

About the Programme

Alliance Française de Dhaka, Goethe-Institut and Urban Study Group (USG) are presenting Illuminating Puran Dhaka – Heritage in Limelight, highlighting the endangered cultural heritage of Puran Dhaka through video and light installations by French artist Christophe Bruyas and German artist Philipp Geist.

In addition to the vespertine illumination, an exhibition showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Puran Dhaka is available and a saxophone and flute recital as well as a dance performance by performing artists are awaiting the audience.

The project aims at raising awareness on the cultural values of the heritage buildings in the country. Ideally, it is a first step towards initiating yearly 'Heritage Open Days' in Bangladesh in the near future.

📍 Ruplal House ↓



Programme

16 and 17 October 2015
After sunset on both days
At Devi Nibash, Farashganj, Puran Dhaka
Free entry

Friday, 16 October 2015

After sunset

6 pm
6.30 pm

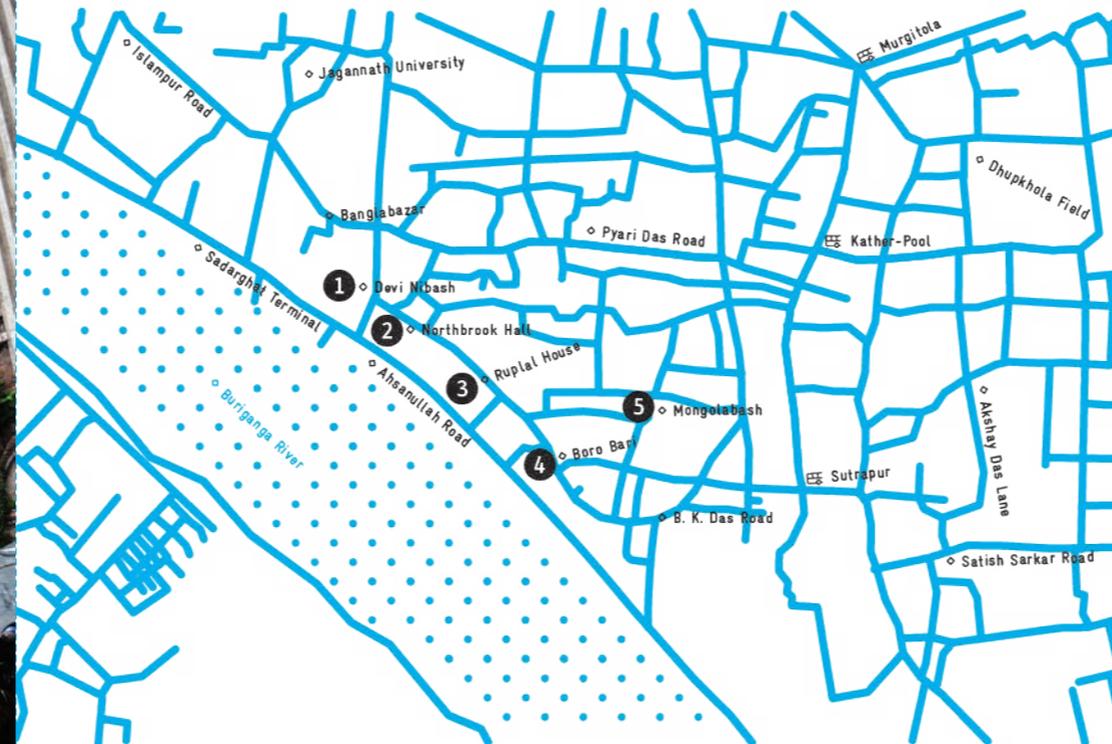
Video and light installation
by Christophe Bruyas and Philipp Geist
Cultural performances
Official inauguration

Saturday, 17 October 2015

After sunset

Video and light installation
by Christophe Bruyas and Philipp Geist

🗨 Video and light installation will continue till 10 pm
🚗 Limited parking is available at Northbrook Hall.

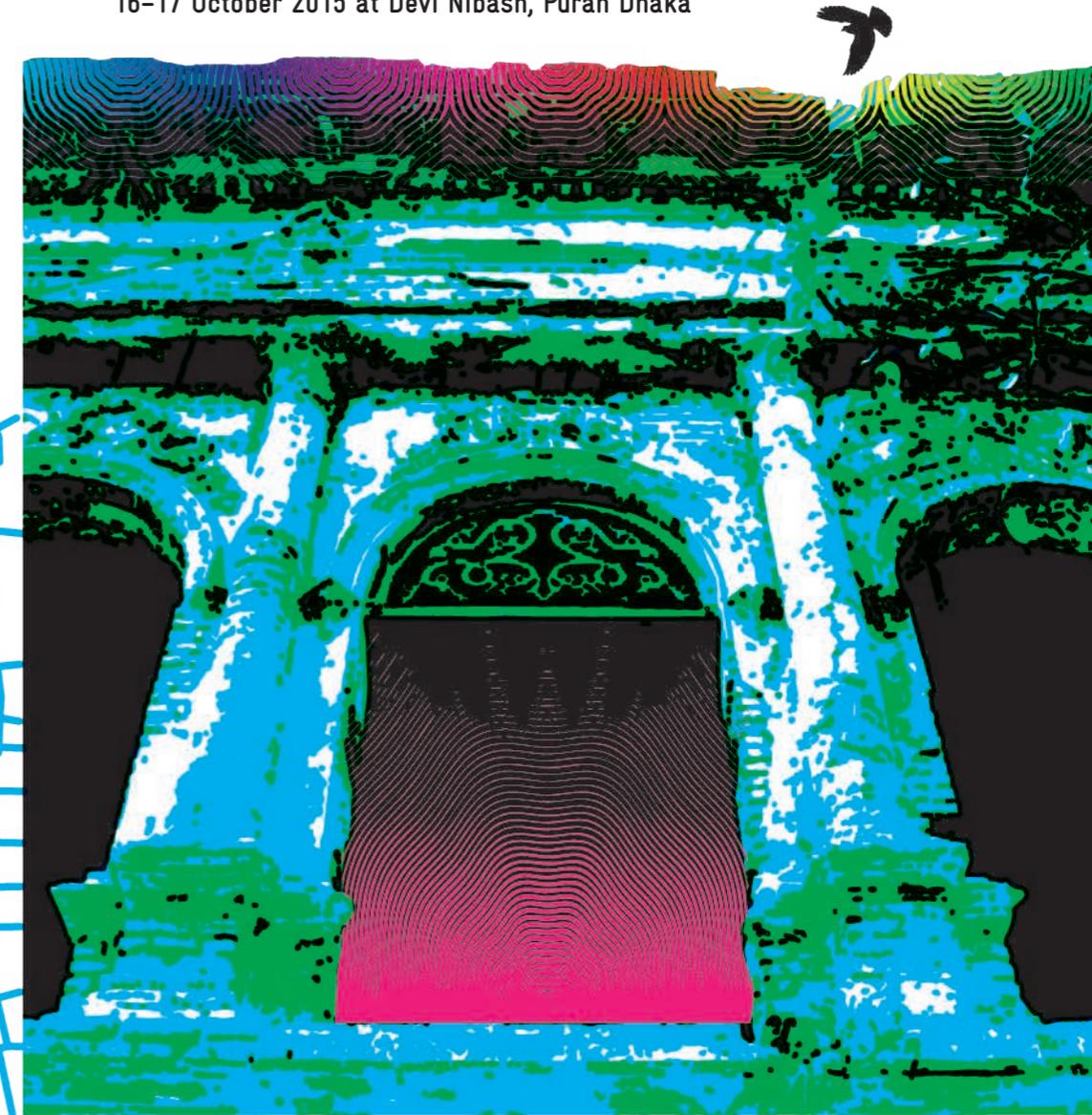


Alliance Française de Dhaka, Goethe-Institut and USG present

Illuminating Puran Dhaka Heritage in Limelight

16–17 October 2015 at Devi Nibash, Puran Dhaka

Programme
Details



Locations

① Devi Nibash

Devi Nibash is a picturesque riverfront palace right next to Sadarghat Terminal, built in the nineteenth century by a businessman and zamindar (landlord). The two-storey building – a remnant of the once glorious waterfront of Dhaka – was built in the neoclassical style. Unlike neighbouring Ahsan Manzil ('Pink Palace'), this deserted complex in the midst of a huge palm tree garden is hardly known to the public. ☞ Despite a lack of maintenance and protection, the splendour of the mansion is still quite evident. 📍 Devi Nibash ↓



Other important heritage buildings in Devi Nibash neighbourhood that are not to be missed:

② Northbrook Hall

Northbrook Hall, better known as Lalkuthi ('Red House') because of its deep red colour, was originally built as a town hall in 1879 or 1880 by the local zamindars and elites to commemorate the visit of the Viceroy or the Governor General of India Thomas George Baring, 1st Earl of Northbrook, in Dhaka in 1874. ☞ An Indo-Saracen building with Mughal and European Renaissance style features, Northbrook Hall is nowadays used as a cultural venue.

③ Ruplal House

Ruplal House is a waterfront palace, initially built by Dhaka's famous Armenian zamindar Aratun in 1825 and later bought and renovated in the then popular neoclassical style by the affluent Hindu merchant Ruplal Das and his brother Raghunath Das. Divided into two unequal blocks, the two-storey edifice consists of more than fifty rooms, among them an elegantly decorated dance hall with a wooden floor, which witnessed a lot of cultural programmes in its heyday. ☞ At present the building functions both as a residential and a commercial complex.

④ Boro Bari

House no. 45 or Boro Bari ('Large House') of Farashganj was the residence of Prasanna Kumar Das, brother of B. K. Das, the local zamindar. Redeveloped around 1916–1918, the front block of the building still bears the mark of French rococo style in Dhaka. Largely constructed in neoclassical style the building boasts multiple courtyards, elevated walkways and is embellished with lavish decoration in stucco. ☞ These days, carpenters and printmakers are doing business there.

⑤ Mongolabash

The residence of the zamindar Jatindra Kumar Saha, better known as Mongolabash ('Abode of Well-being') was built in the late nineteenth century. This neoclassical grand mansion has survived the test of time with its architectural integrity almost intact. With its double height columns topped by Corinthian capitals, curved façade, and an ornately decorated interior court this building is one of the best examples of nineteenth century urban revival of Dhaka. ☞ At present the building is being used as a hostel for the students of a local college.

Artists

French artist Christophe Bruyas

Christophe Bruyas is a light designer and a theatre director. He participated in the light festival 'Fête des Lumières' in Lyon, France.

German artist Philipp Geist

Berlin based artist Philipp Geist, works internationally as an artist in the mediums of video and light installations, as well as photography and painting. 🌐 www.videogeist.de

Bangladeshi artists Rahin Haider (on saxophone and flute) and Snata Shahrin (dance)

Organisers



Alliance Française
Dhaka



GOETHE
INSTITUT



URBAN STUDY GROUP



Alliance Française de Dhaka

Alliance Française de Dhaka, a non-profit organisation, has been working in Bangladesh since 1959. Its main function is to promote the French culture, especially the French language, to the local people and at the same time to promote the local culture in France. It is run by an executive committee formed by some local elites who are enthusiasts of the French culture.

Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. It promotes knowledge of the German language abroad and fosters international cultural cooperation. By providing information about Germany's cultural, social and political life, it conveys a comprehensive image of Germany. Its cultural and educational programmes encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. In Bangladesh, Goethe-Institut has been active since 1961.

Urban Study Group

Urban Study Group (USG), established in 2004, is a non-profit organization campaigning for the conservation of the architectural heritage of Puran Dhaka. The campaign is known as 'Save Puran Dhaka'. Its aim is to develop a social movement for a sustainable urban development program centred on the cultural and natural heritage of Bangladesh.

Set up in 2003 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of the Elysée, the Franco-German Fund for projects in third-party countries is a potent symbol of the friendship between France and Germany. It was set up as a witness to cultural cooperation between France and Germany in third-party countries by means of concrete cooperation projects in the fields of the visual arts, theatre, cinema, broadcasting, sports, intellectual debate, literature, and promoting the learning of French and German. ☞ In 2015, Alliance Française de Dhaka and Goethe-Institut have received a grant by this fund for the third time after 2012 and 2013.

In cooperation with Dhaka South City Corporation and with the support of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

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