



Park being actively used post implementation.

Interactive design installations being used by kids.

Vibrant rainbow path way for residents of the community.



400 households



Low income group community



Adult to child ratio 1:2.3



Avg age group is 7-13 yrs old

As CHAAK, a potter's wheel, turns at a steady pace to mould clay, our project aims at providing the most positive and creative growing environment for the young minds of Hauz Rani. To create a successful and sustainable design using locally available and easily recyclable material with minimal volume addition.

The chosen site is part of a high density residential colony in the capital city of India, New Delhi. With an average of 5 kids per family, this colony of 400 odd households is in dire need of a recreational space for the children to exercise their minds and bodies and adults to interact.

Fitted in the urban spectra, the community lacks a child friendly environment. With residential blocks adding floor upon floor as a result of need with no regard for a healthy livable space, little attention is being given to breathable open spaces in the community. The residents mainly fall in the low income group, and most of them are potters by occupation, who have workshops along the park boundaries. This made it important to take them into consideration for the purpose of local association.

There is a lack of space for the children to make their own, a space that is secure. Recreational activities are marginal due to limited affordance.

OBJECTIVES

- To create an active and secure recreational space for children of the community as well as their parents.
- To give a child not just a physical workout but a cognitive one too.
- Desire to nurture children's growth through self-guided exploration, harnessing their heightened senses with a variety of stimulating spaces.
- To create a model of impact and sustainability in context of participatory design and construction.
- To nurture a sense of belonging and embracing the playground as their own.
- To provide opportunities for children to gain social skills and improve their imagination, creativity and problem solving abilities.

Link to video documentary : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7ElqjCmqeA5VHFqRmSOUWFDbEk/view?usp=sharing>



PROJECT CHAAK

TEAM: ISHITA CHANDRA, LIPI JAIN, SANOBER KHAN, VASUDHA KARNANI

Defend, promote and enable access to adequate and dignified habitat for all as a 'fundamental human right'.

The chosen site had been a dumping ground when it was selected to develop as a park, as the site lacked open green spaces.

Cleaning and garbage removal from the site, a month long process was carried out by us in stages with the help of the Resident's Welfare Association of the community. Resident potters of the community also came forward to help in getting the site ready for our design implementation. 21.5 tons of garbage was cleared out from the site.

Life and vibrancy was added to the site by laying grass carpets in the park and green pockets were designed according to sun shade cycles. We have planted 100 evergreen trees and shrubs along the periphery creating a green edge of the park replacing the existing dull grey boundary wall. 50 flowering and fruiting trees are planted to make the space more inviting for the residents.

The deteriorating walls were plastered and painted with interactive graphics to add to the usability of each physical aspect of the park. Like painting of cricket wickets and an art display section on the walls. We've created a blackboard wall for them to learn and teach themselves along with painting generic Do's and Don'ts to impart knowledge and civic sense to the children.

Water and light provisions for public park
Two major challenges for this project were that the land had no water access and that it had no light source for evenings. It being a public park, water and electricity connections had to be taken up by local authorities. These were solved by sincere persuasion of local bodies support and co-operation.

Besides the water connection and light sources provided by them, the potters who have shops outside and along the boundary wall of the park have also agreed to provide lighting facilities in the park on their expenses.



Before and after images of implementation on site.

Provision of a water source and lighting facilities for the park done for sustenance and maintenance of the park.

Cleaning of the park in process with help of community.



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Foster the socially responsible role of built environment professionals by stimulating social modes of practice before speculative economic profitability :

To be active and productive citizens of tomorrow, development of our children need to be of top priority. Secure and friendly socio-physical environments are a necessity for comprehensive growth. Healthy social interaction provides opportunities for children to improve their imagination, creativity and problem-solving ability, also strengthening their sense of self, connection to their community and the environment. Children need to have play spaces that include wide areas for free, active, social, exploratory and natural play.

The primary driving force behind the design was a desire to nurture the children's growth through self-guided exploration, harnessing their heightened senses with a variety of stimulating spaces. The identity of the space is defined by the potters' workshop flanking the site. Most users come from these households, hence a need was felt to establish an association with the context through the interventions, for complete acceptance of the project.

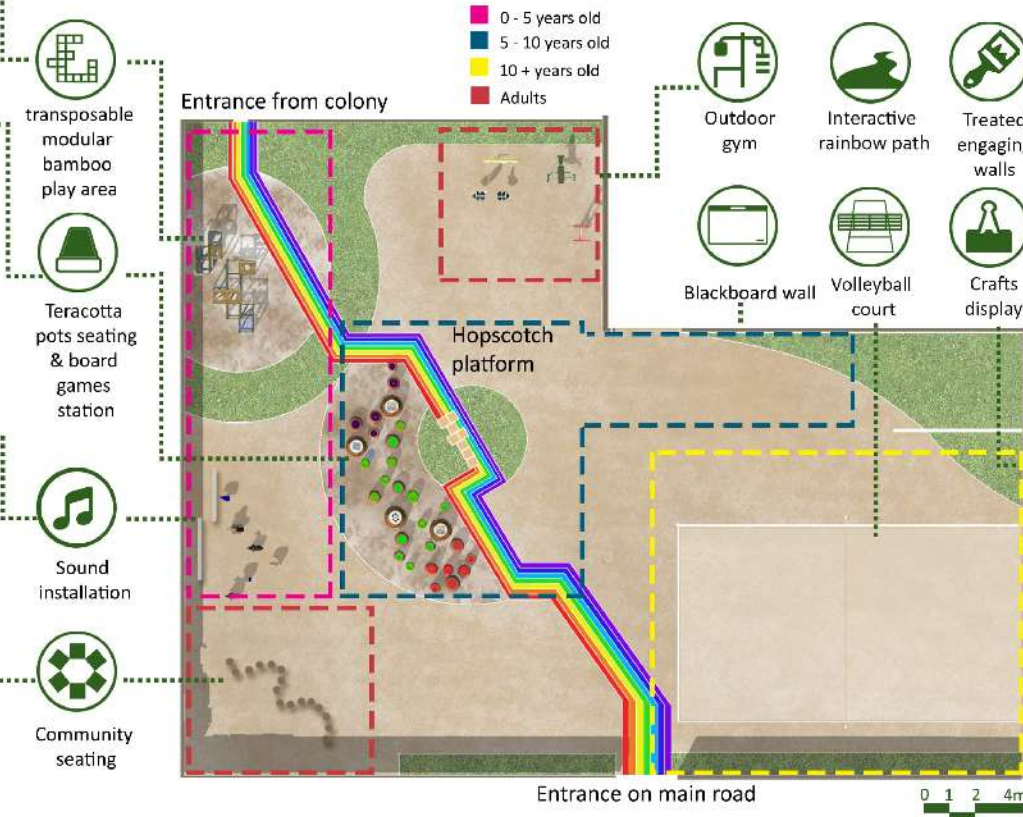
CONCEPT

Derivation of the *Cognitive Development Theory* by Jean Piaget. Divided into 4 zones based on age groups keeping in mind the stages of mental development a child goes through. Activities based on these theories have been introduced accordingly. The interventions have been designed such that the stakeholders identify with it . Features like the bamboo play modules and sound panels are designed in a comprehensible manner, with vibrant colors offering an inviting outlook, while the terracotta board game stations contribute to the social engagement. This would also contribute to the increase in interaction between the adults and children. Elements like the rainbow pathway, wall hangings and painted walls increase the happiness factor of the community, providing the residents access to the only space in the vicinity which gives them a break from their mundane lives in a suffocated, congested residential colony. The playspace impacts the residents and passerbys by visibly adding to the liveliness of the area, acting as an instant mood booster.

IMPACT

The no. of daily users increased by 250%, significantly more in women , who earlier did not visit the park at all. Also, an increase of 60% was observed in the average time spent in the park daily. This has in turn impacted the increase in adult - child interaction time immensely.

We have also successfully contributed to social awareness of the people in the locality by means like graphic panels, discussions and encouragement of co curricular by display areas.



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Wall painting

Laying of pathway

Bamboo construction

Preparing putty for wall treatment

Sound installation in use

Preparing clay beads with potters

Terracotta seating donated by potters for kids

Painted terracotta pots



Facilitate the use of appropriate technology, material and labour adequate to local values to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment.

In the implementation of the design, special attention has been given to making sustainable choices and reusing and recycling materials.

For the processes and technologies applied, **traditional knowledge systems** were drawn from, i.e. from the potters' community around and the bamboo constructions in workshops near the site.

Bamboo has been used in the framework of installations and terracotta in the seating donated by the potters for children, for making beads for the sound installation and the pots used as stepping stones. Broken ceramic pieces have also been put to use by embedding into the ground. These materials have been used in large quantities in respect of the context and to keep the community involved, to invoke a sense of responsibility towards the park.

Reusing of materials and objects has been done in suitable places. Discarded industrial containers and drums were tested and reused to make the community seating for adults. Old vinyl sheets from factories were used to create the rainbow for the pathway. Shelved boxes from takeaways were filled with beads and used in the sound installation. Jute ropes have largely been employed in most of the applications.

FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE

Monetary support from MLA fund, Malviya Nagar.
 Donation of plants from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
 Councillor, Malviya Nagar, S Delhi Zone - Donation of plants and field support.
 MAX Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, Delhi - Adoption and yearly maintenance contract of park via MOU Agreement with MCD.

Potters' shops- Daily maintenance and lighting provisions.
 Hauz Rani RWA and residents.
 We Mean To Clean, NGO Delhi-Ensuring community participation in regular cleanliness drives.



Institutional Support



Locals' Support

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