

SOCIETY

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Sussanne Roshan's

high-end decor store —
The Charcoal Project.

**Sanjay Puri
Architects'**

stylish design for Keys Hotel.

Design Innovations of Zaha Hadid, Moshe Safdie, Najeeb Khan, Naushil Hansraj,
Laila & Farhan Furniturewalla and Planet3 Studios.



Pine and Green

The decor at Kolkata's Amrit Group corporate office conveys effectively about the business that it is involved in, yet is high on contemporary look and style.

How many times has an office decor effectively communicated about the business that the company is involved in? While the instances are very few, Kolkata's Amrit Group corporate office with its hiland pine and pista green combination achieves this subtly by hinting at agro-business.

The Amrit Group is a corporate house involved in the manufacture and production of quality animal feeds — cattle, poultry and fish, and also known for activities such as breeding farms, hatcheries, dairy farm and processed food products. The corporate office of the group is housed in the 6th floor of Infinity Benchmark building of Salt Lake Sector V area.

While getting the interiors of the office done, Bagla, the MD of Amrit Group, sought a look that was contemporary, yet elegant and functional. The group zeroed in on AK Enterprises for this task.


And doing up the 3,000 sq. ft. space was no easy task but a challenge. Amit Maitra and Kallol Baroi, designers explain, "The number of people to be accommodated in the office being high, space planning was a challenge. Keeping in mind the design brief of functionality and contemporary design, the obvious decision was to extensively use glass frontage."



This was because the space comprised of a reception area, two meeting rooms, a conference room, eight chambers with visitor seating, two enclosures for the legal and HR Division, eight cubicles without visitor seating, general workstations for 17 people, cafeteria for 15 people, store room and a circulation passage.

Interestingly, in spite of the complex nature of the project, the accent is on aesthetics. This is evident from the fact that the elegance of the cabins have been enhanced by a combination of American Walnut texture — melamine-polished cabinets and panelling in cross vein, in combination with 12 mm edge polished toughened glass table mounted on a brushed stainless steel post.





The office sports a modern minimalist decor, and the pista green laminates and soft boards highlight the agrobusiness, that the company is involved in.

The cubicle area is a 5' x 5' spacious L-shaped work zone. The storage facility is unique with a roll-up system and easily accessibility. The entire system is modular knockdown furniture finished with a combination of laminate shades of hiland pine and pista green. The softness in colour scheme is further enriched with a fabric for the pin-up board in green texture.



The linear workstation has wide work bay for each person. It has modular arrangement with the same colour scheme as that of the cubicles. It has low height partitions clad with white board and pin-up board, that lend a spacious feel to the office.

The conference room has a minimalist design with a rectangular conference table finished in American oak veneer with glossy mirror-finished polyester coating. The walls here are finished with white texture paint and embellished with contemporary wall paintings. The drop ceiling has diffused lighting through tray light and spotlights.

One of the meeting rooms forms an integral part of the reception area, which is separated by a glass partition to give a spacious feel. The table here is designed from the floor with a smooth curvilinear singular piece framework finished in white laminate. The other meeting room for internal discussions is purely functional with circular glass table top on steel base. In both of these meeting rooms, the focus had been on the central pendant light fixture.

The cafeteria is simple with tables finished with hiland pine laminate and casual seating in pista green PVC moulding. The false ceiling of the office is a balanced combination of grid type mineral fibre board and gypsum board to provide level difference or uniformity as needed. The gypsum ceiling is primarily used in the passage to accommodate the service lines of AC ducting, fire sprinklers and smoke detectors. The tray lighting is also achieved by having gypsum trays in the chambers.

The ceiling is painted white. Use of varied tones of wallpapers lends the office its vibrant ambience. The entire office is carpeted except the cafeteria and store where low-maintenance vitrified tiles have been used. A stainless steel fixture dangled along the glass partition of the meeting room adds an element of interest, besides offering a demarcation to the transparent walls ☺

Text: Kakoli Poddar

Photographs: courtesy the designers