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VIEW

Healthcare Facilities & the Green Factor

Wildermeth Children's Clinic
Groot Klimmendaal Revalidation Centre
Polyclinic for the Destitute

BUILDING

New Icon in Expanding Urban Centre

Bangsar Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur

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THE LEGEND
Design of Legend and Legendary Designers
Legendary Architects
Of Architectural Heroes & Legends
Research



Polyclinic for the Destitute

A Guardian Angel in the Midst of Despair

Romi Khosla is a celebrated architect whose buildings have been extensively published. Educated at Cambridge University UK and the Architectural Association London, he has designed large educational and recreational complexes. His boutique hotel operated by Le Meridien in Kathmandu has been featured in architectural books of Nepal. He designed the National Gallery in Bombay as well as corporate headquarters for United Breweries in Bangalore. His prestigious reputation led to invitation to serve on the Aga Khan Award Jury as well as the Izmir City revitalisation Competition Jury in Turkey. Appointed as a Principal Consultant to UNDP, UNOPS, UNESCO and WTO, he has carried out extensive Urban Planning and revitalisation and Tourism Planning missions to the Balkans, Cyprus, Central Asia and Tibet. His design experiences for educational buildings include a large 200 acre boarding School, University buildings as well as primary and secondary schools. He is currently designing large housing estates, corporate headquarters as well as private residences.



Project Name
Client Name
Architects
Chief Architects
Design Team
Area
Location
Photographer
Date of Construction

Polyclinic for the Destitute
Sir Sobha Singh Public Charitable Trust, New Delhi
Romi Khosla Design Studios, New Delhi
Romi Khosla, Martand Khosla
Rajnish Pant
1093.50 Sqm
Old Delhi
Saurabh Pandey
2009 - 2010



In the heart of the old city of Delhi, live the poor and destitute who suffer from illnesses ranging from HIV to T.B. Barely managing to feed themselves they pull rickshaws and engage in casual daily labour. Some are sex workers and others make a living through begging.

On the edge of the railway line, sandwiched between a mosque and remains of a burnt slum, something extraordinary emerged – a modern day polyclinic. This polyclinic is designed by architects Romi Khosla and Martand Khosla.

This state of the art building has been donated to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi by the Sir Sobha Singh Public Charitable trust. The Trust got in touch with the architects because of their well renowned reputation of building modern buildings for the very poor. The Polyclinic will serve the poor who cannot afford to get medical treatment and check-ups.

During the project execution, the architects trained Government Engineers and introduced a wide range of low cost technologies that have been pioneered by NGOs around the country. Completing the Polyclinic in this dense and crowded locality was no easy task. The Polyclinic site was a dilapidated Chungli building that had provided shelter for the homeless and was a hub of drug related activities.

Built in metal and glass, the new polyclinic stands out like a radiant intervention of contemporary architecture. Located adjacent to an old mosque, the polyclinic provides a fascinating contrast to the ancient buildings of old Delhi. The architects familiar with the slum conditions of that area as well as the dilapidated buildings in the surrounding streets, chose to revitalize this depressed urban fabric by creating a contemporary intervention in its midst which would serve the community. The contemporary architectural language of the building signals the direction for revitalizing the area.

This simple yet elegant building is four floors high each of 200 sq meters and equipped with a hospital lift. A large area in the basement provides ample space for a modern pathological laboratory. The ground floor has the reception as well as the Outpatient Department cubicles for the daytime doctors and consultants.

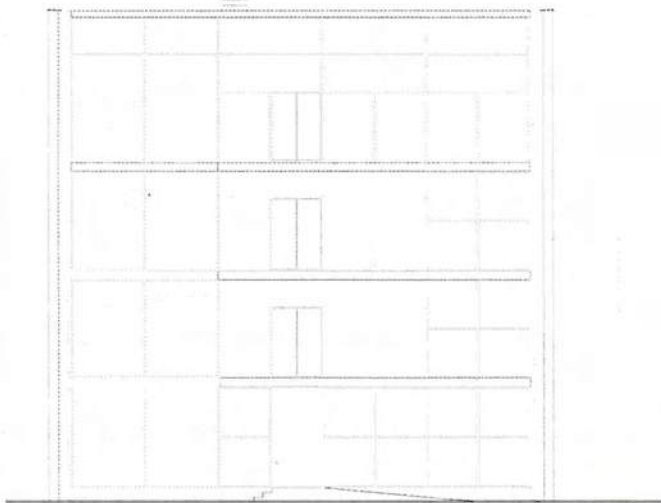
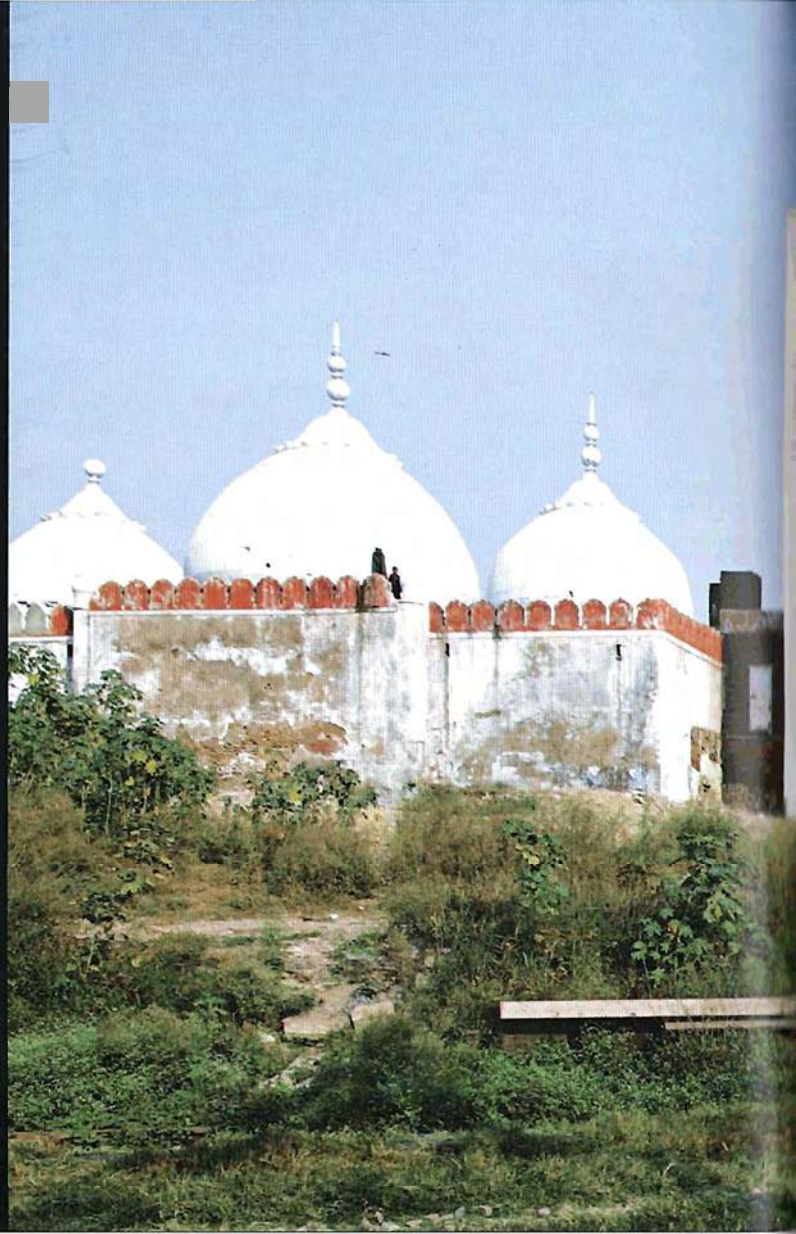




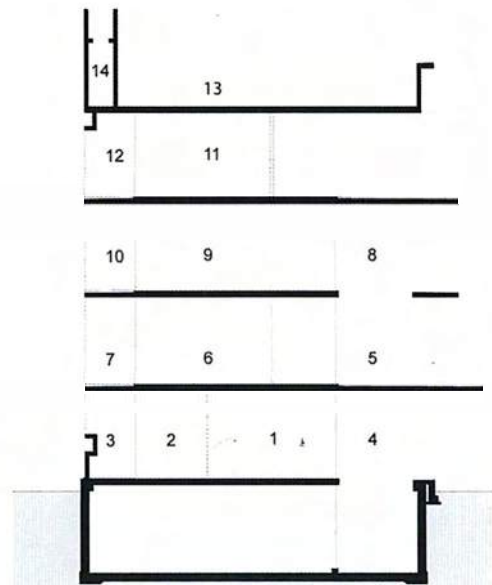
The fully glazed front façade provides a transparent view into the building which invites the poor to enter. Reception staff will be able to spot hesitant patients and encourage them to come in. Once they have been registered, the patients would proceed to the first floor for treatment. The treatment area requires more privacy thus it has been shielded from view by coloured aluminium louvers providing a visual shield but still allowing full fresh air ventilation. A lift designed for carrying stretcher patients has also been installed for emergency treatment.

The choice of primary colours that combine the yellow and blue louvered façade and brightly ventilated areas seem radical for this forgotten area of Delhi. Yet these combinations of colours announce the presence of a contemporary treatment centre for the poor. Inside the building, the glass partitioned consulting rooms and the bright ventilated waiting spaces, have created a unique treatment environment for the poorest of patients. This is a treatment centre where the infected and addicted will not only get medical attention but also counselling.

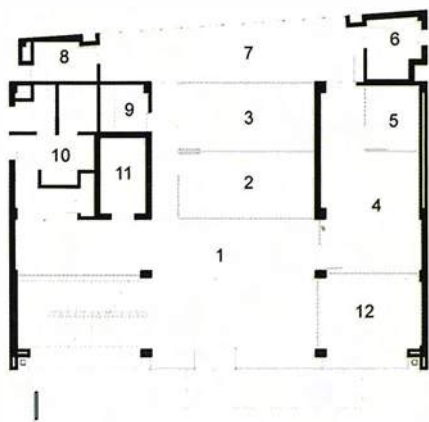
With its new and modern outlook, the facility promises a brighter future for the poor of Delhi and provides a much needed assistance for the forsaken in a congested city.



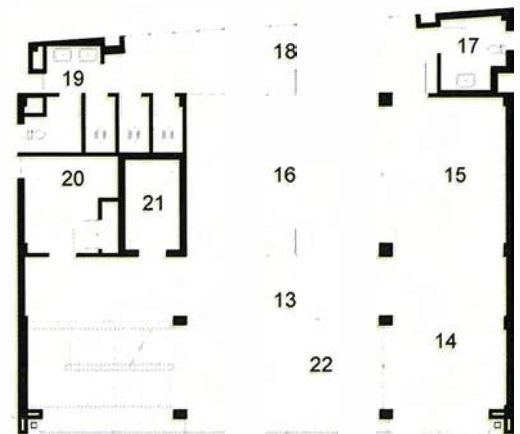
Elevation Plan



Section Plan



Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan