

COLLABORATIVE CONSENSUS WITH Design Thinking



In the world of plant engineering, master plan is king and client consensus on the plan is the gateway to project progress. It is at this stage that bottlenecks due to review and iterations impact the cost and schedules. When a client assigned TCE with a project to have all its entities under one umbrella on 82 acres of land, the complexities and challenges were truly out-of-the-box. The proposal meant exclusive facilities, uniquely designed for each company and the wish list from all the business units of the client was indeed mind-boggling. The challenge for TCE as consultants for the project, from concept to commissioning was equally out-of-the-box. First was the unique requirement for individual entities of the client. Second was the terrain of the plot earmarked for the project. TCE had the challenge of planning facilities on undulated terrain with ground rise ranging from 15m to 39 m. The underlying principles for the entire facility were safety, sustainability and scalability within allotted budgets. Arriving at a consensus on the optimum solution required a revolutionary approach and the leadership at the client-side and TCE were quick to acknowledge this.

Design thinking as a way of viewing the problem in its entire dimension and arriving at the optimal solution was the way forward. TCE's technology interventions with terrain mapping applications, walkthroughs and construction simulations served as

the tools for enabling the process. Through the use of technology, TCE presented the feasibility of each of the wish list presented by the business entities. Design thinking workshop I dealt with the master plan requirements. Teams from both the sides brainstormed

"Masterplanning is a very subjective exercise and there is the danger of the end result turning vague. Thus to eliminate subjectivity, we prepared a series of iterations catering to different priorities from TACO BUs. The approach helped in building a consensus amongst the participants in selecting the most appropriate option during the workshop."

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