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CELEBRATING DESIGN
ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS SHARE
THEIR INSIGHTS

QUICK CHAT
ASHOK CHANDRA PANDA, MINISTER
OF STATE, TOURISM AND CULTURE,
ODISHA GOVERNMENT

THE RIGHT MOVES

DILIP RAY, OWNER AND CMD OF MAYFAIR
HOTELS & RESORTS HAS THE UNCANNY
KNACK FOR SELECTING THE PERFECT
LOCATION FOR HIS PROPERTIES.



➤ The design palette is greatly inspired by the local Goan culture and the environment around.

BACKPACKERS' DELIGHT

Design Lab Vyoma fashioned the Wanderers Hostel & Resort at Goa, retaining its intrinsic backpacking culture as a mainstay

India's fast-growing tourism industry is continually witnessing newer hospitality buildings that cater to different variety of travellers. The backpacking-style of low-cost, independent travelling is growing at a steady pace.

Backpacking travellers are always looking for budget stays, inexpensive lodging and shared hostels in place of luxurious hotels. Goa serves as an ideal destination for such self-organised pleasure tourists who are keen to experience the indigenous lifestyle and culture teamed with opportunities to interact with the locals. These travellers look forward to relax, party and shop armed with a dynamic budget and flexible itinerary.

Designed by Mumbai-based Design Lab Vyoma, the Wanderers Hostel & Resort, is spread across 30,000 square feet of lush green landscaped area. Located on a tranquil piece of land in North Goa,

an old Portuguese facade adorned with a pitched roof comprising brick tiles welcomes the guests. The built mass of the entire site is intentionally designed to break the barrier of inside and outside, thus enhancing interaction between the guests and adding to the sense of openness.

FOLLOWING A METHODOICAL PLAN

The development of this project has followed a very systematic process - reflecting an environment-based approach for planning, development and management of the site with the context of the whole area. "Preserving the existing landscape was a great challenge in itself - it was





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➡ Walls are adorned with subtle expressions of local mural art.

the inspiration for the complex, which attempted to create a serene atmosphere by enhancing one's experience of leisure and relaxation," explained the lead architect, Vyoma Patwa.

This hospitality unit offers separate activity-based lodging and recreational spaces – shared dormitory rooms, private tents, a restaurant, swimming pool, yoga zone, rooftop seating and activity room. The built areas are strategically arranged around landscaped courts, garden areas and outdoor accessories.

The tents situated near the swimming pool encircle a serene Buddha statue amidst the greenery. Each of the private tents open onto a verandah that creates a perfect spot for sipping tea and enjoying the alluring green spaces. The restaurant, yoga and recreational areas flank the other side of this landscape. Superior quality wooden flooring, bamboo, paper light fittings, and eco-friendly modern toiletries compose a satisfy-

ing experience of the rural quietness for the travellers.

The hostel block, which contains the dormitories, is a three-storied structure, bonded internally with a common breathing space at ground level. This communal area encourages interaction amongst people who gather here from all around the world. Interim break out spaces are provided at upper levels to carry forward the collaborative experience. All the beds in the dormitory area are provided with personal lockers, plug points and a reading light for their utmost comfort.

GOING LOCAL

When it comes to designing resort buildings, there is a growing tendency amongst designers to propose the use of local traditional features as the design theme or concept. This is natural, as it usually captures the attention of most tourists visiting the place. Through this approach, architects have the opportuni-

About the firm

DLV - Design Lab Vyoma is a multi-disciplinary Architectural interior firm, founded by Vyoma Patwa, which believes in creating holistic spaces not only true to its context but also to its functionality and end users. "This firm thrives to achieves spaces which, besides articulating carefully at micro levels of details, finishing and functionality, also deeply looks at the macro levels of overall site context, condition and its natural surroundings and built form," Patwa said.

ty to feature some beautiful and practical local design form, materials, construction techniques and crafts – enabling them to deliver, both, modern and efficient building design.

The material palette chosen for this resort is greatly inspired by the indigenous Goan culture and the environment around. The sudden eclectic splash of colours and earthy appeal lets visitors soak in the essence of the Konkan coast in the true sense. The walls are adorned with subtle expressions of local mural art, which adds flair to its exotic appeal.

"The language of the built forms is aided entirely by its context. The simplicity of the surroundings is allowed to permeate the interiors as well," stated Patwa. While the Wanderers Hostel & Resort is a great example of an intelligent approach to development of a tourism facility, keeping in mind the context of the entire area, the project also demonstrates subtle and sensible aesthetics. ■



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