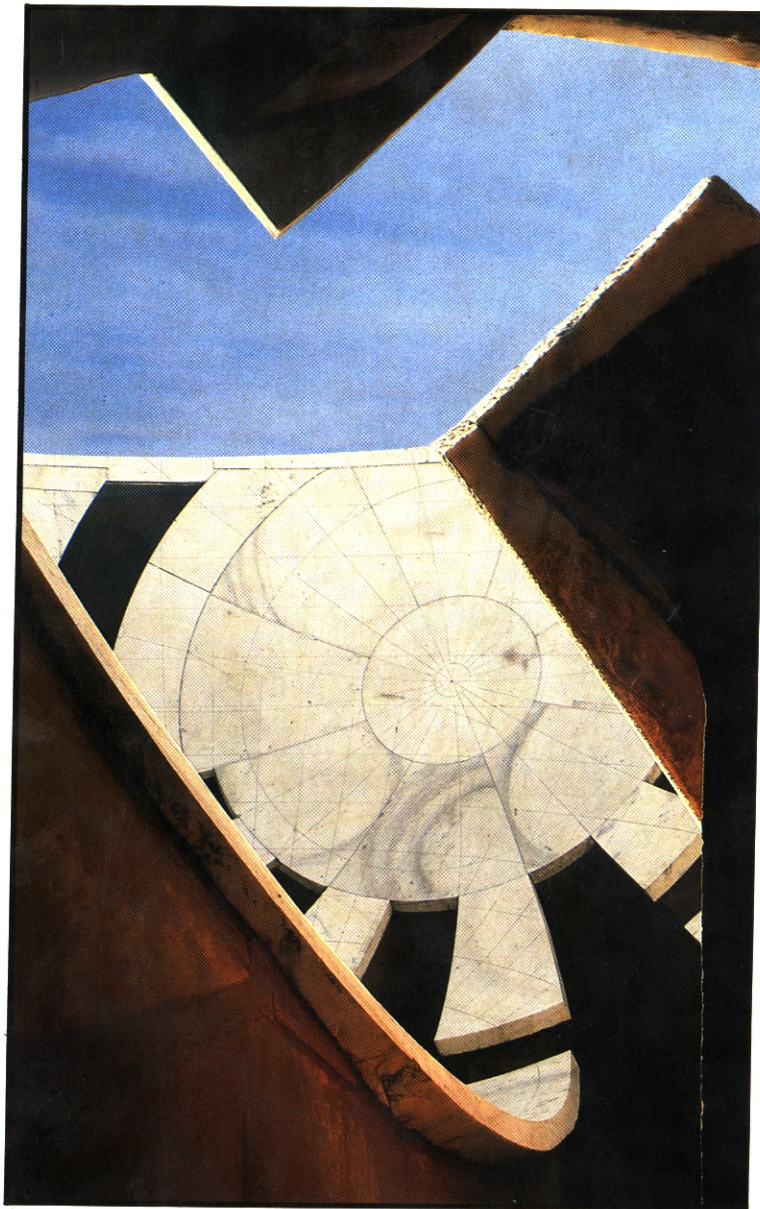


ARCHITECTURE IN INDIA



Electa Moniteur

St. Xavier's
primary school,
Ahmedabad.
1970-1973

Architect :
Hasmukh C. Patel



St. Xavier's Primary School is a departure from the conventional connotations of the standard school. Its design represents an attempt to create an unrestricted

environment for learning. The school is planned to provide every class-room with a direct or visual link with a garden space. This is achieved by organising class-

rooms around landscaped courtyards, on an 8.2 m² grid. The use of this standard design module eliminates dimensional differences between class-

rooms and circulation areas, thus encouraging activities to spill out onto corridors and courtyards.

The structural system consists of cruciform brick columns tied at the top by channel beams of reinforced concrete. Larger spaces, such as the multi-purpose hall, are composed of four grid units, with the central column omitted and a roof of four funicular shells supported on internal cross-beams.

Murals, created of brick and concrete, form the visual focus of courtyard spaces.

Dena Bank, zonal
office,
Ahmedabad,
1982

Architect :
Hasmukh C. Patel



The zonal office of Dena Bank is located in a busy commercial district of Ahmedabad city. This exposed concrete building consists of a tower-block resting on a two-storeyed podium.

The directly accessible ground floor, together with a suspended mezzanine floor, serves as the main banking area while an external flight of steps leads to the tower-block which houses the administrative offices of the bank. Within the building, false ceiling are avoided by running exposed A/C and lighting ducts through beam cut-outs. This device enables all elements of structure to be uniformly expressed in

exposed concrete. The basic design module of 1.5 m x 15 m generates unobstructed spaces of 15 m width on all floors and also allows for the accommodation of an auditorium for 150 persons on the third floor.