

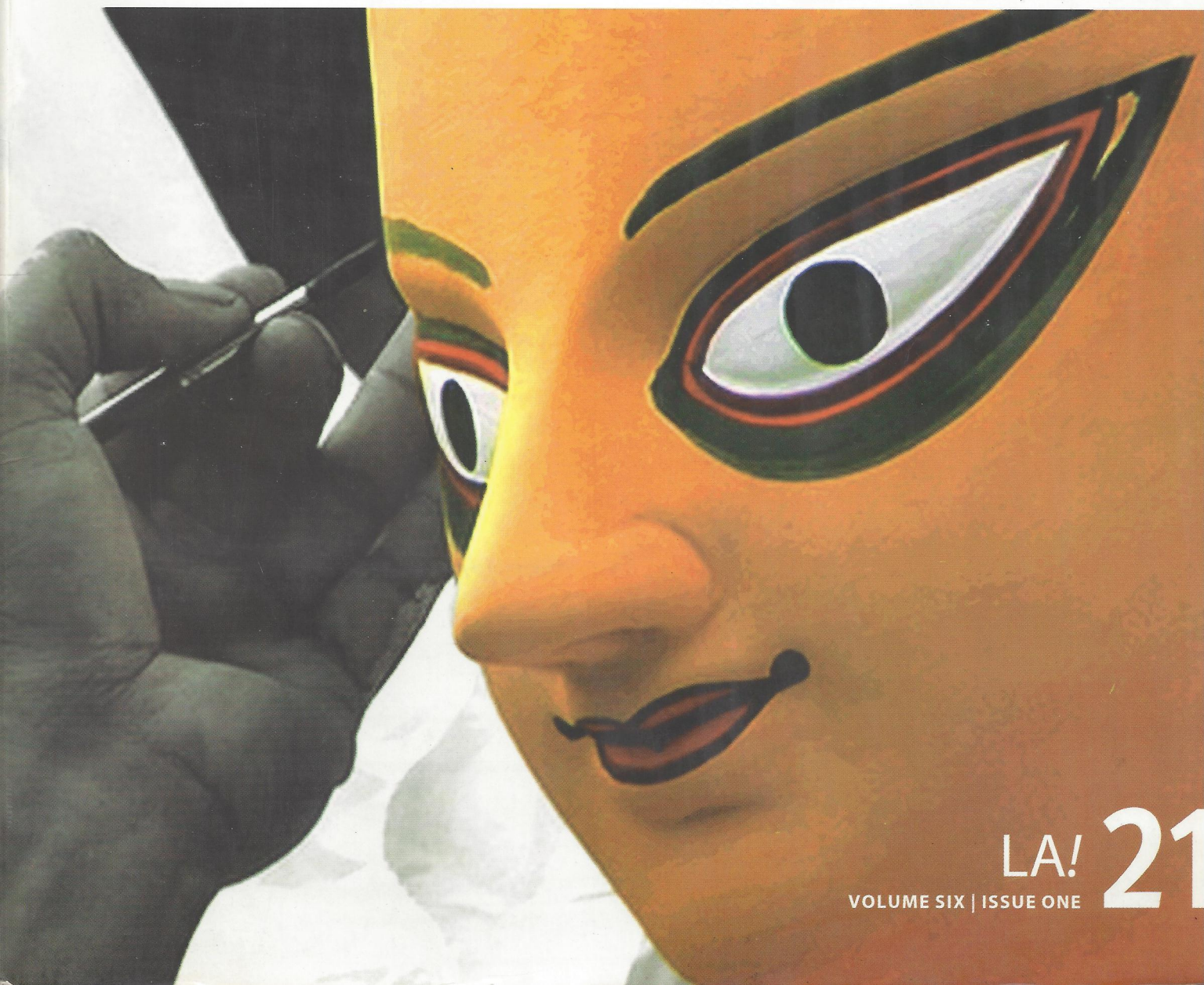
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Krishan C. Singal

# CITY CENTRE SALT LAKE, KOLKATA

**S**ituated in the quiet residential area of Salt Lake, the 'City Centre' spreads over 6.8 acres of land and combines the commercial complex of approximately 5 acres of land area and the residential complex of about 1.8 acres of land area. Built over a span of two years, the City Centre is promoted by Bengal Ambuja Metropolitan Development Authority — a joint venture between Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority and Gujarat Ambuja Cements Limited.

The immediate appearance of the Centre is an ordered composition of

cubist volumes and cut-outs in the trademark Charles Correa style.

## Shoppers Stop Plaza

Marked by the huge canopies of the Gulmohar Tree, the Shoppers Stop plaza is located in front of the mall and the office building. The plaza has an interesting paving pattern in Dholpur stone with carved out green pockets. In these green pockets, colorful flowers of ground covers like *Limonia spectabilis*, *Ixora chainensis* 'nana red', etc. juxtaposed with foliage plants like *Acalypha wilkesiana* 'ceylon',

*Acalypha wilkesiana* 'dwarf', *Acalypha wilkesiana* 'macrophylla', *Duranta goldiana*, *Ficus benjamina* 'variegata' and *Ficus starlite* bring liveliness to the plaza. The planting pattern is such that people move under tree canopies all the time. A replica of a horse-drawn tram, visible next to the *kund* area, sells memorabilia from Kolkata and this provides symbolic link with the rest of the city. The track of the tram cuts through the dholpur stone-paving pattern and is accentuated with rustic basalt stone paving.





**LEGEND**

1. Shoppers Stop Plaza
2. The Fountain Plaza
3. Roof Gardens
4. The Office Tower
5. The Mall (Block A)
6. Pedestrian Entries
7. Vehicular Entry/Exit
8. The Plaza (Blocks B, C, D, E)
9. Shopping Spine
10. The Cineplex
11. Water Feature
12. Open Parking
13. Entry to the residency
14. Residential Block
15. Main Swimming Pool with Toddler's pool
16. Children's Play Area
17. Residency Lawn
18. Connecting Pedestrian Bridge
19. Electrical Sub-station
20. Covered Parking
21. Landscaped Road Median



**The Fountain Plaza**

This, with a water body, or *kunda*, with fountain jet at the centre, is a vast multi-stepped plaza that provides ample space for the visitors to sit and relax, virtually serves as the hub or pivot to the circulation of the City Centre. The plaza has roof gardens at various levels above the basement parking. This softens the area as well as encourages visitors to spend longer time at the Centre. To further soften the expanse of hard paved area, square planters of various sizes are placed at different levels with ornamental plants. One huge planter right in front of the entrance with a 'defining tree' (viz. *Samanea saman* - Rain tree) planted directly on the mother earth further enhances the beauty of the plaza. The walls of these planters provide seating all around the plaza at various levels - thus making this place alive throughout the day and night, for the visitors. Flowering trees like *Michelia champaca*, *Peltophorum ferrugineum*, *Callistemon lanceolatus*, etc. with mild fragrance add color and vertical dimension to the landscape.

**PREVIOUS PAGE**

Shoppers Stop Plaza with low height planting under Gulmohar tree canopies accentuates the traditional tram

**THIS PAGE**

TOP: Site Plan

ABOVE: The Fountain Plaza with kund as the pivotal point

**FACING PAGE**

Pool area at City Centre Residency





## Roof Gardens

Roof gardens have been created on top of basement slab in the fountain plaza and also above parking area at first floor level in residency, which are used as recreational spaces. The residency lawn has been graded to extend above the ground level parking as roof garden, thus increasing the expanse of green area, which is connected to the residential block with footbridges at regular intervals.

## Shopping Spine

The shopping spine has been covered with translucent polycarbonate sheet to protect pedestrians from sun and rain. To soften the visual and micro-climatic effect of hard paved cudadah stone flooring, several small and big planting beds have been created. To add color, the clumps of Betel Nut Palms of different heights with ornamental groundcovers like *Alpinia zerumbet* 'variegata', *Dracaena kedarnath*, *Philodendron* 'Ceylon Gold', *Philodendron wendlandii*, *Syngonium podophyllum* 'butterfly', etc. have been planted. This breaks the monotony of monochromatic paving pattern and discourages people to spit in the beds.

## The Residency – City Centre

The residential area of the City Centre is located towards the south west of the plot. There are two 9-storied blocks, one of which is long, facing the residential green bound between compound wall and these two residential blocks. Each residential apartment has uninterrupted view of this green space which comprises of lush green rolling lawn (in Kolkata Doob Grass) from top of parking towards the main swimming pool, toddler's pool and children's play area.

Free flowing enclosures have also been created at different levels with the help of low height retaining walls clad with machine made terracotta color bricks. These retaining walls have been combined with a system of planters and seats (top finished with Bettam Chillah stone) for swimming pool and children's play area.

The children's play area is finished in synthetic surface with multiple play equipment whereas paving in swimming pool area is a combination of red sandstone with flush joints and Dhulpur stone with grass joints (in Selection no. 1 Grass). Flowering trees native to Kolkata e.g. *Erythrina* 'variegata', *Magnolia grandifolia*, *Peltophorum ferrugineum*, *Plumeria alba*, etc. and evergreen foliage trees e.g. *Mimusops elengi* 'variegata', *Ficus reginold*, *Terminalia catappa* etc. have been planted individually as well as in clusters so that small and large gatherings of adults and children can enjoy the spaces. Plant species chosen provide habitat for birds, butterflies, etc. It is already mentioned that this green space is accessible from the apartments through footbridges at first floor level segregated from vehicular traffic below at ground level running parallel to the long tower.

## Open Parking Lots

To avoid heating of the road surface and arrest the unavoidable radiations, shade providing evergreen trees like *Peltophorum ferrugineum*, *Ficus cristata*, *Ficus reginold*, *Ficus lyrata* etc. have been planted. Unlike the traditional hard paved vast parking lots, the open paving system has been introduced with the help of grass pavers (with Selection no. 1 Grass) which increases perviousness and infiltration in addition to the overall green effect. These pervious paving



systems reduce storm water runoff by allowing precipitation to infiltrate the undersurface through voids and recharge the ground water table.

Due attention has been given for outdoor lighting keeping functionality, security and aesthetics into consideration. An irrigation system has been designed for watering various soft landscaped areas.

## Surroundings

Further, the landscaping has not been restricted to the complex only but is extended to the surrounding roads, thus adding to the overall ambience of the immediate environment.

Project Name **City Centre**

Location **DC Block, Salt Lake, Kolkata**

Project Area **6.8 Acres**

Client/Developer  
**Bengal Ambuja Metro Development Ltd.**

Landscape Architects  
**Singal Associates, New Delhi**

Landscape Design Team  
**Krishan C. Singal  
Chahit Singal**

Architect  
**Charles Correa Associates, Mumbai**

Year of Commencement & Completion  
**June 2003 – June 2004**



## City Centre | Plant List

### TREES

#### 1.0 Large Trees

- 1.01 *Delonix regia* - Gulmohar
- 1.02 *Erythrina 'variegata'* - Indian Coral Tree
- 1.03 *Ficus cristata*
- 1.04 *Ficus lyrata* - Fiddle Leaf Fig
- 1.05 *Peltophorum ferrugineum* - Rusty Shield Bearer
- 1.06 *Polyalthia longifolia* - Ashok Tree
- 1.07 *Samanea saman* - Rain Tree
- 1.08 *Spathodea campanulata* - Tulip Tree
- 1.09 *Terminalia Catappa* - Indian Almond

#### 2.0 Medium Trees

- 2.01 *Ficus benjamina* - Java Fig Tree
- 2.02 *Magnolia grandiflora* - Laurel magnolia
- 2.03 *Michelia champaca* - Golden Champa
- 2.04 *Mimusops elengii* - Indian Medlar Tree
- 2.05 *Mimusops elengi 'variegata'*
- 2.06 *Saraca indica* - Sita Ashok Tree
- 2.07 *Tabebuia pallida* - Cuban Pink Trumpet Tree

#### 3.0 Small Trees

- 3.01 *Callistemon lanceolatus* - Bottle Brush
- 3.02 *Ficus reginold*
- 3.03 *Ficus starlit*
- 3.04 *Lagerstroemia thorelli* - Pride of India
- 3.05 *Plumeria alba* - White Champa

### PALMS & BAMBOOS

- 1 *Areca catechu* - Betel Nut Palm
- 2 *Areca luteccens* - Areca Palm
- 3 *Bambusa ventricosa* - Buddha's Belly
- 4 *Bambusa vulgaris* - Golden Bamboo
- 5 *Caryota urens* - Fish Tail Palm
- 6 *Cycas circinalis* - Queen Sago Palm
- 7 *Cycas revoluta* - Cycas Palm
- 8 *Livistona chinensis* - Chinese Fan Palm
- 9 *Washingtonia filifera* - Washingtonia Palm
- 10 *Phykosperma macarthurii* - Kentia Palm

### SHRUBS & FOLIAGE PLANTS

- 1 *Acalypha wilkesiana 'Ceylon'*
- 2 *Acalypha wilkesiana 'Macrophylla'*
- 3 *Adenium 'obesum'* - Desert Rose
- 4 *Allamanda nertifolia* - Allamanda Yellow
- 5 *Alpinia zerumbet 'variegata'* - Variegated Shell Ginger
- 6 *Calliandra haematocephala* - Powder Puff
- 7 *Cassia glauca*
- 8 *Livistona chinensis* - Chinese Palm
- 9 *Codiaeum variegatum 'Delaware'*
- 10 *Codiaeum variegatum 'Rainbow'*
- 11 *Crinum asiaticum*
- 12 *Dieffenbachia 'exotica camillia'*
- 13 *Duranta goldiana* - Golden Duranta
- 14 *Excoecaria bicolor*
- 15 *Ficus benjamina variegated* - Variegated Ficus
- 16 *Ficus starlit*
- 17 *Ficus panda*
- 18 *Hamelia patens* - Scarlet Bush
- 19 *Heliconia metallica*
- 20 *Hibisqus rosa sinensis 'daffodil'*
- 21 *Hibisqus rosa sinensis 'juno'*
- 22 *Hibisqus rosa sinensis 'Snowflake'* - China Rose

- 23 *Lagerstroemia lancasteri*
- 24 *Pleomele reflexa 'variegata'* - Song of India
- 25 *Polyscias balfouriana 'Pennockii'* - Dinner Plant Aralia
- 26 *Schefflera arboricola 'variegata'* - Variegated Schefflera
- 27 *Tabernaemontana coronaria variegated* - Chandani
- 28 *Tecoma gaudichaudi* - Yellow Bell

### GROUND COVERS & CREEPERS

- 1 *Acalypha wilkesiana 'Dwarf'* - Dwarf Acalypha
- 2 *Agloenema 'Parrot Jungle'* - Parrot Jungle
- 3 *Alternanthera 'red'*
- 4 *Alternanthera 'variegata'*
- 5 *Asparagus densiflorus 'sprengeri'* - Bridal Fern
- 6 *Bougainvillea 'shrubra'*
- 7 *Bougainvillea 'mahara'*
- 8 *Codiaeum variegatum 'Bangalore Beauty'*
- 9 *Iresine lindenii* - Laal Saag
- 10 *Ixora chinensis nana 'Red'* - Dwarf Red Ixora
- 11 *Ixora chinensis nana 'Pink'* - Dwarf Pink Ixora
- 12 *Lantana camara 'depressa'* - Yellow Lantana
- 13 *Lantana sellowiana* - Weeping Lantana
- 14 *Limonia spectabilis*
- 15 *Nephrolepis biserrata 'fucans'* - Horse Tail Fern
- 16 *Ophiopogon jaburan 'variegatum'* - Variegated Lily Turf
- 17 *Ophiopogon planiscapus nigrescens* - Black Dragon
- 18 *Philodendron 'Ceylon Gold'* - Philodendron Yellow
- 19 *Philodendron wendlandii*
- 20 *Sansevieria trifasciata 'golden hahnii'*
- 21 *Syngonium podophyllum 'butterfly'* - White Syngonium
- 22 *Vinca rosea* - Madagascar Periwinkle
- 23 *Wadelia trilobata* - Wadelia

### GRASSES

- 1 *Cyanodon dactylon* - Kolkata Doob Grass
- 2 Goa selection no. 1 Grass - Selection no. 1 Grass



The replica of horse-drawn tram track is accentuated by interesting flooring pattern in local stone

Images courtesy Singal Associates

Krishan C Singal is a New Delhi based landscape architect.  
He can be contacted at: singalassociates@airtelmail.in

