

# INTERIOR DESIGN<sup>®</sup>

MARCH  
2011

*the positivity issue*  
heavenly



"True creativity is not constrained by budget, available skills, or building technologies"



## PLANET INDIA

**Proof that design** can promote educational progress, especially in a developing country, Planet 3 Studios Architecture converted a warehouse into a showstopper housing biomedical engineering building for the Vidyalankar Institute of Technology in Mumbai. "True creativity and willingness to make a change are not constrained by budget, available skills, or building technologies," Planet 3 director Kalhan Mattoo says. "Ordinary materials can do extraordinary things."

The word **extraordinary** applies both to the facade's zigzagging aluminum panels and to the 35,000-square-foot interior, completed for just \$500,000. Mattoo calls the classrooms, labs, lecture hall, faculty offices, cafe, and semi-enclosed patio an "educational village." On the angrifloored mezzanine, strips of plastic laminate turn bent-plywood partitions into a multicolored patchwork. Ribbons of white-painted fiberboard underline overhead, outlining the shapes of lotus petals, a Hindu symbol of the goddess of knowledge. He also managed to tuck in some Western whimsy: a life-size chess board, half a basketball court, a Ping-Pong table, and an old-fashioned red phone booth. —*Meghan Edwards*



**Clackwise from top left:** Plastic laminate strips clad the enclosures of classrooms in Planet 3 Studios Architecture's engineering building for the Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Mumbai. The warehouse panels' custom slots and tables, also in plastic laminate. Aluminum panels concealing the original masonry warehouse.



**Godrej Interio**

“Our **Out of the Box** workstation—which made it, as a prototype, all the way from our studio in Mumbai to the Neuberger Museum of Art outside New York—is finally available as a production piece.”

—*Kalhan Mattoo of Planet 3 Studios Architecture*  
circle 405



**Dellarobbia**

“My **Sodeo** sectional from 2004 has stood the test of time.”

—*Dean Maltz of Dean Maltz Architect*  
circle 406



**John Blazy Designs**

“**Dichrolam** dichroic acrylic is transparent, reflective, and color-diffusing.” —*Rand Elliott of Elliott + Associates Architects*  
circle 407



**Agent**

“The first airless, transparent soccer ball with position-detection technology is **Ctrus**, from our sister company.”

—*Michel Rojkind of Rojkind Arquitectos*  
circle 408 >

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