

Name- Farah Noor Chowdhury  
Major(s)- Architecture and Design (Product)  
Graduation year- 2026  
Hometown- Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Faculty Advisor- Christina Zhang  
Project Title- *Pani Bari* (House of Water)

### Artist Bio

Farah Noor'26 is an Architecture and Design major. Her Project, *Pani Bari*, which translates to Water House in Bengali, stems from the question "How can architecture help with flood mitigation while providing for communities facing water insecurity?" The Pani Bari is a laundry and bath house that collects rainwater before it reaches impervious ground, reuses it for essential chores, and delays its release back into the drainage system. Farah is originally from Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her faculty advisor is Christina Zhang.

### Project Statement

In Dhaka, water is simultaneously too much and never enough. Climate change and tropical monsoons bring record-breaking rainfall, which waterlogs parts of the highly impervious city, while groundwater levels are dropping by as much as 2 metres each year. The project, *Pani Bari* (House of Water), uses architecture to absorb, use, and delay rainwater from reaching the drainage system. The space reimagines the domestic focal point of the 'fire hearth' as a community focal point of the 'water hearth', suited to the hot climate of the site. Pani Bari is a laundry and bathhouse that reuses collected greywater to provide the community with spaces for essential errands, while embracing the comfort of wetness.

The design project stems from the study of urban pluvial flooding, which occurs when intense or prolonged rainfall overwhelms a city's drainage capacity, turning into surface runoff. The study examined the layered drivers of pluvial flooding and existing flood mitigation strategies, developing a green-to-grey toolkit to inform the design proposal.