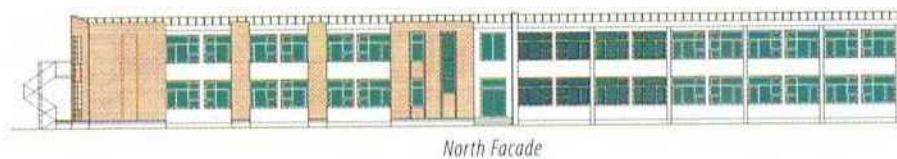
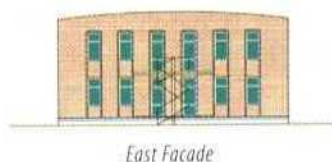
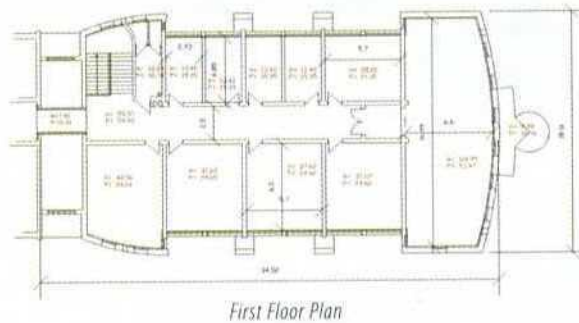
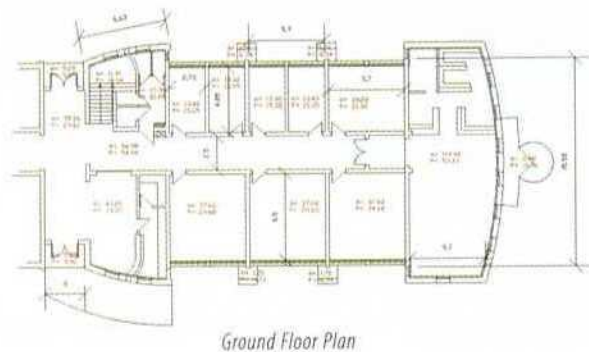


Extension of Faculty of Letters & Literature for the French Department, Kabul University.



Following the successful completion of the Sayed Djamaluddin Teachers Training Institute (SDTTI) for the Embassy of France in Kabul joined hands again with A&D again to collaborate on another project, the construction of an additional wing to the French Department for its Faculty of Letters and Literature. Proposed on the master plan of the rapidly expanding Kabul University the architect was challenged by existing buildings that sat gravely on site as if in mourning for the days of Russian occupation when they were cast in concrete. Jean Paul attempted to work out an extension that would give the existing building a more definitive presence and conclusion as it came up at the peripheral end of the old structure. The expansion to the French Department aimed to meet the pressing need for more space, accommodating two different genre of training – on the one hand, the teaching of French to the students of other faculties of the university and on the other hand training university teachers to be French professors. For Jean Paul the effort was to work with the acquired competencies from the Sayed Djamaluddin exercise. This was by the incorporation of a brick frontage and mud plaster as a traditional statement.

The French Department and its Director provided the building program over a meeting with the architect. The need of the rooms was devised by adding to the old building needs with the architect adding the sole thought of a multi-activity room and a cafeteria. In the old building the staircase and the entrance took away all the space, which could have encouraged social interaction. The architect modulated the space to accommodate the staircase to the north thus opening out the space for a previously absent cafeteria to the south which overlooked a landscaped zone. A bridge at the first floor level connected the old and the new buildings; it was strategically placed to meet

a central passage that ran to the end of the building to join a fire-escape. The long linear plan of the old building and its extension worked well to receive this emergency escape mechanism.

While the lines of the existing building were maintained the use of material and the sequential adaptation of the window bays gave the new extension an identity of its own providing the much needed warmth to the deteriorating concrete facades of the existing frosty buildings. While doing so they moved away from the Industrial-military ambiance of the university complex to provide the existing building with a conclusion, which matched institutional ambitions.

Fact File

Project: Extension of Faculty of Letters & Literature for the French Department, Kabul University.

Location: Kabul

Client (beneficiary): Ministry of Higher Education

Architect: Jean Paul Lemdjedri (Architecture & Développement)

Design Team: Jean Paul Lemdjedri, Naqshband Gulam

Project Area: 900sqm

Grnd floor: cafeteria, classroom(3), staff room, audio lab, polyroom, toilets (accessible to handicaps)

First Floor: 4 classrooms, 1 computer room, staff room-4, 1 library.

Roof: wooden trusses with zinc cladding and insulation.

Contractors: Omari Co. Ltd

Construction (estimate): 280000 Euro

Funding agency: French Embassy, Kabul

Initiation of Project: July 2006

Completion of project: April 2007

No of students accommodated: 150

Staff: 20