

Inside Outside

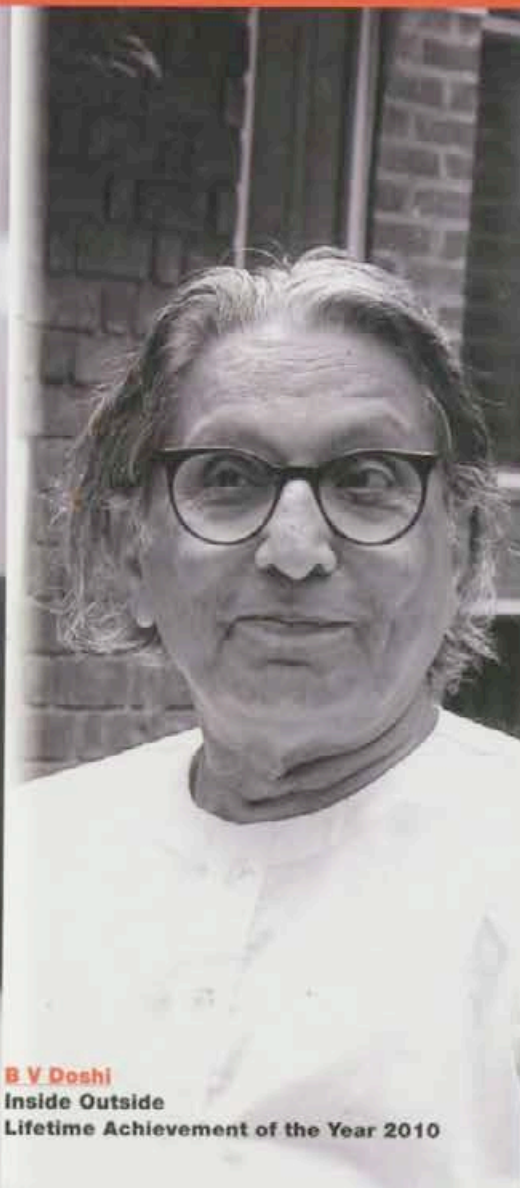
THE INDIAN DESIGN MAGAZINE

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Bijoy Jain
Inside Outside
Architect of the Year 2010



B.V. Doshi
Inside Outside
Lifetime Achievement of the Year 2010



Sandeep Khosla

Khosla Associates
Inside Outside
Designer of the Year 2010



Amaresh Anand

Inside Outside
Awards 2011

A portrait of Sandeep Khosla, a man with a goatee and short dark hair, wearing a light-colored denim jacket over a white t-shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a vertical wood grain.

STYLE & *panache*

Sandeep Khosla

Shweta Kapur speaks to with Architect Sandeep Khosla, on his variety of projects, that ranges from tropical weather sensitive architecture to sensational interior design. At Khosla Associates, Sandeep Khosla and his partner Amaresh Anand are proud to take cues from the past and conjure up new experiences that are guaranteed to win him a series of Awards.

Luxury, entertainment and global cuisine are key words to describe the aspirational needs of today's urban India. Pampering and catering to the well heeled Indian is quite a feat, handled with great élan by Khosla Associates.

Architect Sandeep Khosla, our Designer of the Year, has impeccable credentials! Starting with an early education at the Doon school in Dehradun, he moved on to the US, where his aesthetic inclinations led him to the more ambitious, all encompassing Architecture program at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. If that were not all – he followed it up with a three year stint in Charles Correa's office, Mumbai. Later he founded Khosla Associates in Bangalore in 1995, but the tipping point came some years after when

he journeyed through south Asia to discover his inner compass for the course of years to come.

Geoffrey Bawa's legacy in Sri Lanka's tropical environs has left lasting impressions. Sandeep met him and came back with a fortified vision – a constant companion ever since. He can be described as an adroit craftsman who can blur boundaries between outdoor landscapes and the built form, providing much needed comfort in challenging conditions posed by tropical weather. Not unlike what we see in traditional buildings, Sandeep too leverages porosity as a key element in the massing of spaces that fulfill a home's functional requirements. What that implies is a negligible dependency on artificial modes of ventilation or cooling. Well articulated lung spaces, variations in volumes

internally and a caress of water within the structure are all the right ingredients that make for an ambient experience. Then come the contemporary aesthetic finishing touches, which are confident statements using a rich Indian yet modern vocabulary. We find raw concrete canvases softened by an explosion of green foliage, framed by the warmth of vertical and horizontal timber as well as eclectic bold strokes with art and sculpture infusing stark spaces with surprising character. Sandeep creates spaces for people that are experiential, chic, expansive and expensively minimalist.

A finely tuned aesthetic sense has stood Sandeep in good stead over the years. Even as a student he was very involved with the fine arts. So today, when he has to abstract a creative concept into a mesmerising set of design details, there is no loss in translation! The Carbon Bar at the park Hotel, Hyderabad is a fine example of this kind of abstraction, whereas

the Aura Spa at the same hotel, is an ode to their ability to visualise beautiful and serene spaces in an erstwhile drab and boring shell. Sandeep and his partner Amaresh prefer to take a holistic approach to their projects. In their practice, Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Design are allowed to feed off each other and create a synergistic environment. The award winning Shiro restaurant and bar in Bangalore is a delightful example of the same!

In his own words, Sandeep describes the body of work that their practice has created and has received wide acclaim for – ‘One that is respectful of tradition, history, climate and context, yet is innovative and contemporary. At Khosla Associates, we are contextualists who believe that architecture and design should be rooted in one’s environment and to a particular site. While we work with an international style, we draw inspiration from traditional concepts, craft as well as local material. Our

architecture is experiential and attempts to modulate space to create beautiful, peaceful or dramatic spaces. There is a certain romanticism to our work, a narrative quality that leads the viewer into varied experiences, and we enjoy creating work which references the old while being wholly contemporary and innovative. We have over the past 15 years tried to develop our version of an “India Modern” sensibility and have played with permutations of those early ideas that I absorbed when I returned to India.’

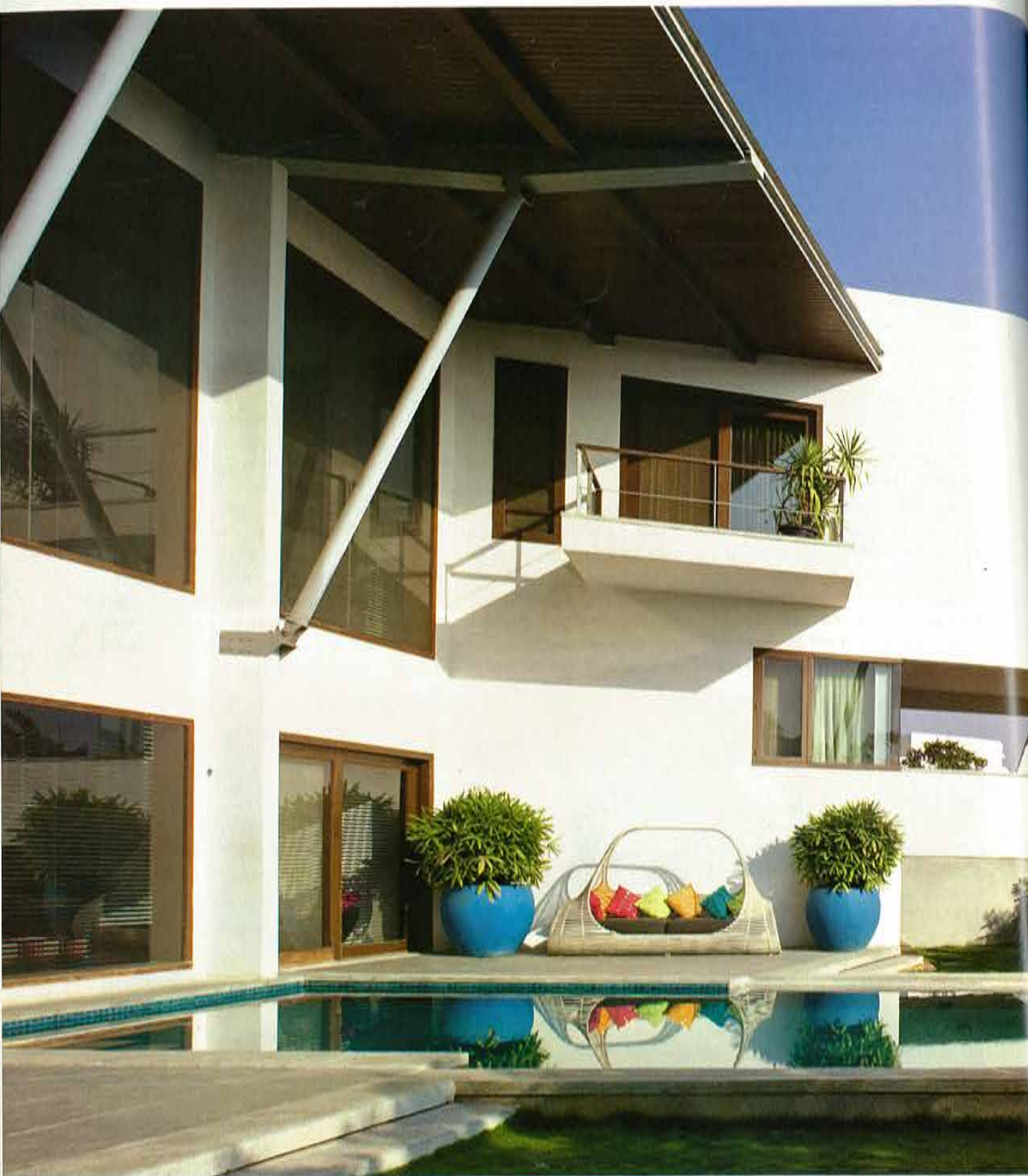
For Sandeep and Amaresh, the process of making is sometimes as rewarding as the process of conceiving. They enjoy getting their hands dirty and work closely with carpenters, masons and sculptors to fashion spaces that are a commendable balancing act between articulate, natural and stylish! There’s nothing timid about their performance – it has drama, earthy passion and wonderful choreography!



Amaresh Anand

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KHOSLA ASSOCIATES






Reddy House

The Reddy house in the up-market area of Jubille Hills in Hyderabad responds directly to its site, which is a steeply inclined and rocky terrain.

PHOTOGRAPHS: BHARATH RAMAMRUTHAM, COURTESY, THE ARCHITECTS

The architects used the sharp incline and rocky topography of the site to their advantage, creating living spaces on various split levels. The form of the house also derives from the triangulated shape of the site, with two wings of the built form flaring



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Splashes of colours in an otherwise neutral palette enliven the spaces.





out from one another, leaving space in between for an airy central atrium that negotiates four split levels. The light roofs also follow the same gesture and reach out similarly to the view.

One enters from the road level to encounter a foyer with a flight of stairs, which lead down to the living room and to the pool and garden beyond and up to an intimate family area and a bedroom before proceeding to another three bedrooms for the family.

The public spaces on the ground floor include the dining area, kitchen with the dining space overlooking a side court, with a lily pond and neel blue wall as a backdrop. There is also another additional bedroom on this floor.

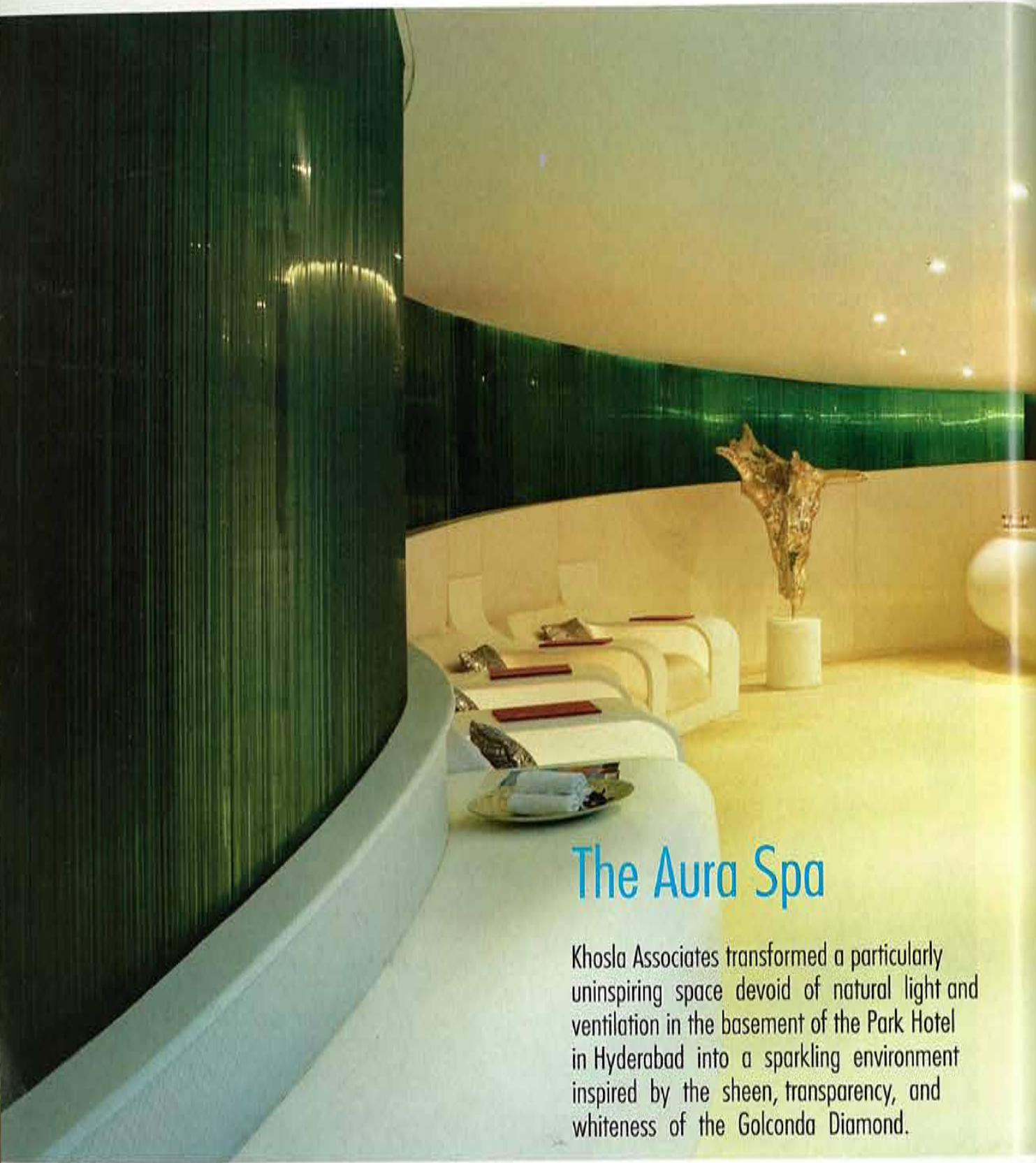
The colour scheme is light with vast expanses of a beige sandstone floor offsetting other natural materials such as sadharhalli granite, wood, slate and kota stone. The stark white facades of the house are punctuated occasionally by saturated colours such as a neel blue, deep ochre and magenta.

The dining space overlooks a side court with a neel blue wall as backdrop.



A flight of stairs leads down to the living room and to the pool and garden beyond and up to the family area and bedrooms





The Aura Spa

Khosla Associates transformed a particularly uninspiring space devoid of natural light and ventilation in the basement of the Park Hotel in Hyderabad into a sparkling environment inspired by the sheen, transparency, and whiteness of the Golconda Diamond.



The walls of the curved entrance corridor were built out of edge polished, vertically stacked glass lit from below, leading to a reception area with a fluid counter and relaxed seating for customers in moulded white resin. A wooden staircase from the pool level descends into the central, womb-like reception zone.

Surrounding this sparkling central core on the north are the spacious Male and Female wet areas with locker facilities, changing rooms and a large and lanconium. On the south is a Gym and a Salon.

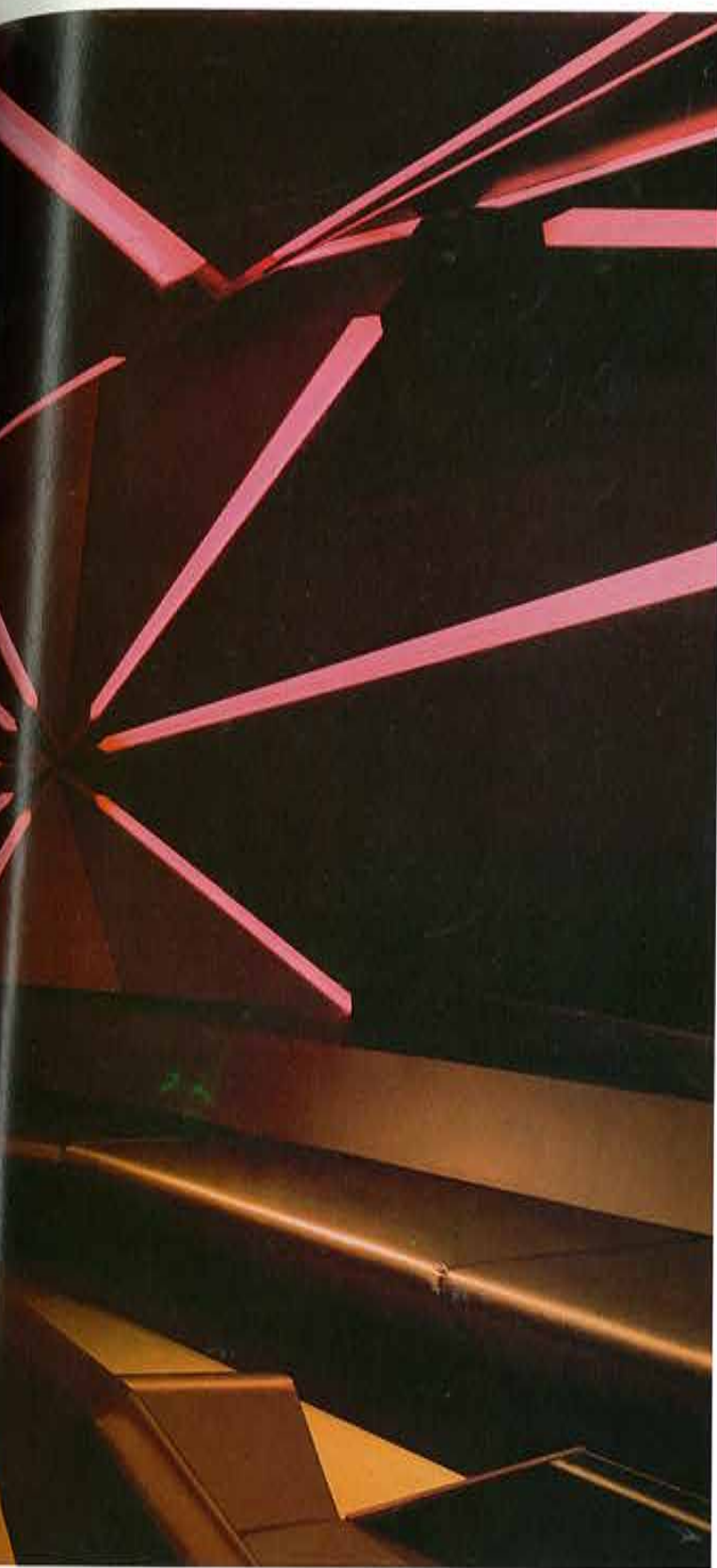
Further west from the reception is an ethereal transition space leading gently to a sensuously curved relaxation area and a series of well appointed therapy rooms and suites. Comfortable loungers in the relaxation area are screened by sheer white curtains bathed in preprogrammed washes of LED light. Reflecting the colours of the rainbow, the sheer fabric helps in chromotherapy.

The entrance wall and doors of the treatment rooms are clad in an embossed silver foil, and the curved walls of the treatment rooms in a padded, diamond-shaped pearl white fabric, adding to the feeling of luxury within the space.

The material palette plays on varied tones of white to enhance the feeling of openness, and built-in washes of light in coves, on fabric, textured paint and moulded white resin uplift the space further. The curved walls seamlessly flow into one another and soothe stressed minds.

Elements like the embossed silver foil wall, the eclectic period chairs in the treatment rooms and the padded diamond shaped fabric as upholstery offset the otherwise futuristic interior, subtly echoing Hyderabad's royal past in a city moving rapidly into the future.



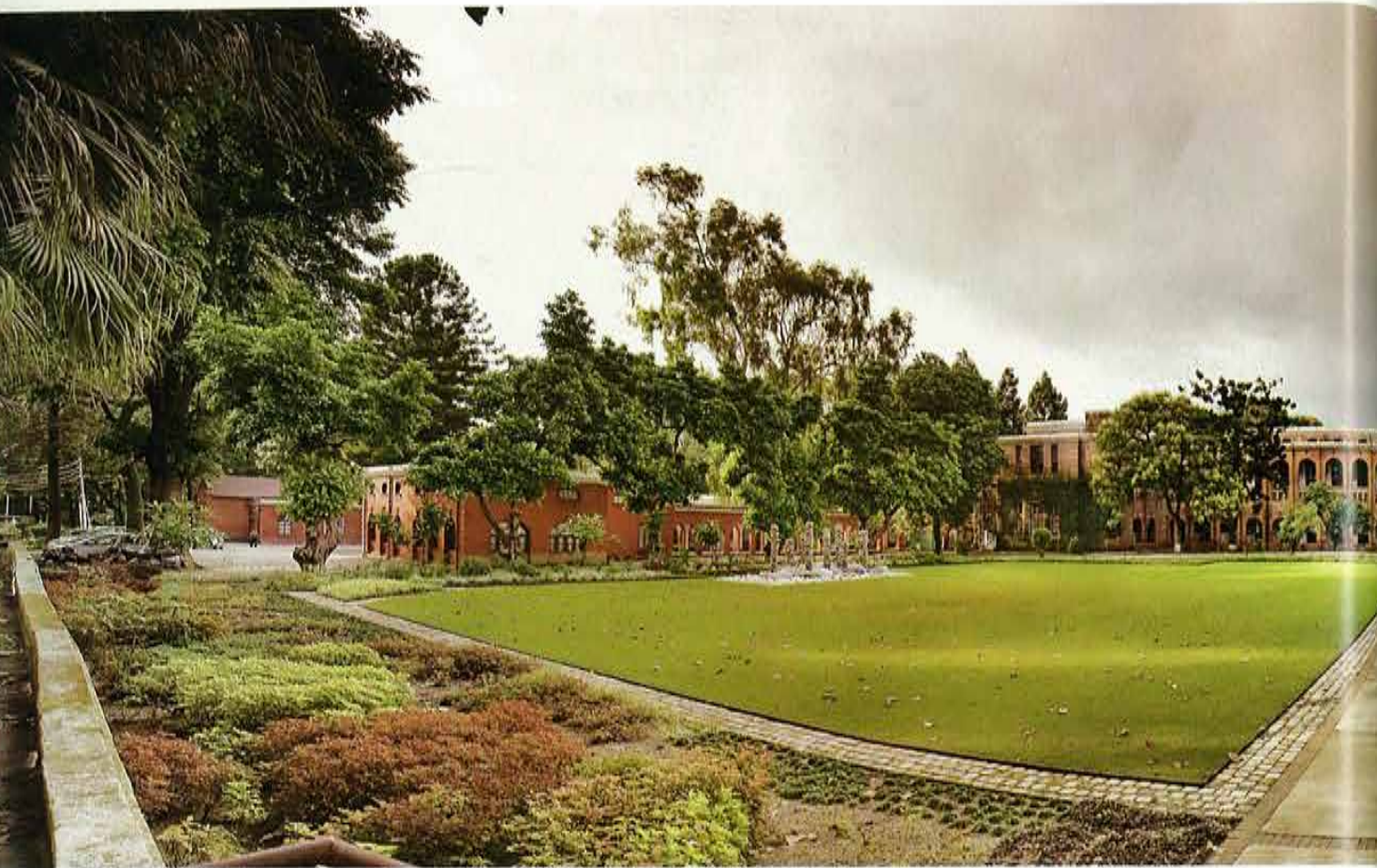


Carbon Bar

Khosla Associates' design concept of the Carbon Bar at the Park Hotel, Hyderabad, is an over scaled and highly faceted structure that makes bold references to the multiple facets of a black diamond, with a dramatic faceted labyrinth that dynamically and unpredictably envelopes the entire space.

The intent was to evoke the feeling of being inside the heart of a diamond. The seating seems to be moulded into the walls and the seating and tables are angled and faceted, in keeping with the aesthetic of the outer shell, while the sharp edges of the faceted walls are softened by the luxury of padded fabric. The architects have deliberately stuck to a stark colour palette with monotonous of copper and dark champagne offset with some facets in bronzed mirror. Shafts of LED light emanate from within translucent resin strips, moulded on the edges of all the facets. Prisms-like projections are played on the triangulated wall behind the DJ's counter. The flooring is seamless, a bronze vinyl, and the ceiling reflects the same faceted shapes as the walls.

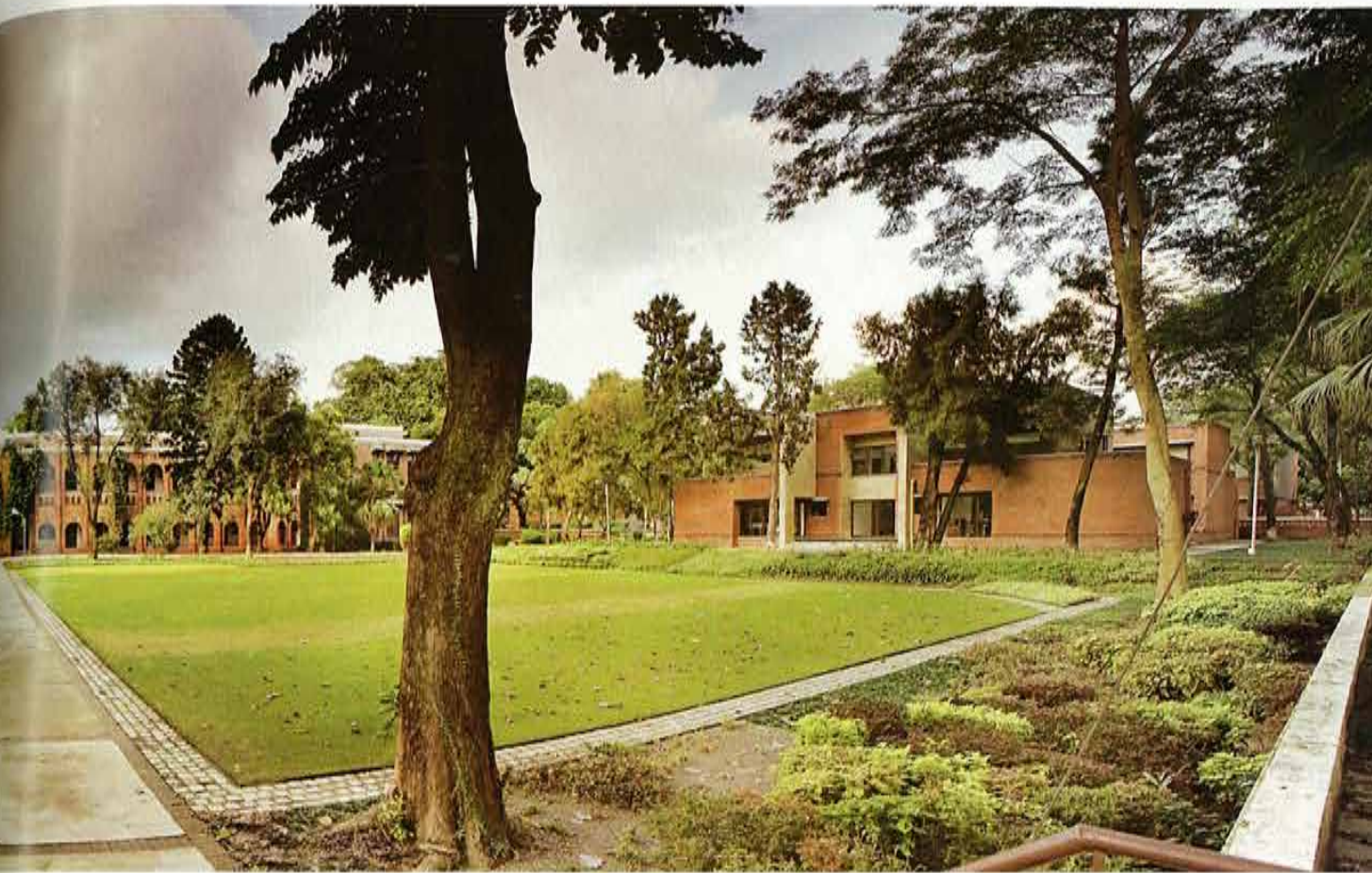
The concept thus interprets the central theme of the hotel – the Nizam of Hyderabad's jewels in a completely abstract and futuristic way.



Arts and Media Centre


PHOTOGRAPHS: BHARATH RAMAMRUTHAM, AMIT PASRICHA



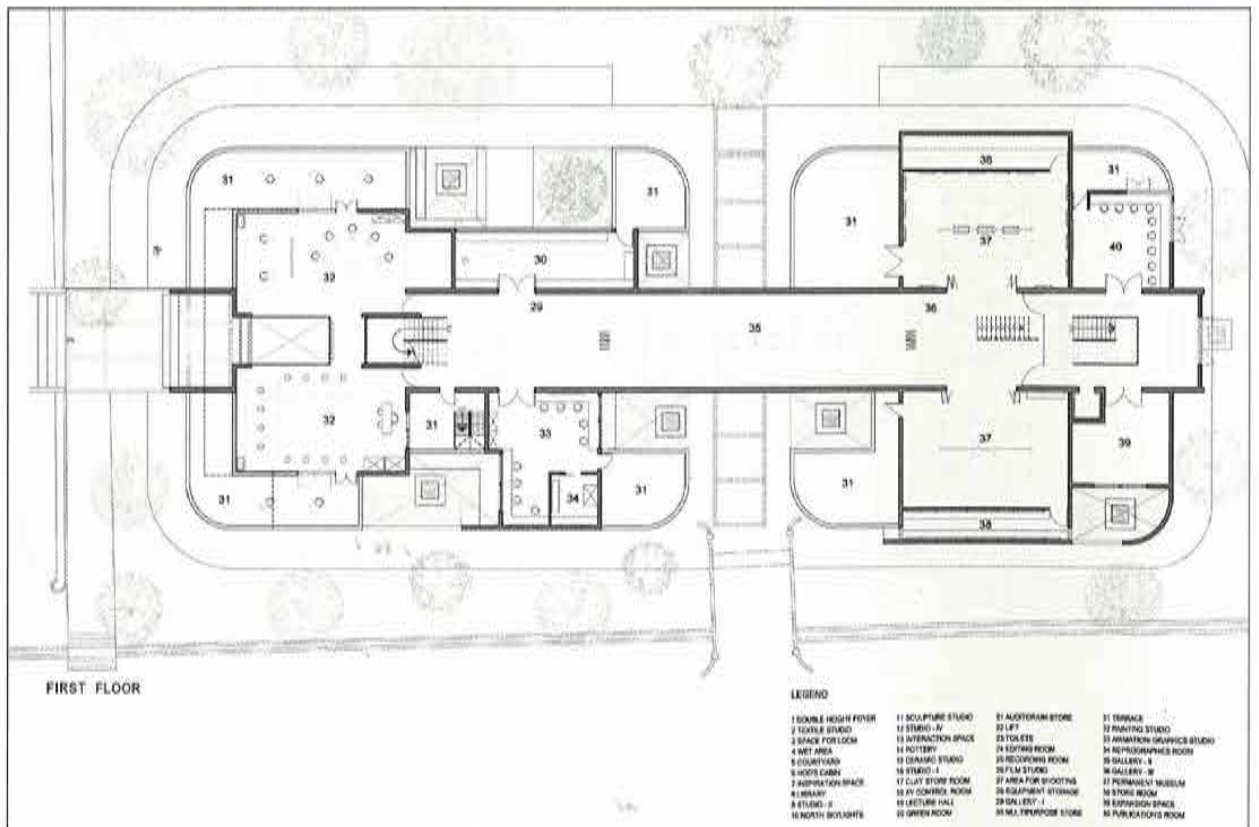


Sandeep Khosla's firm won a competition to design the new Arts and Media Centre at The Doon School, India's premier all boys boarding school.





The building is contextual in terms of its orientation and materiality as it interfaces the iconic 100-year-old English Renaissance inspired, main school building and the rest of the brick architecture of the campus.



sculpture, and textile studios, and the other, with a lecture hall, film studio, publication's room, and display galleries, are connected by an internal bridge.

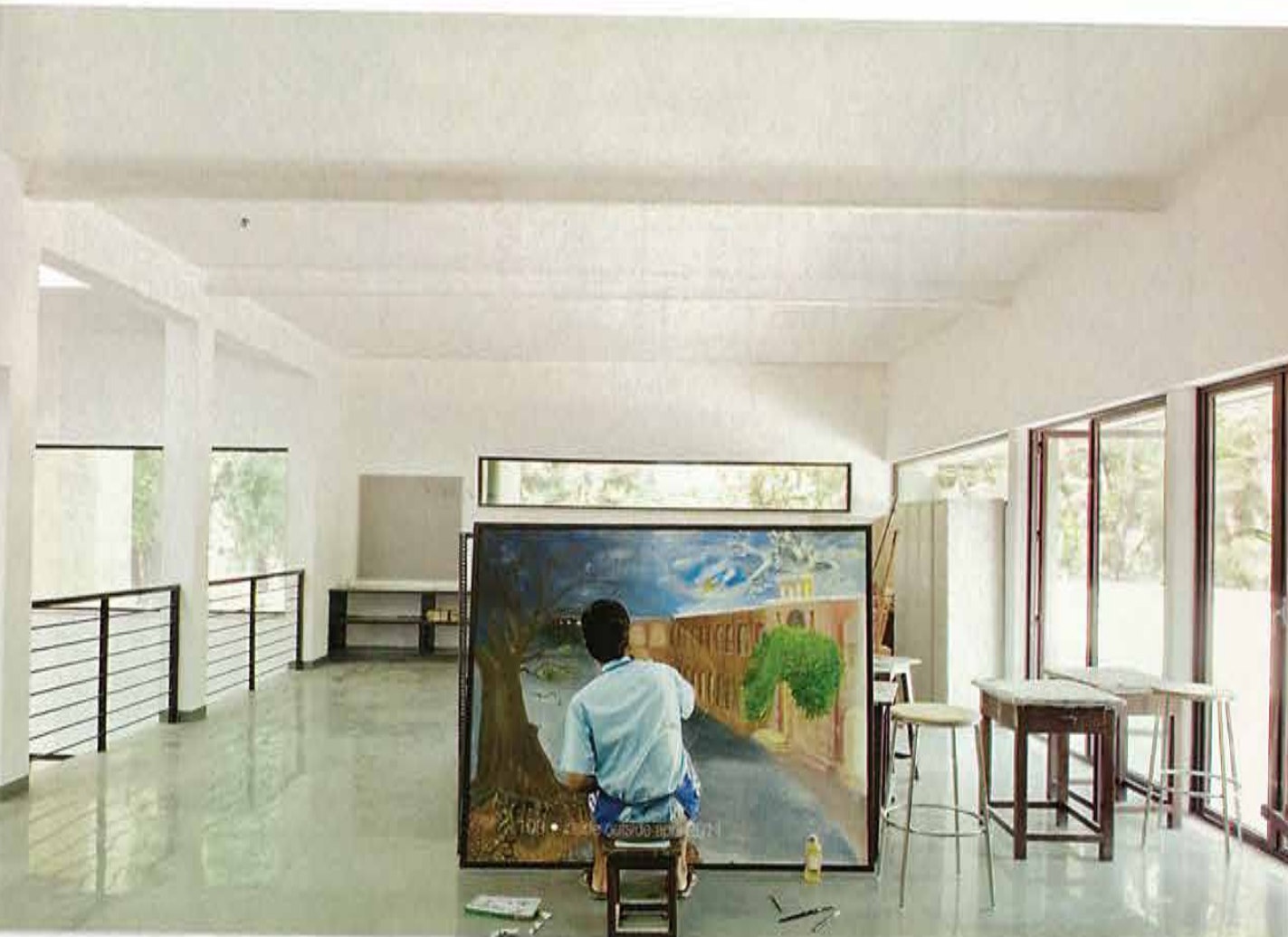
From the outside, the building is seen as a composition of abstract sculptural forms of varying materials and textures, emerging from a central spine. Internally, the axis is a double-height, six metre wide gallery leading from both sides into studios, a lecture hall, a library and the other functional requirements of the art department. The internal volumes are filled with a wonderful quality of north light via a series of skylights, while all the studios open into courtyards allowing easy interaction with the outdoors and ample cross ventilation.

The building is contextual in terms of its orientation and materiality as it interfaces the iconic

100-year-old English Renaissance inspired, main school building and the rest of the brick architecture of the campus. It also blends seamlessly with the mature trees of the former Forest Research Institute of India. The east-west orientation of the built form and landscape reinforces the direction of the old aqueduct and main building.

The building massing is bold, contemporary and abstract. An exciting use of materials – exposed brick tiles juxtaposed with olive coloured corrugated metal sheets and glass is set against an omnipresent spine of yellow slate. Local stone is used generously in the courtyards and the internal flooring is predominantly grey kota stone – blending effortlessly with the lush natural surroundings yet is highly durable. Curved façades soften the corners of the building

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and are detailed finely with bands of brick-on-edge. The natural topography and foliage of the site is well preserved and negotiated, and the level difference between the building, the landscaped garden and existing trees are accommodated in the building design.

The building is also climate sensitive. The long spine of the building running east-west takes advantage of maximum amount of north light so as to minimise the use of artificial lighting during the day. The temperature inside is kept between a minimum of 16 degrees C and a maximum of 27 degrees C by several devices: adequate cross ventilation of all the studios and galleries, filtered north light through the skylight system and indirect yet ample light through the courtyards. Exhaust systems in the skylights flush out

the hot air and humidity in peak summer via a stack effect. Large overhangs on the south and west sides protect the internal volumes from the fierce summer sun. The building has a TERI (The Energy and Resource Institute) Griha Green Rating.

The landscaped garden forms an exciting quadrangle with the aqueduct on its south side, the new art school to its east, the main building to its north and the old bakery to its west.

Thus in the new art complex Khosla Associates have attempted to infuse the spirit of creativity into the heart of the campus, taking The Doon School forward into the next century – a bold contemporary building that sensitively weaves the past with the present and dynamically leads the school into the future. 

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