



ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, INDIA

Architect: Bimal Hasmukh C. Patel

*Client: Entrepreneurship Development
Institute of India
Viharibhai G. Patel, Director*

Contractors: Ganon Dunkerly and Company

Completed: 1987

The revolutionary concept of training entrepreneurs was pioneered in Ahmedabad in 1969. The idea developed and gradually became a national movement. Every state wanted to develop its own programme, resulting in the need for a national institution for entrepreneurship, one that would supervise all the others. Thus, the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) was established in 1983. A national competition with an innovative brief for the design of the EDII was elaborated in 1985. It was won by the young architect, Bimal Patel.

The Institute is composed of seven buildings organized on two axes. Along one axis are two hostels, a kitchen and a dining hall. The other axis is shared by the remaining four buildings: the administrative centre, the training and research centres, and the library. An auditorium was designed but has not yet been built.

The Institute responds well to the users' needs. The skilful grouping of two-storeyed buildings around open spaces, each with a distinct function and character yet linked to the two main axes, provides coherence for the various activities. Open arcades are used to organize the entire complex as well as the individual buildings, taking the best advantage of the pleasant surroundings and courtyards.

The courtyards were landscaped with stone pavements and grass and shaded by batam trees specially chosen for the large size of their leaves. The area around the buildings was also landscaped and planted with a grid of trees. In a few years, these trees will create a forest-like atmosphere.

Climatic control has been one of the major design concerns. The area of the courtyards is large in proportion to the building heights, and this keeps the buildings well ventilated. Galleries around the courtyards create a transition space between the harsh light



ABOVE: Because of the shading tactics used by the architect, classroom interiors stay cool most of the year without costly mechanical equipment.



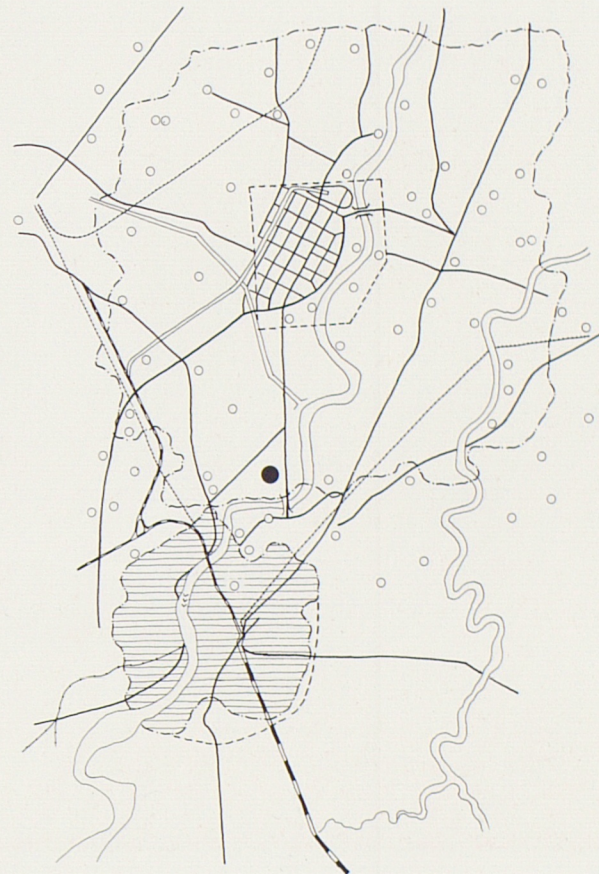
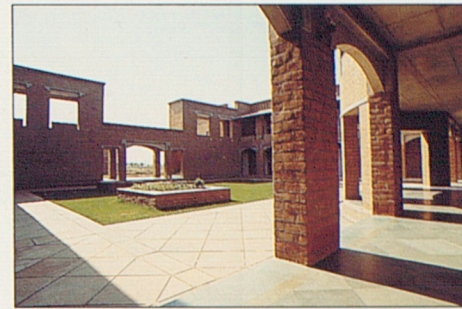
of the court and the shaded rooms inside the buildings. The windows are recessed and protected against monsoon rains. The need for costly heating or cooling has been virtually eliminated. According to the users, the inside room temperatures are comfortable for the major part of the year.

Construction materials were chosen by the architect to conform to the restricted budget. Brick and concrete are the basic materials used, and both are locally available. Exposed concrete is used to accentuate the lintels over windows and doors as well as the arches which span the circulation corridors.

The buildings of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute are simple, handsome and contemporary. This young architect should be proud of his achievement.

The Jury's citation of this project reads as follows:

This innovative programme in education and training in entrepreneurship is housed in an open, congenial campus. The fruitful collaboration between the director of the Institute and the architect produced a fine example of a low-cost, low-maintenance building which promises easy replicability. The architect is commended for his confident use of formal elements growing out of the Indo-Islamic architectural heritage. A series of geometrically structured courtyards and loggias are the primary organizing framework. The variation of open, closed and transitional spaces provides light and shade, and creates an inviting environment for work, interaction and repose.



The complex responds well to the client's needs because of the skilful positioning of buildings and open spaces; BELOW: Location of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute on the outskirts of Ahmedabad.







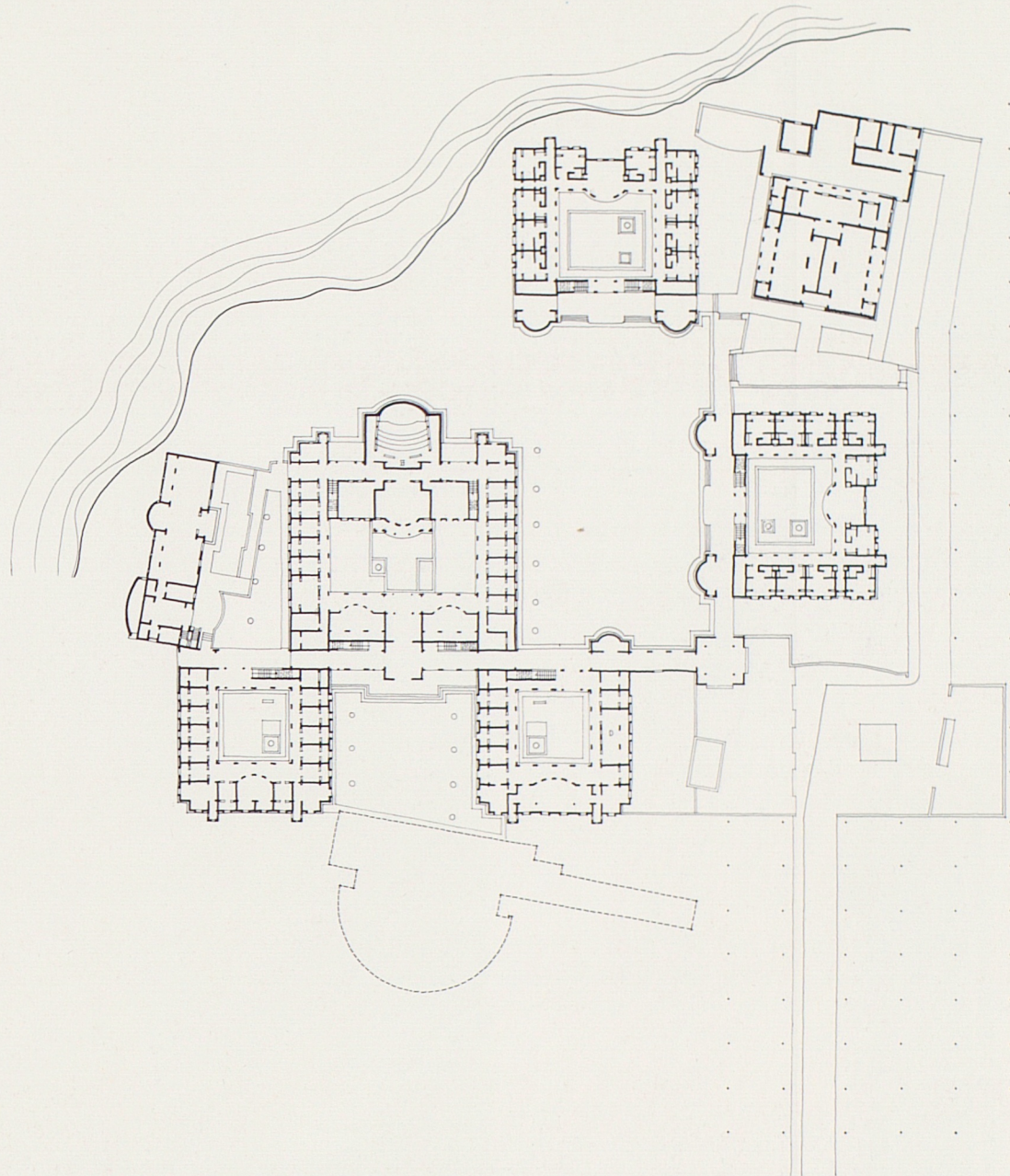


*ABOVE: Classrooms are functional and comfortable;
BELOW: Site plan of the EDII campus; OPPOSITE ABOVE
AND BELOW: The main open quadrangle in the centre of
the Institute and a subsidiary courtyard grouping.*









ABOVE: The rooms of the trainees' hostel allow students to live on campus, and are linked to a building containing a kitchen and catering facilities; BELOW: Ground floor plan of the Institute; OPPOSITE ABOVE AND BELOW: A limited number of construction materials were chosen by the architect in order to conform to a restricted budget. The way that these materials are combined establishes a theme that unites the various buildings into a whole.