

Pubail Retreat

Karail
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Architects	Khondaker Hasibul Kabir Dhaka, Bangladesh
Clients	Wipro Limited Dhaka, Bangladesh
Commission	n.a.
Design	n.a.
Construction	n.a.
Occupancy	2007
Site	n.a.
Ground floor	n.a.
Total floor	n.a.
Costs	n.a.

Programme

A former pilot is the animator and architect of this retreat in the vicinity of Gazipur. He has conceived a space for urban people who want to experience living within nature with rural communities. The structures use local material and craftsmen and are made in collaboration with young architects from BRAC University.



Pubail Retreat

A small fishermen village symbolizes typical rural Bangladesh. It has representative jungles, wet land, rural pond and cultivatable land.

We are looking for Architects capable dreaming of things not yet created and must be capable of producing a blue print for how to turn the dream into reality. A new taste will emerge. Not many people can afford to live like a poor person. This will initiate competitions to conceive of new types of customers/clients. This will create new way of lifestyle and new competence for architects.

A place built by local craftsman with rapidly grown renewable building materials where the poor and specially the wise new rich will come to feel free, relaxed and comfortable in any weather day or night. Above all this will be a place where values of nature will predominate.

In the description architecture and landscape are synonymous. We cannot separate.

The water and land (Jal o Sthal) of this site is divided into three zones. Nature First area, Human First area and Buffer zones.



Nature First Areas (Jungle): Human interaction is restricted. “Nature comes naturally” - is the prime idea of this place. Here “not doing” is more effective than “doing” to get a complex nature habitat. We believe that we know very little about the complexity of nature. It is liberating both for nature and human being to know that we know very little. People will appreciate the area from a non-anthropocentric point of view. The areas will not cater any direct benefit to human beings. They are left for other beings to be nurtured. It belonged to them now we are in process to return them. We will appreciate that from distance.



Human First Areas (Bashati): Human activities are prioritized over nature. Architecture, agriculture and day-to-day human activities (material and spiritual) are in tune with diurnal and annual climatic rhythms. Existing and borrowed elements/ideas of nature are nurtured from



an anthropocentric point of view. Architecture/ landscape is ephemeral in nature. They are “fragile architecture” or “soft architecture”. Building materials used for defining spaces are fast-growing natural materials. The characteristics of spaces are fluid and dynamic. They change with time of a day, with rain, with seasons, with individuals’ requirements and obviously with natural calamities. The built spaces are created by local villagers with lot of trials and errors. These are outcomes of synthesis of local/traditional and academic/professional knowledge. Here resistance is prioritized over acceptance, emotion is prioritized over logic and wisdom is prioritized over knowledge. Measurements of spaces come not only from our bodies but also from our mind which tries to create dialogue between “small” and “big”....seen and unseen.



Buffer Zones: In between areas of Nature First areas and Human First areas. These are transitional areas in the form of paths, water corridors, clean open spaces or wide edges. These zones are not for staying in but for passing through or for crossing through both for wildlife and for human beings. Both will hesitate to be in the zone. Plant materials used in these zones expresses a “cue to care” so that human beings get safety feeling without losing the mystery of the place.