

SKETCH: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI



TADAO ANDO

September 13, 1941

A self-taught architect Tadao Ando is popularly known for his emphasis on the association between nature and architecture. Architectural historian Francesco Dal Co defined his unique approach to architecture and landscape as "critical regionalism".

During his early school years he worked as a truck driver and boxer before settling on the profession of architect, despite never having formal training in the field. Struck by the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Imperial Hotel on a trip to Tokyo as a second-year high school student, he eventually decided to end his boxing career less than two years after graduating from high school to pursue architecture.

Ando was raised in Japan where the religion and style of life strongly influenced his architecture and design. Ando's architectural style is said to create a "haiku" effect, emphasising nothingness and empty space to represent the beauty of simplicity. Besides speaking of the spirit of architecture, Ando also emphasises the association between nature and architecture. He intends for people to easily experience the spirit and beauty of nature through architecture.

MAD GENIUS

“ DWELLING IN A HOUSE IS NOT ONLY A FUNCTIONAL ISSUE, BUT ALSO A SPIRITUAL ONE.

My hand is the extension of the thinking process— the creative process.

Look at London or Paris: they're both filthy. You don't get that in Tokyo. The proud residents look after their city. ”

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

RARE KINDNESS

I was walking to my bus stop in Banani from Gulshan 2, when I realised my sandal strap had broken. I panicked a little because I had no money with me to quickly buy a new pair and I had a long walk home from my stop in Jhigatala. I sat on the sidewalk trying to do something about this when a young girl close to my age stopped next to me and asked if she could help. I refused to accept money from her so she knelt beside me, took out some tape from her purse and helped me tape up the broken strap which made it hold up for atleast another few hours. I was so grateful I almost hugged her. She then walked me to the bus top to make sure I would be okay. I have her number and address and I plan to do something special to thank her for her kindness.

Atoshi Shikder
Dhaka

UNEXPECTED HELP

I was making my way home from Mirpur to Dhanmondi by rickshaw around 8pm at night when suddenly a car drove by and someone reached out and grabbed my bag. The force of the pull made me fall off the rickshaw and I hurt my back and head very badly. Surprisingly, a few young people who I later found out were university students chased the car trying to catch the perpetrators, while others helped me get to a hospital. I never expect to get help from my fellow citizens in situations like these but I was surprised and grateful to these conscientious young folk who came to my aid. My bag was not recovered, but I am alive and well because of them.

Keya Chowdhury
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

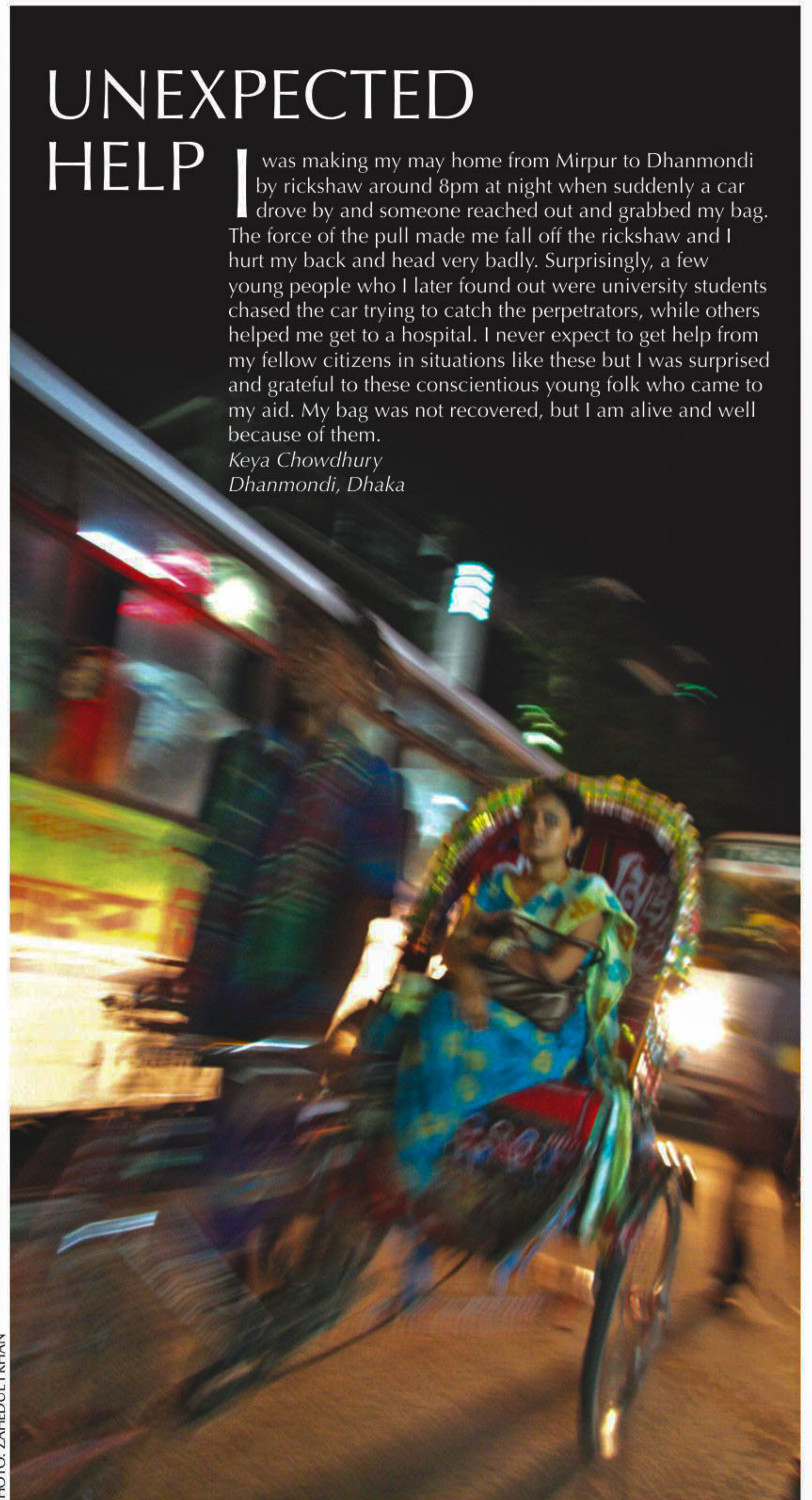


PHOTO: ZAHEDULI KHAN