

An institutional award

Planet 3 Studios, Wadala, won an international design award. Santha Gour Motto talks to **Vipasha Pillai** about the award winning institution

Planet 3 studios, a 1,65,000 sq ft educational institution, recently won an international award for building a unique educational architectural centre.

Santha Gour Motto, director, Planet 3 Studios Architecture Private Limited says, "The main idea behind building this educational institute was to come out with a very unique designing concept. Students usually tend to bunk lectures and hang out in malls or restaurants with their friends, simply because they have no place to move around in the college premises".

She further adds, "We wanted to give them something that would compel them to stay in the institution's premises. A thorough research lead us to experiment with horizontal urbanism, which no other institution in Mumbai till now has come up with."

Motto answers few questions for us:

How long did it take for things to materialise?

It took us a month for the concept design approval. We had to come up with at least six ideas and the client finally, chose one of it. Finally the work started and the design, development and the rest of it took us around three months. And technically, the project went on for two years.

Who is the mastermind?

It was a team effort. We've all, as a team put in equal amount of hardwork. The design team includes Kalhan Mattoo, Sawant Kaul, Jainish Jani and me of course!

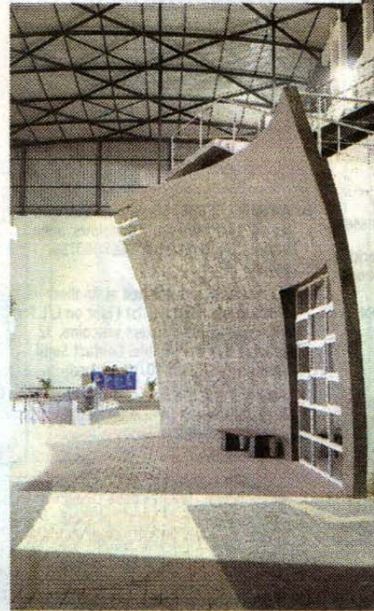
What's the design highlight?

The design highlights trendy classrooms, welcoming entry, student display space, science labs, art labs, and life skills areas; art, music, and performance and physical fitness space; canteen, indoor-outdoor connection, flexible spaces, campfire space, a full spectrum lighting and a lot more.

vipasha.pillai@mid-day.com

Winning qualities

- ▶ Use of recycled materials
- ▶ Vibrant colours and trendy design
- ▶ Campus inside the building makes it look more like a development center
- ▶ Unusual classrooms with tilted, bent and curved walls. An oversized roof, raised 14 feet above terrace level shields with seating zones outside
- ▶ The principal's cabin on the first floor that has absolutely no support of the pillars



PRIZED LAYOUT: (Clockwise from top) The principal's cabin; Planet 3 campus; the designing team and the state-of-the-art classroom