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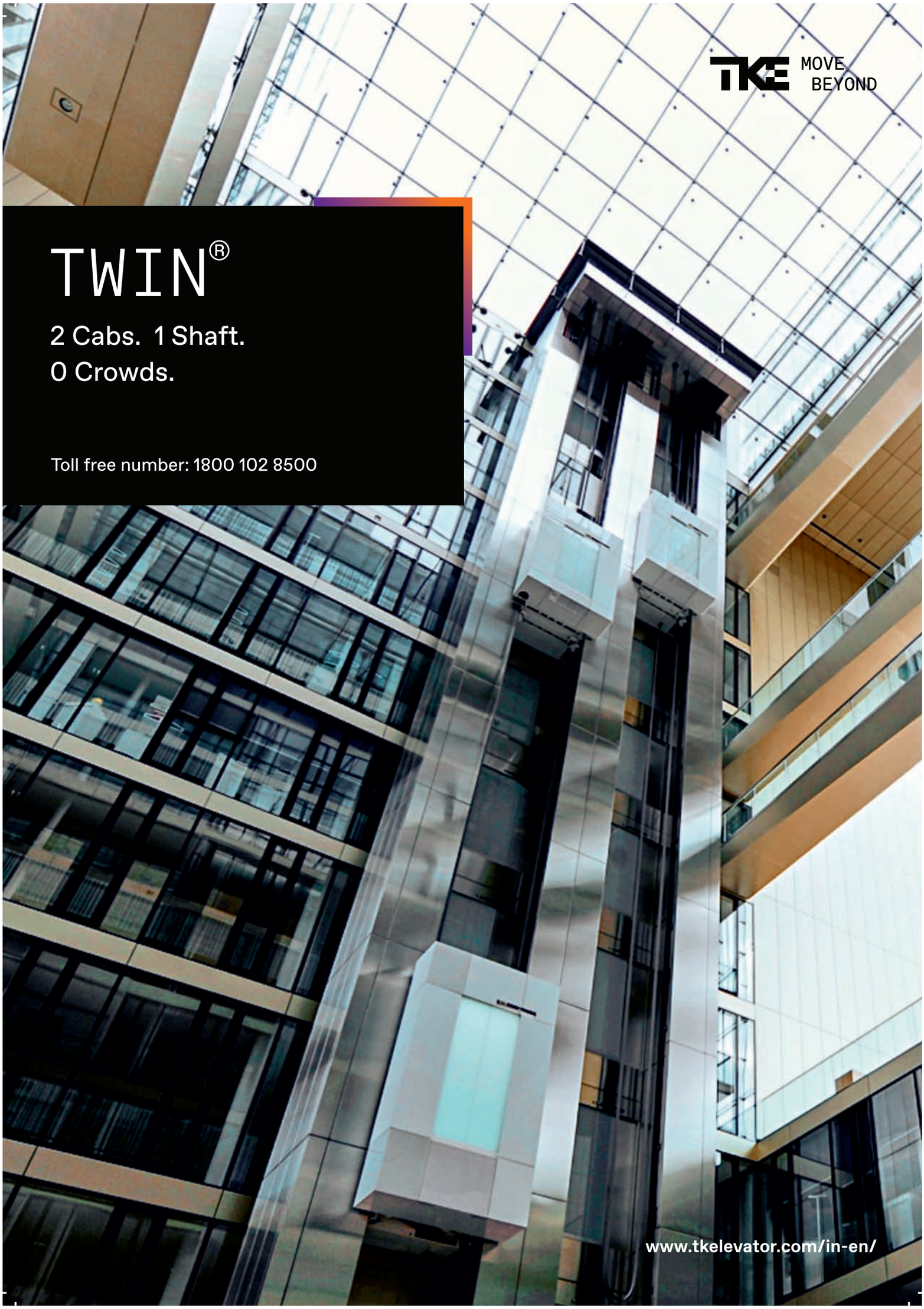
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Architecture Through Algorithms

During my recent visit to the IIM Ahmedabad campus, surrounded by Louis Kahn's timeless geometries, a quieter thought settled in my mind: the future of Indian architecture will not just be built by hand — it will be computed, calibrated, and coded.

It was a crisp, sunlit afternoon, and one could see that the sprawling lawns and Kahn's brick forms still carried their dignified silences. Yet the newer structures of the premier institute spoke a language most probably shaped by parametric design. No longer an experiment or a showpiece, algorithm-driven architecture today is quietly becoming the backbone of smart, adaptive buildings worldwide.

By defining parameters — climate responsiveness, material behaviour, spatial adaptability — architects today can generate forms that adjust intelligently rather than freeze into static templates. In a country as layered and variegated as India, this is not a luxury. It is a necessity that one must put on a pragmatic face.

At IIM Ahmedabad's new campus block, the influence is quite evident. Optimised façades, energy-conscious planning — not shouting for attention, but simply extending Kahn's spirit into a digital age. This is not posturing; it is problem-solving. Credit, and no small respect, to the design teams!

As India confronts soaring urban pressures, shifting climates, and resource constraints, a parametric approach offers a tangible way forward with faster, smarter, and more sustainable construction. But for this to move ahead and elbow past isolated projects, the construction ecosystem definitely needs policy-level support. We clearly need some such institutional support — a national framework encouraging, if not enforcing, the use of parametric design tools for public and large-scale projects. Such a step or similar initiatives could spur innovation without sacrificing the human touch.

One hopes readers will reflect: Is it time India considered a sharper regulatory hand to promote thoughtful, context-driven design — and curb the tide of gauche, client-led, or poorly supervised architecture overwhelming our cities?

Technology, of course, is only an instrument, and it alone won't make architecture better.

Algorithms can masticate complexity, but they can't digest it — nor can they substitute for judgement, empathy, or an understanding of place.

Great architecture — whether coded or carved — still requires a human mind and a living wisdom behind every line. AI or no AI.

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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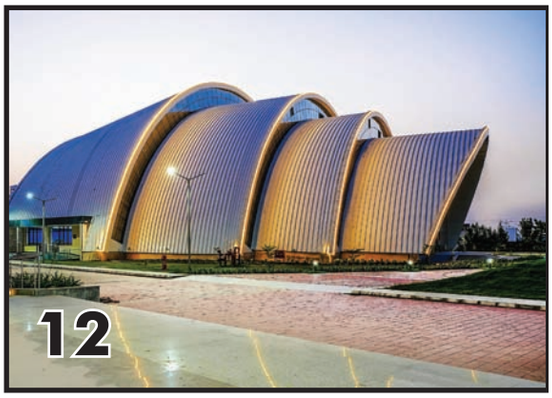

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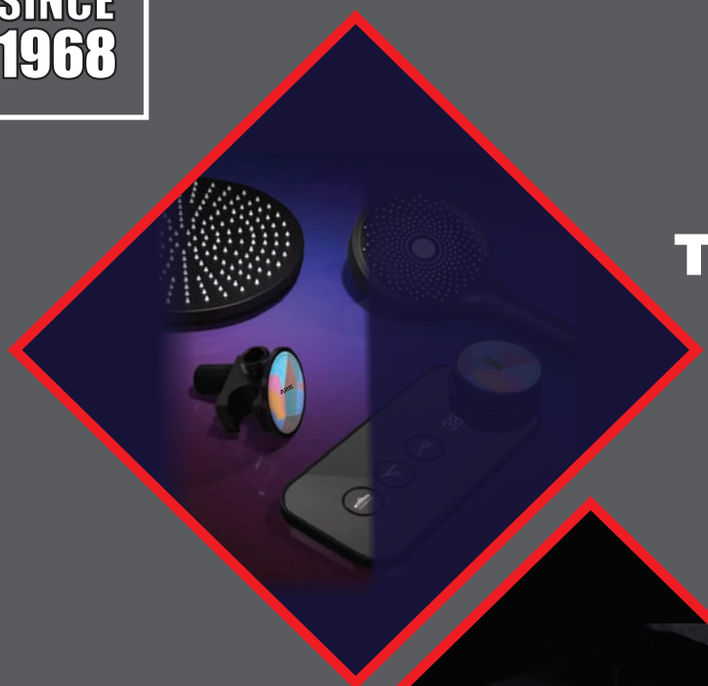

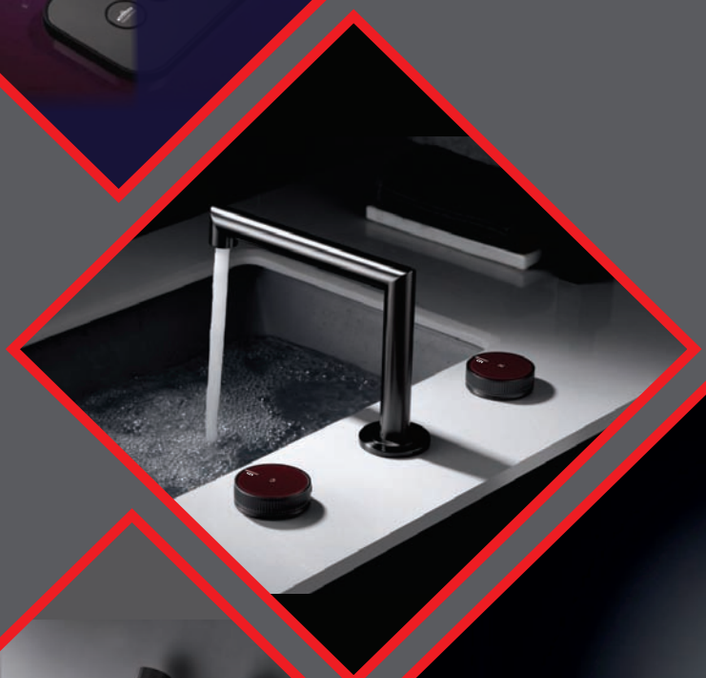

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US-based real estate giant Compass to acquire Anywhere in 1.6B USD deal

AU Staff | Mumbai

US-based real estate giant Compass is set to acquire Anywhere Real Estate in a $1.6 billion all-stock deal, creating the largest residential real estate brokerage in the world. The combined company is valued at approximately $10 billion. The merger will bring together 340,000 agents across major US markets and 120 international locations. Anywhere's brands, including Century 21, Coldwell Banker, and Sotheby's International Realty, will be part of the combined company.

Image courtesy: Realtor

Compass expects to save $255 million annually by streamlining operations and eliminating redundancies. The deal also diversifies Compass's revenue streams, adding over $1 billion from Anywhere's franchise operations. Despite US housing sales hovering near 30-year lows, Compass reported a 21% year-over-year transaction growth in Q2 2025, with revenue reaching $2.06 billion. The acquisition strengthens Compass's position in the residential real estate market. ■

Arnya & Supreme Launch INR 1,000 Cr Real Estate Fund

AU Staff | Mumbai

Arnya Real Estate Fund Advisors and Supreme Universal have launched the Arnya Real Estate Fund – Equity, a SEBI-registered Category II AIF with a target corpus of ₹1,000 crore. The fund will focus on Mumbai and Pune's real estate markets, targeting high-growth redevelopment projects as per a press release. By investing in well-structured projects, the platform aims to generate superior risk-adjusted returns while contributing to urban transformation.

The fund offers investors access to Mumbai's resilient redevelopment sector. According to Sharad **Mittal, Founder of Arnya Real Estate Fund,** "Mumbai's redevelopment segment represents the most scalable and resilient model within Indian real estate." Sunny Bijlani and Vishal Jumani, Joint MDs of Supreme Universal, highlighted the partnership's goal of delivering quality outcomes for investors and buyers, while uplifting entire communities through redevelopment projects. This is Arnya's second product after its successful debt fund. ■

Renowned Architect Sir Nicholas Grimshaw Dies at 85

AU Staff | Mumbai

Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, the renowned British architect behind the iconic Eden Project in Cornwall, has passed away at 85. His designs are celebrated for merging functionality with beauty, and his legacy includes landmark structures like the Eden Project's futuristic biomes and the International Terminal at London's Waterloo Station. Grimshaw's architecture firm, founded in 1980, has grown into a global practice with offices in multiple cities. He was knighted in 2002 for his services to architecture and served as president of the Royal Academy from 2004 to 2011.


Image courtesy: BBC

Grimshaw's architecture focuses on structure, craft, and purpose, creating buildings that endure because they are both useful and uplifting. He established the Grimshaw Foundation in 2022 to promote innovative design and sustainability among young people. Andrew Whalley, chairman of Grimshaw, remembered him as "a man of invention and ideas" with an extraordinary ability to convince others that daring ideas were possible. ■

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Smart Homes, Smarter Planet: Why Sustainability Begins at the Switch

By **Rajesh Chakrabarti** for AU – Architecture Update

The Hidden Superpower of Homes

When we talk sustainability, the conversation in India usually stops at solar panels, rainwater harvesting, or "green" building materials. Excellent. But in the developed world, a quiet superhero has been saving energy without the spandex: home automation.

From thermostats in Texas to daylight-driven blinds in Denmark, intelligent systems have been hacking away at carbon footprints and utility bills in equal measure. Meanwhile, in India, our ceiling fans are still whirring away in empty rooms like overworked extras in a Bollywood movie.

What the West Got Right

- **Thermostats with a Brain:** In the U.S., smart thermostats like Nest have cut cooling/heating costs by 10–12% annually. Small number, giant impact.
- **Lights That Think:** Across Europe, smart lighting tied to daylight sensors reduces power use by up to 35%. Your living room basically knows when to stop glowing.
- **Data That Shames (Gently):** Energy dashboards in Scandinavia nudge homeowners into guilt-free savings by showing exactly how much energy that midnight Netflix binge cost.

The secret sauce? Governments and builders baked these into codes, mortgages, and incentives. Automation wasn't a luxury—it became policy-backed common sense.

India's Turn at the Controls

Now, let's bring this closer to home. Envisage a typical Indian household:

- AC on, windows open.
- Geyser running like it's gearing up for a marathon.
- Lights left blazing because… why not?

With power still largely coal-driven, every wasted kilowatt is both a bill shocker and a pollution booster. This is where automation stops being indulgence and becomes urgent.

The Toolkit for Builders & Designers

For our AU readers—the professionals shaping our built environment—automation isn't about showing off gadgets. It's about embedding sustainability into design DNA.

- **Smart Lighting:** LED + motion sensors = homes that save up to 50% energy. Bonus: clients brag about it at dinner parties.
- **Climate Control:** App-driven AC zoning, ceiling fans with Wi-Fi brains. (Yes, even the humble fan has entered the IoT club.)
- **Energy Dashboards:** Think of them as Fitbit for homes. Once clients see the spike when their teenager runs the AC at 18°C, habits change fast.
- **Water Savers:** Leak detection, smart irrigation—because in many cities, water is the new gold.

The Bumps on the Road

- **Cost Myths:** Automation is still seen as "rich man's tech." Reality? Starter kits now cost less than a weekend getaway.
- **Awareness Gap:** Builders rarely pitch "smart sustainability packages." Yet, that could be the new Vaastu—buyers ask for it, and you look outdated if you don't.
- **Retrofit Pain:** Designing automation-ready spaces upfront saves clients from clumsy afterthought wiring.

From Luxury to Lifestyle

In the West, smart homes began as toys for the wealthy. ("Alexa, dim the lights to 'romantic.'") However, over time, the pitch changed: this saves money and the planet.

We don't need that long runway—we can cut straight to the sustainability story.

Imagine a builder marketing not just a 3BHK, but a "Smart-Sustainable 3BHK" with automation woven in. That's not gimmickry, that's a differentiator.

Fast Facts

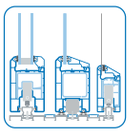
- **By 2030, India will add 400M urban dwellers.**
- **Every degree raised on the AC saves ~6% energy.**
- **Automation costs have dropped 70% in the last decade: AHA**

Looking Ahead

India's urban growth curve is staggering. If we embed automation into even a fraction of upcoming housing, the environmental payoff will rival entire national green policies. And let's be honest: it's easier to sell a client on an app that auto-switches their geyser off than to lecture them about carbon footprints.

So yes, solar panels and rainwater harvesting deserve their place. But maybe it's time to hand over some of the heavy lifting to quiet little heroes like sensors, dashboards, and thermostats. After all, saving the planet shouldn't feel like hard work—it should feel as easy as saying, "Alexa, turn off the lights."

"Home automation isn't about impressing your neighbors—it's about making sure your grandkids still have a planet to impress people on." ■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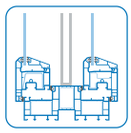
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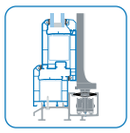
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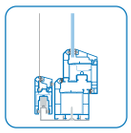
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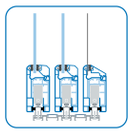
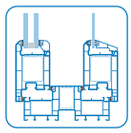

Low Threshold Patio Door


TwinSash Door

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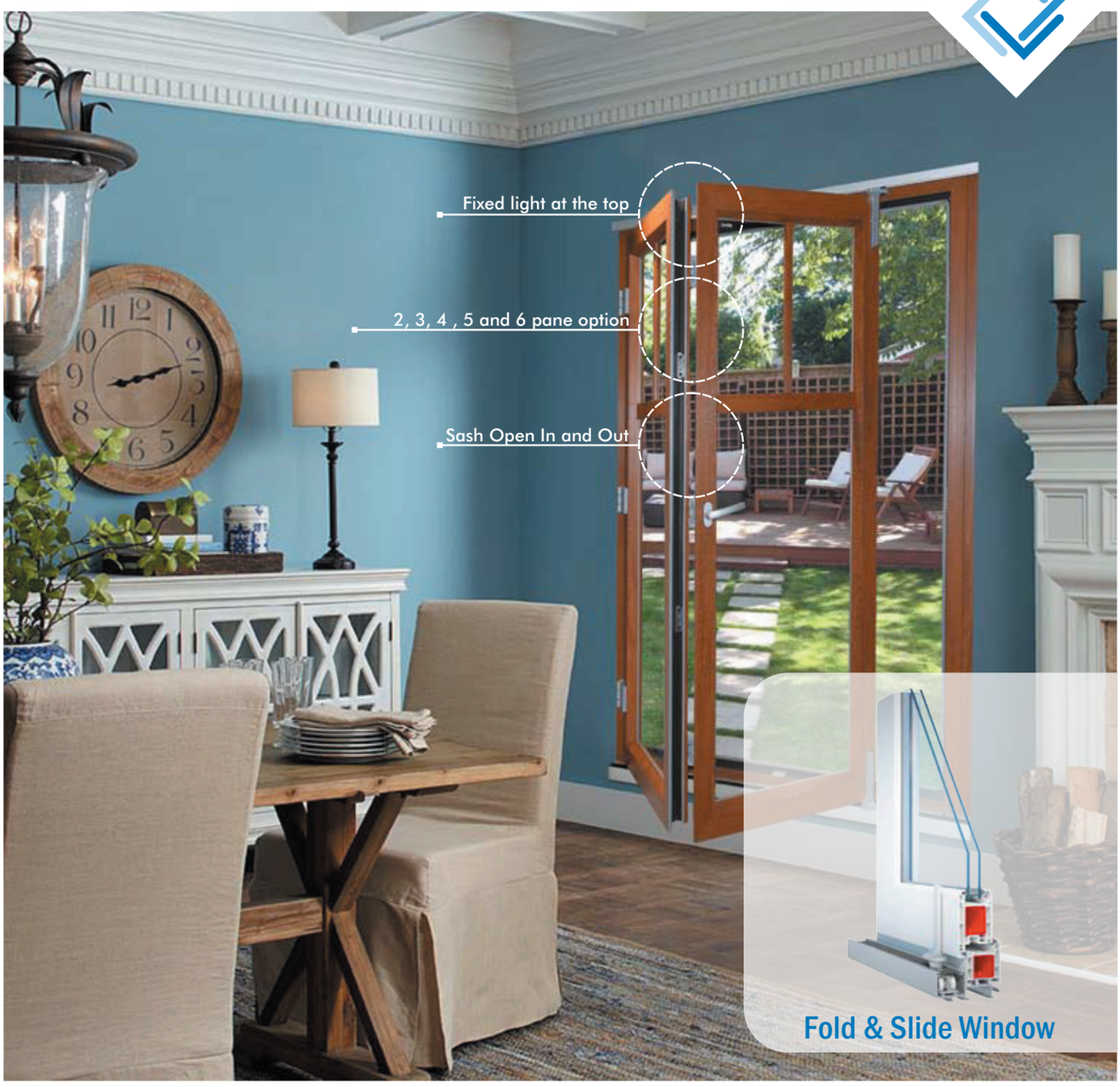

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BBB echoes Tagore, revives a cultural canvas of Education, Design and the spirit of Shantiniketan

BBB is a liberal arts university in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, is a testament to sustainable and culturally responsive design. Inspired by the ancient Indian 'Gurukul' system and local traditions, the campus seamlessly integrates nature, community, and architecture. The university's design showcases vernacular wisdom, using local materials and techniques to create a holistic academic ecosystem that promotes environmental stewardship and community engagement.

AU Staff | Mumbai

Biswa Bangla Biswavidyalaya (BBB) is a liberal arts university situated on the fringes of Shantiniketan, West Bengal—a place inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List for its association with Rabindranath Tagore's utopian educational vision and its impact on 20th-century South-Asian art, literature, and architecture.

Inspired by the ancient Indian 'Gurukul' system, BBB's design is rooted in nature and the region's cultural traditions. Drawing from local elements such as terracotta crafts, the Bengal School of Art, and medieval Bengal architecture, the campus merges tradition with sustainability. Nature itself is treated as an integral part of the learning environment.

The masterplan emphasizes community engagement and environmental integration. Visitors are greeted by a grand gateway that opens into a serene landscape featuring native plant species and fruit orchards. A conch-shell-inspired auditorium marks the entrance, leading to an eco-lake around which academic and residential blocks are arranged. The library, modelled after old town clock towers, stands as the symbolic heart of the campus—a beacon of knowledge.

BBB's architectural vocabulary reflects vernacular wisdom. Local materials such as terracotta and bamboo were used extensively, ensuring climate responsiveness, low maintenance, and contextual relevance. The construction process involved local artisans and laborers, enabling knowledge transfer, skill development, and economic empowerment.

Elements like the 'do-chala' roof and terracotta 'jali' showcase local craft techniques, while terracotta sculptures sourced from village artists celebrate the region's artistic heritage. The involvement of the local community extended beyond construction—locals continue to engage with the campus post-completion. Facilities like the auditorium, sports areas, and orchards are accessible to residents, strengthening the university's role as a community hub.

The eco-lake, inspired by the natural waterbodies of Bengal's delta region, not only serves as the focal point of the campus but also regulates the micro-climate, stores water for dry months, and helps achieve net-zero water use. Students and faculty informally gather around this waterbody, encouraging holistic academic dialogue.

The design integrates social and educational engagement with surrounding villages, offering immersive learning experiences for students while creating employment through homestays, skill-based training, and humanities education.

***Dikshu C. Kukreja** is a renowned architect, urbanist, and philanthropist. As Managing Principal of CP Kukreja Architects, he has completed over 1,000 projects globally, impacting 10 million lives. A Special Invitee to NITI Aayog and Honorary Consul General of Albania, Mr. Kukreja is celebrated for his innovative, environmentally conscious designs. He leads initiatives like the CP Kukreja Foundation, supporting students and young architects, and has received numerous accolades, including being ranked among the Top 100 Architects globally for 15 years.*

This outreach nurtures mutual growth and bridges rural-urban divides.

BBB's ecological responsiveness was achieved through passive design strategies. A compact layout, strategic building orientations, deep overhangs, and single-loaded corridors enhance natural light and ventilation, minimizing dependence on artificial systems. Solar panels and green roofs support the campus's net-zero goals, while rainwater harvesting, waterless urinals, low-flow fixtures, and grass-paved surfaces ensure water conservation and reduced runoff.

Local clay, abundant in the deltaic plains of the Sundarbans, offers thermal insulation, while bamboo adds structural and aesthetic value. Reflective paint, double glazing, recyclable materials, and occupancy sensors further improve energy efficiency and occupant comfort.

Design aesthetics were guided by a multidisciplinary team including architects, engineers, artists, and landscape designers. Their collaborative approach aimed to produce an environmentally friendly, functionally efficient, and culturally grounded built environment. Every decision—be it spatial planning or material selection—was made to enhance user experience, support local identity, and ensure long-term sustainability.

The architecture of BBB is contextually responsive, respecting cultural, environmental, and historical narratives. It's also climatologically and functionally efficient, addressing usability and livability in a cost-effective manner through the use of local construction practices.

The design exemplifies the words of Tagore: "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." This philosophy is reflected in the seamless interaction between people, nature, and built form across the campus.

The project stands out not only for its design but also for its community-centric execution and post-occupancy impact. By preserving vernacular techniques and supporting local artisans, BBB becomes a living canvas of Bengal's artistic and cultural soul.

Under the leadership of Dikshu Kukreja, renowned architect, urban planner, and Managing Principal of CP Kukreja Architects, the project reflects a deep commitment to design excellence rooted in localculture and environmental consciousness. Every decision be it spatial planning or material selection was made to enhance user experience, support local identity, and ensure long-term sustainability.

CP Kukreja Architects designed the Biswa Bangla Biswavidyalaya as a contemporary architectural landmark that celebrates Bengal's cultural heritage while integrating sustainable design principles.

CP Kukreja Architects designed the Biswa Bangla Biswavidyalaya as a contemporary architectural landmark that celebrates Bengal's cultural heritage while integrating sustainable design principles. Drawing inspiration from regional art, craft, and traditional forms, the architecture reflects a strong sense of identity and place. At the same time, the design incorporates climate-responsive strategies, efficient material use, and green infrastructure, ensuring that the building performs environmentally while remaining rooted in the cultural ethos of Bengal. ■

Fact File

Typology	:	*Institutional*
Location	:	*Shantiniketan, West Bengal*
Site Area	:	*18.5 Acres*
Built-up Area	:	*66,000 sq.m*
Client	:	*West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (WBHIDCO)*
Completion Date	:	*December 2022*

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The story will highlight how Kaizen AI empowers architects and builders to unlock hidden value by maximizing saleable area, cutting construction waste, and accelerating timelines—boosting profitability while delivering smarter, greener, and more affordable homes.

Besides these, the issue will shed light on segments like **flooring, doors, windows, home automation, elevators, and more**.

ARCHITECTURE UPDATE
BUILD • CONSTRUCT • DESIGN

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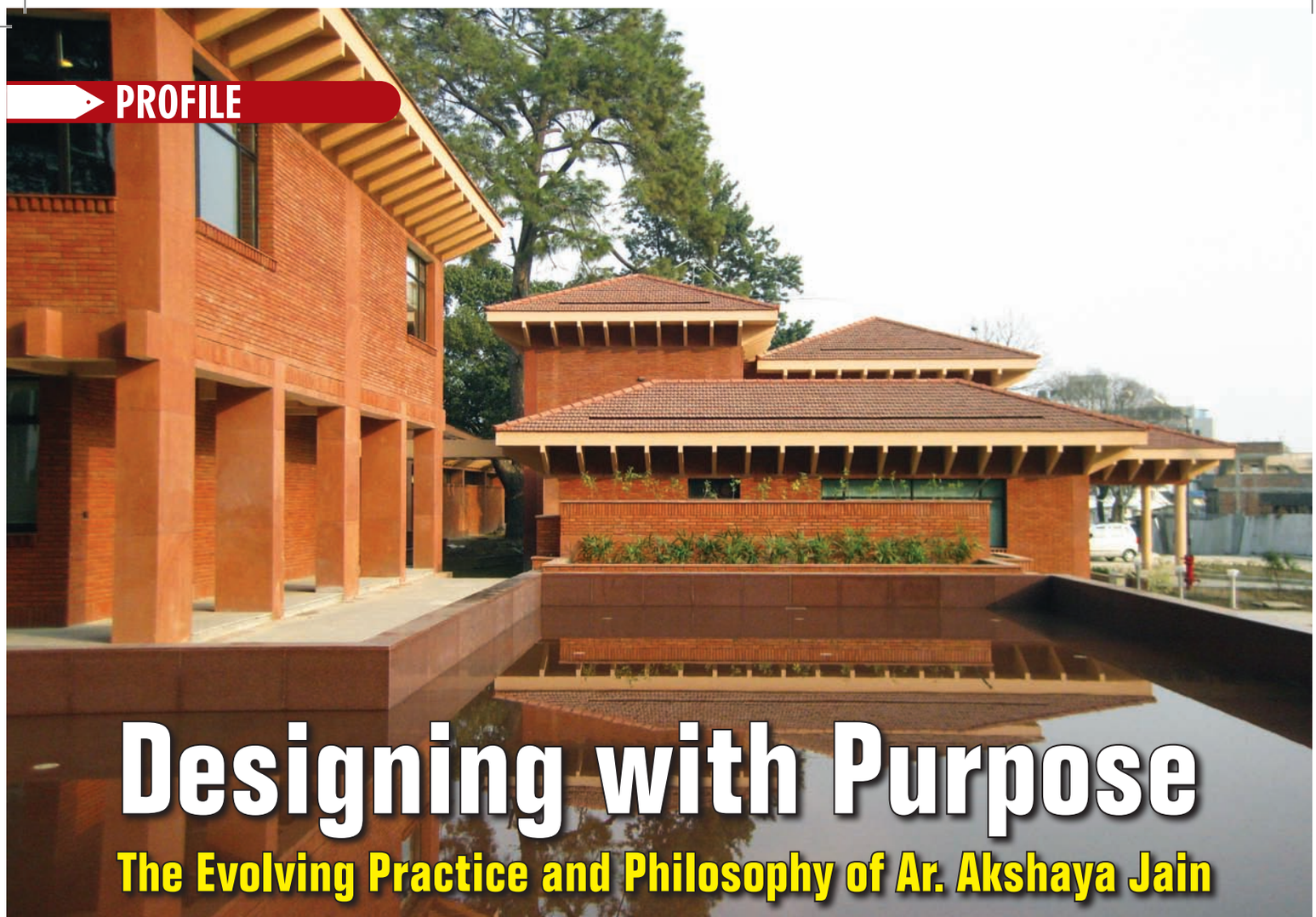
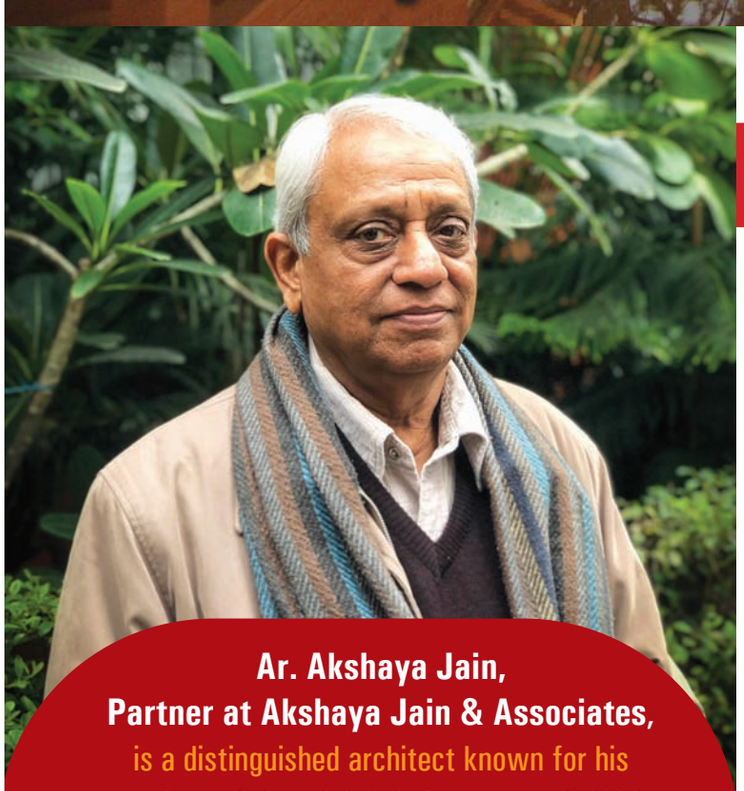


Designing with Purpose

The Evolving Practice and Philosophy of Ar. Akshaya Jain



Ar. Akshaya Jain, Partner at Akshaya Jain & Associates, is a distinguished architect known for his versatile and thoughtful design approach. With a foundation rooted in both artistic expression and engineering principles, his work spans diverse typologies across India and abroad.

Prasenjit Chakraborty | Mumbai

Ar. Akshaya Jain, Partner at Akshaya Jain & Associates, has played a stellar role in the firm's growth since its inception. From his school years, he had a passion for artistic expression and engineering principles—a unique combination that found its perfect synthesis in architecture.

During his college years, while studying historic monuments and temples, he developed a deep appreciation for fundamental design principles such as symmetry, harmony, rhythm, punctuation, balance, focus, and contrast. These elements became integral to his design approach, shaping the way he perceives and creates spaces.

During his bachelor's program, Ar. Jain became fascinated with the works of master architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Moshe Safdie, Kenzo Tange, Louis Kahn, and Paul Rudolph, alongside renowned Indian architects like A.P. Kanvinde and Raj Rewal. He was fortunate to study under Prof. Raj Rewal, whose designs left a lasting impact on him. Later, working with Prof. Rewal further refined his architectural experience.

Design Process

Ar. Jain's design process follows a structured yet flexible approach and is not restricted to any particular style. He and his team adapt to project requirements, working across historical, traditional, and modern/contemporary architectural styles.

For him, the process begins with a detailed study of site conditions, project requirements, urban context, and environmental factors. The zoning of buildings on the site is then determined based on accessibility, climatic conditions, orientation, municipal regulations, proximity to surrounding structures, etc.

Subsequently, various iterations of the concept are explored during the design development stage, where he and his team create multiple plans, sketches, and 3D models, and study the play of light and shadow to explore innovative ideas while ensuring functionality. This results in spaces and urban forms that are visually pleasing and contextually relevant. During planning, due consideration is given to the segregation of vehicular and pedestrian movement, as well as landscaping aspects. Collaboration with consultants helps refine the vision into a functional reality.

Challenges and Triumphs

Ar. Jain, during his practice, has designed and been involved in numerous institutional, residential, embassy, office, commercial, industrial, and religious complexes in India and abroad—mostly won through competitions. Each project has its own requirements and challenges. However, one of the most challenging projects undertaken by his team is the Indian High Commission in Victoria, Seychelles, also selected through an international design competition and currently under construction.

The major challenges stemmed from the adjoining buildings, varying soil strata, multiple existing service lines passing through the site, its irregular shape, and steep topography—with a level difference of 21 meters (between the front and rear roads) over the 107-meter length of the site.

The design had to efficiently integrate the Chancery building, Cultural Centre, and Residential housing within a compact site. Led by Ar. Jain, the team addressed this by employing level-wise segregation: positioning various cultural and chancery activities on different levels, and placing the residential apartments in a separate block. A central terrace garden, located over the basement parking, was incorporated between the two to serve as a multi-functional congregational and recreational space.

A notable feature of the site is its dual aspect—facing the ocean at the front and the mountains at the rear. The design takes full advantage of this by creating unobstructed views of both the ocean and the mountains from the buildings. This project reinforced the importance of topographical adaptability, strategic spatial planning, and maximising a site's potential despite significant constraints.

Sustainability

Sustainability and innovation are the integral part of his design, attempting that every project is both environmentally responsive and forward-thinking by incorporating sustainability through passive design strategies, climate-responsive planning, and energy-efficient technologies, optimising natural ventilation, daylighting and renewable energy integration. Material selection is carefully considered, prioritising locally sourced and eco-friendly options.

Future of Architecture

The introduction of computers in 1980s transformed architectural practice, changing how structures are designed, documented and produced. This digital transformation dramatically altered the profession as well as numerous other industries.

Looking ahead, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is poised to revolutionise architectural practice yet again. In the coming decades, AI will become an indispensable design partner, not replacing but boosting human creativity in remarkable ways. These technologies will assess a large number of design variables at the same time, allowing architects to build solutions that would otherwise go uncovered. Beyond design acceleration, AI will improve building performance through advanced environmental modelling, material optimisation, and energy analysis. Smart buildings with AI-integrated technologies will constantly adapt to changing conditions and user habits, significantly boosting sustainability metrics and occupant's comfort.

However, the present trend does not appear very promising for selection of architects. Earlier, for most important projects, architects were engaged through competitions based on their design merits. The current framework emphasizing strict eligibility criteria, Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS), and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) models has created potentially a restrictive environment by shifting attention away from creative design. This makes it harder for new talent to break through and get commissioned for the projects. ■

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Merino's Growth Story: Manoj Lohia on Innovation, Sustainability and Responsibility

At the heart of India's laminate industry, Merino has built itself into one of the most recognisable names in interior solutions. Today, it stands as one of the top three laminate brands in the country, but the journey has been defined by much more than market share. **Manoj Lohia, Director, Merino Industries Ltd,** says, the company's story has always been anchored in values, innovation and responsibility, in conversation with **Vartik Sethi.**

The Three Pillars

When asked what sets Merino apart in a crowded market, Lohia didn't hesitate. "If you look at our motto, it really sums us up: Economy, Excellence, Ethics. That's the framework we operate on." He explained that economy is not simply about being cost-effective. "It's about economies of scale. We pass on the benefits of our scale to customers. That creates real value," he added.

Excellence, on the other hand, has been about keeping the company at the forefront of technological change. Lohia cited the example of the Marine Board, an industry-first innovation from Merino, but pointed out that this was just one among many firsts the company has introduced over the years.

The third pillar, ethics, is where Lohia's tone became more emphatic. "By ethics, we mean doing business the right way. That's been a constant for us. You can say these three, economy, excellence, ethics, are what really set us apart from the industry."

Sustainability as a Philosophy

Sustainability, an area where many companies are only now beginning to respond to regulatory and consumer pressure. Merino, Lohia stressed, has been on this path much longer. "For us, sustainability is not a recent initiative. It is something ingrained in our philosophy. And we don't just talk about it, we walk the talk," he said.

Lohia detailed several green initiatives, from water conservation to energy efficiency. "As a matter of fact, we are working to be water neutral with an endeavour that we put back more water than we consume.

But sustainability at Merino is not limited to manufacturing. Corporate social responsibility has long been part of its ethos, well before government mandates made CSR compulsory. "We took up TB Health Program along with DoT around our factory in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh because it had become a silent epidemic. Over the years, we've helped cure six thousand plus people in the surrounding communities while monitoring another ten thousand plus from continuous OPD program " Lohia explained.

Education is another area close to the company's heart. Merino runs the Swami Vivekananda Arunoday Vidyalaya in Hapur, providing quality schooling for children from underprivileged backgrounds. The school currently has 157+ students, with a special emphasis on the education of the girl child, ensuring that young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds are not left behind in pursuing their aspirations. "One of our students recently cracked IIIT. Imagine what a leap that is for a child from such a humble background." Lohia shared with pride. Along with academics, Merino ensures education and nutritional needs are both addressed through its structured meal programme, which provides breakfast, lunch, and supper to every child.

The company's efforts also extend beyond primary schooling. Students who have graduated from the school continue to attend special guidance classes on higher studies,

ensuring long-term academic support. Additionally, Merino provides the Yogakshema Scholarships to support talented yet underprivileged students pursuing careers in medicine and engineering. More than 30 students have already benefitted from this initiative, each receiving Rs. 50,000 annually to aid their education.

Innovation Hardwired

Lohia is quick to describe Merino as a product company at its core. “We have always been hardwired for product innovation. That’s in our DNA. Even years ago, when we were not directly customer-facing, our focus was always on the product.”

This orientation has enabled Merino not just to lead in India but also to make a mark internationally. Unlike other Indian manufacturers who largely exported commodity laminates, Merino decided to challenge established European players in their own backyard with value-added products. “It wasn’t just about cheaper labour or cost advantage. We wanted to show that Indian products could compete on technology and quality too,” he noted.

The company has also excelled its portfolio into other verticals. Restroom cubicles, for example, were pioneered by Merino in India. “There was a time when we had a 90 per cent share of that market because no one else was offering it. Even today, if you walk into any major airport or stadium, chances are you’re using a Merino restroom partition system.” Furniture solutions and panels have followed a similar path, often as forward integrations. “We make our own chipboard, which feeds into our furniture solutions” Lohia said.

Loyalty in the Channel

If innovation is one side of the Merino story, relationships are the other. Lohia pointed out that nearly 70 to 80 per cent of the company’s sales come through its dealer network, with the balance coming from B2B. “Dealers have been our strength. I recently spoke to one who has been with us for 42 years. That’s two generations in the business. I myself have seen second-generation entrepreneurs taking over dealerships.” ■

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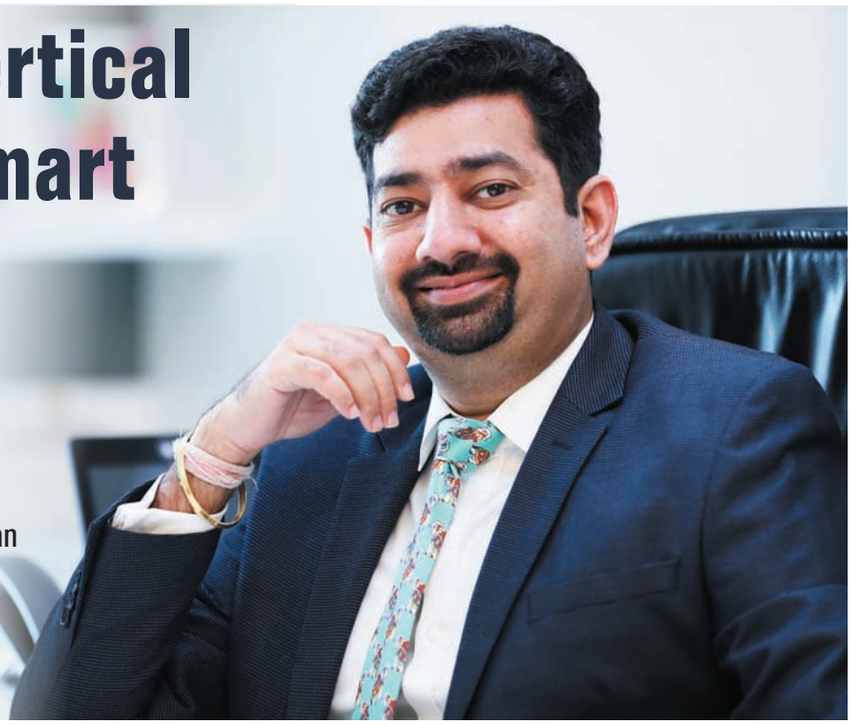
Transforming Vertical Mobility with Smart Elevators



Manish Mehan, Chief Executive Officer, TK Elevator India explains the transformative impact of smart elevators on urban mobility in an interview with **Architecture Update**. With expertise in innovative elevator solutions, Mehan shares valuable perspectives on how cutting-edge technologies are revolutionizing vertical transportation in India's rapidly growing cities.

Q Smart elevators are improving urban mobility with machine learning and predictive maintenance. How are these technologies improving vertical mobility and cost efficiency in India's buildings?

Smart elevators are transforming urban mobility in India by using machine learning (ML) and predictive maintenance to enhance efficiency in high-rises. ML analyzes real-time usage patterns to optimize operations, reducing wait times, improving passenger flow, and cutting energy consumption. Predictive maintenance, powered by AI and IoT, detects wear and potential failures early, preventing breakdowns and reducing repair costs. Remote monitoring enables quick issue resolution, minimizing disruptions. Smart elevators also boost cost efficiency with energy-saving technologies like regenerative drives and AI-driven destination control, lowering electricity and operational expenses. Despite initial costs, their long-term savings, reliability, and improved user experience make them essential for modern high-rises.

Q AI and IoT integration improve elevator performance but face adoption challenges. How are AI-driven predictive maintenance and IoT improving performance and overcoming adoption barriers in India?

AI-driven predictive maintenance and IoT are enhancing elevator performance in India by improving reliability, efficiency, and cost savings. AI analyzes sensor data to detect faults early, reducing downtime and emergency repairs. IoT enables remote diagnostics, ensuring faster issue resolution and minimal disruptions. Beyond reliability, AI-driven traffic analysis optimizes elevator operations, cutting wait times and improving passenger flow. Smart elevators also boost sustainability with energy-efficient technologies like regenerative drives. However, adoption faces challenges, including high costs, infrastructure gaps, and data security concerns. To address these, cost-efficient solutions like

cloud-based maintenance and IoT retrofitting are making upgrades more accessible. Enhanced cybersecurity and government-backed smart city initiatives are further driving adoption. As demand for reliable and sustainable vertical mobility grows, AI and IoT are set to transform India's elevator industry.

Q Data analytics and IoT boost elevator efficiency, though implementation costs remain. How are developers addressing cost concerns while improving elevator efficiency and scalability in India?

Indian developers are tackling cost concerns while improving elevator efficiency through data analytics, IoT, and modular smart technologies. Though advanced systems require upfront investment, long-term savings make them viable for modern buildings. A key strategy is retrofitting elevators with IoT sensors instead of full replacements, enabling real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and energy optimization at lower costs. Cloud-based analytics further reduce expenses by eliminating on-site data centers while enhancing scalability. Energy efficiency is another focus, with regenerative drives recycling excess energy and AI-driven destination control optimizing travel patterns. Government incentives and smart city initiatives are also boosting adoption. As high-rise demand grows, smart elevators are becoming essential for cost-effective, sustainable urban mobility.

Q Energy-efficient smart elevators promote sustainability in India's high-rise sector. How do regenerative drives and energy-efficient systems support sustainability goals in urban developments across India?

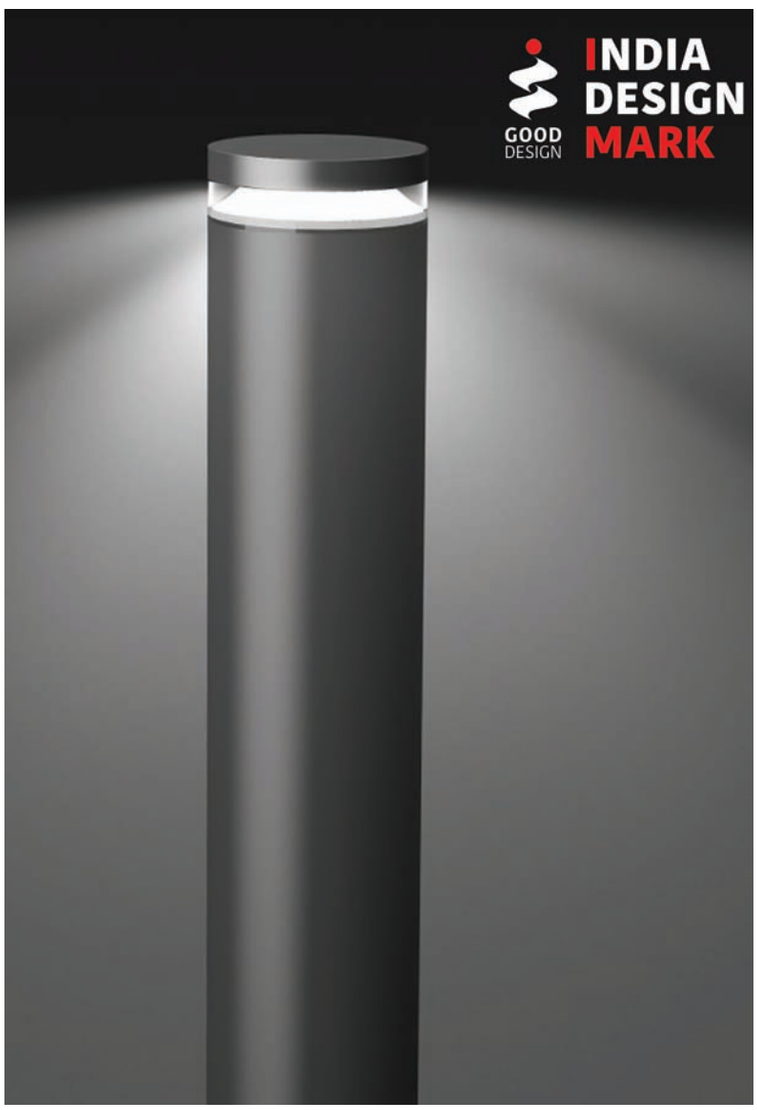
Energy-efficient smart elevators are driving sustainability in India's high-rise sector by reducing energy consumption and operational costs. Technologies like regenerative drives and AI-driven energy management systems support eco-friendly urban mobility while aligning with India's sustainability goals. Regenerative drives capture excess energy during elevator movement and feed it back into the building's power grid, cutting energy use by 30-50%. AI optimizes power usage by adjusting operations based on demand, while sleep mode functions and LED lighting further enhance efficiency. Green certifications like LEED and IGBC, along with government smart city initiatives, are accelerating adoption. By integrating these technologies, India's high-rise sector is moving toward a greener, more sustainable future.

Q Urbanization drives demand for advanced traffic management in elevators. How are traffic management systems improving wait times and scalability in urban places across India?

With rapid urbanization in India, high-rise buildings face increased elevator traffic, leading to congestion and longer wait times. Advanced Traffic Management Systems (TMS) optimize operations, improving efficiency and scalability. A key innovation is the Destination Selection Control (DSC), which groups passengers by destination, reducing stops and wait times. AI and machine learning further enhance traffic flow by predicting peak hours and prioritizing high-demand floors. IoT-enabled smart scheduling prevents bottlenecks, while multi-car and double-decker elevators maximize space efficiency. Integrated with building automation, these systems improve mobility and energy efficiency. As cities grow, AI-driven elevator management is becoming essential for seamless urban transportation.

Q Autonomous elevator systems are transforming urban mobility with AI optimization. How do autonomous elevators and AI optimization affect mobility and technology in India's rapidly growing cities?

Autonomous elevators, powered by AI, are transforming urban mobility in India's growing cities by enhancing efficiency, safety, and sustainability. These smart systems analyze passenger traffic, predict demand, and optimize travel routes, reducing wait times and congestion. AI-driven predictive maintenance minimizes breakdowns, lowering repair costs and improving reliability. Touchless controls enhance accessibility and hygiene, while advanced elevator systems like TWIN—featuring two independent cabins in one shaft—boost passenger throughput without increasing space requirements. As smart cities advance, autonomous elevators are becoming essential for efficient urban infrastructure, optimizing traffic flow, reducing energy use, and seamlessly integrating with smart building systems. ■



Illuminating Landscapes: K-lite's High-Quality Architectural Luminaires

K-LITE: Illuminating Architecture Since 1977

Established in 1977, K-LITE is a pioneer in the design and manufacture of high-quality architectural luminaires and lighting poles. With decades of expertise, the brand has earned a reputation for delivering reliable, aesthetically refined lighting solutions that cater to a wide range of design preferences and functional needs.

Sustainable Manufacturing, Timeless Design

Operating through state-of-the-art manufacturing units, K-LITE focuses on sustainable, energy-efficient LED technology. Every luminaire is engineered to meet stringent international quality standards while exuding architectural elegance.

Built to Withstand the Elements

K-LITE's landscape and outdoor lighting solutions are designed for rugged environmental conditions capable of withstanding:

- Wind, Water, Direct Sunlight, Rain, Dust

All products feature high IP and IK ratings, ensuring protection from ingress and impact, making them ideal for demanding outdoor applications.

Comprehensive Product Range

K-LITE offers one of the most versatile lighting portfolios in the industry, including:

- Linear Wall Washers, Up-Down Lighters, LED Strips / Neon Flex, Promenade Lighting Bollards & Pathway Lights, Underwater Luminaires, Post-Top Luminaires,

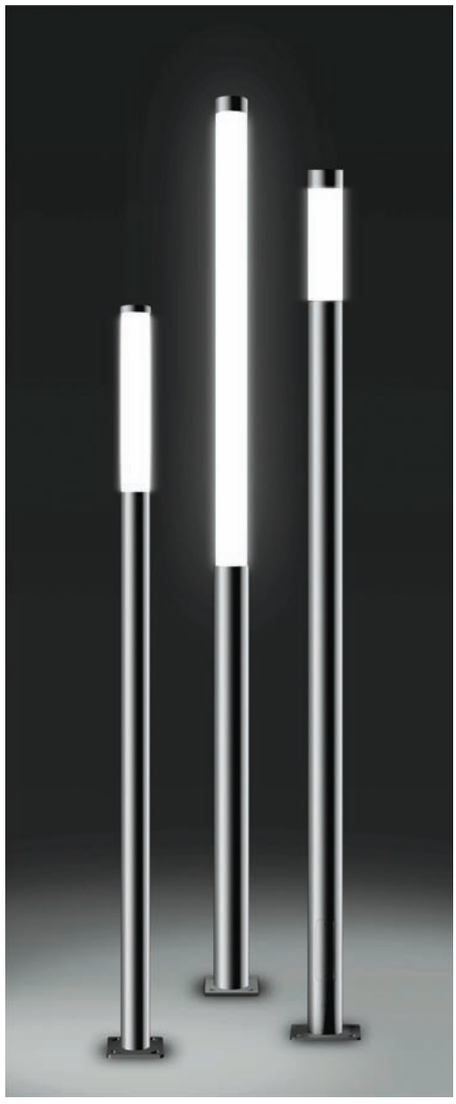
Bulk heads & Pathfinders, IP67 Linear Profiles, Polar Lighting Poles, NEW: Facade Lighting Series

Lighting with Purpose & Beauty

Every K-LITE product is a blend of functionality and design excellence. Whether it's illuminating walkways, enhancing architectural façades, or setting the mood in public spaces, K-LITE luminaires consistently deliver:

- Superior illumination
- Long-lasting durability
- Aesthetic enhancement

Trusted by architects, landscape designers, and urban developers, K-LITE continues to transform spaces with lighting that seamlessly integrates form and function.



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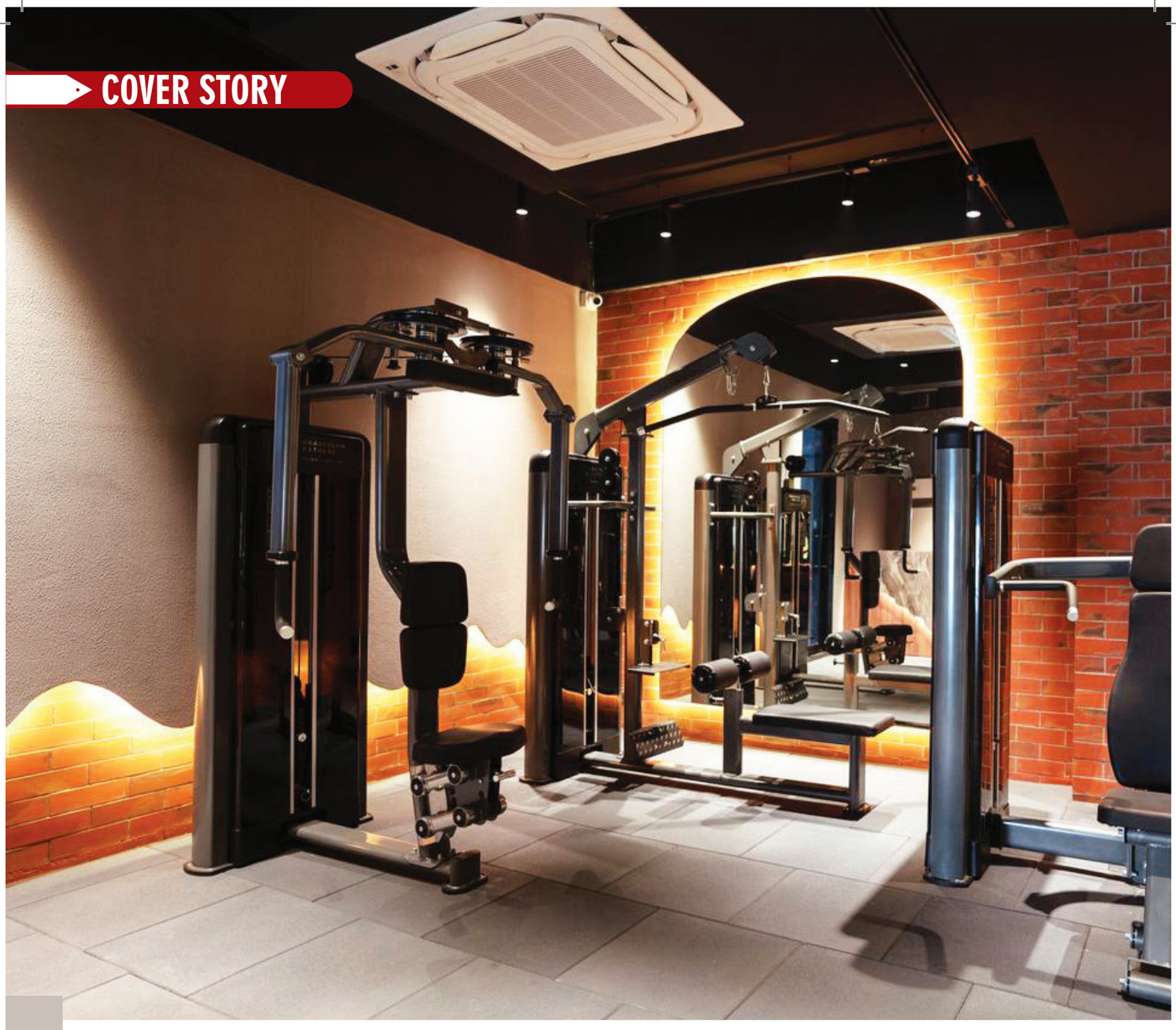
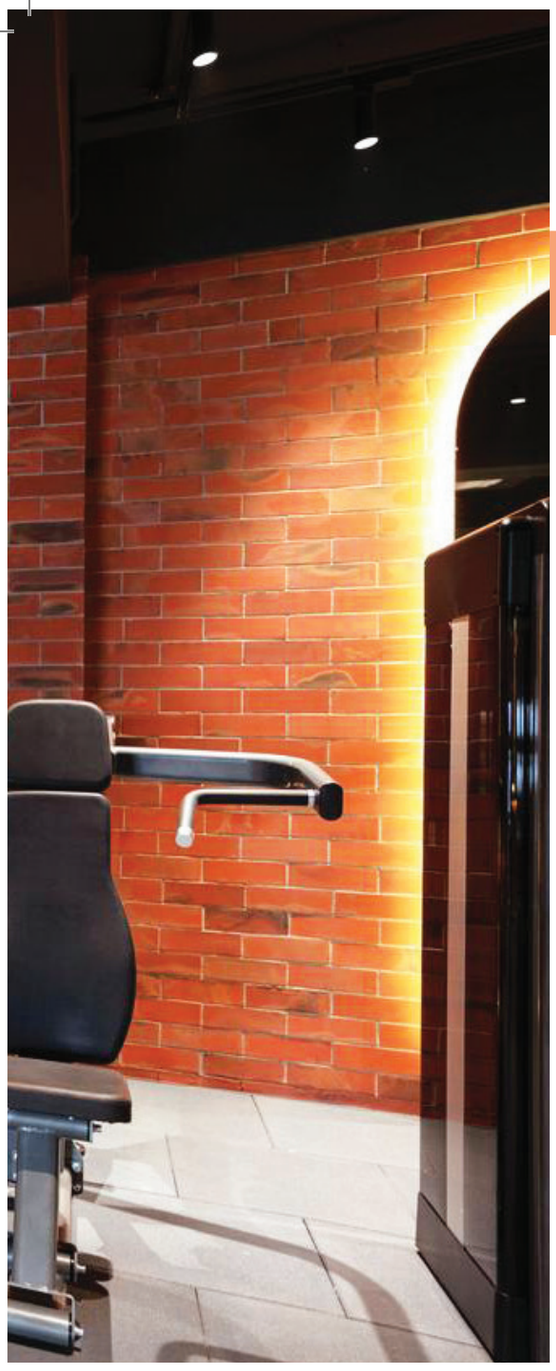


Home Automation in India

A Smart Business for Smart Living

As Indian cities grow smarter, the definition of comfort and security at home is rapidly transforming. Home automation, once considered a 'luxury,' is now gaining momentum as a practical, scalable solution for modern Indian households. Driven by advancements in IoT, AI, and integrated platforms, the market is witnessing an influx of both domestic innovators and global giants. But beneath the buzz lies a more complex story of challenges faced by the industry players in adoption, infrastructure readiness, pricing sensitivity, and digital trust. In this feature, **Tejaswini Paranjape** presents a cover story uncovers the insights of industry leaders on how they are navigating the competitive terrain, customizing global tech for Indian sensibilities and shaping the future of smart homes in the subcontinent.



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IoT, AI, and their Interoperability

According to Pulkit Mathur, Founder and CEO of Escala Tech, the company's strong foundation in IoT and AI enables it to offer cutting-edge home automation solutions that are fully interoperable with international platforms such as Apple HomeKit, Google Home, and Matter. "We design around the KNX standard, which ensures compatibility, future tech

upgrades, and robust functionality," says Mathur. "This gives homeowners peace of mind and system longevity."

Echoing the importance of seamless integration, Saachi Rana, Principal Designer at Saachi Rana Design Studio, says, "It's all about making different systems talk to each other smoothly. We make sure the automation setup works well with whatever BMS (Building Management System) or smart tech is already planned for the building—whether it's for lighting, security, air conditioning, or even elevators." This integration of systems allows harmony in operations and could be controlled remotely with one click and with assured safety. This also facilitates energy conservation.

Ar. Vishakha Sareen, Principal Architect, Studio Aartarc emphasizes early-stage planning and open protocols to ensure compatibility with BMS and smart technologies. "This integrated approach allows centralized control, reduces redundancy, and enhances operational efficiency," she explains. "Home automation complements BMS by offering personalized comfort, energy optimization, and real-time data insights."

Navigating Market Challenges: Awareness, Pricing & Adoption

While there is increasing interest in automation, the path to adoption is strewn with barriers. From convincing architects and builders to integrating with legacy systems, companies have their hands full. "Honestly, one of the biggest challenges is changing the mindset," says Rana. "A lot of people still think home automation is only for luxury homes or it's something you add

Pulkit Mathur
Founder and CEO, Escala Tech

Saachi Rana
Principal Designer, Saachi Rana Design Studio

at the end. But it's about making life simpler, safer, and smarter."

Ashish P. Dhakan, MD & CEO of Prama Hikvision India Private Limited, highlights challenges such as high upfront costs, interoperability issues, lack of standardization, security concerns, limited awareness, complexity of installation, and regulatory obstacles. "Despite these challenges, the Indian home automation market is growing rapidly, driven by factors such as urbanization and smart living trends, technological advancements in AI, IoT, and 5G, increasing disposable income, Government Initiatives and smart city projects, rising demand for convenience, security, and energy efficiency."

"By linking automation to sustainability and market competitiveness, I help clients see its long-term value, making it an essential feature rather than an optional upgrade in modern Indian homes," says Sareen.

Ar. Vishakha Sareen
Principal Architect, Studio Aartarc

Ashish P. Dhakan
MD & CEO, Prama Hikvision India Pvt Ltd

Smart Cities, Smarter Homes: Automation for Sustainability

As India expands its smart city initiatives, home automation is increasingly becoming a part of the blueprint. It's not just about comfort—it's about conserving energy, reducing operational costs, and building greener futures. "Home automation plays a huge role in smart and sustainable buildings," says Rana. "When your home or building can control lights, AC, water usage, or security on its own—or with just a tap—it saves a lot

of energy and resources."

Hikvision's home automation tools contribute to building smart and sustainable cities by providing innovative solutions that integrate advanced technologies, such as AIoT, video security, and intelligent automation. Dhakan says, "Hikvision offers integrated solutions for commercial and residential buildings, enhancing security, efficiency, and sustainability."

Addressing Cybersecurity

As smart devices proliferate, concerns around data privacy and digital vulnerabilities are mounting. For homeowners and builders alike, cybersecurity is non-negotiable. "We use KNX Secure, which is globally recognized for its cybersecurity robustness," says Mathur.

Hikvision takes cybersecurity and data protection seriously, implementing various measures to protect its home automation systems from vulnerabilities, including secure design, regular updates, encryption, access control, data minimization, and vulnerability assessment.

Trends to Watch: From Smart Homes to Smart Lifestyles

The home automation market is no longer limited to lights and climate control. The next frontier involves integrating appliances and services—an ecosystem that's intuitive, adaptive, and uniquely Indian.

"A lot is changing, and fast," says Rana. "People now want homes where they can control everything from their phone or even just speak to a voice assistant. There's also a big shift toward eco-friendly automation."

The Indian smart home market is rapidly maturing, driven by increasing urbanization, rising incomes, and growing demand for connected living experiences. According to Dhakan, "The revenue in the Smart Home market is projected to reach US$7.3bn in 2025."

Road Ahead

With growing disposable incomes, tech-savvy consumers, and an increasing focus on sustainable living, the home automation market in India is poised for significant growth. As technology continues to evolve and prices decrease, we can expect to see even more widespread adoption of smart home solutions.

Hikvision, for instance, plans to continue innovating and expanding its product offerings to meet the growing demands of the Indian market. By leveraging advanced technologies and collaborating with local partners, the company aims to provide superior pre-sales and post-sales services, driving the adoption of smart home solutions across the country. As the market continues to mature, we can expect to see new trends and innovations emerge, shaping the future of home automation in India. With its potential to transform the way we live and work, home automation is set to play a significant role in shaping the smart cities of tomorrow. ■

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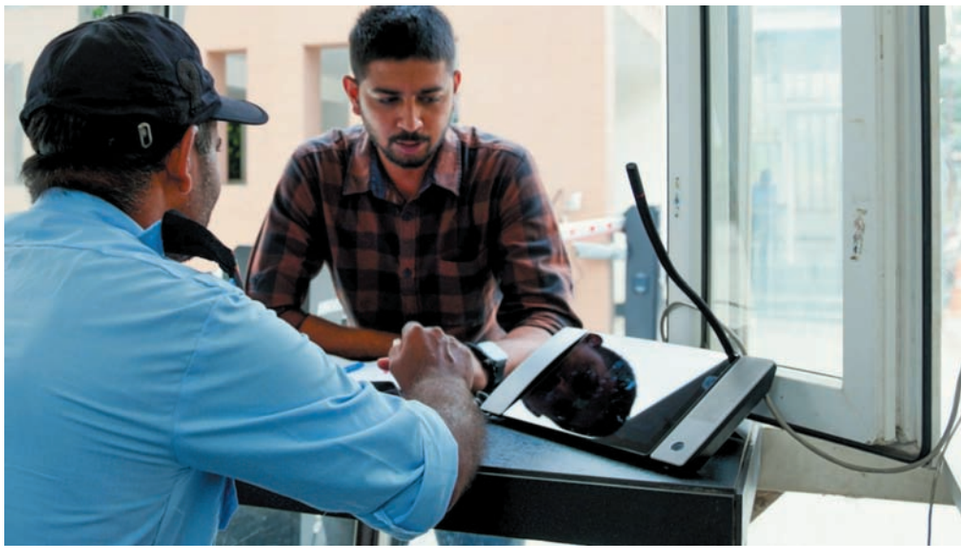

Vartik Sethi has an exclusive conversation with **Shivam Jindal, Director, Racconti**, a luxury interior and furniture brand that has rapidly established itself in India's high-end design market by masterfully blending Italian design aesthetics with Indian craftsmanship.

Shivam Jindal on Building India's Bespoke Interior Powerhouse

Jindal's family business background, rooted in industries like steel and fashion accessories, provided the foundation for this venture, which he calls a passion project initiated by his father. Today, Racconti stands as a Make-in-India success story, collaborating with renowned international designers to create original designs in India and challenging the dominance of imported European brands.

Origin Philosophy

Jindal shared Racconti was born out of a gap in the Indian furniture market. Local manufacturers had the capability to produce quality pieces, but original high-end designs were largely absent. Many makers resorted to copying Italian furniture, since discerning Indian clients loved Italian style but couldn't afford to fill their homes entirely with imported brands. Racconti's solution was to collaborate with top Italian designers for authentic design blueprints, then produce the pieces locally with Indian craftsmanship. This way, clients get the same design sophistication as an Italian luxury brand, but made in India, effectively marrying Italian creativity with Indian production.

The very name "Racconti" means "stories" in Italian, reflecting the idea that every home tells a story about its owners' taste and style. This concept drives the company to customise each project extensively, ensuring the result is deeply personal and one-of-a-kind.

Crafting Bespoke Experiences

Operating in the ultra-luxury segment, Racconti's process is highly bespoke and client-centric. There is no one-size-fits-all template; Jindal emphasises that every architect, interior designer, and client the company works with has a distinct vision and working style. The Racconti team, therefore, adopts a flexible approach, tailoring their workflow to meet each collaborator's needs and preferences. "Everybody has a different taste and style... we have to understand the architect or designer and adjust accordingly," shared Jindal.

Beyond manufacturing furniture, Racconti positions itself as a service-oriented partner in high-end projects. Jindal describes an almost hospitality-like experience for clients who visit their showroom and factory. The show around includes a personalised welcome as well as professional handling of design revisions. The goal is to make clients feel at home and taken care of throughout the journey. This high end service ethos helps bridge any gaps during the complex process of custom interior execution. Ultimately, Racconti isn't just selling furniture, it's delivering a holistic experience of crafting a dream home.

Landmark Projects and Global Collaborations

Despite being a young company, Racconti has already worked on several landmark projects, although many remain confidential under strict non-disclosure agreements. One significant completed project was an upscale private residence in Jamnagar, Gujarat, a milestone that showcased Racconti's ability to execute large-scale luxury interiors. Jindal is also excited about current international ventures, including a collaboration with the renowned Italian architect Antonio Citterio's design firm (ACPV) on a forthcoming

project. He even calls it “our biggest yet” due to Citterio’s legendary stature. While details are under wraps, such partnerships hint at the global reach Racconti is achieving in just a few years of operation. He proudly notes that in just four years Racconti has secured international assignments that some firms take decades to achieve. These projects, once unveiled, could be game-changers, proving that an Indian luxury interiors company can meet world-class standards on the global stage.

Balancing Sustainability with Luxury

With sustainability becoming a growing concern even in luxury domains, Racconti has woven eco-conscious practices into its operations. Jindal believes sustainability is fundamentally a mindset, and one that must be paired with willingness to invest. From the outset, Racconti obtained FSC-certified wood and adhered to ISO 9001 and 14001 standards to ensure environmentally responsible production. Using FSC-certified timber means the wood comes from managed plantations rather than endangered forests. The brand also offers options like vegan leather for clients who prioritise green materials.

Jindal in his conversation was quite frank that these eco-friendly choices come at a price, so if clients are willing to invest in them, Racconti readily delivers. Nevertheless, when working on projects overseas, where eco-standards are often non-negotiable, Racconti’s early adoption of sustainable practices has proven advantageous. Ultimately, Jindal insists it is the right thing to do for the planet, and he hopes Indian luxury consumers will gradually become more eco-conscious.

Challenges in a Fragmented Industry

One major hurdle for Racconti has been operating in a largely unorganised sector. The luxury furniture market in India is fragmented and heavily reliant on hand-skilled artisans, which makes it difficult to find and retain top talent. Skilled craftsmen are scarce, and high employee turnover is common. To tackle this, the company has put robust processes in place. A dedicated HR team scouts talent from design institutes, online platforms and industry networks, bringing in recruits who are then trained to meet Racconti’s exacting standards. Equally important, Jindal focuses on fostering a positive work culture and growth opportunities to help retain the core team.

Drawing on lessons from his stint as a state-level cricketer, Jindal tackles business challenges with discipline and composure under pressure. After experiencing the intensity of competitive sports, he finds that most work problems “feel like child’s play.”

Expansion and Future Outlook

Racconti’s journey has only just begun, and Jindal has a clear multi-phase vision for growth. The company has already diversified by launching a sister brand, Trussell positioned in the affordable luxury segment to offer high-quality designs with less customisation. Meanwhile, the flagship Racconti brand is expanding into new product categories to become a comprehensive interior solutions provider:

- **Luxury Kitchens:** A dedicated production facility and showroom are in the works to introduce a line of premium kitchens (including stainless steel designs) tailored for the Indian market.
- **Wardrobes & Panelling:** The company is establishing a new showroom exclusively for bespoke wardrobes and wall panelling, catering to the growing demand for these high-end installations.
- **One-Stop Ecosystem:** In the long run, Jindal envisions multiple sub-brands under the Racconti umbrella catering to different price segments, ensuring that clients at every budget level can access well-designed, quality interior products. ■

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DESIGN IN DIALOGUE

A Generational Lens on Delhi's Interior Design Landscape

Delhi is a city where nostalgia and novelty collide, three designers from three generations, Mahwash Sheeki, Interior Designer and Stylist, Sheek Design Studio, Ishita Oberoi, Principal Designer, Outlier Studio, Hardesh Chawla, Founder, Essentia Environments are reimagining space, each through their own cultural memory and technological lens. Vartik Sethi has a conversation with each of them to trace how Delhi's interiors are being shaped by a new design dialogue; one that transcends age and authority to create a richer, more human-centred aesthetic.

Vartik Sethi | New Delhi

For Sheeki, design was never about degrees or formalism. It began as an instinctive act, staging college rooms with DIY crafts, sourcing natural elements from the green lung that is the JNU campus, and upcycling everyday objects into décor. What began as hobbyist passion matured into a professional practice rooted in resourcefulness, empathy, and innovation.

"My design philosophy translates from nature, with a blend of timeless Baroque influences," she explained. Her work is recognisable by its use of natural textures, handcrafted collectibles, and vibrant personal touches that ensure each space has a distinct identity. In her projects across Western Delhi, Tilak Nagar, Janakpuri, Uttam Nagar, she has noticed a distinct openness to experimentation, particularly in middle-income households where storytelling trumps standardisation.

According to Sheeki, one of the most substantial market shifts post-2020 has been the growing emotional investment clients place in their homes. "People now spend more time indoors, and they want spaces that reflect their aspirations, not just accommodate function."

In terms of technology, Sheeki's adoption of digital tools like SketchUp and ChatGPT has enhanced her ability to take creative risks. "We can now prototype ideas quickly and help clients visualise them, which helps push boundaries without alarming clients."

Her firm champions sustainable choices, reupholstering heirloom furniture, using recycled wood, and building outdoor spaces that evoke mindfulness. Sheeki concluded, "By 2035, Delhi interiors will need to carry forward legacy and sentiment but reinterpret them through minimal, environmentally intelligent design. That's how you achieve timelessness."

The Bohemian Alchemist

Mahwash Sheeki
Interior Designer and Stylist, Sheek Design Studio

The Balanced Narrator

Ishita Oberoi, Principal Designer, Outlier Studio

Ishita's journey began in her mother's architecture studio, absorbing the ethos of spatial planning before she ever put pen to paper. Today, as Principal Designer at Outlier Studio, her projects embody cohesion without uniformity. "I approach every project as storytelling through space," she shared, referencing a recent penthouse project in Delhi as the best encapsulation of her design language.

The lower level of the penthouse was designed with a calm, earthy sensibility, punctuated by curated bursts of colour. The upper level, in contrast, channelled bolder visual statements: deep greys and blues creating mood and movement. "It's about striking a balance between calm and expression," she said.

What distinguishes her generational perspective is the ability to blend legacy with speed. “Our generation respects the rigour of traditional craft but is unafraid to integrate new processes and pivot with market needs.”

She also noted that client roles have shifted from passive recipients to active collaborators. “Today’s client is well-travelled, design-literate, and digitally enabled. Pinterest boards are the new design briefs. Our job is no longer to dictate, but to distil.”

Ishita is a vocal advocate of sustainability, redefining it as not just material efficiency but design longevity. From modular layouts that evolve with needs to working with local artisans for reduced footprint, she sees conscious consumption as a key tenet of future luxury. “By 2035, high-end interiors will be hyper-personal and deeply responsible. Regulatory frameworks will demand it, and discerning clients will expect it.” ■

The Precisionist Pioneer

Hardesh Chawla, Founder, Essentia Environments

For over a decade, Essentia Environments has operated on a singular philosophy: complete vertical integration. Led by Hardesh Chawla, the firm is among India’s few full-spectrum design houses, handling everything from architectural planning to on-site execution and in-house manufacturing.

“Luxury is not a finish; it’s a process,” Chawla explained. “Our approach ensures complete design control, enabling us to deliver exacting customisation at scale.” This philosophy was put to the test and triumphed, at The Camellias, a high-end residential complex on DLF Golf Course Road. There, Essentia designed and executed over 50 unique residences, each tailored to the lifestyle and aesthetic preferences of its owner.

While older generations may have excelled in design vision, Chawla’s generation brings an engineering and operations mindset to design. “We don’t outsource. We control. That’s our advantage.” Compared to younger firms, which may bring agility and trend fluency, Chawla believes his firm’s maturity lies in its infrastructural depth, owning the manufacturing pipeline, sourcing ethically certified materials, and ensuring flawless white-glove delivery.

Chawla sees AI and automation as the future of experiential luxury. “Smart systems are now intuitive, learning preferences, adjusting temperature, lighting, and even mood-based sensory elements. Tomorrow’s home will be adaptive, not static.”

His 2035 forecast is bold: “We will move toward living, breathing homes; spaces that curate themselves based on your physical and emotional state. Delhi is ready for this shift.”

Generational Crossroads: What the Market is Telling Us

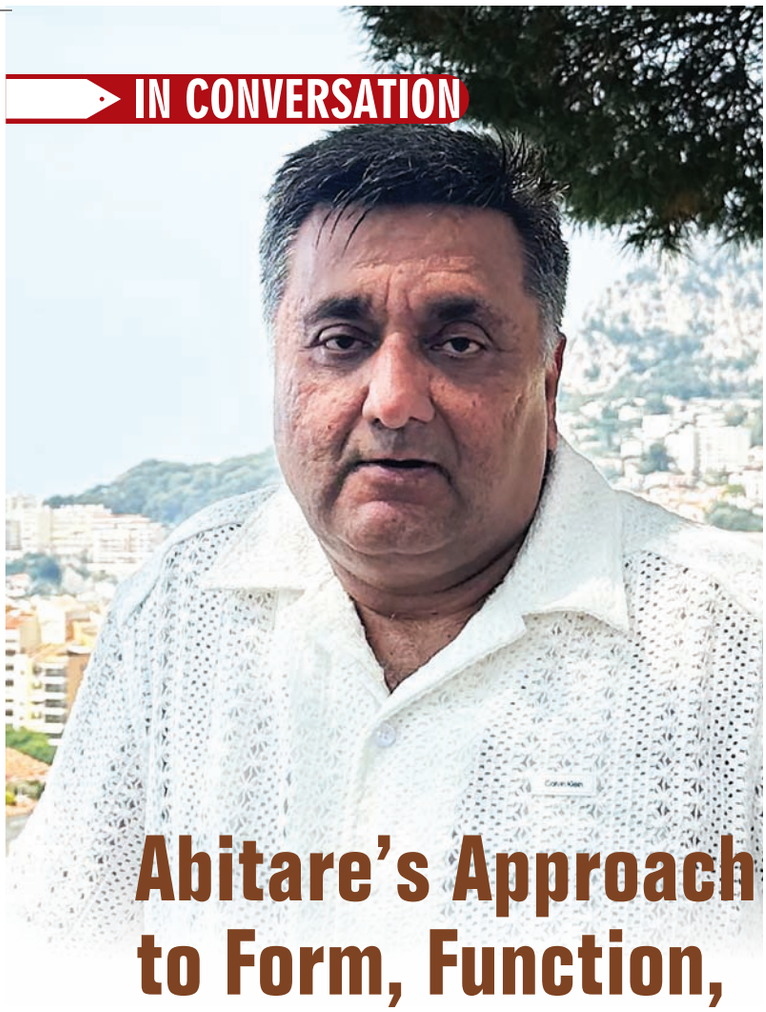
The insights from Sheeki, Ishita, and Chawla paint a clear picture: Delhi’s interiors industry is moving away from transactional design and toward narrative-driven, highly customised, and emotionally intelligent spaces.

For younger designers, digital tools provide agility, allowing them to pitch bold ideas to clients who are increasingly open to risk. For mid-career practitioners, it’s about mastering balance between vision and viability, legacy and innovation. Senior leaders, with deeper operational muscle and capital investment, are creating scalable systems that redefine luxury through automation and infrastructure.

In economic terms, clients are willing to invest more, but demand returns in the form of longevity, well-being, and identity alignment. The value proposition has shifted from visual appeal to functional richness and emotional depth. Homes are now performance spaces for rest, work, leisure, and therapy.

Technology is not just a facilitator, it is becoming the co-designer. Whether it is AI-generated walk-throughs, predictive HVAC systems, or modular furniture solutions, interior design is increasingly tied to real-time analytics and hyper-personalisation.

Meanwhile, sustainability has moved beyond bamboo baskets and jute carpets. It now includes ethical sourcing, low-emission finishes, HVAC planning, and long-life adaptability. Sustainability is no longer an ‘add-on’; it is integral to good design. ■



Abitare's Approach to Form, Function, and Fusion

When **Rohit Sethi founded Abitare** in 1997, it was more than just the beginning of a design firm, it was a declaration of intent. Launched on his wife's birthday, the practice emerged at a time when the Indian interior design industry was still in its infancy, with aesthetics often overshadowing function. In an interaction with **Vartik Sethi**, he throws light on the sustainable practices in Abitare.

Form-First Philosophy Grounded in Function

In the late 1990s, design in India was often defined by bold colours and surface-level glamour. "There was little consideration for climate, sustainability, or long-term utility," Sethi reflected. Abitare's early work in interiors consciously rejected this fleeting aesthetic in favour of spaces that are "subtle, neat, and emotionally enduring." For Sethi, good design is not about visual dazzle, it's about longevity and relevance. "What I design for you today should still feel right ten years from now," he said.

The clarity of purpose guided Abitare's gradual but confident transition from interior projects to full-fledged architecture, eventually becoming one of the few studios equally proficient across both disciplines.

Designing for the Individual

At the heart of Abitare's practice lies a commitment to human-centric design. Every project begins not with a sketch, but with a conversation. "We map the user's emotions, needs, and aspirations, what they say, and more importantly, what they don't," Sethi explained. Through a mix of immersive 3D walkthroughs, iterative feedback, and thoughtful observation, the team ensures that each design reflects the unique character of its user, rather than the vision of the architect.

Signature Projects

Abitare's portfolio spans over 1,000 projects across sectors, but two stand out as defining benchmarks: the Courtyard by Marriott in Gorakhpur and ITC Welcomhotel Tavleen in Chail. In Gorakhpur, Sethi and his team undertook the transformation of a neglected 1980s government guesthouse, described by him as a "bhoot mahal" into a refined five-star property. Without demolishing the original structure, Abitare repurposed the building to meet luxury hospitality standards. "Marriott walked in and approved it without a single hesitation," he recalled with pride.

In Chail, the Welcomhotel Tavleen emerged as a sensitive response to its Himalayan surroundings. The property merges nature inspired architectural references with subtle, modern interiors. "We wanted guests to feel relaxed, not overwhelmed" he said. With warm wood finishes, panoramic views, and a rooftop meditation space in place of a bar, the design invites quiet reflection over spectacle. The property is best suited for an evolved customer that chooses calm over chaotic luxury.

One Narrative, Many Layers

What distinguishes Abitare is its ability to seamlessly integrate architecture, interiors, and landscape under one coherent narrative. "Architecture gives structure; interiors give life," Sethi said. With Rohit leading architectural direction and his wife steering interior design, the studio's collaborative dynamic ensures conceptual continuity from blueprint to final furnishing.

The process begins with a core design story, a central philosophy that shapes the space holistically. Shared material palettes, recurring geometries, and scale-sensitive forms are intentionally planned from the outset to create a dialogue between exterior and interior. “We don’t just coordinate these aspects, we fuse them,” Sethi emphasised.

The Eye for Detail

Rohit Sethi credits much of his design intuition to his early mentorship under architect Ranjit Sabikhi. “He could spot mistakes on-site without even needing drawings,” Sethi recalled. That eye for proportion, precision, and detailing has become foundational to Abitare’s ethos today. “Clients often realise design flaws only after completion. Our role is to catch those misalignments long before the paint dries.” It’s an instinct that can’t be taught overnight but one that, over time, distinguishes enduring design from ephemeral trends.

The Case of Shishganj Sahib

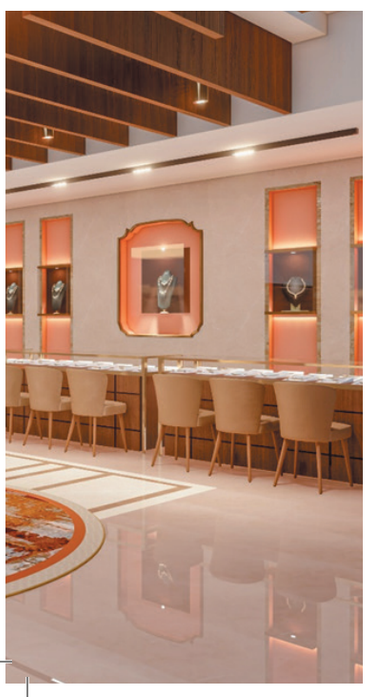
Abitare’s work on the Shishganj Sahib Gurdwara in Anandpur Sahib exemplifies its commitment to cultural preservation. Once overwhelmed by unregulated structures and encroachments, the sacred site had lost its architectural clarity. Abitare stepped in not to redesign the shrine, but to rediscover it. By rationalising circulation, reorganising the approach, and restoring visual access to the Gurdwara, they returned the spiritual centre to its rightful prominence without disturbing its core sanctity.

Today, the firm is entrusted with multiple religious restoration projects across India, including Ponta Sahib and Patna Sahib, with Shishganj serving as the original blueprint for sensitive, site-specific intervention.

“It’s not the design that makes the detail. It’s the detail that makes the design,” Sethi said. “If your detailing is right, the outcome will always be right,” he added.

Form, Function, and Fusion

At Abitare, architecture and interior design are not sequential services, they are symbiotic processes. “When we design a space, the thought doesn’t end with architecture or begin with interiors. Both inform each other right from the start,” Sethi explained. This integrated approach allows the firm to maintain a seamless design narrative, one where materials, geometry, and alignment transition fluidly from exterior to interior.



Sethi credits this cohesion to his collaboration with his team. Their natural design dialogue ensures that functionality never takes a backseat to flair. “An architect ensures the space works. The interior designer brings life to it. At Abitare, we do both with equal weight.”

Technology as an Enabler

Digital tools have revolutionised how clients engage with design. Where once hand-drawn sketches left room for ambiguity, today’s photorealistic renders and 3D walkthroughs offer clarity and expectation. “What the client sees in our renders is 99 per cent of what gets built,” Sethi noted. Yet he cautions against an over-reliance on technology. AI-generated visuals and Pinterest mood boards, while helpful for inspiration, often raise unrealistic expectations. “People walk in with images of double-height spaces for their ten-foot rooms. That’s where we step in, not just to design, but to educate,” he said. “Good architecture balances aspiration with feasibility.”

Shift in Priorities Post-Pandemic

The pandemic, Sethi observed, reset not just lifestyles but mindsets. Clients now seek homes and hospitality spaces that prioritise well-being, sunlight, air flow, and outdoor integration. “Earlier, people didn’t think of working from a hill town or wanting a fire pit in their backyard. Today, those are baseline requests,” he noted.

He credits this behavioural shift with a renewed seriousness around design—especially from men who traditionally stayed disengaged. “Earlier, residential design decisions were often left to the family. Today, everyone wants a say. Everyone’s involved. And that’s a good thing.”

On Mentorship and Global Outlook

As Abitare nears its 30-year milestone, Sethi sees mentorship as a design project in itself. His message to young designers is simple: master patience, and master the detail. “Don’t start anything to learn for six months and leave. It takes two to three years to truly absorb how things work, especially the nuances of execution,” he said.

And while creativity is essential, he insists it must be grounded in logic. “You can’t waste a client’s money on an idea that doesn’t serve a function. Aesthetic is important, yes. But balance is critical.”

Abitare’s upcoming focus includes expansion into Tier 2 cities like Nagpur and Indore, where openness to design innovation meets budget flexibility. Internationally, the firm is also exploring potential collaborations with global practices, including exploring projects with Norman Foster’s network in the UK. ■

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GUEST ARTICLE

Creating Safer Habitats with Fire Compartmentalization

By **Gopikrishnan TM,** Director – Sales & Marketing (India, Middle East, Asia & Oceania), Vetrotech Saint-Gobain

Fire safety has always been a sincere concern among residential and commercial buildings. According to a report by Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI), maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 7,566 cases of fire accidents were reported in India during 2022. This highlights the importance of fire safety awareness and preparedness.

Fire safety is more than just installing smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. It includes checking for risks, preventing fires, and knowing how to respond if an accident occurs. Effective fire safety starts with identifying potential hazards, implementing preventive measures to reduce risks, and educating all occupants about evacuation procedures and emergency protocols. This not only protects us but also safeguards those who might be vulnerable during fire accidents such as children, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

One of the most effective methods for ensuring fire safety is fire compartmentalization. This technique is about dividing a building into sections or compartments designed to contain fire and smoke within them, preventing the spread to other areas. These compartments are constructed using fire-resistant materials, such as specially designed glass walls, floors, and ceilings, which are made to withstand elevated temperatures for a specific duration. This feature provides occupants with enough time to evacuate the building and reduce structural damage along with economic loss.

While active fire protection systems are great additions to a building's fire safety strategy, they should never replace passive fire protection. This is because many active systems are improperly installed or maintained, leading to accidents during a fire. For instance, heat detectors placed

***Gopikrishnan T M** has been involved from the start of the Vetrotech Saint-Gobain business in this region since 2008. He is focused on market creation, expansion, and strategic direction across India, the Middle East, and the Asia-Oceania regions, achieving significant milestones in enhancing Vetrotech Saint-Gobain's presence and profitability.*

near air conditioners, damaged alarm circuits, lack of complete hydrants, and sprinklers mounted beyond regulatory distances. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that while an active fire protection system is reliable and can help contain fires, this can only happen in combination with passive fire protection system and not as a substitute to it.

For proper fire compartmentalization in a building's design, several measures can be taken. Fire-resistant walls and ceilings can be built to withstand flames for a specified period, typically ranging from 30 to 120 minutes. This prevents the fire from spreading to other compartments. Fire doors with self-closing mechanisms are essential, as they automatically shut during a fire, stopping smoke and flames from spreading. Smoke barriers also play a critical role by preventing the spread of smoke, which can be even more dangerous than fire. Additionally, fire dampers or shutters installed in HVAC systems can isolate different areas of the building by closing off air ducts during a fire, thereby preventing smoke from traveling through ventilation systems.

To ensure these measures are effective, regular inspections and maintenance checks must be conducted. Building regulations state that fire safety information must be made available to building managers. These regulations define various fire protection measures including their location and type, along with other factors such as occupancy type, building height, evacuation distance, and occupant load per unit area. It also includes the proactive measures that have been taken to fireproof the building.

There are various advantages of implementing fire compartmentalization. It enhances occupant safety by providing more time to evacuate in a fire and controls the spread of fire, reducing property damage and repair costs. Moreover, regulatory bodies like the National Building Code of India (NBC) are increasingly making it mandatory for buildings to comply with fire safety codes, including compartmentalization, to protect homeowners and building owners from potential legal consequences.

To implement fire compartmentalization in a home or commercial building effectively, one needs to carry out a proper fire risk assessment involving professionals who can assess the fire safety features and identify areas for improvement. It is important to work with architects and builders who are aware of fire safety regulations to incorporate the necessary features into design plans from the very beginning. Also, maintenance and inspection of all fire-resistant elements such as doors and walls should be conducted regularly to ensure they are still effective over time.

Building regulations ensure fire safety by incorporating measures into both the design and construction of buildings. They include both active measures like fire alarms as well as passive fire protection features like fire doors and fire walls that aim to contain the fire. Any alterations made to the building must comply with fire safety regulations and will require a revision of the Fire Strategy Plan.

Creating a safer home is not only about compliance; but also protecting lives and property from the destructive effects of fire. By thoughtfully designing spaces with effective barriers against fire spreading, we can enhance safety for everyone. As awareness continues to grow around this critical aspect of building safety, investing in fire compartmentalization is an essential step toward ensuring a secure living or working environment. ■

‘We See Ourselves as Architects of the Future of Indian Architecture, Not Just Manufacturers’

The company’s immediate as well as long-term goal is to expand its footprint in large-scale projects across India, says **Theodoros Axouristos, Managing Director, Alumil India**, in a conversation with **Prasenjit Chakraborty**.

Q Alumil Systems India has been providing innovative aluminium solutions for the past few years. What would you say has been the key factor behind the company’s growth and success in the Indian market?

Alumil’s success in India stems from a combination of global expertise and deep local understanding. One of the key factors has been our commitment to delivering high performance aluminium window and door systems tailored to India’s unique climatic and architectural needs. We’ve positioned ourselves not just as a product supplier, but as a strategic partner to architects, developers and consultants. For example, our soon to be launched training academy will empower fabricators with skills in energy-efficient installation, bridging the gap between global standards and local execution. Our consistent investment in research, design and innovation has helped us offer cutting-edge solutions that combine aesthetics, performance and sustainability. Moreover, our responsiveness to project timelines, focus on technical support and ability to customise solutions for diverse building types have built trust with stakeholders across the country.

Q Alumil offers a diverse range of products, including windows, doors, facades, and partitions. How do these solutions help architects overcome challenges while maintaining the aesthetic and functional aspects of their designs?

Architects often face the challenge of balancing design vision with functional performance and technical feasibility. Alumil’s window and door systems empower them to realise bold, creative designs without compromise. For example, our Smartia sliding windows provide frameless glass panels that maximise natural light and offer unobstructed views, while integrated railings maintain safety without compromising aesthetics.

Our façade systems are engineered to deliver exceptional thermal insulation and weather resistance that are crucial for projects in regions with harsh climates or high rainfall. 25 South, our luxurious residential building project in Mumbai overlooking the Arabian Sea required oversized windows to withstand coastal winds. Alumil's engineering team developed reinforced frames with dual sealing systems, ensuring durability without sacrificing design. Similarly, mesh windows and ventilator panels in high-rises enhance airflow while maintaining security. With acoustic performance, fire resistance and security built into our products, we enable architects to meet stringent building codes and performance standards without sacrificing aesthetics. The flexibility of our product lines also allows seamless integration into various architectural styles, from minimalist modern to classic forms.

Q Sustainability is becoming a major focus in the architecture and construction industry. How is Alumil Systems India integrating sustainable practices into its product offerings?

Sustainability is a core pillar of Alumil's global and Indian operations. Our flagship innovation - Loop 80, is a certified aluminium material made with 80 per cent recycled aluminium. It offers a dramatic reduction in CO2 emissions, up to 87 per cent compared to primary aluminium, supporting green building certifications like LEED and BREEAM. We design our products to enhance energy efficiency through thermal break technology, airtight systems and high-performance glazing, reducing HVAC loads in buildings. Beyond the product level, we also follow eco-conscious manufacturing and supply chain practices, using low-impact processes and promoting the circular economy. Our aim is to offer solutions that contribute to net-zero energy goals while maintaining premium aesthetics and performance.

Q Looking ahead, what are your key goals for Alumil Systems India in the next 5 to 10 years, particularly in the context of the growing demand for smart and energy-efficient buildings?

Our strategic goal is to be the most trusted partner for sustainable and technologically advanced aluminium window and door systems in India. In the coming years, we plan to expand our presence across tier 1 and tier 2 cities, responding to the rapid urbanisation and real estate growth. Our immediate as well as long-term goal is to expand Alumil's footprint in large-scale projects across India. Backed by strong supply capabilities from Greece, Dubai and Egypt, we are strategically positioned to meet the growing demand for high-performance architectural aluminium systems. We will continue to innovate our product portfolio, focusing on smart window and facade systems that integrate with building management systems for better control of lighting, ventilation and energy usage. We are introducing a new range of window and door systems designed around three core principles - value for money, aesthetic appeal and high performance. Our differentiators include comprehensive warranties, performance testing for soundproofing and water resistance, and expert technical support tailored to client needs. With a global manufacturing network ensuring timely supply and an R&D team focused on India's varied climate, we are committed to delivering tailored solutions.

Q Could you share some examples of recent landmark projects where Alumil's systems have made a significant impact, and what role do you see Alumil playing in the future of urban development in India?

Alumil's cutting-edge window and facade solutions have recently been installed in premium residential projects 25 South, Kukreja Infinity and One Meraki. For Mumbai's 25 South project which posed the challenges of coastal winds and salt corrosion, we customised aluminium curtain walls with anti-corrosive coatings and impact-resistant glass. For Kukreja Infinity in Nagpur, we designed thermally broken windows and acoustic facades to reduce indoor temperatures by 6°C and noise by 50 per cent. In Mumbai's One Meraki, which had an energy efficiency mandate, we installed Loop 80 aluminium facades that helped the project achieve LEED Platinum certification. We will continue to collaborate with architects and developers on net-zero and smart city projects. Alumil aims to be a key enabler of India's urban development by providing sustainable, durable and customizable solutions that align with the goals of green buildings, smart cities and climate-resilient infrastructure. We see ourselves not just as manufacturers, but as active participants in shaping the future of Indian architecture. ■

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ORGATEC India 2025: Shaping Future Workplaces

Launching in Mumbai, ORGATEC India 2025 brings together international experts, brands, and decision-makers to showcase cutting-edge workplace technology, design, and sustainability—shaping India's evolving office and facilities ecosystem like never before.

AU Staff | Mumbai

India is changing the way it works, collaborates, and innovates — and leading this change is ORGATEC India 2025, the first Indian edition of the world-famous ORGATEC Cologne. Taking place from 4–6 November 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, this exhibition will be the country's only B2B platform focused on workplace technology, innovation, and the office environment. Far more than an exhibition, ORGATEC India is a confluence of ideas, products, and people, bringing together everything from workspace design, office furniture, and lighting to automation, AV, BMS, co-working infrastructure, facility management, enterprise solutions, and sustainability - essentially the complete ecosystem of modern work under one roof.

Leading Brands on Board

The debut edition has already attracted several leading names in the industry, both Indian and international. Global giants such as Haworth (USA), Humanscale (USA), Kokuyo (Japan), Actiu (Spain), Forbo (Netherlands), Framery (Finland), INTEG (New Zealand), Donati (Italy), AOKE (Malaysia), Worklyfe, Scube and A & H Meyer will be showcasing their solutions alongside India's leading innovators, including Godrej Interio, Nilkamal, Wipro, AFC Furniture Solutions, Spacewood, Talin, Ozone Overseas, Kuboz Arc, Amardeep Designs, Bonton, Office Banao, Bajaj Acoutex, Techno Acoustic, DigiLock, Fonzel, Times Firefill, Winifomi, Tech Beam and many others. The fact that 95% of exhibition space is already booked months ahead of the event underscores the industry's belief in the potential and power of this platform.

Backed by Influential Industry Associations

Adding weight to its presence, ORGATEC India is backed by some

of the most influential industry associations, including MAIT (Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology), INBAC (Integrated Building Automation Community), NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), CGAI (Corporate Gifts Association of India), Africa Facilities Management Association, CRISP (Council for Realty Infrastructure & Services Promotion), ESC (Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council), AESA (Architects, Engineers & Surveyors' Association), and CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). Together, these bodies lend credibility, expertise, and unparalleled reach to the event. On the media front, ORGATEC India has already partnered with prominent names such as STIR, Ace Update, CEO Insights, IT Voice, Interior Exterior, Startup News, Security Link India, Automated Buildings, Tycoons, Interior & Decor, and more, ensuring widespread visibility and engagement across key industry networks.

Curated for Decision Makers

What makes the event unmissable, however, is not just the brands and associations, but the carefully curated audience it caters to. ORGATEC India is designed as a decision-maker's hub, attracting CXOs, architects, interior designers, consultants, facility and procurement heads, real estate developers, co-working space owners, HR leaders, IT and data security professionals, OEMs, dealers, distributors, technology providers, SMEs, start-ups, GCCs, urban planners, hospitality players, and smart city officials. For these audiences, the exhibition is more than a trade show - it is a chance to explore live solutions, experience new technologies, witness immersive demos, and forge partnerships that will shape the future of workplaces in India and beyond.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Smart Building Technologies
- Flexible & Collaborative Workspaces
- Office Design and Innovation
- Technology Integration

EXHIBITOR PROFILE

- Smart Facility Technology
- Office furniture, Fixture & Equipment I Supplies
- Workplace Automation & Tech
- Facility outsource Services
- Office and Co-working Spaces

Across three dynamic days, ORGATEC India 2025 will host a power-packed lineup of seminars, panel discussions, and fireside chats spotlighting the future of workplaces, smart building technologies, and next-gen facility solutions. Industry stalwarts and thought leaders from architecture, real estate development, interior design, workplace automation, facility management, HR, IT, and procurement will share cutting-edge insights, debate emerging trends, and present visionary ideas that are shaping tomorrow's work environments. From high-impact keynotes to focused jury sessions on innovation and sustainability, these sessions promise actionable takeaways for every professional driving the evolution of modern workplaces.

In every sense, ORGATEC India 2025 is a business platform built for those who shape, design, build, or enable future-ready workplaces. With a unique blend of international expertise, Indian innovation, association support, media reach, and curated knowledge exchange, the event promises to be a transformative experience for its participants. As Koelnmesse Germany, the organizers of the globally acclaimed ORGATEC Cologne, bring their expertise to India, the stage is set for a debut edition that will leave a lasting imprint on the workplace and built-environment industry. ■

GUEST ARTICLE

Beyond the Surface:
How Facades Shape the Cities We Live In

By **Gouri Upasani,** Founder & Principal Architect, Quadometry Designs

Picture yourself walking or driving through a busy street in your city, surrounded by rows and rows of buildings - each one different from the other in terms of size, shape, colours and the purpose it serves. As your eyes scan the streetscape, what is the first thing that you notice about these buildings? Chances are, some of the buildings immediately catch your attention, while some are bound to fade into the background, overshadowed by bolder, more striking structures that immediately stand out. But what is the factor that causes this distinct difference in appearance? It is the design of the exterior wall of a building, known as the facade of a building.

As the most visible aspect, the facade design of a building plays a significant role in influencing our first impression or perception of a structure. Its design - through elements like color, texture, and structure - not only determines how a building is perceived but also how it holds its own among a sea of urban structures. However, the importance of a facade extends far beyond just good looks or aesthetics - it is more than just a pretty face for your building. In this article, let us delve into the deeper significance of facade design, and the various purposes it fulfills.

The Evolution of Facade Designs Over the Years

In ancient times, facade designs were vastly different from those we see today. If you go through photos of historic buildings, you will notice that most designs involve much more intricate detailing, labour-intensive craftsmanship and architectural expression as compared to buildings nowadays. The facade designs of these buildings were heavily shaped by local climates, readily available building materials, and the cultural heritage of the region. Each structure was donned with elaborate designs that conveyed wealth, status, and artistic endeavour - capturing the essence of its era.

Eventually, in the 20th century, we saw a noticeable shift towards more modern facade designs, with the introduction of new materials and construction technologies as a result of industrialization. New materials like steel and reinforced concrete revolutionized construction, enabling taller buildings with expansive, open interiors. Glass began to dominate facades, driven by both technological innovation and a growing preference

for natural light and visual openness. This shift transformed the aesthetic landscape of urban Indian cities, aligning it more closely with global standards in facade architecture.

Today, with advancements in technology, the evolution of facades continues in exciting new ways, integrating smart materials and technologies to make them more dynamic. Beyond just a decorative layer, modern facades adapt to environmental changes, improve energy efficiency, and prioritize occupant well-being.

How Do Facade Designs Shape Cities?

The design of building facades plays a big role in how a city looks and feels. How these buildings appear affects how people see the place and adds to the overall charm, unity, and cultural feel of the city. Some countries around the world have a strict list of regulations set by authorities concerning the design of building facades, ensuring a certain architectural harmony and helping in maintaining a city's visual consistency and heritage.

But in India, there is largely no such existence of any strict or clear rules surrounding the design of facades. This opens doors to individual architects and developers to make the most out of their creative vision. In this context, architects have a special chance to make a lasting impact with their architectural expression. They play an important role in shaping lively and interesting city views that show the variety and changing nature of urban life in India.

As architects, we view facades not as standalone elements, but as a vital component woven into the entire planning process from the very beginning. In many instances, our design approach often begins with a clear vision of the desired facade, allowing it to guide and influence the project's development from concept to completion.

The Role of Facades in Architecture

While its contribution towards the overall visual appeal of a building is undeniable, a facade design fulfills more than just the aesthetic values of a building.

- Facades often form the identity of buildings. They should act as a reflection of a building's purpose, character, and the creative vision of its architect. As the most memorable aspect of any building, it is essential for a facade design to capture the building's essence and communicate it effectively.
- Facades shield buildings against external turbulence. Not only do they protect buildings from harsh environmental elements like wind, rain, and pollution, some modern facades may also incorporate advanced features for climate control and resistance to weather-related damage, extending a building's lifespan and reducing potential maintenance costs.
- Facades enhance energy efficiency. With the right design and materials utilized in the right manner, facades can greatly reduce reliance on artificial lighting or heating/cooling systems, contributing to sustainable, energy-efficient environments without compromising occupant comfort.
- Thoughtfully designed facades enable functionality and productivity. Through a healthy, pleasant indoor atmosphere, created by optimizing natural light, ventilation and thermal comfort, well-designed facades motivate occupants to be more productive and happier.

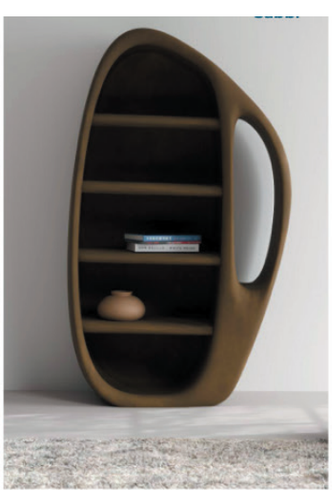
At their core, facade designs serve a greater purpose than just catching the eye of passersby - they determine the functionality and performance of a building, and contribute to the overall identity of a city. ■

A highly experienced architect with 19 years of expertise in designing premium residential, commercial, retail, and industrial spaces, Gouri Upasani is celebrated for her commitment to functional and high-quality design. She brings a proactive approach and strong interpersonal skills to every project, consistently delivering solutions that prioritize user experience.

Design Mumbai 2025:

International Visionaries to Meet India's Talent

Design Mumbai, India's most anticipated international design show, is set to return to Jio World Garden from November 26-29, 2025, for its second edition. This year's exhibition promises an extraordinary range and caliber of participating brands, guest speakers, and exclusive design features, uniting international visionaries with India's most exciting talent.



The show will feature exclusive design collaborations, including an award-winning Spanish designer Lucas Muñoz Muñoz, who will design THE Park Hotels Café on site using repurposed materials from the hotel group's refurbishment projects. Additionally, the Australian Institute of Architects will bring its annual conference to Mumbai, coinciding with the show, and delegates will participate in Design Mumbai Exchange, the show's acclaimed talks program.

Design Mumbai will showcase new international brands, including Natuzzi, which will present Mirai, a sofa collection by Andrea Steidl inspired by 13th-century Federician architecture of Puglia. String Furniture will celebrate its iconic String System, a modular classic that remains adaptable and elegant today as it was over 70 years ago. Blå Station, a Swedish brand, will also join the lineup, showcasing its unique designs. Sabbi will introduce stainable micro-concrete furniture inspired by wabi-sabi philosophy, including its Shelter Bookshelf, while Racconti, a high-end furniture company, will showcase the Eterno collection, created by five renowned Italian designers.

The show will also highlight emerging talent, with design school Istituto Marangoni returning with a showcase of five alumni. The Emerging Designers Pavilion, designed by Jasmine Jhaveri, will spotlight rising stars, including Studio Abrash, Wannas Design Atelier, Studio Klay, and Trnkts3D.

Decorative interiors and textiles will also be featured, with FAZO Project returning with contemporary rugs crafted using age-old weaving techniques. Venjara Carpets will debut with sustainable PET rugs woven in Bhadohi, India's capital of carpet weaving. Threadarte will bring experimental textiles made from waste materials, transformed into architectural installations and tactile surfaces. Shaman Ideas will reimagine geometric forms as dynamic three-dimensional sculptures. ■

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GESS Dubai, Sheikh Saeed Halls - **11 to 13,** Booth No. **K50**
DIDAC New Delhi, Yashobhoomi (IICC) - **18 to 20,** Booth No. **D21 & D24**

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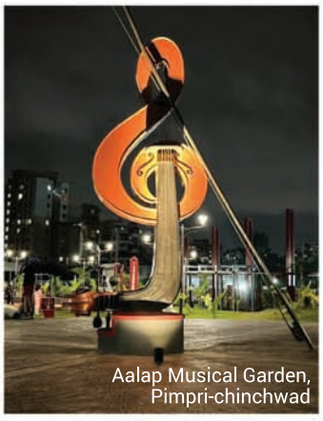

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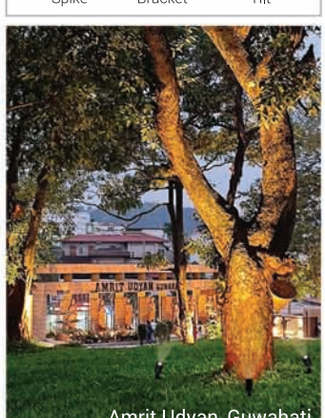
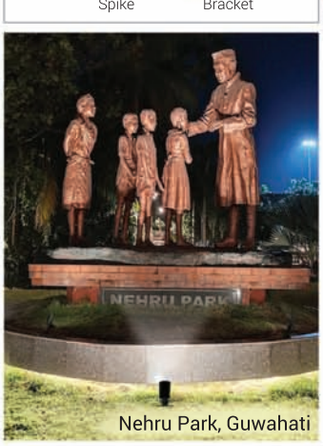
NEBULA MIDI

NEBULA



ACCESSORIES

FLOOR MOUNT



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