

Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital

Malé, The Republic of Maldives

Architects Jasbir Sawhney and Associates



Right Ambulatory entrance

The Government of India, under its programme of technical and economic cooperation with the developing countries decided to set up a 200-bed general hospital for the Republic of Maldives, at the capital, Malé. The archipelago of the Maldives has nearly 1200 coral islands looping the equator, of which about 200 are inhabited.

Climate and the Environment

The climate is equatorial with

day temperatures between 27-31 degrees centigrade and relatively high humidity with a rainfall of 290 mm (monthly average). The winds are prevalent throughout the day and therefore the requirement of natural ventilation is an important planning principle. It rains almost everyday between April and December. The islands are formed of coral with sand at the top surface and there is no soil, which makes the environment dust free.

Water is a scarce resource

and the main source is rain water. All rain water is harvested from the roofs and stored in tanks for consumption. There is a long dry spell in the spring, due to which storage of water for 40 days consumption became necessary. In the event this spell lasted longer, a small desalination plant was provided as a safeguard.

The Site

The urban form of the city of Malé is of low development

with sloping roofs. Recently however, a few commercial buildings have gone beyond four floors. Also, being coral islands, the soil bearing capacity is low and with the high water table, foundation depths are restricted.

The three-acre hospital plot is on the southwest corner of the island, a major portion of which had to be reclaimed.

The Plan

The plan has been developed in five distinct parts, interlinked

