

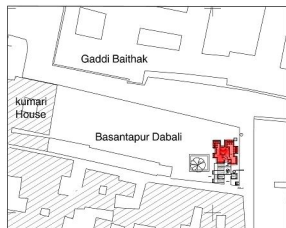
Universal TOILET

AT KATHMANDU DURBAR SQUARE

Arcasia Design
competition 2013

PR12AR22

location



Design Process

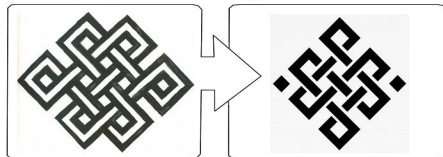
As in Any Design Project, the project was initiated by conducting a thorough research, mainly into what is "Universal" design.

First it was needed to understand what the state of Handicap meant and surprisingly it is largely derived from barriers created by unfriendly **ENVIRONMENT**, most of which is built form.

Hence the vision of the project was to create such an environment which would give a sense of Universality i.e. all encompassing and integration not a special solution which would still cause segregation.

Concept

The Infinity, interweaving of the Universe.



The Endless Knot

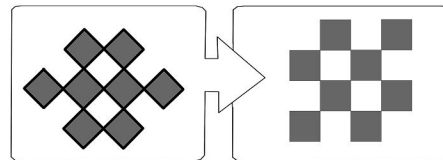
The endless Knot is a Buddhist/Hindu symbol representing the endless cycle of birth and death. It also represents the interweaving of wisdom and compassion.

It is one of the eight Auspicious Symbols.

Concept Development

The endless knot was chosen as it is a traditional cultural symbol used by the people of Kathmandu Valley and is appropriate for a building at a World Heritage Site.

The Endless knot is used here to represent the vast infinity out there yet the inter-relationship between all aspects and beings showing us how everything is mutually dependent.



The Endless knot can be expanded infinitely as it has no beginning nor the end.



Master Plan



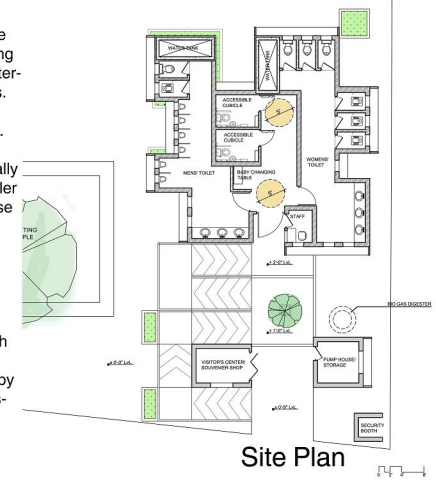
Project Description

The public toilet is designed mainly to provide amenities to the main dabali (plaza) not only in the obvious way by providing toilet facility for everyone; But by providing an urban edge, interesting seating and open spaces and also small green spaces.

The shape of the toilet block is derived from the endless knot. It is 2' above the plaza level and is accessed by a series of ramps and platforms. This is done so that the building gradually merges with the main dabali (plaza) by forming a series of smaller plazas. This also reflects the main platforms that form the base of temples in this palace complex.

The style of the facade though modern, the brick exposed facade and its form, series of platforms helps it harmoniously merge with the heritage area.

There are 6 urinals, 2 cubicles for males and 6 for females with half of WC being squatting type due to cultural preference of local population. There are two accessible cubicles and a baby changing table which are at the center and most easily accessible.



Site Plan

