

THE SOUTH. Literature with a new direction

Brief for University of Brighton Architecture Students

Brighton Writers' Centre

Brighton Writers' Centre is an idea, with a couple of rooms in reality. The office building currently occupied by THE SOUTH and Queenspark Books, will be redeveloped at some point in the next few years.

How can we use this existing building and its future development for the centre?

How can we transform the look and feel of the place into a stylish but welcoming, accessible environment?

In essence, our idea of a Writers' Centre includes:

- Coffee bar/licensed bar doubling as meeting place, performance area open to the public.
- Bookshop/retail space – partly to sell books from local small publishers including Queenspark, Pighog Press and Waterloo Press
- Bookswap area
- Production areas including Print (photocopying, fax, digital printing of some form, simple binding), Audio/Video (Mac or PC based editing facilities)
- VQS – Very Quiet Space rentable by the hour where writers can work
- Meeting and workshop room(s) – with access and toilets for people with disabilities
- Office space for organisations, small businesses and individual freelance writers
- Some of this requirement can be met by flexible workstation space in THE SOUTH's main area.

THE SOUTH, a constituted not-for-profit association, is a literary arts organisation supporting the development of audiences, talent, readers and communities

Poetry patron: Don Paterson

THE SOUTH 49, Grand Parade BRIGHTON BN2 9QA

T: [44] 0781 027 2791 **E:** INFO@THESOUTH.ORG.UK **W:** WWW.THESOUTH.ORG.UK

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Some background reading

The house of fiction has... not one window, but a million.... They have this mark of their own that at each of them stands a figure with a pair of eyes, or at least with a field-instrument, insuring to the person making use of it an impression distinct from any other.... The spreading field, the human scene is the "choice of subject"; the pierced aperture, either broad or balconied or slit-like and low-browed, is the "literary form"; but they are, singly or together, as nothing without the posted presence of the watcher -- without, in other words, the consciousness of the artist.

Henry James

Life happened because I turned the pages *Alberto Manguel*

Kamaliddin Bekhzad

Kamaliddin Bekhzad (b. approx. 1455 - died 1533/37) is one of the greatest artists of the Medieval period. He is a legend and pride of pictorial art not only in the Middle East, but also throughout the world. Bekhzad was born in Herat, the capital of Khorasan province in the Timurid Empire, where, in the middle of the 15th century, as a result of dynastic strife, power was seized by Sultan Hussein Baiqara (reigned 1469-1506). Under his rule, Herat was turned into one of the magnificent and thriving cultural centers where since the early 15th century until the early 16th century, the policy introduced by Amir Temur, the founder of Timurid Empire, was to actively encourage the growth of the state's cultural and artistic potential.

Herat became particularly famous for its court-based kitabkhana, the book-making workshop, that existed under the patronage of the new Timurid ruler, Sultan Hussein, and especially his vizier, the great poet and wise mentor, Alisher Navoi. At that time, the development of cultural life in Herat was closely linked with the name of this outstanding founder of Uzbek literature, eminent public figure and patron who invested much effort into nurturing talented scholars, poets, artists, writers and musicians. He also had the guardianship of a gifted orphan boy, raised by a famous calligrapher and kitabkhana artist, Mirak Naqqash. The patronage and guidance of Navoi, who watched closely over the development of Bekhzad's talent to a large extent facilitated the blossoming and recognition of Bekhzad's skill: at the age of 23, he headed the court kitabkhana, which was a kind of art academy of that time and was later given the name Nigoristoni Bekhzod.

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