

Inside Outside

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The award winning office of VDGA in Pune
A bachelor pad, an office and a duplex by AVN interior architects
Tanuja Paul and Paul Jacob design a villa in Chennai
A Deconstructivist home in Mexico by SOSTUDO

COVER STORY Khosla Associates design a nightclub in Bengaluru

Multi-functional Creativity

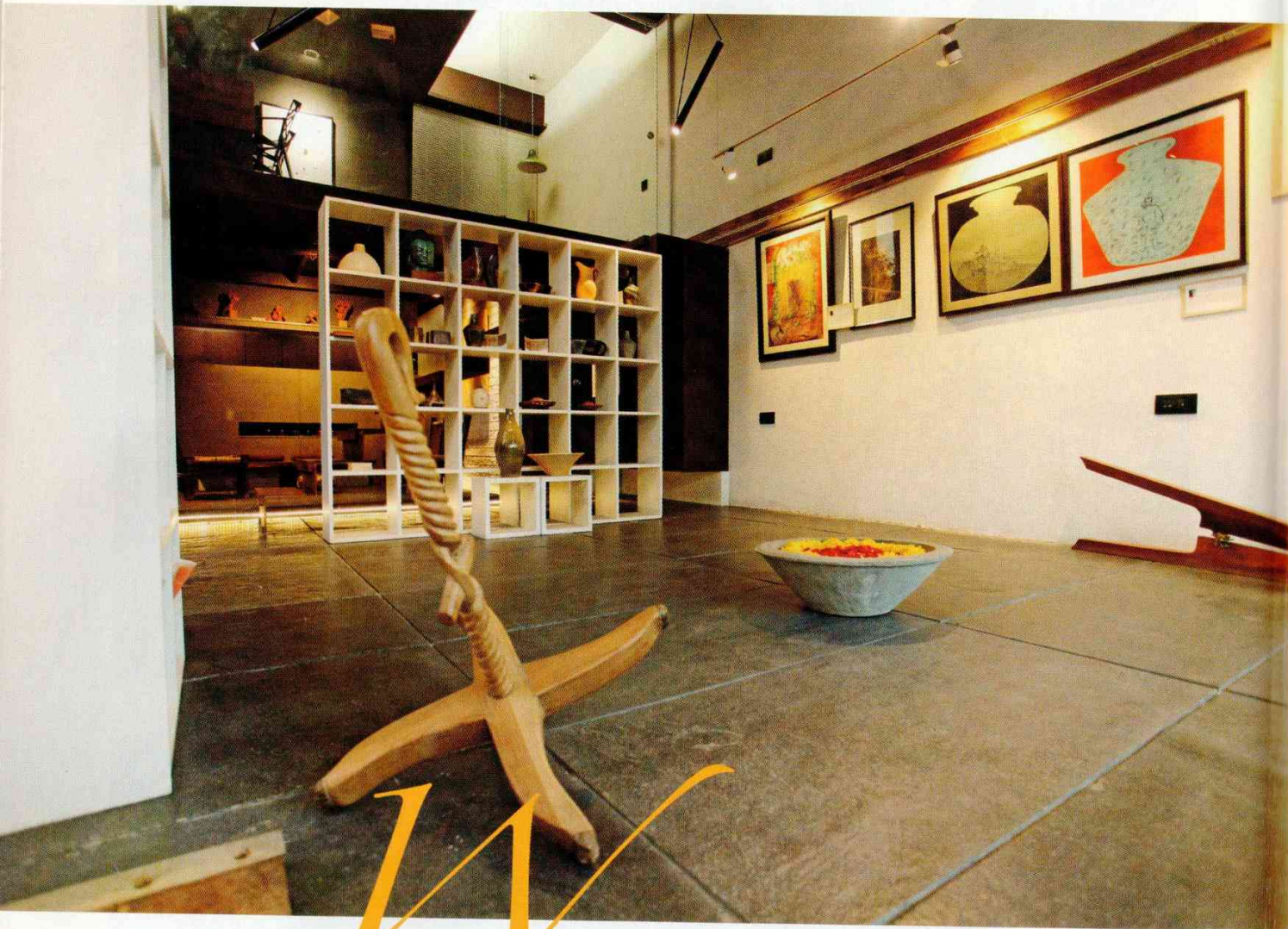
TEXT: KANUPRIYA GARG, WITH INPUTS FROM AMAR PANDYA

PHOTOGRAPHS: SATYAM DAVE AND HENISH PATEL, COURTESY THE DESIGNERS



WOULDN'T A VIBRANT AND LIVELY OFFICE MAKE GOING TO WORK MORE EXCITING? The creative model of the Sparsh design office in Rajkot, Gujarat is an ideal example of adopting this philosophy. Interior designers Viral Patel and Shabana Sadikot Ghoghari have fashioned an attractive workspace that helps stimulate minds and inspire innovation.

The light fittings on the ceiling create drama and aid in accentuating the double height. They act as an installation in themselves, while at the same time fulfilling the functional requirements of the gallery.



When you walk into an interior designer's office, more often than not, the interiors of his own design studio are enough to get a feel of his taste and preferences. Well, that's exactly the case with the Sparsh office in Rajkot. It's an uncluttered space where fascinating elements come together to create a workplace which stands out amongst the run of the mill commercial spaces one sees all around.

'The idea was to create a design studio with a calm and refreshing setting. A space where one would like to work for long hours,' say Viral and Shabana. A multi-faceted layout was envisioned as the firm was aiming for a future expansion into the field of architecture and also due to its intention towards designing a part of the space as an art gallery.

As you enter, you come across an expansive space from where you can get a glimpse of the entire office. One then steps into the waiting area which doubles as a space where meetings with agencies and clients are held, while at the same time serves as the staff dining area. With the purpose of not disturbing the regular functioning of the studio, a separate entrance has been provided to the art gallery.



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Vivid, bright artwork adds a dash of colour to the otherwise dull walls.



A meticulously designed staircase with an earthy look connects the ground floor to the mezzanine where the architecture department will be located. The main chamber is aptly located on the mezzanine to increase the privacy factor. This was done solely to prevent people from barging into the owner's cabin.

'We wanted to create a continuous flow of positive vibes in the office. We tried to make sure that the spaces mesh well into each other and the muted colour palette employed is consistent throughout,' say Viral and Shabana.

The materials are selected keeping budget limitations and climatic conditions in mind. The designers have brought into play their favourite material palette comprising raw stones, such as river finish cuddapah and kota for table tops in staff areas, all of which infuse a rustic charm. Grey walls along with exposed RCC and a brick texture lend an unfinished look which adds to the charm. The use of rusted metal for tables in the main chamber and

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FACT FILE:

Designer: Viral Patel and Shabana Sadikot Ghoghari

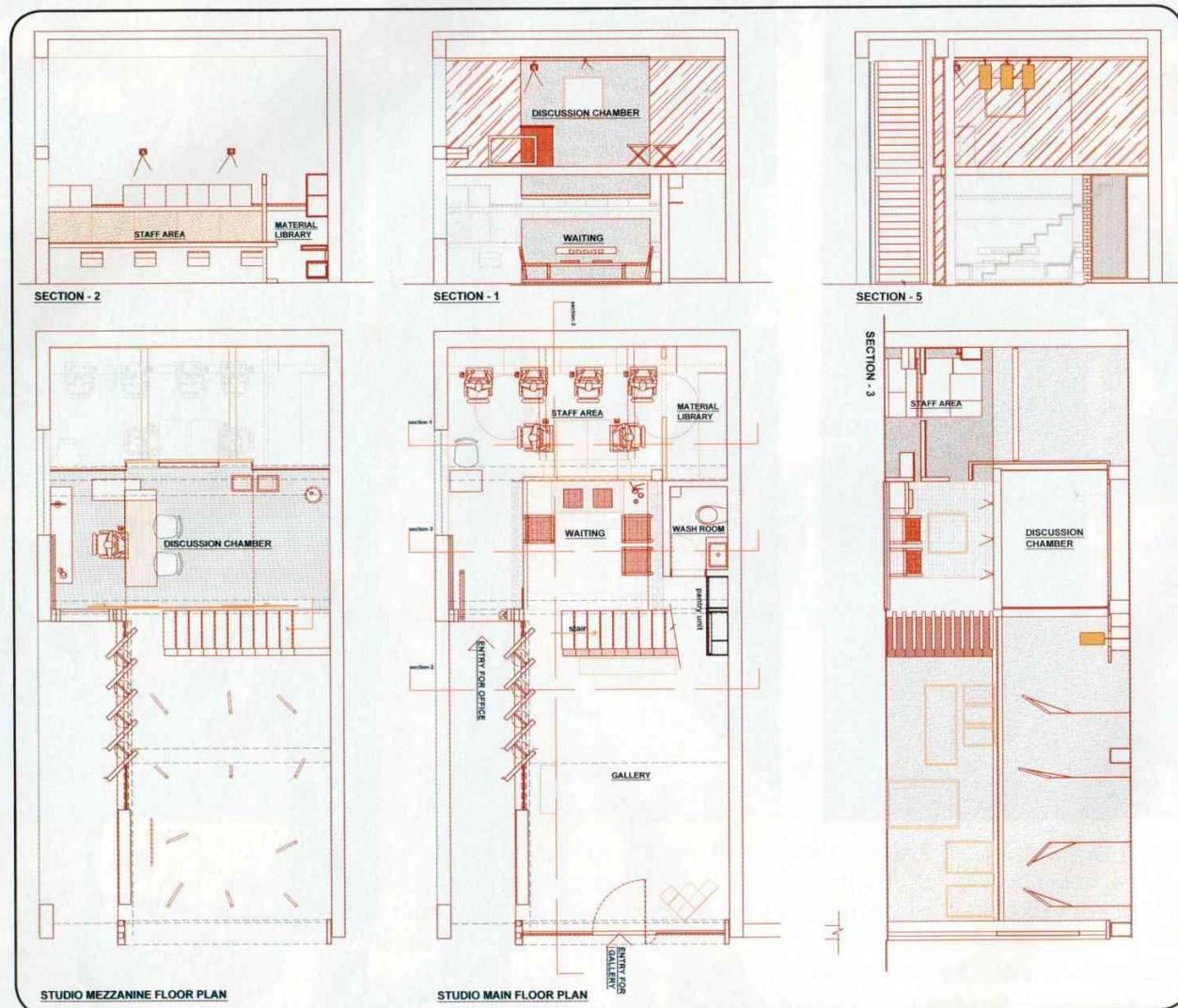
Carpet area: 550 sq ft

Exterior passage area: 96 sq ft

Total cost: Rs 8,80,000 (including civil charges)

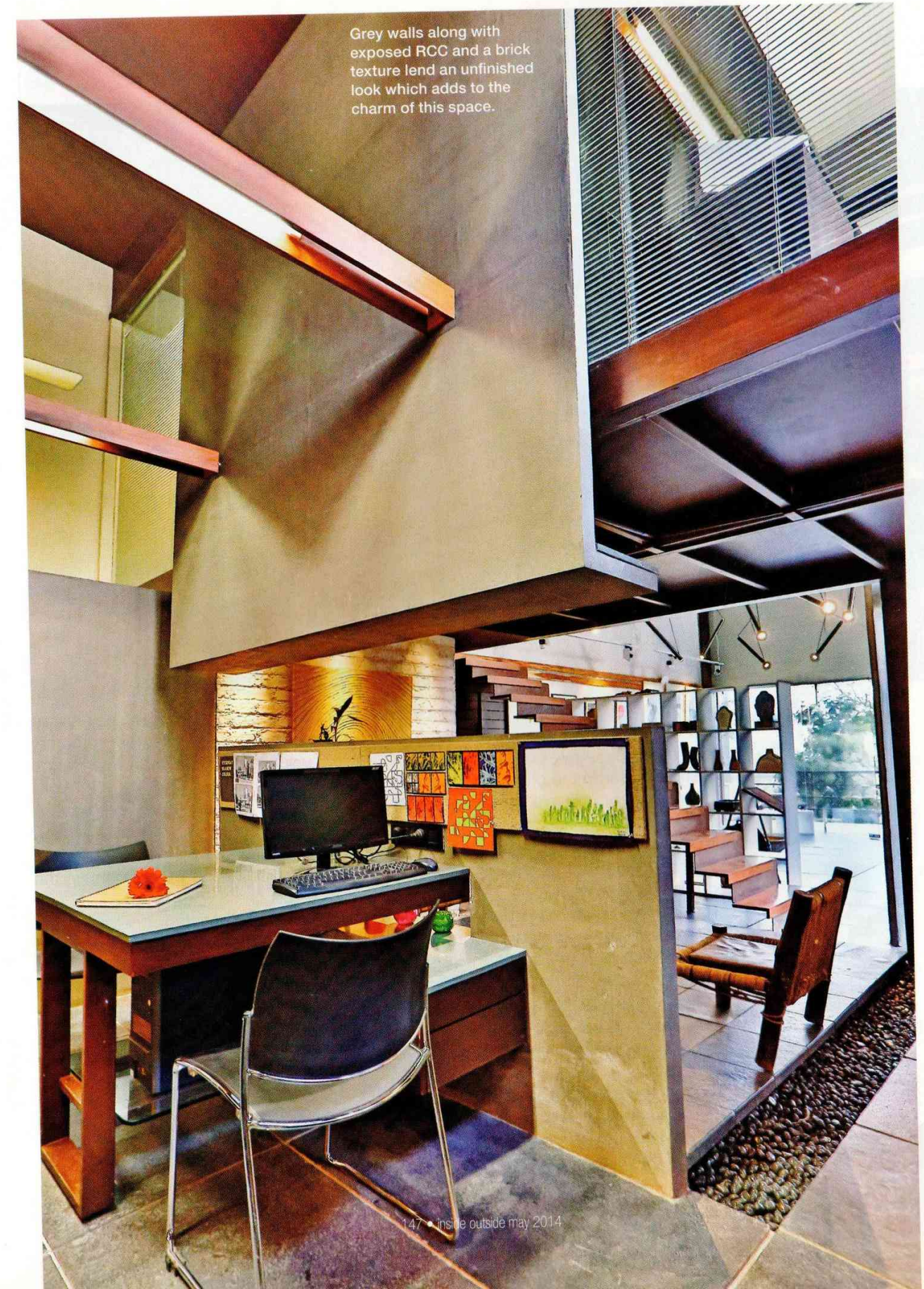
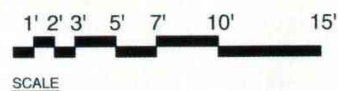
Location: Rajkot, Gujarat

Year of completion: October 2013



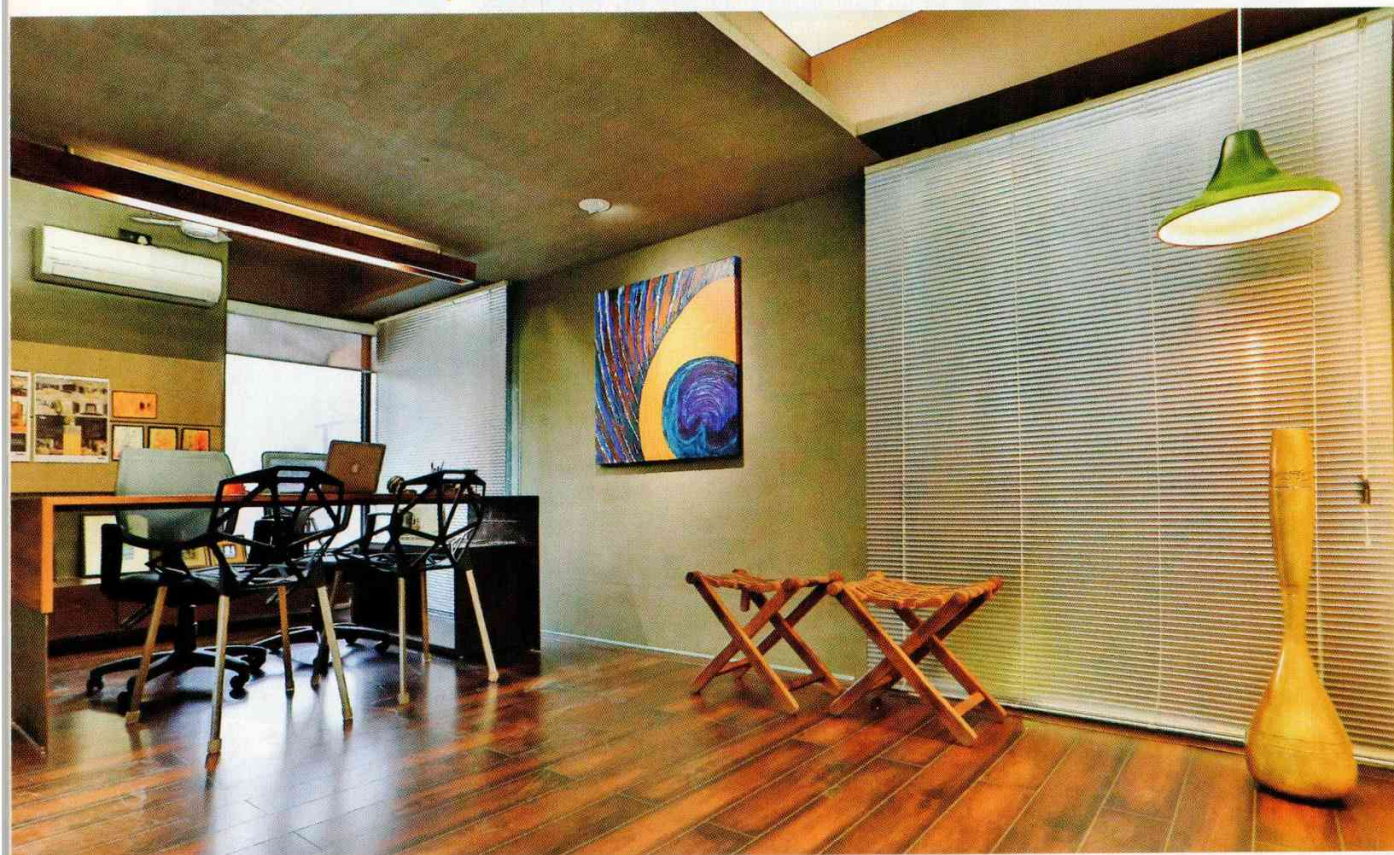
Basic Requirements

1. Main chamber (for discussion with clients and designing), 2 Staff areas (minimum 6), 3 Library / storage, 4 Washroom, 5 Pantry unit, 6 Waiting area (3-4 persons), 7 Small reception desk, 8 Future provision for either architecture department or art gallery.



Grey walls along with exposed RCC and a brick texture lend an unfinished look which adds to the charm of this space.

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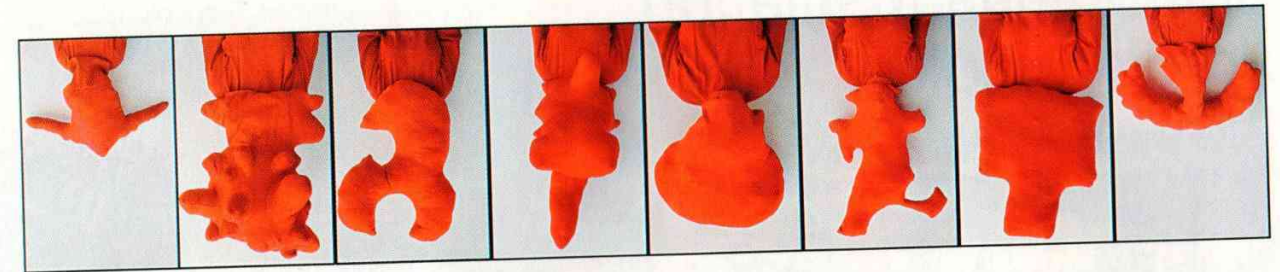


the stairs along with fabrics like jute for the soft boards, highlight the ability of the designers to think out of the box and not confine themselves to a specific design theme. The furniture is quirky and lends an eclectic feel to the space. Vivid, bright artwork adds a dash of colour to the otherwise dull walls.

Lighting always plays a significant role in the smooth functioning of any workplace. A point worthy of mention here is the total lack of task lighting in the office. Ample lighting has been provided in the niches on the workstations to suffice for the amount of working light required. It has also facilitated using minimal focal lighting for highlighting the textures of materials.

The lighting in the art gallery is designed considering the constant change in the placement of artefacts and artwork. The light fittings on the ceiling create drama and aid in accentuating the double height. They act as an installation in themselves, while at the same time fulfilling the functional requirements of the gallery. The flexible angle of light fixtures (adjustable according to the height and placement of the artefacts) assist in emphasising distinct objects. Open flanges on the west side wall help in reducing the effect of direct sunlight and also create an incredible play of light and shadow in the interior area.

The resourceful use of space to create a luminous design office as well as an art gallery is definitely rare. It's an experiment which has yielded impressive results for the designer/owners and given their employees an additional reason to spend more time at their workplace. So it's a win-win situation for all!!



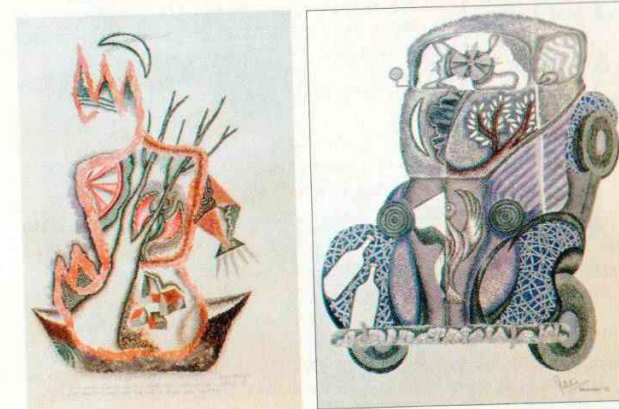
'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron-Redux'

Artist Chintan Upadhyay's solo exhibition titled 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron-Redux' showcases the use of old garments to create art. He has used second hand garments and created sculptural installations to question the issues of wastage as well as the artificiality of modern art. The exhibition will be on till 31st May, 2014 at Gallery Espace, New Delhi.



One with the World

Pune-based based artist Ritika Zharotia specialises in textured art. Her journey of art has been one of self-discovery and of the environment around her. Her work is an endeavour to move towards a greener and more united world defined by compassion and respect for women. She has recently extended the boundaries of her art to different surfaces. Lamps featuring her work blend art and function and effectively create mood lighting in interiors.



'Spiritual Sojourn'

Shridhar Iyer presents 'Spiritual Sojourn', an exhibition of his unique paintings and wall mountings. His work is filled with multiple dimensions, which showcase a range of organic materials such as coir and khus. Iyer's abstraction is unconventional, appearing as if it were about to spill out of the picture into the real world. This show will run from 2nd May 2014 until 20th June 2014 at Art Bull Gallery, New Delhi.

