

60-SECOND INTERVIEW

RAHUL KADRI,

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT AND PARTNER, IMK ARCHITECTS

PHOTOGRAPHS: RAJESH VORA



IMK Architects' project – AURIC Hall – stands tall as a landmark for the Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC), touted as India's first greenfield, smart industrial city. The district administrative building, planned as the face of the upcoming development, houses administration and commercial functions.

What design language has been implemented at AURIC Hall?

The design pays homage to the rich culture and history of Aurangabad, drawing inspiration from the Mughal architecture of the city, while creating a timeless exemplar of beauty and sustainability. Ceremonial gateways mark the entrances along the compound wall, while the adjoining landscape in the driveway is inspired by the Char Bagh concept. A cascading water body – inspired by the Paan Chakki from the old city – lies at the centre, while a series of ceremonious arches at the entrance – in combination with intricate *jaalis* – reference the tomb complexes of the old city. Patterns from historic structures such as the iconic Bibi-ka-Maqbara are used in the screens to create multiple envelopes around the building. The first layer is the lush green landscape between the screen and the main building. The subsequent layers are public spaces, creating a beautiful refuge within. The distinctive *jaali* screen is made in aluminium and wraps around the building; the resultant choreography of light and shadows creating a fascinating narrative.

Given its purpose, how have you ensured that the building is a socially-responsive one?

AURIC Hall aims to enhance engagement between the state and its people. A large atrium is designed as a modern interpretation of the garden; overlooking a lake and bathed in glare-free North daylight, it provides a host of public exhibition and educational functions. It is enclosed by offices and indoor terraces on three sides, which themselves serve as social spaces for employees, encouraging cross-engagement and collaboration and becoming a vibrant centre of activity. Every alternate floor has a different layout, designed strategically to have staggered spaces. Each floor has access to multiple terraces; either outdoor green terraces on the southern edge or indoor-cantilevered terraces that overlook the atrium, encouraging interaction. These terraces serve as social spaces for the employees and offer a breakout zone, to encourage collaboration, and cross-pollination of ideas to enable flourishing of the people and thereby, the organisation.

Elaborate on the various features that make this a sustainable structure.

To mitigate Aurangabad's semi-arid climate, appropriate form and orientation were considered in the design with shading methods adopted for the façade. Screens protect against the harsh sun and help in lowering the temperature of internal spaces, while letting in diffused natural light, thus reducing energy costs for mechanical air-cooling. The project complies with ASHRAE 90.1-2020, and has achieved 7.07% energy cost savings over the base. The 15kWp solar PV cells at the roof-top generate 21874 kWh – 6.17% of the annual lighting consumption. The site is next to a natural water body, which has been incorporated into the landscaping adjoining the internal driveway, creating a focal point at the main entrance and a more comfortable micro-climate. The building is oriented to allow maximum glare-free light into the office spaces, while simultaneously minimising heat gain. The atrium width, as well as that of the offices, was controlled to ensure optimal daylighting. The atrium is covered with a skylight, at the roof level. High reflective material covers 100% of the roof, and the project has achieved glare-free daylight for 83.4% of the regularly occupied areas.

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Volume 12 | Issue 05 | August 2020 | ₹100

ITP Media (India) Pvt Ltd

Fortune 2000, 103-A & 103-B, C-Wing, 1st Floor,

Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, India

T +91 22 6154 6000

Managing director S Saikumar

Group publishing director Bibhor Srivastava

EDITORIAL

Editor Mitalee Kurdekar

T +91 22 6154 6037 mitalee.kurdekar@itp.com

Contributor Bindu Gopal Rao

ADVERTISING

Director Indrajeet Saoji

T +91 93202 85997 indrajeet.saoji@itp.com

South India

Director Sanjay Bhan

T +91 98457 22377 sanjay.bhan@itp.com

STUDIO

Head of design Milind Patil

Contributor Sanjay Bandre

PRODUCTION

Deputy production manager Ramesh Kumar

CIRCULATION

Distribution manager James D'Souza

T +91 22 61546006 james.dsouza@itp.com

The publishers regret that they cannot accept liability for error or omissions contained in this publication, however caused. The opinions and views contained in this publication are not necessarily those of the publishers. Readers are advised to seek specialist advice before acting on information contained in this publication, which is provided for general use and may not be appropriate for the readers' particular circumstances. The ownership of trademarks is acknowledged. No part of this publication or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the publishers in writing. An exemption is hereby granted for extracts used for the purpose of fair review.

Printed and Published by Sai Kumar Shanmugam, Flat no 903, Building 47, NRI Colony, Phase – 2, Part-1, Sector 54, 56, 58, Nerul, Navi Mumbai 400706, on behalf of ITP Media (India) Pvt Ltd, printed at Indigo Press India Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 1C / 716, Off Dadoji Konddeo Cross Road, Between Sussex and Retiwala Ind. Estate, Byculla (East), Mumbai-400 027, India, and published at ITP Media (India), Fortune 2000, 103-A & 103-B, C-Wing, 1st Floor, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, India

Editor: Mitalee Kurdekar

To subscribe, please visit www.architectandinteriorsindia.com

When you have finished with this magazine, please recycle it



Published by and © 2020
ITP Media (India) Pvt Ltd
RNI No: MAHENG/2009/33411