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## Past Meets Future: Refurbishment of Historic Residential Upholding the Historical Value

To succeed in creating smart cities a major challenge is to achieve important improvement of the energy performance through the refurbishment of new-build projects and historical or valuable buildings. This paper focuses on the refurbishment of historical residential buildings in Piary Das road of Dhaka city. This approach would enhance the dwelling availability of this area where greater social diversity is needed and higher population density can be beneficial. As historic buildings were built in times when energy performance standards of the buildings and the lifestyles of inhabitants were not as challenging as today, here lies the importance of. Those heritages contribute significantly to the value of the Dhaka city by branding the city's character and giving pleasure to the inhabitants of this old city. Most remaining historical buildings of piary das road have authentic facade and decorative elements which are valuable elements of our history. However, historic buildings often lose their unique outer appearance as in refurbishment work outside insulation is applied and facade materials and details are hidden by the cover of the insulation layer and modern finishes. This influence the extent of change that is appropriate to improve energy efficiency without changing the appearance of the building. Energy efficiency and architectural heritage are two different issues. It is essential

to accommodate these two issues in such a way so that the archived result can meet today's requirements and preferences of the energy efficiency; simultaneously can promote the preservation of the historical building for a future generation. ■



Refurbishment of old heritage buildings without changing the unique appearance and aesthetics.



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Modification of Piary Das road to achieve energy efficiency keeping the heritage values untouched



Retrofitting historic buildings to suit modern standards

## Public Places: Vital Organs of Cities

Happiness, as a state of mental and emotional being, is an attribute of the experiential domain and is qualitative and relative in nature. The human experiential quotient is influenced by the physical environment one is in, including both, the built and the unbuilt. While designing the built environment we primarily consider the functionality and comfort of the immediate users, the experiential quality is generally an incidental outcome that is seldom intentional. The unbuilt space, mainly in the form of setbacks, is the resultant space that is fragmented in nature. It is the juxtaposition of both, the built and the unbuilt spaces that contribute to the experiential quality of the various users – occupants, visitors, neighbours, onlookers, passersby, etc – and hence, the feeling of happiness or stress.

Happiness, as a value, is an outcome of certain occurrences, events and activities that are temporal or spatial (spot and vista), static or dynamic. All of these require and are

guided largely by the appropriate physical setting and its characteristics in which these events and activities occur that principally influence the visual and intuitive senses. The character of the physical setting or 'place' is the outcome of an intricate blend of various design Elements and Processes that encourage or determine the active and passive interaction of people with their environment.

The aura created by versatility and intensity of activities, their associated land uses and the increased opportunity of contact, play a key role in determining qualitative interactions. A vibrant built fabric consisting of elements such as visual and physical accessibility, public amenities and facilities, landscape elements, interactive public art and signage all stimulate the human senses. This study emphasizes on the significance of the subjective response of man to his built environment thereby enhancing the quality of life of the citizens leading to a happy city. ■



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