Reviving the Colonial Heritage
Project: Delhi Art Gallery Modern, Mumbai
Architects: Morphogenesis, New Delhi

The project is a four-level art gallery that sits in a century-old building in Kala Ghoda. The area is undergoing a cultural revival based...
THIRD FLOOR PLAN
1. VISITORS LOUNGE
2. PANEL AREA
3. SEATING FOR OFFICE BOYS
4. SALES OFFICE
5. ADMIN OFFICE
6. SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICE
7. SERVER – SWITCH/CCTV
8. PANTRY
9. TOILET

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1. UPS ROOM
2. HVAC DUCT ROOM
3. LECTURE ROOM
4. HVAC UNIT ROOM
5. STORE
warehouse, this particular building was so mutilated that one could almost not recognise its colonial heritage. The space bore resemblance to a sweat shop with the foundation having been scooped out to allow extra floors to be cast, and with windows that had been boarded up.

The challenge was to restore and to recreate the heritage value, but not imitate in an anachronistic way. Taking cues from the patterns and materiality of other well-preserved surrounding buildings and research on colonial architecture, an adaptive reuse approach was adopted to achieve the right balance. Altering and reinstating the heritage value of the project, an old paragon has been adapted to a contemporary usage—an art gallery, which by its very function needs to be minimalist.

The gallery showcases art works on the ground and first floors while the other two levels host the gallery’s permanent collection, a sculpture courtyard-auditorium, private lounges and gallery offices. On stripping the layers added over time, the original structural details revealed themselves—walls, slabs, rafters—all needing restoration and intervention with