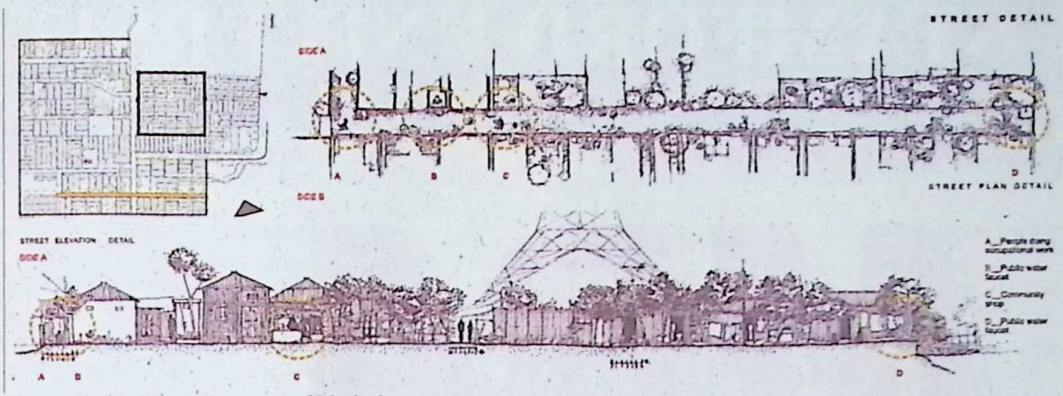
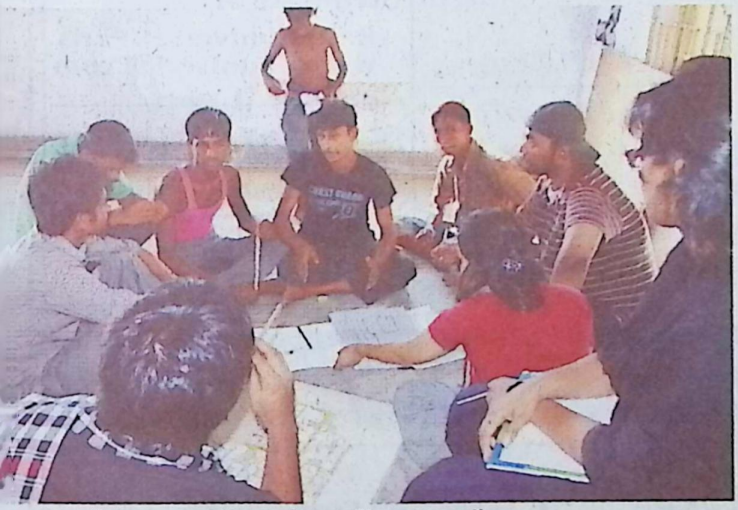


Plan and elevation of a street of bhairab .

Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) newsletter, "Community Architects in Asia, Design by, with and for the people) -- tried re-discovering and re-evaluating the living wisdom within the system. Mutually with the residents, as a knowledge communicator, the students learned about their local environment and functions of the spaces and their attributes. Through several surveys and researches, the students tried to communicate and share their ideas and visions with the local people. The objective for the groups was to comprehend the geographical, social, economic, physical, psychological, social and environmental aspects of the community. As these components unfolded, the full potential of this diversified community was gradually realised.



focus group discussions with male youth.

At the working phase of this design process, the students initially presented a documentation of their in depth learning and extensive knowledge gained from the community via graphical and empirical data to reflect their understanding of the community's potential and needs. In addition, the students also tried to address both the present and future impacts of climate change concerning this community.

In the second phase the students, in light of the gathered knowledge, made an attempt to suggest a design solution for the area. Throughout the process, students took feedbacks from the community by arranging focused group discussion to grow a thorough understanding for what 'works' and what 'does not work' with them. These groups of baffled young architects made an honest attempt to address all the complexities mentioned above along with the existing functions to finally propose a plan for sustainable housing development based on the distinct needs of the particular community. Intention was also to put forward innovative options that would enable the community to adapt with the changing climate.

Arriving in the final stage of the project, these future architects have finished compiling their semester long work to put up an exhibition. With the contribution from the University of Manchester, the purpose of this exhibition will be to communicate with the rest of the urban population in an attempt to start a dialogue about these vulnerable groups of urban communities.

It is also mentionable that this project has been a part of the research program, Climate change and urban poverty in Bangladesh (ClimUrb). It was in collaboration with BRAC University, Bangladesh and the University of Manchester, UK.

The exhibition is being held at the ground floor of University building of BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali. It will be inaugurated by the city mayor of Bhairab, Advocate Fakrul Alam Akkas on December 2, 2010. The exhibition will remain open from December 2- December 9.