

india

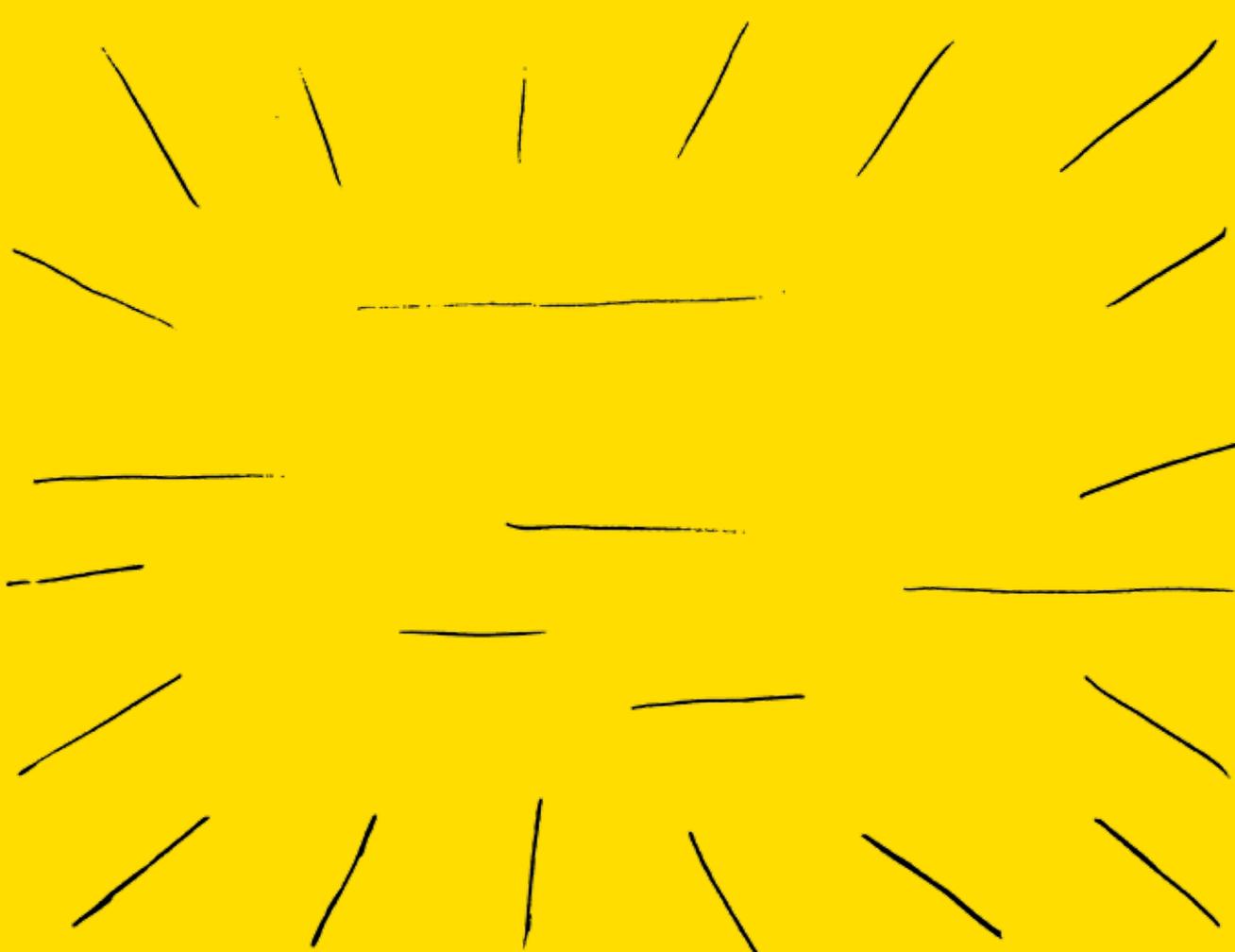
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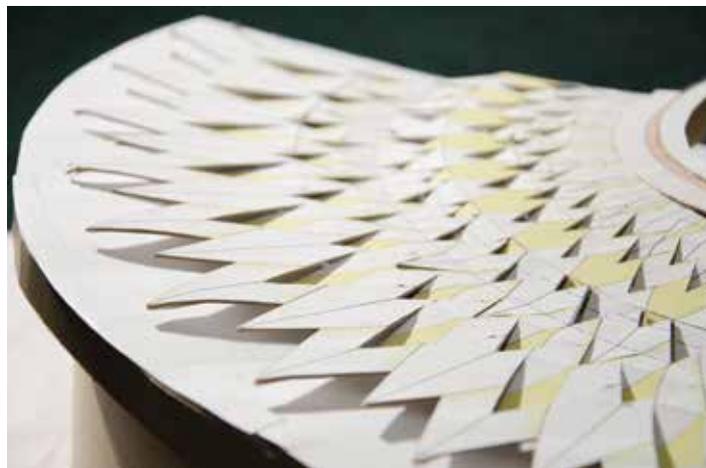
₹500

1ST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Elementary is of two Brothers
The one desires to be to express. The one
to be to make The one light
More luminous The one light luminous



- LOUIS I KAHN



THEATRE LIGHTS

IM Kadri Architects and Design Bureau

Commissioned by the Central Government of India, the Convention Centre at Pondicherry was planned to cater to the expanding needs of Pondicherry University. Designed by IM Kadri Architects as one of the largest auditoriums in the country, the 2500 seater derives its form from the university logo, which depicts a lotus flower, figurative of Goddess Saraswati, the propagator of knowledge and the rising sun, symbolic of spreading enlightenment. As a series of lambent lotus pools lead you to a curvilinear form that shimmers in a golden hue, one is drawn into a large double height volume that stands staid as the entrance lobby. Composed of lines and bindus, traditional 'Kollum' patterns

adorn the flooring. While lines are inlaid in the stonework, bindus are generated with focused spotlights creating elongated pools of illumination across the horizontal expanse. A large compelling wall punctuates the space as concealed light from the ceiling cove grazes the vertical surface. A set of sinuous stairways winds upwards, embracing a series of decorative pendants, leading directly towards the impressive auditorium. Shaded by an intricate layering of delicate white petals, the ceiling is a dramatic element that immediately demands attention. Catering to premium acoustic and lighting requirements, each leaf is precisely calculated for its perforations and offsets. With colour changing LEDs concealed within

the overlaps, the ceiling transforms from a backdrop to a stage effortlessly. As the performance ensues, the subtly lit pink petals gain intensity and break out into a gentle chromatic choreography, simmering to soft blue outlines during the interval. The lights participate through subtle changes in colour and form, sharpening edges, piercing through perforations, emitting a soft glow or flooding the volume with a warm wash. The theatrics of the lighting overhead adds to the awe-inspiring volume, which is derived after much research and experimentation with study models to realize the appropriate dynamics of the space.

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