Focus: Extreme Architecture
understanding new tectonics
A Designer’s Abode
Sensitive in its approach, architect Babu Cherian’s weekend home in Kochi, Kerala is envisaged as a place for the carefree mind and contemplative spirit.

INTERNATIONAL
Light & Logic
The spirit of light enhances Miesian discipline of order and formal articulation in the Junta De Castilla Y Leon building in Zamora designed by Alberto Campo Baeza.

COMMENT
The Design We Forgot to Do
Two real-estate ventures by realty firm ORS contemplate the potential to revive housing as a central solution to urbanisation and manipulate design as a tool to empower the poor.

FOCUS
Rise on the Inverse
Grafted 30m underground, Pionen – White mountain by Sweden-based Albert France-Lanord Architects is an unusual frame of design adaptability and contextual contingencies.

Transparency
A built expansion of the natural white of snow, ice and ‘slice’, the ICEHOTEL offers a new experiential design in hospitality.

The Point Of Departure
Norman Foster’s Spaceport America for Virgin Galactic is a transformative concept of a launching platform for space.

In the Realm of the Unknown
RAMA <Rover for Advanced Mission Applications>; a mobile research laboratory to explore Moon and Mars has been designed by EERCER Systems Group, a multi-disciplinary design and development practice with offices in Mumbai and Vienna.

ART
Scale, Element, Time – A Canvas
A composition of scale, mass and creativity, the Leviathan by Anish Kapoor elevates a sense of wonder and awe for the visitor.

BOOK REVIEW
Architecture in India Since 1990
Illustrative and with a contemplative narrative, Architecture in India Since 1990 by Rahul Mehrotra succeeds in bringing order to a confusing and chaotic architectural tapestry.

DELHI DIALOGUES
DESIGN BETTERCITY
In the column curated by Archi, the fourth installment in this series is a compilation of short pieces by authors associated with DELHI 2050, from various design disciplines, discussing how they can help in shaping cities.

SPACE FRAMES
Coloured
Vivek Vinasini presents a satirical statement on the contagious and unique suburban phenomena in Kerala in this column curated by Dr. Deepak J. Mathew.

Printed & Published by Maulik Jashubhai on behalf of Jasubhai Media Pvt. Ltd. (JMPL), Taj Building, 3rd Floor, 210, Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai 400 001.
Printed at M.B Graphics, B-28, Shri Ram Industrial Estat, 200 Ambekar Marg, Wadala, Mumbai 400031 and Published from Mumbai.
JMPL, Taj Building, 3rd Floor, 210, Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai 400 001.
Indian Architect & Builder (ISSN: 0971-5509), IR No. 46976/97, is a JMPL monthly public. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or part, in English or any other language is strict. We welcome articles, but do not accept responsibility for contributions lost in the mail.

Cover Image: © Dave Morgan
Courtesy: Anish Kapoor and the Artist

THE BLUE PRINT AUG’11
Light & Logic

Miesian discipline of order and formal articulation converges with fluidity of light in the Junta De Castilla Y Leon building in Zamora designed by Alberto Campo Baeza.

Text: Rahul Parkhe
Photographs, drawings and sketches: courtesy Estudio Campo Baeza
Over the period of his working career, a lot of critics preoccupied with categorisation have called his architecture minimal. The lucid formal articulations of the Junta De Castilla office building propose an alternative understanding of Alberto Baeza's work. The architecture of Alberto Campo Baeza develops from an act of elimination; elimination of everything sans essential. Once, the unnecessary is dealt with, the enigmatic takes charge. In a historic neighbourhood of Zamora in Spain, a crystalline box is encompassed within a stone box to create an intimate, private and secret space of the Junta De Castilla office as an intuitive response to the building's natural, historical and built surrounding.

Alberto Campo Baeza's architecture departs from the absolute order and geometric discipline of the cube to work with forces of structure and gravity creating, in the process, forms and spaces that stand in perfect harmony with and against the forces of nature they control. On this historic site in Zamora, the peripheral walls of the site are raised high creating a private garden within. These walls composed of the same stone that forms the Zamora Cathedral are made visually heavy to represent the strength and robust quality of the stone. Within these heavy stone walls, a fragrant private garden is conceived creating a buffer between the outside and the inside. The space between the external stone wall and the glass of the built form within acts as a transition. Studies through physical models and three-dimensional views determine minor and
Idea of a transparent box within a stone wall with visual connections to the outside.
Sketch depicting the perception of the stone wall from within the building.

Study models showing the built space within its stone envelope.

Models depict the developing conceptual space of the office building.
The architecture of Alberto Campo Baeza develops from an art of elimination; elimination of everything sans essential.
The stillness and order of elements and formal articulations of precise details come together in a perfect balance of rigour and control.

precise articulations of elements of space. Calculated openings in the external wall frame views of the surrounding landscape and built fabric. The intuitive process of scaling the external envelope to the height of the built form within ensures a sudden and complete change in private levels from the street. The huge punctures in the wall ensure a discrete connection to the outside.

Physical models and sketch-studies show a very simple and direct process of thought. A tireless effort is seen towards achieving a visual balance of a free glass facade and slender vertical concrete columns. A rigid austerity exists in the way of placing staircases, openings and elements of form within the envelope of the external stone wall. The thickness of the external wall is a direct representation of the walls of historic structures of Spain. Qualitatively, the envelope derives from the context and blends within surroundings. The radical nature of the crystal box within is perceived only once you cross the threshold. Studies and sketches by Campo Baeza also establish a great constraint and elimination of the un-essential to retain only those elements that are fundamental to structure and architecture of the office building. This process of stripping down to the bare minimum reveals architecture that is "essential" and crucial to functional and expression.
Sequential models and sketches to understand the interior space.

The axis with the cathedral and the entrance facade of the Junta Office.

The private garden within the stone walls with the built facade.
Solid stone in contrast with the fluid glass.

Starkly opposite elements in perfect harmony—the architecture of Campo Boez.

Sky, as contained within the stone walls.
There is a lot of silence attributed to architecture of Campo Baeza. The stillness and order of elements and formal articulations of precise details come together in a perfect balance of rigour and control. Space is defined by self-possessed gestures and controlled by austere material and light qualities. The gradients of privacy are very subtle but clear. Although the built form demonstrates a sense of control and clarity, the play of light on and within the built form creates an element of surprise and renders animation to the interior space. The sense of time is achieved as every minor change in the atmosphere outside, permeates through the double-layered facade within the building. Through a series of orchestrated experiences and subtle definitions of hierarchies, the Junta De Castilla building stands in complete stillness at a point where architecture meets poetry.

FACT FILE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Junta De Castilla Y Leon Office Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Zamora, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect</td>
<td>Alberto Campo Baeza; Estudio Campo Baeza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client</td>
<td>Junta De Castilla</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>