



PRESS RELEASE:

TEMPO REALITIES

LAUNCH OF ORGANISATION / FIRST PROJECT / ONE DAY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

WHERE: ATTLEE CENTRE, THRAWL STREET, LONDON, E1

<http://www.attlee.org.uk/the-foundation/contact-us/>

WHEN: SATURDAY 11th 2011

TIME: 5.30 pm - 9.00 pm

MAIN CONTACT: **RUHUL ABDIN** , ruhul.abdin@hotmail.co.uk, 07794968658 |

Attached: **POSTER / SUMMARY FOR PARA**

On Saturday June 11th is the launch of Para, a **new architectural social enterprise** which will focus on working on projects in Bangladesh. The founders of the charity are Bangladeshi and British Bangladeshi and have identified a pressing need for architects to play a bigger role in the development of the country and its communities. The mission of the organisation is to **research and develop small projects that will enhance spaces in communities through a process of design participation**. Their aims are to build a creative **school of thought** and a **multi-disciplinary studio** based practice in Sylhet as the base of their work in Bangladesh. The enterprise will be registered in the UK to promote the need for a wide range of professionals to participate in the development of Bangladesh, especially the growing number of professionals of Bangladeshi descent. The Bangladeshi **diaspora will play a key role** in this organisation as they bring with them cultural understandings of many issues in Bangladesh as well as their professional expertise.

PARA will launch its first research project on the night, a **learning resource centre for the Urdu speaking Communities, living in permanent settlement camps** known as the Bihari camps, in Dhaka. This community has recently been granted citizenship in 2008. They have fallen behind in the race for education **due to a lack of access to resources and barriers in political and socio-economic conditions**. Currently the community stands at a population of 250,000 throughout Bangladesh, with a majority in Dhaka, their living conditions are dire and this initial project will enable Para to develop and work with the community towards a long term goal of obtaining an equal footing in main stream society.

The need to address issues in marginalised communities as well as respond to those needs will be a priority for Para. They will look to **engage with practitioners in Bangladesh** and the wider international community to address and push forward ideas.

The **launch night is free** and open to the public and will consist of **special guests, live music, a unique workshop with Momenul Haque, poetry recital and 2 photography exhibitions**. Ruhul Abdin will exhibit photographs from his recent tour of Bangladesh and Sunara Begum will exhibit photographs of the members from the Urdu Speaking community.

para
Presents

OUR SUPPORTERS:



PROJECT 1 LAUNCH

Library

TEMPO REALITIES

LIVE MUSIC
special guest appearances
(TBC)

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Ruhul Abdin: *Materials and Colours*

Sunara Begum: *Portraits*

+ an entertaining
workshop with Momenul Haque

WHEN: SATURDAY 11TH JUNE

Doors Open 5:30 pm

doors close at 6:15 pm

WHERE: ATTLEE CENTRE

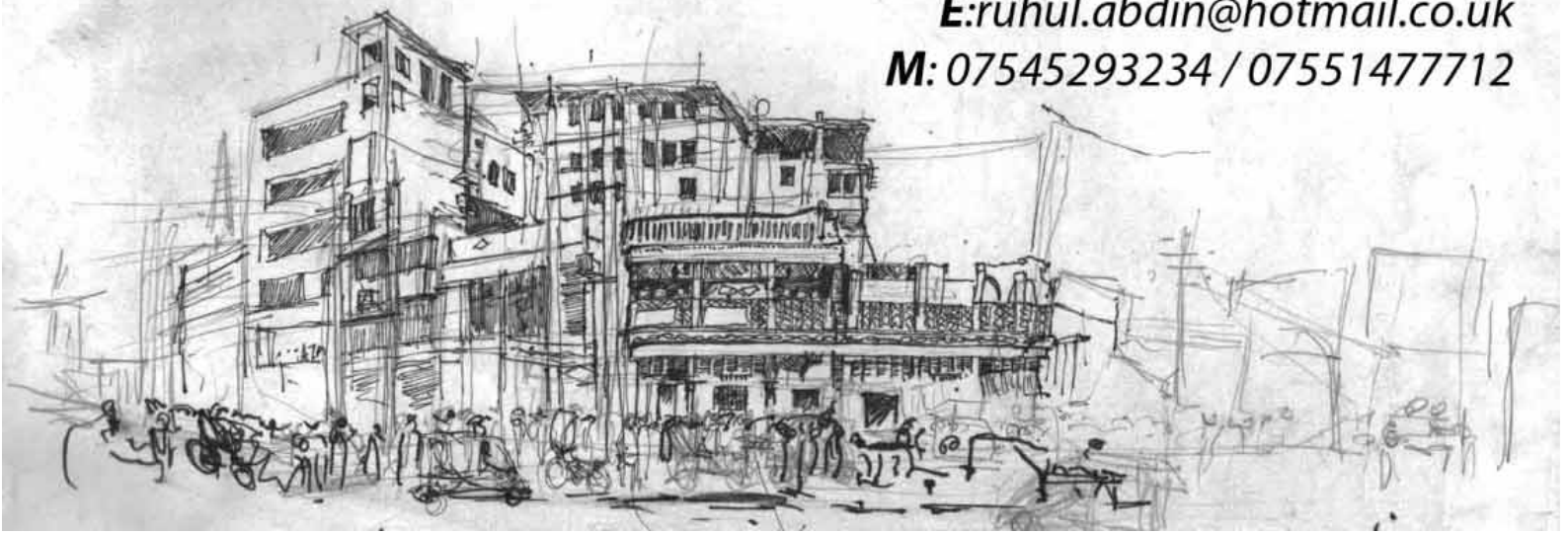
THRAWL STREET, LONDON, E1 6RT

nearest tube: Aldgate, Aldgate East, Liverpool Street

PLEASE RSVP AS SEATS ARE LIMITED:

E: ruhul.abdin@hotmail.co.uk

M: 07545293234 / 07551477712



**Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to enhance spaces for the community through multidisciplinary practice in Bangladesh.

About:

PARA is a London based social enterprise which will work to develop the built environment of various communities in Bangladesh. The country is among the Least Developed Countries and has a high density of population and is vulnerable to natural disasters due to climate change.

PARA will provide architectural services and construction expertise to various communities that will enable the dwellers to utilise spaces at maximum level for a better standard of living. We believe in the development of a built environment that respects the cultural and traditional architecture and its context.

To allow for better understanding of communities and their needs we will conduct thorough research with multi-disciplinary experts. We have adopted a process that engages local community members and international experts to participate in all the levels of the project.

Aims:

- a) Respond to each communities need by understanding their vernacular architecture and way of living.
- b) Be a multi disciplinary organisation which engages with communities.
- c) Hold events to promote research projects
- d) Raise funds for projects in the community through fundraisers, donors and sponsors
- e) Recruit and train volunteers/interns as necessary to help facilitate the work of PARA.
- f) Provide architectural services and consultancy to private and public sector to generate income for PARA.
- g) Create a 'School of Thought' in Bangladesh to complement PARA's ongoing practice and research