Preservation and Conservation of Historical Site of Chittagong

Kutub Uddin Chisty

Undergraduate Student (L-4, T-I) of Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Chittagong-4349

Introduction

Preservation is an attempt to seek the preserve, protect buildings, objects, landscaping artifacts of historical significance site as well as conserve. Where conservation is a process which historical heritage are prolonged through careful planned interventions. Heritage is a part and parcel of every city's history all over the world. Chittagong has a long and varied cultural past. Due to being a major maritime port, the heritage of Chittagong is enriched by contribution from diverse races and cultures (Anshary, 2012). Heritage structures and sites have remained unrecognized and unrecorded. They have been neglected, disfigured, altered, encroached upon or demolished in the name of development (Anshary, 2012). To highlight the new generation to hold the historical tradition, preservation or conservation is essential. This paper describes the historical Site of Chittagong in respect of planning tools- "Preservation and Conservation". Methodology is build up in respect of identification of Heritage Sites in Detailed Area Plan description and review primary and secondary documents.

Historical Site of Chittagong

Chittagong is an ancient and historic gateway of Bengal. It is situated within 22°-14′ and 22°-24′-30′′ N Latitude and between 91°-46′ and 91°-53′ E Longitude and on the right bank of the river Karnafuli. Chatgaon and Chattagram are the Bengali names of the city. According to Chapter five of Details Area Plan (DAP) described the Culture and Heritage site of Chittagong as "Statutory provision of conserving and preserving cultural and heritage building and sites have to be made and rules have to be formulated for cultural and heritage conservation. In the interim period a heritage committee may be formed consisting distinguished personalities from society with interest in arts, crafts and culture, imminent historians, urban planners and designers and architects, academicians with interest in city development along with elected representatives and the government". Here some flowing 52 historical

sites have been marked in Details Area Plan, 2005 for CMMP that should be conserved or preserved (table 01).

Table 01: List of Historical Site of Chittagong

Period	Name	Location
Sultani : Monuments	Badr Auliya Tomb: Known As Bara Auliyar Desh	Boxirhat
	Shah Qatal Tomb: A Square Tomb	Katalganj, Sulokbahar
	Anderkilla Shahi Jame Mosque	Anderkilla
	Hamza Khan Mosque And Tomb	Panchlaish
	Hazi Mosque Now In Ruins	Pahartali Mauza (Beside The Railway Track West Of Dewanhat Over Bridge)
Mughal: Monuments	Mullah Miskin Mosque And Tomb	Ward-2, On The Eastern Slope Of A Hill Known As Madrasa Pahar Chandanpura Mahallah
	Wali Khan's Mosque: Built By Mughal Fauzdar Wali Beg Khan	Chawkbazaar
	Kadam Mubarak Mosque	Jamal Khan Ward
	Darul Adalat: Now In Ruins	Madrasa Pahar (Mohsin College Campus)
	Court Building (1892-3) And Site	Court Hill Anderkilla
	General Hospital: (1840) Including The Hill Site	Anderkilla
Colonial Times: Institutional/Go vernment Use	Nachghar 2 Storied Red Building (Fire Brigade Station Chandanpura)	Enayet bazaar Opp. Chandanpura Mosque
	Central Railway Building: (1872)	Enaye tbazaar
	Wooden Bungalow No L/1: (1887)	SegunBagan, Pahartali Enayet bazaar
	Dc's Bungalow Dc Hill	Buddhist Temple Road
	Mirzar Pool: Bridge On The Hathazari Road	Muradpur, Sulokbahar

	Battali Railway Station: (1896)	Battali near new market
	Karnaphuli Railway Bridge (Known As Kalurghat Bridge) (1931)	Kalurghat
	Old Circuit House (Zia Sriti Jadughar): 1913	Bag monirum
	Pahartali Railway Workshop	Pahartali
	Chittagong Police Hospital	Lalkhan Bazaar
	Police Armory	Bag monirum
	The European Club	Pahartali
	J.M. Sen Hall (Town Hall)	Dewan Bazaar
	Water Works	Bag monirum
	Malum Bari Wooden Bungalow	Maddahya Halishahar,Ward-38
	K. Sen's House Seven Storied Masonry Structure	Sadarghat Ward
Residential Houses (Private)	J.M. Sen's House	Rahmatganj
	N.N. Paul Building With Banyan Tree (Opposite Dc Hill)	Dc Hill
	Ispahani Manzil	Sarson Road
Religious Buildings	Chandanpura Mosque	Chandanpura, Anderkilla
	K.S. Abdul Hakim Mosque	Mansurabad
	St. Mary's Church	Jamal Khan Ward-21
	Patharghata Church	Patharghata Ward
	Love Lane Church	Jamal Khan Ward-21
	Second World War Graveyard	
	Shadur Pahar	North Of Ctg., Cantonment Ward-01
Pakistan Period	Jamuna Bhaban	Sk. Mujib Road, Agrabad

Preservation of Historical Sites of Chittagong

Some important Historical site which should be preserved such as

Battali Railway Station

It is colonial style building which establish in 1896 by British Government. 1st floor was extended in 1950 and reconstruction at 9th January, 2003. It is a British colonial architecture with artistic view of corridors, doors, windows and domes (figure 01).



Figure 01: The Battali Railway Building - A Panoramic View

Chandanpura Masjid

The Chandanpura Masjid is a mosque situated in the old part (north) of Chittagong on the Anderkilla. It is famous landmark in Chittagong and a popular tourist attraction for its impressive architecture consisting of multiple domes and minarets painted in bright colors (figure 02). Although it was renovated in 1952, the mosque has deteriorated over the years due to environmental factors, such as air pollution.







Figure 02: Architectural view of Chandanpura Masjid

It has modern architectural designs at the north entry points & green patches would be developed surrounding the mosque complex. This is also a place of Allah & it has also religious values so it should be preserved.

Conservation of Historical Sites of Chittagong

Some important Historical site which should be conserved such as

Chittagong Court Building Complex

Situated on the Fairy Hill, this building commands a magnificent bird's eye view of Chittagong city, particularly at night. This gigantic Judge Court building was built immediately after the East India Company conquered and declared Chittagong as a separate administrative area in 1773. The building is huge, over 250 thousand square feet and has hundreds of rooms (Anshary, 2012).



Figure 03: The Chittagong Court Building - A Panoramic View

Professor Faruque A. U. Khan, Professor QaziAzizulMowla, Assistant Professor NasreenHossain, Lecturer Sultana EmranaSikder, Department of Architecture, BUET described on **Protibesh** entitled as 'Chittagong Court Building Complex: A Case for Conservation'- "The new architectural elements introduced, during the 19th Century, were the semi-circular arch, the triangular pediment carried over semi-Corinthian, Doric or Ionic columns and other foliated motifs. In the late 19th- and early 20th- centuries, a new hybrid Mughal and European style emerged in the wake of first partition of Bengal, largely under the influence of Lord Curzon. Local elements such as hanging eaves, brackets, loggias, verandahs, lattices, kiosks or

cupolas began to appear on the buildings modelled after basic European forms. Besides the colonial British, the local elite in order to imitate the ruling class, tried to follow European models adapted to suit their taste, thus producing a hybrid anglo-Indian or transformed traditional hanging eaves, brackets, loggias, verandahs, lattices, kiosks or cupolas began to appear on the buildings modelled after basic European forms. Besides the colonial British, the local elite in order to imitate the ruling class, tried to follow European models adapted to suit their taste, thus producing a hybrid anglo-Indian or transformed traditional typology".



Figure 4: Various development phases (1 to 9) of Chittagong Court Building Complex. Development of up to phase 06 took place in quick succession and subsequent expansion was necessitated after 50s.

The features noted in the CCBC puts it in the relevant context (Figure 4). Examples of this new trend may also be noticed in the North-Brook Hall, Curzon Hall, Dhaka Medical College and Chittagong Railway station buildings.

Zia Museum (formerly Circuit House)

On the 30th may, 1981 the president of Bangladesh General Ziaur Rahman was killedin the room on 4 of Chittagong Circuit House was built by the British ruler in

India in residential building of Govt. high officials (Anshary, 2012). The building that now houses the Zia Memorial Museum was previously known as the Old Circuit House. It was constructed on a hill in the city of Chittagong in the year 1913. Is a wonderful building that boasts unique South East Asian features? Used as a palatial structure as living quarters for government officials. The building was later renovated into a museum, opening in 1993.





Figure 05: Entrance and Panoramic View of Zia Museum (formerly Circuit House)

It is conserved because among its much-revered collection is the microphone and transmitter with which President proclaimed the country's independence in 1971. It was built 1913 in British period so it has historical value. It has also architectural value (Figure). Museum has a spectacular attraction in Chittagong, which not only retraces the life of this unforgettable leader, but the colorful history of Bangladesh.



Figure 06: Architectural value of Zia Museum (formerly Circuit House)

Attempt to Historical Site Perseveration and Conservation

As per Chittagong Metropolitan Building Construction Rule 2008, it has made compulsory to take No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Special Project Permission Committee to build any structure within 200 meter buffer of any archaeological, historical, architectural and natural aesthetically beautiful area (Anshary, 2012).

The said committee will be formed as follows:

Chief Town Planner, CDA	Chairman
Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Cicle-1, Chittagong	Member
Town Planner, CDA	Member
Executive Engineer, CDA	Member
General Secretary, IAB, Chittagong Branch	Member
General Secretary, IEB, Chittagong Branch	Member
General Secretary, BIP, Chittagong Branch	Member
Senior Architect, CDA	Member Secretary

In Article No. 61 (concerning conservation and preservation) of this rule, it is stated that, to protect historical building and important places authority can enact the following regulations (Anshary, 2012):

- a) Authority will preserve a list of buildings to be conserved.
- b) To prepare this list, authority may consult with Archaeological Department, IAB or experts on historic, scenic, scientific, social, spiritual buildings.
- c) After preparation the list of building, Authority has to notify the concern owners of the buildings.
- d) After preparation of the list of buildings, Authority has to demonstrate the list for general public.
- e) For any change, extension, addition, destruction of these buildings, one has to obtain written permission from Nagor Unnayan Committee (City Development Committee).
- f) Authority can permit (fully or partially) applications to change, extent, adjoin or destruct the listed buildings and can impose reasonable condition also.

- g) The permission from the authority will be valid up to 3 (three) years.
- h) If any person do change, extent, adjoin or destruct of the listed buildings, authority will order the occupier or owner to impede the tasks.
- i) If it seems that there is lack of superintending of the listed buildings, authority can acquire the listed buildings.
- j) Authority can list special scenic, historic, scientific, social, spiritual or naturally remarkable area as conservation site.
- k) Authority will take steps to upgrade and conserve the areas from time to time.

Recommendation

Should be conserved or preserved the monuments, structures of historical and archeological significance sites for future generation as a monument to commemorate the Mughals' victory over Arakani Moghs. Public awareness should be increased about these historical sites among general people. Sometimes illegal prohibited taken place so strict position against illegal prohibited from the historical sites. Government should take necessary steps to preserve this memorable and valuable site.

References

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