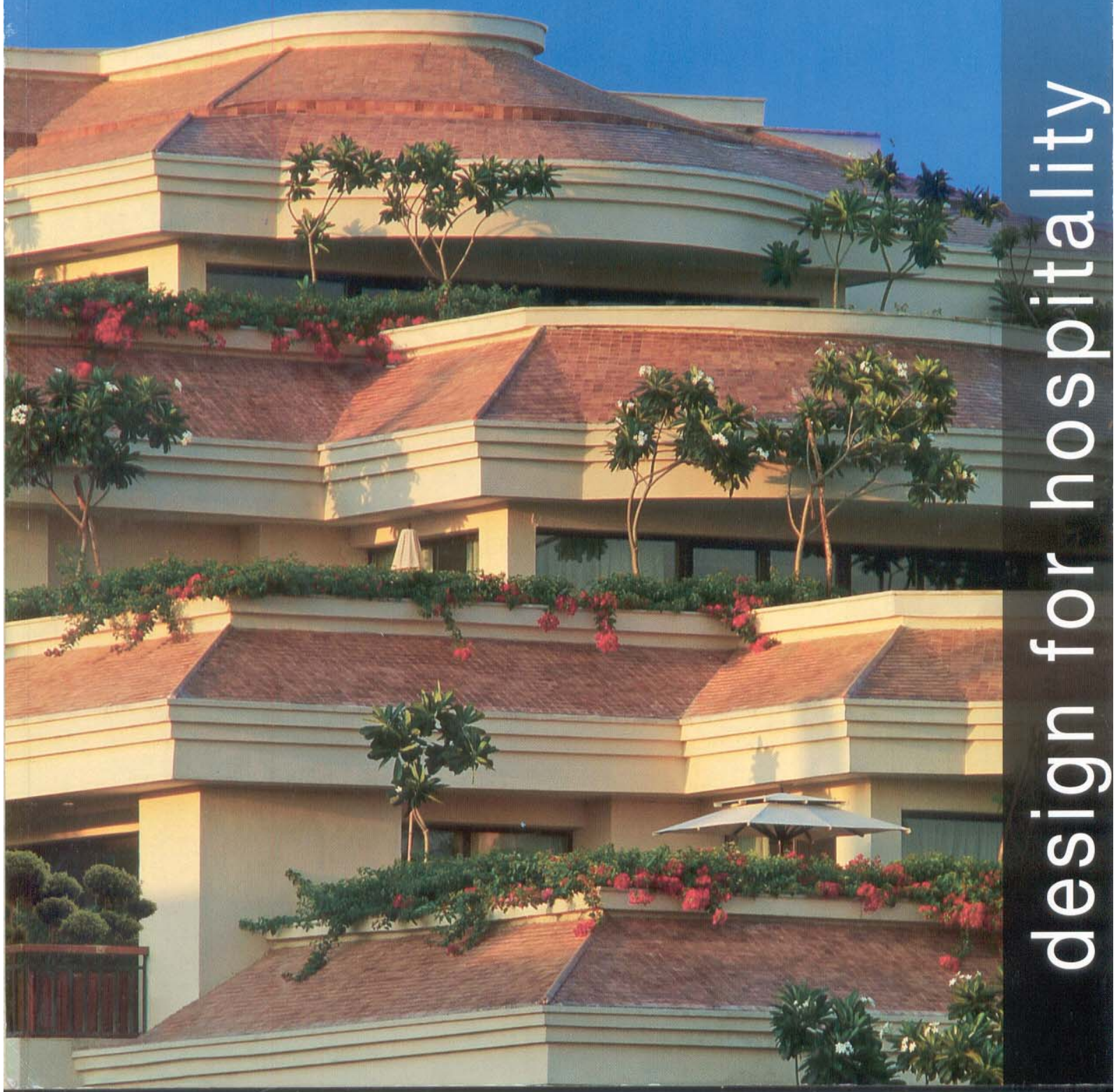
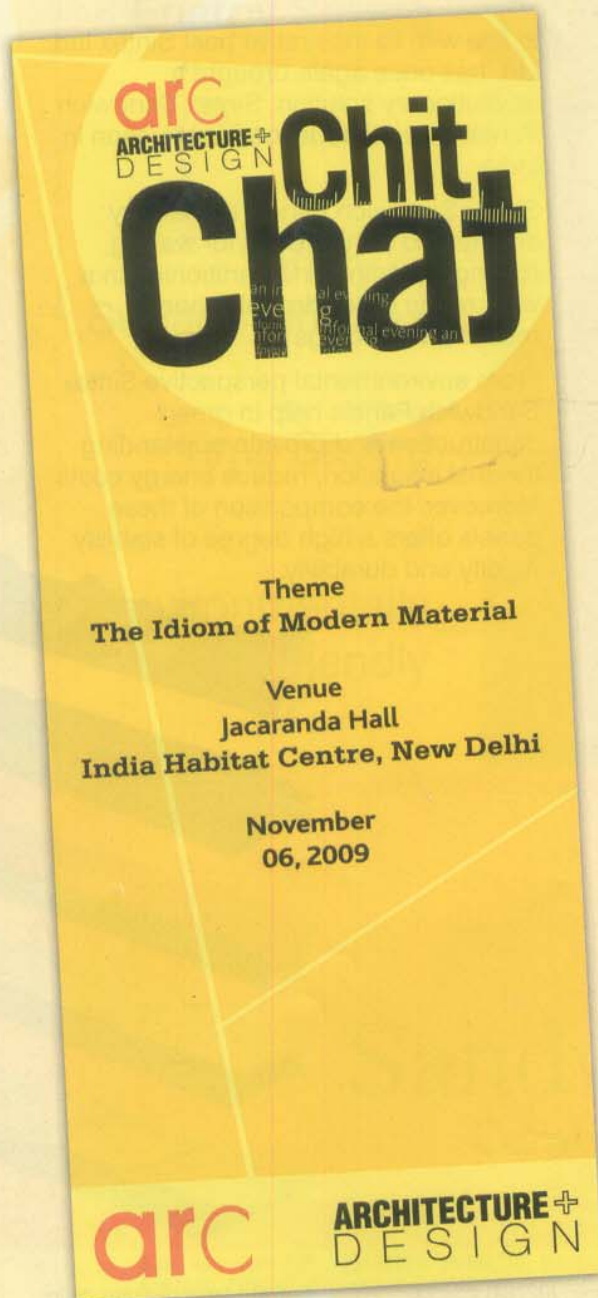


ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN



design for hospitality

Idiom of Modern Material



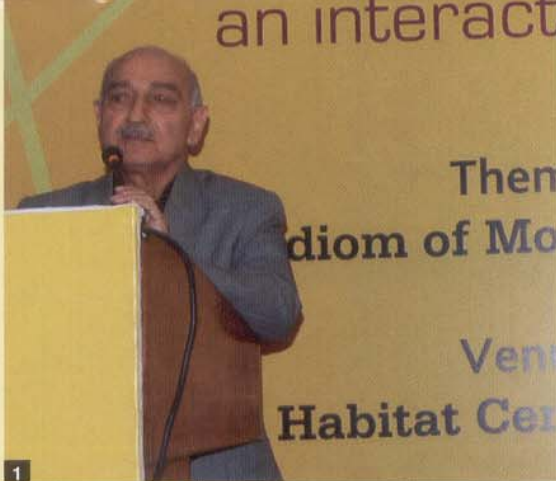
This year's 'Chit-Chat' witnessed two diverse ideas on the same theme, the 'Idiom of modern material' where renowned architects Vidur Bhardwaj from New Delhi and Kalhan Matto from Mumbai shared their thoughts and approach on design.

The Chit-Chat is a series of interactive meets organised by Architecture + Design from the house of 'Media Transasia', to probe pertinent issues in the architectural arena. This year, Delhi's architectural fraternity was brought together at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on November 6, 2009, for the 'Chit-Chat' organised by Architecture + Design in association with Jindal Architecture, who are setting high standards in providing innovative architectural applications and solutions in stainless steel.

The evening commenced with architect Suparna Ghosh welcoming the audience and introducing the speakers and special guests K T Ravindran and Jasbir Sawhney. The first presentation by architect Vidur Bhardwaj was motivating. Dwelling upon the idiom of material, Vidur Bhardwaj focussed on green architecture. He presented various interesting projects including the Patni Knowledge Centre, NOIDA, which revolved around the concepts of green. This project sets up stringent standards for its contemporaries to follow



Architect Kalhan Matto making a stimulating presentation



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and provides them with a direction to further improve on those standards. He emphasised on reducing waste, recycled materials, etc. According to him, the definition of architecture changes with every decade – soul remains same, with the skin changing with new technology and material. Vidur's projects are optimally designed to minimise energy consumption. The materials used are recycled and environment-friendly.

The evening gained momentum with architect Kalhan Mattoo's stimulating presentation with a completely divergent approach on design. He said, "We are very focussed on how material and form carry the building. We are exploring material as a skin." The projects like Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Mocha Mojo, Waves, T crossover are dealt with great sense of time. The tectonics achieved by colour and texture to the fantastic forms of installations turned into architecture is illustrative of timeless architecture.



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1. Architect Jasbir Sawhney shares his thoughts; 2. Prof K T Ravindran deliberating on the presentations; 3. Exchanging pleasantries (L-R) Robert Schaefer Jr, I M Chisti, Sudhesh Prabhakar; 4. Architect Vidur Bhardwaj making his presentation; 5. Elizabeth Roger puts forth a question; 6. Architect Kalhan Matto with N C Mathur, president, Jindal Centre; 7. Audience keenly watching the presentations (L-R) Madhav Naik, architect Jasbir Sawhney, Architect Sumit Ghosh, Saroj Sawhney and Mrs Naik



1. Architecture+Design and Jindals Architecture congratulate each other for setting high standard of association (L-R) S S Virdi, director, Jindal Architecture, N C Mathur, Xavier Collaco, (president, Media Transasia India Ltd) and Suneet Paul (Editor-in-chief, Architecture+Design); 2. Engaged in discussions (L-R) Madhav Naik, Suneet Paul, Manav Gupta; 3. A glimpse of the audience; 4. Post presentation deliberations: (L-R) Kalhan Mattoo, Inderjit Arora with an industry professional

Commenting on the presentations made by both the architects, prof K T Ravindran, one of the special guests for the occasion, congratulated the organisers and both the architects for their excellent work. "We live in a world with multiple directions that co-exist at the same time," he stated. Mentioning about Kalhan's designs, he said, "The term cognitive dissonance is also known as a psychiatric condition. I think the ephemerality and the absence of time now seems to be one of the essences of the relevant mediator of our time today. I think Kalhaan's forms are very illustrative of that ephemerality. I don't know how long are these installations turned into architecture going to last. I don't know how long they are supposed to retain their sense of time. I think many of Kalhan's projects defy gravity. I see installations always as a part of architecture. I've always been fascinated by the fact that architecture is an inhabited installation." Referring to one of the presented projects 'T Crossover,' he said, "Converting crushed paper into a form is a practice which Frank Gehry often does. He often comes into his office, takes out the paper ball from his pocket and asks one of his employees to actually develop that form into a structural system. I would like to congratulate Kalhan for his exciting work."

Commenting on Vidur's work, he said, "One can observe that the seriousness with which he approaches material. It

is worth emulating." Mentioning about the design principles of Patni Computers, K T Ravindran reminded the audience of the philosophy of Gandhi – do not create waste and to be frugal. He said, "Laurie Baker and Gandhi taught us that to reduce waste is to reduce carbon emission. Maximising the use of materials in the way we design both in terms of structural design and architectural quality is the visualisation of the spaces by using the colour, texture, material, and particularly recycled materials. That is the kind of patina of time that is embedded in the recycled materials."

The other special guest, architect Jasbir Sawhney stated that the event was very exciting in content with the two excellent presentations. "One of the interesting issues which this brings out is the question about what is permanent and what is temporary? In architecture, where forms change so quickly, what we treat as temporary and what we treat as permanent is of great importance. Thinking upon the fact that the images change, the materials change, the emphasis changes, the whole aesthetics change, so what part of our building will remain for over a period of time? I think that is something that needs to be looked at in the permanent form, not only from the point of view of aesthetics but also from the point of view of use where you have new concepts and different ways of putting building ethos where you have to have the flexibility to modify within the framework of the



1. N C Mathur greeting Ila Singh, Press, Culture & Information officer, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Sara M Cohen, Head, Press and cultural affairs dept, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; 2. In a relaxed mood (L-R) Front: Madhav Ramani, Arun Rewal, Behind: Rahul Sharma, Piyush Sharma, Xavier Collaco; 3. Anchor Suparna Ghosh; 4. S S Virdi and Rahul Bajpai, general manager, products Jindal Architecture (R-L) interacts with one of the guests; 5. Audience enjoying the presentation; 6. (L-R) Front: S S Virdi, N C Mathur; Behind: Suneet Paul, Elizabeth Roger, Robert Schaefer Jr, M M Rana, D Bhalla; 7. A part of the audience (L-R) Sonali Roy, Aakansha Deopa, Rajat Ray (2nd from right); 8, 9 and 10. Part of the Jindal architecture team; (Pic 8- L to R) Bipin Thakur, manager Communications, Jindal arc, Kuldeep Singh, Design Head, Jindal arc; (Pic 9- L to R) Nipun Shrivastava, manager Sales, Jindal arc, Somya, senior product designer, Jindal arc, Reem Jain, Corp Comm, JSL; (Pic 10- L to R) Vijay Krishnan, Regional Head - South, Jindal arc, Saurabh Chatterjee, AGM Marketing, Jindal arc, Santosh Kumar, manager Sales, Jindal arc

building. One of the presentations has made it very simple that we can redo, but I am sure there are some aspects of the building that still remain permanent. I think that is the question that I would like to raise. As to within this framework, how do we have certain elements which remain over a period of time whereas some others have to be removed and redone. I think this is one issue that we need to look at. Although we have a need to make a global expression, but our infrastructure is all local. There are some aspects that remain local irrespective of the fact that we are going global. I think these are the two issues which were reflected today.

No doubt the presentations and the talks came out with

interesting food for constructive thoughts. Thanks to the two organisers, Architecture + Design and Jindal Architecture, who joined hands to facilitate discussions and debates on pertinent and contemporary issues in architecture. Jindal Architecture is one such enterprise which is very much attuned to the needs of contemporary architecture and believes in evolving a newer dimension in fine detail and smooth function.

The evening concluded with an informal question and answer session and the professionals including the industry stalwarts continued the chit-chat with each other over cocktails and dinner. ✚