In 1989, entries secured Honorable Mentions in the Students Jamboree of Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA). In 1994, the Department entry to the CAA won the First Prize.

The department of architecture, BUET maintains an enrollment of approximately 55 students in undergraduate programmes every year.

Acknowledging the diverse aspects of the study and practice of architecture, the faculty of architecture provides a range of academic programmes granting different types of degrees. The diverse academic curricula are enriched by a wide variety of special programmes and events. Leading practitioners, critics, and scholars from around the country participate in periodic all-school lectures and an intensive series of studio reviews, which are held during Jury Week at the end of the semester.

The department provides students with the opportunity of gaining practical experience in offices of leading practitioners in Bangladesh and abroad. Over the years, this experience has proven an essential key to bridging the gap between academia and the profession. A significant number of travel awards and fellowships are given each year to upper level undergraduates and graduate students. The department provides a complement of academic resources and support facilities in a close-knit community, creating numerous opportunities for the interdisciplinary methodology considered essential to the study of architecture.

Facilities also include advanced computer visualisation and research laboratory, design studio, a fully equipped model shop, and a photography laboratory. In addition to the department's in-house resources and architecture library houses a collection of many current volumes and journals for the study of art, photography, film, art history, architecture, landscape architecture, and classical archaeology.

In the past, distinguished architects and professionals of the stature of Fazlur R. Khan, Louis I. Kahn, Paul Rudolph, Stanley Tigermann, Aptullah Kuran, Helmut Brocherdt, Kenneth Young, Charies Correa and B. V. Doshi presented lectures in the department. The department also had group visitors at different times. The department made significant contribution in the International Technical Conference on Tropical Urban Climate, held in 1993 and organised by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The department also runs link programmes consisting of study, research, lecture, visit, etc. with other international schools and organisations. Presently, a research Programme jointly participated by the Department, the AA School and Building Research Establishment of the UK is ongoing. Also preparations are underway to establish link programmes with the College of Architecture and Planning, King Faisal University, KSA and the Department of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA.

Dr Khandakar Shabbir Ahmed, professor department of Architecture (BUET), says, "Department of Architecture, BUET is the top-rated undergraduate programme in our country. We have had some experiences with a few other universities across the country and Department of Architecture, BUET is the only one where we find students to be intellectually developed and professionally useful, which is unfortunately rare in other universities."

"The Department of Architecture is committed to advancing the architectural education through different programmes and research. The department continuously endeavors to instill in the students a firm intellectual and professional base. The course curricula are designed to bring out the best in students aspiring to enter the profession," he adds.



Tensile Architecture: Latest in the country

Tensile architecture is a relatively new field of architecture devoted to lightweight membrane structures. Composed primarily of a cable-net supporting a fabric or sheet material structures, this form of architecture is well suited for sheltering large areas, such as stadiums, arenas, outdoor shelters, and airport terminals. Fabric Architecture is now expanding through product distribution in close conjunction with the department of trade and industry to India, Russia and USA.

The students of Architecture Department, BUET conducted by two teachers Dr Shabbir and Dr Riad developed practical calculations of stresses and deformations of beams, shells and membranes. They introduced this type of structure first time ever in Bangladesh. They designed a thin-shell structure pavilion for the BUET campus, covering the area of 200ft².