



The Amber Hotels wanted to create a boutique business hotel in south Delhi to offer guests the luxurious ambience normally associated with larger hotels in the city. Having inherited the structural frame, the strategy was to create an oasis of calm in contrast to the bustling, invasive city outside.

The public spaces were aggregated at the entrance level, designed in crisply detailed white finishes, while the rooms on the upper floors employ a richer palette of warm colors. A large central courtyard, enlivened by a mirror mosaic mural designed by Vivek Sahni, brings light to public spaces on all floors and doubles up as the breakfast area. At night, the activity shifts to the terrace garden, which was conceived as a dining / lounge space for guests to interact.

The retrofitted façade is a juxtaposition of two wooden elements on a white background; an off-centre vertical screen and a cantilevered canopy on the terrace, designed to protect the garden from street sounds. The white block of rooms on the upper floors floats over the transparent public spaces at the ground level. The contrast is heightened at night, with interior light and activity animating the dull nature of endless neighboring boundary walls.

Sustainability is a central idea to systems and finishes. Therefore the hotel has a solar water heating system, key tags sense and control electrical usage in rooms, intelligent VRV airconditioning systems reduce energy usage, rainwater is reused and material waste has been incorporated, notably the small white marble pieces to pave the forecourt.

Bathrooms were designed to contrast the richer tones of the rooms, and are finished in a muted palette of white and grey stone, blonde wood and glass with rigorous detailing to ensure sustained performance. Colorful Indian art of the pre-colonial era is used throughout the hotel as a counterpoint to the pristine white surfaces.

Designed with a contemporary minimal aesthetic and punctuated with local cultural references by way of art and furniture, the hotel successfully caters to the needs of the global traveler while showcasing Indian crafts & tradition.

Built up Area – 10,600 Sq. Ft.
Completed – Jan 2008



AKDA is a multi-disciplinary design studio handling projects ranging from architecture to interiors, furniture and products. Founded by Amit Khanna in 2004, the studio philosophy has been to make regional specificity and sustainability intrinsic to the design process and product. The core design team works closely with artists, technical experts and design professionals from allied disciplines. Current projects include office buildings, multi-family housing, residences, hospitality projects and boutique retail.

Amit Khanna graduated from the School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi in 2002. He heads the design studio at AKDA and teaches at S.P.A. as visiting faculty with diverse responsibilities related to design, research and theoretical exploration.



