

ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN

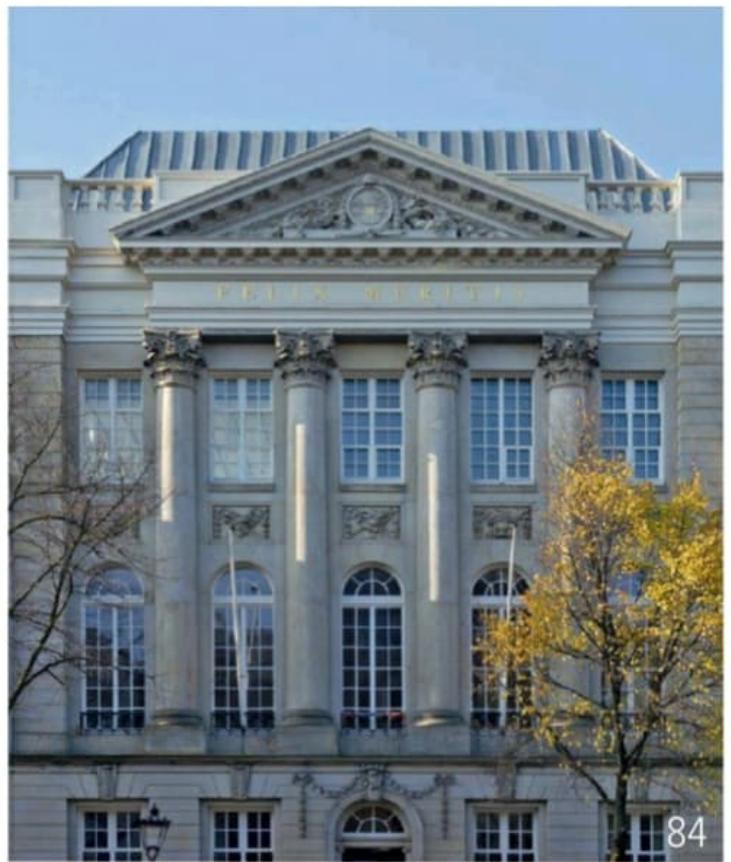
A N I N D I A N J O U R N A L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E



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A vibrant collaborative space

Project: The Expand Loft, Mumbai
Architects: Quirk Studio, Mumbai

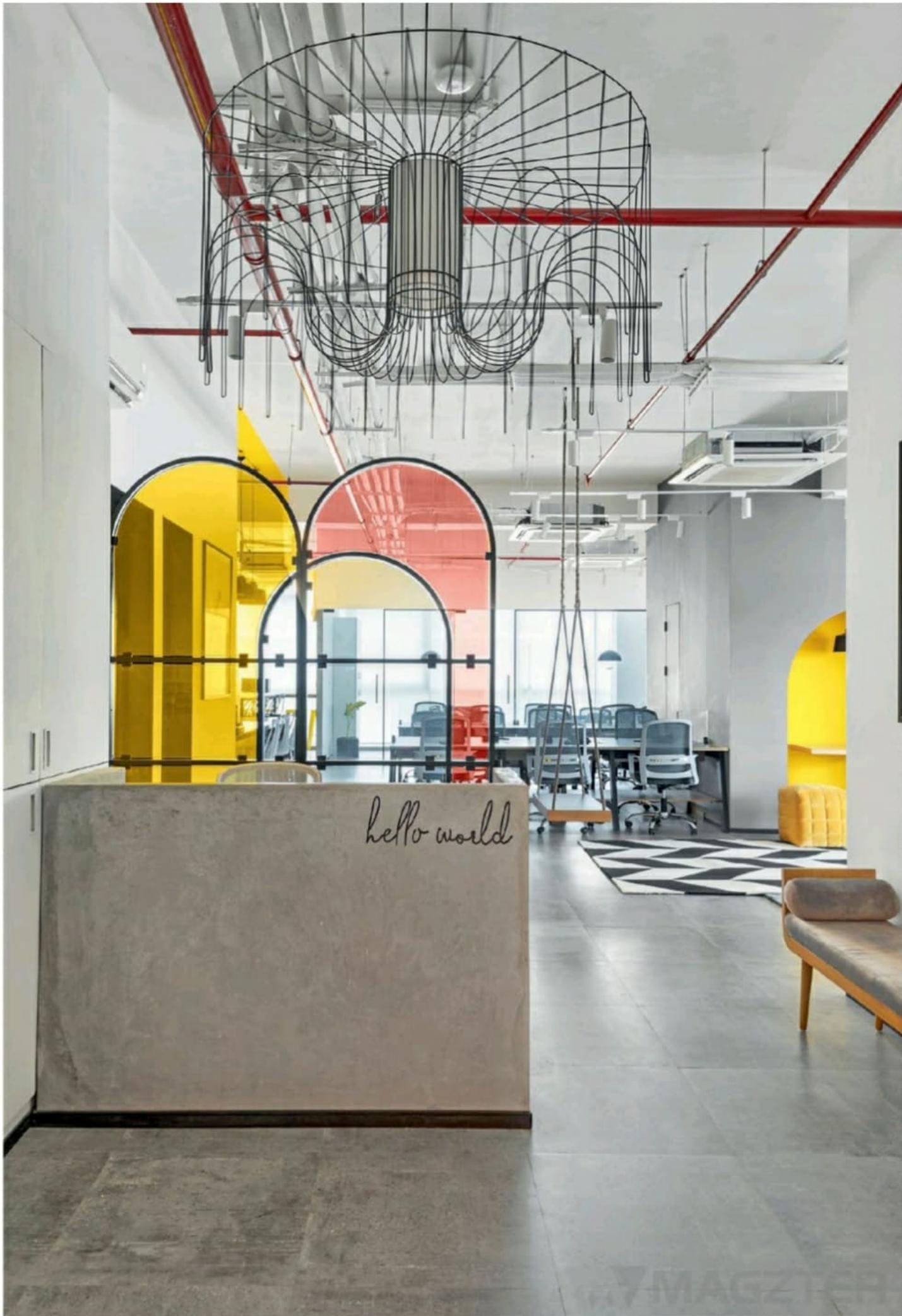


Disha Bhavsar and Shivani Ajmera



A neoteric office space completed in March 2020, The Expand Loft is a corporate office designed for an event management company. The open-plan 2,400 sq ft office is a concoction of elements that gives the workspace a vibrant, exuberant and inviting persona. Envisioned for a company that engages intrinsically with its clients, kudos to the nature of their services, the office space needed to employ a design scheme that was encouraging of interaction and collaboration.

The roughly 14-foot-high ceilings imbue the space with a sense of expanse, which is further enhanced by floor-to-ceiling fenestrations offering abundant natural light and panoramic views of the city. The design identity of the space is centred around the industrial style, which is interspersed with bold hues of yellow, green and red tones that create a welcome contrast against the overall neutral base—the result is an ingenious workspace with an impactful visual narrative. A sunny yellow as a hue is celebrated across the space in welcome doses; it emphasises the company's very own



hello world



1. RECEPTION AREA
2. MEETING ROOM
3. RECREATIONAL AREA/
LOUNGE SPACE
4. SERVER ROOM
5. CONFERENCE ROOM
6. SPORTS ROOM
7. CREATIVE SPACE/CABIN
8. TEAM LEADS
9. OPEN HOT DESK
10. FINANCE/IT ROOM
11. CFO CABIN
12. CEO CABIN
13. HR CABIN
14. PANTRY
15. WOMEN'S WASHROOM
16. MEN'S WASHROOM

FLOOR PLAN





brand identity as it happens to be a key colour in their logo and branding.

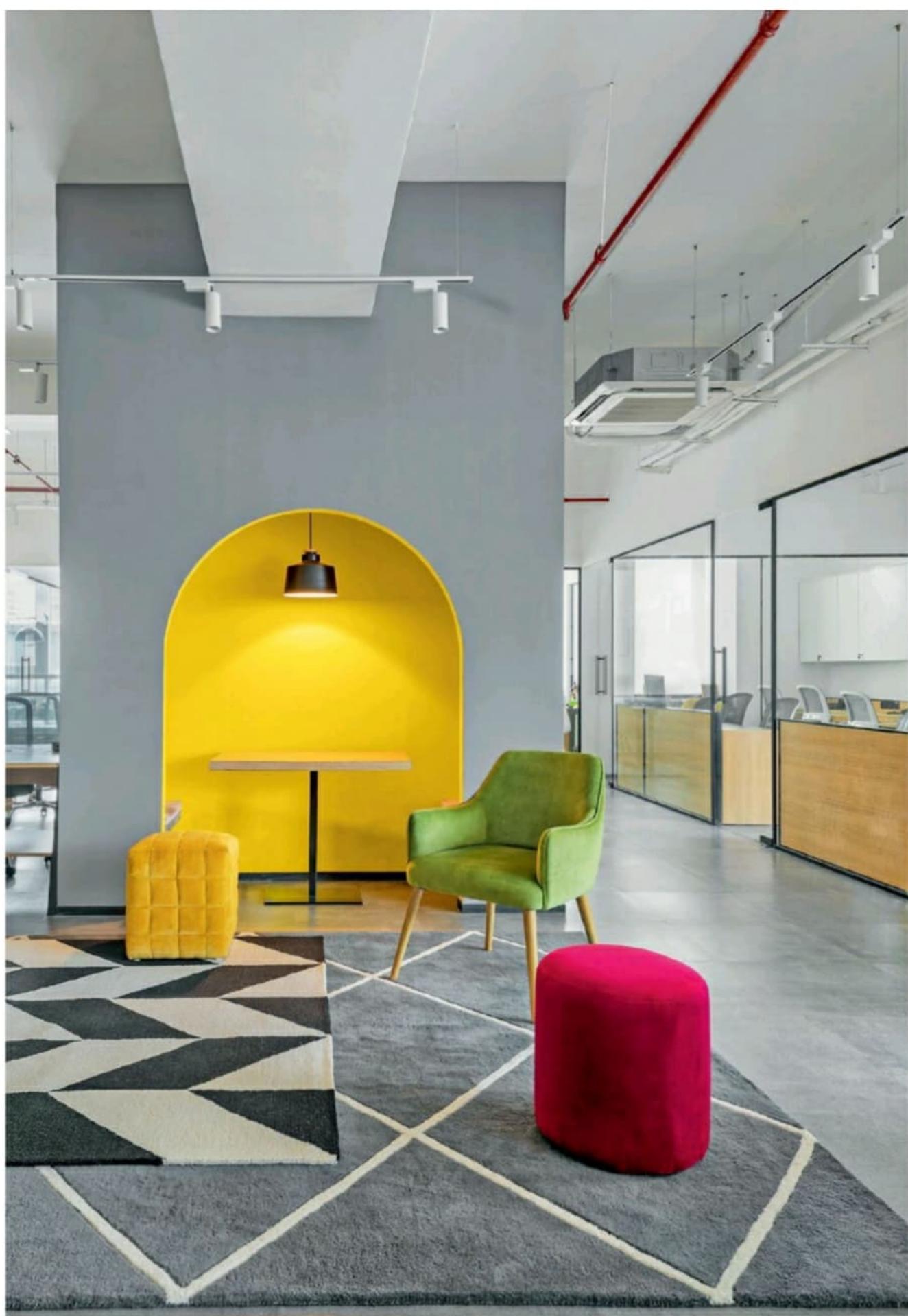
In terms of its spatial configuration, the office has been designed in the shell of the built floor to offer its inhabitants a functional, free-flowing and pragmatic layout of zones. The designated private cabins have been allocated peripheral positions in the layout. A suave monochrome identity, sleek ergonomic furniture and foliage sprinkled around the cabins make them conducive to the team's comfort as well as the design ethos of the office.

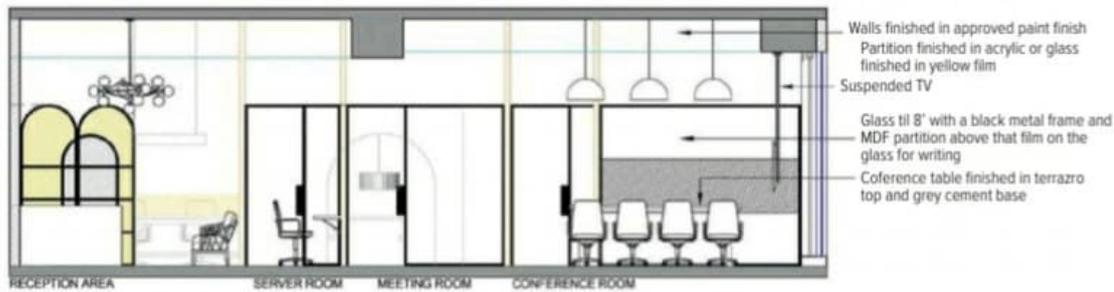
Key areas like the conference and meeting rooms have a flexible layout that helps the end-users utilise the space in a versatile manner, through the deployment of mobile partition

systems. Services and community spaces like the open pantry and cafeteria have been flanked to one side of the layout.

The central lounge space acts as the heart of the office, where the team members can congregate effectively and work flexibly. The open zone in the office also anchors the large hotdesk section, booth seating and a semi-formal arrangement for lounging that features statement furniture and a quaint swing—conjuring a space that acts as a nucleus for conversation and rejuvenation. The ubiquitous usage of glass across the office creates a sense of visual seamlessness in the volume, giving it a larger appearance.

The open pantry and cafeteria is a spot





ELEVATIONS



designed with an ebullient spirit. A sunny yellow hue bathes the walls and ceiling of this section, making it a lively nook for the employees to enjoy mealtimes and brainstorming sessions. A community table, patterned floor tiles, quirky bar stools and a thematic lightbox with the phrase, 'Feed your dreams' are the pivotal design highlights of the space. Cement-finished surfaces, bold pops of colour, arched geometry, focal light fixtures and an intriguing play of materials in various forms create the nuanced design palette at the office.

The Expand Loft places its end-user's comfort, productivity and quality of life at the crux of the design process. This has resulted in the creation of a workspace that bears the potential to evolve with its user's needs, while creating the quintessential collaborative space for an enthusiastic team. ✚

Photo credit: Pulkit Sehgal

FACTFILE

Client: XP&D

Design team: Shivani Ajmera and Disha Bhavsar

Consultants: Electrical – JV Interiors;

Landscape – Vriksha & Plant People

Built-up area: 2,400 sq ft

Year of completion: 2020