

GREEN INITIATIVES AT THE ORCHID GROUP OF HOTEL

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Nothing is waste in nature because nature knows how to reuse and recycled. Ecotels are earth friendly or eco sensitive hotels that feature innovative and imaginative programmes for conserving natural resources, reducing waste, minimizing pollution, and maximizing sustainability (also called "Green Hotels"). Some ecotels consist of recycled or renovated buildings with upgrades to conserve energy and water, minimize waste, incorporate natural landscaping, or utilize recovered building materials. Other properties support local environmental efforts or groups and offer environmental education.

Ecotel Certification follows three 'R's of environmental conservation - reducing, reusing, and recycling. Popular ecotels in India include The Orchid, Mumbai; RODAS, Mumbai; and The Raintree Chennai. Orchid hotel is one of the verticals of Kamat Hotels India limited. Orchid hotel pioneered the ecoteling in India (ecologically sustainable

hotel). Orchid group of hotel has set itself apart from the competitive luxury hotel segment.

In 1986, Kamat Hotels (India) Ltd. became publicly listed company. Kamat Plaza, the first 4 star hotel started by Kamat Hotels (India) Ltd. In September 1995, Kamat Plaza upgraded and reopened as a 5-star hotel, The Orchid and 3 hotels under the Orchid Brand; Mumbai, Pune and Jalandar. Add value by providing eco-friendly and organic food and service is the core competency of Orchid Hotel.

More and more people today are concerned about the environment and making spaces eco friendly. The Orchid hotel has been designed, built and is maintained keeping environment issues in mind. Starting from the construction and design to allow for the play of light and shade, wind and air to the use of water, at The Orchid Hotel, Mumbai take pride in this and invite their guests to also be eco-sensitive.

It is due to the owner Dr. Vithal Kamat, the management and staff for their terrific work. To maintain a strong Environment Program, The Orchid has various initiatives in the areas of

- " Solid Waste Management
- " Energy Efficiency
- " Water Conservation and Preservation
- " Environmental Commitment
- " Employee Environmental Education and Community Involvement

Orchid Hotel - Design and Construction

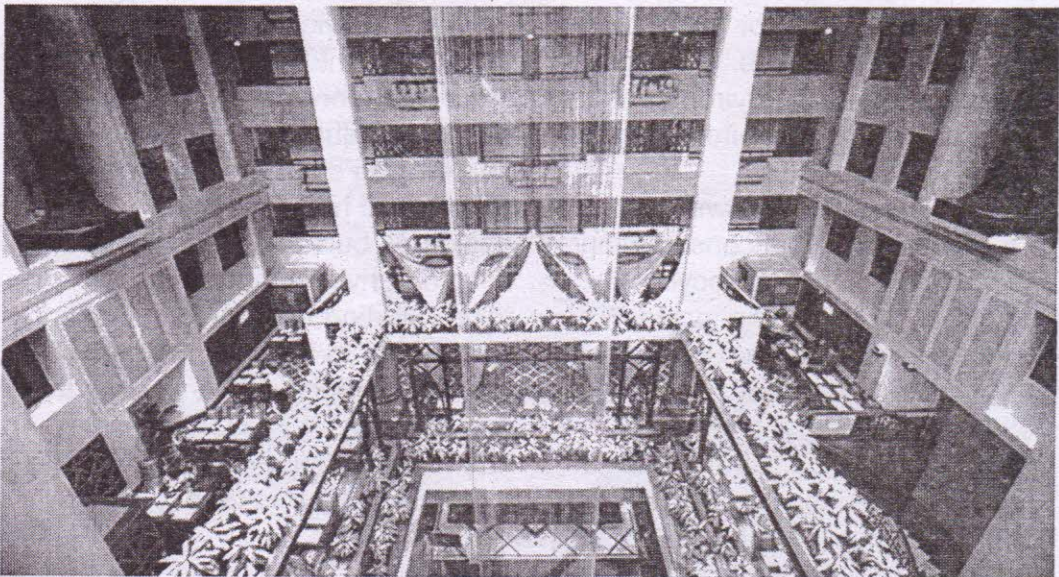
As an ecotel, Orchid has a "Green Building" concept, also known as 'ecologically sustainable building'. The structure should be designed, build, renovated, operated, or reused in an eco-friendly and resource-efficient manner. By promoting resource conservation, "Green Building" design creates

healthy and comfortable environments, reduces operation and maintenance costs, and regulates the environmental impact of the building construction to emphasize waste minimization. In addition, "Green Building" design also addresses such issues as historical preservation and access to public transportation and other community infrastructure system. The entire life-cycle of the building and components is considered, as well as the building's immediate economic and environmental impact and performance.

Energy Conservation and Monitoring at Orchid Hotels -

Major initiatives taken by Orchid Hotels at the time of construction are plan configuration, natural lighting in the atrium, aerators/flow restrictors, rubber wood, compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), air-conditioning etc.

Environmental programs for lower



operational cost, increased revenue and evaluate environmental performance. Training workshops for its employees are regularly organized in Orchid Hotels for creating more responsible working practices towards environment initiative taken by hotel. Each and every member of the hotel's staff is made aware of the organization's concern regarding the consumption of energy. All the department works together to formulate the guidelines for conserving energy in hotel. These guidelines have clearly mentioned the dos and don'ts in order to maintain strict control over the consumption of energy.

Water Conservation and Preservation

With only 3% of the world's water being fresh water, the Orchid Hotels has employed various techniques to preserve this vital resource.

" In bathrooms hotel have installed aerators in taps and special flushes which reduce water consumption by nearly 50% when compared to conventional ones.

" A Sewage Treatment Plant runs 24 hours and 7 days a week to ensure that waste water is treated so that it can be reused for gardening - thereby reducing the consumption of fresh water.

" The Save Our Planet Program encourages our guests to reuse their linen and save water.

Environmental Commitment

" The Orchid proves its sin-

cere commitment to the environment by using potted plants instead of cut flowers and using paper that has at least 25% recycled content.

" Guest Room amenities include herbal toiletries and stationery made from environmentally friendly material.

" Swimming pool water and Drinking Water is treated using Ozone instead of carcinogenic Chlorine.

Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management is an important aspect of environmental responsibility given the amount of waste that is sent to landfills all over the world. Orchid follow the 3R theory - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to manage waste efficiently.

At Orchid hotels solid waste segregation is strictly followed in all the kitchens of the hotel. Four separate colour coded bins are used for storing the separated waste.

" Black Bin- for the wet garbage like food waste

" Green Bin: for Paper waste like newspaper, cardboard cartons, paper napkin etc.

" White Bin: for the Recyclable waste like empty mineral water bottles, tin cans, thick plastic bags, parcel packets, stirrers, soft drink cans/tins, etc.

" Red Bin: Used for non-recyclable garbage like oil packets, soiled aluminium foil, cling wrap etc. The food waste or wet waste is decomposed in the hotel premises. A Vermiculture area has been set

up for converting this food waste into organic manure or 'vermicompost'. This rich and fertile vermicompost is then used as a fertilizer for the gardens.

Guest participation program at Orchid Hotel-

- i. Newspapers are provided to guest in their rooms on request only.
- ii. The Master Control Panel in the Guest rooms is incorporated with an Ecobutton, which when pressed increases the AC temperature of the room by 2 degrees Celsius thus conserving energy.
- iii. Linen reuse program is also a part of it.
- iv. Giving away cards with seeds inside while customer's departure: 60 lakhs trees planted.

Environment-friendly Housekeeping

- i. Linen reuse (laundrying bed linen only once in 2-3 days unless perceptibly soiled). A tent card states the purpose behind the same i. e. water conservation is always placed in guest rooms.
- ii. Employee should immediately report any leaky pipes.
- iii. Employee should switch off the light and fans that are not in use.
- iv. Employee should insure that only correct wattage bulbs are used.
- v. A usage of cold water detergent reduces need for hot water.
- vi. Use of biodegradable and eco friendly chemicals in cleaning

and laundry operations.

- vii. Preventive maintenance of laundry equipments.
- viii. Purchase of linen made from organically grown produce.

Eco-friendly guest supplies and stationery

- i. All guest supplies should be biodegradable.
- ii. For guest stationery the products used should have recycled contained.
- iii. Buy guest products that contain recycled material.
- iv. Provide morning news paper in public areas (in the rooms it should be on request only).
- v. Replace paper hand towels with air dryers in rest room.
- vi. Donate left over guest amenities, mattresses, old furniture and so on to charity.

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