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A WALK THROUGH THE WORLD OF IIID AND BEYOND

commercial spaces



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TRANSPARENT workzone



The Office for Communique Marketing Solutions, Gurugram, designed by DCA Architects is a modern and egalitarian workspace created with an effort to foster creativity, collaboration, and conversation. The spatial planning emerges as a direct result with the intent of open-plan office format symbolic of transparency. The architectural design reflects the company's guiding philosophy, which is predicated on establishing parity across the board to enhance employee experience, productivity, and well-being.

TEXT: Marilyn MacLathlin
PHOTO COURTESY: DCA Architects



1. The facade is an expanse of exposed concrete punctuated by measured use of corten steel.

The design purpose for DCA Architects was to provide a workspace that augments the well-being of its users in addition to their professional productivity. The end result was creating a space that celebrates transparency, free thought, and collaboration. All traditional notions of the professional hierarchy were disregarded to encourage democratic engagement within the workforce. Explaining in detail about their core values that gets added in their design strategy, Ar. Amit Aurora, one of the founders of DCA Architects says, "Biophilia endeavours enhance human engagement with nature. The aim here was to craft working spaces that promote happiness, good health, and well-being. This was done by facilitating the three powerful elements of air, light, and green. The movement in the premises encourages collaborative ambience by

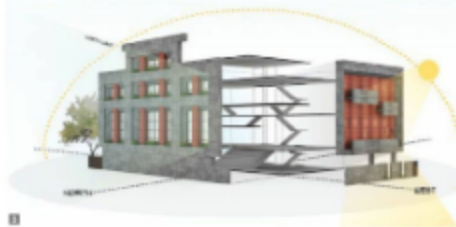


facilitating interconnectivity of spaces at different levels for accessing various functionalities."

The interior spaces are a celebration of honest and raw materiality. The wall and ceiling surfaces—concrete, brick, and Corten steel—are left exposed in their natural, unfinished states. An engaging aura flows through space with the play of materials. The furniture is carved out of birch plywood, while the flooring is largely done in locally procured, multi-fused limestone.

The surprise elements comprise of air-conditioning ducts with a sculpture-like quality. Left unconcealed, they seem to float in mid-air, adding to the raw and industrial look of the space. These material choices bring down maintenance costs significantly, while simultaneously enhancing the user experience and aesthetics.

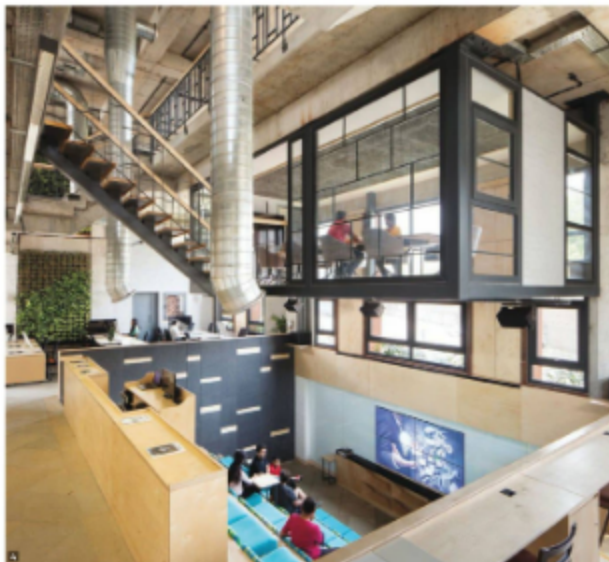
Another interesting feature is the implementation of large windows, lined with planters, designed along the northern and southern edges of the floor plates. These windows open to beautiful views of the surrounding greens, while their careful placement and sizing ensure adequate daylight



ingress. The vertical green walls run along the entire two floor length of the volume along its eastern and western edges and treated fresh air is brought in to improve indoor air quality. "These strategies attempted to optimise the building's thermal performance. In order to ensure a reduction in the building's energy consumption and its use of resources, a thoughtful, scientific approach is adopted. All of the windows are double-glazed, while glass wool is used as an insulating material on the western facade," further explains Ar. Aurora.

2. An open plan office format is chosen that dismantles traditional notions of professional hierarchy, and encourages democratic engagement within the workplace.

3. The western facade is completely insulated. The use of glass wool between the corten steel facade and a brick wall lowers the solar heat gain from the western sun.



Biophilia endeavours enhance human engagement with nature. The aim here was to craft working spaces that promote happiness, good health, and well-being

longevity, aesthetics and functionality, while balancing the design without any excess elements. ■

Acoustic treatments play a pivotal role. Poly-fiber walls and ceiling panels are integrated within the design to reduce indoor noise levels. The use of modern technology extends to artificial lighting design and a simple, yet intelligent system is chosen to augment natural daylight, creating optimal working conditions throughout the day. DCA always believes in designing for the

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1. Highlight of the volume is a mezzanine conference room that floats above an amphitheater-style, multi-purpose event area.
2. The air-conditioning ducts take on a sculptural quality, left unenclosed, they seem to float in mid-air, adding to the raw and industrial look of the space.
3. The amphitheater-style multi-purpose event area is designed as knowledge centre that can host presentations, discussions and conversations.
4. Vertical green walls run along the entire two floor length of the volume along its eastern and western edges, and treated fresh air is brought in to improve indoor air quality.