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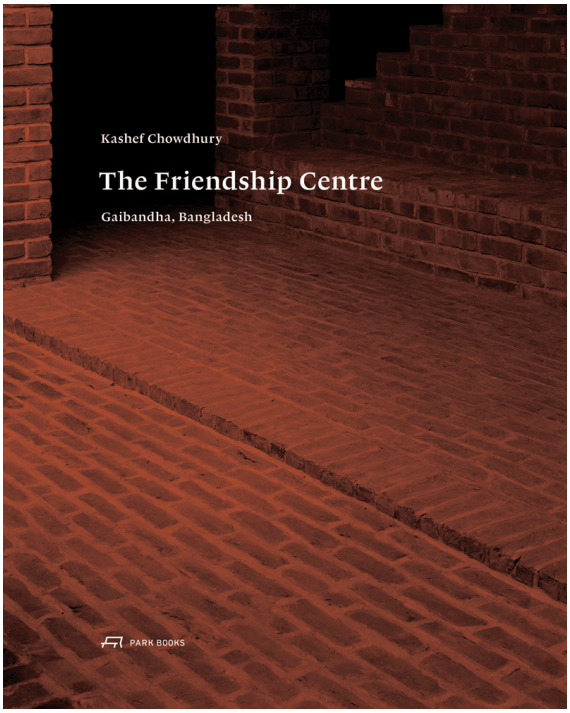

Kashef Chowdhury - The Friendship Centre

Kenneth Frampton

Robert Wilson

ISBN	9783038600213
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	250 mm x 150 mm
Pages	128 Pages
Illustrations	29 color, 54 b&w
Price	£30.00

- Documents a unique training facility for the poor rural population in the Gaibandha district in northern Bangladesh
- Features photographs by celebrated Swiss architectural photographer Hélène Binet
- With essays by renowned architectural critic Kenneth Frampton and writer and curator Robert Wilson

The Friendship Centre near the district town of Gaibandha, Bangladesh, is for an NGO which works with some of the poorest in the country and who live mainly in riverine islands (chars) with very limited access and opportunities. Very limited funding prevented an elevated structure in this area under constant threat of flooding. This and the location in an earthquake zone and the low bearing capacity of the silty soil lead to a design surrounded by an embankment for flood protection while built directly on existing soil. Rainwater and surface run-off are collected in internal pools and the excess is pumped to an excavated pond. The design relies on natural ventilation and cooling facilitated by courtyards and pools and the earth covering on roofs. An extensive network of septic tanks and soak wells ensure the sewage does not mix with flood water. This new book features the austere beauty and simplicity the building by Dhaka-born architect Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury in striking photographs taken by Hélène Binet and selected plans and sections. Essays by architects and critics Kenneth Frampton and Robert Wilson round out this building monograph.

Kenneth Frampton is a renowned architectural critic and Ware Professor of Architecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. **Robert Wilson** is a writer, curator, and architect based in London. He edits the architectural print magazine *Block* and is editor-at-large of digital magazine *uncube,* and teaches curating at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design in London.

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