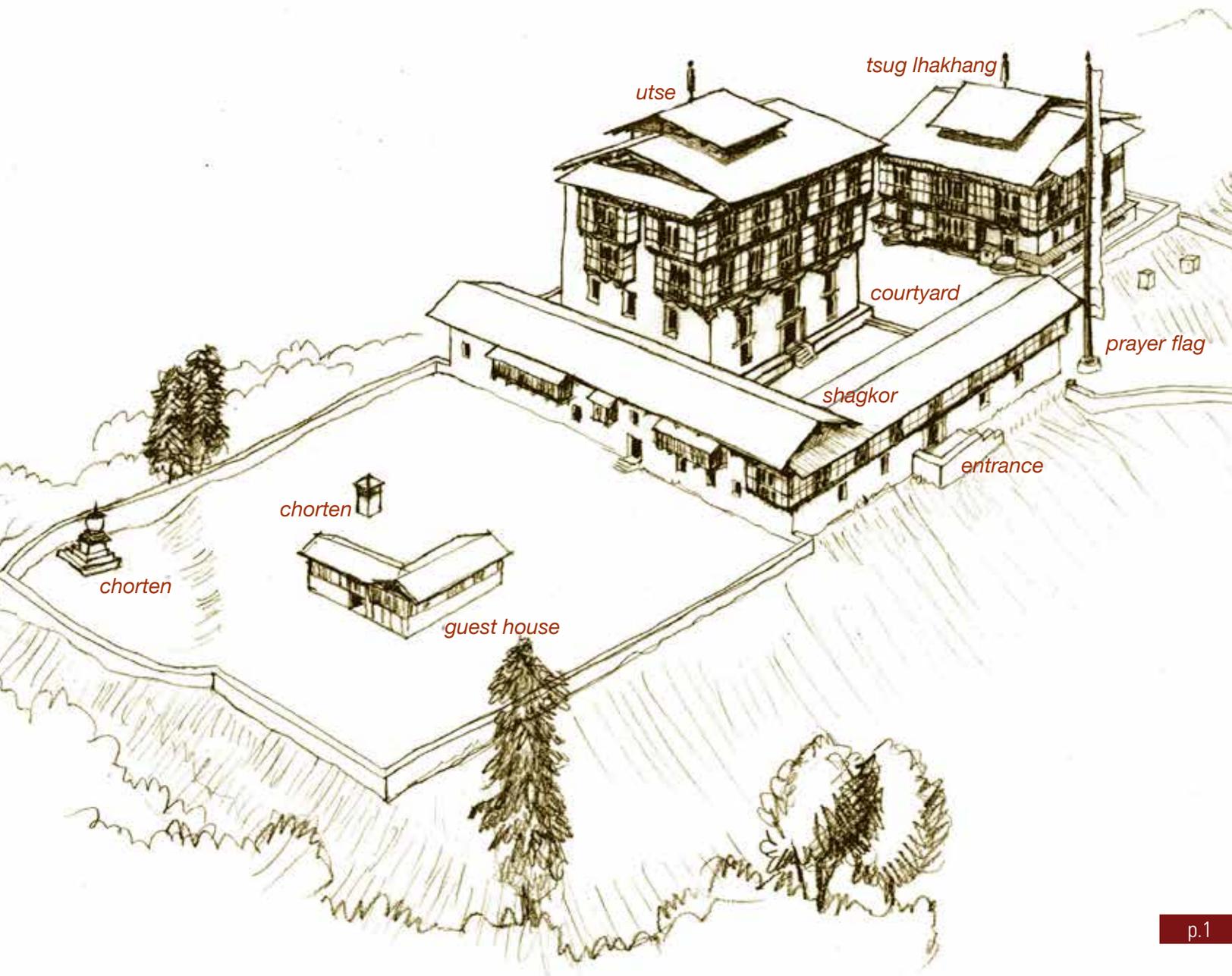


# Ogyen Choling Trust Fund



## Purpose of the Trust Fund

- To ensure the long term maintenance of the buildings, the temples and the museum
- To sustain the traditional religious observances and rituals
- To provide a place for religious studies, research and solitude
- To revive and encourage traditional skills and provide a market for local handicrafts
- To provide financial support to deserving but economically deprived students in Tang valley

As 2012, the year of the Dragon, roared its way out and 2013, the year of the Snake, slithered in, we are trying to review the year that was for Ogyen Choling. The year was a fruitful one during which we made some significant moves that will have a lasting impact on the future of Ogyen Choling. The highlights of the year were the Royal Visit and the progress made with the formal registration of the Ogyen Choling Foundation which resulted in the legal separation of assets ceded to the Foundation by individual family members.

## VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING

In May 2012, Ogyen Choling was honored by a visit of His Majesty the King. His Majesty stayed for over four hours at Ogyen Choling and visited the temples and the museum. His Majesty showed a keen interest and encouraged the initiatives the family has taken to maintain the cultural site.

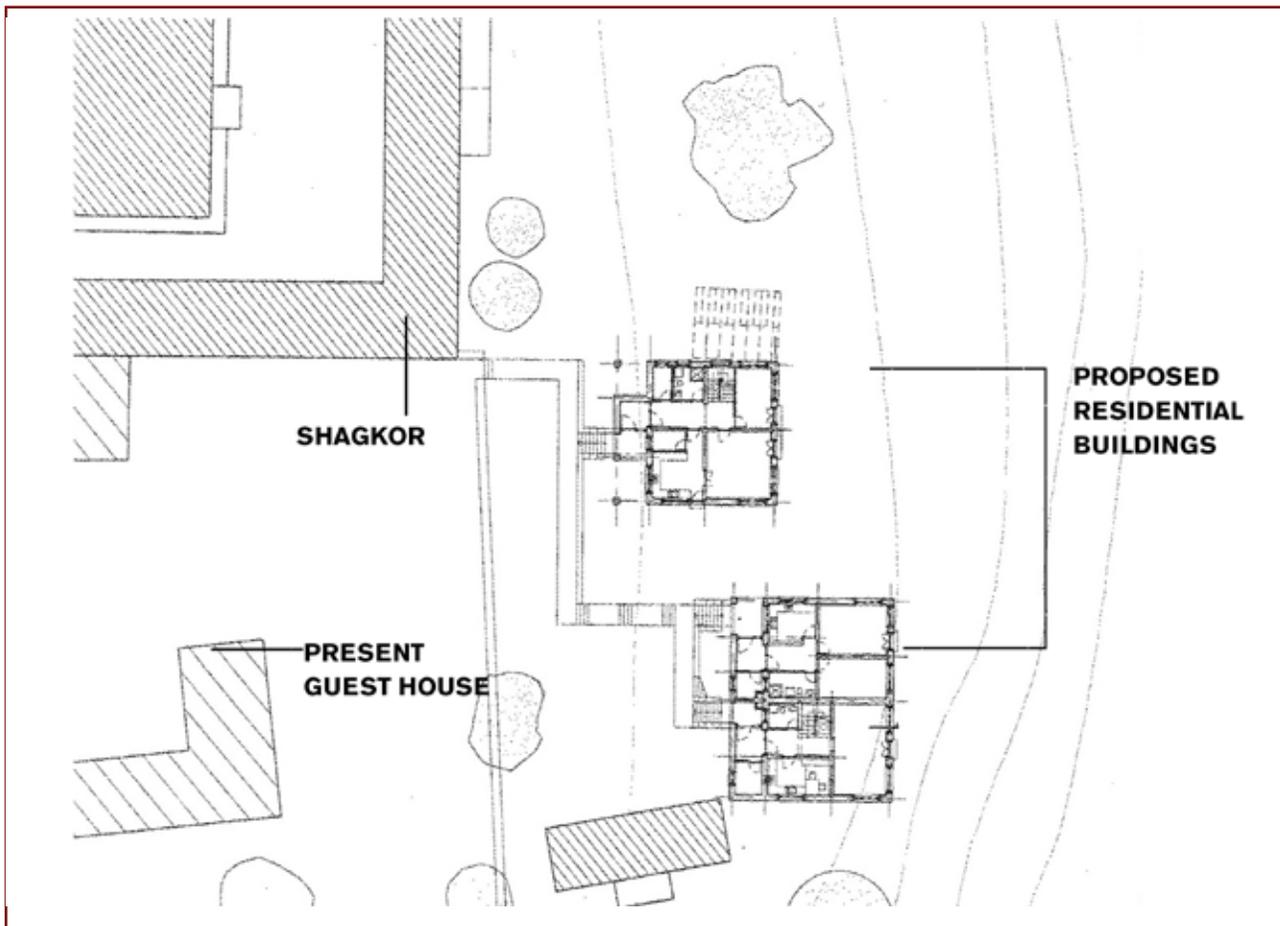
## ENSURING THE CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF OGYEN CHOLING

During the year we worked intensively towards building a vision and charting out a long-term strategy for the future of Ogyen Choling. After much discussion among ourselves it was agreed that all the buildings which are presently registered in the names of individual family members would be endowed to a Foundation to be known as the Ogyen Choling Foundation that would be registered under the Civil Society Organizations Act of Bhutan.

The application for establishing the Foundation along with all the required documents was submitted to the CSO Authority in November 2012 and we are presently in the process of incorporating the changes and additional information that were suggested by the CSO Authority.

As a consequence of the decision to endow all the buildings to the Foundation, it was agreed that the family members would jointly construct two separate houses on the premises – one for Ugyen Rinzin and his family since they reside here on a permanent basis, and the other with separate apartments for Kunzang Choden, Sonam Wangchuk and Gyalsten Dorji. Drawings for both the houses have been completed and building materials are being collected. These buildings will be located to the east of the main structure (see map page 3), at a level of about 4 m below the main building. The location and the type of buildings has been carefully planned in order to blend in with the existing alignment and aesthetics of the original Ogyen Choling complex.

In part the decision came about from the realization that only a few of the rooms in the shagkor were being put to optimal use and that a lot of the available space was being wasted. It was therefore, agreed that once the shagkor is vacated it will be renovated as a guest house. It is anticipated that there will be at least 10 rooms with a common lounge, a dining room, reception area and kitchen. Our plan is to later lease the guest house to an entrepreneur (ideally a family member). The envisaged changes have encouraged, Kunzang Choden, the curator of the museum who is currently based in Thimphu, to decide to permanently move back to Ogyen Choling in 2013. In the past, even though she had committed most of her free time to Ogyen Choling, the distance between Thimphu and Bumthang had prevented her from being completely involved at the day to day level.



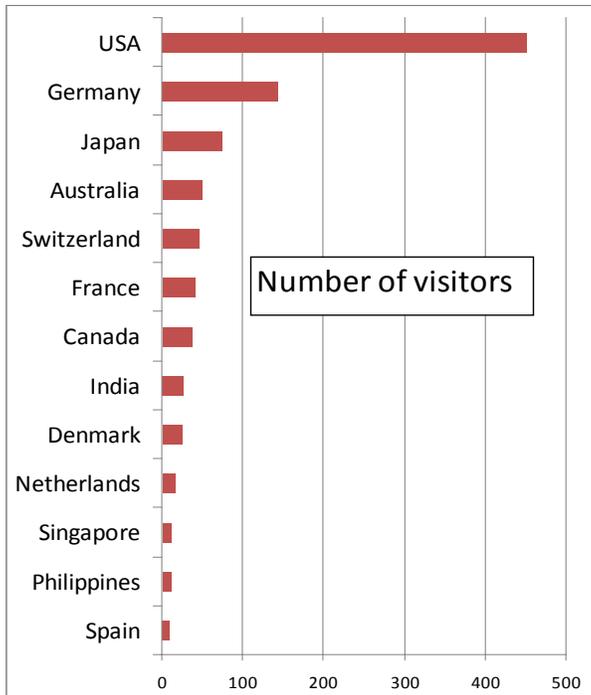
Layout of new residential buildings

## THE MUSEUM

Apart from improving some of the labels, testing out different methods for conserving wood and collecting more information towards a planned exhibit on Thuksay Rinpoche, our work in the museum during 2012 was mainly limited to maintenance. Over the years we have slowly built up a large number of permanent exhibits adding up to a total of 21 different themes. As the volume has grown so has the task of maintenance. Therefore, it was decided to create a position for a Museum Assistant, to which Mr. Jigme Dendup the eldest son of the resident family was appointed. He has been given the responsibility for selling museum entrance tickets, keeping records and ensuring security. Bats, birds, wood-boring insects and dust are definitely the main threats to the exhibits and also to the entire complex. We are yet to find a Buddhist solution for peaceful coexistence with these creatures.

A visitor from France, Mr. Emmanuel Feld, was so concerned that he spontaneously made a donation towards immediately addressing the problem of wood boring insects. Although we are fully aware of the impact of insecticides, in the absence of other options we have had to resort to spraying Baygon, an insecticide, on all the artefacts and wooden floors affected by insects.

The number of visitors to the museum was slightly lower as compared to 2011. This may partly be due to the curator's limited presence in Ogyen Choling. Based on our records we received visitors from over 20 countries, with USA leading, followed by Germany, Japan, Australia and Switzerland.

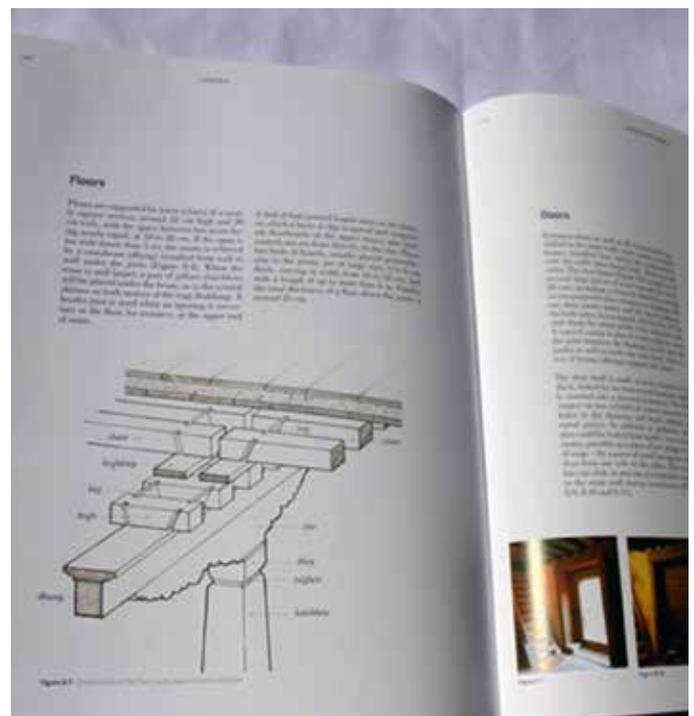
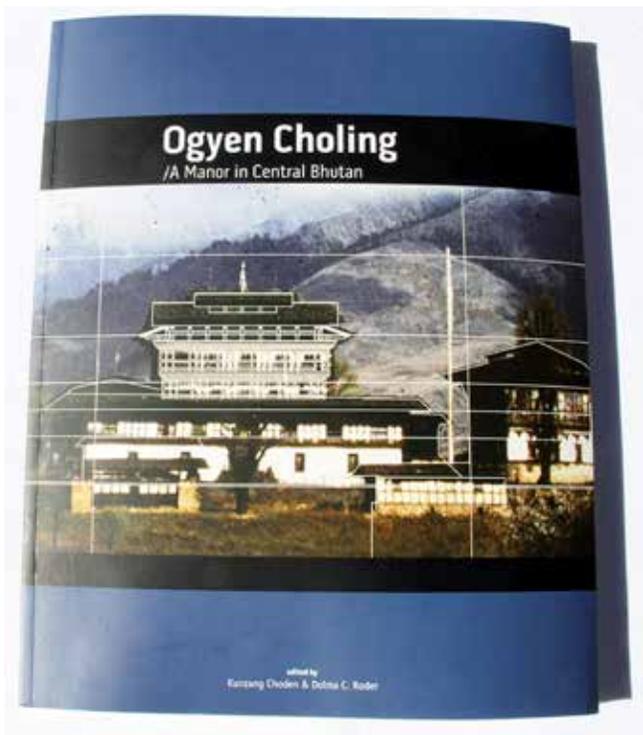


### TAKING OGYEN CHOLING TO POLAND

In May of 2012, an unexpected link was formed between Ogyen Choling and Krasnogruda in eastern Poland bordering to Lithuania. Kunzang Choden was invited by the social activist and drama producer Krzysztof Czyzewski to be a guest speaker and to give a presentation about Ogyen Choling at the International Dialogue Centre by Borderland Foundation (Fundacja Progranizja). Krzysztof who is the founder/director of the organization had been to Ogyen Choling a year earlier as a tourist. He must have seen some similarities between his efforts and what we are doing in Ogyen Choling. While the events were extremely interesting, it was the place- its history and its present function that made a lasting impression. Many of the programs took place in the old restored manor of the Polish poet and author, the Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milosz. The manor has not only been restored and expanded but is becoming a thriving cultural centre. It was an inspiring example of what can happen when places from the past can be given a present relevance and vibrancy: A wonderful example for Ogyen Choling to strive towards!

### FINALLY PRINTING "THE BOOK"

After more than ten years of working on the book: "Ogyen Choling; A Manor in Central Bhutan", was released in November. The book along with an illustrated children's book "Membar Tsho - The flaming Lake" were the first two titles released by a new publishing house Riyang Books, created by Kunzang's family ([www.riyangbooks.com](http://www.riyangbooks.com)). Three thousand copies of each book were printed in Delhi. We were happy and grateful that the architect, the other authors and the editor could all come together for a very successful launch in Thimphu. Riyang Books took on all the publishing costs and will contribute Nu.100 to the Foundation from every book that is sold. There is a fair amount of interest and books are selling, albeit slowly.





Nuns reading

## READING THE KANJUR

For the first time in over 40 years the 108 volumes of the Kanjur (Tibetan Buddhist canon) texts could be fully read in December. Ogyen Choling temple has had the books for nearly two hundred years and the texts used to be read annually until about 40 years ago. Since then, these texts had not been read for various reasons. Sixty-four nuns from the Pema Choling Nunnery located at the end of the Tang valley were invited to read the texts. The reading was completed in 4 days. It was an emotive experience for all involved. There was a wonderfully heartening response from the community and many people not only participated in the worship but also made offerings of food to the nuns. Although this year's readings was funded by the family and not through the Foundation it is hoped that the reading can become a regular event in the future.

## OTHER EVENTS

**The risk of fire and protection against it:** The most tragic loss of the Wangdudhodrang dzong to a devastating fire during the year was a horrific reminder of the constant risk posed by fire. We are continuously aware of the risk and try to be vigilant at all times. In December the villagers of Ogyen Choling came together for a day to clear up the dry grass, bush and brambles around the complex in order to reduce the risk of fire and we are very grateful for their gesture of cooperation and concern. In the meantime, we have decided to collect and keep sand in metal containers at different locations in the buildings to be used as a first defence against fire. We are also exploring sources for more reliable and effective fire extinguishers and considering to put in place a water system for the Ogyen Choling complex and the village.

**Guest house:** The guest house occupancy also decreased slightly compared to the previous year. We have received comments from visitors that the existing facilities are not adequate. We are fully aware that our guest house facilities are rather basic and that the expectations of the visitors have increased with generally better facilities currently offered in Bhutan. We have, however, decided against any ad-hoc interventions. We will instead commit to a complete overhaul and up-gradation of the facilities at the same time as the other construction projects are on-going, hopefully sometime toward the second part of 2013.

**Road improvement:** The bridge across the Tang chhu was completed two years ago and the road to the village is being used regularly. The villagers who are enjoying benefits of the road have taken complete ownership and responsibility for its improvement and maintenance. Led by the village leaders each family invested more than 20 days in 2012 in working on repairing and improving the road.

**Losar celebration:** We were happy and fortunate to be able to continue the tradition of Losar celebration with the older generation from the Ogyen Choling village which was re-introduced in 2011. About 60 people participated in the ceremony and the lunch. We are confident that this important practice can be continued over the years.



The youngest reader

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Our total income was slightly lower compared to the previous year. Beside salaries, the main expenditure this year was for construction materials, the architectural designs of the new buildings and the support to schools through the provision of scholarships, prizes and a television set for one of the schools. We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations which will not only contribute towards sustaining the ongoing activities, but will also make it possible to start new initiatives.

### DONATIONS

	<b>Nu.</b>
1. Vincent	64'500
2. Heijo Scharff	35'590
3. Illuminating Bhutan	18'340
4. Emmanuel Feld (for wood preserve.)	13'000
5. Martin & Kungold Menzi	11'200
6. Fabienne Grossenbacher	11'200
7. Werner Kuelling	11'120
8. Monika Kraemer	11'120
9. Roger Harmon, Footloose Tours	10'400
10. Nancy Bhutan Canada Foundation	10'000
11. Philippa and Harry Frank	9'000
12. Heinz Burgin	5'200
13. Mettlers	5'000
14. Diverse	15'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>230'670</b>

### INCOME

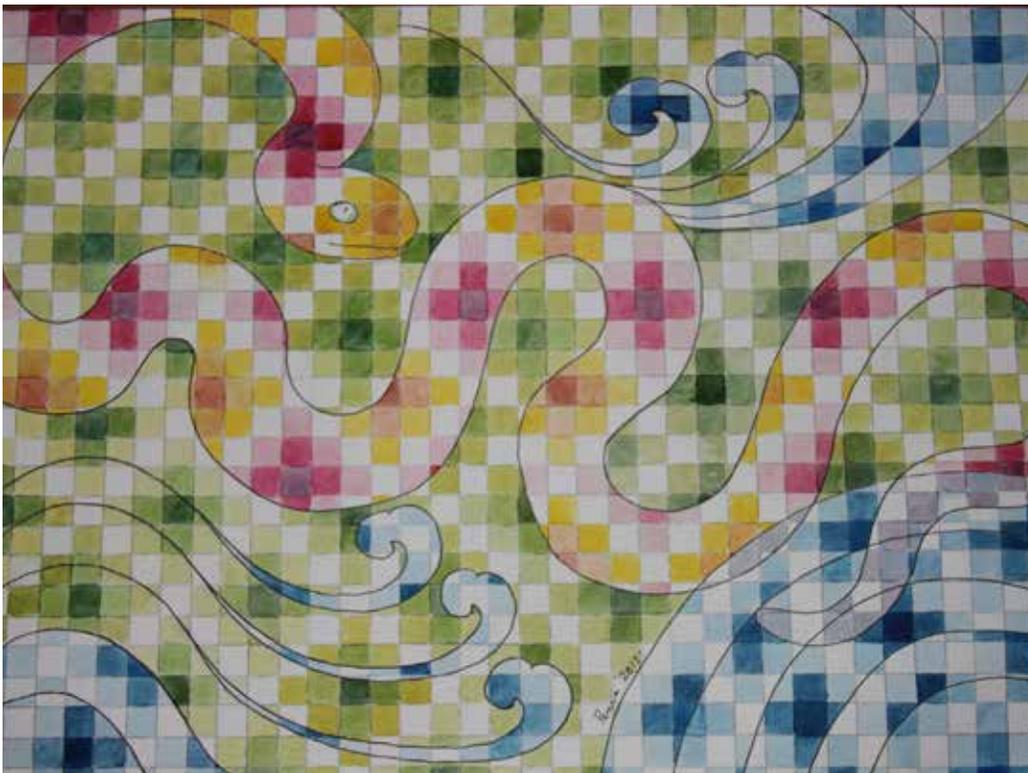
	<b>Nu.</b>
Donations	230'670
Guest house	132'122
Entrance fee museum	135'750
Museum books sold	2'550
<b>Total income in 2012</b>	<b>501'092</b>
Balance 1.1. 2012	248'576
<b>Total</b>	<b>749'668</b>

### EXPENDITURES

	<b>Nu.</b>
Salaries 1	141'000
Schools (Scholarships, prizes etc)	63'800
Construction plans	79'813
Construction materials	222'830
Other expenditures	181'489
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>688'932</b>
Balance	60'736
<b>Total</b>	<b>749'668</b>

### ASSETS

Long-term investments	80'000
	250'000



Art by Pema Tshering

## LOOKING FORWARD

We continue to look forward to the many new developments that this year will bring for us here at Orygen Choling. We hope we can count on you for your continued generous support and interest.

We take this opportunity to thank you and to wish you and your loved ones all the best in the year of the Water Snake.

For additional information check:

<http://www.oling.bt>