

# ArchitectureUpdate

**Interview**

**Anuj Dhir**

Vice President, Wipro

**Special Feature**

**Functional yet Flexible**

**Institutional Architecture**

## Is there a Universal Design?



# Ordinary with an Extra

NGK, Gurugram, NCube

With the changing workforce, it is essential to change the workspace as well. The modulation of the space should be able to enhance the work culture and at the same time business as well. NCube has tried to achieve something similar through their design in tandem with the vision and belief of NGK.



NCUBE Planning & Design Pvt. Ltd, formerly known as Nelson India- a wholly owned subsidiary of Nelson (US)] is one of India's premier design firms providing Interior Design and Build services to major corporations around the globe. With services ranging from Workplace Transformation, Interior Design, Design & Build, Workplace Strategy to Building Design & Engineering, NCUBE is now renowned for specialised workplace design solutions.

**T**he office for NGK Tech is located in MG Road, Gurugram, the financial hub of NCR. Almost 60 years in the market as leading manufacturers of Beryllium alloy, their presence in the city drives them to be on top of the business at all times.

Ncube's involvement with NGK dates to 2016, as they began to consider modulating their workplace to align with their growing business and changing work culture. With the transforming global workspace ethos, it is imperative for design to transform and incorporate the various factors. NGK went through a similar movement and chose to imbibe an open layout – designed as per the organisation's vision and beliefs.



Design interventions delineate a spatial ethos inspired by Zen principles that form the roots of the organisation's cultural beliefs and vision. The texture of exposed bricks painted white, not only serves as a backdrop and a light atmosphere for interaction, but also induces a sense of peace. Corresponding to the walls, the furniture is chosen to be in shades of white or grey.

The entire office setup is linear, with a strong visual axis in the layout. It makes the office setup look ordered. Space imbibes clarity and focuses on segregation of space and movement. By utilising the existing columns, the layout incorporates a sense of separation between stations. Thus, each station feels central within the office setup and impart stability to the user's operations.

A warehouse effect is created by exposing the ducts to add a sense of dynamism. A strong play of textures generates 'the warehouse aesthetic' with exposed brick cuts and ducts. With the ceiling and flooring in shades of blanché grey with a tint of brown, there is a sense of earthiness that tones down the light coming from the glass screens. Glass façades brighten the space up by letting natural light in as well as widening vision to the expanding skyline. High ceilings contribute to enhancing the space further – while generating a prompt feeling of openness to the otherwise small space. While the high ceilings, glass façade, and white interiors open the space up, giving employees a sense of freedom and transparency, the two defining planes mellow the reflectivity in the environment to impart a sense of stability and a formal attitude.

The whole space has a silent ethos, but to break away from monotony, warm lights and light timber table tops add a sense of energy. An element of yellow in the cafeteria zone and a wall graffiti add a sense of play, combining the horizontal and vertical plane. They add to a sense of recognition and thus, contribute to team building efforts in designated areas.

While maintaining the idea of a clean setup, the brief called for some contrast in the layout. Glass doors for all-white cabins promote transparency in the workspace and ease of interaction across the hierarchy.

Acknowledging Osada San's vision for the new space, NCUBE has developed a layout that maximises space in the 5,000 sq.ft. floor plate. It reflects an understanding of the dynamics of the MNC and strongly advocates Japanese ethics. ▲

#### fact file:

Architectural Firm	:	NCube
Typology	:	Workplace
Name of Project	:	NGK Tech
Location	:	Gurugram
Principal Architect	:	Debra Emert
Design Team	:	Shruti Khatri, Lalit Pandey
Site Area	:	5000 sq.ft.
Commencement	:	June 2016
Completion	:	August 2016
Photographer	:	Nakul Jain

