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Transforming Complexity of Form to Simple Functionality

Prof. Ar. Charanjit Singh Shah, Founding Principal, Creative Group & Chairman - Smart Habitat Foundation, in conversation with Ar. Kritika Juneja at Creative Group, discusses why it is important to take a holistic design approach when it comes to airports.

Kritika Juneja: Initially, airports were considered as transit points only, but your firm has brought about an architectural reformation by combining the essence of Indian culture with a play of structure and form in their architecture and design. One such example is the Varanasi Airport where the Banarasi saree pattern, moss walls, and boat shaped sculptures present a uniquely crafted look of the city of Varanasi. How do you give shape to your design concept while maintaining the identity of the airport in the context of its location?

Prof. Charanjit Singh Shah: The architecture in today’s context underlines global empowerment and perhaps not global intervention. When designing an airport, we need to address the architecture and the built form while respecting the place and the people of the city/state in which it is being built, and bring a sense of belongingness for the user. We were very ambitious in the initial stage and we created dynamic spaces. The airports were planned with large spans and mega structures like the Chennai Airport, and the very complex structure of the Raipur Airport. In the Vadodara Airport, we created a simplistic, sustainable form. The process of designing various airports was a great learning experience for us; we realised that the form needs to be vocalised and given a distinct identity. And that is how there was a transformation within us to create architecture that belongs to the place and the people and is rooted in the culture of the place. Based on this new understanding, we then designed the Shirdi, Bhubaneshwar and, more recently, the Varanasi airports.
Varanasi city is the gateway to the architecture of temples, Hindu traditions, culture, and religious beliefs, the holy river Ganges, and silk sarees, and all this needed to be shown. Hence, the architectural vocabulary of the Varanasi Airport reflects all of this. We created a wavelike structure, which is very fluid, and draws inspiration from the river Ganges. In the interiors we have showcased various art forms like boats, Sanskrit shlokas, false ceiling patterns, carpeted floorings, and the rich silk sarees – all of which speak the language of the city.

I believe that, yes, this is architecture that breathes and embodies nature. It’s like putting soul into a building and making it vibrate with life, and transforming the space with the elements derived from the heart of the city, which bring a strong sense of belongingness and with it an almost meditative experience for the travellers.

Kritika Juneja: Creating a large structure that must remain true to its architectural concept while retaining its dynamic character, apart from serving its basic functional purpose, must be extremely challenging, no doubt. What advanced engineering and technologies were incorporated to create the airports?

Prof. Shah: In large span structures as seen in mega projects, use of advanced technology is very important. We take a holistic approach when designing buildings of such magnitude, so much so that sometimes the vocabulary of the structure is transformed into the vocabulary of the architecture - much like a concept that develops from an engineering innovation and transforms into an architectural concept. And this is what gives birth to the complexity of the structures and determines their shape and dimensions, particularly, airports. I would say that the complexity of form is transformed into the functionality of the space.
Kritika Juneja: How do you address the requirement for efficient and easy to access services while designing an airport?

Prof. Shah: Services should not be looked at in isolation; in fact, services are an integral part and parcel of the complete design process. So, we need to take a holistic approach so that all the elements of applied architecture are put into effect.

Kritika Juneja: You have designed various airports in India and abroad – each with a distinct design and character. What was your inspiration and thought process when planning the architecture and design of airport projects in different cities and states?

Prof. Shah: In the design process, each and every ingredient that you want to use should be studied in detail. Since every place has its context, we believe that architecture which we call ‘global’ will lack a social or cultural context. This is the reason why we incorporate the cultural ethos of the place into our airport designs.

In landmark buildings you will see reflected the various civilisations and their architecture – be they Roman, Greek, Indian etc. Today, modern structures that reflect a particular civilisation or era, and (at the same time) to fulfil their functional purpose, must incorporate the latest technology, use modern composite materials, and orient the buildings as per the climatic conditions of the place. These buildings, when adorned with the elements that reinforce the cultural aspects of the place, are imbued with a distinct character that cannot be copy pasted into another airport design. And this is the principle we follow when designing an airport in any city, state, or abroad, and the reason why the airports designed by us appear so variegated in form and structure, while being extremely modern in their functionalities.

Kritika Juneja: Though the functional aspects of every airport such as entry, baggage check-in, etc., are the same, somehow the airports designed by you have a distinct character - maybe in terms of elevation, form, interior space, or circulation.

Prof. Shah: The hierarchy of the spaces within an airport with the same commonality of functions can be different in different airports. However, the concept of space and how it should be used optimally while being perceived as open, warm, aesthetically pleasant, and comfortable, is very important, and very challenging too for the architect, whose aim is also to bring a unique experience of the space for the users. We believe that the differences that you see in the airports designed by us lie in the unique environs that we have created for the passengers as they move from one functional place to another.

Kritika Juneja: Covid-19 has impacted us in numerous ways; under the new normal, where social distancing has become necessary, how you think the design of airports would be impacted in the future?

Prof. Shah: Though Covid-19 has had an impact on the functionality of the airports in many ways, I don’t think that it is a permanent disease that calls for a permanent solution. Socialising cannot be ignored, so, some day this call for social distancing will be removed. But people today, having experienced the fallout of crowded places, will be more cautious and prefer to keep a safe distance from each other.
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Total Solutions

Besides fenestration, Lingel is offering endless options ranging from pergolas, awnings, skylights to glass conservatories. **Mario Schmidt, MD, Lingel Windows and Doors Technologies, shares the special features of their window systems**

What new trends do you see in door and window systems?

Customers are more aware of the options available to them and are now more demanding. Though UPVC has been the most sought-after product, aluminium is gaining popularity and many customers are opting for it. The oak wood is also another premium material that is entering the premium segment and clients with villas are considering it as a material for its superior look.

As regards colour, customers are becoming very experimental and open to other shades besides white and brown. The colour palette can now range from snow white to dark grey, walnut, and light grey. In the coming years we will have to be open to experiment with shades of red and blue, which is the trend in the west.

What special features does Lingel windows offer?

All Lingel windows are airtight. But it is not just solutions for dust and noise that customers are looking for but a complete solution. We have introduced a new product that provides complete security as well. For glazing, the following security glazing systems can be opted for: LPG 14 Lingel Panzer Glazing 14mm - a multilayer security glass; and LPG 18 Lingel Panzer Glazing 18 mm superior performance glass.
Manufacturers are catering to customer demand for windows that reduce noise and dust, have thermal insulation, and strong glazing and mesh for additional safety; this is a positive trend for both new and refurbishing projects in India.

Mario Schmidt

Lingel Safety box 2 (LBS 2) is our highest point of locking security. RC2 and RC3 as per EN1627-30 it means that resistant glass to hardware. The introduction of the mortise locking system is an additional feature that can be provided to customers.

Thermal insulated glass can considerably reduce heat loss and help save electricity bills. Double or triple glazing can be used. To ensure that radiated heat is reduced, we recommend use of glass with a low-emissivity or low-E coating. Also, appropriate shading solutions can be aptly used. A pergola or a venetian blind can be a great solution for thermal solution. However, expert advice is important when looking for the right options.

Lingel windows have an insect net that achieves the impossible task of protecting people against ingress of insects, while providing natural ventilation as well. The mesh is more efficient in keeping insects out as compared to the traditional mesh shutters seen in wooden windows and doors. At the same time, the mesh provides security against break-ins as it is so strong that even hammers, baseball, or cricket bats cannot break it.
Fenesta has launched its Ultra Luxury Aluminium Windows and Doors system for the application needs of Retail and Institutional customers. The aluminium range enhances and diversifies the company’s product portfolio from UPVC Windows and Doors and Internal Designer Doors. The Aluminium Windows and Doors deliver a minimalist, ultra-modern styles ranging from casement to tilt and turn to sliding windows, non-thermal break casement and slider doors. What’s more, these products feature slimmer and sleek frames for a seamless experience.

Says Saket Jain, Business Head, Fenesta, “As India’s largest organised windows and doors solutions brand, we aim at emerging as the leader across the entire windows and doors market. Since Aluminium dominates the category, considering this segment was natural. For us, the current change signals an organic shift for greater growth. The Company keeps innovating with new product offerings to stay ahead of the curve.”

Fenesta Aluminium Windows and Doors are durable and flexible enough to be installed in various settings. Besides augmenting ambient aesthetics and security, these products offer robust insulation properties for offices and private homes while being rust-free as well as resistant to bending, rotting and UV rays, and the maintenance costs are also low. The company offers timely after-sales service and has pan-India showrooms and service centres.
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LAKHAN SINGH
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Mobile : +91 9310562488
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A-Class Marble: Creating Luxury Spaces

Rajesh Bhandari, Director, A-Class Marble India, informs that the company is celebrating a legacy of 50 years as a leading marble and stone importer, and a pioneer of Stone Augmentation Technology in India. It offers over 450 varieties of marble, granite, designer slabs, porcelain stoneware, and other architectural surfaces that are handpicked and quarried from across the globe.

What are the characteristics of marble that have placed it high on the building materials’ popularity chart since ages?

With its roots in ancient Rome and Greece, marble continues to be one of the biggest trending materials in the Architecture, Interiors and Design Industry. If the stone is used for face work, where appearance is a primary factor, its colour and ability to receive polish is an important factor. The diverse texture and colour of marble add to the elegance of space and lend it a royal touch. Marble is less porous and stronger than other stones. Depending on the limestone and the mineral combination within the marble, most marble rates from three to five on the Mohs hardness scale.

Stones should possess natural durability to withstand the destructive effects of various agents that are continuously operating on them. In fact, the life of a structure depends upon the durability of the materials with which it is built, and marble has not only high durability but also long-lasting properties. As a low maintenance material, with easy to clean and easy to install properties, marble is the right choice for residential and commercial spaces.

What are the new and emerging application areas of marble?

This natural stone has embraced resurgence with modern designers reimagining its classic image to one of chic and stylish. Popularly used in flooring, marble brings a touch of magnificence and elegance to residential projects, hotels, malls, and retail stores. However, its application is changing. From all-marble rooms, people are opting for smaller accent pieces of marble in spaces like the living room, dining room, bedroom, and bathroom.

Marble-accented furniture like end-tables in the living room, dining tables, and kitchen countertops allows you to bring cohesive accent pieces throughout the house. Making an accent wall using warm-toned slabs in pink, orange, light brown, and deep purple has a stunning effect when applied in small reading nooks, dining areas, and in bedrooms.
If luxury is your watchword, then marble is the best choice, as it amplifies the elegance of the interior spaces, with its glossy, highly polished surface.

**Rajesh Bhandari**

Our 1st Tile and Fiandre range of collection can be used as flooring, tabletop, wall cladding, furniture, etc., while our Fuori Formato collection is especially crafted for wall cladding.

**What are the processes and benefits of Stone Augmentation Technology?**

The process of achieving perfection in our products begins with choosing the best in class products sourced from the world’s best quarries. The marble and rare stone slabs are offloaded to our warehouse for reinforcement and processing with the help of gantry cranes. The slabs are then transported to a cleaning and processing unit at our facility in Kishangarh, Rajasthan; where automatic robotic machines clean the slabs of any impurities and are subsequently processed with an epoxy resin formula from Tenax S.p.A. in Verona, Italy, to eliminate any natural defects in the slabs and to make them withstand breakage from sawing through the Gangsaw machinery. Our slabs are cut according to international standards of 18 – 20 mm to ensure better durability and longevity of the slabs.

After cutting the slabs, the beauty of marble is enhanced through a Resin and Hardener treatment, which are mixed in a particular ratio to give optimum gloss and strength to each slab. The treatment is achieved through Prometec – 150’, an ultra-modern machinery at our unit in Kishangarh. The slabs are then integrated with a reinforcing fibreglass net on both sides to ensure that they do not suffer any damage during transportation to the project site. This process involves applying a final polish finish to the slabs through an automated equipment that removes even the smallest grains and particles to even the surface and give a crystal-glow to the surface.

**What does your product portfolio offer?**

The collection at A-Class Marble comprises more than 450 varieties of marble, stone, granite, and other architectural surfaces imported under sole agreement with quarries and brands from Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, France, Turkey, Vietnam, and other countries. These are displayed at our Kishangarh showroom spread over 10,00,000 sq. ft that demonstrates the legacy and lineage of the brand. A blend of Classical Greek and Roman Architecture it emanates a strong mid-Victorian classical vibe, with a magnificent lobby with a three-tiered, elaborate glass chandelier above.

The flooring in a radial pattern, originates at the focal point of a spiral staircase, spreading out in concentric circles that bear a radial checkerboard pattern in burning gold and plain white marble, while the outer area is a simplistic, alternating circular pattern of clean grey and light brown.

All murals are made of stone, and the walls are periodically clad with samples of stones for a whole new experience to the visitors.

**Please name some of your major clients.**

Over the years, we have had the privilege to work with distinguished clients, namely, Primal Group, Reliance Group, Abhimanyu Dalal Architects, Habitat Architects, Naveen Jindal, ZZ Architects, Prestige Group, Lanco, Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Taj, Vivanta Hotels, Shangri-la Hotels, Radisson, The Lalit, TATA Housing, and many more.
How has demand increased for landscape lighting?

The media and the digital spread have created an attitudinal change in the minds of the public. Gone are the days when people were content with a few trees and some plants in their houses and surroundings. Now, every independent house and gated community demands a green environment with state-of-the-art landscaping and outdoor lighting to enhance their environs. Hence, the demand for good landscape and lighting designers and a variety of application luminaires has increased manifold.

Today, due to the availability of more efficient lighting solutions, sustainable designs, global warming considerations, focus on aesthetics, safety concerns, and, above all, LED applications in lighting, the methods and equipment for outdoor illumination have undergone a total change.

New, innovative products and solutions for illumination have redefined outdoor and landscape lighting. With facade lights, RGB Led strips, DALI controls, controllable optics, and colour changing LEDs, landscape architects are now able to create innumerable creative lighting designs.

How are K-Lite products meeting this demand?

K-Lite has always been in the forefront of lighting solutions by regularly introducing new lighting concepts and luminaires, particularly in the outdoor lighting sphere. In fact, K-Lite became popular with its Bulk Head Fitting and a variety of Post Top Lanterns in the 1980’s, and then through its Bollards with MV/MH lamps, and subsequently CFL lamps. After the LED lamp came to the Indian market, we switched our product range to LEDs and introduced a variety of luminaires.

In order to meet the changing scenario and to meet the expectations of the architects and lighting designers, we also introduced a series of luminaires for facade and architectural lighting. For facade lighting of buildings, LED rope lighting with colour changing options and controls from K-Lite is a much sought-after item.

We offer a wide range of highly efficient and aesthetically designed Facade Luminaires, Pathway Luminaires, Pathfinders, Column Lights, Landscape Luminaires, Wall Washers, In-Ground Luminaires, Underwater Luminaires, Up-Down Lighters, Recess Mounted Down Lighters, area lighting poles, and street lighting with our sleek polar lighting solutions, along with various bracket fittings.

With our high-performance and aesthetic range of luminaires, lighting designers and architects can offer innumerable contemporary solutions for discreet illumination of outdoor spaces and make landscape designs dramatic with up-lighting, silhouetting, grazing lights, wall washing, and many other
solutions. Our luminaires are enabling innovative designs using LEDs for lighting up retail outlets, offices, building facades, pathways, and for architectural lighting. K-Lite’s lighting range is all the more special because of the light source viz., energy saving, environment-friendly, long-lasting lamps.

Please name some of K-Lite’s prestigious lighting projects.

Our capability to manufacture and test the custom-built luminaires has brought our brand to the forefront of developmental activities and cater to the specially designed luminaire requirements of prestigious projects throughout the country. Our lighting projects include street lighting at Amritsar Golden Temple Complex, Varanasi City, Chandigarh-Mohali Highway etc. We have been catering to the Indian Railways’ luminaire requirements for their passenger Coach Building Unit and Integral Coach Factory, Rajdhani Express, Shatabdi Express, Palace on Wheel EMUs, Jaipur Metro, Delhi Metro, Bangalore Metro and the latest Kolkata-Metro and Sri Lankan Metro coaches. Today, K-lite has entered international markets, and its turnover has increased by more than 400 percent.

How do you see the lighting industry evolving in the coming years?

Globally, the lighting industry is growing at a very fast pace, with a projected value of around 2000 million USD. The coming decade is going to witness phenomenal changes in the field of lighting. During the last decade, the thrust was on energy saving solutions, which gave rise to the popularity of LED lighting, which began to replace conventional lighting. Application of solid-state devices as a source of lighting has given way to new concepts in lighting control and automation. In fact, automation in lighting is a major thrust area for lighting designers as well as manufacturers.

The order of the day is smart (green) concept in every field viz., smart homes, smart cities, smart lighting, smart poles etc. Smart lighting technology includes high efficiency fixtures and automated controls that make adjustments based on conditions such as occupancy, daylight, with an intelligent networked system of devices such as relays, occupancy sensors, photocells, light control switches, touchscreens, and signals from other building systems.

What does ‘light’ mean to you?

Light allows us to realize the possibilities of our imagination. The quality of light influences the quality of life and it is clear that light must combine techniques and emotions contemporaneously, defining new values, meanings, feelings, culture, comfort etc., while overcoming the simple light-dark dichotomy.
Designers have an arsenal of tools at their disposal when it comes to crafting a perfect lighting design scheme. Assessing the uses, sizes and natural light levels in each room, a flawless lighting plan can be curated to meet even the most demanding of requirements.

Different rooms and spaces have different requirements. For instance, a utility room is well served with glare free compact fluorescent, whereas a study room requires particular attention to task lighting. An open plan space consisting of a living, a dining and a kitchen layout needs to have several different circuits of lighting that includes a mix of LED spots and low-level floor washers, LED under cupboard task lights, and mains voltage lamp light to create depth and texture in the space.

There is more to lighting than just deciding how many downlights to put in each room. Depending on the location, wall scones or uplighting can be used to create a softer ambience and avoid potentially harsh downlighting.

The main factors that need to be kept in mind while deciding the lighting scheme for a residential interior lies in its detail. Having an extensive idea about finishes, furniture layout, joinery details, and an understanding of how the house will flow, helps get the ideal lighting design in place.

This dining arrangement at 'Dancing with Nature' by Urban Zen comprises a marble tabletop balanced on top of a honeycomb structured and brass-finished lounge-style seating. Flushed wooden ceiling lights, suspended artisanal wood, and linear timber segment wall cladding enhance the space.
The goal of ambient lighting is to supply even light to an overall area. This is most frequently accomplished with recessed lighting or a chandelier. In the 'Overlapping Volumes' residential project by Urban Zen there are abundant examples of lighting designs. The living room has a stunning chandelier by San Souci which is in many ways a piece of art. Each pendant is formed of two parts, a hand-blown crystal-clear drop with soda effect inside and a hand-blown crystal-clear cap with a silver nano-coating finish. The light sources are programmed to exude different colored fans, rays, or drapes, imitating the fascinating phenomenon that originates in polar areas and is very rare in our latitudes.

The dining room has brass murals and light pendants from Roberto Cavali as the finishing touches to the space.

The lighting preferences should be sorted during the initial design phase of a new build or renovation project.

Rohit Suraj
**Automatic Shade & Light**

Since its incorporation in February 2002, Intermark has evolved from being a high-end, customized Fiber Optic lighting and LED lighting solution provider to a multi-division corporate, offering specialist systems, which include luxury shading systems, in partnership with reputed international and national companies, informs **Karan Ajmani, Director, Sales & Marketing, Intermark Associates**.

**What is your company offering in the retractable roofing range?**

We are the authorised distributors of Palmiye Retractable Pergolas, Bioclimatic Pergolas, Glass Systems and Awnings. Our premium fully retractable roofs by Palmiye Turkey are available in aluminium and fabric versions. These roofs are uber luxury products and highly efficient in their performance. We also offer an exclusive range of awnings with premium trims, finishes and fabrics.

We are offering SMARTROOF® - a fully automated louvered roofing system. This latest innovation in roof design is an environment-friendly system that allows you to access natural sunlight and ventilation, while providing protection from rain and sunlight, with a simple flick of the switch or a remote control. SMARTROOF is a brand owned and operated by Intermark Associates - a Design Resource company with its head office in New Delhi, and a manufacturing cum experience centre in Ghaziabad. Smartroof has a sales and support network spread across the country.
Our major strength is the ability to offer customized turnkey solutions to meet the requirements of architects, interior designers, project consultants and real estate developers. We advise and assist our customers in taking informed decisions that meet their needs at optimal investment.

Karan Ajmani

What are the features of Smartroof?
The SMARTROOF® louvered roof is an ingenious mechanism that transforms a solid waterproof covering to a Pergola-style covering that gives light, ventilation, and a view of the sky above. It is an all-new openable roofing system that comprises of an array of heavy-duty extruded aluminium louvers.

The extruded aluminium motorised louvered roofing system moves at an axis of 0 - 180 degrees with the help of a switch or by remote control. It has an integrated drainage system and comes with an option of lights, rain sensors, and in an array of colours.

SMARTROOF® is precision engineered conforming to Australian / EU specs, elegantly crafted, corrosion resistant and leak proof. The aluminium louvers can be powder-coated in the colour of your choice, with a matching support frame to blend with any architectural style. Multiple banks of louvers provide almost limitless design options.

What are the popular application areas of Smartroof?
Smartroof is functional, elegant and maintenance free option that can be installed anywhere, where one wants relief from rain and sunlight. These include patios, poolside decks, courtyards, open-air coffee shop and restaurant, atriums, terrace gardens, barbeques and outdoor recreation areas, entrances to villas, hotels, holiday resorts, commercial buildings, airports, etc. The possibilities are endless.

It gives us a great sense of pride in saying that we are making Smartroofs in India, which is a fully customised solution. We have installed Smartroofs at over 500 premium locations across India. Some of our commercial clients include DMRC, JSW, Indian Oil, Airport Authority of India, NTPC, Samrat Hotel, Chokhi Dhani, Cidade de Goa, Punj Lloyd, Sanghi Cement, Kinetic Group, Shahi Exports etc.
Revitalized Spaces

The remodelled library project undertaken by Vishwannath Associates responds to the existing architectural expression of a heritage structure with enhanced comfort to meet the needs of the students of a New India.

Situated within a reputed institutional campus, the footfall of this library had significantly dropped. The requirement was to revitalize the space, make it more technology competent, and increase its relevance to the current needs of Gen Y users.

Based on the growing needs and expectations of millennial students from a library situated in a large institutional campus, we coined a few definitions which we then translated into design: "Technologically versed repository of multi-format content, responding to the current needs entwined with the existing library fabric, facilitating flexible functions and catalysing interactions between the students, faculty, and visitors."
“It is always a dream for an architect to be remembered for his firm’s good work. It is a huge responsibility, on the architect to make a marked difference to the end-user of space. The excitement, the satisfaction and the fulfillment of 42 months of work, that culminates in appreciation by the design fraternity is always welcome,” says V. Vishwanath, Founder & Principal Architect, on winning the award for the Library under the ‘Institutional and Public spaces category’ at the ‘IID National Design Excellence Award 2019’.
Preserving the traditional functional requirements, the additional functions are seamlessly woven into the pre-existing library narrative using colours as a common thread. Studies prove that using colour can increase the attention span of the users and reduce boredom. Hence, the element of colour has been introduced alongside the acoustics, AI intervention, pedestal for faculty works, comfortable seating, etc. Functions like discussion rooms, formal and informal reading, retiring zones, laptop bays, digital display areas etc are tucked in, along with softer, more flexible spaces.
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Amritsar Railway Station Redevelopment

The new design of the railway station by Design Forum International (DFI) envisions a modern world-class infrastructure with traditional Sikh Architecture celebrating Amritsar city as the gateway to the holy ‘Golden Temple’

Amritsar Railway Station is an integrated urban redevelopment plan designed for the city of Amritsar in Punjab, India. Symbolic of religious destinations in India, the Golden Temple with its golden history makes it holier and a huge destination for tourists and followers. The new redevelopment model for the Amritsar Railway Station addresses a greater context, focusing on a comprehensive design that addresses the immediate surroundings of commercial, logistics, residential as well as office buildings adjoining the station.

The Golden temple or the Gurudwara witnesses visitors from all over the world. The footfall all around the year makes the Amritsar Railway Station one of the busiest in terms of passenger movement and train traffic. It caters to nearly 30,000 people who utilize it for the daily commute. A detailed analysis demonstrates that this vast and multi-connected railway system is falling behind on physical substructure and is a vital site for redevelopment. The lack of infrastructure does not support the rising development, urbanization and the growing demand for facilities to cater to the sizeable travelling population.

The new design of the railway station envisions a modern world-class infrastructure with architecture that celebrates the Amritsar city as the gateway to the holy ‘Golden Temple’ and is a global inspiration.
A prototype of the future of the railway system of the 21st century in India, the redevelopment project offers an integrated urban masterplan that will outline an utterly unified design vision of the city’s transport system. It incorporates a long-term strategy that will act as a catalyst for urban growth, setting in place the foundations for sustainable development. Our design of the Amritsar Railway Station Redevelopment is our contribution to the broader Nation Building prospects of the country.

Ar. Goonmeet Singh

Designed in response to the local context, the new masterplan draws on the high density compact urban model of the old quarter of Amritsar, with its mix of uses and comfortable walkable zones. The project aims to achieve a significant intensification, strategic planning and a unique character for positive urban growth and natural orientation to the city.

In collaboration with Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC), the Amritsar railway station is intended to be as developed as an artist’s impression dedicated to the faith and belief of the pilgrims. Developed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the master plan will boast world-class facilities for passengers such as advance horizontal and vertical systems of transportation (high-speed lifts and escalators), designated spaces for collecting and parking trolleys and various retail outlets within a large central lobby and a ‘Khanda’ fountain that is representative of the sacred nature of the city.

The process of redevelopment will include various principles of sustainability. Granite flooring on the platforms and sensory tracks painted with an epoxy finish will protect the rails against corrosion, provide high resistance and ensure proper maintenance of stench free tracks. The underground disposal network system under the concrete layer of tracks system will ensure self cleansing rails resulting in a hygienic and odour-free environment.

The railway station sits between parallel to the major G.T. road. The concourse will provide the entry to the station that will allow 50 cars to enter and exit the station at a time. Covering a sweeping area of 22,240 square meters, the concourse will ensure ample and designated parking spaces with 1000 ecus. Provision of Intermediate Public Transport Intergeneration (IPTG) will provide proper parking space for public transport and designated pedestrian routes.
The unique, ancient Sikh architecture interpreted at the entry will bear a vast symbolic lotus pond supported with columns and designed with lotus stems with a magnificent 60-metre long water body integrated with a choreographed fountain performance at the entrance plaza of the station.

Another entry from a large retail space located at the G.T. Road will lead straight to the station. A proposed secondary entry provided at the later stages after completion of the project will lead the travellers and passenger straight to the Golden temple and Jallianwala Bagh.

The safety and convenience of the passengers as the epicentres behind the proposal of the redevelopment, the design of the railway station aims to capacitate larger population density in quicker time with 72 security inspection checkpoints. Considering the hygiene quotient, the checkpoints perhaps will also act as screening zones.

The comfortable ambience inside the station with platforms covered under a single roof, the revamped interiors of the station will have proper systems of lighting, signage and modern amenities. The waiting areas and lounges will have 1500+ seating with customized furniture, kiosks for refreshments and outstanding amenities with special services for the old and specially-abled passengers.

The construction process of the project will cause no inconvenience to the passengers, road commuters and residents of the neighbourhood. The continuous barrel vault roof of the station will have inverted sprinklers providing automated cleaning and cooling to the top, decreasing heat island effect. The solar panels installed in the roof will give clean energy to the potential autonomous building of the station and glass skylights will maximize daylighting while reducing dependence on electrical lighting.

As a city with structures that hold historical and mythological importance and as a central station for the famous Shatabadi Express, Amritsar has a significant footfall all around the year. Anticipating the proximity to the border, the city experiences little investments. However, Amritsar under the smart city development program shall experience improvement in its peripheral infrastructure. Therefore, as a potential project to boost real estate investment, tourism industry development and employment, the surplus land will house stand-alone shopping centres, offices, and hospitality projects with broader road infrastructure.

The comprehensive plan extends from the design of the station to using the latest technology and materials for creating distinctive streamlined forms. The emblematic design of the shed and the aspects of Sikh Architecture will echo in the city’s branding concept, creating an instantly recognizable image for the new transportation plan, while expressing a unique sense of place.
A Surreal Space

Using its evocative wall coverings and furniture, Momenti has designed the interiors of this quaint Italian restaurant to spectacular effect and has artfully brought the outdoors

This winter, locals and visitors at the scenic town of Forli, can enjoy the tropical outdoors within the comfort of Italian indoors at the newly opened Ca’Leoni restaurant. A collaboration between the restaurant owner Dannis Leoni, restaurant architect and Momenti founders Alexander and Matteo Bagnai, has resulted in an unmistakably unique restaurant interior that mimics a garden.

All wall and product coverings were made with tecno fibre printed with graphics. To realize the vision of a “permanent garden” earthy browns and greens in varying hues were chosen for the tecno fibre. The realistic imagery on the walls transformed the interiors into a surreal space by the woods. The tabletops have been covered in botanical motifs adding to the verdant atmosphere. Natural wood and woven planters further enhance the natural appeal.

“Greenery and eco-friendliness were at the centre of this project,” says Alexander Bagnai, co-founder of Momenti, “so the idea of a permanent garden was an inevitable choice.”

"Momenti’s ability to customize the space to realize the underlying vision is its biggest strength. A strong visual identity that creates a truly distinct space is a natural outcome of Momenti’s design process,” adds Ashok Basoya, founder of Ottimo, which has brought the Momenti brand to India.
The existing character of Eastern Market was a clear inspiration for the project design. Vibrant and popular, the historic Eastern Market is the largest public farmers market in the United States, and continues to thrive as an active food hub for the region after nearly 130 years. Glass Mural takes a new approach to preserving art and memory through architecture and technology in one of the United States’ most architecturally distinctive cities. In 2015, Detroit was the country’s first designated ‘UNESCO City of Design’. Glass Mural is an exemplary demonstration of how the city is charting a new path forward in 21st century architecture and design.

Designed by MVRDV, Glass Mural, a one-of-a-kind, four-storey office and retail building located in Detroit’s Eastern Market neighbourhood has a colourfully printed glass façades that celebrates existing murals and adds new artistic works to the area.

Glass Mural will be located directly across Eastern Market’s largest and busiest market hall, Shed 3, at the intersection of Russell and Division Street. Currently, the site is home to a two-storey brick building whose key redeeming feature is a mural by the established local artist DENIAL. MVRDV’s proposal is to visually preserve this artwork by recreating the mural and brick pattern on a new canvas made of glass – combining a larger version of the mural with images of the building’s brick pattern as a single image, stretched around all four sides of the building.
MVRDV’s design for the 40,000-sqft building comprises a stack of shifting blocks, which becomes a canvas to build upon the area’s vibrant and creative character. Operationally, Glass Mural will have a ground-level retail storefront, with three floors of offices dispersed throughout the two primary glass blocks with permanent artworks. The third block will house circulation cores and access to the roof deck, which will be a fully occupiable amenity for office tenants.

In slight contrast with DENIAL’s work on the first block, the second block will present a newly commissioned mural by Sheefy McFly, one of Detroit’s top emerging artists. The building blocks and murals will make use of cutting-edge glass printing techniques to combine the colourful artworks with areas of transparency, providing windows for the shops and offices inside. Unlike the other glass facades, the third block will feature a “flat façade finish” to create a canvas that will be ever-changing. It will provide an opportunity for different artists over time to come and paint murals.
Winy Maas, founding partner at MVRDV, said, "We loved the idea of the artworks that bring this area to life, and this building is our tribute to this character, eternalised through a printing technique. It allows us to interact with the spirit of the neighbourhood in a way that is playful and unexpected. Our decision to do so with glass is also practical, as it allows us to incorporate windows to become a part of the artwork, not an obstacle for artists to work around. That enables a greater level of faithfulness to the original artwork that will be recreated, as well as greater artistic freedom for the new artwork."

The glass facades will be produced using digital ceramic printing, a technique which MVRDV has considerable experience in. The contractor for the project will be L.S. Brinker Company. The first stage of the project commenced on September 30, 2020, with construction of Glass Mural set to begin in 2021.
Indigenous architecture is all about exploring new ideas and technologies while staying true to its roots. Today, it has not only influenced, but also adapted to modern structural design, and added another dimension in the realm of architecture. Having allowed the forging of a new balance between technology and tradition, indigenous architecture opens up endless opportunities and gives creative freedom to the design and architecture of a building, without losing the identity of the place nor the essence of time. By remaining relevant in the context of modern-day requirements, while imbued with the richness of Indian culture and tradition, this balance allows for a harmony between man, building, and the built environment.

Today, there are numerous architects like us who are delving into this architectural ideology. For instance, the Vishal & Janki Muttemwar residence refurbished by us, is inspired by Indian vernacular art and architecture. It encompasses a mélange of tints, shades, and hues, and has an earthen grandeur, peppered with a classic touch. Though doused in myriad colors, it is yet austere and rooted in sound architectural principles, and depicts a contemporary yet minimalistic style. The project seamlessly blurs the boundaries of exterior and interior, retaining the natural aspects of the site and its responsiveness to its surroundings. The contemporary design style typically offset by neutral colors has a blend of textures and materials which manifest the exact point between modern and bucolic. The interior décor is offset by accent pieces like a crystal chandelier, partitions of carved wooden panels, and other elements that enhance the vernacular design.

Many modern architects design huge towers using metal and glass, which stand out from their context. There is a need for ingenuity and respect towards the building materials, style and aesthetics, and their correlation with technology. This integration should allow for the elimination of any extravagant additions, misuse of space, and irrelevant features.
Celebrating Craftsmanship in Contemporary Design

Designed and developed by Amsterdam-based studio GG-loop, the Biophilic House ‘Freebooter’ is made of a hybrid structure of Cross Laminated Timber and Steel; it was prefabricated offsite and built in three weeks for the four floors, while finishing the block took 6 months.

Freebooter is a small building located in the center of the island of Zeeburgereiland in Amsterdam, facing the IJ river, consisting of two duplexes of 120-sqm each. Sensitive to Dutch history, customs and culture, the project took the Netherlands’s maritime past as its starting point, and therefore has many references to wind, water, and sailing. The main materials of the building, like a ship’s hull, were limited to wood, steel, and glass. The floor plan of each apartment, referencing a ship’s layout, is organic and free-flowing, with step-inclines to spaces that are designed to envelop and ‘unfold’ as the inhabitant moves through it. One of the most important features is its use of light. GG-loop conducted a year-round study of light conditions to create the optimal shape and positioning of the structure’s louvers. This parametric facade enabled the optimal distribution of light while simultaneously allowing for an appropriate level of privacy.
I see biophilic design as the key to truly innovative design, balancing the technical aspects of environmentally conscious construction with the qualitative, lived-in experience of an organic and natural space; Freebooter is a response to that.

**Giacomo Garziano**  
Founder, GG-loop

Photo courtesy: Juliana Gomez

The home-owner-centric design is based on high energy efficiency, high-quality interior spaces, and natural materials. The floorplan, flow of spaces and organic lines were created with careful consideration of daily use and the typical tasks of dwellers. This building of two tailor-made apartments harmonizes form and function on a meticulously designed plan. With a striking exterior, it has become a central point of the district; the block opens onto a compact interior plan revealing combinations of windows, wooden interiors, and high-quality finishes, with open organic curves that walk through comfortable living spaces, promoting a feeling of well-being and connection to nature.

The project is the result of in-depth research in the field of timber construction: the hybrid system in CLT and steel structure was developed throughout the design process to optimize interior space and time of construction. Comparative tests were made between a concrete structure and the CLT structure. The latter has proven to be the most qualitative solution, due to its structural performance and its optimization of construction time, but also its carbon footprint since wood naturally stores CO₂. The impact on the cost of an efficient CLT structure is less than 10%, compared to a concrete solution.

The building’s energy consumption is close to 0 due to 24 solar panels on the roof, high-performance wall insulation, and glass walls, coupled with low-temperature underfloor heating and a mechanical and natural ventilation system. 98% of the wood used is PEFC certified. With 122.5 m³ of wood used, the building stores nearly 80 tons of CO₂, offsetting nearly 700,000 km of exhaust gas from a mid-range car and the energy consumption of 87 homes in one year. Freebooter won the “Large Apartment of the Year” award at the Frame Awards 2020.
A Visual Treat

In the design of ‘Woven Layers’ by AVG Architecture En Interiors, from its conceptualization to the off-beat planning layout, the functional aspects and the aesthetic styling have been conceived in continuing layers, such that their unique properties blend into a seamless composition.

The thought process of ‘Layering’ expresses the principles of contemporary design alongside usage of subtle components with an ostentatious flavour. The contemporariness can be felt from the start in the ingeniously designed boundary wall, synthesized using GRC panels, and a steel gate. The setbacks around the structure are formulated into a lush garden complete with a swing seating and a waterbody. The hardscapes of grey toned granite fuse with the green ambience, while spike lights and uplighters show the way to the residence seen through a cloud-tinted verandah. In the façade, niches and recessed internal spaces create numerous layers woven into a contemporary milieu. Materials include white Shivpuri stone and IPE wood cladding which amplify the stratified effect of the external interfaces. With regards to the vertical zoning, each floor was devised owing to the privacy indicated by each particular space: the basement houses entertainment areas, the ground floor has semi-public spaces, and the rest are private areas. The interiors are marked by chandeliers, upholstered carpets, CNC cut wood paneled accent ceiling, mosaic tiling, a staircase in marble and wood, a hand-cut mosaic mural on the resting wall, and a fronted open terrace of GRC panels in varying patterns.
There always has to be a ‘hero’ element that accentuates its way through the entire design, while the supplementary elements need to be scattered for embellishment and not to steal focus or create cacophony.

Ar. Archana Van Gils, Principal, AVG Architecture En Interiors

Fact File
Project Name: Woven Layers
Location: Gurugram
Site Area: 500 sq.yards
Built-Up Area: 8500 sq.ft.
Typology: Residence
Completion Date: 2019
Design Team: Archana van Gils, Amit Thakral
Photography: Amit Pasricha
Text: Ar. Bineeta Ghoshal
Moroccan Fantasy

Shilpi Sonar, Founder & Creative Director, Creations, took design cues inspired by the riads of Marakkech and elements of Casablanca to create a stunning residence that exudes sheer opulence.

Combining the elements of luxury with simple yet intricate designs, the 10,000 sq.ft bungalow is detail-oriented and underscores the values of comfort and opulence. The rich interiors are decorated with ornamental wall panels coated with gold and silver leafing elaborate woodwork crafted by local artisans. Emblems symbolizing Moroccan royalty demarcate the spaces between public, semi-public, and private. Hand-painted ceilings and metal cut works mimic Moroccan motifs. Nine feet tall windows allow abundant natural light and open out to the landscaped greens outside.
The thing about designing a residence of this magnitude and luxurious spaces is that every bit has to be thought about and planned in multiple layers. We have not only customized the woodwork, glasswork, stone work, and the mirror work, but we have also custom designed the towels, bedroom linen, and curtains and even selected the crockery to match the royally done up dining space.

Shilpi Sonar

A massive double-height dining room showcases a glimmering chandelier with a hand-painted mural in the background. The restrooms are made resplendent with marble mouldings and are fitted with amenities that include a jacuzzi and a steam room. Each room has its own theme, colours and motifs. Rich gold, champagne, silver, deep reds and blues are toned down by pastel pinks. Handwoven curtains and hand-picked carpets enhance the traditional look and feel of the spaces within.
The Nature Connect

This quintessential contemporary house designed by Vipul Patel Architects is a representation of the architectural language that denotes clean, straight lines and minimalism, and a merging of the interior spaces with the nature outside.

A modern villa with cantilever exposed RCC slabs and glass facades, it has the right balance between the inner and outer spaces, wherein the constructed structure stands balanced with the landscaped area. The L-formation architectural planning is a result of the sun path and directions and was done so that most of the areas open up towards the north, which works best for the Indian climate.

The highlight of the 8400 sq.ft. house is allowing the user to continuously connect with the vast open green spaces. The drawing room sits amidst the lush green of the landscape on three sides and a water body on one side. The glass facades in this area bring in the landscape, and for the user it is like co-existing with nature.
This house is a right balance between the inner and outer spaces, wherein the constructed structure is enhanced by the landscaped area, and vice versa; in fact, co-existing is a prevailing concept in the design of this house since we were responsible for the landscape designing as well as the architectural planning.

(L to R) Jinal Patel, Ronak Patel, Vipul Patel, Naiya Patel

A double-height space in the center of the house extends the volume of the house vertically. Decorative glass light fixtures amplify the central area. The living area opens out to a courtyard on one side and a verandah, which in turn opens out to a deck with seating. A garden on the other side makes this a perfect space for large gatherings. Intricately designed wall murals and the vibrant colours and furniture pieces break the monotony of solid wood.
The French Connection

The Primordial House designed by Morph Lab and constructed by Sambhav Group is a telling example of luxury with convenience and functionality. The building is inspired by the European style of architecture, particularly French, and designed to offer a combination of minimalism and extravagance.

Overlooking the Arabian Sea, the Primordial House, located in the bustling hub of Kemp’s Corner in Mumbai, is flanked by high-rise buildings. Symbolizing French living, it has huge balconies and large Georgian bar windows that offer a view of the cityscape. Its design pays homage to French colonial structures. Gigantic French windows on each floor bring natural light into each flat and enable ventilation and air circulation within the premises. Facades made with Corten Steel give the building a vintage look. Amenities include a mini theatre, a library, gymnasium, and a swimming pool. On the charts is a terrace café on the 21st floor.

Says Ar. Sahil Jain, Morph Lab, “We’ve provided a common fairly large balcony/terrace alternatively between floors. We’re using Corten Steel cladding for the façade which acts as a membrane that protects the building against bad weather and substantially reduces damage caused by the rains. Corten steel is usually 100% recyclable and adds a layer of protection for stains that many other materials fail to do. It is also the slimmest tile with a great deal of flexibility in its use.”

Natural stone tiles imported from Italy make the apartment cooler; they also act as a sun breaker and provide a double layer to prevent water seepage. Since the building does not have a rainwater harvesting framework as it is difficult to do this in smaller plots with independent buildings, paver blocks are used so that water leaks through and adds to the groundwater levels underground.

Says Vinay Sanghvi, MD, Sambhav Group, “We are keenly ensuring sustainable construction practices and use of eco-friendly building materials and undertake waste management. We have vermiculture bins placed throughout the building and we will have trees and plants throughout the complex. The foundation of the building is planned to make it earthquake proof and long lasting.”
Sambhav Group specializes in redevelopment projects especially in the tonier neighborhoods of the city. Our aim is to keep innovating on designs and use superior building materials for the exteriors and interiors so that the buildings we create will be seen as landmarks in the city of Mumbai.

Vinay Sanghvi, MD
Sambhav Group

Not many projects in the region can enjoy a view of the bay and the horizon of Mumbai from three sides. The apartments overlook the bay and the historical August Kranti Maidan in the front. Even the apartments at the back have a great view from two sides of the Mumbai skyline and the sea.

Ar. Sahil Jain, Morph Lab
Taj Theog is a 90-key luxury resort that sits on a cliff on the periphery of Theog, a remote town in Himachal Pradesh. The project marks the Taj Hotels’ first hospitality venture in Himachal Pradesh and had a clear mandate to marry the region’s rich cultural heritage with world-class amenities to offer guests a service-oriented environment with a profound local connect.

Studio Lotus was brought on board by Pradeep Sachdeva Design Associates (PSDA), the architects on the project, to design its public spaces with the aim of bringing in the distinct warmth and intimacy of a mountain home to the hospitality experience.

The studio has employed a light material palette of locally sourced timber and stone to create a quiet and restrained spatial experience. Handcrafted elements from the vernacular lexicon are contemporized and incorporated, for instance, the hotel lobby features rows of timber spindles suspended on metal screens that also break the large expanse of space into smaller, intimate pockets. The scale of the space is further modulated through the use of locally sourced pinewood and slate, as well as intricate geometric patterns in the tiles and wooden paneling, both of which add visual density to the interiors.

The resort, spread across three levels, comprises zones characterized by specific elements to create a distinct identity. For instance, local slate and Budhpura stone are used within the all-day dining space; the wide floor span and low-hung roof of the bar are utilized to create a train carriage-like atmosphere, inspired by colonial-era railway dining cars; and in the specialty restaurant, sculptural expression of the wall cladding draws inspiration from Asian influences as well as the traditions of earthenware in the region.

The Local Connect

**Studio Lotus’ design for a mountain resort’s public spaces borrows from the vernacular and regional history of the place**

The hotel lobby features rows of timber spindles suspended on metal screens that also break the large expanse of space into smaller, intimate pockets. The scale of the space is further modulated through the use of locally sourced pinewood and slate, as well as intricate geometric patterns in the tiles and wooden paneling, both of which add visual density to the interiors.

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Overall, even with the narrative of the local stories woven in, the broad stance of the interior scheme is to provide a neutral, evocative backdrop to enhance the experience of the guests - the design intervention only attempts to substantiate this sense of luxury.

 Ankur Choksi, Principal, Studio Lotus

Fact File
Project Name: Taj Theog Resort & Spa
Location: Theog, Himachal Pradesh
Client: Indian Hotels Company Limited
Architects: Pradeep Sachdeva Design Associates (PSDA)
Interior Design (Public Spaces): Studio Lotus
Landscape Architect: PSDA
Project completion date: Feb 2020
Photographer: Noughts and Crosses
Source: V2com
Choksi Pic: Andre Fanthome is the photographer for high-res picture of Ankur.
In a similar vein, leisure zones at the lower levels, including the spa, salon, and gym, feature artworks and storytelling devices to create a sense of place for each facility. A central contemplative kund-like water body greets visitors at the entrance to the zone. Corridors that lead to the treatment rooms are dotted with specially commissioned illustrations of local flora and fauna, and display cases with pressed and preserved flowers collected from around the site. The stone-and-timber vocabulary extends into the circulation spaces of the hotel; through the strategic usage of deodar wood as well as hand-carved motifs referencing the art and culture of Himachal Pradesh.
Hiranandani Group’s Yotta Infrastructure to set up 20-acre Datacenter Park in Greater Noida

Yotta Infrastructure has received approval from the Uttar Pradesh Government to set-up a 20-acre hyper scale datacenter park in the Greater Noida region. The park will consist of 6 interconnected data center buildings offering 30,000 racks capacity and 200 MW of power. It will be set up at an estimated cost of ₹6000-7000 crore (aprx USD 950 million). The construction for the first building will commence in December 2020.

Said Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, co-Founder & MD of Hiranandani Group, “We are thankful to the Uttar Pradesh Govt for welcoming the new business investment in the sunrise sector of Data Centre in the state by extending all the requisite support and approval in record time. Yotta Infrastructure’s vision to support the Digital India initiative received a big boost with the inclusion of our Northern India campus that will enable us to address India’s growing need for data sovereignty.”

Darshan Hiranandani, CEO, said, “With our state-of-the-art campus, the NCR region will get its first hyperscale data center facility that was long due. The region contributes over 10% to the Indian GDP and has a huge concentration of enterprises and star-ups that need reliable data centre services. The cooperation extended by the U.P. Government on all aspects such as land allotment, arrangement of electricity on open access basis etc. has been exceptional, and will go a long way to augment the data centre infrastructure not only in this region but also in the country.”

Sunil Gupta, Co-founder and CEO, Yotta Infrastructure, said, “We expect our NCR campus to commence by December 2020 and be operational with the first building before July 2022. It was a very natural choice for us to look at NCR to set up our third facility after Navi Mumbai and Chennai, given the growing needs of enterprises and intentions of hyperscale cloud service providers for expanding their availability zones in this region.”

Earlier in July 2020, Yotta had launched the world’s 2nd largest Tier IV datacenter in its Navi Mumbai Datacenter park- Yotta NM1. The company had also announced its MoU with the Tamil Nadu Government for setting up a campus in Chennai at an investment of ₹4,000 crore (aprx USD $541 million).

4th glasspro INDIA & 7th glasspex INDIA to be held on Sep 23-25, 2021, in Mumbai

The forthcoming editions of glasspro INDIA, the country’s leading glass products and technology exhibition jointly organized by Messe Düsseldorf India and Glass Bulletin, and glasspex INDIA, the nation’s leading exhibition in glass production and processes organized by Messe Düsseldorf India, will be held from September 23-25, 2021 at Hall 4, BCEC, Mumbai. Both events are powered by glasstec, Düsseldorf, Germany – the world’s leading exhibition on glass.

glasspro INDIA 2021 will showcase the latest trends and innovations in the field of flat and processed glass products and innovations, and display the latest glass processing solutions, tools, auxiliary products and services. As an additional feature, glasspro INDIA will bring fenestrationpro INDIA, a show designed to cater to the door, window and façade segments, for the benefit of architects, fabricators, developers, policymakers, façade consultants, engineers, and other stakeholders in the Indian construction industry.

This show will drive discussions on design trends which can be harmonized with energy efficient building technologies. The door, window and façade industry in India is emerging rapidly and the need for sustainability, comfort and aesthetics continues to drive innovation towards modernism and the manufacture of new products.

glasspex INDIA 2021 will, once again, showcase the widest range of glass production technologies, glass processing and finishing, hollow glass products and applications, glass packaging technologies, automation, measurement and control engineering, tools, auxiliary equipment and fittings and more.

Thomas Schlitt, Managing Director, Messe Düsseldorf India, said, “We are hopeful that businesses across the world will soon take a turn for the better. It has been truly said that tough times give initial challenges but present a great deal of opportunities. I am sure that we can expect even more advanced products, technologies and solutions in 2021 and that the platform we offer to the industry stakeholders will foster business growth and expansion.”

The previous edition of the two events saw a marked increase in the number of exhibitors, visitors and international participants. The number of exhibiting companies stood at 195.

The show is supported by prestigious industry associations like AIGMF (All India Glass Manufacturers Federation Ltd), Builder Association of India, Ludhiana Glass Dealers Association, Noida Glass and Dealers Association, The Madras Glass & Plywood Merchant Association and Rajkot Glass Merchant Association.
LEED and GBCI rating systems are set to drive resilience-enhancing strategies to help businesses and governments mitigate climate risks. “Green buildings are the first step to creating more resilient businesses and communities while also supporting economic development and growth,” said Mahesh Ramanujam, President & CEO of USGBC and GBCI. “Resilient design, construction and operations verified through green building and infrastructure certifications can help reduce risk and vulnerability to climate change. USGBC and GBCI’s resources serve as a roadmap for resilience that has the ability to save companies money and improve the standard of living for all.”

The building and construction industry must accelerate its adoption of strategies and practices that respond to climate threats communities are currently facing. LEED - the most widely used green building rating system offers a series of resilient design pilot credits that are available for new construction and align with the RELi Rating System. Currently, more than 200 projects have registered to pursue the credits. The LEED for Cities and Communities program outlines options to enhance resilience beyond a single building. More than 110 cities and communities have certified.

- **Certification Systems:** GBCI integrates resilience strategies across several rating systems. RELi takes a holistic approach to resilience and helps developers, companies, city planners and others assess and plan for acute hazards. LEED credits can also count toward RELi certification. PEER serves as a roadmap for designing and operating resilient and reliable power systems and microgrids and has more than 30 certified projects that serve more than seven million people. SITES focuses on creating regenerative landscapes and ecologically resilient communities and has nearly 150 projects participating.

- **Data & Technology:** Data will define the future of green building, which is why USGBC is working with Coastal Risk Consulting to deliver a RiskFootprint for buildings, communities and cities that provides a climate risk analysis. The service will integrate with LEED, Arc and GBCI rating systems to help assess a project’s vulnerability.

- **Workforce Education:** Equipping professionals with the latest skills and knowledge is critical to scaling resilient practices and Education @USGBC offers courses from experts working on resilience. USGBC will also open a call for ideas on enhancing resilience across the green building industry. GBCI is also developing a new RELi professional credential expected to be ready in 2021.

- **Advocacy:** USGBC works with federal, state and local governments and jurisdictions to advocate for policies, guidance and incentives that support green buildings and communities. A goal of that work is to ensure disaster recovery funds are spent on high quality, resilient buildings that mitigate climate risks and promote social equity and health. The latest advocacy activities are housed in the USGBC Center for Resilience.

- **Partnerships:** USGBC will leverage its network of members, partners and LEED users to build a community of leaders for resilient buildings, communities and cities. USGBC will establish partnerships with a variety of organizations committed to advancing resilience.

Over the last two years, reportedly more than 16 million people globally were displaced because of climate events. A number that is expected to continue to grow - impacting livability and workability. In a 2019 report from CDP, a group of the world’s largest companies valued climate risks to their businesses at almost $1 trillion – with many likely to occur within the next five years. It reinforces the need for immediate solutions that can help mitigate social and economic costs that are predicted in the near term. Resilience is a critical component of building a healthier, more sustainable future, but can also influence how companies and governments respond to social and economic disruptions. Resilience planning helps future proofs assets and support communities in times of crisis.
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