BHAKURTA UNION, SAVAR, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

**Bhakurta** is a place of jewelry from the ancient village recognized as Goyna Gram, meaning “Jewelry Village” for over 300 years. About ten thousand people are involved in this handmade jewelry industry. Jewelry worth around BST 2.5 crore is made in Bhakurta every year. The people here are decorating their own lives by making this jewelry just as they are helping others to decorate.

This project aims to promote this area as a coveted tourist destination through cultural assets and also light the existing handmade metal jewelry and preserve it. It will allow general people to understand the craft and the life of artisans.

**Why is this Art Threatened?**

Due to urban scrolling, this village will be the victim of urbanization very quickly within 10-20 years. The majority of artisans are from a lower socio-economic background and are minorities. They will suffer most as a result of geopolitics and their art form will be threatened.

As long as this art form is alive, it needs to be preserved.

**It is better to preserve now than revitalize later.**
3 TYPES OF ARTISAN HOUSE
1. HOME WITH DISPLAY SPACE
2. HOME IN BUILDING UNIT
3. HOME WITH COURTYARD

AROUND 60% OF ARTISANS WORK IN THEIR HOMES, ESPECIALLY IN OPEN COURTS. SO A COURTYARD BETWEEN THEIR HOUSES CAN HELP TO EMPHASIZE THEIR SKILLS. IT WILL ALSO HELP TO CREATE A BUFFER FOR WOMEN WORKERS' PRIVACY.
The design solutions uphold Neocentricality, meaning all the design decisions came from the site’s context and the stakeholders. There are five entry points in the Bazaar area, all derived from the existing walkable roads and community. The Shilapara Canal, connected to the Buriganga, divides the site into two parts. There is a market on one side and a house and training center on the other. Tourists also can come to this market via this canal. On both sides of the canal, some food stalls and markets have been set up along with some seating areas as public areas. The market side road is reserved for pedestrians, and the back route is reserved for heavy vehicles. The road through the middle connects the two artisan communities through this site. This initiative refers to using local brick, which is highly sustainable and environmentally friendly. The use of brick jali will aid in ventilation and lighting considerations.

The housing units are derived from existing artisan housing from which the basic lifestyle is chosen, and then the design is done accordingly. Also, these housing design reflects the traditional rural housing of Bangladesh. Moreover, a courtyard-oriented housing mass ensures ventilation, and also connected courtyard demonstrates the form of conventional habitat in rural Bengal.

FIG19: ARTISAN HOUSES

FIG20: ARTISAN HOUSES STRUCTURE
This project honors all generations of jewelry artists who have worked in this industry for the past 200 years. The design is the product of a natural evolution of the critical components of a jewelry maker community, with enhancements that increase its potential. Its purpose is to adapt strategic solutions to increase overall growth.

The design is one-of-a-kind since it interprets the artisan’s language and patterns. The primary purpose of this initiative is to promote and enhance the value of our traditional handcrafted products. It is a source of income for the artisans’ community and the entire country in a broader sense.