



The Ahmedabad Chronicle

Imprints of a millennium



Balkrishna Harivallabhdas Residence

Other contemporary masters of India have also had their share in shaping Ahmedabad's architectural landscape. ATIRA, Physical Research Laboratory and residences for Harivallabhdas (1964 AD) are some of the creations by Achyut Kanvinde who popularised modernism in the local context.



ATIRA

Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya of Charles Correa (1964 AD) recasts the simplicity of vernacular into modern. The roof and verandah of original Ashram, along with courtyards of pol houses find contemporary expressions with intertwined, built and semi built cuboids, pyramidal roofs and landscaped courts.

Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya



St. Xavier's School by Hasmukh Patel, a checkerboard plan with interspersed courtyards and corridors create an interactive learning environment.

After Kahn's sudden death, Anant Raje helped realise his unbuilt visions at IIM campus and further consolidated this architectural grammar in newer campuses he built, for example Mudra Institute of Communication.



MICA

National Institute of Design

IIM- Campus
Ravi Mathai Centre

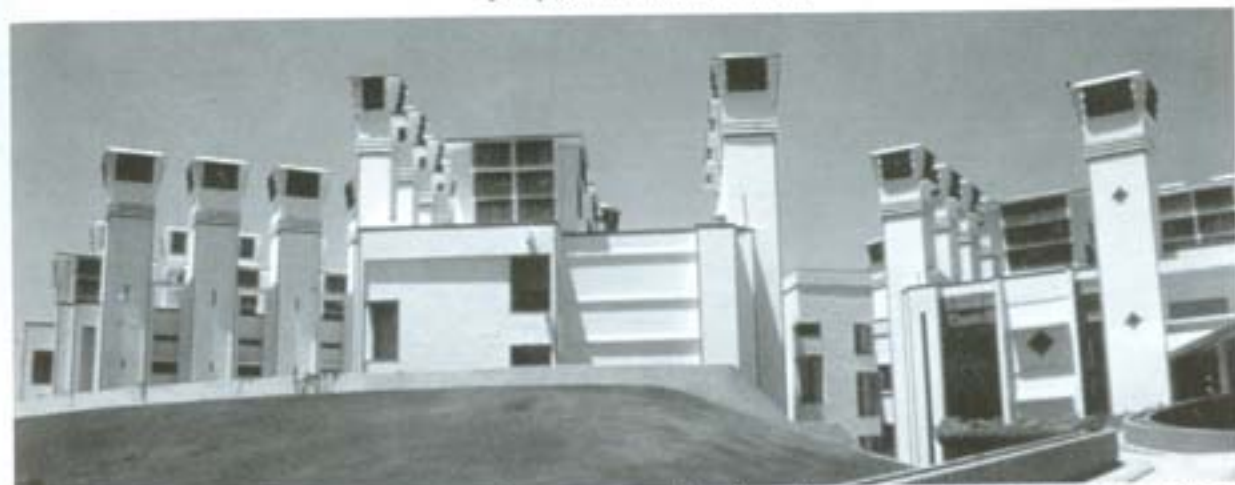


Bare brick, with exposed concrete was also used efficiently by Gautam and Gira sarabhai at National Institute of Design, through brick shells, walls and pavings of shaded courtyard.

The search for contextual relevance and adaptation over changing times have become the preoccupation of architects of contemporary genre. Centre for Environment Education by Mandala Architects (1988 AD) derives its syntax from site contours and existing tree. Dissolving into nature, with intimate spaces, humane scales, controlled light and soothing interiors against harsh exterior conditions.



Nimish Patel and Parul Zaveri's pursuit of decoding traditional wisdom to improve the quality of the built environment resulted in a novel resolution at the Torrent Laboratories. The laboratory building achieves over twenty degree celsius temperature reduction in the harsh summer months through passive down draft evaporative cooling consisting of micronizers in central inlet courts and the peripheral exhaust shafts.



Torrent Research Laboratories.

Entrepreneurship Development Institute by Bimal Patel (1992 AD) rekindles interest in colonial architecture with ceremonial courts and extended corridors. While, Ahmedabad Management Institute (1999 AD) in exposed concrete recalls modernist vocabulary.

Entrepreneurship Development Institute

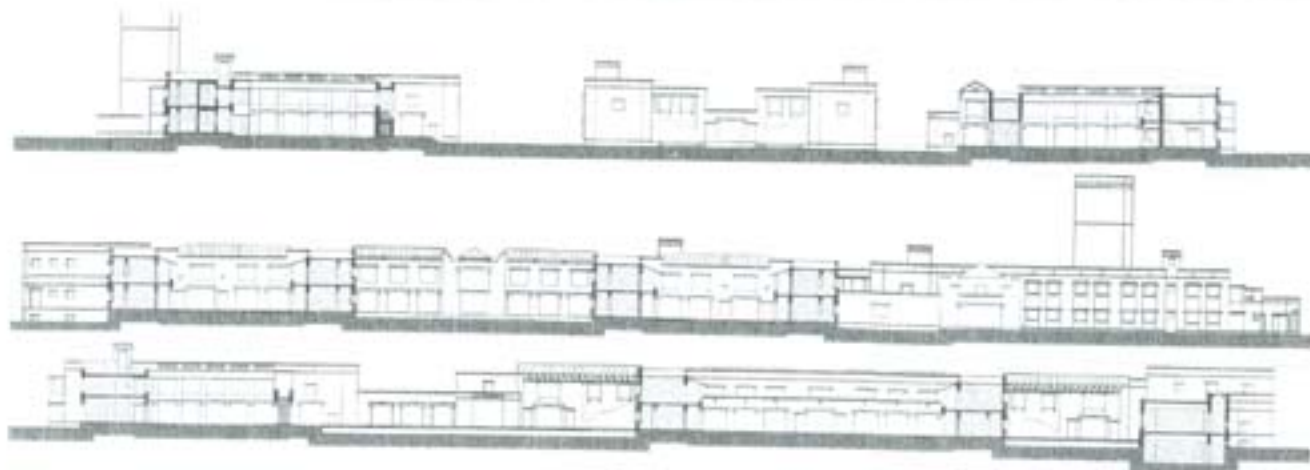


Avani Shah House by Leo Pereira

The residences by Leo Pereira is a search for a personal recluse with intimate spaces, humane scales, controlled light and soothing interiors against harsh exterior conditions.

Kiran Pandya gave an institutional status to industrial architecture by humanizing these work environments and applying the syntax of campus architecture.

Thus, from the courtyard houses to micronizers, the stone lattice to sun breakers, Ahmedabad has witnessed an array of adaptive transformations. A crucible of explorations it has been open to assimilation of newer thoughts while creatively regionalising them to maintain local identity and ethos. A treasure chest of built heritage, Ahmedabad remains an open book on architectural legacies.

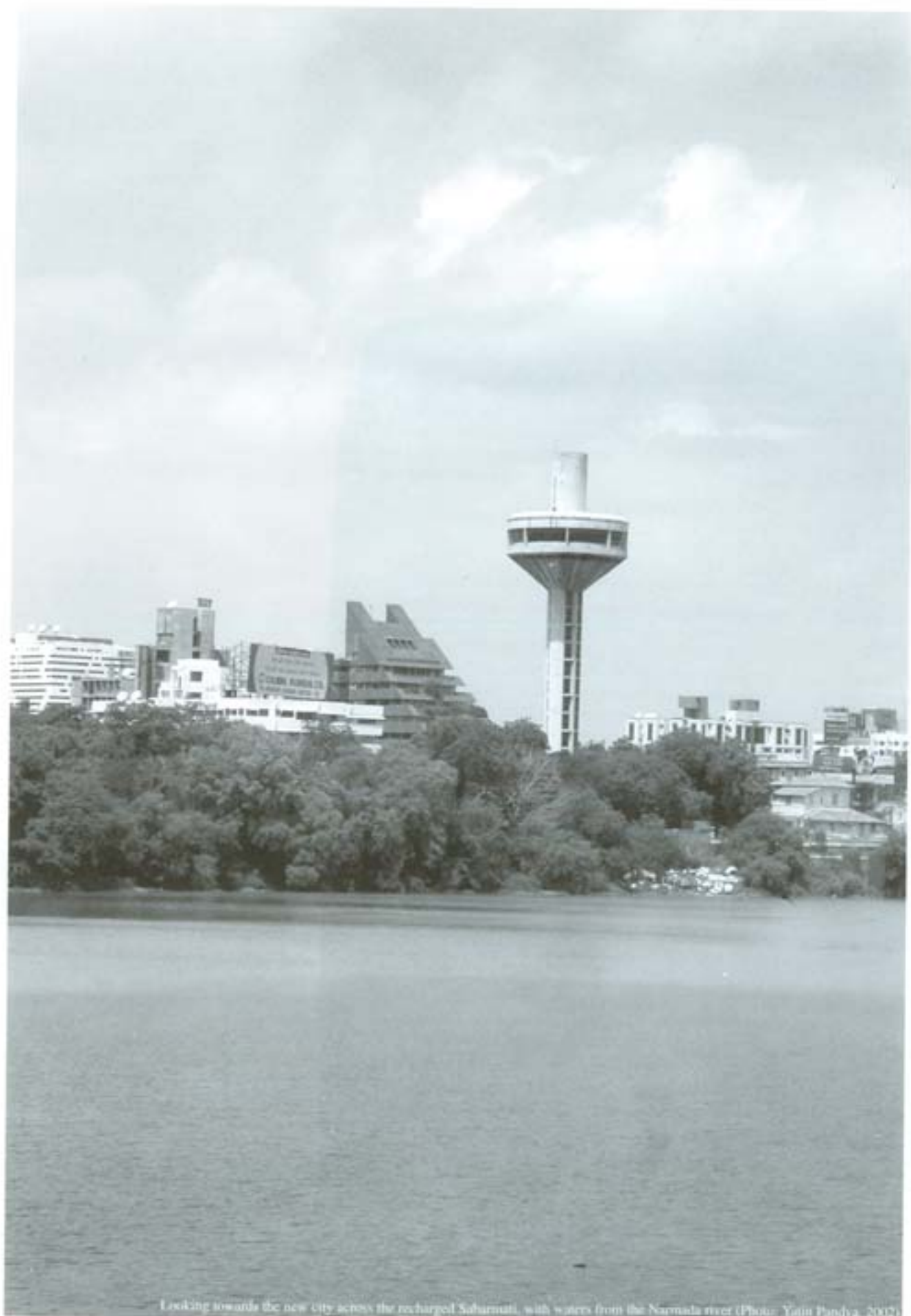


Drawing Source :
Environmental Planning Collaborative
Photo courtesy : Bimal Patel

Entrepreneurship Development Institute - 1992 A.D.

It is designed by architect Bimal Patel. It is an institutional campus done in exposed brick and concrete with landscaped courtyards which creates contained spaces with extending vistas. The ceremonial courtyards and corridors alongwith exposed brick texture recreate the hue of colonial architecture in India. The campus is located at the Bhat village, on the outskirts of Ahmedabad.





Looking towards the new city across the recharged Sabarmati, with waters from the Narmada river (Photo: Yatin Pandya, 2002)