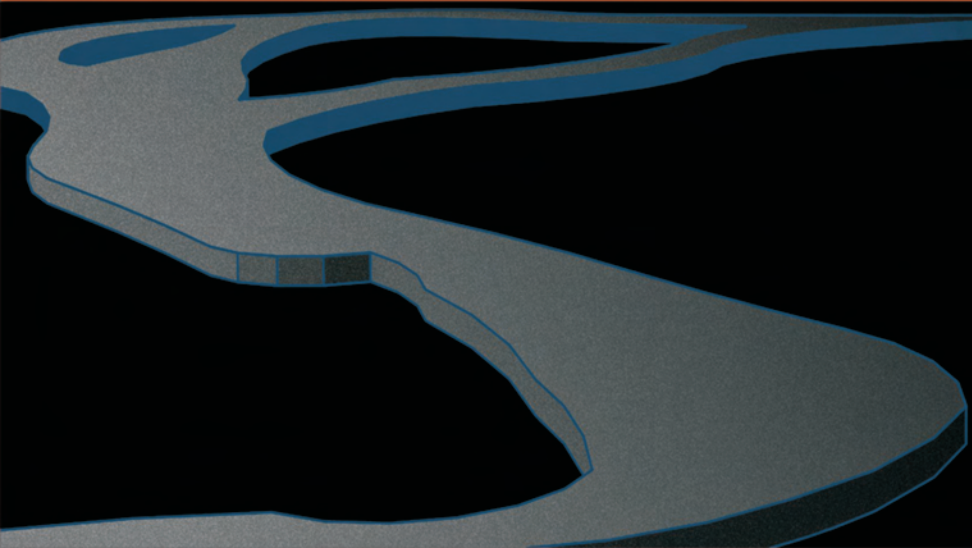


Proposed Master Plan of Bangladesh-American Center.

Renn Road, Houston, Texas



the path through two cultures





forward

When I first moved to this country over 25 years ago, the Bangladeshi community in Houston was so small that we could hold cultural events in family homes. Over the years, the Bangladeshi community in Houston has grown exponentially, and we needed a place where people could gather to exchange ideas, celebrate their cultural heritage, and imbue younger generations with a sense of pride about their heritage. The goal of the Bangladesh American Center (BAC) is to preserve our roots for generations to come, but it also seeks to strengthen our community here in Houston.

BAC, which is located in southwest Houston, is still in its nascent stages. We hope that its innovative layout, with structures that allude to Bangladeshi landmarks, will be the pride of Bangladeshi-Americans everywhere. We have a long way to go before we can realize our goal, however. We still need to raise \$2.2 million to complete phases I and II of our building project. If our community is not united behind this common cause, our dream will be difficult to realize.

I am a proud American, and a proud Bangladeshi. This is the sentiment BAC hopes to foster. Let us join forces to build this place together.

director, bac.

আবার আমি ফিরে

কীবানন্দ দাস

আবার আমি ফিরে খানঝিঙটির সীরে - এই বাংলাদেশ
হয়তো মানুষ নয়-হয়তো বাংলাদেশি শ্যানিকের বেশে
হয়তো জোরের কাক হয়ে এই কাগজের নবায়ের দেশে
কুয়াশার বুকে ডেমে একদিন আমিই কঁটান চামড়া।
হয়তো বা হাঁস হবো-কিশোরীর মূর্তির রহিবে নাম পায়
মারাদিন কেটে যাবে কলমীর গল্প-ডরা জমে ডেমে ডেমে।
আবার আমি আমি বাংলাদেশ নদী মাঠ ক্ষেত ডানবেমে
জলজীর চের্ড এ ডেজা বাংলাদেশই মরুজ কনুয় ডাজায়।

হয়তো দেখিবে চেয়ে সুরশনি উজিতেছে অঙ্গুর বাগামো
হয়তো শুনবে এক লক্ষীদেটা ডাকিতেছে শিমুর ডানো
হয়তো খেয়ে খান মড়াতেছে শিশু এক উঠানের ঘাসো
রুদমার ঘোমা জমে হয়তো কিশোর এক আদা ছেঁড়া পায়ো
ডিজা বায়ঃ-রাজা মেদা সঁগরায় অঙ্গুর আমিতেছে বাঁতে,
দেখিবে ধবল বকঃ আমারে দাবে সূমি ইহাদের উড়ে।

owner: bangladesh association, houston, texas
architectural design and master plan: dr. khandaker shabbir ahmed & atiqul haq
engineering & cost estimation: bac engineering team
surveyor: washburn & co.



Bangladesh American Center at a glance



Bangladesh American Center At a Glance

Bangladesh American Center is an ambitious community project of Bangladesh Association Houston, a non-profit organization representing Bangladeshis in Houston over the past thirty years. The center is located on four acres of land on the southwest part of Houston and has a temporary facility that is used as the office of the association, language school, free medical clinic and a place to host community, cultural and private events.

With an estimated construction cost of 2.2 million dollars and built around few fundamental principles, BAC is destined to become the pride of Houstonians. The basic concepts around which the center is designed are as follows:

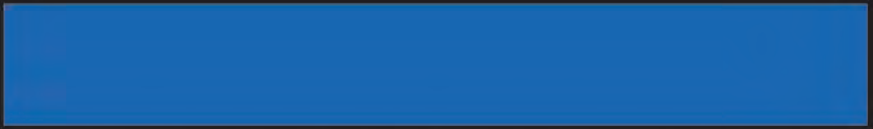
- The center shall physically represent the rich history and cultural heritage of Bangladesh.
- It shall nurture the intellectual growth and development of new generations of Bangladeshi Americans and their acquaintances.
- It shall be a meeting place for community, inter-community, national, international, public and private events.
- It shall be a facility for language, arts, ESL, computer training and music schools.
- It shall provide free medical services.
- It shall promote business ventures for specialty ethnic food, crafts and gifts.

Your support enables us to further the dream of realizing the Bangladesh American Center.





background



In 1971, students of the University of Houston from the then East Pakistan organized in support of the Bangladesh independence movement. These students organized Bangladesh Association, Houston (BAH), as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1978 to promote Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage and provide community service. In last 30 years, BAH has become an important organization, especially for the people of Bangladesh living in Houston.

One original "community dream" of BAH was to establish a community center. A serious effort began in 1999, and in September 2001, four acres of land was purchased in the southwest part of town with funds raised from the community.

BAC mission statement:

The mission of BAC is to facilitate social, cultural, intellectual, and educational activities of the Bangladesh-American community, involving the Bangladeshi Americans or any other groups generally interested in promoting BAC vision and core values.

BAC vision statement:

The vision of BAC is to unite the people of Bangladeshi origin in North America by providing a permanent physical location to display, demonstrate and represent Bangladeshi culture and heritage. BAC will also provide physical facilities where ideas can be shared and exchanged to promote and increase understanding of diversity and peaceful integration, while pursuing and achieving common goals within the framework of BAH constitution.

BAC core values:

BAC shall maintain the following core values:

- BAC shall be open to all freedom-loving people.
- BAC shall promote and uphold the culture, heritage, and values of Bangladesh in North America.
- BAC shall uphold the values stated in the BAH constitution.
- BAC shall maintain true transparency in all of its financial accounts.
- BAC shall be governed by a democratic process, where the majority shall rule but the difference of opinions will be respected.
- BAC shall remain non-political and secular.
- BAC shall not allow any fundamentalism, cult, or fanaticism of any kind.

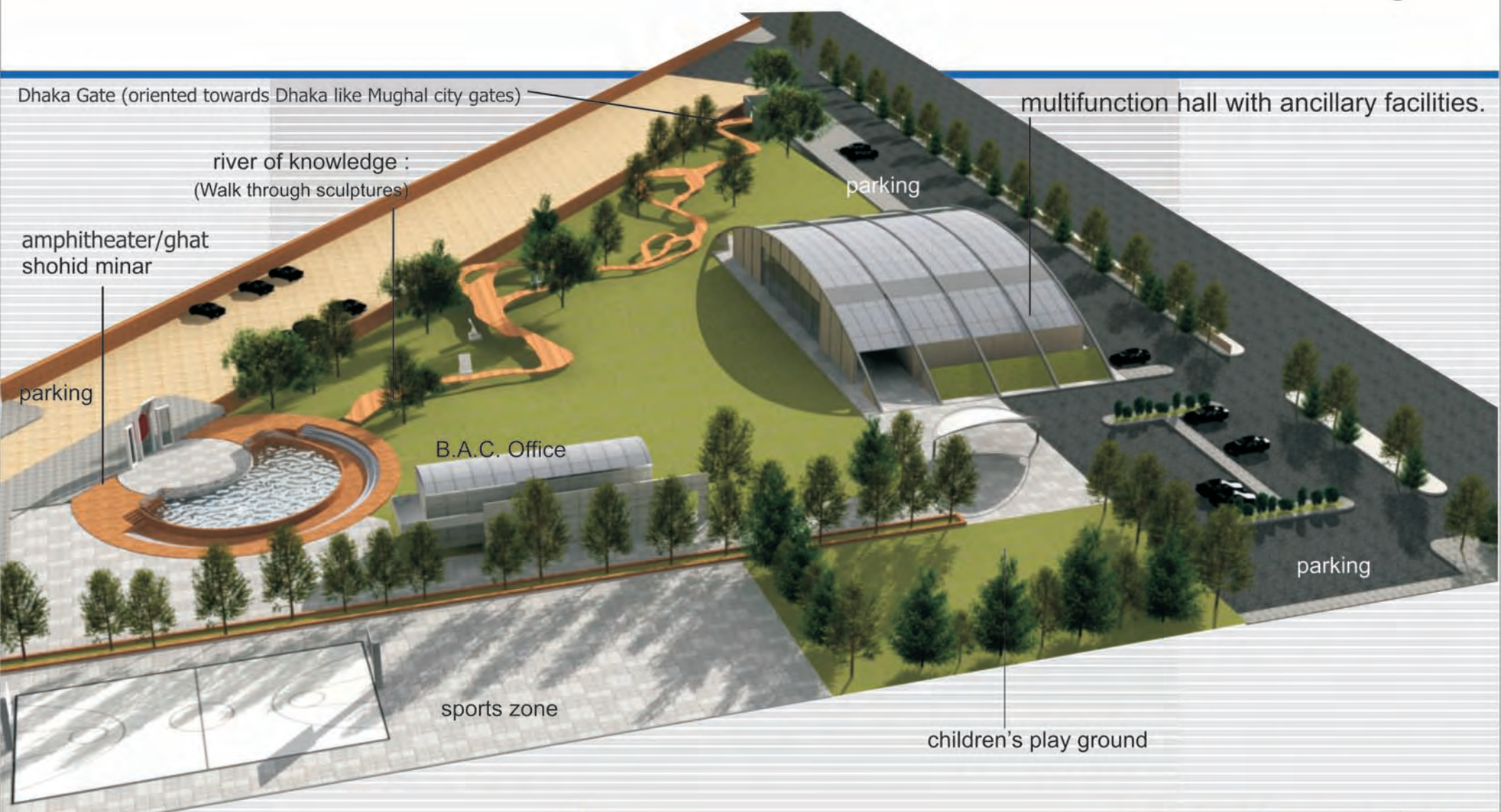


concept

The conceptual starting point for BAC was to create an environment with images, artifacts and a network of social spaces for the community members so that they could connect to their country of origin, an issue of which the Bangladeshi community has been strongly aware for quite some time. The heart of BAC is the central open and flexible space that can accommodate activities ranging from sports to fairs, from informal events to open air performances. All the functions are placed around this central open space in a manner such that the uses of one can blend into another. This proved quite a challenge for the designers, as the functional needs of the community were diverse and multi-faceted. However, with judicious planning and creative ideas, the master plan was developed to meet all the requirements without moving away from the original position.

The entrance to BAC is a trail designed after a segment of the mighty Padma River in Bangladesh. This "trail of knowledge" will be flanked on either side by artifacts, objects and sculptures inspired by both the cultures of America and Bangladesh, and it will culminate at the Shahid Minar amphitheater. The BAC office will be located next to the Shahid Minar, and the space behind the office will be used as the sports field and children's playground. The northeast corner of the land will house the multifunction hall, in which will be held a variety of cultural events.

the site



Dhaka Gate (oriented towards Dhaka like Mughal city gates)

river of knowledge :
(Walk through sculptures)

amphitheater/ghat
shohid minar

parking

B.A.C. Office

sports zone

multifunction hall with ancillary facilities.

parking

parking

children's play ground

master plan



river of knowledge

one of the more innovative aspects of BAC will be the River of Knowledge. Based on the Padma River, an ancient river that supported the Ganges Valley Civilization, the River of Knowledge is designed to inspire interest in our culture's long history.



the path through two cultures



As people walk along the allegorical river trail, they will learn about the history and culture of Bangladesh and Texas intertwined in a single time line so they can relate to both cultures and develop deep understanding. There will be sculptures, artifacts, walls, and small monuments representing the milestones. Our inspiration to develop these components will come from the pages of history. The walk will end at the court of contemplation, where names of legendary figures of both cultures will be engraved on the wall. This will include poets to painters, leaders to writers, and scientists to singers.



1

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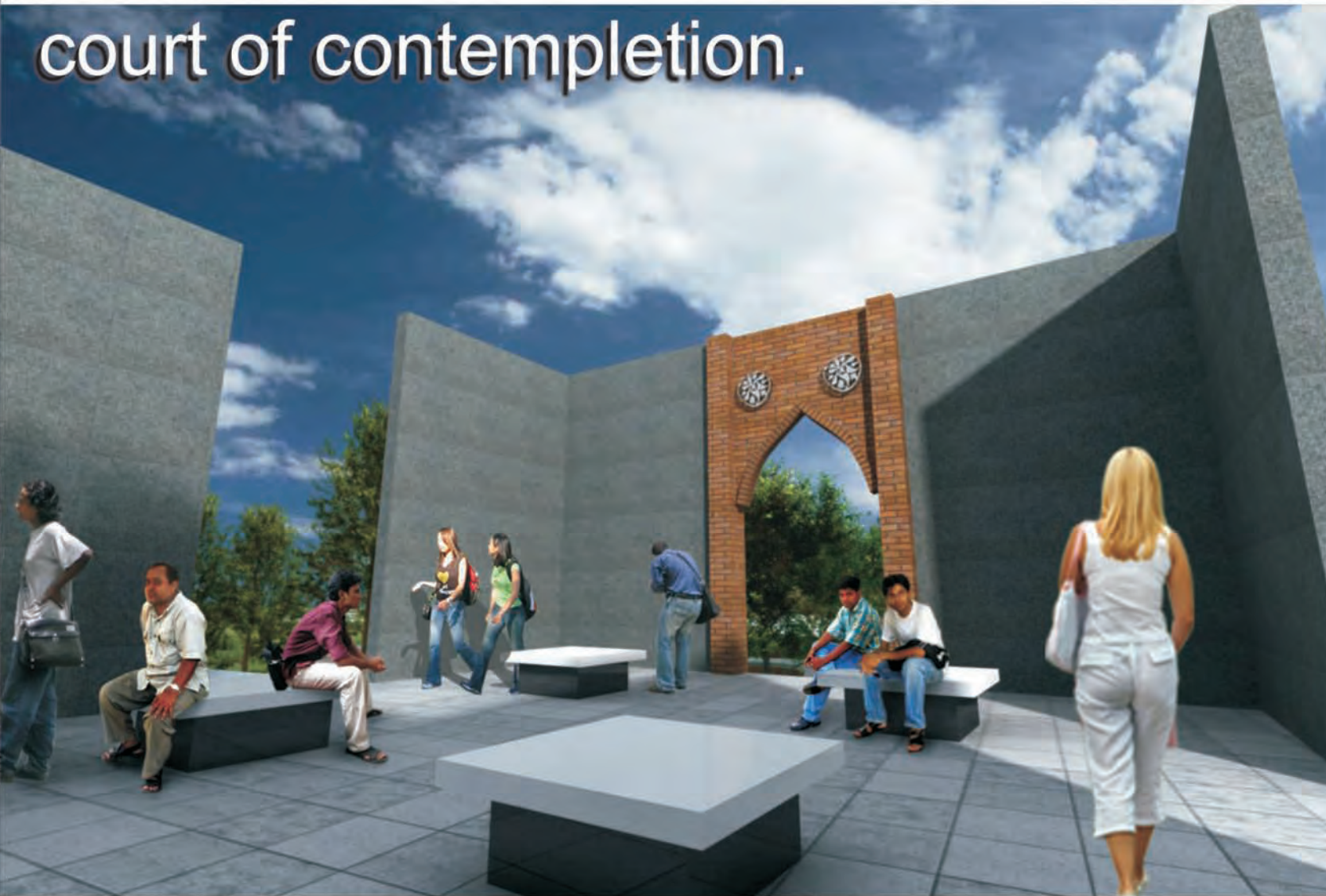
The Shahid Minar, the Monument of Martyrs, is not just a monument for Bangladeshis. It is an icon of courage and sacrifice. Because it symbolizes our deep love for our language and heritage, the Shahid Minar complex was designated as the natural focal point of the Bangladesh-American Center.

The main meeting place of BAC will be bordered by the Shahid Minar complex to the west and the main auditorium building to the east. By using innovative landscaping, an outdoor hidden sound system, decorative lights, small water fountains and benches to sit and chat, we hope to make the Shahid Minar complex the most used and most talked-about feature of the project.

bac shahid minar complex



court of contemplation.



The Court of Contemplation is a space for absorption and inspiration. The walls of the court will have names, engraved on its walls, of people of great importance to the culture of Bangladesh and America. From history to more contemporary times—from poets to scientists, economists to writers. People who have made significant contributions to culture and heritage of these nations.

Visitor will come out of the Court through the 'Dhaka Gate'- a gate of traditions and history. The Dhaka gate will have the latitudinal alignment with the Dhaka City from the centre of the Court. A tradition from the Mughal times where the fort cities had three or four gates aligned towards the distant cities creating a sense of connection and communication. Here in BAC the Dhaka gate will connect the site with the historic city of Dhaka.



The auditorium will be the predominant feature of the center, the form of which is derived from the sweeping curve of the 'Bangla Roof'. The curve of the Bangla Roof has a particular aesthetic appeal and have been copied for many for many centuries in different types of construction materials and building types across the Indian sub-continent-from temples to mosques. The Moghuls were particularly inspired by this type of roof and copied it in marble stone architecture in Agra fort. Constantine Doxiadis, a famous Greek architect could not escape from its appeal and tried it in his design for BARD Complex, Comilla. It is actually a natural shape evolved from the imperative of creating a column free space. The hall will have a capacity of 500 people and shall be used for large staged programs, weddings, and other large functions for seated guests.

multifunction hall



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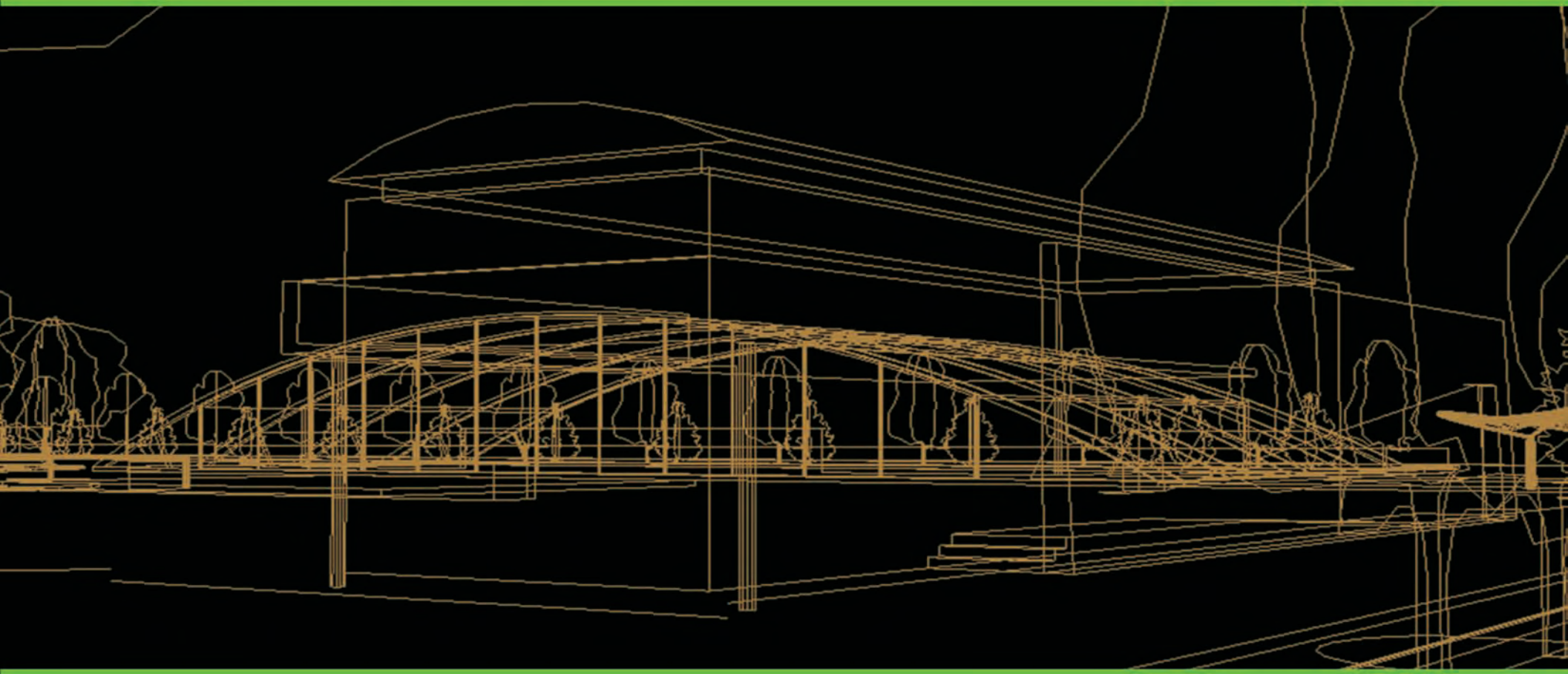
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saa in association with anwar sadat.



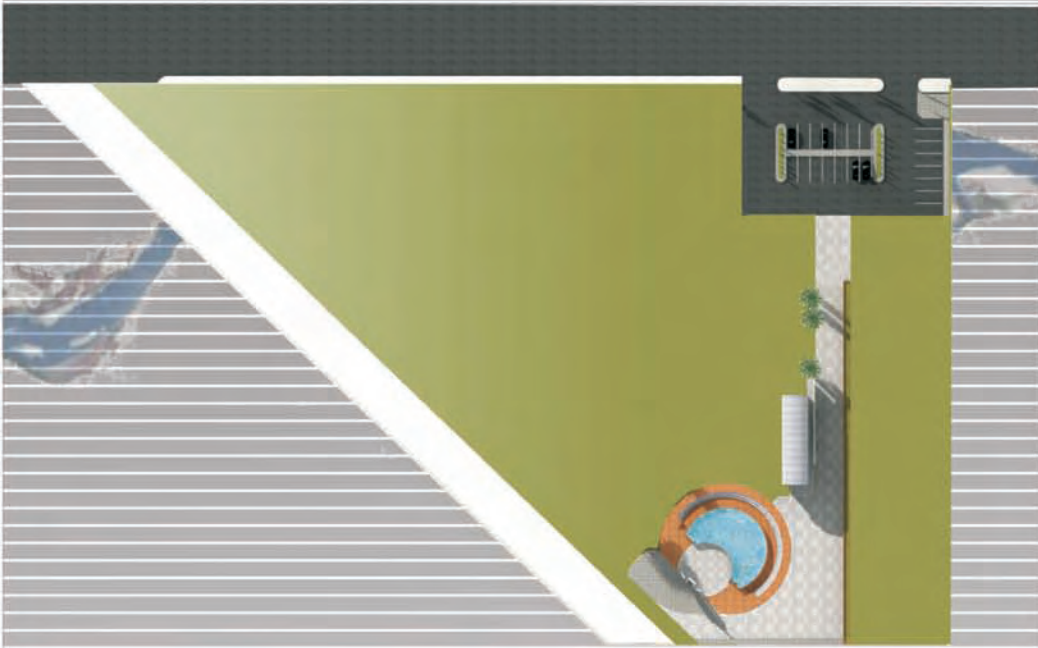


One section of the auditorium will be dedicated to permanent and rotating exhibits of arts and artifacts from Bangladesh. The same section will also serve as a library with about 5000 books on movable shelves on rails. Representation of Bangladeshi culture and history will be made with the shape of the hall and on the walls of the building.

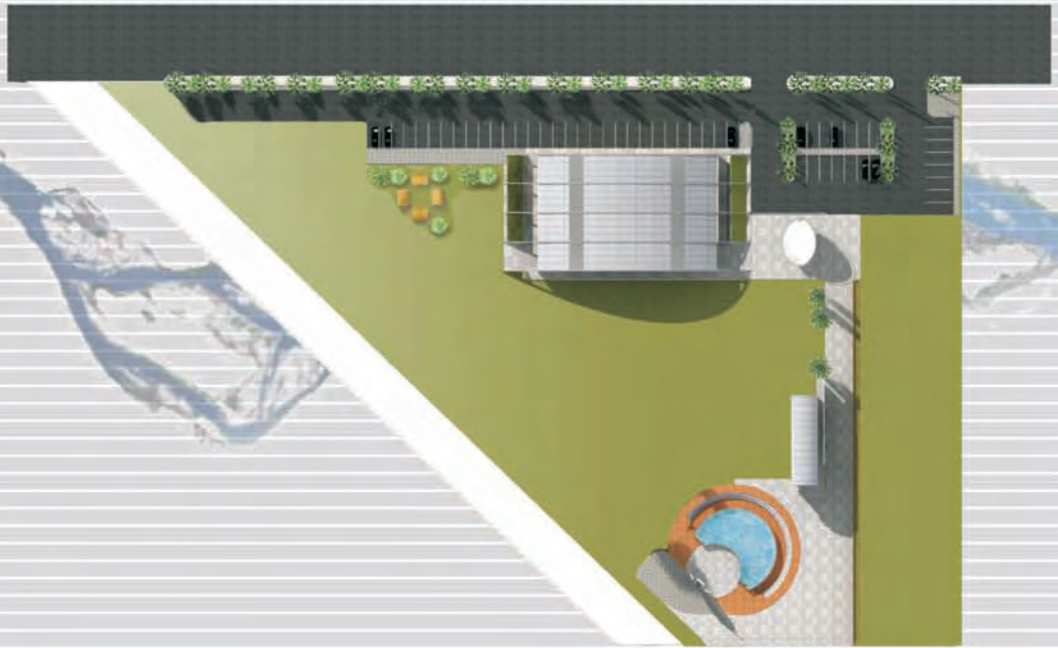
This hall will include the following:

- A raised, winged stage for performances,
- Lights, curtains, and a dress rehearsal room,
- Projection and sound control rooms,
- A serving bar and kitchen with a range, microwave, and dishwasher,
- Office spaces for administrative purposes,
- A few classrooms, and
- The ability for both side walls to be folded or removed so that audiences from outside can also view the program.

phases



phase 1.
BAC office and the Shahid Minar complex, some parking



phase II
the auditorium hall



phase III
the walk , outdoor sport facilities and landscaping,



approximate cost estimate

বাংলাদেশ আমেরিকান সেন্টার Bangladesh-American Center

A Project of Bangladesh Association, Houston, a Nonprofit Organization, Charter #3-00084-4754-9

Physical location: 13415 Renn Road, Houston, TX 77083

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 440233, Houston, TX 77244-0233

E-mail: bac_eb@bachouston.org, website www.bachouston.org

Preliminary Cost Estimate if constructed in 2008, (Accuracy +/- 20%)

Description	Size			Total	Unit	Unit cost	Construction Phase		
	Length	Width	Thick				Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
	ft	ft	in				Total Cost	Total Cost	Total Cost
Grading				4	Acres		\$25,000		
Driveway Parking & Walkway (Concrete) ¹	200	60	4	148	CY	200.00	\$29,630		
Landscaping							\$10,000	\$10,000	\$35,000
BAC Office / School and Facilities	60	45		2700	SFT	65.00	\$175,500		
Shahid Minar Complex							\$110,000		
Fence Along the Front Side							\$8,000		
Parking Gravel	600	60	6	667	CY	110.00			\$73,333
Basketball / Tennis	100	50	6	93	CY	350.00			\$32,407
The River Walk									\$25,000
Dhaka Gate/ Wall of Contemplation									\$25,000
Craft Center									\$40,000
Children Playground									\$10,000
Driveway Parking & Walkway (Concrete) ³	440	60	4	326	CY	200.00		\$65,185	
Multi Purpose Hall/ Auditorium (Capacity 500)	120	85		10200	SFT	150.00		\$1,530,000	
							\$358,130	\$1,605,185	\$240,741
							Grand Total (Phase I + Phase II + Phase III)= \$2,204,056		



donor list

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Closup 1
T- Shirt Sales

Water Lily, national flower of Bangladesh, thought to be having the most ancient genetic origin. Water lily first appeared on earth more than 140 million years ago and is titled "oldest living flower".

