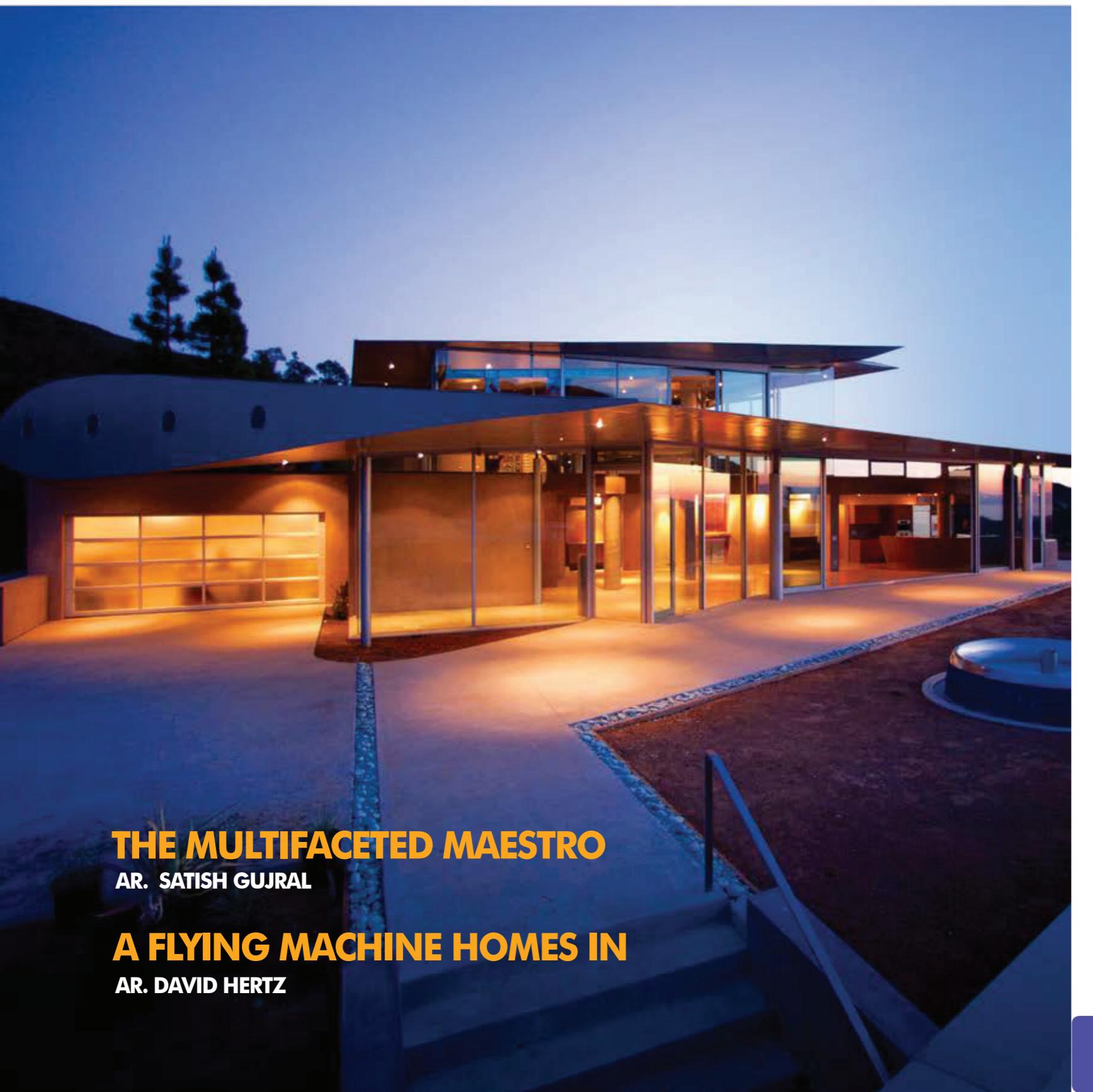


DESIGN detail

the architecture magazine



THE MULTIFACETED MAESTRO

AR. SATISH GUJRAL

A FLYING MACHINE HOMES IN

AR. DAVID HERTZ

Editorial

Christopher Benninger's book titled "Architecture for modern India" is an absolute must read for every architect. We have spent countless hours together and I have always come away inspired – having learnt something new. In his heart, he carries a fond desire for human development, as has been highlighted by the reviewer Dr.Binumol Tom.

Bijoy Ramachandran for whom I have a lot of admiration has designed a studio for a Bangalore based rock band which is very revealing – simple space transformed by irregular brick structures with no parallel surfaces creates a new dynamic, which one can only experience to marvel in its innate magic.

We cover four houses, and the most challenging was the one made from the wings of the gigantic airplane – A 747-in California. Architect David Hertz has done the impossible – taken out two wings of an actual 747 which now form the roof of the house which appears it will take off any moment. The house emanates the "essence of flight" even while creating comfortable living spaces.



The second is the extensive and elaborate farm house by Design Studio Etendre in Hosur. This two storey structure partially hidden by the contours of the land harbors the idea of a "nest" - creating a sense of intimacy within the large landscape.

I love the starkness of the K Valley Home in New Zealand where this singular geometric form sits in a 20 hectare farmland without disturbing the calm and soothing atmosphere of the valley. Drawing from the vernacular of the rusty corrugated iron sheds that are prevalent in the district, the award winning architect couple Lance and Nicola Herbst, have clad the building in similar looking iron sheets. The simple two storied building is uncluttered within and contains large rectangular spaces which look onto the rural landscape.

Amidst the stark simplicity of Kiron Cheerla Architecture, double and triple height sky lit volumes provide an expensive feel to the contained interior of this fourth home. Every opening, window and terrace is strategically placed to capture the essence of its surroundings and to bring the inhabitants closer to the natural environment.

The contributions of the Chola Empire play a very important role in the history of the Indian subcontinent and their largest temple Brihadeeswara in Tanjavur is covered in great detail in this issue. Its architectural detailing, a revelation of this otherwise extremely important but relatively not covered architectural complex, is breath taking.

Cengres Tiles has been actively sponsoring talks and dialogues in Surat and Nagpur which have been featured in the magazine. Design Detail acknowledges such sponsorship without which interaction in various cities between architects would be not possible.

Two contrasting public eating and meeting places – the Backyard by Amit Aurora – which creates an oasis in a chaotic street brimming with traffic in Green Park, New Delhi and the sunk, hidden BO18 in Beirut by Bernard Khoury that opens up its sky lights at night to reveal chaotic groups of revelers within, say a lot about the way we wish to spend our free time.

Which brings me to Satish Gujral about whom it is difficult to add anything new as everything has been articulated about this Renaissance Man. Artist, Painter, Sculptor and now Architect Satishji has won so many awards that it would be difficult to recollect and remember.

His Belgium Embassy in Delhi captivated the architectural world and is poetry in brick!

In his own words "At the end of the day it is your expression accentuated by your creativity you have been bestowed with, that you present, and you may choose to do so in the form of a building, a line of poetry or a painting!"

A provocative issue which explores so many different facets of design will certainly push your imagination to greater creativity.

Architect KARAN GROVER
Chief Editor

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THE MULTIFACETED MAESTRO

Satish Gujral, the maestro globally acclaimed for his unmatched talents and creativity that cover a wide realm of art forms including painting, graphics, mural, sculpture, writing, architecture and interior designing.

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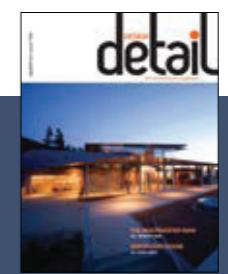
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Cover Photo:
747 Wing House
Courtesy:
Studio of Environmental Architecture

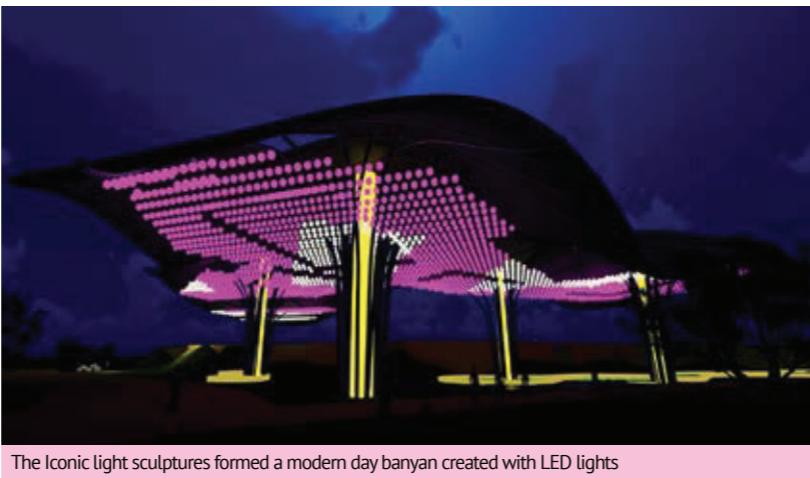
"DESIGN DETAIL IS A COMMITTED FORUM THAT INSPIRES DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS TO NURTURE OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE INDIA"

Urban Design Hackathon

Text : Team Design Detail

The Urban Design Hackathon was organized in Kolkata on 29th, 30th and 31st March 2016 in collaboration with The West Bengal Chapter of Indian Institute of Architects (the IIA WB chapter), Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO), West

Bengal and Newtown Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA), West Bengal. It was undertaken with the objective of arriving at design solutions for six locations in the Kolkata New Town area. It aimed at the creation of innovative and unique solutions for the design of urban spaces which would offer pragmatic buildable possibilities.



The Iconic light sculptures formed a modern day banyan created with LED lights



Art forms & planned landscape to make this area attractive

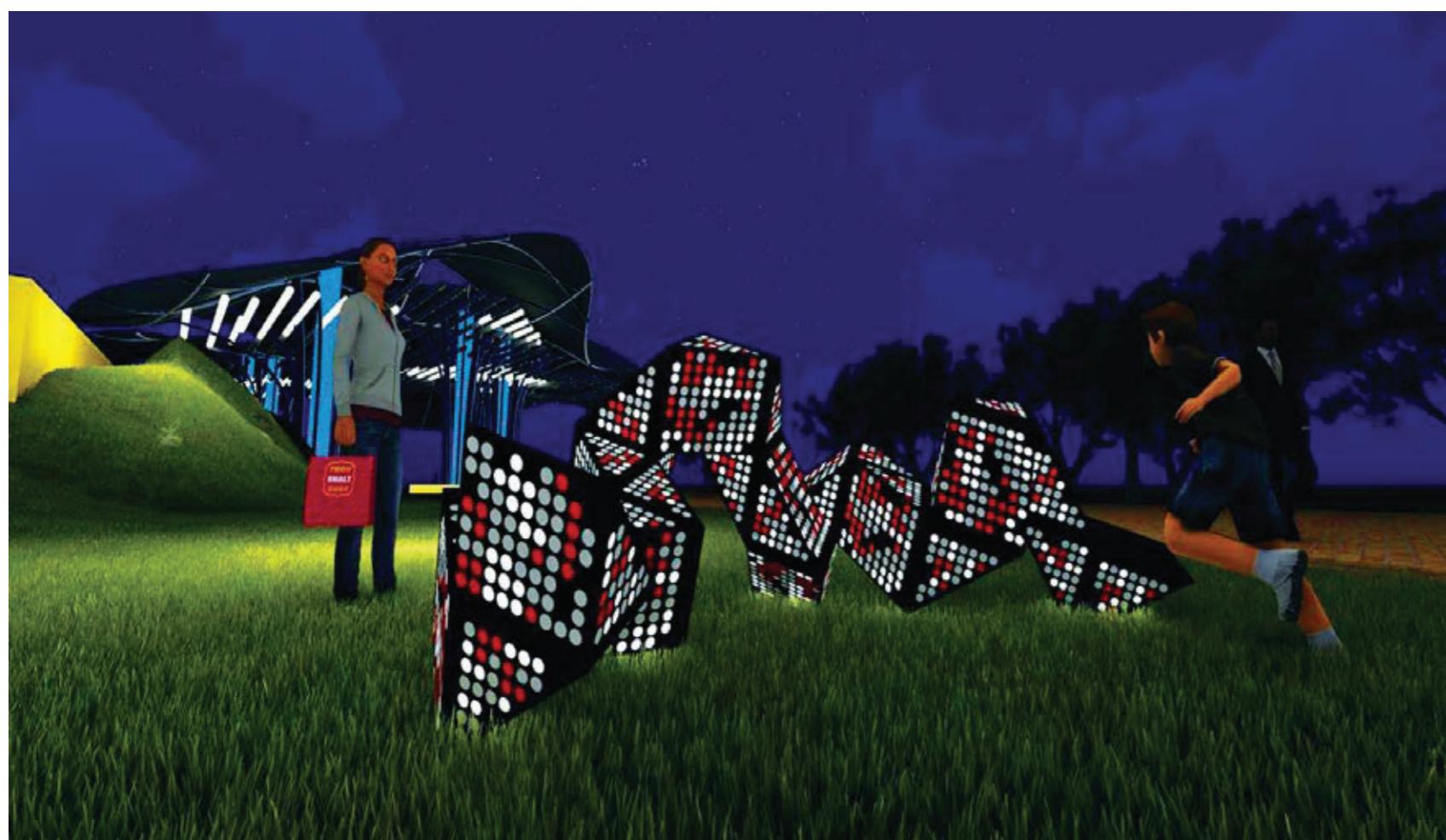


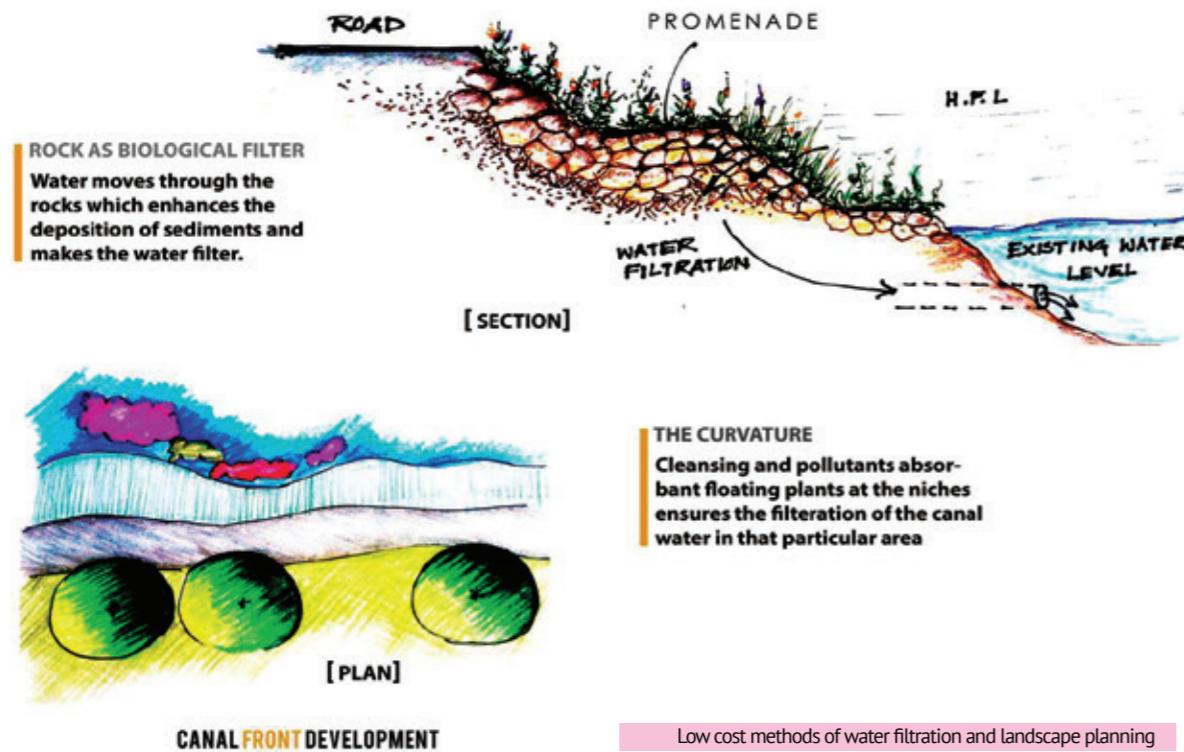
The participants of this process involved the local development authority of New Town, Kolkata; professional architects as mentors from IIA, West Bengal; and students from the schools of architecture in West Bengal. Students of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Jadavpur University, Om Dayal College of architecture and Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur (IIEST) along with art students of National Institute of Fashion

Technology, Kolkata (NIFT) and Shilpa Sadan, Shantiniketan participated in the 48 hour event held in Kolkata. The 60 student participants and young architects were divided into eight groups involving six areas of interest. They were mentored by various architects and planners and other domain specialists such as sculptors, technologists, engineers and lighting specialists.

The 48 hour long design charette involved an intense phase of site visits, conceptual brainstorming and ideating. It culminated with the creation of sketches and drawings with visual presentation. The topics involved a canal front revitalisation, a streetscape planning, designing the area below the metro pillars, designing a sensory park, designing street vendor kiosks, and making of a light sculpture as an iconic feature of urban space. These selected areas identified by the government officials of HIDCO were a part of the New Town, an area in Kolkata quite close to the airport where HIDCO has planned a township, and is today an area where a lot of buildings are being planned and built. Hence the urban intervention in terms of design ideas with an emphasis on using technology was considered appropriate.

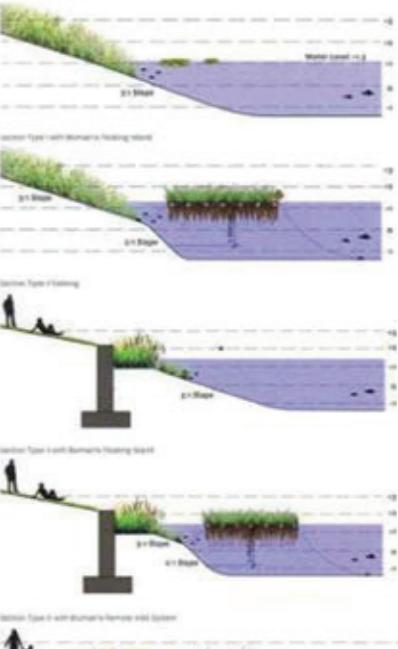
The Canal front team explored ideas to make and use specific waterfront to make a positive recreational space. The regional character of the drainage canal was explored along with landscape architects. Low cost methods of water filtration and landscape



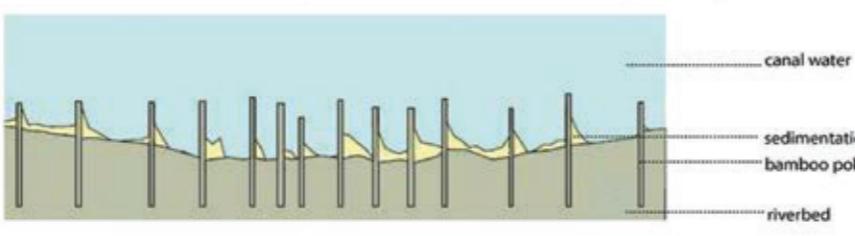


Concept

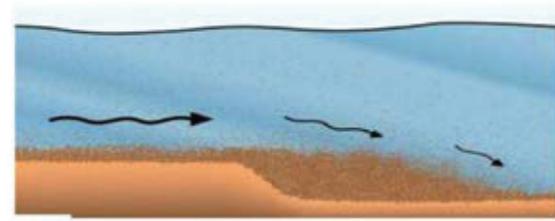
bank protection



methods of purifying water



such sediment accretion can be removed periodically from time to time.



such traps can be used in the canal stretch

Ideas to make and use specific waterfront and make a positive recreational space

STREETSCAPES: NEW URBAN SPACES FOR NEW TOWN

LOCATION:



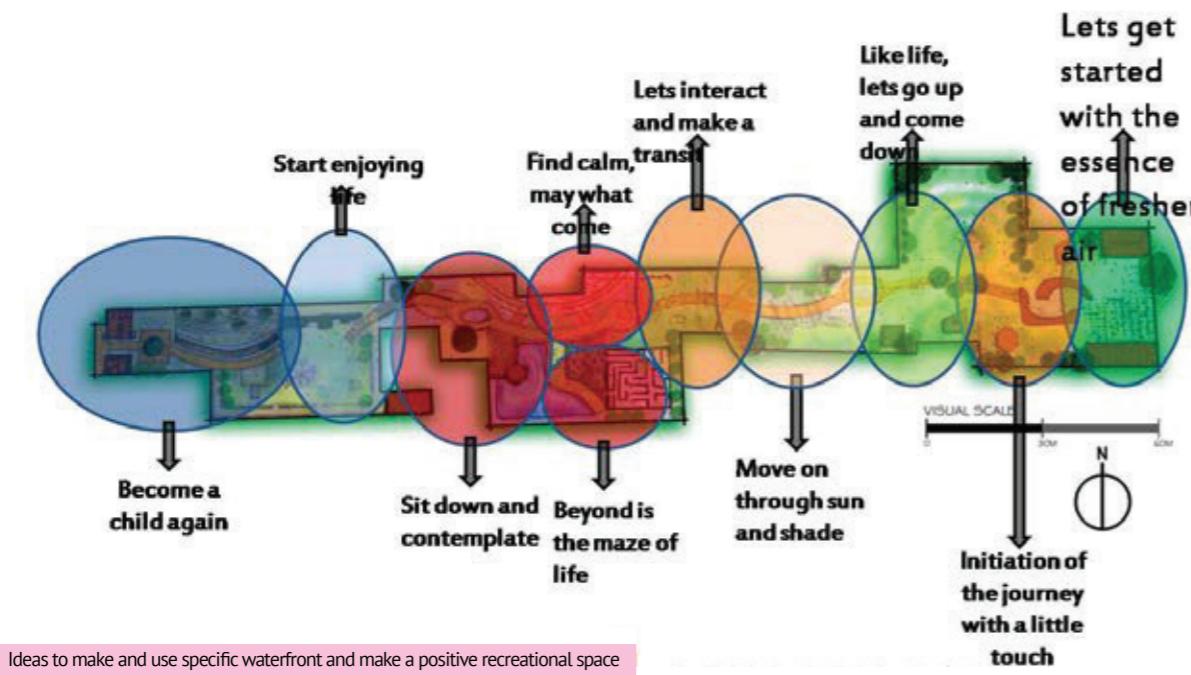
planning were explored that would create walkways and pause points which would reflect the character of the adjoining land uses. A large water wheel was planned as an activity element to transform the defunct water edge into a vibrant public space. Flora and fauna planning and water movement with tidal levels were explored to make an intervention that would serve as a model water edge for numerous canal fronts that criss-cross the New Town Landscape. The idea is to transform the canal edges and donate an extra percentage of public realms



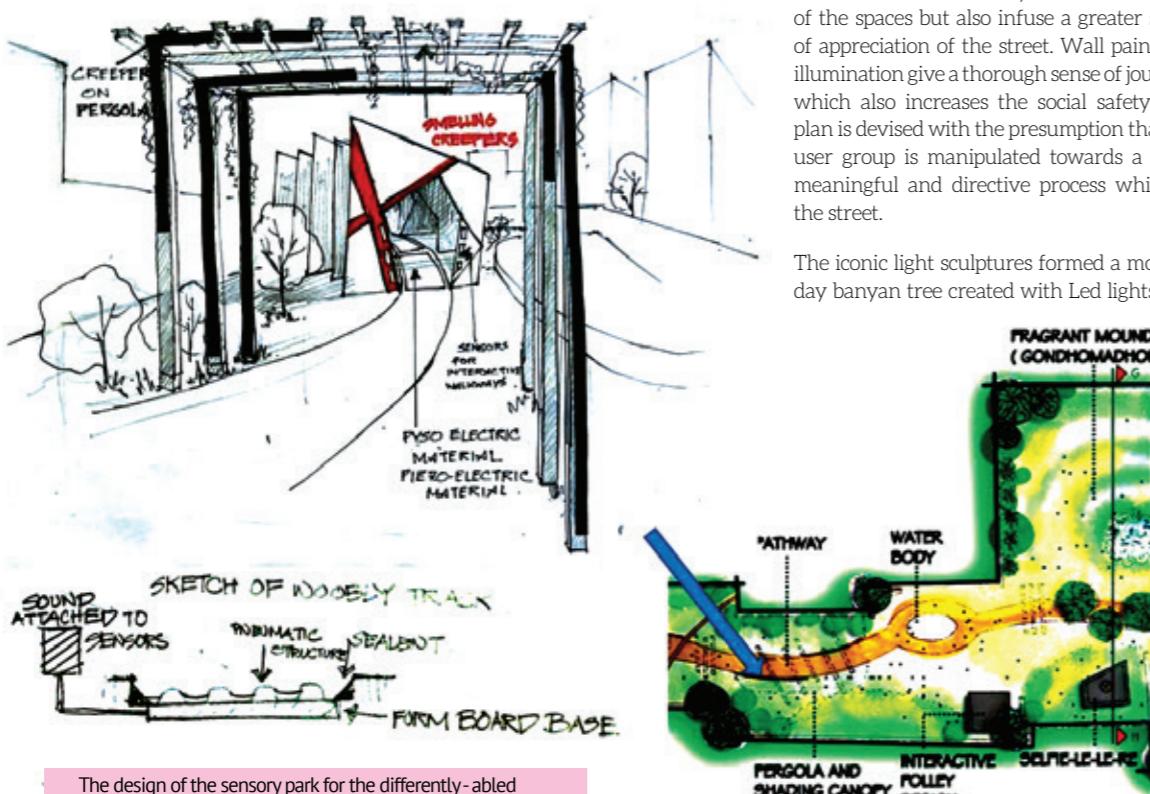
to the city by reclaiming the canal front and visually making it more thriving and vibrant. Recreational spaces have been infused in the programme to make it more public and user oriented taking care to combat the water pollution issues.

The two teams planning the streetscape created character icons of Bengal to plan the street furniture and pavement character, making way for bicycle and pedestrian movement, an important priority with smart bus stops and solar powered street lights. Green covered parking areas, bicycle parking zones and urban accessory on sideways incorporated with proper illumination convert the street into a vibrant, lively journey that infuses a sense of variety and excitement by wise choice of elements and colours. The constant play of bodies arising, growing and finally disintegrating is a continuous dynamic exploration of harmony.

On sidewalks inhibited by street vendors, the design intent was to create zones integrated as a facility provider and would be planned with possible modular systems using attractive recycle material. The clusters were planned keeping the types of vendor kiosks in mind. The space planning at a unit level as well as a cluster was explored. Smart kiosk would take care of the environment and the garbage it produces as a transformation of the informal typology that occupies large parts of side walk spaces. Services planned are expected to make these vendors operate in systematic hygienic



conditions. Vending agglomerations could bring with it concerns of crowd accumulation which calls for effective dispersal method. This issue is addressed through the approach in design. The concept of intelligent urbanism has been incorporated while combatting the issues. Folding mechanisms and judicious spatial use make it a new age vending pleasure.

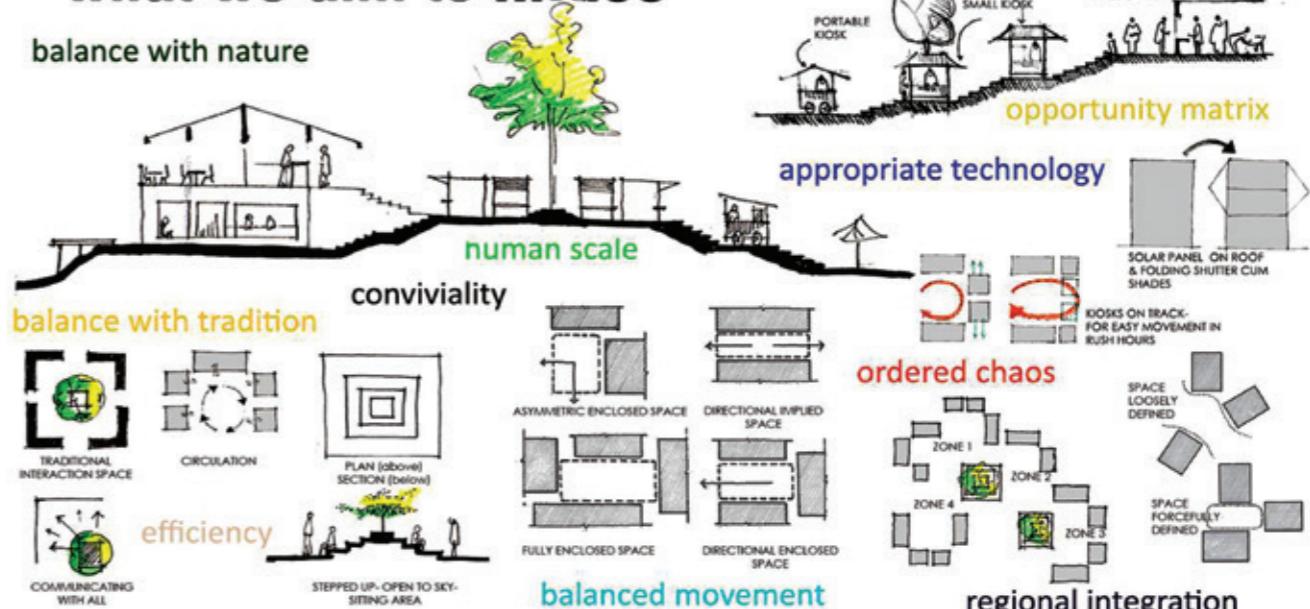


The spaces under metro pillars were planned such that these spaces could be transformed into activity spaces and contribute to the positive urban space. Installation of art forms and sculptures were planned to make this area attractive to the public and also to create usable areas for a new set of street level activities such as exhibition spaces and 'adda' zones. The continuous stretch of such intervention will not only increase the value of the spaces but also infuse a greater sense of appreciation of the street. Wall paintings, illumination give a thorough sense of journey, which also increases the social safety. The plan is devised with the presumption that the user group is manipulated towards a more meaningful and directive process while on the street.

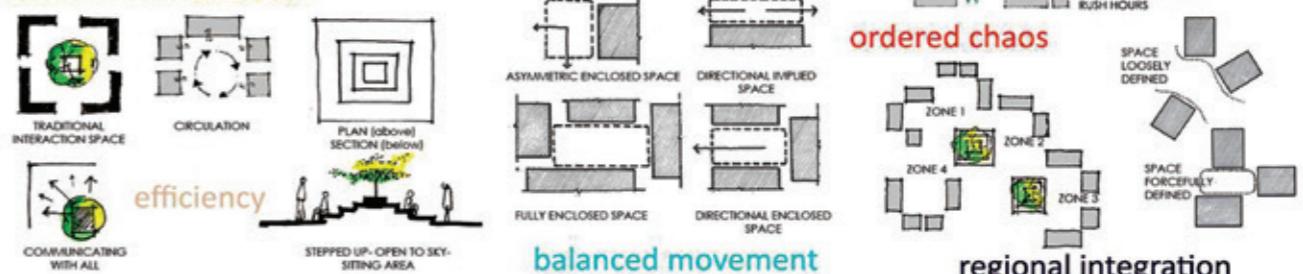
The iconic light sculptures formed a modern day banyan tree created with Led lights that

what we aim to infuse

balance with nature



balance with tradition



would have a dynamic surface. The posts resembled the tree of knowledge that could be a significant iconic feature of this area and possibly the city. The tactile form of an interactive caterpillar created with modules would form a low cost sculpture as an urban artefact. Such an arrangement is completely flexible which the user group is free to mould the shape in their desired choice. It is iconic and will be one of its own kind in the city level. It does not just increase the aesthetical appeal of the space but also takes care of the social safety issues. It is expected to let the people get connected with public spaces and make them feel free to ponder upon and

explore the available resources. The flexibility would allow it to be explored by all age groups and can trigger off a new definition of exploration. The zone where this would be placed is expected to become a place of visual delight for the public at large and make for an inviting and interactive urban space.

The design of the sensory park for the differently abled used sensorial aspects in the design of the various zones and elements. Using flowers of a specific smell, seamless walkways, brail coded mazes with landscaped walls, ankle deep water features and shaded trees made a specific design experience of sensorial understanding spaces experienced along the movement across the length of the park. The differently abled are primarily the user group though it can be equally accessed and explored by other user groups too. It aims to transform the parks and let them connect with the user group creating a sense and value of space.

The excerpts from the various presentations highlighted the involvement of various issues in urban design where a variety of issues were dealt with involving a group that worked intensely, taking inputs from mentors and experts, creating ideas, and presenting it to government officials and the architect community of Kolkata, making this quite a landmark event for the city.

