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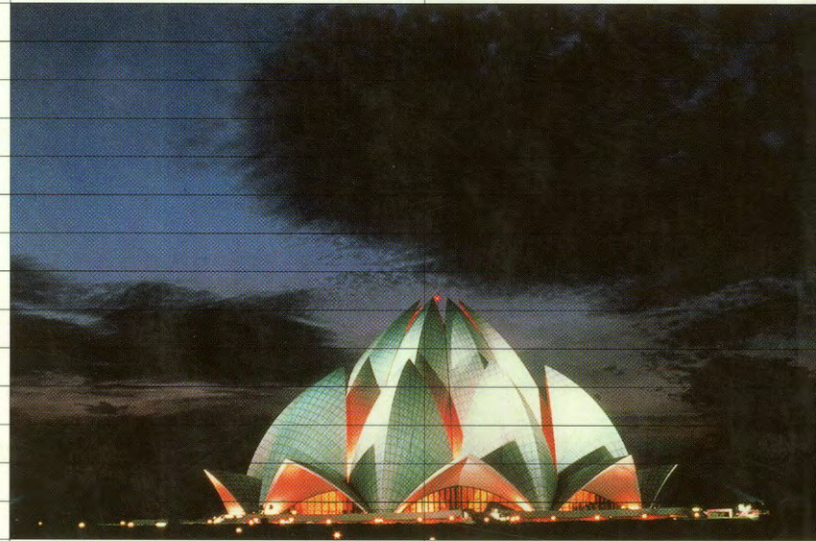
# World Architecture

A Critical Mosaic

1900–2000

Vol. 8

South Asia



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# Entrepreneurship Development Institute

Location: Ahmedabad, India

Architect: Bimal Patel, M/S Hasmukh, C. Patel

Years of Design - Construction: 1985/1985-1987



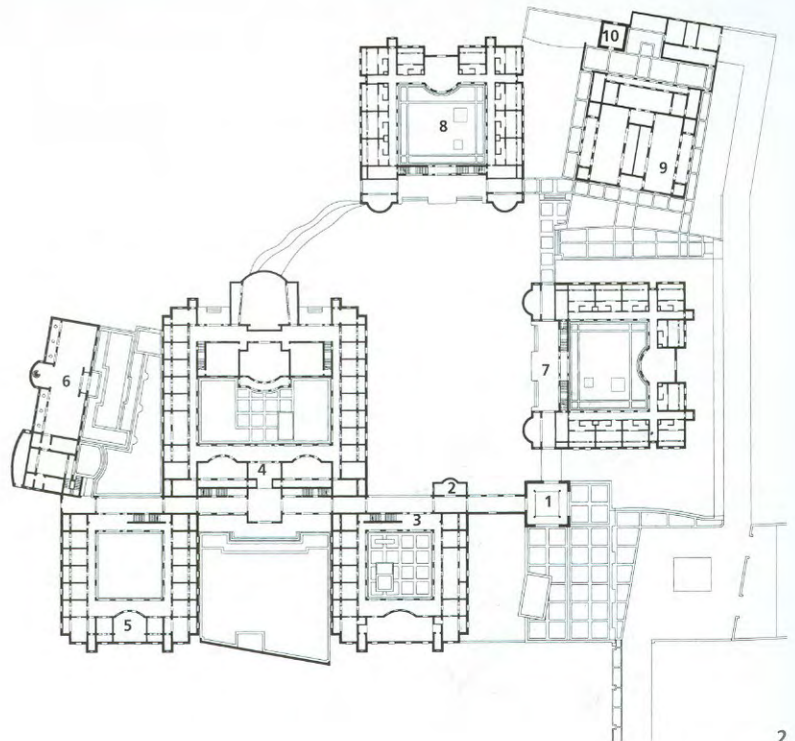
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1  
A general view

2  
Ground floor plan  
(1. Entrance,  
2. Enquiry,  
3. Administration,  
4. Training Centre,  
5. Research Centre,  
6. Library, 7. Trainee Hostel,  
8. Deluxe Hostel,  
9. Kitchen and Dining,  
10. Water Tank)

Drawings courtesy of the architect

All photographs by Dinesh Mehta except otherwise mentioned



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The Entrepreneurship Development Institute, located to the north-eastern edge of the city of Ahmedabad, runs an innovative programme in education and training in entrepreneurship. The design for this project was a winning competition entry by the young architect Bimal Patel.

The institution is composed of seven buildings organized along two axes. Along the main axis four buildings are located: the administrative, training and research centres and a library while the secondary axis is shared by two hostels, a kitchen and a dining area. The main spine is enriched by the enclosed open-to sky courtyards that fall along it and the deliberate ordering of movement along this axis creates controlled vistas as well as feelings of enclosure.

Courtyards form the focus of the various buildings and act as the organizing elements of this campus. The skillful grouping of two-storied buildings around these open spaces, each with distinct function and character, allow different functions to come together easily. The built structures are simple, strong geometrical forms and their combination with the open spaces which create foregrounds for the buildings, gives a striking formal character to the composition. The varying sense of enclosure in the transitional spaces create patterns in light and shade making for an inviting environment for interaction and repose. Brick and concrete are the predominant building materials used while the detailing and the overpowering symmetry of individual buildings tends to give the building a quaint sense of historicity. This introverted building with its internal courts and simple, contemporary forms together with a restrained use of materials makes it a suitable environment for academic pursuits.

The building clearly represents the search for a post-colonial idiom for building in India and represents an approach that uninhibitedly uses references and associations drawing from the many layers of pluralistic historic memory that characterize the sub-continent.

References

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN, Media Transasia, India, Delhi, July-Aug, 1989.



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3 The simple, geometrical forms give a striking formal character to the building (courtesy of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture)



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4 The hostel court

5 Strong forms of the complex seen against the skyline



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6 Interior view of hostel room



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7 Section



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