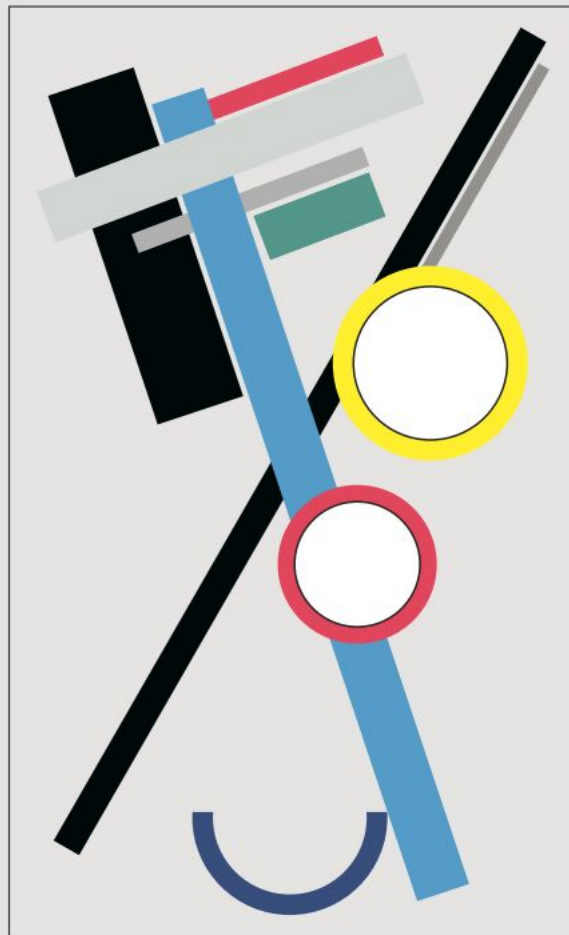




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"The arts are not just a nice thing to have or to do if there is free time or if one can afford it. Rather, paintings and poetry, music and fashion, design and dialogue, they all define who we are as a people and provide an account of our history for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

MICHELLE OBAMA



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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, Vanjiya 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

Typology : Airport

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

The structure of the building is inspired by Icarus, the mythological figure who had dared to fly. The centrepiece suspended over the departure concourse with outstretched arms, doubles as a canopy in the drop-off zone. Individual craftsmanship resembling Origami, is expressed in the terminal roof, flooring patterns, column cladding, signage design and theme walls. The airport recreates



an immersive experience for travellers with a craft 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 90-ft. indoor rainforest that has zigzag passages that display local wonders. The craft walls are a canvas for current and future product trends, such as the *Namaskar Atrium*, which is a double-height space decorated 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 lush greenery.

The airport boasts a four-star GRIHA rating, as the indoor forest is separated by a glass wall from the outdoor forest and the terminal building. Glass 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 steadiness, aluminium panels bring relief and sintered 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.