

MANIT RASTOGI | Founder Partner, Morphogenesis, New Delhi



The proposed project is an administrative office for a large steel manufacturing unit in central India. The vast expanse of the site (75000 sq m approx.) is flat and devoid of any characteristics. The building is sited in a formal forest, as a steel sculpture amidst a grid of trees, accentuating the juxtaposition of steel and nature, as an object within a natural setting. With ideal North-South orientation, a core housed within a structural steel mast accesses the main office space. The office plan is divided into an executive space on one side of the core and the general office area on the other. The verendeel girder is designed in a manner, to enable circulation across it to facilitate layout planning. Cubicles lined up along the centre can be accessed through openings within the girder. The outer edge has a continuous deck running all around with a stainless steel railing at the edge. The interface between outside and inside is through a continuous glass wall with fixed/sliding panels with stainless steel patch fittings. The lower level of the building, which is the ground plane, is a landscape of green and water bodies, which are reflected by the stainless steel underbelly above. The cafeteria and library are planned around a courtyard at a sub-terranean level as a common informal space. A typical building section comprises of a verendeel girder suspended from a structural steel mast with steel tension strings. The stainless steel furniture is suspended from the structure above giving a neater floor space. All services are located within the trusses above enabling greater flexibility on the floor-plate. Direct inter face between structure and skin eliminates any sub-structure to maintain lightness. The weight is transferred from the furniture to the ceiling, to the structural steel mast and finally back to the ground through steel cables and trusses.

FACTFILE

Function: Commercial
Location: Raigarh
Client: Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.
Status: Conceptual
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JINDAL STEEL REGIONAL OFFICE, RAIGARH

An iconic building that exploits steel's structural strength, the proposal brief was to design an iconic building that exploits steel's structural entailed with highly flexible and adaptive workplace. The biggest factor that influenced the design included the opportunity to build with steel that was produced on-site, and the architectural challenge in stretching the possibilities of steel construction to create a unique and iconic building. The design was a consequence of the site conditions, the low floor area requirement of the office clubbed together with the fact that the building itself was to promote the use of steel construction by demonstrating the possibility of innovations in the use of steel.

