

# SAFE

# space

## TWO-DAY DESIGN CHARRETTE 'WALLS'

Paraa, in collaboration with Aparajeyo-Bangladesh and Leedo, seeks to explore and develop the idea of a 'child friendly' space. **SAFE SPACE**", is launched to explore a **sense of belonging** within the urban space of temporary existence. Currently supporting non-formal education for the vulnerable children, who have Kamalapur station as a home, this space is defined by characteristics that provide multiple challenges. Designing public spaces embedded in the urban, political, legal, socio-cultural realms of the everyday mega-city means being confronted with diverse challenges continually. Thus, we challenge teams to use a critical lens to explore and emphasize on all aspects of what constitutes a child friendly space in an urban 'public-facing' environment.

Registration deadline **12TH MAY 2016 MIDNIGHT**

Information [www.paraa.org.uk/safespaces](http://www.paraa.org.uk/safespaces)

Email queries [info@paraa.org.uk](mailto:info@paraa.org.uk)

paraa



 **StreetChildrenLeedo**  
An organization helping most vulnerable  
and less fortunate street children

# BRIEF

Paraa in collaboration with Aparajeyo-Bangladesh and Leedo seeks to explore the idea of a child-friendly space. "SAFE SPACE", is launched with an intention to explore the sense of personalization within the temporary urban space. The main task is to develop a series of designs to repaint the existing walls – this can be information, artwork, aesthetically pleasing or challenging – but in relation to the needs and desires of the people using the space.

Currently supporting non-formal education for the vulnerable children who have Kamalapur station as a home, this space is defined by characteristics that give a sense of security to the children. Participants are encouraged to critically explore and emphasize on such aspects.

By definition, a child-friendly space orients a vulnerable child to the regular routine through various activities, games and informal education. The project strives to bring out a character within the station, namely the walls of the space that would give a sense of belonging to the child under care.

# CHALLENGES

- To investigate and design the existing child friendly space in Kamalapur station, currently being used by Aparajeyo Bangladesh, through a series of participatory and/or collaborative methods.
- These spaces are used by vulnerable urban children, and have a temporary status, so the design response will have to reflect the scarcity of available materials – namely painting the walls.
- The end product will be a collective, collaborative production of a space, which Aparajeyo will continue to use to provide non-formal education and support to the children that often have Kamalapur Station as a home.

**Participants will be highly encouraged to address the following issues, and beyond:**

- Aim to propose a very low cost development and, explore creative means of generating funding or sourcing resources.
- Focus to design with resources readily available within the peripheral area of the site.
- Engage with the user group to increase personalization.

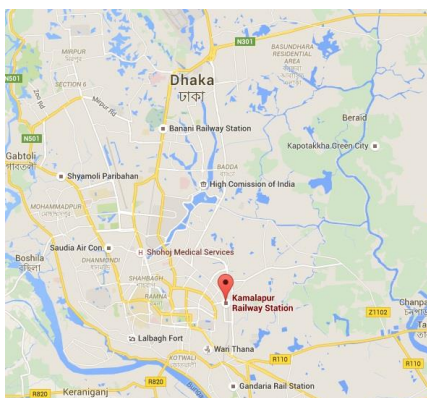
**The winners will be able to realize their design and contribute towards the process of developing the child-friendly safe spaces.**

# JURY BOARD

The Children and the community who are the main users of this space will be the main jurors, along with an invited group of special guests including architects, urban experts and individuals involved in working with children.

# THE CONTEXT AND SITE

Located to the south of the city, the platforms of Kamalapur Railway Station are home to a large number of the vulnerable community residing within Dhaka. Reports suggest the livelihood of thousands of children are involved with these platforms, which still actively serves as the busiest transport terminal for the locality. Over the years, this platform has become the hub for a variety of activities, going beyond the legitimate use it was designed for. While there may often be denial of the existence of these children who adopt such means as a reflex to survival, various initiatives are also taken to accommodate those vulnerable to abuse and to support their education and health.



**More detailed drawings and site plans will be provided to registered groups.**

Participants will receive guidance through a dedicated workshop regarding site context, the lifestyle and psychological behavior of the rail children, organized by Paraa.

# TIMEFRAME

The below schedule is the tentative outline. As this is a fast-paced project, we expect groups to respect the timelines and especially for site visits / feedback sessions. These are valuable opportunities to access much needed information in relation to the wider issues the brief requests to be addressed.

<b>COMPETITION LAUNCHED</b>	20.04.2016
<b>REGISTRATION CLOSED</b>	12.05.2016
<b>WORKSHOP ONE</b> Orientation with site, context and child psychology	20.05.2016
<b>WORKSHOP TWO</b> On site investigation, design workshops	21.05.2016
<b>GROUP FEEDBACK AT PARAA STUDIO</b>	23.05.2016
<b>JURY AND PRESENTATION</b> Children, Community, Architects and invited guests	25.05.2016
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING TEAM</b>	26.05.2016
<b>PROJECT APPLICATION</b>	27.05.2016 28.05.2016

*\*Dates are subject to change for any inevitable reason.*

*\*Times will be provided with more detailed outline to registered groups.*

# ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is aimed at groups of minimum 3 and maximum 5 participants, which must include one architectural student or recent graduate.
- Participants are to have a basic understanding of methods, or research/request the relevant available methods, of analyzing the site and its community critically, upon visit.
- Applicants are to be aware of participatory/collaborative design methods.

***To register each group must submit the following information to***

***<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M2FR7LH>***

- Lead person contact details: Name, Email address, Phone number
- A group name of own choice
- Group members name and contact details
- Why you would like to participate

***Email Urgent enquiries to: [ruhul@paraa.org.uk](mailto:ruhul@paraa.org.uk) / [arefin@paraa.org.uk](mailto:arefin@paraa.org.uk) or call: +88 01732 763589***

## APARAJEYO-BANGLADESH

Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) is a national child rights organization. Founded in 1995 through localization of an international NGO, the organization commenced activities in 1976, working with children living in and around the slums of Dhaka City. With a believe that childhood plays a critical role in developing a persona, AB aims to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability from the lives of vulnerable children. AB started “Community Actions for Child Protection from Violence” in agreement with Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) to support the vulnerable children of Dhaka and Khulna Metropolitan city. There are 4500 children beneficiaries till date.

*For more information, [www.aparajeyo.org](http://www.aparajeyo.org)*

## LEEDO

Local Education and Economic Development Organization – LEEDO - is a nonprofit organization established in Bangladesh (2000). To improve the lives of vulnerable urban children, especially those living on streets in critical areas, LEEDO field volunteers work to offer them with choices within their environment and assist them to make significant decisions by building trust. LEEDO primarily works with volunteers, running *SHETU*, a Transition Shelter (with Muslim Charity UK) in Babubazaar, which accommodates rescued vulnerable children for some time, especially girls, before they can be returned to their guardians, if any. However, many of the children have no place of belonging, or what we know as ‘home’. So, they are eventually given lodging, food and a minimal health support at a recently built Peace Shelter by LEEDO, at Bosila, near Mohammdpur.

*For more information, [www.streetchildrenleedobd.org](http://www.streetchildrenleedobd.org)*

## PARAA

Paraa is an architectural studio, focusing on enhancing spaces for communities in Bangladesh through multi-disciplinary practice. It has a clear set of values underpinned with critical research and methods that engage and encourages collaborations.

- A) Establish a ‘School of Thought’ out of Paraa’s on-going practice and research (advocacy, training, communications, research and study)
- B) Respond to each community’s rights and aspirations by researching their traditional architecture, living standards, social and environmental conditions.
- C) Gain and share knowledge of the built and natural environment in Bangladesh by bridging communities of developed and developing societies.
- D) Encourage knowledge exchange through modern technology as well as developing innovative and participatory methods of engagement.

*For more information, [www.paraa.org.uk](http://www.paraa.org.uk)*