

Aga Khan Award for Architecture

Winners of the Aga Khan
Award for Architecture
2020 - 2022



Aerial view of the large public ghat along the Nabaganga river in the city of Jhenaidah.

Bangladesh | Urban River Spaces

The community-driven project provides public spaces in the riverine city with 250,000 residents; over time, access to and use of the river and banks had become impeded. To date, the project comprises two ghats – steps leading down to platforms at the river, with adjacent walkways – and the opening of obstructed pedestrian pathways leading to them. Locally available materials such as brick and concrete were used in the simple, contextual designs, all built by local builders and masons; the site-specific projects retain all existing trees and vegetation. Future phases focus on public use of the river area with walkways, gardens, cultural facilities and environmental efforts to increase biodiversity in the river.

Technical Information

Award Cycle: 2020-2022 Cycle

Country of origin: Bangladesh

Location: Jhenaidah, Bangladesh

Client: Residents & Jhenaidah City Authority

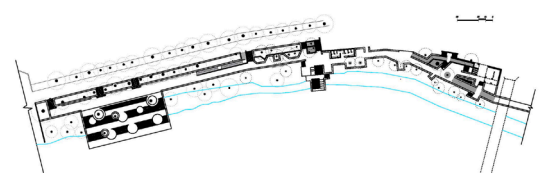
Architect: Co.Creation Architects |
Khondaker Hasibul Kabir,
Suhailey Farzana

Completed: 2019

Photo Credits: Asif Salman



The ghat is built on two levels connected by stairs and a ramp.



Plan of the public ghat | Courtesy of architect



Aerial view of the Shantikhana Women Friendly Space in Camp 4ext. The construction started before the design was finalised, allowing the local Rohingya workers to express their artisanal skills and artistic freedom.

Community Spaces in Rohingya Refugee Response

Rather than separate projects, the six sustainably built structures in the world’s largest refugee camps, housing Rohingya fleeing Myanmar’s genocidal violence, are a collection of practice exercise: Each created scope for the next according to need. Much of the design occurred collaboratively in the field. A women-friendly space, very low to withstand cyclones, features a complex roof truss built by Rohingya bamboo workers without drawings or models. A safe space offering practical support to women and girls employed local materials and an exterior scheme that avoids the disturbance caused to visiting elephants by the blues and pinks of standard camp structures. A facility for women to create and showcase their handmade products is built of bamboo and thatch. One community support centre uses colourful mattresses as roof insulation; another mixes natural materials with industrial ones; another is built around existing betel nut trees, resisting the tendency to deforestation.

Technical Information

Award Cycle: 2020-2022 Cycle

Country of origin: Bangladesh

Location: Teknaf, Bangladesh

Client: BRAC HCMP, ActionAid

Architect: Rizvi Hassan, Khwaja Fatmi, Saad Ben

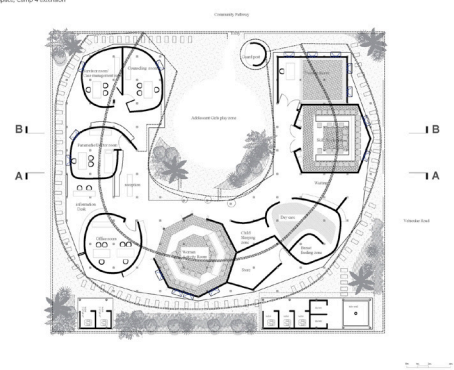
Completed: 2019

Photo Credits: Asif Salman



The display centre in camp 11 provides Rohingya women with a facility to create, showcase and sell handmade products to visitors. The open courtyard connects the production workshop and the display centre.

Women Friendly Space, Camp 4 extension



Plan

Women Friendly Space in camp | Courtesy of architect



The roof is divided in two sections to distinguish the departure and arrival halls.

Indonesia | Blimbingsari Airport

Shunning the standardised international style of most airports, this domestic airport embraces a context-conscious design approach. Serving over 1,100 passengers daily, it caters to the hot climate through a large-scale, contemporary interpretation of vernacular passive design principles. Openings and overhangs are optimised for temperature control through natural ventilation and shading. A continuous arrangement from landscape to interior space helps airflow, with lush plantings bringing nature inside the building. The roof is in two sections to distinguish departure and arrival halls, both inspired by traditional Indonesian forms. Its hipped shapes provide a thermal void, and its grass covering further insulation. Daylight inlets on ceilings and façades are filtered through ulin-wood shutters. Materials were selected for local availability, functionality and low-cost maintenance.

Technical Information

Award Cycle: 2020-2022 Cycle

Country of origin: Indonesia

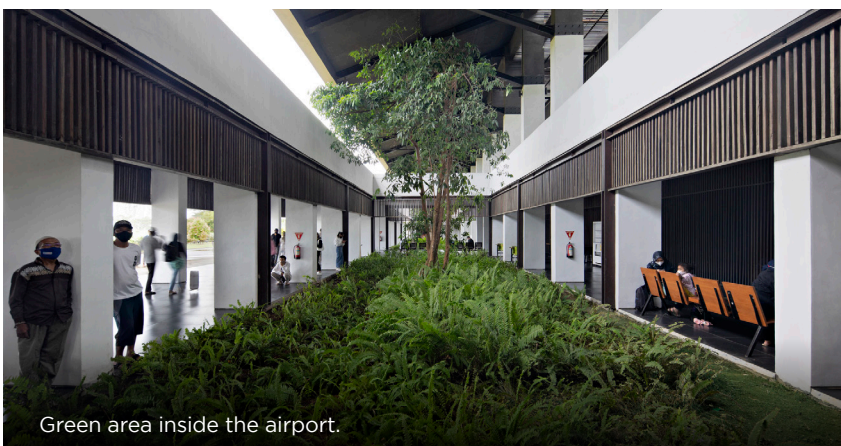
Location: Banyuwangi East Java, Indonesia

Client: PEMDA - Angkasa Pura II

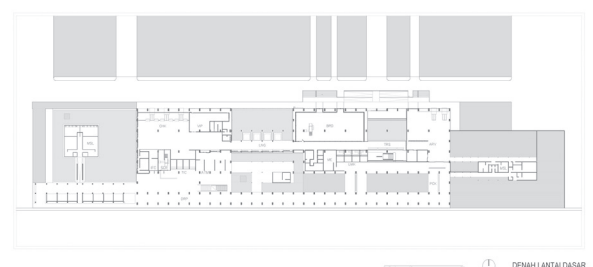
Architect: andramatin

Completed: 2018

Photo Credits: Mario Wibowo



Green area inside the airport.



Ground floor plan | Courtesy of architect



Aerial view of the museum by night.

Iran | Argo Contemporary Art Museum & Cultural Centre

Tehran's first independent contemporary art museum is housed in a more-than-100-year-old former brewery that had been abandoned for decades. The Iranian-Austrian architect's aim was to create a dialogue between old and new by inserting a new foundation and metal structure to support floating concrete floors and roofs independently of the original exterior walls, thus allowing generous ceiling heights (up to 12 metres) for the climate-controlled galleries. All new insertions are curvilinear and employ distinct materials to differentiate them from the brick-built historic fabric: white concrete grand staircase; metal elevator; brass bar; strata of different-toned concrete cladding for the artist-in-residence tower. Restored brickwork is indicated by deeply recessed pointing. Echoing neighbouring vernacular roofs in form, the five new striated, pitched roof structures act as deep, insulating, filtering skylights and signal that the building is alive again: a symbolic "tip of the hat". Former basement brewing pools were converted into sunken galleries.

Technical Information

Award Cycle: 2020-2022 Cycle

Country of origin: Iran

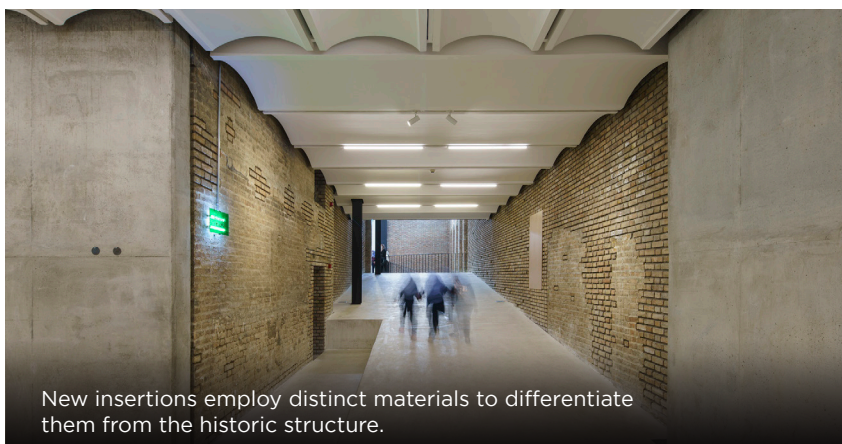
Location: Teheran, Iran

Client: Pejman Foundation

Architect: ASA North |
Ahmadreza Schricker

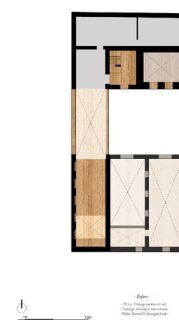
Completed: 2020

Photo Credits: Deed Studio

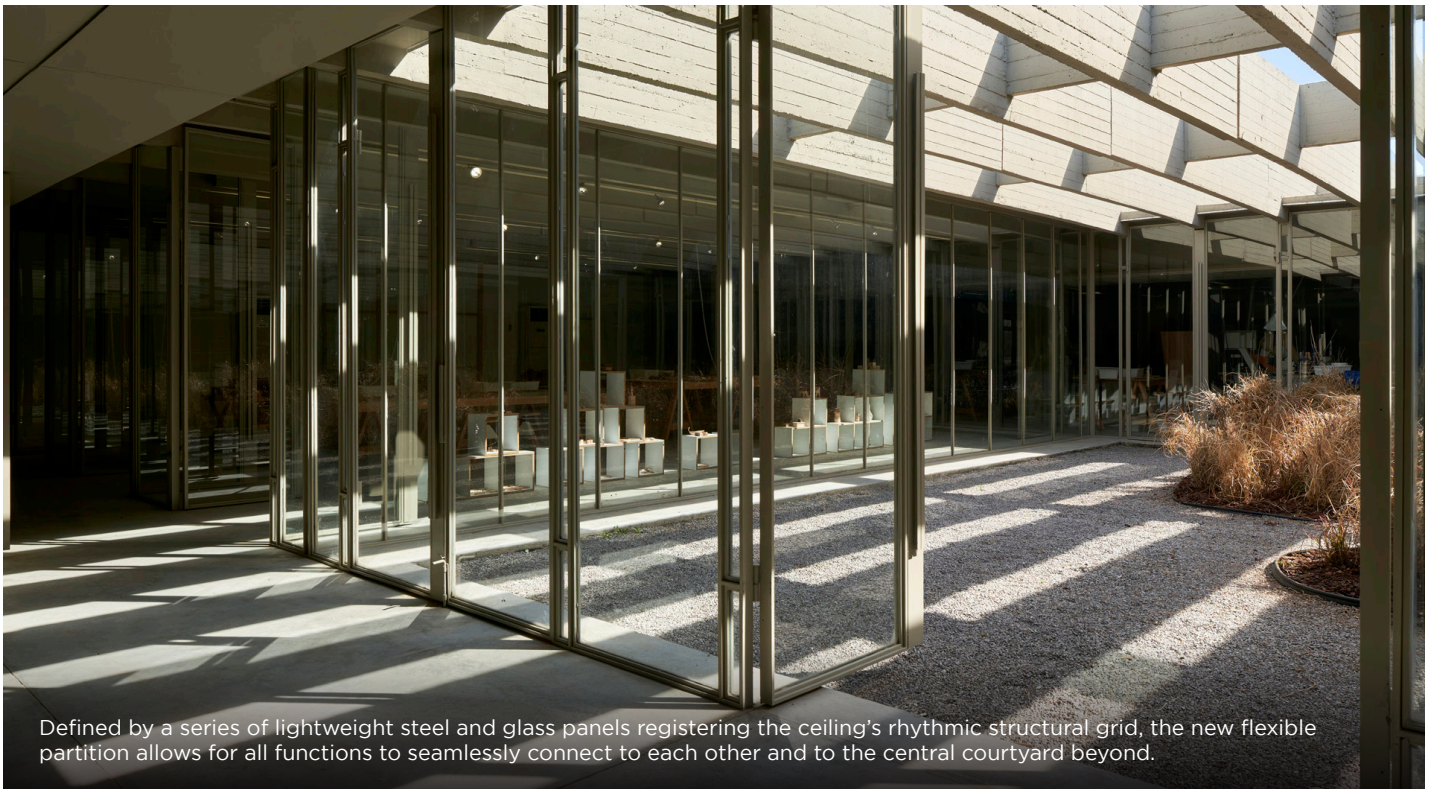


New insertions employ distinct materials to differentiate them from the historic structure.

Argo Contemporary Art Museum (2) Cultural Center
Second floor



Second floor | Courtesy of architect



Lebanon | Renovation of Niemeyer Guest House

Designed in 1962 by renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer but abandoned on the brink of completion when civil war erupted in 1975, the Rachid Karami International Fair was recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage tentative list. One of its 15 pavilions, the Guest House was chosen to be transformed into a design platform and production facility promoting Tripoli's long-established, pioneering but latterly declining wood industry. Informed by examination of similar but completed Niemeyer projects, the interventions – all reversible – principally comprise: adding flexible, transparent steel-and-glass partitions that echo the ceiling's rhythmic structural grid; concealing structural elements behind locally sourced plywood panelling; and introducing electro-mechanical features, including custom-made lighting again based on the ceiling grid. The fluid, cyclical programme leads seamlessly from reception space to material library, co-working space and workshop. The project has boosted the industry's presence nationally and internationally, and spurred work on a conservation plan for the entire site.

Technical Information

Award Cycle: 2020-2022 Cycle

Country of origin: Lebanon

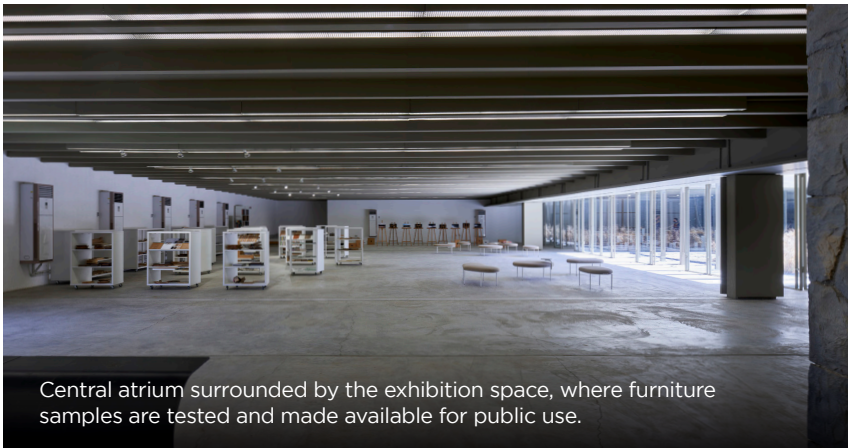
Location: Tripoli, Lebanon

Client: Expertise France

Architect: East Architecture Studio |
Nicolas Fayad, Charles Kettaneh

Completed: 2018

Photo Credits: Cemal Emden



Site plan | Courtesy of architect



The clay vault modules were produced using local techniques.

Senegal | CEM Kamanar Secondary School

When architects from Dawoffice saw the overcrowding at Thionck Essyl's only secondary school, they resolved to build a new one through their charitable foundation, Foundawtion. Climatic comfort and low cost were paramount. Clay, the region's most abundant material, was freely available on site; the quarry became the school's sports field. The catenary vault form was chosen because it works purely in compression – the only stress that clay can withstand. Clay vault modules produced by volunteers using local techniques are enclosed with wooden lattices, allowing light in. The clay and lattices act as an evaporating cooler – no artificial air-conditioning is required. Grooved metal sheeting protects the clay from rain and sunlight. The detached modules or “awlas” are arranged in year-group classroom sets around a series of squares, each accommodating a pre-existing tree. A library, two administration volumes, sanitary facilities and a Foundawtion space complete the complex. Its modular form facilitates future expansion.

Technical Information

Award Cycle: 2020-2022 Cycle

Country of origin: Senegal

Location: Thionck Essyl, Senegal

Client: Foundawtion

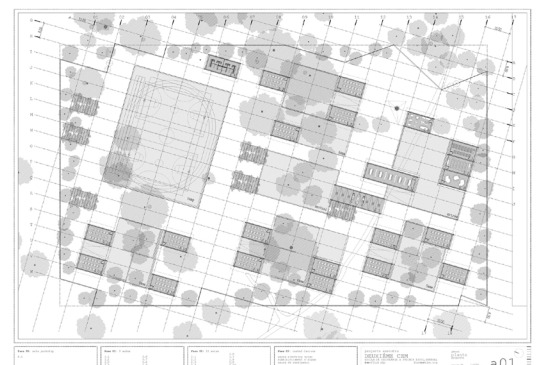
Architect: Dawoffice | David Garcia, Aina Tugored

Completed: 2020

Photo Credits: Amir Anousfar



Outdoor seating shaded by a large tree.



Site plan | Courtesy of architect

