"The arts are not just a nice thing to have or to do if there is free time or if one can afford it. Rather, paintings and poetry, music and fashion, design and dialogue, they all define who we are as a people and provide an account of our history for the next generation." - Michelle Obama

INSIDE:

FOCUS: THE SPECIAL ONE: STANDOUT PROJECTS
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DFI completes 25 years in the A&D industry

New Delhi-based Design Forum International has completed twenty-five years in A&D industry, which began with residential, commercial and retail projects. Over its career, the firm has constantly delivered award-winning design that have impacted the country’s architectural landscape.

Its breakthrough projects include the Select Citywalk, Vanjya Bhawan, ITO FOB Skywalk, NIT New Delhi and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology. Moreover, the firm has undertaken the New Courts Complex project for the Delhi High Court. Today, DFI is composed of a workforce of over a hundred people, and works towards its aim towards #NationBuilding with optimism, excellence and integrity.
GUWAHATI AIRPORT, GUWAHATI
Design Forum International, New Delhi

**Typeology:** Airport

**Why is this project special?** Designing an international airport with a regional flavour.

The structure of the building is inspired by Assam, the mythological figure who had sailed to the empire suspended over the departure concourse with outsized bed arms, doubles as a canopy in the drop-off zone. Individual craftsmanship resembling Origami is expressed in the terminal roof, flooring patterns, columns cladding, signage design and theme walls. The airport recreates an immersive experience for travellers with a small village and designated spaces for the artisans to produce their goods and interact with potential customers.

To soothe the weary traveller, the firm has created a 50 ft. indoor reinforest that has zigzag passages that display local wonders. The cliffs walls are a canvas for current and future product trends, such as the harmonizer Atrium, which is a double-height space adorned with the arts and crafts of Assam. The baggage claim hall features origami on its aluminium panels that are inspired by the Northeastern hills.

The tea gardens of Assam inspire the landscape design, which originates at the front yard with a cascading water feature. The landscape is expected to motivate arriving and departing passengers, as it channels a mountain road and hill greenery.

The airport boasts a four-star GRIHA rating, as the indoor forest is organized by a glass wall from the outdoor forest and the terminal building. Assam is the primary material for the façade, facilitating the airport’s daylight availability and visual uniformity.

Terracotta tiles reflect the fort-like citadels that impart stability, while terrazzo flooring is employed for its playfulness and versatility. Granite ensures windows, aluminium panels bring relief and sliced stone is used for column and wall cladding. Additionally, the car parking area is covered with photovoltaic panels that generate almost 500 kW of solar energy.