Bidrohee Bangla
Memorial for the Rebels of Bengal
Karnaphulli riverbank, Chittagong

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SEMINAR II

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Abstract

The idea of lost history remains intact in our generation today. Along the separation of India, Bangladesh the Hero’s of that time have also been separated which resulted on a conflict of preservation. Those Hero’s seldom remmembered, have all if not mostly been lost instead of being celebrated by every generation to come after them. Thus the rebellion against the british before the liberation war has been lost. The british had ruled our Bengal for 186 years in which many rebellions have been born and preached for what they have achieved. But today, they stand in the times of our rebellious history as long forgotten heros. In order to hold the celebration of their legacy and bring back the energy they once had, a Memorial for the liberals of Bengal is being proposed. The memorial will represent the rebellion and the rebels that stood against the british and will be against the test of time.
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CHAPTER 01
Introduction of the Project

1.2 Project Brief
1.2.1 Name of the project: Bidrohee Bangla
1.2.2 Client: Chittagong City Corporation
1.2.3 Location: Karnaphuli Riverbank, Chittagong
1.1.4 Site area: 16 acres

1.2 Rationale of the project

The impactful tales of our liberation movement conceals the 200 year struggle for identity. In order to absorb the essence of 1971 we need to let in the roots of this rebellious act that accumulated and transformed into milestone changes. If we visualize the heroes of early times we come up with names of Pritilota Waddedar, Shurjosen, Khudiram, Nirmol sen, Titumir. These are the names of warriors of that time. Their sweat and blood established their existence that grew major rebellious movements. To reflect the essence of a revolt during that time shows the true clarity of the movement. The injustice of the British rule was questioned by many rebellions but the focus is on the heroes that grew from this region, Bangladesh.

1.3 Aim of the project

To bring out the lost and forgotten history of the British Rule, examples being Indigo movement, Farmers movement against British Rule, non-corporative movement and Division of Bengal. Bringing out the truth and clarity in the revolution the British Period brought to Bangladesh. The heroes of that time have been talked about but many legacies have been lost. So, the objective is to let people know how important it is in our history, through out time.
1.4 Functions & Programmes required for the project

Memorial
A public square
Permanent gallery
Temporary gallery
Library
Archive
Auditorium
Workshops
Cafeteria
Souvenir shop
Administrative office

1.6 Reason for choosing the site
1.6.1 Site location: boxiarhut, Next to Karnaphulli Bridge, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
1.6.2 Site Area: 16 Acres
   =774185 sqft
1.6.3 Considerations:
All through Bengal, Chittagong has been one of the main battle fields on which most
revolts have been taking place through out history. It is said that certain parts of bangla
language has come from Brahmilipy coming form a place called Chatgaw, from which
‘Chat” means war and “gaw” intends on the battle field, which shows the immense
battles taking place in the area. Thus, the title seems to fit the area, the
Kornophullybridge acts as a connecting spine in between the tourist spots of Chittagong
and Bangladesh. So their lies the interdependence of the two sectors, and thus the site
lies towards the East for visibility and connection from the bridge towards the rest of
Bangladesh.
CHAPTER 02
Site Appraisal

2.1 The Site

2.1.1 Location of the site: Boxiarhat, east side of Karnaphulli bridge, Chittagong, Bangladesh

2.1.2 Site area: 16 Acres = 774,185 sqft

2.2 Site & Surroundings

2.2.1 History of the site
Chittagong is the second-largest city and main seaport of Bangladesh. The city is located on the banks of the Karnaphuli River. The City Corporation has a total area of 168.07 square kilometers (65 sq mi). It is the principal city of Chittagong Division and a major center of commerce and industry in South Asia. Chittagong (Town) has an area of 209.66 sq km. The town has a population 3,202,710; male 54.36% and female 45.64%; population density per sq km 15,276. There are 15 Upazilas and 11 Thanas (under Chittagong Municipal area) under Chittagong district.
Chittagong is considered as Bangladesh’s commercial capital and home to the country’s major industries. Being the country’s major seaport, much of Bangladesh’s export and import passes through the Port of Chittagong. The port has extensive modern facilities and is expected to be transformed into a world class deep sea port in the coming years in order to cater to the growing economies of the region including that of Bangladesh, eastern India, Nepal, Bhutan, western China and northern Burma.

The history of Chittagong is very old. Probably from early 7th century, human habitation developed in this region. Famous Chinese traveler and poet, Hewn Tsang described Chittagong (7th century AD) as "a sleeping beauty emerging from mists and water" when he traveled Chittagong in that century. From his statement, it is clear that people started living here probably much more before 7th century, though the known history of settlement in this region reveals that the city was established in the 9th century with the facility of port at the southern end of the city. Chittagong, presently the second largest city of Bangladesh was logically described by the title of "Porto Grande" by the 16th century. The city is known for its vast hilly terrain that stretches throughout the entire district and eventually into India. Chittagong does not contain any natural lakes, but it does have artificial lakes.

Growth and development in 1947 the area of the town of Chittagong was only four and half square miles and was centered around the low and small hillocks which were found scattered all over the city.

- 10th century was the capital of Buddhist kingdom

- 14th century Chittagong became a part of Delhi sultanate

- 1526 Chittagong was taken by Arkanes, became a part of Burma.

- 1538, Portugese landed in the part of Chittagong and named it “PORTE GRANDE”

- The Chittagong region was prominent in the nationalist movement against British rule in India.

- During the sepoy mutiny (1857-1858), Indian troops in British service rebelled in Chittagong, at the time of Sepoy revolt, ther 2nd, 3rd and 4th companies of the 34th Bengal infantry regiment were stationed at Chittagong, On the night of 18th November the three abled companies rose in rebellion and released the prisoners from jail.

- In the early 20th century, Surjo Sent (1894-1934), Indian troops in British movement in Chittagong organizing guerilla activities against against the colonial government.

- During world war ii (1939-1945) Chittagong became a major base against the Japanese, who had invaded neighbouring BURMA,
There are 15 Upazilas and 11 Thana (under Chittagong Municipal area) under Chittagong district. Bakaliathana is one of them which have chandgaonthana at north, boalkhali at east and kotwalithana at west. Bakalia Thana have approximate 2,25,485 population. —Bakalia‖ name came from Arabic word —Bakillah‖ which mean —vegetable garden‖. Science 8th century AD, trading time of Arabic traders Karnaphuli River flows over bakaliamouja. Still bakaliathana is called char bakalia by local people.

2.2.2 Zoning of spaces around the site

Zone 1: Chakhtai market
Zone 2: Fish market
Zone 3: Housing area
Zone 4: Selected site
2.2.3 Site forces

2.2.4 Topography

The site of the project is situated beside the karnaphulli River. The site is filled with illegal slums. The area is not so developed. There are some tin shed houses over here. The karnaphulli bridge has been constructed so recently. So it can be assumed that the bank of karnaphulli river will get so urbanized.
2.3 SWOT Analysis

2.3.1 Strength
- A rapidly developing area. Not fully developed yet. Has the potential of becoming a good urban public place.
- Attracts tourists & foreigners.
- Is located in lush of green.
- Is located in along the secondary road. So no rush of traffic & less traffic congestion.
- Invites a diverse age group.
- Wide roads.
- Hilly area.
- Nice view of the river.

2.3.2 Weakness
- Lots of unused spaces surrounding the site.
- Negative space created by unused spaces.

2.3.3 Opportunity
- The other public buildings around would make a positive force for the site.
- Lots of open spaces around.
- Can be a vibrant & useful public hub & civic space.

2.3.4 Threat
- If not handled properly, the area might have a bad effect on the community, as possibilities are huge.
- Unplanned development may spoil overall effect of the site.
CHAPTER 03
Literature Study

3.1 Memorial Museum

A memorial is an object which serves as a focus for memory of something, usually a person (who has died) or an event. Popular forms of memorials include landmark objects or art objects such as sculptures, statues or fountains, and even entire parks. A museum is an institution that cares for a collection of artifacts and other objects of scientific, artistic, cultural, or historical importance and makes them available for public viewing through exhibits that may be permanent or temporary. Most large museums are located in major cities throughout the world and more local ones exist in smaller cities, towns and even the countryside. The continuing acceleration in the digitization of information, combined with the increasing capacity of digital information storage, is causing the traditional model of museums to expand to include virtual exhibits and high-resolution images of their collections for perusal, study, and exploration from any place with Internet connectivity.

3.2 Bidrohi Bangla (Memorial for the rebels of BENGAL)

Bidrohi Bangla smritisharok is a memorial for the Rebels of Bengal. There were so many freedom fighters and rebels against British Imperialism. The history of british imperialism is so vast. In 1757, on account of the British victory at Plassey, where a military force led by Robert Clive defeated the forces of the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-daulah, the East India Company found itself transformed from an association of traders to rulers exercising political sovereignty over a largely unknown land and people. British East India Company. When the British East India Company began strengthening the defenses at Fort William (Calcutta), the Nawab, Siraj Ud Daulah, at the encouragement of the French, attacked. Under the leadership of Robert Clive, British troops and their local allies captured Chandernagore in March 1757 and seriously defeated the Nawab on June 23, 1757 at the Battle of Plassey, when the Nawab's soldiers betrayed him. The Nawab was assassinated in Murshidabad, and the British installed their own Nawab for Bengal and extended their direct control in the south. Chandernagore was restored to the French in 1763. The Bengalis attempted to regain their territories in 1765 in alliance with the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, but were defeated again at the Battle of Buxar (1765). The centre of Indian culture and trade shifted from Delhi to Calcutta when the Mughal Empire fell. British rule. During British rule, two devastating famines were instigated costing millions of lives in 1770 and 1943. Scarcely five years into the British East India Company’s rule, the
catastrophic Bengal famine of 1770, one of the greatest famines of history occurred. Up to a third of the population died in 1770 and subsequent years. The Indian Mutiny of 1857 replaced rule by the Company with the direct control of Bengal by the British crown.

A centre of rice cultivation as well as fine cotton called muslin and the world's main source of jute fibre, Bengal, from the 1850s became one of India's principal centres of industry, concentrated in the capital Kolkata (known as Calcutta under the British, always called 'Kolkata' in the native tongue of Bengali) and its emerging cluster of suburbs. Most of the population nevertheless remained dependent on agriculture, and despite its leading role in Indian political and intellectual activity, the province included some very undeveloped districts, especially in the east. In 1877, when Victoria took the title of "Empress of India", the British declared Calcutta the capital of the British Raj.

India's most popular province (and one of the most active provinces in freedom fighting), in 1905 Bengal was divided by the British rulers for administrative purposes into an overwhelmingly Hindu west (including present-day Bihar and Orissa) and a predominantly Muslim east (including Assam) (1905 Partition of Bengal). Hindu-Muslim conflict became stronger through this partition. While Hindu Indians disagreed with the partition saying it was a way of dividing a Bengal which is united by language and history, Muslims supported it by saying it was a big step forward for Muslim society where Muslims will be majority and they can freely practice their religion as well as their culture. But owing to strong Hindu agitation, the British reunited East and West Bengal in 1912, and made Bihar and Orissa a separate province. Another major famine occurred during the second world war, the Bengal famine of 1943, in which an estimated 3 million people died.

Independence movement

Subhash Chandra Bose is one of the most prominent leader and highly respected freedom fighter Bengal. Indian independence movement against the British Raj.

Bengal played a major role in the Indian independence movement, in which revolutionary groups such as Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar were dominant. Bengalis also played a notable role in the Indian independence movement. Many of the early proponents of the freedom struggle, and subsequent leaders in movement were Bengalis such as Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Banerjea, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chaki, Bagha Jatin, Khudiram Bose, Surya Sen, Binoy-Badal-Dinesh, Sarojini Naidu, Aurobindo Ghosh, Rashbehari Bose and many more. Some of these leaders, such as Netaji, did not subscribe to the view that non-violent civil disobedience was the only way to achieve Indian Independence, and were instrumental in armed resistance against the British force. The main purpose of the design is to memorize these persons who dedicated their life to free the Bengal from the British imperialism.
3.3 Key People involved in the uprising of Bengal

3.4 Relationship between the rebellion
Chronology Of the Movements

- THE BATTLE OF PULLAHEY
- SEPOY MUTINY (1857)
- REBIRTH MOVEMENT
- MOVEMENT FOR RIGHTS OF EXISTANCE
- CAST SYSTEM
- CONVERSION FROM ONE RELIGION TO ANOTHER
- DIVISION OF COUNTRIES
- DIVISION OF BENGAL 1905
- SWADESI MOVEMENT (1ST WORLD WAR)
- IRISH MOVEMENT
- KHILAFAT MOVEMENT
- NANA KAB MOVEMENT
- CANCELLATION OF DIVISION OF BENGAL 1911
- ARMED REBELLION 1905-1920
- JALIANWALABAGH MASSACRE
- MOVEMENT AT DALHOUSIE SQUARE
- CHITTAGONG ARMORY LOOT
- MOVEMENT AT PANCHAMAL EUROPEAN CLUB
- REVOLT AT PANJARATI EUROPEAN CLUB
- BI-BA-DI SQUARE

Farmers movement of Bengal

- SALT MOVEMENT
- SATYAHARA OR INDIGO MOVEMENT
- MOCK ONE'S RELIGIOUS BELIEF
- HATIKHEDA MOVEMENT
- SANNYASI MOVEMENT
- WAHABI MOVEMENT
- FARAYEJI MOVEMENT
- MOVEMENT FOR RELIGION
- SILK MOVEMENT
- SUBJECT'S REBELLION (PROJA BIDROHO)
3.5 Reasons & Objective of the Project

The impactful tales of our liberation movement conceals the 200 year struggle for identity. In order to absorb the essence of 1971 we need to know the roots of this rebellious act that accumulated and transformed into milestone changes. The rebels time to time changed the history of society & effected the thoughts & philosophies through their acts, devotion & dedication. Their sweat and blood established their existence that grew major rebellious movements. The injustice of the British rule was questioned by many rebellions, but the focus is on the heroes that grew from this region, Bangladesh. These are the long forgotten & unsung heroes, who played effective roles in creating history. So a memorial to reminisce the rebellions & a museum for reminding everyone of their worth in our history, is the reason of the project.
CHAPTER 04
Case Studies

4.1 Case Study 01: YadVashem Holocaust Museum Complex
4.1.1 Location: HaZikaron, Jerusalem, Israel
4.1.2 Project Area: 190,521 sqf
4.1.3 Project Year: 2005
4.1.4 Architect: Moshes Afdie and architects

The rebuilding of the YadVashem Holocaust Museum includes a new visitors’ center (Mevoah), a new history museum replacing the existing museum constructed in 1953, a Hall of Names, a synagogue, galleries for Holocaust art, an exhibitions pavilion and learning and visual center. In addition, new underground parking and facilities for tour buses are located adjacent to a new entrance piazza. The overall program quadruples the permanent exhibition space. The mevoah is an arcaded concrete pavilion roofed by skylights and trellises, which cast ever-changing shadow patterns. It is reminiscent of a Succah. The lower level accommodates a restaurant and other public services. The historic museum consists of a mostly underground prismatic structure 16.5 meters high and 183 meters long (54 x 600 feet) that cuts through the YadVashem hillside, penetrating from the south and protruding to the north. A network of skylit underground galleries lines both sides of the prism.

The Hall of Names, located toward the end of the historic museum, is a conical structure extending upward 9 meters (30 feet) and housing the personal records of all known Holocaust victims. A reciprocal cone, penetrating deep into the Jerusalem bedrock...
below, echoes the upper chamber and commemorates those whose names will never be known. The 20-hectare (50-acre) site also includes the Children’s Holocaust Memorial and the Transport Memorial, designed by Moshe Safdie and completed in 1987 and 1995, respectively, as well as the Hall of Remembrance, administrative offices, an education and archival center and the Valley of the Communities.

The names given to the conceptual spaces include; The World, That Was. From Equals To Outcasts, The Awful Beginning, Between Walls & Freemen, Mass Murder, The Final Solution, Resistance & Rescue, The Last Jews, Return to Life and Facing the Loss all trying to reflect on the hopes, write-up and the fears and dreams through the writers arts.
The narrow passage leads to the path of eternity. Amazing composition of the whole journey with light gives a sacred feeling. Each picture describing a particular event holds the essence of the suffering of the people. The prismatic structure mostly remains inside the ground letting only a significant amount of light inside the museum.
Fig 4.4 plan © Safdie Architects
4.2 Case Study 02: Shadhinota Stombho

4.2.1 Location: Shahabag, Sohrawardi uddan
4.2.2 Completion Date: still going on
4.2.3 Architect: Urbana and associate architects

Very urban project in terms of other functions around. The important functions around are fine art institute, Shishu park, Dhaka university, national museum etc. So there is a lot of cultural hybridization going on around. The site has a strong background and always was acted as an important historical place. The great speech of 7th March was given by Sheikh Muzibur Rahman in this site. It was a race course at that times but then the functions of the site has changed over time but the importance is still the same as before. Now it is a major communal space for Dhaka people. This memorial museum represented the freedom of our nation from oppressors.
View from the entry level shows a totally civic space where mass people or normal people can gather and express their importance of freedom. This museum is not complete yet but the plan shows that there will be glass tower of 150 feet which will hold the light of freedom and can be seen from the whole Dhaka city. This project has already proven be a very successful civic space and now it is acting as a cultural hub. The water body in front of the memorial wall represents the tears of our nation.
museum is under the ground reflecting the agony and sorrows of the whole liberation war. Now this project is under construction but aiming to gather a lot of attention in the cityscape. The glass tower actually runs from this museum as a result it acts as a light well for the museum indicating freedom. The plaza acts as a journey towards freedom which ends while reaching to the main plaza which provides scope to feel the freedom in a higher platform.
4.3 Case Study Findings
-To understand the spatial quality for a memorial museum
-Yad Vashem holocaust memorial is a great inspiration to design a museum for the rebels of Bengal. It shows how to express a nation’s agony, freedom. The Journey towards the
-from the shadhinota Stombho-it shows how to deal with urban issues
### CHAPTER 05
Program Development

#### 5.1 Proposed Program

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#### Research Section
Library and Publication (book collection-14000)

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<td><strong>Exhibit Gallery</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sub-total ($)</td>
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<td><strong>77650</strong></td>
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5.2 Developed Program

Site Area, \( A = 22 \text{ acres} \)

\[= 958320 \text{ sqft}\]

Road width around the site = 60 ft (highest)

\[= 18 \text{ m}\]

So, for public spaces, \( \text{FAR} = 5.5 \)

\[\text{MGC} = 50\% \text{ of } A = 479260 \text{ sqft}\]

Total Built Area, \( \text{TBA} = \text{FAR} \times \text{Site area} \)

\[= 5.5 \times 958320 \]

\[= 5270760 \text{ sqft}\]

Total floors can be built (maximum) = \( \text{TBA}/\text{MGC} \)

\[= 11\]

Setback for the site:

Front = 1.5 m

Back = 3 m

Each side = 3 m

Grand total of built area required (with 25% circulation & services) = 77650 sqf
5.3 Conceptual Layout

FIG 5.1: Conceptual layout diagram of the functions
CHAPTER 06
Design Development

6.1 Study and approaches from the site
Design of a memorial requires a very conceptual progression. In this design function not more important then the experience, logic, justifications. When I started to study about the rebels f Bengal. I was looking for their notions, philosophies dreams about country, freedom. The reason behind becoming a rebel. The rebellion occurred against British imperialism. Some of the rebels came out to fight for their religion, for their social rights. Within 186 of of British rule uncountable numbers of people died to protest the British injustice.
So from now when I am looking back to that period its not possible to come up with everything happened on that time. So, I wanted to visualize this memorial museum would be incremental museum. History will be created over here. It will work like a archive for this country.
The idea from the site was to use the river bank as a park. The site was divided by the Karnaphuli bridge. Initial idea was to use the space under the bridge. The riverbank will be a continuous designed landscape from Boxiarhat to Chaktai khal.

As the site is at the bank of the river I wanted to make the design part of the river. The built area will react with change of seasons, change of water level of the river. A memorial is an iconic structure, so the scale and approach analysis very important in this part.

6.2 Concept Development
This stage involved the study of masses and forms. Once the basic schematic layouts of all functions in museum were set up, different form options were tried out so as to suit the functional needs. The idea of the form was to express a powerful existence. The expression of memorial has reflected the bravery of the rebels and it has to be wounded as well. The structure, circulation, ancillaries needs to be exposed that shows the purity, truthfulness of the project.
6.3 Form experimentation and concept finalization

When the approach was decided, then I designed a concept diagram for the journey of the project. The diagram below shows the approaches comes from the historical lines. Each line shows particular rebellion. People enter from any direction. The central space is a space where people will get together the journey ends up with hall of names which is actually a space of remembrance. It reminds us the agony, silent weeping, goal, the martyrs during rebellion. This space can be considered as the thinking space.

Fig 6.3.1Devlopment Phase 1-9
Chapter 07
Final design

7.1 Designed site & Masterplan

Fig 7.1.1 Masterplan
7.2 Gallery Analysis

Fig 7.2.1 Analyzing the spaces
Fig 7.2.2 Lighting analysis
7.3 PLANS

![Inner plaza level Plan](image1)

![Upper level Plan](image2)
7.4 SECTIONS
7.5 ELEVATIONS
7.6 Model Images
7.7 3D Views
Conclusion

The stated above chapters include the process & journey of completion of the design of Memorial for rebels of Bengal can have a huge impact on Background of Bangladesh. Completion of the project & the learning acquired through the journey, is dedicated to the Rebels have who influenced people time to time.
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