The World Bank

New Delhi Office
Established in 1957, the New Delhi office of the World Bank is its oldest continuously functioning Resident Mission. Its history symbolizes the close partnership between the Bank and India, and its changing character reflects the expanding needs and challenges of India’s economic evolution.
**Imperial Hotel** The New Delhi office started as a small office, chiefly with representational and information gathering responsibilities, in a single room in the Imperial Hotel. It was opened in October 1957 by the Bank's first Resident Representative, Dr. Antonin Basch, a distinguished economist on the Bank staff.

**Reserve Bank Building** By 1963, the office which had expanded moved to premises that the Government provided in the Reserve Bank of India building on Parliament Street.

**7 Sardar Patel Marg** This arrangement lasted until December 1966 when the Bank, with its rapidly expanding staff, moved into rented accommodation at 7 Sardar Patel Marg. Initially, the ground floor was occupied by the office, with quarters for visiting missions upstairs. But soon the office required the entire building for its operations.

**53 Lodi Estate** In 1967, C.D. Deshmukh, founder and first director of the India International Centre, suggested to President Woods that the Bank office move into a building that the IIC was planning for the Council of Social Development in Lodi Estate. The Bank, interested in quarters which would facilitate a "more business like climate", moved to the new location in the Fall of 1970, occupying two upper floors in the three-storeyed building.

**55 Lodi Estate** The Bank's next move occurred in 1975. The Ford Foundation had constructed for its own use in the late 1960s an attractive office complex in the vicinity of Lodi Gardens. However, in the late 1970s, the profile and the programs of the Ford Foundation in India underwent a change and it became clear that the large, elegant building would no longer be entirely required for its own offices. Its main building was placed at the disposal of the United
Nations Development Program. The Bank, as a member of the UN family, was allocated approximately one-third of the available space, taking advantage of the opportunity to acquire more attractive accommodations.

21 Jorbagh With expansion over time, the staff strength of the New Delhi office has grown from two in 1957 to about 120 in 1993, with many local professionals and support staff contributing to its growth. The role of the New Delhi office has also undergone a basic change, its earlier emphasis on economic and analytical work being supplemented by an operational, project-implementation focus. The Agricultural Unit increased in size and became too large to be accommodated at 55 Lodi Estate, and in 1983 a separate building was leased to house the Unit at 21 Jorbagh.

168 Jorbagh In recent years, the staff working on other sectors has also increased, requiring additional office space. In 1993, the Bank expanded into yet another location to house the Population & Human Resources Division.
The New Office Building of the World Bank

Given the rapidly expanding Resident Mission in New Delhi, the need for its own office building, large enough to house all sections of the Mission, had long been considered by the Bank. In 1982, the Bank formally requested the Government of India to provide it a plot in the Lodi Estate complex which had been set aside as an institutional area. In 1986, a plot was designated and, in 1990, it was formally allotted to the Bank for construction of its own building. The ground breaking ceremony took place in March 1991, and the World Bank's new office building was completed for occupancy in November 1993.
The Site  Set in the prestigious Lodi Estate area, overlooking the magnificent 15th century Lodi tombs and expansive gardens on one side, and flanked on the other by the elegantly landscaped modern complex comprising the India International Centre and the Ford Foundation, the World Bank occupies a small but enviable location in New Delhi.
The Design Concept
This unique location has provided the basis for a total design concept: the creation of a high-tech, modern office building with a pleasant and functional working ambience, set in a graceful garden setting, using natural, indigenous building materials, and employing to its advantage the still available traditional Indian craftsmanship.

The innovative design of Raj Rewal Associates, the local firm of architects selected through a Bank committee, has resulted in an artistic expression appropriate to its function, time and place, blending with great sensitivity its medieval and modern surroundings.
The Plan
The plan reflects the classical symmetry of Lodi architecture and revolves around a central axis. A striking feature of the plan is the central courtyard, a traditional Indian architectural device that ensures natural light and air for the inner rooms while cutting out the extreme heat and glare of the long summer months. It provides the visual and aesthetic advantage of an enclosed private garden from where a glass elevator rises to the two upper floors.
The public entrance of the building is on the eastern side, facing the existing complex and providing visitors easy access to the parking in the common plaza. The western facade, flanked by the sunken garden with its carefully preserved old trees, overlooks the Lodi Gardens offering superb views of the tombs and greenery from the offices, conference rooms and lounge-dining room.
Building & Materials
The Bank requested that the design and construction of the building draw on local materials, and on the skills of local artisans and craftspersons wherever reasonably possible. In response to this request, local materials and skills have been used in a cost-effective manner. The exterior walls are made of locally cut biscuit-colored limestone from Dholpur, with a ribbon of pale pink Agra stone. The effect
is a rich but mellow echoing of the colors found in the nearby Lodi Tombs. Granite quarried in India provides the flooring for the public areas. Local artisans played a major role in the development of the building particularly in the stone masonry, handsomely carved jalis, balcony railings, and a carefully modulated fenestration.
The Landscape

The old trees existing on the site have been incorporated into the landscape plan which is designed to draw the Lodi Gardens into its extended wings, visually expanding the building's own gardens. The sunken garden provides an aesthetic view as well as an abundance of natural light into the lower ground level dining room. It also creates a private outdoor space for staff recreation. The graceful fall of water over the rough stone wall enhances the beauty of the setting and echoes the concept of running water, an important element in traditional Mughal architecture.
The Interior
The clean, functional lines of the interior are reflected in the white plastered walls and polished granite floors. The concealed lighting tracks, with their sleek lighting fixtures, provide artificial light while the simple vertical blinds provide natural light control. Handsome polished wooden rails and cabinets are functional to the building's operations.

High-tech and Energy Efficient
The building, however, is not just aesthetically pleasing, it incorporates the latest in functional technologies as well. It is environment friendly and energy efficient. And its communications are electronically linked, both domestically and worldwide, to every workstation within the building via satellite.

Solar reflecting glass used throughout the building minimizes solar heat gain. The computer controlled, zoned air-conditioning—sensitive to both inside and outside temperatures for maximum energy efficiency—greatly reduces the operational cost.
The offices have been designed to effectively utilize natural light, and to supplement it with sophisticated, energy efficient artificial lighting systems. Concealed lighting tracks focus light precisely where it is needed while high-tech fixtures provide maximum illumination with minimum energy consumption.

A central control system, linked by computer with all functional systems — mechanical, security, water, fire detection and communications — monitors the building for complete, safe, continuous and energy efficient functioning.

Works of Art
The simple, businesslike, high-tech interior serves as an excellent backdrop for well-chosen, reasonably priced art works of both established and aspiring Indian artists — Jogen Chaudhri, Santosh and Ghulam Sheikh among others — and specially commissioned textiles and handicrafts by master craftsmen representing the different regions of India. These add warmth and color to the offices and harmonize with the overall ambience of the Bank's New Delhi office.
Acknowledgements
The entire building complex has been executed by the Information, Technology and Facilities (ITF) Department of the World Bank under the supervision of James Head. The generous efforts of all those who contributed to the creation of the building, especially architect Raj Rewal, contractor Tirath Ram Ahuja, and construction manager Vijay Rewal, are gratefully acknowledged.

The New Delhi office had the expert advice and assistance of Martand Singh in the selection and commissioning of art objects, especially textile hangings and tapestries. We acknowledge our gratitude to him.

Editorial and Design Consultant: Fatima Al-Talib
Photographs: Ram Rahman
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### List of Resident Representatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antonin Basch</td>
<td>1957 - 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry O. Curran</td>
<td>1959 - 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin King</td>
<td>1963 - 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William M. Gilmartin</td>
<td>1967 - 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orville J. McDiarmid</td>
<td>1970 - 1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>William M. Gilmartin</td>
<td>1972 - 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jochen Kraske</td>
<td>1975 - 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean-David Roulet</td>
<td>1979 - 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevan Waide</td>
<td>1984 - 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oktay Yenal</td>
<td>1991 -</td>
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