

Project: Modern High School International

Studio SKLIM

Team: Studio SKLIM

Size: 8000 m²

Location: KOLKATA, INDIA



Feature:

Project - The new Modern High School International in Kolkata, India designed by Singapore-based Studio Sklim features a strategic layout and facade to provide students with a comfortable learning environment despite the city's noisy, polluted context. Two carved "light canyons" and a central "light atrium" punctuate the rectangular building mass, emitting natural light into communal spaces. These voids create a visual connection between staggered discussion areas, inspired by traditional Indian "gurukul" outdoor classes.

The school's International Baccalaureate curriculum called for flexible, open learning spaces. Classrooms surround double-height gathering nooks along winding circulation paths. An entire floor houses the library, with quiet zones for focused study and a glazed facade offering panoramic views. Adjacent is an event space for exhibitions and guest workshops.

Studio Sklim's structural innovations, like post-tensioned beams spanning 14 meters, allowed for column-free southern classrooms. This increased natural light, while cantilevered platforms filter direct sun. The ventilated ceramic facade mitigates heat gain and glare. Sustainable strategies helped the school achieve the Indian Green Building Council's prestigious Platinum rating, a first for West Bengal. Overall, the design facilitates both formal and informal learning through a sensitive response to the urban context.

Design Team - Singapore-based Studio SKLIM is led by principal Kevin Lim and known for its bespoke and experimental spatial design. The award-winning practice works across architecture, interiors, and product design in Asia, crafting sensitive responses to local contexts.

Studio SKLIM embraces design as a collaborative, investigative process, extracting opportunities from environmental and cultural conditions. Their methodology values conceptual clarity, contemporary research, and material experimentation. Simple solutions conjure complex spatial relationships, while constraints breed creativity.

The studio has built an impressive portfolio across residential, commercial, hospitality, retail, and institutional projects. Notable works include high-end interiors in Singapore and the new Modern High School International in Kolkata, India. Studio SKLIM has exhibited globally and received press in major design publications.

Kevin Lim, founder and principal, honed his skills under architectural pioneer William Lim. The firm's core team includes Ashwin Bafna, an associate with experience on Studio SKLIM's India projects. Together, they bring technical excellence and creative problem-solving to bespoke commissions across Asia.