

**MARK ELEY  
WAKAKO KISHIMOTO**

# **SURFACE**

SOUTHEAST ASIA

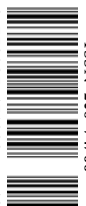


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How two artists created a brand together and reached a wider audience.

COVER: Mark Eley and Wakako Kishimoto  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Lucia O'Connor-McCarthy



**MATERIAL** **Odyssey Stone at Ritz Carlton Bangalore**

Located in the country's high-tech epicentre of Bangalore, much of the luxury aspect of India's first Ritz-Carlton Hotel comes from its exquisitely tranquil setting. Buffering the inside and outside is a garden where the hustle and bustle of India's Silicon Valley fades away and segues into lush greenery, the soothing sound of running water, and stunning jaali designs from the country's fabled past. Weaving these precious qualities together is a collection of natural stones by specialist Odyssey Stone Architecture and Design, which shapes the hardscapes that frames the whole landscaping scheme. The paved outdoors are rich tapestries of granite in various colours and treatments. The pattern flows from five-metre circulars at the entrance to square grids, the textures from flat and smooth to cobbled, as the space above it transitions from one function to another. Posts carved from solid blocks of dark gray granite stand sentinel at the entrance while five-metre-high white sandstone lattice flank the way. Walls, ventilation shafts, and water feature elements are not forgotten; they are chiselled limestones in rustic shades and striking patterns that create plays of shadow as daylight is replaced by artificial lighting. "The main objective behind using natural stone was [that] it offers many attractive, environmentally-friendly attributes, including an enduring life-cycle, durability, ease of care and maintenance," says Odyssey director, Ruchika Grover. "As a natural product, it is inherently earth-friendly." —**Asih Jenie**



**ARCHITECTURE** **Automated Warehousing Facility by AKDA**

New Delhi's extreme climate and severely dusty micro-environment have long been used as an excuse for creating energy consuming, fully air-conditioned buildings. Faced with the task of building a highly-automated warehousing facility on a seven-acre plot in the village of Anangpuron on the outskirts of the capital, architect Amit Khanna Design Associates (AKDA) has steered clear of this thoughtless and irresponsible model with clever spatial planning and thick brickwork screens. The 140,000 square-foot facility is divided into three parts: the warehouse, the loading bay and the office space; with the first two interlocking the last. This layout allows future vertical expansion of the warehouse and the loading bay.



In the olden days, walls were made much thicker than structurally necessary to minimise heat gain. AKDA put a modern twist on this heat retention strategy by layering a conventional concrete structure with perforated brick skin. A 1.2-metre space separates the brick screen from the glazed glass panels — which act as dust barriers — that fill the planes of the concrete structure, creating a generous walk space that serves both as an insulating room and a utility area. Some of the glazed glass panels are perfectly functional windows, which can be opened during good weather for natural ventilation. Moreover, the first floor of the facility is partially sunken to nearly four metres below the ground level. The adjacency to the ground provides thermal insulation where needed while still allowing the canteen, the mechanical-electrical room, and the parking lots some natural light. —**Asih Jenie**

PHOTOS: ARCHITECTURE, COURTESY RITZ CARLTON, ARCHITECTURE, COURTESY AKDA