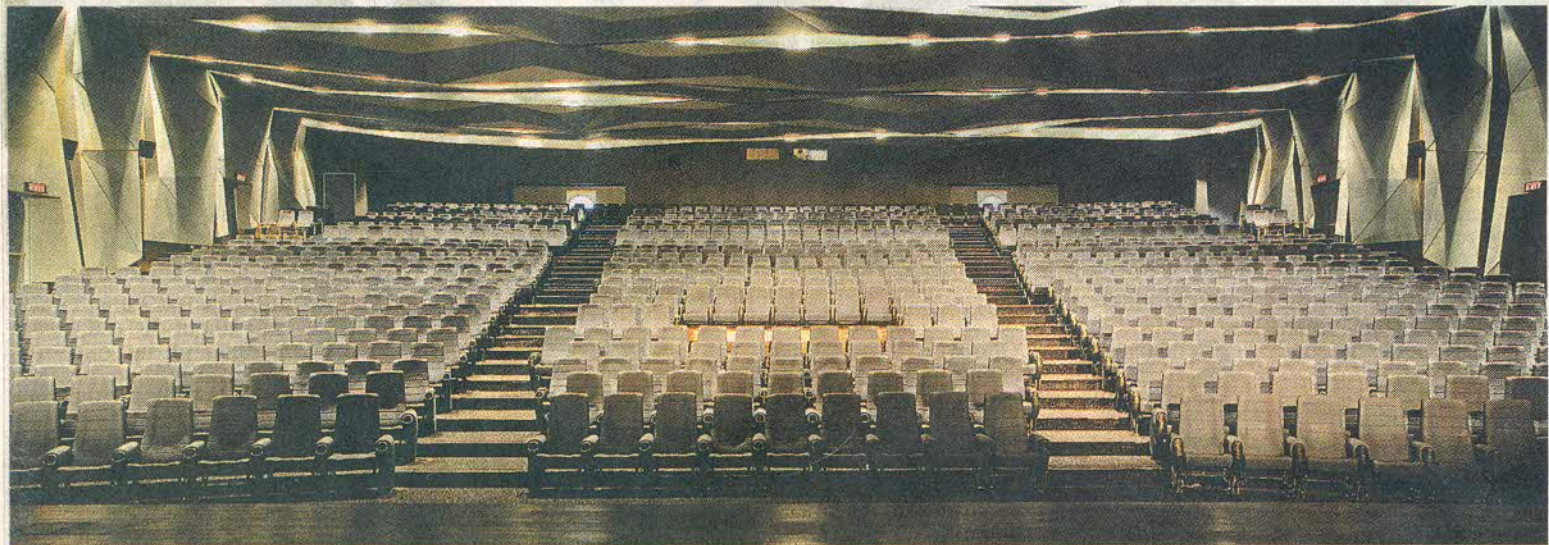


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | SATURDAY 21 | JULY 2012

CHETTINAD HEALTH CITY AUDITORIUM BAGS GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD



AIT AWARD IS A GLOBALLY RECOGNISED AWARD FOR THE BEST IN INTERIOR AND ARCHITECTURE SPACE. THE INDIAN PROJECTS WERE SELECTED AMONGST 1,750 ENTRIES FROM 47 COUNTRIES

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CHENNAI, JULY 20

Chennai's Chettinad Health City, Kelambakkam, has earned international recognition as the architect team, Morphogenesis, Delhi, that designed the Chettinad Health City auditorium, recently won an award in the public building interior category at the AIT Global Award 2012 in Germany.

Three Indian-based architectural and design firms won the first prize at AIT Award, which is a globally recognised award for the very best in interior and architecture space. The Indian projects were selected amongst 1,750 entries from 47 countries and Morphogenesis was one of the three entries.

"It was such a remarkable experience for us in showcasing our work to a larger global audience. The project was exploited to be used as an opportunity to create an interior which would be symbolic of the face of the city," said the Morphogenesis team that doesn't want to segregate architects from its team and prefers calling itself 'team'. The 59,400 sq ft auditorium that can seat 1,100 people was envisaged using the three-dimensional geometric pattern to run through fabric-mounted, acoustical wall and ceiling panels to create a three-dimensional envelope for the auditorium space.

"Wooden slots devised as portals were shaped as insertions within the wall to house HVAC, lighting, audio-visual equipment

and acoustic services. To augment the randomness of the false ceiling, recesses clad in wood were used to puncture the ceiling," explained the team.

The architects have also used the space optimally. "Banquet hall with a dedicated back of house facility, public lobby and foyers were accommodated on the lower level. For acoustic purposes, the flooring of the auditorium is done in carpet and fabric mounted panels are used for wall and ceiling with glass wool in-fills," added the team.

As the auditorium is part of the medical institute, the facility has been designed to cater to diverse activities such as stage performances, lectures, projection of recorded medical information, webcasts and broadcasts.

"Conventionally, auditoriums are perceived as simple, monolithic, box-like structures lined with internal acoustic panelling. The design intent was to shift away from the typical morphology in order to create a more visually dynamic space. To break away from the monotony of an unadorned environment of typical auditoriums, contemporary forms were used as insertions to create continuous surfaces, which were conceived to be in the form of lines and planes that extended from the floor to the wall and wrapped through the ceiling, thus visually connecting the three surfaces. The entire structure, with the ceiling, walls and floor, gives a vision of being one whole surface," the team explained.