

INTERIORS

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KNS ARCHITECTS'
INNOVATIVE &
HOLISTIC DESIGNS

VPCPL'S DESIGN
EXPERTISE FOR
STAR TV OFFICE
IN BENGALURU

**HÄFELE'S HIGH-END
RETAIL SPACE IN
SOUTH MUMBAI**

PLUS

Gayatri Sekhri • Shabnam Gupta • Minnie Bhat • Amit Aurora & Rahul Bansal
Team 2 Architects & Engineers Pvt. Ltd. • Mace Studio



Rustic BEAUTY

ARCHITECTS **AMIT AURORA**
AND **RAHUL BANSAL** OF
DCA GROUP HAVE GIVEN
THE **NANDO'S** OFFICE IN
GURUGRAM A PLAYFUL
MAKEOVER.

Text: Trisha Mahajan

Photographs: Courtesy Kapill Kamra



1
Artwork hung on the brick-wall brings in requisite brightness in the rustic area.

2
Swing suspended from the ceiling makes for an additional creative seating space.



Nando's office in Gurugram reflects the ideology of a workspace where an eclectic stance was adopted by architects **Amrit Aurora** and **Rahul Bansal** of **DCA Group**, to enliven the space that has an edgy and fun-filled working environment.

Ask the architects, what kind of residence was the client looking for and they share, "The client 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 brand's international aesthetic, whilst showcasing its emphasis on art.

Steps within the 377 sq. mtr. office area and you will feel that it's housed on a long linear floor plate, which has windows along its edge, thus optimizing the form and maximizing the window frontage planned with North-South orientation. The spatial planning exploits the site to accommodate people inside, from an open, wider reception to the more private, meeting rooms inside. The reception being the welcoming zone for any corporate is designed in a playful fashion and has a swing, eclectic seating, colourful rugs and carpets along with a coffee table that accentuates the spatial drama.





3

Simple entry to the room makes use of a material palette that gels well with the theme of the office.

4

Long linear corridors have series of interaction spaces, like working cabins and open areas arranged in a manner that the corridor always seem open and interesting.

5

Creative use of wood can be seen by wood installations on the wall in the conference room.

6

Executive chairs set around wooden table makes creative setup under the art installation hung on the wall.

The monotony of the long linear corridor is broken by bringing in series of interaction spaces, which is achieved through arrangement of working cabins and open areas in a manner that the corridor always seemed interesting and 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. At 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.



7
Large windows in the work area give an excellent view of the exteriors.

8
Note the extensive use of wood for work desks, which are customized with all the essential features.

9
An array of paintings brings in necessary colour in the work area.

Designing something creative definitely has many challenges along with it. Ask the duo what issues did they confront and they mention, "The major challenge was the long linear floor plate, which had to be designed in a manner that it should accommodate requirements of the office efficiently. Another challenge was to live-up to the core values defined by the brand within the design context."

Exposed bricks were used extensively thereby making the office look different from the rest. "Metal and wooden chairs were used to add a contemporary feel. In sync with Nandos' overall green approach, of using fewer resources, a lot of the chairs were 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. An earthy and natural material palette like mango wood furniture together with metal chairs was used thereby adding 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," shares the architects.



8



9



The overall colour palette was deliberately kept earthy, so as to match to the theme of the office. Paintings bring in the requisite colour and have been used at regular interval to make the office look lively and vibrant. Nando's as an organization supports local talent, hence curated art pieces for the walls were exclusively picked up from an art foundation that is a patron and collector of Southern African Art, so as to showcase the art of the region and add charisma to the walls.

Natural daylight was allowed to flow within by maximizing it from the north and south by the use of glass, while minimizing glare. Use of glass doors facilitated optimum light, which created a shift from the typical, artificially lit corridors. Since the office sits on the top floor of the commercial tower, the views were exploited to the maximum. The cabins were aligned with a window on the outer wall that reflected stupendous view of the urban surroundings. Accent lights were used to highlight the exclusive artwork, and the use of regular, artificial lighting is reduced to evening, after-dark hours only.

Overall, the design for Nando's office reflects how rusticity combined with imaginative planning led to creation of a space that is functional, thoughtful and brings in the best of everything. ■

10

A smart way to utilize side of the table as holder to stack magazines or books,

11

Differently styled chairs makes for comfortable seating.



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