

Mughal Museum

Agra, India 2015–2017

The Mughal Museum is situated in the city of Agra, near the eastern gate of the Taj Mahal. The museum presents the political and cultural milestones of the Mughal era through its art and architecture and accommodates 5,200 square metres of permanent and temporary exhibition space. It is part of a larger masterplan to improve visitor facilities in the area surrounding the mausoleum, which attracts up to eight million visitors a year. Working in partnership with Studio Archohm, David Chipperfield Architects Berlin has designed the new museum.

With reference to traditional Mughal architecture, the museum adopts principles such as rationality, order and repetition, and reinterprets these in a modern architectural language. Colonnades, composed of slim pillars placed at close intervals, frame the building and interweave interior and exterior space. In addition, a further series of engaged columns imbue the façade with a strong rhythm. Generous external staircases lead to a public roof terrace with an open pavilion where a café and tree-shaded areas provide an inviting environment with views towards the Taj Mahal. The Resource Center, an additional building situated to the North, is connected to the museum with a further colonnade and provides space for teaching and research.

The ground floor of the museum houses temporary exhibitions, an auditorium and a shop. It also facilitates communication with the city, and contributes to the liveliness of the place. A sequence of differently proportioned spaces in the lower floor level accommodates the permanent collection and is characterised by varying atmospheric lighting conditions. The chosen materials underline the tactile presence of the rational and repetitive architecture. The opaque façade of the museum is made of marble while the exhibition spaces are characterised by stone and fair-faced concrete. Translucent materials such as glass ceramic allow for a wide range of daylight uses within the museum's interior.

Project start	2015
Completion due	2017
Gross floor area	20,000 m ²
Client	Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam
Architect	Archohm Sourabh Gupta – Principal Siddharth Singh – Project architect
Partner architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin
Design	David Chipperfield – Principal, Alexander Schwarz – Partner
Project management	Martin Reichert – Partner
Project architect	Annette Floherschütz
Structural engineer	Arup, BMSF Design Consultants PVT
Construction advisor	Ravi Gupta
HVAC	Arup, Abid Husain Consultants
Public Health	Arup, SSB Tech
Engineering	
Lighting & Electrical	Archohm
Landscape architect	Topotek 1, Archohm



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