

The Master Architect Series

morphogenesis

images
Publishing

The Indian Perspective.
The Global Context.

“ **MANIT RASTOGI & SONALI RASTOGI, PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS, MORPHOGENESIS**

“We believe that though the project briefs are getting increasingly ‘Global’, the response needs to be deeply rooted in ‘The Local’. A critical position needs to be established that will be embedded intrinsically in contemporary Indian architecture. It must deal with all issues unique to our economics, sociology, history, diversity, and all within the gamut of our Indian-ness. Our cities and architecture must necessitate an impetus to redefine the way we tend to live as modern Indians.”



The book - Morphogenesis: The Indian Perspective | The Global Context is the firm’s first monograph which widely covers the philosophy through which Morphogenesis works pertaining to sustainability, affordability, identity and livability. It extensively features works of the architecture and design studio across various typologies, climatic conditions, price points and varied cultures by creating a process which enables to deliver responsive and responsible projects across different segments. Manit Rastogi & Sonali Rastogi, Principal Architects at Morphogenesis shared their viewpoints on the contemporary issues and the most essential elements they wanted to be included in the book.

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALM

The present-day urban development in emerging nations is ecologically unviable, culturally unacceptable, and incapable of sustaining the dynamic processes of life and growth. Infrastructure is an issue to deal with, and on the other hand; preservation of values, craft, and cultures becomes a challenge. The modern practice has struggled with identity and context in the age of globalisation. At an urban scale, Morphogenesis’ thrust on environmental, socio-cultural and sustainable practices which minimises the carbon footprint of the built intervention, adds substantial transit choices and regenerates the environment through greenways and community spaces. Affordability focuses on bringing down capital and operational costs of a project, making the larger community financial sustainable. Livability focuses on the quality of life issues, such as walkable communities, last-mile connectivity and multimodal transit choices.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Today, developments across India are being designed with a layer of sustainability or ‘green’ being superimposed. There is a need for a conscious attempt to step away from this overlay system of green points and instead to incorporate passive approaches to design, right from conceptual and planning stages. Unlike other nations, local resources, materials and methods of construction are still

A Profound genesis of Architecture in India

easily available to us. It is imperative that we, as Indian Architects, take a few steps back into the past, to be able to find solutions for creating a sustainable future. The most effective approach is to build in a manner that responds to the climatic needs of the region while remaining economically viable. Additionally, optimisation of all services is a pre-requisite to responsible architecture today. It is this inclusive nature of design that, Morphogenesis believes, will define the new emergent Indian architecture.

Our masterplans for the cities have to be masterplans for the environment, with all our material requirements as a subset of the larger environmental vision. This is clearly a different approach from the current one where environment is simply a bullet point in a larger agenda. To progressively bring about a strategic and sustainable change within our cities, we should restore and re-amalgamate the environment as a fundamental constituent of our ecosystem. The environment is not a solitary element that can be treated in isolation; it is the backbone of the city and its ecosystem and thus is necessarily the vital ingredient of all development. ▲



Passive Design

The office design for the corporate office for India Glycols by Morphogenesis embodies the issues concerning the workplace today, and explores the paradigm of the office space as a social activity, and is featured in the monograph.

Sited in a non-contextual suburban area of Delhi, the setting, led to the development of an introverted scheme that would address environmental and socio-economic issues from first principles. Considering the nature of most of the custom designed corporate developments, the building had to exemplify the identity and

corporate ideology of equity and transparency in the workplace as an integral part of the architectural vocabulary. Conceived as a solid perimeter scheme with a more fluid interior, the morphology blurs the interface between the inside and outside. The site surroundings and context along with an optimum enclosed square volume enabled a built form with minimum exposed surface area. The built form configured of 8m wide office bays optimizes the natural day lighting and helps to define the programmatic requirements of the office. A stacking system is used to generate a variety of open spaces; courtyards, verandahs, terraces, green roofs etc. that help to structure the office spaces.

A central spine traversing the built volume serves as the common activity zone, with other departments branching out. The design's conceptual strength comes from the spatial organisation which creates overlaps between the exterior and the interior and between the various programmatic requirements, hence creating a vibrant and creative work environment.

Energy consciousness dictates the internal spatial and programmatic composition through a series of open and semi-open spaces. Instead of an overlay of an environmental layer, Passive design techniques are employed throughout the scheme and takes into consideration the importance and relevance of energy conscious design within the modern work culture. Solar exclusion is achieved by means of a solid external perimeter, which only permits diffused daylight into the office environs. The reliance on artificial lighting is substantially reduced as courtyards are created to increase natural light levels on the floor plates. The courtyards help to keep the solar ingress out and control the temperatures of a multitude of spaces throughout the building while also allowing for sufficient day lighting into the workspaces. External spaces are tempered using courtyards and terrace gardens that facilitate thermal insulation. Shaded outer façade with air cavity construction, very small slit windows on the outside, courtyards with microclimate controls (shading and mist gardens, water bodies and plantations) all aid in reducing the solar ingress. Green roofs and terrace gardens also provide a high level of thermal insulation. Water bodies aid in evaporative cooling thereby reducing dependence on artificial means of cooling and also create a microcosm of the civic environment rich

with the potential for social transactions.

The underlying principle was that 'The work place should manifest itself as a more flexible and integral part of an employee's life rather than a separate entity of specified hours of confinement.' Rhythmic articulation of volumes and spaces generates a scheme that is a radical departure from the structured differentiated spaces of the traditional office and the monotony of the open plan halls that have dominated office planning. ▲

fact file:

<i>Project Name</i>	: <i>India Glycols Corporate Office</i>
<i>Typology</i>	: <i>Offices</i>
<i>Location</i>	: <i>Noida</i>
<i>Client</i>	: <i>India Glycols Ltd.</i>
<i>Built-up Area</i>	: <i>3,91,000 sq. ft.</i>
<i>Size</i>	: <i>3.3 Acres</i>
<i>Photographer</i>	: <i>Andre Fanthome</i>

