



IN CONVERSATION
Aniket Bhagwat

ARCHITECTURE
Raj Rewal Associates

INTERNATIONAL
Snøhetta

LANDSCAPE
Vo Trong Nghia Architects



Corporate Concoction

Noble House Office, Junagadh

Efficient yet dulcet, organised yet interesting and functional yet ludic, the Noble Office designed by Sparsh Design Studio is the perfect amalgamation of a rich material palette and voguish forms to deliver a corporate ambience which not only reflects the client company's status but also provides a comfortable work environment for its employees.

Text: Kruti Choksi Kothari

Photographs: courtesy Dhrupad Shukla

In present times, we approximately spend about one third of our day at the office. These are the most active hours which determine one's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. The growth and success of any company is directly dependant on its employee's satisfaction which in turn is affected by the office environment. Taking this aspect into consideration, the entrepreneurs have turned very conscious towards their office design.

Mr Nilesh Dhuleshia of Noble House, who is engaged in multiple businesses, roped in Architect Atul Rajpara for constructing his four storey office building at Junagadh, Gujarat. The bold architectural

form with transparent façades lends a unique identity to the structure which stands out in its locality. Sparsh Design Studio, Rajkot was approached to inject life into this alluring structural envelope through thematic and rational interior décor.

"Functionality shouldn't be at stake for aesthetics. While reflecting the social status of the firm, the office must provide a congenial and an efficient environment to the employees who are a very important asset to the company," was the clear instruction of the client to Viral Patel and Shabana Sadikot, who partner Sparsh Design Studio along with Rupesh Patel.



↑ The task light is used for functional use and ambient light for enhancing the overall environment of the space.



↑ In the main director's chamber, the horizontal lines of the blinds are equated with a floating form of wooden table base topped with a white acrylic solid surface.



† A contrast with the overall rectilinear forms is created by the wavy form of the table and circular MS plate artwork on the concrete textured wall.



† The minimalist conference room designed with sleek center table.



† Graphical collage on artificial grass cladding the vertical wall along the staircase.

Crystallising the concept underlying the project, Viral states, "Strong graphical representation reflecting the company's story of growth and success is well coalesced with a rich material palette. Systematic layout of functional and transitional spaces is ensured." Shabana adds, "In hierarchical order, the functional spaces are distributed with the consideration of public and private zones among the different floors. The first floor deals with public relations while the more private second and third floors accommodate all the main chambers and back office staff respectively. The central staircase connects these three floors. The most silent zone consisting of the rest room and conference is on the fourth floor."

The reception and cozy waiting lounge lead to the public related staff zone which is devoid of any rigid partitions. To avoid any visual chaos, a neutral colour palette is opted to reflect simplicity and sophistication. The warmly tinted veneer used for furniture and partition walls is accentuated against the monochromatic walls, ceiling and flooring.

The use of skylights to bring in indirect natural daylight while avoiding unpleasant views of surroundings resulted in the view of dead wall from the huge glass openings. Smart use of artificial bamboos in this outer marginal space renders freshness and liveliness to the interiors. The green, further infused from the innovative use of artificial grass on the vertical surface along the stairwell breaks the monotony created through veneered office furniture.

The continuous central staircase, which serves as the heart of the office by connecting the three functional floors, is given a sculptural look. The green wall is embellished with unusual graphical collage of motivational words underlying the firm's philosophy. The project



Smart use of artificial bamboos in the outer marginal space adjacent to glass openings renders freshness and liveliness to the interiors.



A life-sized Buddha sculpture on center platform of black Marble offers pristine and spiritual edge to the office ambience.



Partition created by overhanging storage units is apt for interactive yet private working zone.

poses a symbolic representation of the firm's journey as encouraging stepping stones in designing spaces. The quirky graphical green wall is balanced by subtle grey textured parallel wall vertically running through all floors. Wooden flooring and wooden planks serving as treads are graced with sleek stainless steel railing. A life-sized Buddha sculpture holds the centre stage on a black Marble platform to offer a pristine and spiritual edge to the office ambience.

Approaching the second floor, the three directorial chambers are stylised with opulent Italian marble flooring, comfortable furniture and vibrant artwork. The main director's chamber has corrugated surface created on an MDF base with concrete texture for the walls. The horizontal lines of the blinds are equated with the unique floating form of wooden table base topped with white acrylic solid horizontal working surface. The wavy form of the table and circular MS plate artwork on the wall creates the perfect contrast with the rest of rectilinear forms. The vibrant paintings done by artist Meera Chatwani, complete the composition.

Partition walls with overhanging storage units for the admin staff area on the third floor is an apt solution for interactive yet private working zone. Numeric labels of the chambers are graphically embossed on the horizontal handle panels of glass partition doors. The graphical pattern created by motivational words on the glass partitions not only enrich the aesthetical value but also provide privacy to the enclosed chambers from the hustle-bustle of transitional passages. Claustrophobic cubicles, rigid layouts and a boring décor is shun away to give way to open plan, connecting atria, interactive transitions

and rejuvenating landscapes. Conscious efforts are undertaken for sufficient exposure to natural daylight which is further reflected by white surfaces. The artificial lighting has two design components, namely task light for functional use and ambient light for enhancing the overall environment of the space by highlighting the art installations and material textures.

The sleek conference room on the fourth floor is approached through a linear passage flanked by the rest room. The easy-to-maintain décor of the rest room is stylised with brass wire art installations on the rare wall clad with elegant wallpaper. Cushioned headboard, veneered walls and sliding translucent glass doors are aptly selected for the epicurean rest room serving the corporate guests.

Easy movement pattern, interconnectivity of spaces, hierarchical layout and smooth functioning are evident attributes of this design. This acts as an ideal corporate space which reflects the true spirit and status of the company to the clients and simultaneously excites the employees about coming to the office everyday. ■

FACT FILE:

Project Name	: Noble House Office
Carpet Area	: 4500 sqft
Location	: Junagadh
Clients Name	: Mr Nilesh Dhuleshia
Year of Completion	: 2015
Lead Architect	: Ar Atul Rajpara
Lead Interior Designer	: Viral Patel and Shabana Sadikot
Team	: Payal Barasiya