

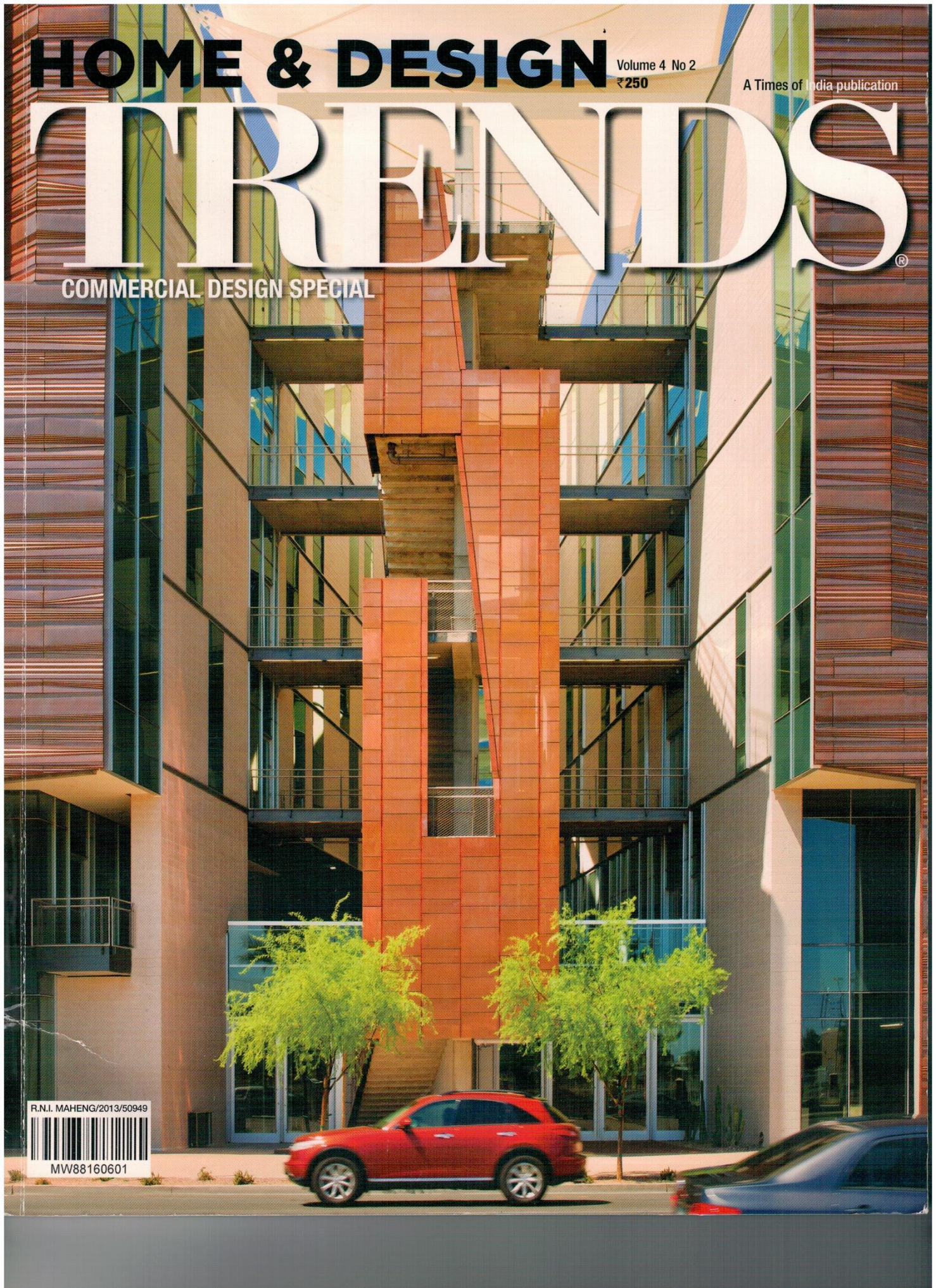
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TRENDS

COMMERCIAL DESIGN SPECIAL



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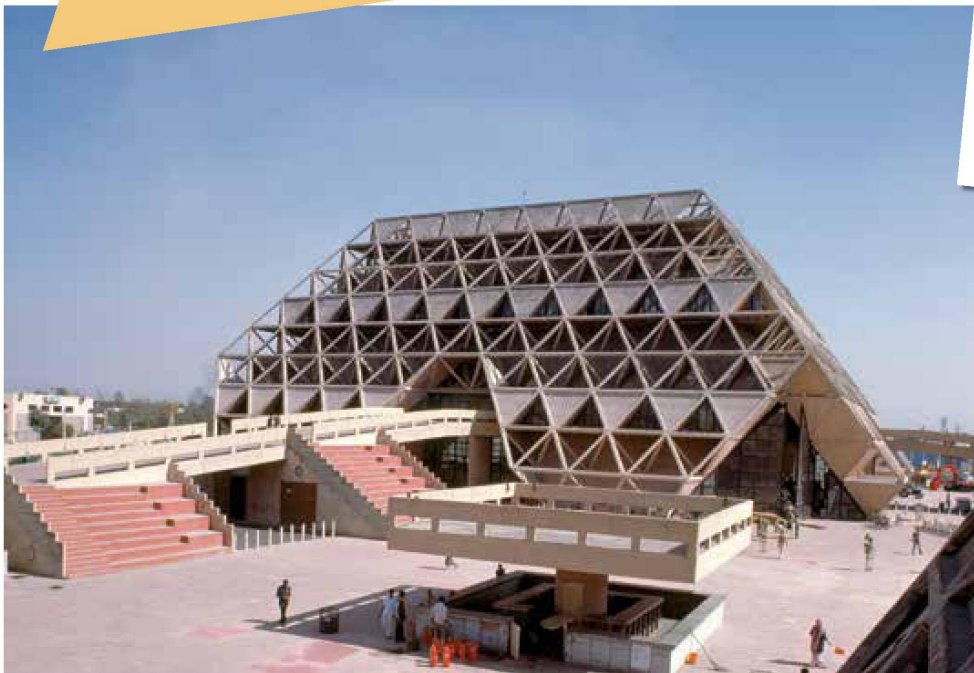
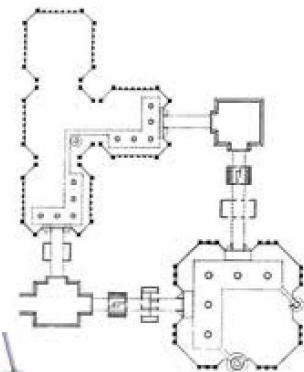


MW88160601

Hall of Nations in New Delhi



MANISH GULATI
M:OFA STUDIOS, NEW DELHI



Commercial space as a term is an invention of the world turned capitalist.

Before we called the buildings commercial, they were public buildings where everything, right from trade to the socio-economic and cultural developments, took place without getting into the endless loops of terms like 'FSI' and 'Super Areas'. Hall of Nations built in 1972, conceived by architect Raj Rewal and designed by Mahendra Raj as the structural engineer, is one such example of the timeless space that has adapted itself from being a trade hub to multiple cultural activities appearing together in the space-time matrix. Designed as a first precast RCC spacegrid pyramid, it still stands as a prime example of an advanced technology even today after 44 years. From being an exhibition space to a subconscious nudge into commercial public realm, the Hall of Nations has adapted itself at so many levels. Its uninterrupted volume and tiered space articulation open doors



for prolific activities, be it product exhibits, fairs and retail merchandise, to all happen under one roof.

A minimalist muscular demeanour of the striated triangular sections conjoined in a stiff octahedral form gets a soft nudge with the skilfully placed glass facade.

The climate adaptive design encompassing abstract geometrical perforation beats the extreme weather parameters of Delhi by crafting a controlled and pleasant environment. An assertion of comfort in the most plaintive manner.

Fact File

Location: New Delhi
Year of completion: 1972
Did you know: The main pavilion has a clear span of 78 metres and a height varying from 3-21 metres, thereby providing a vast capacity for items to be exhibited, from books to bulldozers.