

Tomas Degenaar

Landscape Architecture Group

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Competition: IFLA 2008
Student: Tomas Degenaar
Supervisor: Jorg Rekitke



Intro:

Transforming with Water is the theme of the IFLA2008 World Congress of the International Federation of Landscape Architects. This 45th IFLA World Congress will be held in the Netherlands from June 30 to July 3, in conjunction with the [Apeldoorn Landscape Architecture Triennale](#), which hosts various other cutting-edge landscape events, such as the European Summer School, [A Wider View](#) on Cultural Landscape Challenges in Europe, the Conference [Landscape and Leisure](#), and various exhibitions on garden history and landscape architecture.



Summary 'Landscape Architecture for need/slums':

The coming hundred years are frequently named **The Century of the City**. From this year onwards more than half world's population lives in cities. Within these cities more than 1,000,000,000 people live in slums¹. Therefore most urban sprawl will consist of the untamed expansion of these illegal and uncontrolled settlements (**squatting**). Nowadays cities are often centers of poverty, but they still symbolize the best hope of escaping it. For daily struggling families all over the world, having 'access to fresh air, water, sewage, transport and public space and owning a sufficient piece of land on which they can construct their homes and improve their lives is essential: providing it requires a new and proactive approach', a United Nations report states².

Considering these facts, landscape architects have to penetrate into the world of dynamic squatting and create this **new and proactive approach**. Following revolutionary architecture/urbanism companies as Jorge Mario Jáuregui Architects, I try to explore some possibilities to enter world's slums.

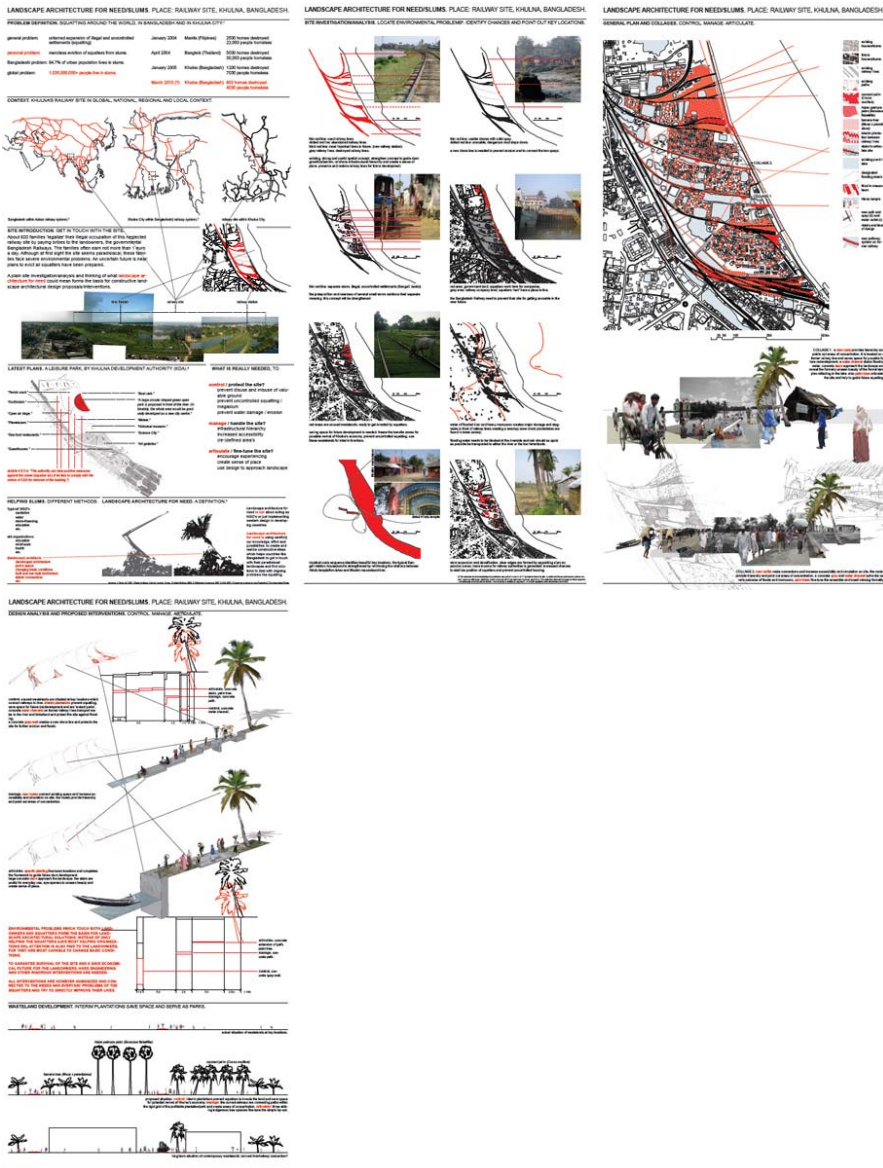
My project takes place in the city of Khulna, situated in Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world. Anno 2008 about 84% of Bangladesh' urban population lives in slums¹. Khulna City with its 1,400,000 inhabitants faces many severe environmental and economical issues. An accumulation of these local global problems is found at the centrally located but neglected railway site. Both uncontrolled squatting and uncontrolled demolishing of slums happens here. Severe river flooding and heavy monsoons threaten the physical survival of the site. I use landscape architecture to protect the 800 families at site for getting washed away *and* getting replaced by an unneeded and morally wrong leisure park filled with a 5-star hotel, a planetarium and more. Next to it I try to find solutions to save space for a possible economical revival of Khulna City.

Unseen and basic paradisiacal beauty arises and unimagined connections are made. By using landscape architectural interventions I attempt to control, manage and articulate the site and give the initial impetus to transform slums into neighborhoods. Landscape architecture for slums is landscape architecture for need.

¹ Davis, M. 2007. Planet of slums. 2nd ed. London: Verso

² Marshall, A. (ed.). 2007. *State of world population 2007*. Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth. New York: United Nations Population Fund.

His entry posters (click on a image to download pdf):



**Part of the Jury rapport:
Landscape architecture for need/slums**

This project involves consideration of a difficult set of issues in the Bangladesh slums. It dealt sensitively with the cultural setting and human issues, and recognized the need for designers to respond in a culturally appropriate way. It underlines the ethical responsibility of landscape architecture to tackle difficult issues. The project is process-oriented rather than object-oriented, while still achieving a sound site plan and development. The project was clearly presented, and avoided the all too common temptation to resort to flashy graphics, opting instead for an economical and effective set of drawings and text, supplemented by carefully chosen photographs.

More info:
www.ifla2008.com

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