

SURFACES®

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"If you want
freedom,
break away
from all
the rules."

Doshi

Pritzker Laureate, Padma Vibhushan
ARCHITECT & MENTOR

B V DOSHI

**LARGER THAN LIFE
THE POLE STAR LIVES ON...**

UNDERSTANDING THE



CLADDING MATERIALS

An indepth analysis of conventional and modern façade cladding materials including Steel, ACP, Zinc, HPL, Terracotta, Concrete, Stone, GFRC and more



Materials for exterior wall cladding have evolved radically during the last decade due to the advent of innovative technologies. These days, wall cladding materials have become architects and designers colour palette for creativity. Though brick and wood continue to be cherished facade materials by dint of their durability and inherent thermal properties, designers are turning to other innovative materials for facades.

As an endeavour to create awareness about the latest wall cladding materials and to help you make right material decisions, **SURFACES REPORTER® (SR)** brings forth a dialogue and an open platform where several experts in the construction sector, including architects, façade consultants, manufacturers of cladding materials and builders share their views freely about different exterior cladding materials, their pros and cons, applications, the newest in cladding technologies & materials along with the challenges faced and fire testing & performance of external cladding systems.

**Ar John Alok Decruz**Director, Morphogenesis,
Delhi

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I think the challenges were to achieve an intricate façade at a very limited cost. Stripping things down to the bare essentials and minimizing the number of materials very early on, helped. The jaalis form a unifying structure to address the constraints of having to work with sub-optimal orientations whilst being part of the environmental demand of the design. The design process also looked at reinventing craft where the casting of modules on-site used traditional techniques of mould and plaster and where the depth of the jaalis itself was the outcome of environmental analysis. The modularity came from a study of minimizing the number of modules yet giving enough diversity in the pattern for the eye to randomize the pattern. The perforations feature five modules which repeat in different ways. The sizing of the modules came out of safety concerns - modules of glass bricks available as infill panels.

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*The British School
Image Courtesy: Randhir Singh*