

Unique ID CRPRE024 | Site A

Enlightenment and excellence of taste in fine arts, humanities and knowledge -- Bengali culture blends tradition with modernity. Chittaranjan Park, named after an Indian activist Chittaranjan Das, represents a mini-Bengal in Delhi.

Taking into consideration the ethnic identity and cultural diversity of the setting, we are proposing a concept that ensures socio-cultural interactions, inclusion, and a barrier-free space . Our proposal brings the all sides of the market together intimately by reflecting the region's literary heritage, music, fine arts, drama and cinema directly on the surfaces and space of structures.

The Setting and entrance

Market No. 1 has an entrance from Bipin Chandra Marg, which directs people to the Fish Market and Temple. The parking area, surrounded by bollards and planters, has been divided in two, so people get access to the market from two points, which ensures less crowds during festive time. The negative space covered by planters, ensures organized parking.

The introduction of a ramp (with railing) besides the staircase, will help disabled people enter the market comfortably and with ease. The one-fourth width of the walkway has been provided with seating (across the whole length) which can be used by people while listening to temple bhajans. Elderly people could sit outside when the fish market is crowded. The fast-food eaters would sit and relax and gossip instead of standing in the walkway, blocking the way for other people. The main entrance, widely used by people, has been given a space for parking, with trees near it, so the vehicles have a source of shade. There is a rickshaw stand right in front of the parking area, on CR PARK 1 Block road. The current space for parking is quite large and is used for unorganized parking.

People have three points to enter through the East main entrance. All of the points have clear, smooth walkways so that disabled people and kids do not find it difficult to enter. The third point of entrance, which is to the left, is for people who want to enjoy fast food. For groups, couples or singletons, the seating helps everyone get comfortable while eating. The wooden boxes are movable, so they can sit wherever they like.

The walkway, that guides people to enter the market through the third point, has been provided with seating, along its whole length (divided by planters) to

make the space livelier. The staircase is to be built on the inner side of the boundary, so people could use it to sit.

Vintage elements

Architecture in Bengal often has green windows. Taking that as an inspiration, the shops on the first floor have green windows. A yellow Ambassador car, as a show-piece, has been kept on roof to improve facade and relatability to 1960s Kolkata.

Shopping and activities

Half of the parking space has been reserved for vendors, with support of a canopy, so they are well protected during sun and rain. There are no blockages in this space to promote inclusivity and free movement of people. Having all vendors in the same space saves time, and also helps vendors get a larger number of customers. The fast food vendors have been given seating which would help people to sit, relax and have their food. The space, during festive season, could also be converted into pandals or gathering programs, by moving the canopies.

At the end of the walkway, the space for the carrom playing area is to be expanded so that more games like chess, ludo and other board games can be played and more number of people could have access to them. Games like hopscotch are to be introduced on the walkway so kids could also have options of choosing their games. This area could then be called as an activity area, rather than carrom playing area. The unused space, right next to the activity area, which has a toilet block and a substation, is to be converted to a green area by planting trees, so when the trees are fully grown, they would provide shade to the activity area.

Courtyard

The problem in the courtyard was the balance of space and the dumping of waste. Space is needed for people to rest while their companions are shopping. The huge tree, which created imbalance in the aesthetic appraisal of the courtyard, is counteracted with a seating space introduced exactly opposite to it. The seating comprises movable wooden boxes, so people can carry them and sit wherever they are at the shortest distance to their companion (busy-buying). Also, to introduce a source of shade in the space, a rectangular pattern of umbrellas, is installed (excluding the tree area). Again, the umbrella is reminiscent of 1960s Satyajit Ray

films. The space has very little greenery, compared to the other parts of the market, so planters are to be installed at the corners of shops.

Place-making principles have been implemented in the market area, which will celebrate the Bengali socio-cultural ethos of discourse, deliberation and festivity. Our goal is to create a place and not a design. To make an under-performing space into a vital "place," physical elements are introduced that would make people welcome and comfortable, such as seating and new landscaping. This will also be accomplished through "management" changes in the pedestrian circulation pattern and by developing more effective relationships between the surrounding retail and the activities going on in the market spaces.

Conclusion

The objective is to create a place that has both a strong sense of community and comfort. The setting, its activities and uses should collectively add up to something more than the sum of the often-simple parts along with affordable changes that can be multi-purpose. The budget of overall intervention can be 5,30,000/- INR which can come down to 70% of the total amount if done properly with community engagement and participation while implementing the design.