

arcVision Prize  
Women and Architecture 2014

Honorable Mention



**SHIMUL JHAVERI KADRI**  
*MUMBAI, INDIA*

The Jury selected Indian architect Shimul Jhaveri Kadri (Mumbai, 1962) for a special mention:

*“Kadri with her firm, SJK Architects, is particularly interested in reconciling an egalitarian and democratic form of architecture with the need for individual expression. The result is an eclectic language, ranging from citations from the Indian tradition, to the elegant modernism of the offices for Nirvana Film, one of her best-known projects. This ‘flexible inspiration’ enables Kadri to develop work environments that are both innovative and comfortable, balancing the needs of the company with those of the workers.”*

## PROJECT DATA

### Location

Indiranagar, Bangalore

### Use of the Building

Working Studio for Ad film Production house

### Construction Period

2010 – 2011

Nirvana is an office space for an ad film production company that thinks out of the box. Their workspace is based on the thought that the connection of synapses creates ideas – not privacy or isolation. The “box” for Nirvana emerged, as with all urban buildings, out of a small corner plot in the heart of the busy neighborhood of Indiranagar in Bangalore. However, this project explores the possibilities inherent in a commercial building despite the constraints of real estate. The resulting urban typology overturns all norms – using almost no electricity – for light or ventilation. The core of this box is the N-S connector staircase that slices through the building with a huge skylight above, suffusing it with sunlight and natural ventilation much like a courtyard would in another typology. The divisions of work and non-work, outside and inside are obliterated by the presence of the staircase core. The façade further facilitates the connections to the outside with the solid glass and open able acrylic louvers. The studied lightness of structure and material – no beams, and three materials – wood, concrete and glass produces a building where light and shadow, thought and interaction become the protagonists. A contemporary building that ignores any “isms” and stands for innovation, sustainability and pluralism (all stylistic features co-exist – classical chairs, kitschy graphics, old world windows).

**NIRVANA FILM  
STUDIO**



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**NIRVANA FILM  
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# FACTORY AT KARUR

SHIMUL JHAVERI KADRI

## PROJECT DATA

### Location

Karur, Tamil Nadu

### Use of the Building

Production Space for home furnishings

### Construction Period

2010 – 2011

The client wanted build a comfortable environment for the factory workers in a hot dry town in Tamil Nadu that has gained its repute as the hub of export oriented home textile industry in India. We drew extensively from this little town, its history of gable walls, the local stone quarry and many other traditions of country-wood joinery for doors, even an entire village near by that specialized in metal hardware for locks and hinges. The local architecture and climate was studied, and we developed a building that is linked with courtyards, small and big, and passive energy saving building technologies; cocooned in 18" thick stone masonry walls. The roof was built using hollow terracotta blocks which were fitted within a grid of precast RCC ribs and finished with a thin cement screed, making it economical, light-weight, and cutting out several degrees of heat gain. The success has been to create a cool humane environment for the factory staff, using local materials, labour and technology, to create a building that is very much part of a global market, functionally and aesthetically. Our ultimate payback, however, has been the end user's response wherein.

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