

A&B

#### ARCHITECTURE

Brick-by-Brick  
Sustainable Office Spaces  
Where nature meets craftsmanship

#### IN CONVERSATION

An explorer's guide to architecture

#### INTERIORS

Blurry boundaries and stark white canvasses





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FAUCETS | SHOWERS | FLUSHING SYSTEMS | PRESSURE SOLUTIONS | SENSORS | BATH DECOR

## CMC Hosts IIID Architects at its 9th Avenue Gallery in Silvassa



India's leading marble company - **Classic Marble Company (CMC)** recently hosted the largest congregation of architects from the Institute of Indian Interior Designers (IIID) from Jaipur and Bangalore at its 9th Avenue Gallery in Silvassa. Over 50 architects participated in the two-day event where they were given a tour of the Gallery personally by the Managing Director of CMC – Mr Amit Shah. The 9th Avenue Gallery is home to some of the most exclusive, ostentatious collections of the rarest and most exquisite natural stones found on Earth. The architects were also given a tour of the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing plant and were familiarized with CMC's signature 'Process 360'.

The event was organized as part of CMC's initiative to reach out to architects and interior designers from across the country and acquaint them with the finer nuances that go into the making of the world's classiest marble and other exotic stones.

"We are thrilled to have hosted such a large gathering of architects from the Institute

of Indian Interior Designers. It was a great experience for us and we got to learn a lot from the fraternity. Our intent was to bring together the like-minded people who conceptualize and design; and to offer them a first-hand experience of the material that they work across projects. CMC has been at the forefront of creating world-class products that give our architects the edge and aspire to continue bettering efforts in this direction. With the kind of positive response we have received so far, we will host more such events for architects in the near future," says Mr Amit Shah, Managing Director, CMC.

Some of the prominent architects who were part of the event included Ar. Sheetal Agrawal, Chairman, IIID Jaipur; Ar. Ashish Kala, Secretary, IIID Jaipur; Ms Kavita S Sastry, Chairperson, IIID Bangalore and Mr Vishwanath Venkat Rao, Hon. Secretary, IIID Bangalore. ■

## Godrej Interio sees growing trend in purchase of premium furniture and aims to clock nearly 40% yearly sales this festive season

*~ Launches bouquet of exciting customer offers targeted at customers to celebrate the commencement of festivities across India ~*

*~Observes rise in sales by 20% over last year~*

As India sets to embrace the festivities, Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, announced that its business Godrej Interio, India's leading furniture solutions brand, is aiming to clock 40% of its annual sales this festive season. Godrej Interio has also strengthened its omnichannel presence to enhance accessibility for its customers having increased delivery points from 2000 to 5000 pincodes across India.

By increasing its delivery points to over 100 cities currently, Godrej Interio is targeting to double the revenue through its e-commerce sales this festive season. Between April – September 2022, Godrej Interio has already added 45 stores throughout India in Tier 1, 2 and 3 towns to ensure greater accessibility to customers across a broader geography. To enhance the overall furniture buying experience, Godrej Interio is harnessing digital tools and technologies to create more captivating experiences for its customers.

Subodh Mehta, Senior Vice President (B2C), Godrej Interio said "As India is set to embrace the festivities, we are approaching the festive

season through a combination of innovative product launches, marketing campaigns, and fabulous offers. Our wide network also allows us to be accessible to customers across the country. Festive sales often account for 35-40% of our annual sales. This year, there are positive indications in Q2 along with the restrictions completely lifted and consumer sentiments on a high around festive celebration and shopping, we expect a 15-20% increase in demand over last year. There is an uplift in demand across our categories like home furniture, storage, kitchens, and mattresses and there are new product launches in the pipeline. ■

***For further details, please contact:***

*Elizabeth Bocarro*

*ebocarro@godrej.com*

INDIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER

CHAIRMAN

Maulik Jasubhai Shah

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Hemant K. Shetty

BRAND MANAGER

Sudhanshu Nagar

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PUBLISHED BY:



4 Industry News

ARCHITECTURE

10 BRICK-BY-BRICK

Studio Ardete

Nestled in a thriving industrial town of Mohali, 'Brick by Brick' is an endeavor to bring artwork and poetry together literally pieced brick by brick.

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Breaking the boundaries between the employees, favoring shared workspaces rather than segregated offices for better communication, culture and trust.

26 Where nature meets craftsmanship

Located alongside lake Chhatrasagar in Rajasthan's Pali district, RAAS Chhatrasagar by Studio Lotus offers guests a wildlife camping experience that reinterprets the historical and weaves in the biodiversity of its setting via resilient ways of building.

IN CONVERSATION

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A Founded by Abin Chaudhari, Abin Design Studio is a socially conscious design firm that strives to provide a 'soul in a shell'. Guided by a fierce passion of material and technological experimentation, the firm explores the mechanics of space and form through a socially relevant lens and fosters the spirit of learning to drive community participation.

INTERIORS

46 Blurry boundaries and stark white canvasses

After several renovations over the last few decades, this century-old residential bungalow in Belgaum eventually found its calling as Shreyas Patil's design studio in the heart of the city. The revised layout takes visitors on a calming walk through a landscaped court before entering the rustic and free flowing office interiors.

Cover: © Ar. Akshay Selukar



## HP to enable 2000 digital classrooms across Government Schools in India

*HP Accessible Learning for All (ALFA) initiative to partner with like-minded Corporates/ Corporate Foundations & NGOs*



Continuing its commitment to enhance digital learning opportunities, HP India today announced it would enable up to 2000 digital classrooms under the HP ALFA (Accessible Learning for All) initiative. These digital classrooms will be set up in Government or Government-aided schools across 17 states for the students of classes 9th to 12th. The initiative is aligned with the New Education Policy (NEP) -2020 vision of the Govt of India goals.

HP is inviting corporate foundations and NGOs to participate in this initiative and the last date to submitting their request is October 07, 2022. HP will fund the capital expenditure required to equip each classroom with technology including Multi-function Printers, Webcams, a laptop for teachers, Smart TVs, Android boxes, and an internet dongle for connectivity.

Implementation will be managed by the HP's NGO partner NIIT Foundation with active support from other corporations, corporate

foundations, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as part of their CSR initiatives. HP, through NIIT Foundation as an implementing agency, will deploy cluster coordinators to monitor project implementation and progress across different clusters.

Ketan Patel, Managing Director, HP India said, "We are elated to introduce the HP ALFA program

and are confident it will pave the way toward digital equity for underserved communities. This initiative is a true reflection of HP's global vision to contribute to becoming the world's most sustainable and just technology company. Through this project, we aim to accelerate quality education for young students and inclusive access to skills, knowledge, and technological expertise"

National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT)'s DIKSHA course content and syllabus will be used for the classroom learning program. The project will ensure that these students utilize the digital content and e-learning tools to the maximum and add further value to their learning journey. ■

**For further details, please contact:**

HP Inc.

<https://www.hpindiacs.com/solution/hpalfa>

## Shyam Steel launches its new digital campaign “Apna Ghar” featuring Bhojpuri actors Pawan Singh and Harshika Poonacha



~ Through this campaign Shyam Steel aims to drive across the message that Shyam Steel Apna Ghar App will act as an expert guide for any building construction activities ~



Shyam Steel, one of leading producers and manufacturers of primary TMT Bars, launched its new digital campaign “Apna Ghar” featuring Bhojpuri actors Pawan Singh and Harshika Poonacha. The campaign aims to create awareness about the holistic solutions provided by the Shyam Steel Apna Ghar App amongst the individual home builders. The film will be promoted digitally with a specific focus on the Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and the north-eastern markets.

Shyam Steel Apna Ghar App is a one stop solution from ‘Neev se Pravesh Tak’ which is an

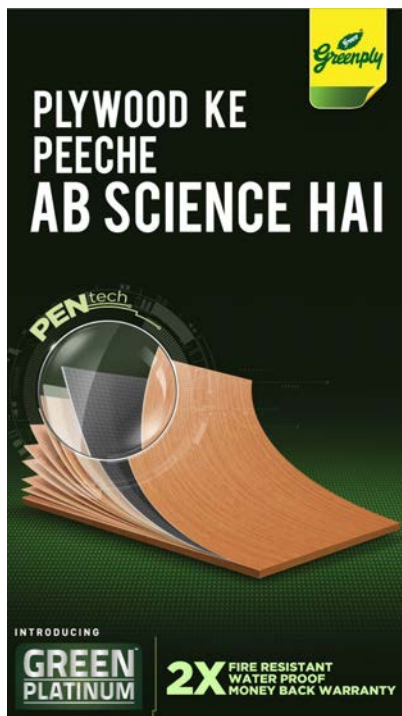
online platform, and a mobile App for consumers providing a holistic solution to individual home builders. This is a breakthrough in steel and manufacturing industry and has acted as a problem solver by entering a digital world which has made life easier for all the home builders. The tagline ‘Neev Se Pravesh Tak’ is self-explanatory when it comes to catering home building needs. The home builders will be provided with relevant information, inspirational ideas and reliable contacts at their fingertips. Through this campaign Shyam Steel has tried to reflect the essence of this App through a happy Indian couple who is planning to build their new home.

Speaking on the campaign launch, Mr Lalit Beriwal, Director, Shyam Steel said “ We have received an extremely positive response from our consumers on the Apna Ghar App. The campaign will help us in making the consumers aware on the Apna Ghar App and its benefits. Shyam Steel has always been in forefront with its consumer driven technology and innovation. The App will aim to address all the concerns of individual home builders and scale-up businesses of the dealers by way of opening newer market geographies. Shyam Steel Apna Ghar app will also be an added advantage for us to actively engage with our target audience and business partners” ■

## Greenply Industries launches its new product “Green Platinum”



*~The CARB certified products also come with 2x fire resistant, waterproof and money back warranty features~*



Greenply Industries Limited, one of India's largest interior infrastructure brands with over 30 years of experience in manufacturing a comprehensive range of plywood, block boards, decorative veneers, flush doors, and other allied products,

today announced the launch of its new product “Green Platinum”. The exquisite product portfolio will fall under Greenply’s E-0 range of products.

Greenply Industries Limited has been at the forefront of driving innovation across its products and processes keeping the consumer health, safety, and well-being in mind. With the accelerated transformation in the interior sector post pandemic, the company introduced its fire-resistant plywood with E-0 compliance “Green Platinum” which is two times as effective in fire-resistant and waterproof properties as compared to other available plywood in its range. The product comes with PEN Tech technology which adds a protective mesh between the layers as well as on the surface of plywood, rendering it two times more fire resistant. The technology helps

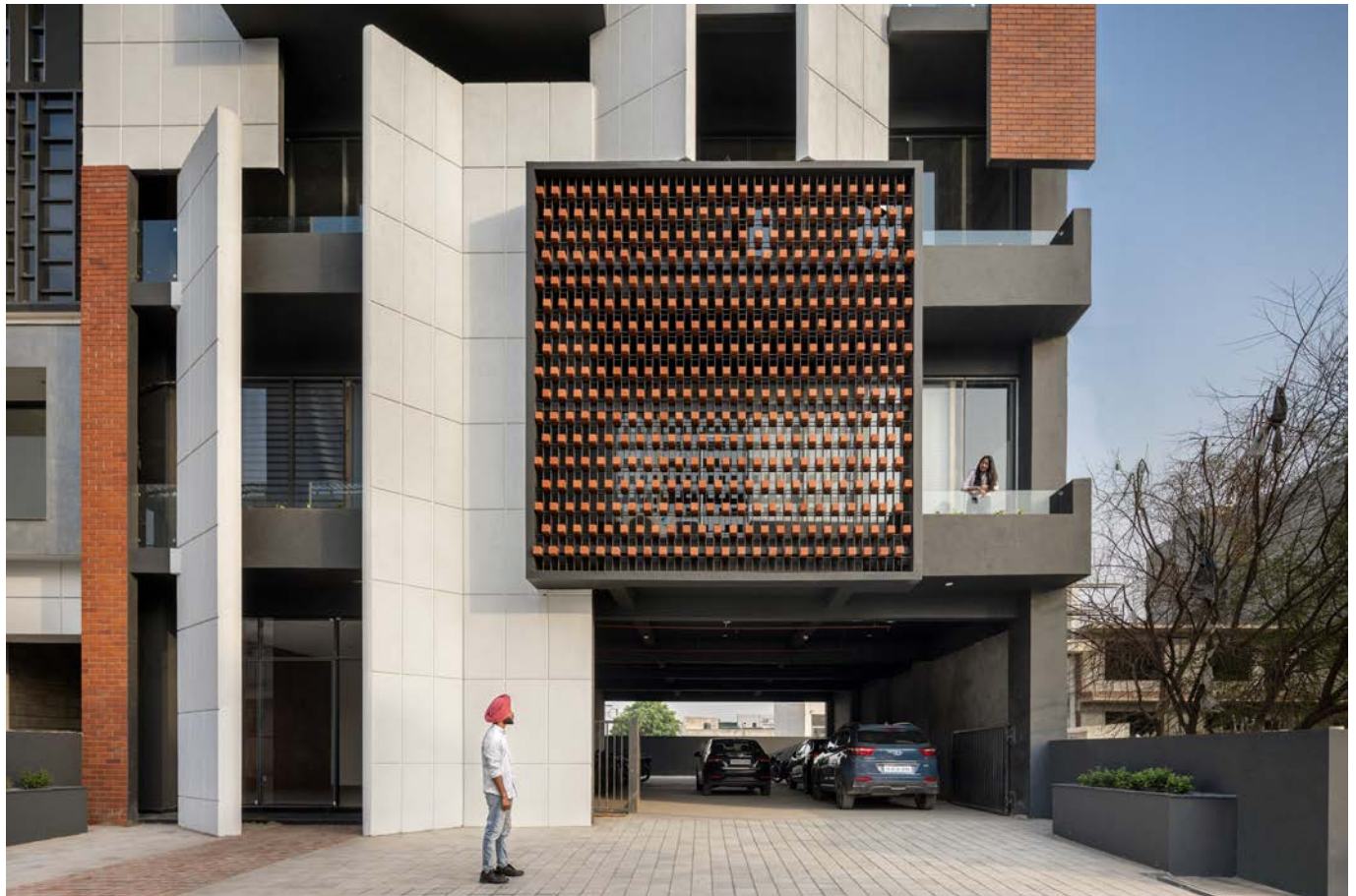
the product to function as a barrier to restrict the rapid spread of fire and helps to emit less smoke. Green Platinum is also enriched with an un-extended BWP resin rendering it two times as boiling waterproof as compared to regular fire-resistant plywood.

### Salient features of Green Platinum

- E-0 compliant
- Fire Resistant & Waterproof
- Un-extended BWP resin
- CARB Certified
- Manufactured through PEN Tech & The 4 Press Technology
- Borer and Fungus Proof, Anti-termite guarantee
- 30 years warranty with 2x money back warranty

Remarking on the launch of the new collection range, Mr. Sanidhya Mittal, Joint Managing Director & CEO, Greenply Industries Ltd said “With innovation and technology at our core, we strive to create products that are made to fit the evolving needs of consumers. Through our extensive research on consumer behaviours, we found that there was a need for a product which combines fire resistant, waterproof and emission proof features, thus we came up with the product Green Platinum with an added feature of money back warranty. Through our continuous R&D process, we will be coming up with more such eco-friendly product which will promote aesthetic living among the consumer base. ■

# "BRICK-BY-BRICK"



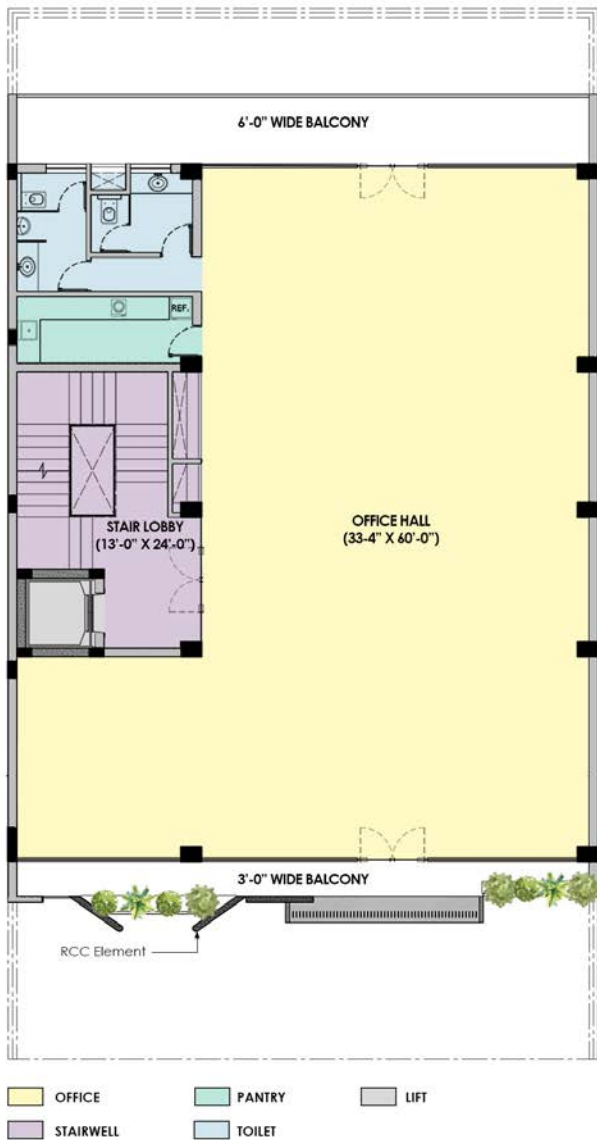
Nestled in a thriving industrial town of Mohali, 'Brick by Brick' is an endeavor to bring artwork and poetry together literally pieced brick by brick! It's an office building primarily purposed for leasing out to different tenants to be used as per their requirement. The interior layout has been left subject to the creativity and functional needs of the user.

The local bye laws mandate set back in front and rear which left little to no scope

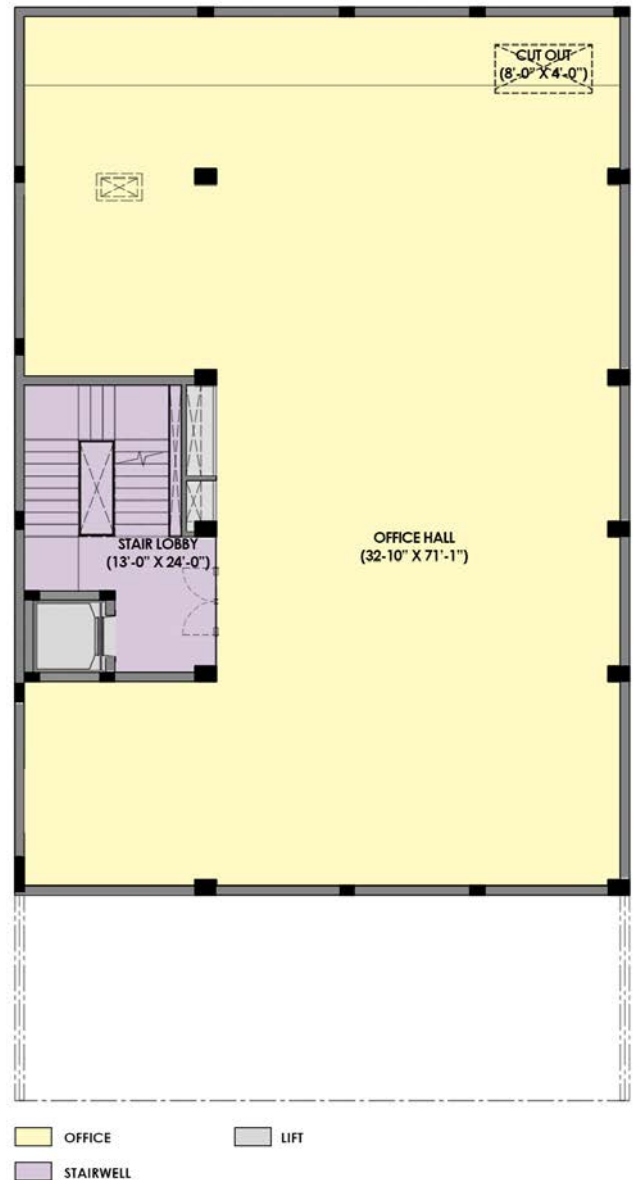
for staggering of peripheral spaces so as to achieve a natural massing. Also, the project requisite demanded full use of floor space on each level to maximize saleable area. Consequently the front bland facade was intended to be treated as an art installation to enhance its visual appeal.

The region experiences subtropical climatic conditions with dust that is frequented due to construction work that happens locally. Owing to the above mentioned facts, it was

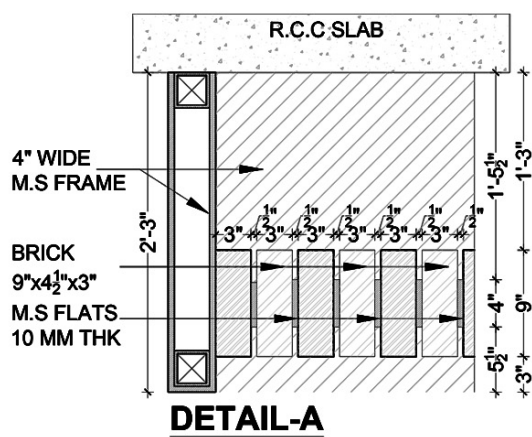




ALL FLOOR PLANS

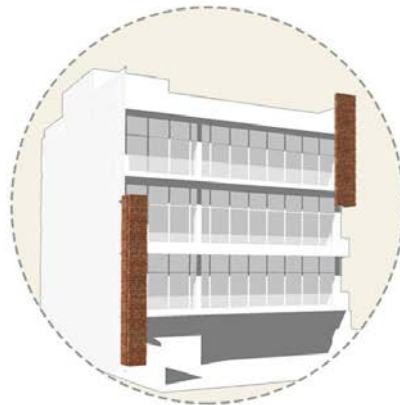


BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN





BUILDING WITH GLAZING



ELEMENT WITH EXPOSED BRICK



RCC ELEMENT

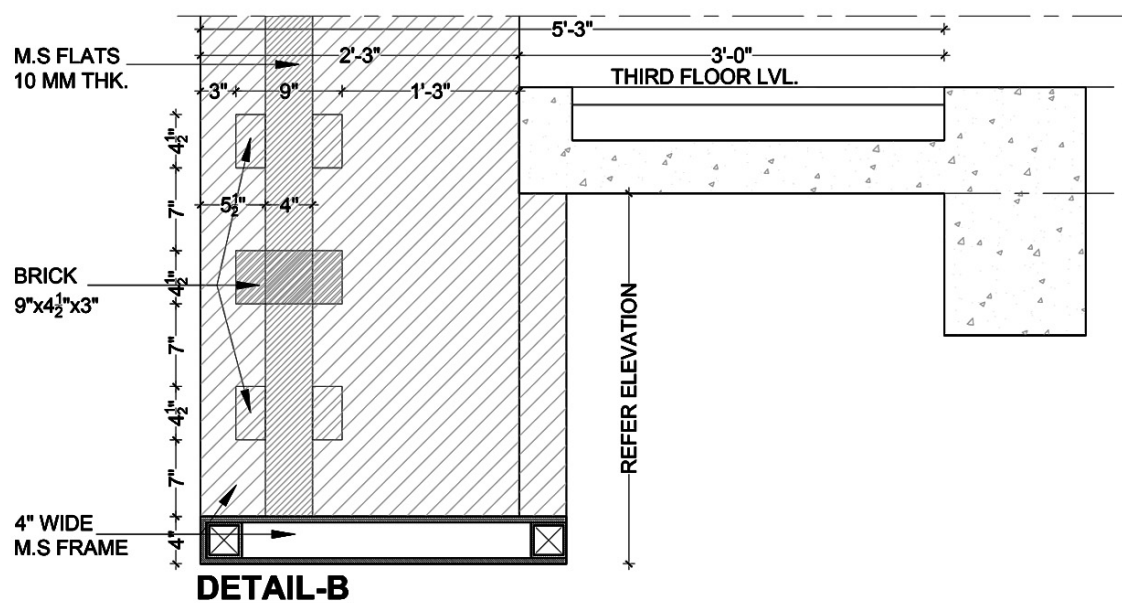


BRICK JAALI



INTEGRATION OF ALL ELEMENTS

## Axonometric Views



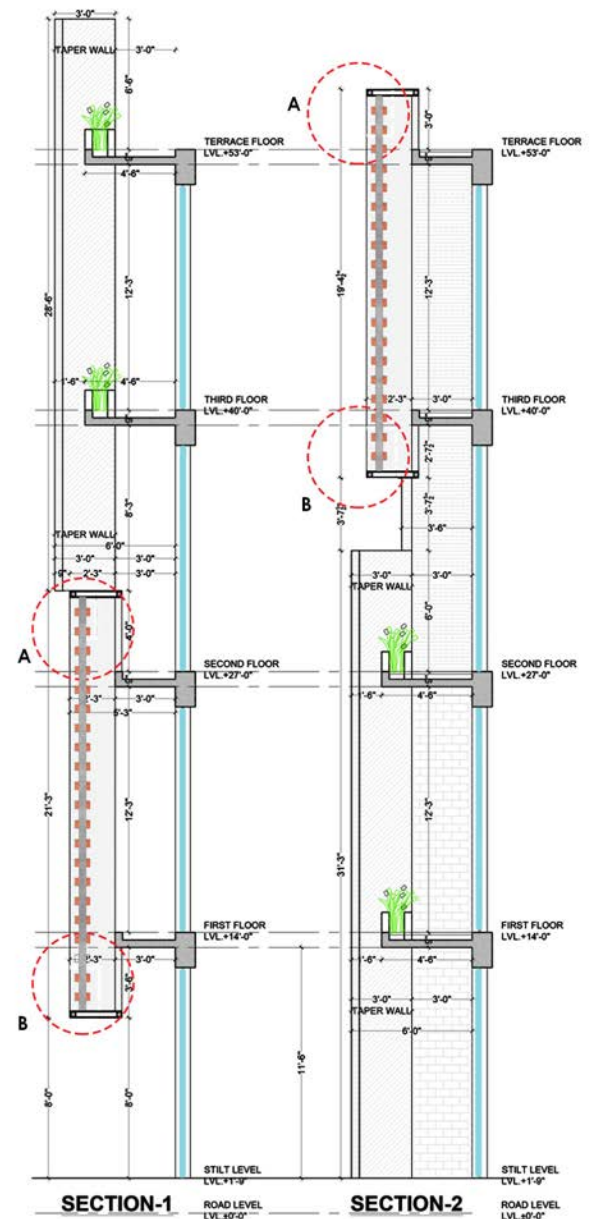


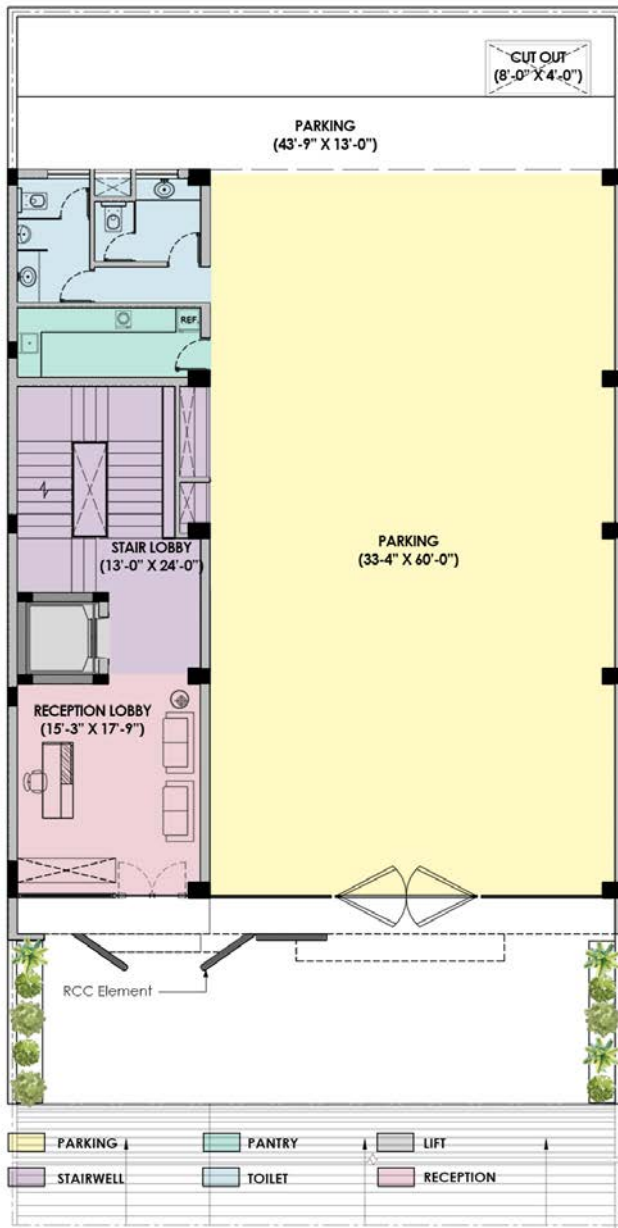
Elevation - Brick by Brick

imperative to put non permeable yet visually accessible partitions inside fenestrations; hence the glazed front facade. The sliding doors take care of natural lighting while keeping the dust from coming in.

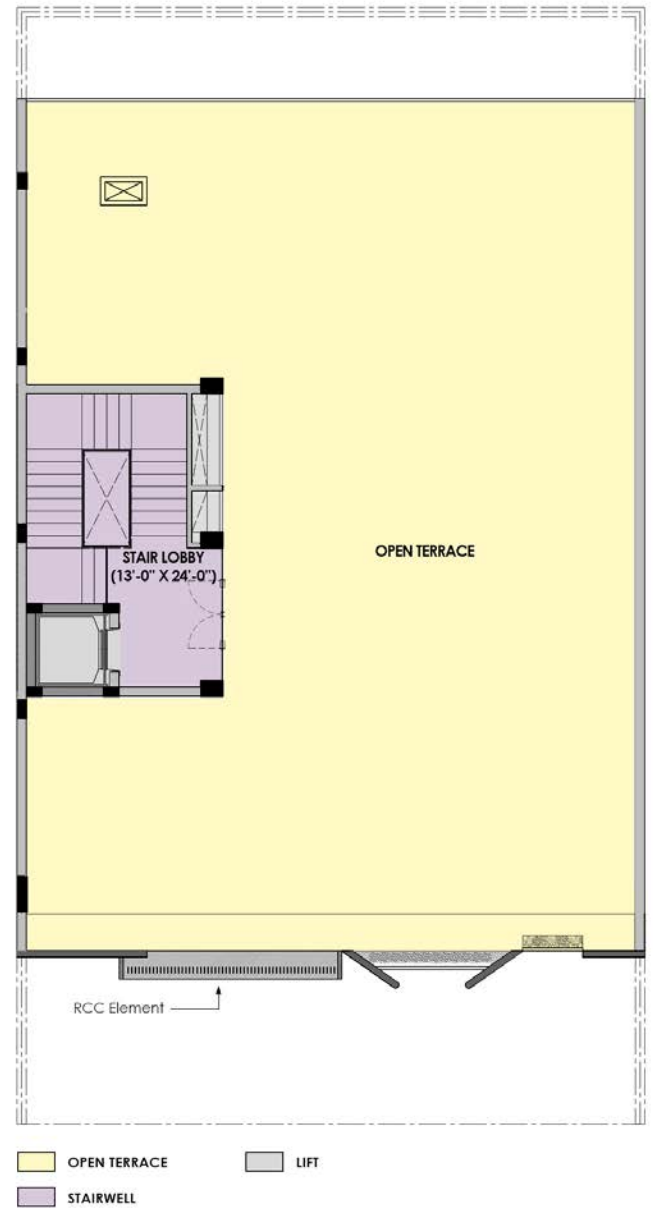
The composite nature of the weather conditions of the region make the sun

unbearable during summer. This made it prudent to block the western harsh sun's radiations in a manner that could also contribute to enhancing the facade. The vertical fins and brick jaali on the front together with planters on the parapet wall, help moderate the microclimate to some extent and keep the sun out.





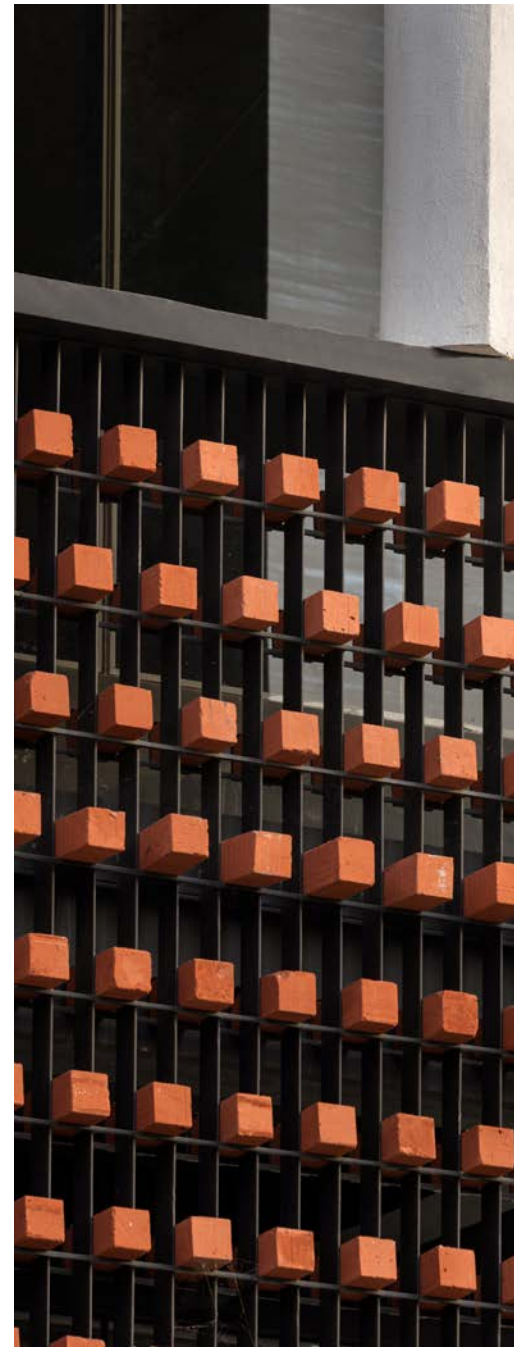
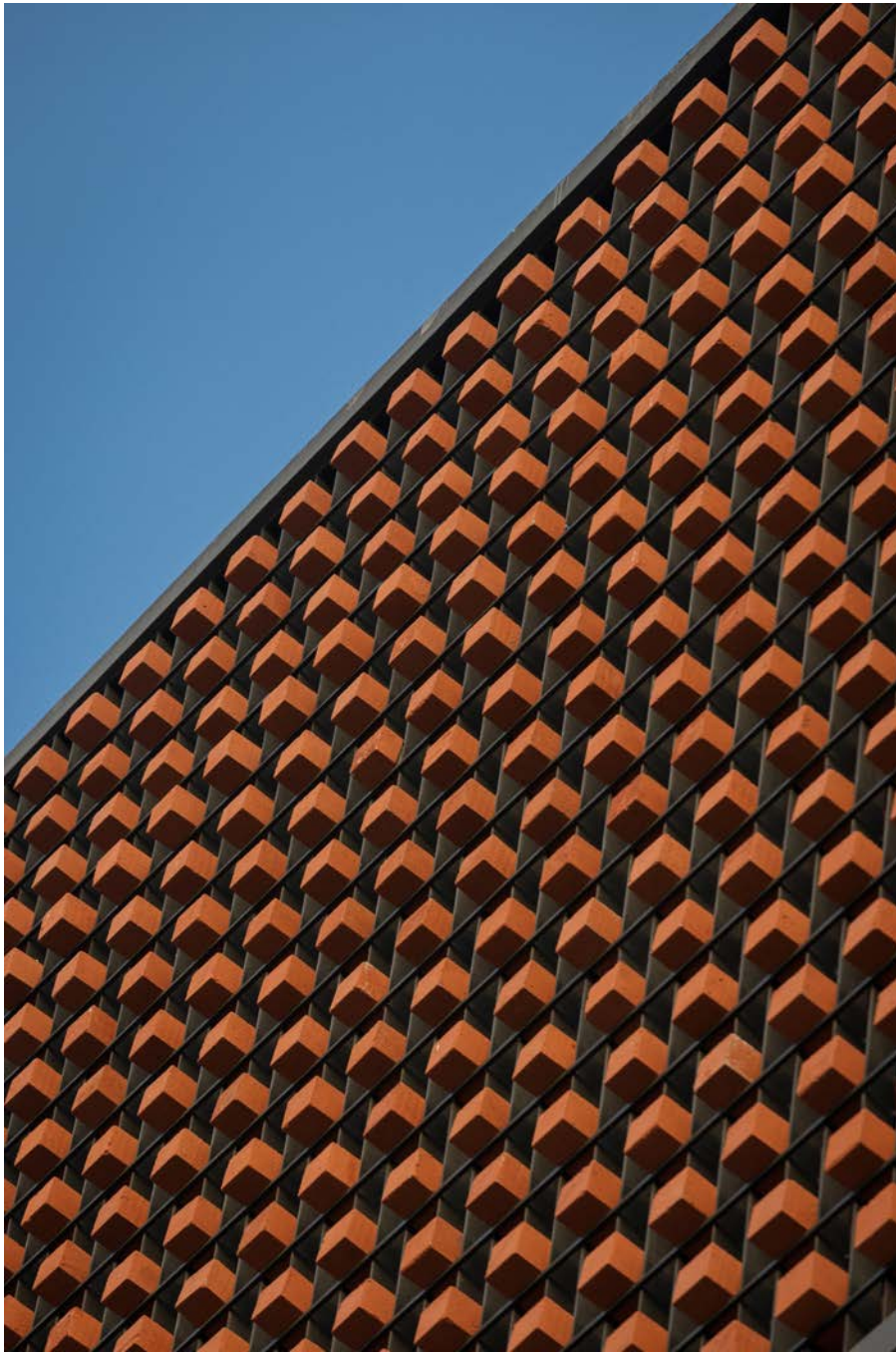
**STILT FLOOR PLAN**



**TERRACE FLOOR PLAN**

The brick jaali intended to infuse into the look of the building, a traditional Indian character, has gone on to stand out as quite a modern element. The vertical metal fins become seats for hanging bricks as screens. Where regular brick masonry with punctures and protrusions could have made for a decent jaali that served its purpose

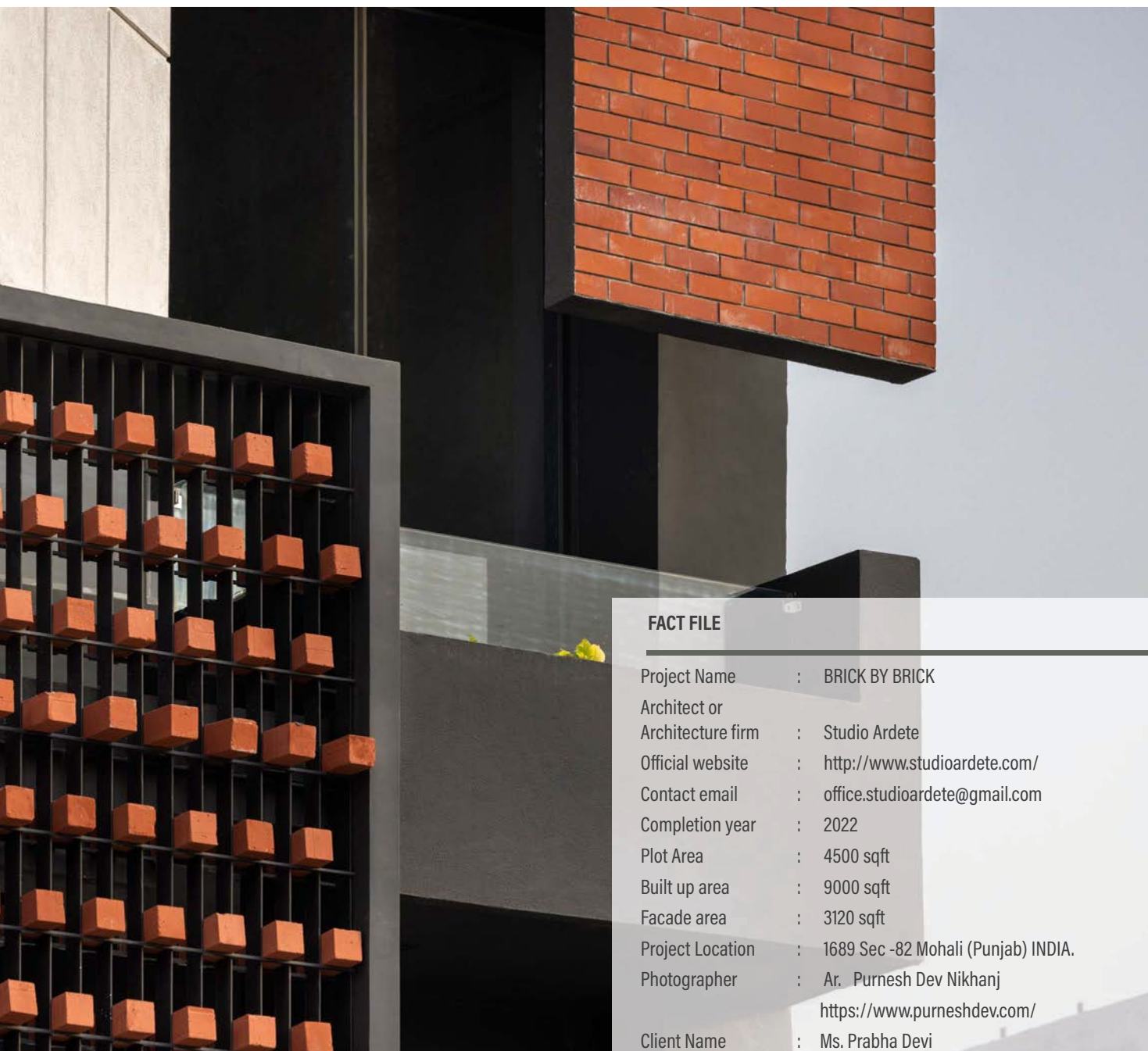
well, we intentionally went on to propose a screen that projected out from the building line to make way for a clear three feet wide space for balconies that could be used as spill out spaces for the offices on each level, and which also did not eat up carpet area.



The dimensional and positional characteristics of the angular elements is divided to enhance the verticality of the building. Angles impart a dance of light and shadows that can be seen throughout the day. The entrance itself is accentuated with the vertical alignment of the fins. The sheer width of them also acts as a double wall which protects parts of the built envelope from heat gain. The entire facade is sliced

into vertical segments that have punctures in the elevation which become lookout balconies free from any form of visual obstruction.

There is a strong play of colors that can be observed in the stark contrast between the white and gray of the wall finishes with a sprinkle of brick red to add drama. The black of metal pours rigid strength and yet adds interest to the mundane facade.



#### FACT FILE

Project Name	: BRICK BY BRICK
Architect or Architecture firm	: Studio Ardete
Official website	: <a href="http://www.studioardete.com/">http://www.studioardete.com/</a>
Contact email	: <a href="mailto:office.studioardete@gmail.com">office.studioardete@gmail.com</a>
Completion year	: 2022
Plot Area	: 4500 sqft
Built up area	: 9000 sqft
Facade area	: 3120 sqft
Project Location	: 1689 Sec -82 Mohali (Punjab) INDIA.
Photographer	: Ar. Purnesh Dev Nikhanj <a href="https://www.purneshdev.com/">https://www.purneshdev.com/</a>
Client Name	: Ms. Prabha Devi
Design Team	: Badrinath Kaleru, Prerna Kaleru, Sanchit Dhiman, Abhimanue Sharma, Rahul Ghosh

#### Consultants

Project Management	: R.S Builders
Façade Consultant	: Er. Ravijeet Singh (R.S. Builders)
Structural consultant For Building	: Nagi & Associates (Jagmohan Singh Nagi)
Structural consultant For Façade	: Continental Foundation (Mr.Vikas Bhardwaj).

#### Material used

Steel	: TATA
Concrete	: Ultra tech
Paints	: Asian Paints
Glass	: Saint Gobain

The immediate environs of the building is witnessing quite an expeditious development with several buildings popping up nearby. It was a challenge to design something that makes a promise of being remembered. ■

# Sustainable Office Spaces

Architect Akshay Selukar, Bhopal  
Text and Images- Ar. Akshay Selukar



Breaking stereotype with an open office layout.

The office has an open layout which emphasizes proper work environment breaking the boundaries between the employees, favoring shared workspaces rather than segregated offices for better communication, culture and trust.

Designing being a field where exchange of knowledge is a major factor, an attempt has been made to highlight the significance of chaupal as a public place for civil society in India. The chaupal not only helps to add

an informal sitting area in a formalized professional space but also serves the purpose of adding an aesthetic feel to the entire area with the help of a natural tree spreading its beautiful shadow on the exposed concrete finished ceiling.

For blurring the boundaries between inside and outside, huge glass partitions have been used to allow ample amount of natural light to enter making the space not only lively but sustainable too. When talking of



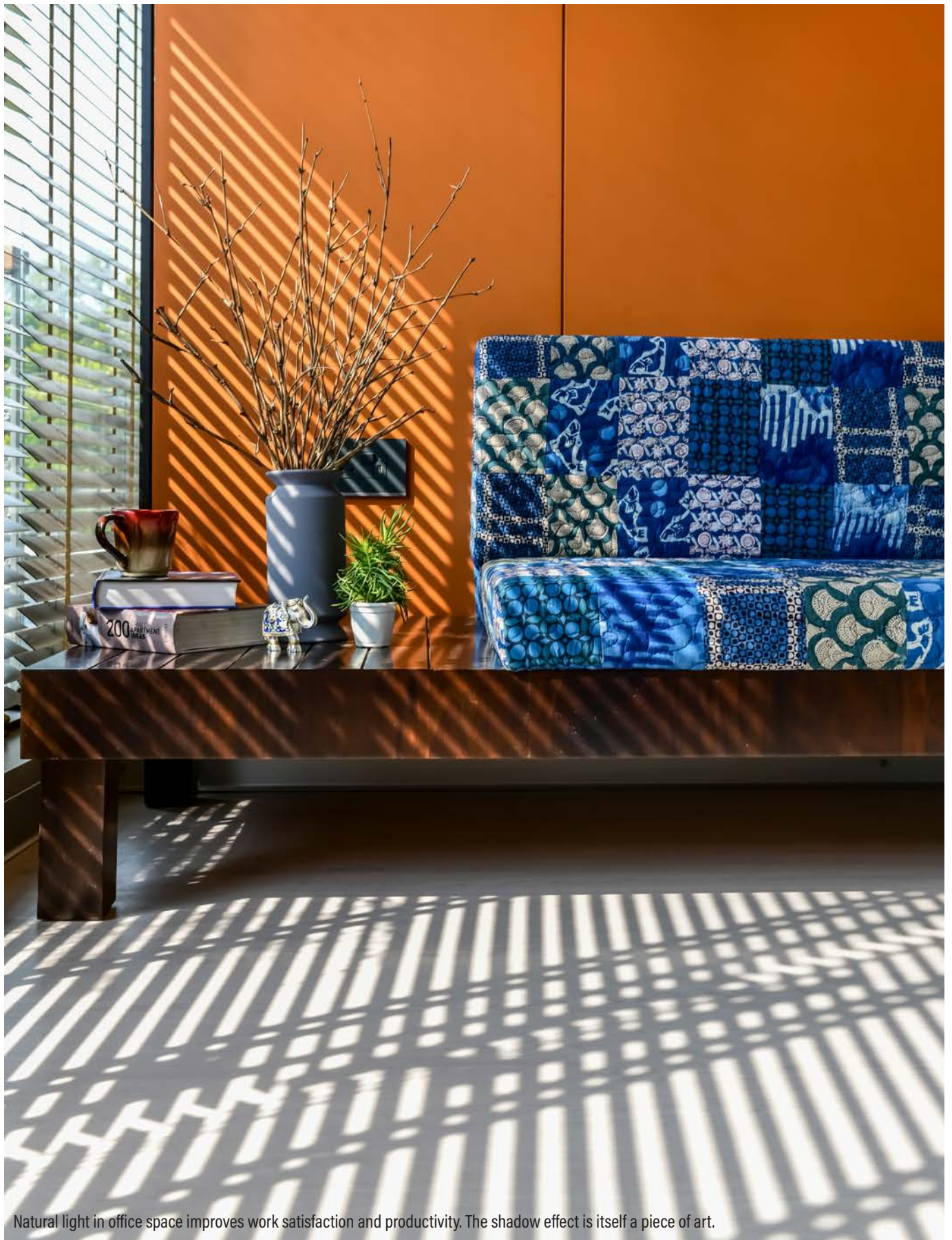


Chaupal as socializing space.

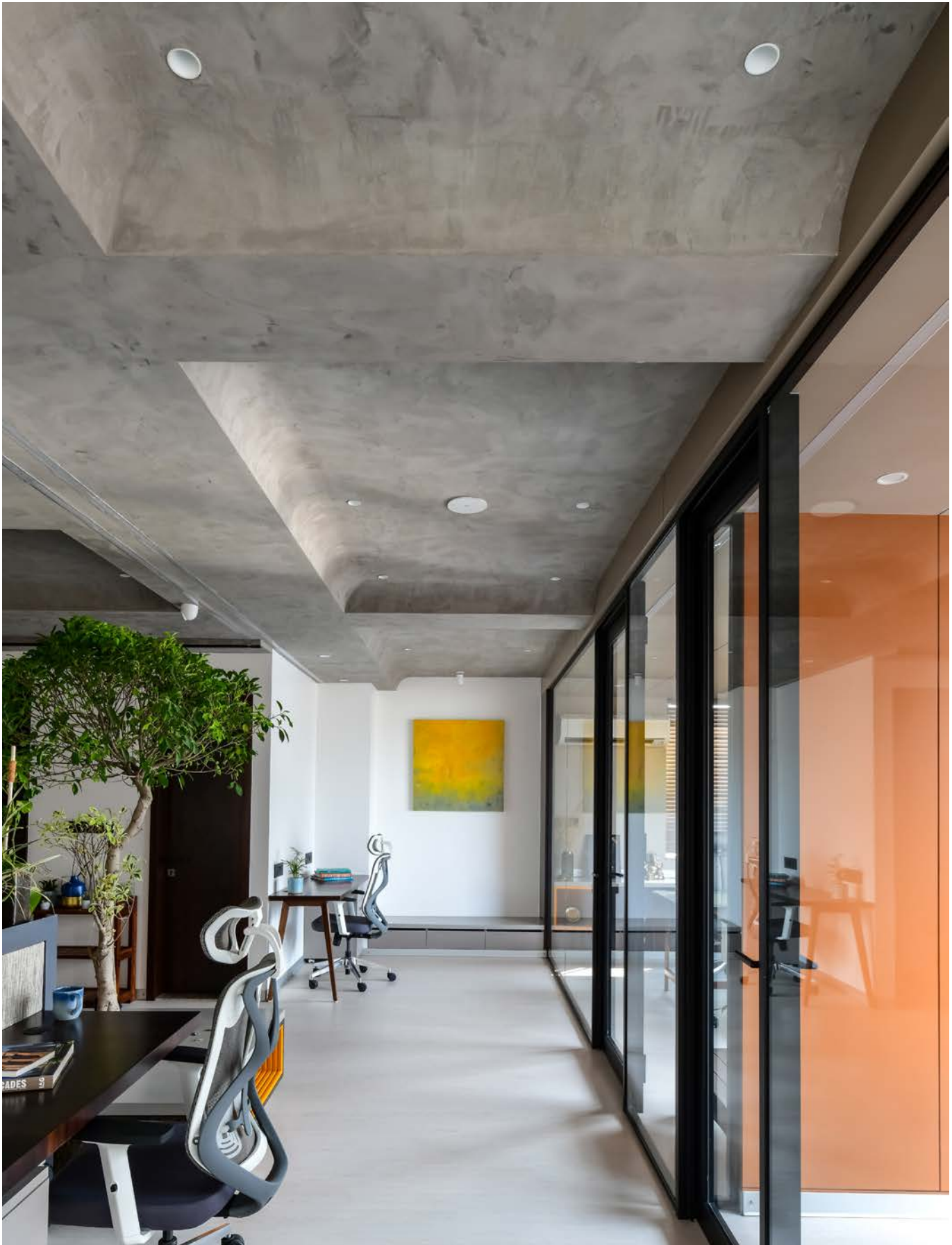


Thumb print pattern engraved door.





Natural light in office space improves work satisfaction and productivity. The shadow effect is itself a piece of art.







sustainability, a lot of green elements and plants have been added to invite nature inside the office which helps in refreshing the creative minds to come up with better ideas and to provide healthy, natural, well ventilated environment. The employees when constantly gazing into screens could get a break just by looking to the greenery and could give rest to their eyes too.

Washrooms being the most ignored elements in offices have been treated very differently when it comes to an office where ideas could strike even while sitting in the loo and hence being named the thinking room. With yellow tiles and grey walls giving contrast as a statement and adding colorful

art pieces made by the team itself to add vibrancy to such a confined area.

“God lies in the details” could be clearly justified in this office with each wall being decorated with paintings made by the architect himself using bright colors on plane white walls, placement of lights, each drawer knob and switches also being specifically chosen to give the space a personal touch. ■

#### FACT FILE

Principal Architect	: Ar. Akshay Selukar
Architect's Firm	: Architect Akshay Selukar
Project location	: Bhopal, India
Total Built-up Area	: 1200 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2021

# Where nature meets craftsmanship

RAAS Chhatrasagar by Studio Lotus is a 16-key resort located alongside lake Chhatrasagar in Rajasthan's Pali district that offers guest a wildlife camping experience which reinterprets the historical and weaves in the biodiversity of its setting with resilient ways of building.

*Text: Studio Lotus*

*Edited by: Sailee Bhandarkar-Correa*

*Images: Noughts & Crosses LLP, Andre J. Fanthome | Avesh Gaur*

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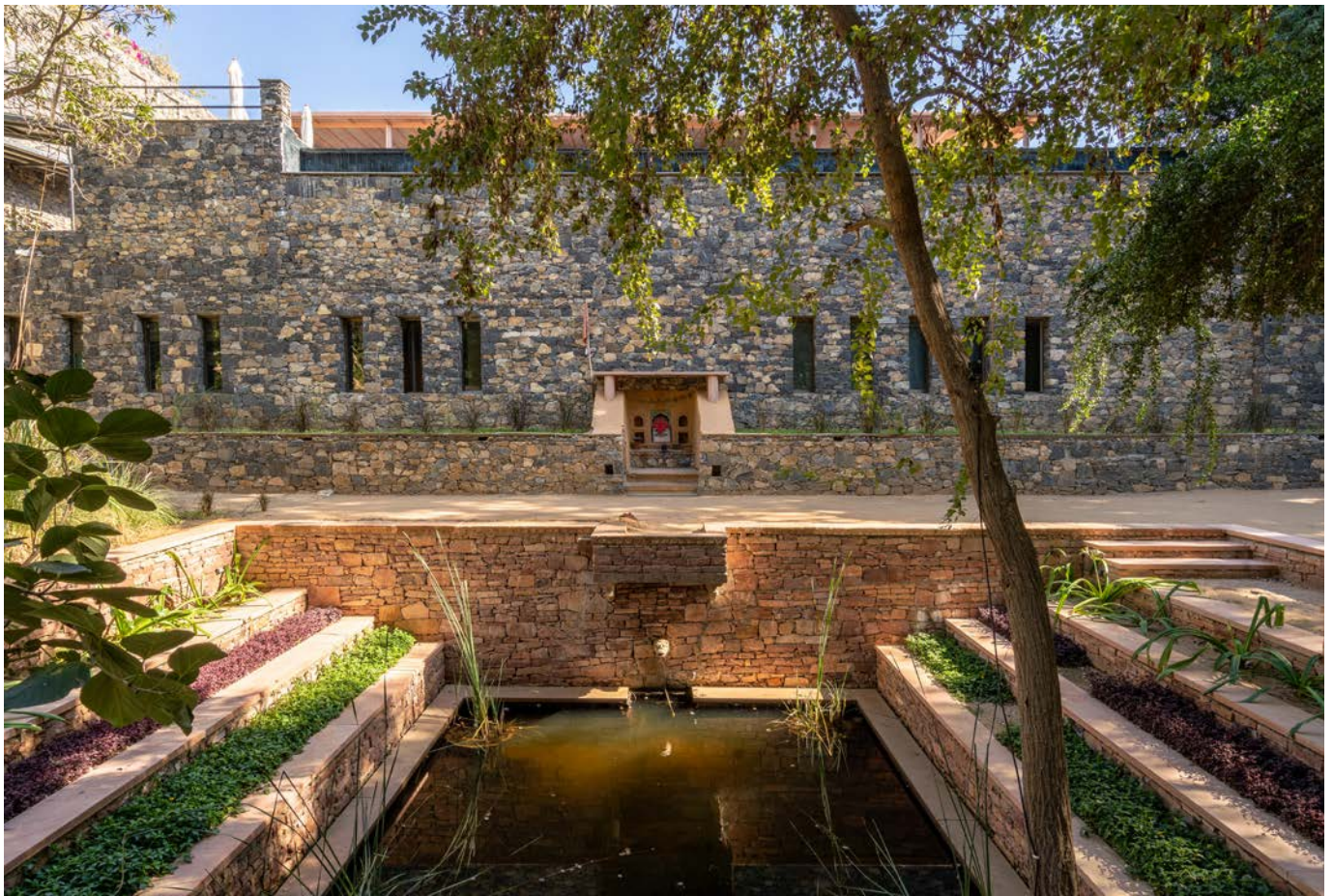
Every piece of furniture crafted for the resort tells a story.

**P**erched atop a 150-year-old check dam near the town of Nimaj, in Rajasthan's Pali district, RAAS Chhatrasagar is a 16-key boutique resort that lies tucked amidst 800 acres of pristine forestland. The hotel reinvents an earlier property that used to operate out of seasonal tents and provided

guests with a year-round opportunity to observe the region's abundant biodiversity. The original tourist camp at Chhatrasagar, run by the noble's grandsons, comprised an 11-key tented accommodation that was operational from October to March and dismantled during the harsh summer



Bespoke teakwood furniture by Mangrove Collective adds to the immersive design experience of the guestrooms.



A stone kund lies at the heart of the resort and is flanked by stepped landscaping.

months, only to be re-assembled again at the onset of autumn. While the canvas tents were charming in their simplicity, they offered dismal insulation and lacked visual and acoustic privacy, which made for a tough business model to sustain. With this background, RAAS Hotels, a local, highly successful boutique hotel company with a history of turning around difficult projects, was brought on board to chalk out a comprehensive blueprint that would improve and enhance the guest experience, while retaining the essence of what the guests loved about the property.

The design brief called for developing a perennial property resilient to the harsh summers and cold winters of the region. In addition, there was a need to increase the existing capacity to sixteen tented units and augment the public spaces with a richer amenity mix. Of paramount concern was the site's sensitive ecological context, which made it imperative that all additions be erected on minimal environmental footprint. To establish an intimate connection with the outdoors while being mindful of the surroundings, the design team conceptualized a system of low-impact foundations and lightweight



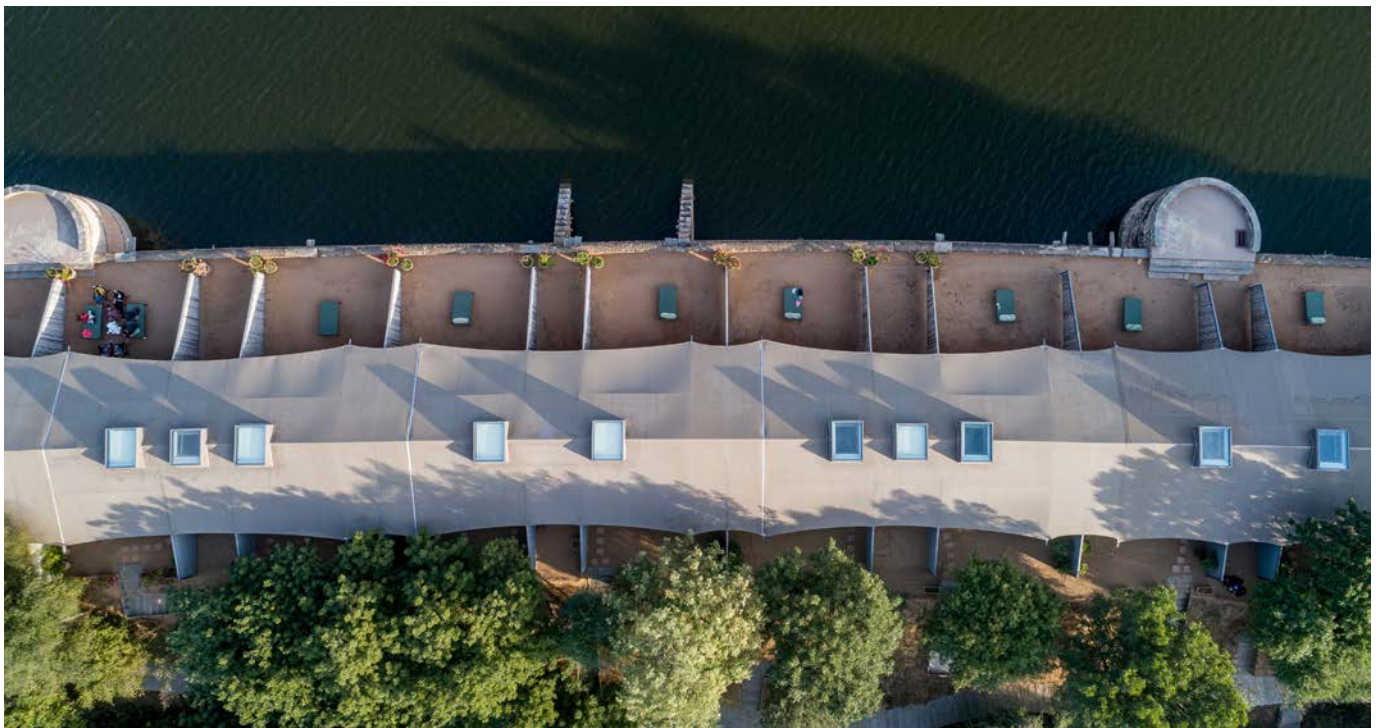
The sit-out for the central courtyard alongside lake Chhatrasagar.



The waterfront forms a key element of the resort's experiences.



All guestrooms overlook the Chhatrasagar lake.



Each guestroom comes with sweeping views of the environs and welcomes ample natural light through its sit-outs and skylights.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022



Custom-printed fabrics line the walls of the guestrooms and form an extension of the surrounding landscapes.

superstructures for the project. Keeping in mind environmental concerns, the team set out to construct almost entirely without cement, employing a dry construction methodology and using lime as a binder wherever minimal wet work was required.

Known as a perennial rainwater lake today, Chhatrasagar was engineered by Rajput noble Thakur Chhatra Singh in the late 1890s by creating an embankment across a tributary to the rain-fed Luni with the intent of providing farmers continuous water supply for irrigation. Replenished by monsoon showers, the reservoir soon transformed the nearby scrubland into

a lush arable tract. Over the years, the property mushroomed into a vast stretch of forest, attracting wildlife and native avifauna, including migratory species. Most farming activities were suspended nearly a couple of decades ago when the owners decided to re-wild the landscape, reserving a small parcel of land for organic farming.

The design team sought to reveal the site in layers, weaving in the experience of discovery with an element of surprise. This was achieved by working in harmony with the context and tying numerous touchpoints to establish meaningful and immersive connections. While vehicles would earlier

All building services have been concealed within the built form which allows for a seamless, sanctuary-like experience of the meticulously crafted interior design.

NOVEMBER 2021





The material palette has been carefully selected to withstand the elements and blend into the surrounding.

be permitted access right up to the base of the dam, the current facility has guests arrive at a drop-off point further away, in a dense grove of trees which screens all views. As they walk through a shaded path flanked by orchards and thick underbrush, a stone wall and planted slopes of the dam reveal themselves. Oblivious to what's in store next, guests climb up a series of stepped stone plinths before emerging in a courtyard that frames a view of the Chhatrasagar Lake with sweeping vistas of the surrounding wooded landscape. Thus, this small courtyard gets established as the heart of the property, unifying the project's public and private spaces.

The functional program comprises public and private spaces laid out in a linear configuration along the length of the dam. To the north of the central court is the reception-cum-bar and restaurant, abutted by an all-season infinity pool to the west; screened by a small garden is the owners' private residence along its northern edge. The single-storied structure is placed strategically alongside the back-of-house functions to receive a continuous supply of fresh, farm-to-table produce. Bordering the southern periphery of the court is the camp consisting of stilted tented pods that build on the legacy of the erstwhile tents.



The verandah offers al fresco dining.

The site plan lays out the sixteen 'pods' as an arrangement of conjoined suites raised on stilts to preserve the embankment's structural integrity and enable all building services to run elevated off the dam, allowing the rainwater to drain freely into the lake. Stone-clad steps lined by tree-covered sloping greens bring guests to the main deck of the resort from where they access their guestrooms.

The underlying design principle for the camp was to frame the outdoor experiences along both edges of the pods making the sunrises over the lake and sunsets into the forest a transcendental and integral

part of the guest experience. To capitalize on this feature, all pods offer spill-outs for outdoor lounging and seamlessly integrate the diversity of views—from the lake on the east to the farms and forest along the west.

The thermally and acoustically insulated shell of each pod comprises fibre-cement board panels in the walls and a roofing system that are separated by metal screens with bamboo infill, extending towards the edge of the embankment to allow for privacy. The structure is made of a lightweight metal weave that springs off pile foundations made of precast concrete hume pipes with compacted waste rubble.



The swimming pool at RAAS Chhatrasagar.

A continuous tensile fabric canopy stretches over the lightweight partitions spanning the entire length of the structure, providing water proofing and added insulation. This secondary membrane extends beyond the footprint of the pods to create shaded verandahs overlooking the surrounding panorama. Retractable skylights installed within the roof capture the changing kaleidoscope of diurnal and nocturnal variations.

The pods are fabric-lined internally as well, offering both acoustic comfort and serving as a vibrant canvas celebrating the diversity of plant and animal forms from the region, reinforcing sightings that one observes

in the environs. Native babul and neem trees, indigenous birds and animal life find evocative expression through woodblock, screen, and digital prints as well as intricate hand-embroidered fabrics that adorn the resort. The interiors feature a bedroom with an attached study and bespoke, teak furniture. En-suite bathrooms are complemented by walk-in wardrobes that help to demarcate the dry and wet areas. Private, free-standing bathtubs are placed against glazed surfaces to afford views of the lake. Air-conditioning for when the space needs to be closed-off is enabled via floor-mounted AC units, which also serve as hand-crafted wooden consoles.

The Baradari restaurant has been designed using a lightweight metal frame dry mounted with hand-dressed stone infills, the Baradari is a contemporary expression of the Rajputana twelve-pillared pavilion. Housing the restaurant for the new property, the Baradari creates a seamless connection between the two key experiences offered by the site—the panoramic views of the lake, and the serenity of the forest belt. It does so with its naturally-ventilated wraparound verandah extending up to the embankment walls on one side and stepping down onto the deck lining the private, all-season infinity pool on the other. Its softened edges maximize outdoor vistas and quietly nod to the Art Deco sensibilities of the bygone era of the British Raj; when nobles entertained Western dignitaries with sumptuous feasts and hunting expeditions in tented lodges. In addition to the dining pockets, the interior features a buffet counter that doubles up as a bar and serves the swimming pool deck. The construction is a grid of metal columns supporting a double-ring structural system featuring insulated Chhatar stone walls capped by a traditional tukdi (stone slabs installed on a metal framework) roof. The hollow circular columns are composed of L-sections clad in hand-dressed stone with lightweight steel cables running through them as lightweight safety balustrades. Cable trusses maintain the structural integrity of the system by holding the central members in place, allowing for open, column-free spaces. Air conditioning ducts

are concealed within the roofing system, an unobtrusive intervention that further heightens the scale and aesthetic impact of the interiors.

The interiors channel a soft and restrained material palette composed of hand dressed local Chhatar stone to heighten the element of understated luxury. Woodblock printed patterns are translated into stone panels—chiselled by hand to depict the idyllic landscape and biodiversity. Upholstered country-style furniture, fashioned out of locally-sourced Acacia (kikar) wood marks a subtle counterpoint to the pink stone surfaces. The bar counter features elaborate hand carved relief work depicting a flock of flamingos; the overall design expression conjures up images of the surrounding landscape while injecting the space with a series of tactile gestures. ■

FACT FILE

ypology	: Hospitality
Project name	: RAAS Chhatrasagar
Project location	: Chhatrasagar Lake, Nimaj District, Rajasthan, India
Architect's Firm	: Studio Lotus
Design team	: Ambrish Arora, Ayesha Hussain, Deepesh Harbola, Pranvi Jain, Mallika Gupta
Landscape	: Akshay Kaul and Associates
Site Area	: 20,000 Sq. Ft.
Furnishing	: Build Kraft India
Furniture	: Mangrove Collective
Paint & ceiling foiling	: Build Kraft India
Wallpaper	: Nilaya
Environmental graphics	: Flora for Fauna
Year of Completion	: 2019

# An explorer's guide to architecture

Founded by Abin Chaudhari, **Abin Design Studio** is a socially conscious design firm which strives to provide a '*soul in a shell*'. Guided by a fierce passion of material and technological experimentation, the firm explores the mechanics of space and form through a socially relevant lens and fosters the spirit of learning through community participation.

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As proclaimed advocates of the power of design, Abin Design Studio demonstrates how architecture can further expand its sphere of influence beyond defining the visual and material culture of its immediate context.

Through all their projects, the studio works towards marrying design into the urban and peri-urban fabric as a catalyst for deliberate change. Abin's approach focuses on the idea of holistic design that extends beyond ideas and results in physical manifestations through multi-disciplinary collaborations. The firm is constantly working towards pushing the boundaries of thought prevalent in socio-cultural landscapes and spatial constructs by challenging the role



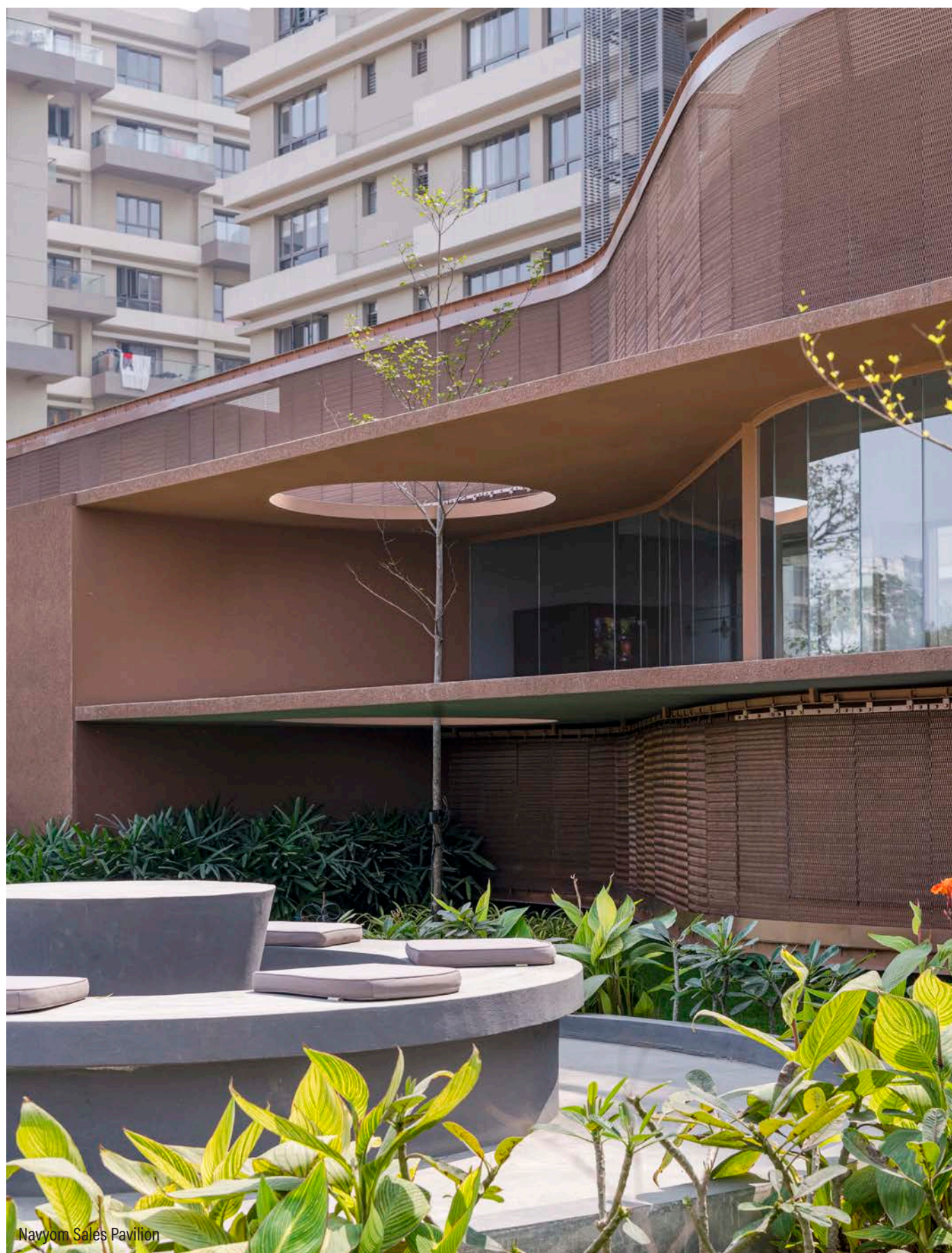
The Gallery House by Abin Design Studio is a community centre in the peri-urban locale of Bansberia, West Bengal, India and is reminiscent of Bengal's 200-year-old burnt brick and terracotta temples.

of architecture in society through bold and unfamiliar explorations. In 2014, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York featured works by Abin Design Studio in a publication and the traveling exhibition titled 'Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities.'

"We are privileged to create, as we are responsible to manifest. This honor is earned through tireless hard work and the responsibility is realized as an emotion inherent to our paths in life. The architectural

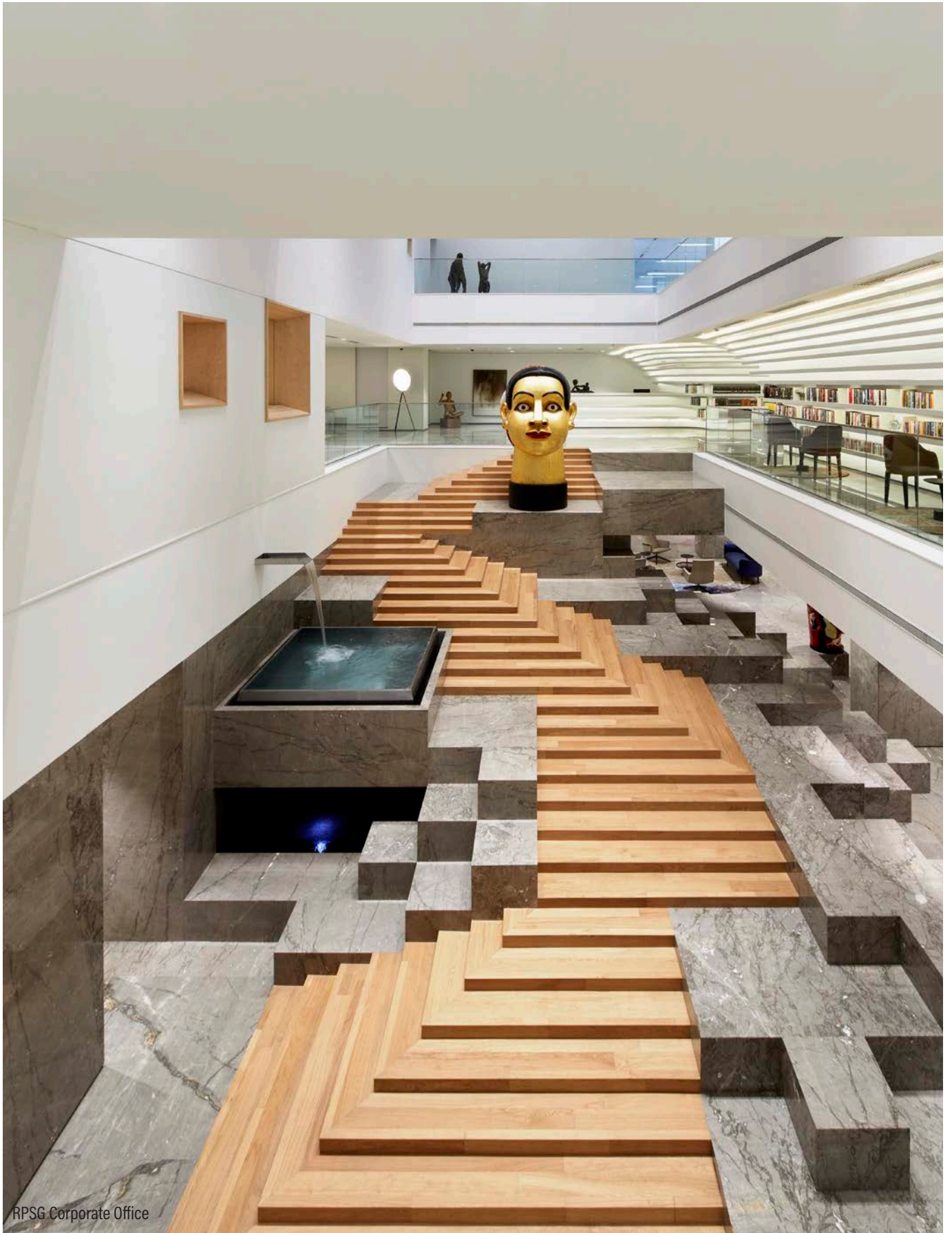
practice has always bridged the complex gap between people's needs versus their aspirations, sometimes falling into a set pattern of beliefs, past learning and known results. To break the stagnant glass ceiling, it is often the new paths taken in our lives, that create a new state of practice, one that is responsive to the changing timeline.

The studio has strived to create confidence in the common man, of the value of good design, through our vocabulary as well as experimentation with materials and



Navyom Sales Pavilion

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022





House of Sweeping Shadows.

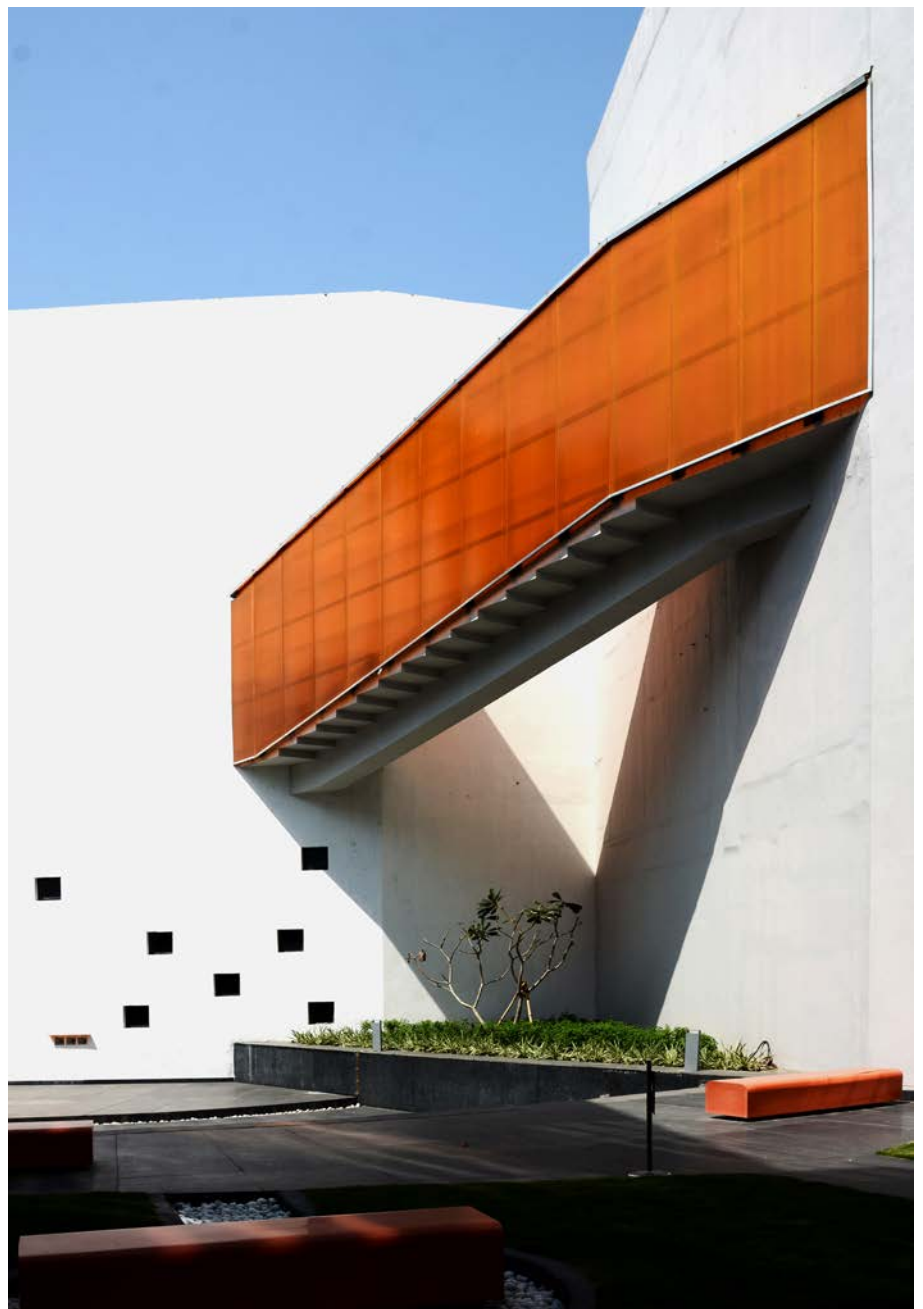


IMI Bhubaneswar.

technology, by going beyond mainstream projects and working in the public realm through installations and pro bono practices. In the course of this journey, we have found ourselves unafraid of unfamiliar explorations with interactions spaces, context and materiality, strengthening our

faith in the ability of design in changing lives.

It is our belief that the respect of the common man may be earned by dissipating the myth that architecture is only for luxury, and proving that it has a long-term responsibility towards socio-cultural



Nazrul Tirtha.

development. Staying relevant through time has much to do with identifying currents in the socio-political landscape and upholding architecture as a science of creation, an artistry of technology and a giant canvas for change. Our paths have, thus, begun as explorations, our work posing

questions, not only to us, as architects, but to us, as a society, the answers to which are our experimentations with design, ideology and the human spirit. Our language of imbining “soul in the shell” endeavours to stay constant, but our vocabulary is ever-evolving.





Unbox Pavilion.

Time and again we have realized that architecture is a collective venture, of the dreams and passions of the client and designers rising hand-in-hand, the skills and enthusiasm of the craftsmen standing at the forefront, hoping to inspire the world around them. The variety in practice, from the expansiveness of high-rises to the minutest details of fixing, have been an exploratory journey for the mind, pushing us to discover further, not just through ideation, but also through physical manifestation, to immortalize the idea.

Our projects not only speak about our efforts, but also the stories of the people working with us, being deeply involved

in the process, through extraordinary sacrifices, the chance to meet future mentors from unusual walks of life, giving manifold guidance to the studio, and the opportunity to continue our exploration through their unflinching support.

The past few years have birthed projects, which remind us that every good work of architecture is in itself a great teacher. Taking inspiration from each such lesson, the studio as a team have poured their passion, dedication and thought-process, reflected into their work." ■

# Blurry boundaries and stark white canvasses

After several renovations over the last few decades, this century-old residential bungalow in Belgaum eventually found its calling as an architect's design studio in the heart of the city. The revised layout takes visitors on a calming walk through a landscaped court before entering the rustic and free flowing office interiors.

*Text: Sailee Bhandarkar-Correa*

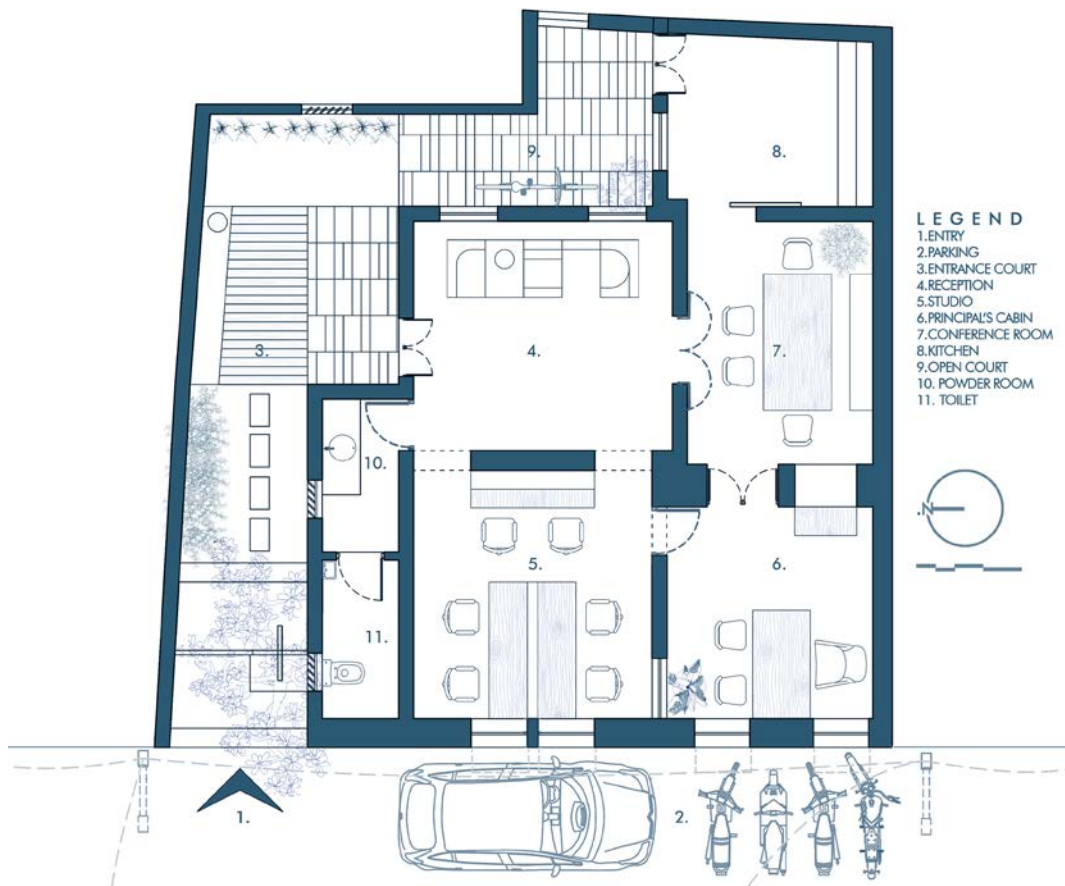
*Images: Atik Bheda*

*Drawings: Shreyas Patil Architects*

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Thin sheets of corten steel are suspended along the western façade using twisted metal cables. Not only do these enhance the street-side elevation but they also protect the teak windows from south-west monsoons.



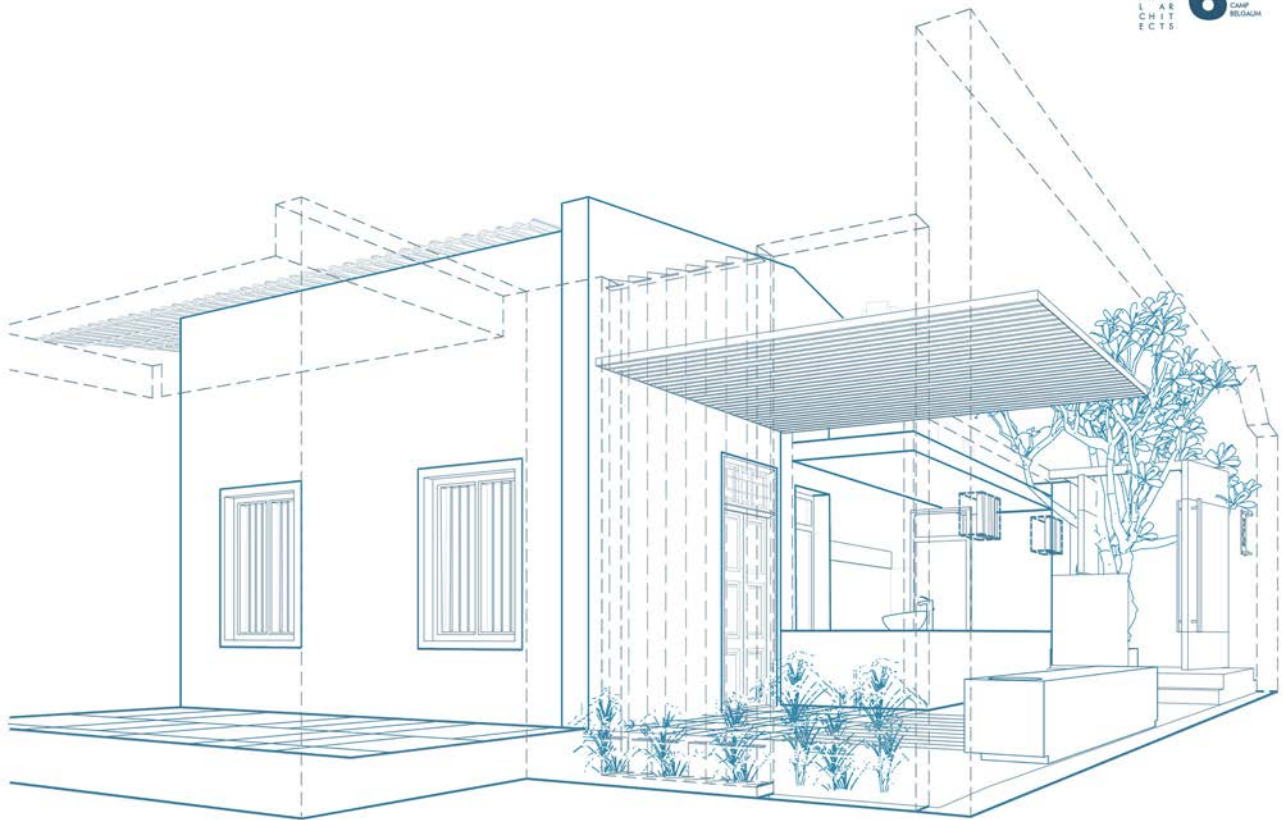
The only entrance to the studio space lies along the northern façade.

Located on a quiet street with neighbours on three sides, architect Shreyas Patil's studio in Camp, Belgaum gave new purpose to an abandoned residential bungalow at 6, Havelock Road. The ground level structure lies tucked between colonial bungalows and houses on two sides and had undergone a series of renovations with every new tenant that walked through its doors over the past few decades. Having identified it as a suitable address for the studio, the floor plan was revised to generate a fluid space with minimal internal walls while the fenestrations were appropriately repositioned to complement the new layout.

While the entrance to the site has been retained along the street front western façade, the entry into the built space was moved from this side to a recessed access along the northern elevation. This revised circulation route aided the rebranding of the backyard as a landscaped entrance court that not only made for an enchanting approach to the studio but also doubled up as an informal waiting area for visitors. The gateway to the premises is marked by a large, blue metal door with a pivoting window at its core along with a temple tree plant to visually soften the hard exterior of the studio's metal and plain elevation.



When opened, the pivot window blurs the visual boundaries between the street and the courtyard.



## entrance\_courtyard.

/n./ an unroofed area that is completely or partially enclosed by walls or buildings, and situated at the entrance of the a building.

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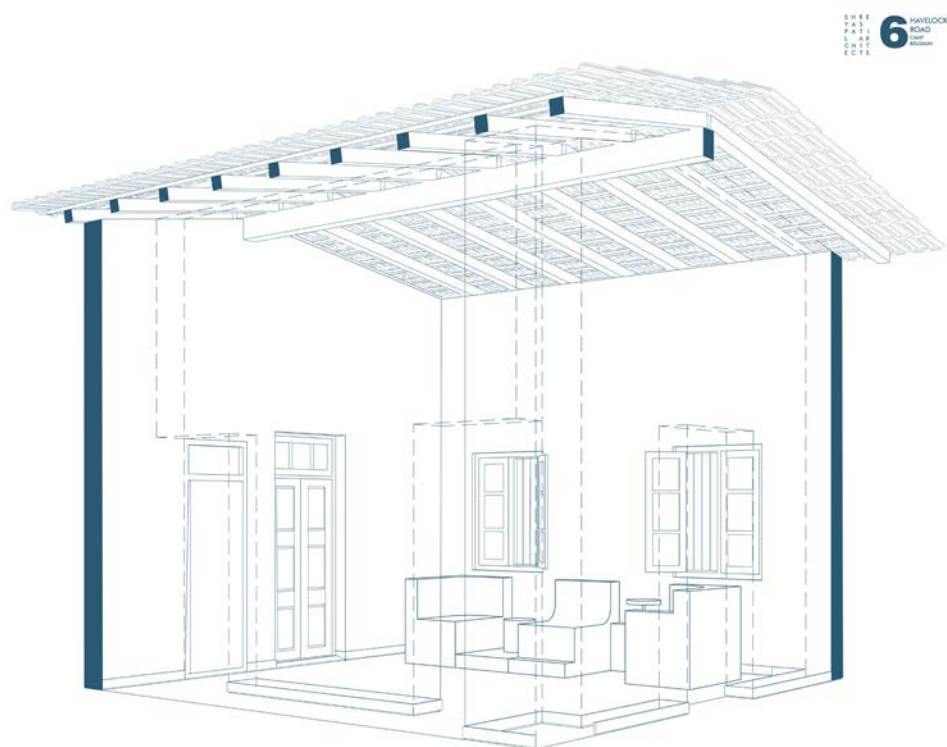
A perspective view of the entrance courtyard elucidates the elements of the space.

The courtyard softscape comprises lush green lawns sprinkled with bamboos, raphus palms, lilies, bougainvilleas and monstera. The hardscape is a blend of wooden and kadappa flooring and is accessorised by

a cast-in-situ concrete bench, a wooden bench and is partially shaded by a white duco paint finished metal pergola that runs from north to south.



The blue door and kadappa paving create a seamless transition between the green grass and the blue sky while the white stucco compound walls accentuate these views with dramatic shadows of the courtyard's various elements.

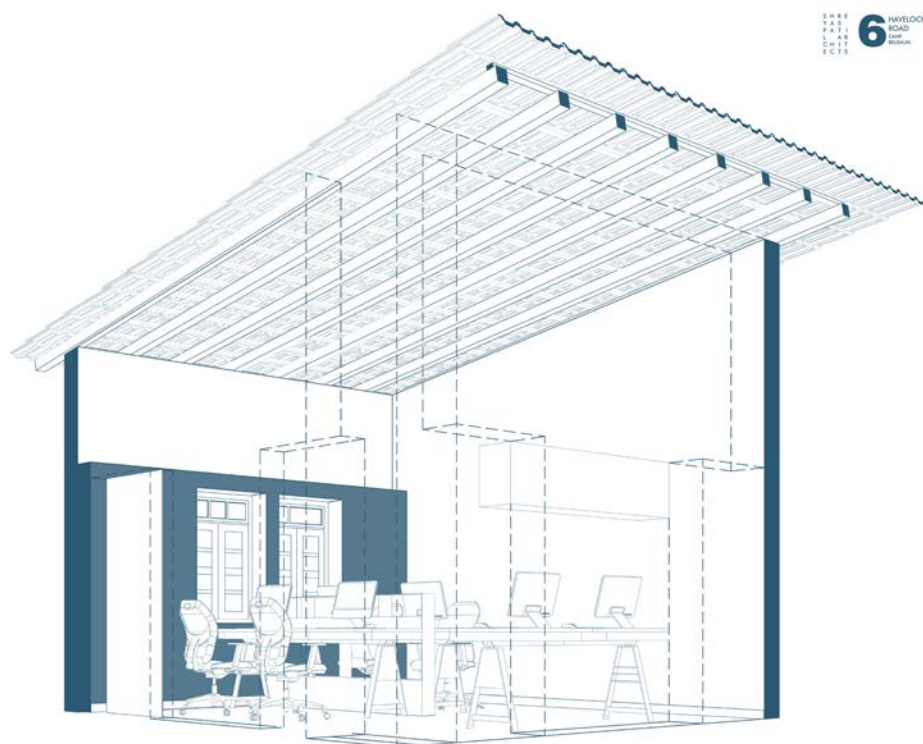


**reception.** /n./ the waiting area in an office or hospital near the counter where people's appointments and questions are dealt with.

A perspective view of the reception area.



The entire flooring of the studio is hand polished with



**workstation.** /n./ an area where work of a particular nature is carried out, such as a specific location on an assembly line.

A perspective view of the workstations in the studio area.



Given the fluid form of the space, the studio area can



h pigmented oxides.



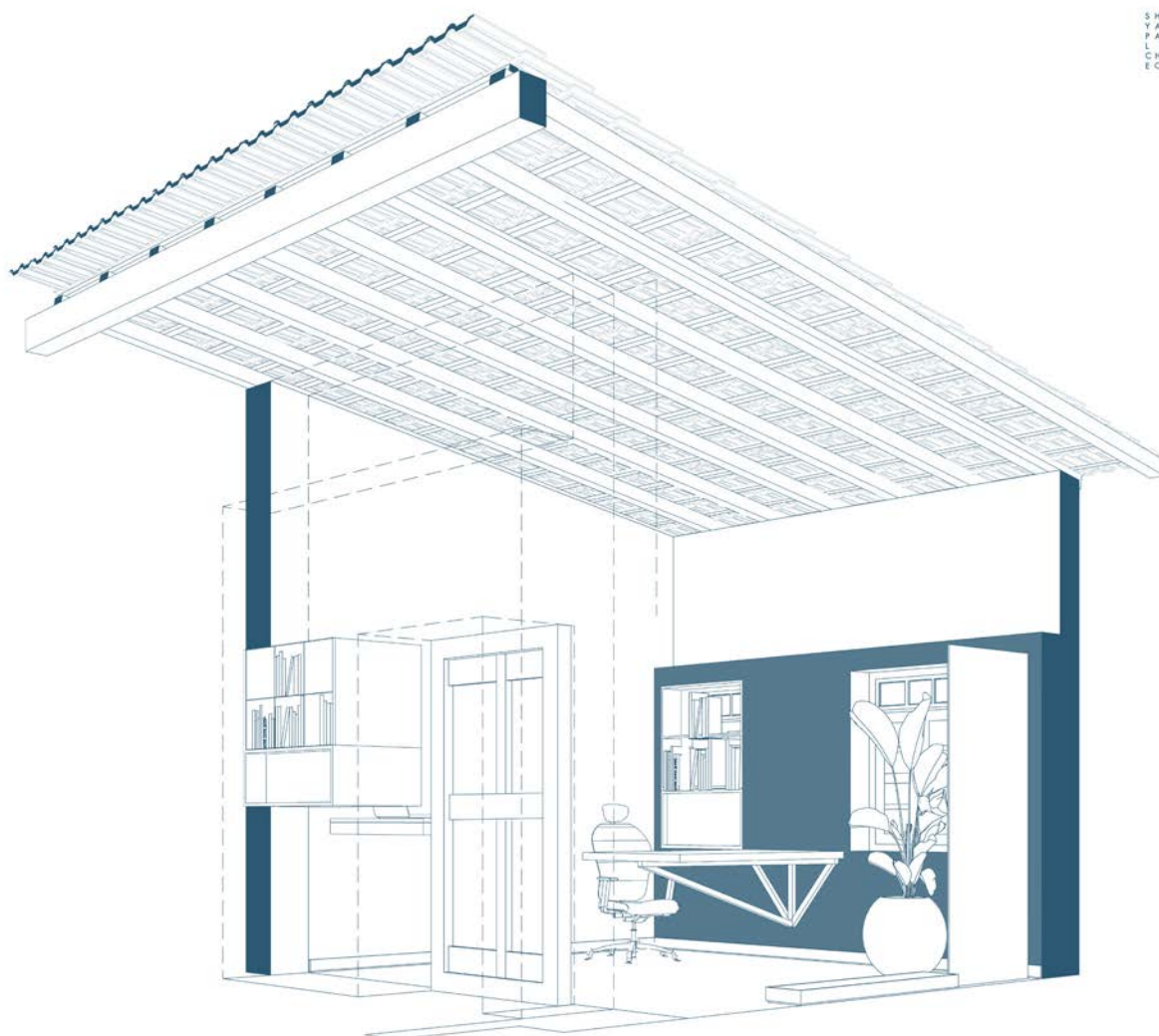
h be accessed through two doors from the reception.

The monolithic furniture of the reception area can be arranged in various permutations and combinations. These cement-polished modular pieces have been constructed using plywood to make sure they are light and movable.

All windows and doors allow for ample cross ventilation across the reception and studio area. This space has been planned to comfortably include the desired number of work stations without compromising on sufficient natural light and ventilation. The desks have been carpentered in teak veneer and plywood and are supported by fabricated mild steel legs.

The gabled blue wall along the inside of the street front façade runs as a single element across the principal architect's cabin and the employees' studio area with a fixed glass partition to demarcate the separation between these spaces. Teak wood windows punctuate this wall and bring in light and ventilation from the west end. The principal's desk is a cantilevering plywood and teak veneer finished table top that stands supported by a mild steel truss.

The pièce de résistance of the meeting room is the conference table that spans across most of the space. This statement piece has been designed using a white duco table top that rests atop a stacked space-frame structure which has been engineered using 6mm thick solid mild steel circular rods.



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**studio.** /n./ a workplace for designers and artisans engaged in conceiving, designing and developing new products or objects.

A perspective view of the principal architect's cabin.



A window niche at the corner has been modified to carve out shelves for a small library.

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All the furniture in this office has been designed as an architectural expressional of the studio's ethos and stands out against a homogenous material palette curated specifically for each room. All flooring has been hand polished using pigmented oxides and comprises shades of greys, greens and blacks that are tied together by a warm teak wood skirting that runs across the entire studio. The key to the success of this space is the stark white walls and ceiling that offer a clear canvas to dramatically frame the carefully sculpted furniture in each room, just as dramatically as they frame the blues, greens and shadows in the landscaped courtyard outside. ■

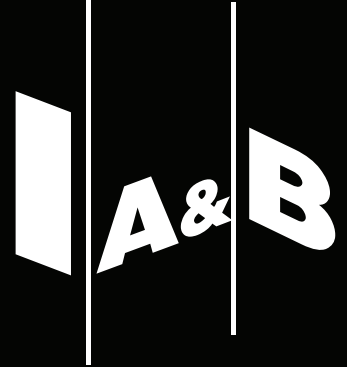
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#### FACT FILE

Architect's Firm	: Shreyas Patil Architects
Principal Architect	: Shreyas Patil
Project location	: Belgaum, Karnataka, India
Total Built-up Area	: 915 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2020

The conference room can be accessed from the reception area as well as the principal's cabin.

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