

# LEADING US BACK TO LOUIS KAHN

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**"I**T is my journey -- journey of a son getting to know his father," this is how Nathaniel Kahn describes the movie that he made on his father. Unlike the run of the mill documentary that seldom takes a peek into the personal life of illustrious men, Nathaniel's effort brings together both the worlds in one passionate film. "My Architect," as the film is titled, is the journey of an illegitimate son discovering his father both through his work and through the events of his personal life.

The film, meanwhile, is available in Bangladesh. "We hear that you can get it on the street," blurts out Nathaniel. Piracy certainly has a brighter side, each DVD of the film that he made on his famous father costs only one hundred taka.

"The film took six years to make. Susan the film's producer and I have been working extremely hard for the last three years... we had to raise the money. It was a difficult project, as I have another job," says Nathaniel. His film was completed in 2003, and released in the theatres across America in late 2003. In 2004 it was nominated for Academy Award.

On his first visit to Dhaka, Nathaniel had a hectic schedule while filming. And on his third visit he was swamped with engagement to promote the film. In all the occasions he was too busy to have visited the hospital that his father designed as part of the parliament building complex.

Nathaniel first came to Dhaka with his producer Susan Barh, cameraman Bob Richman and soundman Eddie O Connor and spent a week shooting the famous building, the parliament of Dhaka. Then they left Dhaka for Ahmedabad and came back again to stay for ten days in Dhaka for shooting. "We came back to shoot the building and architects who knew my father or knew very much about his work," he recalls.

Film is one thing that attracted Nathaniel from an early age. "I have been making films since I was in my early twenties. My first project was on an off-Broadway play in New York," he points out. His mother was a landscape architect. "Since I was little, I was interested in architecture. But I did not want to be an architect. I was interested in the movies. At some point in your life you kind of work with the story that you are given, and make something out of it," he observes. "My Architect" is the project that provided the opportunity for Nathaniel to try and make an art out of his own life and experience.

"My father died when I was eleven, I wanted to know what this man was like, what inspired him to build his buildings.

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Nathaniel Kahn - speaking on his journey of getting to know his father.