



Rising Oceans & Spaces That Care

Complexities and ideas behind the Friendship Hospital by Kashef Chowdhury / URBANA in Bangladesh

In times of global crises, architecture must provide fundamental answers to environmental and social challenges. The Friendship Hospital in southern Bangladesh designed by Kashef Chowdhury / URBANA is a pioneering work in this respect. Its architecture brings life-saving healthcare to a remote rural context and also cares about an environment severely exposed to climate change. The subtly incorporated local characteristics of the world's largest river delta create identity and anchor the building to its place. Furthermore, the use of universal architectural means, as well as the sustainable activation of natural resources, make the building globally relevant. The holistic architectural thinking behind its healing spaces is based on a complex overlay of ideas concerned with real-world sustainability, to improve the conditions of both human life and our suffering planet.

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Edited by Niklaus Graber

ISBN	9783037612910
Publisher	Quart Publishers
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Central Europe, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Africa, Middle East, and West Indies
Size	270 mm x 195 mm
Pages	184 Pages
Illustrations	146 color, 26 b&w
Price	£41.50

- Fully illustrated with 146 images and illustrations and 26 plans
- With articles by Kashef Chowdhury, Niklaus Graber and Tanja C. Vollmer / Gemma Koppen
- With photos by Hélène Binet

In times of global crises, architecture must also seek new sustainable approaches to climatic and social challenges. Designed by Kashef Chowdhury / Urbana, the Friendship Hospital in southern Bangladesh can be regarded as pioneering in this respect. The hospital, which was awarded the 2022 RIBA International Prize, provides life-saving healthcare, as well as enhancing the identity of a coastal region that has been devastated by cyclones and soil salinisation as a result of rising sea levels.

Constructed in local brickwork, the architecture collects the valuable rainwater and uses the wind for natural cooling, while subtly interacting with specific characteristics of the world's largest river delta. It also applies universal architectural means such as space, light and proportions to ensure the well-being of patients and the people close to them.

A profound architectural stance developed out of the geography and history of the local context makes this work globally relevant. This book, which includes a photo essay by Hélène Binet, presents plans, diagrams and model photos that offer insight into the design and construction process in one of the world's most climate-affected regions.