

REGISTERED NO. L/HR/FBD/256/07-09

# DESIGN TODAY

September 2008 Rs 35

SPACES ETCETERA

ISSUE FOCUS

## COLOURS

**PUBLIC SPACES:** CHILDREN'S CENTRE, LONDON  
AIRPORT HOTEL, MUMBAI  
CHENNAI BOOKSTORE  
ADVERTISING AGENCY, KOLKATA

**PRIVATE SPACES:** FAMILY RETREAT, BUENOS AIRES  
DELHI DESIGNERS' HOME  
AHMEDABAD RESIDENCE  
BOWLING ALLEY, NEW JERSEY

**PLUS:** COLOUR FORECAST 2009  
PAINTING DOS AND DON'TS

PHOTO: DELENG/2002/6742

ARCHITECTURE: DHAKA MOSQUE; SANTA MONICA BEACH HOUSE ■ INTERIORS: MUMBAI NIGHTCLUB



NEWS

## SMART DESIGNS

Three buildings designed by Indian architects have been nominated under different categories for the first annual World Architecture Festival Awards\* to be held in Barcelona from October 22-24, 2008. Here is an insight into their design



### Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Mumbai

The Vidyalankar Institute of Technology by Planet 3 Studios Architecture Pvt Ltd\*, Mumbai has been nominated under the category 'Learning'.

It is a simple and intuitive design, of equitable use and experimentally satisfying. Four distinct engineering faculties are built within a horizontal building container. This complex of open public spaces, enclosed semi-public spaces and private areas has the spatial connectivity of open-plan interiors encouraging an egalitarian, communal learning experience.

Each programming requirement such as administration, library, several engineering faculties and the canteen are individual blocks situated on either side of a central 'Learning Street'. This street at six feet above ground level sits on a basement containing laboratories, a shared resource between different faculty blocks. Staircases in cutouts on the street lead to the basement below. The building container opens with a 40-ft wide main entrance and a smaller subsidiary opening to the road outside with no barriers for unrestricted entry. Tucked in the alcoves between the blocks, are a man-sized chessboard, a table-tennis court, half a basketball

court, a streetside café with the canteen block, a couple of phone booths, a book kiosk and a graffiti wall, student work display areas and a suspended amphitheatre. An oversized roof, raised 14 ft above terrace level shields the interiors from inclement weather, while allowing hot air to escape from the sides.

The building's public face is a deceptively quiet, porous polycarbonate skin which is engineered to ease glare and yet allow natural aeration in the building. The use of recycled materials such as packing filling from shipping containers and re-engineered sleeper wood from railway tracks in raw form intensifies the sense of space.

