

DESIGN TODAY

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SPACES ETCETERA

**LATEST
IN WOODEN
FLOORING**
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IN FOCUS

Wood Craft

Textures, types, treatments

HOUSE ON A CLIFF, KNYSNA, SOUTH AFRICA

Where terraces and courtyards come alive

FASHION BOUTIQUE, TOKYO, JAPAN

A building that's 'lantern-like'

WALLPAPERS: TRENDS IN METALLIC HUES

Hand-painted art and crystal-studded dazzle



DESIGN WORLD: MAKEOVER OF AN UNDERPASS IN CUMBERNAULD, SCOTLAND

Spaces are colour-coded yet follow an open path that makes for free-flow of movement through the office, giving users ample room for interaction and improving work efficiency



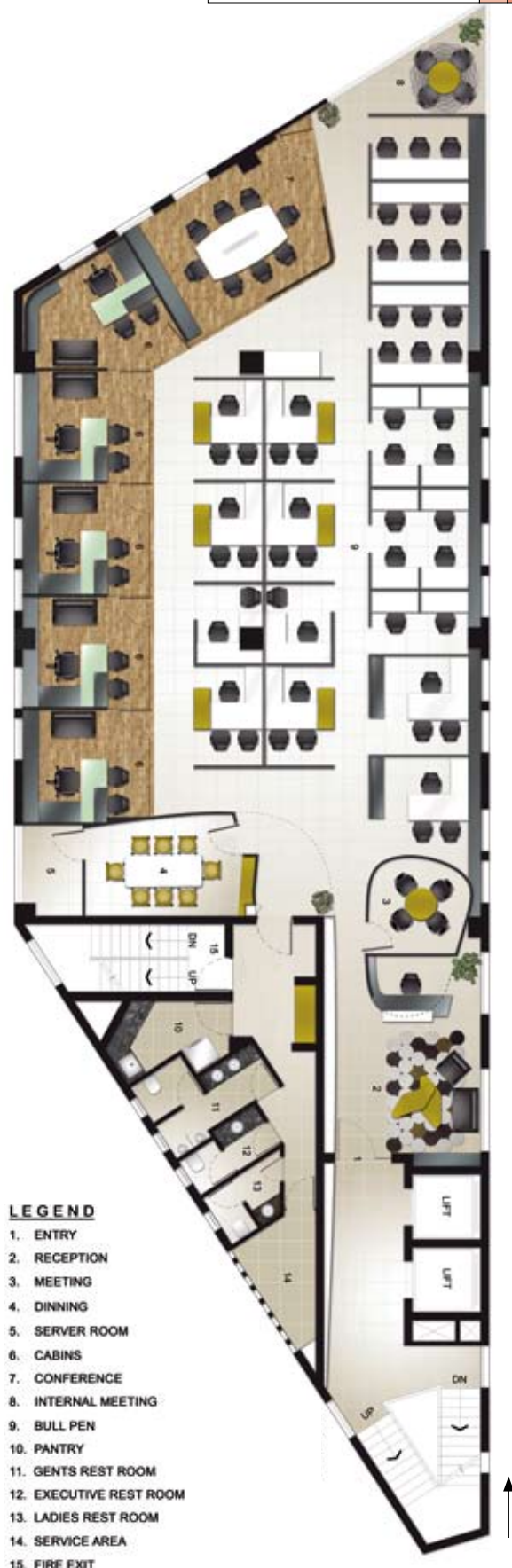
CURVE AHEAD

AS ANY CORPORATE OFFICE WOULD BE, THE DESIGN OF THE BAJAJ ELECTRICALS CORPORATE OFFICE IN Chennai had to respect hierarchies, maximise space and efficiency. Collaborative Architecture stepped in, turning a regular work place into one with an architectural character



For architects Lalita Tharani and Mujib Ahmed, the challenge was to accommodate guidelines yet evolve a design narrative that would mask the grid layout of this office space. It was a straitjacket set-up with cabins for senior managers, cubicles for mid-level managers, work stations for executives, meeting and conference rooms and staff and service areas. The design team also had to contend with orthogonal spaces that came out of a Vaastu-dictated programme.

They wanted to use green-rated products that would be active tools to cut down energy consumption. They worked at reducing sun exposure from the south to reduce the cooling load, harvested





The graphics on the glazed walls provide privacy and a sense of motion even as the design demarcates the public and private realms through enclosed cabin spaces



daylight and oriented the work floor so that users could exploit maximum natural light while at work.

All cabins, passages and entry foyers, are provided with tools to cut down the lighting load. The office is equipped with state-of-the-art HVAC and Building Management Systems to make it truly energy efficient.

Meeting rooms are placed strategically to segregate

Green-rated products, harvesting natural light and orientation of workstations have helped reduce energy consumption

the common areas from the work spaces. The contrasting dark colour and the free-flowing envelope of its space clearly

generate a spatial boundary between public and work realms. Enclosed spaces such as cabins for senior managers and conference and staff utility areas are positioned along one side, allowing the workstations to be positioned in such a way that they receive ample natural light.

The cabins have glazed partitions separating them from the workspace, allowing the daylight to penetrate into

the cabin spaces. The architects' firm designed the graphics on the wall, giving adequate privacy in the cabin area.

Collaborative Architecture projects are known for their panache in playing with tectonics, yet keeping to a plan that's open, simple and functional. This office space is one such example, where fluidity comes naturally in the design, even if there are as tricky impediments, as in this one.