

# URBANE ENTITY

CLEAN LINES AND SUBTLE VARIATIONS IN HEIGHTS ARE THE ATTRACTIVE DESIGN FEATURES AT ALLIED DIGITAL SERVICES LTD. OFFICE IN MUMBAI, DESIGNED BY AR. SUNDEEP KARKHANIS.

Navi Mumbai

20 Mar 2014 Text: Keshia D'souza Photographs: Prashant Bhat

Designing workspaces are particularly challenging as the architect has to create a visual impact that is pleasing to all, and also functionally efficient. Sundeep Karkhanis, Principal Architect of Shashi Karkhanis and Associates, has designed this stunning office for IT firm Allied Digital Services Ltd., that is both urbane and technology-driven. The office is located at Millenium Business Park in Mahape, Navi Mumbai. The group has designed the entire executive floor, which spreads across 2,450 sq. ft. area, and comprises cabins for the Chairman/MD, CEO, Finance Director and Executive Directors. The client's brief was to design an office that is stylish, appealing and has no wooden furniture or finishes.

The architect opted for an open plan in spite of the client's specifications of nine enclosed cabins. Instead, Sundeep cleverly demarcated the cabins by placing storage units that look like partitions. "The wall surfaces have been splayed to break away from the rigidity of a box-like structure. The ceiling heights have been varied and surfaces overlap, lending panache to the office. The executive desks have a curvilinear form to break the rigidity. We have used floor-to-ceiling glass for the front and side enclosures in each cabin in conjunction with storage units and gypsum partitions. Storage units have been treated like interlocking blocks with scooped-out surfaces to create niches. The overriding theme is white with blue and lime green accents. Overall, clean

lines and rich finishes accentuate the interiors," Sundeep explains. The reception, lobby area, CMD, CEO and Finance Director's cabins are on one side of the lobby, while the cabins of the Executive Directors lies on the opposite end. The workstations for support staff are connected through an access controlled passage. The reception is designed as a waiting lounge with Wi-Fi connectivity, music, touch screen panels and LCD for company branding. A logo and wall graphic further instil the company's ideology. The waiting lounge is characterized by ribbed panels behind the reception table, which mirror the ribbed ceiling with recessed lights and lime green wallpaper. The lobby area is given a 'street' look and is intended to encourage casual discussions.

Also in the lobby, an existing huge structural column clad with lime green wallpaper is transformed into a design highlight with the help of abstract cut-outs and LED lights. The CMD's cabin is a large space dominated by white and blue on accents and graphic carpet tiles. The multi-level ceiling and a unit with open niches add drama to the space. This storage unit acts as a partition,



**above: An oversize niche near the executive desk displays a religious idol. below: The Finance Director's cabin has a coffered ceiling and a multi-level divider unit.**

dividing two cabins. The executive table and side credenza are predominantly finished in white with a deep blue, back-painted glass insert. The Finance Director's cabin

is characterized by a coffered ceiling, multi-level unit and an oversized niche above the executive desk. The colour scheme is white, further accentuated by silver leaf-

ing.

The Directors' cabins are parallel to each other and are divided by a wallpaper clad partition and en-





and peons. As the workstations needed to be funky and vibrant, Sundeep opted for bold colours for the columns and beams along with softer tones for fabric panels between the workstations. For the lighting systems, Sundeep has



**Sundeep Karkhanis, Principal Architect** **Shashi Karkhanis and Associates** believes in providing innovative design solutions that are contextual, functional, sustainable and aesthetically impressive.

played with levels in the ceiling and used indirect lighting. The office has a combination of diffused lights, LED strip lights and down lights, which are controlled on touch panels. Occupancy sensors are used to save energy consumption. This office design by Sundeep Karkhanis is impressive, classy and has futuristic overtones, fully representing Allied Digital Services Ltd.'s brand philosophy.

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closed on three sides by toughened glass. Floating, wrapped shelves above a side credenza are used to stack books and display frames and awards. Additionally, a small room is carved out for the reprographics



above: The workstation has bold colours for columns and beams, along with softer tones for fabric panels in-between. below: The lobby leading to the cabins is given a 'street' look, for informal meetings.



The office is planned as distinct zones which are visually connected to each other as seen by the Executive Directors' cabins.

