

“Simplicity and repose are the qualities that measure the true value of any work of art.”

Frank Lloyd Wright

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

INNOVATIVE HOMES 1

ECO-ARCHITECTURE 2

NEW INSTALLATION 3

ICE ICON 4

WALK IN THE CLOUDS 5

BOOK REVIEW /
 BOTTLE TEMPLE 6

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR
 YOUR OFFICE 7

INNOVATIVE HOMES

Habitat 67 at Montreal

Urban design takes style and functionality to a new high. At Habitat 67, the cube is the base, the mean and the finality of the building. In its material sense, the cube is a symbol of stability. As for its mystic meaning, the cube is a symbol of wisdom, truth and moral perfection.

354 cubes of magnificent grey-beige are

built up one on the other to form 146 residences nestled between the sky and the earth. The whole structure is created in such a way that apartments connect and stack like Lego Blocks in Montreal's Habitat 67. Without a traditional vertical construction, the apartments have the open space that most urban residences lack, including a separate patio for each apartment.



ECO-ARCHITECTURE

The marvel called 'The Gherkin'

The Gherkin pioneered the way for high-rise buildings in London. It started a revolution in the realm of energy conservation. The building uses energy-saving methods that allow it to utilize half the power that a similar tower would typically consume.

The science behind the energy consumption is both simple and innovative. Each of the six floors encompasses a gap that creates a shaft. These shafts serve as a natural ventilation system for the entire building. They facilitate a giant double-glazing effect in which the air is sandwiched between two layers of glazing, thus insulating the office space within.



In addition to this, these shafts are also responsible for pulling out the warm air from the building during summer and keeping the structure warm in winter by using passive solar heating.

Moreover, the shafts also help keep lighting costs low. They allow sunlight to pass through the building, making it a naturally lit environment, and help save on lighting expenditures.

The towers consist of a diagonally braced structural envelope. This allows column-free floor space and a fully glazed facade, which opens up the building to natural light. The atria that consists of a sky lit central area containing plants, is featured between each floor. This makes for a natural place for refreshing air. This area functions as the building's lungs, and reduces the tower's reliance on air conditioning, thereby significantly cutting energy costs.

In spite of its overall curved glass shape, there is only one piece of curved glass on the building, which is the lens-shaped cap at the top.

On the building's 40th floor, there is a bar for tenants and their guests featuring a 360° view of London, a restaurant on the 39th floor, and private dining rooms on the 38th.

Having garnered several prestigious accolades such as the Special Steel Award, Best Central London Office Development, Best British Innovation, the Gherkin undoubtedly is a benchmark in the realm of architecture that facilitates environmental solutions.

NEW INSTALLATION

Godrej Spacio gives Delhi HPCL a stylish makeover!

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Delhi now sports a classy and functional look, courtesy Godrej Interio's Spacio, a sleek tile based system. It comprises 131 workstations, spread out across five floors, offering a combination of elegance and ergonomics to the HPCL workspace.



ICE ICON

The Ice Hotel, Sweden

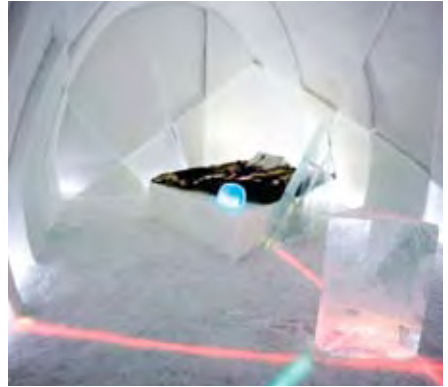
Did you ever think ice can get more exciting than the little cubes you see in your cold drink?

Sweden's Ice Hotel at the village of Jukkasjärvi in Swedish Lapland is a temporary hotel built from scratch every year.

It covers more than 30,000 sq ft and includes an Ice Chapel, Ice Rooms, Ice Conference Hall, an ice art exhibition hall, a cinema and the world famous 'Absolut Ice Bar'.

The walls, fixtures, and fittings are made of ice, and are held together using a substance known as snice, which takes the place of mortar in a traditional brick-built hotel.

The making of the Ice Hotel begins when temperatures drop below zero in Jukkasjärvi. Using only frozen water from the Torne River, artists from all over the world gather in this small Swedish



village to create the exclusive Ice Hotel. When the spring comes and then summer, the hotel will once again become part of the rushing rapids coursing towards the sea.

The captivating beauty is the Ice Church which has intricate snowflake designs. The symmetry of the snowflake is seen in the church itself. The entire atmosphere creates a meditative mood apt for prayers and nuptial.

The hotel suites are designed for luxury and maximum comfort. It is unbelievable to see the furniture and interiors made of ice. To add to the warmth there are special thermal sleeping bags and reindeer skins which adorn the seats of the chairs.

If you would like a business meeting in the Ice Hotel, you will be amazed by the spacious conference halls, presentation equipment and technique of the highest standard. What sets the Ice Hotel apart from other luxury hotels is the traditional and continental cuisine served on ice plates made from the clear ice of the Torne River.

The Ice Hotel is a transient marvel that reinvents itself every year.

WALK IN THE CLOUDS

The Langkawi Sky-Bridge

If you've cherished the thought of walking among the clouds, the Langkawi Sky-Bridge is your opportunity to make your wish come true. Suspended at 700 meters above sea level, this bridge gives a breathtaking view of the landscape for miles away.

It is situated on Pulau Langkawi, an island within Malaysia's Langkawi archipelago of 99 distinct islands. From the bridge you can spot destinations as far as the Andaman Sea and Thailand's Tarutao Island. Positioned right over a dramatic and scenic chasm, the Langkawi Sky-Bridge spans over a whopping 125 meters, making it one of the world's longest curving pedestrian bridges.

The 1.8m wide bridge encompasses two 3.6m wide triangular platforms that provide a fantastic view. This is teamed up with a resting area for the convenience of visitors. Its unique curved structure facilitates a panoramic view over land and sea, and makes for a viewing experience that's one of a kind.

At this height, it is only natural to have security concerns. The sturdy structure of the Langkawi Sky-Bridge instills the feeling of security with its robust double steel railing at the upper body level and the enclosed wire mesh and timber parapet below. While admiring the surrounding view, one is compelled to appreciate the engineering expertise and imagination that went into the making of this wonder.

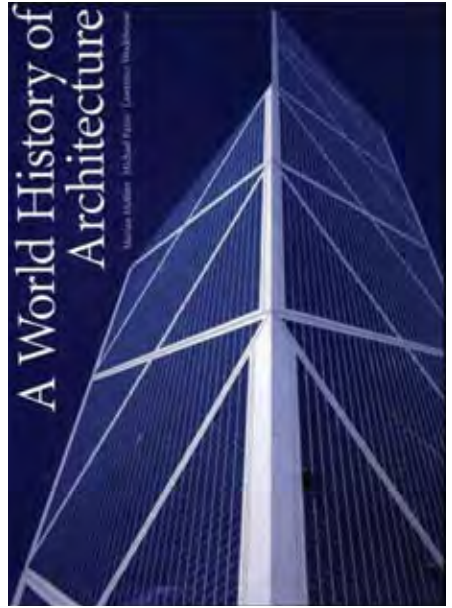


BOOK REVIEW

A World History of Architecture

Authored by: Marian Moffett,
Lawrence Wodehouse, Michael Fazio

A brilliantly illustrated guide to world-wide history of architecture, this book makes for a great read to attain deeper knowledge and perspective of various traditions of global architecture. Updated to feature the non-western world and works from women, this book takes you through prehistoric structures to modern marvels, accompanied by numerous photos, plans and scales for world famous structures such as Parthenon, Versailles, the Brooklyn Bridge and the like.



BOTTLE TEMPLE

Bottle Temple in Thailand

The Wat Pa Maha Kaew Temple is located in Siasaket, near Bangkok. It is the only temple in the world built out of glass bottles and bottle caps. It started in 1984 when the Buddhist monks started gathering bottles to decorate their shelters. The lovely bottle art-work they created, attracted visitors who began donating bottles, until there were enough to build an entire building.

There are approximately 1.5 million recycled glass bottles incorporated in the



temple complex, which includes glass shelters, crematorium and even glass toilets.

The bottles make for a surprisingly 'easy to maintain' building material, they let the light in and they don't fade.

The monks are still collecting glass bottles to build even more structures at Wat Pa Maha Kaew.



BRIGHT IDEAS FOR YOUR OFFICE

Talk - Conference Tables by Godrej

Godrej Interio brings to you TALK - its latest series of conference tables, with world class aesthetics, designed to assist in meeting your communication and business growth requirements.

It gives you an imaginative combination of sizes, shapes, table-top finishes and shades, so you can pick one that best suits your organization. It is available in veneer, membrane and laminate tops, each in a choice of 3 classic, elegant and modern shades.

While its ergonomic design provides maximum comfort and functionality, these tables are ideal for hosting presentations and online video-conferences, with state-of-the-art wire management facilities.





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