

Architecture

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In sync with
nature



Manish Gulati, Principal Architect & Director for M.OFA Studios Pvt. Ltd. graduated from School of Architecture, CEPT, Ahmedabad with an additional design module from ETH University, Zurich. He started his practice in the year 2002 in New Delhi with a singular vision of Design-Centric Architecture. His approach has always been on Out of the Box-Lateral thinking & conceptually enriched solutions to every design issue. Hence, at the Architectural Studio, the Design

Approach is purely Contemporary and the language global, wherein a lot of emphasis is given to innovative yet sustainable concepts in designing. Every project is dealt with a unique approach & vision; in implementation & detailing, he brings together a precision of thought, insights & extensive site experience to arrive at integrated solutions.



Tanushree Gulati, Civil Engineer, Urban Infrastructure Planner & Director for M.OFA Studios Pvt. Ltd. graduated from School of Building Science and Technology, CEPT, Ahmedabad with additional professional Certificate programmes in Urban Infrastructure planning & Environmental Impact Assessment. Her involvement has been critical right from the inception, as her systems-oriented approach has led to the creation of an exhaustive research wing, which acts as an infrastructural

guidance to the design wing helping the latter in planning, realizations, implementation of practices; design of Urban Infrastructure and Sustainable green Design. She strongly stresses in creating projects into infrastructure which becomes a building block for all sustainable growth.



Abhinav Chaudhary, Associate Director, at M.OFA Studios Pvt. Ltd. graduated from Government College of Architecture, Lucknow. Being a free thinker, he has a keen eye for detailing. As a team leader, he guides his team through an intricate process of open yet grounded thinking in the realization of great ideas that come about as extensive brain storming sessions between him and Manish. M.OFA excels in reinventing technologies and the innovative use of materials.

This aspect is taken forward by Abhinav through a constant research and a series of discussions right from the intent of a design to the production templates switching between macro-level landscapes to the micro-level product designs. This aspect being the most crucial stage in designing takes every architectural project to become a piece of art yet well-grounded in the realms of economic feasibility.

The campus of ITM School of Business, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India designed by M.OFA Studios, New Delhi, India could be accessed through a prominent and dominating site on National Highway No. 75. It merges easily with its surroundings and compliments its neighbour - the majestic Aravalli Ranges with grace and humility.

The building sits like a solid stone block with a lightweight industrial roof hovering over it supported by thin surrealistic legs (creating a mystery of what lies inside and also reminding us of a most rudimentary way of protection from the harsh sun, a large plane creating a shadow with a massive footprint: both done to reduce the carbon footprint created by large air-conditioned institutions otherwise). The open parasol roof over a hollowed out space allows the hot air to escape creating convection currents allowing the natural winds to flow in cooled by the surrounding green landscape. The plants on the first level retain moisture, thus moderating the temperatures at the ground level and keeping the air refreshed.

Behind the solid mass created by the traditional *dholpur clad* walls lies a fluid interior space that flows in from one court of the building to the other. The ground level is built on the principles of the traditional Indian courtyard providing students with a large open space in the center that allows for introspection and the importance of knowing oneself, yet allowing for





meaningful interactions that accentuate a feeling of openness and freedom. The clean grey walls, the amoebic sculpturous water body, and the modern landscape blobs on the floor reflect the entrepreneurial spirit of the students who are looking to create ripples within the otherwise structured business environs (much like the bubbles of ideas amidst the sometimes constraining and rigid fabric of business). The expansiveness that is showcased with large courtyards is mirrored on the first floor, which provides natural ventilation keeping the building sustainable and eco-friendly due to the minimized usage of artificial lights during the day.

The building uses the traditional jaali works of Gwalior as modern screens on the south western side (reminding the students to embrace the new and advanced, while staying true to their self and tradition), which is also the double height entrance space. The screens act as a vertical extension of building's open courtyards. Standing tall at 6-m and facing west, these screens cut the harsh Gwalior sun glare protecting the building. The white dholpur sandstone screens are not just an aesthetic treat that cast interesting shadows and play with light, but also an architectural must for the high temperatures of Gwalior.

GREEN FEATURES

Starting with the orientation of the Building, it harnesses both the north western winds prevalent in Gwalior as well as adequate diffused



text & photographs: courtesy, the architect

ITM School of Business



Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh India

M:OFA Studios Pvt Ltd, New Delhi India

The campus of 'ITM School of Business, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India' designed by **M:OFA Studios, New Delhi** is an example of the firm's mission to provide the subcontinent's urban landscapes with sustainable architectural and design solutions.





the parasol roof lined with photovoltaic cell to generate electricity



the open courtyard



large courtyard on the first floor providing natural ventilation and light.

daylight to naturally ventilate, cool as well as minimize the use of lights during the day time. In addition are the automatic motion sensors, self dimmable ballasts and smart lighting system. The *Parasol roof* and *window overhangs* are lined with Photovoltaic Cells to generate electricity that is stored in the batteries to run the outdoor lighting after sunset. The depth of the overhangs and the roof is designed as per the sun direction and penetration so as to keep a balance between the availability of natural day light inside the office throughout the day, yet not increasing the ambient temperature inside the building bringing down the lighting significantly. The roof collects and takes the water to the rainwater recharge well. Roof gardens/terraces are built as



intermediate open spaces throughout the building for shading and cleansing of the air quality and the much needed 'step out' for students. Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) is installed in the

campus to recycle water. STP water is reused for flushing and landscape. Local materials like *Dholpur*, *Gwalior white sandstone* are used for construction. Local craftsmanship, as a design workshop between designers and craftsman could be found in modern context in the form of *jaals* of Gwalior. This decreases the usage of artificial light due to its design and reduces the electricity requirement. The *courtyard* and the *jaals* along with the roof make the air flow and ventilation in the building extremely airy and cool reducing the AC requirement and load in harsh climate. The continuous ramp along the *courtyard* connecting all levels makes it **Disabled friendly building**. ▲



energy section.

fact file:

project	: ITM School of Business
location	: Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India
client	: Ramashanker Singh, ITM Universe
architecture	: M:OFA Studios Pvt Ltd
principal architect	: Manish Gulati
Design team	
associate architect	: Abhinav Chaudhary
architects	: Punshottam Arambam, Priyanka Mahajan, Sabyasachi Ghosh
site area (sq ft & sq m)	: 125-acres (total)
built-up area (sq ft & sq m)	: 30,000-sq.ft
Consultants	
structural	: Roark Consulting Engineers
mechanical, electrical, civil,	
landscape, HVAC & plumbing	: M:OFA Studios Pvt Ltd
PMC	: ITM University Building Division
façade engineering	: M:OFA Studios Pvt Ltd
dt of commencement	: 2009
dt of completion	: 2012
photographer	: Manish Gulati



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