

Inside Outside

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**The eclectic homes of
art gallery owners
Sharan Apparao in Chennai
& Geetu Hinduja in Mumbai**

STYLISH HOUSES
designed by Raseel
Gujral and Nina Puri

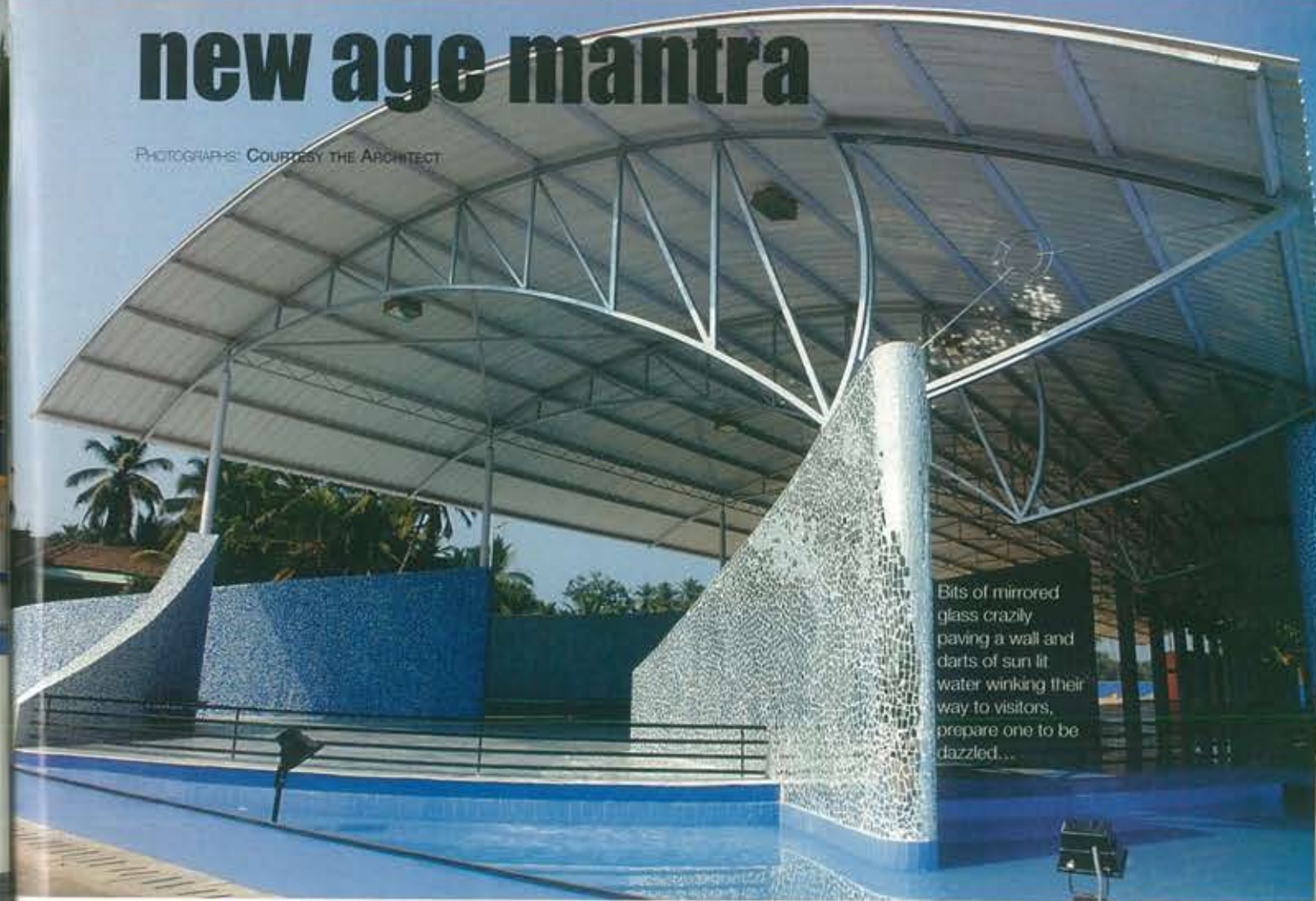
**Chinese Chic -
Indochine** designed
by Sandeep Khosla

Architecture by
Rahul Deshpande
& Dipen Gada



new age mantra

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE ARCHITECT



Bits of mirrored glass crazily paving a wall and darts of sun lit water winking their way to visitors, prepare one to be dazzled...

Architect Rahul Deshpande designs a bus stand in Cuncolim, Goa, in tune with the ethos of the region that has won him a prestigious award; and an R & D Centre for D-Link in Bangalore with a daringly different, out of the box approach.

The waves flow in, walls curve in and converge into an extremely welcoming lobby.

MATERIALS

Roof Sheets: Finolex PVC (2mm thick) used for its excellent insulation and lightweight properties.

Structural Steel: Tata structural tubes, rectangular and square hollow sections used for their aesthetics and superlative strength.

Roads: The roads are in concrete for durability and low maintenance.

Cladding: the whole structure is clad with ceramic and glass tiles for ensuring cleanliness and low maintenance.

‘A bus is the means to take you forward, to the place where you wish to go – your work place, your home, your holiday destination. Seven out of every ten Goans use a bus each day, very often more than once, and commuting by bus is very much a part of their routine. It stands to reason, then, that a place where buses and passengers converge and disperse ought to reflect the lifestyle of its users,’ says Rahul Deshpande.

The site of this stand on the outskirts of Cuncolim is surrounded by fields bordered by coconut palms. Since this is a small rural town where the people have little exposure to contemporary architecture, Rahul had to ensure that the proportion and scale of the structure responded to its environs and be one that the people of the area could relate to. Designing a

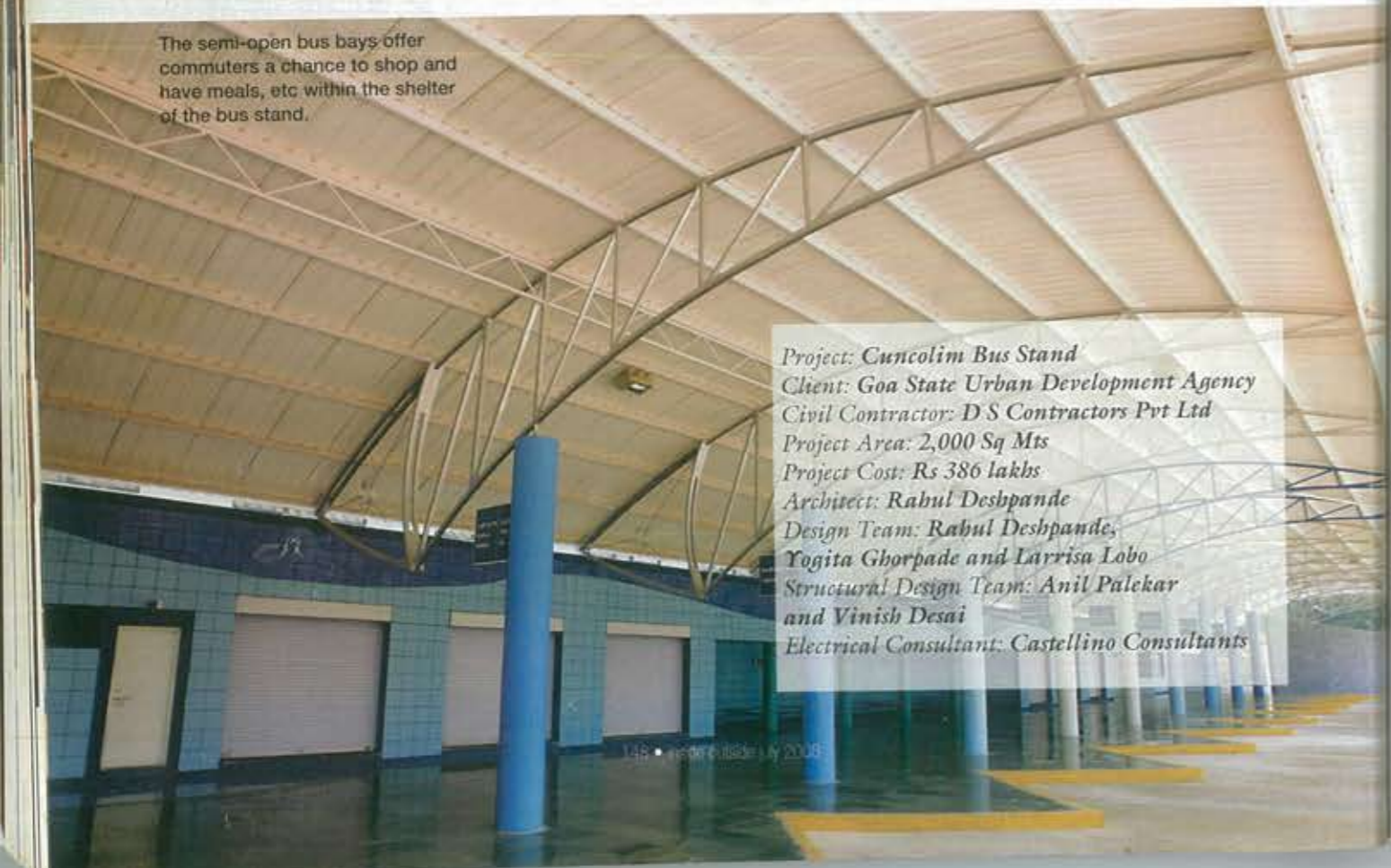




An underwater feel of calm, friendly aquatic neighbours and diffused sunlight above creates poetic drama in the waiting area of the bus stand.



Site plan of Cuncolim Bus Stand in Goa.



The semi-open bus bays offer commuters a chance to shop and have meals, etc within the shelter of the bus stand.

Project: Cuncolim Bus Stand
Client: Goa State Urban Development Agency
Civil Contractor: D.S Contractors Pvt Ltd
Project Area: 2,000 Sq Mts
Project Cost: Rs 386 lakhs
Architect: Rahul Deshpande
Design Team: Rahul Deshpande,
Yogita Ghorpade and Larrisa Lobo
Structural Design Team: Anil Palekar
and Vinish Desai
Electrical Consultant: Castellino Consultants

contemporary bus stand in the context of a small rustic area surrounded by fields and palms, were considerations that had to be factored into the design concept.

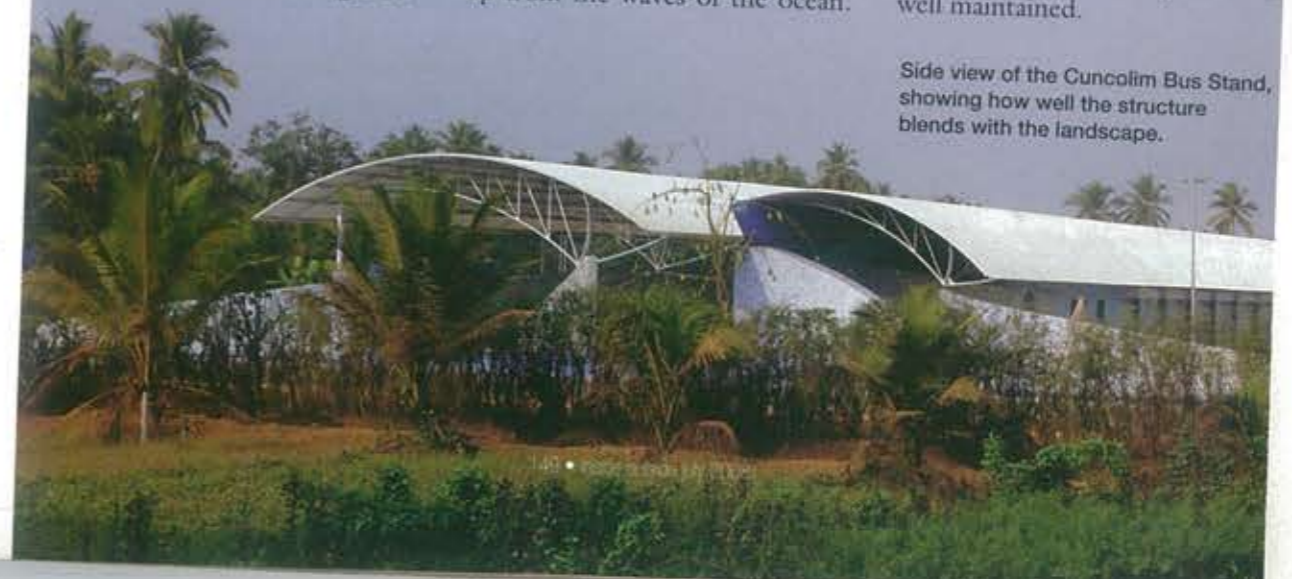
After doing extensive research on Goan values and culture, Rahul concluded that the one thing every Goan absolutely relates to is fish: a culinary staple in this part of the world! It is the one single ele-

ment that is intimately bound up with every Goan's daily life. The challenge for him now was to translate his idea of using fish as a motif and integrating it into the design. Obviously, he did not want it to be just a clichéd image. As he was pondering about it, one day by happenstance, he came upon a sight of dolphins leaping up from the waves of the ocean.

This provided the inspiration! 'The simple, curvy, flowing form of the sporting dolphin amid glinting waves lent itself seamlessly to translation into an elegant truss,' explains Rahul.

The people of Cuncolim are thrilled with their bus stand and take great pride in showing it off to visitors and ensuring that it is well maintained.

Side view of the Cuncolim Bus Stand, showing how well the structure blends with the landscape.



Research=Out of the-Box
Thinking=Brainwave=
Paradigm Break= Splinters of
Creativity=Design. That was the
mantra Rahul adopted when he
was designing the D-Link R & D
Centre in Bangalore.

'Designing a centre for info-
tech research and development in
the IT hub of India needs a spe-
cial approach. It is essential to
conjure an ambience that fosters
enquiry, creativity and excel-
lence,' says Rahul Deshpande.
'Most of the buildings in this
electronic city have glass facades
with detailing in aluminium or
steel. They all look alike and have
no character. There is nothing
Indian about them and also they

consume lots of energy.' His
client too had wanted a glass
building for the sake of image,
but after a lot of convincing, he
let Rahul have his way.

'As we kept thinking about
research and development, it
seemed clear to us that the
process of enquiry needs creative
thinking, an out-of-the-box
approach to questions. Only a
daringly different idea can ignite
the mind, and set it free from the
moth-eaten approaches that it is
trapped in. Only an explosion of
creativity can shatter the enclo-
sure, scattering the fragments of a
brilliant idea. Only these shimmer-
ing splinters can dictate a
design that contains elements of

such irregular forms and their
prismatic colours. If we weld
these elements asymmetrically to
the idea of up-to-the-minute
technology represented by heavy
metal, we have the rudiments of a
pattern, a design that fits a centre
of intellectual ferment to a T.

'The finished product of the R
& D Centre comprises a
"process" of thought, where an
illuminated flash of creative think-
ing morphs a "square" box into a
shower of wedges planting them-
selves firmly into the ground with
the help of metal-clad piers. The
"spark" of inspiration metamor-
phoses into a circular ground
floor lobby of winking glass. The
built mass presents an uplifting

**The colour scheme for the exteriors and the
interiors is dictated by the need to rejuvenate
flagging spirits, caused by the stresses and
strains of prolonged mental exertion.
The naturally progression of VIBGYOR,
with a dash of vibrancy was added to create an
uplifting feeling, a quickening of the senses.**

D-LINK R & D CENTRE



**All the four basic forms –
circular, rectangular, triangular and trapezoidal –
are brought into play in the facade. In spite of
asymmetrical wedges and slits, the patterns
blend together to create a balanced harmony.**



Project: Research & Development Centre, Bangalore

Client: D Link India Ltd

Civil Contractor: Thuluvath Constructions Pvt Ltd

Project Area: 8,090 Sq Mts

Design Team: Rahul Deshpande, Nandita Namshikar

Structural Design Team: Rahul Deshpande, Anil Palekar & Archana Mahambare

Electrical Consultant: Castellino Consultants

Electrical/HVAC/Plumbing Consultant: Meca Project Engineers Pvt Ltd



The landscape design too is influenced by the same seed of an idea – research as creative thinking. The triangular open spaces complement the triangular built structures and provide a visual counterpoint to the concrete structure of the Centre.



picture after hours, where the rainbow colours, the strongly anchored wedges soar up to converge, and the asymmetrical slits combine with the glistening lobby to soothe senses jaded by prolonged intellectual activity.
The landscape design too is influenced by the same seed of an idea – research as creative thinking. The triangular open spaces complement the triangular built structures and provide a visual counterpoint to the concrete structure of the Centre. The triangles tend to meet at corners, reinforcing the idea of a common design concept for the open and the enclosed spaces. **LB**