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ABOUT THE COVER



ITC Grand Bharat, the 104-suite property that opened last November in the Aravali hills in India's New Delhi capital region, was envisioned as nothing short of "a tribute to the glory of India." James Nordlie, president of Archiventure Group, PC Architects, oversaw the project's architecture and interior design, and when it came to the hotel's exterior, highlights include details from across thousands of years of Indian architecture. Exterior columns pay homage to the Adalaj Stepwell, a Hindu "water building" that dates back to 1499, and the hotel's Yamuna — water that separates the block of suites from the property's main palace — takes inspiration from the ghats (stone steps) of Varanasi. Read more in Design starting on p42.

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A FITTING tribute

From its architecture to details in the bar, **ITC GRAND BHARAT** aims to showcase 'the glory of India.'

by **ANN BAGEL STORCK**, MANAGING EDITOR

To say the bar was set high for the design of ITC Grand Bharat is a bit of an understatement, given that the 104-suite property was envisioned as nothing short of “a tribute to the glory of India.”

That tribute begins with the hotel’s rather expansive setting — 300 acres (121 hectares) in the Aravali hills in India’s bustling New Delhi capital region — which also includes an 11-acre (4-hectare) sustainable farm, a 7-acre (3-hectare) citrus plantation and a 27-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course.

Just as notable is the hotel itself, which was constructed over a period of more than four years. James Nordlie, president of Denver-based Archiventure Group, PC Architects, oversaw both the project’s architecture and interior design, and when it came to the hotel’s exterior, the question of what to highlight ended up having several answers.

“Over the last 5,000 years, there has

been a wide range of thinking, styles, movements and phases in Indian architecture,” says ITC Grand Bharat General Manager Anand Rao. “No one style could lay claim to epitomizing India’s architectural heritage as a whole. The result is that ITC Grand Bharat is an architectural confluence of some of the finest details and techniques India has witnessed.”


Exterior columns, for example, pay homage to the Adalaj Stepwell, a Hindu “water building” that dates back to 1499, and the hotel’s Yamuna — a body of water that separates the block of suites from the property’s main palace — takes inspiration from the ghats (stone steps) of Varanasi.

Inside, the tribute to India continues via details such as domes in some of the deluxe suites, which were hand-painted on-site by local artisans, and stained-glass chips depicting the plumage of a peacock — India’s national bird — in the Peacock Bar.

Rao notes that particularly the golf course and the property’s Kaya Kalp spa — which occupies the entire second floor of the resort’s main palace — attract both international guests as well as “staycationers” from the capital region thanks to its proximity to New Delhi. He says the property’s projected average room rate is INR22,000 (US\$353), and despite the fact that the hotel only has soft-launched, occupancies are increasing steadily.

“We have also had several ‘sold-out’ dates due to long weekends, special occasions and holidays,” Rao adds.

In line with ITC Grand Bharat’s lofty design goals is the resort’s target for what it will offer all guests, wherever they call home. “Our goal is to provide a composite experience on par with international golf and spa destinations,” Rao says. “We hope our guests will also believe ITC Grand Bharat is indeed a tribute to the glory of India and evokes the concept of Bharatvarsh — the very idea of India.”



A gazebo alongside the Yamuna, a body of water that separates the block of suites from the property's main palace, takes architectural inspiration from the ghats (stone steps) of Varanasi.

ITC GRAND BHARAT

SOFT-LAUNCH DATE

November 14, 2014

ACCOMMODATIONS

104 suites with amenities including semi-private pools and spacious terraces

LOCATION

Gurgaon, India, just 40 minutes outside of New Delhi, in the country's bustling capital region

GENERAL MANAGER

Anand Rao

OWNER

ITC Limited, Kolkata

LEAD ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

James Nordlie, Archiventure Group, PC Architects, Denver

DESIGN AESTHETIC

The essence of the greatness of Bharat, the ancient name of India

NOTABLE AMENITIES

A 27-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course; F&B outlets including European-influenced The India Room; Kaya Kalp – The Royal Spa, which offers treatments incorporating indigenous therapies and ancient Ayurvedic practices

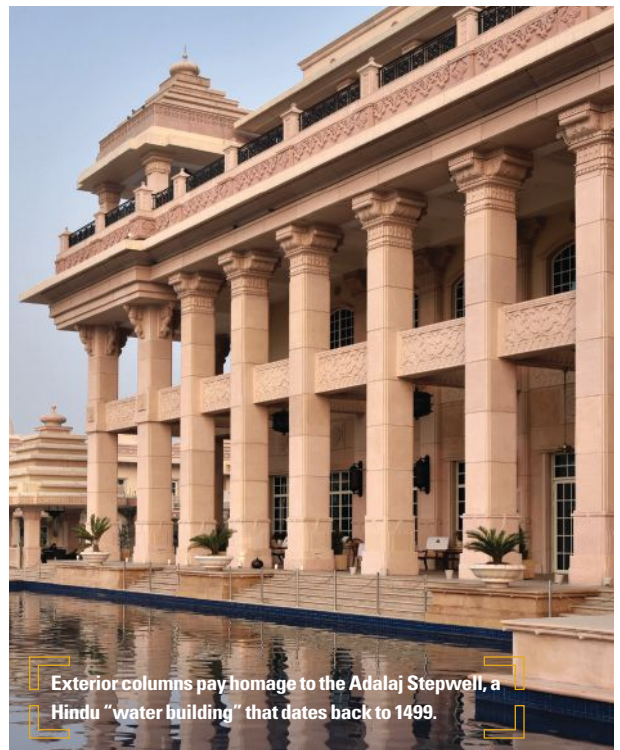
DESIGN: ITC GRAND BHARAT



Sunset Boulevard is a veranda in the main palace block that provides space for guests to enjoy sunrises and sunsets against the backdrop of the Aravali hills.



The lobby features a hand-painted dome depicting the Tree of Life, an expression of the Indian philosophy of “vasudaiva kutumbakam” —the world is a family.



Exterior columns pay homage to the Adalaj Stepwell, a Hindu “water building” that dates back to 1499.

DESIGN: ITC GRAND BHARAT



The three-meal Aravali Pavilion features warm tones and a cork floor as a backdrop for a menu that includes Modern India Mosaics, culinary creations that blend Indian flavors with those of the world.



The India Room serves "creative European classics" while celebrating the continent's engagement with India, and the design reflects the pomp and pageantry of that era.



Domes in some of the suites were hand-painted on-site by local artisans.

DESIGN: ITC GRAND BHARAT



Kaya Kalp – The Royal Spa occupies the entire second floor of the resort's main palace.



A peacock plume drives home the overarching motif of the Peacock Bar.



The colors and design details in the Peacock Bar honor India's national bird.