

COMMON ROOM

Workspace

Dhan Mill



ARCHITECTURE DISCIPLINE



LOCATION: Gurugram

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT: Akshat Bhatt

BUILT AREA: 6000 SQ. FT.

COMPLETION OF PROJECT: 2019

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS: Lirio Lopez

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Isha Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

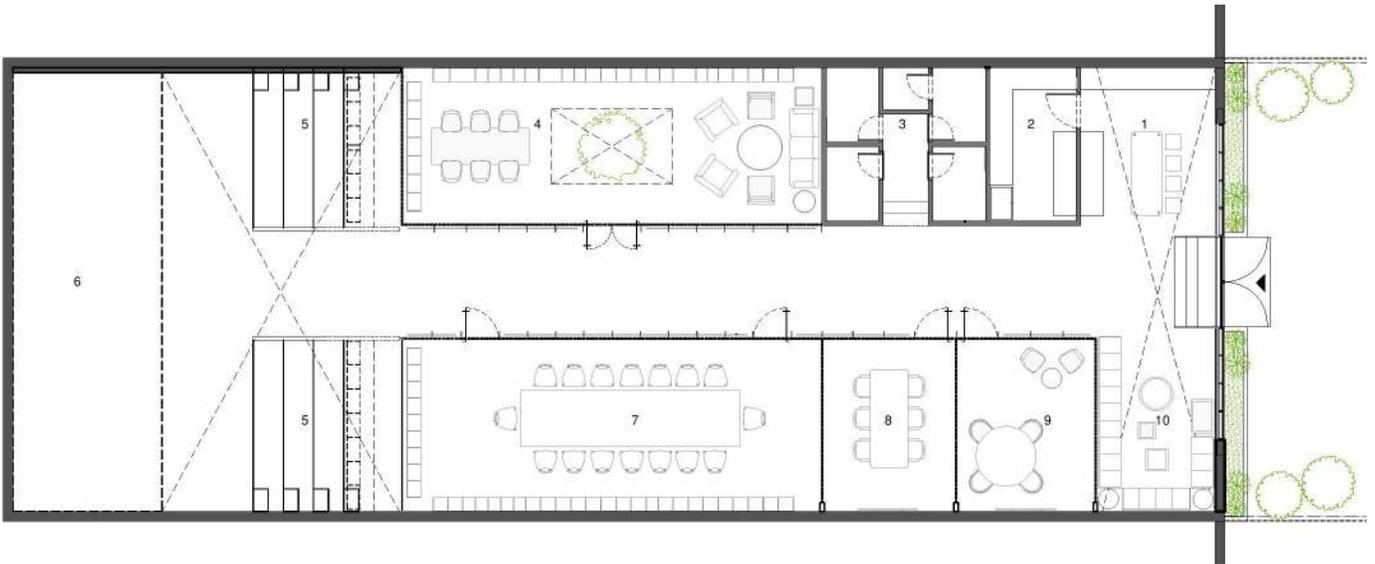
PHOTOGRAPHY: Jeetin Sharma

The Common Room (CR), first of its kind mentorship and networking incubator is an adaptive reuse project located at Delhi's once abandoned Dhan mills compound. Conceptualized as a co-working space dedicated to the professionalization of hipster entrepreneurs as well as for networking, the CR workspace seeks to revive the notions of learning and working centre together by reinforcing the progressive and innovative spirit that is emblematic of the Common Room platform. Enabled as a platform for people to come together, seek help, attend or pitch

themselves for seminars and lectures irrespective of their background, space is available at the common room for leasing.

Manifested as a reflection of value systems both at the conceptual and functional level, the simple, timeless, unique and memorable unfolding of spaces and design has been achieved through careful peeling back of layers of built history and sensitive adaptive reuse. In the current century of recuperation, adaptive reuse of abandoned built structures is the perfect way





to instill life into an old building, conserve resources and historic value, leading to transformation of the seemingly naïve or banal, into something moving or quietly contemplative.

The adaptive reuse of the former warehouse has transformed the exterior into a gleaming glass and shiny industry shed, clad in a steel facade that augments it with an identity that is representative of its ethos. The soft-touch has been extended to the interior and is a glimpse to someone passing by, whetting

the curiosity to see further. Dark tones of colors in its materiality and a uniform overlay of (material) roof, highlights as the starting point for the conversion of the workspace to an institution. In the absence of any major structural intervention, an open floor plan was initiated with a subtle rhythmic flow of spaces vamped on a unanimous theme.

Taming the mainstream and shifting away from the norm of design as a clever idea, the CR workspace is a subtle expression of a simple and slower, well-





crafted space, which is not streamlined but collated together as a conversation in spaces. The interior makeover balances between intact coconut wood cladding, genuine cane Latin hand-worked storage space, custom elements and furniture.

Custom-designed with the intent of serving the functionality of the concept, the visual presence of the entrance is enhanced by the identity developed by the white Italian marble table top. The waiting area sits perpendicular to the substantial workspace. Spaces are arranged, planned and segregated while being connected, in a manner that resonates with the



inspirational journey of an individual.

Traversing towards the rectangular space from the waiting area, on the right on the wooden cladding inscribed are the words by "Where the mind is without fear. And the head is held high." The neon art work conceptualized as the symbol of "Quality?" questions that present conversations that are deprived of quality.

