

## **Abstract**

Two low-income settlements in Dhaka, Bangladesh, are surveyed – one is publicly owned, and one is privately owned by a local influential person. Taking both a macro and micro perspective, the built environment of the two settlements is examined and compared, in terms of materials, the evolution of housing, space and land use patterns, zoning, access pathways and climate change impact. The survey finds that residents of the publicly owned settlement experience greater flexibility in terms of ability to adapt and innovate in their living space, and have a greater sense of belonging. Residents of the privately owned settlement were found to be more restricted in many ways and to lack a sense of belonging. The characteristics of the land also affect the built environment in both settlements.

**Keywords:** Dhaka, built-environment, public low-income settlement, private low-income settlement, bustee environment, Bangladesh

## **Authors**

**Shareq Rouf Chowdhury, Suhailey Farzana** and **Inteza Shahriar** are final year students at the Department of Architecture, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Khondaker Hasibul Kabir** is Lecturer in Architecture, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Fuad H. Mallick** is Professor of Architecture, BRAC University, Dhaka Bangladesh.