Re-Made Fabric
Garment district intervention, Chittagong, Bangladesh

Main authors
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Summary by the jury
Re-Made in Bangladesh is a research project investigating – through the deployment of architecture – the relationships in the global garment industry between producer and consumer nations. A catalog of potential architectural interventions is offered to improve working conditions and potentially eliminate practices of labor exploitation in the garment sector, whether in Chittagong or other locations. The project seeks to enable a shift from mass production industries to forms of micro and small enterprises, with workshops distributed throughout cities rather than confining workforces in isolated factory compounds on the periphery of metropolitan centers.

Appraisal by the jury
The jury applauds the rigor of the intellectual investigation, one substantiated by an “ethico-political” position and culminating in an architecture of “ethic-aesthetic” value. Particularly praised is the depth of the dialog and its aim to frame architecture as an inherently political endeavor, without, however, neglecting or undermining architecture’s disciplinary frameworks. The notion of design as “manifesto” – allowing the designer to operate with, against and ultimately for a given condition – was viewed with greatest esteem and considered an essential contribution by a young team to the Holcim Awards competition, and ultimately to the advancement of the field.

Project data
Context: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Client: Chittagong City
Background: Research project

Further authors

Image 1: To enable a shift from mass localized production to a networked micro production, Re-Made in Bangladesh explores urban planning with micro- and macro-architectural interventions. The model workshop represents the project’s approach to urban planning. The 10 Toolhouse and Workshop models are presented at 1:100 scale; the Import/Export Fair at 1:500.

Image 2: Zoom-in on the semi-rural Anwara area of Chittagong, the site of the Import/Export Fair proposal, which provides a global focus for dispersed networks of small-scale production. A targeted road improvement scheme is put in place, connecting existing dirt tracks.
Geopolitics and global actors: A project for-and-with-whom?

Connecting the disconnected parts of the city: The event.

3-step program.

Catalog: Tool houses.

Catalog: Workshops.

Catalog: Monument.

Locally-networked production for a global market.

In situ: Photo-manipulation.

More at www.holcimawards.org/projects/re-made-fabric