

## Building Green SAVING GREEN

As urban landscapes in Bangladesh continue to expand, the concept of eco-friendly structures is transitioning from a trend to a necessity. These structures, designed with environmental sustainability in mind, offer a blueprint for the future, promoting sustainability while providing healthier living spaces for occupants. Their benefits extend beyond the structures themselves – contributing substantially to environmental conservation, economic savings, and improved human health.

AYMAN ANIKA

At the core of eco-friendly structures is efficiency. An expert from Navana Real Estate Ltd. notes, "In our eco-friendly designs, we primarily focus on minimising utility consumption, especially in water and energy. For instance, we reuse water from handwashing basins in toilet flush systems."

Eco-friendly structures often incorporate natural elements into their design. Features like green roofs, vertical gardens, and landscaped terraces not only enhance aesthetics but also help reduce heat absorption, lowering the need for air conditioning.

Choosing the right materials is also crucial for eco-friendly construction. This involves utilising materials that are recycled, renewable, or sourced with minimal environmental impact, such as bamboo flooring, recycled steel, or reclaimed wood. Employing these materials helps reduce resource depletion, decrease pollution, and lower the carbon footprint of the structure.

The indoor environment is a vital aspect of eco-friendly structures. Low-emitting materials are preferred to improve air quality and occupant health. An expert from Dulux Paints advises, "While high-gloss paints are popular, they contain higher levels of VOCs. We recommend matte-finished paints as healthier, more environmentally friendly options."

The economic advantages of eco-friendly structures, particularly in terms of reduced operating costs and



COURTESY: DIORAMA\_RANGS PROPERTIES LTD

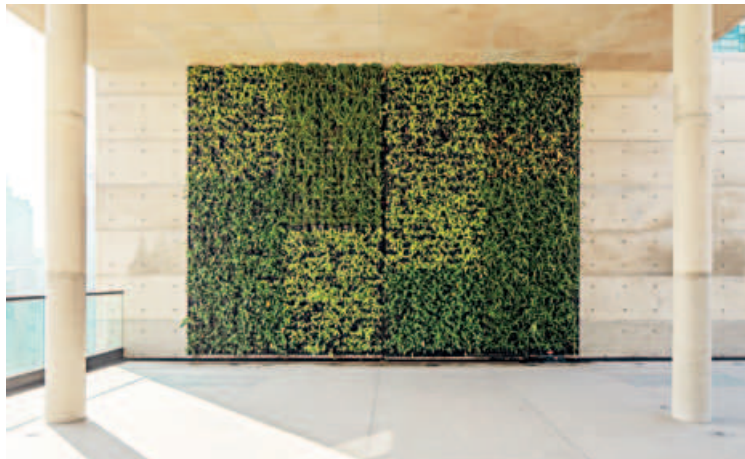
**The economic advantages of eco-friendly structures, particularly in terms of reduced operating costs and increased property values, make them an appealing investment.**

increased property values, make them an appealing investment. "Our clients have responded positively to our eco-friendly designs," remarks the expert from Navana Real Estate, highlighting a growing demand among homeowners for sustainable and environmentally conscious designs.

One primary challenge in Bangladesh is the higher initial cost associated with eco-friendly construction projects. Technologies such as solar panels, energy-efficient systems, and sustainable building materials require a substantial

upfront investment. Many builders and buyers are deterred by these initial costs, opting for the short-term savings offered by traditional construction methods.

An expert from Rangs Properties Limited points out, "We are yet to achieve the capacity to construct structures that adhere to international eco-friendly standards. The journey toward full compliance with international standards demands significant investments and a broader understanding of what such structures entail beyond mere aesthetics such as green landscaping."



COURTESY: MIRANDA\_RANGS PROPERTIES LTD



## BRAC BANK ON THE TOP IN A ROW FOR



**3 YEARS**

Bangladesh Bank has once again rated BRAC Bank as a top sustainable bank based on these four indicators:

 Sustainable Finance

 Social Responsibility Activities (CSR)

 Green Refinance

 Core Banking Sustainability



## Sustainability is the cornerstone of everything that we do

- > First bank to do Carbon Accounting to measure GHG emission
- > 38.40% of total term loan in Green Finance
- > 88% of total finance in Sustainable Finance
- > Tk. 7,444 million financed in sustainable agriculture
- > Tk. 5,996 million financed to import energy efficient machines to reduce carbon emission
- > Partnering with icddr,b for bio hazardous waste management project





