

Patell Batliwala & Associates
(CYRUS SUBAWALLA IS A PARTNER IN THE FIRM)

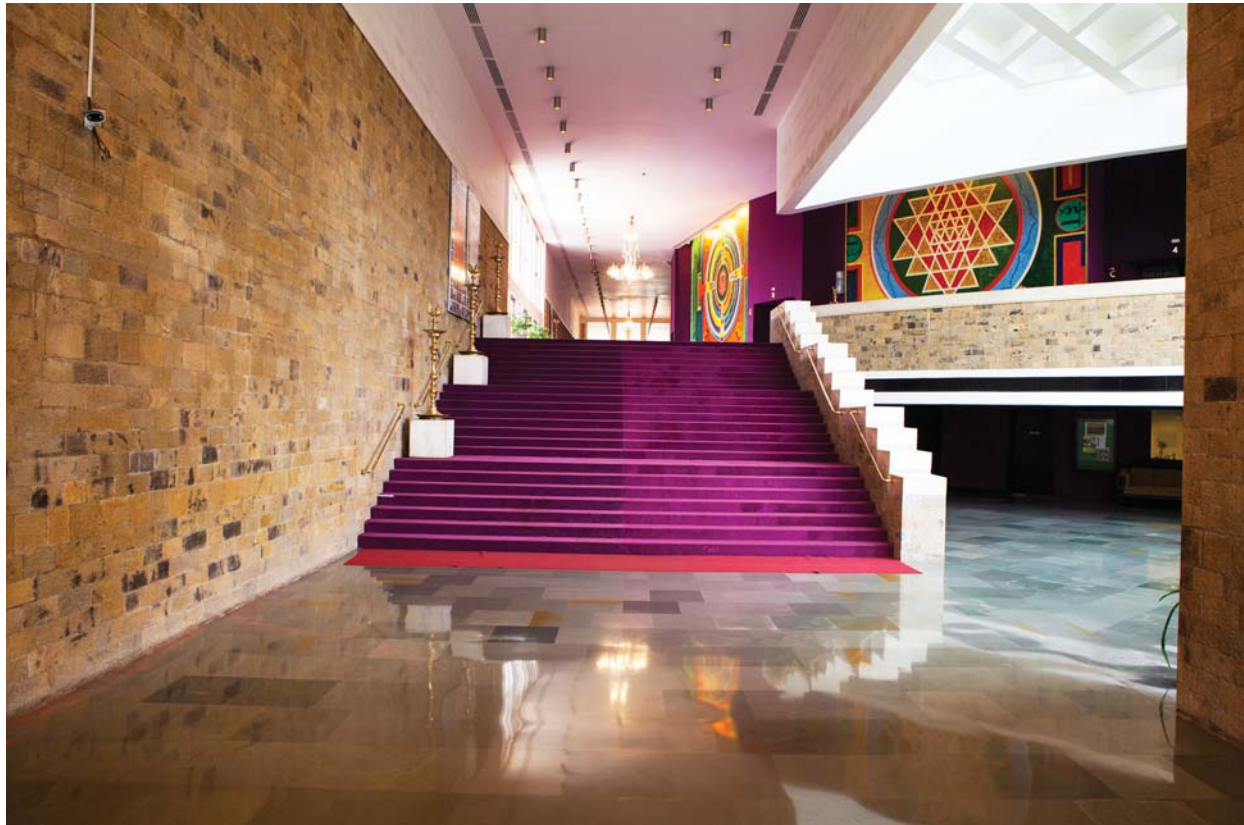
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69A Napeansea Road, Maneesha 1st Floor, Mumbai 400006

Tata Theatre



Building type
Cultural

Location
Mumbai, India

Site Area
N/A

Project Area
Part of NCPA Complex

Client
National Center for Performing Arts

Completion Year
From 1972 till 2007

Context: The National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) was envisioned by the late Dr. Jamshed Bhabha as a bastion to be an upholder of the arts and culture in Mumbai and India. The first, the TATA Theater, though stated to have conceptual influences from Welton Becket and Phillip Johnson was essentially designed, detailed and executed by Rustom Patell, of Patell Batliwala & Associates. Patell a Taliesin fellow and TATA scholar was at that point in time working on numerous projects for the Bhabha family. The facility thereafter grew to have numerous other theaters, including the Jamshed Bhabha Theater and a residential tower on a prime sea front property at lands-end in Nariman Point in Mumbai.

Design Response: The TATA theater did have close coordination with Cyril Harris for acoustic design, which were coordinated and implemented through our firm. The theater essential utilizes a fan shaped approach to the volume and the wall panels and ceiling reveal clear Wrightian influences visible in the work of numer-

Top: Monumental stair entry



Top: View of entry passage and courtyard
Bottom: View of entry



ous of his pupils including RBJ Patell and Nari Gandhi among others. The main stage is somewhat shallow with a particularly lapped and raked ceiling volume akin to the Golden Rondelle forms in Racine Wisconsin. The paneled wall systems become one with the ceiling form de-emphasizing the delineation between the vertical and horizontal planes.

The theater has been host to performances from stellar companies world-wide.

Team
Rustom Patell-Principal Designer

Top: View of interior