

## **SITE A : SANJOG STHAL**

Market 1 is not just a shopping place but holds great tangible and intangible values for the residents of C.R. Park. This is a place where people belonging to different generations come together and relish their cultural values. While various eateries including *puchkas*, *biryani*, sweets and fish shops bring a distinct sweetish aroma to the place, different cultural and religious activities around the temple create a sublime Bengali sense at this place.

The project aims to strengthen “Sense of place” through focusing on four “E” s as tools; to expediate immediate needs of the precinct, to enable access for everyone making it more porous in nature from all sides to spread out activities to the streets, to enhance memories linked to the spaces, while encouraging participation from different communities and people. The proposal will encourage people to spend more time in the streets, which, as a result, will change its character and make C.R. Park more vibrant.

The design proposes better pedestrian movement and experience around the market by adopting ‘Tactical Urbanism’ approaches like street and plaza painting, community farming, do-it-yourself (DIY) shades and furniture etc. The artistic additions in and around the market will not only help define its character but also will become a canvas for the communities to express themselves. The pilot projects and interim designs will be articulated and time lined such that the stakeholders themselves can become part of the design process.

The plazas are designed as a transition space between the market and street. Responding to the physical characteristics of the market and existing activities; surface treatments, street furniture and landscape elements are proposed. During daytime, the upper plaza can be used by the regular vendors while in the evening, it can be utilised as a food street. On weekends, traffic can be diverted and B.C Pal road can be used as ‘Happy Street’ activities. The east side plaza is open for *Addas* with movable DIY furniture that allows people to utilize space more efficiently. The inner courtyard will be paved and painted, making the place more welcoming and thus, will act as a perfect setting for an open public library. The north plaza will have small DIY pavilions, which will be flexible in nature and will act as a perfect setting for fun activities such as carrom/chess playing, eating, relaxing, and chatting.

The Bus Stop adjacent to J Block park and opposite to Market No. 1 is a strategic location for meeting people, discuss news and pick up daily necessities from the vendors along the pavement. The boundary of verdant park will have movable seats, which can be adjusted according to needs, functions and size of gathering.

**The key features of the proposal are:**

**1. Patterns are central to wayfinding:**

The flooring is made such that the footpath, street and cycle tracks are all at one level. Attractive patterns and use of vibrant colours in graffiti and street will help in wayfinding especially at night.

What catches the eye are the pavement pattern for *children* to play, *Grandpas* to walk their pets, and *Dads* to carry their baby in pram-strollers. Dedicated cycle tracks guarded by handmade waste-wood planter boxes protect and respect cyclists from all social strata. The visually and auditory-impaired people can take a bus without fear. Adequate street lighting provides a 'sense of security' for the vulnerable.

**2. Vibrant social gathering spaces as *Adda* zones:**

Market No 1 is the hotspot for the intellectuals, the community groups and for the regular chit-chatters. The front plaza gathers the NGOs and NPOs for spreading awareness, campaigning or fighting for a common cause. Not only for regular *adda* mates, this market can become a place for artists of all kinds. Regular footfalls make this place ideal for exhibits for Self- help groups, local artisans and promoting Indian handicrafts through *Hast – Shilpa* Mela.

**3. Climate friendly shaded outdoors:**

Outdoor seating is never so rich in quality with temporary structures. *Shamianas* over trellis act as shop extensions. Do -it-yourself furniture and handmade decorations create a sense of ownership of the place. These are the meeting points for friends, office mates and neighbours. The *Jhaal Muri* Stalls, egg-rolls and *Phuchkas* attract large no. of foodies who end up spending time longer than usual in these cosy sit-outs. Pause points create strategic spaces for laughter and memories.

**4. Community Farming:**

Weekend programmes for urban farming can involve neighbourhood level enthusiasts and create a sense of belonging amongst the neighbours. As nature is often forgotten, gardening promotes mental and physical fitness.

**5. Fish Market Woes:**

The fish shop owners have been provided with a modular layout for shops which has ample storage for thermocol boxes, baskets and buckets along with dirty clothes hanging area. They no longer have to worry about hygiene. Each one has centralised water tap connection and covered drainage for waste water. A special ice-crushing platform and freezer in the south wall makes the service efficient for customers. The fresh supplies are unloaded from the slope on the *Mandir* side entrance in the front plaza, carried through trolleys and kept in the freezer or distributed for sale. The waste segregation and collection will be accessed from the north side.

**6. Public Toilets**

Entrance to toilets is no longer hidden from view, the entrance opens up from the north Plaza and can be accessed by all. Loud 'floor-to-wall' graffiti helps people track toilet location. Toilets are a symbol of cleanliness with universal accessibility.

## **7. Paid Parking:**

It is time for people to do away with private vehicles and rely on public transport. Countries across the globe have realised that parking is a bane to society. Four-wheeler paid parking is kept minimal on the eastern plaza.