Handloom Pavilion

International Exhibition, Delhi
1958

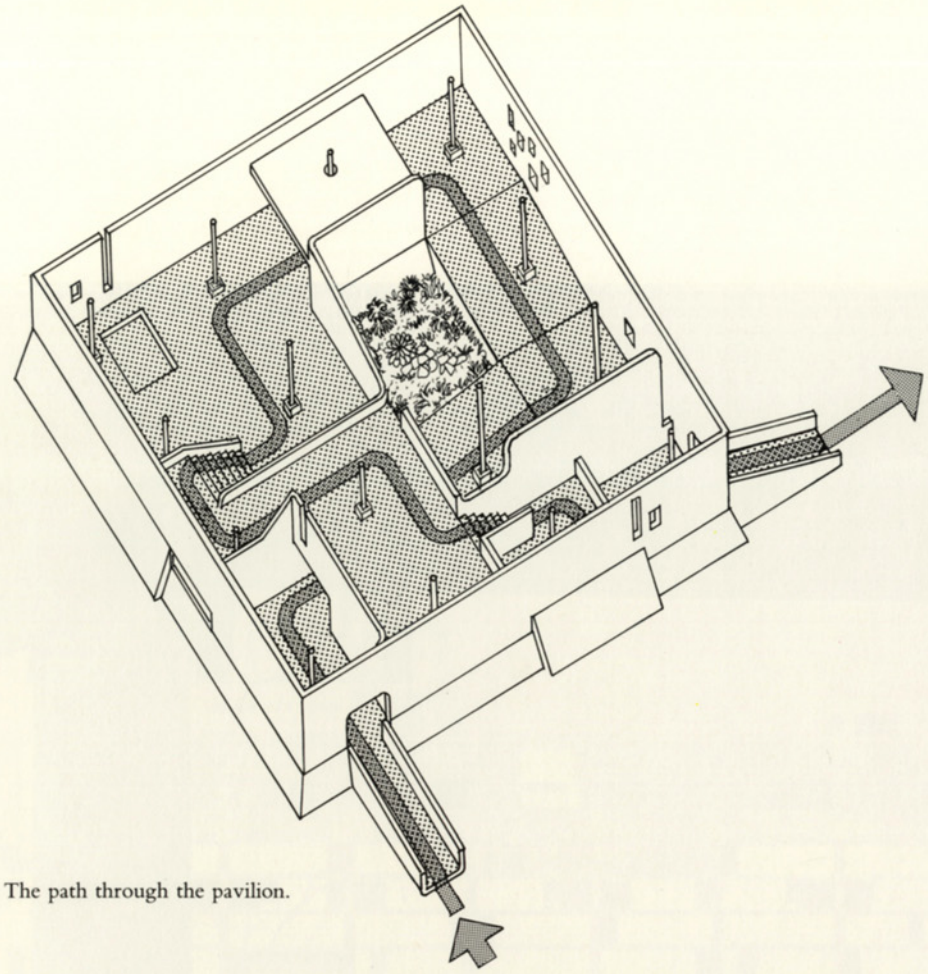
Brick and mud walls and a cloth roof reflecting the craft nature of the pavilion, was the first work completed by Correa's office. Designed and built in six months, it was completed in November 1958.

Fifteen squares, each 7 metres × 7 metres, pivot around an interior garden to create a "maze-like" puzzle box through which the visitors move. Due to Delhi's mild winter the spaces are open and separated by partitions and varying levels; a theme explored further in later projects.

The single strongest design feature is the roof, made of wood and handloom cloth, conceived as a series of umbrellas or *chatris* reminiscent of the traditional *shamianas* (tents) used in India as temporary covers on festive occasions. The simple plastered walls form the backdrop for the colourful display of cloths and weavings.

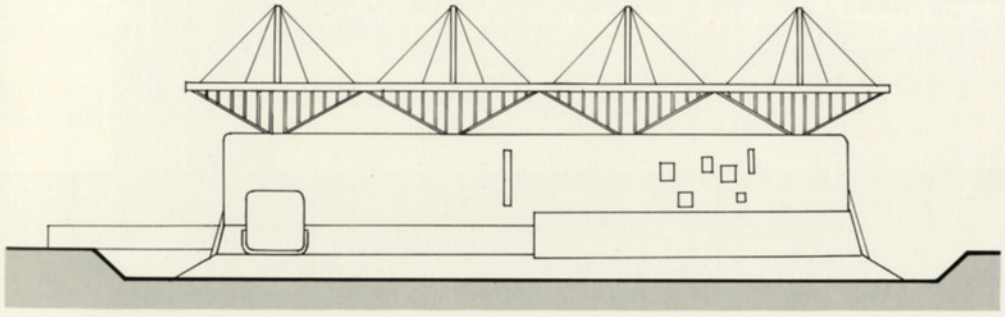
Handloom display.

Erecting the cloth *chatris* framed by a timber structure.

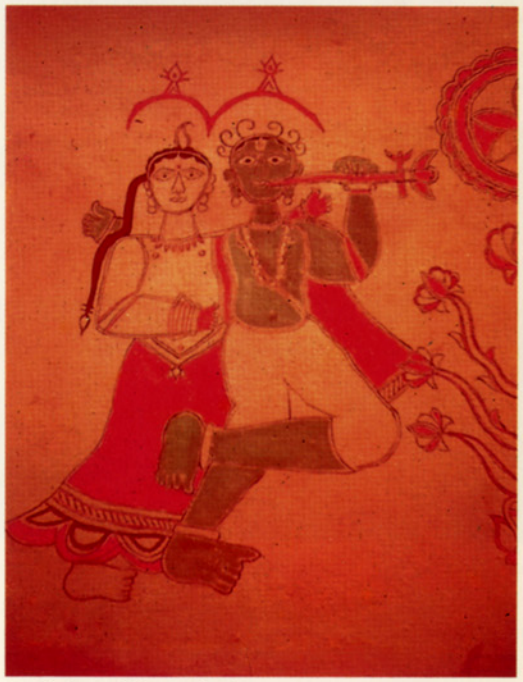


The path through the pavilion.

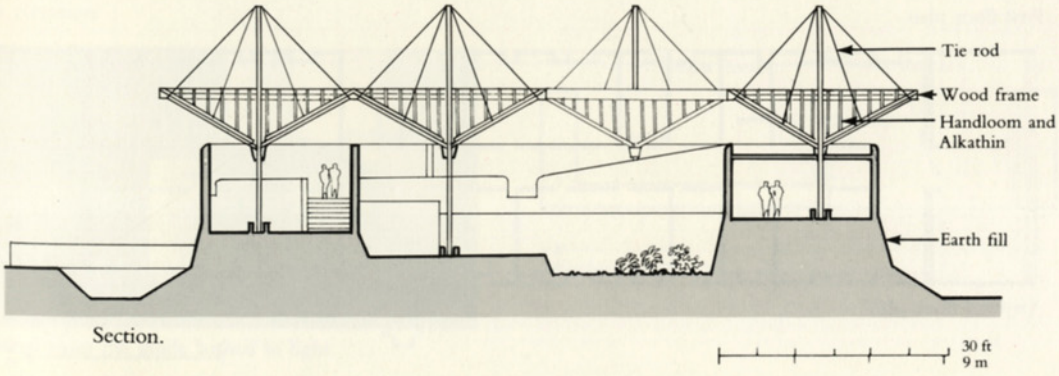
Weaving demonstration.



Elevation.



Madhubani folk art display.



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