

# green by design

YOUR GUIDE TO ECO FRIENDLY LIVING

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52 PAGE GREEN BY DESIGN SUPPLEMENT  
TO HOME REVIEW APRIL 09 ISSUE

## TÊTE- À-TÊTE WITH ABHIKRAM

A Good Dose Of  
Common Sense Mixed With  
Traditional Methods For A  
Sustainable Future



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MARKET

HANDMADE  
SCHOOL BANGLADESH

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**GROUP PHI HAS JUST FINISHED CONSTRUCTING ITS FIRST SUSTAINABLE MILITARY SCHOOL IN PUNE, ASSEMBLED FROM NATURAL AND ECO-FRIENDLY BUILDING MATERIALS.**

Tagged as 'The Oxford of the East' by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, the city of Pune is host to several excellent educational institutes. Set on a fast track attracting students from all over the world and adding to the development of excellent educational systems, the city witnesses its first military school for girls. Designed by Group Phi, this military school can be identified as the first military school for girls not just in Pune, but across the country.

While designing this school, the architects kept in mind the ultimate users and initially conducted a survey in order to understand all the suggestions made by the staff and the students. The main objectives detailed in the brief were to craft a student friendly atmosphere with a military touch to accommodate sufficient staff structure for 720 students, (teaching and non

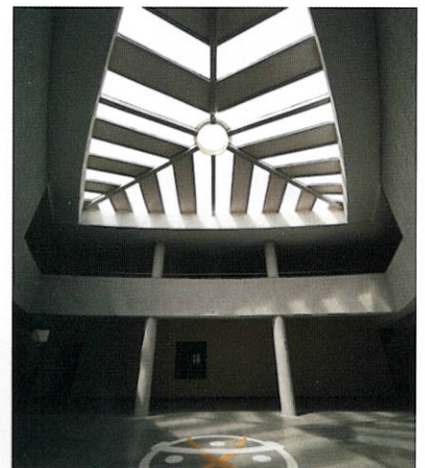


## Eco School

teaching) and provide space for their activities whilst identifying problems faced by the facility's users and addressing detailed requirements for the campus, including provision of academic, administration, sports and recreation facilities.

Sustainability being the main

issue, the architects worked circumspectly to swot the exiting landscape and vegetation on the site. In addition, they made best use of natural resources like water, stone and recycling of waste water, creating merging landforms transformed into landscape features, with indoor





and outdoor activities.

Hence, after completion the architecture of the school includes courtyards that are roofed with polycarbonate sheets, shielding the corridors and courts from the heavy rainfall and ensuring the ingress of natural light into the building. The spaces created in the corridor between the classrooms ensure proper cross aeration and the same material vocabulary is maintained throughout the campus using rubble masonry, with grooves at every 4' height. The symbolic insignia of the school has been incorporated in the flooring layout at the entrance hall, and the use of natural materials through out the structure and wide corridors help in making the users feel closer to nature and improve free circulation of the students.

According to the site contours, the south side of the school building has a lower ground floor, upper ground floor and first floor, while the north side has an upper ground floor and first floor. Furthermore, the roof projection of 750 mm ensures proper protection to the windows on the first floor, whilst the hierarchy of the classrooms is maintained as

lower standard classes are on the lower ground floor and 'higher standard' classes on the first, along with the laboratories. Thus, with the approach to design an environment conducive to military training of girls and yet create a second home for them, Group Phi provided a facility that highlights the ambience spaces created by the architectural designs.

