Design philosophies of Le Corbusier, Gerard DaCunha, Karim Furniturewalla, Jimmy Mistry and Pinakin Patel

Enter the private domain of Sania Mirza and Kim Jagtiani
Della Tecnica Architects & Interior Designers set new standards of design through their ‘New Age office’ in Mumbai.

The terrace garden with informal seating, pergola and a waterbody has been converted into a chill-out zone. It also has a bar to unwind over a drink.

\* Della Tecnica, reputedly India’s largest turnkey solution company in architecture and interior design industry, is the brainchild of Jimmy Mistry’s philosophy of innovation – one that catapulted the company into a successful enterprise over the years. The enterprise has exponentially grown from a staff of 6 to 900 in less than a decade. The firm combines design, detail and deadline. “We integrate innovative design with state-of-the-art technology, thus creating an energetic and conducive working environment, enabling a new breed of designers who can modify new dimensions from the existing ones,” says Jimmy.

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THE RECEPTION WITH ITS INTERESTING AQUARIUM BUILT INTO THE FRONT DESK, THE LEGS JUTTING OUT FROM THE WALL AND A PLASMA TOUCH-SCREEN CREATES AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE.

Jimmy Mistry, the principle architect of Delia Tecnica Architects & Interior Designers takes modern design and minimalism and all the preconceived notions of a ‘designer’s office’ to a higher level. “The transition from being just another designer’s office to a corporate identity that establishes a new benchmark in design, quality and attitude was the idea behind this new premise,” reveals Jimmy.

He decided to model the office in a pure modernist style, but sans the cold sterility that makes a lot of modern design uninteresting and boring. “Although I had the freedom of being my own client, I realized that the scheme also had to appeal to my clients. I tried to achieve a strong personal identity without creating a space too uniquely adapted to my own style of living. It was more of creating a think tank centre giving enough space for my team to think amidst the right environment,” he says.

The office is the culmination of various elements. First, there is the positive energy and then the various materials that are used. An interactive environment spread over 10,500 sq. ft. is split in three levels — that which houses a knowledge centre, design and projects area, gym and a chic lounge and first of its kind ‘Display Fit-Out Centre’ where clients, suppliers and contractors can review materials, installations and fixture specimens.

The statue of Lord Ganesha at the entrance creates a positive aura that leads to the

JIMMY’S CABIN HAS A CONFERENCE TABLE AND A TALL LAMP FUNCTIONALLY, IT HAS STATE-OF-THE-ART ELECTRONIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL Gizmos that FACILITATE SMOOTH OPERATION.
sophisticated interiors of the office proper. I am tempted to whisper the purpose of my visit (the ambience forces you to keep the decibel levels down). While waiting at the lounge Philippe Starck, Karim Rashid and a few other greats keep me company (they grace the wall in the background). But there is more to take in — the legs jutting out of the wall, a plasma touch-screen display that allows an interactive experience for guests and the aquarium built into the reception desk. But plants and wooden potties bent to create an interesting design add life to the minimal look. “I believe that in every design there should be an element of surprise without being too loud,” Jimmy smiles as he takes me around the office.

Adjoining the reception area is the marketing and the design & graphic division, both hotbeds of activity and adrenaline. Instead of the nine-to-five zones the workspace has a very lively and vibrant ambience. Opaque partitions have given way to translucent screens, while the modular work units allow both privacy and conversation. The materials largely vary with the purpose, availability and trends.

The basement houses the Fit-Out Display Centre. There is also a library that encourages scholarship and an updating of skills for employees and interested persons alike. At the mezzanine level is a ‘Meeting Room’, which wears a very slick and tech-savvy look. A noteworthy feature in this area is the specially installed panels on the door indicating the duration of the meeting. “Many a times, I have seen people just walking into the meeting or conference rooms and then on seeing it occupied apologizing. It even happens in big corporate houses. You just need to have an indicator to avoid this situation.
and that is what this panel does," explains the designer. At level one is the Project Division, the Furniture Division, the Estimating & Billing Division, and the really cool 'Ally McBeal' unisex restrooms.

The most positive area in the entire office (I feel) is the staircase that connects the different levels. While Ucayara Gadnis' (now Shiva) painting representing fire keeps you company on the way up the most interesting feature is the Vitruvian Man on the ceiling. (The human body is a model of perfection, and perfection is probably the goal of all creative people).

Jimmy’s cabin at the top level is another interesting area. You will not find the regular worktable for this designer. Glass wall on one side opens to the lovely terrace garden, while the white interiors make this area look expansive to say the least. Functionally, the cabin has state-of-the-art electronic and technological gizmos that facilitate operational processes in the most sophisticated manner possible. A long conference table indicates his approach towards his work — teamwork.

The terrace garden (maybe I should call it the paradise) has informal seating, sleeper wood pergola and a water tank that has been converted into an interesting waterbody. It also has a bar where one could unwind over a drink. (I hope my boss thinks of such a breakout area, though work then would be the last thing on our minds!)

The highlight of the project lies in the exploration of materials, textures and subtle use of colours. Further, technology is integrated into the design making it not only interesting but also practical. The result is an integrated service centre that