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Livingetc

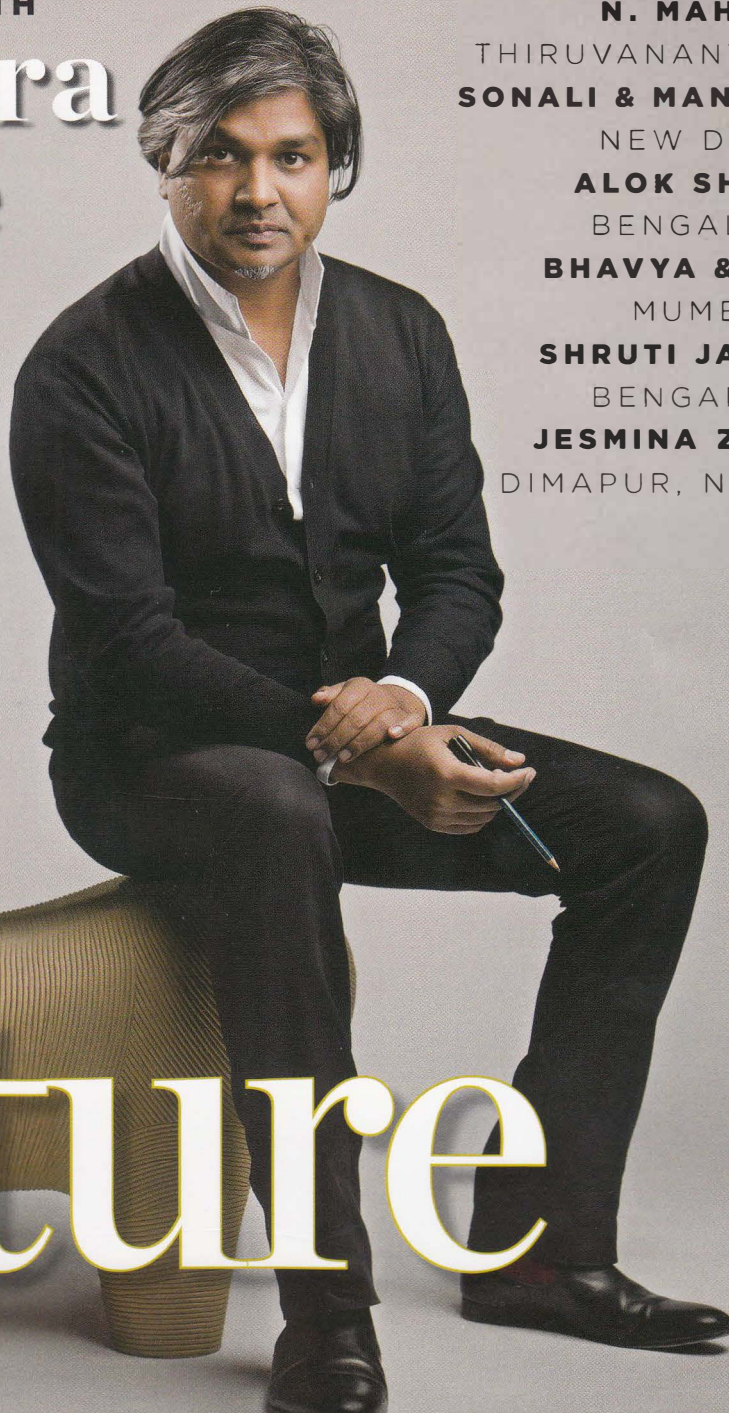
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INDIA EDITION

BIG IDEAS OF A POLYMATH

Satyendra Pakhalé

**AMSTERDAM BASED
INDIAN DESIGNER**



N. MAHESH

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

SONALI & MANIT RASTOGI

NEW DELHI

ALOK SHETTY

BENGALURU

BHAVYA & NIRAV

MUMBAI

SHRUTI JAIPURIA

BENGALURU

JESMINA ZELIANG

DIMAPUR, NAGALAND

Future

is now

THEWE
JOURNALISM WITH A HUM



SHOPPING: GET READY TO LIVE THE FUTURE LIFE

DESIGN

INSPIRATION / PEOPLE / PLANNING / SHOPPING

134

DESIGN DOSSIER

Ars. Manit and Sonali Rastogi lead their team to create a re-configurable design of open-office that can alter allocation of space as per requirement.

126

DESIGN NEWS

Fenesta's Fold and Slide aluminium windows and door systems; GE Appliances' Café Specialty Drip coffee maker; and more...

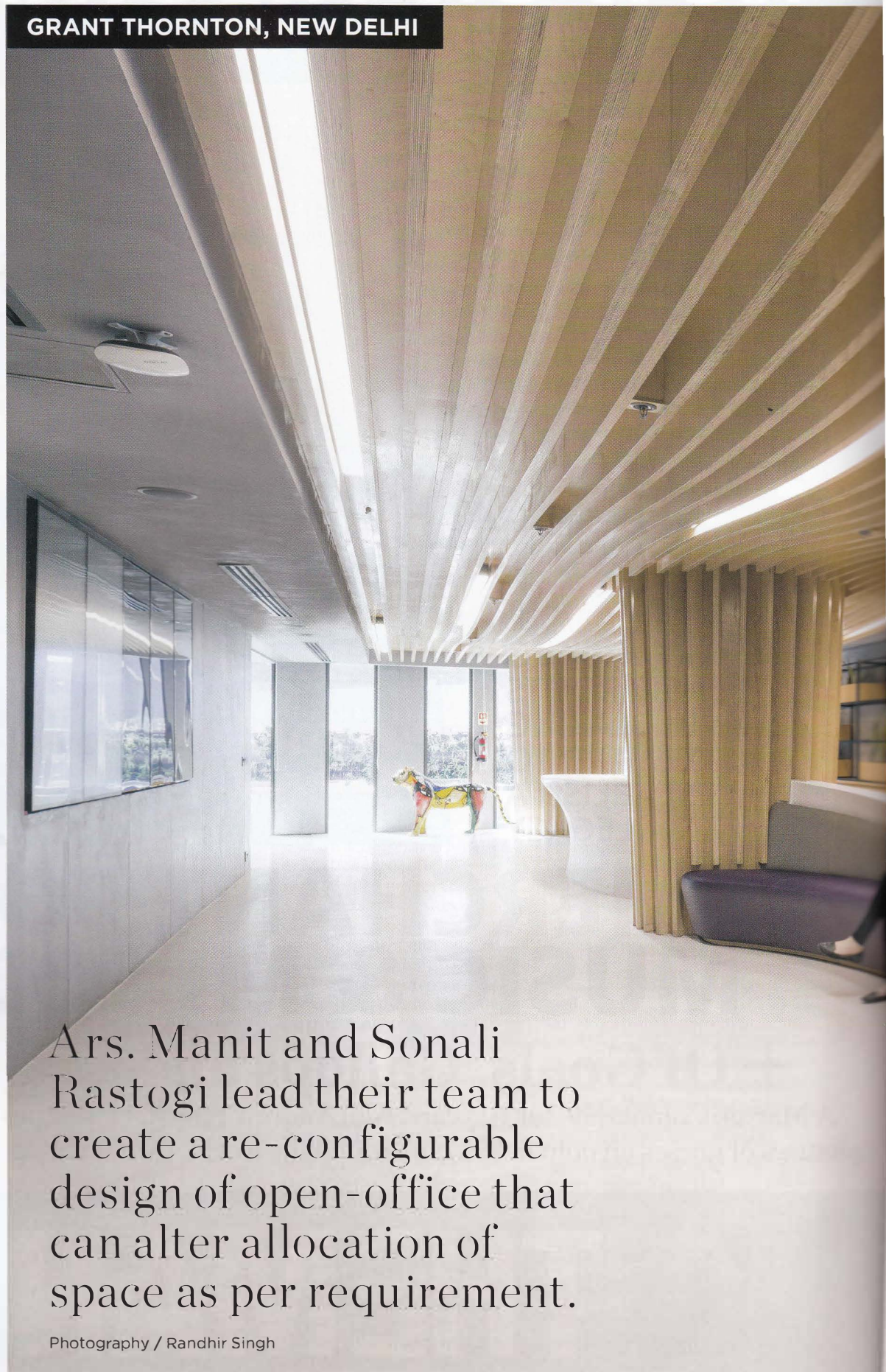
130

DESIGN PROFILE

Moving from management to design, Shruti Jaipuria straddles both worlds with ease and looks at every project with a fresh pair of eyes.

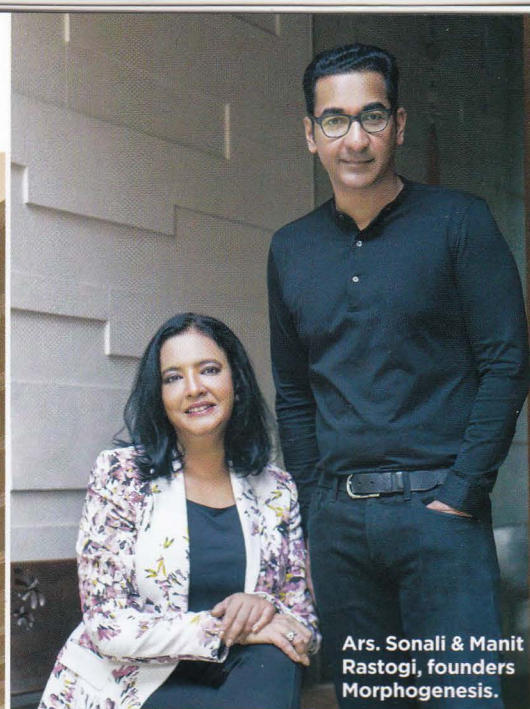
MORPHOGENESIS

GRANT THORNTON, NEW DELHI



Ars. Manit and Sonali Rastogi lead their team to create a re-configurable design of open-office that can alter allocation of space as per requirement.

Photography / Randhir Singh



Ars. Sonali & Mani
Rastogi, founders
Morphogenesis.

Photo / Suryan & Dang

Advent of Innovations

The design is a response to agile, culturally sensitive and highly productive global citizens that need a space that resonates with them — one that enables fluid conversations, hyper-connectivity, community driven tenor and sustainability in the working environment.

RE-IMAGINING WORKSPACES

Ar. Sonali Rastogi, Founding Partner, Morphogenesis

COVID 19, has brought life to a standstill world over. The immediate priority for organisations now is to get people back to work as swiftly and safely as possible while making spaces humane and safer. These spaces need to adapt to people and their processes; the question is, how do these buildings accommodate the circumstances globally? What role do short term solutions and long-term solutions play at a time like this?

The return to the workplace will be accompanied by challenges of navigation within the offices and will require measures to optimise entry and exit routes. However, before we examine and re-imagine spaces, it is essential to zoom out and understand that work is a 24-hour process and not just limited to the workspace. It entails various modes and levels of transportation involved to commute to the office.

Corporates should not only reconsider their office interiors, but also the safety of employees right from the moment they leave their house, come to the office, and go back home.

There must be protocols and sanitisation procedures in place at all entrance and exit points for all personas – employees, visitors, consultants, clients, housekeeping, contractors, etc. All office buildings must have necessary medical facilities where employees suffering from fever, etc., can be immediately taken to, with direct access to an ambulance van.

The number of passengers in a lift must reduce to 1/4th their capacity - i.e., 6pax instead of 24pax - to ensure the adequate distance between passengers. Hence, even if waiting lobbies are made larger, a bottleneck shall always remain at the core, i.e., the lifts. However, a simple design intervention can help mitigate this. A multi-storeyed office tower can be divided into zones, which are serviced by dedicated lifts and lobbies getting access from different parking levels. This allows one building to function as multiple vertically stacked offices without any overlaps in movement. This approach will not only cater to physical distancing norms but will also help optimise waiting times and avoid bottlenecks. Further, we must integrate this with intelligent security systems that allow people to navigate in and out in less than two-minutes, instead of the half-hour it would take at peak time.

The common areas within an office such as cafeteria, gyms, etc. must also transform. Typically, cafés have employees having lunch in one hour, sitting next to each other. Today, one must re-look at all the outdoor spaces in and around the office building, such as rooftops, gardens, etc. Using simple passive techniques such as tensile roof shading, landscape and dry misting, outdoor spaces can be made

useable throughout the year in the form of meeting areas, cafeterias, and exhibition space.

The air-conditioning design for hermetically sealed buildings will undergo significant re-engineering such that a zone-wise separation of the air distribution system will become the new norm. In a typical air conditioning system, the air supply comes from the top, and the recycled air comes from the bottom. What should have been a one-way flow, gets mixed up. Instead, supply should come from below because hot air rises naturally due to stack effect. This simple act of reversing the flow and supply can make the air as hygienic as a hospital's air-conditioning system. Another way to dilute airborne contaminants and toxins from within the office is to conduct a 'night purge'. By merely reversing the mechanical air conditioning systems during the non-working hours, the indoor space within is flushed with fresh external air, thereby mimicking a natural ventilation system. The night purge is a simple and inexpensive intervention that enhances the health and wellness factors of the users.

Furthermore, we must eliminate direct contact with communal services such as blinds, light switches, and toilets to provide a safer environment. These can be replaced by simple sensor-activated lights and faucets, water-dispensers and smart window shades. The physical reception can be replaced by a virtual reception that relies on smart technology and digital screens to convey information to visitors. Various check-in points will have temporary plexiglass screens installed. Hand-sanitiser dispensers and UV phone sterilising stations can be placed in plain view. Attendance systems have evolved to operate on facial and voice recognition technology.

Agile workspaces have been redefined – close collaborative and communal spaces have made way for staggered seating. Workstations are connected through digital tools that allow multiple users to work simultaneously and attend VCs from their workstation. Sliding panels can create dynamic working and meeting spaces; single occupancy pods for working and phone booths can be provided. Hive spaces can be transformed to be open and spaced-out, and enclosed jump spaces will be provided for meetings with outsiders.

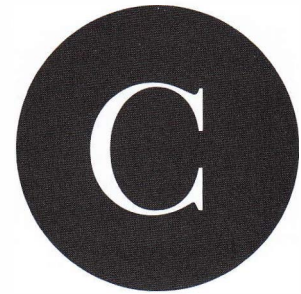
The pandemic has given us an opportunity today, to use technological abilities to design spaces in a more democratic and accessible manner. Architects are now designing for the primary purpose of providing safety, well-being, hygiene and comfort to people. By keeping the end-user at the centre of the design process and considering issues of mobility, health and well-being, facility management and disaster readiness, we can provide resilient spaces.

Outdoor areas and plants
become an integral part of
the office.



↑ Open to air Office

The outdoor deck is a dramatic inclusion to the modern workplace with plants fitted on the walls, reconfigurable furniture and charging points.



utting to the chase in terms of post-Covid design is what Architecture and Urban Design practice Morphogenesis has done in their design for an office for Grant Thornton in New Delhi. "In fact most of this was already gaining ground in AI and IoT," says Shalini Raogedi. We would like to think of this as an example of holistic design, an innovation if you like within corporate offices, allowing for the changing work culture in India."

Morphogenesis as one of the leading Architecture and Urban Design practices reinterprets India's architectural roots and consistently employs passive design solutions for a unique contextual language. Besides winning 110 International and National Awards it is the first Indian Firm to be awarded at the WAF and has been awarded the Singapore Institute of Architects Getz Award for its vision and commitment to making a significant contribution in shaping the changing landscape of Asia. Its work encompasses a range of typologies across Architecture, Interiors, and Landscape Urbanism.

This open office is reconfigurable, allowing for space allocation according to need, with larger workstations and higher partitions. These spaces have been designed to boost performance and can be re-organised in a matter of minutes by the end-user. If a change is called for, they can be modified in a non-linear hall or be sliced off into different parts with sliding doors based on the individual or the team's needs. Technology is also built into the furniture and walls, including screen and digital whiteboards. The dynamic graphic signage system visible through the office form is the leitmotif of this open, ergonomic and eclectic office. "In addition, we have managed

space optimisation by at least 30 per cent,” says Manit. Given such an environment, the interiors are a symphony of networked spaces, open and private at the same time. A contrasting palette of materials have been used to reflect the robust nature of the company’s work profile.

The free-flowing entrance foyer is a reflection of the company’s character and its brand identity. Inspired by the company’s logo, the reception desk is a sinewy S-shaped form that morphs into the visitors’ seating area. This play of textures

extends from the indoor to the outdoor spaces. Walls covered with plants and a large purple tree are focal points. Charging points accompany all seating areas, including the bar. The use of greens, self-shading devices and mist cooling fans create a conducive microclimate on the terrace, allowing it to be used throughout the year.

The office for Grant Thornton exemplifies ‘the new in reconfigurable’. The design is a response to an agile, culturally sensitive and highly productive workforce that needs a space that resonates with them – one that enables conversation, hyper-connectivity and sustainability in the work environment.

Outdoor Deck →

A refreshing take on a human-centered workplace, the outdoor deck is one of the spirited areas to work out of.

Ergonomic & Eclectic ↓

An eclectic mix of corporate furniture with natural wood live-edge tables and signature pieces create a high impact environment.



‘The re-configurable desks impart a sense of freedom from conventional seating.’



New Normal

The reconfigurable design of the office allows for multiplicity and multifunctional spaces optimising space requirements by over 50%.

