

A CAMPUS WORTHY OF ITS NAME

I was working as a Construction Manager for P & G Dry Laundry Project in the Bin Qasim Area of Karachi when I came to know about the KSBL Project. The Dry Laundry Project was in the completion stages at that time. Being a hard core mechanical engineer my core interest area has always been Operations and Project Management of big manufacturing sites.



I was attracted to KSBL mainly because some of my past colleagues at ICI, including Mr. Shahid Pracha, former CEO of The Dawood Foundation and Karachi Education Initiative, and Mr. Sohail Qureishi, Project General Manager, were also involved in this project.

KSBL was a vision of leading entrepreneurs of Pakistan, spearheaded by Mr. Hussain Dawood, who wanted to make an institution that will create future leaders of the country. It also gave me a chance to contribute and give back to the society that has given me so much.

To add more excitement I was having an opportunity to work with world's leading architects, AEDAS, to design the campus on a 50 acre site.



I was also part of the board meeting, even before I joined, and I was further over awed by the "WOW FACTOR" which was talked about so passionately. The first challenge of the project was to design and built a building that would inspire people and make them say WOW!

The second challenge came when plans changed to build a City Campus (to be constructed by TDF on a land owned by TDF) and commission it prior to Main Campus that will be built later.



It was decided that curriculum calendar would commence in September 2012 whereas we were already in December 2010 when we signed the Architects for KSBL. Here again world renowned US based architectural firm - William McDonough + Partners (WM+P) was engaged to create the design concept of the City Campus with a WOW factor.

This firm is known as a pioneer in the sustainable design movement. Founder William McDonough is a winner of three presidential awards and has been cited in Time magazine as "changing the design of the world". WM+P has designed projects such as the NASA Sustainability Base in California and the American University School of International Service in Washington DC, USA. The local design resource was provided by AMQ Associates who have vast experience in designing educational institutions in Pakistan.

KSBL City Campus is built on 112,000 square feet of constructed area that includes a basement car parking and is designed to accommodate up to 325 students. It comprises of horse-shoe style lecture theatres to facilitate the case study teaching method, seminar rooms, breakout rooms, meeting rooms, cafeteria, a library and a fully equipped auditorium. The campus has been fitted with the latest technology to allow real-time distance teaching.

With target to handover the campus on 31 Aug 2012, the board and the infrastructure committee fully empowered our Project Team and was fully supported by The Dawood Foundation and extra-ordinary and constant support from Mr. Shahid Paracha and Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed Rehman.

In order to save time, the project design and construction was divided into 3 parts – excavation, shell and core structure and finishing. Site clearance was started in January 2011. (With the Primary School running!) Foundation stone ceremony was held on 01 Mar 2011.

The building was divided into certain zones and those zones were completed, finished, furnished and equipped as per the priority allocated to them. This enabled the project to be handed over as per plan on 31 Aug 2012 and the classes to start on 20 Sep 2015. Special shifts of Project staff were made covering the site on 24 hours to facilitate each individual during the holy month of Ramadan. Some of the finishing and external works continued till end Dec 2012 but the School was successfully commissioned as per plan in September 2012.

During the construction phase a number of dignified visitors came to see the site and the work. The highest number of visits were paid by Chairman TDF and KSBL, Mr. Hussain Dawood, whose involvement, passion and appreciation had a major role in timely and qualitative completion of the Project.

Most of the visitors were accompanied by Mr. Chairman, even those who visited in early August 2012, doubted that the work would be completed by end August.

Every time Mr. Chairman referred this question to the Project Team and everyone replied – Yes it will be done. Overcoming all fears, our strongly gelled team moved forward with a message - “COME WHAT MAY WE HAVE TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET”

