

## 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

### Project Background:

Mohila Samity is located at Baily Road; a road known for its public amassing due to its vibrant cultural significance. The original building hosted an auditorium; which became so popular among the theatre groups of Dhaka that Baily road has come to be known as Natak Sharani (Theatre Avenue). The roots of the theatre movement of modern Bengal can be traced back to Mohila Samity. The institution had turned into a hub for theatre activists and enthusiasts.

[Program] stipulated by the Clients for the Architect/s:

Over time the activity of Mohila Samity expanded but the existing premise lost its appeal as it could not meet the present demands, the theatre groups started moving out to other venues with better facilities and the overall environment deteriorated. The Mohila Samity planned the redevelopment of the premise with the vision to accommodate present and future needs which includes theaters (one with 250 seats and the other one with 100 seats), conference facilities, offices & training facilities for the institution, a primary school, etc.

### Detail elaboration of program distribution:

Level 01: Mohila Samity Chattar (plaza), Gallery, Administrations, courtyard, service area

Level 02: Theatre lobby, Theatre (250 person), backstage, Food court & open to sky terrace, Academic area (classes), service area.

Level 03: Theatre balcony, green room, Food corner & open to sky terrace, Academic area (classes), service area.

Level 04: Multipurpose hall/ experimental theatre, conference hall, clinic zone, service area.

Level 05: Mohila Samity office area, legal department, academic area (language training rooms), open terrace, Service area.

Level 06: Office area

## 2.0 PROJECT ABSTRACT:

- Name of the Project: Bangladesh Mohila Samity Complex
- Location: 4, Natak Sarani, Baily Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Name of the Client: Bangladesh Mohila Samity
- Site Area: 1204.46sqm
- Total Built up Area of the Project: 5078.79sqm (1<sup>st</sup> phase)
- Circulation Area: 1280sqm
- Parking Area: 1555sqm

- Landscape Area: 210sqm
- Year of Commencement and Completion: 2010-2015
- Project Cost (1<sup>st</sup> phase) in USD: \$4,480,000

### 3.0 CONCEPT:

#### Our proposition

- 'L' shaped building with two blocks hinged with vertical circulation
- Public function at the front and semipublic at the rear with a small courtyard
- The entrance is gradually accessed from the footpath and blends deep into the complex, thus creating a public realm. It encourages women and children to gather during the daytime for institutional work and cultural activities during the evening.
- The public platform continued up to the 4<sup>th</sup> level connected via ramps and stairs. The semi outdoor balconies have been created to form a dialogue with the street in front, this creates an ambience of public area
- The cozy humane scale was achieved with fragmented public balconies in different heights and by staggering towards the back.
- The 254 seat theatre allows performance without mechanical acoustic support.
- As cast concrete and brick is the primary material which helps to create a more public environment, which is sustainable in long term also.
- The whole building is naturally ventilated and illuminated except the theatre hall.

#### Salient Features:

- Wide Entrance is the extension of the complex thus ensures easy access
- The Chattar (plaza) - The ground level entrance lobby for public gathering sculpted with stair, ramp, gardens and courtyard inside.
- The ramp at south east connects the five floors of public activity. Thus ensuring universal accessibilities.
- The courtyard brings light and air to the depth of the building and at ground level creates space for small gathering for the institution and school children.
- The naturally ventilated upper lobbies for theatre and multipurpose halls are like tropical pavilions for people who gather here for cultural and social events
- Theatre hall is perceived as a small courtyard where performances can be enjoyed in a homely casual setting.

#### **4.0 ARCHITECTURE:**

##### **Building Orientation:**

Building orientation evolved according to the reference of the provided site. Releasing the setback space, the “L shaped” site area introduces a theatre block & academic block which actually bonds with an internal courtyard space. South facing Building welcome south breeze and create tropical environmental quality.

##### **Design development features:**

**Chattar (plaza):** The ground floor is considered to be an extension of the sidewalk acting as a Chattar (plaza). The usage will evolve throughout the day, women and children being the users during the day and cultural aficionados through the evening late into the night. The space is also capable of hosting festivals and exhibitions.

**Deck:** The building has two lobbies; one of which is at the front in different levels, visually and spatially connected with the street establishing a dialogue with the city; the other one further inside forming an attachment to the internal courtyard usable mainly by the institution and school.

**Bridge:** The vertical circulation has been connected by the usage of ramps, bridges and voids, linking the street with the decks and galleries of the theatre halls. As a person walks the street, it expels into the Chattar (plaza) to the decks in a continuous winding path without separating him from the street; diminishing the feeling of climbing an emblematic multi-storied building.

**Theatre:** The enclosure wall for the theatre hall has been considered a thick masonry brick walled façade that provides the performers and audience the experience of a performance in a courtyard of a complex.

**Envelope:** The façade of the building is built in a combination of heavy masonry brick walls and concrete fins and curtain walls. The heavy masonry walls define interior functional spaces, while the semi outdoor spaces are defined through light concrete.

#### **5.0 PROJECT TECHNOLOGY: RCC Frame structure**

#### **6.0 MATERIALS: Brick, RCC, Glass, Steel, Aluminum, Wood**

**7.0 PROJECT SERVICES:** Schematic Design, Design development, Construction documents preparation, Project supervision & co-ordination with all engineers, Co-ordination with Lighting & sound consultant, Interior design, As-built documents preparation.

## **8.0 DETAILS OF LANDSCAPING:**

The landscaping of the project starts at the edge of the street and continues along the boundary to meet with the internal courtyard. As one climbs the ramp they arrive at another lobby which is visually separated from street by a screen embedded with more greenery.