



JULY '08

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July is one of the two months of the modern calendar that are named after personalities. Named for the Roman leader, Julius Caesar, this month Archohm has taken a cue from his famous quote - 'Alia Jacta Est' meaning 'The die is cast' - a quote used today to emphasize that a decision has been taken, and that there is no turning back.

So it is with us at Archohm, and we have plunged forward to take to fruition another of our endeavours to further the cause and growth of architectural thought and expression, not just in our office but in society.



Archohm has decided to bring out a monthly newsletter **Archohmnet** that will be circulated amongst all its stakeholders - employees, family, friends, clients, associates, vendors and acquaintances - past, present and future. The aim is to create a forum for presenting and exchanging thoughts, ideas and dreams amongst like minded people.

This slim newsletter which doubles up as an interesting **wall pinup** (though not of the Pamela Anderson variety!) is the culmination of lots of enthusiastic meetings at office, on our terrace garden, in flight deliberations and lunch table discussions between Archohm's staffers! Everything was debated - the size, the look, the frequency - once a month - who on earth is going to write the articles!

The art of writing is one that will never lose value - in fact with the rapidly exploding speed of information interchange, its reach has never been more. This month's inaugural edition - its too early for me to add 'collector's edition' features an article from Sourabh on Archohm, another benchmark on our way to growing large! It gives me pleasure to share articles by Shoubhik, an architectural trainee from CEPT, Ahmedabad as well as by Aditi, Kapil and Giridhar, three of our staffers.

Talk of Olympic size swimming pools is slightly redundant when you see the 'San Alfonso del Mar' in Chile. Why? Check out this issue of Archohmnet and see if you don't concur!

It goes without saying that all your responses- whether critical, curious or congratulatory, are welcome and can be sent to archohmnet@archohm.com.



A picture speaks a thousand words! Well, spot the differences between these two - on left is a sketch of La Tourette made in 1926 by a young architectural trainee from CEPT, Ahmedabad (the student, not prizes for answering who!) and on the right is a post-card bought in 2006 by the same gentleman.

Kunal Savarkar is an architect, cricket statistician, musician, poet, philatelist and quizzer - activity in alphabetical order of! His passion in architecture can be traced to his childhood, when aged 5 and 7 respectively, sourabh and he would build entire townships out of marble chips on their terrace.

Atishi Amit is a young interior designer, who lost her way and finished a BA in English literature at Delhi's LSR college; on finding her way to Archohm we motivated her to working on this newsletter after office hours! The results are here to see!

Lovely idea! Some thoughts on content: - every month profile 1 employee - should have 1 case from the director's desk... - at least 1 global design project (not archohm, just something you appreciate), cheers!

amith baiga visionary and a dear friend pooja sabkoo a good critic to have!

archohm works

TAURIAN SCHOOL, RANCHI

Who doesn't want to fly high... the best way is to start from childhood.



In the Taurian World School, Ranchi, the buildings flock together much the same way as birds flying in the sky. Together the building blocks form a composition that reads as a complex, comprehensive campus environment... a campus that sprawls across 40 acres of verdant greens amidst the old mining valleys of Ranchi.

From a developers perspective, international level facilities, lush play areas, plush buildings, state-of-the-art equipment and a limitless vision of Anish Bajaj brings the project together.

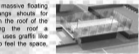
Architecturally, the entire site was developed with the philosophy of creating and designing spaces between buildings. Buildings happen as objects in space and try to relate and encompass activities and volumes that define the soul of the campus.

The design is a story that unfolds as one explores the campus as a linked sequence of events as one enters in the campus.

1. Entrance: The giant 50m dia central pivoted gate with skylit perforated holes gives the entrance a 'large and loud' feel thereby preparing the visitor for all 'out of the box' experience.



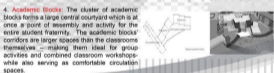
2. Sports Block: Once inside the campus, a massive floating structure with large, almost unreal overhangs stands for attention. We placed the basketball court on the roof of the sports block - thus very efficiently making the roof a multi-functional space. The huge safety fence uses graffiti like imagery of basketballs which invites people to feel the space, take the view and play in an exotic envelope.



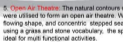
3. Bridge: The steel bridge acts as a pathway to cross into the secured classroom environment. Lying beneath its wooden plank 'floor' is the valley - which acts as an independent play area. From the bridge you can watch the kids playing beneath, so the pedestrian route is not just a silent transition space, but also a 'shouting pathway' with an inviting backdrop of kids swinging and swinging below.



4. Academic Blocks: The cluster of academic blocks forms a large central courtyard which is at once a point of assembly and activity for the entire student fraternity. The academic blocks' corridors are larger spaces than the classrooms themselves - making them ideal for group activities and combined classroom workshops while also serving as comfortable circulation spaces.



5. Open Air Theatre: The natural contours of the site were utilised to form an open air theatre. With a free flowing shape, and concentric stepped seating, built using a grass and stone vocabulary, the space is ideal for multi functional activities.



Thus, the Taurian School campus is a comprehensive world in itself that aims to realize the philosophy of the promoter by creating an 'out-of-the-box' experience with an environment that will act as an inspiration to every parent and child that associates with this 'school of thought'.

Giridhar Singh Rautela: He epitomises the 'rate of growth' in Archohm. His learning curve is unmatched and is definitely Archohm's 'Mr. Dependable'. We, the archohm senior management, needed to attend a workshop by him to learn to 'finish' jobs. A team guy who is a solid supporter to the office and our Dutch colleague Bas, after referring him as a 'Gilder' (mountain large iron or steel beam).



Kapil Vaishya- Hardworking, quiet, methodical and dedicated to his work; Kapil is a graduate of Mumbai's prestigious Sir JJ College of Architecture. He speaks to you about the broad concept and main features of the Taurian World School at Ranchi, a project on which he has put his heart and soul into!



Architecture is the architect's subconscious, stretches beyond the reaches of the art, science, the math in his grey; into the horizon, a horizon that extends beyond the notions of the contemporary & the classical, FAR & the commercially viable, it betokens that vision, the abstraction of reality that animates the concepts.

'Architecture is a 'transit', a 'continuous experience' for all senses, that weighs heavy on our perception of space. The inherent architecture of the space, thus becomes the perceptible sovereign; which one walks out with. Over the years the 'souvenirs' of architectural experiences, that 'remain in the psyche', are the ones that have had the utmost impact. Few as they are, the ones that had positive impacts, render the aesthetic taste of an individual, and thus the architect is born.

At Archohm we work round the clock, consciously or in our subconscious, measuring up inch by inch towards realizing the dreams that our clients bring to us, consciently trying to make a new architecture that goes beyond the 'latest and the 'pop'. We strive to create 'architecture not just as, 'science or math' architecture that creates impacts that stay on...

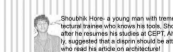


'Alia Jacta est' The die is cast

Julius Caesar



Shoubhik Hore- a young man with tremendous spatial abilities; an architecture trainee who knows his stuff. 'Shoubhik will be missed at Archohm after he resumes his studies at CEPT, Ahmedabad. He, very considerately, suggested that a dipram should be attached to the newsletter for those who read his article on architectural



'Thank god we made it to Vitra!' Like any other project, from catching planes to trans or buses, archohm was fighting against time here as well. AI thanks to the Mercedes Benz Museum, another remarkable project which none of us wanted to leave.

The Vitra campus is situated on the outskirts of Weil am Rhein, a small German city near the Swiss border. Vitra is a company which manufactures furniture. It is a family owned business but has always perceived itself as a project which has always been guided by persuasions and passions, based on the conviction that domestic objects have a major influence on the quality of our everyday environment, which in turn contributes to our overall quality of life.



It was founded by Willi Fehlbauer. He collaborated with many remarkable personalities who had a revolutionary approach to design to create furniture pieces which are works of art in themselves. Charles and Ray Eames were the first one to contribute to the Vitra fraternity, where the production of their furniture started in 1957. In the year 1966 Vitra began to develop an independent product line which reflected different concepts of design.

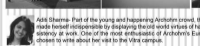
In the Vitra campus one finds an ensemble of architectural gems.

There are various buildings like the Vitra Design Museum by Frank Gehry, the 'Fue Station' by Zaha Hadid, the 'Conference Pavilion' by Tadao Ando, the 'Petrol Station' by Jean Nouve, the 'Factory Building' by Anuro Siza to name a few. Each one of these projects reflects different spatial philosophies, concepts as well as changing functional uses.

The best part about visiting Vitra was that the members of the Archohm were privileged to get an entry to their Design Museum where visitors are prohibited. Here each one of us actually sat on the original furniture pieces which we had seen only in the design books. After walking so much around the whole of Vitra, finally resting on those chairs was an experience in itself!



Aditi Sharma- Part of the young and happening Archohm crowd, this petite interior designer has made herself indispensable by displaying the old world virtues of hard work, intelligence and consistency at work. One of the most enthusiastic of Archohm touring party, she has chosen to write about her visit to the Vitra campus.



The Thailand based TOMARYK design company is a consultant of Davenport Campbell (an Australian multinational design firm with offices in the Middle East, Thailand, Malaysia and Australia). Archohm has been exploring the possibilities of collaborating with Mr Krays Tomowski with the aim of synergizing the strengths of the two companies. The emphasis of the joint venture is on marrying Tomaryk's proven expertise in hospitality projects with Archohm's growing presence in India. With this in mind, an Archohm team visited Bangkok, in November 2007 and met with Mr Krays Tomowski, director of Tomaryk Design. Subsequently, Mr Tomowski visited the Archohm office in April 2008, when a MOU was signed between the two companies.

A 14 member team of our employees went for a 10 day trip to Europe. Archohm was an idea to take the entire office on an architectural excursion to Europe, interact, discuss and dwell on them together for a better understanding. A study which was to take place by not reading buildings but experiencing them. 'Ten days and hundred projects! The experience and details of this trip shall be cherished by all who were a part of it and shall be shared with you in the subsequent issues.

UPCOMING ARCHOHM PROJECTS TO LOOK OUT FOR: Sunbeam University, Varanasi: Another immensely interesting project is the Sunbeam University at Varanasi. Throughout history Kashi or Banaras or Varanasi has been famed as a centre of learning, very fittingly Archohm is assisting the visionary Sunbeam Group in creating a centre of academic excellence that is centred around a beautiful lake and surrounded by shaded walkways.

Rudrapur Mills: Archohm has been commissioned by the Ireland based Kuvvera Group to design two commercial complexes at the upcoming city of Rudrapur, near the industrial complex of SIDCUL, home to Bajaj Auto, Dabur, Tata Motors and many of India's top companies. These malls are presently in the design development stage, and are expected to be up and running by 2009.

FEW INTERESTING SITES TO VISIT: visit www.vitra.com for a kaleidoscope on furniture design. Check out www.architecturawork.com for the latest news on architecture across the globe! delight for all design freaks, it shall expand the horizon of vision even for a lay man!

OFFICE TRIVIA: Back to School to reduce our environmental foot print, by saving detergent and water, we have decided to hencforth use out of our 'lilo' boxes. Pa. The added incentive is that we don't need to wash extra plates - ourself!

The Archohm round of party went off well! Typical of the best it ended with a few rounds of beer!

NEW JOINEES: In the months of May and June a number of people have joined the ever growing Archohm team. The latest additions are: Gaurav, Arch trainee Shoubhik, Arch trainee Atasi, I.D. trainee Jagdish, Draftsman Narendar, Draftsman

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH: Shivdutt Kaushik first Asif Siddiqui thirteenth Prema Rautela twenty second Sourabh Gupta twenty sixth

The Guinness Book of World Records has recently acknowledged the San Alfonso del Mar in Chile as the world's largest swimming pool! It is 35 m deep, 1013 m long and has a capacity of holding whopping 250 million litres of water! It costed almost 1.5 billion dollars.

Sourabh Gupta (for those who don't know) is an architect, travel buff, MUJ stationery collector, architectural and design raconteur, and a thousand and one other things rolled into one! To his staff, especially Aditi and Anchal, he is the softest and kindest hearted boss in the world!

sourabh's desk

In this month it is going to be difficult to keep this short. I am going to share one of the maddest things I have done in my life, apart from marrying my wife - which is chasing the world's largest swimming pool. Archohm was an idea to take the entire office on an architectural excursion to Europe and have an exposure on design, ten days and hundred projects which was to take place by not reading buildings but experiencing them. 'Ten days and hundred projects! The experience and details of this trip shall be cherished by all who were a part of it and shall be shared with you in the subsequent issues.



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