



PERKY & YOUTHFUL

Highly hierarchical structures are giving way to more entrepreneurial, team/studio vignette organisations that allow for faster research, development and implementation. The design of the CSC office in Noida addresses these concerns, writes architect **Vidhur Bhardwaj**

Photographs courtesy: the architect

IN THE past five years, the world has discovered the potential of India and more importantly, India itself has woven up to what it can achieve. This has led to explosive growth and new ventures all over the country. Foreign players, Indian companies, fresh start-ups all are rushing to establish a presence and more and more, they are drawing on the youth pool to populate their work spaces. To cater to this demand for office space, urban satellites have sprung in every metro in the country. Observe Gurgaon, Noida, New Bombay and the outskirts of Bangalore. And the new edifices that have been created are a tribute to a modern language that embraces space, light and glass.

But while the economic opportunity has led to prosperity, it has also led to longer and more demanding working



hours. A CEO of a service company once very famously said that his office was his factory and since his equipment was people, he had to make sure that they worked in a space that was conducive to humans. And humans need an atmosphere that encompasses both the outside and inside world. It is, after all, unnatural to spend all your time indoors. Thus, the new offices through their use of glass and transparency, attempt to bring the outside world inside.

The Computer Sciences Corporation office in Noida has been designed using

this philosophy. Large windows on external façades and glazed partitions inside the space allow natural light to penetrate deep indoors making the office a cheerful space.

The CSC office layout is primarily an open one and is largely modular allowing the flexibility to change the layout quickly as per changing business needs. It is now a common practice to paint one or a couple of walls in bright or pastel colours such as greens, oranges and pinks. In the CSC office too, bright and vibrant colours perk up the interiors.

Use of vibrant colour lacquered glass, wallpapers and wooden laminated panelling have also become common on the walls. In the CSC office, the flooring was brightened with the use of carpets, PVC, vitrified tiles, natural stones, and granite. The young, who comprise the majority of the workforce in an IT office, demand some form of entertainment and therefore we ensured that the café was vibrant with open spaces that allow for a pleasant change in atmosphere during



work breaks. The tone is smart, pop and colourful. CSC also decided to create a gym that helps in keeping the employees fit both mentally and physically.

A great deal of attention has been paid to the positioning of all the departments that make the organisation. There is a flow that is effective and yet aesthetically pleasing.

This open youthful approach to the interiors of the modern office is also perhaps changing the way business is performed and structured. Highly

hierarchical structures are giving way to more entrepreneurial, team/studio vignette organisations that allow for faster and easier research, development and implementation of new products and ideas. Such entrepreneurial spirit affords a corporation to reach the market faster and respond to the competitive swings of this high-speed technological age.

The labour pool today is tight and thus an attractive environment is perhaps key to the long-term success of an organisation. ■