


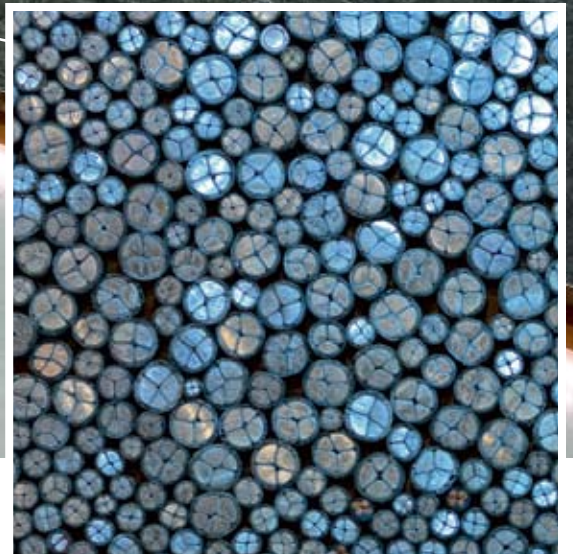


RICH DETAIL

ARCHITECT KANAN MODI OF ELOGIC DESIGN TRANSFORMED A LIMITED SPACE WITH MANY STRUCTURAL constraints into a spacious corporate office for HT Cables and House Wiring, full of unique ideas and intriguing elements, using a large and varied material range, texture and colour palette



Half-inch cable sections
manufactured by the company are
arranged in a beautiful mosaic,
transforming an industrial
material into striking graphic art





When asked to design the corporate office for Cable Manufacturing Firm, HT Cables and House Wiring, architect Kanan Modi of eLogic Design was faced with a number of challenging constraints. The project site was a 60-year-old building with many load-bearing walls. There were walls dividing the floor space, and only one side of the floor allowed in natural light. The design brief was to transform this space into an inspiring work environment that also reflects the philosophy of the company.

The architect responded by removing the separating walls and creating an open and unobstructed plan, resulting in a spacious feel that belies the 2,800sq ft of available floor area. Separation in function is achieved by creating partitions in frosted glass that allow daylight to penetrate through the entire floor. However, it is the great



amount of attention to detail invested in the design that makes the office come alive. From the wall behind the reception seating to the main reception backdrop, to the pathway leading across the main corridor to the MD's cabin desk and its seating, there is visual interest at every moment.

The centrepiece is a beautiful mosaic at the reception desk created using half-inch cable sections manufactured by the client. Apart from the visually striking appearance, it immediately sets the context and announces to the visitor what the company is about. Further rooting the design to its context is the judicious use of a variety of locally available materials including manufacturing scrap in some areas. The material palette includes veneer finish panelling, stone finish wallpaper, teak cladding, texture paint, back-painted glass for the walls and leather-finish black granite and sandstone-finish vitrified tiles for the floor. The design is unabashed in its use of an extended palette of textures, materials and colours, yet careful thought has yielded a visually harmonious whole, rich in detail. Despite limited space and structural constraints, the design has succeeded in creating a healthy work space.