Sadarghat could be transformed into something befitting the riverfront of any civilised city. By being so, it could provide renewed recreational, civic, economic, and transport facilities not experienced before. And not just for the citizens of the area but for the whole city. And not just in recreational and aesthetic terms, but economic as well. This transformation could be effected through a set of careful urban design and architectural strategies.

We revisit some of the ideas proposed for such a possible future:

Sadarghat as a riverfront district

A "riverfront district" can be designated with Sadarghat as the epicentre for the purpose of producing and maintaining a clean river, a decent riverfront and a sustainable and exemplary riverfront district enjoyable and accessible to everyone. The district will be a site of model public spaces and public buildings. Innovative building types will have to be conceived that conform to the river and canal-front conditions. A Riverfront District Authority may be established that will be responsible for the management of the designated district which will also include its social and economic development. Since the intervention will be in a dense, existing community, a consensus will have to develop with local citizens and stakeholders that something far more superior can be achieved in the area. The Riverfront Authority, with special support from the government, could form innovative partnerships with both city organisations and private groups for various projects and programs.

The riverbank as a civic realm

The riverbanks need to be returned to the city. It cannot be overemphasised that the crown in the district is the riverbank. The principal and single-minded aim of the enterprise would be to bring the people to the riverbanks. Currently, even the immediate residents of Old Dhaka are exiled from the banks of the river as every nook and cranny is occupied by all kinds of unwholesome and unruly activities. To return the riverbank to the city would simply mean that the banks (to a certain clear width) should be decreed as public space allowing uninterrupted access for people where no private encroachment and building of any sort will be allowed (unless authorised by a special expert body belonging to the Riverfront Authority). The whole length of the riverbank in the district should be developed as a tree-shaded promenade, largely a pedestrian public space that is linked to other open and green spaces, historic sites, and especially designed buildings for special purposes creating a clear and legible pedestrian network. Parks and gardens, even floating ones on the

