

Explore, Experiment & Establish

Indian Architect & Builder

Volume 19(06)

FEB 2006

Rs 100/-

Young Designers 2006

Coloured Compositions

Co-founded by architects Satyen Bhayani and Girish Patil, the young architectural firm of Core Group displays their strength in corporate design through an evocative synthesis of composition and colour

Text : Suparna Rajguru
Images : Courtesy the architects

Just about five years into its establishment, 'Core Group' was co-founded by architects Satyen Bhayani and Girish Patil, both of whom have been well versed with the vocabulary of corporate design, through the course of their prior works. Needless to say, it was this genre of design that defined their first few projects and reflected their signature style of combining spatial configuration with innovative aesthetic treatment. The most noticeable characteristic has been a rendering of spaces with a strong, yet malleable, sense of colour that allows the projects to evolve out their usual conventional formats. Having handled corporate design projects of different scales, Core Group has also forayed into the gamut of institutional and residential designs in their endeavour to offer personalised and exceptional quality service to the clients in architecture and interior design.



SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR PATNI COMPUTERS, PUNE

FACT FILE
Project: Software Development Centre Gross/built up area: 70,000 sq ft Location: Kaserwadi, Pune Design team: Satyen Bhayani, Girish Patil, Nikunj Bhayani, Sandeep Patel
Client: Patni Computers/Bhandari Associates Year of completion: January, 2005 Duration of project: 3 months
Costing: 612 lakhs Consultants: EMS Electricals, Harmony Aircon



Their largest project till date, the Software Development Centre for Patni Computers in Pune, elucidates Core Group's efforts at comprehending and effectively translating client's requirements within tight restrictions. As the building tapers from 12,000 to 6,000 sq. ft., deliberate thought procedures backtracked the accommodation of non-existent features like service areas besides the requisites, given the budgetary allowances. Working within the constraints of unchangeable floor plates and heights in the existing structure, the applied concepts diminished insufficiencies by visually expanding the space through open plan forms and materials that allowed abundant ingress of natural light. To facilitate that, two large courtyards were created of previously enclosed spaces, thus opening up the reception and work areas and also creating inner and outer views incorporating greenery. An extensive use of glass sanctions fluidity in spatial progression. The transparency is offset with an anchor of primary colour renditions and design elements that suffuse cheer in an ambience of long working hours.



- 1.** Since the existing building steps up from 12,000 to 6,000 sq. ft., meticulous thought governed the accommodation of non-existent features like service areas.
- 2.** A liberal use of red in the reception anchors the fluidity of the designed space.
- 3.** An interesting amalgam of primary colours & design elements rents the 'long-working hours' ambience with cheer.
- 4 & 5.** The walls around two 14' by 14' shafts were broken down to create glass-lined courtyards to allow natural light and create views for the reception and work areas.
- 6.** Given the available floor heights, open plan forms and an abundant use of glass visually expands the concept of space.
- 7.** Used for auxiliary functions, the basement houses the recreation room, gymnasium and labs etc.
- 8.** Vibrant colours mark the open-air cafeteria.



9



10



11

DIAMOND GRADATION OFFICE FOR R. KANTILAL, MUMBAI

FACT FILE

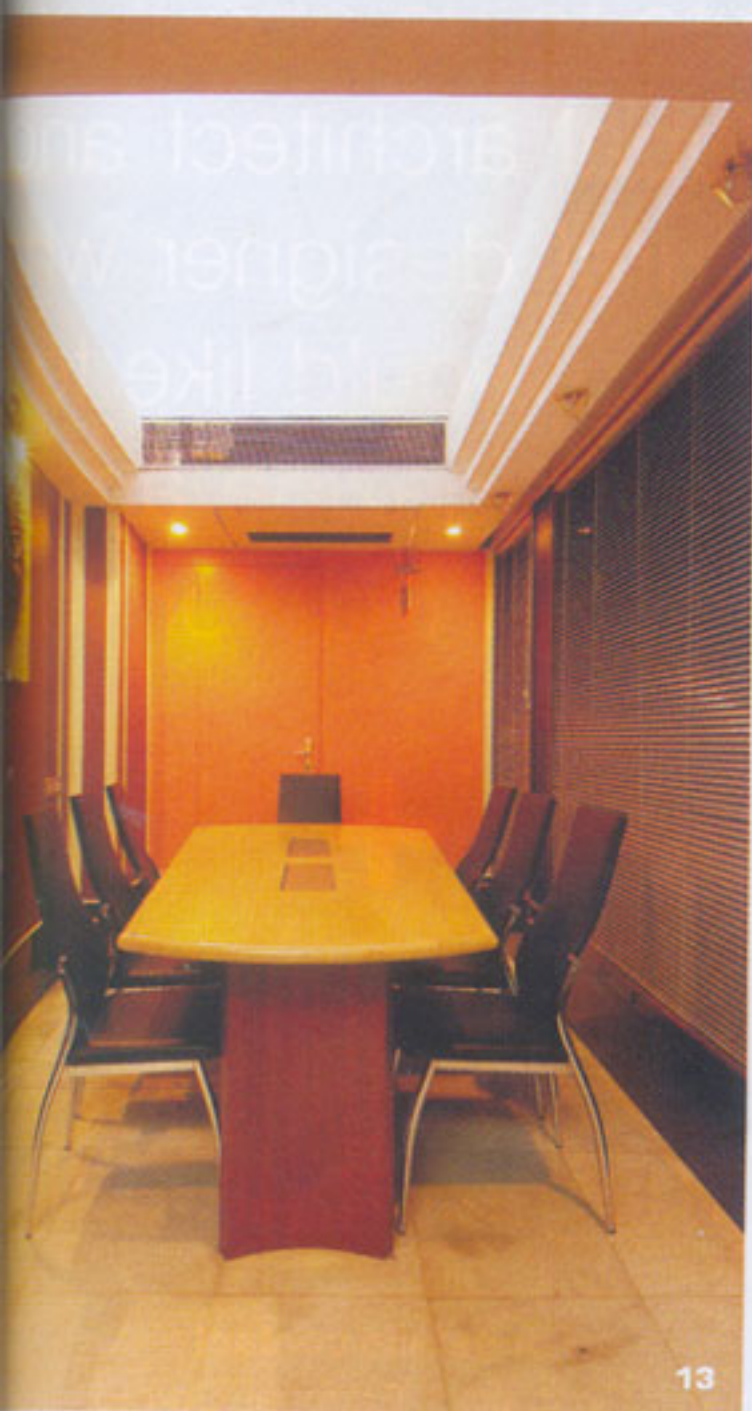
Project unit: Diamond Polishing & Assorting Unit
 Design team: Satyen Bhayani, Girish Patil, Nikunj Bhayani
 Duration of the project: 1 month

Gross/ built up area: 1680 sq ft
 Client: R.Kantilal & Sons
 Costing: 12.5 lakhs

Location: Laxmi Ind. estate, Andheri, Mumbai
 Year of completion: March, 2005
 Consultant: EMS, Swastik Aircon



12



13

A play of aquamarine with shades of mango, lemon and fuchsia...the interiors typical of an advertising office? On the contrary, these tints are actually symbolic of diamond gradations. Breaking the seen norm of all white spaces with kota floors for the laborious procedure of calibrating diamonds, the architects took cue from the process into the concept of this office design. Encouraged by the client's open mind, the designers altered restrictions into design elements and created an environment equable to facilitate the long confining work. Considering that there were no open walls for window units and to drape a mezzanine that could not be demolished, a central air-conditioning duct was created as an omnipresent feature throughout the interiors. With the exception of one cabin, the area was ordered into open plan spaces and utilises stylistic details to define them. But what remains exemplary is the remarkable use of colours, often, one glimpsed beyond the other, an attribute that exemplifies the architect's ease and expertise in moulding individuality from the hackneyed.



14

- 9.**The reception was rendered in aquamarine to give it a vibrant appeal; a trait very different from the oft-seen all white decor of these calibration offices.
- 10.**Except for a lone cabin, the rest of the work spaces are conformed to open formats to create more space.
- 11.**Stylistic shelving against fuchsia creates simple but innovative detailing in the cabin.
- 12.**Keeping in mind space restriction, a central air-conditioning duct was used as a design element running throughout the office area, masking the mezzanine which could not be demolished.
- 13.** A bright shade of mango accentuates the conference area.
- 14.**Taking cue from the shades that mark the diamond gradations, tints of mango and fuchsia created a conducive atmosphere for the long-confining work.