



JANUARY 2010

S	31	3	10	17	24
M		4	11	18	25
T		5	12	19	26
W		6	13	20	27
T		7	14	21	28
F	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

archohm works

Taurian world school, ranchi

As I recall school days, I am struck by the fact that since we human beings have maximum energy during this growing stage and a school is the place where we spend our maximum time, it is essential to channelise this energy. In architectural design terms, this could mean a fairly interactive educational program to facilitate exchange and creation of spaces that enhance the opportunity to dissipate this energy constructively. This could encourage physical as well as mental growth holistically - apart from the usual syllabus based study.



The Taurian World School at Ranchi is spread over 42 acres of undulating land. Archohm took up the challenge to build a premier institute. Of course, with the usual givens - the client doesn't have money and the time frame is very short as the school has already started admitting students, a typical chicken and egg situation where you need a great looking school to get the admissions (read money) and you need money (read admissions) to make the school look great!



The best part of the project is its environment, the quiet site with zero pollution/one enhanced this by creating spaces between buildings rather than within them. Great interacting spaces (class rooms are designed in such a way you can interact from third floor left corner with ground floor right corner), ramps that are extra wide, a hostel facility having a green roof with playing court within each cluster, a full size amphitheatre, an olympic size football field, a cricket stadium, a basket ball court that is placed on the roof, a horse riding area and shooting range; all a testimony of will and vision to make this institute global and world class.

Once you enter through the slightly oversized eight metre by eight metre gate of the school, it's a refreshing woe after an hour of bumpy drive out of Ranchi city limits! The views, the vistas, the angles and the materials are just correct. One can really feel every space, every form, every material and detail was designed and questioned, viewed and reviewed - No short cuts at all!

We all tried to do our best and most importantly we feel as a team that we are getting there. Whether it was fighting with the client or the consultant, staying at the hostel with an entire army of contractors and vendors, the energy and spirit is clearly reflected in the product. I must mention that it was possible because two extra ambitious (my term) guys, Sourabh Gupta (the architect) and Amith Bajja (the founder) started dreaming and discussing this project together on a plane on their first meeting. I thank Indian Airlines for this purely coincidental meeting as they seated the two next to each other!

Building institutes that grow timeless with time.

Nabin Patra - Architect who is rated the most knowledgeable person in Archohm (although a certain architect-cum-quizzmaster would have a different opinion!). Nabin is quite simply a repository of data related to architecture, construction, detailing, contracts and tenders, and anything that has the remotest connection to this trade.



They say dreams are not the ones which you see while asleep, but they the ones which don't let you sleep.

Quite similar was my situation when I was dreaming about building a world class school in Ranchi. It was not difficult to meet architects who had the experience of building schools. But it was difficult to meet someone who could fit into our vision and 'who had not designed a school earlier'. It was a pinch more difficult to find that someone, on a flight.

This is how my association with Archohm started, purely 'air bound', which also meant, building our school in the air, and then pinning it down to our beautiful 42 acre campus.

Archohm prides itself on being excusably late with the drawings, projecting themselves as the most affordable architects in the country, while in reality they are sometimes more expensive than the buildings themselves, getting 'firangis' to work on projects, and serving the best edible bites during work.

But a client like me, feels proud about the passion and dedication with which they deliver projects. And that is what is most important when you are building your dreams.

It has been a happy journey for me to associate with Archohm professionally and also to find a friend in Sourabh. In my personal view, I have no doubt in my mind that Sourabh shall very soon become a name to reckon with in the field of architecture.

Art, in any form, rubs smooth. So has happened with me. I scarcely looked at architecture as a form of art, but over the years I almost miss being a trained architect myself. It is as pure and indulging as a work of art. It is bliss when you see your creation resting carelessly on the ground, whispering those sweet nothings in your ears, 'thank you for giving birth to me'.

Archohm has all the ingredients for becoming a world class architectural and related service firm. My only advice to their team is to go a little slower. I love speed, but I also believe that speed sometimes kills. Archohm has very rightly invested in people; their team is happy, motivated, charged and well led.

With my sincere best wishes, I offer my prayers and the best of luck to the entire Archohm team to realise their dreams.



Building institutes that grow timeless with time.

Amith Bajja - Entrepreneur and a friend of Archohm. Promoter of the Taurian World School at Ranchi, and various other ventures of which we know little, Amith is also passionate about design and architecture. We look forward to many more projects with him...

in focus

Archotour two came again with the same madness, deadlines, preparations, late working hours, excitement and curiosity, just the way archotour one began.



Madrid was the first city that we set out to explore. After seeing a few housing projects on the outskirts, the **Matadero Madrid** was the first interior project that we saw in the main city. This was one of those projects which we just sort of stumbled upon - only to find that it was not mentioned in our building list! Matadero Madrid was initially an old slaughter house which was now being transformed into a new centre for contemporary socio-cultural activities.

The project serves as an opportunity to explore renovation possibilities to the fullest, reducing the involvement to a necessary minimum but with maximum expressivity. This building is absolutely raw with no clean cuts, done as simply as is possible. In keeping with this philosophy not much has been done to the main structure of the building but one can see a lot of play with interiors. Bold and basic empty voids with soft and sophisticated touches of interiors punctuate the entire project.

As this centre caters to performing arts, visual arts, design, music, dance, architecture, urban planning, landscape design, fashion, literature, thought and cinema, the planning of the spaces has been done thoughtfully. There are exhibition spaces, small libraries, media rooms, galleries, and large halls for interactions. Each space just somehow managed to cater to the new functionality; such was the nature of intervention, sufficient and sublime.

The materials used come straight from the industrial age, unchanged and in standard measurements; eventually ready for re-use. Huge steel girders or 'I-sections' are used as reception tables, 15ft high sliding aluminum and concrete doors, some uber-cool furniture made from cardboard, were some different and interesting things that we saw. This project heads my list of five favourite buildings seen on archotour two - a perfect blend of yesterday's architecture with tomorrow's interiors serving today's times!



Aditi Sharma - Talented and hardworking (is there anyone in Archohm who does not fit that description?) - add vivacious and bubbly - that is Aditi Sharma. Handling interior design projects of diverse use and size, she is the person you see just as you are about to enter Sourabh's office - by virtue of her seat - at the entry to the second floor!

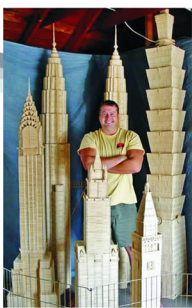
NEWS:

Party at Anand Lok
Zaha Gupta's arrival was celebrated on 6th December 2009 with a party that began at 11 in the morning and ended after the sun went down! Amazingly almost the entire guest list turned up to enjoy the food and drink on offer... those who were brave ventured into the basement where stronger drinks were on offer!

Kunal's trip to Libya
Another sojourn in Libya, this time not so hectic as the first one, but still exhausting! There was a mini archotour when Kunal covered a 1000 kms in a single day- but this time it was more of site work in Tripoli.

Archohm acquired Alecture a 5 year old company that specializes in providing architectural outsourcing solutions to US based clients. Their bench strength adds to Archohm's; the key personnel who have come on board are mentioned in the new joinees section.

Sourabh's visit to South Africa: Sourabh attended a Design workshop on South Africa on Toll Plazas with experts from TIS and Anhad Narula of D.S. Constructions Ltd - focused on complete design, operation and maintenance. The trip aptly ended with beers (we are sure NP was missed) at the Centurion Park while seeing the South African team at a cricket match, cheering Jacques Kallis striking an awesome century!



DESIGN NEWS:
A miniature city made out of millions of toothpicks
It took Stan Munro (38) 6 years to build this toothpick city. He used 6 million toothpicks and 170 litres of glue. He can spend up to 6 months to create a building and each of his creations is built to 1:164 scale. He works at the Museum of Science and Technology in Syracuse, New York (USA).



UPCOMING PROJECTS:

Residence at Pandara Park - The Complete renovation of this residence is to be done by Archohm within a mad (when -is-it-not) timeline of eight weeks!

Archohm is playing the role of an **advisor to Bhartiya Group** on their residential township in Bengaluru (Bangalore for the politically incorrect)

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH:

Faizan Desai	third
Aditi	twenty fourth
Kunal	twenty sixth

NEW JOINEES:

Arpit Paul	Architectural Assistant
Sumita Dutta	Architectural Assistant
Md. Haider Ali	Architectural Assistant
Raj Singh Bisht	ITI
Anindya Ghosh	Architect
Saumya	Interior Designer

sourabh's desk

institutes and design

design of institutes has always been one of the **best playgrounds for architectural skills**, globally, architects have expressed themselves best through educational projects.

educational projects are great platforms to explore and exhibit ideas of built form and space making, a display of a sense of scale and play of character as one defines the nature of the institute, absorb the context and conditions to address all levels of form and function.

financially, institutions need to be architecturally correct, they need to be simple enough for aesthetic longevity yet powerful enough to leave an impact on the mind of the student, a **paradox of sorts that needs to be visually soft yet loud**.

in India, iit kanpur by karvinde, iim ahmedabad by kahn and iim Bangalore by doshi are all great examples of this fact. internationally, oxford to cambridge, stanford to harvard, all are powerful campuses with an architecturally sound built vocabulary, personally, the utrecht campus with its mix of faculties demonstrates the power and influence of architecture, the library by wael arets, educationalum by keekhaas, design school by eric van egeraert and the faculty of economics are all icons of contemporary architecture in the education space.



buildings need to impress, impress a sense of scale and profundity that makes the space an institution, representation of values and character that compliments the soft teachings that take place within these built structures, the timelessness of the spaces bring in depth to the concepts

that are taught within, the nature of the human mind with its visual bank registers the software of the teachings, the 'people-ware' with all the professors and the hardware that is the building envelope, all these critical components of the institute come together to form an impact that comprehensively completes the idea of a school, a place of learning that one carries for the rest of one's life.



we at archohm have explored the various design opportunities with taurian, centia, cambridge, dy patil, shooini, first steps and the likes, an aspiration to adapt and build institutes that grow timeless with time.