Yet, he could not retain his xanadu as the boundless spending made him a pauper. Khan Bahadur Kazi Abdur Rashid, who lent the fund for constructing the villa in the first place, took it over in 1936 and named it Rashid Manzil. His second son Kazi Raqib now inherits it.

Many important political meetings mainly after the partition of India were hosted at the Rose Garden, attended by great leaders of Bengal. Later the owner moved to a building within the same premise, and set up Bengal Studio there as an alternative to the FDC; in no time it became a popular spot due to its majestic disposition and as many movies then evolved around stories of Kings and Zamindaars. Still many drama, movies, ads and songs are shot here. The Archaeology Department included the building in its protection 'List' in 1989. At present the owner is renovating the mansion by himself without permission from any relevant body.

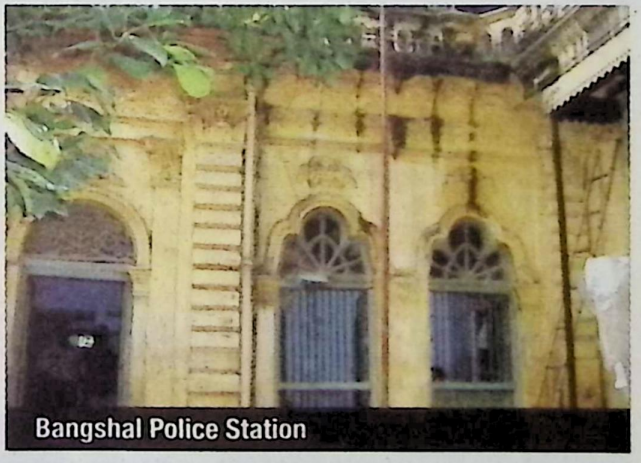
The symmetrical faced construction is divided into five segments with six multi-height fluted columns with elaborate foliage-capital placed on equally elaborate bases. All arches over the openings in the middle three sections are moulded and semi-circular. Parapets over the two sections flanking the central one have semi-circular gables. The central bay has a crescent-balcony over the entry through three arches, approached by elaborate steps from the garden and flanked by railing and life-size statues; there is a vehicular entry round from the east under a portico. Besides there are rectangular balconies over cast-iron brackets in each other sections facilitating garden view. A lantern dome atop the central bay stands on eight columns and pointed arches.

All the openings are decorated in intricate geometric pattern, foliage and animal motifs in wood, coloured Belgian glass and iron. There is a huge marble-floor ball room upstairs; its ceiling has floral design done with green mirrors. There is an intricately designed spiral staircase in front of the ball room to lead to the roof; its railings are made of wood and metals in gorgeous pattern. Other railings and parapet are made of cement curved in various geometric moulds. In fact so many intricate patterns and ornamentation borrowed from hybrid sources have been used that an architecture student can spend weeks learning from this the most ornate building of Dhaka.

Surrounded by high walls, the west-facing building is about 45 feet in height and is nearly 7000 sft in area. Except the facade, all other sides are rather unadorned. The pitch-roof on the bland side wings ends in triangular gables at the east and west, which look colonial. A major part of the building may have been deep pink in colour; however an age-old pale ash tint hangs over it now. Originally the approach road went around the pond at the front for the easy circulation of cars. There are few later-expansions, like a modern toilet added to the west end of the ground floor. There were 'Gari Ghars' at both the north and south end of the building, now encircled into rooms. A three storied structure has been added at the back that provides accommodation to the maintenance staff.



Bhawal Zamindaar Bari, now the District Office



Bangshal Police Station

National award winner sculptor-painter Hamiduzzaman Khan did some sketches of Rose Villa in pen, ink and crayon, along with colour washes. Fifty of these beautiful drawings were published in an 88-page book, which also contains twenty black and white photographs; text by a Kazi family member lends substance to the heritage of the Rose Garden.

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