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Design

Romi Khosla Design Studios Photography

Saurabh Pandey

New Delhi, India Area

890 sqm

Castro Cafe is a cafeteria in a university campus. Due to the extreme climate conditions of New Delhi, where the summers see temperatures above 45 degrees centigrade, and the winters often see temperatures below 5 degree centigrade, this canteen was proposed as a 'semi-open-air Café,' allowing an ambient temperature for most of the year, along with good ventilation, and varying degrees of shelter from the climate.

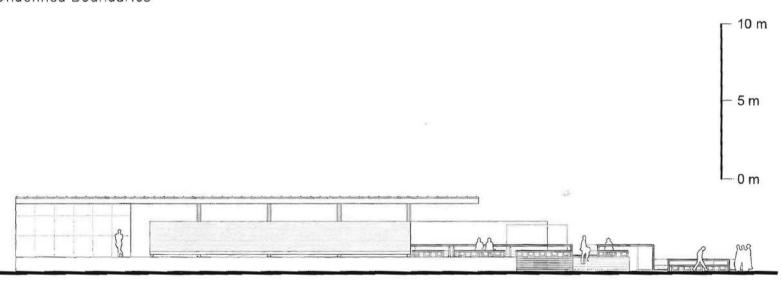
The building block has a kitchen block wrapped in marble cladding to the east, which is a fully enclosed space to cook and serve in. As one walks westward, the dining area becomes more and more open. At first, the eating enclosure is defined by two walls and a roof, next by one wall and the roof, then by only one wall, and finally, there is only the floor, constructed from Kota stone. All the elements of the building are defined distinctly and independent from each other.

Throughout the interior and exterior, the eating and the seating surfaces continue, acting like stitches that tie the entire space together. The idea is to blur the boundaries between inside and outside, so that the undefined boundaries act as a negotiator between the user and the climate of New Delhi.



Castro Cafe

Undefined Boundaries



Northwest elevation

