

# *Druk White Lotus School, Ladakh, Indian Himalaya*

## **Our Year : November 2007 – October 2008**



*Left*  
Mr Deep Kumar Koul, Head Master (back row, fourth from left), Mme Sarla Chhewang, Project Coordinator (front row, fifth from left) and some of the staff.

Deep joined the school in August following the departure of Mme Maureen Songhurst after two and a half years of sterling service.



*Far Left*  
Enjoying the willow house created by landscape architect Noe Tomas in April

*Near Left*  
Annie Smith in August, during one of her many visits since inception of the project in 1992



*Far Left*  
Girls and boys enjoying lunch in the Dining Hall

*Near Left*  
Class M6 having fun at the Environmental Education, Leadership & Self Exploration Camp led by Rigzin Namgyal, Kristin Brudevold and Martha Egger at Khespang in August

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*Far Left*  
Staff and students were deeply saddened by the death of bus driver Spalchen in June. Spalchen drowned in the Indus River.



*Near Left*  
Students started using the first science laboratory in November



*Far Left*  
Deep Kumar and Sponsorship Coordinator Wendy Cornwell enjoying the children's hospitality on Teachers Day in September



*Near Left*  
The indispensable wash-ladies outside the wash-house



*Far Left*  
Philip Cornwell (centre), UK project manager, with Lama Rigzin and Angdus at the top of school site in April



*Near Left*  
Residence 3 South was completed and is now occupied



*Far Left*  
Students entertaining the guests during Parents Day, September



*Near Left*  
The new basketball court gets good use

*Near Right*  
The school's founder,  
His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa,  
inspected the school in May



*Far Right*  
His Holiness with Kareena Albers and  
Tad Fettig of film company 'kontentreal'  
at a screening of a US television  
documentary about the school  
(part of the series "e2 design:  
the economics of being environmentally  
conscious"), New York, December

*Near Right*  
Arup Associates Design Team leaders  
Mike Beaven and Sean Macintosh with  
Resident Engineer Nicola Perandin,  
Construction Manager Angdus and 'junior  
construction manager' Tseskit, June



*Far Right*  
Naropa Palace, at the top of the campus,  
in springtime. Parents planted trees on  
auspicious tree planting day in March and  
resident nuns planted more than 1,000  
trees on the campus during the year

*Near Right*  
Hand-knitted clothes made by Annie  
Curran, Betty Cornwell and her knitting  
circle in UK, together with footballs  
donated by a New York policeman



*Far Right*  
Dentist Michel Guinet came from Tahiti  
in April with his partner Corinne Barbier  
to provide preventive dental care for  
the children, ably assisted by  
Warden Diskit Dolker

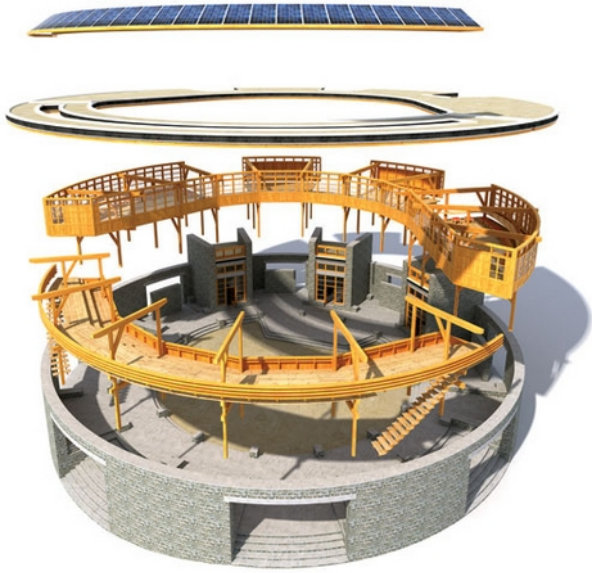


*Near Right*  
Time for heavy maintenance:  
applying linseed oil to the timbers



*Far Right*  
Volunteer Lakshmi Eassey  
from the USA helped with  
English and IT during March-April





*Far Left*  
Arup Associates' design for a new library over the Central Courtyard, with solar panels on the roof. Fundraising is on-going.

*Near Left*  
54 solar panels were installed along the front façade of the school in September



*Above*  
Clockwise: Dining Hall/Kitchen, Wash-room/store, Residence 3 South and Residence 1 North

*Above*  
Left: One of two solar water heaters that entered operation to provide hot water for the residential children. Right: The VIP (ventilated improved pit) latrines were improved during the year.

*Below*  
'Science Courtyard' close to completion for hand-over to the school on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008, comprising two laboratories, a creative arts studio and a large classroom

*Below*  
Construction of Residence 3 North started and the completed Residence is due to open early in 2009





*Left and Below*

One of the biggest achievements of 2007-8 was the commissioning of a new solar energy system – the school now has power 24/7 and light throughout the evening. The system was installed by SunTechnics Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. and co-financed by carbon-offset funds.



*Near and Far Left*

Sponsorship Co-ordinators Wendy and Sarla undertook a four day trip to the Markha Valley in September to assess families who had applied for sponsorship from November 2008



*Far Left*

Mme Sarla kindly stepped in as Acting Head between April and August

*Near Left*

Students enjoy the apricot tree planters created by Angdus and Noe in April

*Near Right*  
Teachers on  
Parents Day, September



*Middle*  
Trevor Stockinger of  
Drukpa Charitable  
Foundation (USA)  
at Hemis Monastery,  
September



*Far Right*  
Ready to perform  
on Parents Day

*Near Right*  
Tashi, Head Master's PA,  
with his young son



*Middle*  
Angdus (Construction  
Manager) with  
Deep Kumar (Head Master)



*Far Right*  
Tania Garbe  
(Heritage Volunteer),  
University of Texas at Austin



All that you see above was achieved though the imagination, dedication, hard work and creativity of many people, including the following:

♥ **Teaching Staff** Led by Mr Deep Kumar Koul (Head Master from August 2008) and Maureen Songhurst (Principal until April 2008) ♥ **Support Staff** Led by Tashi Tsering (Head Master's Personal Assistant) and David Songhurst (Estate Manager until April 2008) ♥ **Parents Association** ♥ **Construction Staff** Led by Sonam Angdus (Construction Manager), Lobsang Phuntsog (Caretaker) and many masons, carpenters and labourers ♥ **Druk Padma Karpo Education Society** His Holiness the 12<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Drukpa (President), Ven. Tsewang Rigzin (Chair, School Committee), Mme Sarla Chhewang (Project Co-ordinator), Mr Rinchen Namgyal (Treasurer), Dr Ishey Namgyal (Secretary) and committee members ♥ **Drukpa Trust in Ladakh** Annie Smith (Education Adviser), Philip Cornwell (Vice-Chair), Wendy Cornwell (Sponsorship Coordinator) and Rachel Glynn (Secretary) ♥ **Drukpa Charitable Foundation in Ladakh** Trevor Stockinger (Director) ♥ **Arup Associates Design Team in Ladakh and UK** Mike Beaven (Project Director), Sean Macintosh (Project Manager), Nicola Perandin (Resident Engineer), Noe Tomas (Landscape Architect), James Devine (Electrical Engineer) and Leslie Dep (Quantity Surveyor) ♥ **Volunteers in Ladakh** dZi Foundation (dental treatment and ophthalmic care, USA), Lakshmi Eassey (English and IT, USA), Tania Garbe (Heritage Adviser, USA), Naomi Gourlay (Yoga Teacher, Canada), Michel Guinet & Corinne Barbier (Dental Specialists, Tahiti), Ian Hazard (Architect, UK), Gary Phillips (IT Specialist, UK), Anat and Eli Shvadron (Art Teachers, Israel). Rigzin Namgyal (Ladakh), Kristin Brudevold (USA) and Martha Egger (Austria) - Environmental Education, Leadership & Self-Exploration Camp ♥ **Child and Teacher Sponsors** 130 sponsors from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Russia, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK and USA ♥ **School Cooperation** École Active Bilingue, Paris, France; École de Lille, France; St Christopher School, Letchworth, UK ♥ **Investor** Arup Associates (carbon-offset funding) ♥ **Many individual donors and grant-making trusts** ♥ **Corporate Supporters** Arup, Autodesk, kontentreal, S J Asset Management ♥ **Arup Team in UK** volunteer support from more than 20 architects, engineers and other professionals from Cyprus, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Poland, Spain and UK ♥ **Supporters in UK** Joanna Lumley; Anthea Griggs and Janet Stuart (education); Gavin Erickson, Rik Williams and Sandrine Blanc (website); Thérèse Reggio (fundraising) ♥ **Drukpa Trust, UK** (UK charity no. 1014948) Rt Hon The Dowager Countess Cawdor, The Viscount and Viscountess Cowdray (Patrons), Michael Kern (Chair), Diana Cook (Treasurer), Simon Kirby, Jonathan Rose and Steve Todd ♥ **Supporters in USA** Donovan, Lee & Tess Knight, Sounds of Our Times ♥ **Drukpa Charitable Foundation, USA** (a 501(c)3 organization) Carrie Lee, Wendy Lee, Tree Marr, Kathy Rott, Trevor Stockinger ♥ **Administrative Support in Europe** Nathalie Tiersen and Michel Casuad, Drukpa Humanitaire, France; Barbara Arnhold, Drukpa Germany ♥ **Photographs** copyright © Sonam Angdus, Philip & Wendy Cornwell, James Devine, Karma Dhargyal, Tania Garbe, Rachel Glynn, Naomi Gourlay, Ian Hazard, Rigzin Namgyal, Nicola Perandin and Annie Smith ♥ **Thank You** ♥