

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Ideas, inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

Volume 02 | Issue 12 | March 2011 | ₹ 50

An ITP Publishing India Publication



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THE WHO'S WHO OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

+ THEIR VIEWS ON NEW-AGE INNOVATIONS

INDIA'S SHINING

ARCHITECT AND INTERIORS INDIA PRESENTS 50
FABULOUS PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE THE POWER
TO CHANGE THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY

This is not a competition or an awards proclamation, so we would like to begin by urging our readers to refrain from looking upon this handpicked collection as a Top 50 listing. The idea behind this special feature that marks our second anniversary is to highlight the creative differences that make India's architecture and design scene so varied, colourful and exciting. The philosophies and mantras that drive the creative engines of these design personalities must be applauded for being idealistic yet practical and thought-provoking. They could transport us into a new, improved era for our image in the global mirror – if we and our chosen government exert responsible choices when we make decisions that affect our built environment.

While embarking on this journey of discovering the guiding mantra and defining projects of our leading lights, we were filled with trepidation that we would be unable to pin down 50 extremely busy architects and designers at short notice. If we have succeeded, it is all thanks to their unstinting support. While most of them undertook the task of answering our queries with unquestioning co-operation within the stipulated deadline, a few demanded answers themselves... which we promptly gave. That we could not convince a handful of them to spare their valuable time to focus on areas of their work that we were interested in this time, is indeed our misfortune.

Due to the paucity of time, some globetrotters did not make it to our final 50 either. Again, the loss is ours – but rest assured that you will hear about them and their work here.

Our companion piece on what our Fab 50 have to say about new-age innovations and their potential to change the world we live in, is enlightening – to say the least. From new products to novel technologies, they have cited what they think is making a difference to their chosen field and how they function. The outpouring of diverse responses we received encourages us to believe that the design community needs such a platform for the exchange of seminal ideas. And we hope to provide that.

by Maria Louis



TM Cyriac



Tony Joseph



Vidur Bharambhoj



Vikas Dilwari



Yatin Panolya



Zubin Zainuddin & Krupa Zubin



Sanjay Puri



Sam Kapadia



Shantanu Poreli & Manjira Agarwal



Shmul Javeri Kadhi



Shirish Beri



Sonali Bhagwati



Rahul Kumar



Nimisha Patel & Parul Zaveri



Rajeev Kothipalla



Ratam Borilbasi



Ravi Sarangan



Reza Kaboli



Nnu Karim



Prem Nadi



PK Das



Rahul Gore



Rahul Kadri



Karan Grover



Nitin Killewala



Kalfan Manoo & Santha Geur



Noshir Tabli



Mujeeb Ahmed & Lalita Thorani



Jagdeep Rao



Jasim Krishna Rao



Kamal Malik



Hafes Contractor



Deepa Satharam & Satharam Ram



Dilal Mukherjee



Eugene Pandela



Gayatri Sheary



Diem D'Cruz



Chitraa Vohwani



Benny Kurukose



Binod Patel



Bobby Mukherji



Binodi Somaya



Chitraa Shekar



Abhi Narain Lambani



Aliza Miller



Ambarish Arora



Anupama Kundoo



Abi Davai

KALHAN MATTOO & SANTHA GOUR,
PLANET 3 STUDIOS ARCHITECTURE PVT LTD

“WE ARE LIGHT ON IDEOLOGY AND HEAVY ON CREATIVITY. A CONCEPTUAL DEPARTURE THAT IN HINDSIGHT APPEARS INTUITIVE, SPELLS OUR PHILOSOPHY”



Planet 3 Studios, with its youthfulness and charisma, has wooed many a design enthusiast. Their portfolio being very diverse and propelling, has challenged conventional trends. This design studio was realised by architects Kalhan and Santha Mattoo, both alumnus of the Sir JJ College of Architecture. More than a decade old, it has won recognition from both Indian and international design fraternities.

It was their first ever architectural project, Vidyalankar Institute, that got the

Mattoos widespread recognition. Defying the age-old principles of campus design, it created a wholly new module of learning environment that would be most conducive to the end user. Since then, Planet 3 gave the Indian design community many more fascinating projects like X'Block, the RPG headquarters in Worli (Mumbai), Crossover (a restaurant in Bengaluru), MochaMojo (Mumbai), Disturbia (an installation at a fair) and the Out-of-box workstation. Their upcoming projects,

such as Heliopolis in Mumbai and Pune, will take innovation to another level. For these and other such impressive projects, the studio has won numerous awards. At an international level, the Mattoos have received accolades like an Honor award from DesignShare, USA '07, World Architecture Community Awards '08, a shortlisting at the World Architecture Festival Awards Learning category for the Vidyalankar design, and Multiplicity International Product design award, USA '08 for Out-of-box. Back home, Planet 3 has attracted recognition from the likes of IIID (National and Regional), besides a number of design publications.

“At Planet 3, we believe in constructive learning. We learn from every project, paper or built. We participate in many competitions, but we make sure that our ideas are soon realised in a built project,” says Kalhan. Through this process, the Planet 3 duo has embarked on many new ventures. They recently set up Planet One infrastructure, specialising in Design Build (realisation of a project from start to finish by one body) on a large-scale level. And their dedication towards product design led them to set up a different body specialising in product design and creation, an initiative taken up by very few Indian architects and designers. Truly, Planet 3 Studios is a place with great designs on the future **ASA**.

by Carol Ferrao



Vidyalankar Institute, a 1,95,000sqft educational facility in Mumbai, is an attempt to change the dynamics of education through architecture.

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