



# IT'S CARS THEY DEAL WITH

THE 1,000 SQ FT  
REGIONAL OFFICE OF  
PAL-PEUGEOT IN  
CALCUTTA DESIGNED BY  
DEVIKA BANERJEE.



Opposite Above: A corner of the Pal-Peugeot office where limited space seems visually enlarged with the clever use of transparency throughout.

Opposite Below: The lit cupola at the entrance makes an effective signage for the Pal-Peugeot office.

Above: A parabolic, transparent divider cordons off the reception near the entrance, for walk-in customers and visitors. The black wrought-iron furniture and glass-topped table with the dry blue and yellow flowers embedded under the glass, bring in cheer with the company colours.

Right: The conference room, a part of the visitors' lounge has the same black wrought-iron furniture. The cedar flooring separates it from the general area. Natural light flows in through the glass windows highlighting the well lit look.





**'S**pace Management, in my book, is more of an art than a science,' says Devika Banerjee. 'It means managing in a limited space a given number of people and objects while creating a user-friendly ambience that caters to the client's requirements.'

Devika's brief for the Pal-  
Peugeot office was that it should be a hi-tech office, designed on international lines, in the company colours of grey, blue and yellow. It was the company's intention to use information network systems for all routine functions and work towards a

paperless office, hence space requirement for staff was minimal, though Devika had to cater for delivery people, walk-in customers and visitors.

The focal feature of the space designated for this fifth floor office was an 8 ft high glazing along two sides, that offered a welcome view of the Calcutta skyline. Devika placed a 4 ft high, tiled over wooden grid on the original floor to deliver electricity, voice and data everywhere in the office — a one-time investment that would enable the office to reconfigure anytime, anyway in the future. To take

advantage of the panoramic cityscape, a large parabolic conference-cum-meeting room was made completely transparent. The underfoot grid would ensure free-seating, while floor to ceiling transparency would eliminate the need of any lighting within, until after sundown.

Other architectural features followed — a corner was cordoned off for a self-service pantry with only a visual barrier. Another corner, nearest the entrance, was encased in a see-through quarter circle to meet and deal with walk-in customers and visitors. Well furnished and equipped with

Opposite Page: The informal visitors' rooms follows the curved transparent wall, and the sofa follows that curve. A concealed fridge and bar are convenient. The blue stained, cedar wood grid runs all along the flooring. Apart from looking smart it delivers electrical lines all over, facilitating mobility of office equipment and seating arrangements.

Above: The general office area where the floor to ceiling transparency is most evident. Wavy, perforated metal and black iron have a synergy with cars and the waste-paper baskets seem to be fashioned out of car parts. The grey tiled floor and the blue wooden grid running along it, seem to belong to the pattern. In the background, a visual mobile barrier of perforated metal cordons off a self-service pantry. No mistake, it's cars they deal with here!

Below: Devika in her stylised setting.



computer access, this was designed to prevent stray visitors and delivery from roaming all over. A curiously lit cupola with the company logo greets the visitor on entry.

Devika has provided work-stations with built-in computers and a modular storage system that can glide over to any desk for prolonged access. An informal ambience in the visitors' room complete with fridge and provision for a bar, is complemented with conferencing and presentation facilities. Each piece of furniture is individually designed — a curved sofa aligns

with the curvature of the conference room, a round table in wrought-iron and stained wood in the visitor's area and an unusual counter in the pantry.

Devika has given the office a complete co-ordinated look that reflects the ethos and business of the client. Wavy perforated metal and black iron and lots of sinuous curves everywhere in metal, wood and plastic, have a synergy

with cars. The white cedar furniture and the floor of the conference room, imparts a clean modern look. See-through walls are visually futuristic. Even the waste baskets and standard lamps look fashioned out of car parts. Overall, the identity is that of a world-class car maker. The style is high-tech — like a car. The ambience is universal, it could be anywhere. **❶**