

Walking through the lane of Madhapur, my eyes were quick to find a canopy of bougainvillea. The flowers were not new, but what was novice was how they acted as a compound wall to the street. It was as if for once, the street could call a wall its own, rather than only bearing spectacle to the dead side of a private compound wall.

Roving back to the bougainvillea-framed building, this image represents the spirit of the project both metaphorically and in form, a building engulfed by nature. As one further trods into the site, the sound of water trickling into a pond catches one's attention. The water body is a means to detach you from the city and its empty noises. Before you realize you are inside the building. You wonder if you are indeed inside or if it is a mere trick of the mind, for the green outside does not seem so distant away. The name, building seems starkly heavy for a space so connected with the outside. A pavilion seems more apt. As you wander through this pavilion, the layout reveals a double-loaded corridor with office spaces and open courts alternating with each other.

The pavilion functions as a marketing office for a developer based in the city. Hence the functional requirements vary from workstations, meeting spaces, and cubicles for the directors of the company. The seamless connection with the outdoors breaks the monotony of the long hours and fosters an environment for creative discussions. The material choice of steel members softens the threshold between the outside and inside

The pavilion is surrounded all around by greens that have been thoughtfully planted. The plants brush you as you walk along the edges, in memory of the wild tall flora that once inhabited the site. The path is conceived to play with the pace of walking, slowing down to experience the joy of discovering pause points.

The visit caught me pondering about the typology of office structures in the city. As a city where office spaces are being conceived by the minute, where does this new office space situate itself? Can an extremely private typology of an office still have attributes of a public space, offering a part of it to its precincts? This character is manifested during a local festival, Ganesh Chaturthi when the idol of deity is placed in the parking lot of the office. This act of appropriating the parking lot by the locales speaks of how they visualize the space as an extension to the street. On other days, in the evenings, the wall becomes a pause point for the residents to stop by, to catch up with each other.

The space has proved that office spaces need not confine merely to the needs of the private users but can give back to the outside as well. Today, both the office users as well as the locales in the area take ownership of the space. Three years into opening its doors to the public, the Office has been able to negotiate the threshold between the private and public.