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Compact Bathrooms

COVER STORY

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Architecture as an Expression of Democracy

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There's Always a Silver Lining



A lot is happening in the world. And it's not the sour news of strife and downturns as one tends to expect in today's climes. In the recent past India has seen significant developments and changes in laws governing architecture and building.

The feel-good factor is real with reports that the Indian construction industry will reach USD 1.4 Trillion by next year. As plans for logistics parks themselves notch up 6bn, housing is coming centre stage in the government's focus for the next five years.

One major change was the introduction of the National Building Code (NBC) 2022. It really kick-started a domino effect which updated the previous regulations to incorporate modern safety standards, sustainability guidelines, and technological advancements.

By underlining eco-friendly construction practices, encouraging the use of renewable materials and energy-efficient designs the regulatory developments aligned with India's commitment to the Paris Agreement and its goal of reducing carbon emissions.

While that did earn India more than some brownie points at the global high table, a practical implementation is still a work in progress.

Developers and construction companies also need a bit more empathetic treatment and hearing. To simplify and digitize the approval process and hence reduce delays and increase transparency isn't a huge ask. In fact, it's an imperative.

In a way, by streamlining these measures the 'consumer is king' message was also emphasised amply in some ways. Perception wise it did empower consumers and instilled greater confidence in the real estate market. The issue of delayed projects and incomplete constructions has always been a headache for the consumer.

RERA indeed has also been reinforced to enhance transparency and accountability in the real estate sector with amendments introduced last year which mandated stricter timelines for project completion and increased penalties for non-compliance.

As 2024 draws to a close, the construction and building sector in India is indeed projected to grow significantly. Clearly driven by urbanization, infrastructure projects, and government initiatives like the National Infrastructure Pipeline, the projected growth rate of around 7-9% does seem possible for the sector.

Yet, revising and updating zoning laws to allow mixed-use developments on a regular basis is the key to managing urban density and reducing the urban sprawl. Implementing even these two aims in a brisk and focused manner can lead to more sustainable, efficient, and inclusive urban development in India.

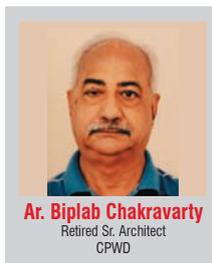
Isn't this what the government is so keen to showcase? ■

Anurag Yadav

The view expressed in the column are of the author, and may or may not be endorsed by the publication.



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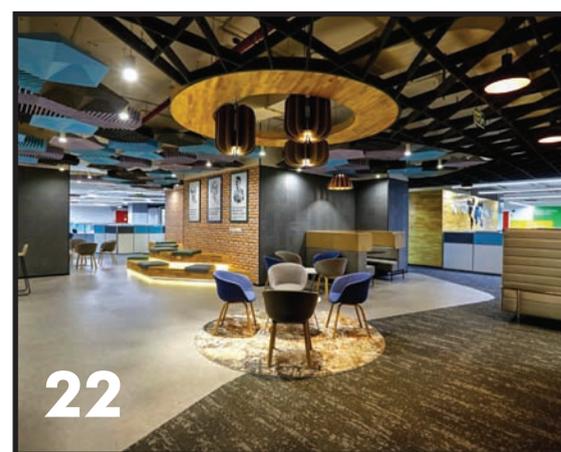


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BBMP seeks public input on proposed 250m Sky Deck Locations in Bengaluru

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) seeks public input on a proposed 250-meter sky deck at Hemmigeppura, one of several potential sites. The Rs 500 crore project, envisioned by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, aims to provide panoramic city views, job opportunities, and economic growth.

The sky deck will feature amenities like food courts and play areas. However, height restrictions near airports limit options. Alternative sites under consideration include Hemmigeppura, Bangalore University's Jnanabharati campus, and Kommaghatta.

"Hemmigeppura's excellent connectivity to major routes and scenic Turahalli forest views make it a favorable location," said BBMP



officials. The public is invited to provide feedback on the proposed location via email (bbmpeepc3@gmail.com) or in-person submission at the BBMP head office. The feedback period is open for

seven days.

Shivakumar's recent visit to New York's Skydeck 'The Edge' hinted at similar architecture and design inspiration for Bengaluru's sky deck. ■

Four Konark wheel replicas installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan and Amrit Udyan

In a landmark initiative, four sandstone replicas of the Konark wheels have been installed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan.

This installation of the 'wheels of life and time' from Odisha's Konark

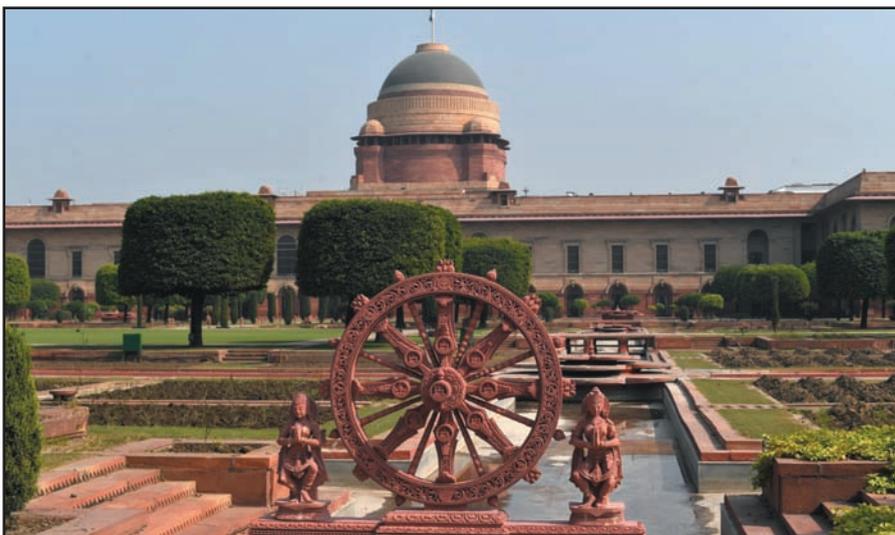
Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, aligns with the government's efforts to weave traditional, cultural, and historical elements into Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Konark Sun Temple is a stunning example of Odia temple architecture, designed as a grand

chariot for the Sun God. The wheels adorning the temple walls symbolize India's rich cultural heritage.

Each of the four replicas features eight wider spokes and eight thinner spokes. The space between two wider spokes represents three hours (180 minutes), while the thinner spoke between them signifies 1.5 hours (90 minutes). Importantly, 30 beads are positioned between each wider and thinner spoke, with each bead traditionally representing three minutes in India's ancient metaphysics.

The design of the Konark wheels indicates that the eight major spokes correspond to the 'prahars,' which divide the 24-hour day. Additionally, the twelve pairs of wheels sculpted on the chariot may symbolize the twelve zodiac signs.

Moreover, the wheels are thought to embody the Dharmachakra of Buddhism, reflecting the essence of the Wheel of Karma and the cosmic law. ■



Credvest Group enters interior design market with AitiInterieurs

Credvest Group has expanded its portfolio by launching AitiInterieurs, a premium interior design service. This strategic move leverages Credvest's experience in partnering with leading developers and aligns with its growth trajectory. AitiInterieurs aims to provide innovative, high-quality design solutions tailored to homeowners' evolving desires.

AitiInterieurs blends nature-inspired aesthetics with global sophistication, creating functional and stylish spaces. After a year of research

and development, Aiti makes previously inaccessible global designs available to a broader audience. Rajiv John, CEO and Co-Founder, AitiInterieurs, emphasized, "Great design should be accessible to all." Suman Naidu, Chairman, Credvest Group, added, "Aiti enables developers to offer international-standard living experiences to homebuyers."

AitiInterieurs will launch its Immersive Experience Centre in Indiranagar, Bangalore, showcasing its unique design approach. This



Image courtesy: business-standard.com

expansion marks a significant milestone in Credvest Group's growth, following its success in real estate, hospitality, and proptech. With AitiInterieurs, Credvest Group reinforces its commitment to excellence and innovation. ■

Floorzap joins Teamfront: Enhancing flooring and remodeling business

Teamfront, a strategic partner for founder-owned field services software companies, has acquired Floorzap, a leading provider of business management software for the flooring and remodeling industries. This acquisition strengthens Teamfront's commitment to innovative software solutions for field services. Floorzap's comprehensive suite streamlines flooring business management, from lead management to payment processing.

Cameron Darby, CEO, Teamfront,

stated, "Floorzap's extensive knowledge of the flooring and remodeling industries and commitment to operational efficiency make them a perfect fit." Mike Saleh, founder of Floorzap, added, "This acquisition provides Floorzap with resources and strategic support to continue helping flooring and remodeling businesses work smarter and grow faster, more profitably."

The acquisition marks a significant milestone for Teamfront, expanding its portfolio of vertical software



companies. Teamfront's solutions automate back-office tasks, optimize payments, drive growth through marketing, and boost loyalty through customer communications. As a trusted partner, Teamfront supports operational efficiency and growth for bootstrapped, founder-owned companies. ■



Noida has become a top choice for real estate investment in India, driven by rapid development and strategic urban planning. As part of the National Capital Region (NCR), the city has witnessed significant infrastructural improvements, attracting both

Noida Emerges as a Hub for Ultra-Luxury Real Estate Developments

developers and investors. Key factors fueling this growth include enhanced connectivity, robust urban design, and government-backed incentives.

One of Noida's greatest assets is its connectivity. With seamless access to Delhi, Gurgaon, and other NCR cities, expanding metro lines, and proximity to the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar, the city provides unmatched convenience for businesses and residents alike. Major highways, including the Noida-Greater

Noida Expressway and the Yamuna Expressway, further add to its logistical advantage.

CRC Group, a leading real estate developer in India, has introduced its latest project, CRC Maesta—a high-end residential development in Central Noida with an investment of Rs. 525 crores. Designed by renowned architect Hafeez Contractor, CRC Maesta combines luxury with eco-friendly design, setting a new standard for upscale living in the NCR region. ■

Antica Ceramica unveils the Flute Collection

Antica Ceramica recently unveiled the Flute Collection, blending classic design with modern innovation. Inspired by ancient Roman and Greek architecture's fluted columns. This collection reimagines ceramic tiles with a distinct ribbed texture, creating an interplay of light and shadow that adds depth to any space. Suitable for residential and commercial interiors,



these versatile tiles offer architects, designers, and homeowners a bold statement piece. The Flute Collection's elegance and practicality cater to modern design sensibilities, boasting timeless appeal. Homeowners can achieve refined understatement with feature walls in living rooms, bedrooms, or entryways, where

vertical grooves create an expansive feel. In bathrooms, fluted tiles evoke serenity, while in kitchens, they provide striking contrast to smooth countertops. Around fireplaces, textured surfaces beautifully capture light. Commercial spaces benefit from the collection's personality-infusing capabilities. To maximize impact, Antica Ceramica suggests strategic lighting, pairing textured tiles with smooth surfaces, and coordinating colours for seamless integration or bold focal points. Available in various colours, sizes, and finishes, the 600 x 1200 mm, 10 mm thick tiles ensure easy installation. Non-slip textures enhance safety in moisture-prone areas, combining aesthetics with functionality.

Humanscale launches India's first Ergonomic Furniture Collection for short-duration work

Humanscale recently launched Ergonomic Furniture Collection for short-duration work in India. This innovative collection, designed for offices, homes, labs, and industrial settings, supports Humanscale's mission to promote an 'Ergonomic' India. The series features the Active Pony Stool and Float Mini Sit/Stand desk, transforming neglected workspaces into comfortable, productive environments. Ideal for compact spaces, these products provide ergonomic support for various activities, functioning well individually or in tandem. Available in India through S Cube Ergonomics Private Limited, these products offer



flexibility, comfort, and personalized solutions adapting seamlessly to diverse workspaces. The Active Pony Stool builds upon Humanscale's award-winning Saddle/Pony line, allowing 360-degree rotation and 7-degree tilt, ensuring sitters maintain healthy positions. Its triangular cushion encourages a "saddle" posture, reducing pressure points for long-term comfort. The Float Mini Sit/Stand desk features a compact, cantilevered work surface and single-leg frame, occupying minimal floor space, with optional casters for effortless movement. This sit-stand table promotes movement, essential for long-term health, allowing users to switch between sitting and standing effortlessly, utilizing a non-powered pneumatic cylinder for a gliding motion.

GRAFF India launches Diwali collection of faucets and fittings

GRAFF India unveiled Festive Collection for Diwali, blending timeless artistry with advanced engineering. Drawing inspiration from nature, architecture, and art deco, this stunning range features precision-crafted faucets and fittings in premium finishes, including 24K gold, Vintage Brushed Brass, Gunmetal, and Polished Chrome. Seamlessly fusing form and function, the collection transforms kitchens and bathrooms into luxurious sanctuaries. Notable features include sustainable technologies like LED lighting systems that change color with water temperature and eco-friendly brass materials. The collection boasts over 65,000 personalization possibilities, including customizable inserts like Tuscan marble and Forest Green Marble. With its focus on sustainability, craftsmanship, and innovation, GRAFF India's Diwali collection elevates living spaces with timeless elegance and festive spirit, capturing the essence of luxury and celebration. By integrating advanced engineering and premium materials, GRAFF India creates sophisticated, high-performance faucets and shower systems perfect for the festive season.



Festive Bathroom Makeover: Elevate Your Space with Style, Functionality and Seasonal Charm

By **Bhairavi Rangarajan**, Head - Digital Marketing, Branding and MarComm at Kohler India

Designing your bathroom ahead of the festive season adds an extra layer of excitement, allowing you to create a space that feels both luxurious and welcoming for you and your guests. This time of year, is all about celebration, and your bathroom can reflect that with subtle touches of elegance and charm. Here's how to incorporate festive elements into the six essential components of your



1. Stylish Bathroom Vanity

For the festive season, opt for vanity finishes that bring warmth and richness to the space, such as wood or marble with brass or gold accents. Consider decorative hardware or adding festive-themed accessories like elegant trays, scented candles, or seasonal greenery to make your vanity an inviting focal point.

not only functional but can add a warm glow perfect for the season. Integrated LED lights offer a soft, welcoming ambiance, while mirrors with smart tech, like adjustable brightness, allow you to create the perfect mood for festive gatherings. One standout is Kohler's Ming Mirror, which combines elegant design with cutting-edge technology. The Ming Mirror features adjustable LED lighting, allowing you to shift between warm and cool

tones to suit any occasion. Its sleek frame and minimalist aesthetic make it a statement piece, while the smart features enhance functionality—ideal for creating a festive, inviting atmosphere in your home or quiet moments of relaxation.

2. Highly Functional Mirror

A mirror with built-in lighting is not

3. Innovative Wash Basin

Festive design is all about timeless elegance, and a stunning wash basin can truly elevate your bathroom. Opt for



Bhairavi Rangarajan is a seasoned digital marketer passionate about customer-centric strategies. With expertise in digital transformation, creative storytelling, and UI/UX, she drives innovative marketing campaigns and customer experiences, constantly adapting to best practices and emerging technologies.





the ModernLife Edge basin in Peacock from Colours by Kohler—a bold statement piece that adds a touch of luxury and festivity to your space. Pair it with the elegant decor for a festive-ready look. Enhance the ambiance with a vase of fresh flowers or festive-themed soap dispensers to bring in the seasonal touch, creating a refined and welcoming atmosphere perfect for your festive gatherings.

4. Eye-Catching Faucet

During the festive season, faucets with polished finishes in gold, copper, or matte black can add a celebratory touch to your bathroom. You can even go bold by selecting a faucet that complements



the overall décor with intricate designs or sleek minimalism, ensuring your bathroom sparkles during the festivities. For a truly standout look, consider the Vive Tall Single Handle Bathroom Sink Faucet in stunning rose gold for not only enhancing the aesthetics of your bathroom but also adds a touch of opulence.

5. A Must-Have Shower or Bathtub

For the ultimate indulgence, enhance your shower or bathtub with festive-themed décor. Think about adding plush towels in rich, festive colors like deep red, emerald, or gold. If you're updating your space, a rain showerhead or a freestanding bathtub adds a luxurious,

spa-like feel—perfect for unwinding after a day of celebrations.

6. Selecting the Perfect Toilet

Even your toilet can get a festive upgrade. Choose a modern design with smart features for added convenience. Consider adding festive accents like a patterned toilet seat cover or luxurious bathroom rugs in rich, seasonal hues, giving the space an elevated feel in line with the festive spirit.

By blending practicality with a touch of festive flair, you can create a bathroom that feels luxurious and inviting, making it the perfect sanctuary during this celebratory season. ■



Chennai-based architect Ponni M. Concessao has made history as India's first woman to design a State Secretariat. The B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, an impressive ten lakh square feet, surpasses the height of the Outub Minar and Taj Mahal, blending modern facilities with stunning design.



Architecture as an Expression of Democracy

Three years ago, CM K Chandrashekar Rao invited designs for the new State Secretariat. Ponni and Oscar G Concessao's selected design overcame pandemic challenges, completing the project in just twenty-six months.

Ponni's design for the State Secretariat reflects Telangana's grandeur and aspirations, blending Eastern and Western architectural traditions to honor Hyderabad heritage. Awarded the Green Gold rating, it features locally sourced materials and cutting-edge sustainable solutions.

The Planning concept for the New Telangana State





Ar. Ponni M. Concessao
Principal Architect & Founder,
Ponni & Oscar + Rahul Architects,
Chennai



Secretariat designed by Architects Ponni, Oscar, Rahul is based on Vaastu and contextual architecture. Architecture as an expression of democracy reflecting the aspirations of the people and history of Telangana was the basis of the design philosophy of the building. It is vital for the state's population to have an emotional connect with the building and this was successfully implemented.

The Telangana Secretariat symbolizes pride and showcases the state's rich heritage and dynamic future.



Its design blends diverse cultural influences, drawing inspiration from local temples and palaces, including the Neelakanteshwara and Ramappa temples. The twin column facade reflects the Telangana Thalli from the state emblem, while the flooring motifs echo the UNESCO-listed Ramappa temple, embodying Telangana's architectural legacy.

The Secretariat features a striking facade with red sandstone cladding on the podium and beige Dholpur sandstone on the central tower, adorned with ornate arches. The design includes fluted columns, classical balustrades, and energy-efficient double-glazed windows. The grand entrance showcases an intricately carved door. Interiors blend Indian and French neo-classical styles with elegant finishes, acoustic paneling, and advanced audio-visual systems.

Exterior and Interior Materials

The Secretariat features a striking facade with red sandstone cladding on the podium and beige Dholpur sandstone on the central tower, adorned with ornate arches. The design includes fluted columns, classical balustrades, and energy-efficient double-glazed windows. The grand entry staircase combines Dholpur beige and Agra red sandstones, enhancing the building's elegance and sustainability.

The Main Grand Entry

The Telangana Secretariat combines Hindu heritage architecture with modern sustainability practices, featuring green-rated electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and HVAC systems. Its design promotes gender and social equity, including equal toilets for men and women, a crèche, and places of worship. Notably, it boasts thirty-four



domes, a bronze Ashoka capital, bullet-proof windows, and impressive amenities like lounges, a sky lounge, and extensive conference facilities. The grand entry door, the “Bahubali Mahadwara,” stands twenty-four feet tall.

Efficient Circulation & Accessibility

The main entry is located towards the East side and a separate entrance for the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister’s floor is on the sixth floor and it has been designed for Vaasthu compliance for Chief Minister’s Chambers, Cabinet meeting hall, Chief Secretary, Advisors, Personal Secretaries, Support staff, VIP waiting areas and a separate secured entry and drop off for the Chief Minister

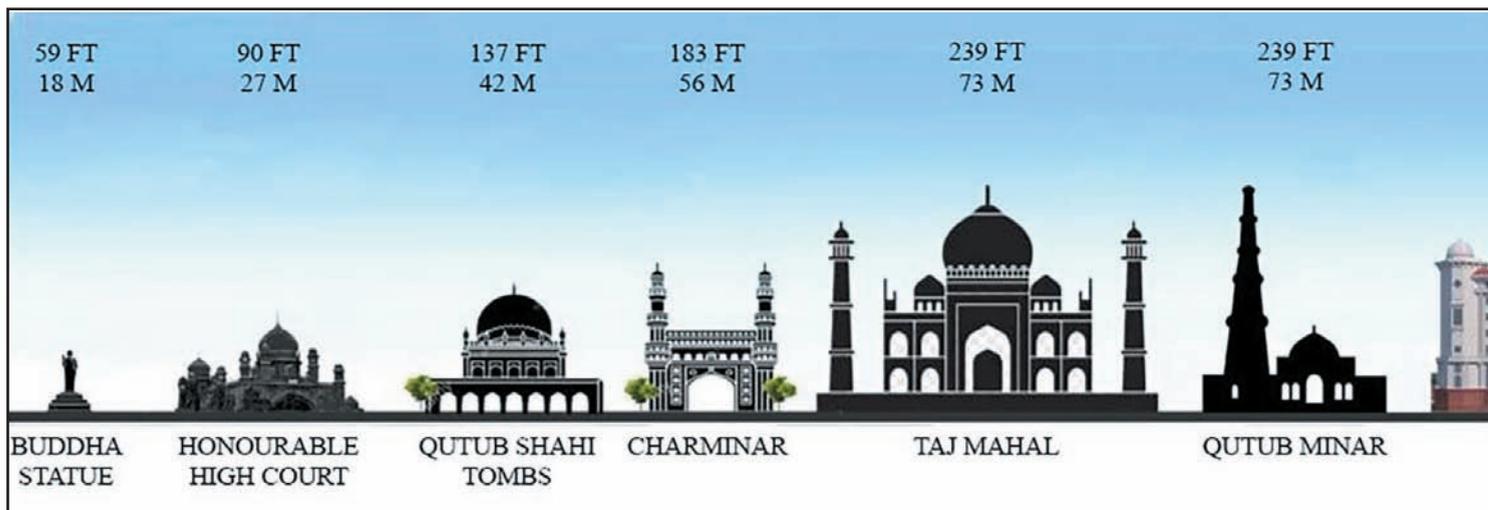
Interior View of Chief Minister’s Conference Room

The remaining floors have been planned for Ministers Chambers, various departments, support staff, conference rooms and General Administrative department. The lower floors accommodate large meeting halls, archives, VVIP’s,

Dignitaries waiting, large reception, VIP waiting areas, police surveillances, Intelligent Building Management Systems (IBMS) Record rooms, stores etc.

Floor Plan Zoning of Telangana State Secretariat

The organization of function, sequences and space within the spaces are connected through twelve feet wide corridors. The upper floors accommodate the Banquet Hall, Dining hall, Ceremonial Hall and the Sky Lounge which is situated below the two large domes from where we can get a three sixty-degree beautiful panoramic view of the Hyderabad City. The Telangana State Secretariat has a total of thirty-four domes, which is a symphony of domes and a photographer’s delight. The courtyard in the building is great booster for the flow of natural air and ventilation. The services such as stairs, CM lifts, Minister Lifts, visitor lifts, Fire lifts and physically challenged ramps are easily accessible from stairs and service ramps.





Corridor View of Telangana State Secretariat

The scale and proportion of the building gives feel of monumentality and classical symmetry. The pillars and facade pilasters are tastefully decorated and ornamented. The distribution of entrances, cores, service cores and toilet are designed as per Vaasthu Shastra. Alongside design for all lifts, fire staircases, utility rooms have been planned.

IGBC Gold Rating

The Telangana Secretariat features advanced smart systems, including energy-efficient lighting and cutting-edge security technology. Architect Ponni M Concessao's design emphasizes contextual architecture, blending local culture and traditions. Her innovative approach and leadership mark a historic achievement in Indian architecture. The Secretariat stands as a testament to her talent, inspiring future generations in the field. ■



Fact File

Project Name	:	The Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, Hyderabad
Location	:	Hyderabad
Plot Area	:	28 Acres
Built up area	:	12 lakhs sq.ft
Project Completion	:	April 2023
Architects	:	Ponni, Oscar, Rahul Architects
Name of the Firm	:	OCI Architects, Chennai

‘Our design philosophy prioritises energy-efficient production methods to minimise our carbon footprint during manufacturing’



We prioritise designing products that enhance functionality while promoting wellness and aesthetic appeal, turning bathrooms into personal sanctuaries, says **Tirthankar Sarkar, Sr. Country Manager, VitrA Bathrooms India**, in a conversation with **Prasenjit Chakraborty**.

Q How is the market for bathroom fixtures and accessories evolving in India?

The bathroom fixtures and accessories market in India is evolving rapidly, driven by increasing urbanisation, rising disposable incomes, and a growing preference for modern and sustainable designs. Consumers are now looking for products that not only enhance functionality but also elevate the aesthetics of their bathrooms, turning them into personal sanctuaries. We have noticed a significant shift towards wellness-oriented designs, where technology, innovation, and sustainability play a key role. Products like our Quantum Flush and 100% Recyclable Washbasin are prime examples of how we are catering to this demand for eco-friendly and innovative solutions.

The rise of premium and luxury segments in India has created a growing interest in high-quality, customisable bathroom solutions. VitrA's collections are designed to offer a seamless blend of contemporary design and superior

functionality, making us well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of Indian consumers.

Q What are the major challenges currently facing the bathroom fixtures market in India?

The bathroom fixtures market in India faces several challenges, despite its steady growth. One of the major challenges is the increasing competition in both the organised and unorganised sectors. The presence of numerous local players offering products at lower price points makes it difficult for premium brands to differentiate based solely on quality and innovation. At VitrA India, we address this by focusing on delivering unique, design-driven, and sustainable solutions that add value beyond pricing.

Consumer awareness of water-efficient and eco-friendly products is still developing, requiring us to consistently educate the market on the benefits of choosing sustainable bathroom solutions, like our Quantum Flush technology, to overcome this barrier.

Q What is the unique selling proposition (USP) of your brand in this competitive landscape?

Our unique selling proposition (USP) lies in our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and exceptional design in the bathroom fixtures segment. We prioritise creating products that not only enhance functionality but also promote wellness and aesthetic appeal, transforming bathrooms into personal sanctuaries. Our advanced technologies, such as the Quantum Flush and 100% Recyclable washbasins, set us apart by addressing the growing demand for sustainable and water-efficient solutions.

VitrA's diverse range of collections, designed by renowned international designers, allows us to offer customised solutions that cater to varying tastes and preferences. We emphasize quality and durability, ensuring that our products stand the test of time while delivering exceptional performance. This combination of innovative design, sustainability, and a focus on customer experience positions VitrA India as a leader in the bathroom fixtures market, enabling us to meet the evolving needs of modern consumers.

Q Can you share any upcoming product launches that your brand is planning?

At VitrA India, we are proud to highlight our recently launched products that exemplify our commitment to sustainability and exceptional craftsmanship. One of our standout offerings is the 100% Recyclable washbasin, which is crafted from eco-friendly materials that can be fully recycled at the end of their lifecycle. This product not only meets the increasing demand for sustainable bathroom solutions but also reflects our dedication to minimising environmental impact.

We are thrilled to introduce the Tom Dixon Liquid Collection, a striking collaboration that brings together contemporary aesthetics with superior craftsmanship. This collection features unique pieces that combine functionality with artistic expression, enhancing the visual appeal of modern bathrooms. The innovative materials and visionary

design of the Liquid Collection make it a perfect choice for consumers looking to elevate their bathroom spaces.

Both of these product lines reinforce Vitra's position as a leader in the bathroom fixtures market, showcasing our focus on sustainability and sophisticated design.

Q In what ways does sustainability influence the design and production of your current bathroom fixture products?

At Vitra India, sustainability profoundly influences the design and production of our bathroom fixture products, including our faucets, in several key ways. Firstly, we prioritise eco-friendly materials in our manufacturing processes. Our products, such as the 100% Recyclable washbasin, are made from materials that can be fully recycled, significantly reducing waste and environmental impact. This commitment ensures that our fixtures not only meet consumer demands for sustainability but also contribute positively to the planet.

In our faucet designs, we incorporate advanced water-saving technologies that optimise water usage without compromising performance. Many of our faucet models are equipped with aerators that limit water flow while maintaining optimal pressure, helping consumers reduce their water consumption. This is particularly important in a country like India, where water scarcity is an increasing concern. By providing efficient solutions, we empower our customers to make sustainable choices in their daily lives.

Our design philosophy emphasises energy-efficient production methods, aiming to minimise our carbon footprint throughout the manufacturing process. This includes using renewable energy sources where possible and implementing efficient waste management practices, ensuring that our faucets and other products are manufactured responsibly.

Ultimately, Vitra's dedication to sustainability drives us to create products that enhance the functionality and aesthetic appeal of bathrooms while reflecting our responsibility toward the environment and future generations. By

integrating sustainable practices into our faucet designs and overall product range, we aim to set a benchmark for environmentally friendly bathroom fixtures in the industry.

Q What is your industry outlook for the bathroom fixtures market in India for the coming year?

The outlook for the bathroom fixtures market in India for the coming year is optimistic, driven by several key factors. As urbanisation continues to rise, there is a growing demand for modern and aesthetically appealing bathroom solutions that cater to the evolving lifestyles of consumers. This trend is further supported by the increase in disposable incomes, which enables consumers to invest in high-quality, stylish bathroom fixtures.

Sustainability is also becoming a significant driver in the market. With a heightened awareness of environmental issues, consumers are increasingly seeking eco-friendly products that promote water conservation and minimise environmental impact. At Vitra India, we are well-positioned to meet this demand with our product offerings, including our 100% Recyclable washbasin and water-saving faucets.

The trend toward smart homes and integrated technologies is gaining momentum, with consumers looking for bathroom fixtures that offer convenience and enhanced functionality. Our V Care series exemplifies this shift, incorporating advanced technology for better hygiene and user experience. This series not only features touchless controls but also integrates smart features that elevate the overall bathroom experience, appealing to the tech-savvy consumer.

As we look ahead, we anticipate a continued shift towards premium and luxury products, as more homeowners seek to create personalised and high-end bathroom experiences. Overall, the combination of urban growth, sustainability concerns, and the demand for advanced features creates a favourable environment for growth in the bathroom fixtures market, and Vitra India is excited to lead the charge our cutting-edge and eco-friendly product offerings.



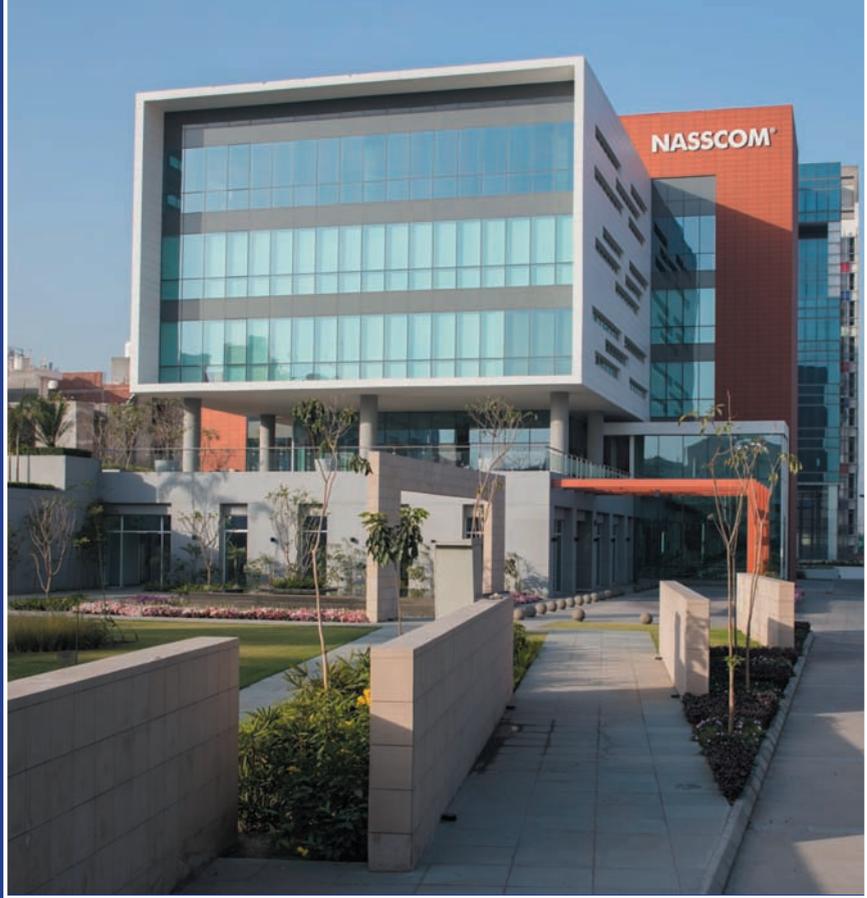
Q What are your future business plans for expanding your brand presence in India?

Vitra India is committed to strengthening its brand presence and enhancing customer relationships to solidify our position as a leader in the bathroom fixtures market. We plan to open new experience centers in major metro cities, offering customers hands-on opportunities to explore our innovative and sustainable product range. This immersive approach allows us to showcase our commitment to quality while addressing consumer needs.

Our customer-centric strategy prioritizes exceptional service and support, ensuring tailored solutions for a better bathroom experience. We are ramping up marketing efforts through targeted campaigns and collaborations with influencers to increase brand visibility.

We will continue to drive innovation by introducing cutting-edge, eco-friendly designs that meet evolving consumer demands. By leveraging technology for seamless online and offline experiences, we aim to foster a robust brand identity and sustain growth, reinforcing Vitra India's leadership position in the competitive bathroom fixtures market. ■

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Pioneering Modernism and Sustainability: Ar. Sohrab Dalal's Vision for Transformative Spaces

Prasenjit Chakraborty | Mumbai

Ar. Sohrab Dalal, co-founder and Design Partner at DPA, has played a pivotal role in the firm's growth since its inception in 1985. With over 35 years of experience, he leads business development and design strategy alongside his partner, Sonali Bhagwati, with a focus on innovative, research-driven design solutions. Sohrab holds a Bachelor's in Architecture from CEPT, Ahmedabad, and has worked with prominent firms like Spazio Design, Meldrum Burrows & Partners, and Satish Gujral. His design philosophy, influenced by his education and icons like BV Doshi and Louis Kahn, integrates sustainability, functionality, and artistic expression. Under his leadership, DPA has delivered iconic projects such as the Taj Vivanta in Bangalore and Thapar University's Learning Laboratory, both internationally recognized for their excellence. Today, DPA stands as a leading design firm with a diverse portfolio spanning residential, hospitality, retail, and mixed-use developments.

Inspiration and Vision

Sohrab Dalal, a visionary architect and co-founder of DPA (Design Plus Architecture), has been instrumental in shaping the firm's legacy over three decades. Renowned for his innovative, research-driven approach, he continues to pioneer designs that seamlessly blend modernism with environmental responsibility, crafting spaces that are both inspiring and enduring.

CEPT in the 80s was the architectural mecca of India. Being there under the guidance of stalwarts such as BV Doshi, Anant Raje, Leo Peirera and KB Jain shaped his architectural perception and philosophy. He learnt the principles of architecture through the ages and finally the evolution of modernism through various schools of thoughts.

A simultaneous learning of the arts and its relation to the various architectural movements made him understand the close relationship between the two.

This reaffirmed the fact that Architecture is the mother of all Arts and its sound knowledge forms the basis for several allied fields such as Interior architecture, graphic design, architectural photography and lighting design.

Design Process

Ar. Sohrab strongly believes that design starts with understanding the client, the geography, the climatic conditions and the socio-economic situation.

Developing a space plan (2 dimensional) that works in conjunction with these factors is the first step which is quickly followed by exploration of forms (the third dimension). The process often requires a back and forth before a satisfactory



Awards

SIA Awards (2010) – Vivanta by Taj, Bangalore
LEAF Awards (2012) – Vivanta by Taj, Bangalore
IndeXcellence Awards – Excellence in Architecture
Building of the Year9 (2021) – Thapar University
PLAN Magazine 'Building of the Year' (2021) – Learning Lab at Thapar University

solution emerges. Coming together of these two dimensions is the crux of interesting design.

The space plan ensures that all spatial requirements are met and relationships between various spaces are understood and maintained, while the form explores various dimensions of architecture.

And finally, it's the details that eventually make or break a building. Good detailing is as important as good design. This was a lesson taught by Prof. Anant Raje who was a follower of Louis Kahn.

Challenges and Triumphs

According to him, every project is challenging in its own way. The dynamics of every project is unique, this is because of...

- The human element – the end user
- The project managers or their absence
- The geographical location and climactic factors
- Socio cultural factors
- The execution and other industry partners

There are learnings from each project due to its diverse nature and thus each project contributes to the learning curve which is a continuous process.

Sustainability and Innovation

For Ar. Sohrab, sustainability is no longer a subject that warrants a discussion. It is a part and parcel of the design process. In fact, it is a part of our life. From space planning to the evolution of form, all design is governed by principles of passive sustainability. The strong and elemental architecture of CEPT was their first lesson in the principles of sustainability. From north light to deep balconies on south side, optimal use of light and reduction of heat gain became ingrained in our thought process.

If the design incorporates passive measures for energy conservation, it becomes extremely easy to integrate the active measures.

Adobe HQ done by them (DPA) more than 25 years ago remains an example of sustainable yet innovative design. The building consists of 2 wings of 25m by 50m joined by a central core which resulted in an extremely efficient space plan.

A north south orientation with a glass façade on the north side and punched windows on the south side defined passive energy conservation.

The façade was a severe monochrome which was punctuated by waves in pixelated primary colours. This defined innovation as it became the identity of Adobe.

Future of Architecture

The next decade must focus on cities and communities. While efforts are being made to design sustainable, human-centered developments, these are often confined to small land parcels. The majority of public spaces, however, remain neglected, lacking proper planning, design, and, crucially, governance. There is a need to better understand the dynamics of communities and to create practical solutions. The role of authorities is to facilitate this process. ■

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Marketing is an ever-evolving field, and staying relevant requires continuous curiosity and adaptability. I keep myself informed by engaging with industry peers, tracking emerging trends, and embracing fresh ideas said **Minal Somany, Brand Custodian, Somany Ceramics**, in a conversation with **Prasenjit Chakraborty**.



‘Our strategy centres on enhancing customer experience through digital innovation, immersive showrooms, and personalised design support’

Q How has your vision for aligning Somany Ceramics’ marketing initiatives with overall business goals evolved, and what specific strategies have you implemented to achieve this alignment?

Marketing isn’t just about promoting products, it’s about truly connecting with our customers and understanding what they value. We’ve focussed towards a more customer-centric approach, where we don’t just sell tiles or ceramics — we sell an experience, a lifestyle.

Our customer experiences strategy balances in-store engagement with a strong digital presence, blending innovation and tactile appeal to offer memorable experiences. We have currently 20 company showrooms and over 500 expansive franchised showrooms across India. Our showrooms offer immersive experience through full-size mock-ups, helping customers visualize tile placements in different settings. This tactile, sensory approach allows customers to experience the look and feel of tiles before purchase.



Q Can you share the impact of the 'Zameen Se Judey' campaign featuring Salman Khan on brand perception and customer engagement? What key messages do you believe resonate most with your audience?

The 'Zameen Se Judey' campaign has been incredibly special. With Superstar Salman Khan on board, we wanted to convey a sense of connection to one's roots — something that feels familiar and heartwarming. It's this authenticity that resonated most with our audience. The campaign wasn't merely about brand promotion. In fact, it was about celebrating the deep, often emotional relationship people have with their homes. This connection has definitely enhanced how our customers see and engage with us.

Q With your focus on technology and innovation, how has the introduction of tools like the 3D tile visualizer and augmented reality interfaces transformed the customer experience at Somany Ceramics?

We are going to start a new application very soon through which customers will be able to visualize tile application online. It will allow customers to experiment with various tiles in their own room setups digitally, alongside they will also have concept rooms and panoramic viewing opportunity to help explore combinations and styles suited to their preferences and requirements. We at Somany combine both online chat support and in-store expert consultations, so customers can receive guidance from design experts at any point in their buying journey. We also conduct design workshops



to educate customers specially IHB's (independent home builders) about tile care, design trends, and installation tips, enhancing the value of their purchase experience.

Our strategy is focussed on driving Customer Experience with New Digital Innovations, Immersive Showrooms, and Personalized Design Support.

Q The marketing landscape is constantly changing. How do you stay ahead of new trends in both traditional and digital marketing, and how does Somany Ceramics incorporate these trends into its strategy?

At Somany Ceramics, storytelling is at the heart of our brand journey. We believe every tile is more than a product; it's a narrative waiting to be woven into customers' lives. Our recent launch, the Colorato Collection, is a testament to this ethos. This exclusive series of eight vibrant, chromatically distinct tiles draws inspiration from the timeless allure of India's iconic historical monuments. Each shade is curated to evoke the legacy, beauty, and cultural essence of these landmarks, turning spaces into living canvases that resonate with heritage.

The Colorato Collection has sparked a wave of excitement among architects and customers alike. Its unique story, coupled with unmatched craftsmanship, has not only captured their curiosity but has also deepened their connection with

our brand. This engagement isn't just about selling tiles; it's about delivering experiences that blend history with modernity, creating lasting impressions in every space. Our mission is to continue blending innovative products with powerful storytelling, enriching lives and spaces alike.

The world of marketing moves fast, so staying relevant means constantly being curious and adaptable. I stay updated by connecting with industry peers, following emerging trends, and embracing new ideas. For Somany, it's about balancing the tried-and-true with the fresh and innovative. We've imbibed influencer partnerships, rich storytelling, and digital tools to create a blend that speaks to both our traditional and younger customers. It's about evolving without losing sight of who we are.

Q Balancing professional responsibilities with personal interests is crucial. How do your pursuits in reading, travel, and spiritual learning influence your leadership style and decision-making at Somany Ceramics?

Reading broadens my perspective, travel keeps me curious and open-minded, and spiritual learning grounds me. These experiences teach me patience, empathy, and the importance of understanding different viewpoints — qualities that I believe are crucial for leadership. ■

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Creating Inspiring Environments: Archinova Design X Build's for Functional and Sustainable

Prasenjit Chakraborty | Mumbai

Hyderabad based Archinova Design X Build is a dynamic architecture and interior design firm known for its innovative approach to integrated design and building. By merging creative architectural solutions with efficient construction practices, they deliver projects that are both aesthetically pleasing and functionally robust. Their commitment to sustainability and client collaboration sets them apart, ensuring that each project reflects the unique vision and needs of the client while maintaining environmental responsibility.

They don't just create inspiring spaces for businesses; they create inspiring places for people that foster collaboration and creativity. As a leading design and build company, they specialize in developing environments that are not only beautiful but also functional, inspirational, and sustainable. Their projects are designed with a holistic approach, considering the well-being of individuals who inhabit these spaces.

Harnessing the energy, creativity, and skill of a global team with deep local expertise, they are uniquely positioned to assist national businesses in adapting their projects to meet local cultures and needs.

This approach ensures that each design resonates with its surroundings while fulfilling the specific requirements of clients. By blending innovative design with sustainable practices, they aim to create spaces that enhance productivity and encourage a sense of community. Ultimately, their mission is to transform environments into vibrant places that inspire and elevate the human experience in the workplace and beyond.

They deliver their services to businesses of all sizes across various sectors, including office, retail, and healthcare, hospitality counting many of the most iconic brands among their clients.

Across their diverse Archinova family, they share the ambition to help build a better tomorrow through impressive design.

The firm believes that people are at their best when they are comfortable, challenged, and encouraged to express themselves. Similarly, businesses thrive in environments that reflect their brand, culture, and ideals to the world.

Their aim is to help their clients create environments

Archinova Design X Build, based in Hyderabad, is an innovative architecture and interior design firm that excels in integrated design and building. With a commitment to sustainability and client collaboration, they create aesthetically pleasing and functional spaces that foster creativity and community. Led by Dr. Ramesh, the firm emphasizes user-centered and biophilic design, ensuring each project resonates with its environment while meeting specific client needs.

s Vision nable Design



that transcend the notions of “an office,” “a shop,” or “a hospital.” These are places where ideas and collaboration flourish, meeting spaces are vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive, and individuals are supported to think better, work better, and live better.

Not only that, they consistently tune into the unique frequency of each business, its vision, its people, and its culture. They truly believe that the right space for a company fosters energy and inspiration, happiness and playfulness, nurturing a sense of purpose that sparks fresh perspectives and drives a rich and defining company culture.

At the helm of this affair is Dr. Ramesh, Managing Director, Archinova Design X Build. He is constantly seeking to expand their knowledge, staying updated with the latest design trends, materials, and technologies. Dr. Ramesh embraces challenges as opportunities for growth, often pushing the boundaries of conventional design to create spaces that inspire and uplift.

What inspired him to start Archinova Designs? “I was inspired by a deep desire to innovate in architectural design, balancing aesthetics with a commitment to sustainability. The architecture industry frequently draws inspiration from nature, whether in the forms we create, the designs of façades, or the overall functioning of structures. This connection to the natural world enriches our understanding of design principles, encouraging us to develop spaces that resonate with their environments,” said Dr. Ramesh. He believes that the fascination individuals hold for nature often reflects their creative inspirations, prompting a harmonious blend of beauty and functionality. “By embracing these elements, architects can create not just buildings, but vibrant, sustainable environments that enhance our lives,” pointed out Dr. Ramesh.

Design Philosophy

As far as design philosophy is concerned, the firm's design philosophy typically reflects an individual or firm's approach to architecture and design, guiding decision-making and influencing project outcomes.

Here are some common elements of a design philosophy and their influence on projects

User-Centered Design

Contextual Responsiveness

Sustainability

Timelessness vs Trends

Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Approach

Innovation

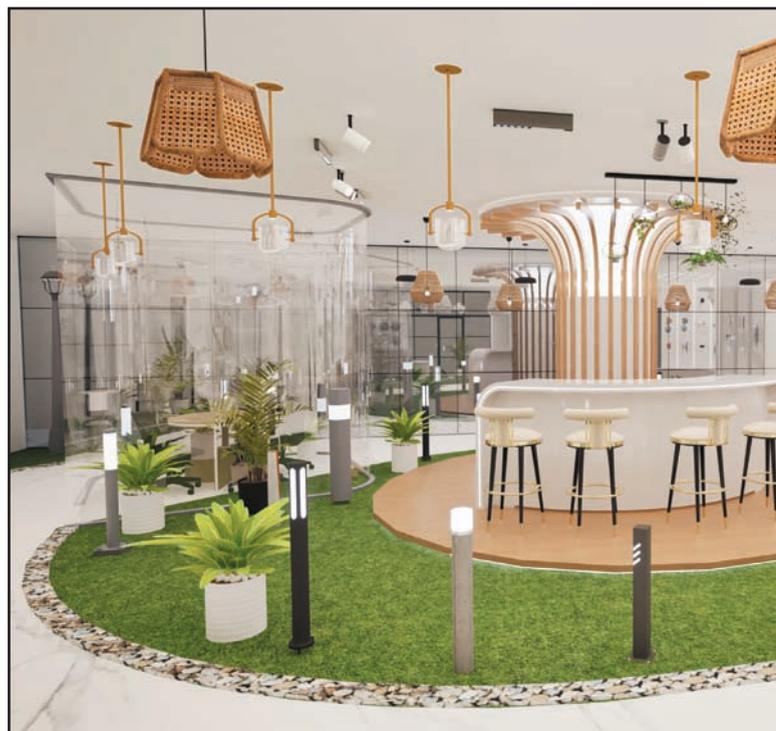
Social Impact: their implications for the community

“By clearly defining a design philosophy, I can create more cohesive and meaningful projects that stand the test of time and positively impact users and communities. This philosophy not only guides the creative process but also shapes the narrative and purpose behind each project,” pointed out Dr. Ramesh.

Sustainability into architectural and design practices

A few of the key strategies which are incorporated at the design stage are basic principles like climatology, recycled materials, conservation of resources like water and electricity and life cycle assessment of the building.

Biophilic Design: Integrate natural elements into





designs to enhance occupant well-being and create a connection to nature.

Community Engagement: Involve the community in the design process to ensure sustainable practices meet local needs and cultural values.

Innovation and Research: Stay informed about new technologies and sustainable practices within the industry to continuously improve building design and functionality.

Challenges

According to Dr. Ramesh, the architecture profession faces numerous challenges, particularly concerning client expectations, budgets, and project constraints. "With over two decades of experience in professional practice, I have encountered hurdles that often go unnoticed by clients and other stakeholders. I firmly believe in the philosophy encapsulated by the saying, "You need pressure to make diamonds," which resonates deeply within the field of architecture. Just as diamonds are formed under immense pressure, so too can innovative design emerge from the challenges we face," pointed out Dr. Ramesh.

To navigate these complexities, it is essential to keep up with evolving technologies and methodologies while bridging the generational gap within teams. Emphasizing value engineering allows architects to deliver projects that meet both aesthetic and functional needs without compromising quality. "By embracing these strategies, we can transform obstacles into opportunities, ultimately enhancing the architectural landscape and delivering exceptional results for our clients while fostering a culture of creativity and resilience in the profession," he exhorted.

Trends shaping the future of architecture and design in India

A few trends that are shaping the future of architecture and design in India, and how Archinova Designs is adapting to them

Sustainability

Architects design buildings that are energy- efficient and environmentally friendly. Archinova focuses on business and workspace design and is developing new workspace models to improve performance and satisfaction.

Technological innovation

Using BIM is revolutionizing the way buildings are designed and constructed.

Smart home technology

Smart homes allow inhabitants to control lighting, temperature, energy consumption, doors, windows, appliances, and more.

Biophilic design

This design theory emphasizes the relationship between people and nature by incorporating natural elements into designs.

Human centric design is being one of the core strengths of Archinova.



The firm carried out many projects, one of which is Nosch Pharmaceuticals in Hyderabad, which transformed a functional workspace into a serene and inspiring environment. The design prioritized employee well-being and productivity, creating a space that fosters focus and collaboration.

By carefully selecting materials, colors, and lighting, they

achieved a minimalist aesthetic that promotes a sense of calm. Ergonomic furniture and acoustic treatments ensured a comfortable and distraction-free workspace, enhancing the overall ambiance and contributing to a positive work-life balance. ■

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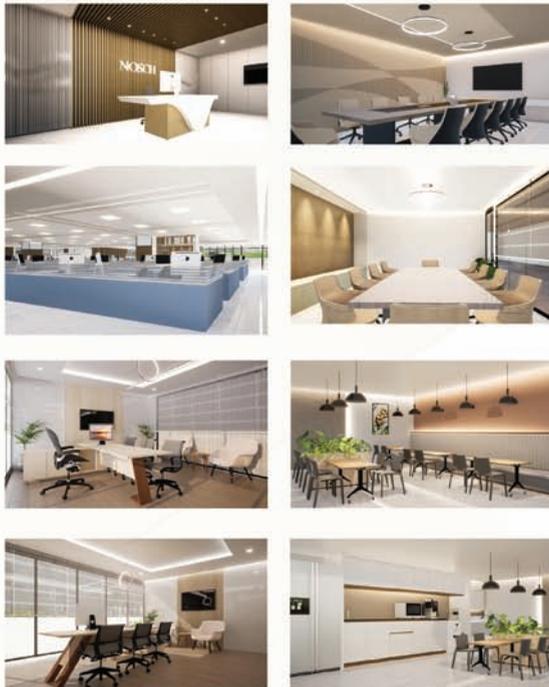
NOSCH - WORKSPACE

THE INTERIOR SPATIAL PLANNING FOR NOSCH LABS IS DESIGNED TO FOSTER AN EFFICIENT AND HARMONIOUS WORK ENVIRONMENT, BLENDING FUNCTIONALITY WITH A SENSE OF OPENNESS AND SUBTLE ELEGANCE.

THE FLOOR PLAN ADOPTS A CENTRALIZED LAYOUT, WITH A CORE AREA DEDICATED TO EMPLOYEE WORKSTATIONS, FEATURING ERGONOMICALLY ARRANGED WORKSTATIONS, SURROUNDED BY ANCILLARY SPACES. THIS ARRANGEMENT PROMOTES EFFICIENT CIRCULATION AND ACCESS TO AMENITIES.

THE SUPPORT SPACES, CABINS, CONFERENCE ROOMS ETC., ARE STRATEGICALLY PLACED TO PROVIDE EASY ACCESS WHILE MAINTAINING A SENSE OF SEPARATION BETWEEN BUSTLING CENTRAL WORK AREA AND QUIETER, MORE PRIVATE SPACES.

THE LAYOUT PROMOTES SEAMLESS FLOW BETWEEN FUNCTIONS WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ZONES.



ISOMETRIC VIEW

NATURAL ELEMENTS: WOOD ACCENTS ARE USED THROUGHOUT THE SPACE TO INTRODUCE WARMTH AND A CONNECTION TO NATURE.

NEUTRAL TONES: BEIGE, BROWN AND OFF-WHITE ARE EMPLOYED FOR WALLS AND CEILINGS TO CREATE A CALMING ATMOSPHERE.

GLASS PARTITIONS: TRANSPARENT GLASS PARTITIONS ARE USED FOR VARIOUS ROOMS, ENHANCING VISUAL CONNECTIVITY AND NATURAL LIGHT PENETRATION.

LIGHTING DESIGN: THE LIGHTING STRATEGY AIMS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE ILLUMINATION WHILE MINIMIZING GLARE AND CREATING A COMFORTABLE AMBIANCE.

DAYLIGHT UTILIZATION: THE PERIMETER GLAZING MAXIMIZES NATURAL LIGHT, CONTRIBUTING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND EMPLOYEE COMFORT. THE DAYLIGHT FACTOR ANALYSIS ENSURES OPTIMAL DAYLIGHT PENETRATION THROUGHOUT THE SPACE.

ERGONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS: THE FURNITURE SELECTION AND LAYOUT PRIORITIZE EMPLOYEE COMFORT AND WELL-BEING. ANTHROPOMETRICALLY DESIGNED CHAIRS AND WORKSTATIONS ENSURE PROPER POSTURE AND SUPPORT.

DESIGN TEAM

SHARLON
MAYURESH
CHANDRA SEKAR
SHANKEY KUMAR

MEP

GENESIS CONSULTANTS

ACOUSTICS

JENNIFER,
ALPHA DB, MALAYSIA

RENDERED VIEWS



FLOOR PLAN

MATERIAL PALETTE



ON SITE IMAGES



Sky Garden, designed by Ar. Jimmy Mistry, is a levitating restaurant suspended 150 feet above Lonavala, offering an unparalleled dining experience with panoramic views. Each seat swivels 360 degrees and reclines 180 degrees, blending comfort with adventure as guests savour meals under the stars. A biophilic-inspired design, surrounded by lush greenery and over 6,000 LEDs, creates an intimate yet luxurious atmosphere, making every moment unforgettable.

Sky Garden: A Levitating Dining Experience Melding Luxury, Nature, and Panoramic Views 150 Feet Above Lonavala

Step into a world where dining meets the heavens at Sky Garden, Della Resorts' delightful levitating restaurant that elevates every meal into an unforgettable night under the stars. Suspended 150 feet above Lonavala's serene landscape, Sky Garden combines the elegance of fine dining with the romance of moonlit skies, inviting you to savour each moment in an ambiance that feels like a dream come true.

For those seeking a truly immersive experience, each seat at Sky Garden is designed with both comfort and thrill in mind. With a 360-degree swivel, every guest enjoys an uninterrupted view of the vast, starlit skies and the dazzling landscape below. And for the adventurous at heart, the seats also recline a full 180 degrees – inviting you to lay back and take in the spectacular panorama from a whole new perspective. This unique feature transforms dining into an exhilarating affair, making Sky Garden not just a place to eat but a destination for those who crave an unforgettable, sky-high experience.

Designed by the renowned Ar. Jimmy Mistry, this intimate, biophilic-inspired space captures the essence of luxury in nature. At its exclusive 24-seater table, surrounded by lush greenery and illuminated by over 6,000 LEDs, every



dinner is a spectacle. Dining around a permanent bar set-up, imagine raising a toast with friends, family, or your beloved as you watch the entire 50-acre Della Resort township glimmering below—a stunning view matched only by the brilliant stars above.

Sky Garden's culinary experience is curated to delight the senses, with each dish a masterpiece by Della's world-class chefs. The menu offers a variety of gourmet selections, from multi-course delicacies to live counters complemented by hand-crafted cocktails from expert bartenders. Whether indulging in Italian classics, Asian-inspired delicacies, or a custom, pre-ordered menu, each bite is designed to transport you deeper into this magical setting. With the natural beauty of the surroundings, every moment becomes an immersive journey in taste and elegance.

Perfect for a romantic evening, a gathering with close friends, a memorable proposal or a celebratory family dinner, Sky Garden promises an unforgettable experience touched by the magic of the night sky. ■

Fact File

<i>Name of the Firm</i>	:	<i>Della Luxury Projects and Products designed by Jimmy Mistry</i>
<i>Project Name</i>	:	<i>Sky Garden</i>
<i>Location</i>	:	<i>Lonavala</i>
<i>Principal Architect</i>	:	<i>Jimmy Mistry</i>
<i>Capacity</i>	:	<i>24-seater</i>
<i>Date of completion</i>	:	<i>November 2023</i>



‘We provide a comprehensive range of mobility products and services’

Q Can you provide an overview of your company and the range of solutions you offer for different sectors?

TK Elevator offers a comprehensive range of mobility products and services, including passenger, freight and panoramic elevators, home elevators, stair and platform lifts, escalators, moving walks and PBBs for low, mid and high-rise properties across different sectors. TK Elevator achieved sales of around 9 billion Euros in fiscal year 2022/2023. With around 50,000 employees, 25,000 service technicians and over 1,000 support centres globally.

In the Indian market, our enta and meta series are among our best-selling products, providing a comprehensive range of low to mid-rise solutions for various scenarios, including with machine room and machine room-less applications. Our zeta range of high-speed solutions, on the other hand, is the preferred choice for many premium high-rise residential and commercial projects. Recently, we introduced our new enta villa range in India, specifically designed for multi-floor houses and villas. This solution enhances accessibility, convenience, comfort, and safety, ultimately increasing the value

of the property. There is significant potential for large mansions and villas in India, particularly in prime locations with high-end amenities, driven by a growing number of affluent buyers seeking spacious, comfortable, and exclusive living spaces. Furthermore, with our digital solutions like AGILE and the IoT platform, MAX, there are no longer any limits to urban mobility.

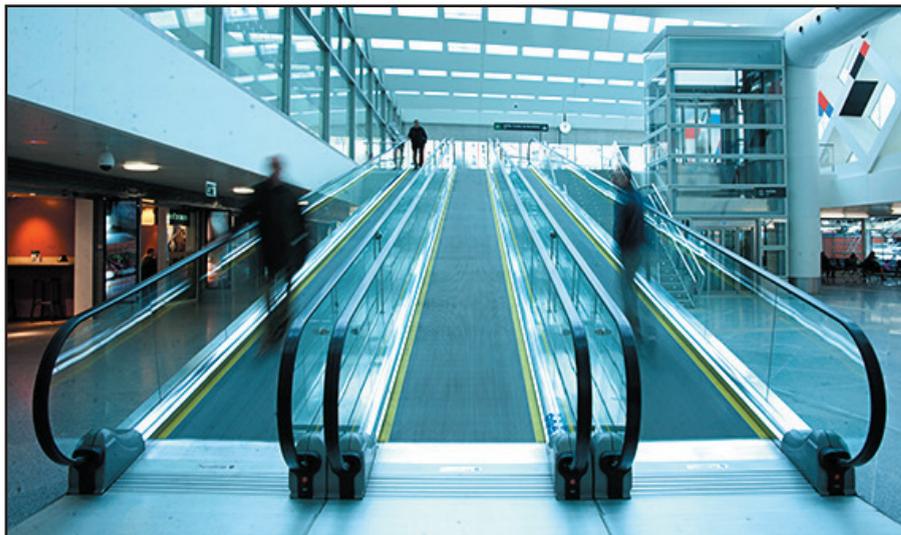
Q What advanced safety features are included in your elevator systems, and how do you ensure compliance with local and international safety standards?

Safety is a core value at TK Elevator. All TKE vertical mobility solutions are designed to optimize transport capacity, space requirements, safety, energy efficiency, durability and recyclability. Our elevators are equipped with world-class safety features such as overload protection, door safety curtain, machine overheat protection, unintended movement detection, door lock bypass, rescue operation system, etc. – plus assorted other features that comply with local and international safety standards to ensure safe and comfortable ride for passengers and staff.

Beyond the basics, elevator



Our elevators come with top-notch safety features, including overload protection, a door safety curtain, machine overheat protection, unintended movement detection, door lock bypass, and a rescue operation system. Additionally, they include various other features that meet both local and international safety standards, ensuring a safe and comfortable ride for passengers and staff, says **Manish Mehan, CEO, TK Elevator**, while speaking to **Architecture Update**.



safety is undergoing a fundamental transformation because of cutting-edge technology breakthroughs. TK Elevator's Destination Selection Control (DSC) technology, for instance, streamlines passenger experiences by efficiently assigning elevator vehicles to travellers heading to the same location, lowering wait and travel times while minimizing crowding. Smart elevators powered by the Internet of Things (IoT) not only monitor performance but also provides real-time maintenance data, which effectively help property owners, managers and engineers predict and prevent problems before they arise.

Q Do you provide remote monitoring and predictive maintenance for your elevators, and how do these services help in preventing unexpected breakdowns?

TK Elevator's MAX Digital Solution leverages cloud-stored data to schedule maintenance based on machine-calculated life-span predictions of components, this approach results not only in fewer service disruption and safer operation but also significant savings in labour costs. With the help of IoT platforms like MAX, elevators can virtually talk to us, tell us when they need help, and even help technicians accurately predict problem causes and solutions.

Our smart, machine learning Internet of Things (IoT) solution can increase elevator availability by up to 50%, by reducing out-of-service situations through real-time diagnostics. MAX



predicts maintenance issues before they occur, and empowers elevator engineers to make timely maintenance decisions by flagging the need to replace components and systems before the end of their lifecycle.

Q How do you ensure that your elevator systems are future-proof and can be easily upgraded with new technologies to meet evolving airport needs?

At TK Elevator, we prioritize innovation that stems from our customer-centric service mentality and our commitment

to meeting customer needs. Drawing from our extensive knowledge and foresight of the market, we have introduced a range of products and solutions for transportation infrastructure such as airports, focusing on safety, sustainability and adding value for our customers.

As with all other public transportation infrastructure, airport projects require

dependable and efficient mobility system to provide safe and seamless travel for thousands of business travellers and holiday makers continuously. At TK Elevator, our mobility solutions help our customers do just that. From high-capacity elevators to heavy-duty escalators, and moving walks help you manage heavy traffic at the airports and stay in charge. They help commuters and travellers feel safe and confident.

As airports traffic and passenger volumes increase in Indian cities, reliable elevators are more important than ever to ensure efficient and stress-free mobility for all travellers. TK Elevator's solutions provide dependable, energy-saving mobility at airports around the globe.

We also work with our clients to find the right solution to service, retrofit and modernize their aging system, whether it's made by a competitor or us. TK Elevator has the capability to service mobility equipment of all major makes, our Universal Service offering helps airports manage their mobility assets more effectively. Through our global service network, our highly skilled professionals keep their new or retrofitted system operating at peak performance for years to come. ■



As vertical expansion gains momentum, optimising available space has become a critical aspect of modern architecture. Compact bathrooms, in particular, pose a significant challenge. Industry leaders adopt sustainable methods to address this challenge to increase the functionality despite maintaining the aesthetics. This article explores innovative methods and ideas employed by industry leaders to maximise space in compact bathrooms, commercial or otherwise.



Optimising Compact Bathroom Spaces: Technology, Materials and Collaboration

Tejaswini Paranjape | Mumbai

As cities densify and living spaces shrink, efficient bathroom design directly impacts quality of life, productivity, and well-being. Moreover, the environmental benefits of sustainable bathroom solutions, such as water conservation and eco-friendly materials, align with the growing demand for green architecture. By examining the cutting-edge technologies, materials, and collaborative strategies employed by industry leaders, this discussion provides valuable insights for architects, designers, and builders seeking to create functional, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally responsible compact bathrooms.

Space Constraints

Need for employment and industrialisation has led to rapid urbanisation. There is a huge influx of people in urban areas in search for jobs and good education. Urbanisation in turn has led to a surge in vertical expansion, resulting in smaller

living spaces. According to the United Nations, over 60% of the world's population will reside in urban areas by 2030. This shift has significant implications for bathroom design. Shrivatsa Somany, Head – Bathware, Somany Ceramics, notes, "Optimising space is a core challenge in modern urban environments."

Space management in compact bathrooms have several considerations beyond mere aesthetics. Inadequate space planning can lead to cluttered, unwelcoming environments that negatively impact daily routines and mental well-being. Furthermore, poorly designed bathrooms can result in increased maintenance costs, water waste, and energy inefficiency. As urbanisation intensifies, understanding the nuances of space constraints becomes crucial. Effective combat against these challenges requires acknowledging the interconnectedness of form, function, and sustainability. By prioritising thoughtful design and innovative solutions, architects, designers, and builders can transform compact bathrooms into efficient, eco-friendly oases that enhance urban living experiences.



Shrivatsa Somany
Head – Bathware, Somany Ceramics



Viknesh Jain
SMD & CEO, Euronics

efficient water heaters. When it comes to commercial spaces, addressing the needs of consumers from different segments becomes all the more difficult. Every consumer has its unique set of needs. Viknesh Jain, MD & CEO, Euronics, highlights, “Our washroom automation accessories help declutter excessive fixtures, providing a streamlined and efficient user experience.”

Technology and Materials for Space Optimisation

Companies are leveraging cutting-edge technology and materials to optimise space with improvised functionality and style. This harmonious blend of form and function enables homeowners to maximise every inch of their bathroom, creating a serene retreat that elevates their moods and help them kickstart their day with ample freshness. Sarkar elaborates, “We use advanced materials like high-quality ceramics and durable composites for longevity and a sleek aesthetic.” Euronics utilizes stainless steel for durability and ABS plastic for

Innovative Solutions for Compact Bathrooms

Industry leaders have developed innovative solutions to address space constraints. Tirthankar Sarkar, Sr. Country Manager, Vitra Bathrooms India, explains, “We address space constraints through our Vitra ArchiPlan and Sento collections, offering compact, modular bathroom solutions that maximise functionality.” Somany Ceramics offers thoughtfully designed solutions, including wall-hung toilets, compact vanities, concealed diverters and space-

corrosion resistance. Somany adds, "Our Elysees tankless wall-mounted toilets eliminate the need for traditional cisterns, enhancing space efficiency."

Collaboration and Customisation

Effective collaboration with designers and architects is crucial. This synergy allows for tailored solutions that address specific spatial needs of the consumers. Jain emphasizes, "Our in-house industrial design team works closely with architects to understand user needs and design products that meet market trends." Somany Ceramics' French Collection reflects the elegance of French art and architecture.

Commercial Washroom Solutions

Commercial washrooms require space-efficient designs that prioritise hygiene and maintenance. Vitra's ArchiPlan and Sento collections cater to high-traffic areas, while Euronics offers Sensor-based faucets, hands-free soap dispensers and automated hand dryers.



Future Plans and Innovations

Industry leaders are committed to continuous innovation. Somany reveals, "Our forthcoming Thin Essence Wall Hung will be the slimmest wall-hung toilet in the market." Vitra aims to expand its range of modular solutions, prioritising sustainable materials and smart technology. Jain says, "Our future product lines will combine smart automation with sustainable, space-optimised designs for commercial washrooms."

Conclusion

As the urban landscape continues to evolve, the importance of optimised bathroom design will only intensify. With space at a premium, the bathroom's role as a sanctuary and hub of daily routine must be balanced with the practical demands of efficiency and sustainability. By harnessing the power of innovation, industry leaders can create compact bathrooms that transcend their physical limitations, delivering exceptional user experiences while minimising environmental footprint. Optimising space in compact bathrooms requires innovative solutions, cutting-edge technology, and effective collaboration. Automation has worked wonders in creating sleek designs that resonate with wide variety of end-users. As urbanisation continues to shape our living spaces, industry leaders will play a crucial role in redefining the future of bathroom design. ■

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'Our Vision Smart, Sustainable, Space-Saving Bathrooms for the Future of Urban Living'



Our space-saving products, especially the tankless WC, have received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Customers value the perfect blend of space optimization, sleek design, and improved functionality, all at an affordable price, says **Sandeep Abraham, President-Sales, Cera Sanitaryware Ltd**, in a conversation with **Architecture Update**.



Q How does Cera address the issue of space constraints in the vertical expansion trend in urban areas with a special focus on bathroom design?

Cera addresses space constraints in urban vertical expansion with innovative bathroom designs that maximize functionality, comfort, and aesthetics in compact spaces. Our solutions include space-saving fixtures, modular products, smart systems like concealed cisterns, wall-mounted units, vertical storage, and water-efficient technologies, all tailored for smaller, high-rise bathrooms.

Q We would like to understand your collaboration with interior designers and architects (if any) and their role in developing innovative designs?

We (Cera) are affiliated with iiiiD to practice innovative bathroom solutions that align with modern design trends and space requirements. These professionals play a crucial role in shaping Cera's product offerings by providing insights into the latest design needs, space optimization challenges, and emerging aesthetic preferences.

Q What are the steps taken in maximizing space in bathrooms? Kindly elaborate on the technology and raw material used.

Maximizing space in bathrooms combines intelligent design, cutting-edge technology, and high-quality materials. A standout innovation is Cera's tankless WC, which integrates the cistern into the unit, eliminating the need for external tanks and freeing up valuable space. This sleek, modern design also features sensor technology for added convenience and efficiency. Made from high-quality clay, the WC uses minimal water per flush, offering an eco-friendly solution that is both space-saving and budget-conscious. Ideal for compact



bathrooms, it provides a stylish yet affordable option.

Q How was the client response? Any case study of designing compact bathroom which you would like to highlight?

The response to Cera's space-saving products, particularly the tankless WC, has been highly positive. Customers appreciate the combination of maximizing space, modern design, and enhanced functionality at an affordable price. The integration of sensor technology and water-saving features resonates with urban homeowners looking to optimize smaller spaces. Additionally, the tankless WC helps reduce construction costs by eliminating the need for external cisterns, simplifying installation, and lowering material and labour expenses, making it a cost-effective solution for both developers and homeowners.

Q Your future plans in maximizing space in compact bathrooms?

Cera's future plans for maximizing space in compact bathrooms are focused on further innovation, efficiency, and sustainability, with an emphasis on meeting the evolving needs of urban living. Here are key areas of focus: 1. Continued Product Innovation, 2. Smart Bathroom Solutions, 3. Sustainability and Eco-Friendly Materials, 4. Compact, Modular, and Customizable Solutions, 5. Integration of Vertical Space, 6. Collaboration with Designers and Architects. ■

‘For us, sustainable living is a core principle shaping our real estate approach’



Real estate presents challenges, but we view them as opportunities for growth and innovation, with the initial investment in sustainable technologies being a key hurdle, says **Deep Vadodaria, CEO, Nila Spaces Limited**, in a conversation with **Prasenjit Chakraborty**.

Q What inspired you to prioritize sustainability in your real estate projects, and how do you envision it becoming the norm in India?

My journey in real estate has been shaped by evolving market dynamics and changing consumer expectations over the past 18 years. One pivotal experience was with Nila Spaces, a new venture born from a demerger. Competing in a national market filled with established players was challenging, especially when quality was a key differentiator.

What inspired me to prioritize sustainability in our projects was the recognition that innovative design and environmental responsibility are no longer optional—they’re essential. Our project in GIFT City exemplified this philosophy, showcasing design efficiency and sustainability that allowed us to stand out. This success taught me that focusing on consumer needs and delivering high-quality, thoughtfully designed products is crucial, regardless of a company’s experience in the market.

RERA has inspired consumers and raised developer standards. Today, prioritizing sustainability meets the growing demand for quality and eco-friendliness. Our success shows that even newer companies can thrive by embracing these values. I envision a future where sustainability is the norm in Indian real estate, driven by consumer demand and a unified industry commitment, setting new standards.

Q Can you elaborate on the key features of Project VIDA and

how it addresses urban loneliness while promoting community connections?

Project VIDA was conceived with a distinct vision to tackle real-world challenges in urban living, particularly the issue of urban loneliness. As one of Nila Spaces’ first major projects, it marked a departure from our previous focus on affordable housing, pushing us to explore innovative design solutions in the context of a post-COVID world.

GIFT City provided an ideal backdrop for our ambitions, with its diverse offerings. Our primary goal was to democratize space and encourage genuine community engagement. In recent years, urban development has often prioritized private living areas at the expense of communal spaces. We aimed to reverse this trend by integrating significant communal areas into VIDA, encouraging interaction and connection among residents.

Post-pandemic, the need for community is stronger than ever, and VIDA fosters this by creating vibrant spaces for connection. We’ve redefined luxury living, making exclusive amenities like the British Concierge Service accessible to all residents. Our innovative financial model, with a 1% upfront payment, lowers barriers to homeownership, broadening access to high-quality living experiences.

Q How does Nila Spaces integrate renewable energy sources and energy-efficient designs into its developments, particularly in

projects like those in GIFT City?

Our commitment to sustainability is deeply ingrained in our core values and influences every aspect of our development projects. For us, sustainable living is not just a trend; it’s a foundational principle that guides our approach to real estate.

One of our primary focuses is addressing carbon emissions, particularly those associated with construction, which significantly contribute to global emissions. To tackle this, we partnered with Deloitte to create a comprehensive carbon neutrality report for Project VIDA. This report involved a thorough audit of our construction processes, materials, and practices, allowing us to calculate total emissions generated during construction. With this data, we developed a detailed roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality throughout the project’s lifecycle.

Our sustainability strategy emphasizes energy-efficient designs that reduce reliance on artificial lighting and cooling, enhancing natural light and ventilation. Platinum-certified by IGBC, we’re committed to high sustainability standards. We also educate clients on sustainable living, helping them make informed choices. Partnering with Deloitte to reduce carbon footprints, we set industry benchmarks to inspire other developers and elevate urban living standards.

Nila Spaces integrates renewable energy sources and energy-efficient designs into our developments by embracing a comprehensive, values-

driven approach to sustainability. This commitment not only enhances the quality of life for residents but also ensures that our projects are environmentally responsible and aligned with the future of urban living.

Q What challenges have you faced in implementing sustainable practices in real estate, and how have you overcome them?

Real estate has certainly presented its challenges, but we view these as opportunities for growth and innovation. One major challenge is the initial investment required for sustainable technologies and practices. However, we have overcome this by embracing technology and innovation as core components of our strategy.

Another challenge is creating communal spaces that promote community interaction while maintaining efficiency in construction. Our approach has been to design spaces like our Sky-park, which are accessible to all residents and encourage community bonds. This focus on connectivity helps us counteract urban isolation, a key concern in today's society.

Efficiency in project delivery is key, and we use advanced construction tech to speed timelines while maintaining quality. By investing in industry startups and staying attuned to trends, we lead in sustainable practices. We continuously refine methods to align with market demands, ensuring top-notch customer experiences and using challenges as opportunities for sustainable innovation.

Q In light of your recent award recognition, how do you plan to further innovate and lead Nila Spaces in the evolving landscape of urban development?

Receiving an award is both an honour and a responsibility that I take seriously. It reflects not just my dedication to excellence and sustainability, but also the collective efforts of the entire Nila Spaces team. Moving forward, my goal is to continue leading the way in innovation and sustainable real estate within the urban

development landscape.

To do this, I will focus on integrating cutting-edge technologies and green building techniques into every project. This includes implementing passive design strategies that enhance energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact. By prioritizing renewable energy sources and carbon offsetting measures, we aim to set a new industry standard that balances sustainability with market demands and affordability.

By staying ahead of emerging trends and investing in innovative practices, we can respond proactively to the evolving needs of urban residents.

Ultimately, my vision for Nila Spaces is to create spaces that not only meet the needs of today's consumers but also contribute positively to the environment and community.

Q How does Nila Spaces approach the balance between affordability and sustainability in its projects, ensuring accessibility for all potential residents?

At Nila Spaces, we believe that affordability and sustainability can—and must—go hand in hand in our projects. Our flagship project, Vida in GIFT City, exemplifies this commitment. Its carbon neutrality aligns with global climate objectives while incorporating IGBC Platinum-rated green building designs to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To ensure accessibility for all potential residents, we have taken several strategic steps. In partnership with Deloitte, we conducted a thorough carbon accounting exercise that adhered to ISO and GHG protocol standards. This allowed us to quantify both operational and embodied carbon emissions and develop a clear roadmap for mitigation and neutralization. By regularly assessing our carbon emission patterns, we maintain accountability and transparency throughout the project's lifecycle.

Moreover, Vida emphasizes "Carbon Handprints," where we help residents find innovative solutions to reduce their own carbon footprints. We use high-quality carbon credits from reputable

agencies such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Gold Standard to offset any residual environmental impacts, ensuring that sustainability is integral to every aspect of living in Vida.

We also employ advanced Building Information Management (BIM) systems, which comply with ISO 14064 standards, to accurately calculate greenhouse gas emissions from the project's outset. By utilizing Green Power and investing in renewable carbon credits, we actively minimize our environmental impact while still focusing on affordability.

Q What role do community spaces play in your vision for urban living, and how are they designed to enhance the quality of life for residents in Nila Spaces projects?

Community spaces are integral to our vision for urban living at Nila Spaces. We recognize that in today's fast-paced world, fostering genuine connections among residents is crucial for enhancing quality of life. Our approach to designing these spaces is focused on promoting interaction, inclusivity, and well-being.

At VIDA, we design communal spaces as social hubs to foster resident connections. Thoughtfully crafted, these areas support engagement through organized events, casual gatherings, and shared amenities like the Sky-park, which offers premium features and encourages community bonding. Beyond aesthetics, these spaces are built for well-being, with green landscapes, walking paths, and seating for outdoor enjoyment, enhancing both mental and physical health.

Our design approach is resident-centred, we listen to community needs to create adaptable spaces, such as children's play areas, fitness zones, and event gathering spots, catering to diverse activities and demographics. These spaces serve as more than physical areas—they're catalysts for building interconnected neighbourhoods. By prioritizing quality communal areas, Nila Spaces enriches urban living, enhancing the overall experience for all residents. ■

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Ar. Raaghav

Principal Architect, A plus R architects

A Benchmark for Parametric Design and Sustainability in Modern Architecture

The 7 Point 0 Project is a cutting-edge commercial development in Coimbatore, designed by A plus R Architects. This project stands as a testament to modern architectural practices, utilizing parametric design techniques and advanced materials to create a dynamic facade that responds to environmental conditions.

Parametric Architecture: The design leverages parametric modelling to explore various geometries and forms, optimizing both aesthetics and functionality. The use of digital platforms allows for real-time adjustments, ensuring that the design meets specific performance criteria.

Facade Design: The facade employs Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete (GFRC), offering durability and a lightweight structure. The design is driven by solar shading principles, enhancing energy efficiency and comfort for occupants.

Dynamic Aesthetics: The facade's geometry not only serves a functional purpose but also creates a visually striking landmark in the urban landscape. The interplay





of light and shadow across the facade emphasizes the building's dynamism, shifting throughout the day.

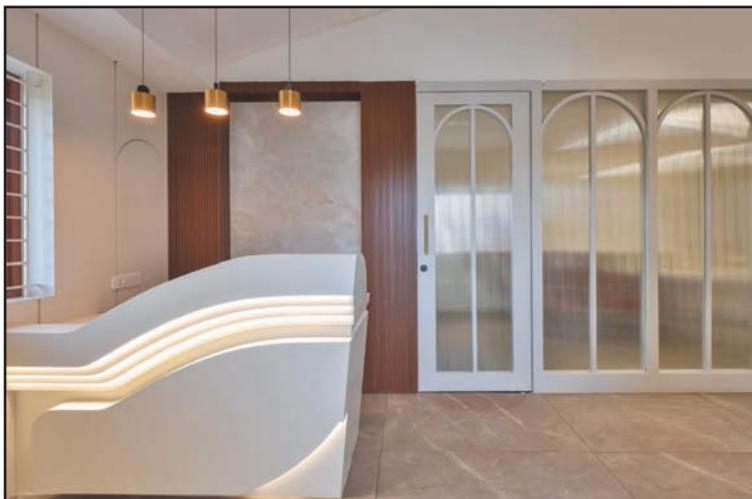
Environmental Considerations: The design incorporates advanced calculations of sun angles to optimize natural light while minimizing heat gain, enhancing the building's sustainability. Features such as green roofs or terraces may be integrated to promote biodiversity and further reduce the building's environmental footprint.

Collaboration with Real Estate Corporate: Developed for one of the largest real estate corporations in South India, the project embodies innovation in commercial architecture. The collaboration emphasizes the need for functional spaces that also prioritize aesthetic appeal, aligning with the corporate brand's vision.

Fact File

Project Name	: 7 Point O
Location	: Coimbatore
Principal Architect	: Raaghav
Area	: 35,000 sq. ft
Date of completion	: 06/09/2021
Name of the Firm	: A plus R architects

The 7 Point O Project in Coimbatore exemplifies the integration of parametric design and sustainable practices in modern architecture. Through its dynamic facade and innovative use of materials, it sets a benchmark for future commercial developments in the region. ■





Sustainable Style: Redefining Interior Design

By **Bindu K. and Raghunathan Elangovan**, Founders & Principal Architects, Earthenhive Architects

What is Sustainability?
In simple terms, sustainability means to meet our own needs without compromising on the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Today, people are growing increasingly aware of the inevitable need to actively seek out sustainable alternatives to their previous lifestyle choices.

Sustainability revolves around the concept of 6 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Rethink and Repair.

These principles encourage the people to be more aware, conscious and restricted in their mindless consumption.

Sustainability in Interior Design

Considering the rapidly growing popularity of the concept, it comes as no surprise that sustainability has also spread its influence into the architecture and interiors sector of business. Homeowners now actively seek out sustainable measures to incorporate into their homes - such as natural light and ventilation, passive cooling techniques, rainwater harvesting systems, green elements, recycling efforts and much more. Not only do these measures benefit the environment and inhabitants of the structure, but also enhance the visual appeal and aesthetics of the home when executed thoughtfully.

In the domain of interior design, sustainability goes far beyond just a fleeting trend, but rather challenges the way we view beauty and comfort. It is a concept which proves that neither do we need to compromise on our comfort, nor neglect our style and aesthetic aspirations in order to achieve an eco-friendly living environment.

5 Strategies for Sustainable Interior Design

While you may have been inspired to create a more sustainable interior for your home through research and reading, it could still be confusing to determine where or how to begin. If you

are someone looking to incorporate sustainable measures into the interiors of your new or existing home at low costs and efforts, here are 5 strategies you can adopt:

1. Less is More

One of the most simple sustainable design strategies is to minimize the overall number, size and weight of materials used in the layout of your home. By reducing the number and weight of materials in your interiors, you lessen the environmental impact on the land where your home is situated, as well as decrease emissions associated with transportation and long-term use.

2. Embracing Nature

Sustainable interior design is all about making the most out of what you are provided. Take advantage of sunlight and natural airflow in your home, and limit the use of electric lights and appliances unless absolutely necessary.

Simple techniques such as choosing cooler paint shades for your walls and roofs, improved insulation and strategically positioning your windows and openings could help you to completely avoid the need for mechanical cooling techniques, thus greatly contributing to a healthier planet.

3. Modularity and Longevity of Furniture

Modularity in furniture refers to

furniture pieces that are easily adaptable to different spaces and to different needs, such as pieces that can be removed or added from the whole structure, or modified to suit present needs.

Longevity refers to furniture with a longer life-span, usually made from high quality materials.

Together, these two features contribute greatly to the sustainability of our interior designs. When furniture is flexible and durable against wear and tear, inhabitants tend to keep and use them for a longer time, thereby reducing waste from discarded items.

4. Comprehensive Material Selection

While choosing the materials for the furnishing, decor and finish of our homes, it is essential to adopt a holistic approach, considering all aspects, present and into the future. Firstly we must prioritize opting for materials with low environmental impact. In addition, it would be even better if these materials or ornaments are from recycled or upcycled products themselves, or have great potential for recycling in the future. However, these features should not come at the expense of the item's durability.

5. Low VOC Paints

Volatile Organic Compounds, VOCs, are organic chemicals that are commonly used as an ingredient in common paints. These evaporate into



Ar. Bindu K. and Ar. Raghunathan Elangovan, two visionary leaders with a shared commitment to a greener future, are the masterminds behind Earthenhive Architects and Interior Designers, a sustainable architecture firm that has been thriving in their business for over 15 years.

the air, degrading the indoor air quality. By opting for paints that have zero or low VOC, you can steer clear of harmful emissions and a more eco-friendly environment in your home.

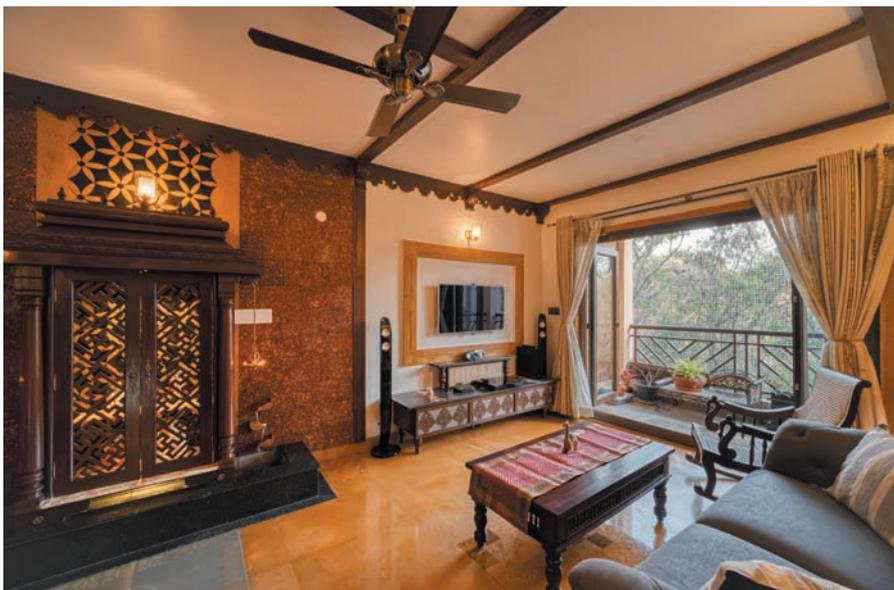
The Future of Sustainable Design

Interior design has experienced a fleeting array of trends over the decades, from luxurious elements such as fur and wood, to flashy or minimalist designs, the potential of interior design keeps going back and forth between a very wide spectrum.

Sustainability has emerged as a fresh face in interior design - and one that is likely here to stay. Beyond just a trend, sustainability is slowly becoming an unavoidable factor to wager in the interiors of your home, or any structure, due to its commendable role in protecting the planet.

Since the buildings and structures we live and work in are major contributors to emissions and waste, even small measures to reduce this impact can create significant improvements.

By collectively working together towards reducing the present liabilities we impose on the planet, we take an enormous leap towards a greener future for generations to come. ■



Indian Market: A Blend of Maturity and Sophistication



Each product designed by Humanscale must adhere to rigorous environmental standards, which is no easy feat. Creating products that are as eco-friendly as these presents significant challenges, but commitment to this goal remains strong despite the added complexity it brings to the design process, says **Mark Consolla, Vice President, Product Management, Humanscale**, in an exclusive interview with **Architecture Update**.

The Journey

Humanscale's journey into task seating began 25 years ago, a bold step for a company that originally focused on computer support products like keyboard trays. However, the launch of the Freedom Chair was a momentous event that brought the company into the limelight. There were three key innovations associated with the Freedom Chair, which to this day define our products.

One of those innovations was the gravity mechanism, designed by Niels Diffrient. This mechanism revolutionized the user experience by eliminating the need for complex adjustments. Imagine sitting in a chair that supports you whether you're sitting upright or reclining, without fiddling with knobs or levers. It uses your own body weight to provide the right amount of support.

Another stand-out feature of the Freedom Chair is its synchronous arms, designed to keep users properly supported. This innovation ensures that no matter how you adjust your position, the chair adapts to you.

Most impressive among the innovations is the self-adjusting headrest. While many chairs today

come with headrests, the Freedom Chair was one of the first to introduce this feature, and it's still unique in the way it adjusts as you recline. It's the only chair in the industry that supports your head whether you're sitting upright or leaning back.

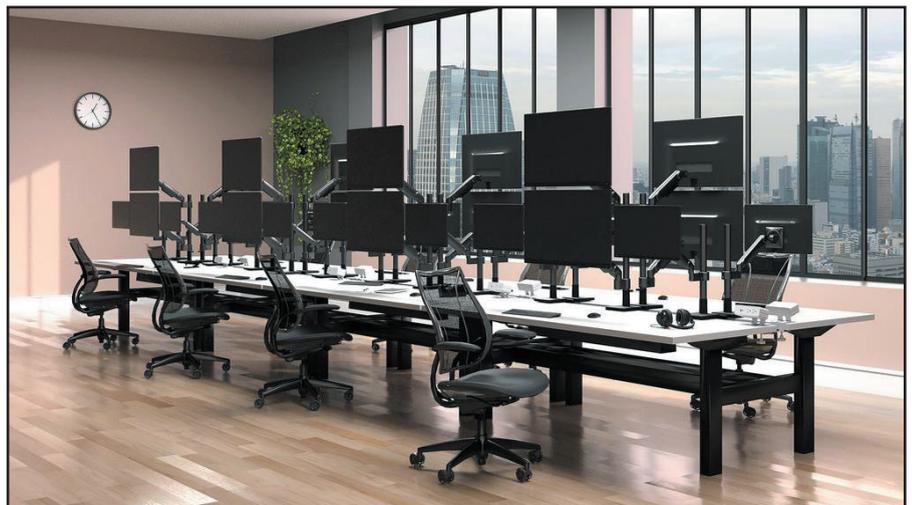
Design Philosophy: Where Function Meets Aesthetics

It has always been a challenge to balance functionality with aesthetics in product design. One must remember that creating something highly ergonomic that also looks good is no small feat. You can develop the best ergonomic chair in the world, but if it's unattractive, no one will buy it.

What sets Humanscale apart is their collaboration with top designers who understand that the interaction between a person and an object should be both pleasant and visually appealing. In today's world, where hybrid work is becoming the norm, creating a workspace that's not only functional but also beautiful is more important than ever.

Staying Ahead Through Customer Engagement

So, how does Humanscale stay ahead



in such a fast-paced industry? We stay closely connected with our customers. We're constantly in touch with our clients, visiting their offices, gathering feedback, and understanding their needs. This ongoing dialogue is what keeps us ahead of trends and ensures we're meeting evolving demands.

Not every idea from customers can be implemented, but their feedback is invaluable in driving innovation. We are fortunate to have customers who are willing to share their thoughts and experiences with us. This helps us create products that truly make a difference.

The Challenge of Sustainable Design

For us, sustainability is fundamental. Every product we design must meet strict environmental standards, which is no easy task. It's challenging to create products that are as environmentally friendly as ours, but we're committed to it, even though it makes the design process more complex.

It is equally difficult to make sustainable products affordable. We want our products to be accessible, whether you're in India or anywhere else in the world. It would be easy to create something highly sustainable but prohibitively expensive. We work hard to strike the right balance

A Personal Favourite: The M-Connect Docking System

Among our various products, the M-Connect docking system is my favourite. It's a game-changer for me, especially when working from home. With just one cable, I can connect everything—video, sound, power, and data—making my workspace clean and efficient. Plus, it's portable, which makes transitioning from home to office seamless.

While the Freedom Chair remains a standout for us, the M-Connect system's ability to simplify and

enhance the work-from-home experience has made it a favourite in recent years.

The Role of Technology in Innovation

Technology has played a crucial role in speeding up Humanscale's design process. 3D printing and computer-aided design (CAD) have allowed us to bring ideas to life faster than ever before. We can now create prototypes quickly, test them, and make necessary adjustments long before they go into production. This not only saves time but also ensures that our products are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Technology is crucial in keeping up



with the latest trends. As technology evolves, so do our products. We sell technology products like docking stations and charging units, so staying up-to-date is essential.

The Indian Market: A Surprising Maturity

India is a diverse market, with regions like Bangalore being very design-conscious, while other areas may focus more on cost. We've been working on assembling and manufacturing more products in India to reduce costs without compromising on quality. The market is both mature and sophisticated.

It is encouraging to see Indian

companies prioritize ergonomic setups, especially as more organizations bring employees back to the office. It's great to see our products being embraced here, and we're excited about the future in India.

Local Partnerships key to success

It is imperative to have a local partner. Our partnership with S Cube has been instrumental. They understand the Indian market inside and out, and they've helped us navigate it successfully. They're not just a partner; they're an integral part of Humanscale in India.

This partnership has allowed Humanscale to stay true to its commitment to quality and sustainability while adapting to the unique needs of the Indian market.

The Perfect Workstation: A Holistic Approach

The perfect workstation setup is designed to create a seamless ergonomic experience, no matter where it is used. Our products are engineered to work best together, but they can also function effectively on their own. What sets our workstation apart is that every component—from the chair to the monitor arm to the task lighting—is adjustable to the user. This means anyone can sit at one of our workstations and have it perfectly tailored to their needs.

Whether in India, the U.S., or Europe, Humanscale's ideal workstation reflects its commitment to ergonomics, sustainability, and innovative design.

Humanscale's dedication to innovation, design, and sustainability drives its success. By listening to customers and pushing the boundaries of ergonomic design, we continue to lead the industry and set new standards. As we expand into markets like India, our commitment to quality and local collaboration ensures we remain at the forefront of ergonomic solutions, making workspaces healthier and more productive worldwide. ■

Elevate Outdoor Spaces with K-lite's Robust, High-Quality Architectural and Landscape Lighting Solutions



Established in 1977, K-lite is renowned for its extensive range of high-quality architectural luminaires and poles that cater to diverse applications and design preferences.

Since its inception, K-lite, through its manufacturing units, focuses on the production of sustainable and efficient LED luminaires. K-lite's products meet stringent quality standards while embodying elegant aesthetics.

The company's landscape products are designed to withstand various environmental challenges such as wind, water, direct sunlight, rain, and dust. Each outdoor luminaire boasts high IP (ingress protection) and IK ratings, ensuring robustness and durability suitable for outdoor and landscape applications.

The range offered by K-lite is comprehensive and versatile. It includes Linear Wall Washers, Up-Down Lighters, LED Strips/Neon Flex, Promenade Lighting, Bollards, Underwater Lighting, Post Top Luminaires, Bulkheads, Pathfinders, IP67 Linear Profiles, Polar Lighting, and a newly introduced series of Facade Lighting.

"K-lite's commitment to innovation and quality, shines through in every product, blending functional efficiency with aesthetic appeal. Each luminaire in the landscape range is meticulously crafted to enhance outdoor spaces, offering not only illumination but also enhancing the visual appeal of architectural environments," said Sharmila Kumbhat, Director, K-lite. Whether illuminating pathways, accentuating building facades, or creating ambiance in public spaces, K-lite's luminaires deliver reliability and elegance, making them the preferred choice for architects, landscape designers, and developers aiming to transform outdoor spaces with lighting solutions that integrates form and function seamlessly. ■



Sharmila Kumbhat
Director
Klite Industries Pvt Ltd



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Knowledge Research centre IIT Hyderabad.



Team Bonton feels immense pride to inform you that we have just completed a turnkey library Project called the “Knowledge Resource Centre” at IIT Hyderabad. This ambitious project has proven to be the epitome of creative furniture and synchronised well with the library Architecture. Bonton has designed some of the best libraries in India; such as the AIIMS Bhopal, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, IIT Indore, NITK Mangalore, IISC Bangalore, and many other renowned libraries across the country.



Office Furniture



Library Furniture



Study Carol Area Furniture



Lecture Hall Furniture

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New Parliament of India



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River Front, KOTA



Ram Katha Park, Ayodhya



Varanasi City



Pelican Mini Orna Eva Florian Pole

Cross Bishop Pole

Vesta Pole

Central Vista Pole

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