

- 1 Public Entrance
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- 6 Legislator's Entrance
- 7 Combined Hall

Roof plan

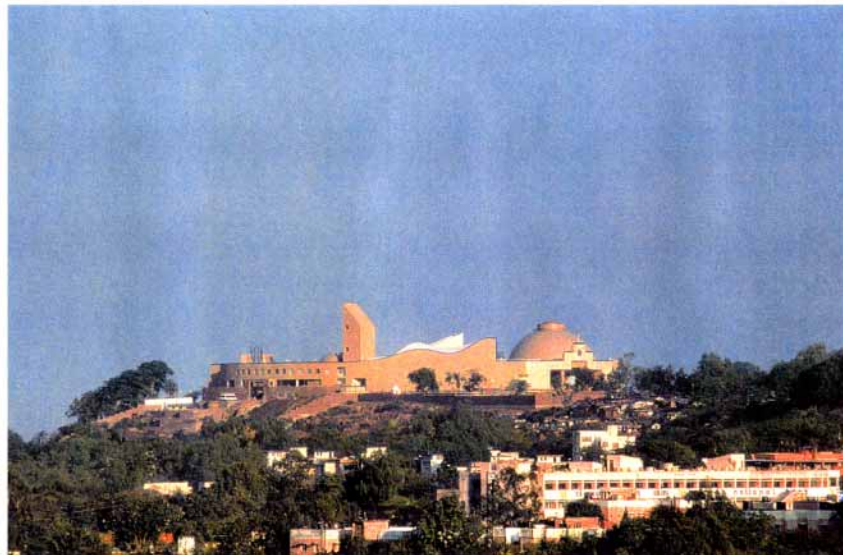
The new State Assembly for the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the capital city of Bhopal has been built to accommodate many of the diverse functions crucial to a functioning democracy. Many factors determined its form: its site on the crest of a hill; the old Muslim monuments nearby; as well as of course, the famous Buddhist Stupa at Sanchi, just 50 kms from the city.

The plan is a series of gardens within gardens. The administrative offices are used to define a pattern of nine compartments. The five central ones are halls and courtyards (creating a micro-climate of shade and running water), with the four corners occupied by the specialised functions: the Vidhan Parishad (Upper House), the Vidhan Sabha (Lower House), the Combined Hall and the Library.

Besides the Vidhan Sabha (for 368 members) and the Vidhan Parishad (which will house 75 members), there are suites of offices for the Speaker of the House, for the Chief Minister, for the Chief Secretary and their supporting Staffs, as well as 70 offices for Ministers and their P.A's, together with committee rooms and Section offices.

Since the administrative offices constitute the bulk of the floor area, they form a decisive part of the architectural experience. Thus in any Assembly building, the placing of these offices, and the manner of reaching them, is of considerable importance. In government buildings constructed in India during the last century, this circulation was usually along verandahs from which one got a view of surrounding gardens - hence having to wait to meet a government official was a reasonably pleasant experience. In most contemporary buildings, however, this circulation takes the form of double-loaded corridors - which create quite intolerable conditions for the visitor.

In this Vidhan Bhavan, the movement patterns within the building have been carefully studied, so as to form diverse - and pleasurable! - architectural sequences. The circulation is always along the edge of the courtyards, so that light and fresh air are assured. For security reasons, the public has to be separated from the Assembly members and other VIPs; hence they enter through the main check point, climb ramps to reach the viewing galleries overlooking the three main halls. On the way to their galleries, they progress along bridges and ramps (winding around the 'Subbas' like the ritual circumambulatory paths around the Sanchi Stupa), progressions which allow all the various users to experience the principal spaces - and dimensions - of this complex.

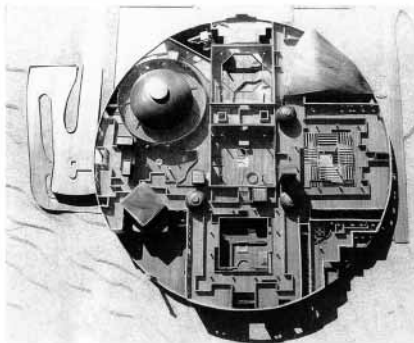


The new assembly building dominates the city from its central hill

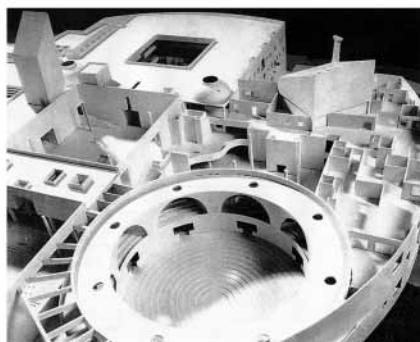


Looking towards Combined hall and Public entrance

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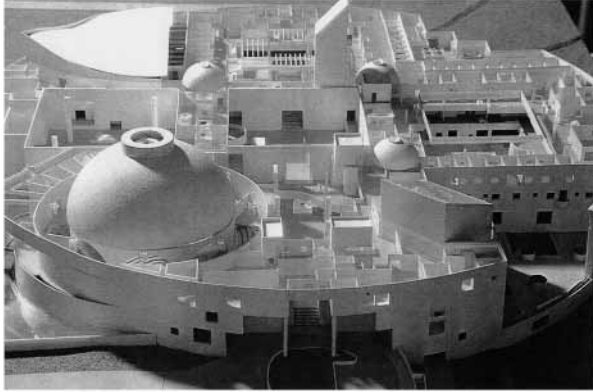


Study model



The Vidhan Sabha (main assembly) with dome removed

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V.I.P. entrance showing complex interlock of solids and voids



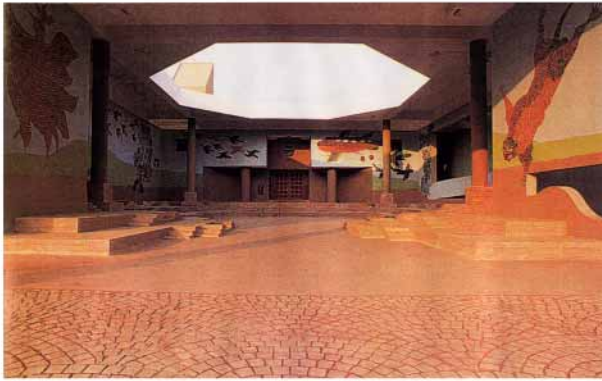
Part plan of lower level

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Court of the people. The stepped kund with mythic paintings done by the finest tribal artist of the State of Madhya Pradesh

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Court of the people.



Ramp up to public gallery in Vidhan Sabha looks over public entrance court

The large murals, sculpture, paintings and artwork found throughout the building are vivid examples of the great artistic traditions of the State - from the magnificent murals covering the walls around the kund (painted by the finest folk artists of Bastar), to the green-marbled sculpture of the Goddess of the Narmada River floating above the reflecting pool, to the many exquisite art objects in the offices and along public verandahs. Situated on the crest of a hill in the centre of Bhopal, the building affords magnificent views of the city all around. Truly it is a celebration of the State of Madhya Pradesh, of its culture and of its people - a veritable Palace of Democracy.



Pergola over Chief Minister's courtyard



Verandahs along the courtyard



Middle of central hall has figure evocative of spiral bindu



Central hall: At the intersection of two main central axis of the building



Yogesh Raval's portal from the legislator's foyer to the Vidhan Sabha, symbolising the gate of the stupas at Sanchi



Inlaid stone pattern on the floor in legislator's foyer



Yogesh Raval's portal in the legislator's foyer

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Black reflecting pool at entrance is in shape of Madhya Pradesh and will have a sculpture of the goddess Narmada in green-black marble by Robin David



The dome viewed from the pool, encircled by the perimeter of the building

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V.I.P. Entrance

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