Invited paper 09

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Whatever is here is found elsewhere. But what is not here is nowhere else. - The Book of The Beginning, Mahabharata, 4 BC-2 AD.

Before the shadow of the rock the Himalaya, the largest delta in the world touches the waters of the Bay. This is Bengal, a geo-cultural region woven out of an intricate network of rivers and canals and which has caused response in all art forms - from the emotionally rendered Bhawaiya songs and the colours of the stitches of Nakshi-Kantha textiles to the living and lost architecture of the delta.

A recent project, the Friendship Centre in Gaibandha, is presented by way of re-visiting these contexts and influences, which informs this work and which inspired the thoughts and design processes of the architect.