

# Inside Outside

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RS 50

IIID-MK award winning home designed  
by Riyaz & Simeen Quraishi



An idyllic bungalow in Goa

A Pune bungalow by Varsha  
& Deepak Guggari

Swatt/Miers architects design a  
bungalow in America

Aditya Birla Financial Services

Sybase, by Planet 3 Architects

A Sea-Side Bungalow by Sandeep Khosla



OFFICE

Planet 3 Studios  
design a 5,200 sq ft office  
space, echoing the futuristic  
and innovative services  
offered by Sybase India Pvt Ltd.

# Innovative Solutions

PHOTOGRAPHS: MRIGANK SHARMA, INDIA SUTRA, COURTESY THE ARCHITECT



Within the workspace area, efficiency and open interaction were required, and for the cabins, comfort and convenience. The cabins have an interesting form with bent glass instead of mundane glass boxes.



**T**his new office for Sybase, a multinational software solution firm, expanding rapidly in India served a dual purpose – to reiterate its corporate work culture and to also define it as a brand. Building a suitable new office space presented the opportunity to explore design and functionality into a seamless built environment. It was immediately understood that the right architectural solution would speak to stakeholders, employees and customers more eloquently than any policy assertions.

The client is in a tech-driven line of business which provides software solutions. To its clients, it had to present its social, interactive, transparent approach towards work. Within the workspace area, efficiency and open interaction were required, and for the cabins, comfort and convenience. ‘Employee centricity’ was introduced wherein the



design had to discern and respond to the needs of staff that went beyond a standard, comfortable workspace.

A few interactive discussions with the client and their employees, gave the design team crucial insights into the company's corporate culture, interpersonal relationships, tangible and intangible wants and needs...and more. 'Our design approach was focused on enhancing the social environment, branding the company in 3-dimension and expressing and enabling its cor-

porate culture, by means of architecture.'

'These were savvy clients, who allowed us, as architects to "waste space" to achieve a certain design objective. So we conceded a fair bit of office space and created a wider welcoming entry. A warped ribbon-like partition wall leading to the entrance amplifies the contemporary design sensibility that continues inside the entire office space. This design sensibility was also well merged with the functional






A huge custom-built, stretched fabric luminaire dissipates light evenly on the polished surface of the conference table. The 'bumps' on the wall turn into 'dimples' on the other side and adds character to the contemporary feel of the MD's cabin. The brand logo colours make their presence felt throughout the office.

requirements of an office space. For instance, one of the conference room walls is panelled with moulded circular POP bumps in a parametric pattern, which function as an acoustical solution.

A huge custom-built, stretched fabric luminaire dissipates light evenly on the polished surface of the conference table. The 'bumps' on the wall turn into 'dimples' on the other side and add character to the contemporary feel of the MD's cabin. Outsized amoeba-shaped luminaires connect these cabins with the rest of the office design language. On the other side suspended wooden panels wrap around the demo room glass and also create a semi-open informal meeting space in the reception.

The client was a multinational firm, but as this office is located in India, Planet 3 Studios tried to give it some local context by creating a contemporary interpretation of a 'jaali' which cordons off the reception from the open office area. Gypsum bands run on the ceiling all over the office in fluid forms, and come down in the form of panels in the demo room, a huge canopy as a backdrop for the reception, and enter into the open office to bend down and become the floor which functions as a meeting space. This raised podium also houses an alcove, a comfortable, cosy reading nook. The playfulness is harmonised by generously arranged sleek modular workstations in the open office area.

Further on, the offerings become more interesting. The dead space behind full height storage becomes a whimsical area in which to play golf and acts as yet another interacting zone for the employees. Open cubicle partitions also draw inspiration from the fluid bands running in the ceiling and follow a similar design language. As the company's work philosophy is one of transparency and openness, a lot of glass was used wherever enclosure was required. The cabins have an interesting form with bent glass instead of mundane glass boxes. The use of graphics and incorporation of the brand logo colours in almost every part of the office helps to instill the essence of the brand among the users.

The design elements express the spirit of the business which is modern, futuristic, innovative, yet structured. 



#### FACT FILE

Sybase India Pvt Ltd

Location: Bandra, Mumbai.

Construction: September '09 to November '09.

Area: 5,200 sq ft.

Cost of Construction: Rs. 2,650 sq ft.

Project cost: Rs. 1,37,75,000

Delivery: Design Consultancy.

Design Team: Kalhan Mattoo, Santha Gour Mattoo, Dimple Toraskar, Aditi Gautam.

