

Celebrating Women Architects for International Women’s Day 2026

1. Khudi Bari: An Architecture of Transition

Name of the architect: MTA led by Marina Tabassum

Name of the award (2025): Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2025

Short description of the project: Khudi Bari: An Architecture of Transition

Displacement induced by climatic and geographic phenomena are on the rise in Bangladesh exacerbated by disparity in economic and living conditions. Lack of land rights and uncertainties compel people to live in precarious places devoid of basic human needs. In 2018, a research on land-rights related to riverbank erosion brought MTA to the chars (sandbars) in the lower Meghna river. This was the initiation of Khudi Bari, a movable two-level house made with locally available material secured with steel connectors to withstand floods and storms; a self initiated research by MTA led by Marina Tabassum. In the past several years FACE Bangladesh (Foundation for Architecture and Community Equity) has built Khudi Bari in different locations in Bangladesh that are prone to flooding and riverbank erosion.

Khudi Bari is envisioned as an intervention in the vernacular dwelling. As such mass acceptability of the structure as a climate resilient one is key to the success of the project. This ambitious attempt required intensive community engagement, knowledge sharing and monitoring of the performance of the structures over time.

In the past few years Khudi Bari has evolved into a structural system that was scaled up to build community centres for women in the Rohingya refugee camps in Ukhiya and Aggregation Centres for women Farmers in the host communities of Teknaf.

Award

Link:

<https://the.akdn/en/resources-media/whats-new/in-the-media/marina-tabassum-receives-aga-kh-an-award-for-architecture>

Relevant images:





2. ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE

Name of the architect: SAIQA IQBAL MEGHNA

Name of the award (2024-2025):

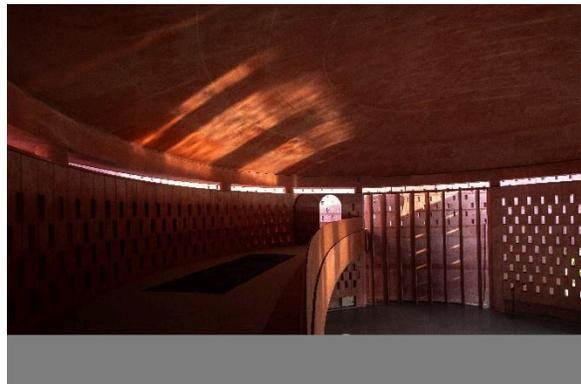
- ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE is awarded a place in the TIME – THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES 2025, The first ever Architectural Landmark from Bangladesh awarded a place in TIME List.
- 34th JK AYA – FOREIGN COUNTRIES' ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR AWARD, 2025 for ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE
- Shortlisted for the Inaugural RIBA AWARD FOR ASIA PACIFIC REGION, 2025, for ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE
- Shortlisted for the Abdullatif Al Fozan Award for current cycle, ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE
- Shortlisted in the Top Five project list in Religious Project Category of Archdaily Project of the Year 2024, ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE
- Shortlisted in the Top Five project list in Civic Project Category of Dezeen Award 2024, ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE
- Selected in The Top Ten Créateurs Design Award For The Best Commercial And Cultural Project 2024, ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE

Short description of the project: Zebun-Nessa Mosque transforms a neglected industrial edge in Ashulia, Dhaka, into a shared civic, spiritual, and ecological commons for thousands of garment workers. Embedded in a human-centred masterplan, its elevated bhati, accessible ramp, porous courtyards, gardens, and water systems enable passive cooling, daylighting, and inclusive access. A critical breakthrough is the visible, dignified integration of women workers in the religious sphere—an architectural rarity—through equitable prayer and gathering spaces. Bangladesh's first net-zero mosque, it uplifts a marginal community in global discourse, internationally recognized by TIME (World's Greatest Places 2025) and The Guardian for climate-adaptive, socially inclusive design.

Award Link:

<https://time.com/collections/worlds-greatest-places-2025/7263118/zebun-nessa-mosque/>
<https://studiomorphogenesis.com/jk-architect-of-the-year-awards/>

Relevant images:





3. MASJID AL LUQMAN

Name of the architect: Sarawat Iqbal Tesha

Practice Name: Roofliners_Studio of Architecture

Design Team: Sarawat Iqbal Tesha, Monon-Bin Yunus, Rajib Ahmed, Md. Mohaimin Ali Khan, Arnab Dey.

Name of the award (2025):

7th Baku International Architecture Award | Unbuilt Category_2nd position

Short description of the project: In the tranquil landscape of Faridpur, Bangladesh, a new architectural form emerges—a mosque that serves not only as a place of worship but as a striking landmark and a journey of spiritual introspection. Situated beside a family graveyard, the mosque's design pays homage to the site's solemn and reflective character, creating a place where a deep connection to history and spirituality can be felt.

The space is derived from a single spiral line of a thick brick structural wall. By stretching two corner of the form achieves commanding height and unique spiral form, which makes it visible from a great distance. This distinct shape serves as a beacon, drawing visitors in. The single wall line creates a spiritual path for the worshipper to the mosque main hall from the external world into a space of quiet contemplation.

The exterior features a dynamic interplay of brickwork, with a facade that curves and ascends, hinting at the ascending path within. Once inside, the atmosphere transforms. The prayer hall is a sanctuary of profound peace and tranquility. The curved, enclosing walls create a sense of seclusion, while the exposed brick and raw concrete surfaces provide an honest, humble aesthetic.

The most captivating element of the interior is the spiritual ambiance created by the manipulation of natural light. Strategic openings in the ceiling and walls allow sunlight to filter into the space. The light creates ever-shifting patterns of light and shadow, highlighting the

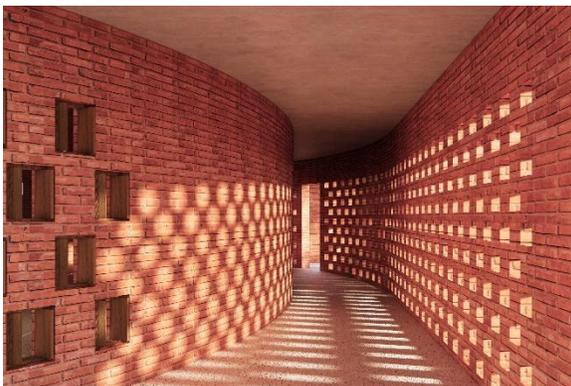
texture of the brickwork and illuminating the prayer lines on the floor. This celestial play of light not only marks the passage of time but also symbolizes a direct, ethereal connection, elevating the act of prayer into a deeply personal and spiritual experience.

This architectural project stands as a testament to the power of form and light to evoke emotion and elevate the human spirit.

Award Link:

<https://www.uia-architectes.org/en/award/baku-award-7/>

Relevant images:





4. MAK Design House

Name of the architect: Sanjida Shams

Name of the award (2025):

7 VII Baku International Architecture Award 2025

Category C – Best Implemented Interior

Short description of the project: MAK Design House is a transformative interior project that reimagines a dark, windowless warehouse as a refined buyers' zone for textile display and interaction. This design extends MAK Textile by blending traditional fabric craftsmanship with a contemporary retail environment for local and international buyers.

Guided by the concept "Weaving Light Through Structure," the project treats light as a design material—integrated into columns, circulation, and display systems to overcome the absence of natural daylight. A continuous ramp unfolds through the space like a runway, while illuminated columns and floating textile installations create depth, movement, and visual intrigue. The result

is a dynamic, immersive showroom that enhances buyer engagement and expresses MAK Textile's forward-looking identity rooted in local craft.

Award Link:

<https://www.uia-architectes.org/en/award/baku-award-7/>

Relevant images:



