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interiors and decor

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October - November 2024 • ₹ 200



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the October-November 2024 edition of Interiors & Decor magazine.

This issue is a special tribute to those who continuously redefine the boundaries of design and architecture—our cover feature shines the spotlight on award-winning architects and designers whose leading-edge work has set them apart in the field. These creative leaders have not only pushed the envelope with their innovative approaches but have also

set benchmarks that inspire the industry and future generations. Through their stories, we explore the unique blend of artistry and technical precision that has earned them prestigious accolades and peer recognition.

Beyond the cover feature, this edition brings you an illuminating look at the evolving world of lighting. Today's lighting designs go beyond basic functionality to integrate seamlessly with the aesthetic narrative of any space. Our lighting feature examines cutting-edge technologies, sustainable practices, and artistic concepts that are transforming how we think about light. From sculptural chandeliers that serve as focal points to energy-efficient LED systems that blend with modern interiors, the role of lighting has become pivotal in enhancing both form and function. Readers will find insights into how lighting can be used to shape moods, highlight architectural details, and create inviting atmospheres.

We also explore the transformative power of paint in our second special feature. Color has always been a powerful tool in design, capable of influencing mood and setting the tone of a space. This section explores the latest color trends making waves in the industry, from bold, dynamic hues that create statement interiors to soft, nature-inspired palettes that promote tranquillity. We also focus on innovative paint technologies that prioritize eco-friendliness, ensuring that beauty does not come at the expense of environmental health.

In this edition, we celebrate the visionaries who are not afraid to push boundaries, experiment with new ideas, and commit to sustainable practices. Whether you're an industry professional or a design enthusiast, our pages are curated to offer inspiration, education, and a touch of creative magic. Join us as we explore the cutting-edge trends, timeless inspirations, and stories that make our built environment not just functional, but truly extraordinary.

With warm wishes, ■

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

Connect with your comments at :
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Land

interiors and decor

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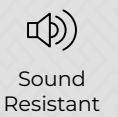
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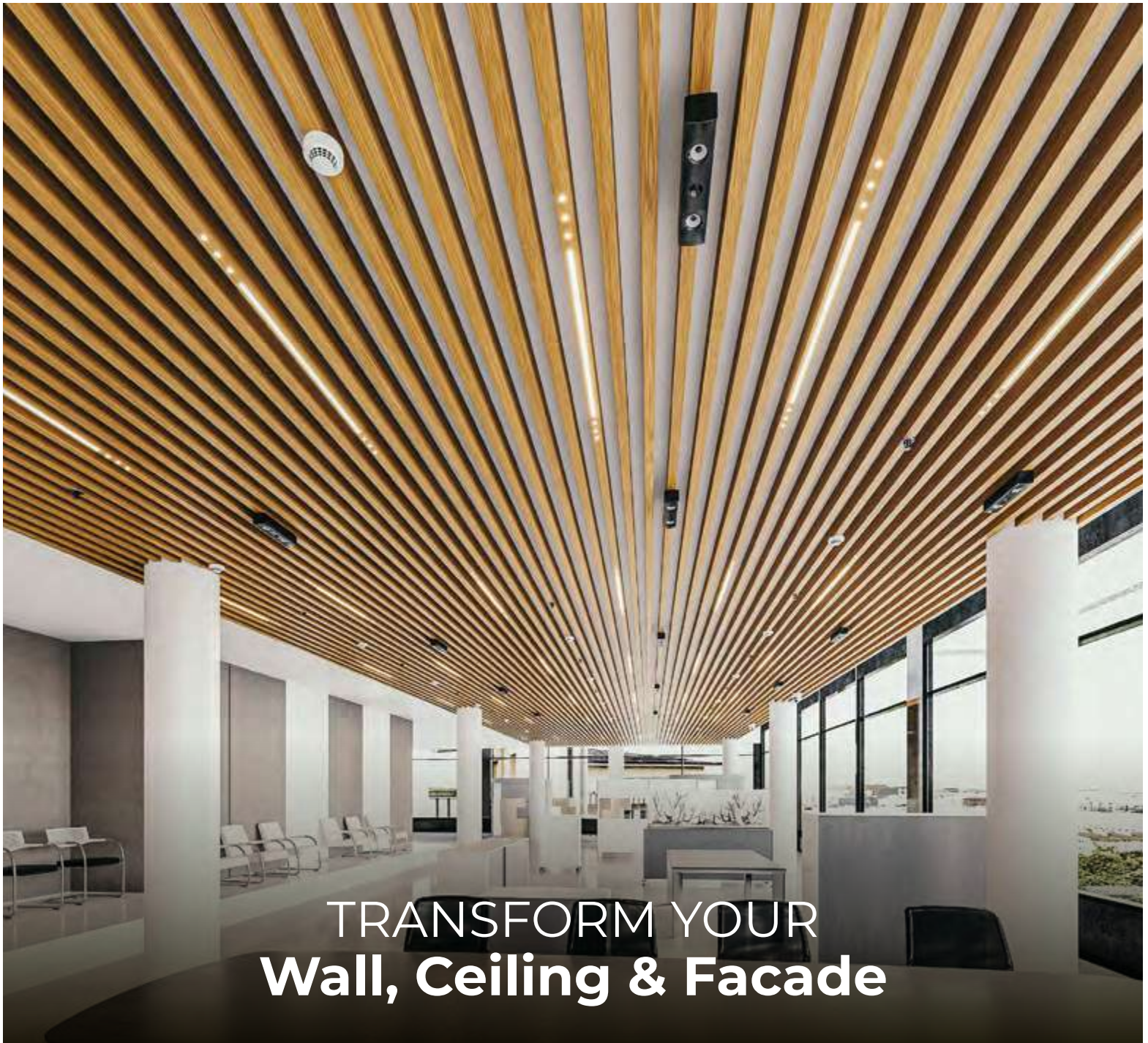
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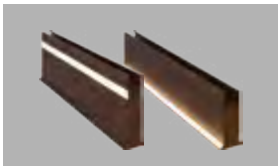




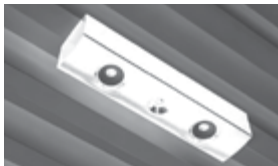
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Principal Architect
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DIKSHU C. KUKREJA,

Principal C P Kukreja Architects

AR. JIAUL SHAIKH,

And Team Of Iconic Designs

HARKARAN SINGH BOPARAI,

Founder And Principal Architect
Harkaran Boparai Studio (HBS)

ABHISHEK CHADHA,

CEO & Company Founder, KariGhars

AR. SUMIT MALIK,

Founding Principal, Design Consortia

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Founder & Principal Designer
Studio Rohini Bagla

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Founder, Furnish Me Architects

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Founder, Aeiforia

AR. MIHIR KOTAK AND AR. RINKI KOTAK,

Principal Architects, 4th Dimension

AR. SMITA VIJAYKUMAR,

Founder, ReNNovate Interiors

AR. ANIL BADAN,

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Manish Mehan, CEO & MD, TK Elevator India

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AGL EXPANDS HORIZONS WITH LUXOR AND NEW BATHWARE INNOVATIONS

AGL has launched an exclusive new range of kitchen and bathware products, introducing 60 new items, including kitchen sinks, round basins, premium one-piece water closets, and shower heads. Notably, the collection debuts Luxor, India's first 3D Siphonic Rimless Wall-Hung Water Closet. The products are manufactured at AGL's cutting-edge Morbi plant, which has a capacity of 0.66 million pieces per annum.

To mark the launch, AGL introduced Elevate360, a virtual event showcasing their latest offerings. Kamlesh Patel, Chairman of AGL, highlighted the company's focus on innovative solutions and their commitment to engaging consumers and traders through virtual platforms.

This launch marks AGL's first internally manufactured bathware range, shifting from third-party sourcing. AGL expects its bathware division to achieve Rs. 400 crore in turnover within five years. With over 277 exclusive showrooms and exports to 100+ countries, AGL continues to lead in luxury surfaces and bathware solutions across India. ■



GRAFF'S NEW TOUCH-FREE SENSOR FAUCETS FOR CONTEMPORARY BATHROOMS

GRAFF, a leader in luxury bath and kitchen fixtures, expands its Art of Bath collection with advanced sensor faucets, blending elegance with high-tech functionality. These touch-free faucets activate with a simple wave, promoting hygiene and convenience—ideal for modern spaces. GRAFF's Founder and CEO Ziggy Kulig highlights the faucets' intuitive design, which combines engineering expertise with a commitment to sustainability by conserving water and preventing contact wear.



Crafted for both aesthetics and durability, GRAFF's faucets are available in premium finishes like Steelnox® Satin Nickel, which resists fingerprints and water spots. The faucets' sleek silhouettes seamlessly enhance any interior, delivering a refined yet environmentally conscious option. Built from top-quality materials and inspired by European craftsmanship, GRAFF's sensor faucets ensure an elevated, hygienic experience that aligns with the brand's dedication to a sustainable future. ■



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FRESH N NEW

ANTICA CERAMICA UNVEILS THE FLUTE COLLECTION: A BLEND OF CLASSIC AND MODERN DESIGN

Antica Ceramica launches its Flute Collection, inspired by the fluted columns of Roman and Greek architecture. This innovative tile collection combines classic design with modern aesthetics, featuring a ribbed texture that creates dynamic light and shadow effects, adding depth to any space.

Ideal for both residential and commercial interiors, the tiles bring a refined elegance to feature walls, bathrooms, kitchens, and fireplaces, making spaces feel more expansive and sophisticated. In commercial spaces, they enhance lobbies, restaurants, retail displays, and boardrooms with their sleek, polished texture.

Durable and easy to maintain, the Flute Collection is perfect for high-traffic areas and comes in eco-friendly options made from recycled materials. Available in a variety of colors and finishes, these tiles offer versatility for a wide range of design themes.

"We're excited to offer a collection that merges classical elegance with contemporary design," said Mr. Rahul Bhugra, Director of Antica Ceramica. ■



GROHE'S PHANTOM BLACK SETS NEW BENCHMARK IN THE BATHROOM INDUSTRY

GROHE, a global leader in luxury bathroom and kitchen solutions, recently unveiled Phantom Black—the industry's darkest black collection within its popular Essence range. Launched across India on September 20, with previews in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore, the collection captivated the design community for its elegance and impact in modern interiors.

Phantom Black marks a shift from traditional chrome finishes to bold black, appealing to evolving consumer preferences. This innovative collection uses advanced lacquer technology for a durable, scratch-resistant matte finish that repels fingerprints and water spots, ensuring easy maintenance. Its versatile style complements diverse interiors, from contemporary to industrial.

Priya Rustogi, head of LWT India, noted that Indian consumers now seek unique designs like Phantom Black that reflect personal expression. Available nationwide, this collection aligns with GROHE's commitment to luxury, resilience, and individuality in bathroom design. ■





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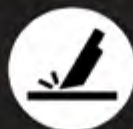
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FRESH N NEW

HINDWARE ORNATE DUO 90CM CHIMNEY: A MUST-HAVE FOR EVERY KITCHEN

The Ornate Duo 90cm, a premium island chimney from Hindware Smart Appliances, features a sleek, dual cylindrical design with a radiant finish. Combined with its ceiling-mounted installation, it creates a sophisticated and modern aesthetic.

With a powerful suction capacity of 1000 m³/hr + 1000 m³/hr, the chimney effectively removes smoke and odors, ensuring a clean and comfortable cooking environment. Its advanced filtration system, which includes a charcoal filter for re-circulation and an aluminum filter, guarantees clean air at all times.

Beyond its functionality and performance, the Ornate Duo offers a range of smart features for added convenience. Its dual illuminating LED lights with adjustable intensity provide optimal lighting for your cooking needs. Equipped with smart technology, including motion sensor control, a smart LED knob, and remote control functionality, this chimney offers unparalleled convenience. The versatile speed settings allow you to customize the chimney's performance to match your cooking requirements. ■



ELEVATE YOUR SPACE WITH COCOON PRET'S LUXURY RUGS

Transform your home into a stylish haven of warmth and luxury with the Cocoon Pret collection. Designed for the modern homeowner who values both sophistication and comfort, these rugs combine bold, striking patterns with plush textures that make the chill of winter feel like a distant memory. Whether your space is minimalist or eclectic, Cocoon Pret rugs seamlessly blend into any decor, adding a touch of elegance to your seasonal styling. Thoughtfully crafted to balance accessibility with high-end design, these rugs offer a way to indulge in a bit of luxury—without the hefty price tag. With vibrant patterns and rich textures, Cocoon Pret rugs infuse warmth, style, and personality, creating an inviting atmosphere that's truly timeless. ■

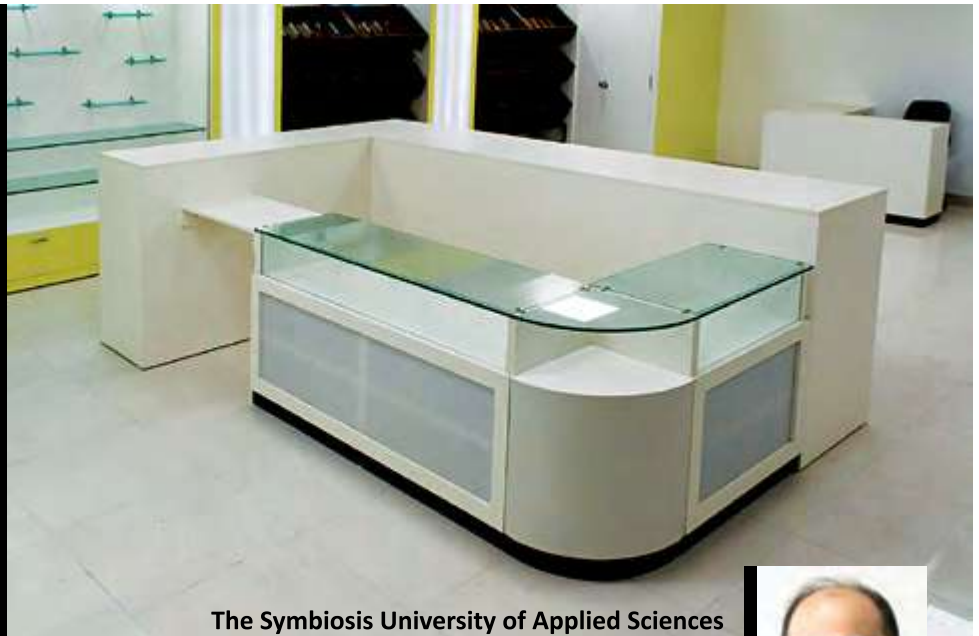


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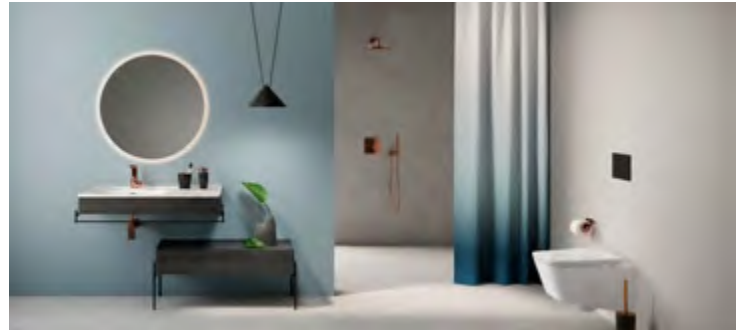
FRESH N NEW

VITRA'S EQUAL COLLECTION: REDEFINING BATHROOM ELEGANCE WITH BRAVE SIMPLICITY

VitrA introduces the Equal Collection, a bathroom series crafted with "brave simplicity" by acclaimed designer Claudio Bellini and the VitrA Design Studio. Recognized with the iF Design Award, Equal brings refined balance and understated sophistication to modern bathrooms. Inspired by urban life's demands, this minimalist collection blends elegance with functionality, creating a harmonious, tranquil space.

Available in classic white, serene matt stone grey, and deep indigo blue, Equal's washbasins reflect VitrA's dedication to versatile design. Each color complements the collection's clean lines, allowing for seamless integration into various decor styles.

VitrA's Equal Collection reimagines simplicity, offering a sanctuary of style and calm amidst contemporary design trends. Discover the transformative power of this timeless range that redefines bathroom aesthetics with its distinctive elegance. ■



SCHÖN INTRODUCES DECORATIVE DOORS FOR ELEGANT HOME ENTRANCES

Schön has launched its latest line of Decorative Doors, blending luxury and personalization to elevate home aesthetics. Known for merging artistry with function, Schön offers doors customizable in material and style—ranging from contemporary to traditional designs. Homeowners can select from flush, frameless, in-line, or hidden door options crafted for elegance and durability.

Each door is engineered for high performance, featuring smooth operation, solid structure, and advanced security. The standout Luxury Onyx Glass Main Door brings together modern design with Indian aesthetics, showcasing translucent onyx for a striking entryway. Schön's commitment to personalized design ensures every door enhances and reflects individual style.

"Our decorative doors embody Schön's dedication to beautiful, functional



spaces," said Bala Krishna, Founder of Schön. This launch reinforces Schön's ethos of customization, making each entrance a unique statement. ■



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HÄFELE'S KABI-NET DIGITAL LOCK RANGE



Häfele's Kabi-Net Digital Locks bring advanced security to cabinets and drawers with a range of biometric locks—Kabi-Block, Kabi-Orb, Kabi-Iris, and Kabi-Slim. Designed for modern interiors, these locks provide fingerprint access, a three-color LED indicator for lock status and low battery alerts, and a unique emergency key for added peace of mind.

Each lock offers distinct features: Kabi-Block ensures secure, compact protection with auto-locking; Kabi-Orb combines a pull knob with locking functionality in matte black, gunmetal, and rose gold finishes; Kabi-Iris presents an eye-shaped design that doubles as a pull, blending security and aesthetics; Kabi-Slim, with its flush design, suits minimalist spaces, offering flexible locking modes. The Kabi-Net range exemplifies elegant security, merging functionality with style for protecting valuable belongings. ■



COLSTON'S VISION OF SMART, MINIMALIST SOLUTIONS

Colston Bath & Spa Pvt. Ltd. has become a leader in innovative, luxurious bathroom solutions. Since its inception, Colston has focused on merging advanced technology with elegant design, reshaping traditional bathroom aesthetics. A pivotal moment came in 2009 with the launch of the world's largest bathtub at ACEtech Mumbai, establishing Colston as a key industry innovator.

Offering a full range of products—from diverters and WCs to whirlpool massage baths, premium steam rooms, and outdoor pools—Colston's collections cater to high-end residences, luxury hotels, and commercial spaces. The brand is committed to sustainability, efficiency, and holistic wellness, with designs that foster comfort and rejuvenation.

Looking forward, Colston envisions a shift towards smart, minimalist bathrooms, leveraging its expertise to set new standards in technology and design. With a clear focus on the future, Colston remains dedicated to enhancing every aspect of the user experience. ■





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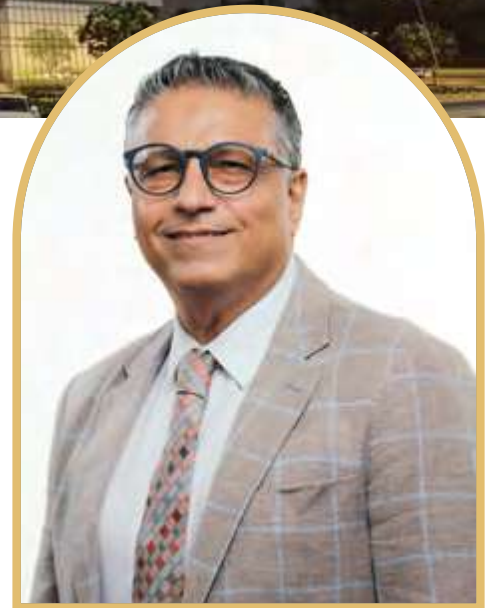
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DESIGN EXCELLENCE:
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“Balancing aesthetics with functionality means creating spaces that are visually appealing and highly practical. In my award-winning project, I focused on integrating sustainability, environmental harmony, and user-centric design to ensure the building enriches its surroundings while enhancing the user experience.”

Reza Kabul
Principal Architect
Reza Kabul Architects Pvt. Ltd.



How has winning the award impacted your career and approach?

Winning an award has had a profound impact on my career and approach to design. It serves as an invaluable form of recognition that validates the hard work, creativity, and dedication poured into a project. This acknowledgment not only brings a sense of personal accomplishment but also enhances professional credibility, opening doors to new opportunities and collaborations that may not have been possible otherwise.

The boost in confidence that comes from being recognized encourages me to push my creative boundaries and take on more ambitious projects. It acts as a motivator, reminding me to continually strive for excellence and innovation. I've learned that receiving an award is not the end of a journey but rather the beginning of a new chapter—one where the expectations are higher, and the challenge is to consistently surpass my previous achievements.

Moreover, the recognition has influenced my approach by reinforcing the importance of maintaining high standards in every aspect of a project, from initial concepts to execution. It's a call to constantly evolve, learn, and stay updated with emerging trends and technologies to deliver work that not only meets expectations but sets new benchmarks in design and functionality. Winning has inspired a commitment to not just meet but redefine excellence with each project.

Are there any upcoming or recent projects you're particularly proud of?

Every project I take on holds a special significance, as each one represents a unique opportunity to bring visions to life and solve challenges in innovative ways. I believe that the essence of pride in my work comes from the journey of transforming an idea into reality, which is why I am proud of both upcoming and completed

projects. Each project serves as a testament to my team's dedication and creativity, pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve together.

Among my recent endeavors, there are several that stand out due to their distinctive approach, complexity, or meaningful impact. These projects have allowed me to experiment with cutting-edge design techniques and integrate sustainable solutions that align with modern architectural standards. For instance, one of our recent builds incorporated energy-efficient systems and locally sourced materials, promoting a blend of aesthetics, functionality, and environmental responsibility. The collaborative process, involving stakeholders from various backgrounds, further enriched the project's outcome and made it a particularly rewarding experience.

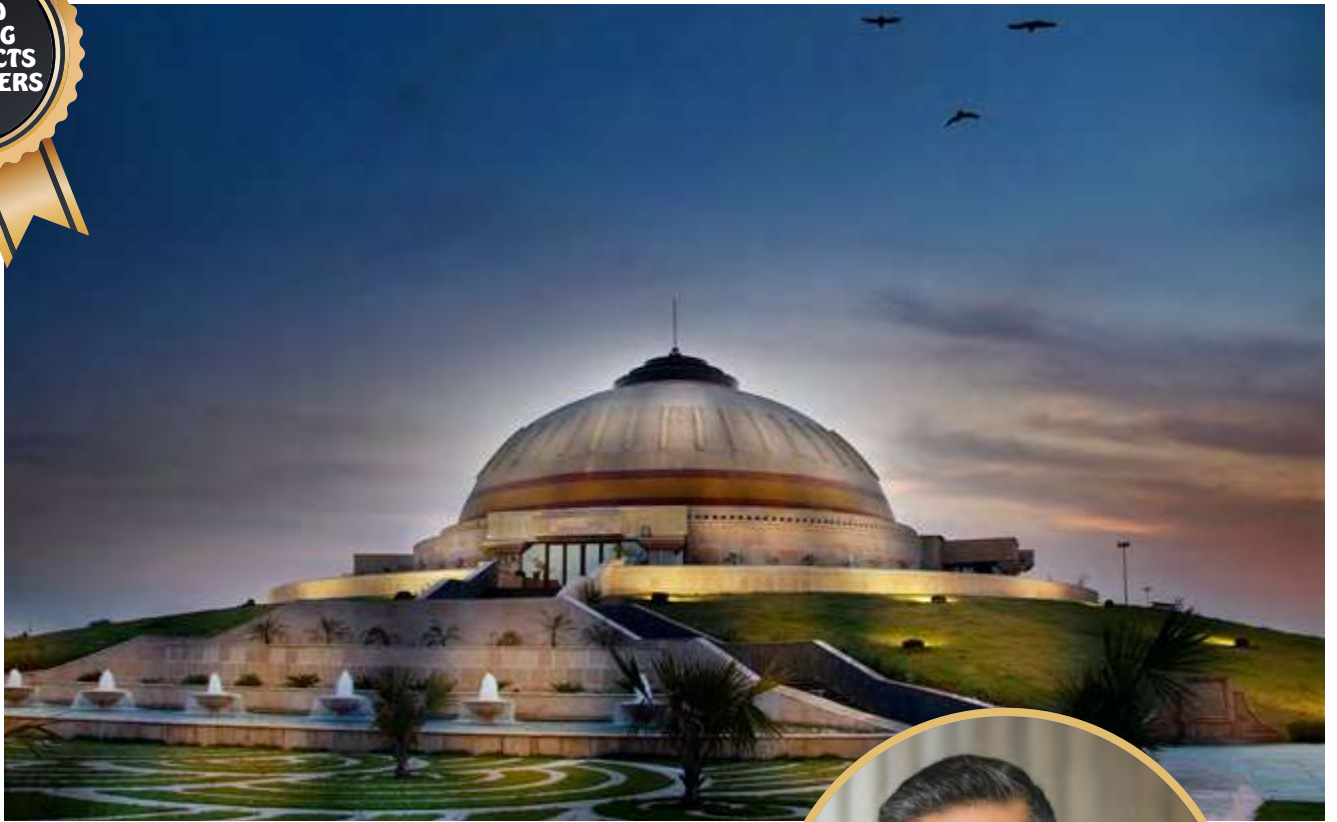
As for upcoming projects, I am excited about those that challenge traditional design norms and push us to innovate beyond our current practices. Seeing these projects come to life, from initial sketches to the final build, reinforces my passion for creating spaces that inspire and serve their communities effectively.

Any advice for young architects?

To young architects starting their journey, my advice is to embrace the process with curiosity and resilience. Architecture blends art, science, and continuous evolution, offering daily opportunities for learning and growth. Challenges are inevitable, but they serve as catalysts for innovation and skill development.

Stay proactive in updating your knowledge, as the field evolves with new technologies, environmental demands, and societal changes. Seek mentorship and collaborate with peers to gain diverse insights. Remember, perfection comes with time—dedication, reflection, and creativity shape your journey. Above all, stay passionate about design and its potential to positively impact communities and the environment. ■





HONORING EXCELLENCE:
INSIGHTS ON
PRESTIGIOUS
ARCHITECTURE AWARDS AND
TRAILBLAZING PROJECTS



"The architectural community honors awards like the Pritzker Prize, which recognize exceptional design and societal impact. With accolades from BUILD Architecture Awards to the NRI Institute, our architect's work, including Vallabh Bhawan and Gautam Buddha University, exemplifies a commitment to sustainability, local heritage, and innovative functionality."

Dikshu C. Kukreja
Principal
C P Kukreja Architects

“
**PROVIDE
THE
PERFECT
TOUCH
TO DECOR**”





What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

In my opinion, the Pritzker Architecture Prize stands out as the most prestigious award for architects globally. Often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Architecture," it recognizes not just the quality of an architect's work but also their contribution to humanity through design. The award celebrates creativity, innovation, and the impact of architecture on society, making it a beacon for aspiring architects around the world.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to receive several accolades, including being ranked among the Top 100 Architects globally by World Architecture for 15 consecutive years. Additionally, have received the Excellence in Architecture award from former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and was felicitated by the NRI Institute for 'Contribution to Indian Architecture' at the House of Lords, U.K. Parliament, London.

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

One of the most significant awards I received was for Vallabh Bhawan, the State Secretariat in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. It was awarded the 'Best Indian Institutional Project' at the 2018 BUILD Architecture Awards in the UK, standing as a testament to our commitment to excellence in institutional architecture. Other notable projects that have been recognized internationally include the Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida, which was awarded the 'Best Eco-friendly Indian Institutional Project' at the 2016 BUILD Architecture Awards in the UK, and Pathways World School, Gurugram, recognized as the first Platinum-rated institutional project in the country. It was honored with the 'Most Innovative Institutional Design' at the Designshare Awards in New York in 2003.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

The Vallabh Bhawan reflects Madhya Pradesh's rich heritage while serving as a sustainable governance space. It balances diverse governmental needs with energy-efficient techniques and water conservation innovations.

At Gautam Buddha University, eco-friendly principles shaped the design, featuring water recycling through lakes, natural lighting, ventilation, and local materials like stone. Vernacular elements like jaalis enhance energy efficiency, while a green buffer and a Buddha statue overlooking a lake create a serene, sustainable environment.

Pathways World School transformed a 30-acre Aravali site into a green campus with a central lake, solar panels, and local materials, blending functionality with environmentally-conscious design.

Are there any other upcoming or recent projects that you're particularly proud of?

I'm particularly proud of the East Delhi Hub, India's first and largest transport-oriented design development. This project aims to create a vibrant community space that integrates transportation with residential and commercial facilities, promoting sustainable urban living. Additionally, the International Convention and Expo Centre in Goa is another project that reflects our commitment to innovative and sustainable design.

What advice would you give to young architects aspiring to achieve similar recognition in the field?

To young architects, I would say: cultivate your passion for design, stay curious, and continuously seek knowledge. Embrace collaboration, as working with diverse teams can spark creativity and innovation. Remember that every project is an opportunity to learn and grow, and stay committed to sustainability. Strive to create spaces that not only meet the needs of today but also contribute positively to the environment and society for generations to come. ■





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BRINGING SOUL TO SPACE

THROUGH ICONIC DESIGN ELEMENTS



“Ar. Jiaul Shaikh and the team at Iconic Designs bring their signature blend of technology-driven precision and thoughtful design to life, making each project a harmonious balance of creativity, practicality, and warmth. Every detail, from furnishing to finishes, contributes to transforming empty spaces into soulful homes that radiate character.”

**Ar. Jiaul Shaikh,
and team of Iconic Designs**



Iconic Design Philosophy: The Art of Detail

In the world of interior design, it's often the smallest details that leave the biggest impact. At Iconic Designs, every element—whether it's the texture of fabrics, the hues in a color palette, or the placement of furnishings—is meticulously chosen to create a harmonious and cohesive environment. For Ar. Jiaul Shaikh, a project isn't complete until each detail contributes to a unified aesthetic and a functional flow. This approach allows spaces to have a personality of their own, giving them an organic appeal that feels both comforting and uplifting. "Without soul, a design is futile," he reflects, emphasizing that design should not only meet visual standards but also resonate with the client's lifestyle and emotional needs.

Execution and Design Approach: Collaboration and Commitment

Iconic Designs approaches each project as a collaborative journey, where client needs and designer vision align seamlessly. For Ar. Jiaul Shaikh, execution goes beyond implementing a plan—it's about creating a home that reflects the client's personality and aspirations. This commitment to collaboration fosters a partnership in which client preferences are respected, and creative ideas are welcomed. Coordination between every member of the design team ensures that each project is executed to the highest standards, from concept to completion.

This dedication to excellence also means pushing boundaries with each project. The Iconic Designs team's

unwavering pursuit of improvement motivates them to exceed expectations, driven by a desire to set new standards in interior design.

This luxurious 5 bhk residence at worli, mumbai belongs to Mr. & Mrs Raju Dholakiya has a beautiful Morden concept. Entrance safety door finished in lamination hexagonal patten in ms jali . entrance lobby flooring finished in marble with exclusive white marble inlay patten lift lobby area wall cladding design finished in marble with mirror & premium textured wallpaper the living room has a exclusive white marble flooring. Sofa is in fabric with elegant arm chairs center table is finished in black marble Tv back wall cladding has luxurious Book matched marble with wooden lovers & indirect light Unit is finished in color lamination it has attractive art effect s & flower vas tv unit sidewall has abstract painting & ductable ac paneling is finished in veneer with spot light passage area has a beautiful artwork with indirect right

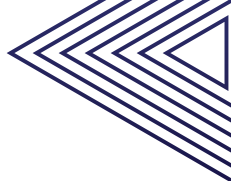
Design Aesthetic: Embracing Minimalism and Versatility

A minimalist aesthetic has always been close to Ar. Jiaul Shaikh's heart. He believes that simplicity often yields the most profound impact, stripping away unnecessary clutter and allowing the room's features to shine. The use of a neutral palette as a base is an essential part of Iconic Designs' approach, enabling experimentation with textures and finishes. When paired with occasional pops of color, these subtle backgrounds allow spaces to feel dynamic without overwhelming the senses.

Natural elements and muted color tones, with strategically placed accents, bring both harmony and versatility to a space, enhancing its usability and emotional appeal. By balancing functionality with artistry, Iconic Designs creates environments where every detail is thoughtful, contributing to a comfortable, stylish, and purposeful living space.

Ar. Jiaul Shaikh and Iconic Designs exemplify how commitment, innovation, and attention to detail can transform ordinary spaces into homes that feel both timeless and uniquely personal.■





COVER STORY



EXPLORING NEW IDEAS AND TAKING BOLD STEPS TOWARD INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MINDFUL ARCHITECTURE



“Architectural awards celebrate design innovation, inspiring architects to push creative boundaries. For Harkaran Singh Boparai, awards like the Pritzker Prize represent the pinnacle of achievement, highlighting impactful work that meets global standards. Winning prestigious honors not only validates a designer’s vision but also motivates future exploration. Here, Boparai and other celebrated architects share insights on awards, current trends, sustainable design, and advice for aspiring talent.”

Harkaran Singh Boparai
Founder and Principal Architect
Harkaran Boparai Studio (HBS)

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What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

Awards and appreciations of all kinds inspire creatives like architects to move more boldly with their designs. While all awards hold prestigious value, the Pritzker Prize is something I especially admire, as it is perceived to be the Nobel Prize equivalent for architecture. It holds even more significance for me, as, to date, only the revered B.V. Doshi from our country has been honoured with it. Through the power of design, the ambition of our country's architectural fraternity should be to develop projects that align with global standards, thereby positioning them to win more Pritzker Prizes.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

I've been fortunate to receive several awards over the years, including the Emerging Entrepreneur Award in 2018, the National Design Award India in 2019 and 2022, and Gossip Age's Voices in Design in 2021. I was also named one of the Forecasts 2023.

Most recently, I was honoured with both the Architecture Project of the Year and Interior Design Project of the Year at the Realty+ Architecture and Design Fest 2024. These recognitions made me reflect on our journey and how far we've come as a practice. I'm truly grateful for these moments, and they encourage us to keep creating spaces that connect with the people who use them.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

Cove House is situated in the picturesque landscape of Punjab and spans approximately 16,000 square feet on a one-acre plot. Its design is inspired by the desire to

create a luxurious yet serene retreat that harmonises with its natural surroundings. The L-shaped layout ensures that about 70% of the living spaces offer breathtaking views of lush greenery, enhancing the sense of openness and connection to nature.

The project was driven by the client's cultural roots and aimed to promote accessibility and inclusivity without sacrificing luxury. One of the key challenges we faced was ensuring that the house would blend seamlessly with the environment while maintaining its opulent features. This required meticulous planning and innovative architectural solutions, especially in integrating indoor and outdoor spaces. The landscape design plays a vital role, with beautifully landscaped gardens and an inviting outdoor pool area, which posed additional challenges in harmonising the architecture with the landscaping.

What advice would you give to young architects aspiring to achieve similar recognition in the field?

My advice to young architects aiming for recognition is to stay true to your vision and passion. Never stop learning about new ideas and technologies in architecture. Focus on quality over quantity in your work and build strong relationships within the design community. Be resilient in the face of challenges and prioritise empathy in your designs. Lastly, share your work on social media and design platforms to gain visibility and build a community. By being dedicated and authentic to your craft, recognition will inevitably follow you. ■





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THE POWER OF AWARDS:
AEIFORIA
ARCHITECTS'
JOURNEY OF RECOGNITION
AND INFLUENCE



"In architecture, prestigious awards highlight innovation and impact, with the Pritzker Prize widely esteemed for honoring designs that advance humanity. For Aeiforia Architects, recent accolades like the Gold Award for Excellence in Biophilic Design validate their commitment to integrating nature and functionality, underscoring architecture's role in enhancing well-being and creativity."

Ar. Bhupendra Kumar
Founder
Aeiforia

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What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

The Pritzker Architecture Prize, established in 1979, is the most prestigious award for architects, recognizing outstanding contributions to humanity and the built environment. Celebrating both aesthetic excellence and social impact, it honours architects who challenge conventions and innovate with materials and technologies.

Past laureates like Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry exemplify its global reach and influence. Winning the Pritzker elevates an architect's career, offering international recognition and collaboration opportunities. It also inspires future architects to explore architecture's transformative role in shaping communities, making it the pinnacle of achievement in the field.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

- Second Architecture office in India to achieve -Indian green building Council IGBC Platinum for Green Interiors – September 2016, for Delhi Office
- Indian Green Building council IGBC Platinum for green interiors-2020- for Noida office .
- First in India to attempt project to achieve all three ratings of Net Zero- Water, Waste and energy.
- Honourable mention In Mango Architecture competition for disaster relief shelter
- Time Cyber Media(Best Architect awards)
- Business connect(the 10 most admired interior designing companies)-2021
- India Brand Icon Award-2020
- Architecture & Interior design Excellence award-2021
- Global business & leadership award-2018.
- Global edition 2021, Architecture and interior design excellence awards and conference

- Runner up award for Best project architecture and corporate category.
- Global business & leadership award-Leading & Prominent Interior Design, Turnkey Execution & Architectural Design Firm of the Year 2022
- Bronze Award for Best Project in Architecture category at INFHRA's Workplace Excellence Conference & Awards 2023 – 2024, New Delhi
- Gold Award for Best Architect in Excellence in Biophilic Design & Nature Integration category at INFHRA's Corporate Excellence Awards 2024, New Delhi

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

Aeiforia Architects proudly won the Gold Award for Excellence in Biophilic Design at INFHRA's Corporate Excellence Awards 2024 for a 26,000 sq. ft. corporate office in Gurgaon. Inspired by the Panchtatva theme—earth, water, fire, air, and space—the project seamlessly integrates nature into its design.

The office features natural materials, biophilic elements, green walls, and ample sunlight, fostering well-being and creativity while promoting sustainability. Despite challenges like tight deadlines and a 24/7 operational site, meticulous planning and collaboration ensured smooth execution without disruptions.

This award-winning project highlights Aeiforia Architects' commitment to crafting workspaces that blend functionality with nature, creating environments that enhance productivity and reflect the beauty of the natural world. It stands as a testament to the transformative potential of architecture when guided by innovation and harmony with nature.

How has winning this award impacted your career and approach to architecture?

Winning the Gold Award for our corporate office project in Gurgaon has been a transformative milestone for Aeiforia Architects. Inspired by the "Panchtatva" theme, which celebrates the five elements of nature, this recognition reinforces our commitment to blending sustainability and innovation in architecture. It has deepened our focus on designs that harmonize with the environment while enhancing human well-being. This accolade has opened new opportunities for collaboration with like-minded clients and inspired us to push creative boundaries. It fuels our passion to design spaces that honor nature, balance aesthetics with functionality, and positively impact communities. This achievement affirms our vision and motivates us to continue creating meaningful, transformative spaces. ■



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IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE:
AN AWARD-
WINNING
ARCHITECT ON
FUTURE-READY DESIGN



“Recognized with prestigious awards for their visionary approach, this architect shares insights into sustainable design, iconic projects like the Khyber Himalayan Resort, and how they integrate eco-conscious practices to shape architecture’s future.”

Ar. Anil Badan
Founder and Principal Architect
Studio B Architects



What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

According to me, the most prestigious awards for architects are the Pritzker Architecture Prize and the Khan Award for Architecture, for identifying and rewarding architectural concepts which meet the needs of the industry. These awards motivate professionals to design structures that go beyond the conventional and create a bold signature in the skyline.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

One of the most prestigious awards I have won is the 'Architect of the Year' award for my project Khyber Himalayan Resort and Spa. The award signifies my commitment to innovative, context-sensitive design that respects the environment while offering guests a tranquil escape, marking a significant achievement in architectural excellence.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

The design of the Khyber Himalayan Resort and Spa is a luxurious retreat created to spoil you in every manner, including luxurious furnishings, exquisite food, and healing therapies. This opulent interpretation of Kashmiri architecture is made using indigenous elements like wood. Pinewood, a locally accessible material, is integrated into the design to keep the hotel warm in winter. The interior design is meticulously created to reflect the grandeur of the outdoors in every manner. Recalling the challenges, the rough terrain and untamed nature of hilly areas were some of the most pressing constraints. Construction-related obstacles included rocky outcrops and sloping ground. To build foundations that can effectively support the structure,

careful earthwork was needed. Deep foundations and the cut-and-fill technique were used to produce level gaps because the snowy terrain made it difficult to maintain stability throughout the project.

How do you approach balancing aesthetics with functionality in your award-winning projects?

Balancing aesthetics and functionality in the project was done through the use of various materials and strategies. For instance, to protect the visitors from the harsh weather, a screening partition wall was constructed. The lounge area was made of hammered local stone to tackle the snowy weather. To further integrate the design with its surroundings, the staircase also had railings that went into the lobby and were constructed of local pinewood. Dormer windows were retrofitted with stained glass, which added much-needed colour and light to the space. Paper mache was used for the ceiling, and recycled wood was used for the flooring, all of which contribute to the hotel's overall sustainability.

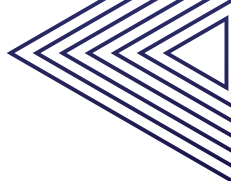
How has winning this award impacted your career and approach to architecture?

Receiving this award transformed my approach to design, opening the door to new concepts and possibilities. It expanded my research into diverse strategies and their practical applications within my work. This recognition inspired me to explore creative boundaries with confidence while upholding a balanced approach that thoughtfully integrated form and function.

What advice would you give to young architects aspiring to achieve similar recognition in the field?

For young aspiring architects, networking with industry professionals and seeking mentorship can help you navigate challenges. Further, embrace sustainability, as architecture's future lies in eco-conscious design. Finally, stay resilient, recognition is a journey shaped by persistence and dedication to making an impact through your work.■





COVER STORY



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS: REFLECTING ON OUR DESIGN AWARDS



“At The KariGhars, our journey in interior design is marked by numerous accolades that highlight our dedication to creativity and innovation. From the prestigious ‘Most Creative Interior Designing Firm in Bangalore’ award to being recognized as ‘Visionary Entrepreneur of the Year 2024,’ each honor reflects our commitment to exceptional design and client satisfaction.”

Abhishek Chadha
CEO & Company Founder
KariGhars



Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

Over the years, we've been honored with several prestigious awards that reflect our passion for design and innovation. Some of the highlights include being named the 'Most Creative Interior Designing Firm in Bangalore,' and winning the 'Company of the Year Award' by Silicon India. In 2011, we were recognized with the 'Best Interior Design Services Award' for residential projects in Bangalore, and we've also received the 'Entrepreneurship Excellence Award.' Most recently, we were proud to win the 'Best & Most Creative Interior Design Firm of the Year 2021' in Karnataka for premium residential projects and our innovative approach and the 'Lifestyle award from New York' in 2023. Recently, we were also honored to be recognized as the 'Visionary Entrepreneur of the Year 2024.'

How do you approach balancing aesthetics with functionality in your award-winning projects?

At The KariGhars, we believe that a good interior design must effortlessly blend aesthetics with functionality. While striking visuals are undeniably important, a space must also be functional and comfortable for everyday use. We achieve this balance by carefully considering the needs and lifestyle of our clients. Through meticulous planning and stronger attention to detail, we ensure that every element in a space not only looks beautiful but also serves a purpose. This approach helps us enhance the overall appeal of the design while also contribute to its longevity and value.

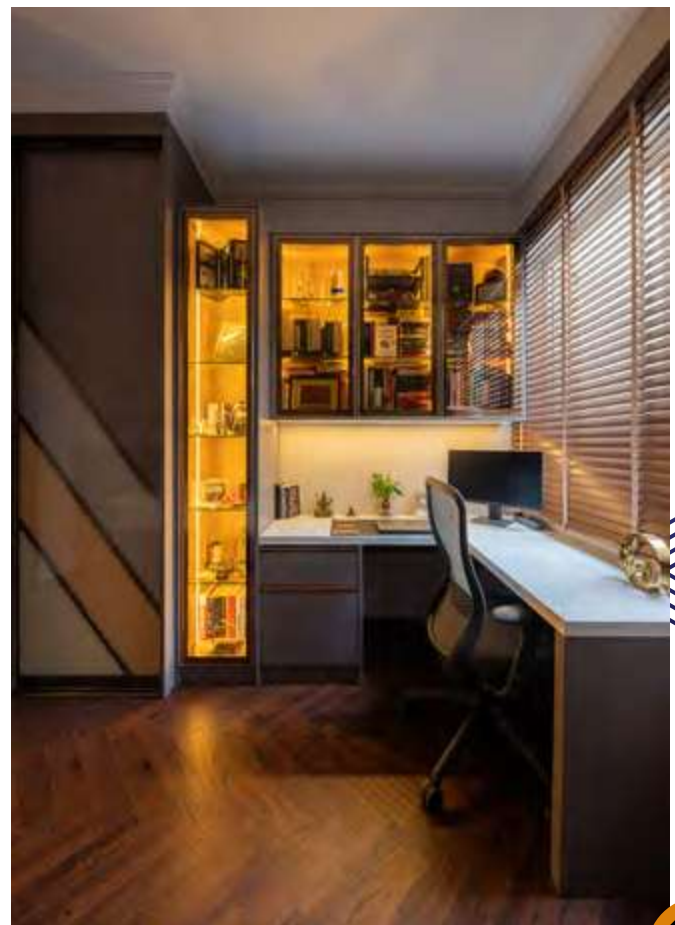
What architectural trends or innovations do you think are shaping the future of architecture today?

The world of design is constantly evolving, driven by technological advancements, shifting cultural

preferences, and a growing emphasis on sustainability. We are witnessing a surge in biophilic design, incorporating natural elements and materials to create spaces that promote well-being and connection to nature. Additionally, advancements in smart home technology are revolutionizing the way we interact with our living environments, offering personalized experiences and increased efficiency. Furthermore, there is a growing focus on sustainable and ethical design practices, with designers seeking to minimize their environmental impact and create spaces that are beautiful and responsible.

What advice would you give to young architects aspiring to achieve similar recognition in the field?

To achieve recognition in the field of architecture and interior design, it's essential to cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, skills, and passion. One must continuously be on the lookout of seeking opportunities to learn and grow, whether through formal education, workshops, or industry events. Develop a unique design aesthetic that reflects your personal style and values. Network with other professionals in the field and build strong relationships. Most importantly, one should never compromise on their vision and strive to deliver excellence in every project. With dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to quality, one can carve out a successful and fulfilling career in the industry. ■





FROM PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS
TO REAL-WORLD IMPACT:
THE ARCHITECT'S
JOURNEY



"In this interview, we discuss the most prestigious awards in architecture, the impact of client relationships, and the inspiration behind award-winning projects. Discover how true success in architecture lies in creating meaningful, culturally sensitive spaces that resonate with both clients and communities."

**Ar. Akashya Kapoor and
Ar. Amrita Jena Founder
Furnish Me Architects**



What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

The Pritzker Architecture Prize, often called the "Nobel Prize of Architecture," is the most prestigious award, recognizing innovative designs and lasting societal impact. While such accolades bring industry recognition, the greatest honor for me is seeing a client's dream come to life. Witnessing their joy and connection to a space we've created is the ultimate reward.

Client satisfaction and the emotional bond people form with their environments outweigh any trophy. These moments of fulfillment make the challenges of architecture worthwhile, proving that the true prestige lies in positively transforming lives through thoughtful design.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

Throughout our career, we've had the honor of receiving several prestigious awards and features. Some notable ones include recognition from Design India and Design Build, which acknowledged my contributions to the field of architecture and interior design. Additionally, being featured in print publications and platforms like Times and Houzz has been both emotional and incredibly motivating. These awards and features serve as a reminder of the impact of my work and inspire me to continue pushing the boundaries of design.

Each of these recognitions has been a testament not only to the creativity and innovation of the projects but also to the trust clients place in my team and me to bring their dreams to life.

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

We won our most significant architectural award for the GlaxoSmithKline regional office project in Bihar, which

was a defining moment for our team. This project was particularly special because we were able to integrate local culture with modern design in a way that reflected the global identity of GlaxoSmithKline while staying true to the heritage of Bihar. It wasn't just about creating a functional office space; it was about telling a story through design—one that resonated with both the client and the region.

This award recognized our ability to blend contemporary architecture with cultural sensitivity, which is something we hold dear in all our projects. Beyond the award, the most rewarding moment was seeing the client's excitement when they moved into the space and felt that their vision had truly come to life. It was a powerful reminder that while awards are great, the real achievement is in creating spaces that people feel connected to and proud of.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

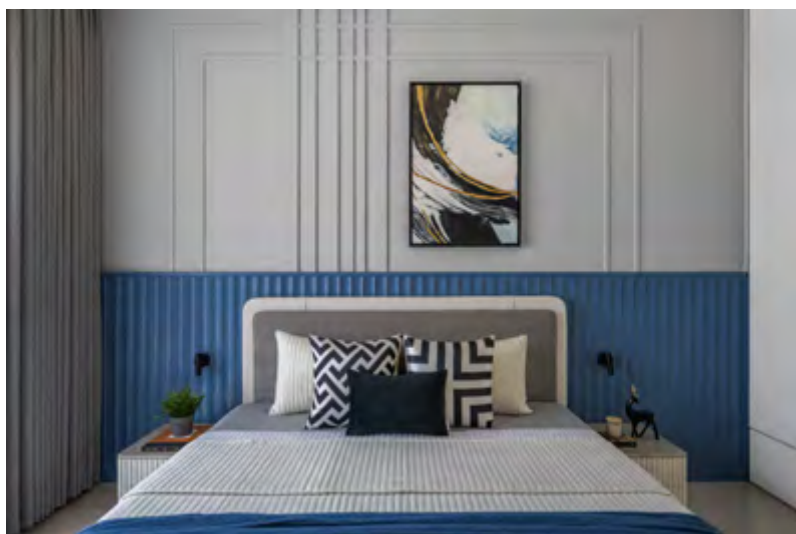
The GlaxoSmithKline regional office in Bihar was a distinctive project, blending global corporate standards with the cultural richness of the region. Inspired by Bihar's traditional art, architectural motifs, and earthy tones, we created a space that harmonized modern functionality with regional authenticity. Local materials and design elements were seamlessly integrated into a sleek, contemporary framework, reflecting both GSK's global ethos and the area's heritage.

The project's challenges included tight timelines, logistical constraints, and aligning regional design influences with GSK's standards. Overcoming these hurdles, we delivered a workspace that celebrates the essence of its location while maintaining global corporate efficiency. Positive feedback from GSK reaffirmed the success of our vision, making it a rewarding endeavor that bridges tradition and modernity. ■





WHERE FUNCTION MEETS FLAIR:
AWARD-WINNING
INSIGHTS
FROM STUDIO ROHINI BAGLA



“Studio Rohini Bagla’s award-winning journey exemplifies architecture that balances beauty with functionality. In this interview, we uncover the studio’s approach to prestigious awards, design inspirations, and advice for aspiring architects aiming to leave their mark on the field.”

Rohini Bagla
Founder & Principal Designer
Studio Rohini Bagla



What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

In my opinion, the Pritzker Architecture Prize is the most prestigious award in architecture. It transcends traditional accolades by honoring architects who advance human experience through creative and responsible design. The Pritzker Prize acknowledges not just the aesthetics of a project but its contribution to society, sustainability, and the built environment. It celebrates those architects whose work responds to the cultural, social, and ecological challenges of our time—qualities that we at Studio Rohini Bagla strive to embody in our own practice.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

Our studio has been fortunate to receive several accolades over the years, each celebrating our commitment to high-caliber design and client-focused solutions. For example, we've been recognized for our innovative use of materials and our approach to minimalist yet luxurious interiors. Each award strengthens our belief in creating environments that are functional, thoughtfully designed, and a true reflection of the client's aspirations. We're particularly proud of recent recognition for Cashmere Haus, a project that exemplifies our dedication to timeless European-inspired interiors infused with modern sensibilities.

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

Our most significant award was for Cashmere Haus, a residential project situated in Powai, Mumbai. This project brought together elements of classic European charm and contemporary functionality, creating an aesthetically refined, warm, and highly functional home. This recognition was especially meaningful because it

validated our commitment to designing spaces that are both visually striking and liveable, resonating deeply with our client's vision for a home that is elegant, inviting, and timeless.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

The design for Cashmere Haus was inspired by the client's desire for a modern European residence with a timeless quality. We used neutral tones, clean lines, and English-inspired mouldings to blend contemporary minimalism with classic European elegance. One of the major challenges was working within the spatial limitations of 1,890 sq. ft. to include ample storage without crowding the aesthetic. For instance, each room integrates functional storage solutions seamlessly into the design. Another challenge was ensuring that every space served multiple purposes, like the guest bedroom that doubles as a den, office, or guest suite. Balancing function and style was essential, and seeing the final cohesive design felt like a true achievement.

Are there any other upcoming or recent projects that you're particularly proud of?

We're currently working on several projects that reflect our evolving design perspective. One upcoming project incorporates biophilic design elements, connecting interiors to nature and promoting a tranquil living environment. Another project explores sustainable materials more deeply, pushing boundaries in eco-friendly luxury. Each project is a new opportunity to experiment, refine, and expand our approach, which keeps us constantly inspired and engaged.■





THE PATH TO PRESTIGE:
AWARDS
AND WISDOM
FROM ACCLAIMED ARCHITECT



“Exploring the world of architectural awards, this interview delves into the journey of a renowned architect, covering the significance of recognition, the inspiration behind celebrated projects, and insights for aspiring architects aiming to make a lasting impact on the industry.”

**Ar. Mihir Kotak and
Ar. Rinki Kotak
Principal Architects
4th Dimension**



What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

The most prestigious award for architects is of course the Pritzker Architecture Prize which honours those whose work embodies excellence, innovation, and a profound impact on society. Often regarded as the 'Nobel Prize of Architecture,' the Pritzker celebrates architects who have consistently contributed to the advancement of architectural practice and have redefined how built environments enhance human experiences. Recipients of this award are selected for their visionary projects, which balance functionality, aesthetic appeal, and cultural relevance, setting benchmarks that inspire generations of designers worldwide.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

Throughout our career, we have won numerous accolades like D'list India, FOAID India, and ACETech for our innovative projects and designs. These achievements are a testament to hard work and the collaboration and trust of our clients and partners, whose support has been instrumental. Each award symbolises a milestone, and together, they inspire a continuous pursuit of creativity, precision, and excellence in the field.

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

Our most significant architectural award was earned for the design of the "Espresso Elegance" project, celebrated for its Wabi-sabi-inspired theme that embraces the beauty of imperfection and the passage of time. The space captures a delicate balance between simplicity and raw authenticity, showcasing natural textures, organic materials, and earthy tones. The design language reflects a personal connection, with rich espresso shades unifying the flooring, wall panels, furniture, and art pieces. Each space, distinct yet harmoniously complementing the others, offers a fresh, enchanting experience with new visual delights at every turn.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

"Espresso Elegance" - the name itself hints at something related to coffee. Well, the client- being a coffee enthusiast, the preferences are reflected in the design. The spaces are a blend of rich espresso shades with warm and earthy tones combined with various materials and textures to create an inviting atmosphere. Asymmetry plays a pivotal role in the design, enriching the overall aesthetic with imperfect forms. Further, the design adopted a Japandi style with a theme of "fold and unfold", creating shapes and curves that evoke a sense of softness. Challenges were faced to complement the various design shades with materials to lend a harmonious look. Sourcing out the right furniture was a constraint, but with meticulous research and brainstorming, the residence weaved together a tapestry of harmonious living spaces.

Are there any other upcoming or recent projects that you're particularly proud of?

Our upcoming projects constitute residential projects and mixed-used buildings. To note a few, our ongoing residential projects are Earthy Escape- a 3000 sq. ft residential home, Imperial Residence- a super luxury 3,800sq ft home and Timeless Roots- a design with a blend of Indian and contemporary interiors. These projects are the epitome of innovative designs with our unique philosophies resulting in designs which create an etching signature in the industry. Moreover, we are also working on a township project which will be unveiled phase-wise. ■





MILESTONES IN DESIGN:
A REFLECTION
ON AWARDS AND
ACHIEVEMENTS



“Throughout Smita’s career, she has been honored with prestigious accolades, including the Narotam Sekhsaria Award in Mumbai and the Jerold Ruth Award in Chicago, along with a strong online presence reflected in over 80 five-star Google reviews and 35,000 Instagram followers. These recognitions not only validate the work at reNNovate but also inspire us to continually innovate and redefine architecture in India.”

Ar. Smita Vijaykumar
Founder
ReNNovate Interiors



Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

I have been part of the prestigious narotam sekhsaria award-Mumbai , Jerold ruth award, Chicago, Schiffs award, Chicago womens architect award, honorary mention in addition to 80+ Five star google reviews, 35k followers on instagram which are highly prized for us at reNNovate!

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

We won both Chicago womens architect award and Jerold ruth loebl award for the Maritime museum proposal at Waukegan, Illinois.

How has winning this award impacted your career and approach to architecture?

Attempting international awards is itself daunting as the authenticity and rigor is an eye opening process. Besides being a huge confidence booster, it always brings so much exposure to international methodologies, trends and practices which can be applied in multitude of ways to ones practice in india. The design incorporated natural lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation design into a sail like roofing structure over the museum space set on revitalizing a brownfield shipping yard.

As discussed earlier, our online awards in the form of followers and reviews have fueled innovation and constant stream of projects ,fantastic opportunities and recognition. In our short span of 10 years we have been able to finish 200+ projects that is an unimaginable feat for a company focused in only 1 city.

Being from Delhi and starting a practice in Mumbai without any connections or referrals would have been an impossible task, however, branding and customer faith was made possible through our online presence.

As technology advances, we can expect even more innovative solutions to transform interior design,

redefining the way we live, work, and interact with our surroundings.

Are there any other upcoming or recent projects that you're particularly proud of?

We're thrilled to celebrate 10 years of design excellence, completing over 200 interior projects in Mumbai! Our work seamlessly blends global trends with local sensibilities, delivering "glocal" designs tailored to Indian homes.

A recent standout is a 700 sq. ft. renovation in RNA Royal Park, Kanjurmarg, inspired by wabi-sabi aesthetics and minimalism. Featuring wood-and-white tones, budget-friendly vinyl plank flooring, and light cane furniture, the home exudes an airy, refreshed vibe. Thoughtful design elements like archways and concealed sliding doors maximize space, while extended windows with storage enhance functionality.

The kitchen is a chic haven, boasting mint sage cabinets, terrazzo-tiled dado, and open shelving for a modern, airy feel. A full-body homogenous countertop ensures durability and style. This home perfectly balances simplicity, elegance, and utility, embodying our ethos of crafting spaces that are timeless yet contemporary.

What advice would you give to young architects aspiring to achieve similar recognition in the field?

Look for market gaps, don't walk the traditional path that was there before you! Markets, design, trends, marketing and recognition are changing landscapes today. ■





AWARDS OF DISTINCTION:
EXPLORING
INNOVATION
WITH DESIGN CONSORTIA



“Design Consortia has made remarkable strides in the architectural world, garnering accolades that highlight its commitment to innovative, sustainable, and client-centric design. In this exclusive, we delve into insights from the team on what drives their approach to award-winning projects, the future of architecture, and the journey of their celebrated work, Shukrana Farm. With prestigious awards and a focus on balancing aesthetics with functionality, Design Consortia exemplifies how thoughtful design can create spaces that are as purposeful as they are inspiring.”

Ar. Sumit Malik
Founding Principal
Design Consortia



What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

In my opinion, the most prestigious award is the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. It stands out because it recognises buildings and their creators and considers projects and the many stakeholders involved. The award's unique approach has brought together practitioners from various geographies and disciplines, including philosophy, social sciences, and the arts, as jurors, steering committee members, and technical reviewers. This diversity of perspectives makes it an unparalleled recognition in the field of architecture.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

Throughout my career, I've been honored with several accolades celebrating excellence in design and architecture. Highlights include the FOAID Jury Award, INDEX FAIR Award, and recognition from the Hansgrohe Washroom Design Challenge. Design Consortia was celebrated by HTL Aircon for outstanding residential projects and by the Waterproofers Association of India for promoting advanced waterproofing techniques.

INDEX PLUS recognized our creative excellence at Kudos Gallery, and Kuche 7 honored our sustainable collaboration. My work was featured in Washroom and Beyond Magazine, while Italian Wood Finishes applauded our use of ICA finishes. These awards affirm our commitment to innovation, creativity, and sustainability.

For which project did you win your most significant architectural award?

The most significant architectural award in my career was won for the project Shukrana Farm.

Can you share more details about that project? What inspired its design, and what challenges did you face during its development?

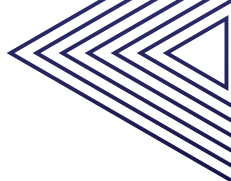
Shukrana Farm by Design Consortia is a luxurious 10,000 sq. ft private home located on a plot slightly larger than an acre in New Delhi. The design concept blends minimalist living with lush landscaped gardens, catering to the needs of an extended Indian family. Our approach focused on creating a seamless indoor-outdoor connection with a central open-to-sky courtyard. We also designed the space with a balance between public and private areas, using subtle physical and subconscious markers to guide users through the residence. Challenges included maintaining the integrity of the minimalist design while integrating luxurious elements and ensuring that the space was adaptable for future needs.

One of the unique features of this project is the facade's transition from the exterior to the interior, achieved through thoughtful landscape integration. The minimalist balcony, accented by a single circular column, overlooks a beautifully curated garden. The swimming pool area, separated by a black stone wall, adds to the design's character, while the poolside party hall further extends the space's utility.

How has winning this award impacted your career and approach to architecture?

Winning the design award for Shukrana Farm significantly impacted our journey. It brought us recognition as a design-driven firm and enhanced our visibility within our client community. The award also helped us reach a broader audience and established our credibility in the market, allowing clients to perceive us as an authentic, trustworthy firm. ■





COVER STORY



EVOLVING ARCHITECTURE: CREATING RESILIENT SPACES IN A CHANGING WORLD



“As the founder and principal architect of Rajkumar Architects, Ar. Rajkumar Kumawat has consistently set benchmarks with his award-winning designs. Recognized for projects that seamlessly blend aesthetics and functionality, he shares insights into his design philosophy, the impact of prestigious accolades on his career, and the future of resilient, sustainable architecture.”

Ar. Rajkumar Kumawat
Founder & Principal Architect
Rajkumar Architects



What is the most prestigious award for architects, in your opinion, and why?

The most prestigious award for architecture is the Pritzker Architecture Prize which celebrates architects who have pushed the boundaries of innovation and excellence in the field. Frequently referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Architecture," the Pritzker honours architects who have continuously advanced architectural practice and revolutionised how constructed spaces improve human experiences.

Could you tell us which award(s) you have won throughout your career?

I have been accoladed with the FOAID Award for the excellent Cascade House in Pali, Rajasthan, for its unique design and innovative features. Moreover, Buildofy India was drawn to my remarkable design of the Twin Residence, which captured the personalities, feelings, and tales of the people. Numerous design and architectural publications, including Commercial Design, Construction Week, and Architect & Interiors India, have featured our designs.

How do you approach balancing aesthetics with functionality in your award-winning projects?

To balance aesthetics and functionality in my design, we primarily prioritise user experience and intuitive navigation in the space. We ensure that our layouts offer visual comfort while being open and airy at the same time, promoting a sense of connection within spaces. Additionally, functionality is essential for ensuring that spaces are practical and user-friendly. Every component, including layout and lighting, has been carefully chosen to work together to create a unified style that is both elegant and useful.

What architectural trends or innovations do you think are shaping the future of architecture today?

The significant architectural trends which are shaping the future of architecture today are resilient designs

and multifunctional spaces in structures. With the pressing concerns of climate change, resilient designs have become a necessity today. This concept focuses on creating infrastructure and structures that are resilient to societal upheavals and natural disasters. Moreover, combining several uses into one area leads to a multifunctional design and tends to make the most of every square inch of available space.

How has winning this award impacted your career and approach to architecture?

Winning this award has been a milestone, inspiring me to push boundaries and elevate my approach to architecture. It has reinforced my commitment to innovative designs, deepening my focus on creating spaces that blend functionality with artistry. Beyond personal growth, the award motivates me to contribute to the architectural community with designs that inspire, ensuring each project reflects a higher standard of excellence and impact.

Which aspects of sustainable design did you incorporate in the project that earned the award?

Various aspects like the use of local materials and biophilic integration have been included in the project. We incorporate materials like Rajasthani marble and jaali patterns in the design, fostering a sustainable aspect of the design. From facades to interiors, we often include these strategies to contribute to a vernacular design. Further, embracing biophilic design, we incorporate natural light, greenery, and organic textures that promote occupant well-being and environmental harmony.

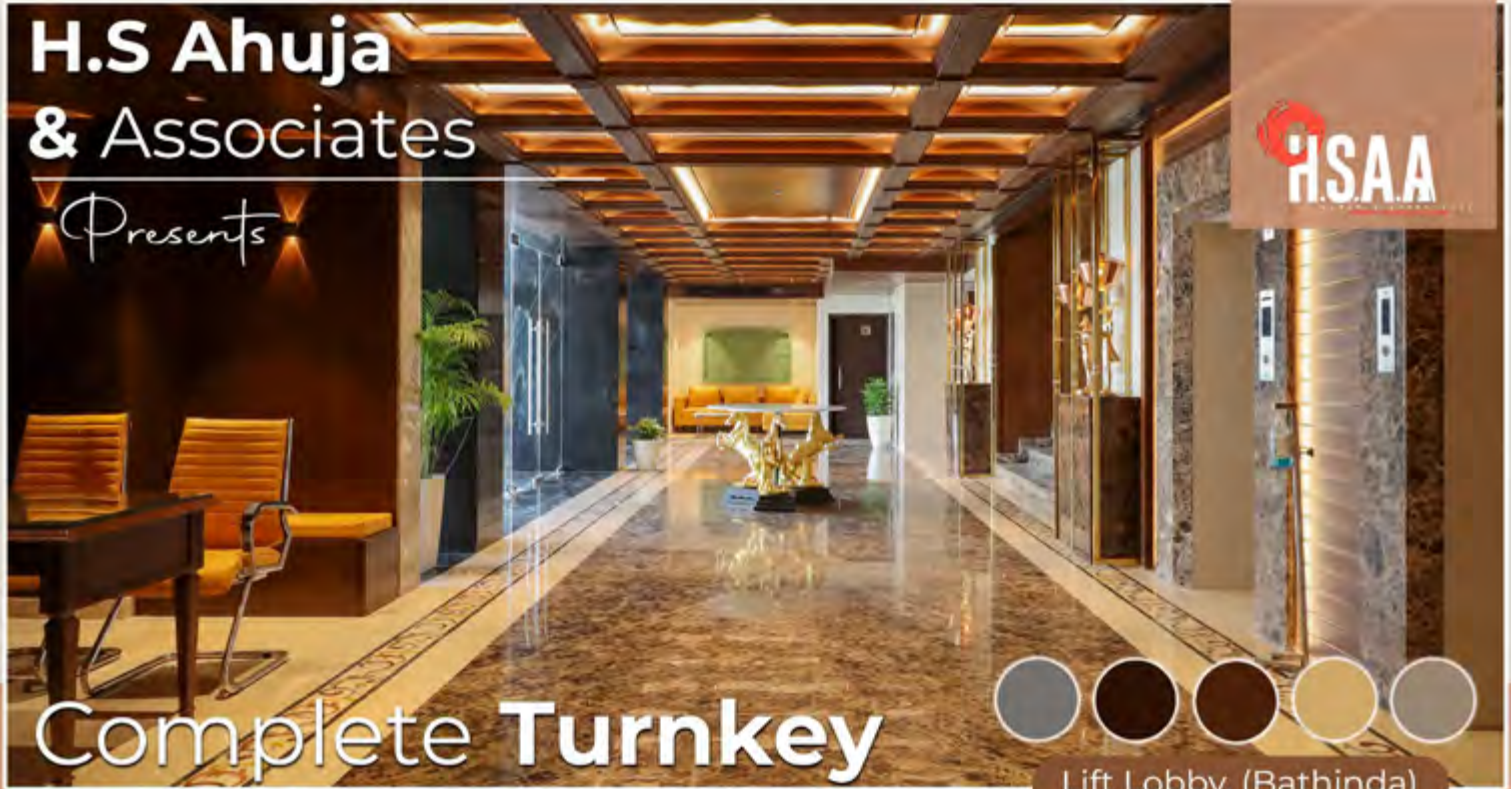
What advice would you give to young architects aspiring to achieve similar recognition in the field?

To young architects aiming for recognition, embrace a commitment to continual learning and adaptability. Dive into each project with curiosity, as innovation often stems from a fresh perspective. Further, build a strong foundation in technical skills but never overlook the importance of creativity and empathy- understanding client needs and envisioning their dreams is key. ■



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Highland Park (Manali)

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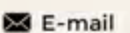


H. S. Ahuja & Associates



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- Indore
- Visakhapatnam
- Panipat
- Dhanbad
- Puri



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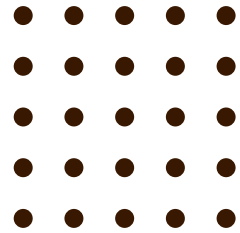
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* We provide turnkey interior services all over India & can work for architects and interior designers on mutual understanding.

SWITCHES & LIGHT FITTINGS



ILLUMINATING THE FUTURE: THE IMPACT OF LED AND SMART TECHNOLOGIES

Shaleen Nayak,
Vice President & Business Head,
Lighting at Crompton Greaves
Consumer Electricals Ltd.

“Advancements in LED and smart lighting technologies are revolutionizing the lighting industry, enhancing energy efficiency and adaptability. Companies like Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. are leading the charge with features such as remote customization and tunable white LEDs. These innovations not only reduce costs but also improve well-being by mimicking natural daylight and responding to environmental conditions.”

How are advancements in LED and smart lighting technologies transforming the lighting industry, and what innovations are you most excited about?

Lighting is vital to modern urban infrastructure, impacting aesthetics, energy use, and public safety. Traditional systems often struggle with energy efficiency and adaptability. However, innovations in LED and smart lighting technology are transforming the industry. LEDs use less power and last up to 25,000 hours, reducing costs

and environmental impact. Smart technology enables users to customize lighting remotely via smartphone apps, enhancing convenience and saving energy.

Advancements like tunable white and full-spectrum LEDs replicate natural daylight, improving mood, productivity, and sleep quality. Integrating smart lighting with the Internet of Things (IoT) boosts security and automates adjustments based on occupancy. Additionally, adaptive systems modify brightness according to environmental conditions for greater comfort.

Sustainable solutions, such as solar-powered LED systems, minimize reliance on grid electricity, while human-centric lighting optimizes workspaces. Smart city applications allow lighting systems to respond to traffic and pedestrian activity, promoting safety and energy savings. These developments are paving the way for a more sustainable, efficient future in lighting.

What are the key trends in lighting design for residential and commercial spaces, and how are you incorporating these trends into your product offerings?

Lighting plays a crucial role in architecture and interior design, shaping the ambiance, functionality, and character of both residential and commercial spaces. Recent advancements in technology and a heightened focus on sustainability and well-being have driven significant changes in lighting design. Key trends include color temperature control, enabling users to adjust lighting based on mood, and smart technology integration that adapts to occupancy and natural light.

Crompton's products, such as the Trio range of lamps, battens, and ceiling lights, enhance light quality while providing a theatre-like atmosphere. Layered lighting techniques create varied moods, while the use of natural materials fosters a connection to nature. Sustainability is prioritized through energy-efficient options and recycled materials. Innovations in outdoor lighting, like solar-powered fixtures, enhance both style and functionality. Crompton is dedicated to incorporating these trends into our offerings, ensuring our solutions meet aesthetic demands while promoting well-being and environmental responsibility.

Can you discuss the role of smart lighting systems in enhancing home automation, and how your products integrate with other smart home technologies?

At Crompton, our smart lighting products are designed for seamless integration with popular smart home ecosystems, enabling users to control lighting via voice commands. Our smart lights can interact with devices like motion and door sensors, automatically adjusting settings for enhanced safety and convenience. For example, when motion is detected, the lights can turn on, creating a welcoming environment. Products like the Immensa Smart Base B22 Wi-Fi Enabled LED Bulb and the Immensa LED Batten are compatible with Amazon Alexa for voice control. Overall, Crompton's solutions enhance home automation, energy savings, and personalized living experiences.

What strategies do you employ to ensure your lighting products are both durable and sustainable, considering factors like

materials and environmental impact?

In today's world, where environmental concerns are at the forefront of consumer choices, the importance of sustainability in product design is more critical than ever, especially in the lighting industry. As consumers increasingly seek eco-friendly solutions, we at Crompton employ several strategies to ensure our lighting products are both durable and sustainable, focusing on high-quality materials that enhance longevity and reduce waste. We prioritize energy efficiency by utilizing LED technology, which significantly lowers energy consumption and minimizes environmental impact. Our commitment to environmentally responsible manufacturing practices includes reducing waste and emissions, optimizing our supply chain and collaborating with suppliers who adhere to sustainable practices. By emphasizing product longevity through rigorous testing for durability and performance, we aim to create longer-lasting solutions that decrease landfill waste.

What innovations in lighting controls and dimming technologies are you developing, and how do they enhance user experience and convenience?

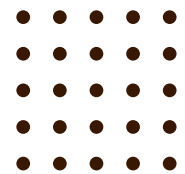
Crompton is leading the way in innovations in lighting controls and dimming technologies, significantly enhancing user experience and convenience. Our smart lighting solutions allow for remote control via mobile apps and voice commands, providing flexibility and ease of use. Advanced dimmable LED technology enables smooth brightness adjustments, contributing to both mood setting and energy savings. Additionally, programmable lighting scenes allow users to customize their environments for various activities, while seamless integration with home automation systems ensures a cohesive smart home experience. Features like energy monitoring promote sustainability and user awareness, complemented by intuitive interfaces for effortless navigation. With adaptive lighting technologies that adjust based on natural light and user preferences, Crompton is committed to creating accessible, customizable, and energy-efficient lighting solutions. ■



SWITCHES & LIGHT FITTINGS



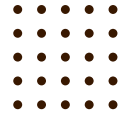
HAFELE'S COLUMBIA SERIES ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTS



“Hafele’s Loox Range has been delivering innovative, flexible lighting solutions for furniture for over a decade. Now, with the Architectural Lighting Range, Hafele offers high-quality, customizable lighting for entire rooms, blending elegant design with functionality to meet diverse illumination needs.”

Hafele’s Loox Range has been meeting the demands for lighting in furniture as well as the growing needs for networking and digitalization since the last 10 years. The solutions offered within this range maximize simplicity and flexibility as well as assure high reliability. The range presents itself as a unique combination of elegant design and state of the art technology making it the perfect choice for any home furniture application, be it Task Lighting for Kitchen cabinets and plinths, Decorative Lighting for Living Room Showcases, Mood Lighting for Bedroom Applications or pure Functional Lighting in Wardrobes.

With the ever-increasing demands for quality and specialized lighting solutions not just for furniture but also for rooms, Hafele in 2019 expanded its range offering to include ceiling cove lighting which incorporates our high-quality strip lights. It was during this period that we realized that among the numerous ceiling light types available in the market, interior architectural lighting had a huge demand, however there weren’t many prominent brands that offered these solutions. On one side, there existed local market players that offered these solutions without effective quality assurances, while on the other there were international brands that only catered to



taken care of. Whether it is lighting up a small area, highlighting a wall texture, emphasizing on a work of art, illuminating the floor space at night or simply ensuring even distribution of light across the entire space - these lights have got you covered. The range, consisting of 9 series, covers various applications, installation techniques and design themes. Each series comes with a comprehensive offering of the different types of interior lights, be it downlights, spotlight or wall washers, which allows you to implement a consistent design theme (in terms of the lighting fixtures) across the space available, even with differentiated illumination techniques. The biggest advantage this range carries is the absolutely low Unified Glare Rating (UGR). The lower the UGR rating, the lower the glare from the light fittings which therefore results in comfortable illumination in your living spaces.

projects with no stable price offering or service support. This left majority of the customers without a viable choice in the market.

Identifying this distinct gap early on as an opportunity, Hafele initiated the research and engineering for a range of lights that enhances the design of architectural spaces as well as provides opportunities of achieving different illumination techniques and functionalities. As a brand, Hafele understands design and is known for its bend towards innovation. It also understands the importance of home ergonomics, lifestyle conveniences and ease of mobility within your surroundings. Our efforts towards this exercise led to the development of a versatile range of architectural lights; Hafele Architectural Lights was brought into existence.

With Hafele's New Architectural Lighting Range, you will find all your lighting needs

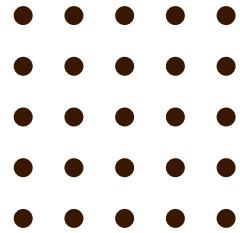
The convenient plug and play assembly, impressive product specifications, flexibility in ordering components, luminaire finishes, and availability of glare reduction accessories provide an overall customized option tailored to your specific requirements. Engineered on the same philosophy of 'easiness' and 'flexibility' as the Loox furniture lighting system, Hafele can now be your holistic lighting solutions provider, delivering premium ambient, task and accent lighting for your living spaces.

The Columbia Series

Experience true High-Definition interior lighting with Hafele's new Columbia Architectural Lights Series that offers excellent true colour reproduction and sharper details. The compact luminaires from this series deliver a brighter light output, thanks to the premium reflectors that direct maximum light from the LED, efficiently illuminating your interior space.

In addition, the wall washer luminaires from this series give a soothing visual experience thanks to the reflector design which directs the light to the wall in a way that the light source is not visible directly. With an extremely low UGR of less than 16 and, single LED and multiple LED linear luminaire options, the Columbia series downlights and wall washers can be used to illuminate smaller and wider areas. ■

SWITCHES & LIGHT FITTINGS



TIMELESS DESIGNS: CRAFTED TO ENDURE IN STYLE AND QUALITY

Kunal Rohatgi
Director
Fos Lighting

“Fos Lighting creates enduring designs that blend elegance with durability, ensuring style and quality that stand the test of time. Each piece is crafted with premium materials and meticulous attention to detail, delivering timeless lighting solutions for every space and style.”

How do you address the balance between aesthetic appeal and energy efficiency in your lighting solutions?

This isn't a trade-off for us- it's a synergy. Our design philosophy focuses on making energy efficiency beautiful. We achieve this by investing in high-quality bulbs sold separately from our designer lights and delivering optimal light output while consuming minimal energy. Thus, our lights are designed to look stunning both when lit and unlit, using sturdy and premium quality materials that enhance both performance and aesthetics. Our patrons who have installed Fos Lighting's Cast Aluminium Glided Cherubs Chandelier can vouch for it as it features heat sink designs that improve bulb longevity and serve as distinctive design elements. With

all our lights, we set an example that efficiency and beauty can coexist and enhance each other.

What strategies do you employ to ensure your lighting products are both durable and sustainable, considering factors like materials and environmental impact?

Sustainability is core to our business ideology. We focus on three key areas—materials, longevity and reparability. Our products are designed with modular components that can easily be replaced or upgraded, extending their useful life. We have also invested heavily in quality testing. Every new product undergoes longevity trials.

In fact, our commercial products have some of the lowest



failure rates in the industry. We focus on minimizing waste by using recycled materials wherever possible, as with our coconut shell lights, and ensuring that our manufacturing processes adhere to eco-friendly practices. We aim to create timeless designs that stand the test of time in style and quality.

How do you approach designing lighting solutions that cater to different needs, such as task lighting, ambient lighting, and accent lighting?

Our approach to different lighting needs is highly systematic yet creative. We understand that each type of lighting serves a distinct purpose and our design process reflects this understanding. For task lighting, we focus on functionality first. Our designs incorporate adjustable colour temperatures, typically 2700K to 5000K, allowing users to optimize their light for different activities. When it comes to ambient lighting, we prioritize even light distribution and mood creation.

Our ceiling fixtures and wall sconces use advanced diffusion technology to eliminate harsh shadows and create a welcoming atmosphere. For accent lighting, precision is key. We've invested heavily in developing optical systems allowing exact beam control. We also consider the architectural context. Our design team works closely with architects and interior designers to understand how our lighting solutions can complement different spatial layouts and design styles. This collaborative approach helps us create more effective and versatile lighting solutions.



What role does color temperature play in your product designs, and how do you ensure it meets the needs of various settings and preferences?

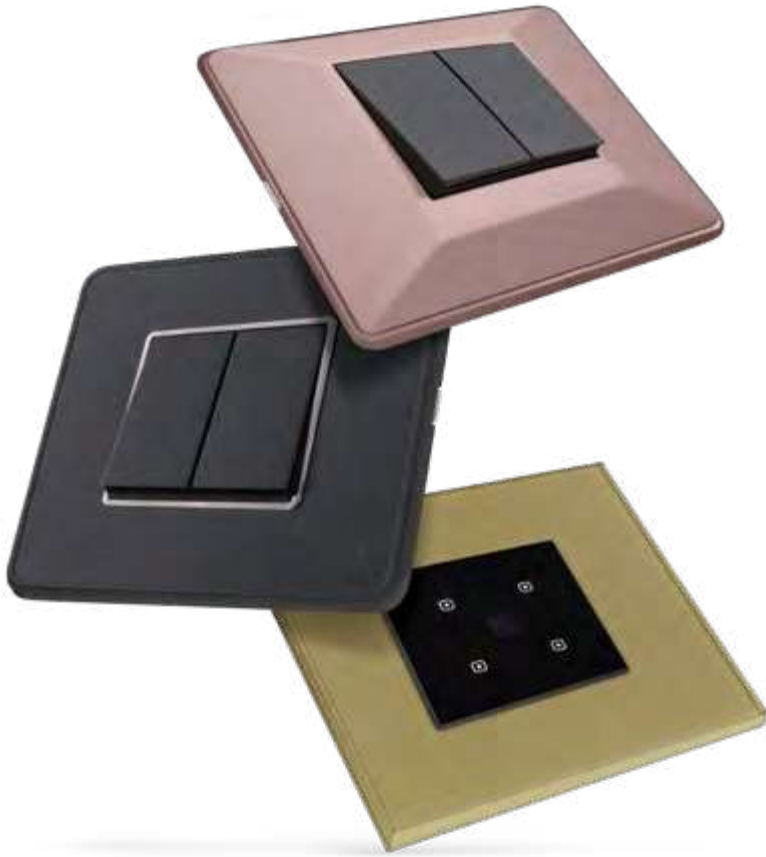
Colour temperature is fundamental to our product design philosophy. We view it as one of the most crucial elements in creating both functional and emotionally resonant lighting environments. We design our lighting products with a range of colour temperatures, from warm whites for cozy living areas to cooler tones suited for workspaces and task-oriented environments. By providing dimmable and tunable options, we ensure that our products can adapt to various settings, enhancing the overall experience of the space.

How are you addressing the growing demand for customizable lighting solutions that allow consumers to personalize their lighting environments?

At Fos Lighting, we recognize that today's consumers seek more than just functional lighting—they crave unique, customizable solutions that reflect their style and cater to their specific needs. Our approach to customizable lighting begins with the design itself. We provide our customers with options to choose from a variety of finishes, materials, sizes, and configurations that suit their tastes and the aesthetics of their spaces.

Whether it's selecting a brass finish for a vintage-inspired chandelier, incorporating traditional Indian art forms like Warli or Madhubani into a pendant light, or choosing a modern, minimalist style for a contemporary setting, our products offer a spectrum of choices that align with different interior design preferences. Providing a wide range of customizable options enables our customers to transform any space into a truly personalized environment that feels uniquely theirs. ■

SWITCHES & LIGHT FITTINGS



REDEFINING 'CONVENTIONAL' WITH FUNCTIONAL INNOVATION

At Lauritz Knudsen Electrical & Automation, we understand that electrical accessories are more than just functional essentials; they're vital elements that enhance interior aesthetics while seamlessly supporting everyday comfort and convenience.

From switches and sockets to innovative connectors, our extensive product range combines striking designs with dependable functionality, elevating residential, commercial, and industrial spaces.

Our modular switch offerings are crafted to cater to diverse consumer tastes and needs.

The Englaze range is our flagship product line, known for its flawless, ultra-flat design that blends effortlessly with any decor.

With anti-bacterial properties, these switches prioritize safety and hygiene, while their Smart Connectors make device integration easier than ever—no more searching for adapters, as HDMI, VGA, RCA, and USB inputs are all accessible in one seamless design.

Every detail of Englaze speaks to modern elegance and refined taste, making it perfect for both homes and offices where style and functionality meet.

For households seeking a robust, reliable switch option, our enGem Range offers unparalleled durability with a touch of sophistication.

The premium flat design and high-grade materials ensure longevity and resilience, while in-built safety shutters provide added protection, making every interaction hassle-free.

enGem also includes a 2 AMP USB charger with a convenient LED indicator, which lights up while charging and turns off once the device is fully charged, delivering both convenience and safety for today's digitally connected, fast-paced lifestyles.

Our Entice Range is designed for those who love making bold style statements. Featuring a vibrant color palette, each switch in this line has been meticulously curated to reflect various personalities and preferences, allowing users to create a truly personalized interior look.

With sleek, durable designs and vertical or horizontal mounting options, Entice provides flexibility, seamless installation, and safety-focused features like built-in shutters for peace of mind.

With a legacy spanning over 70 years, Lauritz Knudsen, formerly known as L&T Switchgear, is a leader in India's electrical industry. We remain deeply committed to our core values—Listen, Partner, Innovate.

By actively listening to customer feedback, building enduring partnerships, and continuously pushing the boundaries of innovation, we ensure our products are perfectly attuned to market needs.

Through our six Switchgear Training Centres, we support the development of industry professionals, promoting safety and skill advancement for a brighter, more connected future.

Our switches are inspired to redefine the conventional. Blending style, innovation, and quality, Lauritz Knudsen makes every home and business space truly exceptional. ■

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SWITCHES & LIGHT FITTINGS



ILLUMINATING LANDSCAPES: K-LITE'S HIGH-QUALITY ARCHITECTURAL LUMINAIRES



SHARMILA KUMBHAT
DIRECTOR
KLITE INDUSTRIES PVT LTD

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

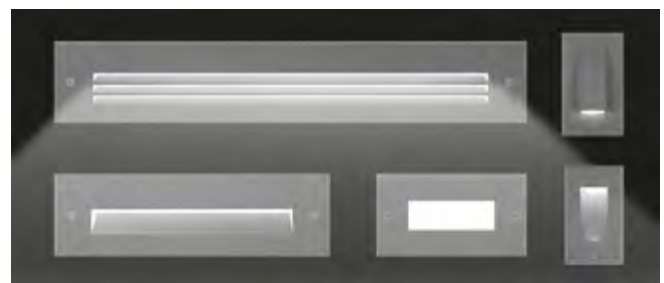
Since its inception, K-lite through its manufacturing units focuses on the production of sustainable and efficient LED luminaires. K-lite's products meet stringent quality standards while embodying elegant aesthetics.

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

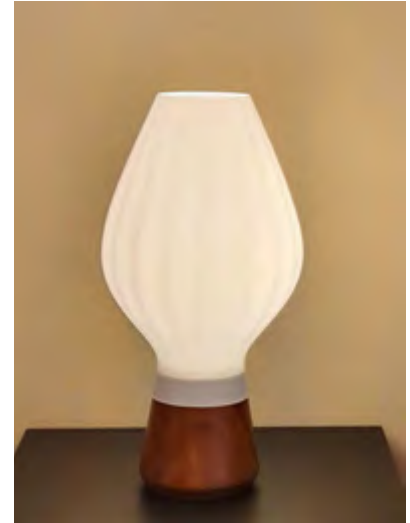
The Range offered by K-lite is comprehensive and versatile. It includes Linear Wall Washers, Up-Down Lighters, LED Strips/Neon Flex, Promenade Lighting, Bollards, Underwater Lighting, Post Top Luminaires, Bulkheads, Pathfinders, IP67 Linear Profiles, Polar Lighting, and a newly introduced series of Facade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

K-lite's commitment to innovation and quality, shines

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



BHILIGHT: CREATING DESIGNER LIGHTING USING 3D PRINTING



“Bhlight combines advanced digital design with 3D printing to create modern, customizable, and eco-friendly lighting solutions. Led by industrial designer Hari Kara, Bhlight’s approach focuses on sustainability through digital craftsmanship, plant-based materials, and efficient resource use.”

Bhlight’s philosophy revolves around “crafting with technology.” By leveraging digital manufacturing, Bhlight creates lighting solutions that are both visually striking and environmentally responsible. The company’s process minimizes material waste, uses renewable, plant-based PLA (polylactic acid) derived from corn, and employs a digital inventory, which enables make-on-demand production. This approach not only reduces storage needs but also eliminates the tooling stage, conserving both resources and time. The turnaround time from concept to completion is very short enabling Bhlight to do customisation projects efficiently.

Founded by industrial designer and TU Delft alumnus Hari Kara, Bhlight is an award-winning company that creates sustainable lighting solutions in India. Hari brings a wealth of experience from his design and leadership roles in Europe and India, and under his label since 2012, he’s been producing designer lighting and lifestyle products. At Bhlight, Hari merges his expertise in 3D printing with a passion for sustainable design, earning him the 'Elle Deco International Design Award' (EDIDA) India 2022 for Sustainable Achievement.

Distinct aesthetics set Bhlight apart; each product has a unique texture and a quality of light that stems from the bio plastic’s 3D-printed surface. Designed with simplicity and elegance, Bhlight’s lighting is also easy to maintain and adaptable to customer needs through customizable CAD designs. In particular, the blend of wood fibres and PLA adds a natural, wood-like texture that enhances the product's organic appeal.

Bhlight’s commitment to sustainable innovation was recognized at India Design ID, where its award-winning products were featured in 'The Hall of Fame.' As Bhlight continues to push the boundaries of eco-friendly lighting, it stands as a leader in marrying modern technology with sustainability in design. ■



SMART PAINTS FOR MODERN HOMES: BIRLA OPUS ON DURABILITY, ECO-FRIENDLINESS, AND DESIGN



“In the world of modern home design, paint technology has taken center stage, offering far more than vibrant color choices. Brands like Birla Opus are innovating with advanced formulations that enhance not only the look but also the resilience and eco-friendliness of homes. From easy-to-clean surfaces to sustainable production practices, Birla Opus paints combine cutting-edge technology with aesthetic appeal, creating a superior experience for homeowners. This article explores the advancements in paint that are shaping a brighter, greener future.”

Srikanth SK, Head Consumer Experience, Birla Opus





How are current innovations in paint technology helping to improve durability, sustainability, and aesthetic appeal in modern homes?

Innovations in paint technology are significantly enhancing the durability, sustainability, and aesthetic appeal of modern homes. At Birla Opus, we are leading the way by integrating advanced technologies and unique formulations that provide customers with superior product experiences.

We have developed features like anti-scuff technology in our luxury paints, allowing homeowners to easily wipe off marks and scratches from surfaces, ensuring long-lasting aesthetics. Additionally, we focus on efficiency and coverage with our anti-splatter technology. We also maintain indoor air quality when manufacturing our water-based paints range for better quality output.

Our in-house R&D, we have over 100 scientists working on unique formulations which ensures that all products are developed to the highest standards, offering exceptional quality that is hard to replicate. This, combined with our competitive pricing, sets us apart from competitors. With innovations like these, Birla Opus is delivering not only durable but also a seamless and efficient user experience for both homeowners and professionals.

What role do eco-friendly paints play in reducing the environmental impact of the construction and design industries?

Eco-friendly paints play a vital role in reducing the environmental impact of the construction and design industries by offering sustainable alternatives that minimize harmful emissions and resource consumption. Our water-based paints are low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), ensuring healthier indoor air quality and contributing to a greener environment.

Our eco-friendly initiatives extend beyond our product formulations. We provide free installation of compact tinting machines, which reduce space and energy usage by 40%, making sustainable choices more accessible for both consumers and retailers. Additionally, our 177-acre green belt, with over 1.2 lakh trees, and our 5.5 MW rooftop solar system significantly reduce our carbon footprint, promoting cleaner energy usage in manufacturing.

Water conservation is also a key focus. We have dedicated reservoirs that store 100 million liters of rainwater, and we ensure 100% reuse of wash water through our advanced zero liquid discharge systems (ZLDS). Our closed-loop raw material handling systems, equipped with pollution control devices and online monitoring, help us maintain a sustainable and eco-friendly operational model.

Through these innovations and our commitment to producing eco-friendly paints, Birla Opus is helping the construction and design industries transition toward an environmentally conscious future.

How do you predict color trends for the coming year, and what factors influence your decisions when developing new color palette

We always aim at staying ahead of the curve and have a comprehensive understanding of key factors that predict color trends. Firstly, we have developed a specialized software – Opus Tint – an ecosystem linking all our dealer tinting machines to our centralized database that enables analytics and insights to be generated. Additionally, we analyze local and global design trends, cultural shifts, and the evolving preferences of consumers to create palettes that resonate with diverse tastes and emerging styles. Our team collaborates with designers, architects, and color experts to understand the broader trends in fashion, lifestyle, and even technology, which often inspire new directions in home décor and color usage.

PAINT



We also draw inspiration from the rich heritage of Indian art, culture, and nature, ensuring that our color palettes capture the essence of iconic Indian aesthetics while staying globally relevant. Birla Opus offers over 2,322 tintable color choices, including 216 iconic Indian colors like 'Mogambo Khush Hua' and 'Jaipur Red' etc, allowing us to cater to a wide variety of preferences and needs. By blending tradition with innovation, we ensure that our color offerings are both timeless and forward-thinking.

How do you collaborate with interior designers and architects to ensure that your paint solutions meet the latest design trends and consumer preferences?

We have a nation-wide 'Design partnerships' team that works exclusively with architects and interior designers to help them specify the right colours and products from Birla Opus. Our aim is to be a partner that understands how design practices work and provide solutions and services at the right time. In addition, we also have extensive digital tools – like plug-ins for popular design softwares that make choosing Opus colours far easier from within the designers work flow itself.

Our colour team is focussed on tracking design and colour trends. We translate these insights into colour tools and services for the community. One good example is our 'India Iconic' colour kit – that offers a range of inspirational palettes.

Can you share any innovations your company is working on to improve the application process, such as faster drying times or enhanced coverage?

We are constantly innovating to enhance the application



process of our products, focusing on improving efficiency and user experience. One key area of development is creating faster-drying formulations that reduce downtime between coats, allowing both professionals and DIY enthusiasts to complete projects more quickly. We also focus on enhancing coverage with our advanced anti-splatter technology, which ensures better spread and minimal wastage, enabling one paint box to cover more surface area than traditional paints.

These innovations enhance not only the performance of our products but also the ease and speed of their application.

As India moves toward its 2047 vision, how do you see the role of paints evolving in creating sustainable and long-lasting infrastructure and buildings?

At Birla Opus, we are excited about being part of the India growth story. The per-capita paint consumption in India is still much lower compared to the global average. And as the construction sector grows, the need for high quality products will also go up. We have invested in adequate capacity to cater to this growing demand and our R&D is working on products that are long-lasting and sustainable as well. So we foresee Opus playing a significant role in shaping the Indian construction space in the years to come. ■





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AQUANT UNVEILS IMMERSIVE BATHWARE

EXPERIENCE

CENTRE IN MUMBAI

“Aquant, a leader in premium bathroom solutions, has launched an immersive bathware experience centre in Mumbai’s Mahalaxmi, offering a first-hand look at its luxurious bath fittings, innovative sanitary ware, and indulgent spa concepts. The 2,800 sq. ft. space blends bold design with cutting-edge functionality, redefining bath luxury in India.”





Aquant, a leader in premium bathroom solutions, recently unveiled an immersive bathware experience centre in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai. Spread over 2,800 sq. ft, this elegant, immersive space offers visitors a first-hand experience of Aquant's luxurious bath fittings, cutting-edge sanitary ware, stylish faucets, and indulgent spa concepts. The opening of the display centre is part of the brand's ongoing expansion across India and commitment towards setting new standards in bathroom luxury.

"Aquant has always been about bold designs. We believe in creating strong statements – be it through our products or display centres. This one-of-a-kind space allows us to reinforce that notion," says Saajid Patel, Director, Aquant. "Given the discerning tastes and evolving expectations of designers and clients in Mumbai, particularly when it comes to bath design, we recognized the need for a dedicated display centre," adds Kamlesh Jain, Director, Aquant.

Designed by MuseLAB, the space blends colour, geometry, and playfulness. The design preserves the building's original features, like 12-foot-high walls and glass façades, while adding vibrant mint hues, bespoke lighting, and exposed services in raspberry red tones. Inside, a monolithic green environment is designed for seamless views. Curved display systems, terrazzo floors, and circular enclosures create dynamic movement and visual intrigue. "The display centre redefines experience centers, inviting patrons to explore a space that fuses luxury with creativity, evoking a sense of childlike wonder and breaking conventional design norms," say Jasem Pirani and Huzefa Rangwala of MuseLAB. ■

ECO-FRIENDLY



FACADE SPEAKS:



THE EVOLVING ART AND SCIENCE OF BUILDING EXTERIORS

Facades of buildings play a crucial role in the overall aesthetics and functionality of a structure. In today's society, where appearances matter, a building's facade can make a powerful statement. They serve as the face of a building, representing its identity and creating a lasting impression on the viewers. Over time, the evolution of facades has been influenced by various factors, including architectural trends, technological advancements, and environmental considerations. In recent years, sustainability has

*"Facades define a building's identity, merging aesthetics with functionality. Today's trends reflect a shift toward sustainable, innovative materials—like smart glass, bio-based resources, and energy-generating photovoltaic panels. **Ar. Mueen Haris** delves into the evolving world of facades that blend design with environmental responsibility."*



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become a key driver in facade design. Architects are now incorporating innovative strategies, such as green walls and photovoltaic panels, to create energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly facades. Here we will discuss about the various trending facade materials:-

Glass Facades:

Glass facades remain popular for their sleek, modern aesthetic. Recent advancements, including energy-efficient glazing systems and smart glass, enhance versatility by adjusting transparency based on external conditions, offering both sustainability and improved energy efficiency.

Bio-based Materials:

Sustainable bio-based materials are gaining traction, derived from renewable resources like plants and agricultural waste. Wood, a classic choice for its beauty and durability, is used in various forms like solid panels and cladding. Bamboo, a fast-growing renewable material, is known for its strength and flexibility, making it a viable option for facades, cladding, and structural elements.

Brick Veneer:

Brick veneer offers a traditional yet modern facade. It provides the appearance of solid brick while being a thin, durable layer attached to the exterior. Brick veneer ensures low maintenance and excellent thermal insulation, making it both practical and stylish.

Stucco:

Stucco is a cost-effective and versatile facade material made from cement, sand, and water. Its smooth finish can be painted in various colors, offering affordable customization for both traditional and modern designs.

Metal Facades:

Metal facades, including aluminum composite panels, are favored for their strength, durability, and design flexibility. Lightweight yet strong, they can be customized for diverse architectural styles.

Wood Facades:

Wood exudes warmth and craftsmanship, suitable for traditional and contemporary designs. Modern treatments enhance wood's resistance to weathering, rot, and pests, improving longevity.

Fiber Cement:

Combining cement's strength with wood fiber's flexibility, fiber cement mimics wood or stone while being fire-resistant and low-maintenance. Its variety of textures and colors make it a versatile facade choice.

Photovoltaic Panels:

With a growing focus on renewable energy, photovoltaic panels are being integrated into facades to generate electricity, seamlessly combining sustainability with modern design.

Thus, the world of facade materials is rapidly evolving, driven by the need for sustainable and aesthetically pleasing solutions. Glass, metal, fibre cement, engineered wood, and photovoltaic panels are just a few examples of the trending materials that are being used to create innovative and visually striking facades. As society continues to prioritise sustainability and design excellence, trending and sustainable facades will play an even more vital role in shaping the future of architecture and design. ■





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WHERE STYLE MEETS FUNCTION: INTRODUCING KÜCHE7'S LUXE WARDROBE TRIO

“Küche7, pioneers in luxury stainless steel kitchens, wardrobes, and vanity units, unveils its latest wardrobe collections—Porcelain, Lucent, and Theodore. These designs offer an artful fusion of elegance and functionality, redefining modern spaces with practical, sophisticated storage solutions that enhance contemporary living.”





Küche7, pioneers of luxury stainless steel kitchens, wardrobes, and vanity units, continues to redefine contemporary living with the launch of their latest wardrobe collections: Porcelain, Lucent and Theodore. These exquisite modular designs not only enhance the beauty of contemporary living spaces but also prioritize functionality and organization. With a perfect blend of elegance and practicality, these wardrobes are crafted to elevate the modern home, offering sophisticated solutions for today's discerning.

Lucent: The Essence of Elegance

The Lucent wardrobe presents a sleek white design that seamlessly integrates into any corner, featuring rounded corners that enhance its contemporary allure. With spacious shelves and hanging areas, it provides ample storage for garments, footwear, and accessories. An open shelving unit allows for decorative displays or easy access to essentials, while the soft illumination of understated handles beautifully complements the overall aesthetic. Lucent is the perfect addition to any modern bedroom, embodying elegance and practicality.

Porcelain: Ultimate Organization and Luxury

The Porcelain walk-in wardrobe is designed for those who seek unparalleled organization and luxury. It features generous shelves, drawers, and hanging spaces that keep clothes and accessories meticulously arranged. Glass partitions enhance the wardrobe's elegance, offering a clear view of its well-lit interior. A natural wood finish adds warmth and sophistication, while a cozy central seating area with a plush rug provides the ideal spot for dressing and accessorizing. Porcelain is the quintessential choice for stylish modern homes.

Theodore: Modern Charm Meets Functionality

The Theodore wardrobe showcases sleek sliding doors finished in frosted glass, imparting a touch of modern charm. Inside, it offers extensive storage options, including hooks for garments, shoe shelves, and compartments for accessories. Built-in lighting creates a cozy atmosphere and facilitates easy access to items within. Open shelves provide a space for essentials or decorative accents, making Theodore a chic and organized solution for contemporary bedrooms. ■

BATH FITTINGS

PERK INDIA A LEGACY OF LUXURY IN BATH-CARE



For over 37 years, Perk has been globally recognized for its luxurious bath-care products, epitomizing elegance and sophistication. Combining aesthetics, ergonomics, and functionality, Perk is a brand distinguished by its growing esteem and popularity. Each product reflects both art and personal expression, and today, Perk bath-care items grace the world's most exquisite residences, luxury hotels, resorts, spas, and yachts, catering to discerning clients who demand exceptional craftsmanship.

Our products are designed to appeal to individuals who value modern, comfortable living. Our healthcare range, in particular, is thoughtfully developed to ensure safe and enjoyable bathing experiences, especially for the elderly and those with mobility challenges. Recognizing that bathrooms are a common area for slips and falls, Perk offers an extensive selection of bathing products tailored to provide both safety and elegance for users of all ages.

Perk's commitment to high quality, durability, and value is evident in every product. Technological innovations and rigorous standards of excellence have established Perk as an iconic brand, not only in India but worldwide. We pledge superior performance and unwavering perfection from product development to customer service.

The Perk brand is a proud division of R.S. Sanitation Pvt. Ltd., a leading manufacturer of luxurious bathroom accessories and top-tier sanitary products. With ISO 9001-certified factories in Mumbai and New Delhi, equipped with state-of-the-art machinery, RS Sanitation delivers unique value in sanitary technology and bathroom accessories. The Perk brand has earned accolades such as the European Technology Award, The Rising Star, Asia's Most Promising Brand, and membership in the India Green Building Council, underscoring our commitment to exceptional quality. ■

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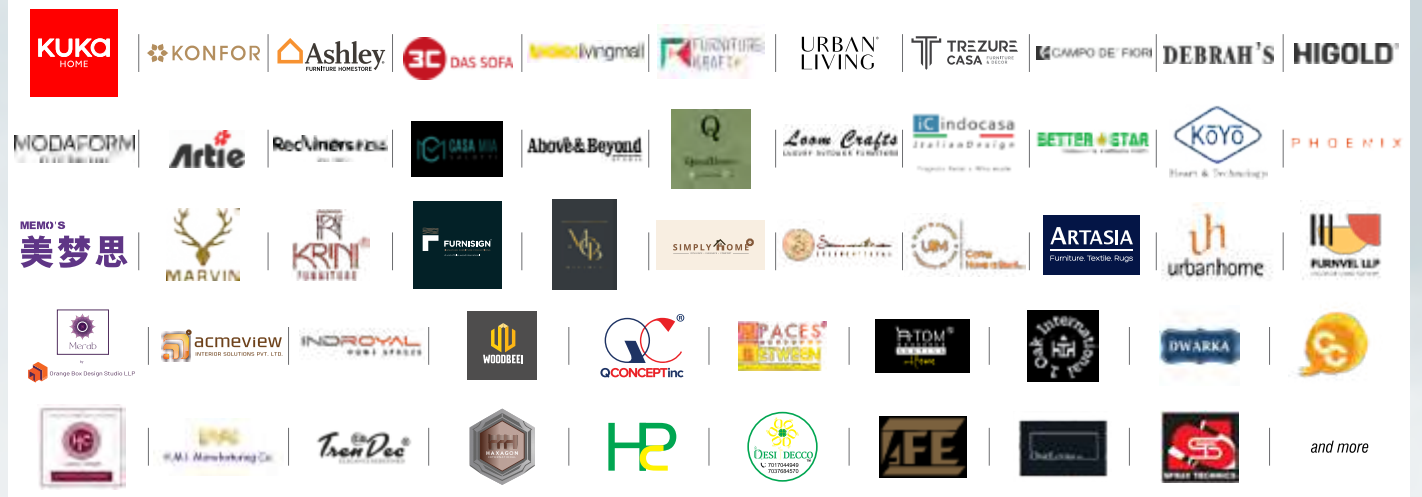
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ELEVATOR



TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN, AND SAFETY IN MODERN ELEVATOR SYSTEMS

“As urban development accelerates, the demand for smarter, more efficient elevator systems grows. TK Elevator is at the forefront of this transformation, blending cutting-edge technology, sophisticated design, and stringent safety measures to create next-generation solutions for modern buildings.”



Manish Mehan,
CEO & MD
TK Elevator India

TK Elevator: Revolutionizing the Future of Vertical Transportation

TK Elevator stands as a leader in the vertical transportation industry, leveraging state-of-the-art technology to enhance the efficiency and safety of its elevator systems. The company's commitment to innovation is evident in its integration of advanced features that improve operational performance while prioritizing user safety. TK Elevator's products are equipped with numerous safety features, such as overload protection, door safety curtains, and advanced emergency communication systems, ensuring a safe and comfortable ride for passengers.

Design Meets Functionality: Creating Seamless Aesthetics

Design plays a pivotal role in TK Elevator's approach, ensuring that its elevators complement the architectural aesthetics of any building. With the customer at the center of its design philosophy, TK Elevator offers highly customizable solutions, including a variety of interior finishes,



COP designs, and cab configurations. Their award-winning designs, including five Red Dot awards, showcase the importance of blending functionality with visual appeal. A well-designed elevator not only elevates the user experience but also enhances the overall architectural environment, adding value to the property.

Safety First: Adhering to Global Standards

Safety and compliance with international regulations are top priorities for TK Elevator. The company's adherence to strict safety standards, such as ISO and CEN certifications, ensures its products meet the highest global benchmarks. Through continuous investment in research and development, TK Elevator integrates the latest safety technologies to provide elevators that are both reliable and secure. From stringent quality control during manufacturing to adherence to national safety codes, every aspect of the elevator system is optimized for safety.

Smart and Connected Systems: Enhancing Building Efficiency

The integration of smart technologies has transformed elevator systems into more efficient and user-friendly solutions. TK Elevator's smart systems, such as its predictive maintenance platform MAX, utilize IoT technology to monitor real-time performance, detect potential issues, and ensure timely maintenance. Additionally, the AGILE Destination Selection Control system enhances traffic flow by reducing wait and travel times, improving overall passenger experience. These intelligent systems contribute to building efficiency by optimizing traffic patterns, reducing energy consumption, and offering greater convenience for users.

The Future of Elevator Technology: Trends Shaping Tomorrow

Looking ahead, several key trends are poised to shape the future of elevator technology. The increased integration of IoT will make elevators smarter, enabling seamless communication with other building systems and offering predictive maintenance. Sustainability will be a driving force, with elevators adopting energy-efficient components, regenerative drives, and sustainable materials to minimize environmental impact. User experience will continue to evolve with touchless controls, voice activation, and personalized settings. Additionally, advancements in safety, data analytics, and AI will enhance performance and security, while ensuring accessibility for all users.

As elevators become smarter, more efficient, and increasingly integrated into smart buildings, TK Elevator remains committed to shaping the future of vertical transportation, creating systems that are not only functional but also enhance the lives of users and meet the needs of modern architecture. ■



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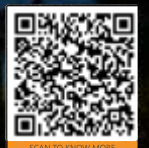
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