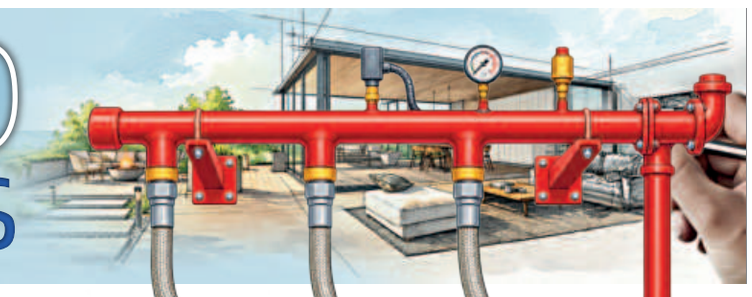
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# DESIGNED FOR GENERATIONS



## Building for generations in the Bengal Delta

MOHAMMAD FOYEZ ULLAH

Building in the Bengal Delta has always meant negotiating with water. Rivers shift, monsoons test walls and roofs, and humid air wears down materials. Architecture here must respond to a landscape that rarely stands still. Designing buildings to serve generations begins with understanding that relationship.

Our vernacular traditions reflect this awareness. Bamboo frames, thatched roofs and raised homesteads offered practical responses to seasonal change and flooding. Their value lies in the intelligence behind them. While these materials deserve appreciation, celebrating tradition should also acknowledge people's aspirations for greater durability, security and comfort.

As communities prospered, fired brick became central to the region's architecture. From Paharpur to the mosques of the Sultanate, Panam City and Curzon Hall, it helped establish a lasting architectural language. Yet even brick requires protection against moisture and heavy rain. Permanence in the delta has never meant freedom from maintenance.

Today, a broader range of materials gives architects more ways to address these familiar challenges. Developments in concrete offer opportunities to reduce its environmental impact, while improved glazing can help manage heat gain without sacrificing daylight. These choices become more effective when combined with deep overhangs, shaded openings and carefully considered building orientation.

Timber also deserves renewed consideration. Treatment and modification can improve its durability, while engineered timber expands its potential applications. Wood and plastic composites offer further options for elements such as screens and decking. Their suitability, however, must be judged against local exposure, maintenance requirements and the demands of each project.

The availability of advanced materials does not, by itself, make a building resilient. In Bangladesh, design must address cyclones, flooding and earthquake risk from the outset. That requires architects and structural engineers to work together, connecting architectural form with the behaviour of the structure.



Simpletree Thikana

Building geometry influences how wind acts on a structure. Appropriate structural systems and detailing help buildings accommodate seismic forces. Raised floors and considered site planning can reduce vulnerability to flooding, extending principles already familiar in traditional rural settlements. These decisions belong at the beginning of the design process.

Everyday performance matters just as much. Orientation, shading and natural ventilation influence comfort throughout a building's life. Material selection should support these strategies, with attention to how components weather, how they can be maintained and whether the necessary resources are locally available.

The future of architecture in the Bengal Delta depends on applying both inherited knowledge and contemporary innovation with judgement. Buildings endure when their design responds to climate, their structures address foreseeable hazards, and their materials suit the conditions they face. For architects, designing for generations means making these relationships work together, so that a building remains useful, comfortable and secure long after its first occupants move in and establish roots.

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## FIRE SAFETY STARTS WITH DESIGN



PARVEZ MAHMOOD

Fire safety begins long before a building welcomes its first occupants. Decisions made during design and construction determine how quickly a fire can spread, whether people can escape and how effectively emergency systems can respond. In densely populated cities, these decisions have consequences beyond a single property.

For buildings intended to serve generations, fire protection must be treated as a core design requirement. Installing equipment at the end of construction cannot compensate for poorly planned escape routes or inadequate separation between spaces. Architects, engineers and fire safety specialists need to coordinate from the outset.

The Bangladesh National Building Code provides the framework for incorporating fire safety into building design. Requirements must be assessed according to occupancy, height and risk. Fire separation, protected exits and travel routes should be established early, with suitable fire doors helping to protect escape stairways against the spread of flames and smoke.

Active protection systems must complement these architectural measures. Fire detection and alarm systems provide early warning, giving occupants time to respond and evacuate. Sprinklers can help control a developing fire, while standpipes support firefighting operations. The appropriate combination depends on the building and its uses, rather than a uniform equipment checklist.

Different spaces also present different hazards. Factories, warehouses and markets require protection suited to their activities and stored materials. Generator rooms and substations need particular attention, while areas containing sensitive electronic equipment may require specialised suppression systems. System selection should follow a professional assessment of the hazards involved.

Reliable infrastructure is equally important. Water supplies, storage reserves and fire pumps must support the demands of the installed protection systems. Equipment that looks adequate on paper offers little reassurance if water is unavailable or a pump fails when needed. Design and installation must therefore account for dependable operation.

Portable extinguishers provide another layer of protection, but their selection must match the likely fire hazards. Units should be accessible and clearly identified. Commercial kitchens, electrical installations and general occupied spaces do not necessarily require identical solutions. Occupants also need to understand the equipment's purpose and the limits of its use.

A building's safety depends on what happens after handover. Detection, alarm and suppression systems require regular inspection, testing and maintenance by qualified personnel. Relevant standards, including those covering alarms, standpipes, pumps and water-based suppression systems, should guide this work alongside applicable national requirements.

Owners and managers must ensure that protection remains effective as buildings age and their uses change. Maintenance cannot be postponed simply because equipment has never been needed. Fire safety is a continuing responsibility shared by designers, installers, owners and occupants. Building for generations means preserving the ability to detect danger, contain its spread and provide people with a safe way out.

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## MOVING WITH PURPOSE: At the Forefront of Redefining Happiness

MOHAMMED IMTIAZ SHAYEK

Happiness rarely announces itself, but sometimes you can see how far it has spread. For Edison Real Estate, that story is told in more than 1,350 apartments and over 45 lakh square feet of built space, each one filled with the everyday moments that turn a house into a home. Another 15 lakh square feet is on its way.

Behind every Edison home is one quiet promise: the people who live here should be happier for it. Edison Real Estate sums it up in two words, Redefining Happiness. Before a single wall is drawn, the team thinks about the family who will live there: how they will wake up, gather, rest and grow.

Some things in a home catch the eye. Others quietly win the heart. An Edison home is designed to do both. Edison Aemilius opens to the city on three sides, while Edison Benvolio turns toward the southern breeze. Edison Elenor rests beside the lake, and Edison Desdemona invites nature indoors through biophilic design.

For Edison, happiness also reaches beyond the apartment door. Gyms, swimming pools, and indoor and outdoor sports spaces encourage a healthier, more active life, while community areas turn neighbors into friends. Generous open spaces, greenery and courtyards give residents room to walk, pause and breathe.

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A promise, of course, is only as strong as the work behind it. At Edison, that work lives deep inside the foundation, in wiring designed to keep every family safe, and in careful waterproofing that keeps the monsoon outside. Edison gives these hidden details the same attention it gives to everything on display.

Every project brings together top-tier materials and the latest construction technologies, chosen for their quality and long-lasting value. Edison also builds with tomorrow in mind, with EV charging facilities that make cleaner, more convenient travel part of everyday home life. Work moves forward through multi-layer quality control, with every stage checked and confirmed before the next begins.

Trust is earned slowly and sincerely, through honest conversations, timely handovers and staying close to every customer long after the keys have changed hands.

In Uttara, Edison Verona is progressing well, taking shape as a calm, well-connected neighborhood of its own. Beside it, a sprawling new landmark is being planned as a complete community rather than a single building. In Bashundhara R/A, new large-scale projects are opening a bold new chapter of thoughtful design and wellness-focused living.

New foundations will be laid, new walls will rise, and soon new families will turn a key, step inside and smile, knowing they are finally home. This is what moving with purpose looks like at Edison: a promise to build better, one home, one family and one happier life at a time.



Edison Macbeth

