

New VTU campus blends in with city's über cool image

The ₹35-crore green building that houses the university's regional unit is a mix of the modern and the natural

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This building may not require the kind of air-conditioning needed in office spaces (and residences too) when temperature soars beyond 30 degrees centigrade in Bengaluru. The new regional campus of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) in Nagarbhavi, which will be inaugurated on Wednesday, has emulated the Go-Green mantra that the government has been raving about. This green building, built of stone blocks, providing natural lighting and cutting down usage of electricity, has a zero-pollution ambience and its internal passages and courtyards allow natural light in.

Built on an acre, this architect-designed building has roads on all four sides. The entire design was conceived to create a visual axis between any of the two parallel existing roads, the point of intersection being the centre of the building where Sir M Visvesvaraya's statue has been erected, and built for visibility from all peripheral roads.

ON CIVIC AMENITY SITE

"After a series of competition processes, our firm was invited to address a localised way of designing VTU's regional office campus. The building is located on a civic amenity site to be used for a public purpose. The campus has a zero pollution ambience with a natural environment. It merges with the surroundings, but stands out in the neighbourhood," explained V Vishwanath, principal architect, Vishwannath Associates who did the



An overview as well as detailed snapshots of the VTU campus in Nagarbhavi. The building was designed by Vishwannath Associates

project.

The use of sira/sadaralli stone, which is conventional and locally sourced, with glass and contemporary spider fittings, effectively follows a vibrant architecture which reflects the philosophy and vision of Sir MV. The refilling of existing earth, rainwater harvesting, solar water heaters, low VOC paints for walls, over deck insulation that reduces the radiant heat and helps in light integration, infuses

green thinking into the building, explained the architect.

The circulation spine skirts through the internal passages, courtyards and rooms, to allow natural glare and free light in, with ventilation strategically located in the roof, thereby making the building energy efficient.

The expansiveness that is showcased with multiple courtyards makes the building sustainable and eco-friendly due to the minimised usage of artificial lights dur-

ing the day.

The campus has an administrative block with offices, counselling centres, R&D units, a guesthouse, VIP rooms, placement cell, cafeteria, basement for car parking, a strong room for university documents, conference rooms of multiple capacities, a mini auditorium of 150 seats and an open air theatre.

100 AFFILIATE COLLEGES

VTU vice-chancellor H Maheshappa told Bangalore

Mirror: "We have 100-plus colleges in Bengaluru under the university, but, for everything, people have to go to Belagavi where the VTU headquarters is located. So we thought Bengaluru should have a regional campus and decided to do a green building in the city." In fact, Maheshappa's office has a private semi-covered lawn with elegant pergolas and privacy through a curved facade wall. The building has cost nearly Rs 35 crore.