

ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN & CEFRA

ELEVENTH CYCLE

AWARDS 2017

celebrating design
explorations...



Category: Institutional Architecture Award

Principal Awardee

The project was commissioned to the architects as a winning entry during a National Level Competition in 2009. The entire masterplan as a zero discharge 'Green' campus was to be constructed on a steep hilly terrain within the existing old banyan, mango and silver oak trees.



The concept began with the understanding of fashion design as an art form, expressed through a combination of visual graphic with textural quality. The architects chose to weave the building with the surrounding context; a visual graphic of agricultural fields rich in textural depth and variations, as a natural growth, where paths in the forests grew into the streets of a future urban fabric and the fields translated into urban footprints.

The knitting threads drawn from the existing agricultural terraces were woven together to make a uniformly flowing pattern of many intersecting functional cuboids. The pattern closely followed the site contours, and the design then developed vertically as an abstraction of the way the Himalayas developed; layers of matter folding onto each other, twisting with sudden forces, leaving in between gaps or cracks in the process, that become the passages and places of various kinds of interactions.

As a respect to the existing trees on site, the architects took up a challenge of designing 150 rooms for the girls hostel without cutting a single tree. Designed through a cellular growth of cubes over the existing contoured topography, the girls hostel was designed as a play of rooms conceived as positive spaces intersticed with light courts, conceived as negative spaces. These



Manish Gulati

Awardee: M:OFA Studios Pvt Ltd, New Delhi

Project: National Institute of Fashion Technology, Campus at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

courts were distributed organically around the trees not only in plan but also in sections connected with circulation corridors also within the same modules, reminiscent of the organic streets of the villages of Kangra. The streets with their changing levels, winding around trees, continuing like a labyrinth created a mysterious story that has multiple beginnings and endings, ever inspiring the students of design to never have constant rigid ideas but a fluid flow of thought during their entire stay. Extreme care was taken during the construction to not only protect the trees through a series of retaining walls but at times, the design of the rooms altered and adapted in order to accommodate the spread of the banyan and the mango tree branches. Within the multiple verandahs and terraces, the design students would be able to work with nature surrounding them. It has been designed as a green building. +

Photo credits: Manish Gulati, Abhinav Chaudhary, Kamal Sidhu, Shiv Ashok Singh



PLAN OF ACADEMIC BLOCK

FactFile

Client: Ministry of Textiles, Government of India | **Design team (architecture & interiors):** Manish Gulati (Principal Architect), Tanushree Gulati (Principal Planner), Abhinav Chaudhary, Shuchita Jain, Aakriti Sood, Sargam Tondon, Rohit Garg, Abhinandan Mandal, Fawaz Thenglin | **Built-up area:** 2,50,000sq m

| **Year of completion:** 2012 (Phase-1 hostels)