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Master of DESIGN

India's
Outstanding
Architects

DOORS &
WINDOWS



PLY &
VINEERS

EDITOR'S NOTE



As we embrace the finale of this year and eagerly step into the promise of the next, the Dec'23-Jan'24 edition of Interiors & Decor Magazine stands as a tribute to the enduring spirit of design innovation. Our cover feature, "Masters of Design," unveils the narratives

of India's eminent architects, shedding light on their profound influence in shaping the architectural panorama. We invite you to immerse yourself in the world of these visionaries, exploring their philosophies and iconic creations that redefine the very essence of spaces we inhabit.

Moreover, our in-depth features on doors & windows and ply & veneers unravel the intricacies and significance of these elements in design. From the structural elegance of doors and windows to the craftsmanship of ply & veneers, each aspect bears testament to the meticulous artistry that forms the core of our interiors. Engage with expert insights, trends, and innovations that beautifully marry functionality with aesthetics, elevating the essence of living spaces.

As we bid good-bye to the passing year and usher in a new one, Interiors & Decor Magazine extends warm wishes for a joyous conclusion to your year and a vibrant start to the coming one. May the tapestry of design, innovation, and creativity continue to enrich your spaces and inspire your journey.

Interiors & Decor Magazine remains committed to serving the best, weaving together the threads of inspiration and expertise, guiding you through the ever-evolving landscape of design excellence. Here's to a year filled with artistic discoveries, unparalleled creativity, and spaces that resonate with your unique stories. Wishing you a splendid end to the year and a spectacular beginning to the New Year!

Happy reading! ■

Readers, Feel free to send in your suggestions and feedback,
We love to hear from you.

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MASTERS OF DESIGN

INDIA'S OUTSTANDING ARCHITECTS

In a world marked by rapid urbanization and an ever-evolving architectural landscape, India has emerged as a hotbed of design innovation and visionary architectural masterpieces. The subcontinent has become a melting pot of architectural styles, from the traditional grandeur of ancient temples to the sleek, modern skyscrapers that grace its major cities. At the heart of this dynamic and creative environment are the outstanding architects who have left an indelible mark on the industry.

Architectural Marvels Across the Country

India's architectural scene is a diverse tapestry, reflecting the nation's rich history, cultural vibrancy, and the need to embrace the future. From the historic brilliance of icons like Le Corbusier to the contemporary genius of B.V. Doshi, the architectural journey in India has been nothing short of exceptional.

Le Corbusier's Chandigarh: A Timeless Modernist Dream

The city of Chandigarh, designed by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, is a testament to modernist principles. With its bold use of concrete and a unique city plan that maximizes green spaces, Chandigarh remains a beacon of urban planning excellence. This architectural masterpiece is a blend of art and function, showcasing how design can shape society and daily life.

Prem Nath and Associates (PNA): Shaping Architectural Excellence for 50+ Years

Established in Bombay in 1967, PNA is a leading design firm renowned for its architectural, interior design, and engineering expertise across diverse projects. Their commitment to eco-friendly designs and membership in the USGBC and IGBC reflect their dedication to sustainability. Under the guidance of CEO Mr. Prem Nath, PNA consistently delivers designs that harmonize aesthetics and functionality.

B.V. Doshi's Ethereal Spaces: Ahmedabad's IIM and Amdavad ni Gufa

Balkrishna Doshi, the first Indian to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize, has profoundly impacted India's architectural landscape. His designs often prioritize sustainability and human-scale living. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Bangalore and Amdavad ni Gufa, an underground art gallery in Ahmedabad, stand as prime examples of his ethereal spaces. These structures seamlessly blend with the environment while offering visitors unique, immersive experiences.



Raj Rewal's Timeless Architecture: The Hallmark of Tradition

Architect Raj Rewal has earned a reputation for designing structures that pay homage to India's rich architectural traditions. The Hall of Nations in New Delhi is a masterpiece of his work, celebrated for its large-span space frame structure and timeless design. Although tragically demolished in 2017, its architectural significance remains a powerful reminder of the blending of modernism and traditional Indian aesthetics.

Karan Grover: Architect, Entrepreneur, Tradition Champion

With over three decades in practice, Karan Grover's firm has completed 800+ projects, winning 75+ awards. His passion for heritage and sustainability is evident in every project. Starting in 1985, their notable works include the Institute for Plasma Research, Tribal Centre in Tejgarh, and Uttarayan Art Centre in Jaspur. His focus on tradition, climate-driven design, and community-responsive environments defines their multidisciplinary approach.

Nimish Patel and Hiren Patel: Redefining Contemporary Indian Architecture

Nimish Patel and Hiren Patel are celebrated architects known for their innovative approach to contemporary Indian architecture. Their projects often emphasize sustainability and the use of natural materials. The Sun Temple in Modhera, a restoration project, and the Dandi Kutir Museum in Gandhinagar exemplify their dedication to preserving heritage and their ingenuity in sustainable design.

The Role of Vernacular Architecture: Laurie Baker and the Earthy Aesthetics

Laurie Baker's architectural journey is a unique one. He was an advocate for sustainable and eco-friendly design. His contributions to vernacular architecture brought forth the idea of creating designs that use local materials and techniques to blend harmoniously with the surroundings. His iconic projects like the Indian Coffee House in Trivandrum and the Hamlet in Alappuzha, Kerala, are examples of how he brought together traditional building practices and modern aesthetics.

Modern Visionaries: Charles Correa's Urban Paradigms

Charles Correa was an iconic architect who reshaped urban India with his vision. His designs often focused on climate, cultural context, and social needs. From the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Ahmedabad to the Kala Academy in Goa, Correa's architecture represents a harmonious fusion of the modern and traditional.

The Legacy of India's Outstanding Architects

The architectural landscape in India stands as a testament to the genius and innovation of these outstanding architects. Their work represents a bridge between the rich traditions of the past and the challenges of the future. Whether it's the concrete jungle of Mumbai, the historical wonders of Delhi, or the serene landscapes of Kerala, India's architects have ensured that their designs leave an indelible mark on the nation.

As the nation continues to evolve, these architects' legacies continue to inspire the next generation of designers, emphasizing the importance of innovation, sustainability, and cultural sensitivity in India's architectural future. The outstanding architects of India are, indeed, the masters of design who have shaped the nation's architectural identity. ■



ROHIN SHER

Rohin Sher
Founder
studioSher

Design Odyssey- Exploring Environmental Sensitivity & Innovation

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Can you share a brief overview of your journey into the field of architecture?

I became a student of architecture about 22 years back and still see myself as one. Although I have many interests, my deepest involvement has been in the field of environmental design; what people like to call sustainable design. Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to be given many opportunities to explore the seemingly unresolvable conflict between today's insatiable modernity and the more frugal & prudent traditional ways.

Could you highlight a few of your most significant design projects? What makes them stand out?

The projects that come to mind right now, are the ones that helped me clarify

my approach. For example, I was an environmental consultant for a Code for Sustainable Homes (UK) certification of a Net Zero Carbon residential project in Chiswick, London, way back in 2011. This project was very ambitious and technologically driven. A few years later, a residential bungalow refurbishment at Kalkaji (2018) turned out to be a highly experimental project that revolved around upcycling and exploring the idea of beauty & imperfection. Recently, I completed the interiors of an apartment in Jagatpura, Ahmedabad (2023) for a family based in Houston. The focus of this project was towards using decades old reclaimed valsad teak in new ways, high customization & incorporation handicrafts. I have really enjoyed being part of these projects.

“Here is a story of an Architect’s exploration that started over two decades ago. It revolves around the fusion of environmental consciousness and contemporary design. The projects become a canvas to experiment, redefine traditions and explore the delicate balance between innovation and timeless aesthetics. This design odyssey navigates the immersive realm of environmental sensitivity and the evolution of design language.”



COVER STORY

Can you walk us through your typical design process from concept to completion?

I like to play with contradictions. Tradition & modernity. Affluence & frugality. It begins with talking to the client, researching, looking for inspiration, sketching, drawing, detailing, talking to the team - and the repeated, cyclic practice of the same. But there is no singular chronological sequence that is followed strictly across projects. While some steps do happen similarly, I look for a different path for each project. In any case, each project has its own set of challenges. In some cases, the needs of the context create the seed of the project. In some cases, a strong context is missing and has to be created. I would like to think of a successful project as an experimental process that ignites & sustains my curiosity and leaves me happy at the end.

What are some of the most challenging obstacles you've faced in your career, and how did you overcome them?

Every person goes through difficult times. The design industry isn't exactly the easiest place to find one's bearing in. I too have had my own set of challenges. The very first one was having to abandon our home in Kashmir in 1990 due to terrorism. And there are so many other challenges that will require a separate discussion. However, what I tell others is - If you really enjoy the everyday grind of it, only then is it worth the effort. It is important to love doing the basics everyday. In this context, my association with teaching as a visiting faculty has helped me stay inspired, become a better designer and a better person.

What current trends do you see shaping the architectural landscape in India?

India has had the history of producing the most incredible examples of architecture. In order for us to flourish the same way once again, we firstly need a better schooling system that produces people that are curious, fearless & tolerant towards uncertainty. We need to first become comfortable in our own shoes and reduce the hero worship. It is one thing to be inspired by the thinking and philosophy of the West. But we should stop expecting them to show us the direction perpetually. We should not blindly borrow solutions that are not meant for our context. We have our own unique problems and unique ways of thinking. As people, we have the



intelligence & versatility to speak multiple languages, to be totally comfortable with the future and the past, with technologies like AI as well as traditional handicrafts.

Hopefully, India will once again become an inspiration for others when it comes to Architecture. I hope to see a day when discussions around architecture become part of schools, offices & cafes across our cities.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers about your journey, your projects, or the state of architecture in India?

As always, there is so much to talk about. Thank you so much. ■

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