United Wellness
Community Health Center

Project Designers:
*Team Project - in Progress*
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M. Arch- 1st Year

Abstract:
United Wellness is a Community Health Center located in Bhagalpur, a rural areas Bihar, India. Rural areas in India have limited access to medical facilities, both in terms of availability as well as accessing these facilities. This project aims to cater to this neglected set of people, by taking the medical facilities to the people.

“Our mission is to create an accessible, self-sustaining medical facility capable of containing sufficient medical infrastructure as required, which can easily be moved to, and quickly assembled, in remote locations in India, catering to the large proportion of the rural population in far-flung Indian villages.”

Some of the problems faced in such rural areas include lack of accessibility for doctors to reach the people, as well as lack of availability of medical equipment and infrastructure. Also, people in villages don’t often understand the importance of medical care.

Responding to these problems identified, the project aims to create not only a medical facility, but also a community gathering space, which aims to draw people in. The site was strategically selected based on the common methods of transport used by the locals, which include public transport as well as boat. Also expanding the program of the health center to include a children’s play area, a common amphitheater (for public lectures, and health education classes), and common shaded gathering spaces were other design strategies employed. The project is largely prefabricated and modular in nature, which ensures that it can be easily transported and set up quickly, and which also dictates the size and geometry. Also, mobile units are proposed, as elements which could cater to the people unable to access this facility.

Bihar is a state which sees a large amount of flooding every year, where thousands of people lose their homes. While the site selected is not specifically located in a floodplain, the design proposes using this facility as a rescue base, where the displaced people could be temporarily housed on the level above the facility.

Another design decision which will have a positive impact on the community, is the use of bamboo in this facility, which would enable the local craftsmen to get involved in the construction process of this medical center. This will help create a strong tie between the facility and the community. Bamboo would be used both as a prefabricated panel, to insulate the walls, as well as a central defining roof element.

This project is committed to embracing the community, and is something that can be replicated in multiple locations in rural India.
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Bamboo Roof along Central Spine
Bamboo Panels