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COUNTRY FOCUS
THAILAND 專題透視在泰國



KATHRYN FIRTH

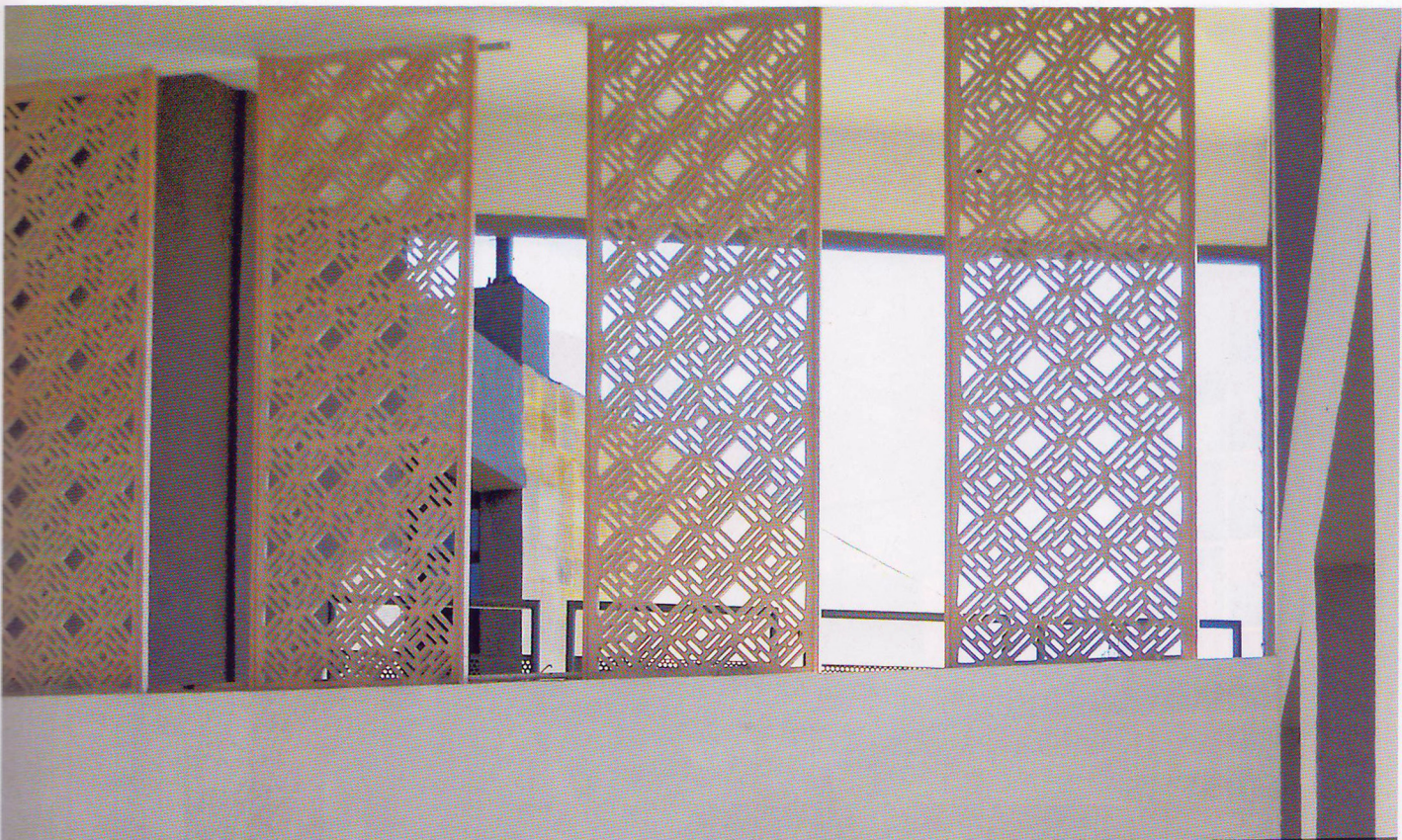
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續寫倫敦奧運會建築傳奇

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建築的影響

The impact of architecture



Aside from homes and hospitals, pedagogical and institutional architecture perhaps has the most significant and wide-ranging effect on how we as a society develop. Over the past two or three decades, the focus has shifted to designing buildings that not just house, but also nurture and encourage, our ability to learn about the world around us — and to appreciate its beauty.

除了家居和醫院，教學和機構建築大概對社會發展的方向有著至為重要和廣泛的影響。過去二、三十年，設計建築已不只著眼於容納、庇護作用，更發展至培育和鼓勵我們了解周邊的世界及當中的美。

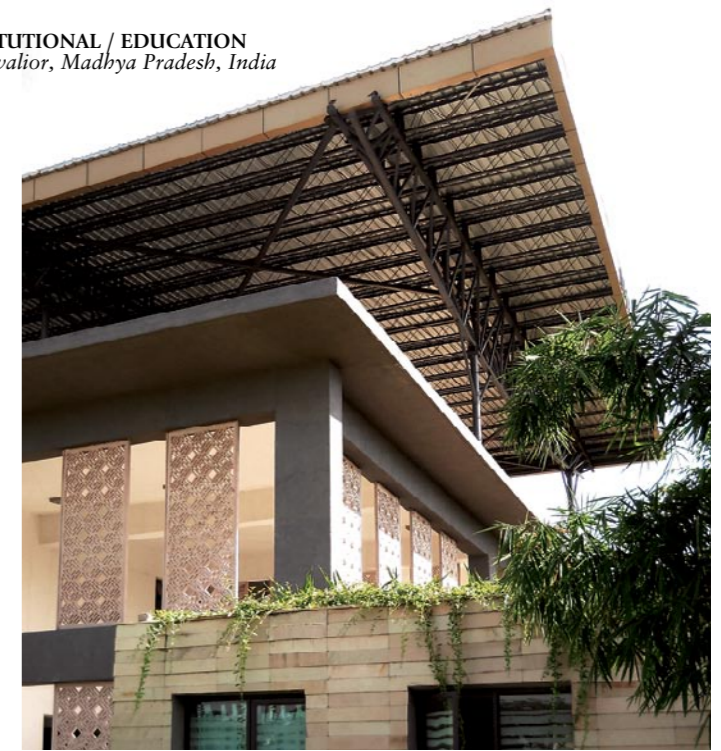
Client: ITM Universe / Ramashanker Singh
Principal architect: Manish Gulati, M:OFA Studios
Design team: Abhinav Chaudhary (associate architect); Purushottam Arambam, Priyanaka Mahajan, Sabyasaachi Ghosh (architects), M:OFA Studios
Site area: 125 acres
Built-up area: 30,000 sq-ft
Structural consultant: Roark Consulting Engineers
Structural contractor: Kesar Constructions

Over the last decade, a new, hungry, generation of forward-looking business entrepreneurs has emerged in India. Embracing both traditional business idioms and constant international travel, they are the epitome of the country's future: their sights set firmly on the future, while keeping their feet on solid ground.

Embodying this philosophy via architecture is the ITM School of Business campus in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Located on a prominent site on National Highway No.75, the campus merges with ease into its surroundings and complements the majestic Aravalli Ranges with grace and humility.

At first glance, the building appears to sit like a solid stone block with a lightweight industrial roof hovering over it, supported by thin, almost surrealistic legs. This deliberate design achieves two things: it creates a mystery, making the onlooker curious about what lies inside, while also reminding us of a most rudimentary way of protecting ourselves from the harsh sun. The roof canopy appears as a large plane creating a massive shadow, working to reduce the carbon footprint which is being created by other institutions which rely on copious usage of electric air conditioning.

While providing protection from the elements as well as a sense of relief to staff and students, the roof ensures that the ITM School of Business remains an inherently green building. Straddling a hollowed-out space, the open parasol roof allows hot air to escape, creating convection currents and allowing natural winds to flow in, cooled by the surrounding green landscape. Further, the plants on the first level retain moisture, thus moderating the temperatures at the ground level and keeping the air refreshed.



Behind the solid mass created by the traditional dholpur-clad walls lies a fluid interior space that flows from one courtyard to another, helping to stimulate "fluidity of thought, imagination, ideas, and the self", according to M:OFA's design team.

Built on the principles of the traditional Indian courtyard, the ground level provides students with a large open space intended to inspire both introspection and interaction, accentuated by a feeling of openness and freedom. The clean grey walls, an amoebic, sculptural water body, and modern landscape spaces reflect the entrepreneurial spirit of the students who are looking to create ripples within the otherwise structured business environs — symbolic of bubbles of ideas amid the sometimes constraining and rigid fabric of business.

The expansiveness showcased via these large courtyards is mirrored on the first floor, which provides natural ventilation keeping the building sustainable and eco-friendly due to the minimised usage of artificial lights during the day.

Inspired by the traditional *jaali* works of Gwalior, the building uses modern interpretations of these on the south-western side, which also happens to be the double-height entrance space. Standing six metres tall and facing west, the screens act as a vertical extension of building's open courtyards and cut the harsh glare of the sun in Gwalior. While protecting the building, they also create ever-changing patterns on the blank interior walls — a reminder of the fact that nature paints the most exquisite landscape as long as mankind can provide a suitable medium to do so.

Naturally, the white dholpur sandstone screens are not just an aesthetic treat that cast interesting shadows and play with light, but also an architectural must for the high temperatures of Gwalior. In keeping the local tradition of *jaali* work alive, the design reminds students to embrace both the new and advanced, while staying true to their self and to heritage and tradition.

The ITM School of Business is an example of M:OFA's mission to provide the subcontinent's urban landscapes with sustainable architectural and design solutions. "The studio aims and provides soul-elevating and inspiring structures which are highly functional, and continues to strive towards forward-thinking, cost-effective sustainability."

Left The interiors of the school are made up of a fluid interior space that flows from one courtyard to another *Top* The roof canopy appears as a large plane straddling the 6m-tall *jaali* screens in the double-height entrance space



A SCHOOL FOR ALL SEASONS

Text: Phoebe Liu Photography: Manish Gulati / Courtesy of M:OFA Studios

M:OFA Studios' design for the new ITM School of Business in Gwalior harks back to traditional methods of cooling to ensure the building is both sustainable and inspirational

While protecting the building, the *jaali* screens also create ever-changing patterns on the blank interior walls



全天候學院

撰文：Phoebe Liu 攝影：Manish Gulati 及由M:OFA Studios提供

M:OFA Studio 新建於瓜里爾的ITM商學院應用了當地傳統的散熱設計，令建築環保之餘，亦顯得別具創意

過去十年，印度冒起了多位野心、遠見兼備的新晉企業家。他們不單擁護傳統企業的智慧，更活躍於世界各地；他們有如印度的未來：腳踏實地之餘，亦堅定向前。

坐落於印度中央省瓜里爾（Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh）的ITM商學院，便透過建築體現這一理念。其校園位處75號公路上的優越地帶，既不著痕跡地和四周的環境合而為一，亦優雅地襯托了雄偉的阿拉瓦利山脈。

驟眼看，建築彷彿就像一座建有上蓋的石碑；上蓋的造型別具工業味道，由幼得仿如超現實的支柱支撐。如此刻意的設計不單可營造出迷思，教別人好奇建築內到底有甚麼，同時也提醒我們：用最簡單的方法，也可遮擋熾熱的陽光。頂篷有如一塊廣闊的平面，營造出巨大的陰暗處，以減少建築的碳足跡，使其有別於其他以大量空調降溫的建築。



客戶：ITM Universe / Ramashanker Singh

首席建築師：Manish Gulati, M:OFA Studios

設計團隊：Abhinav Chaudhary（合夥建築師）；Purushottam Arambam, Priyanaka Mahajan, Sabyasaachi Ghosh（建築師），M:OFA Studios

項目佔地：125 英畝

建築面積：30,000 平方呎

結構顧問：Roark Consulting Engineers

結構承辦商：Kesar Constructions

建築的上蓋不單能保護職員和學生，創造出怡人的環境，同時亦確保ITM商學院能夠成為一幢環保建築。頂篷採用開放式的設計，橫跨建築內的開揚空間，使熱空氣能夠流走，形成空氣對流，把四周經過樹木降溫的涼風引入建築之內。此外，在一樓的植物能夠留住水氣，從而調節地面的溫度，並保持空氣清新。

在觀感硬朗的鋪石飾牆背後，便是一連串的庭院，組成流暢的室內空間。M:OFA的設計團隊指出，設計有助刺激「思想、想像、意念和自我彼此互通」。

建築的底層設計以印度傳統庭院的佈局為本，提供了寬闊的空間，使學生擁有開放、自由的感覺，促進他們自省和溝通。簡潔的灰色牆壁、不規則的流水裝飾，配合現代的景觀設計，則反映了學生的創業精神，象徵他們將在固有的商業環境中激起漣漪，為趨向保守的商業社會帶來點點創新的意念。

一樓的佈局亦延續了底層庭院的開揚感，以自然通風的設計配合全面的日光照明，賦予建築可持續和環保的特色。

在建築的西南側與樓底甚高的正門大堂，俱設經過重新設計的「jaali」屏風，為當地傳統的設計添上現代特色。屏風高達六米，全部向西排列，不單把建築內的開放式庭院朝上下延伸，亦可遮擋當地眩目的陽光；在保護建築的同時，它們亦為空白的牆身添上千變萬化的圖案，說明了若有配合得宜的人造媒介，大自然便會呈現出最精緻的景觀。

當然，這些白色石屏風不單是呈現光影效果的裝飾，也是抵擋當地高溫的必需品。它們的設計延續了當地傳統的「jaali」工藝，令學生擁抱新穎科技之時，亦不忘忠於自我，正視他們獨有的文化和傳統。

ITM商學院正好體現了M:OFA的使命：以可持續的建築設計，改良當地的都市景觀。「M:OFA希望創造出實用之餘，亦能鼓動人心的建築，同時亦會繼續努力，發展富遠見而經濟的可持續設計。」 ●

Left The white dholpur sandstone screens are both an aesthetic treat and a response to Gwalior's climate, helping dissipate heat and provide shading *Top* The building appears to sit like a solid stone block with a lightweight industrial roof hovering over it