

RNI No. 31940/77 Reg. No. MC6/124/2016-20 Date of Publication: 1st of every month. Posted at Patil's Chennai Sorting office, Mumbai-400001 on 15th and 16th of every month.

Inside Outside

THE INDIAN DESIGN MAGAZINE

www.insideoutside.in

ISSUE 308

OCTOBER 2016

100



Royale Abode - Stok Palace, Ladakh



Ankita



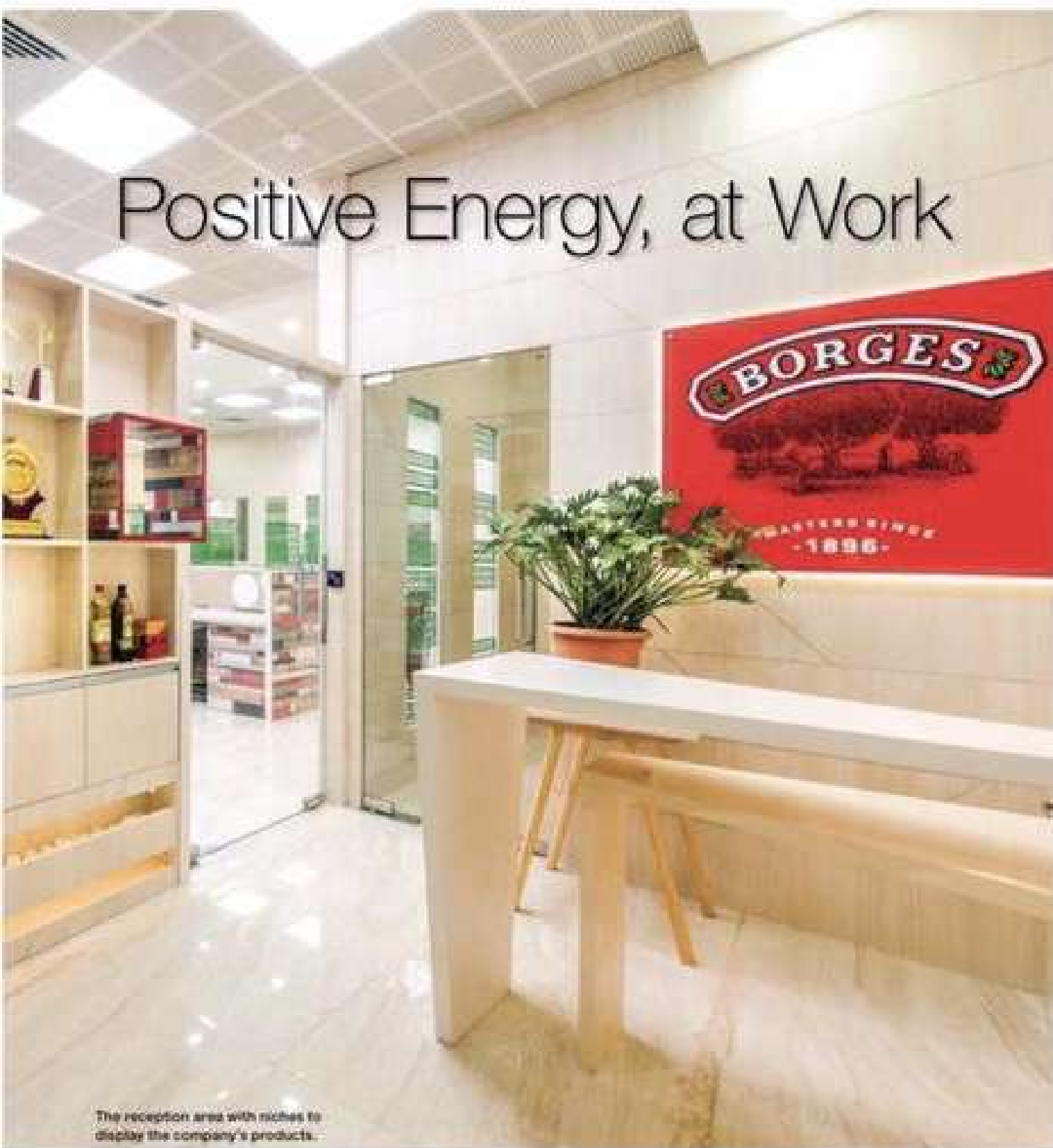
Pratyosh

There are offices and there are offices. Ankita and Pratyosh of Studio An-V-Thot Architects have created one that is meant to perk up the spirits of the employees, one and all. With cheery highlights, loads of light and lots of plants, should we go so far as to say it ended up being just the place to go to work to?

**Text: Arvvi Muthanna Saha
Photography: Anish Kumar**



Positive Energy, at Work



The reception area with niches to display the company's products.



When one is given a brief to convert a space that would necessarily have to showcase the ethos of an international brand that has been around for more than a hundred years, the task would seem daunting to just about anyone. However, Ankita and Pratyosh of Studio An-V-Thot Architects Pvt Ltd, headquar-

tered in Delhi, viewed it as a challenge that they took up head on. Incidentally they also had a tight timeline to follow. The brand in question was Borges India Private Limited, a supplier and trader of vegetable oil, pasta, nuts, creams and sauces, products that are available in more than 100 countries since 1896. Okay, so we're talking legacy; we've talking tradition. But freshness

and vibrancy are also some of the key elements that the brand has always been associated with. So...? So, the colours have been kept neutral in beiges and off-white with pinches of red and green here and there. Red, which was taken from the vibrant colour of the brand's logo, and green that translates universally into freshness and positivity.

With the conference room to the right, the work stations feature behind the multi-coloured divider to the left.



The Director's cabin, approachable and open...



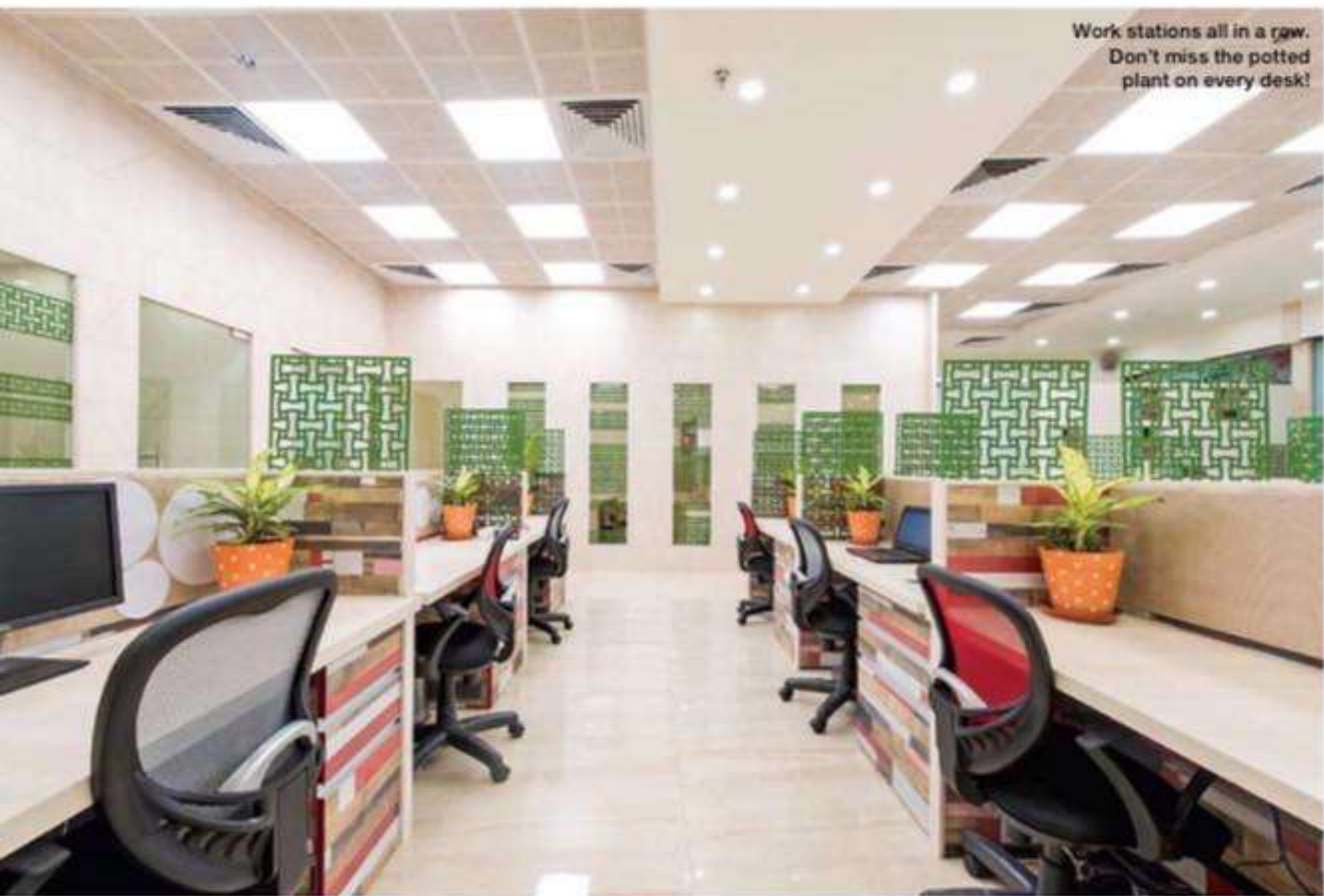
Which Borges product is going to be displayed here?

However, one major challenge that the duo faced was how to address the irregular floor space (see plan) and still give a sense of uniformity and order to meet the office demands of the head office located at Vasant Kunj in Delhi.

Let's take a walk down the path the duo took, to get to where their client wanted to be...

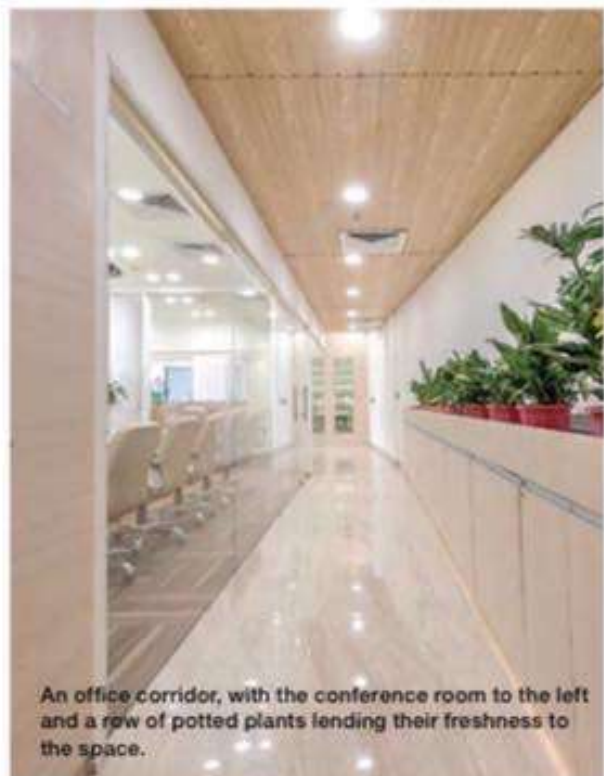
As soon as one enters the office, the visitor is welcomed at the reception area with a rather interesting irregular-shaped table composed with a few trapezoidal surfaces. The bright red logo of the company serves as the backdrop. To the left side of this area, one can see the Borges products displayed on a couple of jumbled boxes at different heights and distances. A

few niches display the awards won by the brand, while a few see-through boxes allow the visitor to gaze through the expanse of the office. The choice of materials was kept simple and elegant. There is a small meeting area next to the reception area which allows executives to attend to their respective visitors right there, thereby restricting visitors from venturing further



Work stations all in a row.
Don't miss the potted
plant on every desk!

Close up of a work station. Notice how the multicoloured palette
features everywhere.



An office corridor, with the conference room to the left
and a row of potted plants lending their freshness to
the space.

inside the office. And oh yes, there are potted plants everywhere! Along the passage, on every desk, in the eating area, the conference room...

Moving on to the area past the reception desk, the arrays of workstations are stacked as per needs. Incidentally, the office space comprises the reception area, 34 workstations, one small meeting room, one Director's cabin, three additional cabins, two conferences which can be converted into one large space whenever required, a small space for storing marketing collaterals, a server room, a store, a pantry, a cafeteria, not to forget lots of storage spaces to accommodate the files, products, etc. out of sight. All this within 3000 sq ft. A sense of individuality has been attempted at each workstation by using small partition jalis on top of the



desks. The cabins overlook the workstation areas so as to make supervision and interaction easy. The element of uniformity has been achieved by providing white beech laminates on workstations as

well as on wall partitions. A pinch of hue has been incorporated by the use of nautical red laminates on workstations and green acrylic jalis on wall partitions. The workstation chairs also play with colours

MD's cabin, with a small meeting area for one-to-one meetings.



One of the conference rooms, all set for a presentation!

office

with the chair backs in alternate red and grey. Most of the areas have Italian Diana flooring except the conference room and the Director's cabin which have carpet flooring and wooden laminate flooring respectively.

Every table in the cabins has a play of niches and lights. There has been an effective use of space to create storage spaces to display the products in each cabin. The Director's cabin also hosts a round table with a couple of seats. It has a provision for LED screen for small presentations and has several niches next to the table to showcase a variety of products.

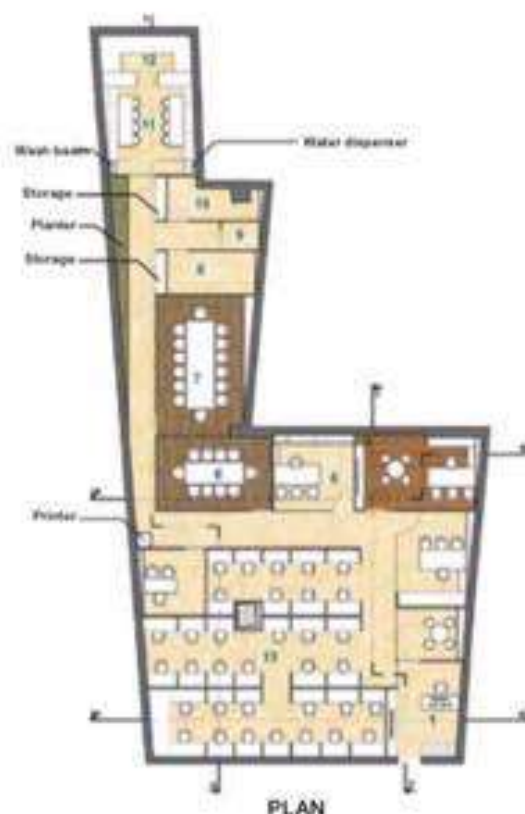
Conference rooms have been placed in such a manner so as to enhance the movement area and make the passage along it look broader. The dark carpet flooring adds drama to the space and gives a sense of transition from the rest of the office area. Both the conference rooms overlook the passage way leading to the cafeteria which has an array of lush green plants over the top of storage areas. There is no denying that there is something about the sight of plants that brightens one's spirit. Carefully designed tables with the base at angles inclined towards the centre, maximizes leg space. At the same time, layers of indirect running light at the base enhances the environment during presentations. Both the conference rooms are separated by sliding doors so that in case of a larger gathering both can be utilized making it a single large area.

The transition space or the passage beside the con-

ference rooms leads to the kitchen area which has a confluence of red lacquered glass as a backsplash and beige laminate shutters on the overhead storage. The combination of two complementing hues makes it a pleasant place for the staff to enjoy their meals. The furniture has been designed with the tables kept a little sleek with complementing bright red, fixed leather upholstered seats.

Incorporating green in designs is crucial to helping create a positive working environment. Lighting plays a vital role in transforming the space and enhancing the interior. The lights have been incorporated not only into the ceiling but also into the main furniture to add a playful character and a dash of creativity to the whole space. The overall movement pattern is well defined so as to avoid clashes in the interest of working and also to create a sense of hierarchy in the atmosphere for better work results.

Finally, in keeping with the



way Borges serves the best Mediterranean flavours on tables around the world, similarly, the design approach to the office renovation was to serve up (no pun intended!) the best office ambience keeping the brand identity squarely in mind!

The dining area (cafeteria), bright and chirpy, with potted plants at the entrance.

