

CHAPTER_01

1.1 The Project

Name of the project: Dakshindihi Rabindra complex.

Location: Dakshindihi, Phultala, Khulna.

Area: 7.8 acres.

Client: P.W.D and Khulna Development Authority.

Execution: P.W.D and Khulna Development Authority.

1.1 Background of the Project and history

Rabindranath is a charismatic versatile in the world of literature. His work seems to touches the souls of Bengalis and gives rise to a new formed passion for literature. Dakshindihi placed in Khulna district of Phultala thana is a part and parcel of Rabindranath's life circle and family so we cannot evaluate his life without Dakshindihi. His ancestors were closely related to that place and his uncle had his residence there. He got married there to the daughter of Beni Madhab Ray Choudhuri. Dakshindihi is a modern name. It was initially named "poyogram". Jaganath Kusuri, an old relative of Rabindranath lived there. 7.08-acre land of Beni Madhab Choudhuri (Father in law of the universal poet Rabindranath Tagore) at phultala thana, Khulna zilla, was illicitly disposed for many years. By the personal endeavour of the district commissioner Mr. Kaji Riajul Haque, the land and the existing building were delivered from the possessor at 7th September in 1995. Many intelligent, litterateur and the cultural people had encouraged this action. From this excitement, the exalted people of Khulna started to dream about a Rabindra complex to be built and primarily they formed the directorate board of Rabindra Complex. The directorate board decided that in future this place should be the centre of cultural practice and planned to build Rabindra institute. This institute will have the place of research, and the place of practicing of culture and literature and it based on the ethics of Rabindranath Tagore. Also, a Rabindra museum could be there where the pictures, painting and things used by Tagore will be exhibited. Some specific festival would held at specific date in every year

- Death anniversary of Mrinalini Debi at 7th Agrahayan.
- Marriage day at 24th Agrahayan.
- Birth day of Rabindranath tagore at 25th Baishak.
- Death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at 22th Sraban.

1.2 Given Programme

1.The Mrinalini Mancho (The plaza under the tree)

2.The Museum

3.Auditorium or Multi-purpose Hall (For 500 persons)

4.Open air theatre

5.The Rabindra Institute (For masters and researchers)

- School of performing arts

a)For Dance -02_class rooms

01_green room

01_Store room

01_Ballet room

b)For Music -02_Class room

01_Store room

c)For Drama -01_Class room

01_Rehersal room

01_Store

- School for Fine Arts: (Painting,sculpture and graphic arts)

a)For Painting -Studio cum class room_01

For Sculpture -Studio cum class room_01

For Sculpture -Fire place_01

For Graphic arts-Studio cum class room_01

-Store

- Library and Archive:

a)Archive (For preservation of manuscripts,paintings,sketches,letters, photographs,audio records.)

b)Book Stacks

c)Reading room

d)Research room

e)Technical room

- f) Librarian's office
- g) General Office
- Seminar or lecture hall_01 (For 100 persons)

6) Administrative Block

- Director's room_01
- Admin officer's room_01
- General office_01 (for 5 persons)
- Teacher's room_01
- Receptionist room+lobby+loading+information room
- Accounts room_01

7) Residential block

- Director's residential/rest house (for 4 persons)
- Teacher's quarters (for 6 persons)
- Dormitory/Hostel (for 40 to 50 persons)

8) Crafts centre_2 to 5 shops (for tourists)

1.3 Reasons for choosing the project

The project being the last design project for the undergrad program, aspirations were to design something that would offer everything and anything that defines and environment, an open environment for all. A place for learning. Learning about the environment that surrounds it and learning about life. To propose a civic space that would provide functions that enrich the human soul. Thus the primary considerations were a civic or a cultural centre. It was then intended to design a cultural mile that would commemorate someone whose presence has been vital for the growth of human soul and thus came Rabindranath in mind. Looking more into the prospective project, this site of Dakshindi was come across which already had a similar proposal that I had in mind. The site also has a building that required conservation. This fact acted as an added interest on opting for this specific site. Aim was to learn Rabindranath's definition of learning environment which is reflected through his "shantiniketon" institute to serve as an inspiration. Thus the selection of Dakshindihi Rabindra Complex of Dakshindihi, Phultala, Khulna as a thesis project.

1.4 Rationale for the project

The proposed cultural complex is intended to promote and help develop the national culture. It will also focus on research and preservation of art and heritage, and provide a meeting ground for art lovers in arranging cultural and film shows, drama, music, dance, discussion meetings, seminar, workshops etc. For a city such as Khulna that has a rich history, it has developed very little in the cultural sector and this project is intended to be an

initiation to that. The complex will help to promote and facilitate cultural activities especially in the field of performing arts and fine arts. This in turn will help to strengthen the socio-cultural aspects of the city and its society and thus our culture will be enriched. Provisions of a well-designed cultural centre with properly designed auditorium, art galleries and classrooms will help the city to prosper in its cultural sphere.

The existing site has a building located at somewhat near its centre. It used to be the residence of Mrinalini Devi (Rabindranath's wife). The role of the building in the vernacular fabrics now is that of an antique stage of Bengali's glorious past. The antique deserves social, philosophical, archaeological and architectural phenomena. During Rabindranath Tagore's birthday celebration people from various walks of life and from various countries come to cherish the memories of the great contributor of Bengali Literature. Many people often just come to visit the place to look at the building thus it does hold a historical and social significance. The existing building has no existing function. But it serves as the recreational parameters for the certain community. Recently the government has taken initiative to conserve the building. Although there is legislation for protection of the building however the encroachment of rural house and construction of buildings in the surrounding area shows the mismanagement of the legislation. It is eventually going to hamper the environment of the existing structure and affect its antiquity.

Providing it with the function as that of Rabindra Complex it would not only make the heritage site active but would also become an essential part of people's lives mainly those of Khulna.

1.5 Aim and objective of the project.

The aim of the project may be-

- To commemorate the memory Rabindranath Tagore.
- To propose a place that could add value to the society by enhancing the free cultural environment.
- To think of the inner spirit of human unity and imply it in the design.
- To encourage the practice of music, dance, drama and arts;
- Revitalize the various elements of our traditional culture and provide a ground for its celebration.
- To provide researchers with an active information centre to explore new possibilities
- To enrich the knowledge about Rabindranath Tagore and his philosophy

