

PROJECT BACKGROUND

How fast a landscape changes is quite astonishing to witness and how fast people cope up is more of a surprise. The influx happened in August 25 of 2017 and since then Rohingya refugees, local hosting communities as well as the reserved forests of Teknaf area have gone through unimaginable changes

Rohingya refugees have been fighting with vulnerabilities in terms of basic shelter, health, nutrition and emotional state for a quite while now. Since the influx, rohingya refugees took shelter on 4300 acres of hills and forests in Ukhiya & Teknaf and the region has been more caring of a host than any other places in the world. One of the largest and most dense camps have become temporary home of almost a million refugees. That includes hundreds & thousands of young minds who are going through the most vital changes in terms of age and current state. The days they pass in the camps will shape them, who they will be in near future.

UN agencies, Bangladesh Govt. & other organizations like BRAC & Unicef are supporting them in this difficult time so that in future they become less of a burden rather healthier minds that are ready to contribute. Thus safer spaces for young boys, girls & women play good roles in the camps.

The center offers adolescent girls & women from the surrounding camp area- a place to have a good bath a day, a place to complain about abuse and violence and a place where they can learn to create & share, thus a safe home.

i. top-left, down-left

The introvert court offers privacy and freedom from surrounding to have various activities.

i. down-right

Forcefully displaced adolescent girls from camp 25 with their perception on the space



Ref. to Hasselt Charter aspect 01

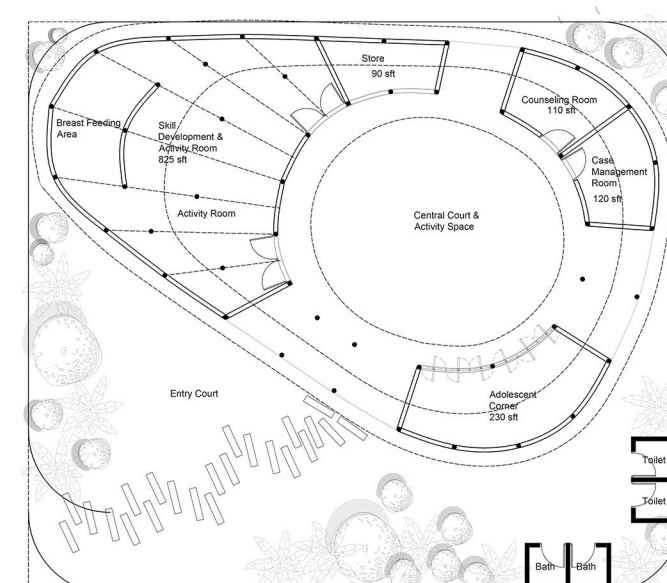
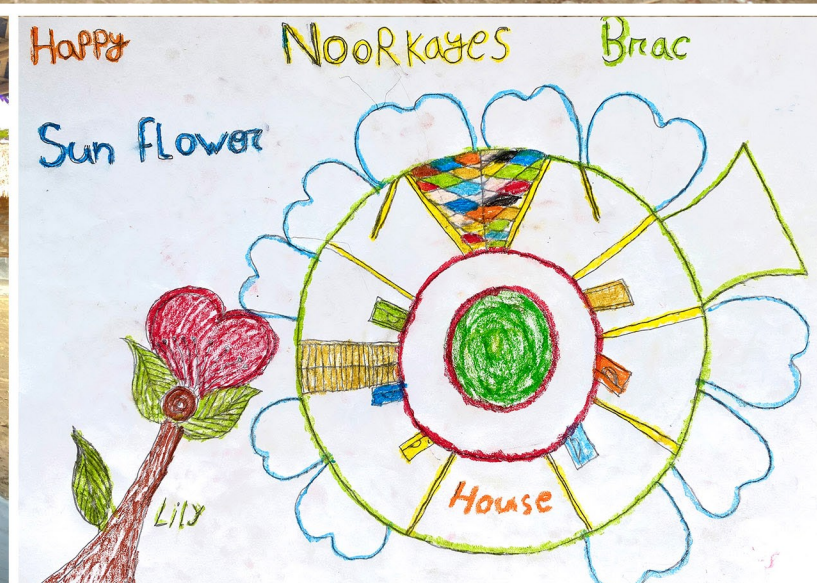
Several phases/methods i.e. pre-construction focused group discussions, ethical knowledge sharing/discussion during construction and post construction sharing session with the users helped understand the need, culture and possibilities within the context. The project aimed to create a dignified space possible within the limitation of material availability, building regulations, social impact etc. for the Rohingya Refugees. The construction process included the refugee males from the surrounding and tried to create a better understanding about the platform among them for the women of the community. Post construction engagement workshop with adolescent & young girls was introduced to create their own perception of a space.

i. top-left Male artisans who crafted the place from scratch

i. down-1 Construction techniques were very much depended on the skills and what is available.

i. down-3 Plan perceived by a young refugee girl

i. down-4 Plan of the center



BEYOND SURVIVAL- A SAFE SPACE FOR ROHINGYA WOMEN & GIRLS
Rizvi Hassan

Ref. to Hasselt Charter aspect
05

Materials used in Safe Space for Women & Girls are very basic and available nearby. Untreated bamboo (as built on emergency basis and will decay in few years and need to be replaced with treated bamboo) as structure, straw/hay with tarpaulin as roofing material (requires change in 1 year interval and can be replaced with alternative durable materials i.e Nipa palm roofing etc. for longer use). The site falls within a cyclone prone area and so materials non-hazardous during cyclone needed to be considered as well. The heights of the columns were determined on the basic layout and the whole structure was basically crafted by the Rohingya artisans with much care, as they are very familiar with bamboo and wood construction.

The exterior of the structure is ragged and tries to blend within the context. The texture, color & setting are inspired by often seen 'Paner Boroj' (Betel leaf shades) within rice fields. It is also very near to Asian elephant habitat and one can often see elephants getting down from the hills at the backgrounds. The material and exterior scheme avoids disturbance for elephants. However, Red & Yellow colors don't distract elephants either so was used for interior court and several openings.



BEYOND SURVIVAL- A SAFE SPACE FOR ROHINGYA WOMEN & GIRLS
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Ref. to Hasselt Charter aspect 10

A very basic introvert court ensures privacy & freedom for women of comparatively a conservative society. The interior court connects the surrounding rooms into one space. The activity space & rooms are smaller than other centers but openings towards the courtyard give the essence of a larger space. The colors that were painted by the artisans are vibrant enough to offer a cheerful essence. The semi-outdoor spaces within the form create opportunities to have the freedom and choice of spaces for the beneficiaries. Thus, this offers the displaced community a dignified place to have in their regular activities within the camp where it is not a common practice to have a place like this within a refugee camp.

