

Scenario Brief

The location selected is in Moghbazar, at the center of Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, a place with oriental cultural background which has a significant impact of globalization on the lifestyle of its people. The site has been a colony of the Ispahanis since 1970s and has been recently planned to be redeveloped.

The user group chosen was middle income and upper middle income families of Dhaka as the disintegration of joint families (a culturally predominant system) take place mostly among this social class. This disintegration affects family members of all age group, the effect being most apparent in the older generation. Changes in the oldest and fundamental institution of society are complex, to some extent inevitable due to shifts in cultural values, urbanization, empowerment of women and globalization. The Dhakaites live in a socio-cultural crisis, a dilemma where they cannot let go of the indigenous norms, values, lifestyle, and age-old traditions, yet striving to adapt to the fast paced lifestyle of modern world.

Rapid urbanization, economic activities & development and population growth in the last decades have degraded the physical environment condition of Dhaka through over exploitation, utilization and the mismanagement of its environmental components. The city environment is now far from the ideal due to many factors and issues that primarily originate from human activities and lifestyle. These factors may be psychological, biological, chemical and physical.

Although Bangladesh has still to catch up with the recent trends of globalization, building construction is rapidly continuing in a cramped and congested setting, devoid of environmental, socio-cultural and contextual considerations. The present situation calls for immediate attention to develop a systematic process, which can adapt to changing needs and at the same time uphold the positive features of our culture and values, which in turn gives us a sense of identity.