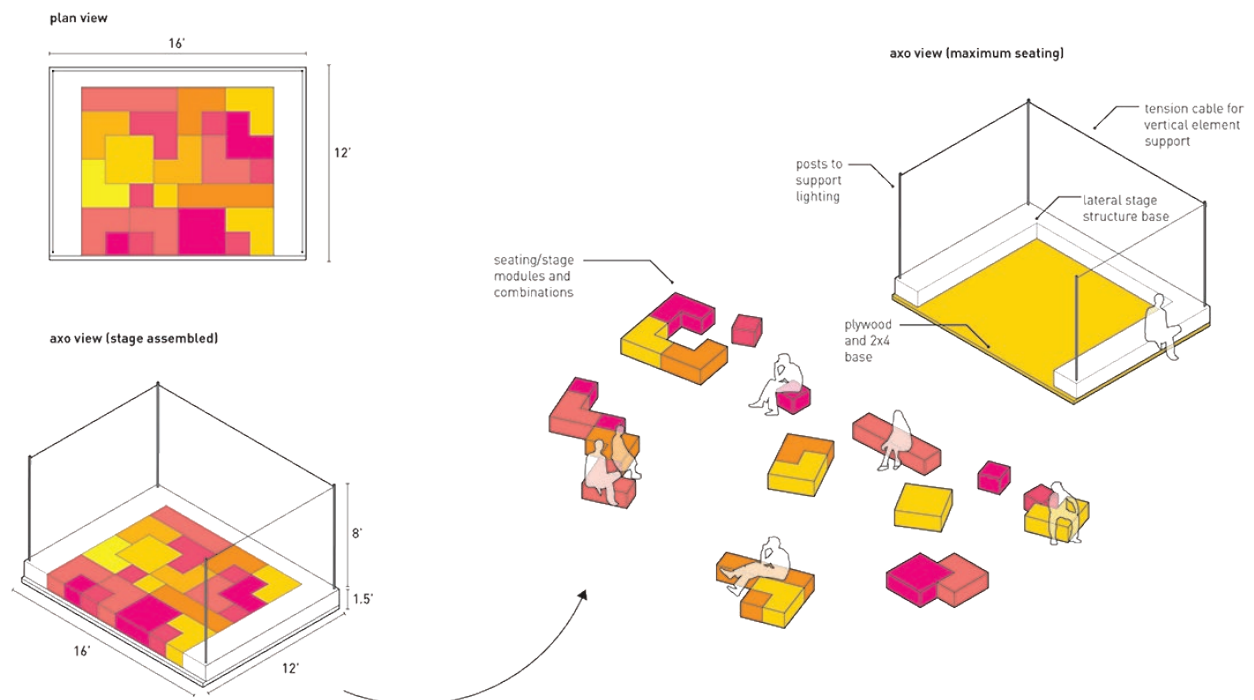
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Build the capacity within the City of West Palm Beach and the new Office of Public Life to better engage with the Historic Northwest through piloting; as a potential model to replicate in other local communities.



The Void In Between Urban Neighborhood: The Urban Context of Dhaka

In this project in West Palm Beach, Jen Gehl worked with important community leaders, agencies, and developers to create a livable city. Here the design or planning perspective of its inhabitants got the highest priority. The community people gathered and collected and tried to implement their ideas in their neighborhood. In this way, it creates a strong strength between the people and the city. This type of participatory design can be a good example of engaging people and creating their own practical connection with their street, their landscape, and community. In my thesis, this method could be a great way to get where people will take their own decision to create a more livable public space.



REFERENCE:
 1. <https://gehlpeople.com/projects/north-rosemary-avenue-pilot-project/#>

PROJECT NAME :
ENERGY CAROUSEL

_placemaking

Energy Carousel is made for people of different ages and generates power and lighting effects while used by its user. Energy Carousel is designed in such a way to educate as well as provide a playful space. It teaches students how an alternative electrical power can also be a playful and engaging space. This type of sustainable approach toward urbanism is one of the many examples of rejuvenating urban space through interactive design solutions.



BUBBLES

_placemaking
FOXLIN

SILVER LAKE, LOS ANGELES

Bubbles is an adaptive pneumatic environment that was built in the pocket space of the Material & Applications Gallery in Silver Lake, Los Angeles. It was a formal parking lot that eventually opened to the public and to the street and offers people to enjoy this pocket space in a more interactive way.

This touch-sensitive installation creates a dynamic relationship between the people and the urban space. In the context of Dhaka, this type of interactive and performative installation could be a great start from neighborhood-scale buildings to offer public interaction and connection with the urban spaces in a city.



REFERENCE:

1. *Urban machines: Public Space in Digital Culture*- Book by Gernot Riether and Marcella Del Signore
2. <https://ecosistemaurbano.com/energy-carousel/>

PROJECT NAME : ILOUNGE

_placemaking

LOCATION: NORTHERN SPARK, MINNEAPOLIS.
ZERO1 BEINNIAL, SAN JOSE.
MARCELLA DEL SIGNORE(X-TOPIA)
MONA EL KHAFIF (SCALES SHIFT)

I lounge is an instant social stage that creates a temporary gathering or community for a minute, an hour, or for one evening. It stimulates people to look, observe, relax, and exchange with each other. The self-adapting topography welcomes and stimulates interchange by establishing new links with the current metropolis while utilizing a live feed responsive method to enhance or alter social relationships in a public setting. As I Lounge encourages the creation of a short term community that has both presences in physical and virtual space, it could be a learning ground or example for me to implement or invent new modules or activity spaces that can cater to the neighborhood activity and encourage the new generation to use the public or neighborhood space in a more interactive way. In this age of the digital world, only any physical structure cannot offer much if that cannot provide different options for using the space. I think this kind of sudden platform can create an engaging public space in the context of Dhaka.



REFERENCE:

1. *Urban machines: Public Space in Digital Culture*- Book by Gernot Riether and Marcella Del Signore

[6] Research Methodology

I've found numerous ways that will help me get my thesis idea from concept to reality. Some of these are more hands-on than others, and some of them need some travel. Site observation, filming and animation, mapping and comparing sketching, and collage through photography are some of the approaches used.

Site Observation and making Diagram

As my thesis is related to urban neighborhoods and their inner culture, and norms I think multiple surveys of different parts of Old Dhaka and New Dhaka would be my first and foremost method. This survey will start from the very narrow alleys of old Dhaka and will end in larger township projects like Purbachal in Dhaka. This method will require me to look at different parts of Dhaka at a different time of the day, how people's norms and other activity changes as a result of changes in the festival, and changes in weather throughout a year frame. This will give me a detailed idea of a certain place from a different perspective. Survey technique includes finding important data like how people use a certain place, how they interact at a different time of the day, climatic conditions, vehicular density, which elements play the key role as a catalyst, etc.

After the survey, I can chalk out a basic idea of a place that will help me taking any decision or will help me justify my thesis questions and eventually lead me to design decision making. Here is an example of my previous thesis in Undergrad where after surveying the Tannery Industry, I sketched a diagrammatic activity and point out some potential key factors which had ultimately helped me talking decisions in my final thesis submission.

Film/Video/Animation

I think Filming, videography, and animation are the most effective way to give the essence of someone's thesis. Only a sound capture without any video can also give a profound idea of space. I previously used this method in my undergrad thesis to capture the site survey, site observations, compiling different perspectives of different people of the community and officials., and telling the history of the site. Through animation, I can compile my site survey and tell people a story by animating different diagrams and sketches. this filming will include sound mapping, daily activities of people in a neighborhood. This will give my audience a clear guide of the context of Dhaka city and it's neighborhood. At last for the final design proposal, animation can give an overview or the dream that I want to show to other people through my lenses.

Mapping & Comparative Drawing

Mapping and comparative drawing is a great methods to find out the inner system and order in a certain area. a certain area. Comparative activity patterns from a map can give a different idea of a city. It requires s one to survey one certain area and note down different findings in a way that when someone looks into that map he can find only that certain data from that map. It sometimes brings out the hidden data or sometimes compiles visible data of an area.

I think this will be a great method for me to study a different map of the area from different parts of the world from different perspectives. For example, in Noli's plan of Rome, he shows how the common public space is connected from street level to household. Like this mapping process, I can find out a similar space flow in different maps of Old Dhaka's neighborhood. After that, I can compare them with the newly developed housing in new Dhaka. mapping will also include traffic data, different formal and informal shopping activities in the neighborhood, seasonal activity change and weather data.

Collage through Photography and mixed Media:

Public open spaces in a city are full of different stories, cultures, happenings, festivals, etc. Making a collage through photography or sketching and diagram is a great way to express the findings of a certain area while surveying. It is also a great medium to show the dream about the Thesis, how one visualizes that certain thesis topic, and how he thought about the place. It shows his connection, his feelings about that place and people. For example, I made a collage of my previous thesis project to show how the final design solution is reacting to the surrounding area from the local to city level. Also, for



Uttara Housing, Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Noli's Plan, Rome

my M. Arch thesis I will follow the same way to collage the findings, also to express my feelings about the place. These are going to help me expressing the way I see my city. Also future collages and series of photographic studies of different allies will help me express my thoughts and findings to an audience.

[7] Context

Dhaka is a megacity with a 400-year history. Its urbanization began in the 1600s, and it has continued to spread northward ever since. On the west and south, the Buriganga river surrounds it. Due to the city's desire for rapid urbanization, it began to lose significance for its social and cultural dimensions. The city streetscape and

Bangladesh's political and economic center is the Dhaka Metropolitan Area.

Dhaka has developed significantly in recent decades, with a population of 23 million in 2022, ten times that of 40 years ago.

As a result of this expansion, Dhaka now boasts one of the densest populations in the world, with 440 people per hectare (UN DESA 2018). Between 2006 and 2017, its urban footprint increased by 26%.

Despite its fast urbanization, Dhaka is classified as one of the worst livable cities in the world by the EIU (EIU 2017), owing to a lack of basic public amenities.

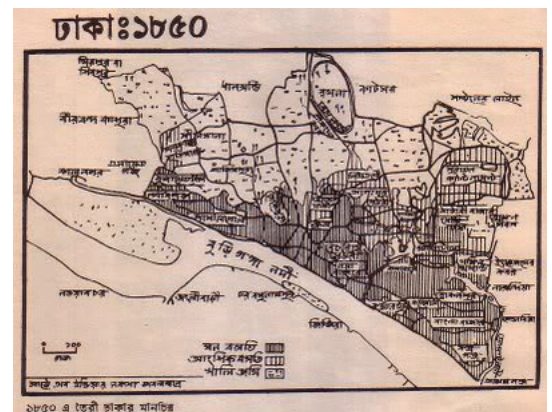
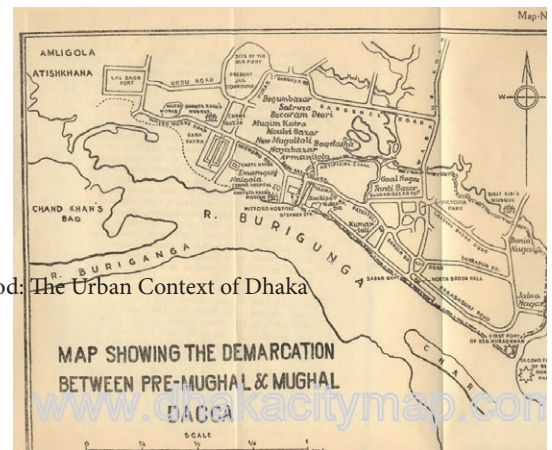
Road networks, for example, are insufficient to sustain both pedestrians and vehicles. Street areas account for only 6.5 percent of total built-up areas, which is lower than in other example cities. There are also significant gaps in the road network between the central and eastern parts of Dhaka. Furthermore, between 2006 and 2017, green areas in Dhaka decreased by 4.4 percent as a percentage of total built-up areas, and green space per inhabitant was only 4.8 square meters in 2017.

Source: 2019 EO4SD-Urban data, <http://www.eo4sd-urban.info/>. ©World Bank.

Further permission required for reuse.

Note: EO4SD = Earth Observation for Sustainable Development, a project of the European Space Agency.

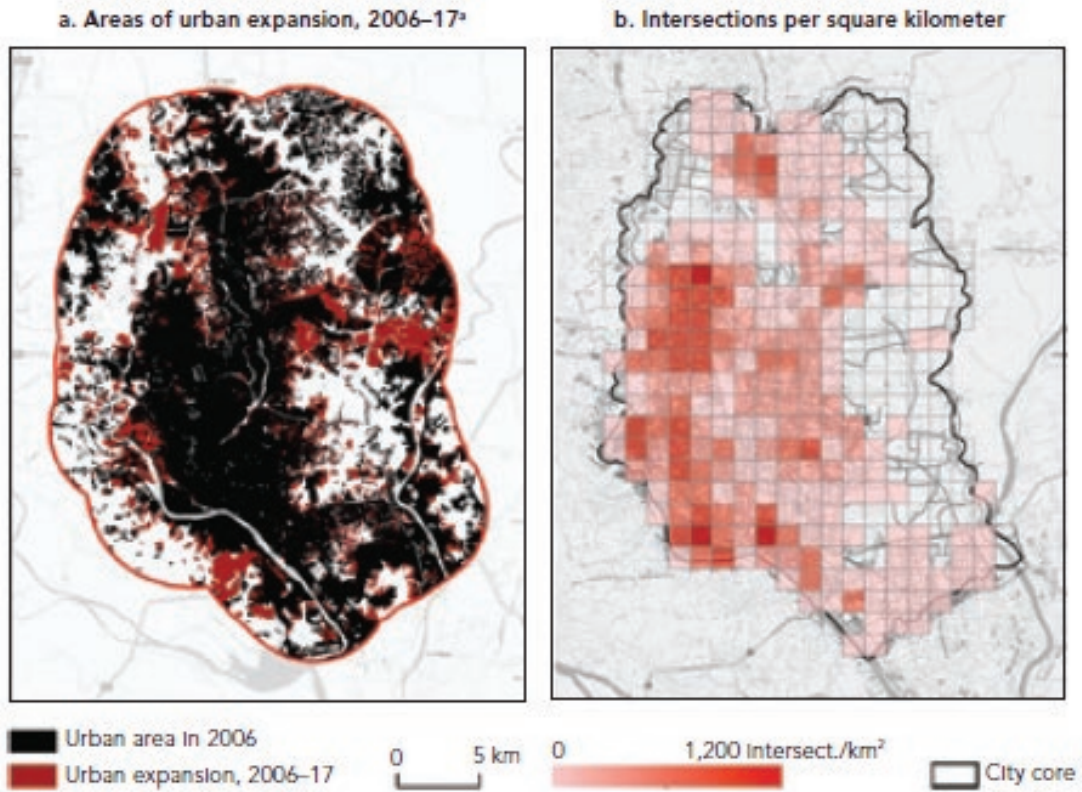
a. In panel b, "urban" areas refer to built-up (impenetrable) areas detected from high-resolution satellite imageries.



MAP 1. City expansion throughout the ages, Dhaka City corporation archive



Map 2: Dhaka City Map, 2023
<https://hebstreits.com/product/dhaka-bangladesh-download-pdf-map/>



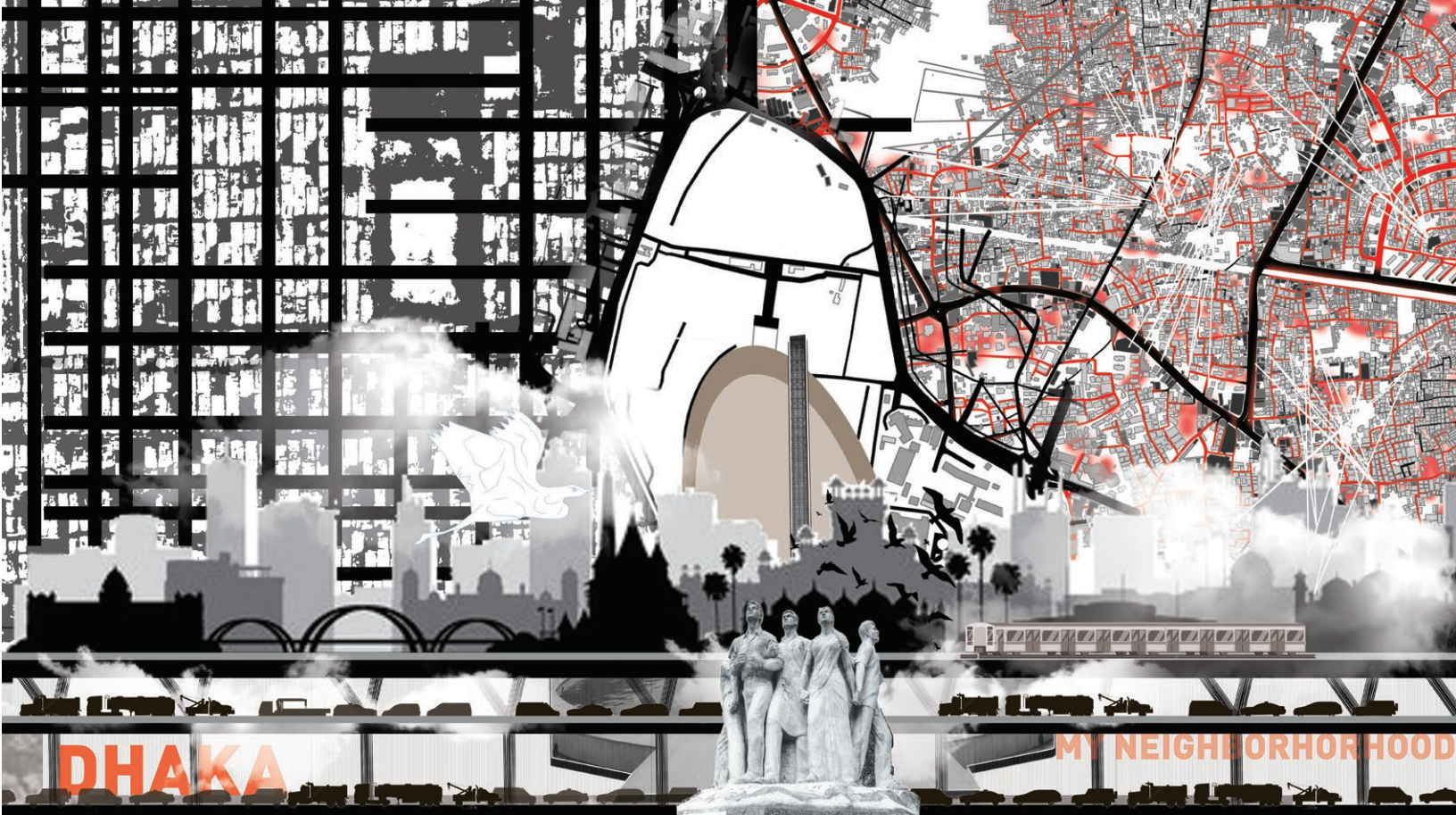
MAP 3. Spatial Distribution of Urban Growth and Transport Network in Dhaka, Bangladesh
 THE HIDDEN WEALTH OF CITIES_Creating, Financing, and Managing Public Spaces

To cater the increase population Dhaka is continuously in the process of growing. Most of the cases the new neighborhood spaces or housing projects are lacking the social and cultural norms though it has lots of void spaces. On the other hand old dhaka where there is barely any space left still catering social norms, values and connections. This is a very important contrast which strikes me a lot.

So, Different parts of Old Dhaka and New Dhaka of Bangladesh will be my primary site

for analyzing all the issues, and then I can apply them to the newly growing city called Purbachal, Dhaka, Bangladesh.





KOTWALI, OLD DHAKA
77,608 People/ sqkm
62,086 people

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK CITY
26,939 People/ sqkm
21,551 people

[8] Program

A city needs Spaces to create different Events, and the Movements in the other Spaces bring life. The urban neighborhood that I dream of being in a city like Dhaka should have to have maximum options to grow as it wants; people can have the freedom to explore, interact and promote social and economic life. Gain The Human Scale will be the first and foremost intention of this Thesis. The program listed below is the basic guideline that I will follow to explore and find the solution for my thesis questions. This program will help to guide and direct me throughout the process.

A. SOCIAL STRUCTURE

1. A POLICY FOR THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE:

Considerations on the subdivision into:

- primary groups
- secondary groups
- Neighborhoods
- townships
- towns etc.

2. A POLICY FOR THE DECISION MAKING

- who is to decide what?
- how can decision-making strengthen social structure?

3. A POLICY FOR INTEGRATION/SEGREGATION



EVENT

SPACE



MOVEMENT

- living/ manufacturing/ service
- different age groups
- social classes
- private- public spaces

4. A POLICY FOR THE PUBLIC SPACES

-How might public areas help to improve social structures?

-What types of public areas are there?

Active/inactive; diverse/specific; active/inactive; diverse/specific;

-the placement of various architectural styles

B. SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. SERVICES

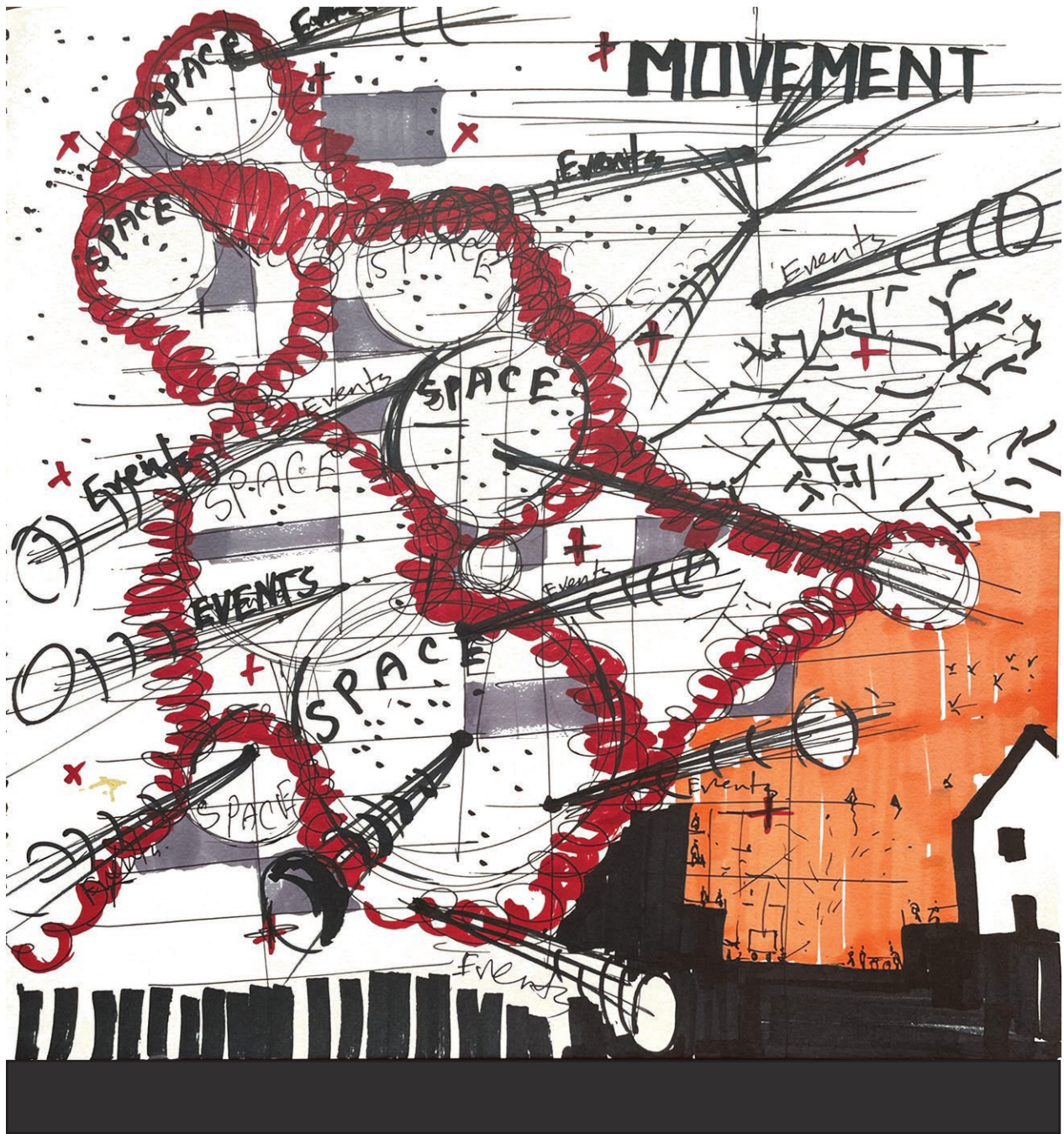
- What needed
- Where will be their position in the social structure
- Where will be their position in the site

2. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Ways communication

Overall Goals: Create an Urban Neighborhood which creates room for

1. maximum interaction
2. promote interchange at all levels (cultural space) Stimulate both social and economic contact
3. promote diversity
4. economic freedom
5. Scale(both a Human scale and a macro scale)



3. RELATION BETWEEN INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Sidewalk
- Traffic systems
- Quality and distance between different major points

4. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- kind of traffic (Public/private)
- speed-direction

- 3. public amenities
- 4. Vehicular System
- 5. Sidewalk Life: use overtime
- 6. Shop
- 7. Recreational Activity zone
- 8. Vendor
- 9. Environmental Factor
- 10. Active & Passive Facade

List of Possible Functions, Uses, Events

- 1. Land use pattern
- 2. Infrastructure facility

[9] Design Phase

Historical Development of Dhaka City Planning From Panam City to New Dhaka



The Void In Between Urban Neighborhood: The Urban Context of Dhaka

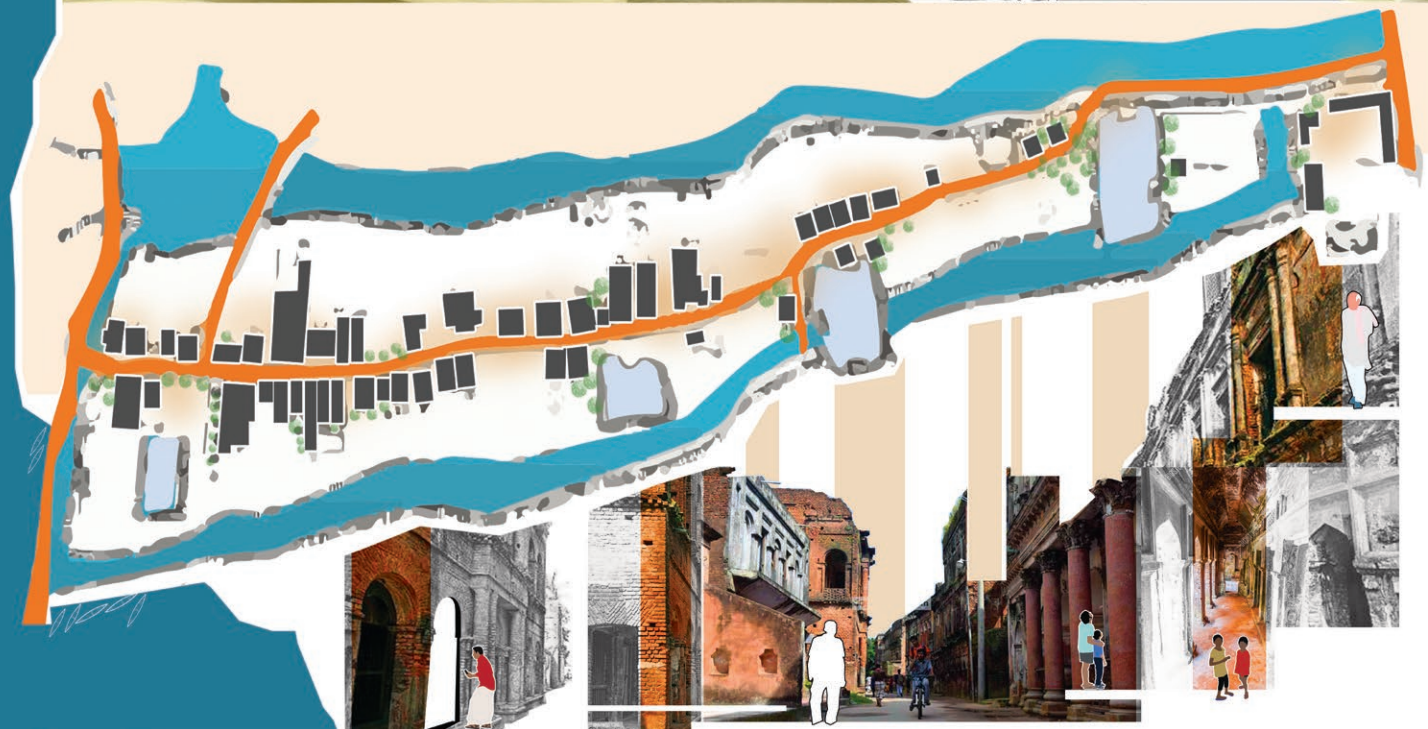
Internal Landuse Pattern of Old Dhaka



Old Dhaka



Panam City



Concept:
Childhood Nostalgia_A Dream for a Future Neighborhood





Individual Dream

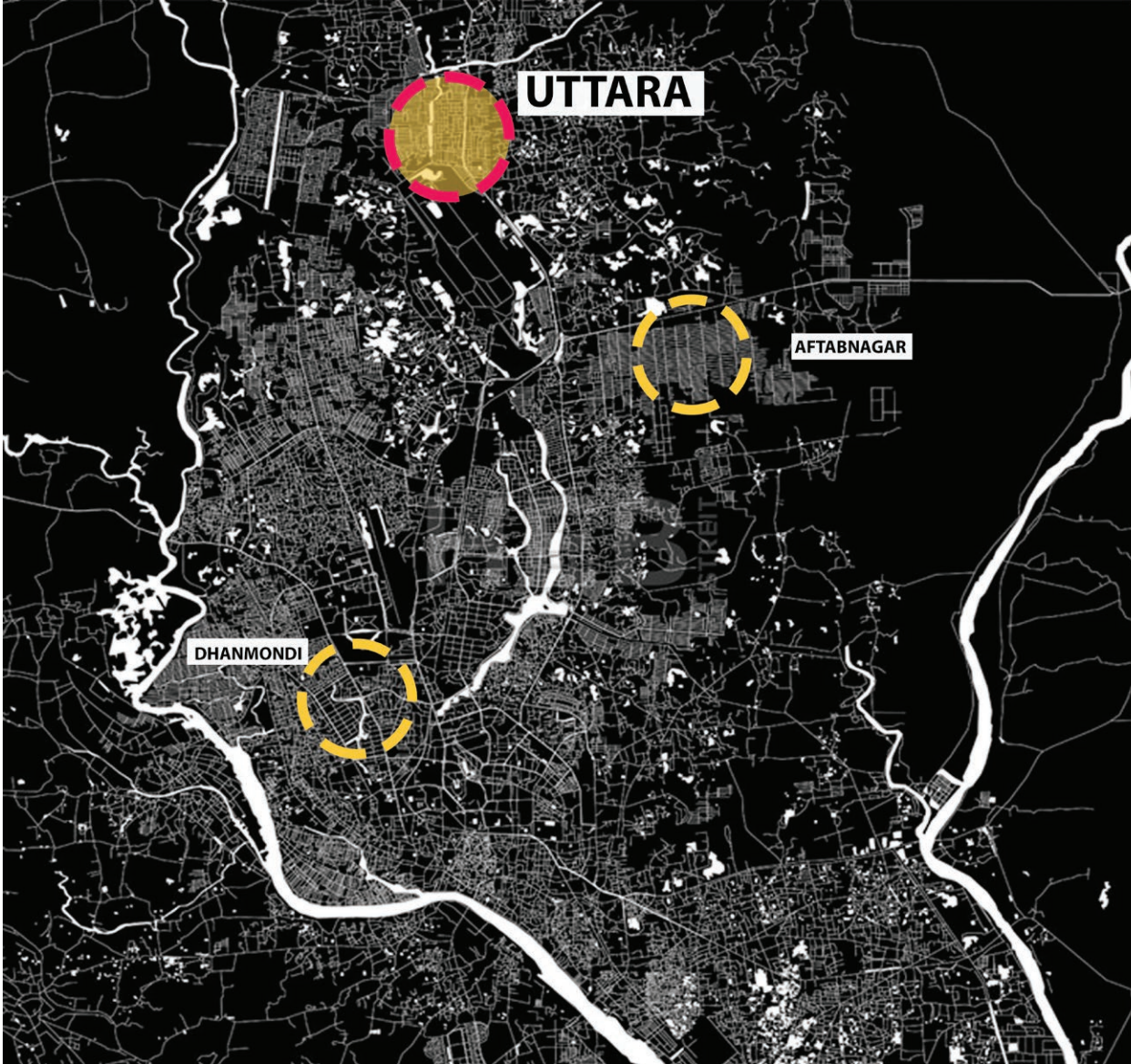
Neighborhood

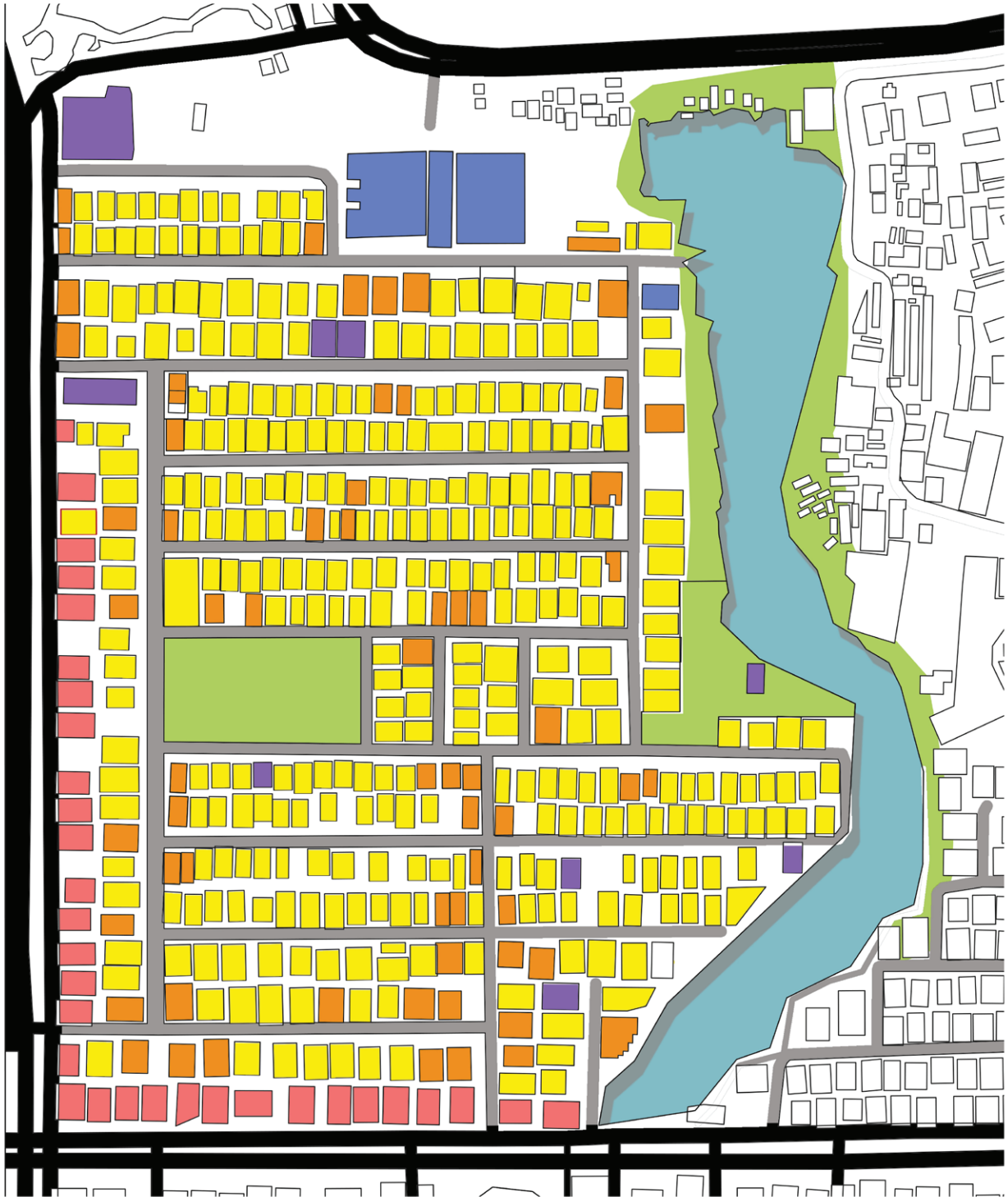
Collective Dream



Site Selection

Uttara, Dhaka



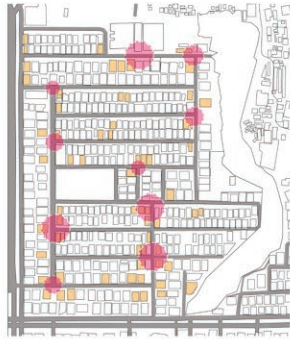


- Residential Building
- Commercial Building
- Mixed-Use Building
- Hospital/ Medical Center
- Hospital/ Medical Center
- Lake
- Primary Road
- Secondary/ Tertiary Road
- Park

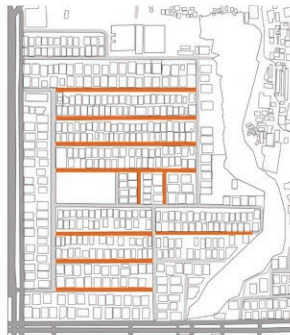


Uttara, Sector-11, DHAKA
EXISTING MASTERPLAN

Existing Site Condition

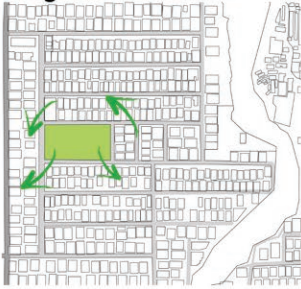


CORNER PLOT



Neighborhood Road

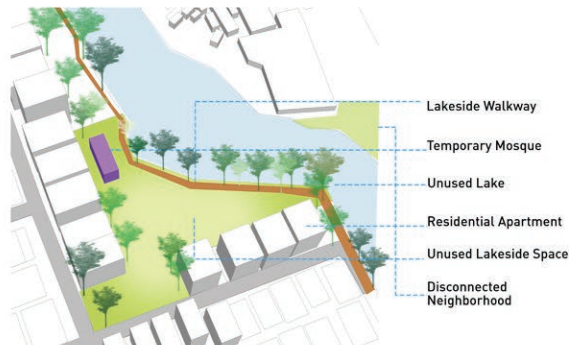
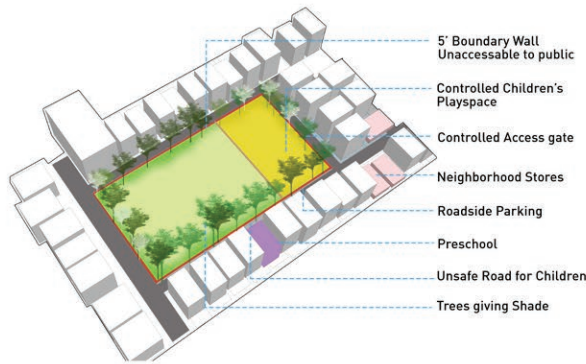
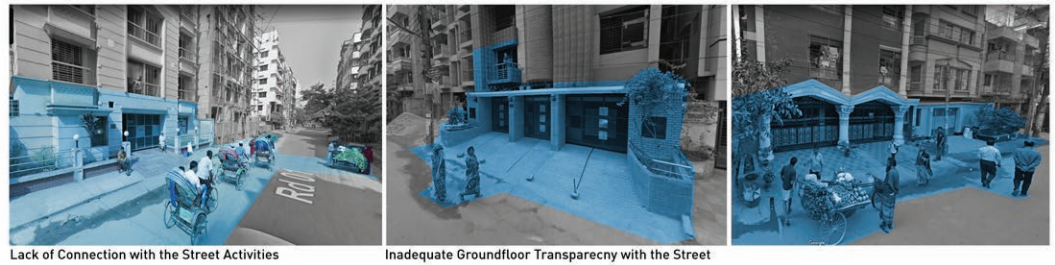
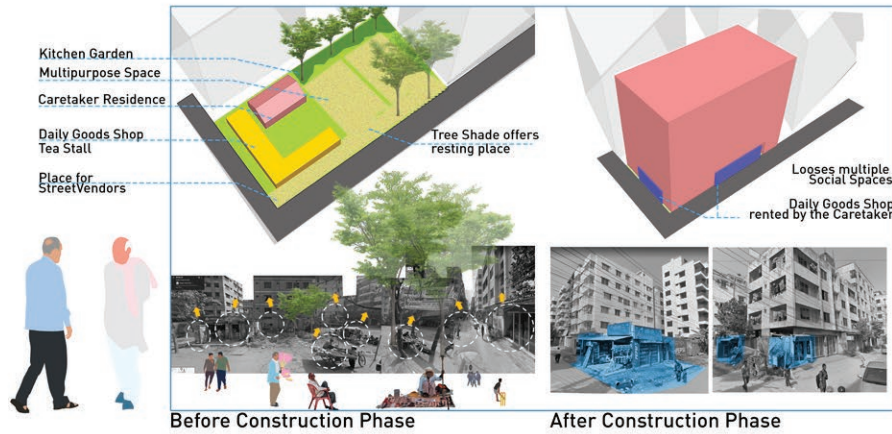
Neighborhood Park

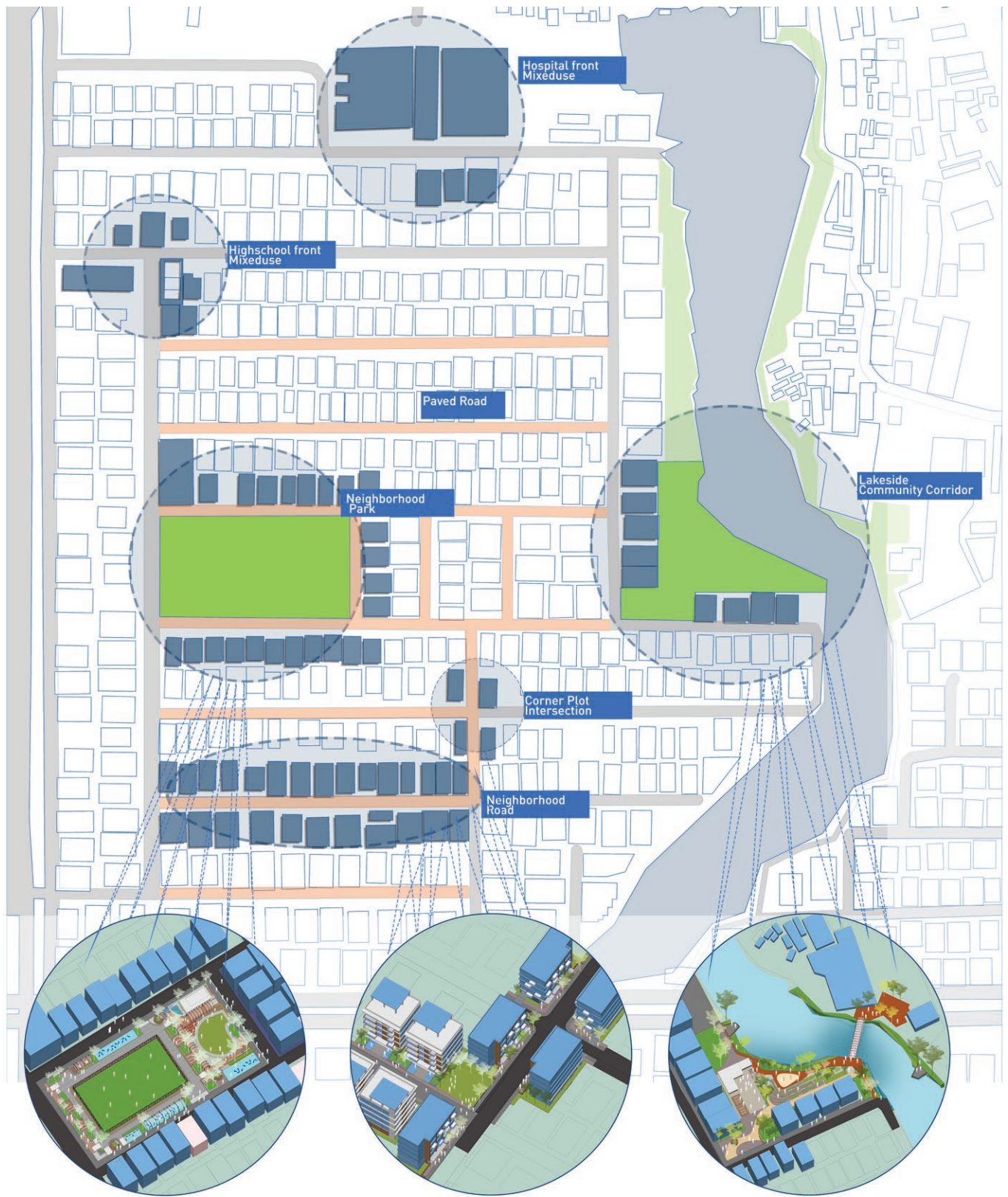


Lakeside

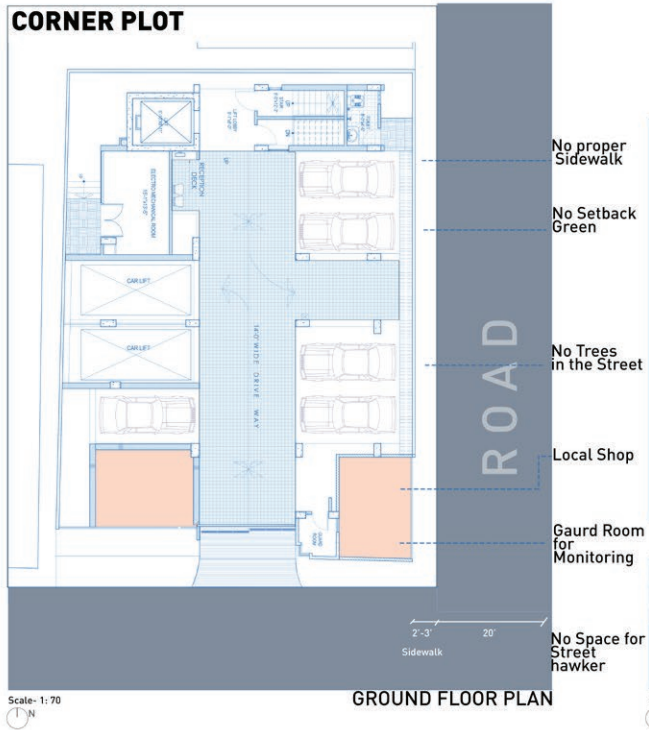


Masterplan

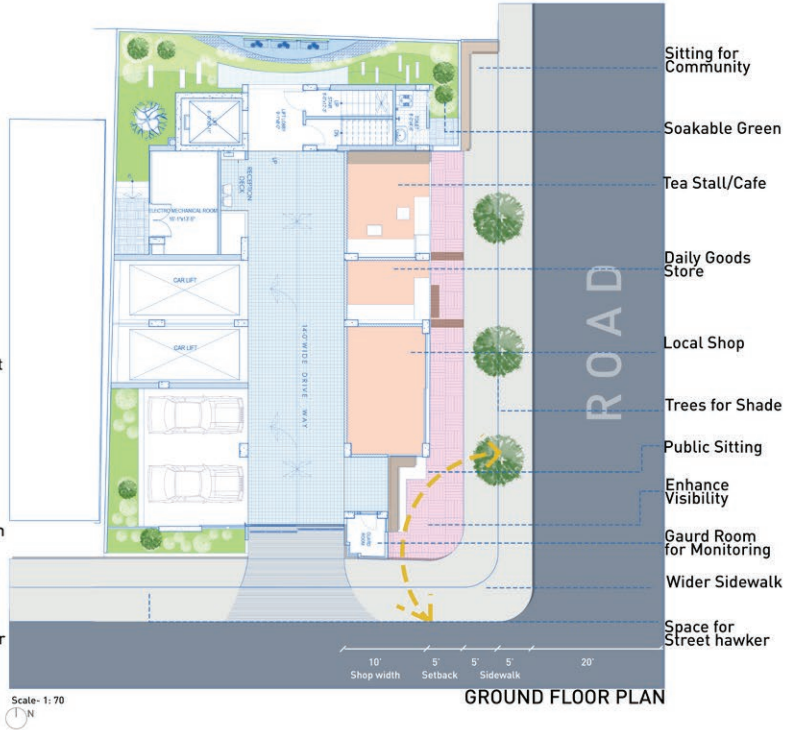




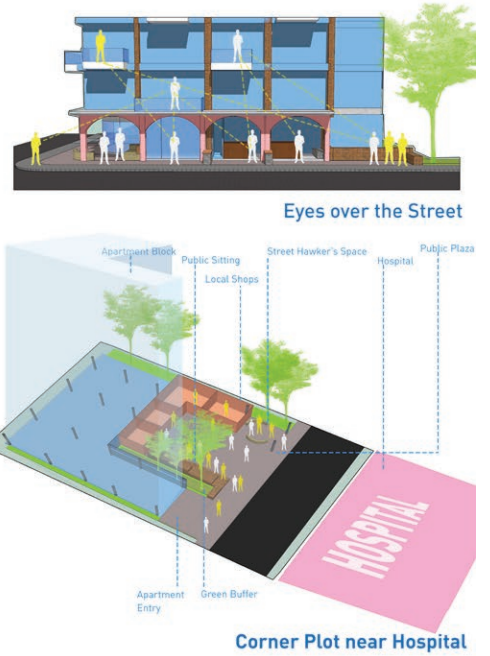
Design Intervention



Existing Plan

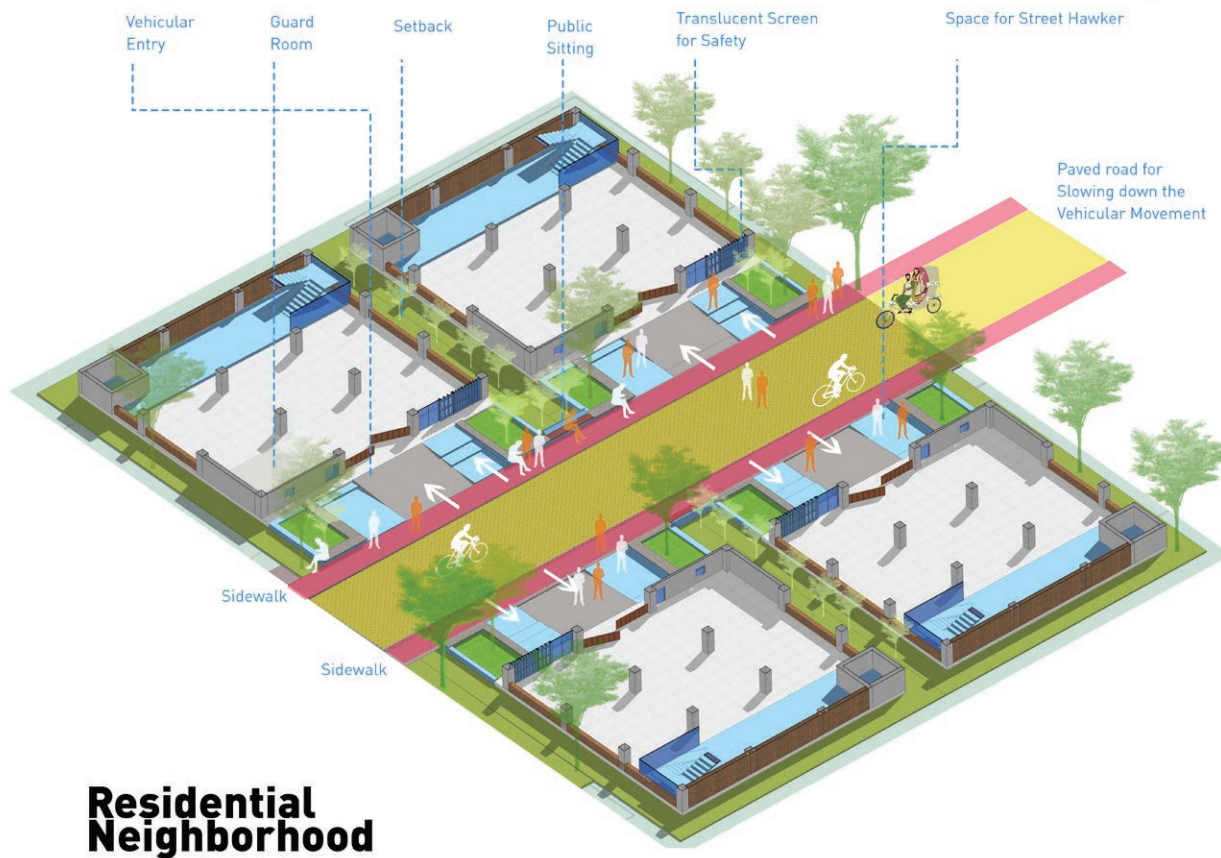


Proposed Plan





Intersection



Residential Neighborhood



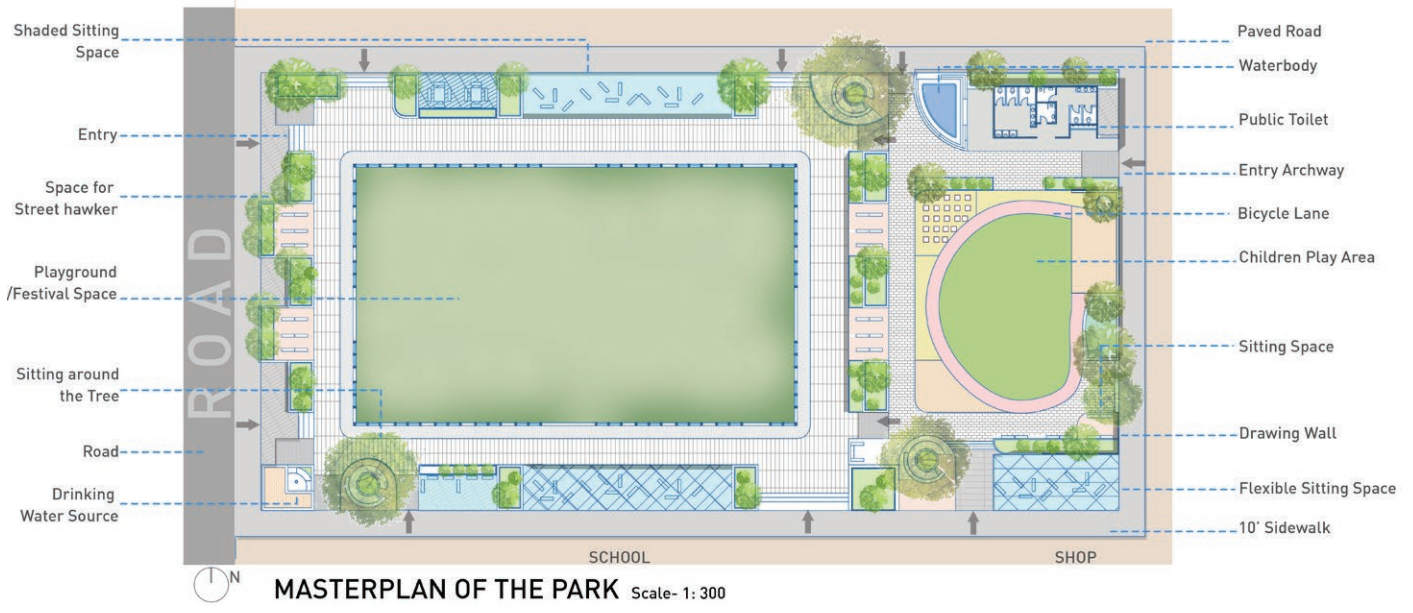
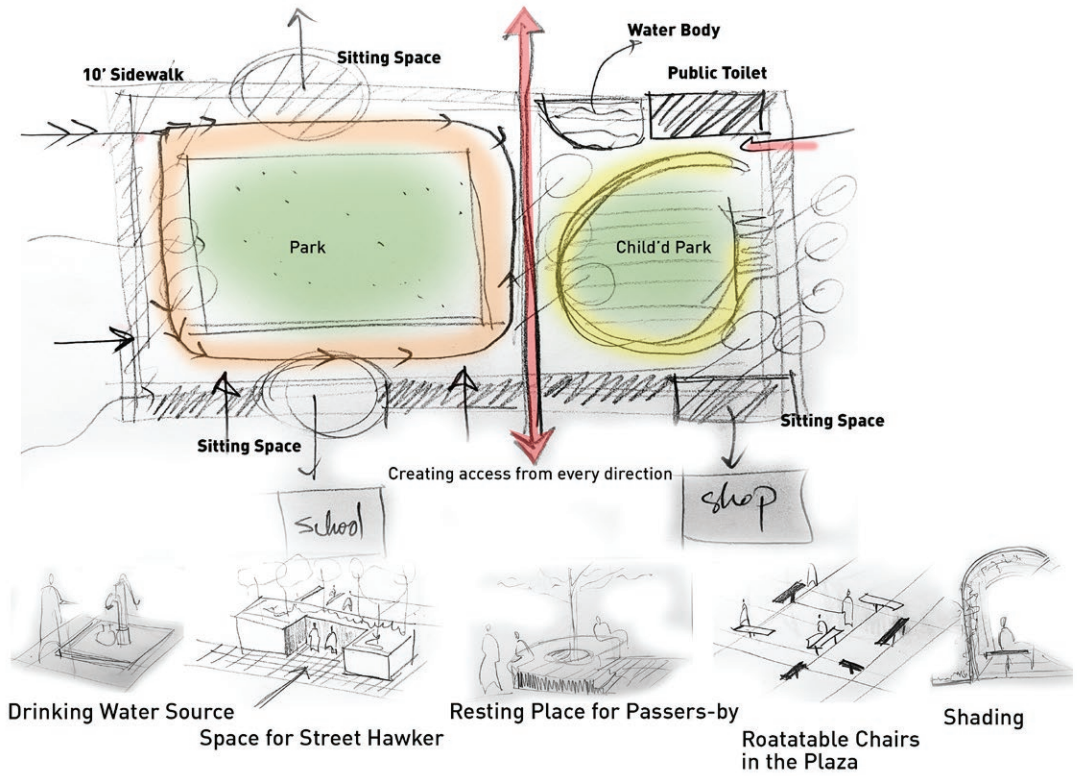
Residential Neighborhood



Intersection

Neighborhood Park

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT



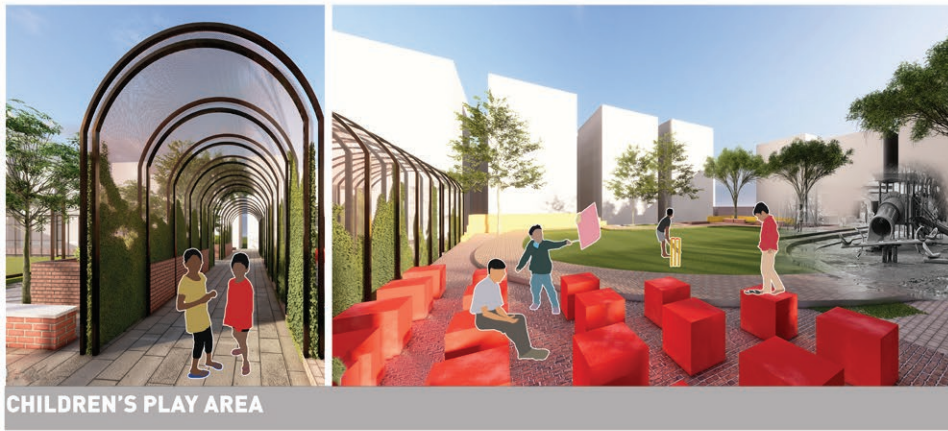


Children's Park



Public Park





CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA



PUBLIC PLAZA & ACTIVITY SPACE



PUBLIC PLAZA & ACTIVITY SPACE



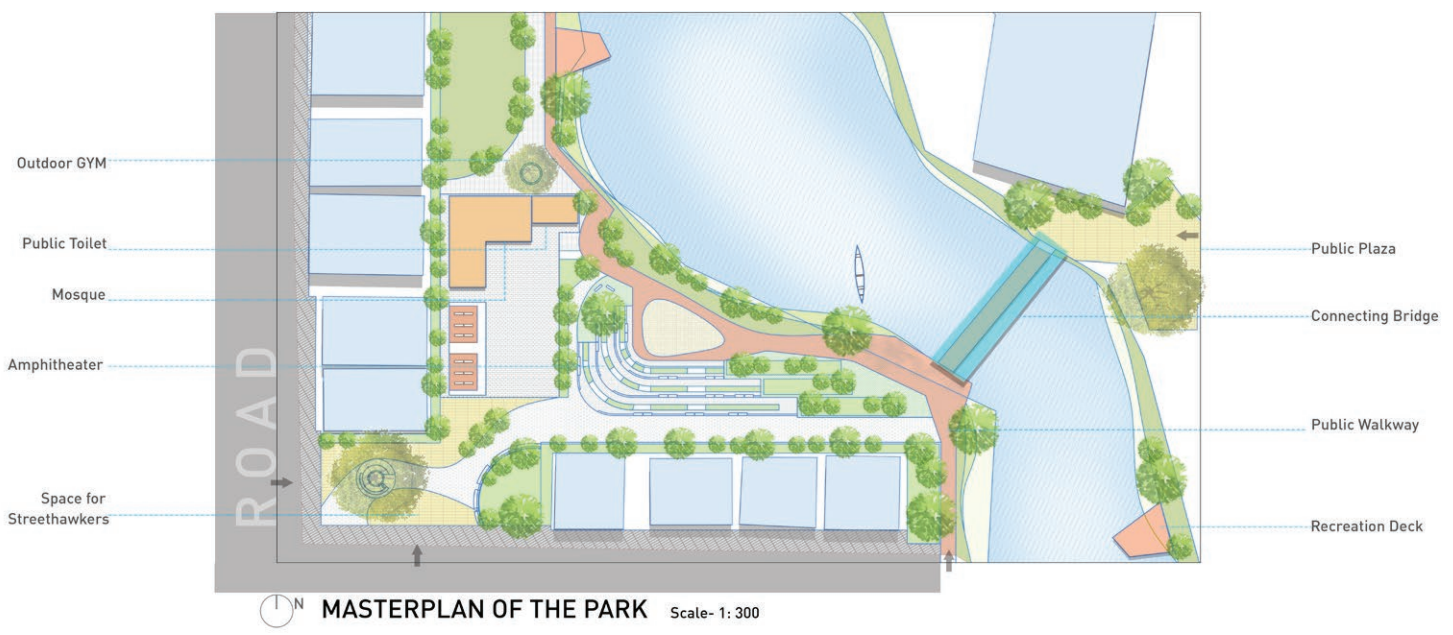
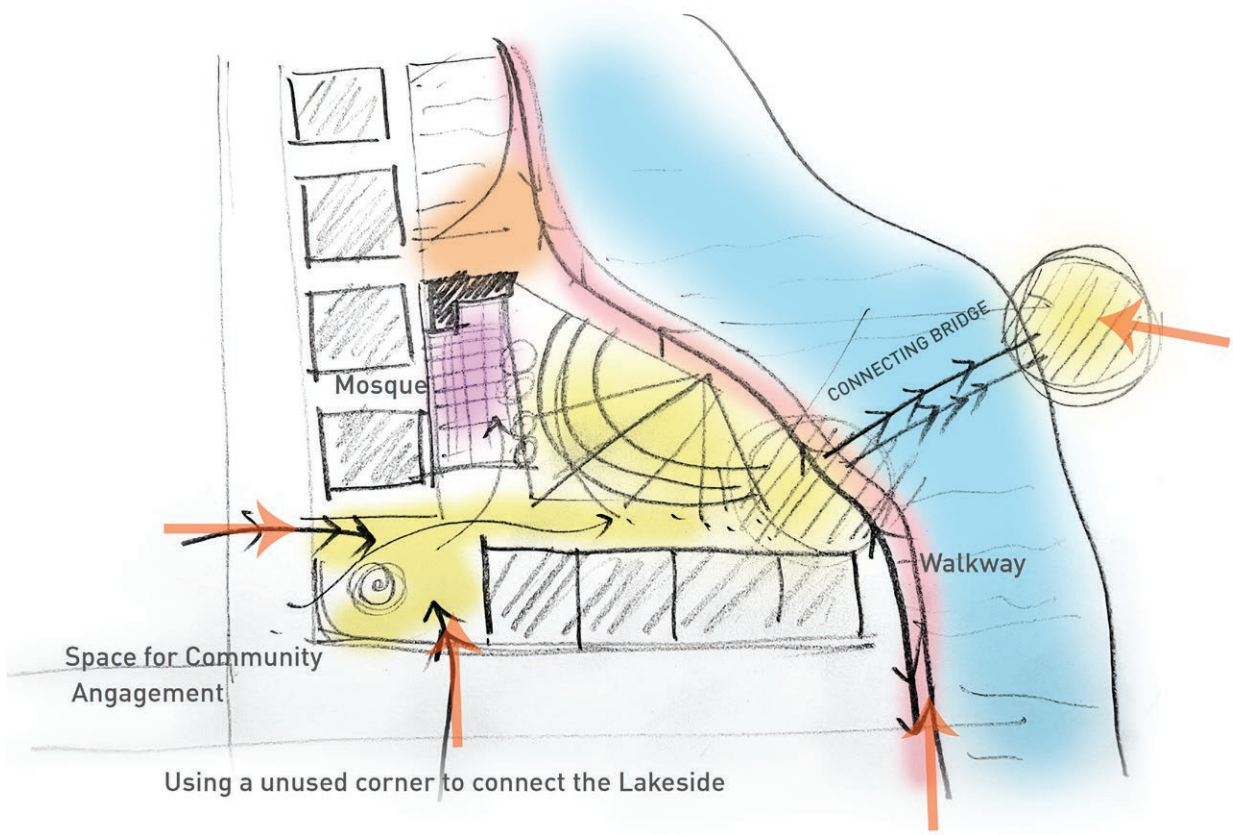
SITE SECTION

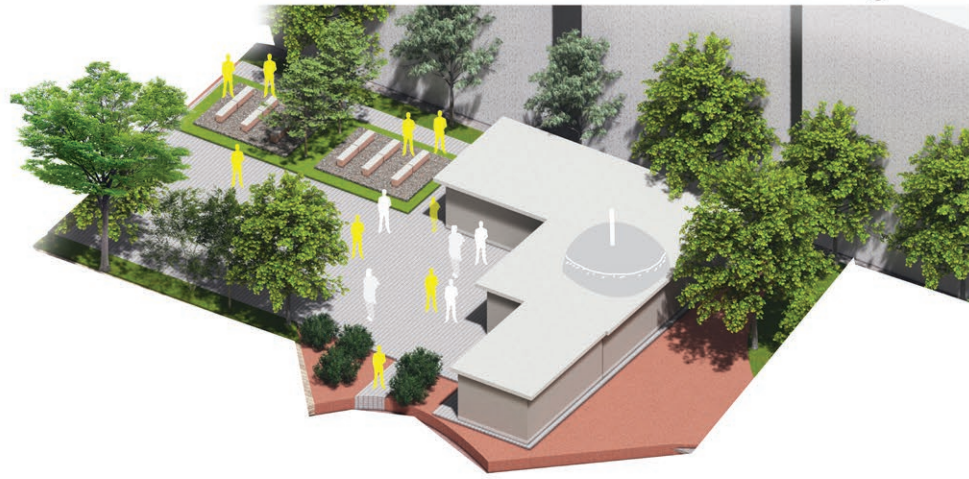


Usage of park in Different Social Event

Lakeside Area

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT





AXONOMETRIC VIEW

The Void In Between Urban Neighborhood: The Urban Context of Dhaka



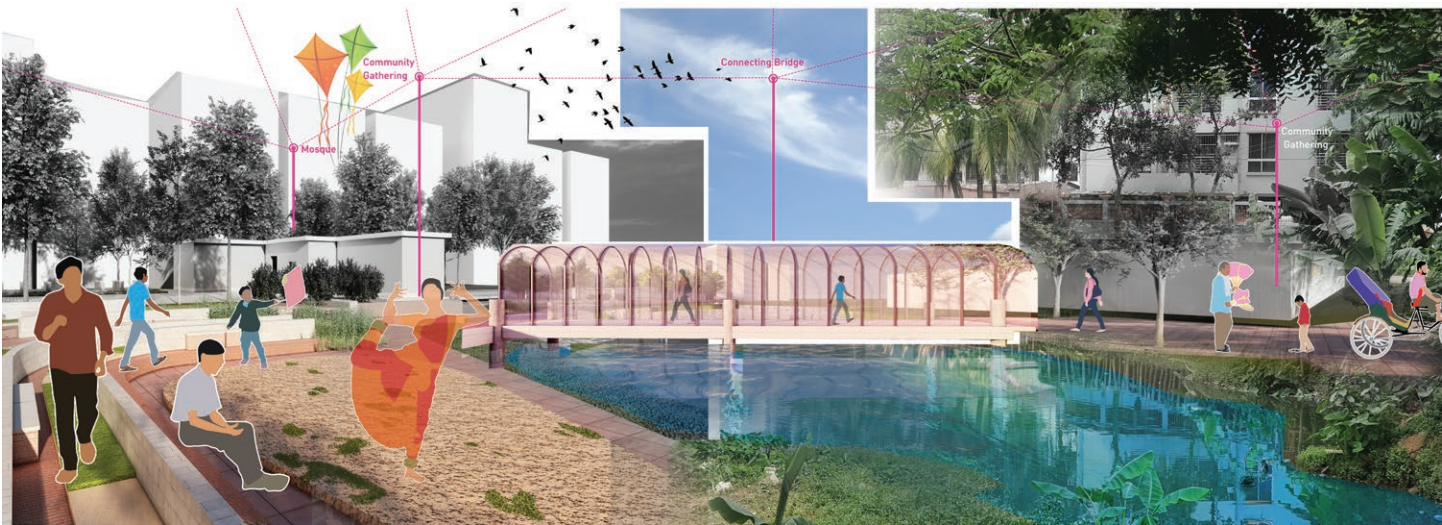
MOSQUE



AMPHITHEATER



FLOATING DECK



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Figures

MAP 1: City expansion throughout the ages, Dhaka City corporation archive.

Map 2: Dhaka City Map, 2023

<https://hebstreits.com/product/dhaka-bangladesh-download-pdf-map/>

MAP 3. Spatial Distribution of Urban Growth and Transport Network in Dhaka, Bangladesh

THE HIDDEN WEALTH OF CITIES_Creating, Financing, and Managing Public Spaces

Figure 1: Hussaini Dalan Road, Dhaka.(Photographed by Me)

Figure 2: Polashi, Dhaka, Mixed Used Neighborhood

Figure 3: A tea stall in Dhaka

Figure 4: The Buriganga River & Gol Talab Pond

Figure 5: Analysis of Social Void(1) in a neighborhood, Dhaka

Figure 6: Analysis of Social Void(2) in a neighborhood, Dhaka

Figure 7: Uttara Housing society, Dhaka.

Figure 8: Life Between Buildings” - Jan Gehl

Figure 9: Pg 84_Cities for People_Jan Gehl

Figure 10: The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning-Le Corbusier, Frederick Etchells (Translator)

