

# FOCUS

## Architectural Design and Disability

Our houses have always been made for able bodied people and youth groups, without considering crutch users, wheel-chair users and the visually impaired. There is no trend for an architect to be encouraged to design for the handicapped or the disabled, writes Shahidul Haque.

### Design for the Handicapped and Their Adaptability

The handicapped environment leads to psychological problems which make a person more disabled. Over the centuries the designers of buildings have taken advantage of the unlimited ability to tolerate discomfort, inconvenience and danger. The idea of fitting buildings with equipment so that they actually suit handicapped people is relatively new. Considering the ergonomics of disabled people, buildings should be designed. In Britain more people are injured or killed each year by accident in the home, than on the road (ref. Design and Building).

**Barriers versus Ease of Mobility:** There is a possibility of creating barrier-free buildings if we wish to do so. The roots of this problem lie not in the technique, but rather is embedded historically in the culture and psychology of our society.

It is quite easy to build some building where people can easily move in and out. The objective is to minimise the distinction between internal use and design limitations and to encourage people to treat the disabled as equals, not as isolated individuals.

Design criteria for mobility are determined by the move-

ment of people. The able-bodied people can walk on all levels, inclines etc., but in the case of wheel-chair users, it is not possible. Another problem is floor surfaces — for the able-bodied person, floor texture is not usually critical, though from the safety angle it holds should not be slippery. For ambulant disabled persons, the most important condition is a non-slip finish, indicating a roughened and resilient surface.

### Relationship between the Architect and Disabled

In brief, it can be said that for all human beings movement and living conditions are determined to some extent by the architectural design and the social condition of the nation. Till today, disability has not been recognised as an acceptable condition and the fact is till today our people regard disability an undeniable position.

But in the case of impaired people, i.e. the elderly and children and sick, the present infrastructure in our society is totally unsuitable. Usually this is due to the lack of sensitivity in the design of the architect.

Planners and designers should innovate such design particularly in the public buildings, and general public use building is such a way that both the impaired and normal people can use these comfort-

### Architectural Design and Disability

Relation between present architectural design and disability plays a major role in keeping the disabled, the elderly, the children and sick people restricted against their will. Even if they wish to move from one place to another, there are a lot of barriers to overcome in fulfilling that wish. In that case, either they have to depend on others and feel like a burden of others who might try to avoid, or they have to abandon their wish.

### The problems we are facing in our daily lives are:

1. Lack of simple slopes at both ends of the footpaths makes it less accessible to and inconvenient for use by everyone especially the disabled, children and aged people.
2. There are many markets in the city for the dwellers. But due to lack of proper designing, these markets, shopping centres and even kancha bazars are not wide enough to let the disabled move freely or without any hazards.
3. It is very painful to say that being citizens of Bangladesh, which is the outcome of our historic liberation movement for which millions of people lost their limbs and became disabled and have been using crutches and wheels can't show their respect to their fel-

low soldiers at the Shahid Minar and the National Mausoleum due to absence of simple sloping and ramps.

4. There is no arrangement of ramp facilities at the entrances of hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, and consequently, disabled people cannot go inside to get treatment when it is necessary.

5. Bus stations, platforms of railway stations are not usable for everybody. This lack binds the people to remain imprisoned within a particular place. Our public transports and railway compartments are also not all accessible to the disabled.

6. The staircases which the passengers use for getting in and out of launches and steamers are absolutely unusable for the disabled, the aged and children. Even for normal people, it is very dangerous.

7. Almost in all the buildings of the city, both entrances and staircases are not fit for the disabled people. Even inside the buildings, doors of bathrooms and kitchens are not wide enough to let the disabled move freely or without any hazards.

8. It is very painful to say that being citizens of Bangladesh, which is the outcome of our historic liberation movement for which millions of people lost their limbs and became disabled and have been using crutches and wheels can't show their respect to their fel-

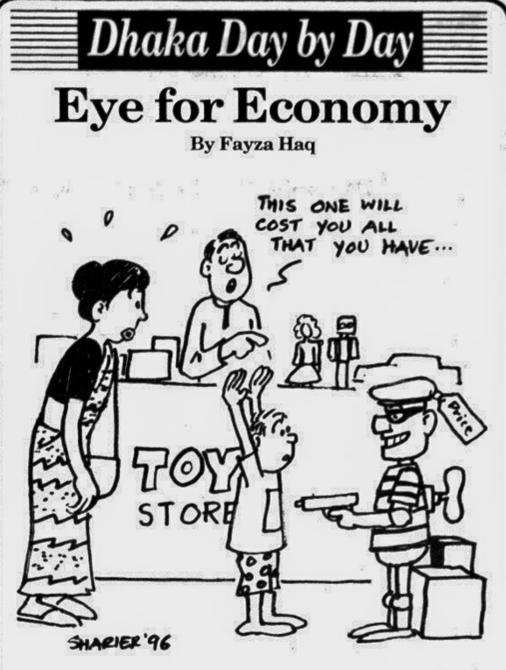
### Recommendations

As the disabled, elderly, children and sick people of our community deserve the same rights in society, as we do, we can't show indifference and/or ignorance in overlooking their needs.

To be specific, we can recommend the following for immediate consideration:

1. Construction of a ramp at the Shahid Minar and at the National Mausoleum.
2. Providing simple slopes during reconstruction of footpaths.
3. Doors of markets, recreational center, hospitals and in the public buildings, code should be specifically mentioned to ensure accessibility to all. Doors should be widened and staircases should be provided with ramps, hand rails and Picture-sings.
4. Seating arrangements in cinema halls and theatres should be modelled considering the needs of disabled people.
5. Platforms of railway stations should be reconstructed in such a way so that the disabled people face no problems while boarding and unboarding.
6. Public transports should be remodelled and made in such a way so that the disabled people can comfortably board in.
7. There should be guardrails with launches and steamers.
8. Construction of buildings should be regulated so that doors can be widened enough to facilitate movements of the disabled people.

The writer is Executive Director of SARPV-Bangladesh.



"Twenty five years ago women seldom wore shalwar kameezes to functions and work places," says Mukti Rahman who recently held her exhibition of there — piece sets at Gallery Tone. "Now, because they are easy to handle, women wear them more often and this has been acceptable in our society. They are no longer limited to the young."

Talking about what inspired her to designing Mukti says, "I was designing since I was in school. I was designing my own dresses and shalwar kameezes when I was in class V. Often the tailors made wrong designs or delayed the delivery of clothes. I decided to set up a clothes show room on my terrace top. This was four months ago."

Does she work only during Eid or the year round? "Work is in progress through out the year. I have a tailor, Nasser, for cutting and sewing and Kamal, who does the embroidery. I pay them Tk 3,500 each," Mukti replies.

How does she combine her designing work with her every day other chores? Mukti is a student of Food and Nutrition, MA 1st year Home Economics. "My work does not help me with my studies but it does not detract me either. The two boys handle the shop when I am not there. I sort out the work at night before I go to sleep, after my university studies. In the morning, I talk with my workers. My mother and bhabhi deal with the clients in my absence. I deal with the customers myself if possible before I go to the university," she says.

Asked what other types of work she will go in for Mukti replies, "I have all the intentions of making children's clothes in future and I have collected catalogues for the purpose. I don't want to go into gents' clothes as women's wear captures my imagination and takes all my time."

Describing how her work differs from the others she says, "what you will get for Tk 3,500 in other places you can get at my boutique Gunjan for Tk 2,000. My prices are reasonable and vary from Tk 850 to Tk 3,200. My embroidery is machine done and different from the others shops. Many of my pieces are argarakhas. The setting of the embroidery also varies from the usual fabric."

Discussing whether her items are of silk on cotton, Mukti adds, "My clothes are usually silk or synthetic and this is what the customers prefer for occasional wear. But embroidery looks good on cotton too."

Talking about the response to the exhibition, Mukti says, "So far I have sold only 15 pieces. The demand for pur-jabis is much more. The men feel that they can get unusual pieces from art galleries and they are now more fashion conscious than before."

Mukti has not come across any courses in dress designing in Dhaka. She hopes to go to Delhi (India) for a short course in the future.

She says that she finds the market very competitive and adds that this applies to pur-jabis too.

Commenting on her buyers, Mukti says, "Strangely enough they were all older women and men." Describing her work she adds, "It is hard work and time consuming but also rewarding. My investment on my boutique has been Tk 60,000 and this includes machines, clothes and the cost of building a room."

The most striking pieces included the mauve kurta with the paisley pattern on the neck and the front two panels. The red terry wool creations, with the open neck and embroidery at the arm, neck and wrist was also charming. It had embroidery in gold on cotton. The brown kameez with the parallel bars of motifs in beige and red was very attractive too. The set with the turquoise and black with gold was a delightful piece too. The angarakha with the floral zari design was matched with yellow mauve and was an admirable entry.

Young designers with promising attempts add to the healthy competition in the market.

## No EXCUSE...

Forested watersheds support 40% of Third World farmers. There's no excuse to destroy these watersheds that also provide flood controls. Sound forestry policy can empower local dwellers to protect the forests they dwell in.

DEPTHnews

## FAMILY PLANNING

# Treatment of Drop-out or of Side Effects?

by Farida Akhter

**Question:** What measures have you taken to solve the drop-out cases of Depo-provera due to Amenorrhoea?

**Answer (a male doctor):** We do not have as much drop out cases due to Amenorrhoea as before, because we have started counselling services to the women taking Depo-provera. All we need to do is to tell the women, that 'this is not a problem at all'. If you can do that, then the drop-out rate will definitely fall.

**Question:** You are giving them injections, but don't you think that these women have certain choices of their own?

**Answer (a male doctor):** I don't think we can work, if we keep choice for women.

THIS was a dialogue between a family planning doctor (male) and some family planning officials. It is not important to identify who they are, but I want to point out the issues emerging out of their conversation.

First of all, it is now seen in the national family planning programme, implemented by the government as well as the non-government family planning organisations, that clinical methods like injectables, IUDs and implants are given more emphasis. These methods do have side effects which the family planning field workers have to deal with in their field works. An official recognition of the side effect means acceptance of the discontinuation of the method by the women. In the family planning vocabulary, this is termed as drop-out. In family planning management system, this seems to be a more serious problem than the side effect itself.

It is very clear even from the discussions of the family planning field workers, that the women using certain contraceptive method only discontinue when they face health hazards due to the side effects of the contraceptives. Unfortunately, the family planning management system disregards the health hazard which needs a treatment to the health problem. Instead, as we see in the above dialogue, that a "counselling" can solve the amenorrhoea problem only by retaining the client into the method, that is solving the problem of drop-out not the problem of side-effect.

Let's take this particular example to see how a healthcare service can be denied through a management decision. In the above conversation, the male doctor, (who has no way to understand what amenorrhoea can mean to a woman) can say very easily that "it is not a problem!!", and therefore provide counselling to the client and retain her in the injection. This is a laudable approach for the FP management and performance statistics, but what about denial of health service to a person in need of the service?

Medically defined amenorrhoea is a state of absence or cessation of the menses. The primary state is diagnosed when menstruation has not been established at the time when it should first appear, while the secondary state is the absence of the menses after they have once commenced. Amenorrhoea has been experienced by women using injectable contraceptive as one of the major and "common" side effects. Many women finally are forced to decide not to continue Depo-provera, once they face amenorrhoea for a longer duration. Some doctors provide progesterone therapy with hormonal tablets. The family planning workers sometimes suggest to use contraceptive pills as a remedy.

One woman in a Dhaka slum was very angry when she was asked to take pills as a treatment for amenorrhoea. She said to the family planning worker, "When you first asked me to take Depo-provera, you told me

## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

**Tuesday 4th February**  
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.)

**BTV**  
3:00 Opening Announcement  
(All Quran Programme Summary  
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic songs 3:20 Recitation from the Geeta 3:25 The Album Show 3:50 Cartoon film 4:15 Unmesh 4:50 Coach 5:00 News in Bangla 5:22 Sangeta 6:00pm National Television Debate Competition 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Silver Jubilee of Freedom Fighter-A Documentary 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Silver Jubilee of Freedom Fighting-Mujibnagar Govt 9:00 Drama Serial: 10:00 The News 10:25 Those day of Freedom Fighting 10:30 sur Laharie 11:35 Wednesday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

**BBC**  
6:00am BBC World News 6:10 Newsnight 7:00 BBC Newsroom inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 Panorama 10:45 The Panel 11:00 BBC Newsday

**2:00 BBC World News 2:15 Panorama 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC World News 6:15 The Money Programme 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Holiday 9:00 BBC World News 9:15 Panorama 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: Film '97 12:00mn The World Today 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 Panorama 4:45 The Panel 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 4:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours**

**CHANNEL V**  
6:30am The Ticket 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ Alessandria 10:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00mn Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 The Indian Top 10 4:00 Frame by Frame 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandria 6:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 Planet

**STAR PLUS**  
6:00 Ninaad 7:30 Star News 8:00 Sky Business News & Agenda 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics 9:00 Style 10:00 Yan Can Cook 10:30 El For Your Entertainment 11:00 Kates & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30noon The X Files 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Hindi Serial: Imtehan 3:30 Hindi Serial: Khandan 4:00 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Mai Mai 4:30 Land of the Giants 5:30 Black Beauty 6:00pm Kate & Allie 6:30 Yan Can Cook 7:00 Hindi Serial: Janata Ki Adalat 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Hindi Serial: Kya Baat Hai 9:00 Meri Awaz Suno 9:30 Star News 10:00 Some Mothers Do 10:30 Baywatch Nights 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00mn Santa Barbara 1:00

**STAR SPORTS**  
6:30am The Asian Football Show 7:30 ATP Shanghai Open Semi-Finals 9:30 Trans World Sports 11:00 Ironman Triathlon World Championships 12:00 Water-sports World 1:00 King's Cup 1996 1:30 Thai Kickboxing Highlights 3:00 Korea Open 1997 Finals from Korea

**STAR MOVIES**  
7:30am Classic: Fanny by Gaslight 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Family: The Goodbye Bird PG (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Family: The Undercover Kid 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Romance: Salt On Our Skin 15 3:30 Com-

**PTV**  
8:00am Tiliwat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Beauty Care 8:50 Fun Kacha 9:10 Dhanak & Health Tips 10:05 Har Taan Hai Desak 10:30 English Film: Home Improvement 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Anita (Serial) 12:00 Sports Hour 12:55pm Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 The Science Show 2:00 Yeh Jahan (Music video) 2:25 Animated Classics 3:15 Geography & Samma School 4:20 Mithi Sona 5:00 Alah Huma Labbaik 5:25 Qabhi Mein Soochta Hoen (Drama Serial) 6:25 Aioo Courses 7:00 Dhanak 7:45 English News 8:15 UN Quiz 8:45 Jab (Drama Serial) 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabrainama 11:20 VCD Top Ten (Pakistani Video Countdown) 12:30 Dr. Qun: Medicine Women (Jean Saylor) 1:35 Khas Khas Khabrain Close down

**EL TV**  
6:30 Music Time 07:30 Ched Chad 08:30 Jazbaat 09:30 Best Of The Best 10:30 Ajnabi

**DD 7**  
10:30 Jannaddin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Ghare Baire 12:30

**SONY ET**  
8:30am Khoya Khoya Chaud 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30

**Tara on Zee TV at 2:30**  
Ruby 9:00 The Vibe 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 Soul Curry 11:00 Speak Easy 11:30 The Ride 12:00mn Over The Edge VJ Sophia 12:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandria 1:00 Haysan 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandria 4:30 Billboard US Countdown

**STAR NEWS 1:30 Baywatch 2:00 Dynasty 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Bamaby Jones**

**ZEE TV**  
5:00am Jagran 5:30 Suno Bhai Sadho 6:00 The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Disney Hour 9:30 Chutki Baja Ke 10:00 Jhatpat Khana 10:30 Gravera Ki Umed 11:00 Close Up Antakshri 12:00 Hum Hongo Kamyab 12:30 Ghoomta Aaina 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Dhara Zaike Ka Safar 4:00 Haathi Cement Aashiana 4:30 Aur Ek Minute 5:00 ZED 5:30 Through The Gears 6:00 Lijjat Khana Khazana 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Raahat 8:00 Gaane Anjaane 8:30 Nirma Hum Paanch 9:00 Sallaab 9:30 Shapath 10:00 Hasteerit 10:30 News 11:00 Tara 11:30

**Garfield®**

**by Jim Davis**

**IAN FLEMING'S James Bond**

**DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY**

BOND HAS BROUGHT THE NECKLACE WHICH HE FOUND GLENCHED IN FARONE'S FIST... FOR ME?

IF YOU'RE NICE? TO YOU CAN BE VERY NICE... LATER!

**2:00 Campus 12:30 Andaz 1:00 Chahat Aur Nabat 1:30 Raahat 2:00 9 Malabar Hill 2:30 TMM 4:00 Suhana Sarfar 4:30 Index**

**11:30 Newsline 12:00 Meri Marzi 12:30 Young Buzz 1:00 Bengali Serial 1:30 Bengali Serial 2:00 Music Time 3:00 Karz 3:30 Yeh Duniya 4:00 Kal Bhi Aaj Bhi 4:30 Uppanyas 5:00 Frooti It's My Choice 5:30 Dil Deke Dekho 6:30 Monoranga 7:00 Bangla Serial 7:30 Bangla Serial 8:00 Zaman Gajab Ki 8:30 Tere V Chup 9:00 Hit Hai Hit Thi 9:30 Purushkeshtra 10:00 Number One 10:30 Hindi Feature Film 1:30 Devotional Songs 2:30 Taranne 3:30 Hunste Hunste**

**Monorama Cabin (Serial) 1:00 Jannathum (Serial) 1:30 Trishna 2:00 Batayan 2:30 Prachir (Serial) 3:00 Bhangran (Serial) 3:30 Bigapti (Serial) 5:05 Science Prog-Bignan Prasange 5:20 Employment News/Lalika 5:30 News 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30 Teen Kanya 7:00 Serial 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinandan 8:00 Bakul Katha (Serial) 8:30 Darpan 9:00 Jannathum (Serial) 9:30 Monorama Cabin (Serial) 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 1:00 Closed**

**Dennis The Menace 10:00 Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 11:00 Ghaav 11:30 Zamana Badal Gaya 12:00 Boogie Woogie 12:30 Good Shot 1:00 Pehli Mulakat 1:30 The Young And The Restless 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Dennis The Menace 6:30 Khoya Khoya Chaud 7:00 Premier 7:30 Dream Of Jeannie 8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film 11:00 The Young And The Restless 12:00 Taj Mahal Taj Dina Din 12:30 Jeevan Mirtu 1:00 Sunday Ki Sunday 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed**