

MANOEUVRING THE ADDA

In and Around Market No. II CR PARK

CR Park showcases the legacy of its close knit community. The neighbourhood is a melting pot for dialogues, art, culture, oral history and inspiring stories of residents, that define the pulse of the place. It is through the daily dialogues amongst the residents that CR Park has maintained its rich socio-cultural background. It is through discussions and negotiations that CR Park not only preserved its heritage but also worked tirelessly to improve the precinct. Therefore, it is apt to use their ingrained tradition of 'adda' and extend it to the overlay of space and interaction that defines the daily occurrences in public space.

The integrated vision is a synergic street that allows tactical movement with active pause points that trigger 'addas' in public space. The key principles followed to define the concept are:

- To foster interactive public space engagement
- To provide safe and continuous NMT mobility
- To create a lively daily shopping experience

This is established by enhancing the street for a people-centred adda experience. Pedestrian movement is encouraged by providing unhindered walkways that are comfortable for the elderly and the disabled. A pleasant shopping experience is achieved by creating a market plaza and street with temporal activities. And students/children are to be engaged beyond the classroom to be interactive with the public space.

The main strategies for the area include:

- Identifying and reviving potential underutilized spaces through multipurpose placemaking for daily communal interactions.
- Rearranging pedestrian and cyclist movement, vending and other activities along the market to initiate a wholesome shopping and leisure experience.
- Defining walking pathways and crossings that are comfortable, safe and inviting for all age groups.
- Designating spaces for e-rickshaws and service vehicle movement and reorganising parking efficiently along the street.
- Creating an interactive wall along the school edge that engages children beyond the classroom.

The proposal is developed for Site B and strategically intervenes in Market No. II and the Netaji Subhash Park (site 4) with the adjoining junctions 1 & 2 (site 5) along B C Pal street, the MCD public toilet (site 3) and the boundary wall face of Raisina School (site1). The interventions are outlined below:

1. Market No. II has 4 components

- i. Market No. II Shopping Plaza _ Permanent intervention with space for temporal activities
A multipurpose plaza with a clear 8m space for weekly/monthly farmers markets, pop-up museums, exhibitions, mohola meetings, etc that can be organised by both the resident and vendor organisations. There is also a space allocated for a miniature pandal showcase which is present year-round and can have seating for the elderly visiting the market. There is built-in seating in the plaza and movable seats can also be placed. The cyclist movement, parking, loading/unloading and garbage pick up parking is defined to not hinder pedestrian movement and activities happening within the plaza.
- ii. Market No. II Shopping Street _ Permanent intervention with space for temporal activities
The back wall of the market is proposed to be demolished and the currently unutilised street between Market No. II & H-block to be turned into a shopping street. To protect the privacy of the residents a 1.5m dense landscape strip is proposed towards the H-block. The vendors currently squashed in the back of the market are reorganised with adequate space for pedestrian movement while maintaining social distance. This street will only have pedestrian and cyclist movement. The H-block MCD park will have a connecting link to the market street for ease of access for the residents and continue down to the Netaji Subhash Park.
- iii. Fish & Meat Market Complex _ Permanent intervention
A complete redesign of the layout of the fish and meat market is proposed with better efficiency and ease of maintenance for the comfort of both the vendors and customers. The fundamental concept is to segregate the movement of vendors & theirs goods and the movement of customers.
- iv. Netaji Subhash Park Edge _ Permanent intervention with blank walls for temporary art works
The park edge will be treated to allow visual transparency without physical porosity. The existing wall on 3 sides towards BC Pal street, Market No. II building and Market No. II shopping plaza will be partially demolished to provide seaters, planters and art walls to activate the edges and facilitate addas. The art walls can be assigned to the different organisations and committees of CR Park as a symbol of the community bond. The park edge will have an entry/exit to directly connect to the Market No. II street for a rounded strolling experience.

2. Junction 1 _ Temporary intervention

This junction will involve a community-led participatory exercise for the street art on the 3 sides of the footpath surface and the zebra crossing to determine and execute the art that best represents the community's aspirations and define the junction as a crucial entry point to Market No. II and to the mela ground.

3. MCD Public Toilet Block _ Permanent intervention

The corner linking the mela ground and junction 1 is a crucial pause point along the street and is proposed to be repaved and have seating around the public toilet block and the public convenience building. The currently unoccupied public convenience building can be repurposed to accommodate food stalls on the ground floor thus allowing easy circulation for pedestrians.

4. Raisina Bengali School Edge _ Temporary intervention

The footpath surface along the school edge will have street art painted that will extend into interactive elements on the boundary wall that is engaging the senses of sight, sound and touch for children. This would be a participatory exercise involving children and will also be a platform for them to represent their reflection and focus on issues they want to bring awareness to.

Through the above strategies and spatial development proposals, we reimagine CR Park's public spaces to create livable, personal, and forward-looking areas. Flexible, contextualized and DIY nature of interventions will engage all generations to build a resilient community. Refreshing the public spaces will encourage the youth to be in the foreground of maintaining and cultivating the essence of CR Park for times to come. In the times of increasing disconnect between people, CR Park is preparing to create meaningful bonds through Maneuvering addas and reimagining its Public Spaces.