

Raj Rewal

Raj Rewal is a leading Indian architect. A distinguished doyen of architecture from India, Raj Rewal has set global precedents with his urban narratives of design that have been integrally and richly steeped in their contextual inferences. The concerted juxtaposition of traditional concepts and contemporary syntax is reflective of his fascination for weaving expressions of heritage and history into a modern vocabulary, often revealing layer upon layer of intuitive interpretation and deep meaning. Effortlessly threading together episodes of design, he merges scale with surroundings and geometry with rhythm, binding space with structure and nuance, modulating form and light and coursing the exterior through the interior to create a series of interconnected experiences that are as distinct as they are together. Across a repertoire of residential, housing, public and institutional buildings, his work is characterised by concern for climatic sensitivity, humane architecture and the promotion of craftsmanship and new technologies.

Career

Rewal lived in Delhi and Shimla from 1934–1951. He attended Harcourt Butler higher secondary school. Between 1951-1954 he attended the Delhi School of Architecture in New Delhi. After completing a degree in architecture in New Delhi, he moved to London in 1955 where he lived until 1961. He attended the Architectural Association School of Architecture for one year and the Brixton School of Building, London from 1956-60. GD Goenka University also honour architect Raj Rewal with an honorary doctorate at a special convocation organised by University in India Habitat Centre.

Raj Rewal worked at Michel Ecochard's office in Paris before starting his practice in New Delhi in 1962. Between 1963-72, he taught at the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. He opened a second office at Tehran, Iran in 1974. Among his better known projects are the *Hall of Nations* (Hall 6) at the Pragati Maidan Exhibition Centre, demolished in April 2017, Asiad Village Complex, National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi; the Parliament Library in New Delhi and NCBS (National Centre for Biological Sciences) campus at Bangalore. In 1986, he became the curator of the exhibition "Traditional Architecture in India" for the Government of India organised festival of India in Paris. He also designed an architectural college (SIUPA) in Rohtak and is head of members in academic council.

15 Projects by Raj Rewal:

Raj Rewal is an Indian [architect](#) and urban design consultant who studied [architecture](#) in New Delhi and London. His humanist approach to architecture responds to the complexities of rapid urbanization. Mr. Rewal's commitment to housing is also central to his built works.

Rewal lived in Delhi and Shimla from 1934 – 1951. He attended Harcourt butler higher secondary school. He attended the Delhi School of Architecture. After completing a degree in architecture in New Delhi, he moved to London in 1955 where he lived until 1961. Across a repertoire of [residential](#), housing, public and institutional buildings, his work is characterized by a concern for climate sensitivity, humane architecture and the promotion of craftsmanship and technologies. He was the Architect who worked in sync with nature. He knows the importance of the ecosystem. Working with nature is not only the work of [sustainable](#) architects but others too. He knew that all of his work is related to the climate.

1. Asian Games Village

Asian games village is located in New Delhi, India and is a family urban housing project. Raj Rewal was inspired by Jaipur and Jaisalmer's urban patterns. In all, there are some 500 housing units comprising of 200 individuals and 300 apartments in two to four floors with each unit type having variations according to areas and function.

2. Delhi Metro Corporation Headquarters

It is located in New Delhi the concept behind it being based on the three wings for offices, which encloses an atrium filled with light. The building has a logical and economical structural system.

3. Sham Lal House

The design for [Sham Lal house](#) placed an emphasis on blending the entrance hall, dining and living room spaces with the front garden as much as possible. The large pivoting doors of glass and teak define the living room garden boundary and can be opened for social occasions. The house was designed by Raj Rewal for a leading journalist and writer. A double-height space contains the entrance hall and stairs to the first floor. A combination of modern and vernacular architecture can be observed.

4. National Institute of Immunology

The primary function of the institute is scientific research. The institute contains laboratories, study rooms, a library, auditorium, a director's house and lodgings for professors with families, married assistants, and unmarried researchers. Rewal conceived the ensemble as an analog of a traditional town with courts, galleries, level changes and uniform use of materials and colors.

5. French Embassy Staff Quarters

Courtyards and roof terraces form important features of the apartments, enhancing the tightly built living areas. This structure was designed by Raj Rewal to be particularly suitable for the north Indian climate and lifestyle. Larger windows and doors open on to the terraces, which are flanked by high parapets to ensure privacy for the families. Deep-set windows provide protection from the sun. It is a very good example of architecture providing private and public spaces.

6. Parliament Library Building

Symbolically a house of knowledge, the Parliament Library has its site next to the Parliament House in Delhi. The design for the existing Parliament follows the "Beaux-Arts", central line axis planning criteria. It is circular in plan with three axes culminating in a central dome. Courtyards form an important feature of the design vocabulary, keeping in mind Delhi's extreme climate. This design is aesthetically and structurally very beautiful.

Explain the one building for BIOPORT

Location: Sohna, Haryana, India

Setting a precedent for a new genre of typology in India, BioPORT is a state-of-the-art life sciences complex planned for fit-out workspaces for global pharmaceutical, biological and chemical companies. A covered area of 20,500 square metres offers complete flexibility and can be custom-designed by each potential client to meet its specific need. Given the indicated emphasis on its need for financial feasibility and speed of construction, Raj Rewal has planned the layout in a manner so that the design allows flexibility for units to be sold individually or together. The many technical aspects of the programme entail Agri-Biotech, Bioprocessing and Biosafety facilities besides laboratories for Bioreactor and Fermenter, Analytical testing, Genomics and In-silico and Central Molecular Biology, a training complex, Bio-business centre, scientist rooms and other amenities. The architect has based the design on a modular laboratory system with several internal and external lush green courtyards ensuring natural light to all the workspaces. Deriving inspiration from its scope, the organic form fluidly connects radiating arms that segregate various functional aspects while being linked by support modules. The entrance, facing the main road, ensures equal importance to the different proposed facilities for research. All the prominent rooms for the scientists face the non-processing zone, which can be engaged for social or teaching activities. A carefully modulated pattern of fenestrations seeks to accentuate the form's sinuous elegance. Seen as a common thread between his recent projects, Rewal places a major emphasis on the maximum utilisation of renewable sources of energy and sustainable methods such as the incorporation of solar energy, water harvesting and other environment-friendly features into the BioPORT complex. The building mass encloses a central space providing diffused light. While this allows the workspaces at the upper level to overview the atrium and courtyards, it also creates a zone of buildings under cover thereby reducing the air-conditioning load. Photovoltaic panels are planned to be placed on the rooftop to generate power for consumption. Terrace gardens at the roof level work in further reducing the building's energy load.