



# Muzharul Islam, An Architect of Tomorrow

## Architecture and Nation-Building in Bangladesh

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf

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- The complete works with critical commentaries of one of the major stalwarts of modern architecture in South Asia
- This book will be the first comprehensive publication of the life and work of the master architect from Bangladesh, Muzharul Islam
- Geared towards an architectural audience interested in the complete works of a master modernist architect of South Asia
- Content will also interest those in history, sociology, urban studies and related disciplines interested in modern South Asia
- Introductory essay by renowned architectural historian and critic Kenneth Frampton, additional introductory essay by noted critic William Curtis

Muzharul Islam was one of the principal stalwarts of South Asia who established the norms and practices of modernity. Uniquely passionate about architecture and political engagement, Muzharul Islam's life and legacy contributed to the building up of a vibrant architectural culture in Bangladesh, with an impact beyond the boundaries of that country. The book **Muzharul Islam, An Architect of Tomorrow** is the first comprehensive book on the architect featuring his works and texts, and essays by notable figures from across the world. Muzharul Islam (1923-2013) was active from the early 1950s in defining the scope and form of modern architecture, first in Pakistan and then, after 1971, in Bangladesh. His task was an enormous one: to create a modern yet Bengali paradigm for architecture. For Muzharul Islam, modernism meant more than an architectural vocabulary; it was part of an ethical and rational approach for addressing social inequities of the region. His steadfast commitment to a modernist ideology stemmed from an optimistic vision for transforming society. Consequently, his commitment for establishing a strong design culture in Bangladesh is paralleled by a deep engagement with the political and ethical dimension of society, with building the nation, so to speak.

**Kazi Khaleed Ashraf** is an architect, and architectural historian and critic, working at the intersection of architecture, urbanism and landscapes. He has established the Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as a leading research and design organisation in the subcontinent. Ashraf has authored books and essays on architecture in Bangladesh and India, on the work of Louis Kahn, Balkrishna Doshi, Kongjian Yu, and on other critical topics.

