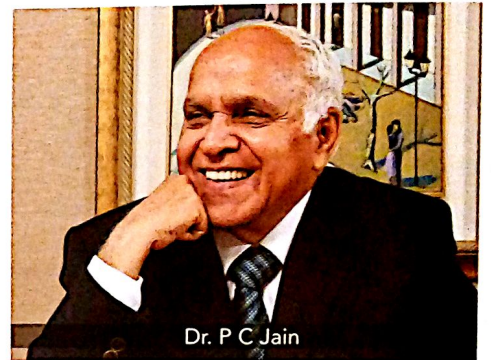


GREENING OF INTERIORS: THE IGBC WAY

The rapid pace of the growing construction industry has raised concerns about sustainable design and improving the quality of our living environment, with more designers adopting a sustainable practice in their projects. IGBC Green Interiors is rating primarily addresses people comfort and well-being

TEXT: Dr Prem C Jain | PHOTOS COURTESY: IGBC



Dr. P C Jain



We spend about 90% of our time indoors, breathing the same air without knowing enough about the quality of indoor environment that is present throughout the day. On an average, an adult at rest inhales and exhales approximately 7 to 8 liters (about one-fourth of a cubic foot) of air per minute. This amounts to more than 10,000 liters (almost 400 cubic ft) of air for the day.

Therefore, the indoor air quality (IAQ) and consequential physiological comfort are of paramount importance for the occupants. Realising this is imperative, world over, designers are exploring opportunities to construct and design interiors considering these key elements.



Green Buildings

Today, the building sector in India is growing at a rapid pace and contributing immensely to the growth of the national economy. The sector is expected to grow four-fold in the next three decades, creating three more new 'Indias'.

It is inspiring to witness how the sector has embraced sustainable design and construction practices in the past fifteen years. This has facilitated India to stand tall on the global green buildings map. Today, India with over **3.6 billion sq. ft.** of registered green footprint, has the second largest contribution to the world's registered green buildings. The green building movement in India started with corporate offices, institutional and commercial buildings. However, in little more than a decade, the green building movement has spread to all types of buildings and communities. This indeed is a step in the right direction and augurs well for our country.

Tangible Benefits

Incorporating green concepts and techniques in the building sector has helped to address national priorities like – *water efficiency, energy efficiency,*

reduction in fossil fuel use, handling of consumer waste and conserving natural resources. But most important is the vast improvement of indoor environmental quality (IEQ), leading to better health, well-being and productivity of occupants of green buildings.

Adopting and promoting sustainable interior designs has resulted in multifold benefits, which include the following:

- 30 to 40% reduction in energy costs
- 20 to 30% reduction in fresh water requirement
- Use of materials that are non-toxic
- Better acoustics and ergonomics
- Enhanced Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
- Use of finishes and coating which have low volatile organic compounds (VOC's)
- Improved health and wellbeing of occupants

IGBC Green Interiors Rating

Against this background, Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), part of CII, constituted a core committee of experts, led by Ar. B R Ajit, Chairman of IGBC Cochin Chapter.

The Committee, after a series of

1. Malaxmi Courtyard, IGBC Platinum

2. Use of bamboo panels for cladding the suspended volume at Puma Store, IGBC Platinum



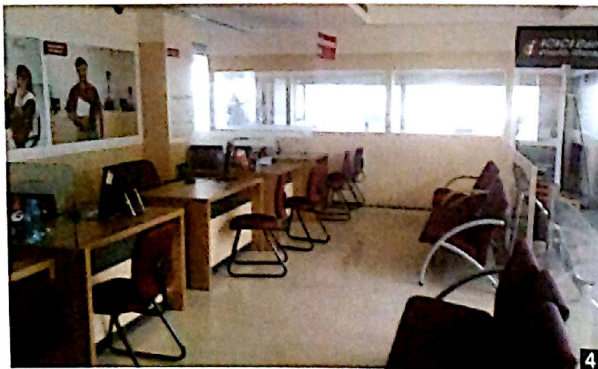
discussions and deliberations, has developed a rating to establish standards in designing Green Interiors. This Rating has been developed considering the Indian context and the National priorities.

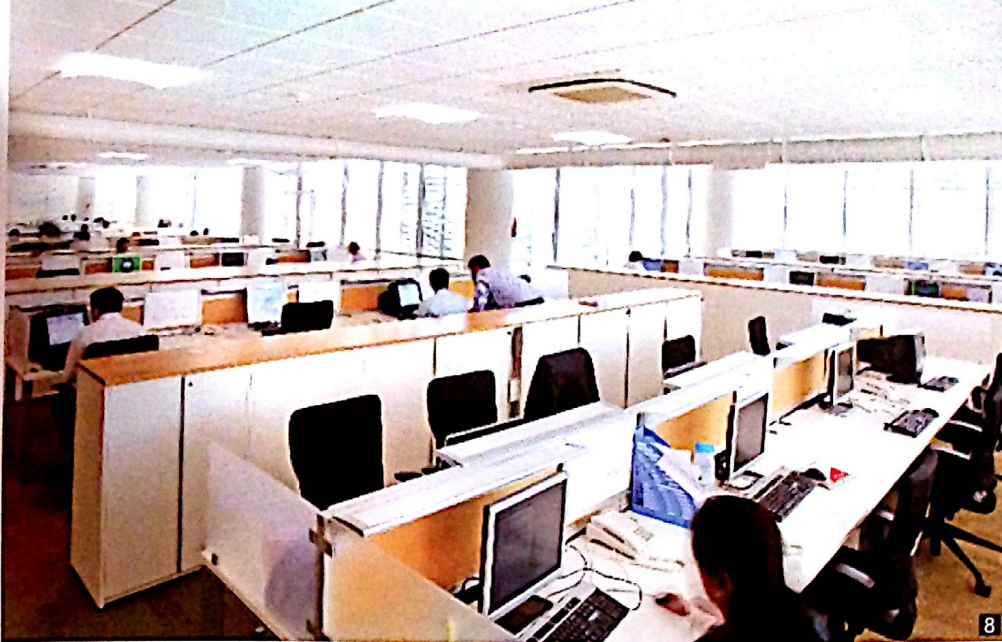
Various sustainable aspects of green interior design are addressed in the IGBC Green Interiors Rating System. Modules covered in the Rating include – *Eco Design Approach, Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Green Interior Materials, Indoor Environment and Innovation in Interior Design.*

The guidelines detailed under each mandatory requirement and credit enable the design and construction of green interiors of all sizes and types. Different levels of green building certification are awarded based on the total credits earned for the project.

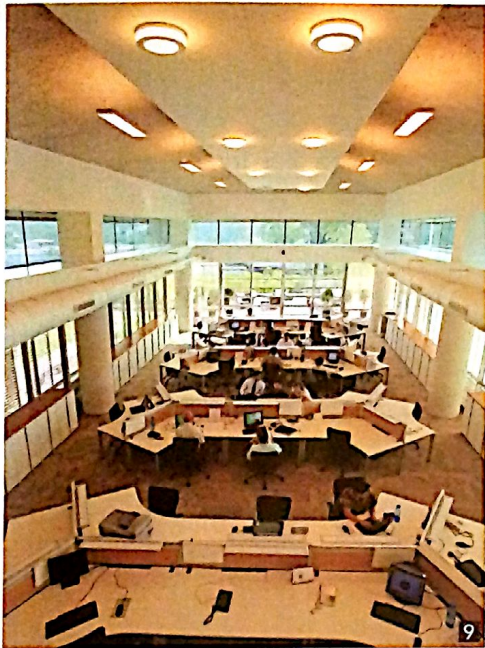
The scope of IGBC Green Interiors is ideally suited, but not limited to office interior fit-outs, malls, retail spaces, hotels, restaurants, resorts, IT spaces, banks, hospitals, airports and other commercial buildings. The rating is applicable for both new and existing interior fit-outs.

“In little more than a decade, the green building movement has spread to all types of buildings and communities. This indeed is a step in the right direction and augurs well for our country. It is inspiring to witness how the sector has embraced sustainable design and construction practices in the past fifteen years.”





“A room should never allow the eye to settle in one place. It should smile at you and create fantasy”
 – Juan Montoya



- No smoking policy
- Ample outdoor views
- Use of low VOC content finishes - paints and coatings.

3. ICICI Bank Award

4-7. ICICI Bank – Madhapur, Platinum Green Interiors

8-10. Suzlon One Earth, IGBC Platinum

Success Story

ICICI Bank – Madhapur Branch in Hyderabad gained the unique distinction of becoming India’s first IGBC green interiors rated project in India. Today, 10 projects are registered under IGBC Green Interiors Rating System. Many other projects are in the pipeline.

Some of the green features included in ICICI Bank – Madhapur Branch in Hyderabad, include the following:

- Fresh air as per International Standards
- CO2 monitoring for occupants wellbeing
- Indoor plants to enhance IAQ
- Ergonomic design of furniture
- Usage of recycled paper
- Energy efficient LED lights

Conclusion

IGBC foresees that the next 10 years will be the decade of integrated sustainable built environment. This will mostly be in the form of large integrated townships, satellite cities, gated communities and campuses with multiple buildings.

This development presents an enormous opportunity to design the interiors as green from day one; this will facilitate in building a greener and healthier India. ●

Dr. Prem C. Jain is the Chairman of the IGBC and is renowned for his years of service to the environment, and is often referred to as a “green visionary”.

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