



the indian review of
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interiors and design

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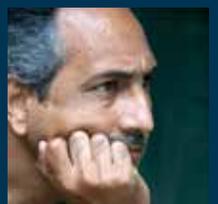


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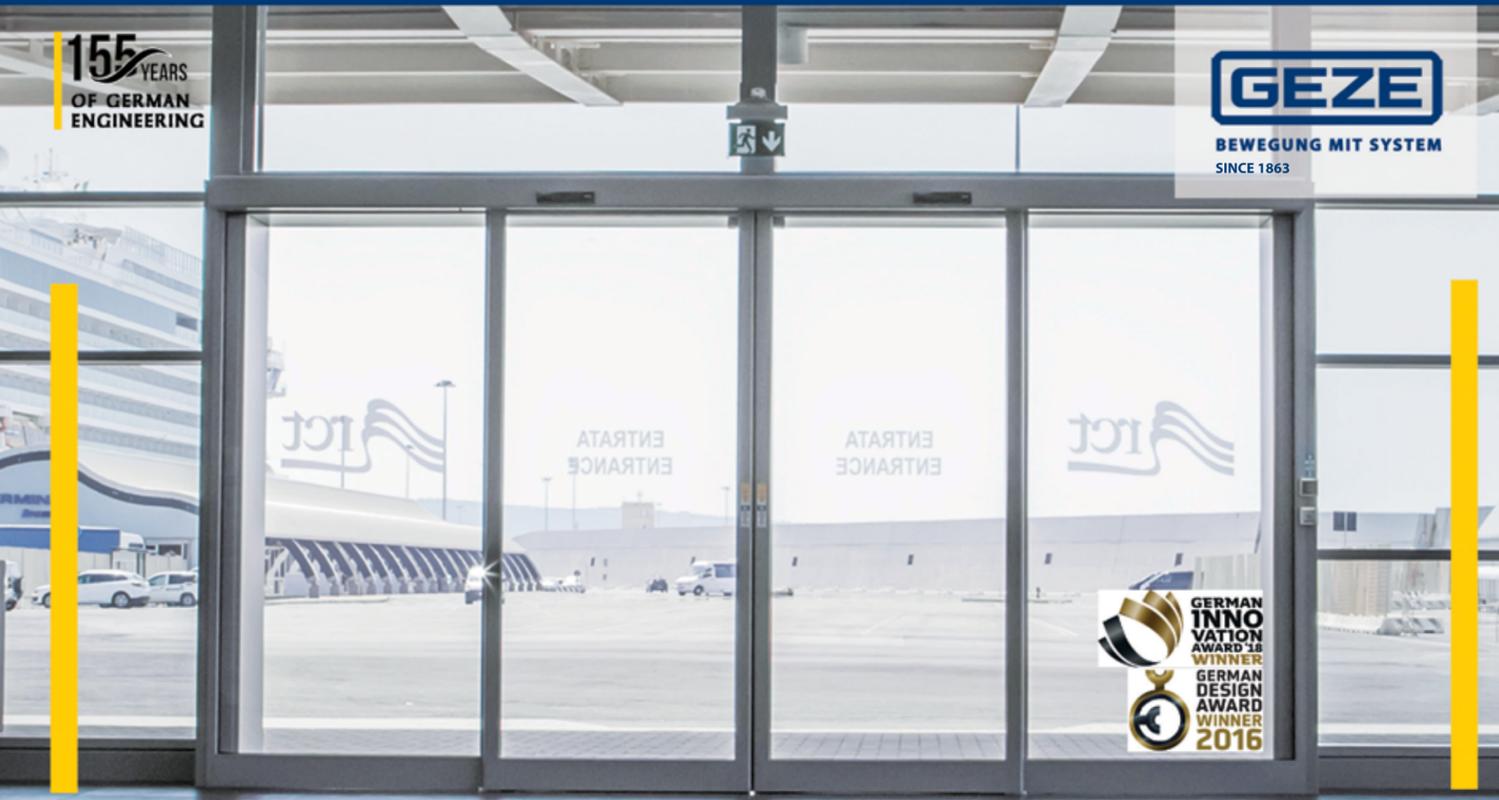
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rather than simply treating illnesses.

AR. RAHUL KADRI
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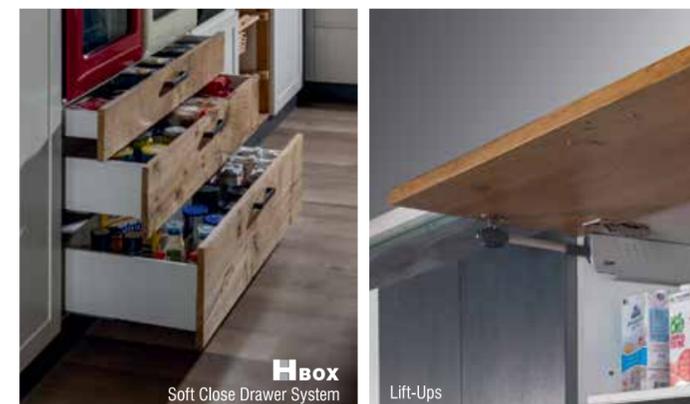
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As with so many expectations, those Covid-related predictions, plans and prognostications have all gone the way of the best laid plans of mice and men.



While some industries and businesses have been seriously hit (and hurt), others have blossomed in these very strange circumstances; not least of which is scale.

The scale at which Covid-19 has attacked the world, and it is in fact, the world, has been shocking. The speed at which the contagion has travelled has been breathtaking, sometimes literally; the unknowability of the enemy, its most potent weapon. And yet, we battle on. At the forefront of the battle lines is the healthcare industry which has done some lightning-fast pivoting and adapted existing structures to cater to the needs of both observation-under-quarantine and active treatment.

Calling into play the well-known Indian capacity for '*jugaad*' or creative adaptation, exhibition centers have been repurposed as quarantine centers, and hospitals and healthcare facilities have quickly created enclosures and isolation spaces, working with existing products and facilities on the market, since the market hasn't really had a chance to invent products specific to the day.

Taking a cue from the times, IFJ takes a look at hospitals and their design, in a 21st century vocabulary. What we present is not just the bright, shiny so-called "7 star" hospitals but a snapshot of what we have in India and the thoughts of a swathe of architects who build these institutions.

The response of the market has itself been impressive, as is so much in the Indian context, built as it is with so little institutional support from the government.

And so, we live to fight another day...but in the relative comfort of our homes embellished with the products pouring in from the #wfh universe.

Team IFJ wishes all our readers a healthy and comfortable work-from-home experience, always with the wish that we will soon doff our masks and work where we wish.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Please send your thoughts to me at edit@ifj.co.in

lollipop/19

012 - ARTIST HOUSE berlin

commission : philipp von matt architects



This bright, sculptural new home and studio located in the central Mitte district of Berlin is dedicated to fostering the dialogue between art and architecture - the result of a continuous exchange between the architect and the private client, a well-known French artist.



The facade is a seemingly arbitrary composition of openings, subtly reminiscent of the rhythm of the surrounding buildings. The exterior provides little hint of the interior design, enabling the discovery of the raw magnificence of the concrete staircase, upon entering the house. The ground floor harbors a gallery and exhibition space, with the sequence of rooms unfolding along the stairway generously open to the West and with more modest rooms to the East.

The first floor hosts the kitchen and the living area, while the second floor is entirely dedicated to the sleeping area; the top floor is exclusively occupied by the atelier. Natural light plays a central role in the design, with open, light-flooded rooms and more intimate, warmly lit ones, capped by the rooftop studio's large skylight.

This resonance of light is amplified by the selective use of colors and materials. The hues of the rooms dedicated to art are delicate and neutral, while the shades in the living spaces are warm and inviting. The combination of different materials, from concrete and steel to wood and natural, earthy elements such as clay plaster, terracotta and ceramics, fuse to create surprising twists in the narrative of the space.

The result is a hybrid of artwork and architecture, that responds to the critical challenge of balancing professional and private life. ifj





text : IFJ WriteTank

FARMHOUSE

rome

commission : alvisi kirimoto



The architects divided the space on three levels to create different experiences, exploiting the height of the ceilings, limiting the number of walls and leaving the perimeter permeable with a series of French doors leading to a large garden. On the ground floor, they used white and concrete; bright yellow for the first floor, and on the top, they left the exposed wooden structure.

The layout is completed by the owner's laboratory, a laundry room and the guest bathroom, treated with a Corten-like micro-cement finish that introduces an additional material element on the ground floor, where ceilings and white walls highlight the structure of the pillars deliberately left in exposed concrete.

The element of continuity is provided by the staircase. Designed as a single piece, it is made of expanded metal, allowing light to filter through a play of reflections and shadows. Light and transparent, the staircase offers unusual perspectives and invites appreciation of the entire stairwell, which culminates on the top floor with a large skylight.

Outside, the porch has been designed with a living area and a dining area near the kitchen, while the garden, with an English lawn, also houses a vegetable garden with Corten tubs. It is here, that the synthesis of the versatile space is most evident, seamlessly combining city rhythms with a greener lifestyle. ifj

The interiors and the design of the outdoor spaces of this farmhouse were rebuilt on the volume of the existing building, firmly anchored on a hill overlooking the Inviolatella Borghese park, north of Rome.

For the owners, it was important to have a home well integrated into the landscape, with bright environments and a strong connection with the outside, where nature could be enjoyed without relinquishing the vibrant pace of the city. This open house was designed primarily for entertaining friends, but also to host the atelier of the owner: Antonella of Opificio Lauchli, who works in the artisanal field for the creation of custom-made complements and furniture, interior decoration and the transformation of antique furnishings.



KAI EARLY YEARS bengaluru

commission : education design international

The challenge in designing India's largest early childhood campus, spread over 1.8 acres, was to create a learning environment that nurtures the developmental needs of children aged two to six years through an engaging framework of consciously explorative and communal play spaces.

Located in Whitefield, the campus consists of two independently functioning departments: the Learning Centre and the Community Centre. A large shaded play court between these two buildings forms the functional and social heart of the campus.



The Learning Centre houses learning pods, activity spaces, and administrative spaces. The learning pods and activity zones form the School Block - comprising the 'makers' zone, the cognitive zone, reading and story-telling spaces, and art zones. Situated peripherally are the music hall, the dramatics theatre, and the dance studio. The Community Centre houses day-care facilities as well as research spaces for early years education methodologies.

The two-storey structure is devoid of sharp lines and stark profiles; the undulating façade envelope provides subtle cues for movement within the campus. A pergola with louvered edges forms the



secondary envelope to the built form at the ground level, loosely following the building line and creating free-flowing circulation spaces below.

The design scheme is predicated on the need to create a holistic learning environment: pods spill out onto learning decks and outdoor activity areas along the periphery, low sill-levels are maintained across the structure to ensure consistent visual interconnections, and glass-topped corridors and membrane roofing over shared outdoor spaces ensure that the students can venture outdoors at all times. This interplay is strengthened by the strategic use of indigenous flowering plants and fruit-bearing trees as a teaching aid for children

as well as for visual and environmental control.

The timber-and-white-plaster palette continues in the interiors, creating a warm and congruous spatial experience with minimal physical or visual barriers. The design is also sensitive to the emotional needs of children, and provides cozy nooks for solitary use. Activity zones have been equipped with a variety of play structures to enhance kinesthetics intelligence.

The overall result is a highly tactile, spatial experience combined with an open design format to encourage children to mindfully assemble play structures of their own imagination. ifj



PAINTED-REJUVENATED USEABLE ART

sujata nair, kala moksha, bengaluru



Speaking of her foray into creating useable art, Sujata Nair says, "My grandmother's vintage dressing table was decidedly looking it's age!"

I thought I'd follow my heart and embark on a project to give it a make-over. So to start with, I created a canvas of white, and painted on it. Being an admirer of MacKenzie Childs hand-painted furniture, I drew inspiration from them. And this is what it finally looks like." ifj

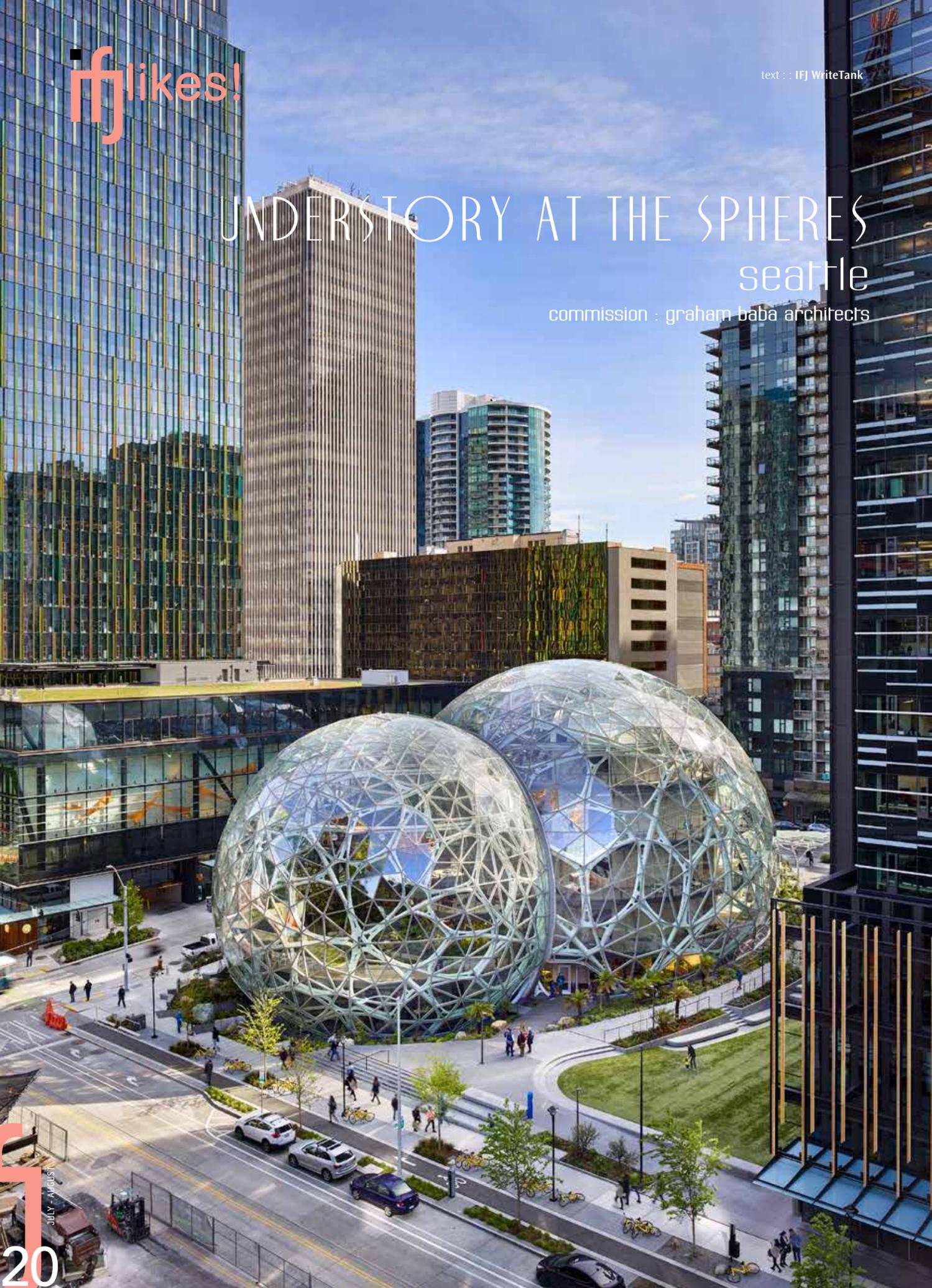
Bengaluru-based artist, Sujata Nair, took a bold step with a completely new canvas when she decided to rejuvenate a piece of vintage furniture. What started as an experiment on a whim, turned into a piece of useable art, and joined the larger trend of up-cycling and reusing old furniture and forgotten pieces in the attic. Though used to working at much smaller scale, with her art on canvas, fabric, ceramic and porcelain pottery, Nair turned to painting furniture as a way of making drab pieces more interesting and fun, but soon saw this as a new way of expressing her creative genie and creating new focal points within a room.



UNDERSTORY AT THE SPHERES

seattle

commission : graham baba architects



Understory at The Spheres is an exhibit and visitor center designed to tell the story of The Spheres, Amazon's iconic insertion into the heart of Seattle. The 3,883-square-foot exhibit is situated at the base of one of The Spheres, providing a fly-through of the orbicular buildings and an extreme close-up of the plants in an interpretive and immersive experience.



The experience begins at the entry, which features a curved, organically formed vestibule, crafted in Venetian plaster. Upon entering the space, tall, high-definition screens provide a shifting video panorama of plants and trees, accompanied by a soundtrack that evokes the sounds of nature. At distinct locations, visitors can hear stories about the plants in The Spheres that sound like whispers. Arrayed around the perimeter is a series of five displays, each providing a deep-dive into different aspects of The Spheres' story.

Restrooms are located behind the primary curved projection wall. To minimize the footprint, unisex toilet cabinets line one wall, while sinks line the other.

Among the design challenges was the need to evoke the drama and wonder of The Spheres in a location that feels nothing like the Spheres themselves. To conceal the ductwork and equipment, an array of custom-designed hexagonal Baltic Birch plywood panels organically reshapes the ceiling. The venue also needed to be imminently flexible, so the solution was to put virtually everything on wheels, making it possible to completely transform the space when needed.

Modular cubes are assembled into a variety of forms to display architectural models, three-dimensional interactives, and a changing array of small-scale plants. Touchscreen installations hold video content for visitors about the plant life and the architecture. Over three miles of under-slab wiring was installed to support the multi-use space.

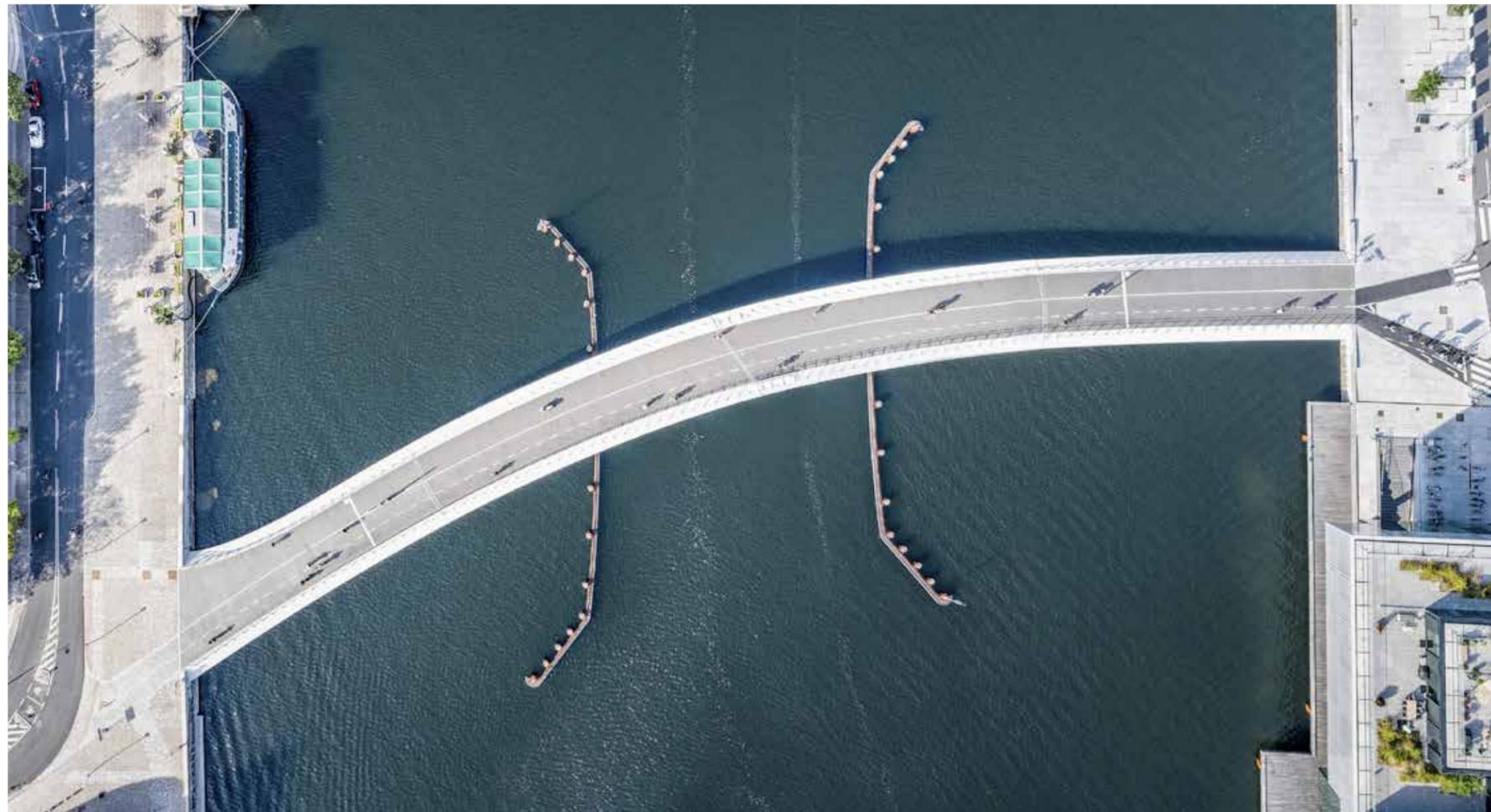
The exhibit unravels the complexity of the architecture and engineering and the very idea behind bringing people closer to nature on a daily basis in the heart of the city. ifj

LILLE LANGEBRO BRIDGE

copenhagen
commission : realdania by&byg



When Copenhagen found that cycle traffic on the Langebro road bridge had increased dramatically since 2008, a need grew for an elegant bridge that would enhance the waterfront and also confirm the city's reputation as the world's best for cycling. A central part of the brief was to significantly improve the safety and experience for the high volume of traffic - over 10,500 cyclists and pedestrians, daily.



Three key ideas characterize the concept and identity; first, the bridge's horizontal alignment extends the sweeping arc of the city's ramparts to the southeast, which are otherwise not apparent when viewed from this part of the city. To the northwest, clear axial views of the town hall clock tower help users orientate themselves relative to the city. Second, the structure is arranged as a triangular wing at each deck edge. Third, the curved profile of the bridge only becomes broken when the two swinging sections open for marine traffic. Finally, the function of the Lille Langebro as a swing bridge remains entirely concealed. The motors and slewing rings are housed within the hollow bridge piers, while hydraulically operated mechanisms are housed in cavities inside the outer deck members.

Environmental and social sustainability was given paramount importance, creating resilient infrastructure with an extended lifespan and ensuring the highest levels of material quality. LED lighting was installed across the length of the bridge, creating a ribbon of light between abutments, ensuring low levels of operational carbon and providing access at night. Additionally, the horizontal swing opening mechanism reduces energy usage compared to other methods as there is no need to overcome gravitational pulls.

The outcome: Lille Langebro has become a sculptural object in Copenhagen's landscape, establishing itself within the context of the city and Inner Harbour. if

LE PRISTINE
antwerp, belgium
commission : space copenhagen

A long, generous 445 sqm

space on the ground floor of a 1960s modernist building that was partly demolished (leaving some structural elements exposed), was reimagined by Danish design studio Space Copenhagen into Le Pristine, an ambitious restaurant project in Antwerp by Michelin acclaimed chef Sergio Herman. The project, which sees Herman partner with luxury Belgian fashion brand Verso, features an a la carte restaurant and café/deli.

Space Copenhagen kept some of the dramatic unfinished elements to visually tell the story of the building's transformation. The courtyard of a neighbouring Baroque 17th century mansion also forms part of the restaurant, adding to its rich patina and providing a view into Verso, the luxury fashion boutique.



Signe Bindlev Henriksen and Peter Bundgaard Rützou, founders of Space Copenhagen, created a space that feels distinctly modern, whilst reaching back in time to honour the architecture and art of the city. The interiors play host to an inviting collage of historic references and contemporary palettes, harnessing the collective energy of chefs, artists, and craftspeople. Space Copenhagen also used the great Flemish and Dutch masters as a reference for the color palette of subdued warm rusty reds, milky black, sand and grey tones.

Le Pristine's façade opens itself to the street, exposing the bakery as a first impression. A Belgian stone patterned floor and smoked oak joinery provide a contrast with the industrial steel beams and concrete imprint of a staircase to the residential building above.

Past the bakery cum deli, a spiral concrete staircase leading to the duplex level sits next to a dramatic splash of colour – a bespoke seven-

metre-long, bright pink translucent resin bar that glows amongst the subdued palette of greys.

Le Pristine also features decorative lighting, an awning and a spectacular reception desk, as well as several pieces of art especially commissioned for the space. The restaurant, which features an open kitchen, has six-metre-high ceilings and an abundance of daylight from the large full height glass window at the opposite end of the room. Bespoke tables and seating sit alongside warmly upholstered banquettes.

Finally, the space encompasses two courtyards, one that looks into Baroque splendor of Verso and the other, where a specially selected 10-metre-tall tree has been installed. All this goes to create a profound food experience. ifj



NEW INTERPRETATION FOR WORDSWORTH'S COTTAGE

Celebrating the 250th anniversary

of the birth of the great English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, Nissen Richards Studio was commissioned by The Wordsworth Trust's 'Reimagining Wordsworth' initiative, to refurbish Wordsworth's former Lake District home, Dove Cottage, to provide an immersive, authentic experience to visitors, apart from a whole swathe of other design activities under the Wordsworth Grasmere brand. Though he has lived in other parts of Cumbria, Dove Cottage is associated with Wordsworth, as the place he wrote his most famous poems. Speaking of the project, Michael McGregor, Director, The Wordsworth Trust, says 'Reimagining Wordsworth is a celebration of people, poetry and place, of great literature, created by remarkable people in an inspirational landscape'.

scope of work

From housing an on-site museum in a single room at the time of purchase, the Wordsworth complex, added more land and buildings and the site now encompasses Dove Cottage, the Museum and the Jerwood Centre, that houses a world-class collection of Wordsworth manuscripts, and other supporting structures.

The brief to Nissen Richards Studio was to create Wordsworth Grasmere's new exhibition design and interpretation, wayfinding and signage, and some interior design, branding, graphics and the art-direction of most of the project's AV elements, including films by renowned documentary-maker Nick Street and sound designs by specialist sound designer Carolyn Downing.

the refurbishment

The ground floor of the cottage consists of three main rooms – a lodging room, back kitchen and the main kitchen, a busy and domestic family space, where, thinking and writing happened. Several changes had been made to Dove Cottage since Wordsworth's time, incorporating both furniture and a number of fitted fixtures from a later period to create a more honest treatment for the Grade-I-listed cottage. New furniture built in the style of the period, commissioned from local craftsmen, sits alongside surviving furniture.

'Our approach to the design', Pippa Nissen, Studio Director, Nissen Richards explained, 'was not to replicate the original state, but to intimate and evoke its past history. An object-based treatment, including a wonderful resource from the period in the form of Dorothy Wordsworth's Grasmere journal, has been combined with film and sound design commissions to suggest a lived-in and humble home, where extraordinary writing took place.'

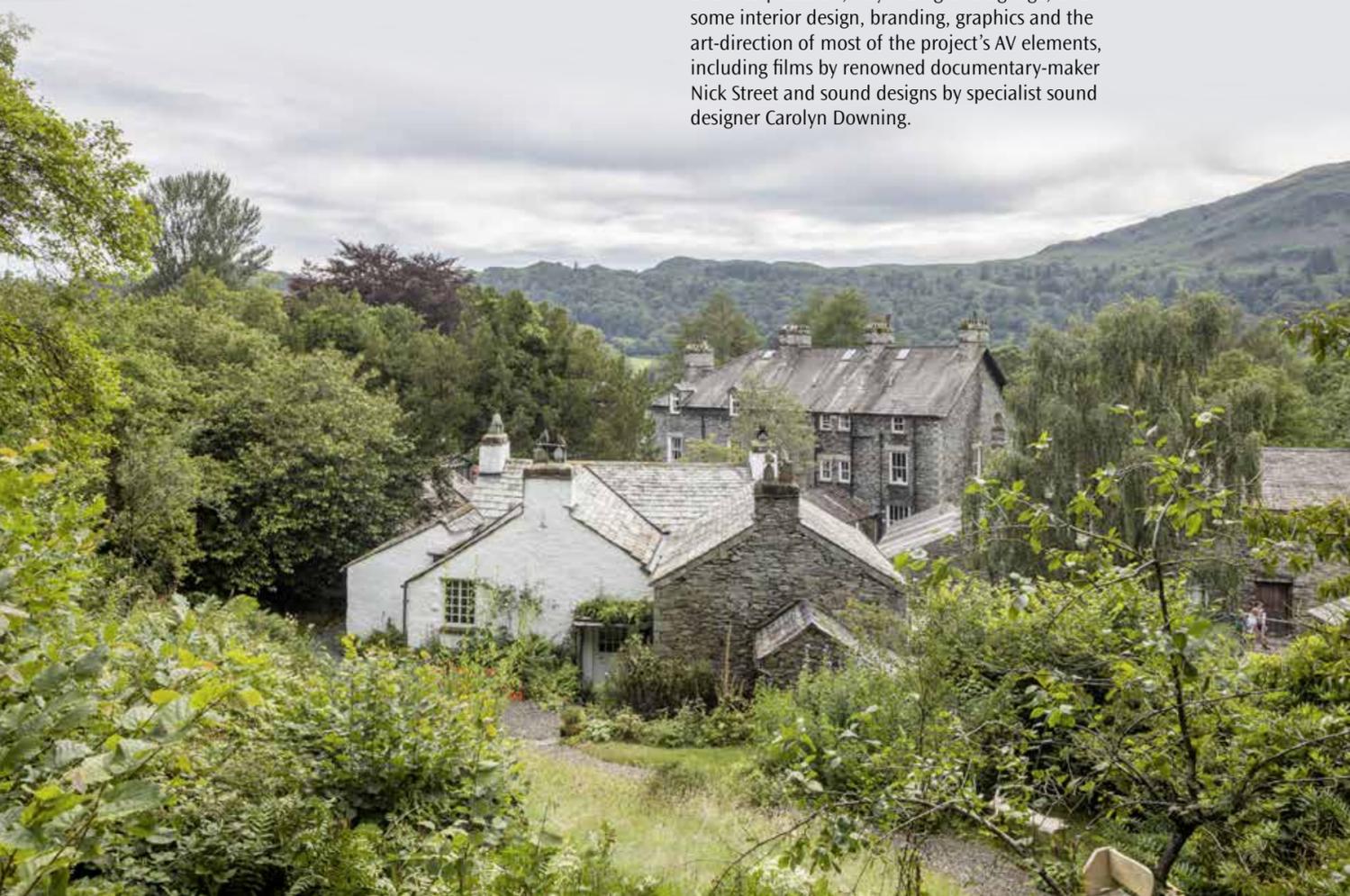


'The concept is for visitors to explore the cottage using all their senses', Elin Simonsson, Head of Interpretation at Nissen Richards Studio explained, 'effectively becoming 'Wordsworthian' as they pass through the space, walking where William and Dorothy walked, sitting where they sat, ascending the same staircase, seeing through the same windows.'

Sound designer Carolyn Downing has created a soundscape for the scheme that breathes life into the home and creates a sense of the real lives lived here. Subtle snatched sounds, as if from the next room or coming in through the window, create a rich picture of everyday life, including children playing and muffled conversations, utilising a variety of voices and local accents.

This impressionistic sense of the house and its history is built on further as visitors go upstairs and discover the first objects on display, including a journal belonging William's beloved sister, diarist, poet and writer Dorothy Wordsworth, in the sitting room, where furniture also includes an original sofa and chair from the Wordsworths' tenure.

'The new brand that Nissen Richards Studio have designed for Wordsworth Grasmere perfectly captures the essence of Wordsworth's legacy. It is contemporary and inspirational with a timeless feel and will be invaluable in helping us to shape a new identity for our organisation. We couldn't be happier with it!' said Emily Burnham, Marketing and Communications Manager at The Wordsworth Trust. ifj



DOVE COTTAGE, GRASMERE



This plot of orchard-ground is ours; My trees they are, my Sister's flowers; Here rest your wings when they are weary; Here lodge as in a sanctuary!

in late 1799, while on a walking tour of the lake district, william wordsworth saw dove cottage in grasmere and decided to make it his home. he had known the valley as a boy, describing it as 'paradise'. within a few weeks, wordsworth and his sister dorothy had moved in and were busily furnishing the home and planning a garden. it was whilst living here that wordsworth produced most of his greatest and best-loved poems, and dorothy wrote her fascinating grasmere journal, on this remarkable period of 'plain living and high thinking'.

*"I think these years have been the very happiest of my life"
Dorothy Wordsworth, on her time at Dove Cottage*



*Your mind is the garden,
Your thoughts are the seeds,
The harvest can either be flowers or weeds.*



*Fill your paper with the breathings
of your heart.*

wordsworth
GRASMERE



*Now I am free, enfranchised and at large,
May fix my habitation where I will.
What dwelling shall receive me, in what vale
Shall be my harbor, underneath what grove
Shall I take up my home, and what sweet stream
Shall with its murmurs lull me to rest ?*



*For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.*



One-inch wooden patti for Ahmedabad home

Ahmedabad-based Darshan Group designed the Ahmedabad Bungalow, spread over 5800 sq. ft. White walls create a soothing ambience and make it look bright and spacious. A one-inch wooden patti is used on the ceiling border throughout the house, except for the bedrooms. A centre table with an Italian marble top, as well as colourful sofas and curtains, add charm to the living and dining areas. A sleek monochromatic colour scheme was chosen for the kitchen, with a combination of green and white matte glass shutters. A dining table made from Italian marble and beige leather chairs adds elegance. Veneer and vitrified tiles were chosen for the children's bedroom.



Energy-efficient design for Nainital home

New Delhi-based Pankaj Vaid Architects designed the Shree Vaas in Nainital. Located at 7,500 sq. ft, the home is designed for three generations and friends. Surrounded by the mountains, a minor cut-and-fill at the site created a plateau to accommodate the 12,000 sq. ft. six-bedroom retreat. A two-floor annexe acts as staff quarters and guest rooms. The built form is a composition of 125 mm thick locally-available stone-clad walls and strategically-placed windows and verandahs. A north-south building orientation helped accommodate solar panels on the south-facing sloping roofs. Insulated walls and UPVC door-and-window systems with vacuum-sealed glass units are used for insulation. Multi-stage filtered potable harvested rainwater can be accessed through a looped central heating system, while VRF technology heats the residence without compromising on energy efficiency. Potable water is achieved using a three-stage water purification system.

photography :: prashant bhatt



Gazebo, reflexology track and pergola walk for Tuticorin office

Bengaluru-based Ossa Architects designed the C.C. Timbers Office building in Tuticorin, which includes covered parking, cabins, a staff area and waiting lounge. An element of the wave is carried through the exteriors, depicting the location of the project near the sea. A gazebo, reflexology track and pergola walk form a façade, apart from the half-shielded circular bollard lights and stepping stones. Concrete walls and tapered columns create an angular-shaped façade, while the plinth of the office space is raised for an unobstructed view of the seashore.

photography :: inclined studio

Pavilion-like structures on the sides add boldness and a gazebo doubles up as informal seating spaces. Granite with solvent-based paint is used for the exterior to minimize the use of metal, with brighter colors for the pergolas.

Zinc cladding façade for Varanasi hotel

Gurugram-based Cityspace'82 Architects designed the Madin Hotel in Varanasi. The design scheme is a blend of tradition and international standards that resembles the brand's professionalism and passion, yet maintains a cosmopolitan look. The visitor enters the lobby to be greeted by a double-height glass cage of globe pendants on the first floor. Mirror work in a diamond shape over the lift lobby acts as a showstopper, with an aquarium next to the reception. A celebration hall, gentleman's bar, spa and gymnasium are situated on the first floor.

Suites and rooms are located on the upper floors, while an infinity swimming pool on the fifth floor has a green vertical wall. A second restaurant and bar lounge on the terrace are designed for private gatherings. The lower basement is a covered parking space, while the upper basement comprises two banquet halls with a separate entrance.



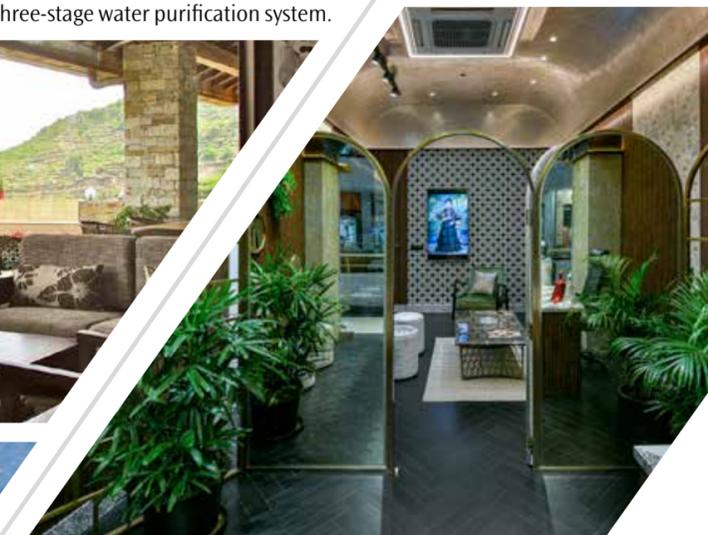
photography :: pankaj vaid & a. khanna

Ribbed grey-toned and LED-lit signage façade for Mumbai boutique

Mumbai-based Navien Niesaar Designs designed the Ivy Fashion Boutique, which deals in children's clothing. The existing mezzanine floor was removed to maximize the spatial and volumetric parameters. Extra-clear glass, ribbed grey-toned stone and LED-lit signage comprise the facade. Spread over 40 sq. m., the boutique features three zones - the sales, business development area and the back office.

One is greeted by the vault-shaped ceiling with a textured champagne leafing. Rippled wood cladding and geometric-designed wallpaper line the walls, while a black wooden herringbone floor and PU-gloss metallic black finish on the ceiling adds panache. A specialized back-office section is created for exclusive clients. A metal screen acts as a divider, which features neutral-colored paisley fabric on one side and antique-finished distressed-gold mirror on the other. False partition walls designed from erratic walls inside the blocks enable technical services.

For more on these stories, log on to www.ifj.co.in





Jaipur-inspired design for Pink City jewellery studio

Jaipur-based Marie-Anne Oudejans and Siddharth Kasliwal came together to create The Pink Abode, a studio inspired by Jaipur as the Pink City and the beauty of Gem Palace jewels. Four oil paintings depict a lake with lotuses, a tribute to the late Munnu Kasliwal who loved lotuses. The deep-pink walls are inspired by the spinel stone, while the sand colour symbolises the desert. High-arched doors and windows lend an authentic look with detailed painted doors of Mughal flowers. Jewels are displayed in high-arched designer boxes, resembling a museum.



Agile layout for Gurgaon workspace

Gurgaon-based OneCulture – The Cultural Workspaces in Gurgaon designed the Co-working Workspace, a commercial project that emphasizes the employees' wellness quotient. The client wanted a one-stop solution for their workplace, which promised innovation, productivity, and stability while maximizing space. The space features dedicated desks, private cabins, meeting rooms and private studios along with enterprise solutions such as CXO Suites, Office Suites, Custom Build-Outs and event solutions. Massage chairs, gaming zones, phone booths, napping pods, a lounge and meditation rooms allow employees to destress. An application allows individual access to book meeting rooms, wellness retreats, tables at the café, and stay updated on business and social events.



photography :: phx india



Vaastu compliance for Delhi residence

Mumbai-based KNS Architects designed a Residential Bungalow, spread across 8,500 sq. ft. The firm had to work with adjoining structures less than five feet apart, a pre-existing structure with a long depth and small width, and the need for Vaastu.

For the façade, metal coatings in rust finish were juxtaposed against a white wall. Three floors were combined by creating voids and double-height volumes, with a staircase leading up to a skylight. The northeast corner was cut off due to a big block, which did not allow natural light to reach the central spaces. A terrace room was built, joined by an external staircase. An open-sky terrace was designed as an entertainment space with concrete and rust-finished walls. Vertical gardens add greenery and privacy, along with a retractable roof. Clean lines, modern furniture, and artistic lights are balanced against the neutral canvas while a water feature acts as a Vaastu element.



Maximum storage for Pune home

Pune-based The Designco designed a Pune Residence to accommodate their heirlooms. A corner-style dining room was lined with white leather sofas while a seating area near the window maximizes views of the greenery. Gloss and matte finishes were used for a modern look while a false ceiling expands the space. A long drawer unit under the TV spans the entire length, with an Italian wooden flooring carefully cut and laid on-site. The drawer unit provides maximum storage, and enhances the minimalistic look with no leg details. A false ceiling in the dining room is connected to the washbasin, which forms a defined cuboid. Jet-black door handles set against a light wooden veneer is the main design element of the master bedroom, which extends till the wardrobe handles and loft. In-built handles, hydraulic beds, top-lift overhead shutters, and soft-close drawers were used with an emphasis on maximum storage.

photography :: gagan samtani



Vintage aestheticism for Mumbai residence

Mumbai-based The Little Details designed a 4BHK Residence, located in a high-rise. The client wanted a contemporary, comfortable and layered design characterized by simple lines, detailed furniture and monotone colours. A long deck wraps around the entire perimeter, which creates extra spaces for relaxation. A custom-made beige L-shaped sofa with an ottoman and centre table was designed for the living room, with a PU-finished console unit and wooden C-shaped tables. The master bedroom features a custom-made leather bed with deep blue accents and an oversized armchair with a footrest, with circular PU-finished drawers. Veneer was used for the bed and wardrobe in the first bedroom, where the bed has an extended headrest in a dual-toned fabric. A handcrafted study table was finished in veneer with borders on the drawer facia and brass knobs, enhancing the vintage aesthetic. ifj



For more on these stories, log on to www.ifj.co.in

galta chair: kann collection

The Galta Chair is a rethink of the classic bistro chair. The result is a product that is light in terms of space and weight. Comfortable and stackable, the Galta is a timeless design for modern interiors.

Website: www.kanndesign.com



niemeyer ii armchair: insidherland

Named after Brazilian Architect Oscar Niemeyer, its rounded lines are influenced by the remarkable 'Casa das Canoas' designed by Niemeyer in 1951. The armchair is upholstered in InsidherLand Woollen, while the base is oak finished in matt varnish.

Website: www.insidherland.com



kite armchair: stellarworks

Kite is a compact armchair designed with commercial and hospitality spaces in mind. The backrest and seat are independent parts, with shallow and deep seats and lower and taller backs available for use in combination, according to the size of the space and degree of privacy desired.

Website: www.stellarworks.com



lap plus washstand: karim rashid and glass design

The Lap Plus washstand is minimalist yet functional. The basin is fashioned from Vetrofreddo®, an innovative material patented by Glass Design and composed of glass pigments and resins. The washstand structure is in Matt Black painted AISI 304 stainless steel, features adjustable feet and comes with towel holder and integrated shelf.

Website: www.glassdesign.it



lafayette wall light: radar

The Lafayette wall light is a brass lamp made from solid brass panels, composed of multiple thin strips of brass which the end user can shape anyway he or she desires. Available with LED + top cover or e27 bulb socket.

Website: www.radar-interior.com



marshmallow single sofa: royal stranger

A round and soft shaped sofa with a touch of gold glamour and elegance. In the picture: Mint green with polished brass.

Website: www.royalstranger.com



rubab collection: obeetee

Tessellated patterns inspired by Islamic architecture with contemporary motifs in pure silk and natural wool texture with the hand-sheared pile. The motifs are modernized on a comfortable scale, in an elegant distressed silk & wool rug.

Website: www.obeetee.com

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scofield suspension lamp: delightful

Scofield is an unusual lamp with a modern aesthetic appeal. Each light-and-bracket rotates separately, allowing different light focuses in one single space, making this fixture a very functional piece. With matte white and a nickel plated finished, the sleek lamp can be customized with any RAL color of your choosing.

Website: www.shop.delightfull.eu



mos storage units: gebrüder thonet vienna gmbh (gtv)

Designed by GamFratesi, the collection includes three new elements: console, bookcase and side table, which can also be used as a bedside table. An ellipse shape and calibrated dimensions remain common features of the new elements, which fit into any environment, thanks to their light elegance, whether it be the living room or the sleeping area as in refined lounge spaces. The woven cane shell conceals the wooden tops, two for the coffee table, three for the console and four for the bookcase. The frame in natural stained or black lacquered bent beech wood is supported by brass feet.

Website:

Worldwide (except USA): Gebrüder Thonet Vienna – www.gebruederthonetvienna.com

USA: Wiener GTV Design –

www.gebruederthonetvienna.com



multibanqueta stool: wewood

A stool in solid wood inspired by a traditional design that enhances the manufacture craft and the virtues of wood. Multibanqueta was developed to offer the possibility of becoming an endless bench, inviting to gather a group of people in moments of leisure and entertainment. A multipurpose piece that can be used as a stool, side or coffee table. Available in oak or walnut.

Website: www.wewood.eu

THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE

hospital design, while always important, is now under the scanner during the global pandemic



Hospitals, with their varied functions, several departments and 24/7 operation, were always spaces that needed intelligent design. Now, as the world battles the Coronavirus pandemic, the infrastructure of such facilities has come under incredible amounts of stress, making the field of hospital design even more challenging and relevant.

photography :: suryan and dang

apollo cradle hospital, amritsar | intrigue studio + lab, new delhi

What are the first thoughts that come to mind when designing a hospital project? Many factors must be considered when designing a medical facility, like regulation of smooth movement of people around the space, says Ar. Manoj Choudhury, Director, Edifice Consultants, Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai.



“Incorporating universal design principles, an empathetic architecture and contextuality are as indispensable as designing the tangible spaces.” Ar. Srijit Srinivas, Founder, Srijit Srinivas Architects, Trivandrum says, “Crossover of patients and services should be minimized in general hospitals, and there should be a standalone structure to function during an emergency as well.”



benziger hospice home, trivandrum | srijit srinivas architects, trivandrum

For Ar. Sandeep Shikre, Founder, Sandeep Shikre and Associates, Mumbai, the provision of natural light is an important consideration. He explains, “Hospitals should be planned to optimize daylight as nature plays a pivotal role in healing patients. Besides large windows, superior indoor air quality, adequate lighting and proper acoustics should be given due attention. Finally, a warm ambience with the thoughtful use of colors and textures goes a long way in aiding both medical staff and patients.”

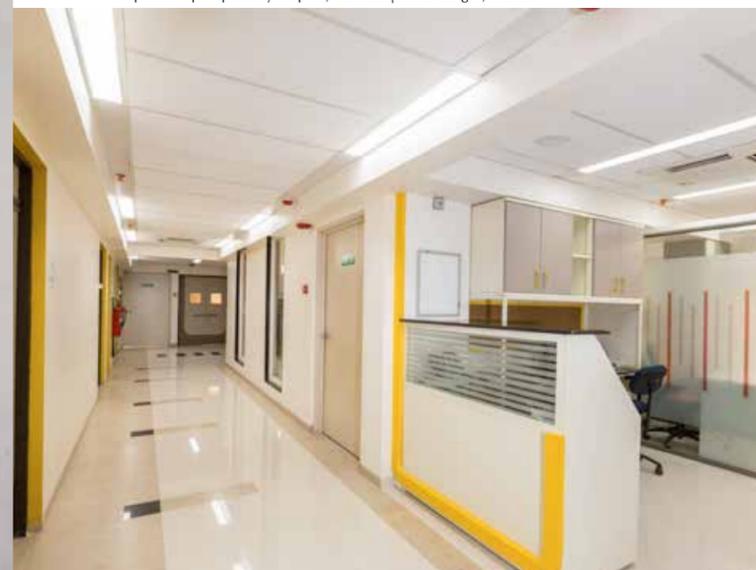


Ar. Shamit Manchanda of Manchanda Associates, sums it up, “A well designed hospital is not only limited to catering to the infrastructural needs of providing healthcare services but also plays an important role in patient recovery and well-being.”

There should also be no compromise when it comes to accommodating ancillary facilities. Ar. Shilpa Jain Balvally, Partner, Studio Osmosis, Mumbai, says, “There must be adequate provision made for reception areas, family lounges and waste management spaces as they often get sacrificed due to space constraints.”

The eternal bête noire, budget limitations can also prove to be an obstacle, and necessitate certain

upasani super-speciality hospital, mumbai | shree designs, mumbai



changes. According to Ar. Kshititi Nagarkar, Principal Architect, Shree Designs, Mumbai, “Spaces are now being designed from a vendor-neutral perspective so that the client can predict costs based on their choices.”

Not just purely design elements, a judicious use of the right technology is also important when planning a hospital. Ar. Hiten Sethi, Founder, Hiten Sethi Architects, Mumbai lists some basic requirements: “The tech chosen to be used in a hospital should provide thermal comfort, acoustic comfort, the right indoor ambience and protect against extreme weather conditions.”



Architects must take the help of experts before they design a healthcare project, says Ar. Nehit Vij & Ar. Devyani Gupta, Founders, Intrigue Studio + Lab, New Delhi.



“Biomedical services and equipment planners are involved in the design process from the beginning, as their inputs about the latest medical devices and other back-end information contribute to a fool proof design.”



photography :: inclined studio

lyfstyle wellness centre, ahmedabad | shailja harish design studio, ahmedabad

the current scenario

During the Covid pandemic, the architecture and design community has come up with workaround solutions to create temporary hospitals as Ar. Hiten Sethi, Hiten Sethi Architects, Mumbai, explains, "HSA and the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) converted the CIDCO Exhibition Centre into an 1,150-bedded coronavirus hospital."

But these are only short-term solutions, and architects and designers will need to incorporate the lessons from these spaces to plan for the future.



Ar. Rahul Kadri, Principal Architect and Partner, IMK Architects, Mumbai, explains, "Most hospital campuses today exist as integrated units with shared circulation elements, which leads to cross-infection and contamination. The better alternative would be to segregate functions to multiple, separate wings and add buffer zones in between to avoid interference of services and maintenance areas with procedure areas and allow for greater isolation of diseases. Independent buildings need to be zoned responsibly too and functions segregated within sections or floors by creating general, semi-sterile, and sterile zones (for example, waiting areas to OPDs to ICUs). Finally, providing centralized green courtyards to provide passive evaporative cooling, and adding solar panels to reduce dependency on conventional forms of electricity, will help optimize building energy consumption and improve efficiency."



Prasanna Kumar Venugopal and Sudheera Mure, Directors, KGD - A Katerra Design Partner, Bengaluru, enumerate the factors they consider essential to planning the medical facilities of the future. "Modular spaces for isolation rooms, wards and IP rooms, segregation of in-patients and out-patient entry and exit points, big open spaces for waiting areas, easily convertible spaces to isolate units from other parts of the hospital, compact

modular hospital designs, which can be assembled as fast as required, avoiding spaces that require human touch and selection of loose furniture with dividers, orientation and distribution for better segregation."

Ar. Manoj Choudhury, Director, Edifice Consultants, Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai adds, "In most enclosed modern buildings, our dependency on air conditioning has increased so much that 90 percent of the air is recirculated within the building and only 5 per cent is brought in from outside. Therefore, the provision of natural cross-ventilation not only reduces the risk of infection by increasing the rate of natural air exchange but also provides a healthier interior environment. To dilute and remove contaminated indoor air, air conditioning systems would need to upgrade to a three-stage filtration process, with UV treatment in the AHU or ducts."



Integrating automation through technological solutions will also be crucial to ensure safe distancing in next-generation hospitals. Today, telemedicine uses existing computing devices - inexpensive equipment like smartphone cameras, wearable biosensors, etc. - to gather clinical data from patients, limiting the need for travel and contact, while providing optimal healthcare services.



indovasc hospital, ahmedabad | shailjharish design studio, ahmedabad



national cancer institute, nagpur
hiten sethi architects, mumbai



alvura cosmetic clinic and hospital, ahmedabad
increation associates, ahmedabad



mahatma phule charitable trust hospital-a surana associate,
mumbai | sandeep shikre & associates, mumbai



medanta ganganagar hospital, sri ganganagar, rajasthan |
manchanda associates, new delhi



lyfstyle wellness centre, ahmedabad | shailja harish design studio, ahmedabad



symbiosis hospital and research centre (suhrc), pune | imk architects, mumbai

design of the future

Today, as our understanding of health and wellbeing evolves, new construction technologies provide limitless possibilities in the sector. Building Information Modeling (BIM), for example, which can help determine the optimal geometry of buildings in response to certain parameters, can aid in pre-empting problems and shortening the time of construction and saving cost, while 'temporary and transformable' architecture has enabled emergency mitigation like never before. "Imbibing such innovations within healthcare design holds the key to streamlining our systems for better performance; from the accessibility of essential public services and improved patient care to the wellbeing of our economy," says Ar. Kadri.

As for the future and long term, sustainable design and collaborative thinking is a big weapon against the Covid-19 pandemic. "It's important to absorb, listen, discuss ideas, and be open to collaborating with likeminded people and plan for the unknown, with as much flexibility and multi-functionality in design as one can," says Ar. Shilpa Jain Balvally, Principal Architect and Partner, Studio Osmosis, Mumbai. "It's significant to think about individual and social responsibility, plan to use fewer



resources and focus on local materials and sustainability. Hygiene, ventilation, and a sensible design with good climate responsive elements should be the key to all projects."

Speaking of the need for a revolution in healthcare, Kadri further adds, "we need to rethink our model of healthcare design, to support health rather than simply treating illnesses. Care must be preventative rather than responsive; mental well-being must be incorporated as a key component of physical health and we must strive to put the patient's experience at the core of healthcare." if



raghoji kidney and multi speciality hospital, solapur |
nmd interiors, solapur



APOLLO CRADLE HOSPITAL, AMRITSAR

Intrigue Studio + Lab, New Delhi

ALVURA COSMETIC CLINIC AND HOSPITAL, AHMEDABAD

Increation Associates, Ahmedabad

Design brief and aim

To design a soothing but functional cosmetic clinic and hospital.

How this was accomplished

Spread over 2,600 sq. ft., the layout represents a clear circulation and well-designed spatial organization with colorful interiors that ease the treatment process. The client wanted a design that maximized floor area to incorporate the facilities. A pastel-colored moodboard was considered suitable for the patients, and functional as well.

Light, ventilation, suitable furniture and layout were carefully considered to maintain a comfortable ambience that would positively impact patients' moods and conditions. An artificial green wall behind the reception desk welcomes patients, while the desk itself is made from a large piece of Italian marble. Concealed lighting leads patients to the doctor's cabin. Vibrant-colored leather-finished furniture contrast with the matte-finished vitrified flooring and wooden ceiling.

Cabins are separated by glass and wood panelling to maintain transparency and visually expand the space. Lights mark out the different functional spaces, along with wood, veneer, back-painted glass, and P.U. paint. The entrance leads to the doctors' following with the hair-transplant room, O.T. room and laser room. Upon reaching the exit, the patient can check out from the patient recovery room with an adjoining pharmacy. The overall hierarchy is planned circularly with the central reception area at the single entry-exit point.

photography :: incimed studio



Design brief and aim

To envisage a mother and child hospital that redefines the archaic notions associated with hospital interiors. Childbirth being a time of hope and joy, the design was to reflect the same sentiment in its design and architecture.

How this was accomplished

A defunct shopping mall was chosen for the project, which was to be converted into a hospital. The adaptive reuse project was not simply to readdress the spatial needs of a healthcare project, but conserve natural resources while providing quality medical care. External punctures and treatments were made to introduce natural light and create a warm and comfortable environment. The stark white interiors give way to colorful furniture and fabric, contributing to a positive environment that promotes healing.

An existing double-height atrium was retained at the entrance lobby, to ensure light just to the reception area and the IPD zone. The IPD zone features vibrant murals in hallways and rooms,



earthy hues, wooden furniture and natural light. The structure and medical technology are suitable for a secondary care hospital to achieve the required bed counts, operation theatre complex, and neonatal care. Zoning and circulation are crucial for hospitals due to the flow of patients and consultants, medical supplies, waste disposal, and emergency entrance and safety. A 10-storied

structure, the mall, and hotel access are on the opposites of the building. The approach to the hospital is on the ground floor while entering the main lobby that contains the OPD, diagnostics and clinical services. The first floor is restricted to the IPD, NICU, PICU, and operation theatre complex. The hospital is designed to retain the maximum number of existing walls and flooring. A clear height of 14-feet allowed the firm to create mezzanine service floors above the operation complex.



photography :: sunyan and dang



AVITIS SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, PALAKKAD, KERALA

Kumar Group Total Designers, Kochi

Design brief and aim

Avitis Speciality Hospital was an ambitious vision to connect hospitality services and advanced architectural design. Set at a picturesque location in Nemmara, Palakkad, the hospital has been a lodestar of healthcare facilities since its inception.

How this was accomplished

The 101-bed hospital is spread over 8 acres uses a central circulation spine to facilitate easy access to all the rooms, thus eliminating the confusing paths that makes navigation difficult at hospitals. The interior spaces were designed for an enhanced user experience, by carefully selecting the finishes and materials to distinguish each space. Optimal lighting was ensured for hospital activities yet created a pleasing impression for the visitors. The rooms were designed to bring the comfort and a sense of being at home. Avitis is equipped with top of the line diagnostic and therapeutic technologies and auxiliary facilities. Crucial design specifics such as handrails, guard rails, ramps were implemented to make it universally accessible. The design provides for immersion with nature, be it at site level or the spaces inside with a generous vista from any point.

photography :: kumar group total designers, kochi



BENZIGER HOSPICE HOME, TRIVANDRUM

Srijit Srinivas Architects, Trivandrum

Design brief and aim

To design a hospice that provides free accommodation to cancer patients visiting local hospitals, that addresses their physical and emotional vulnerabilities.

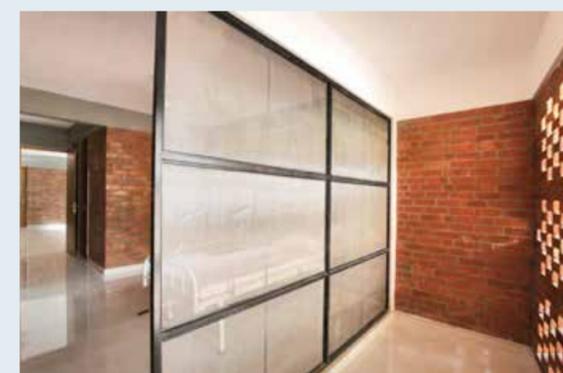
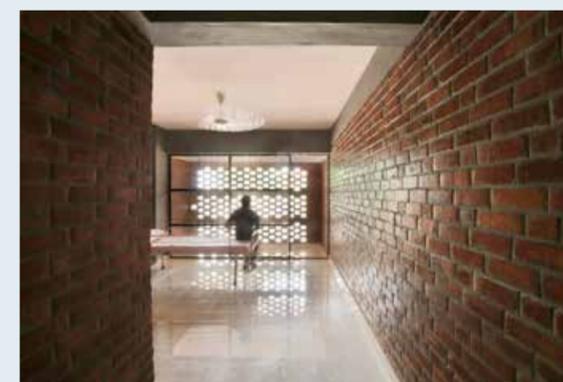
How this was accomplished

Commissioned by the Malabar Province of the Order of Discalced Carmelite (OCD) affiliated to the Catholic Church, the facility consists of three stories, comprising 26 suites. There were challenges to be countered: the site consisted of a square front portion tapering to the rear; it is also located in a crowded setting that required adequate privacy measures.

A double-slanted feature wall forms the façade, which covers the recreation rooms across two floors with cantilevering over the ground floor. An ambulance entry is built from the front main gate leading up to the entry ramp, which is girded by a verandah, that features in-built brick seating integrated with trough planters. A service gate to the north leads to the kitchen and maintenance room via a supply path.

A central, landscaped courtyard is built on the ground floor lobby, with brick seating and louvered screen walls. Set in an enclosed area, the walls permit cross-ventilation and visual beauty across the cross-sections of the two floors. The natural color and texture of brick louvers are accentuated by the interplay of light and shadows.

A centrally-located dining space opens onto an external landscaped area, which has a large commercial kitchen. A common congregation space, an activity room and a recreation room are built with additional kitchenettes and tea stations on each floor. The director's office and nurses' station are located adjacent to the lobby, while the elevators and staircase allow easy visibility and access to the suites. Patient suites are located on the first and second floors, with each room having designated spaces for one patient and carers. Suites at the front have brickwork louvers. The built form is contained within a simple platonic geometry aiming to be classy without the distracting clutter of accoutrements.





HOMI BHABHA CANCER HOSPITAL IN CIVIL HOSPITAL, SANGRUR, PUNJAB

Designex Architects, Ludhiana

Design brief and aim

To construct a structurally-sound and earthquake-resistant cancer diagnosis and facility.

How this was accomplished

Spread over covered area of 25,886 sq. ft., the project includes radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and onco-surgery departments. Tempered double-glazing units on the northern and southern facades maximize daylight and minimize heat gain in the interior spaces, which reduces air-conditioning load by 25 per cent. Double-glazing on the northern façade saves energy via a thermal effect, which keeps the rooms warm in winters and cool in summers.

Black marble is used for the entrance floor, while every exposed column is clad

up to six feet. Shaped in the shape of a triangle, the reception area and security room boast floor-to-ceiling glass with aluminum frames. Seating is provided at both ends of the reception lobby for non-OPD patients. Slip-resistant paver stones are used for the ramp, which is constructed with a slope ratio of 1:10 and a width of 7 feet 10 inches, with all services provided vertically, around the main lobby.

Ivory-colored tiles are used for the flooring and walls up to six feet, which add an element of peace. On the first floor, four operation theatres face each other to maintain the sterile corridors and enclosed by a door hardened by sterile material. A nurse's room stands at the central curve of the second floor, which houses patients in the private

and general wards. Smoke detectors and hydrant systems fitted with butterfly valves are used in the ward areas, with a 5,000ml water tank connected to the fire-fighting system through C.I. pipes. The auditorium and café are located on the top floor to avoid disturbance.

The building is equipped with a rainwater harvesting system, where the rainwater on the terrace is stored and used for cleaning and land irrigation purposes. Water-efficient fixtures save water, while treated wastewater is used for flushing and landscaping. China mosaic, terracotta and reflective paint on the roof reduce heat load, with the use of concrete blocks over conventional bricks.



INDOVASC HOSPITAL, AHMEDABAD

ShailjaHarish Design Studio, Ahmedabad

Design brief and aim

To conceptualise a vascular surgery hospital that communicates their mission, culture and values.

How this was accomplished

Spread over 8133 sq. ft., the firm had to understand the need for quality medical care over business. A comfortable, home-like yet sophisticated environment was envisaged to engender mental peace, inner healing, hope and confidence among the patients, visitors and medical staff. Soft colors on the walls contrast with vibrant-coloured furniture and wall paintings. Artificial plants and more windows invite light and lend a natural look to the rooms.

Ocean-blue marble floors and elegant lighting add comfort to the waiting area with sofas laid out for the patients and companions. Natural Italian marble is used in the waiting room and consultation area, while a nature-inspired design enhances and promotes patient recovery. The setting is set to be therapeutic, radiate positive energy and reduce stress. The reception and waiting area on the first floor has a vertical garden and a series of lights, while there are motivational words in the consulting room to promote healing.



LYFSTYLE WELLNESS CENTRE, AHMEDABAD

Shailja Harish Design Studio, Ahmedabad



Design brief and aim

To create a wellness clinic that promotes healing in a homely environment amidst nature.

How this was accomplished

A blend of light and medium shades was used to symbolize acceptance and trust, which is an important part of the design. Spread over 2,998 sq. ft., the wellness clinic is located in a prime location in Ahmedabad. The client wished to include multiple diagnostic and treatment facilities under the same roof, which was a challenge for the firm.



Multifunctional spaces were designed for medical specialists to conduct their medical diagnosis under one roof. There is a reception area, counselling room, medical store and two consulting rooms, all easily accessible from the waiting area. Ambient lighting and soothing colors such as blue, pink, and green help patients relax.

A spacious waiting room welcomes patients while a counselling room is used



photography : inclined studio

to discuss their treatment. Colorful metal structures are fixed to the white ceiling, complete with a bright sofa and a blue reception table in a gradient pattern. An uncluttered corridor connects all the areas, designed with matte grey tiles with a light wooden effect. Colorful chairs and wall frames give a comfortable feeling to the counselling room.

At the end of the utility passage is a leisure meeting room with rexine wall panelling, a dark sofa, hanging lamps, and artificial green plants. A cafeteria with a dummy wooden window on a brick wall lends artistic charm, which is enhanced with natural views from the large glass windows and artificial plants, all designed to reduce anxiety.



MAHAMANA PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA CANCER CENTRE, VARANASI

Edifice Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai

Design brief and aim

To plan a 340-bed extensive cancer center on a 6.5 acre plot within the Benaras Hindu University, while focusing on the local aesthetic and cultural traditions.

How this was accomplished

The hospital is divided into three parts: the Radiation Therapy (RT) Block, the Diagnostic (D&T) Block, and the IPD Wing. A separate Patient Registration Centre (PRC) is designed to prevent congestion in the clinical areas. The radiation therapy treatment has a separate unit with seven linear accelerators, a Brachytherapy and Bhabhatron. A Nuclear Medicine Department with PET CT, SPECT CT, and PET MRI on the second floor supports the cancer care efforts.

The third floor houses an endoscopy suite, a blood bank with apheresis capability and laboratory. A surgical suite of nine major and three minor operation theatres cater to surgical needs, while a central sterile supply department is placed on the floor below and supports the surgical suite with dedicated elevators.

The D&T block provides imaging initiatives such as CT scan, MRI, X-rays, fluoroscopy, ultrasonography, 2D Echo, ECG, and TMT. An emergency department on the ground floor provides treatment to cancer patients. There is also a 48-bed chemotherapy

unit on the third floor and a 23-bed critical care unit on the fourth floor, connected via a bridge to the surgery suite in the RT block. The IPD block has 213 beds across seven categories. A full-fledged kitchen is situated on the ground level.

The structure is designed as per the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) guidelines apart from the IS Codes and National Building Code (2016). Structural steel was chosen for the main element, supported by steel beams spanning between steel columns. RCC slabs on metal decks are used for flooring connected by steel studs for a composite structure. Concrete-encased columns with steel reinforcement are designed as composite columns. The architectural façade and clinical functions of the project did not allow diagonal braces to be added for lateral load resistance, thus, shear walls are provided with the main



beams connected to steel columns. The internal steel beams are covered with vermiculite for fire protection purposes while the beams on the façade were encased in concrete.

The building design is reminiscent of the terraced aesthetic of the Varanasi ghats. Apart from the aesthetics, metal jaalis reduce heat gain in the double-height entrance lobby. The cupolas on the building cores are adapted from Benaras Hindu University.





MAHATMA PHULE CHARITABLE TRUST HOSPITAL - A SURANA ASSOCIATE, MUMBAI

Sandeep Shikre & Associates, Mumbai

Design brief and aim

To render an integrated hospital design that included structural and engineering services, liaisoning, construct management, and interior design for a 100-bed, multi-specialty hospital.

How this was accomplished

Spread over 90,000 sq. ft., the hospital is designed in a medium-rise building with a simple but efficient internal circulation that involves studying the solar path and micro-climate. It is designed as per the AERB (Atomic Energy Regulation Board) guidelines and has been accredited by the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals) and JCI (Joint Commission International). A glass façade is a low-maintenance, long-lasting, and eco-friendly element to provide optimum daylight and conserve energy. Entry points for OPD patients and visitors and the emergency departments are segregated for smooth accessibility. An individual floor is designed for the ICU facility.

The three operation theatres are equipped with laminar airflow jointless and seamless operating systems and advanced PET scans to diagnose and treat cancer. This hospital is one of the nine centers in Mumbai that has a PET scan facility. The theatres are equipped with linear accelerators and 24-channel brachytherapy machines used to treat breast and cervical cancer. Apart from this, cath labs, blood banks, and pneumatic chutes for sample collection are accommodated into the design as well. Patients can choose from single-bed, double-bed, and

general ward occupancies along with isolation beds, waiting areas and parking facilities. The hospital complies with fire safety regulations, with the kitchen on the top floor to ensure this. Integrated light-panel artworks are designed on the ceilings of the radiotherapy spaces, which radiate a relaxing vibe, designed to reduce anxiety.



Wide passages and commuting corridors enable smooth transportation of wheelchairs and stretchers. The HVAC system is designed with a filtration system to ensure high indoor air quality. The hospital further extends its services to underprivileged patients under the Central and Maharashtra State GOC Health Schemes.



MEDANTA GANGANAGAR HOSPITAL, SRI GANGANAGAR, RAJASTHAN

Manchanda Associates, New Delhi



Design brief and aim

To envision an ultra-modern 200-bed super-specialty hospital to fulfil the demand for quality healthcare in tier-2 cities of India. The design needed to accommodate a possible expansion to 300 beds while keeping budget constraints in mind.

Design brief and aim

Maximum glazing on the north-south orientation blocks out the hot sun from the eastern and western sides, while the H-shaped building ensures natural light and ventilation while offering mutual shade. The shape creates distinctive zones to segregate independent departments while focusing on vertical circulation, ensuring unobstructed movement of medical staff and visitors. A ramp connects all the levels for the convenience of people with physical disabilities and evacuation of patients in a fire emergency. It enables the possible addition of an additional block for future expansion.

Spread over 165,000 sq. ft., the building is planned on a 66000 mm x 6600 mm grid with 3000 mm for internal corridor space, which are within the recommended norms for hospitals and meet most requirements. The design can accommodate an operation theatre, a six-bed general ward in one unit, two single-bed private wards with attached toilets or two staff change rooms. Robust and low-maintenance services are important due to the lack of trained manpower in the area. Though the project did not formally adopt any green-rating system, systems have been implemented to make the building green, sustainable and energy-efficient. Solar panels are used for heating water and power generation with insulated glass to minimise heat gain and large glazing increases the amount of daylight within the building. Wastewater recycling, variable frequency drives and high-efficiency screw-type chillers for HVAC are implemented as well.





MGM HOSPITAL, CHENNAI

KGD Architecture, Bengaluru

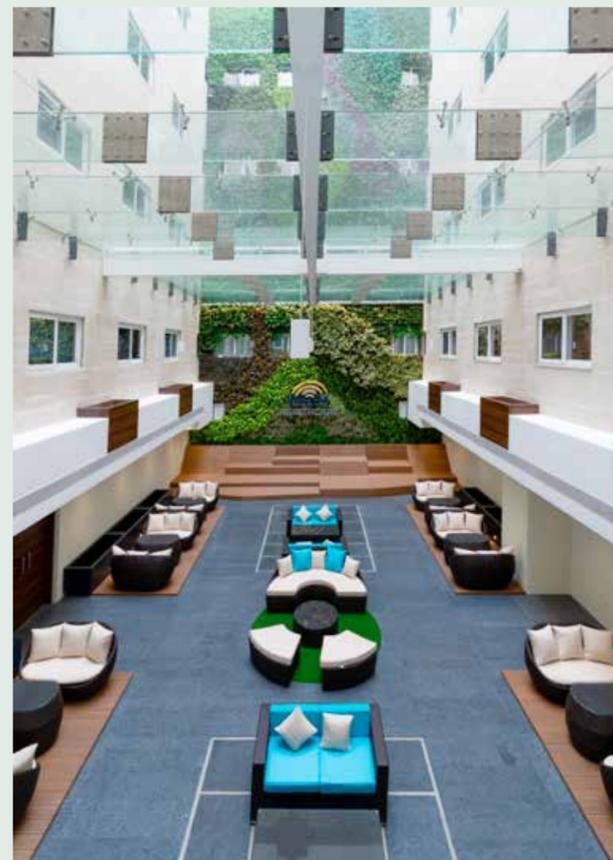
Design brief and aim

To create a clutter-free environment that welcomed visitors and promoted healing to patients, while maintaining international-standard tertiary healthcare.

How this was accomplished

Spread over 340,535 sq. ft., the firm has facilitated hassle-free and smooth patient movement within the hospital. In-patient and out-patient areas are segregated at various floor levels, with in-patient rooms orientated to ensure that they get sufficient sunlight. The hospital design emphasizes wellness and positive outcomes rather than patients succumbing to illness and fear.

Being a brownfield project, vertical elements were designed to bring in more linearity, while ductable units were replaced with cassette units. Due to a predefined structural grid, all of the rooms could not have external glazing. In-patient rooms look over the atrium with green plants, and a skylight bringing in natural light. With a LEED Platinum certification by USBC, the visual connection between the sky and landscape accelerates the healing process.



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, NAGPUR

Hiten Sethi Architects, Mumbai

Design brief and aim

To construct an aesthetic, functional, and energy-efficient oncology center of 500 beds, that offers a cancer care center, palliative care, and sustainable charity.

How this was accomplished

Spread over a 23.5-acre site, the project complies with the regulations set by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Joint Commission International. The design also conforms to the Gold Rating of the IGBC Green New Building Rating System.

An integrated design approach is used, maximizing clean and renewable energy to fulfil the hospital's energy requirements for heating, cooling, and lighting. Aluminium-louvered sunshades, deep recesses and fenestrations are designed using sun path diagrams to counter the extremely hot summers. More mass is used on the exterior, rather than glass, to reduce heat penetration, which is maintained at 22 per cent with DGU reflected glass.

Curtain walls act as semi-unitized glazing in a diamond grid and straight grid along with horizontal and vertical fins. Vertical mullions and horizontal transoms are installed on mild steel, stainless, and

aluminium brackets anchored to the columns, cut-to-size and structurally glazed to the aluminium sub-frame by a structural sealant.

The glazing at the main entrance is designed as the fixed spider glazing system, to obtain maximum transparency. The shorter sides of the building face the east and west, which reduces the surface area exposed to the sun's rays. The elevation on the south is designed as an inclined surface with the roof hanging beyond the façade with horizontal and vertical fins, which allows the sun to moderately warm the internal spaces and reduce energy consumption. Non-combustible, VOC-free materials are used for cladding.





Design brief and aim

To design clean lines, a simple and elegant design, and state-of-the-art facilities for a corporate standard hospital.

How this was accomplished

The client wanted a sustainable approach for the hospital, which would be equipped with modular operation theatres, conference rooms for telemedicine and cashless facilities.

Spread over 38,000 sq. ft., the design focuses on maintenance-free infrastructure, with simple, clean lines with pastel blue tones used for the comfort of staff and patient. Since the OPD waiting area witnesses maximum footfall, a wooden ceiling was chosen for the passageway while laser-cut lights were used for the rest of the space. Anti-skid semi-gloss vitrified flooring reflects light and green pockets with seating pockets add freshness. Facilities for public WiFi are included within the premises as well.

General, semi-deluxe, and deluxe rooms were clad with easy-to-clean vitrified tiles. Nurse's stations were equipped with Pneumatic Tube Systems (PTS) that are centrally connected to handle emergencies.

The client wanted the operation theatres, the 12-bed dialysis room and ICU to maintain a full view of all the patients' beds at a time. Three operation theatres are ready for telemedicine, with no risk of

dust saturation, along with vinyl for flooring and walls to promote sterile corridors. A suspended television below the HVAC section in the dialysis area, provides entertainment. A nurse's station is designed for patient observation and curtains are used for privacy when needed. Two separate cabins are reserved for HIV-positive patients with dedicated equipment for their use.

For the ICU, complete visibility of patients from the central nurse station is essential, as two nurses supervise intensive care patients at all times. A free-flowing curve shape promotes overall space ambience and functionality for easy bed movement and access to medical equipment. The ICU beds are equipped with front-directional pendant lighting on the left, to ease work during emergencies. An isolation cabin is reserved for critically-ill patients.



RAGHOJI KIDNEY AND MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SOLAPUR

NMD Interiors, Solapur



photography :: a&r interior photography



SAMARTH ORTHOPEDIC CENTER, AHMEDABAD

Archaic Design Studio, Ahmedabad

Design brief and aim

To accommodate multiple spaces into a hospital project.

How this was accomplished

The client wished to incorporate several diverse spaces into an old building, which was reflected in its walls and floor. A reception and waiting area, two consultation rooms, meeting room, X-ray rooms, dressing room and scrub area, medical store, general recovery rooms, medical store, operation theatre along with a mini-storage area that contains medical tools and post-operative recovery room, all were mandated to be included in the project.

A palette of vibrant yellow, magenta, green and blue were chosen for better engagement. Treated wooden panels with natural-finished laminates and PU coats are used as wall cladding. The firm ensured minimal civil work due to the building's ceiling height restrictions, as further work would make the space look narrow and congested. White walls with a wooden finish were used for the reception and waiting area.



photography :: inclined studio

SANJEEVANAM AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL, KOCHI

Kumar Group Total Designers, Kochi

Design brief and aim

To amalgamate traditional and modern architectural systems for an age-old healing practice.

How this was accomplished

The one-acre site accommodates an 81-bed hospital, 17 treatment rooms and recreational facilities. The project, a holistic wellness practice uses a triple-

height atrium with perforated aluminium façade screens to facilitate natural light and ventilation, and create a calm congregation space. These rooms are designed to bring solace and a feeling of home.

Natural ventilation of rooms and other interior spaces are a priority, resulting in a spatial configuration that permits smooth airflow. Natural vegetation in lobbies and rooms creates a cohesive environment emphasising Ayurvedic principles. Pitched roofs unify traditional and modern architectural styles and channel the essence of Ayurveda.



photography :: kumar group total designers, kochi



SYMBIOSIS HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE (SUHRC), PUNE

IMK Architects, Mumbai

Design brief and aim

To establish a multi-specialty hospital for the population of Pune and far-flung areas. At the moment, the hospital is being used as a Covid-19 center.

How this was established

Built along a slope of a low hill, the building was strategically positioned to minimize the cut-and-fill of the site. Two entrances were designed, for the hospital and the academic block. Functionally, the hospital comprises four sections: three belong to the hospital and the fourth one is a Skill Centre.

Inspired by stainless steel surgical equipment, a gigantic steel bird with open wings welcomes the visitor into the Skill Centre. Small skylights exist in the roof along with a large opening that has an upward bending tip, supported by steel pipes. A terrace garden is constructed on the upper surface of this canopy.

The hospital was planned across five levels: the OPD, casualty, radiology, and MHC departments are located on the ground level; the general, twin and single-bed wards are on the first floor while the operation theatres, ICU and the cath lab are located on a sterile

zone on the second floor, segregated from the rest of the hospital.

Two courtyards create buffer zones that bring in ample light and look over the wardrooms and the Out-Patient Department. All the departments enjoy fresh air and ventilation without the need for air-conditioning. A 3-meter-wide corridor shares a common boundary with the central courtyard.

Post-tensioned slabs are used to achieve flexibility, minimum beams and larger spans that facilitate different room-size arrangements for easy routing of ducts. Naturally-compressed, sun-dried earthen bricks produced on-site were used for the façade and masonry work. Colour coding was used for easy identification of spaces and critical areas.





UPASANI SUPER- SPECIALTY HOSPITAL, MUMBAI

Shree Designs, Mumbai



Design brief and aim

To plan a 60-bed multi-specialty hospital, highlighting professionalism and empathetic patient care.

How this was accomplished

Spread over 50,000 sq. ft., the project needed a design that could handle single, twin, and VIP patient rooms; nurse stations and utility rooms; waiting areas, OPD floor with counselling and X-ray rooms. Dark brown L-shaped elements form the façade, which is replete with bougainvillea. Brown and beige are used on the front façade, which extends to a brown, glazed wall on the staircase facade that allows ample natural light into the stairwell and corridor.

Functional zones are separated from each other, with a color palette that was inspired by the brand logo. The reception area, pharmacy and minor consultation rooms are located on the ground and first floors, while specialty and critical care departments are designed on the second and third floors. The ICU wards are planned on the fourth floor, with the physiotherapy ward on the fifth floor.

Neutral tones of blue-grey and white are highlighted with yellow, tangerine, and magenta to feature the color scheme of the departments. A blue-and-green scheme maintains a soothing environment in the operation theatre complex, and beige is used for the patient rooms. Lobbies have yellow hints in the door framework and floor patterns. Decorative screens and comfortable sofas are provided for the VIP rooms, and nurse stations are located to efficiently supervise the maximum number of rooms.

Movable glass panels isolate the operating area from the rest of the room-in-room operating theatre, with a dedicated ventilation system that induces positive air pressure and HEPA filters. A window which is vacuum-packed with blinds between the glass panels and sun-protection films, allows natural light in. Airflow from the sterile, semi-sterile, and clean zones are managed, with medical equipment from the Theatre Sterile Supplies Unit (TSSU) mapped to avoid mix-ups.

The design thus met all the requisitions defined by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH).



VARDHAMAN SUPER- SPECIALTY HOSPITAL, MUZAFFARNAGAR

Panjwani Architects, Dehradun

Design brief and aim

To construct a building that integrates nature, health, vitality and homeliness into its spaces. Apart from this intent, the interiors are designed with soothing colors and finishes that can resist environmental damage.

How this was accomplished

Spread over 6.5 acres, the facility has a low-maintenance skin façade system designed with a curtain wall to maximise natural daylight. Smart lighting on the exterior façade gives a luxurious modern appeal to the hospital.

A highly-insulated 'sealed box' design incorporates environmental and air quality management, and reduces the effect of the surrounding traffic. Materials were selected for durability and reduced maintenance, sustainability and efficiency.

The hospital is connected by a covered walkway providing an interaction of light and shade en route to the lounge. This is an operationally efficient space, which accommodates several functions including being an inviting entry point that helps reduce patient anxiety and staff stress levels. The design team has conceived the building as a three-part process: therapy, or body, is expressed in its precast and mass. Research, or mind, is evoked via its curtain wall and abundant natural light. Hope, or spirit, is conveyed through the transparent interface of the



building's interconnected spaces from the interiors, to the exterior gardens and the cityscape.

The patient's rooms are designed with external windows for filtered daylight and natural ventilation in case of power failure. The ground floor is dedicated to diagnosis, treatment and administrative functions. All the mechanical plants and water tanks connect on the covered roof level, which forms the mass necessary for the required proportion. The framed roof level becomes an interstitial space insulating the liveable floor below by reducing vertical heat load.

Highly-specialised areas such as an operation theatre, Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD), MRI, CT Scan, IVF Centre, physiotherapy centre, fire-fighting, PHE, electrical and HVAC are incorporated into the plan. The high-tech building induces a sense of confidence in the technology and capacity of the hospital. ifj

JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE

social distancing, especially in public spaces, looks set to be the new normal for the near future. as consumers try to stay just far enough apart, ifj looks at how companies find new solutions for new realities

The Covid pandemic has brought with it a host of new challenges, primarily, how to resume one's former existence without compromising personal health and safety. As lockdown restrictions are progressively lifted across India and the world, people, firms and governments are struggling to return to normalcy while still maintaining social distancing.

Ashok Basoya, Founder, Ottimo, says it well, "In the wake of the pandemic, it has become essential to socially distance when stepping out. For most public spaces, like offices, restaurants, theatres, gymnasiums, supermarkets, libraries etc., the challenge has been to ensure that, while still maintaining a sense of connectedness that is so vital to the human spirit."

Technology has evolved rapidly to cope with the challenge. According to Lalit Arora, Co-founder, Vingajoy, "Since social distancing has become an integral practice, there has been an appropriate increase in the demand for changes in product design and technology." Consumers too are adapting quickly, overcoming their fear of new tech to incorporate new gadgets and new systems of functioning into their lifestyle.



pravinsinh solanki | ahemdabad



ottimo disegni llp | new delhi



truein | pune



livspace | new delhi



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the market expands

The unexpected, unknowable nature of the pandemic and its aggressive spread has affected consumer sentiment and purchase behavior across the globe. A report in the business press (Business Standard quoting an Ernst & Young report) indicates that the lockdown has led to dramatic shifts in consumer behavior, and that this calls for an overhaul in the way brands are priced, positioned and targeted. "Considering the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, we believe that changing consumer behavior will leave a lasting impressions on category dynamics," say EY sources.

Life with Covid-19 seems like the new reality. Rajesh Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director, Dorset, New Delhi, says, "Now that the market has opened, the pace is building up. Customers are getting mentally ready to live with Covid-19. This changed mindset is going to speed up business. Project-related requirements are flowing in as incomplete projects have to be completed quickly. When it comes to retail sales, dealers have been coming back to their routine in many cities, barring a few. As a result, our OEM supply has seen a spurt in M-o-M demand. However short period lockdowns in some states are interrupting the recovery process."

Overall, supply chains have been hit by the global lockdown, and are still struggling to get back to pre-pandemic levels. Vinay Jain, Founder, Grafdoer, New Delhi, explains, "It was always a challenge to cope with ever-changing marketing trends." Lalit Arora says tech will provide the answer. "Now, more than ever, continuous research and development, via customer surveys and feedback, is needed to keep up with ongoing market demand."



dorset india | gurugram



vingajoy | new delhi



grafdoer | new delhi



vingajoy | new delhi



livspace | new delhi



boon edam entrance technology (india) | navi mumbai

the personal 'touch'

Even as face masks, face shields and sanitizers fly off the shelves, the pandemic is driving consumers to focus on and invest heavily in products that use technology to kill germs and keep them safe, both at home and in environments outside.

In response, companies have evolved their offerings with designs and products that involve little to no touch; barriers, revolving doors, antibacterial door handles, sensor-operated faucets and sanitizer dispensers are expected to become almost ubiquitous with the accompanying surge in demand. According to Anirudh Sharma, Regional Sales Manager-North & East India, Boon Edam, New Delhi, "Revolving doors are the most energy-efficient entrance solution for modern buildings. They work on the principle of 'Always Open, Always Closed'; always open for guests, always closed for the elements (heat, dust, noise and insects). Also, as less energy is required to

maintain the air-conditioned climate inside the building, revolving doors also help reduce the carbon footprint." Independent research by MIT shows that revolving doors can reduce the load on HVAC systems by as much as 70 per cent.

Businesses are also designing and installing barriers and partitions at a fast and furious pace. Ashok Basoya, Founder, Ottimo, New Delhi, says, "Momenti has designed polycarbonate and plexiglass shields and barriers that help

ottimo disegni llp | new delhi



maintain social distance protocols even as they communicate with the viewer through branding messages, information or simply a visual connect. It guarantees excellent transparency and can be customized with graphics." He adds that they offer products like fiberglass fabric with multi-layer chemical applications of protective water-based resin, which have health-care uses.

Public areas are common places where bacteria breed in profusion. Door handles and other exit mechanisms, which are handled by a large number of people, are particularly susceptible and can transfer germs from one person to another, says Rajesh Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director, Dorset, Haryana. He adds, "Dorset has introduced Dorset Safe Touch, an imperceptible



dorset india | gurugram



acetech technologies pvt ltd. | mumbai



nuos home automation | mumbai

anti-microbial and anti-bacterial-coated hardware as well as a product called Dorset Tap, a 'touch-free' key that helps customers stay safe."

Häfele too has introduced a range of sensor-operated sanitizer dispensers with a wide range of applications from hotels and spas to retail spaces and offices and larger public areas like airports, railway/metro stations and convention centers. Shalini Joshi, Assistant Product Manager, Häfele, says "Häfele has always paid equal attention to design along with

functionality or technology. The same philosophy has been used to create our new range of sanitizing stations, the exterior body of which is made of SS Grade 304 providing for a strong, sturdy yet elegant industrial look, while making the stations resistant to corrosion."

Grafdoer too offers touchless products as Vinay Jain adds, "At Grafdoer, our touchless products line-up is specially designed to curb virus dissemination, and includes touchless sensor faucets, sanitizer dispensers, pedal taps, etc".



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contact, no contact

Contactless products are going to be key drivers in helping companies make their move back to the workplace. Some contactless products are already in common use such as automatic sliding doors. Although the term 'contactless' may not have been its key descriptor in the past, it can easily be repurposed for the aim of preserving public health, says Rakesh Sachdev, Managing Director, Acetech Technologies, Mumbai. He adds that companies are also using contactless gadgets for crowd checks and temperature screening, which has become mandatory in many places. He says, "Companies have become conscious about the need for screening technologies that can effectively, quickly, yet safely, measure the temperature of a large number of people." This is in line with an April 2020, Ministry of Home Affairs directive, that made it mandatory for such screening to be done for all individuals entering and exiting workplaces, shops and other commercial spaces.

Sachdev adds, "We are using face recognition technologies for access control and time attendance, and have combined it with motorized automated doors and touchless

exit buttons for complete contact-free operation of entering and exiting workspaces. There are also contactless buttons for elevators." Other tech that could soon become widespread includes lighting automation, controlled by a mobile phone or a voice assistant, and motion sensors, which would also remove the need to touch switches, especially in corridors and toilets.

Acetech Technologies also offers a smart helmet for security guards which offers both flexibility and discretion in checking the temperature of a crowd. Assisted by AR, the guard can simply look toward the person, and the temperature will show above the subject's head like it would on a TV screen, explains Sachdev.

Ankit Tanna, Founder, Truein, Pune, says, "Our contactless offering, Truein, is a face recognition-based system for employee attendance and visitor entry. It is a simplified offering with a mobile app and web-based interface which comes without complicated hardware and runs on any mobile/tablet device. The system increases security without the intimidation factor."

NUOS Home Automation has launched an IR Touchless Thermal Scanner, an alternative to the Chinese scanners widely available in the Indian market. Neil Savant, Founder, NUOS, Mumbai, says, "The device comes with a proximity sensor to give an accurate reading. It is touchless, easy to install with plug and play, wall mounted, and has sound and light indications. It is also battery-less and gives results under one second."

adapting to the #wfh reality

Gopal Dwivedi, AVP- Category Development, Livspace, New Delhi, explains how they have been coping with the present situation. He says, "We are coming up with kitchen designs where we have added an extension table for kitchen and work purposes. Our study tables are designed ergonomically, and help clients keep up comfortably with long working hours, because study tables are being used as work desks now. These tables are designed so that one can keep all gadgets in one place.

Dwivedi adds, "We are also coming up with resizable tables, which can be adjusted

according to one's height and likes. We are focusing on designs and products that are beneficial for everyone in the household.

"Considering the change in demand and consumer behavior, we have also launched a completely new called 'Aarambh', specifically customized so customers can have products and designs of their choice in their budget without compromising on the quality, branding or warranty. In terms of innovation, we have tied up with some brands of laminates for antibacterial options."

in the air

Along with product development, architectural changes will also be needed in commercial buildings to maintain social distancing. Rajesh Wadhwa, Partner, Wadbros, Mumbai, says, "Even before the pandemic we were working on providing better indoor air quality by proper ventilation. Fresh air systems, conceived by our inhouse design team, involve three purification filters; a HEPA filter, allowing only particulate matter of fewer than 2.5 microns to pass through; a honeycomb structure with deodorizing activated charcoal; and a wire mesh that prevents unwanted dust from interfering with the filtration process."

straight to the future

As we begin to come out of our homes more often, our surroundings will look and feel a little different till this new normal becomes the norm. Leveraging technology could be the way forward, says Sachdev. Savant agrees, "As the lockdown gets lifted, it is sure that more people will want to keep their places safe. Hence, I feel that people would be more comfortable with digital products in the future." ¶



pravinsinh solanki | ahmedabad



pravinsinh solanki | ahmedabad



pravinsinh solanki | ahmedabad

indi-genius products

As the pandemic shows no signs of winding down any time soon, efforts are underway to use indigenous solutions ingeniously to create new social distancing products. Professor Pravinsinh Solanki, Associate Senior Faculty at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, has designed the 'Tandoori Hat' to serve as protective equipment for the community. The name itself - Tan Doori - means physical distance.

Solanki explains, "Tandoori hats are lightweight with a diameter of 3 feet. They can be made out of bamboo or hay. The hat has 12 buttons all around which helps to fix the face shield and neck cover. The 3-foot diameter of the hat helps the wearer keep other people at arm's length, maintaining social distance. Plus, the face shield safely and significantly reduces transmission of any virus and the neck cover provides extra protection."

About the making of the foldable hats, he adds, "We have not used any technology for making the hats. Weavers from Meghalaya and

from the Visdaliya community in Gujarat were provided with the required dimensions and design. After a lot of experimentation in weaving, we were able to get a few prototypes. Still, we are working on the hat to make it more lightweight, comfortable, foldable and more fashionable for all genders."

Other than the Tan-Doori hat, Professor Solanki has also designed a portable, foldable bamboo bed, 'Chh-Pai'. He says, "The idea behind the folding bamboo bed design was to enable primary health care centres in any village to overcome the shortage of hospital beds. These beds can be made by the local community using locally available bamboo."

Professor Solanki shared the designs with different craft communities in the northeast, the Konkan Bamboo and Cane Development Center in Maharashtra and communities in Jharkhand. "They made the prototypes for me, and after design refinement, they were produced for the health centers," he explains.



Ankit Tanna, Founder, Truein, Pune

“From queue management to sitting arrangements - there are multiple areas where technology can play a vital role to help maintain social distancing. There are already a few companies in such domains, who have upgraded their products. If the current situation lasts longer than expected, companies are expected to come up with more solutions in the coming weeks. New habits and behavioral changes in people will become the driving force for such solutions in the market.”



Gopal Dwivedi, AVP Category Development, Livspace, New Delhi

“We feel it isn't just work-from-home for people working, it is also stay-at-home for the non-working members of the family. Therefore we are focusing on designs and products that are beneficial for everyone in the household. Consumer demand and behavior has also changed due to Covid; now people seek more budget-friendly products as compared to earlier.”



Neil Savant, Founder, Nuos Home Automation, Mumbai

“More and more products that would make it possible for people to avoid touching surfaces and objects are expected to take over the market. Healthcare and the medical segment is already booming. Likewise, the smart home segment will also aggressively promote features like no-touch and voice control. Digital is simply the future.”



Rajesh Wadhwa, Director, Wadbros Imports and Exports, Mumbai

“At Wadbros, we are supplying products across India and demand is good. We have products catering to industrial, commercial and domestic segments. Therefore we can provide apt products as per the requirement. In our country, regional players are churning out run-of-the-mill products with very little understanding about ventilation. But we believe in providing solutions and support to our customers, with a unique range of ventilation products.”



Ashok Basoya, Founder, Ottimo, New Delhi

“In terms of design, we can expect to see an upsurge in minimalism, and an increased use of techniques to reduce contact. You will see the increased use of motion sensors, voice-activated controls and so on. People are also likely to desire objects that are easy to sanitise and maintain.”



Rajesh Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director, Dorset, Gurugram, Haryana

“We utilized the lockdown period to innovate and develop new products. Our in-house engineering design team has been continuously working to maximize safeguard options and keep developing and promoting products that provide safety, and help users to overcome their fears of getting infected. Safe touch products are effective against a wide array of bacteria, hence we have received many inquiries and requirements for our products to be used in hospitals, hospitality, and the corporate and real estate sectors.”



Rakesh Sachdev, Managing Director, Acetech Technologies, Mumbai

“If companies are to move forward successfully in this period, it becomes crucial that every aspect of human interaction with the environment is accounted for. Contactless products try to meet exactly this objective. Whether repurposed or recently developed, these products help businesses better understand the risks faced by them, whilst also providing the solutions for the same.”



Shalini Joshi, Assistant Product Manager, Hafele India

“The health and hygiene segment is new to us and for sure there are well-established players, along with a lot of local and Chinese product distributors. But, with a unique design philosophy, and a holistic range for different applications, and our understanding of what our clients truly need, we believe that we will cut through the crowd and carve our niche with those who trust quality above anything else. The products launched at Hafele are designed keeping in mind the placement flexibility for not only residences but also for hotels, and the retail and hospitality segments.”



Vinay Jain, Founder, Grafdoer, New Delhi

“During the lockdown, even though supply chains were massively hit, the demand for touch-less products increased exponentially. Touch-less products at your homes or workplace have proven to be a symbol of trust. These products are nimble, aesthetic, safe and can be trusted to eliminate the spread of any virus or infection that can be transmitted through touch, thus ensuring your safety at all costs.”



Pravinsinh Solanki, Associate senior faculty at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

“The ‘Tandoori’ hat is personal protective equipment for the community, as people all across the world are looking for protective gear to avoid the spread of the virus. Colorful hats of different designs and forms will encourage every human being to wear it.”



Lalit Arora, Co-founder, Vingajoy, New Delhi

“Social distancing has become an integral practice to avoid infection. The market has seen a drastic change in terms of product design and technology during this time. Analysing the needs of the situation and people helps us to design the products accordingly, thus satisfying the current needs. We focus on the minimum profit plan as the main aim is always customer satisfaction.”



Anirudh Sharma, RSM - North and East India, Boon Edam, New Delhi

“Revolving doors are activated by sensors and are completely ‘Touch Free’. Guest movement can be easily controlled by 3 or 4 wings, allowing ample space between two guests; thus ensuring social distancing. Also, revolving doors offer a very quick ROI (as short as 2 to 3 years) and are functional for more than 30 years. Therefore, the demand for them is steady and rising.”

ar. goonmeet singh chauhan launches second book Ar. Goonmeet Singh Chauhan, Partner, Design Forum International, Delhi, has released *Invertonomics: Eight Ideas To Transform India*, published by Harper Collins. The book resolves to present cogent solutions and action plans to transform Indian cities into clean and safe places. It talks about a healthy environment where children and the elderly can walk and play freely, with quiet streets and a space for the informal business sector. From a social perspective, the book dreams of bringing an equitable India that fosters gender equality, fulfils children's dreams and is prosperous and progressive in its outlook. Each of these topics is told as a story to lighten the mood, starting with simpler topics to more complex ones. A central theme of 'invertonomics' runs under these themes, which is inverting problems into economic opportunities.

The Invertonomics Foundation for India, aims to transform India through ideation, advocacy, and finding solutions to issues such as improving air quality in urban habitats through clean air, green covers, and safety.



vice-president promotes green architecture, local artisans and post-covid discussions The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, has addressed architects to adopt and promote green architecture, with the use of renewable energy such as solar energy

and rainwater harvesting in upcoming projects. The statement was made when he was virtually present at the inaugural ceremony of the National Convention of the Indian Institute of Architects: IIA NATCON 2020, Transcend on 11th July 2020.

Focusing on the need for self-reliant and inclusive architecture, the Vice President has advised architects to adopt environmentally-friendly building concepts that benefit the people. He has further recommended that architects speak to the local people when building a project to ensure that the design blends with the residents' needs – shelter, security, comfort, and safety.

Given the Covid-19 pandemic, the Vice President expressed concern over the decline in the construction sector due to no on-site work and requested the architect and design community to explore new ideas and start a dialogue to solve the issues.



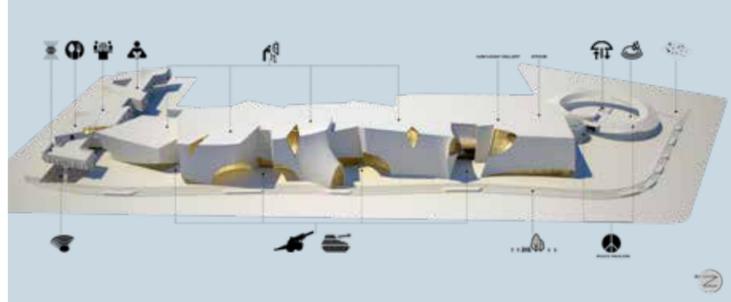
mumbai firm collaborative architecture designs for peace Mumbai-based firm Collaborative Architecture, headed by Ar Lalita Tharani and Ar Mujib Ahmed, has been invited by the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Museum to be part of its ground-breaking Humanitarian Design Series titled- *Designing Peace* - due in the second half of 2021. The invitation is remarkable, considering it will be exhibited at the historic Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, arguably one of the most important design museums in the world.

The curatorial team selected the Indian National War Museum, New Delhi – a finalist in the two-stage international competition - for its flipping of the brief by focusing on 'Peace' as the centrality of the design. The entry had been named as 'Indian National Peace Museum'

The entry to the Museum is dedicated to the 'Peace Pavilion'. The spatial reference can be traced back to the Stupa at Sanchi, dedicated to Buddha and his teaching of non-violence.

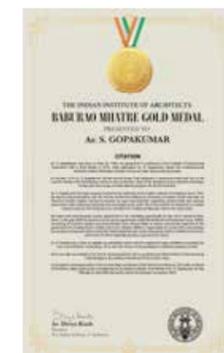
The competition for the Indian National War Museum was conducted by the Prime Minister's Office and attracted national and international architectural studios – a total of 268 entries. Collaborative Architecture was one of the seven firms selected for the final two stages. Unfortunately, the competition has since been shelved.

The exhibition will travel to two more places after premiering at the New York Gallery.



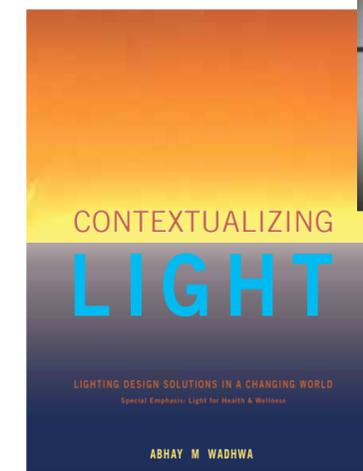
kochi architect receives prestigious award Kochi-based Ar. S. Gopakumar has been awarded the Baburao Mhatre Gold Medal Award by the Indian Institute of Architects for his contribution to Indian architecture. The first architect from Kerala to win this honour, the award was bestowed at the IIA National Convention by IIA National President Ar. Divya Kush. One of the most coveted awards of architecture in India, great architects such as Padma Shri Ar. Achyut Kanvinde, Padma Vibhushan Ar. Charles Correa, Padma Shri Ar. B.V. Doshi and Padma Shri Ar. Laurie Baker have been previous recipients of the award.

Ar. S. Gopakumar graduated in architecture from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum, as a gold medalist in 1976 and started Kumar Group Total designers in the same year; he has been part of several socially-relevant projects such as the Gandhi Park and Shanthi Kavadam in Trivandrum, and DH Ground, Kochi, to name a few. In 2009, Ar. Gopakumar started a non-profit organization called the Better Kochi Response Group (BKR), which is responsible for prestigious Kochi-based projects such as the Vyttila Mobility Hub, construction of world-class toilets and promotion of home vegetable gardens. He is now succeeded by his son Ar. Anuj Gopakumar, Partner and Chief Architect, Kumar Group Total Designers, Kochi.



hafele launches premium washer dryers Hafele has launched its premium range of washer dryers, which offers the combined benefit of washing and drying in the same machine. These come with easy load options and smart programs that offer users maximum flexibility for different kinds of laundry, such as cotton, wool, synthetic as well as delicate fabrics such as silk and satin. The machine includes features such as four drying levels with the selected washing programs and water after every wash and multiple stain removal options as well as add-on options such as pre-wash, extra wash, extra-rinse, and anti-crease.

new book on lighting design from abhay wadhwa Abhay M. Wadhwa, Founder and Design Principal, AWA Lighting Designers, New York and Mumbai, has published "Contextualizing Light: Lighting Design Solutions In A Changing World", which talks about innovating lighting solutions that create evocative experiences. Headquartered in New York City, AWA is an international architectural lighting design firm that pioneers creative and technical methods. The book contains 18 thought-provoking essays, 80 lighting design projects, 18 essays, and 1+ billion sq. ft. of built lighting in Wadhwa's 18 years of practice.



c.p. kukreja wins design proposal for iocl, punjab New Delhi-based C.P. Kukreja Architects have won the design proposal for the State Headquarters of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Punjab. Conceptualized with a sculptural façade design, the proposal is based on the three factors of corporate governance, climate responsiveness, and introducing thriving workspaces.

Spread over 2.2 acres of prime land, the site is strategically located for easy access to public facilities and transportation. Encompassing the design of the IOCL Headquarters Building, Senior Management Centre, Transit Camp, and Residences, the curvaceous façade represents the fluidity of oil. The proposal has been appreciated as a leading example of a net-zero energy complex through its careful implementation of energy, water, and electricity conservative strategies.



JOINING HANDS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Two prestigious organizations - rotary district 3141 and aura art - recently came together to raise money to combat hunger and malnutrition via an online art show

Art has an intrinsic ability to reach out and touch the hearts of all of humanity. Keeping this in mind, Rotary District 3141 partnered with Aura Art this August to put together an online art show, with the noble aim of raising funds to tackle hunger and malnutrition. The show featured artists who have been voicing their narratives, and historical or contemporary perspectives, as their duty to portray what they see and experience, and cull the depths of their soul and the collective soul of humanity, to present a true picture of our times.

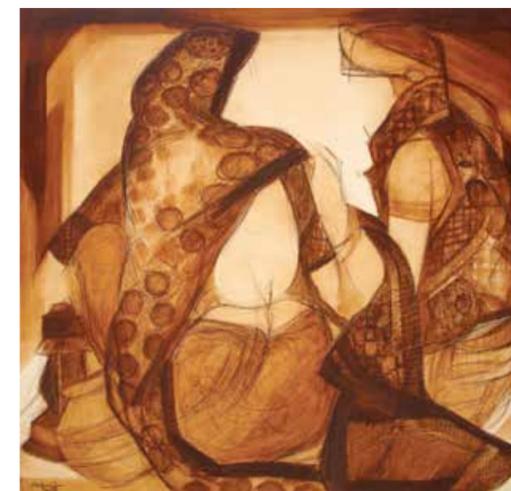
Capturing the pulse of the pandemic, renowned artist Wasim Kapoor silently addresses the plight of the rickshaw pullers and laborers who have gone back to their villages, leaving their hand drawn rickshaws reaching pleadingly out to the open sky. Artist Pallavi Gupta in her work 'Synchronicity', used an abstract lexicon to deal with the notion of balance during isolation and the lockdown.

Many artists chose to look to spirituality, religion and nature. Artist Ratilal Kansodaria travelled back in time to a childhood of innocence and freedom, while Artist Dr Veguri Ravindra Babu brought in hope as a continuation of humanity.

Art has proved a therapeutic aid in times of great turmoil. Visual suggestions of peace and tranquility in the form of calm imageries have helped restore balance and harmony in any space. Artist Sanjay Kumar's works are testaments to the artist's blissful spirit as are the works of veteran artist Vrindavan Solanki whose nomadic tribals under lockdown exude a sense of calm and patience.



Artist Tejinder Kanda depicted the mountain ranges and the outdoors, giving the viewer a much-needed escape from reality, while Artist Yusuf resorted to geometrical abstraction in 'Mirage' to create a space within where serenity reflects on the surface of a mental oasis.



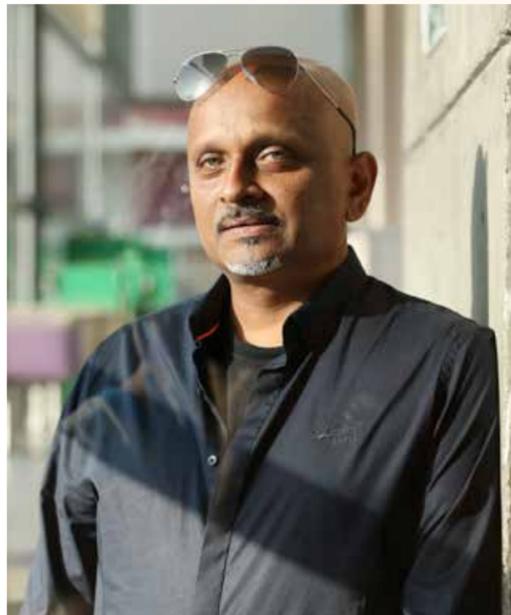
It is hoped that, as art encourages the opening of hearts, those who have experienced and enjoyed this exhibition will also encourage people to come forward and support a worthy cause. A commemorative catalogue of the show was also released at the hands of Dr Suhas Pednekar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, accompanied by the Chief Guest Rtn Sunnil Mehra, District Governor, Rotary Distict 3141. ifj

Contact Aura Art at :
Harmeet Singh Sethi
+91 93288 77000
harmeet@auraart.in



ar. george john: RC ARCHITECTURE, BENGALURU

art and nature has been inherent in my journey, says ar. george john, who likes his designs to be intelligent, sustainable and thought-provoking



“The excitement of experiencing art in different dimensions led me to choose architecture,” says Ar George John, Director, RC Architecture, Bengaluru. “I painted a lot from an early age, which directed me towards working with architecture and design. Each time I would see my father playing Scrabble with friends, I would visualize them as designing buildings.”

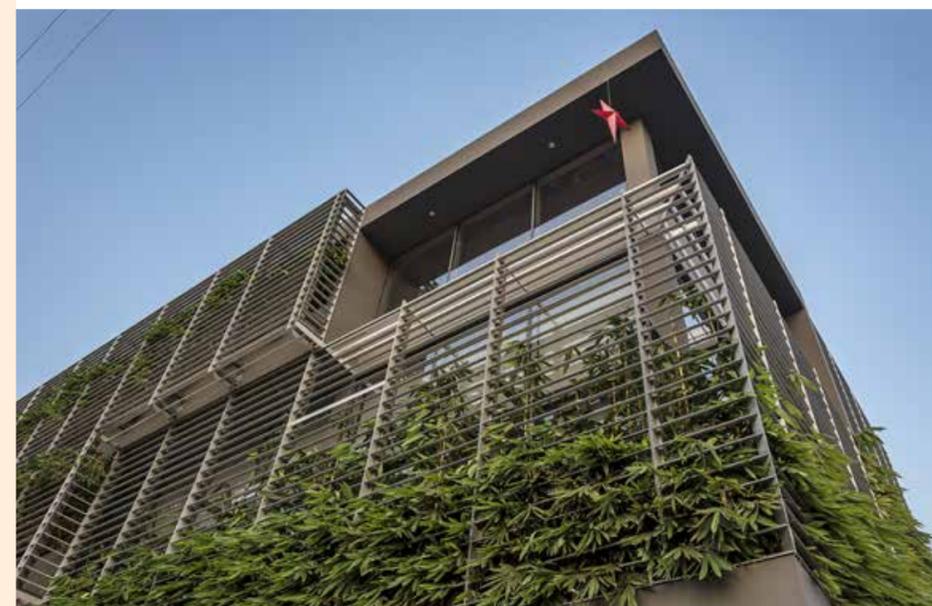
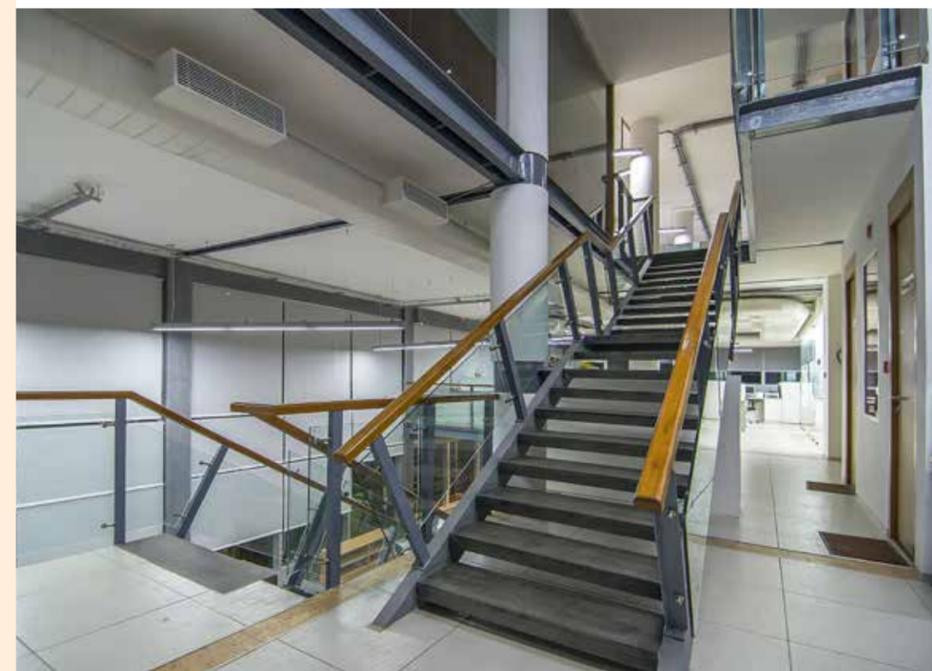
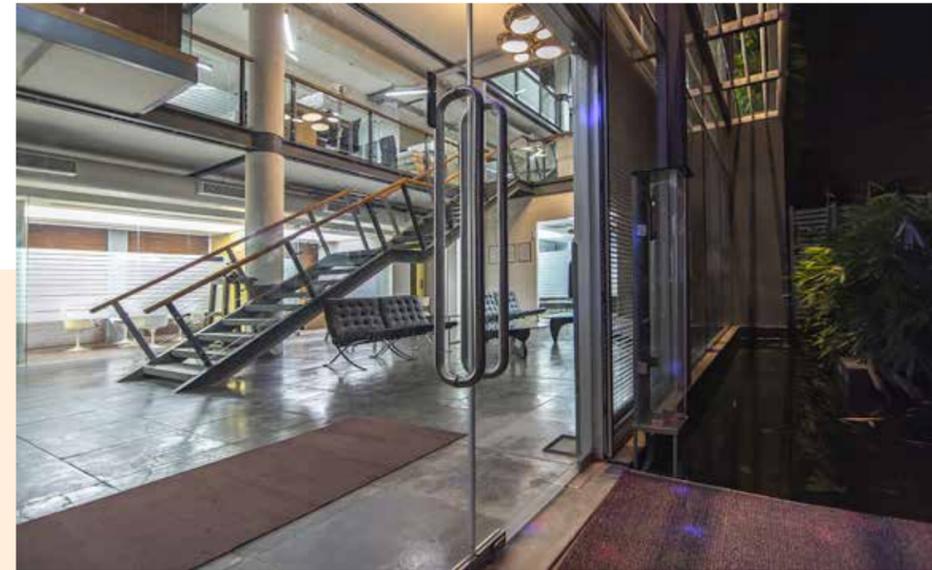
Growing up on a plantation meant that Ar. John had very few friends, but ample opportunities to observe trees, plants, flowers and birds. “My father was a planter while my mother was a botanist,” says Ar John. “That gave me the space to explore art in all its forms.” One of his first architectural inspirations was a manmade structure in his native Kerala. “It was the Mattancherry bridge between Cochin and Willingdon Island, which follows a black and highly-engineered design. You could see the Indian naval ships on one side and backwaters when you drove past, and that was a great experience.”

As an architecture student, Ar John was fortunate to find teachers who mentored him. “Ar SN Kanade was the first professor to teach me architecture, who challenged me to think radically. I also remember Ar. SG Srinivas for instilling in me an enthusiasm for architecture and everything design-related,” recalls Ar John.

He talks about the difference between his days as a student and aspiring architects today. According to Ar John, “When I was pursuing architecture, I envisioned a very different career path. I believed that form follows function, and that you need to articulate spaces and volumes to create architectural pieces. Today, there is a layer of technology added to these elements, and we have evolved in terms of modern software to design intelligently.”

Ar John has also seen other changes in the field in the course of his career. “When we started R Architecture in 2001, there was a big boom in IT-related and commercial spaces in India. High-rise buildings and the housing sector started transitioning after that, followed by the hospitality, healthcare and academic fields (especially university campuses), emphasizing sustainability and context.” But though Ar John has designed several projects in these areas, it is a religious project that is close to his heart. “One of the projects that I’m particularly fond of is a church designed in the late 1990s in Mudipu, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka,” he says, adding, “Here, our priority was both its topographical context and a minimal approach to highlight the pilgrims’ experience.”

Speaking of his legacy, Ar. John says, “For me, the user experience matters the most when I’m designing a space. The design should merge with the environment, thus contributing to its sustainability. I like my architecture to be thought-provoking, regardless of its size. I believe that the intelligence of the concept and architectural design matters the most,” he signs off.



Artech Corporate Office

Location:
Trivandrum

Design brief and aim:
To build a corporate head office that portrayed the company values of flexibility, respect, and teamwork.

- Design elements:**
- Pure structural elements are used to reflect the authenticity and quality of the company.
 - Unified spaces are created with one level opening out to another, vertically.
 - The façade features louvers, which are further layered with a green buffer and glazing.
 - A sustainable approach lends a tropical ambiance to the project.
 - Large glazed windows in various departments bring in natural light, which helps keep HVAC use to a minimum in the tropical climate.
 - Bamboo plants in pockets outside the windows act as a buffer against the harsh sunlight. These are contained within steel enclosures to mold the growth of the bamboo culms.

Northern Sky

Location:
Mangaluru

Design brief and aim:

To build triple residential towers that would be a landmark for Mangaluru based on geometry and functionality.

Design Elements:

- Spread over 5.5 acres, the space features 80 per cent green and open spaces with a built-up area of 20 per cent. The landscape is developed to complement the tower form and the tropical Mangalorean landscape.
- A Milan-inspired construction is used, which is a fast-paced construction technique that offers strength and durability to a building using aluminium formworks.

- White is predominantly used for the towers, intelligently punctured by maroon double-height spaces.
- Octagonal towers lend dynamism to the 24-storeyed project, which allows light to filter through the atrium into the common areas.
- A LEED-certified project through the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council), it uses renewable energy sources, natural lighting, and rainwater harvesting for the benefit of its residents.



RC Office

Location:
Bengaluru

Design brief and aim:

To visualize a design office in a studio building to house a 90-member team.

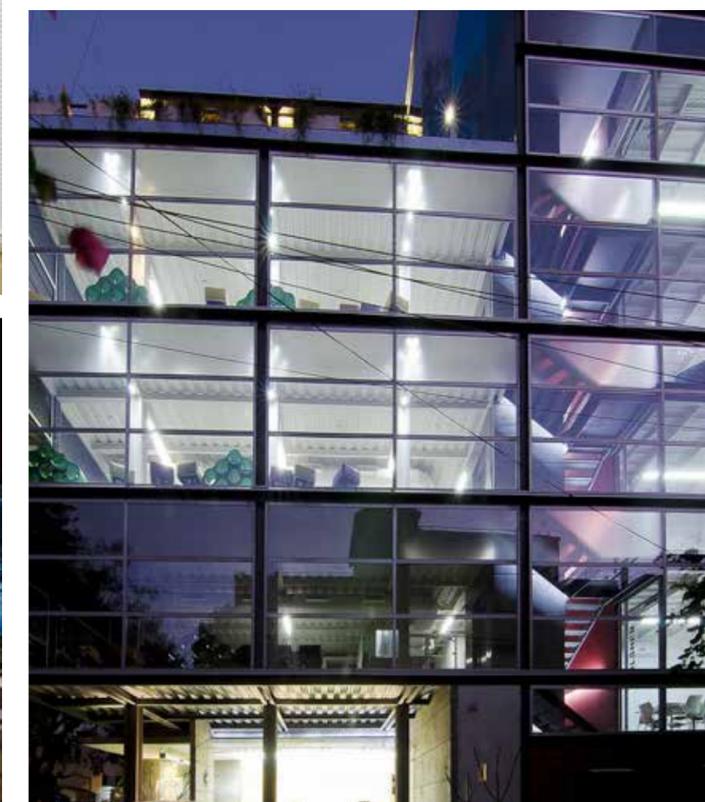
Design elements:

- A steel structure with concrete slabs on metal decking was critical in order for the project to be completed in eight months.
- Exposed concrete forms express horizontality and verticality, while the light structure of glass and steel containing the studio wraps around it snugly.
- Data and power utilities are drawn through steel beams that support the desk rows in the studio.
- Due to the peculiar shape of the site, the studio was built as a large rectangular shape. Meeting



rooms, service areas and the stairs are designed around the elevator at the south-west corner. Meeting rooms are located on the landing, while the services take up the residual space.

- A dining area with a bar counter sits on the terrace, along with a boardroom on the same floor.
- A Peepal tree symbolizing the tree of knowledge shades the structure on the southwest. MS cladding is applied to the southwest corner, which was allowed to rust for a while followed with a rust-proof coating.





BESCOM (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd.)

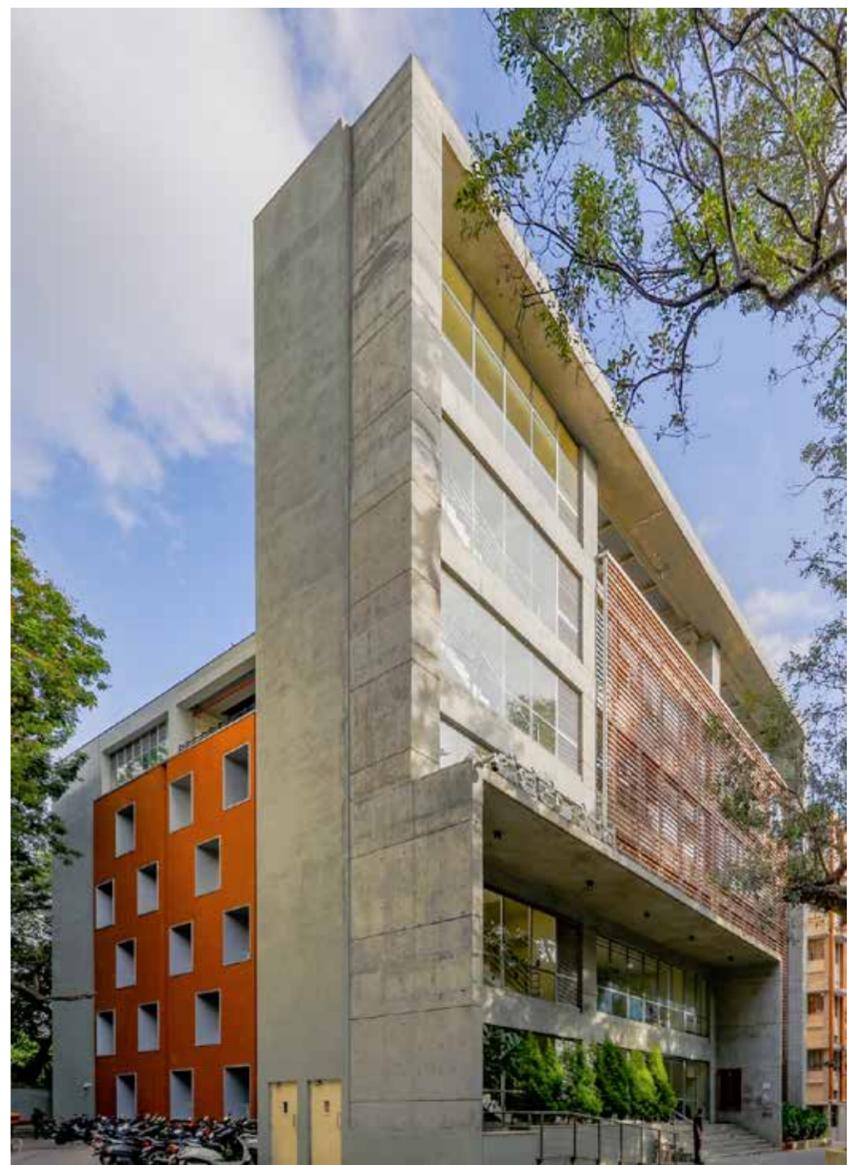
Location:
Bengaluru

Design brief and aim:

To design a 58,000 sq ft office at KR Circle, a prime spot in Bengaluru. It was to accommodate employees at 75 sq. ft. per person, along with meeting rooms, boardrooms and cabins.

Design elements:

- The structure is a contemporary reflection of the surroundings - the LIC building by Ar Charles Correa and Visvesvaraya University's brick façade.
- Exposed concrete and bricks were used for the façade, which integrates the building with its surroundings.
- Inspired by nearby Cubbon Park, terracotta louvers lend the structure an earthy tone and make it energy-efficient. Moreover, it balances the weight of the concrete and facilitates a cool atmosphere inside.
- An exposed concrete frame forms the main portal, which defines the building against the city backdrop.
- A structural grid facilitates the maximum functionality of the space across the G+4 (five-storeyed) structure. ifj



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ar. meena murthy kakkar and ar. vishal kakkar:
ENVISAGE

boasting differing strengths, but the same core values, meena murthy kakkar and vishal kakkar of envisage have created their own niche



It was the design for a sports complex that brought Meena Murthy and Vishal Kakkar together. “After graduating from SPA in 2002, and working for a couple of years, I came across a sports complex design competition floated by HUDA,” explains Meena. “Vishal and I, classmates from SPA, decided to collaborate and were among the top three finalists; but the project got shelved. Nevertheless, working together was an extremely enjoyable experience and that’s when we started our own practice.”

With Meena as the Design Head, and Vishal as the Business Head, the duo set up their firm in Delhi in 2006, and almost immediately received a commission for a turnkey project, an office at Connaught Place. “That’s how our journey began,” explains Vishal, adding, “Our USP has been our distinct individual approaches and forte in architectural projects. Meena’s strength lies in design and quick solutions for any given situation, while my forte lies in cost control and highly effective planning and implementation.”

One milestone for the duo was their first institutional project at Una, Himachal Pradesh, in 2007. “This was a remarkable year for us,” reminisces Meena, “We moved our offices to South Delhi and went back to SPA to teach design.” In 2013, Envisage established its Chennai presence, and in 2019, the Delhi base shifted to their current address in Gurugram.

Both architects credit their early influences in helping them choose the path they set out to follow. For Meena, it was, “My parents, who drilled the importance of being an independent thinker and being financially self-sufficient into me.” For Vishal, it was his father, a builder, who would take him to construction sites from an early age, who was the role model. “That early exposure stands me in good stead to date, especially his excellent project management skills,” he explains.

All this early training served them well when executing their landmark project - the India Post Payments Bank or IPPB. Vishal explains, “This project was executed in conjunction with Deloitte and the Department of Post. IPPB was a PMO initiative to take digital banking to the grassroots level.”

According to Meena, the challenges were many. “The first was to introduce a new contemporary design typology for IPPB to stand apart from its parent - India Post. Second, to convince a huge team on the necessity of the change and its longevity. The most difficult one was to ensure that the design was executed without a hiccup in 650 locations across India, without any site visit – in a span of six months from inception.” The zeal with which the duo approached the IPPB was exactly the way they tackle all projects, big and small. “Our design vocabulary is constantly evolving,” says Meena. Vishal adds, “It would be a disappointment to look back 10 years from today and see myself as still having a similar approach to projects. Materials are evolving, clients etc., are all evolving, then why not us?”

The Covid pandemic has also brought out the advantages of staying open to change. “Only time will tell if the spatial changes that are being made to offices and institutions will be permanent,” explains Vishal. “However, as architects we need to take a relook at the quality of buildings we design and lessen their dependence on artificial systems of heating and cooling.”

For Meena, the social distancing poses a challenge when it comes to the construction sector. “Site work is currently labor intensive in India,” she explains. “Material selection requires physical sample viewing and everything has not yet been digitized effectively. “Also, communication is not just verbal in nature; that makes meeting clients in a physical space important to decipher latent needs.”

Both agree that the times demand a wait and watch scenario. “The need for new offices is low right now, with WFH profiles being widely preferred. Change is the only constant in our sector, and that requires us to be extremely observant and quick to adapt in this situation” say the duo.

Summing up, the partners agree that the government needs to lay down certain hiring parameters for the sector. “Technology needs to become affordable and skilling of workers needs to be prioritized and credited. This would ensure that the labor gets formally associated with the industry and stops living with one foot in the city and one in the village,” they say.

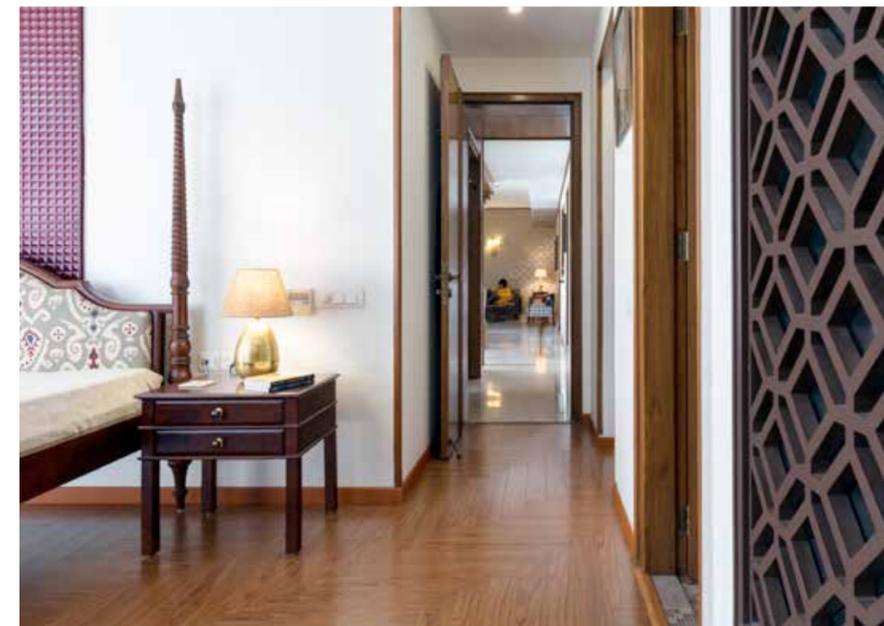
Anubhuti residence

Location:
Gurugram, Haryana

Concept:
To design a residence for a family of Kerala Iyers, and create a space which would be a place of fun, comfort and most of all, have the essence of South India.

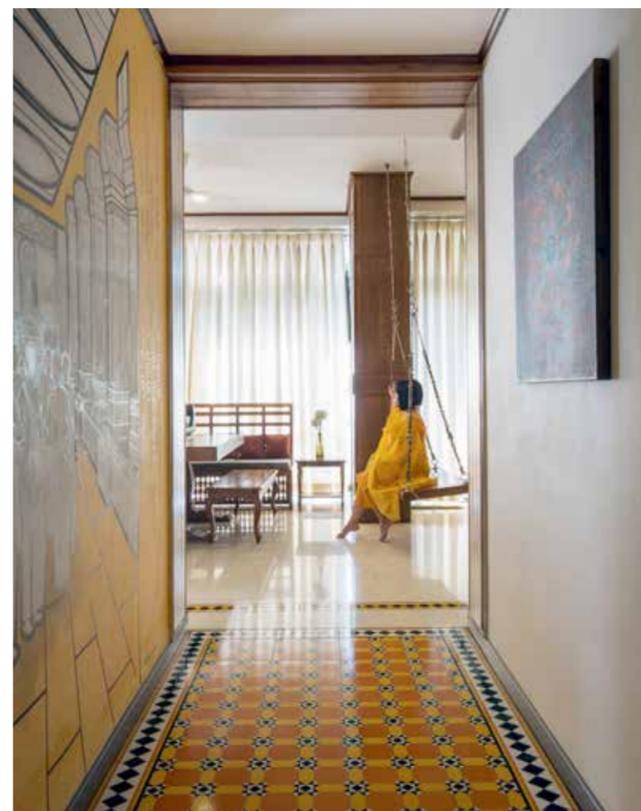
Design elements:
Spread across 2600 sq ft, south-facing property, with glazing running across one side. The design palette is inspired by soft earthen and neutral hues. On entry, bright *Athangudi* tiles native to Tamil Nadu speak to the south Indian heritage. A mural of an ancient Tamil scripture ‘*Kandar Anubhuti*’ on Lord Kartikeya, precedes the entry to the living room. A corner of the living room features a white Kolam pattern. The home’s most striking object is the *Attukattil Jhula*, crafted in wood with traditional *oonjal* supports in brass.

Two distinct spatial axes intersect to create a seamless living area which is split into the living room, the dining room and the spill-out zone. The dining area furniture is inspired by *Nalukettu* style of architecture native to Kerala. This space is topped off with an informal spill-out zone flanked by *Chettinad* Pillars, which functions as a small study space.



In the master bedroom, the décor has been chosen to include a multitude of patterns and textures. Elegant brass bedside lights flank the bed, with a back-wall done in a hue of red oak.

With a warm *Nalukettu*-inspired wooden frame going around the bedside, and with brass lighting and accessories flanking the bedside, the layout of the space is clean, open and inviting, connecting the bedroom to the rest of the house through a coherent design language.





B18 Office

Location:
Gurugram, Haryana

Concept:
To design a space where dynamic and focused design intervention crafts an office for employee comfort and increased work efficiency.

Design elements:
Office B-18, designed for an event management agency, is situated in a prime corner space within a larger office complex in the heart of Gurugram.

The brief was for an office that was clean, minimal and most importantly, an inclusive space for all the diverse organizational functions.

The reception features a foosball table, immediately endowing it with a sense of relaxation. The open plan office layout features large walkways and spacious workstations.

The material palette is in monotone, with shades of grey, and a touch of an industrial theme to ensure that the space remains unassuming and inviting, while being modern and sophisticated.

Two meeting rooms flank the entrance lobby, balancing the casual vibe of the space.

The space is flush with natural light, with large casement windows across two sides of the office.

The executive cabins spill into the rest of the space, instead of being housed in a far-off corner, in order to create an open, yet inclusive environment; while glass partitions provide privacy when needed. The back of the office houses the pantry and the cafeteria. The cafeteria was conceptualized as a space to unwind and relax; a table tennis table allows employees to de-stress.

The conference room is sited to be quiet and away from the daily routine, ensuring the functionalities of a conferencing space, and a shaded setting for presentations.

There are several storage spaces within the rooms, instead of a single storage room, thereby allowing for more flexibility and customizable storage options. With this, the designers maximize the functionality value of the space.



Residence 1101

Location:
Gurugram, Haryana

Concept:
To design a space crafted to reflect the unique personality and hospitality of the homeowners.

Design elements:
Spread over 2,600 ft., the home takes its design inspiration from a muted style of Art Deco.

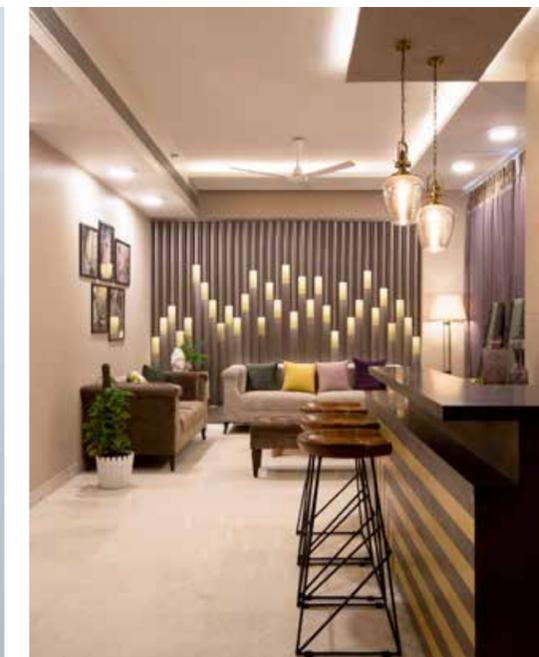
Three seating zones flow seamlessly into each other; the dining area, living room and the bar. These are tied together by a passage that runs from the entrance to the living room.

The living room is done in a homely style, while the bar features a metal stand with candle holders. The layout of these zones has all the furniture and gadgets within the space pushed to one side. The dining area has modern contemporary seating to increase the comfort quotient of the space. The open layout posed a challenge to the creation of storage space, inspiring a decision to hide storage within panel-like walls with mounted light fixtures.

The kitchen overlooks the bar, so its design was kept muted, with a monochrome wall in lavender and beige interiors, with patterned tiling under the kitchen cabinets.

The bedroom features a paneled wall with embedded lighting, situated opposite full-length glazing, offering a lush view of the landscape.

The entire space is held together by a focus on comfort and opulence, which isn't simply reflected through the design but also through the wall art. The artworks in the home, while reflecting the owners' voyages, also reinforce the feeling of warmth and tranquility through the space. ifj



AR. ASHISH KUMAR

architects do the talking, as they wander through the world, pointing to architectural and design features they have loved along the way

"We Travel for Romance, We Travel for Architecture, and We Travel to be Lost."
- Ray Bradbury



Ar. Ashish Kumar,
Thinkspace Design Studio,
Bengaluru



Yu Garden, Shanghai

Yu Garden or Yuyuan Garden is an extensive Chinese garden located beside the City God Temple in the northeast of the Old City of Shanghai at Huangpu Qu, Shanghai Shi. A centerpiece is the Exquisite Jade Rock - a porous 3.3-m, 5-ton boulder. Rumours about its origin include the story that it was meant for the Huizong Emperor at the imperial palace in Beijing, but was salvaged from the Huangpu River after the boat carrying it had sunk.



CCTV Headquarters, Beijing

The CCTV headquarters designed by Rem Koolhaas is an unusual take on the skyscraper typology. Instead of competing for ultimate height and style through a traditional two-dimensional tower soaring skyward, CCTV's loop poses a truly three-dimensional experience, culminating in a 75-meter cantilever.

Two towers rise from a common production studio platform, the Plinth. Tower 1 serves as an editing area and offices, and the lower Tower 2 is dedicated to news broadcasting. They are joined by a cantilevering bridge for administration, the Overhang.



Jade Buddha Temple, Shanghai

As with many modern Chinese Buddhist temples, the current structure draws from both the Pure Land and Chan traditions of Mahayana Buddhism. It was founded in 1882 with two jade Buddha statues imported to Shanghai from Myanmar by sea.



Canton Tower, Guangzhou

Canton Tower was designed by firm IBA (Information Based Architecture) jointly with London-based company Arup Group, which acted as the structural engineer for the project. The body of the tower has a 'slim waist'; this is its most iconic feature with amazing lighting and allows for colour changes and animations across the entire tower.

It contains a skywalk, observation decks, revolving restaurants, food court, exhibition area, shops, cinemas, sloping wheel and radio transmission facilities. The sky garden on the top allows visitors to get views of the cityscape. The waist section of the tower has a spiral open-air skywalk for visitors to climb laid with transparent glass.



Guangzhou International Finance Center

Guangzhou International Finance Center, designed by Wilkinson Eyre, is a landmark tower that defines the emerging international strength of China's third largest city and serves as a landmark for Guangzhou Zhujiang New Town's main axis. Its elegant simplicity belies the complex geometry of form and structure which makes it possible. The three curved façades continue up beyond the highest floor and, in some views, seems to disappear to infinity. The inside of this atrium, with its crystalline geometry, sparkles with abundant daylight and is taller than the height of London's St. Paul's Cathedral, including its dome. ifj



Louvre Furniture Mall, Foshan

This is the most famous and expensive furniture mall in Foshan, China. It was founded with a single purpose to gather all the best furniture manufacturers in one place. The total floor is 380,000 sqm, with around 2,000 original Chinese and more than 100 international brands exhibiting their products.



SILENT SPACE

THE BOOTH

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