

DESIGN detail

the architecture magazine

**A KNITTED
WALKWAY**
DESIGN FORUM
INTERNATIONAL

**THE TALE OF
A LEGEND,
TRANSPPOSED**
AR. KHUSHNU PANTHAKI HOOF



A KNITTED WALKWAY

Text: Team Design Detail/Photos: Andre J. Fanthome

In the urban sprawl of the multilayered fragmented city of New Delhi, a public walkway has cocooned and fused onto one of the busiest stretches of this megacity. Connecting four principal streets, it has enlivened as an aid, that is spirally sewed to stimulate and revive a seamless pedestrian movement amidst the suffocating and congested junctions of T/O crossing and "W" point. It is an amalgamation of various materials integrated together to emerge as an icon conceived as a serpentine tube coiling around the major intersections in a symbiotic transformation of direction and movement in the urban sprawl.



ITO Skywalk, a meandering framework of criss-crossing curves, spans about 535m across Sikandra Road, Mathura Road, Tilak Marg, and Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. ITO and Pragati Maidan Metro stations through seven entry/exit points. It soars through the sky to commute office goers and other public to various corporate and government buildings in the vicinity such as the ITO, Police Headquarters, PWD Headquarters, GST Office, Supreme Court, DDA Vilas Minar, Lady Irwin College amongst others. The design program called for a unified response to the area's burgeoning commuter concerns, especially at the ITO Crossing and the 'W' Point Junction which sees maximum pedestrian traffic throughout the day. A network of public transport systems, including the two metro stations, Tilak Bridge railway station, and various DTC bus stops, are major hubs that mobilize traffic flow in that area, especially during rush hour. The analysis of the existing situation and factors made the designers to come up with the solution of a skywalk at 'W' point and a foot over-bridge at Hans Bhawan. The reticulated profile of the skywalk; the structural silhouette and the crisscross boot lace trusses that are covered with tensile fabrics serve as a landmark for the city. The structure has a fusion of materials that strikes a complementing chord with the context such as steel, RCC and red Agra stone cladding.



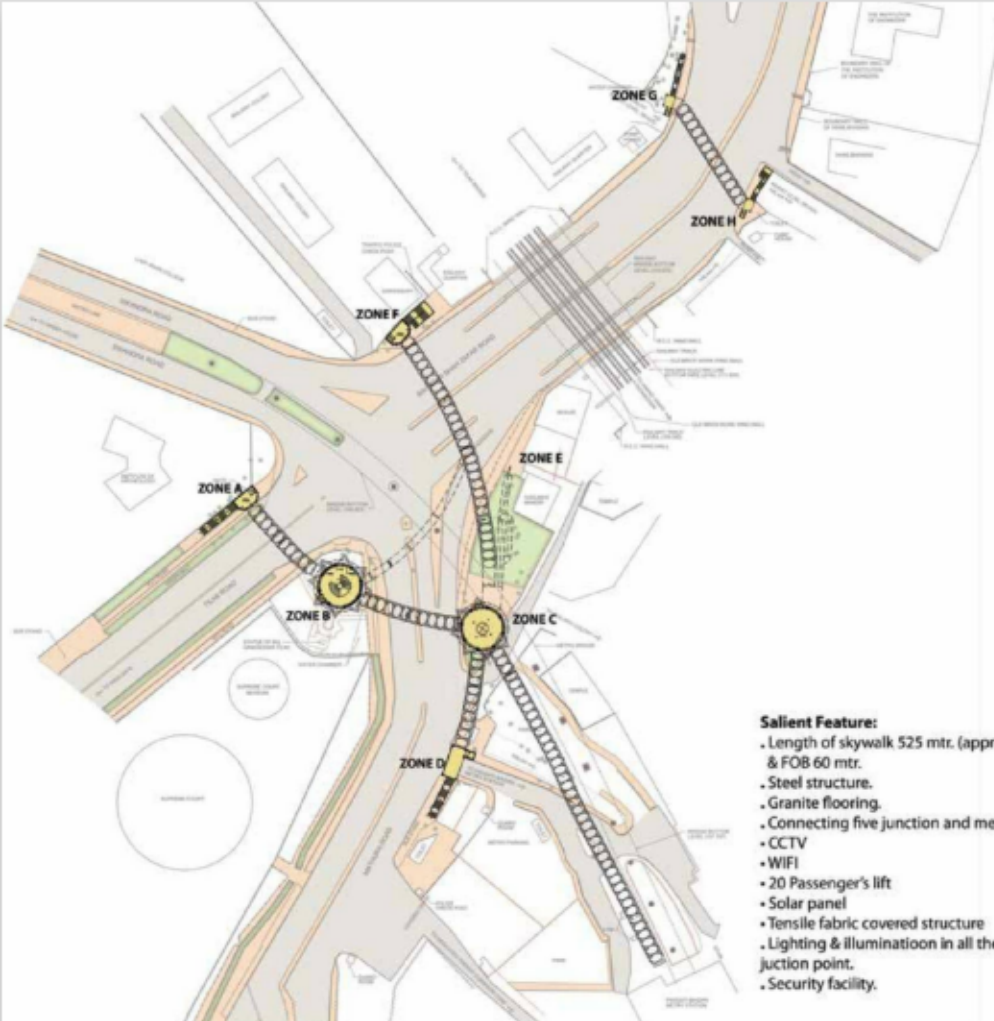
View of the skywalk from road level segregating the vehicular and pedestrian movement



Bootlace trusses frames views from the bridge

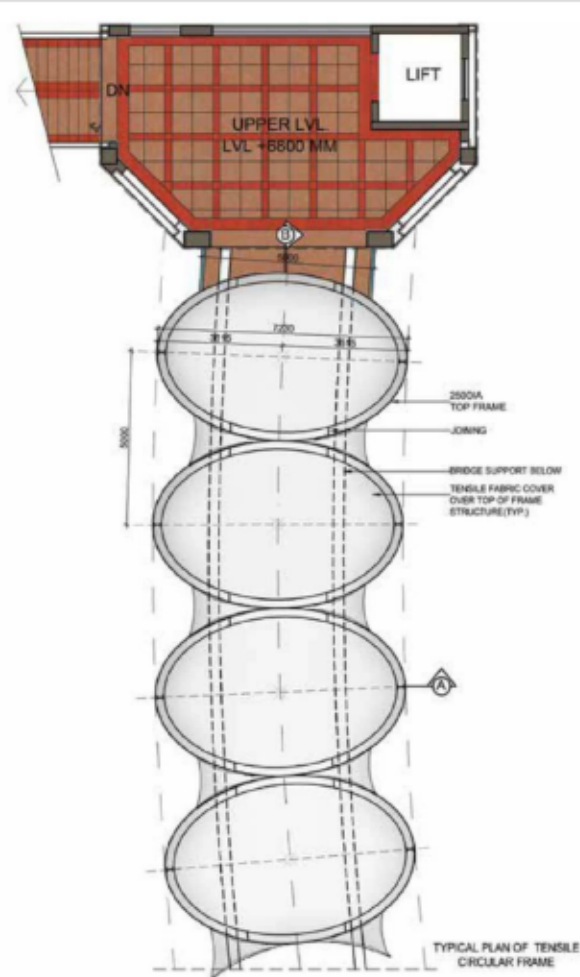


Octagonal tower from the outdoor landscape area



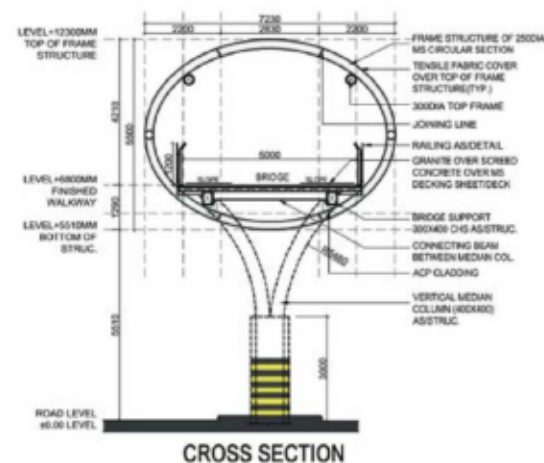
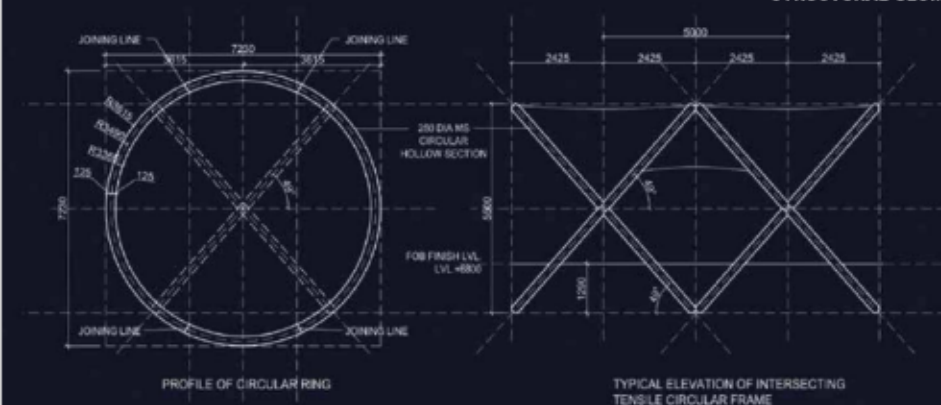
Salient Feature:

- Length of skywalk 525 mtr. (approx.) & FOB 60 mtr.
- Steel structure.
- Granite flooring.
- Connecting five junction and metro station.
- CCTV
- WIFI
- 20 Passenger's lift
- Solar panel
- Tensile fabric covered structure
- Lighting & illumination in all the FOB & junction point.
- Security facility.

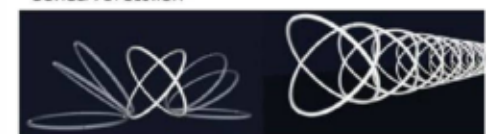


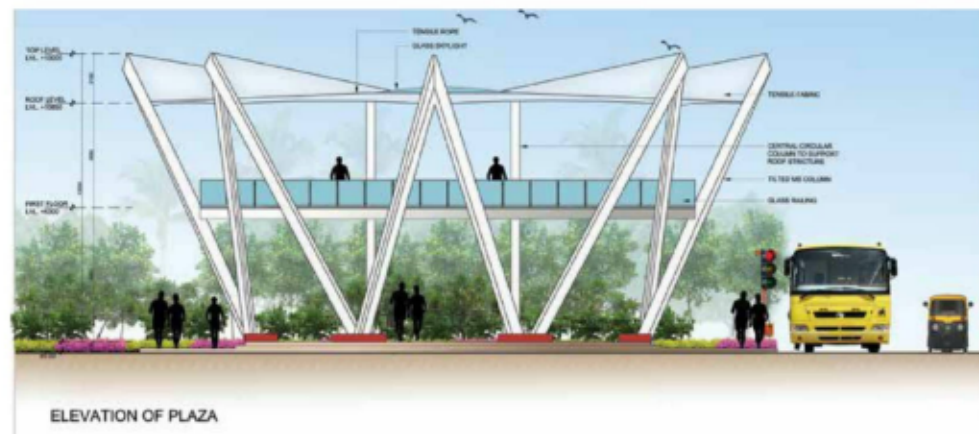
Structural frames blending with nature

STRUCTURAL GEOMETRY



CONCEPT EVOLUTION





AR. GOONMEET S CHAUHAN

DESIGN FORUM INTERNATIONAL (DFI)

Three young architects from IIT, Kharagpur established Tevatia Chauhan & Sharma Architects in the year 1995, which was later rechristened as Design Forum International in 2003 intended to foster an egalitarian organizational ethos, where distinctive architectural talent finds self expression and come together in a collective work environment. A vibrant team of over 100 professionals ardently pursuing the architectural values rooted in sustainable and contextual principles, forms the strength of their excellence. They have won many accolades for diverse oeuvre of work, attracting great design minds, while focusing on details and exploring new methodologies. Some of their key projects are The New Courts Block, Delhi High Court, Guwahati Airport: New Terminal & Dakshineswar Skywalk : Kolkata. Their philosophies follow a meaningful approach, arriving at design solutions in a sensitive and delightful urban artistry, with a conscience of people and place.



FACT FILE

PROJECT TITLE	: ITO SKYWALK
LOCATION	: NEW DELHI
PRACTICE	: DESIGN FORUM INTERNATIONAL
TYPOLOGY	: PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
BUILT UP AREA	: 473M IN LENGTH
YEAR	: 2018
DESIGN TEAM	: GOONMEET S CHAUHAN, ANOJ TEWATHI, ANAND SHARMA
CLIENT	: PWD DELHI

Octagonal structures are designed near the Supreme Court and Railway colony junction, which features a tensile fabric roof over a steel structure with granite flooring surrounded by glass railing, fulfilling the functional as well as aesthetic needs of the design. It houses kiosks and seating spaces on the plaza levels with a viewing gallery. Tensile fabric roof and steel structure members emphasize their form in the junctions exhibiting an architectural sculpture. These structures are surrounded by landscaping, that integrates into the spaces, generating a dialogue between the built and nature. Every junction houses a glass lift that ensures the safety and accessibility for the needs of differently-abled.

The whole walkway is provisioned with Wi-Fi, CCTV cameras and solar panels. Thoughtful and enriching integration of landscape and lighting, incorporating patches of green coalesce with a play of

functional and façade lighting, renders the whole bridge enhancing the whole commuting experience. The deck under the bridge is illuminated using LEDs that provides a sense of height for the chain of vehicles that passes below. Challenges faced during the construction included circumventing the various existing underground services during the foundation work and bending the structural tubular members into the proposed form to enable assembly. The skywalk has brought a positive character to the existing neighborhood, serving thousands of people daily.

The ITO skywalk has provided the commuters with a sustainable network enabling them to cross junctions in the dense metropolis of New Delhi, serving not only as a mode of commute but also creating rejuvenating experiences through the spaces, thus emerging as a new image for the city. **08**



Tensile fabric envelops the whole structure, providing diffused light