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An Exclusive Outlook

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## Interview

David Haughton  
HBA Principal

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# Rapidly Evolving Healthcare Segment

# Resonating the Brand's Vibe & Nature

Nando's Office, Gurugram, Group DCA

The interiors of a great office accurately mirror the core values, the ethos and its strategic objectives, while aiming to craft a lively and efficient workspace for the employees. Taking this approach forward, Group DCA designed a creative and conducive workspace in Gurugram for Nando's, the renowned international food chain.

The client's brief demanded a dynamic, playful and vibrant space for their young team. Thus, the design breaks away from the monotony of dull, stereotypical workplaces, and instead augments the chain's international aesthetic whilst showcasing its emphasis on art. With a sense of place in the Indian context, an eclectic stance is adopted to enliven the space and create a playful working environment that is fun and edgy.

The site inherited was a long linear floor plate with windows along its edge; optimising the form and maximising the window frontage planned with North-South orientation, the spatial planning exploits the site to funnel people inside, from an open, wider reception to the more private, meeting rooms inside. The reception manifests a playful take with a swing, eclectic seating, colourful rugs and carpets along with a coffee table that accentuates the spatial drama. Dividing the long linear corridor into a series of interactive spaces, the monotony is broken by arranging the working cabins and open areas in a manner that the corridor always seemed interesting. This layout provides for an array of open, co-working and individual spaces. The cafeteria is planned in a manner that sets the tone of informality throughout the workspace. During lunch, the main table is used for dining which otherwise doubles up for table tennis, to bring out the child in employees and augment the playful nature of this office.



Combining casual and minimalist aspects into this energetic space, on one side, a large artwork renders various frames. Nando's as an organisation supports local talent and an art foundation that is a patron and collector of Southern African Art. Therefore, the curated art pieces on the walls have been exclusively picked from this foundation to showcase the art of the region and add an element of mystique to the walls, further enhanced by spot lights hanging from the ceiling above.



*DCA Architects a nationally and internationally acclaimed, multi-disciplinary design firm is based out of New Delhi, India. Founded in 1996, the firm has accomplished architecture and design projects across diverse scales and typologies. Each project is treated individually with an approach that is most appropriate to the project's identity, concept, business format, target clientele, code of ethics, context, site location etc. Rather than following current trends, or designing for the short term, the firm believes in sustainable design which is exclusive, well - balanced, contextual and appropriate. Spearheading the group DCA are architects Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal, who graduated in 1993 from the esteemed School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi. Both the partners, through their individual expertise have contributed towards the firm's robust image in the design industry, with a special focus on delivering design excellence and innovation. With their dedication towards contextual and sustainable designs, inspiring young talent and nurturing human relations, today, they lead an energised and enthusiastic team of over 40 professionals.*

Natural daylight is maximised from the north and south through the use of glass, while minimising glare. The use of glass doors also facilitates optimum light, which creates a shift from the typical, artificially lit corridors. Since the office sits on the top floor of the commercial tower, the views have been exploited to the maximum. The cabins are aligned with a window on the outer wall that reflects stupendous views of the urban surroundings. Integrating the brand's informal and fun approach with the cabin design, metal and wooden chairs have been used to add a contemporary feel. In sync with the Nandos' overall green approach, of using less resources, a lot of the chairs are used out of discards, scrapped at the time of renovating the restaurants. A boardroom sits on one end of the corridor behind a glass wall, done in cement and bricks.

A very earthy and natural palette of materials and colours have been used to design this office. Materials like mango wood furniture together with metal chairs add to the eclectic mix of elements. The flooring is crafted in grey cement and has been carpeted to add to the drama. The furnishings like rugs and carpets are basic in design, yet elegant in nature which are handcrafted

and sourced locally. Simplistic lighting is an essential focus of the overall design approach. Natural light is exploited to the maximum. Accent lights are used to highlight the exclusive artwork, and the use of regular, artificial lighting is reduced to evening, after-dark hours only. An amalgam of music and art combined with soft furnishings appeals to all senses, therefore crafts a functional, yet vibrant office space. ▲

**fact file:**

Project Name	:	Nando's Office
Location	:	Gurugram, Haryana
Client	:	Nando's
Principal Architects	:	Amit Aurora, Rahul Bansal
Design Team	:	Vini Sam, Pritha Mitra
Commencement	:	August 2016
Completion	:	October 2016
Area	:	377 sq. m.
Photographer	:	Kapil Kamra

