

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE ARCHITECT

Sanjay Wadhwa, principal architect, SWBI Architects Pvt Ltd.

Converging elements

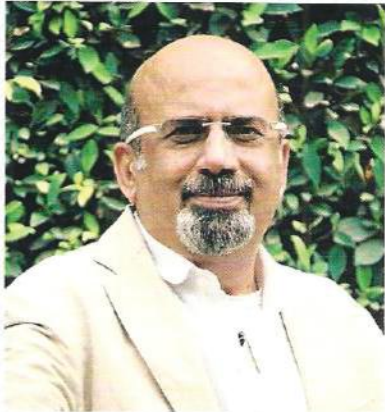
The design was conceptualised to bring together various spaces and volumes within the campus. This led to the ideation of a central spine that runs through the entire campus, overlooking the water bodies and landscape while connecting both the phases through landscaped courts and streets. Thereby, creating a micro-climate that acts as a visual and physical buffer to the main building. This also helps blur boundaries between inside and outside. The central communication stair, design with breakout and collaborative spaces, crafts an active and throbbing social hub. This also encourages people to use the stairs, thereby, encouraging a healthy life-style and saves energy too.

The challenges

Scale was the biggest challenge – and hence an extensive research and analysis of Adobe's current, newly commissioned facilities was undertaken by the design team, before arriving at the final design solution. Amongst the rut of typical workplaces and rapidly developing work culture coming up in India, the office campus sets out to achieve new benchmarks by trying to achieve a healthy and vibrating work environment.

Link between the structure and its people

The building is designed as an efficient, expressive, and sustainable design solution that provides a unique identity to this state-of-the-art R&D facility. The spatial distribution is planned to enable and promote the company's work ethos. The neighborhood-based planning warrants fraternisation and communication with a distributed framework model, to create a combination of private and groups meetings.



Adobe campus, Sector 132, Noida

When you are creating a campus for a multinational computer software giant like Adobe – there is much you want to embody in the design. Professional, yet artistically appealing, and functionally driven with ample avenues for individual expression and creativity, the Adobe campus at Sector 132, Noida Expressway, had to live up to big expectations and SWBI Architects were up for that task. Under the aegis of Sanjay Wadhwa

and Beena Idnani, the design firm focuses on shaping and empowering environments "through smart, sustainable, responsive and efficient designs" – just the kind of expertise Adobe needed for their 7-acre site, now transformed into a world-class campus for over 2,000 IT professionals

An extensive research and study of Adobe's current, newly commissioned facilities was undertaken by the team before arriving at the final design solution. It was decided that the campus would be built in two phases, with each phase housing



a large data centre, labs, meeting and collaboration spaces, security and ancillary support functions. To tie this brief into a cohesive design language, the team didn't have to look far away for inspiration. "Adobe" – a Spanish word for sun dried clay bricks – defined the back-to-basics design philosophy that was adopted by merging this basic building material with the company's background in design, media and other geometric software. In line with the concept, terracotta was deployed as the primary material expressed in a modern contemporary style using geometric designs and compositions," explains Sanjay Wadhwa, principal architect, SWBI Architects.

The two phases are planned perpendicular to each other and linked with a walking street; punctuated with landscaped courts, water features and greenery – "creating an inviting micro-climate," the team notes. Inside Phase-I, two atriums with an adjacent staircase connect the different workspaces spread throughout the seven-storeyed building. "Neighbourhood-based planning was adopted to provide teams, that are clustered around the central hub and communication stairs, with a distributed privacy framework



model that is adopted to create a combination of 'Me' and 'We' spaces," describes Wadhwa. The atrium is provided with skylight for enhanced permeation of daylight in workspaces to create an energetic atmosphere. The compositions of terracotta wall panels with bright colours like sunshine yellow, green and indigo, reflect the youthful nature of the space.

Conceptualised with a focus on energy and ecological conservation and LEED Platinum rating (originally intended for Gold), the built structure utilises both passive and technologically advanced green features. The RCC-framed structure uses AAC (Autoclaved aerated concrete) blocks with terracotta ventilated façade and high-performance, shaded curtain wall with heat reflective Albino paint on the roof – all directed to reduce heat gain. The terrace garden and green roof are optimised to cut down the heat island effect while the solar shielding on the south façade protects the interiors from the high, midday sun. The north zone remains shaded throughout the day and has outdoor activities such as an amphitheater and sports facilities. "Wind flowing through picks up the mist from the spray-based water bodies



PROJECT INFORMATION

- **Project:** R&D facility for Adobe Systems Pvt. Ltd
- **Principal architect:** SWBI Architects
- **Design team:** Sanjay Wadhwa
- **Site area:** 28,322 sq-m
- **Built-up area:** 67354.7 sq-m
- **Initiation of project:** 2012
- **Completion of project:** June 2015
- **Photographer:** Kapil Kamra

combined with soft landscaping and bio-walls, significantly improving the microclimate of the space. The bio-wall traps air pollutants and aids in lowering the surrounding air-temperatures and reducing cooling loads," adds Wadhwa.

At the start, Adobe, along with SWBI, set out to achieve new benchmarks for workspaces in

what appears to be a rapidly developing work culture. The result is a work environment that many young professionals will use positively to nurture new ideas and thoughts. With its balanced emphasis on work and recreation, the Noida-based Adobe Campus could well become the birthplace of the next-big software wave. 