REVIVING THE HISTORIC CORE OF A TRADITIONAL CITY THROUGH PLANNING: A REFLECTION OF TANGAIL CITY, BANGLADESH

Omar Faruk[*]
Kawshik Saha[**]

ABSTRACT

Historic cities of the developing world are constantly losing their identity to rapid urban growth. Historic corridors are replaced by modern business districts, traditional identity is overtaken. In Bangladesh, the impact of so-called globalization on historic cities, causing loss of place identity in the process of change. Constantly changing and evolving cities are losing inherent character (both tangible and intangible) while diminishing their memories in public. Tangail is one of the historic cities of Bangladesh facing similar challenges because of rapid urbanization and the destruction of heritage sites. During the British colonial era, Tangail has developed as a craft-based commercial center, and the heritage identity of this city was mostly shaped by the weaving culture. This research aims to identify the core historic district of Tangail city and preserve it. To explore how to reconnect with the missing traditions and recall the historic past. In the end, this study attempted to build a continuous network among the historical and cultural hotspots using a spatial planning approach. The historic, cultural and natural attributes were identified through bibliographic survey, visual analysis of places, stakeholder interviews. New planning proposals, architectural intentions, landscape design interventions were proposed as an outcome. Key public places were designed to make the city more identical and preserve the spatial context. A symbiosis of sustainable heritage planning and management was proposed connecting community, heritage places and tourism.
Keywords: *City Identity, Heritage core, Conservation Planning, Memory, Tangail city.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Now a days the historic cities are facing identity problem for the rapid growth of urbanization. The factors which shape the spatial characteristics are being changing as same for the different culture,climate and cities .This prototype development are really distroying the varity of our tangible and intangible culture. Not only from the perspective of culture, this type of development is also harmful for the framework of our city. So as soon as possible we need to fix the problem otherwise cities will be developed but not in a sustainable and environment friendly way and cities will loss it's commercial specialty. So for the cultural and commercial development we need to think about the city according to cultural and geographical settings which ensure a perfect combination of landscape, culture and architecture. Tangail city is suffering from the same problem. Once upon a time it was a great place for craft, economy and historic architecture. It is the largest district of Dhaka (capital of Bangladesh). In spite of being a place of culture, craft, architecture, crops, famous sweets, share and so on after the liberation war 1971 it has gradually lost this specialty for the modernization of city. The main challenge of this type of problems is to accommodate the other buildings keeping the old historical vive of the city same. We have land problem and a huge lack of awareness.

Also people become use to with a very so called modern pattern and are not ready for the new ideas. Farther it is also challenging to create a symbiosis with the unplanned buildings (especially shops), road, old historic architecture, landscape and so on. How will be the behavior of citizen to the new planned city is also a big challenge. To solve these problems some special methods and architectural solution have been taken. The reason how and why the city lost its identity have been figured out and use architectural solutions to revive them. Individual sketches have been made for the different places and matched the new ideas with the current city. Over all a network have been created to connect the individual historic hotspots which will make the city circulation smoother and traffic free. Not only tangible factors like architectural city planning but also the intangible factors have been thought to hold the identity and specialty of the city.

[*]Department of Architecture, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh; omarfaruk8617@gmail.com
[**]Department of Architecture, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh; kawshik-arc@sust.edu

2. HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF RESEARCH CONTEXT

Tangail zila has a population of 3.8 million people and covers 3,414.28 square kilometers (1,318.26 sq mi). Tangail is the district's principal city. Tangail was a part of Greater Mymensingh till 1969. Due to Mymensingh District's dominance, Tangail was established a separate district. Mymensingh District's economic growth was higher than the capital Dhaka before the 6 Upazila event.To suppress Mymensingh, Greater Mymensingh was separate from their 7 out of 6 Upazila Tangail, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrokona (presently known as District) History of Mymensingh#cite note-Iffat Ara 1989-16 from Mymensingh. And 6 sub-district were promoted to district status to avoid conflict with Dhaka. Thus Tangail district was born. The main rivers that cross the Tangail district are the Jamuna, Dhaleshwari, Jhenai, Bangshi, Louhajang, Langulia, Elongjani, Jugni, Pouli, Fotikjani and the Turag.The british ruler came here and built the master plan of city. Then economy started to grow highly. The economy was totally craft and raw material based. River was the main way of transportation. After a few years, it grew into a major commercial center in Bangladesh, with a strong commercial tie to Calcutta. However, due to the rapid rise of urbanization after 1971, the economics and historic layout began to shift. The city as a whole has now lost its identities. So, first and foremost, I determine the city's key elements. Rethink about the existing pattern and revive the old style for different place of city through the architectural planning. Different historical hub and element have been developed and made a connective network among them.
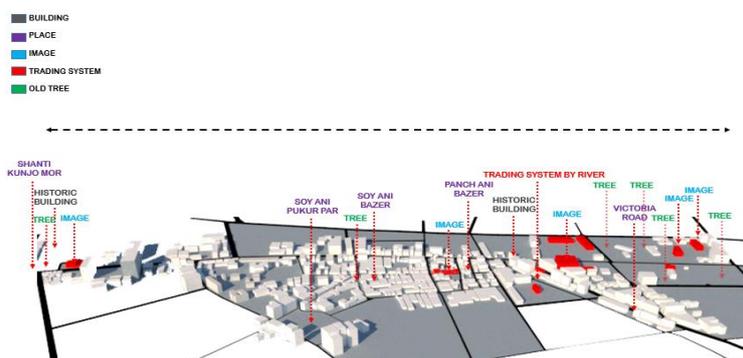
3. METHODOLOGY

The methodological steps for this research include range of activities incuding literature review, physical survey, conservation assessment, heritage mapping,stake holder interview.Following steps were conducted by researhers for carrying this research.

3.1 Literature Review

A city centre may be a node in an old town of a city with evolutionary character. This sort of city centre, which is postcolonial, features a very powerful spatial organization with tons of architecture, landscape, culture, and so on. most significantly, this city core is the economic hub. Considering all the facts most of the heritage organization have a robust direction to conserve all the historically important elements (tangible + intangible) of this sort of city centre. User-friendly street shopping, creating pedestrian, protecting the landmark, any elements that make memory are the most important parts to conserve. Most of the books or researches have shown the methods of preserving the heritage. But little is said about how the real problems are diminishing the importance of historic buildings to society.

3.2 Field Survey and Identifying the Historical Foot Prints

First of all recognized the principle components of the set of experiences part. The discoveries show that a large portion of the components are acoomodated to the both side of a perticuler street appeared in the figure down. Noteworthy structures, its image, notable spot, trading system and some old trees are losing by urbanization. These components are exceptionally significant made the fundamental framework of this city. So resuscitating these components will address the city and make the character.

3.3 Community Interview

The targeted people for this survey were the old citizen (50-70) who belongs to this city. The findings were so shocking …

i) This city was called the city of BOT PAKUR (banyan tree and Bodhi tree). It means the city was full of these trees and these trees are so climatic for this area.
ii) There was a big canal through the city and it was the main commercial connection with India.
iii) A numerous number of local crafts imported here from the outside of the city.
iv) Main transportation was horse cart, bullock cart on land.
v) The shops of oldest market (pach ani and choy ani bazar) were specifically under a banyan or Bodhi tree.
vi) Various types of seasonal cultural programs were held.

3.4 Planning Proposals and Zoning

4. RESULTS: PLANNING PROPOSALS

4.1 Defining Historic Zones Need to be Preserved

The whole area divided into 5 according to historical building and activity…

i) Shantikunjo Node Point

Around 1884 popular noblest Mir Mosharraf Hossain came to Tangail city. Furthermore, in this mark of city there was a gathering room of nearby zamindars called Kasari Ghar. He used to come here and compose. Following a couple of days, he got connected with the magnificence of this spot and named the spot as Shanti (harmony) Kunjo (home). There is a huge lake encircled by trees. Although this is an entirely critical spot yet isn't perceptible from the hub point. The new age even does not have the foggiest idea about the set of experiences.

ii) Choy Ani Pukurpar

For the prosperity of the nearby oldest market, this pond was made. There were a lot of old trees around the pond and some old house additionally particularly who were local businessman and government representative. Yet, presently a day the old lake has lost its character. The encompassing is currently covered by tiles and there is no tree at the present time.
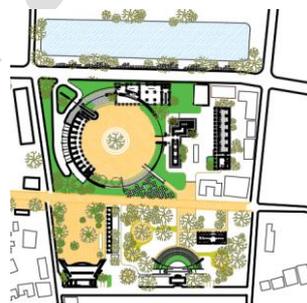
iii) Pach Ani and Choy Ani Bazar

The primary market in this memorable city. This spot has become the downtown area and the entire city created it around. This is the densest region and the texture is very surprising than the entire city. The vast majority of the shops are made by cement and tin. However, in past, there were just tin-concealed shops. The notable character was there were bunches of banyan and Bodhi trees and the greater part of the shops had an outdoor display area. However, presently a days the ways between the shops line is restricted to such an extent that is the reason there is no outdoor display system. The initial arrangement of the shop's door is likewise different. There were just wooden doors that were so thin. A consistent quantity of limited doors made a major wide opening.
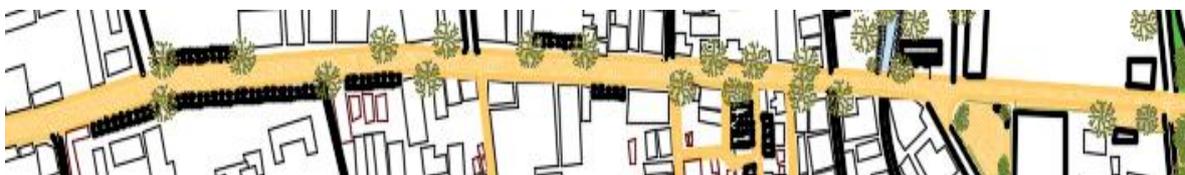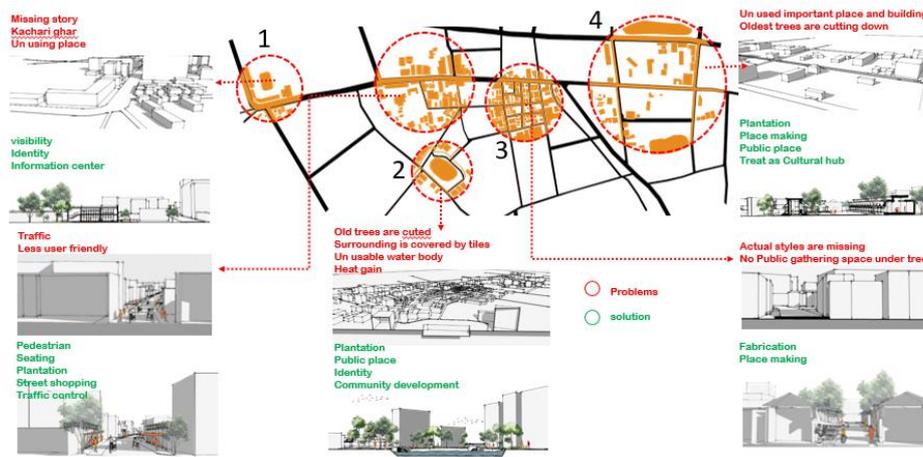

iv) Colonial Master Plan

Toward the finish of the investigation region there is a colonial masterplan including the house of Nillkor, library building, old foujdari court building, depository building and there were additionally another structure including prison. The prison is as of now destroyed and the library building have been deserted for quite a while. Also, different structures are being utilized as office of govt. worker. So, in view of structural support the structures are in effect primarily weak because of bad maintenance.

v) The oldest road

The most established street which is functioning as the fundamental spine of the all-out recorded city part. There was a load of recorded structure on the both side. In spite of the fact that a large portion of them is wrecked some of them are still there. The Gangadhar brothers and sons building, Bindu Basini Govt. Young boys High School (the graham school - 1880. Only the child of ruler could study here), the Tangail Club (The English Club - 1912) are some of them.

4.2 Developing Connectivity Networks

Analyze the authentic street-side that connects every one of the center points and filling in as the principal spine of this notable city.it shows that a significant part of it is encircled by business improvement. This oldest street is a reference to business development and the economy. So, the street side has become very dense.in this difficult spot, it is so difficult to do anything. Yet, the new improvements have begun corresponding to both sides of the street. So, I am appointing here a specific example of shops with the block surface which will assist with resuscitating the old trial of the memorable street. There are some unusable spaces among shops and drawing out some significant spaces which I can use as plantation (particularly banyan tree) that is a solid character of this city.

The old street of the city is the primary spine. This flow interfaces all the authentic impressions. But since utilizing the street as the primary dissemination of traffic the connection among individuals and historic components including this street is exceptionally separated. Because there is no enough space to create a public pause which is most important to build a connection between people and architecture. So the authority took an arrangement to assemble an equal street and about 80% traffic will move to that street. Also, the other 20% of public transportation will go through another recently proposed street outside of the site. Presently the all-out authentic area is free from traffic. In any case, just cart, private vehicle, rescue vehicle, fire administration vehicle and the small help truck will deal with this space so the current settings can be equivalent to past. Since the difference in individuals' day-by-day network settings can influence contrarily.

4.3 Architectural and Landscape Planning for Protected Zones

i) Shantikunjo Node Point

ii)   Choy Ani Pukur Par

iii)   Pach Ani Bazar

Fabrication, big tree plantation and making a gathering space, outdoor display system….

iv)   British Masterplan

v)   Historic Road Side Important Architecture

4.4 Renovation Proposal for Historic Fabric

Primarily the greater part of the old structures is made of brick (external surface) and mortar. Keeping their inside same if external surface treats as the brick surface it will be not difficult to distinguish them and make a synchronized special city surface. Also, critically making space and planting banyan and Bodhi tree is the best visual creation.

4.5 Reuse Policies for Conserved Historic Structures

Ghager Dalan has obliterated which was set up in 1937. The name of this structure was Keshob Manjil. In any case, after that, it had been utilizing as a medication shop. Goiter issue was a significant actual issue of this space. In any case, its medication sold here. After that, this present structure's name became Ghager (Goiter) Dalan (Building). This was the most eminent structure and a notable component of the mind mapping of this city. On the off chance that it is feasible to reproduce it an extremely old and striking memory can be reproduced. However, what will be the reason for it? Presently an old dramatic club (Coronation dramatic club-1911) are experiencing space issue. If the structure can be utilized as the club the structure and the club both will be restored.
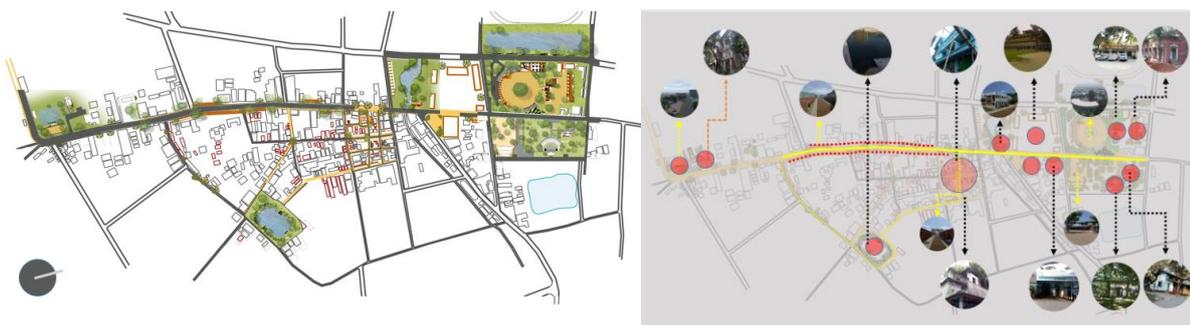
Registry building isn't utilizing. However, there is a huge space before it. There is just one open stage for programs close to the structure. For the lack of space public programs regularly held on the stage. An amphitheater in front of the registry building can tackle the issue. The folklore society of Tangail city can orchestrate a wide range of public programs here with no political permission.

Old foujdari court building is being used as the office of settlement officer. But for being a government office there is no good maintenance it needs. But as a library, it can be better maintained because of the functional style of a library.

Treasury building should be treated as a museum, it's a requirement of the folk society of Tangail.

5. CONCLUSION

Revived memory blending with the existing and make a symbiosis with time. Thus, historic cities should hold their memories (Architecture, Landscape, Activity, and identity). Because memories are indicative of our test, activity, and culture. So conserve the history, build the future.

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