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## Rs 13-cr makeover for Bandstand, Carter Road promenades

By Linah Baliga, Mumbai Mirror | May 15, 2018, 06.37 AM IST



*Carter Road*

*A group of local architects, along with PK Das & Associates, has designed the projects to be undertaken by maritime board.*

After around 18 years, the two famous promenades in Bandra — Bandstand and Carter Road — are set for a massive makeover at a budgetary provision of around Rs 13 crore.

The project by the Maharashtra Maritime Board has been made possible by a group of local architects called Bandra Collective and architect PK Das & Associates, who have come forward to design the renovation plan.

The Carter Road promenade, which was a land-filled area and used as an illegal dumping ground at night before it was developed 18 years ago, will boast amphitheatre, landscaping and lights on the water's edges.

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At Bandstand, the makeover will focus majorly on the retaining walls with the architects planning “ghats” — a series of steps where people can sit and enjoy the sight of the sea, or simply water into the water. While Rs 10 crore has been set aside for beautification of the 1.4-km Carter Road promenade, work on the 1.2-km Bandstand seafront will cost Rs 2.82 crore. The sum of Rs 2.5 crore that was given by actor Rekha from her MPLAD fund when she was a member of Parliament will be exclusively used for lighting and landscaping.

Architect PK Das, who is spearheading the project for both the promenades, said, “We have planned a number of new things. A completely new kind of flooring has been envisioned. The old shahabad stones will be replaced with pre-cast paver blocks. We are planning coloured graphic pattern on the paving, which won’t look like cement concrete blocks. The earlier flooring is worn out and damaged because of several excavations.”

Sameep Padora, an architect from Bandra Collective, said that the emphasis was on the edges of the promenade for better visual appeal and physical access. “It will make the promenade look larger and part of the seafront. The existing space is not enough for an amphitheatre. So we will create more space and rework on the paving with abstract patterns depicting blue-green water to make it visually appealing for walkers,” said Padora.

Architect Samarath Das added that the amphitheatre is being rebuilt with more seating capacity, better central garden and views of the entire promenade. “Earlier, it was rectangular in shape, now it will have more meandering pathways, steps and landscape,” he said.

A senior official of the Maharashtra Maritime Board confirmed the redevelopment and refurbishment plans for both the promenades.

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“The tiles have come out, the seaside retaining wall is on the verge of collapse. We plan to strengthen and beautify the promenades. The district planning committee will provide lights for the Carter Road promenade,” the official added.

However, some local people have raised objections over the choice of contractor. Darryl D’Monte, president, Bandra West Residents’ Association, has written to Vikram Kumar, the CEO of Maharashtra Maritime Board, saying that blacklisted contractor Unitech Construction was being considered for redevelopment of the Carter Road promenade.

“The contractor had delayed the work indefinitely for a couple of years, which is why the Board had terminated his services. His work is also shoddy, as several senior citizens have been injured while walking on the poorly made promenade. Even MLA Ashish Shelar had asked for this contractor to be blacklisted. We don’t know why despite our objections, this contractor has been considered for this work?” D’Monte wrote.

Responding to the allegations, the Maharashtra Maritime Board official said, “The contractor has applied online. But the technical scrutiny of the bid for the Carter Road promenade is going on. Only those qualified will be eligible for commercial bidding.”



The designs for the promenades at Bandra Bandstand (above) and Carter Road (top left)