Where the river bends close to the embankment, a major commercial and transport node is suggested. The floodplains will also be reorganized for designated areas for rice cultivation, elevated fields for, perhaps, orchards and rose cultivation (that will also be accessible as parks via boat or bridges from the ribbons), and permanent canals for boatways, both along and under the ribbon-structures.

Site 6: Gabtali, a gateway to the city

The Gabtali area not only marks an important edge of the city, but is also a potential gateway to it. No matter how dreary it appears now, it is an extraordinary state of exchange and transit, of people, cattle, goods, boats, cars, trucks, and buses, coming from all conceivable directions.

The class worked on a very specific location close to the river and the existing bridge to reorganize part of this chaotic, but otherwise vital, area into a glorious gateway to the city. By creating a set of buildings that blur with the landscape, they proposed morphing the geology of the site. Most of the buildings will house hotels, markets and commercial uses, with sloped roofs covered by greenery. All the roofs will be open and accessible and will be connected to create a continuous public space.

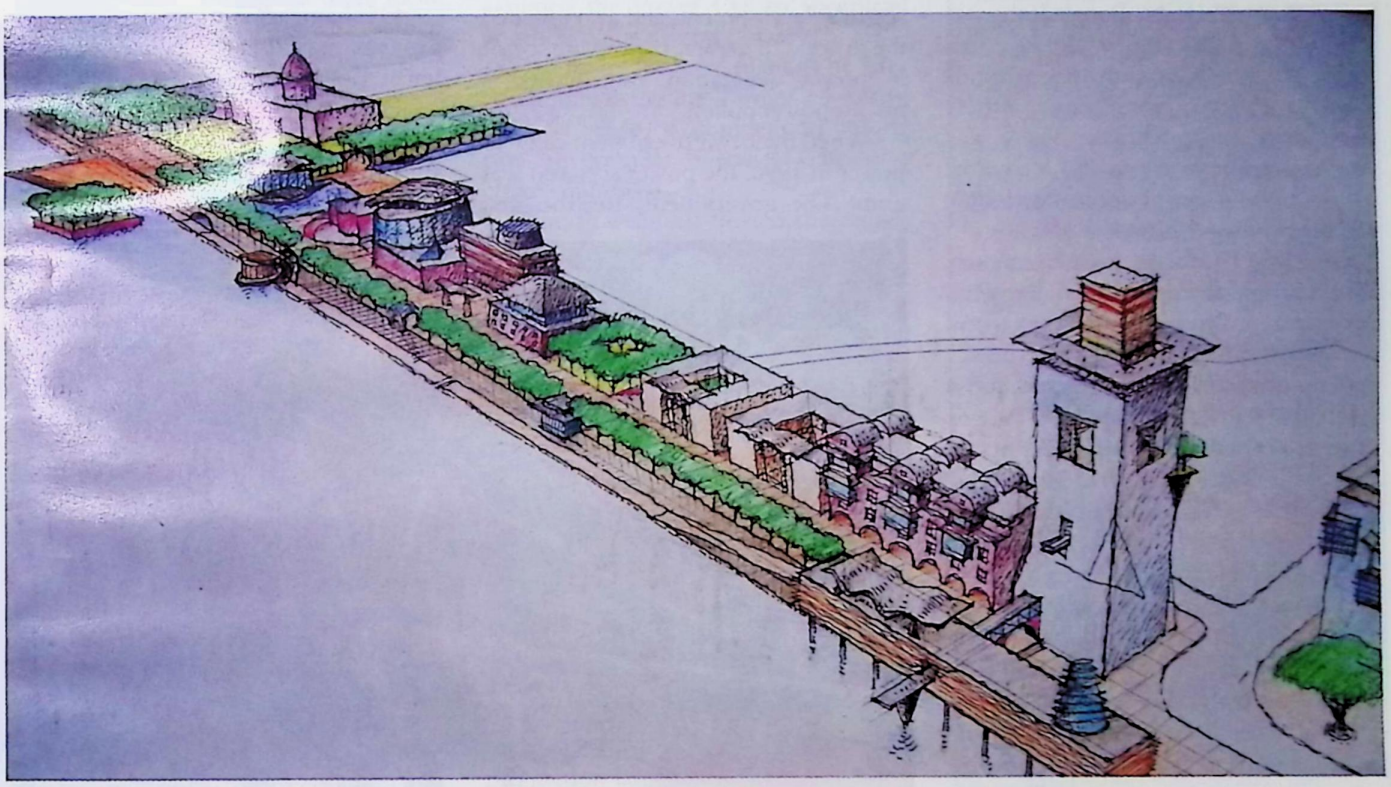
Another morphing will involve creation of a small island across a new canal aligned with the landscaped buildings. The island will be for multi-purpose use including temporary stalls, a stage, and a seasonal cattle market. Floatable platforms tied to a structural grid will allow activities to continue even when the island is flooded.

Site 7: Moulding a primordial landscape

In sharp distinction from the first site, this location close to the National botanical garden is a landscape where urban infiltration has not been fully mounted, and which is still characterized by the primordial dynamics of water and clay.

The class suggested a bold idea about the existing embankment there. They initially made some studies of how silt and clay are part of an ongoing land formation, and how some simple architectural gestures -- such as a wall -- in the path of the river may spawn new land formation. They proposed deconstructing the existing embankment into a series of more interlocked walls, planes and platforms, creating a new grid of lines and bounded areas.

The result was a new framework where water from either side -- city or river -- could be allowed passage in either direction in a controlled way within the gridded spaces through locks and sluice gates to create retention ponds, reservoirs, parks, or agricultural fields as needed. The new interlocking "walls" could be a platform for creating housing structures over a continuous pedestrian or vehicular movement system.



A transformed Sadarghat with promenades and new institutions

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