Rising from the lap of nature, this multi-octagonal pyramidal roof structure is not only a landmark that defines the countryside landscape but is perhaps also a paradigm example in resort architecture. As such the Golden huts resort on the Delhi-Jaipur highway, charms visitors into a gateway of relaxation and tranquility, away from the busy and hectic life of a city. Conceived in the 1980s, the timeless classic beauty of the complex in its serene backdrop still soothes guests in present day context.

With arid-semi desert topography, no contextual site backdrop and indeterminate requirements, Prof. Shah of Creative Group was commissioned with the task of designing the resort, at a time, when re-creational architecture was still emerging in the Indian setting. The initial proposal for a small halt centre, with rest rooms was later subsequently developed into a fully fledged resort having basic facilities of a conference room, banquet hall, fast-food center, restaurant and an exclusive wing of recreational area consisting of swimming pool, tennis/squash court and a small bird sanctuary.

“Bathed in nature, the resort is a green oasis to lure visitors to a gateway of relaxation and entertainment”
Prof. Shah achieved efficiency in planning and flow of movement by creating a unique mesh of octagons and squares. This modular grid geometry with its varied combinations was derived pertaining to the requirement of spaces. Developed on a flat piece of land this modular arrangement of grid was aligned linearly resulting in a harmonious planning growth. The juxtaposition of octagons and squares having varied heights are in coherence with the dimension of various spaces. Suitable to the nature of the project, the architect visualized an expandable geometry of the planned spaces, leaving scope for future expansion. The integration of various stages of requirements into a composite design proved to be a challenging assignment.

The visitors draw an instant visual connect to the appealing skyline of the complex, which is a resultant of the octagonal pyramidal roof structures with square pylons creating a rhythmic perspective. A unique architectural feature, the tapered arch buttresses lend the resort its iconic character and identity. Resulting in visual connectivity it appears as if a stream of lush green merely flows through the resort, blurring the boundaries between nature and structure. Not merely acting as aesthetic element, which also brings down the building to a human scale, the buttresses double up as louvers permitting indirect light to the interiors. Obstructing the harsh sun, these provide glare free lighting in the resort.

The zoning required efficient phased programming and was a gradual progress. The evolution of the design process was conceptualized with the shape of a bird, shaping various spaces. This lead to a distinct classification of spaces, in terms of public, private and exclusive services. The entrance porch symbolizes the beak of the bird, and the recreational area located in the heart of the complex represents its core body. Additionally the spinal area is dictated by public amenities such the conference hall, banquet hall, bar kitchen and canteen, whereas the residential area resembles the two wings of the bird. The two guest room wings consisting of 32 rooms have been designed in a manner to create a private envelope accommodating the pool and health club in between. The swimming pool enclosed between the two residential wings guards the privacy and exclusiveness of the recreational area thus developed. With careful and intelligent segregation of public and private spaces, the residential area overlooks the recreational zone.
The services for the resort are pushed at the rear with a separate service entry. The service block adequately serves the bar-restaurant and the fast-food center from a centralized kitchen. A separate pantry is dedicated for room services in the rooms and conference halls. The pylons with varied heights strategically positioned between the octagons camouflage the air-conditioning units on the first floor. The core wing of the complex is centrally air-conditioned.

An ethnic feel is imbibed to the resort by use of local Haryana slate for external cladding of the façade. Keeping in mind the outdoor facilities of the resort like play area, swimming pool and sports facilities, the landscaping around the resort has been developed merging with the natural surroundings of the area. Mounds and other landscape elements create an organic feel, serving the very purpose of leisure, relaxation and entertainment to the young and old alike. Adequate outdoor sitting in the green lawns develop spaces for social chatter around various recreational activities. With sufficient space for parking, petrol stations and shops the resort becomes a one-stop holiday destination.