Housing By and Large: The Geographic Question

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Photo: Environmental Justice Foundation/John Vidal/The Guardian
Dhaka
306 sq km area
14.5 million people (2017)

Boston
233 sq km
6,87,584

Manhattan
87 sq km
1.7 million

Tokyo
2187 sq km
13.5 millions
Building Dhaka: On vanishing ecologies
Dhaka City expands
1975-2017
Developing the Basundhara-Purbachal area
1975-2017

Total volume of land-fill:
15958200866.85 cu ft (91595.82 billion cu ft)
The volume of a city:
Forty years of landfill in Dhaka projected in Boston Harbor and the rivers.
Plottting and Scheming:
The new landscape of real estate economics and vanished ecologies
More vanishing ecologies: Mongla Port Town, 2011 and 2017
Dhaka as a product of liquid geography:
The mechanism of landfill
Transforming the edge in the image of the core
What is this liquid geography?
The Brahmaputra river and channels
The Padma/Ganga river
When the water arrives!
Bengal Institute involved in developing an architectural and urban language for the liquid geography.
Riverbank Housing, Naryanganj
The bigger question:

What kind of housing in a liquid terrain?
Housing in a rice performative geography
Question of food security
Question of water security and management
Landscape morphologies: 
The “worm” and the “textile”
The rice narrative:
An emerging ecological and landscape schema
A Lynchian framework on the Bengali agricultural landscape
An agricultural and habitat module
Imagining new coastal habitats
“worm”: contoured land
Worm models
“textile”: flat plains
Muzharul Islam, Jahangirnagar University, 1967
Kisho Kurokawa, Plans for an "Agricultural City", 1961
**Textile Planning**
Cooperative housing for “bhadraloks” in a coastal area in Bangladesh, 1920s
Reorganizing farmlands was in part to make it easier for tubewell irrigation because so many farmers owned discontinuous pieces of land. From A People's Participation (1957)

Government proposals for consolidated villages, 1957
Four Square Textile Plan

Total area:
1 square: 13.8 acres
4 squares: 53.7 acres

Yields:
Housing unit for 4 squares: 1500
Paddy production: 94,000 kg/year
Threshold scheme for a small town
Figures from paintings by SM Sultan