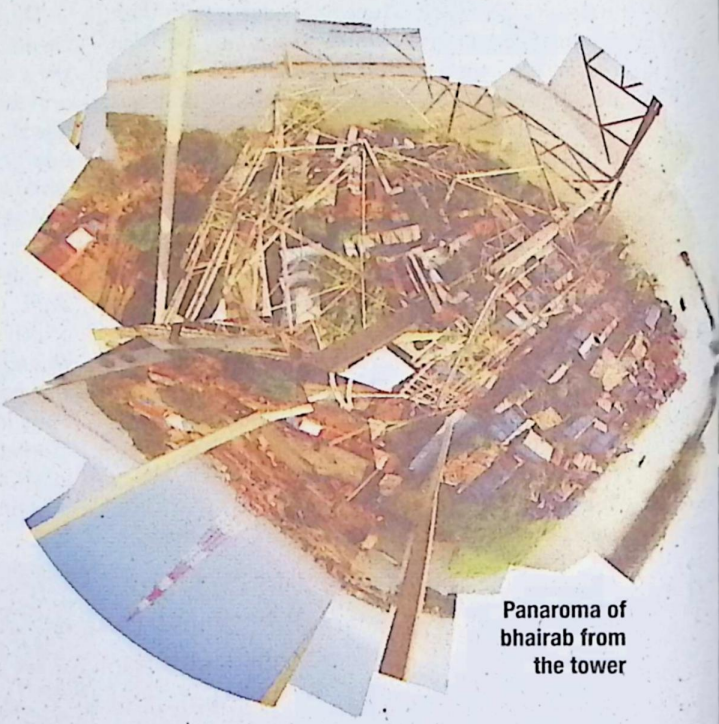
Building Safe Homes



Panaroma of bhairab from the tower

Chowdhury Tasneem Rahman and Ishita Alam Abonee

DAKSHIN Rishipotti is a low-income community, located on the south of Bhairab, edging the river Meghna. Entering the site, the students discovered a multi-faceted place that surpasses general standards of a slum. This was the ideal setting needed for the students to explore and appreciate what went into the making of such a place. The community is a small one with only 1.9 acres of land that houses 135 families. The essence of this place lies in its people. The beauty rests on the layers of struggle and achievements that is within the system. This in a unique way characterises the community; yet allows the people to express themselves distinctively as who they are within their society. Only after living and being a part of the community, the students were able to learn the hidden language by which the community aspires as a whole and also as individuals. This essentially is the, heart of our assigned design process, which was design "by the people, with the people, for the people".



Focus group discussions with young children of bhairab.

The small yet vibrant community of low-income families has a mix of both Muslim and Hindu residents with the Hindu population in majority who are traditionally involved in shoe making and broom-making. A significant aspect about the community is the population living with and beneath the existing PDB tower. Around 17 families live in unhealthy and unhygienic conditions beneath the tower on illegally occupied government land.

The students, 'the people of the wind' -- local residents of the community who permanently live there -- together with the community, 'people of the soil' -- outsiders who come to work with the community or talk about the community (From the Asian