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BEGA



industry news







GRAFF LAUNCHES UNPARELLELED SHOWER LINE WITH THERMOSTATIC COLUMNS

The statement wellness experience with luxury character.



GRAFF, the worldwide manufacturer of innovative faucets and shower systems launches the exquisite shower line with Thermostatic shower columns for beyond to belief wellness experience. As part of an exhaustive shower portfolio, GRAFF offers a wide range of thermostatic shower columns in different finishes and designs. The shower collection by GRAFF comes with the choice of traditional cross handles, porcelain handles or metal handles. The shower line with thermostatic columns can be viewed at www.graff-designs.com

GRAFF elegant shower columns feature a functional thermostatic unit together with a shower head mounted on a unique unit and equipped with anti-scale nozzles for an easier maintenance. The collection is available in several glamorous finishes. Thermostatic Shower Columns by GRAFF come with the advantage of a thermostatic unit in place of a mechanical mixer: water can be set on the favorite temperature level and kept constant during the whole shower, even when some other water outlet is used in the same house.

Been designed and developed in several refined and long-lasting finishes the collection fulfills everyone's hunt for any design from traditional Victorian to modern and contemporary. Scripting the future wellness experience GRAFF fuses design and luxury with comfort and functionality.

About GRAFF: Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and with locations throughout Europe, GRAFF is recognized globally for its trend-setting products and unique vision. Supported since 1922 by extensive plumbing and hardware manufacturing experience, GRAFF offers a wide range of contemporary, transitional and traditional styling GRAFF's commitment to creating cutting-edge, premium-quality fixtures is evident in each product. GRAFF employs more than 1,000 dedicated professionals and has control over the full production process, making it truly a vertically integrated manufacturer.

For more information:

Visit www.graff-designs.com or www.facebook.com/grafffaucets

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201+ lectures till date





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One of the oldest and most respected design forums in India, the 361° Conference is an initiative by Indian Architect & Builder, under the aegis of Jasubhai Media, to inspire a truly relevant discussion on architecture. The Conference establishes a thought - exchange program with lectures and discussions chronicling a multitude ideas and innovations that have had a significant impact on our habitats.

Through the years, conference has connected various disciplines of design, by offering dialogue opportunities across essential themes like Architecture and the City, Architecture & Identity, Architecture of Purpose, New Spirit in Architecture, Design Informal Cities, Earth Matters, Imagining Urban Futures, Material Innovations Discourse, Intuition Syntax in Architecture.

ICON LECTURERS OVER THE YEARS



Dr B V Doshi,Pritzker Laureates, 2018
India

"India is diverse economically, socially, culturally and climatically. We need to stop talking about buildings and talk about a sense of community. That is what identity stems from."



Richard Meier, USA Pritzker 1984 Laureate

"I think, any work of architecture that has, with it, some discussion, and some polemic, is good. It shows that people are interested and people are involved."



Fumihiko Maki, Japan Pritzker 1993 Laureate

"Time was able to give us the ability to reflect on what we had done and became the mediator between the city and its architecture."



Late Charles Correa, India Padma Vibhushan, Padmashri, RIBA Gold Medal

"Place represents that part of truth that belongs to architecture."



Massimiliano Fuksas, Italy Crystal Globe IAA Grand Prix 2015

"Architecture is probably the easiest and simplest interpretation of art and culture."



Peter Rich, South Africa Building of the Year award at WAF

"You cannot reinvent the wheel with architecture: it has all been done before."



Toyoo Ito, Japan Pritzker 2013 Laureate

"Asian Architecture and cities have inherited the culture of integrating with nature and are opened to nature."



Sir Peter Cook. UK Royal Gold Medal of the RIBA

"History of architecture seems to be preoccupied by the form of the window, the decoration of the window, the acknowledgement of the window."

industry news



- New innovations lead the way, including skybridges which revolutionize space as we know it and smart technologies that mean elevators can be fixed, even before they are broken
- These innovations, alongside tower running, "flying carpets" for city centers and the world's first ropeless elevator for skyskrapers makes for an exciting year ahead

2020 is knocking on the door. What will it bring for the technologies that disrupt - or even - revolutionize industries? "Que será?", as the famous song goes, for indeed, the future is hard to predict. But sometimes, there are exceptions.

Such is the case for thyssenkrupp Elevator, whose research engineers have not only developed smart innovations for next year but have also prepared for the future. You could say that they have looked into the crystal ball and discovered some exciting trends and key highlights for 2020. A snapshot of these is captured below:

• **Skybridges:** One of the main trends for 2020 will be the further development and increasing use of what has been named 'skybridges' as an architectural element. No longer just a connection between two buildings at lofty heights, but instead a useful area and living space. "Skybridges are the transportation routes of the future instead of a mere architectural connection. For example, rather than holding the function of a pedestrian bridge between skyscrapers, these areas will instead be turned into living spaces at exciting heights. These areas will include swimming pools, event spaces, meeting rooms or even a skybar. As a cross-connection with many functions, they also pave the way for our vertically moving ropeless system, MULTI," comments

Markus Jetter, Head of Research & Innovation Center Rottweil at thyssenkrupp Elevator thyssenkrupp Elevator funds an 18-month research project, "Skybridges: Bringing the Horizontal into the Vertical Realm," which will culminate in the publication of a Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat Technical Guide on the topic, with richly-detailed narratives and technical drawings, as well as historical overviews and future speculations about skybridges' potential

MULTI is the world's first ropeless elevator system specifically made for skyscrapers, which will dominate the development of future urban mobility. MULTI is driven by linear motors and cabins which move independently in a single shaft, just like in a metro system. That's what makes it perfect for multiple innovative applications. Moreover, it opens exciting new perspectives for architects and developers.

One thing is for sure: 2020 will be a very exciting and versatile year thyssenkrupp Elevator will initiate much innovation and will bring existing solutions to the next level. And there's another thing that's for sure: 2020 will be a great year for urban mobility and the further development of urban life — including more comfort and more flexibility.

For further information please contact

Dr. Jasmin Fischer
Head of Media Relations
thyssenkrupp Elevator ÅG
Tel. +49.201.844-563054
E-mail: jasmin.fischer@thyssenkrupp.com
Website. www.thyssenkrupp-elevator.com
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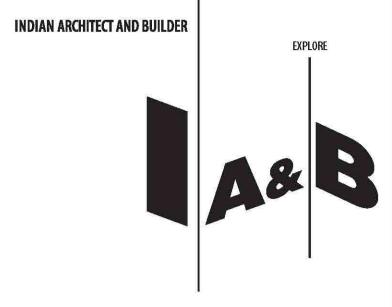
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Tel: +91 (0) 22 4037 3636

E-mail: subscription_iab@jasubhai.com





ARCHITECTURE

16 At full tilt

Navigating a tricky brief to devise a home that has separate guest and family areas. The Skew House by Thought Parallels is cohesive whole which is warm, welcoming and fulfills its brief proficiently.

30 Celebrating a versatile material

The Brickhaus by SrijitSrinivas - ARCHITECTS celebrates the versatility of bricks to create a theatrical space that is both familiar and eco-sensitive, and invokes nostalgia. It also makes an excellent argument for the use of appropriate materials and techniques from a sustainability standpoint.

44 A celebration of subtleties

Line on Lime by Delhi-based architecture and design studio Portal 92 is an aesthetic cocoon in a congested neighborhood that manages to be a part of the urban fabric while being a separate world in itself.

56 Spaces that foster togetherness

A family home for three generations in Chandigarh by Charged Voids pivots the design around a central communal void that acts as the hub of all family activities while also separating the different volumes by taking on the role of a transitional space between the private and the public zones.

INTERIORS

70 Back to the basics

The office for The Helix Life Sciences in Delhi by Studio Bipolar pays homage to the company's work, visions, and mission, while also creating an environment that can foster a new work culture that will confidently usher the company into its future.

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Head Office:

JMPL, Taj Building, 3rd Floor, 210, Dr D N Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001. Tel: +91-22-4037 3636, Fax +91-22-4037 3635

SALES

Brand Manager: Sudhanshu Nagar Email: sudhanshu_nagar@jasubhai.com

MARKETING TEAM & OFFICES

Mumbai: Sudhanshu Nagar

Taj Building, 3[™] Floor, 210, Dr D N Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001. Tel: +91-22-4037 3636, Fax +91-22-4037 3635, Mobile: +91 9833104834 Email sudhanshu nagar@iasubhai.com

Delhi: Priyaranjan Singh

803, Chiranjeev Tower, No 43, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110 019 Tel: +91 11 2623 5332, Fax: 011 2642 7404 Email: pr_singh@jasubhai.com

Bengaluru / Hyderabad / Gujarat: Sudhanshu Nagar Mobile: +91 9833104834, Email: sudhanshu nagar@jasubhai.com

Kolkata: Sudhanshu Nagar

Mobile: +91 9833104834, Email: sudhanshu_nagar@jasubhai.com

Pune: Sudhanshu Nagar

Mobile: +91 9769758712, Email: sudhanshu_nagar@jasubhai.com

Chennai / Coimbatore: Princebel M Mobile: +91 9444728035, +91 9823410712, Email: princebel_m@jasubhai.com

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industry news



Shaw Contract Introduces Living Systems

Living Systems is a new Cradle-to-Cradle Certified Silver collection carpet tiles that represents a holistic design approach.

S haw Contract recently introduced Living Systems, a Cradle-to-Cradle Certified $^{\rm TM}$ Silver collection of 9x36 in, carpet tiles that represents a holistic design approach.

Embracing the concept of regenerative design, Living Systems integrates human needs in the built environment with sustainable integrity. As biophilic design becomes increasingly important in the built environment for its restorative and rejuvenating benefits, Living Systems' nature-inspired and regenerative qualities are particularly relevant. With biophilic references that evoke a sense of calm, Living Systems is a welcome solution for healing spaces. This soft surface flooring collection reduces stress through the use of patterns, textures and colours found in the natural ecosystem, creating a visual that promotes wellbeing.

About Shaw Contract: Shaw Contract is the global commercial division of the US-based Shaw Industries Group Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Shaw Contract has been active in India since two decades and has built two state-of-the-art Experience Centres in Bengaluru and Mumbai, in addition to regional offices at Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Chennai. Shaw Contract flooring has been installed throughout India in over 3,000 designed environments in a wide range of sectors including corporate, hospitality, retail, healthcare, and education. Shaw Contract believes that the ground beneath our feet should have a positive impact on how we live, learn, work, and play Formore details please visit https://www.shawcontract.com/en-in



Further information:

Shaw Contract

#19/3, Doddamane, 2nd Floor, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 560001.

E-mail: saritha.shetty@shawcontract.com

Mobile: +91 9686465892 DID: +91 80 67730202

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gorg interio | KITCHENS

Godrej Interio launches India's first Kitchen Experience Centre

Renowned chefs Rakhee Vaswani and Varun Inamdar along with leading interior designer Saniya Kantawala to discuss the emergence of Kitchen as a socializing zone in India



¹(L-R) Nyrika Holkar, Exec director, Godrej & Boyce; Anil Mathur, Chief operating officer, Godrej Interio

†(L-R) Subhod Mehta, Senior. Vice president,B2C, Godrej Interio; Saniya Kantawala, Interior designer; Chef Varun Inamdar; Chef Rakhi Vaswani; Anil Mathur, Chief operating officer, Godrej Interio

Godrej Interio, India's leading furniture brand in-home and institutional segments, today launched its first 'kitchen experience center' in Mumbai in the presence of Nyrika Holkar (Executive Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd.), Anil Mathur (Chief Operating Officer, Godrej Interio), along with culinary experts Chef Rakhee Vaswani and Chef Varun Inamdar as well as interior design expert, Saniya Kantawala (Saniya Kantawala Design)

The first-of-its-kind hub highlights Godrej Interio's design philosophy which is based on user centric approach. Consumers and interior designers can experience the best of products and services by Godrej Interio to co-create a customized and personalized kitchen design from a myriad range of options.

The launch also witnessed an engaging discussion on "The Emergence of Kitchen as a socializing place". While Chef Rakhee Vaswani and Chef Varun Inamdar elaborated on their experience of working in ergonomically and aesthetically designed kitchens, Saniya Kantawala

shared insights on creating an effective social kitchen. The panelists also highlighted how Indian cuisines are vastly different from other geographies, and hence the kitchen design must adapt and accommodate to the needs of consumers of the region.

Based on the changing consumer needs and workstyles, Kitchen provides a space that not only gives a productive, enjoyable cooking experience. It also offers the opportunity to socialize with your loved ones during and after cooking.

On the launch Nyrika Holkar, Executive Director, Godrej & Boyce said, "At Godrej, our mission has always been about enriching the quality of living every day everywhere. The Indian modular kitchen segment is fast growing and holds immense potential. With shrinking spaces and paucity of quality time with loved ones and families, kitchen has emerged as a social space where friends and family can cook, chat and eat together. We have listened closely to our customers and believe there is a significant opportunity for Godrej Interio to provide greater







value by offering a comprehensive solution for the Indian kitchen space in homes. For 120 years we have been at the forefront of the home interior and durables markets in India and we shall continue to serve the consumers and give them a remarkable experience"

Stressing upon the commitment to provide an unparalleled level of service and experience to consumers, Anil Mathur, Chief Operating Officer, Godrej Interio, said, "Godrej Interio kitchens are designed as per the anthropometric data of Indian users, keeping in mind the ergonomics and Indian as well as western style of cooking. With our in-house Design and Manufacturing facility we offer consumers wide variety of designs, accessories, material & finishes to choose from. All this with a warranty of 15 years offers style with convenience, which makes cooking experience hassle-free and fun. Currently, the modular kitchen market is quite nascent but is expected to grow at

About Godrej Interio: Godrej Interio (GI) is India's leading furniture brand in both home and institutional segments with a strong commitment to sustainability and centers of excellence in design, manufacturing and retail

Led by the largest in-house design team in the country in the furniture category and awarded with 33 India Design Mark Awards till date, GI aims to transform spaces with its thoughtfully designed furniture to create brighter homes and offices with products that have the highest design quotient in aesthetics, functionality and technology. With consistent pursuit of excellence and a special focus on health and ergonomics, GI's product portfolio comprises a massive range in the office, home and other specialized applications, viz:

i. B2B — Office Modular Furniture, Turnkey Projects, Marine Accommodation Solutions, Healthcare Furniture and Lab Furniture

ii B2C - Home Furniture & Storage, Mattress and Kitchens

Godrej Interio has 7 manufacturing facilities situated at Mumbai, Haridwar, Shirwal, and Bhagwanpur GI's Shirwal Plant is Green Co Platinum Certified and Mumbai Plants are Green Co Gold Certified GI



fast pace. We have aggressive growth plans in this segment with CAGR of 30% in 19-20."

The discussion was an extension of Godrej Interio's recently launched campaign — Make Space for Life which aims to highlight that in pursuit of professional excellence people feel they are compromising significantly on creating strong family ties, spending quality time with friends, and celebrating important life milestones.

As a part of the campaign, a national survey with over 1300 Indians living across 13 cities highlighted practicality trumps passion for a majority of Indians. Moreover, more than 68 % of the respondents feel that they miss out on living life on their terms in trying to maintain a work-life balance. Also, a staggering 56.7% of the respondents rate their work-life balance as terrible.

is widely known for its comprehensive sustainability certifications for its products in furniture category.

GI commitment to the environment has resulted in manufacturing products with lesser environment footprint. Our pioneering efforts include designing less environment burdening products, usage of eco-friendly materials and setting up less polluting and consuming processes, ensuring eco-friendly packaging and transportation and finally the extended responsibility of recycling/reuse of used furniture and scrap, thus ensuring a lifecycle approach to green. GI has the widest range of green choices for our customers which not only includes products but also services such as green interiors and recycling.

Currently present in over 650 cities with 300 exclusive showrooms and 800 dealers, GI is one of the largest divisions of Godrej and Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., part of the Godrej Group, one of India's largest engineering and customer product groups.

The brand boasts of noteworthy awards received so far- CII Exim Bank Award for Business Excellence 2016, Superbrands 2017-18, Asia's most admired brand 2016, Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand 2018 Gold (Home Furniture) and Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand 2018 Gold (Modular Kitchens).

Further information:

Godrej Interio Registered Head Office Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited Pirojshanagar, Vikhroli, Mumbai 400 079, India. Tel: +91-22-6796 5656



↑JOHNSON-TILES LAUNCHES SMART TILES AND A MODERN EXPERIENCE CENTRE AT PUNE.



↑JOHNSON-TILES LAUNCHES SMART TILES AND A MODERN EXPERIENCE CENTRE AT PUNE.

JOHNSON-TILES LAUNCHES SMART TILES AND A MODERN EXPERIENCE CENTRE AT PUNE

A R Johnson (India), the leading ceramic tiles manufacturer and a division of Prism Johnson Limited, opened its 2nd exclusive Experience Centre in Maharashtra, at Pune. The occasion was also marked by its launch of 'Smart Series' tiles for which Johnson recently received the "Superbrand' status in India. This unique and large showroom is thematically designed with product application mockups and is branded as 'House of Johnson Experience Centre'. Located at Sable House, Satara Road, near Swargate, Gultekadi, Pune, this company showroom has a collection of over 2500 tiling concepts, sanitary ware, bathroom fittings and engineered stones which makes it one stop shop to choose high quality, durable and stylish products for interiors.

The showroom was inaugurated by H & R Johnson's CEO and ED Mr. Sarat Chandak. Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Sarat Chandak, ED & CEO of H & R Johnson (India) said, "Johnson has long held a strong belief in the philosophy of relentless innovation to pioneer the future of the categories we deal in. The new generation Experience Centers will completely elevate the buying and selection process for Lifestyle products being a one-stop-shop for planning & designing residential as well as commercial spaces."

Having started its journey in England in 1901, brand Johnson-Tiles came to India in 1958 and over the last 60 years of making tiles, the brand has become a pioneer of many innovations in the tiling industry. And most of these innovations can be found in their exclusive experience center located on Satara Road, Pune. Bringing all the products from Johnson under one roof, this Experience Centre boasts of the widest range of tiles for all different spaces, including residential interiors, exteriors, parking areas, commercial spaces and industrial spaces. Recently, Johnson was in news when their Brand Ambassador and Bollywood actress. Katrina Kaif launched Johnson International collection of sanitary ware and bath-fittings in an event at Goa.

On being asked 'what is meant by smart tiles', H & R Johnson's Marketing Head Mr. Dinesh Vyas said, "While it is very well known that good tiles means beauty and durability, our relentless focus on innovation and customer aspirations has helped us make 'smart tiles', which deliver more than what is commonly available and expected. We have created and launched our patented 'Anti-Microbial' tiles for walls and flooring. These Germ Free tiles do not allow dangerous bacteria to grow on your floor or wall and at the same time the surfaces remain absolutely safe to human touch. Similarly, to deal with Electrostatic Discharge Hazards, we have launched Anti-Static Tiles. Not only this, our Endura Cool-roof tiles are certified high SRI (Solar Reflective Index) tiles which keep the rooms below the roof much cooler in peak summer climate. The list of smart tiles is long and these products can be seen closely by customers and specifiers in person".

As pioneers in the business of tiling, H & R Johnson (India) has always sought to push boundaries of defining lifestyles with their world-class products and innovations. With a focus on the key lifestyle elements of health, hygiene, concern for the environment and safety, Johnson is transforming the way consumers choose tiles with their unique offerings like the Germ-Free glazed vitrified large format tiles & slabs that are a technically superior alternative to imported Italian marble, stain free tiles, anti-skid floor and staircase solutions, environment friendly solar reflective roof tiles that reduce the need for cooling appliances.

Mr. Vyas further told the media "Many people ask me how tiles can be a lifestyle product and they are not wrong till we tell them the value proposition Johnson is offering. We take health, safety and concern for environment as highly crucial element of modern day lifestyle. All our Smart Tile products are aligned to these elements. For example while Antimicrobial Tiles bring healthier environment around us, the anti-skid and Anti-static smart tiles add safety in physical sense. Other important element of today's lifestyle is — making informed decisions."



JOHNSON-TILES LAUNCHES SMART TILES AND A MODERN EXPERIENCE CENTRE AT PUNE.

"The Architect and Designers community in Pune have Global exposure on products and majority of them seek products which are not run of the mill. Johnson brings global aesthetics and lifestyle features like - Anti-microbial and Stain-resistant advantages along with subtle, stylish and trendy collection of wall and floor tiles as well as bathroom products and engineered stones at a single spot saving their precious time in the selection process."

With a focus on specific benefit for consumers, Mr. Vyas said "The prime objective of this experience center is to guide the consumer in selecting the right product for their home which is challenging as there are hundreds of similar looking tiles in the market with very little relevant and authentic information. Consumers in and around Pune will get to see the widest range of products by any single reputed brand in the city. The trained staff here will help the Architects and customers in the selection process and ensure that their buying process remains pleasurable.

"In one of our market study we found that some customers think we only have very high-end and costly products as compared to other tile brands. A visit to House of Johnson will make them realize that at a small premium, people can get high value product from the most trusted Johnson Brand. We have a complete new and wide range of products at reasonable price"

He further added "Architects and Interior Designers are increasingly helping the end-users to create aesthetics and comfort in the new or under renovation space and they look out for products which are latest, trendy and have International appeal and promote hygiene along with being eco-friendly. Johnson has introduced a new generation category of tiles which are Stain-Free and Germ-Free as well. Another product that is attracting users and specifiers equally is our "Cool Roof" tile which keeps the room below the roof much cooler during hot sunny summer days. It reduces the air-conditioning requirement which is again good for the environment."

With approximately 3000 products, Johnson has a range of tile options for all spaces. From residential and commercial to industrial spaces, Johnson has tiling solutions apt for all application areas for walls and floors that includes special features that make the tiles durable and easy to maintain. Johnson also has a range of specialty tiles that include anti-static tiles that ground electricity, tactile designed to help the visually impaired navigate, durable and beautiful landscape tiles that can stand the wear and tear of outdoors.

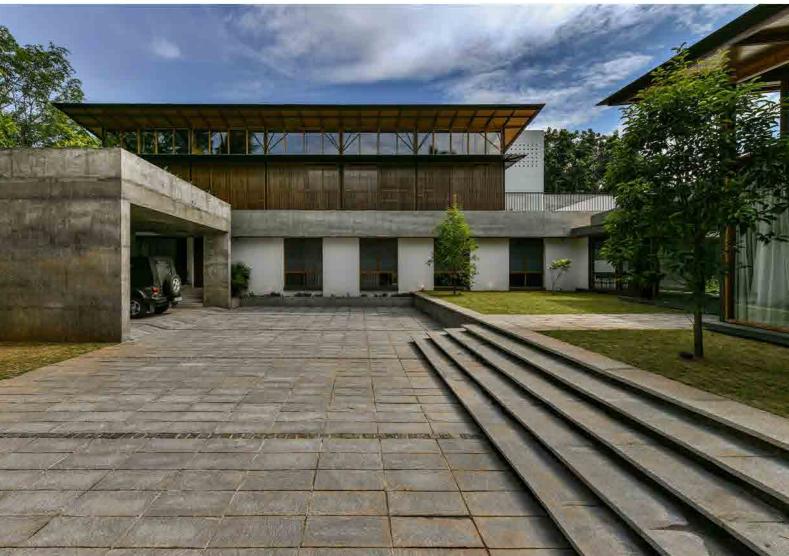
Pune's House of Johnson does not only present best in class international quality tiles, but also has select, reasonably priced high quality Sanitary ware, Bath fittings and Engineered Marble and Quartz. All related categories from Johnson under one roof also results in time saving for consumers and specifiers.

About H & R Johnson (India): Established in 1958, H & R Johnson (India), a division of Prism Johnson Ltd (Formerly Prism Cement Ltd.) is the pioneer of ceramic tiles in India. Over the past six decades, H & R Johnson has added various product categories to offer complete solutions to its customers Today, H & R Johnson enjoys the reputation of being the only entity in India to offer end-to-end lifestyle solutions covering Tiles, Sanitaryware & Bath Fittings, Engineered Marble and Quartz For Tiles Johnson has four sub-brands i.e. Johnson Tiles, Johnson Porselano, Johnson Marbonite and Johnson Endura that offers end to end tiling solutions for every space and application. Johnson Bathrooms offer complete solutions in bathrooms ranging from sanitaryware, faucets, accessories and wellness products. Johnson Marble & Quartz offer a range of products in engineered marble and quartz H & R Johnson has 13 tile manufacturing plants (including Joint Ventures) across the country and 2 plants for Bathroom CP fitting products. For further details, please visit www hrjohnsonindia com

Further information:

Yohanna Irani Tel: +91 9920499231

E-mail: yohanna irani@madisonpr.in



[†]The Skew House, Malapuram, Kerala.

At full tilt

The Skew House, Malapuram, Kerala

The Skew House in Kerala, nestled in the Malapuram Mountains is a delightful mix of modern and traditional sensibilities. Navigating a tricky brief to devise a home that has separate guest and family areas, the home beautifully creates a cohesive whole which is warm, welcoming and fulfils its brief proficiently.

Text: Shriti Das Images: Prashant Bhat photography Drawings: Thought Parallels

Metaphors and muses in architecture are often limited to poetics of describing form. The architects, Thought Parallels, describe the Skew House in Kerala being metaphoric of an outstretched palm, letting in air and light. The house overlooks and is screened by a sloped rubber plantation. The brief for the home involved creating

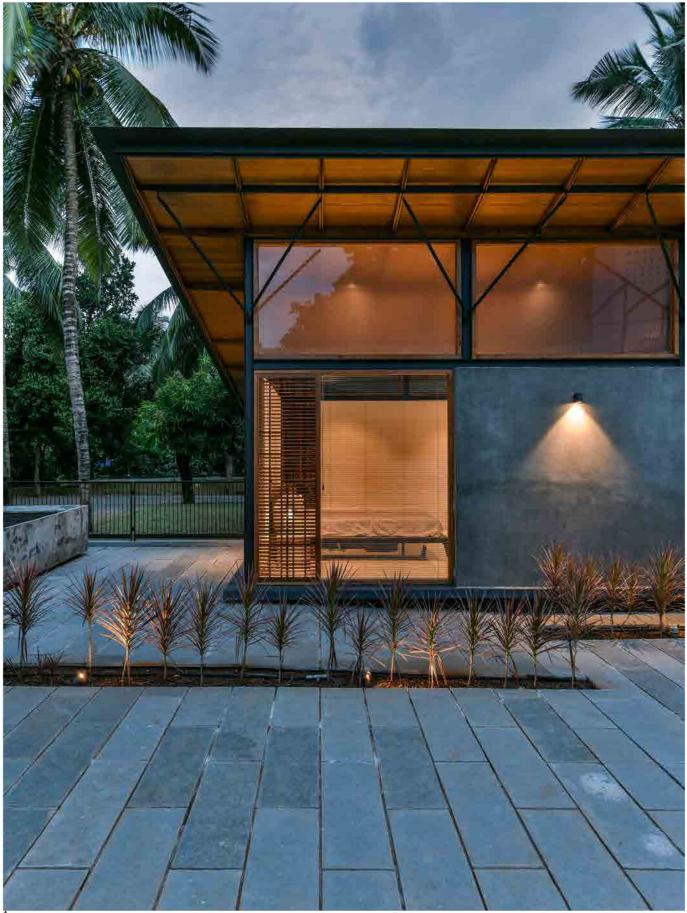
separate spaces for guests and family which led to two distinct blocks. The guest block accommodates the public spaces of the house; the entrance, a formal living, a prayer room and a guest bedroom. A foyer and sit-out emanates from this guest block and leads the user into the family block.



The Skew House in Kerala, nestled in the Malapuram Mountains is a delightful mix of modern and traditional sensibilities.



The brief for the home involved creating separate spaces for guests and family which led to two distinct blocks: The guest block and the family block.



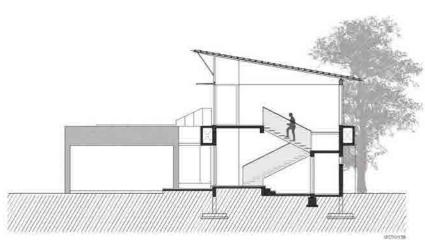
†The Mangalore-tile roof is implemented keeping in line with the minimal architectural syntax of the project.



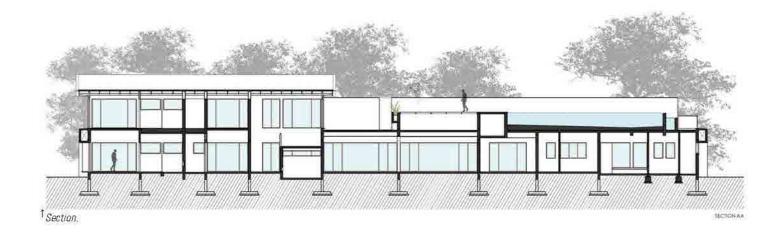
† First floor plan,

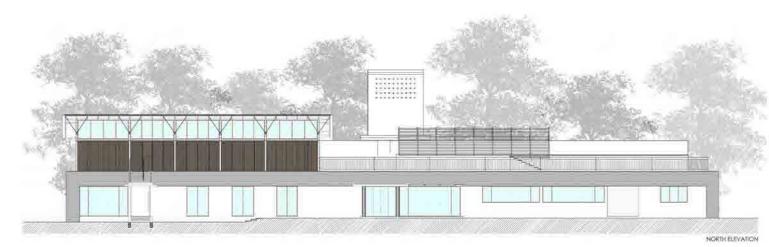


† Ground floor plan,



† Section.





† Elevation.

Both units sprawl across the site akin to the architect's metaphor of an outstretched palm. The guest block that contains the puja room is tilted in orientation with respect to the family block to align with the astral prerequisites of pray. This led to the 'skew' in the built-form and the project was titled the Skew House. The structure is planned in an expansive manner which keeps the rooms abundantly lit and ventilated. Staying true to the metaphor of the outstretched palm, the spaces stimulate the user to meander within the building. This experience is further amplified and complemented with the finishes like wood, steel, exposed concrete and so on. While these materials are deployed in functional and minimal method with a contemporary design language, a sloping roof with Mangalore clay tiles bring in familiarity of the traditional architecture of Kerala.

The Mangalore roof too, is implemented keeping in line with the minimal architectural syntax of the project. Its subtle slope endows the entrance a human scale in the interiors. Its living room is open on two sides which endow it a quality of openness, yet shields the private family area to an extent. A sit-out and foyer connect this guest block to the family block. With landscape separating both entities, the private areas are disconnected yet a cohesive whole with the landscape. A wide door can cordon off the private block entirely. The private area too, showcases a distinct division in functions in its design. The bedrooms are oriented to the west whereas the kitchen and other utilities are to the east. A rather large living and dining space interject the spaces. The upper floor houses two more bedrooms and an access-controlled swimming pool.

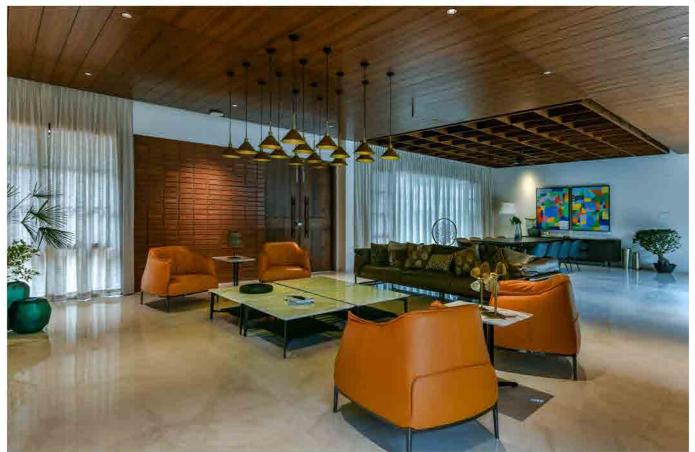




The most arresting feature within the home is perhaps the open-riser staircase with its steel railing with traditional wood carvings.



†The dining space.



† The living area.



†Formal living room.



† The livimg area.







Exterior view.



Exterior view.



†Exterior view: Backyard.



Exterior view overlooking the formal living – guest bedroom and veranda.



Guest Block.



The guest block connected to the family block by the sitting foyer.



¹ Exposed concrete is the primary material and it offsets the lush greenery proficiently.

The architects mention that the detached private and public areas were the basis of the planning. And such designs tread a fine line between ensuing that the spaces are not too disconnected yet not overlap the public and private functions. The private block, in the case of the Skew House is accessible directly from the main gate too. Much like the analogy of the five fingers and the palm, the building works in tandem independently and with its other entities, the landscape and the Malapuram Mountains within which it is nestled. It harnesses not only the splendid views but also maximises light and ventilation. Louvered shutters on the southern façade not only shield the residence from the sun but also create an interesting play of light and shadow on the corridors and within the bedroom.

Beyond function, the structure also exemplifies the use of material in the form of design features. Exposed concrete is the primary material and it offsets the lush greenery proficiently. Exposed clay brick walls adorn the living room and natural mosaic marble flooring further embellishes the space. The most arresting feature within the home is perhaps the open-riser staircase with its steel railing with traditional wood carvings. The sheer brilliance of the architecture lies in these subtle plays of traditional and modern elements. The house is a metaphor for changing times wherein each individual, regardless of age or stature is independent, values freedom and identity. Yet, at an intrinsic level, craves company, family and a firm footing. The home exemplifies these notions successfully as it embraces the idea of 'separation' amicably without barring any space yet defining clear boundaries.

FACT FILE:

Project	(6)	The Skew House
Location	33	Malapuram, Kerala.
Architect		Ar. Nikhil Mohan
Design team	31	Nikhil Mohan, Shabna Nikhil, Jinesh,
		Najeera.
Principal Architects & Interior Designer		Ar Nikhil mohan and creative director
		Shabna Nikhil
Client	33	Mr. Jamal Mohammed
Steel construction		Shaji, S S METALS
Project Area	-	12,000 square feet
Structural Engineer		Design Spectrum
Civil contractors		ARC Constructions
Electrical contractors	-	Tekton consultants
Project Estimate		NIL
Initiation of Project	- 88	2018
Completion of project		2018
Photography	32	Prashant Bhat photography



† The Brickhaus

Celebrating a versatile material

The BrickHaus, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Brickhaus by SrijitSrinivas - ARCHITECTS celebrates the versatility of bricks to create a theatrical space that is both familiar and eco-sensitive, and invokes nostalgia. It also makes an excellent argument for the use of appropriate materials and techniques from a sustainability standpoint.

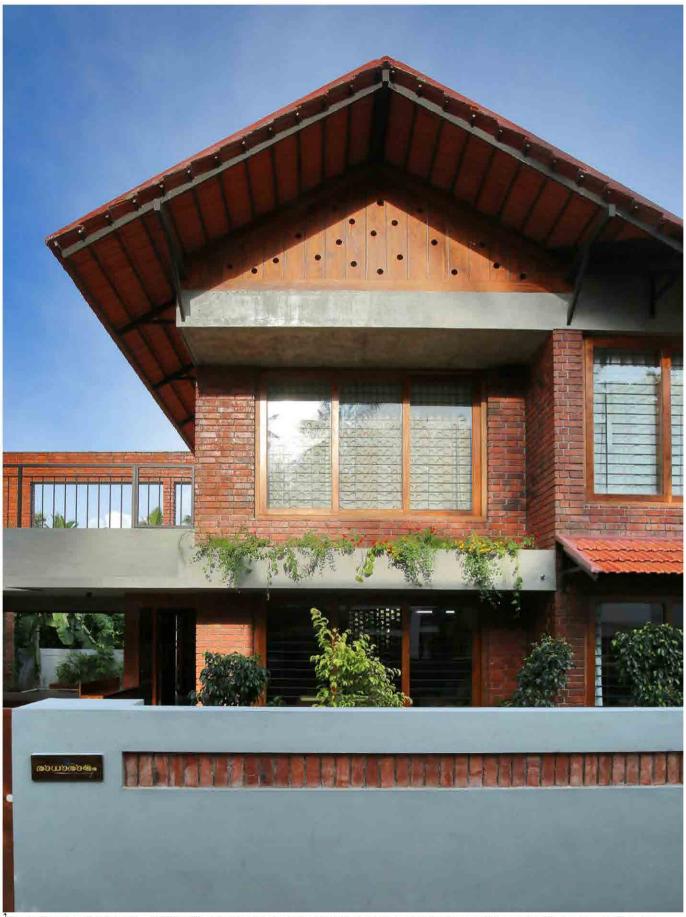
Text: Sharmila Chakravorty Images: Prasanth Mohan, Running Studios Architects: Srijit Srinivas - ARCHITECTS

We, as modern-world sophisticates, perhaps tend to regard architecture that does not comply with our preferred modern or contemporary stylistic categories with either contempt or awe - there hardly ever is an in-between reaction. It's either considered vernacular, and therefore colloquial, informal, and unintelligent, or as heritage - something that can be celebrated, but belongs in the past.

Especially with vernacular architecture, there has historically been a second-class-citizen equivalent in terms of perception, in varying degrees. Perhaps being local is not good enough anymore. But that hasn't always been the case. Local, contextual architecture with a vernacular

expression is known to fulfil requirements better and is more efficient; in modern-day parlance, contextual architecture is sustainable thanks to its underlying logic of using local resources and climate-specific, passive techniques for ventilation and light, amongst other things.

But with the increasing shift to a global perspective, we sometimes tend to lose sight of what is contextual in favour of what is trending. But was architecture ever meant to be homogenized? Does operating in a global landscape mean that we disown local knowledge in favour of universal (western, if we were to pinpoint it) style? Does a cookie-cutter, blind emulation method even work?



The Brickhaus by SrijitSrinivas - ARCHITECTS celebrates the versatility of bricks to create a theatrical space that is both familiar and eco-sensitive, and invokes nostalgia.

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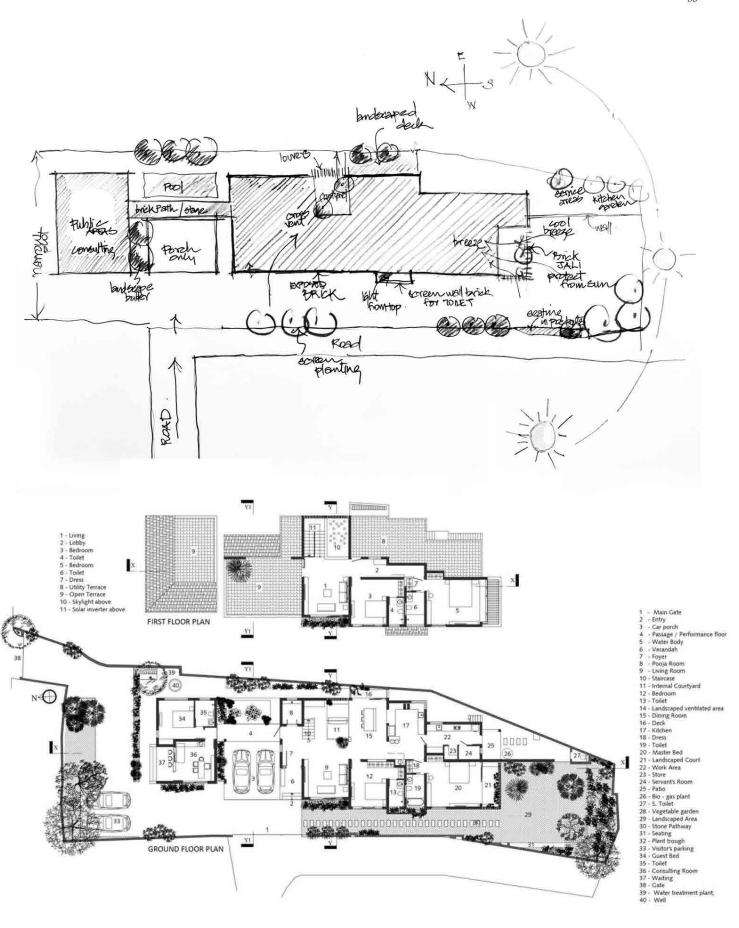


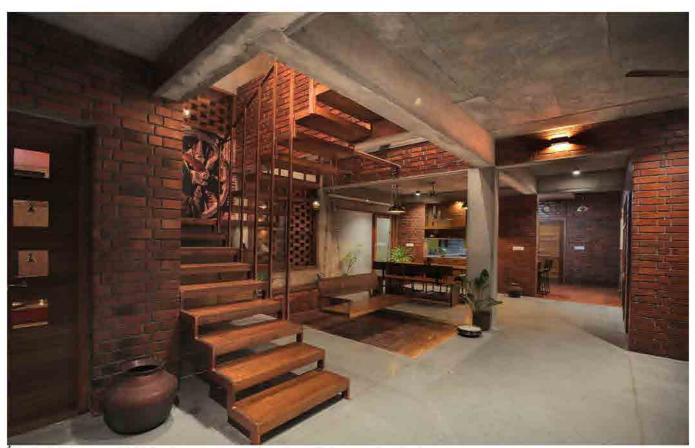




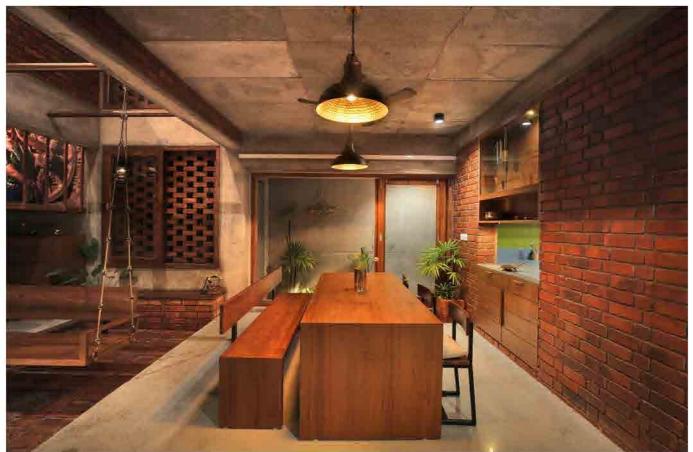


† Sections.





 † Double-height spaces and brick flooring create a sense of grandeur and infuse warmth and cosiness .



[†]The dining area.



[†]The living area.





[†] "The house is an exploration in revealing the beauty of the oldest and most versatile material - the country burnt brick," say the architects.

As architects, or even as consumers of architectural design, we must ask ourselves if we can afford to let the course of the practice be led astray. But, as with every other generalization, even this argument is not universally applicable. There are, fortunately, architects who are questioning commonly accepted norms to pave the way for reflections and learning from traditional, vernacular architectural practices that have stood the test of time. One such project - the Brickhaus - illustrates this very well.

The Brickhaus, as it is aptly named, was designed to be home to a young family in Trivandrum, Kerala - a doctor couple and their two kids. The brief was to create a space that would "be both a place of respite and exhilaration for the clients," say the architects. Responding to this, the architects came up with a plan that addresses the diverse requirements - a blend of novelty and function, public presentation and private expression.

In terms of the material palette, the architects celebrate the charm of one of the most widely used construction materials - often relegated to the background, and smoothed over by multiple layers of beautification. "The house is an exploration in revealing the beauty of the oldest and most versatile material - the country burnt brick," say the architects. As expected, the use of bricks evokes a strong feeling of nostalgia

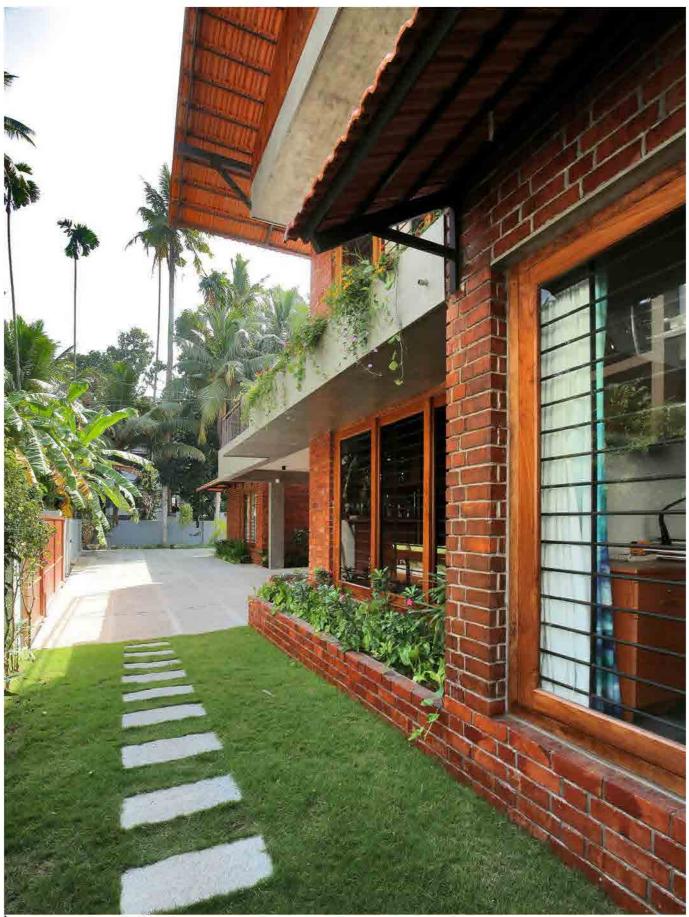
and familiarity, and a distinct character. "The house has an ethnic charm, which is accentuated in the varied play of light and shadows by placement and detailing of fenestrations and the material palette," explains Srijit Srinivas the architect of the project.

Interior spaces are bright, open, connected and vibrant. The use of double-height spaces and brick flooring create a sense of grandeur and yet infuse warmth and cosiness that we associate with homes. As with most examples of vernacular architecture, the design logic is based on common sense measures such as utilizing natural ventilation and light optimally and integrating nature into the home's program. Most interior spaces connect to the outdoors - either physically via windows and doors, or visually. Illustrating how they did this, the architects explain, "The design brings nature inside the home, with the use of contextually detailed skylights and jaali work - defining breezeways facilitating natural cooling of the interiors and complemented with a distribution of internal gardens and pools, working together to bring in a magical play of light." Another detail that seems to have an impact on the design ethos is the fact that the lady of the house is a trained dancer. Perhaps the sense of material drama, the theatrical quality, is a reflection of the inhabitant's personality and preferences, manifested uniquely in the design.

The Brickhaus is an excellent example of architecture that is beautiful,

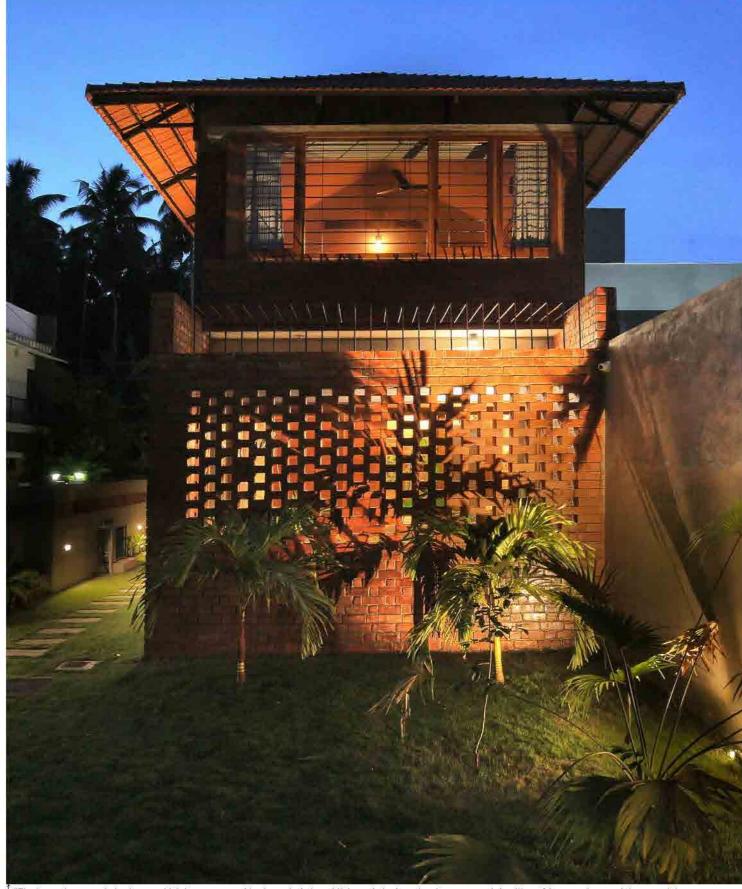


 † Its material palette and execution are very local, purpose-driven, but in a manner that is not short of a global, rustic-chic spirit.



The house has an ethnic charm, which is accentuated in the varied play of light and shadows by placement and detailing of fenestrations and the material palette, "explains Srijit Srinivas the architect of the project.

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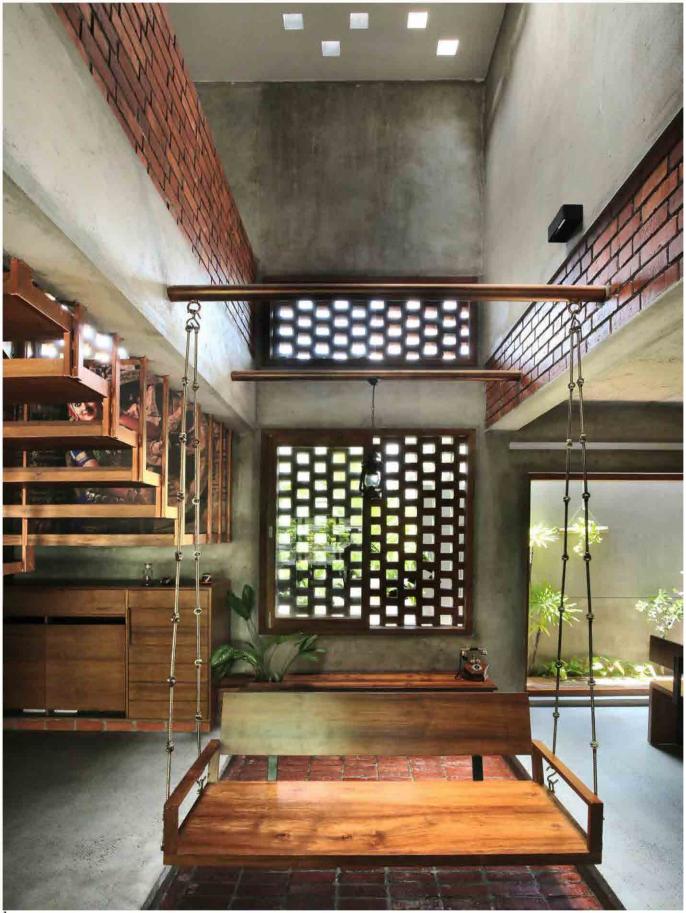
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 † The Brickhaus is an excellent example of architecture that is beautiful, yet sustainable.



Most interior spaces connect to the outdoors - either physically via windows and doors, or visually.



The design, in its choice of material palette, hints at a strong focus on eco-sensitivity, though not as a deliberate, forced intent Indian Architect & Builder - February 2020



The design is firmly rooted in its context; it has the unique originality in design, has the goodness of the vernacular architecture specific to Kerala and retains remarkable contemporary flavour.

yet sustainable. It illustrates that beauty doesn't have to always come at the cost of sustainability, and vice versa. "From an energy consumption perspective, the home is a 'Net Zero' entity," say the architects. The design, in its choice of material palette, hints at a strong focus on ecosensitivity, though not as a deliberate, forced intent. The design is firmly rooted in its context; it has the unique originality in design, has the goodness of the vernacular architecture specific to Kerala and retains remarkable contemporary flavour. Its material palette and execution are very local, purpose-driven, but in a manner that is not short of a global, rustic-chic spirit.

FACT FILE:

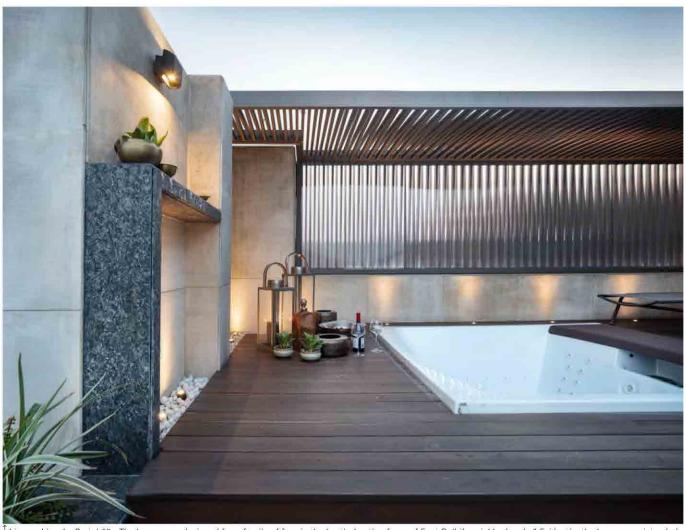
Project Name	13	The BRICKHAUS, Keralam, India
Project location		Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Architecture Firm	1	Srijit Srinivas - ARCHITECTS
Lead Architect	13	Srijit Srinivas
Ground Floor Area		2450 sq.ft.
First Floor Area	- V	1800 sq.ft.
Total Area	8	4250 sq.ft.
Clients	1000	Dr. Anup Narayanan & Dr. Arya A. R., & (Kids Abhiram Anup& Anuradha Nair)
Photography	8	Prasanth Mohan, Running Studios



† The most distinctive features of this house is its cladding. The exterior sports a natural-finish limestone cladding that adds softness the mass of the structure.

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Line on Lime by Portal 92.. The house was designed for a family of four in the hustle-bustle of one of East Delhi's neighborhoods." Evidently, the house was intended as a retreat for the family, cutting through the chaotic built fabric of congested Indian cities.

A celebration of subtleties

Line on Lime. New Delhi

Line on Lime by Delhi-based architecture and design studio Portal 92 is an aesthetic cocoon in a congested neighborhood that manages to be a part of the urban fabric while being a separate world in itself.

Text: Sharmila Chakravorty Images: Niveditaa Gupta Drawings: Portal 92

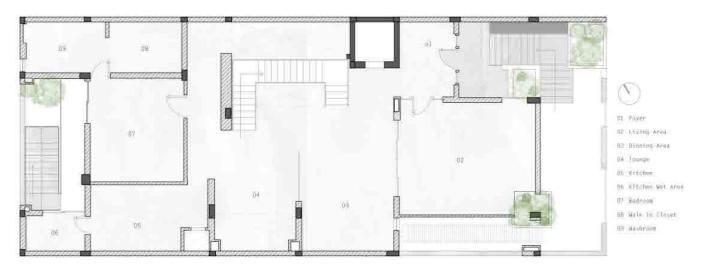
 ∧ ost examples of successful architecture - ones that are most IVI loved by the inhabitants of the space - almost always have one thing in common. Of course, this is not to say that they do not share other characteristics, but how the design responds to its context and its specific requirements is what elevates a building, making it stand out from the ordinary. And the design must do so in unique ways, infusing innovation into the approach and the thought process that drives the design. An excellent case in point is the project Line on Lime in Delhi by Delhi-based architecture and design studio Poral92.

The house sits on a 300 sqm plot in a congested urban neighborhood. Speaking about the design brief from the clients, the architects mention, "The house was designed for a family of four in the hustlebustle of one of East Delhi's neighborhoods." Evidently, the house was intended as a retreat for the family, cutting through the chaotic built fabric of congested Indian cities. The design, accordingly, was required to create a very personal space for the family, cocooning them from the outside world, yet being open and seamless from within

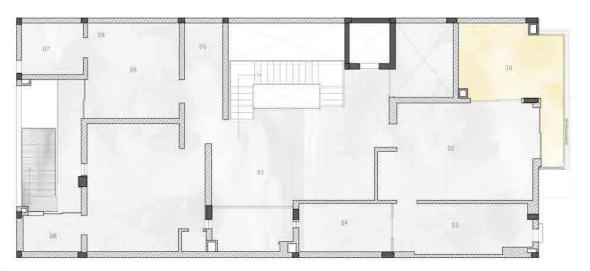




† Elevations. Indian Architect & Builder - February 2020



[↑] Ground Floor Plan.



↑_{First Floor Plan.}



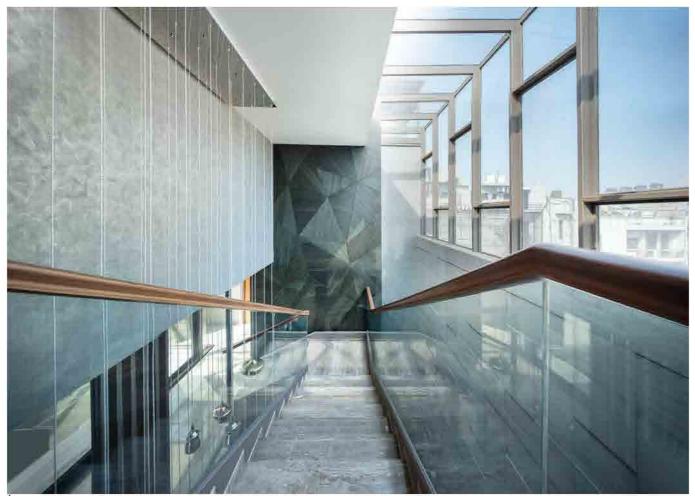
[↑] Second Floor Plan.

82 Bedroom 03 Washroom 04 WaTW In Closet 05 Paja Boom 05 Bedroom 07 Washroom 08 Kitchen Wet Arme

03 Eltchen 10 Ferrace



† Third Floor Plan.



The L-shaped skylight that forms the roof of the staircase is a wonderful addition that brightens up the space with diffused natural light.

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One of the most distinctive features of this house is its cladding. The exterior sports a natural-finish limestone cladding that adds softness, literally and figuratively, to the mass of the structure. It is also an excellent material in terms of contextual aptness; the brutal Delhi sun is reflected off by the cladding, and has a rather cooling effect, visually, on onlookers. It also adds a rustic yet chic personality to the building, making it very local yet very contemporary at the same type. In effect, the design uses a very local material and cladding practice and approaches it with a very global outlook. As a result, the built mass has a stunning yet subdued appearance.

Time-tested traditional sun-shading techniques are also applied here, but with a modern, innovative twist. The architects designed a customized, movable screen that perhaps draws inspiration from jaali screens that are common in the region. These screens not only control the amount of direct sunlight the indoors receive but also provide much-needed privacy from the densely populated neighborhood. Additionally, they are a strikingly aesthetic feature that adds a definite character and continuity to the facade. "The same screen system extends from the stilt to the terrace forming a canopy for the recreational space on the terrace," say the architects.

The interiors are designed to be spacious yet warm, cozy yet seamlessly flowing from private to public programs. The design

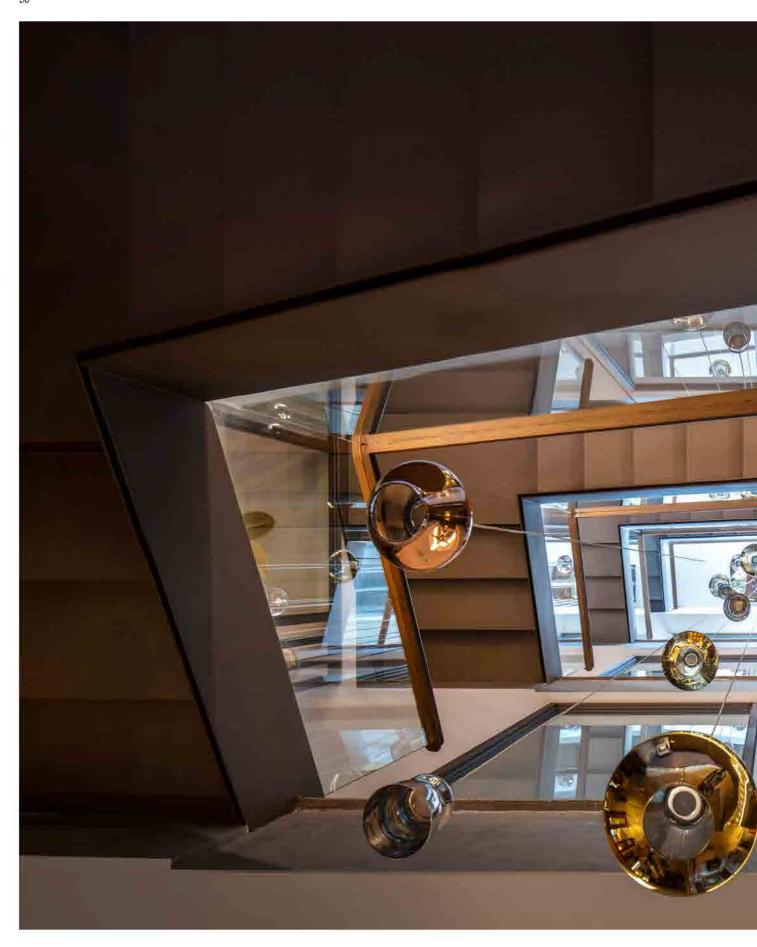
allows for abundant natural light to enter the interiors, while the use of glass and other glossy surface textures reflects the light evenly. This creates a sense of airiness, making spaces appear much larger than they actually are. The use of natural materials that are subtle in colors yet rich in textures further adds a touch of elegance, while not being monotonous.

There are several elements within the house that could take the center stage as works of architectural ingenuity. For instance, certain corners of the building are dotted with planters. They are deftly camouflaged into the skin of the building, making the plants growing out of them seem like they are embedded into the facade. Then, the L-shaped skylight that forms the roof of the staircase is a wonderful addition that brightens up the space with diffused natural light and acts as a spotlight for the staircase, which by itself is a delightful space. Other elements such as the use of dark wood to contrast with the greys of the wall finishes create a soothing, serene visual. The various textures used around the staircases, too, seem to align with this approach, creating various pockets of visual interest throughout the house. However, when these seemingly disparate visual elements are seen together as a whole, they do not clash. They do not compete for attention or overwhelm the other elements. They complement each other, fitting perfectly to create a wholesome picture.

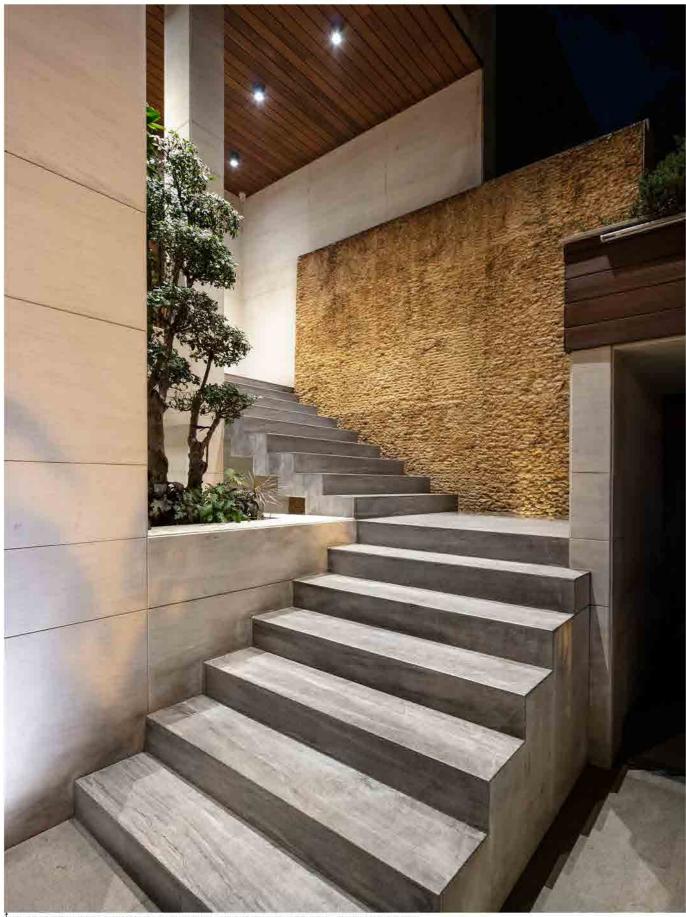


The design allows for abundant natural light to enter the interiors, while the use of glass and other glossy surface textures reflects the light evenly. This creates a sense of airiness, making spaces appear much larger than they actually are.

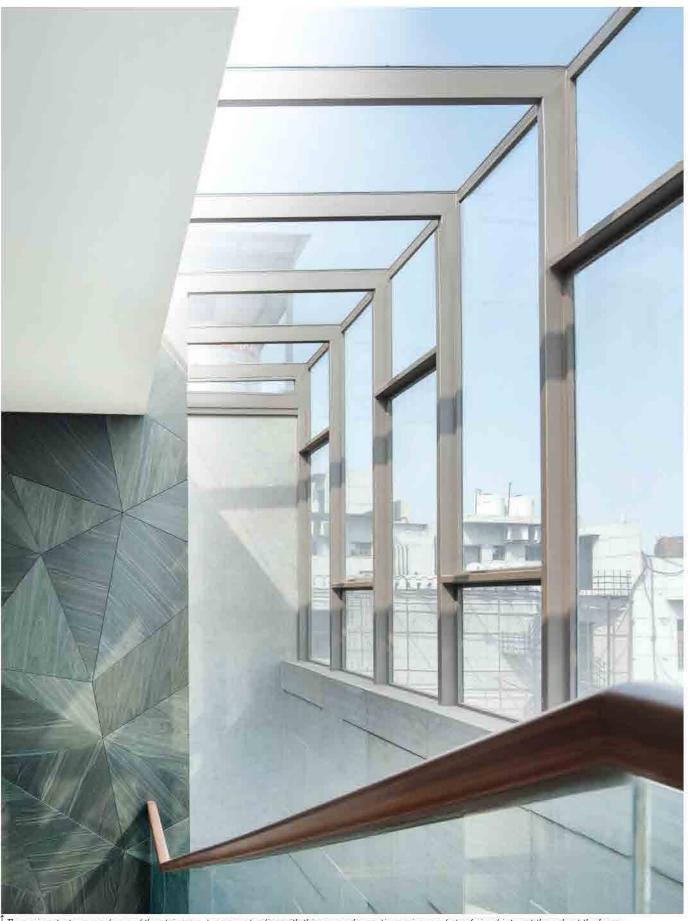
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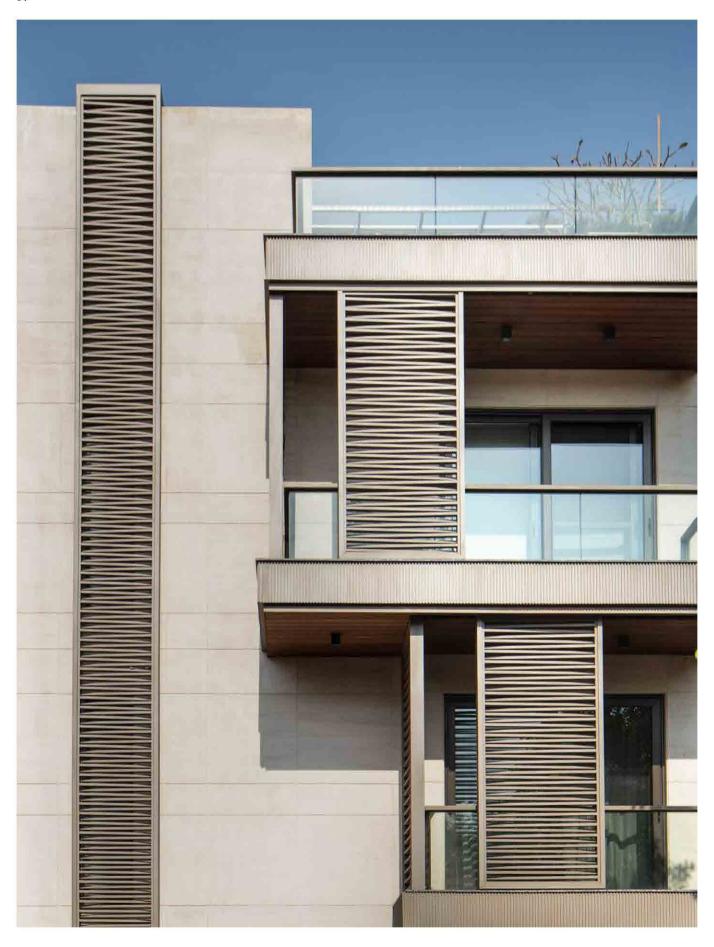




 † The use of dark wood to contrast with the greys of the wall finishes create a soothing, serene visual.



The various textures used around the staircases, too, seem to align with this approach, creating various pockets of visual interest throughout the house.







[↑]Residence 35 by Charged Voids

Spaces that foster togetherness

Residence 35, Chandigarh

A family home for three generations in Chandigarh by Charged Voids pivots the design around a central communal void that acts as the hub of all family activities while also separating the different volumes by taking on the role of a transitional space between the private and the public zones.

Text: Sharmila Chakravorty Images: Javier Callejas Drawings: Charged Voids

Designing family homes can be quite challenging. Unlike other spaces that are meant to be inhabited for only certain durations by very particular types of users - an office or retail store, for instance - homes are, in modern-day slang, 24/7. There are several permanent users, each with distinct preferences and expectations from the space they spend the most time in. This becomes even more complicated when multiple generations inhabit the same space - the very meaning of home and what it represents to each generation is vastly different.

How architects respond to unique challenges, and how they allocate spaces to specific users and their needs is what makes their design successful - from a functionality and usage point of view. However, a

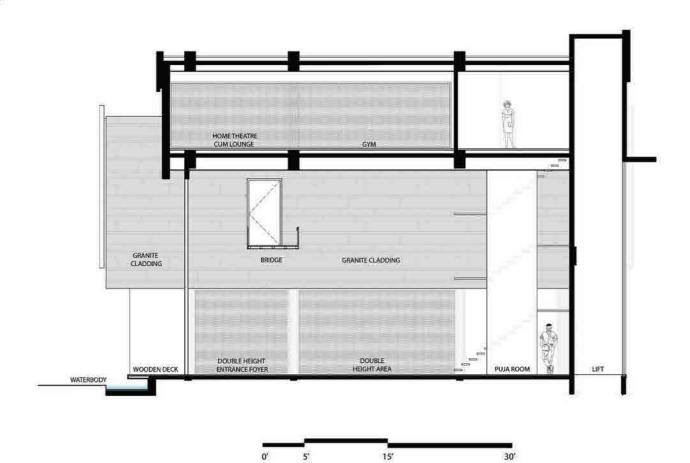
home needs a spirit. The design needs to infuse the space with a distinct character that is warm, inviting, and comforting. Thus, there are several underlying layers of considerations that architects must be cognizant of when designing a home. Residence 35 in Chandigarh, designed by Charged Voids is an excellent case in point, showcasing how design can accommodate several requirements while creating a cohesive space.

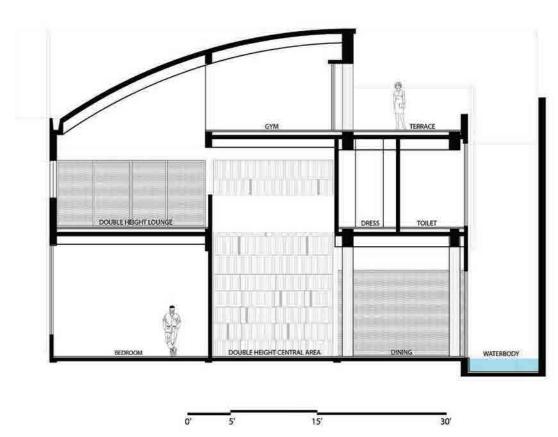
The brief was to design a house for a joint family comprising three generations. Thus, the design needed to delicately respond to a dual purpose - that of providing a communal space for the entire family to bond, while also creating separate spheres of intimate spaces for individual family subsets.



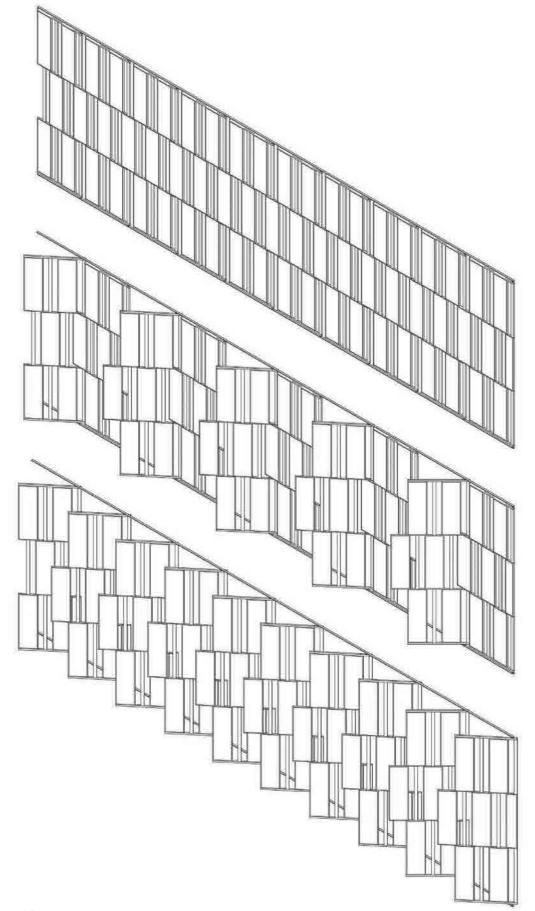
The brief was to design a house for a family of three generations. The design responded to a dual purpose - that of providing a communal space for the entire family to bond, while also creating separate spheres of intimate spaces for individual family subsets.

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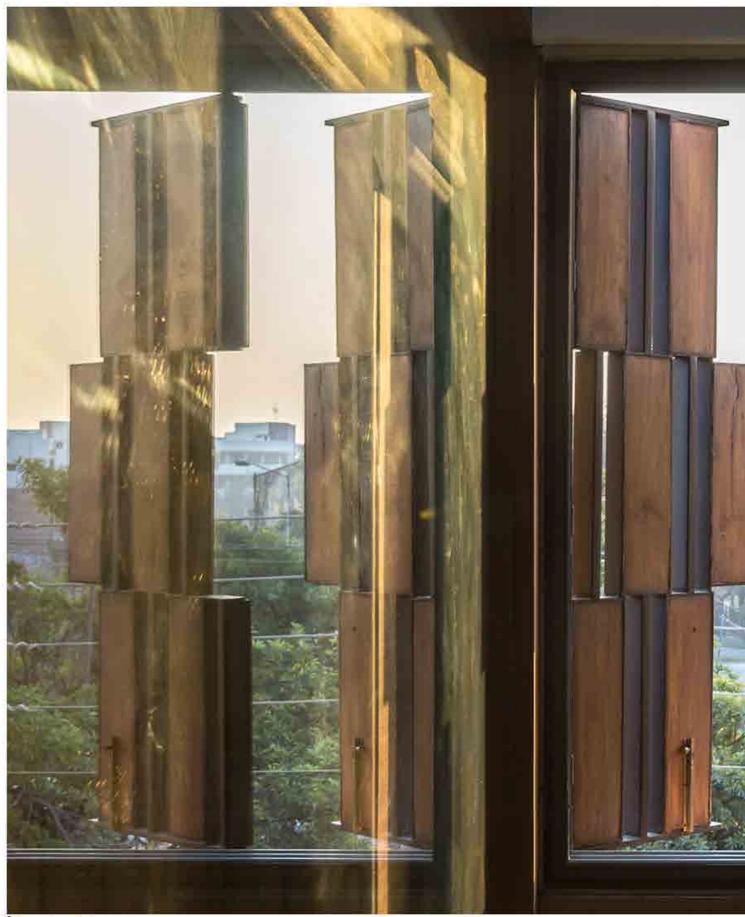




† Sections. Indian Architect & Builder - February 2020



[†] The west sun-shaders.



[†] The west sun-shaders.

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1 Different generations come together to occupy this space - drawing a poetic parallel between life and design's endeavor to create spaces to forward life.



The design expertly balances the need for private and public spaces, and connections to ease the transitions between the two.

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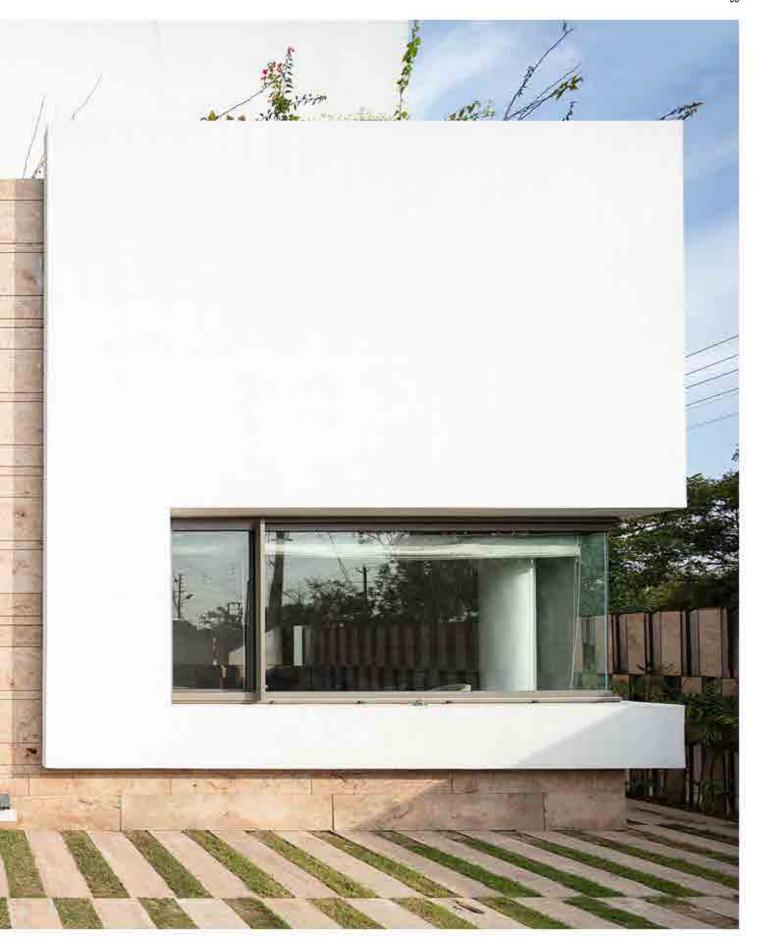


† From an onlooker's perspective the house is an assortment of stacked volumes in earthy local stone. But for the inhabitants, there is something for everyone.



†The design, while fulfilling the requirements of its inhabitants, also deftly responds to its context. Located in Chandigarh, the design accounts for the extreme climatic conditions and takes adequate measures.



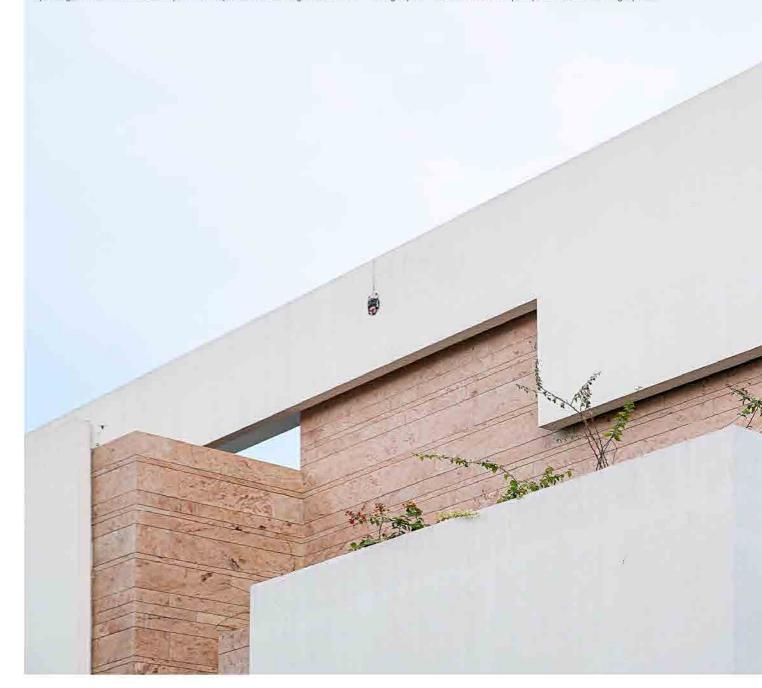


The architects envisioned the house as four distinct layered boxes connected via a common space in between. This space - covered with a parasol roof - is then shaped into a series of central volumes that are interconnected - either opening into the other spaces or the outdoors. Designating this main public space as the anchor for all family activities, the architects organized the plan to ensure that the living space overlooks a water body and a lush green courtyard, making it a pleasant, serene experience. This makes the living spaces appear more open, awash with natural light and ventilation, yet warm and cozy as a family home should be.

A double-height wooden screen is used as the entrance, piquing the interest of visitors and inhabitants alike. The main doors are a combination of multiple shutters, which can be adjusted to create openings of various sizes as per the requirement. Along the central

vertical axis, directly opposite the entrance lies the Puja room. The other rooms are arranged around the perimeter of the house, once again establishing the central void as the hub of familial energy. A master bedroom for the oldest generation, along with a guest room, kitchen and other facilities, is housed on the ground level. The other two generations are housed on the second level, while the third level of the house accommodates the entertainment zone and rooms for domestic help.

From an onlooker's perspective, the house is an assortment of stacked volumes clad in earthy shades of local stone. But for the inhabitants, there is something for everyone. From completely open spaces to those that are very private, from spaces onlooking the courtyard or the water body, to those on upper levels that perhaps look at the same imagery but from a different perspective and vantage point.







[↑]The main doors are a combination of multiple shutters which are adjusted to create openings as needed.



 † The living space overlooks a water body and a lush green courtyard, making it a pleasant, serene experience.

The design, while fulfilling the requirements of its inhabitants, also deftly responds to its context. Located in Chandigarh, the design accounts for the extreme climatic conditions and takes adequate measures. Explaining this, the architects mention, "The large glass openings are only oriented to the northern side while the openings to the southern and western side are shaded by deep overhangs and vertical shading devices. Two terrace gardens on the second and third levels reduce the heat gain from the roof." Thus, the design creates a microclimate to ensure thermal comfort with the gardens and the waterbody, as well as the flow of natural light and ventilation.

The central space is at once the facilitator of movement from public to private zones, while also being a separator of the two. The design expertly balances the need for private and public spaces, and connections to ease the transitions between the two. This central space, and its many interconnected volumes, perhaps

metaphorically represents the family unit. Different generations are connected to each other and come together to occupy this space - drawing a rather poetic parallel between life and design's endeavor to create spaces to forward life. The spaces designed in this house by Charged Voids are perhaps exactly that - charged voids that speak of connectedness, warmth, and togetherness, all bundled into one big happy family, spatially!

FACT FILE:

Lead Architect	10	Aman Aggarwal	
Design Team	1	Swati Agarwal, Mehak Mahajan	
Photo credits	1	Javier Callejas	
3D Visualizer	1	Haneet Khanna	
Structure consultant	1	Pankaj Chopra	
Waterbody	j.	Madhhu irritech; Uttam Singh	
M.S Fabricator		Lohar creations; Anil Dhiman	
Sculpto	1	Hriday	





The design brief for Brick Helix was to create a space that incorporated most modern tenets of office-space design, while also communicating the company's values and missions to its employees.

Back to the basics

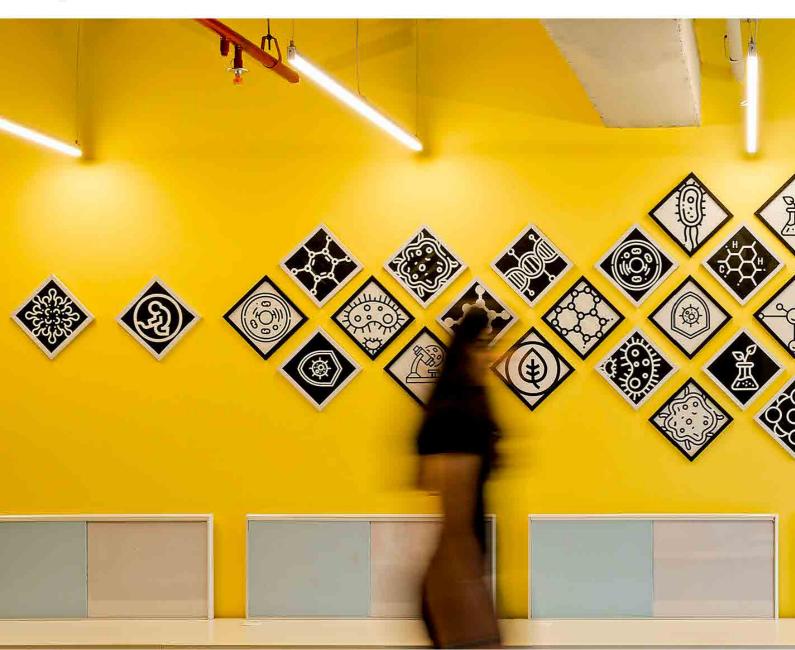
Brick Helix, New Delhi

The office for The Helix Life Sciences in Delhi by Studio Bipolar pays homage to the company's work, visions, and mission, while also creating an environment that can foster a new work culture that will confidently usher the company into its future.

Text: Sharmila Chakravorty Images: Suryan//Dang Drawings: Studio Bipolar

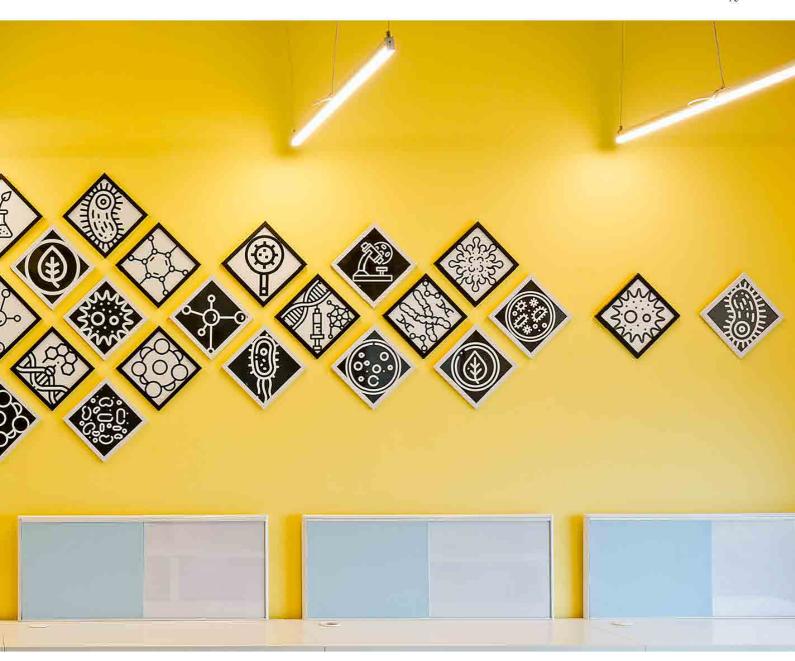
The office space, as we know it today, has seen a slow evolution compared to other typologies. Homes have historically hogged architectural attention, leaving office spaces of the past to take the shape of functional spaces that lacked warmth. But the story has completed changed in the past few decades. Office space design is increasingly given sincere thought and importance; perhaps this has resulted from the drastic shift in the workforce. Today's employees are diverse, with correspondingly diverse requirements from their

workspace. Thus, flexibility is non-negotiable. The nature of work today is heavily dependent on teams' collaboration, and accordingly, the workplace too has to be adaptable and conducive to teamwork. In addition to these features, the design must reflect the brand, the ideology it represents. Clearly, getting the design to fulfil so many distinctive expectations is no small task for architects. But the office for The Helix Life Sciences in Delhi by Studio Bipolar serves as a fitting example.

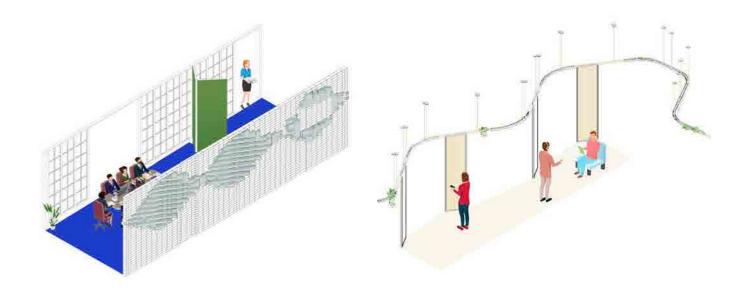


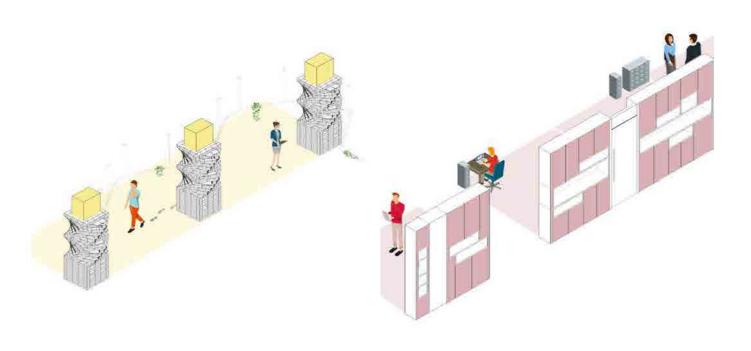
1 Speaking of the aesthetic approach, the architects mention, "The overall concept was to create a bright, cheerful and 'organic, natural feel' to the entire space."

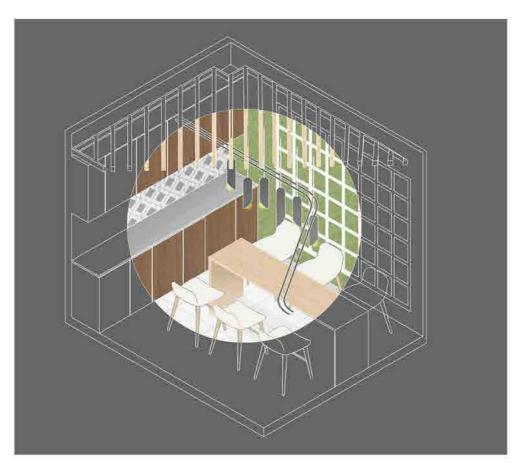
The design brief was to create a space that incorporated most modern tenets of office-space design, while also communicating the company's values and missions to its employees. The office would thus represent a spatial embodiment of everything the company stands for "The clients wanted the subject of their work, DNA, to be the starting point for the design concept," elaborate the architects. In response to the design brief, the architects decided to deconstruct the space. As per the program, lab rooms, executive areas, open work areas, brainstorming areas, cafeteria, and meeting rooms were accommodated into these smaller blocks of space. Speaking of the aesthetic approach, the architects mention, "The overall concept was to create a bright, cheerful and 'organic, natural feel' to the entire space."

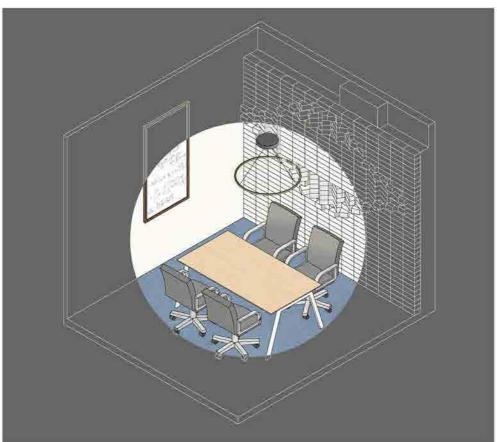


At a glance, the office is cheerful and bright, generously interspersed with patches of greenery. The cafeteria, in fact, is reminiscent of a garden, expressed unusually. The open-plan space creates a visual connection across the office, encouraging communication and collaboration between employees owing to its flexibility. This perhaps is the company's way of adapting to new-age work cultures that millennials and post-millennials - who will soon make up a large portion of the workforce - patronize and prefer. Not only is the office space inspiring and invigorating for its employees, but it also promises an engaging experience for industry partners and visiting users.











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Indian Architect & Builder - February 2020



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† The architects go far beyond just the creation of an office space that checks all the aesthetic boxes in terms of office space design. By using the brick as a metaphoric equivalent of the DNA strand, the design becomes personal, relevant, and engaging.



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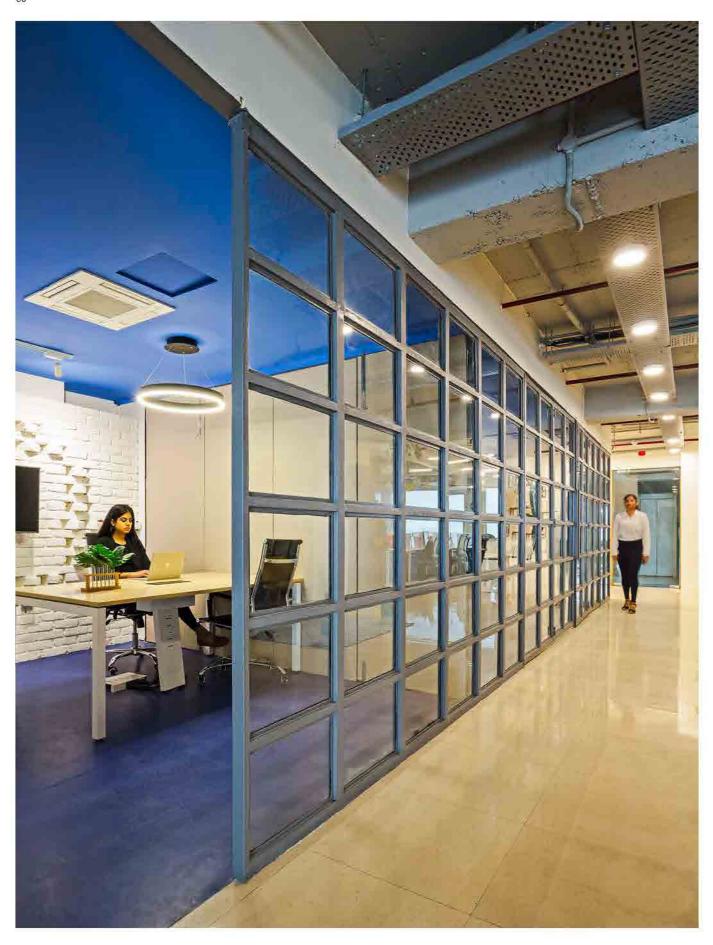


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† The brilliant design concept highlights the attention to detail and the willingness to explore possibilities that are not only unique but also contextual.





The bricks becomes an integral part of the employee's life - not only as a productive place to conduct business, but also as a constant reminder of what makes the company, and its employees, unique.

Considering this background, the office design might appear like any other, inviting social participation, fostering collaborative spirit, and enhancing productivity. However, there are nuances that make it special. Highlighting this, the architects mention, "We conceived of using the basic building block of construction, a brick, as a metaphor for the building blocks of life. We clad the existing columns in rotating circles of brick, to resemble the helical nature of a strand of DNA. The yellow boxes left inside are functional, they are used to store sales brochures. In the conference room, we laid bricks in various ways to resemble the waves of DNA strands." In essence, the architects took an integral part of the company's identity and used it to forge the imagery of the office. These brick helixes make a strong statement in the background, overlooking the employees' seating areas. They foster a strong sense of identity, and of belonging, creating an emotional bond between the employee and the workplace, as well as the company.

Explaining how the design incorporates the rest of the program, the architects say, "The labs and the main workspace are separated by a storage wall with windows. These custom-made storages are made like interlocking cells coming together to form a wall. The long

windows in each lab, allow some visual connectivity between the main office and private labs, and make the space more inclusive." The brilliant design concept highlights the attention to detail and the willingness to explore possibilities that are not only unique but also contextual. The architects go far beyond just the creation of an office space that checks all the aesthetic boxes in terms of office space design. By using the brick as a metaphoric equivalent of the DNA strand, the design becomes personal, relevant, and engaging. It becomes an integral part of the employee's life - not only as a productive place to conduct business, but also as a constant reminder of what makes the company, and its employees, unique.

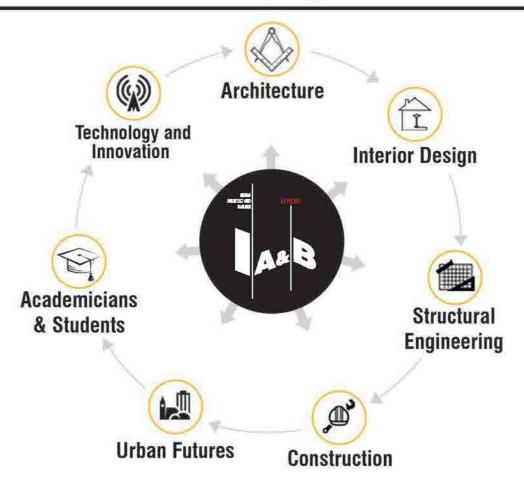
FACT FILE

Project name	- 1	Brick Helix
Architect's Firm	o.	Studio Bipolar
Lead Architects	- 1	Sanjana Mathur, Ujjwal Sagar, Sehaj Brar
Project location		New Delhi, India
Completion Year	0	2018
Gross Built Area	- 3	4500 square feet
Photo credits	- 4	Suryan//Dang



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cso much for organizing the very interesting and insightful conference. I know that e will keep in touch in the future and it has created a network of professionals that is













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