

Guess the building and architect

July 2021

Patna Riverfront Development and Revitalization, by NilaA Architecture and Urban Design



NilaA Architecture and Urban Design


 July 24, 2020

Photo credits: Picture Credits for Buildings : Bala Mohan Rajkumar Pictures credits for Public Spaces and Aerial Photography Credits: National Mission for Clean Ganga/NMCG

Patna Riverfront Revitalization, by NilaA Architecture and Urban Design

Share Post:



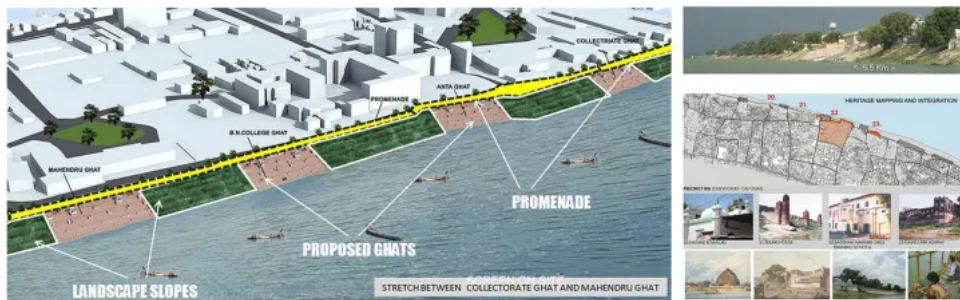
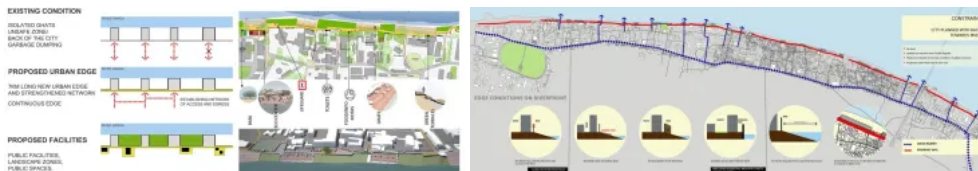
The makeover of riverfront in Patna has g...



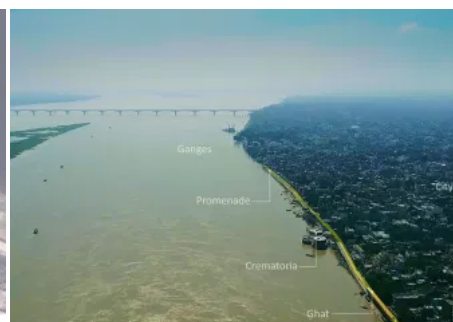
Patna Riverfront Revitalization project is a *Public space and Landscape restoration initiative* at the Old City in Patna. Engaging a historic stretch along the river, the proposed development includes 6m

wide promenade, 4 community, education and recreational public building, public toilets, change rooms, lifeguard and first aid, food kiosks, way-finding and upgraded network of access streets. Physically the ever-expansive urban settlements have lost the relevance and reverence of water along with a connection to the ebb and flow of the river systems. Travel across Indian cities, you will find not only a disregard to this natural edge but also an exploitation – garbage dumping, toxic wastes and sewerage discharge. Their importance has been brought to fore by many environmental writers, activists and governmental schemes.

Historically, Patna (*old city Pataliputra*) is a linear city planned along the Ganges and has a long history of evolution related to the river. Currently, uncontrolled processes of development, urban growth and garbage disposal have made the river edge redundant in the present context and the entire city now morphologically and typologically faces its back to the city. Physically there exists a meagre spatial relationship between the built form and the river. Some of the edge conditions that cause this- include dense urban morphology of old residential neighbourhoods which limit access to the river edge and building typologies that face their back to the river edge thereby leading to the edge being as a dumping and garbage disposal zone. The Riverfront Urban Initiative proposes a comprehensive urban design addressing vital civic concerns like safety during festivals, public space, lack of facilities along with environmental awareness and ecological restoration. Walking, be for recreation, health and simply a *detour* is central to the scheme and a 6-meter wide promenade is proposed that enables walking across the city riverfront. The promenade offers the residents *face-time* to the river and nurtures a collective civic mind towards it.



Edge, Paths and Connections





The existing urban river edge is a 7 kilometres stretch consisting of 28 Ghats-isolated and unconnected at the river edge. Although some of the Ghats are very well connected with the city and are actively used, most of them are only used at a local level due to their poor accessibility and connectivity to the city. The riverfront comprises of a thin strip of land varying from 30m- 50m as per local condition and much of is in gradient, the vision plan covered an area of study that was a complex mosaic of urban fabric varying from 400m to 100m from the river and bounded by the main transportation spine- *Ashok Rajpath*. The initial site assessments began with an elaborate study of connections from the main artery evaluating pedestrian, car and non-motorized vehicle access. Some ghats were also used as boat jetties that transported passengers and vegetables from the larger riverine villages and plains. Throughout the project, it has been vital to preserve and augment these connections to the river- both from city side and from the river to the city via boats. To ease out pedestrian movement during festivals, a network of loop roads and emergency access roads have been carved out of government properties. The essence of connection also lies in the interlinking of ghats and existing fragmented open spaces to provide a continuous public space along the river aiding in religious festivities and recreation. The open spaces on the river precinct between the river and Ashok Rajpath are of two kinds- residential neighbourhoods that have an extreme shortage of open spaces and densely built-up while others like university campuses that have the availability of the huge amount of open spaces. Land pooling, consolidation, developing access roads are key to the overall urban strategy to strengthen connections. Revitalization of underutilized institutional land with the government for public use is encouraged along with regeneration of function of unused structures to create public spaces and visual anchors.

A new Civic Identity: Creating an active Urban Edge





A dense cluster of cities straddles the Gangetic Plain that make a complex network of trade and economy. Economics and planning have found a convenient nomenclature of metropolitan areas (Delhi, Noida, Lucknow), 2nd tier and 3rd tier cities. Patna has found a place in this middle landscape and though historically very rich, it is currently undergoing a major urban transformation and emerging with a new identity. Myriad cultural forces are shaping this new thinking- Popular youth culture, families migrating to Patna from hinterlands, vibrant educational and coaching hubs to one of the busiest medical hubs in eastern India. A new 10-acre art park (*Rajdhani Park*) to the New Museum by Japanese Architect, Fumihiko Maki (*Maki + Opolis Architect*) are also reinforcing the cultural landscape. Due to the extent of the project (6.6km of urban edge) the Riverfront Project aims to stir up a renewed civic identity and ultimately hopes to nurture a *Civic-mind* to the Ganga River.

Urban Typology and Heritage

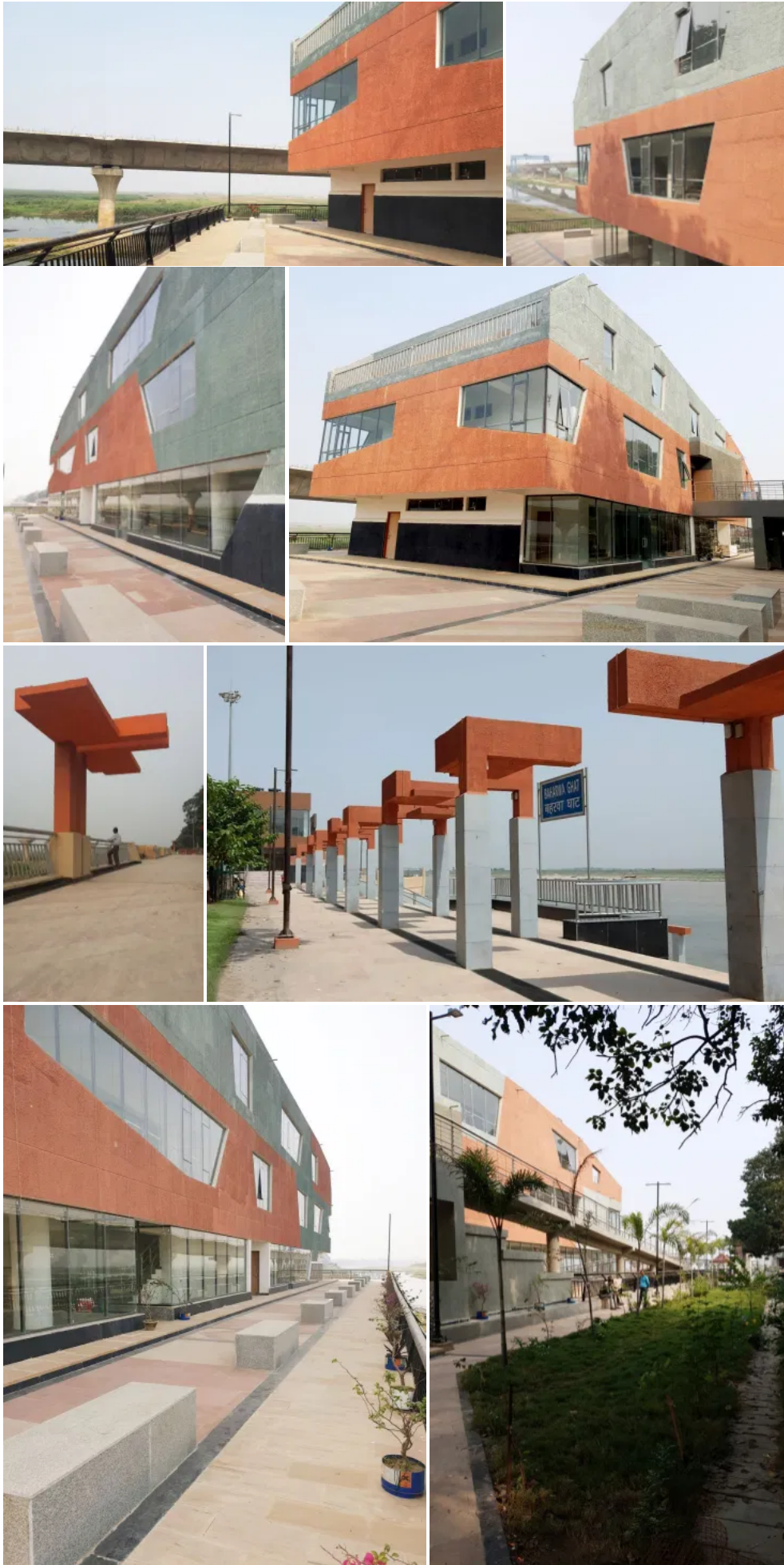


The Patna River edge built-character is an expression of surrounding land use, which varies between institutional, residential, and in other cases mixed use. Each of them has come into existence over time and are quite distinct in their morphologies. The institutional area for instance had been developed on principles of low-density distribution while the residential areas are relatively high dense localities. The needs of the precincts thus vary from point to point. It is integral to consider the edge as an extension to existing precinct characters and as a key urban element that integrates the local needs of space and quality. The Riverfront initiative acts as a platform to preserve and mend fragmented local spatial connections, enhance local potentials and create adequate open space standards for the city. Creating connections between institutional precincts and the river edge through establishing views or creating access, preservation of heritage structures and their integration with the edge would evoke a lost civic cultural essence and create a unique environment in Patna. Heritage sensitive zones have been assessed along with INTACH and designs surrounding them have been attuned to the overall built character.

Urban Architecture: Ghats

The architecture of the projects is operative at *three scales*: ghat architecture at 20 locations (70m long stepped platforms at original ghat locations), small facility buildings at 7 locations and facility kiosks at each ghat and overall promenade. We are able to imbue this through strategic analysis of project phasing, land areas available during low water level, and impact of the urban project. Assessment of the existing visual language and built character were seeding grounds for further thinking on ghat typology, traditional chattri, and pavilions for the proposed 20 ghats. Since each new ghat varied from 50 meters wide to 70 meters wide we began to explore them as a combination of traditional ghat (steps leading to the water) to mini-plazas, shade canopy that would begin vary the experiential quality of the user for the overall stretch. Eight ghat design prototypes were prepared that could create an appropriate typology for the river edge in relation to the context. Integrating Ghats with elements like art terraces, shading systems, colonnades and mini amphitheatres and transform Ghats as collective space, spaces of pause, interaction, and leisure.

Urban Acupuncture: Buildings as an extension of ghat typology

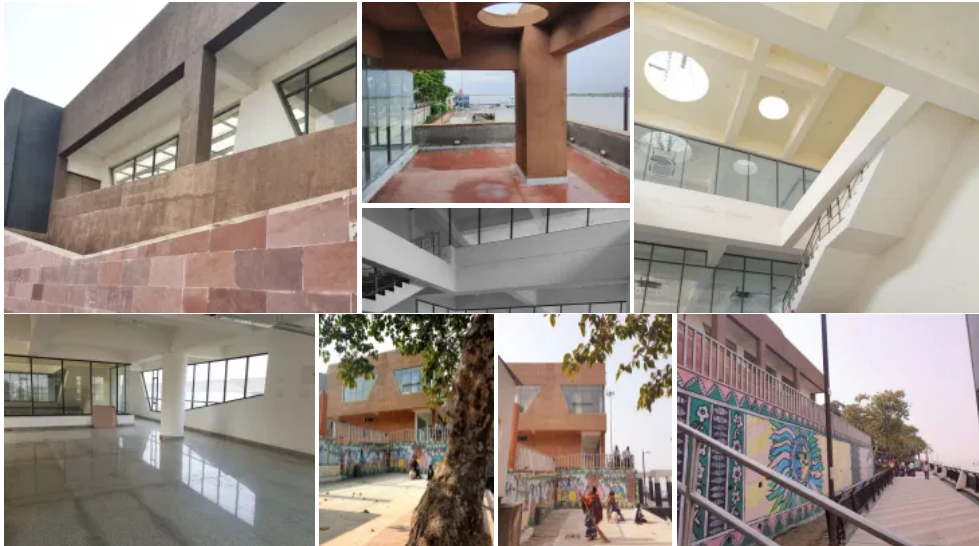




The vision plan has proposed three community facilities and one electrical crematorium (*Gulvi ghat*) in the intervention stretch. These facilities are small buildings that cater to providing local needs of a community hall, reading library, river awareness centre for local schools. Their design is strongly influenced by the urban fabric and a dynamic urban typology of buildings is proposed that embraces the ghat typology in their conception. Such a positioning eludes traditional notions of the site boundary and seeks to integrate the urban fabric with the new infill project. A Café-Reading room is proposed on Patna College Ghat which is frequented by college students and the roof is amphitheatre. The Ecological Center at Collectorate Ghat, an important location for ferry transportation, the design is based on *pilotis* to provide a public space underneath the facility. The Community Center at Raja Ghat thrives on a view terrace and a performance courtyard, that can be used in local weddings and functions.

On the Ground





The completed project has provided the much needed Public Space to the residents of the City (5 million population) with thousands using the walkway at various times daily. Close to 1 million people use the walkway and restored Ghats during the local festival of Chatt (Oct_Nov). The festival is based on the ancient tradition of nature worship with reverence to Sun and Water. The project benefits a population of 3 million persons in the riverine zone including Residents with new public space and health benefits, Fisherman with new toilets and improved boat mooring capacity, Low income communities have access to a new community hall and a new electric crematorium for the city. Additional benefits are attributed towards the 1 million religious tourists who visit for the Chatt festival in Oct- Nov for a week with improved access, safety, night lighting (festival ceremony happens at dawn) and way-finding. Night Lighting of the entire 7km edge has made the area safe and improved perception of residents. The improved public space provisions have greatly modified the perception of the Riverfront as a dangerous and dirty place. The project has reframed the public opinion about its natural heritage. Vegetable vendors (the majority who are women) are able to access supplies in boats and walk to the nearest vegetable mandi at Anta Ghat area next to the Patna University. The development of Electric Crematoria (2 pyres with a capacity for 30 a day) at Gulvi Ghat will help in reducing the wood consumption and next it would give more burning facilities. The project also envisages to improve interceptor drains to capture the sewage getting directly disposed to Ganga from the building along the ghat and then finally dispose them off at a city sewer manual to divert the same to an STP. A total of 8 such interceptor drains are being constructed. Several national-level campaigns have been held at the project site including physical trash skimming of the water surface, creation of sewerage treatment plants along the river to manage the direct discharge of sewerage.

Architecture Firm: Nishant Lall/ Nilaa Architecture & Urban Design

Completion Year: December 2019

Design Team: Nishant Lall, Balaji Mohan, Varun Amar Kaushik , Kanwaljeet Kaur, Ashna Puri, Akshita Khawal, Sourabh Yadav, Puneet Kumar, Ariz Ashraf, Bella Ullas , Agata Marcheska, Sarfaraz, Shruti Sharma, Satyajit Mal, Sumedha Jain, Nishant Vishwa, Nidhi Bindal, Shiv Pratap, Nalin Singh, Harsh Mistry, Fatemah Kosravi, Preeti Bhatnagar, Ejaz Faisal, Ipsita Mondal,

Clients: The World Bank and National Mission for Clean Ganga/ NMCG and BUIDCO

Executive DPR consultant and Engineering: Sen & Lall Consultants Pvt Limited, Patna

Landscape: Implementation Stage/ Akshay Kaul and Associates Landscape and Ecology, New Delhi

Landscape: DPR Stage/ Oasis Designs, New Delhi

Harsh Kumar Anne, Electrical Consultants, New Delhi

Nafeez Qureshi, Paradise Consultants, PHE, New Delhi

Nityanand Prasad, Structure Engineer, New Delhi

Collaborators:

IIT New Delhi, TRIPP Pedestrian Safety and Assessment

INTACH New Delhi, Heritage Assessment

Voyants, Environmental Impact Assessment Consultant

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)



You May Also Like





Earth House, at Kanakapura, Bangalore, India, by Svamitva Architecture Studio

July 12, 2021 /// 1 Comment

Situated in a 28 acre site, the Terravana also called the Earth house is a design intervention that travels along the lines of earth and sustainability. In a plot size of 34.4x60 ft the unit focuses on a minimum footprint integrated with greenery. The interior setting transcends with the Pairing of age old technique of lime plastering with mid-century themed furniture. With delicately chosen décor that complements the theme of wellness and the colour palette of natural tones exhibits strength, sound and health. – Svamitva Architecture Studio

[Read More »](#)



The Paradox, at Pune, Maharashtra, India, by Studio Siddharth Saluja

July 6, 2021 /// No Comments

According to the brief, the problem was to design a *designers' work studio which can break the conventional model for small office spaces, and create a space that fosters innovation, collaboration and productivity.

[Read More »](#)



Happy Head, at Hyderabad, by Studio Emerald

July 6, 2021 /// No Comments

Tucked into the affluent neighborhood of Film Nagar – Hyderabad, Happy Head is a wellness destination that prides itself on being the primary and sole branch of its kind in the Indian context. The country's first I.V. Clinic, this venue is a collaborative alliance amidst its founder who has a celebrated presence in the hospitality genre and the team at Studio Emerald.

[Read More »](#)

LOUVERED HOUSE, at Bangalore, by White Shadows Design Studio

July 6, 2021 /// No Comments

The house was designed for a textile businessman from Rajasthan whose family spans three generations. The design brief consisted of three luxurious bedrooms, ample living spaces, entertainment and service areas.

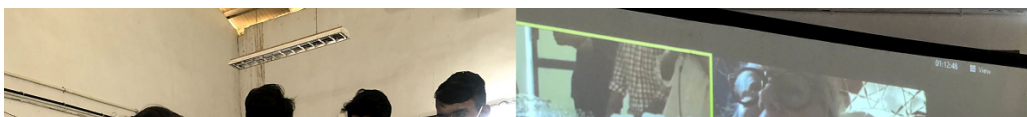
The 30'X40' site located in a growing residential area and flanked by dense multi dwellings on three sides, has a road to the West thus creating a design challenge.- White Shadows Design Studio

[Read More »](#)

Cinema Multiplex | 6 Screens, at Pacific D21 Mall | Dwarka | New Delhi, by ivpartners

July 6, 2021 /// No Comments

The capital's new sub-city of Dwarka is coming as the next international diplomatic hub. Brimming with new developments and destination retail experiences it is being developed under the Smart City project. Located on the Metro interchange station this mall is home to a six-screen mega multiplex. Circumscribing a large atrium, the cinema is fronted by retail & flanked by a generous food court. Here, the design narrative needed an elegant new approach speaking a vibrant modernist language in luxury entertainment. – ivpartners

[Read More »](#)




Out with the Offline, In with the Online! – Takbir Fatima | DesignAware

July 3, 2021 /// No Comments

Out with the Offline, In with the Online! – Takbir Fatima from DesignAware discusses the advantages of

[Read More »](#)

 [SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT](#)

Follow us on

