Housing Complex for Government Employees Sobhanbag, Dhaka

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A thesis submitted to the Department of Architecture in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture

Department of Architecture

Brac University September, 2023

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It is hereby declared that

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2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except

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3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other

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4. I/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

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Abstract

In Dhaka, one of the most densely populated cities in the world, housing has come to be more

of a necessity than a choice. Dhaka now has a shortage of land to provide dwellings to its

residents due to economic factors. As a result, the government anticipates adopting multi-story

lofts as housing options inside the city along with the expansion of the Dhaka region. The

Bangladeshi government provides housing to the general public who work for the government.

From higher authorities to laborers, everyone is entitled to rental housing offices, and they may

use these offices up until the time of their retirement. Housing is a crucial issue for Bangladesh,

a country with a high population density.

Government housing developments were constructed all over Bangladesh to accommodate an

increase in workers, however, the need was not met. Government officials must rent residences

at greater prices or live in subpar housing. Officers thus deal with both monetary and social

issues. Regarding a housing project for the government officers in Sobhanbag Quarter, the

Ministry of Housing and Public Works took action after considering these concerns. The

colony will be redesigned in stages to meet the demand for housing. This proposal offers the

chance to create community areas inside the housing complex, fostering social collaboration.

Individuals that have strong social ties to one another create a cohesive group, which in turn

strengthens the community.

Keywords: Housing, Needs, Government Officer, Neighbourhood, Communal Spaces,

Social Relationship, Community

V

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Project Introduction

In actuality, housing includes the environment and other elements of the surrounding

conditions rather than only referring to a structure or building. The elements we've studied have

an impact on people's mental growth and development. To accommodate the demand for

housing among public employees, numerous projects are already underway in many areas of

the city and even throughout the nation. In accordance with Bangladesh's National

Constitution, providing enough housing for people is the government's fundamental obligation.

According to official records, a project will be started at the Sobhanbag Government Quarter

to develop low story buildings. Under the direction of the Public Works Department, these

buildings will contain 144 flats measuring 1500 square feet and 1800 square feet. The housing

complex will be used by government representatives and officers.

1.2 Project Brief

Name of the Project: Redesigning the Sobhanbag Government Quarter - A Housing Complex

for the Government Employees

Client: Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Site Location: Sobhanbag Government Quarter (E-type), Sobhanbag, Dhaka.

Site Area: 98,184.24 SQFT (2.254 acres)

1.3 Background of the Project

Dhaka is a multicultural metropolis located in central Bangladesh on the Buriganga River's bank. Not only is it the nation's capital, but it is also its largest city. The most populous city in Bangladesh is Dhaka, which is undoubtedly one of the world's busiest cities. As of 2016, there were more than 18 million people living in the Greater Dhaka Area, compared to 8.5 million in the city. With a density of 23,234 people per square kilometer inside a total area of 300 square kilometers, it is one of the most densely populated regions in the world. The vibrant culture has contributed to migration and population growth, as have the vast number of Bangladeshi organizations and multinational corporations. However, the growing population has led to an increase in contamination, congestion, and neediness, among other problems, just like in other cities throughout the world. As the capital and largest metropolitan area in Bangladesh, Dhaka sees a steady influx of people from rural areas looking to start a business, find excellent employment opportunities, and pursue other opportunities. As seen by the city's high rates of neediness, the rapidly rising population has already placed enormous strain on it. Moving forward, there are concerns about increased congestion, a rise in the unemployment rate, and inadequate infrastructure. It is projected that in order to accommodate the growing population, there will need to be about 150,000 lodging units annually.

Settlement for government employees is therefore a major concern in stick-pressured cities. With all of the associated offices and frameworks, housing building is failing to meet the demand for rapid population growth. Government employees must therefore lease apartments at higher prices than they can bare. It forces individuals to deal with many physical and social problems. Their mental state is affected, which lowers their level of productivity. One of the

essential rights of every human being is to live in a suitable home with a healthy environment surrounding it. Additionally, it is stated in the Bangladeshi National Constitution that proper housing is a basic human right and must be provided for all government employees. Opportunities for employment in the government are growing these days. Only the government has the authority to set rules and implement policies that benefit employees. The administration has made various measures to create 4,190 apartments in the city to lessen their issues as open hirelings of all classifications suffer from the negative impacts of a true emergency of private convenience, according to UNB. According to Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, "Lodging offices will step by step be guaranteed for every open worker from Senior Secretary to representatives." He claimed that a few actions are currently being taken in various funding areas to address the convenience requirement of persons working as general hirelings. 1.3 million open hirelings live throughout the country, compared to just 24,000 government housing units, according to data provided by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. The towns in the region and Upazilas contain whatever remains of the dwellings. The Housing and Public Works Ministry's Public Works Department is building apartments throughout the city.

1.4 Aim of the Project

The housing complex is for government representatives. The project's goal is to create a housing development that offers housing infrastructure as well as surroundings and neighboring features that will allow residents to forge and enhance their bonds with one another and maintain a healthy atmosphere. The purpose of this project is to remove the barrier between employees of the government and those of non-government organizations by giving them a place to congregate and connect.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Housing includes groupings of homes or buildings, lodging of individuals, establishment or provision of lodging by a government agency, and related definitions. The social challenge is ensuring that each member of society has a place to live, whether that is a home or another type of residence, housing, or shelter. The Housing Ministry or Housing Department is the name of one or more housing authorities that are found in many governments. Any physical building or enclosed space that provides shelter for people or animals is referred to as housing. Housing complexes are a grouping of houses and apartments that serve as the hub for communal habitation within neighborhoods. This group of people receives comparable services and develops strong social ties together.

The right to housing is viewed as an integral component of human rights in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Consequential international agreements like the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of 1966, Agenda 21 of 1992, the Istanbul Declaration and Habitat Agenda of 1996, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, have helped to reassert the significance of the right to accommodation. In any country that is a focus, housing has the power to ignite the process of socioeconomic development. The National Housing Policy's goals, objectives, mission, vision, and criteria are all geared toward providing everyone with adequate housing.

Inadequate housing should provide a sense of safety and protection from all types of natural elements, and the necessary utility administrations, such as access to affordable and clean

water, sanitary facilities, and other services, should be available. Housing is one of the three fundamental human rights of each citizen, according to the National Housing Policy of Bangladesh from 1993. Housing provides a sense of safety, protection, and ownership.

2.1 Housing for Government Workers

Before Bangladesh and India was divided, in India's rural past, the concept of renting out individual homes first emerged. When the capital moved from Calcutta to Delhi in 1911, every worker could not overstate the importance of housing. British officials desired that their citizens manage and oversee all industries (Saquib, 2000). For higher officials, there used to be cottages during the British era, and laborers had their own barracks. Housing is provided by the Bangladeshi government for administrative employees and officers. They are granted these homes on lease and are permitted to occupy them up to the time they reach retirement age.

2.2 Importance of Government Housing in Dhaka

As of right now, Dhaka's population is growing at a rate of 5% per year, but the pace of growth is slowing. By 2020, the total population will increase to 18 to 21 million. As previously said, a rural or another urban hub will serve as the main source of this development. Bangladesh's Housing Ministry is open about the need for the construction of more than six million new housing units. This issue is not covered in the government's current plans for improving the housing stock or those of RAJUK, its main advancement agency. For the most part middle-class people, RAJUK is focused on improving land in and around the City so that they can profit from it.

Significant private division designers are also moving in the same direction. Private designers are worried about how they can make money. Even though both middle-class and low-income individuals may have legitimate needs, these groups do not make up the majority of the population or have the fastest rate of growth. Both members of the population with higher incomes are not in urgent need. It is necessary to give the majority of the country working and expanding population a chance to find housing or a suitable refuge. Future residents of the city must be able to live there comfortably.

Thousands of individuals in metropolitan areas will continue to be homeless or live in temporary shelters with a constant risk of eviction if that is not provided. As a result, the metropolis will transform into a slum city and a social and environmental catastrophe.

2.3 Standards of Government Housing in Bangladesh

Since the colonial era, the government has worked in the public sector to provide housing for officials and employees. These residences are government-owned structures that are rented to government workers. Over 10% of all housing projects over the past 40 years were completed by the public sector (Afroza, 2000).

The government allocates the land for a variety of housing projects that are carried out in various parts of Bangladesh.

Public housing is a form of gated neighborhood that is divided by a boundary wall. The officers and staff are all given ready-made units, separate flats, or even duplex houses as their homes. According to the pay and rank of the officials and staff, these dwelling units and types are divided into different categories. They can only reside here throughout the 58-year working

term up until retirement, during which time 7.5% of their monthly wage is used to pay the rent. For a proper housing complex, separate schools, religious buildings, markets/supermarkets, grocery stores, health care facilities, utility services, and many more facilities are required.

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works, various departments including the Department of Architecture, the Public Works Department (PWD), the Housing and Settlement Directorate (HSD), and City Development Authorities including Rajdhani Unnayn Kartripakkhya (RAJUK), the Urban Development Directorate (UDD), etc., are responsible for the majority of the government housing activities.

2.4 Space Standards

A government employee will receive a variety of different types of flats, and the size of the flat will vary depending on the position and compensation. The class of officers and employees is frequently divided into isolated constructions for the officials and separate flats or buildings for the representatives. Guidance on private and office space norms for government executives and representatives was distributed by the WPI Ministry in 1969 (Afroza, 2000).

Categories of Officers and Employees	Allot able floor area in square feet	Types and Categories of Flats
Secretary	4000	Bungalow
	3000	Bungalow
Class I	1750	'F' Type
	1500	'E' Type
	1300	'D' Type
Class II	840612	'C' Type

Class III	612	'В' Туре
Class IV	519	'C' Type

Table1: Residential Space Standard for Government Officers and Employees, 1969 (Source: Afroza, 2000)

Category of officers and employees	Pay Scale (Taka)	Allot able floor area in square feet	Entitlement
Class I	8000 and above	1800 + 200 for the garage	Superior Type
	7100-7999	1500	'F' Type
	5500-7099	1250	'E' Type
	2850-5499	1000	'D' Type
Class II & III	1225-2849		'C' Type
	1125-1725		'D' Type
	800		
	600		
Class IV	1050-1915	500	'A' Type

Table2: Residential Space Standard for Government Officers and Employees, 1992. (Source: Afroza, 2000)

Grade	Pay Scale (Tk.) 2005	National Pay Scale (Tk.) 2009	Space Standard	Residence Remarks
III	16800/- 20700/-	29000/- 35600/-	1500 sqft	With attached toilet
IV	15000/- 19800/-	25750/- 33750/-	1500 sqft	Independent room with shared toilet
V	13750/- 19250/-	22250/- 31250/-	1250 sqft	

VI	11000/- 17650/-	18500/- 29700/-	1250 sqft	Independent room but if considered necessary
VII	9000/- 15480/-	15000/- 26200/-	1000 sqft	cubicle with bigger rooms may be provided for the convenience of
VIII	7400/- 13240/-	12000/- 21600/-	1000 sqft	supervision.
IX	6800/- 13090/-	11000/- 20370/-	1000 sqft	
X	5100/- 10360/-	8000/- 16540/-	1000 sqft	
XI	4100/- 8820/-	6400/- 14255/-	1000 sqft	Toilet jointly shared

Table3: Space standard summarized on the basis of National pay grades and the following government circulars (Source: Planning

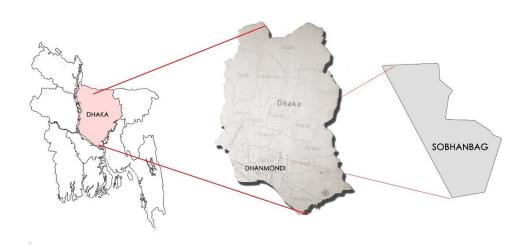
Commission Building Standards of 2009)

Chapter 3

SITE APPRAISAL AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Site Location

Sobhanbag is a popular neighborhood in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital city. Sobhanbag is located in Dhaka's Dhanmondi sector, one of the city's most important and affluent suburbs. It is easily accessible by road and has good connections to other parts of Dhaka. Sobhanbag is predominantly a residential neighborhood, featuring apartment buildings, single-family homes and condominiums. The area is well-known for its relatively affluent living standards and the presence of numerous schools, colleges, hospitals, and shopping complexes.



(Mapping and diagram reproduced by Author based on the data collected from Google)

3.2 Site Surroundings



Fig: Site location and surrounding neighborhood

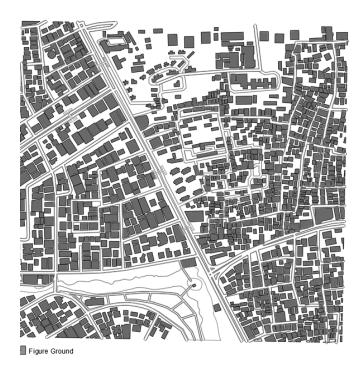


Fig: Figure Ground

3.3 Surrounding Road Network

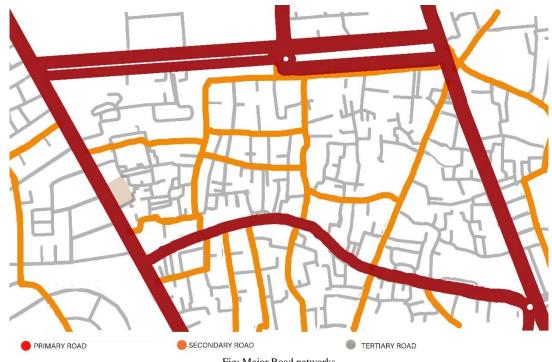
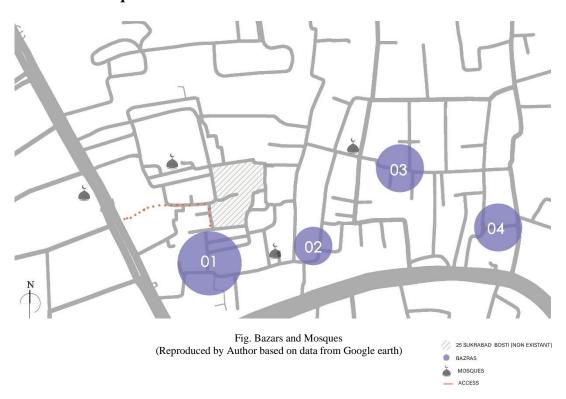


Fig: Major Road networks

3.4 Bazars and Mosques



3.5 Locating Open Spaces

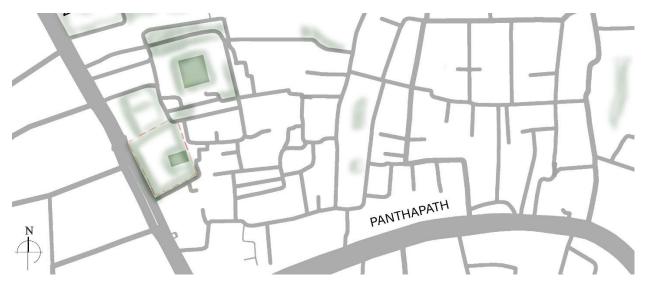


Fig. Bazars and Mosques (Reproduced by Author based on data from Google Earth)

The limited open spaces are confined with boundaries of the site, and are inaccessible by the neighborhood.

3.6 Proposed MRT Line



Fig. Proposed MRT LINE (Reproduced by Author based on data from dap 2022-23)

3.7 Urban Heat



Fig. Urban Heat (Reproduced by Author based on data from dap 2022-23 and Google Earth)

The site is surrounded by concrete and less soak able green. Due to the high concrete surfaces as the result of both residential and commercial zone the urban heat is high comparatively to other parts of Dhaka.

Chapter 4 **Case Study**

5.2 Local Case Study

Project Name: Dhansiri Apartment Complex

Architect: Bahsirul Haque

Location: 35 A, Indira Rd, Dhaka 1215

Covered Area: 1460 sqm

Total built area: 10,668 sqm



Source: Facebook

Programs

46 units (4,4 beds; 42, 3 beds)

Parking, visitor's parking

Electrical substation

Maintenance office

Common terraces/ children's play area, private terraces

Analysis

- To avoid noise, setback 50' away from the main road
- Reduce the visual scale of the complex at the street level
- a low height entrance block is constructed as an intermediate structure between the road and the main building

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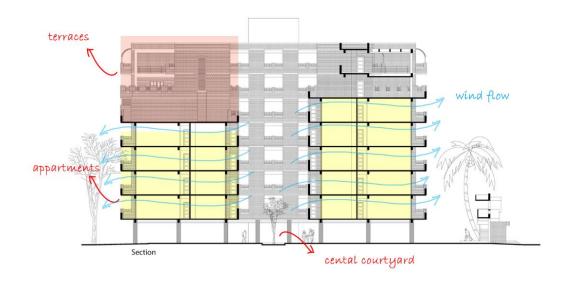
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16



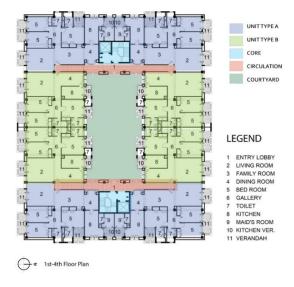


- Internal courtyards cuts
- Massive volume acts as a micro-climatic environment and ensures proper ventilation



Master bedroom (type E & F) linked with huge terraces

- Internal courtyard
- Terraces at different levels
- Connectivity through terraces and verandas



4.2 International Case Study

Project Name: Sky Habitat

Architect: SAFDIE ARCHITECTS

Location: Bishan, SINGAPORE

Area: 130,000 sqft



Source: Arch Daily

- Sky Habitat is a three-dimensional matrix of homes with terraces, balconies, and communal
- gardens, bringing landscape, light, and air into every level of the building.
- The building's stepped form is akin to a hillside town.
- The units feature multiple orientations relative to the sun, natural ventilation, and generous views.

The strongest visual feature:

• The stepped elevation of the towers. Over one-third of the units are located along the stepping edges, with access to the penthouse-like exterior roof garden terraces.

• The north tower splays at its base, resulting in additional terraces all the way to the ground, and containing under them a 15-story tall atrium merging into the surrounding recreational spaces.







Source: Arch Daily





Source: Arch Daily

- The bridges connecting the two towers are locations for communal spaces.
- They also provide more shared space to the tenants, reinforcing the concept of a vertical neighborhood.



Source: Arch Daily

- At level 14, the garden bridge is contemplative with water features and seating spaces.
- Adjacent to the bridge is indoor kitchens and other rain-protected lounge spaces, and the bridge becomes a useful extension of these amenities side by side.

Chapter 5 Programs

5.1 Programs list

S.no	Program	Person/ Units	SQFT
1.	Guards room	2	1800 sqft
	Toilet	1	30 sqft
	Total		230 sqft
2.	Admin Block		
	Lobby/reception		250 sqft
	Staff room		690 sqft
	Meeting room	150 person	3600 sqft
	Toilet	2	80 sqft
	Circulation		200 sqft
	Total		5090 sqft
3.	Multipurpose Hall	200 persons	3000 sqft
	Kitchen		100 sqft
	Storage		90 sqft
	Toilet (Male)	6 units	250 sqft
	Toilet (Female)	6 units	250 sqft
	Common Handwash		30 sqft
	Circulation		250 sqft
	Total		3970 sqft

4.	Prayer Space	200 persons	4300 sqft
	Toilet (Male)	6 units	250 sqft
	Toilet (Female)	6 units	250 sqft
	Ablution space	10 units	200 sqft
	Shoe rack		170 sqft
	Circulation		200 sqft
	Total		5370 sqft
5.	Daycare	50 children	1850 sqft
	Staff Room	(80 sqft per person) 10 staffs	800 sqft
	Meeting Room		1500 sqft
	Waiting Area	(30 sqft per person) 10 person	300 sqft
	Common Toilet	2 units	80 sqft
	Playzone	(35 sqft per child) 15 children	525 sqft
	Toilet (unisex)	6 units	250 sqft
	Circulation		100 sqft
	Total		5405 sqft
6.	Super Shop		2000 sqft
7.	Laundry		1700 sqft
	Circulation		150 sqft
	Total		3850 sqft

8.	Gym	(12 square feet for each person) 50 person	600 sqft
	Locker room (Male)	20 square feet per projected user (15 users)	300 sqft
	Locker room (female)	20 square feet per projected user (15 users)	300 sqft
	Toilet	6 units	250 sqft
	Circulation		200 sqft
	Total		1650 sqft
9.	Units		
	Type A 3BHK	(1500 sqft) 48 units	7200 sqft
	Туре В 4ВНК	(1800 sqft) 96 units	172800 sqft
	Total		1,80,000 sq ft
10.	Utility room		200 sqft
	Security room	4 users	288 sqft
	Generator		200 sqft
	Waste disposal		40 sqft
11.	Health Center		1850 sqft
	Toilet (unisex)	2 units	80 sqft
	Waiting room	(30 sqft per person) 5 person	150 sqft
	Total		2808 sqft

12.	Parking	74	15616 sqft
	Total		= 41,563 sqft (without apartment units)
			= 2,21,563 sqft (along with apartment units)

Maximum Ground Coverage

Site Area, A = 2.254 acres = 98,184.24 sqft

Far for Residential Area = 5.25

MGC = 50% of A= 49092.12

Total Built Area (TBA) = Far x Site Area

= 5.25 x 98184.24

= 5,15,467.26 sqft

5.2 Program Layout

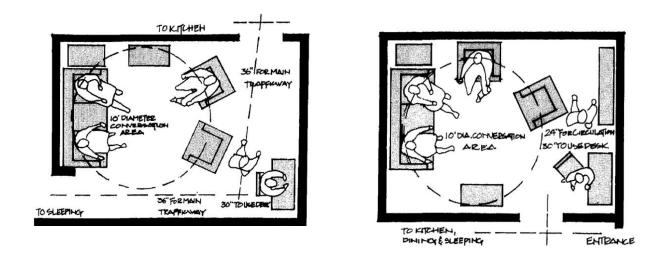


Fig: Living Room Circulation Approaches (Source: De Chiara, J., Callender, J, 2013)

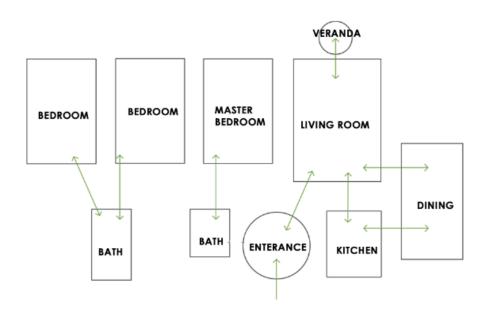


Fig: Apartments Element Diagram

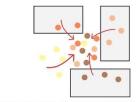
Chapter 6

Design Development

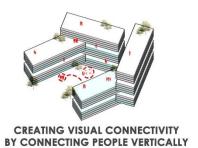
6.1 Concept Development

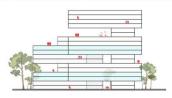


TAKING INSPIRATION FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF OLD DHAKA



DEVELOPING COMMUNITY SPACES FOR SOCIAL GATHERING



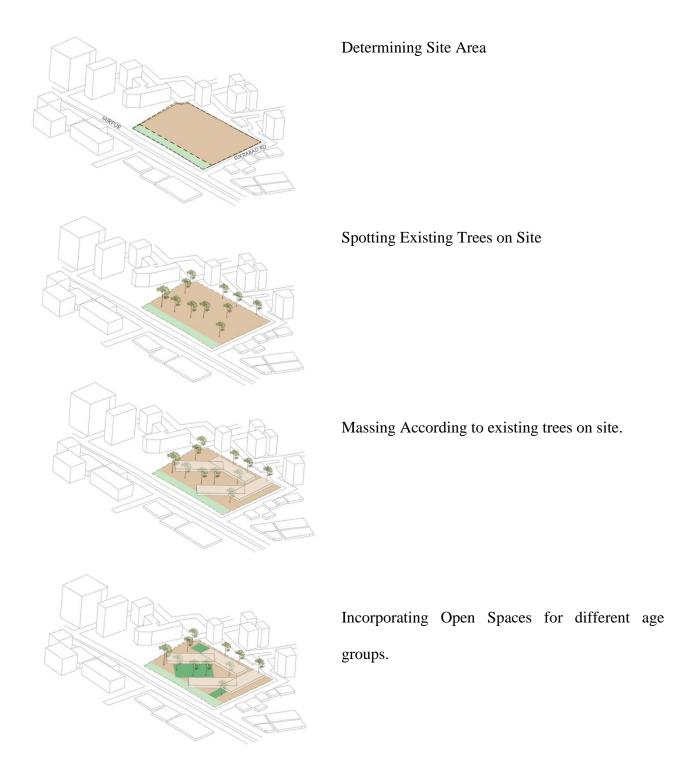


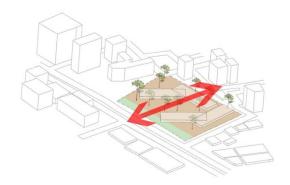
DEVELOPING SPACE FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION



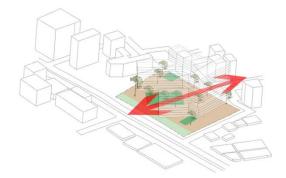
The idea was to create a space of engagement through connecting people of the site to the neighbourhood. Creating a social gathering space, creating a visual connectivity vertically and developing a space of interaction while considering trees while massing.

6.2 Form Derivation

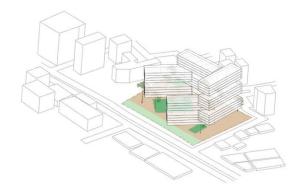




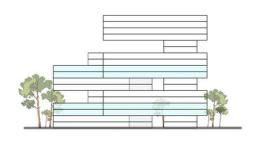
Site Demands access from east and west. The west side has primary road and the east has access to bazars and mosques.



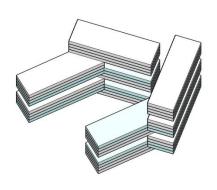
Creating connection to the neighborhood.



Final formation of Mass on the site.



Interlocking every 2 levels.



Perspective view of the form.

6.3 Plans

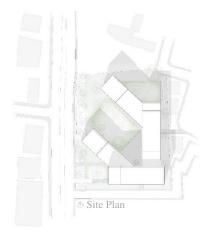




FIG: Ground Floor Plan (Source Author)

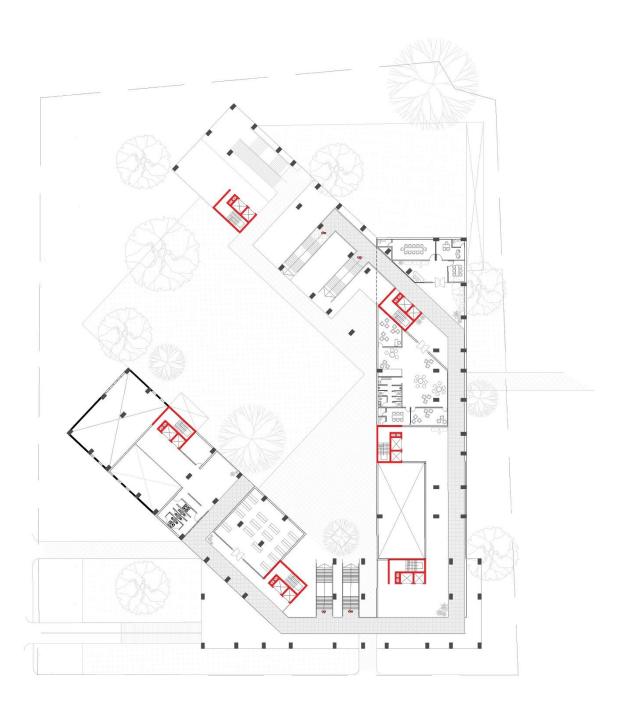
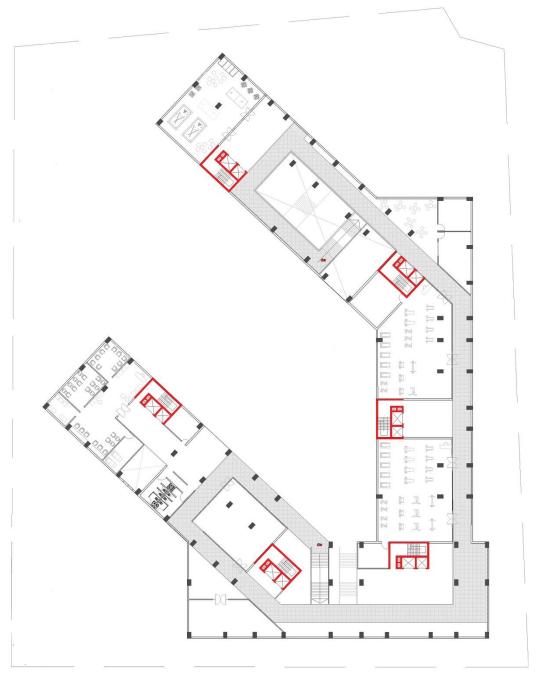




FIG: First Floor Plan (Source Author)

- Super shop
 Childrens Day care
 Childrens Day care Admin Office
 Public Toilet
- 5. Lift Lobby



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FIG: Second Floor Plan (Source Author)

- 1.
- 2.
- Unisex Salon Gym (Male) Gym (Female) 3.
- Juice Bar 4.
- Gym Accessory Shop Indoor Games for teenagers 7. Clinic

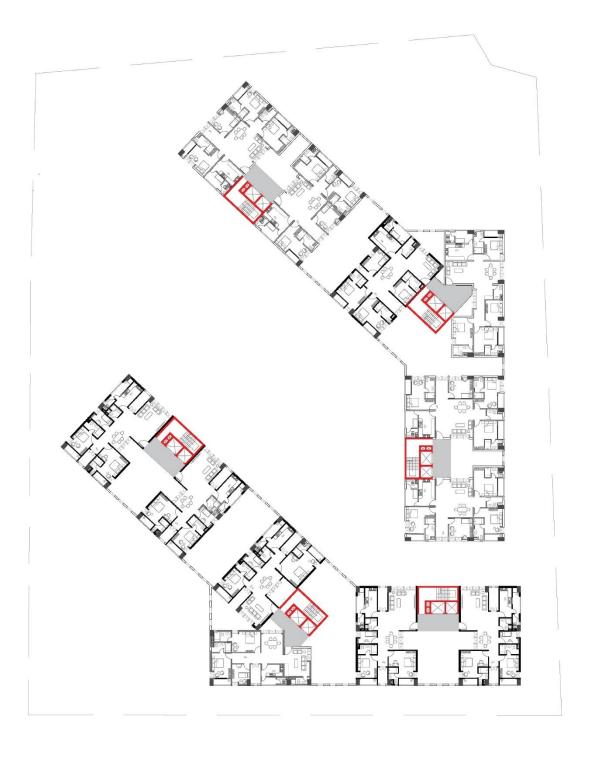




FIG: 3RD Floor Plan (Source Author)

- 1. SOUTH BLOCK 1500 SQFT Apartments
- 2. NORTH BLOCK 1800 SQFT Apartments

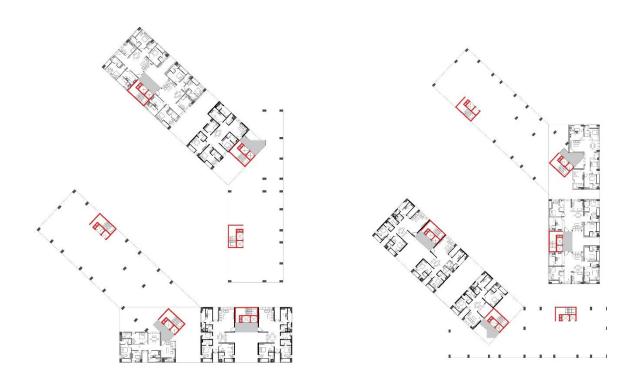


FIG: Typical Floor Plans (Source Author)

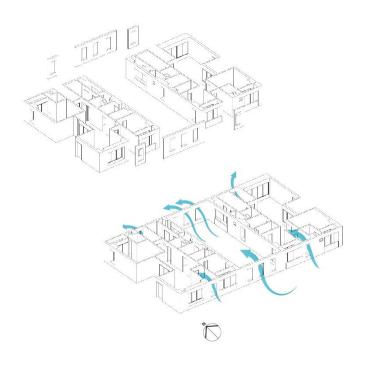


FIG: Ventilation (Source Author)

To keep the essence of the form the uneven apartment plans are covered with the extended elevation wall with ventilation punches.

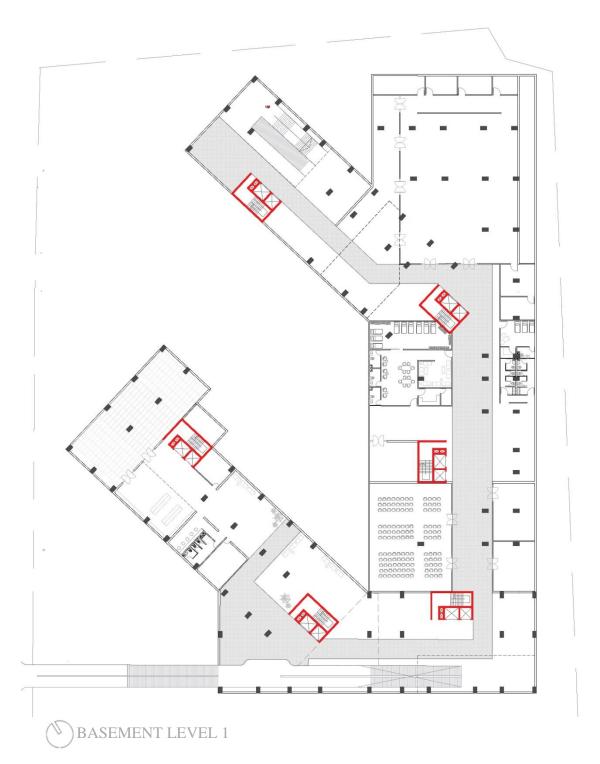


FIG: Basement Floor Plans (Source Author)

- Multipurpose Hall Security office Meeting room 1.
- 2.
- Guards room
- Prayer space for men Ablution space Bicycle storage

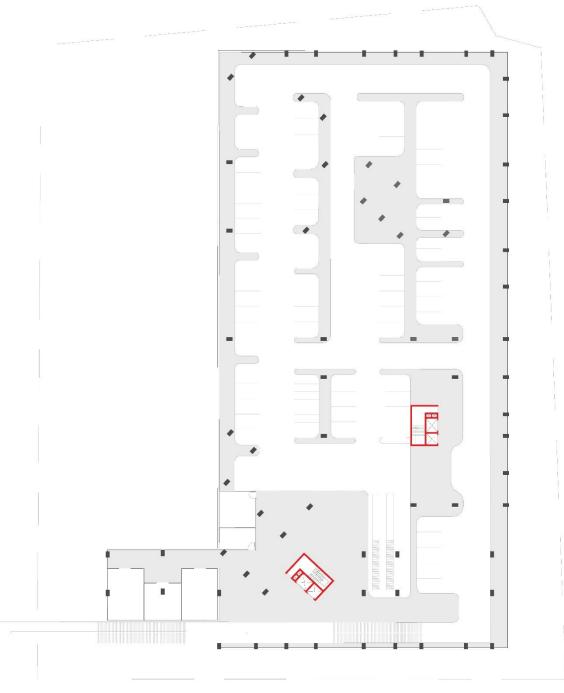




FIG: Basement Floor Plan (Source Author)

- Transformer room
- Generator room
- Waste disposal Water pump 3.
- 4.
- 5. Parking
- Car wash space

6.4 Apartments Blowup

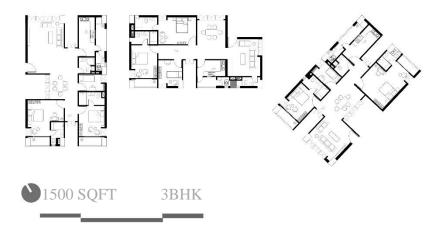








FIG: 1500 SQFT 3D APARTMENT UNITS (Source Author)

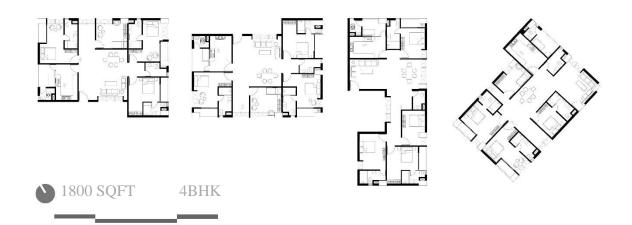










FIG: 1800 SQFT 3D APARTMENT UNITS (Source Author)

6.5 Elevations



FIG: SOUTH WEST ELEVATION (Source Author)



FIG: EAST ELEVATION (Source Author)

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6.5 Sections

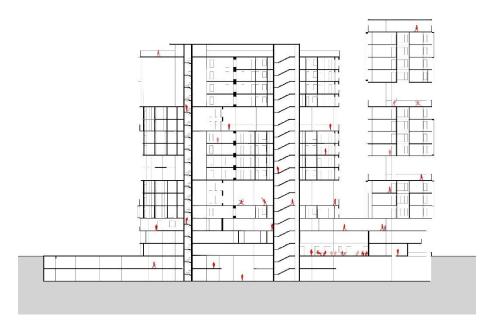


FIG: (Source Author)

Section AA'

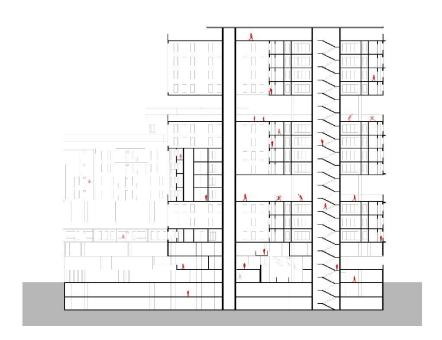


FIG: (Source Author)

Section BB'

6.6 Axonometric Floor



FIG: Axonometric floor view (Source Author)

6.7 Rendered Images



FIG: (Source Author)



FIG: (Source Author)



FIG: (Source Author)

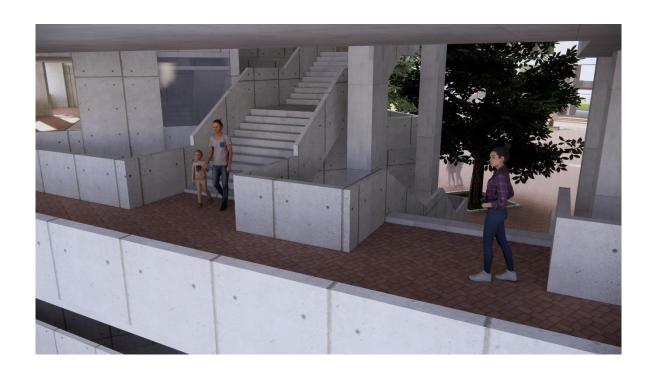


FIG: (Source Author)



FIG: (Source Author)



FIG: (Source Author)

6.8 Images of Site Model and Final Model



Conclusion

Every officer is provided with housing by the government until the point at which they retire. Housing is the most important aspect of one's existence and well-being. Housing encompasses more than simply houses; it also includes people, neighborhoods, communities, as well as the surrounding environment and nature. Housing is all about an individual's daily existence and effects a man's mental and physical wellbeing. People in housing range in age, occupation, and background. The goal of this project is to provide interactive and communal places within the housing complex for people to gather and engage. The idea is to pioneer open and green spaces and inspire people and children to feel closer to nature, especially for senior users who have spent most of their lives in rural locations and feel stifled in this city's walled buildings. Government officials are not unlike the people in the surrounding area. The main goal of this project is to discourage the idea of a gated community and to remove the blockade between government housing and the surrounding environment. Relationships with the surrounding area will help to build a more solid community. As a result, a well-built community will result in a more integrated nation.

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International Case Study: Sky Habitat Singapore / Safdie Architects

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https://www.safdiearchitects.com/projects/sky-habitat-residential-development