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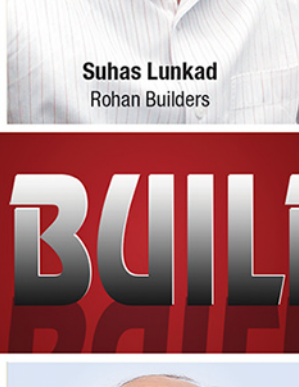
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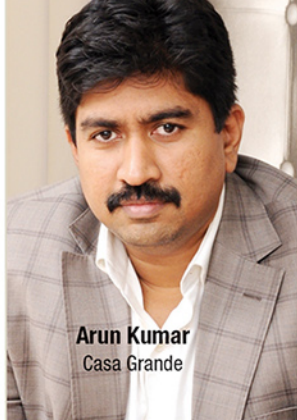
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“The institute desired the modernisation of its infrastructure and a desire to increase its student intake from 3500 to 5000 students while also modernising all its existing facilities.”

BITS Pilani, New Academic Block at Pilani. Rajasthan. India

Set in a historic background, the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan built in early 1900s is a centre for excellence and learning. The institute desired the modernisation of its infrastructure and a desire to increase its student intake from 3500 to 5000 students while also modernising all its existing facilities. The First Task was the Construction of The New Academic Block (NAB) at BITS Pilani which has been envisioned and designed as a visual Link between the Grand Old Clock Tower that sits atop the existing Academic Block on the North End of the campus & the Saraswati Mandir that adorns the south End forming this important visual axis. In between these 2 important Pilani Landmarks lay a Recreational Ground admeasuring an area of almost 50,000 sq.m and on a land as big as 325 Acres; this was the only large parcel of Land available for any significant construction of Academic Space. The approach adopted was to deliberately place the building in a subterranean way so as

not to disturb this important visual axis that has successfully existed between Clock Tower & The Mandir for more than 50 years. The form emerged organically from the ground and new interlocking spaces were created with a central winding pathway leading from the Clock Tower to The Mandir. The terrace has large skylights at irregular intervals to provide natural sunlight as well as break the monotony at the ground level. A Grand Rotunda (50 m dial was created, housing 1500 students for gatherings and forms a fusion between the traditional architecture of the Pilani Campus through a narrative of arches along the clock tower and contemporary seating with ramps along the new building. The entire design is pedestrian friendly. The only "Above the ground" structures are four Grand Archways having Rajasthani style arches which are symbolic with the existing architecture of campus leading down to the new contemporary building, states Mr.Karl Wadia, Senior Associate.



The building is designed to LEED Gold Standards and has a 65,000 Sqft Green Roof having Flora & Fauna.

The embankments created by excavation are greened with Wadella Creepers requiring less water & maintenance. The Building houses Academic Space for over 2500 Students and even today remains invisible above ground and needs to be discovered by a person visiting for the first time. Apart from the New Academic Block, we have also been tasked with the renovation of 3500 student rooms, building of a 1000 new ones; renovation & new construction of almost 250 faculty houses, Student Mess, Infrastructure Development; etc. All of the above work is being carried out keeping carefully in mind the harsh Pilani Climate which varies from 0 - 50 degrees in Winter & Summer as well as keeping in mind the cultures, architecture and way of life here.





Manipal University Jaipur. Jaipur. India

The university is located near Dehmi Kalan village, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur district. The land parcel for the entire University development project is approx 156 acres and the plot is naturally divided by the NH8 Express Highway (Jaipur-Ajmer Highway) into 3 parcels. This division resulted in the separation of the Academic and Residential areas which are envisioned to be connected by a pedestrian underpass allowing the seamless movement of students on foot or bicycle from their rooms to the classroom. The sites are further divided into two parts due to the presence of a High Tension Electrical Line which has been promised to be made underground by the Rajasthan Government. Up to such time the HT Line creates a natural divide which we have embraced as a central axis that serves as a major connection as well as provides for open spaces to the campus. On the University side, The New Academic Block (NAB) is placed along this central axis. The Design appears to capture a glimpse of the bygone era by incorporating the features such as the Rajasthan Courtyard, bright coloured facades, double wall construction, Jali work, etc. however each of the above is provided with the very specific purpose of making a world class Platinum rated campus & building.

The colour of the buildings resonate the colour of the sand, the courtyard helps shading; the double walls, chajjas & Jali work differ for each of the North, South, East & West facades designed by carrying

out detailed studies of sun path, wind rose, etc. The Residential side of the campus sits on a site of 56 acres and it comprises of approx 3000 Student Rooms; an 1800 capacity triple Cover Food court; Faculty Housing; Security Block; Industrial Laundry; High Side Services and several areas of Recreation. Per the demands of the University and Students' Parents; The Girls and Boys hostels are separated; by creating a Grand Avenue like the Las Ramblas of Barcelona. Once segregated, the driving idea behind the design was to create a thriving community based on the concept of "The Medieval Maze" consisting of shaded streets and corridors, narrow deep & shaded courtyards

and pergolas for shaded circulation.

Thus the design has manifested itself with interlocking streets and courts, narrow skewed views, compact blocks, compressed movements. The entire campus reverberates the strong quality of a holistic and integrated community through its architecture. The Master Plan; Ground level experience and Student feedback are testament to this. At the start of the project the land was filled with "kikad" trees which were removed & deposited with the Forest Department. The campus is now landscaped with several hardy species like Hardy plants: White and pink Bougainville, Euphobia milli red and yellow Alamonda as stated by Ms. Apoorva Sharma, Associate.



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— AR. HAFEEZ CONTRACTOR