

Friendship Centre by H el ene Binet

Photographs

*On the occasion of the exhibition
« FARAWAY SO CLOSE. A Journey to
the Architecture of Kashef Chowdhury /
URBANA, Bangladesh »
29.06.-11.10.2022
at luca - Luxembourg Center for
Architecture (in collaboration with
Friendship Luxembourg asbl.), this
series of photos by world-renowned
architectural photographer H el ene
Binet of the Friendship Centre of
Gaibandha, made in the context of the
edition of a monograph on this project
(Park Books 2016 - ISBN 978-3-
03860-021-3) and graciously donated
by H el ene Binet on the occasion of a
prior exhibition at luca and Galerie
Clairefontaine in 2014, will be on
sale for the common benefit of luca -
Luxembourg Center for Architecture
and Friendship Luxembourg asbl.*

Photographs by H el ene Binet

**« H el ene Binet has emerged as one of the leading architectural photographers in the world. Every time H el ene Binet takes a photograph, she exposes architecture’s achievements, strength, pathos and fragility. »
(Daniel Libeskind)**

H el ene Binet was born in 1959 in Sorengo and is of both Swiss and French background. She currently lives in London with her husband Raoul Bunschoten and their two children, Izaak and Saskia.

She studied photography at the Instituto Europeo di Design in Rome, where she grew up, and soon developed an interest in architectural photography. Over a period of twenty-five years, H el ene Binet has photographed both contemporary and historical architecture. Her list of clients includes architects Raoul Bunschoten, Caruso St John, Zaha Hadid, Daniel Libeskind, Studio Mumbai, Peter Zumthor and many others.

While following the work of contemporary architects – often from construction through completion – H el ene Binet has also photographed the works of past architects such as Alvar Aalto, Geoffrey Bawa, Le Corbusier, Sverre Fehn, John Hejduk,

Sigurd Lewerentz, Andrea Palladio and Dimitris Pikionis.

More recently, H el ene Binet has started to direct her attention to landscape photography, wherein she transposes key concerns of her architectural photography. H el ene Binet’s work has been published in a wide range of books and is shown in both national and international exhibitions.

Awards & Fellowships

2008 Award for Architecture ‘For the best work by a first-time exhibitor in the Royal Academy Summer Show 2008’ Royal Academy of Arts. London

2007 Honorary Fellowship Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). London

2003 Digital Elements Award 2003 Olympus Europe Foundation Science for Life. Hamburg

Friendship Centre

Being in an earthquake zone and the low bearing capacity of the silty soil added further complications. The third and final design relies on a surrounding embankment for flood protection while building directly on existing soil, in load-bearing masonry. Rainwater and surface run-off are collected in internal pools and the excess is pumped to an excavated pond, also to be used for fishery.

The design relies on natural ventilation and cooling, being facilitated by courtyards and pools and the earth covering roofs. An extensive network of septic tanks and soak wells ensure the sewage does not mix with flood water. The 'Ka' Block contains the reception pavilion, offices, library, training/ conference rooms and pavilions, a prayer space and a small 'cha-shop'. The 'Kha' Block, connected by three archways, is for more private functions and houses the dormitories, the dining pavilion and staff and family quarters. The laundry and drying shed is located on the other side of the pond. There is no air-conditioning and the entire lighting is through LED and energy-efficient lamps.

As in construction, so in conception – the complex of the centre sires and exists as an echo of ruins, alive with the memory of the remains of Mahasthan (3rd century BC), some sixty kilometres away. Constructed and finished primarily of one material – local hand-made bricks – the spaces are woven out of pavilions,

courtyards, pools and greens; corridors and shadows.

Simplicity is the intent, monastic is the feel. The centre serves and brings together some of the poorest of poor in the country and – by extension – in the world, yet in the extreme limitation of means was a search for the luxury of light and shadows of the economy and generosity of small spaces; of the joy of movement and discovery in the bare and the essential.

Terms of purchase

- The photos have been donated by H  l  ne Binet to Friendship;
- Prices include frames;
- Prices do not contain VAT (and no VAT is charged as Friendship is not subject to VAT);
- Delivery at luca or at home (within Luxembourg) at the end of the exhibition between 11 - 24 October 2022, upon payment;
- For each photograph bought, a book "Friendship Centre" is offered.

Payment by bank transfer to

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upon request



Title
Sitting Pavilion

Printing
colour, 1 print from a limited series of 10

Size
43,5 x 53 cm

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