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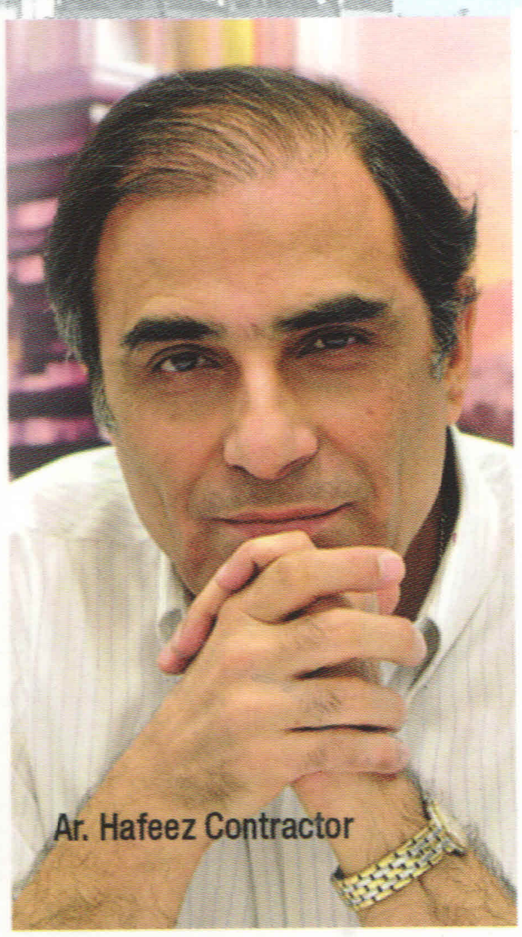
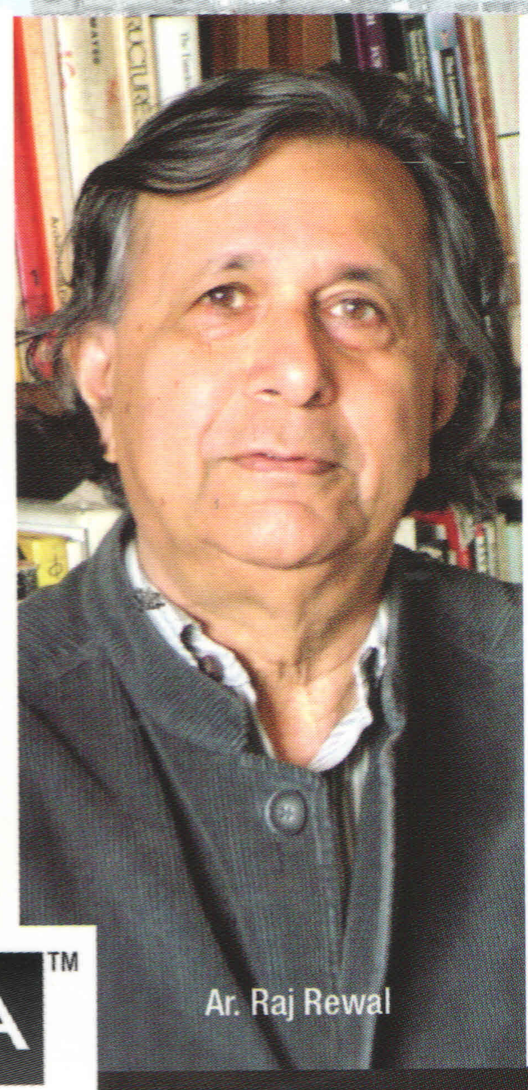
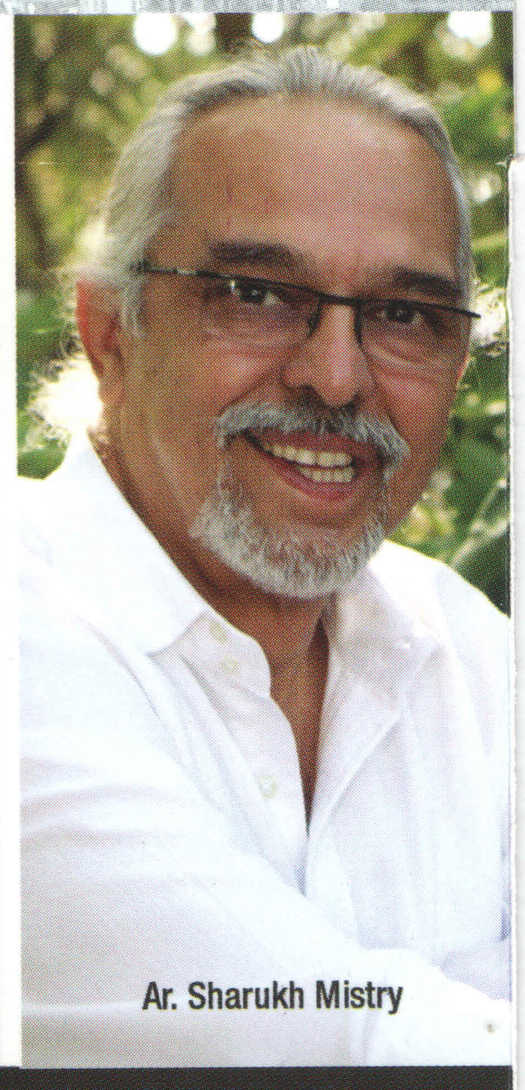
Ar. Nitin Killawala

Ar. Brinda Somaya


Ar. Hafeez Contractor


Ar. Raj Rewal


Ar. Sharukh Mistry

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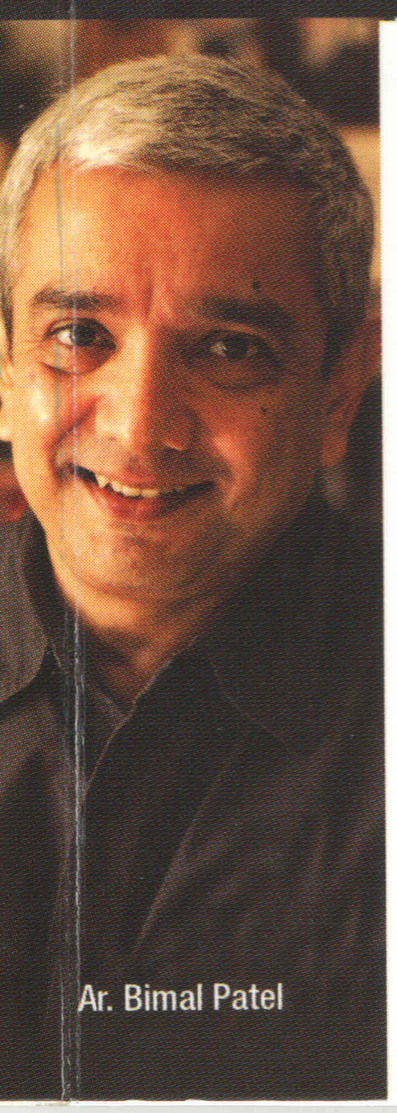
Ar. Bimal Patel

Ar. Naresh Narasimhan

Ar. Kalhan Mattoo

Ar. Sanjay Puri

Ar. Reza Kabul

Ar.Rahul Gore

FAB GLASS
GLASS FABRIC

> "Awareness about design as means of creating greater value will drive clients to better practices, especially those with demonstrated local expertise"

AR. KALHAN MATTOO
Architect

In your opinion what is the future of architecture in India?

We can aspire for architecture that that best embodies the ambition of this nation to embrace progress by evolving a unique path that is global in quality and local in context. The future of architecture in India can be exciting with speed, scale, iconicity, quality and local idiom coming together to actualise our collective aspiration. We hope to achieve this in an ecosystem of governance that includes better laws through progressive legislation, simplified and transparent process of approvals and importantly and increased investment by government into public projects to reclaim its stature as the prime patron of architecture. Adopting better technologies as a tools for design creation as well as design realisation will be critical to improving quality overall. Awareness about design as means of creating greater value will drive clients to better practices, especially those with demonstrated local expertise. In the foreseeable future, home grown practices will take Indian ideas and particular sensibility international and be able to compete and win on both quality and price.

Who has been your role model or mentor and how has this person helped you evolve and grow professionally?

We believe that good design and the practice of it draws from wide source of people and ideas and in that sense we owe to list of credits too long to enumerate here. Quite often the influences have been from outside the domain of architecture and we are happy to learn as we evolve. Richard

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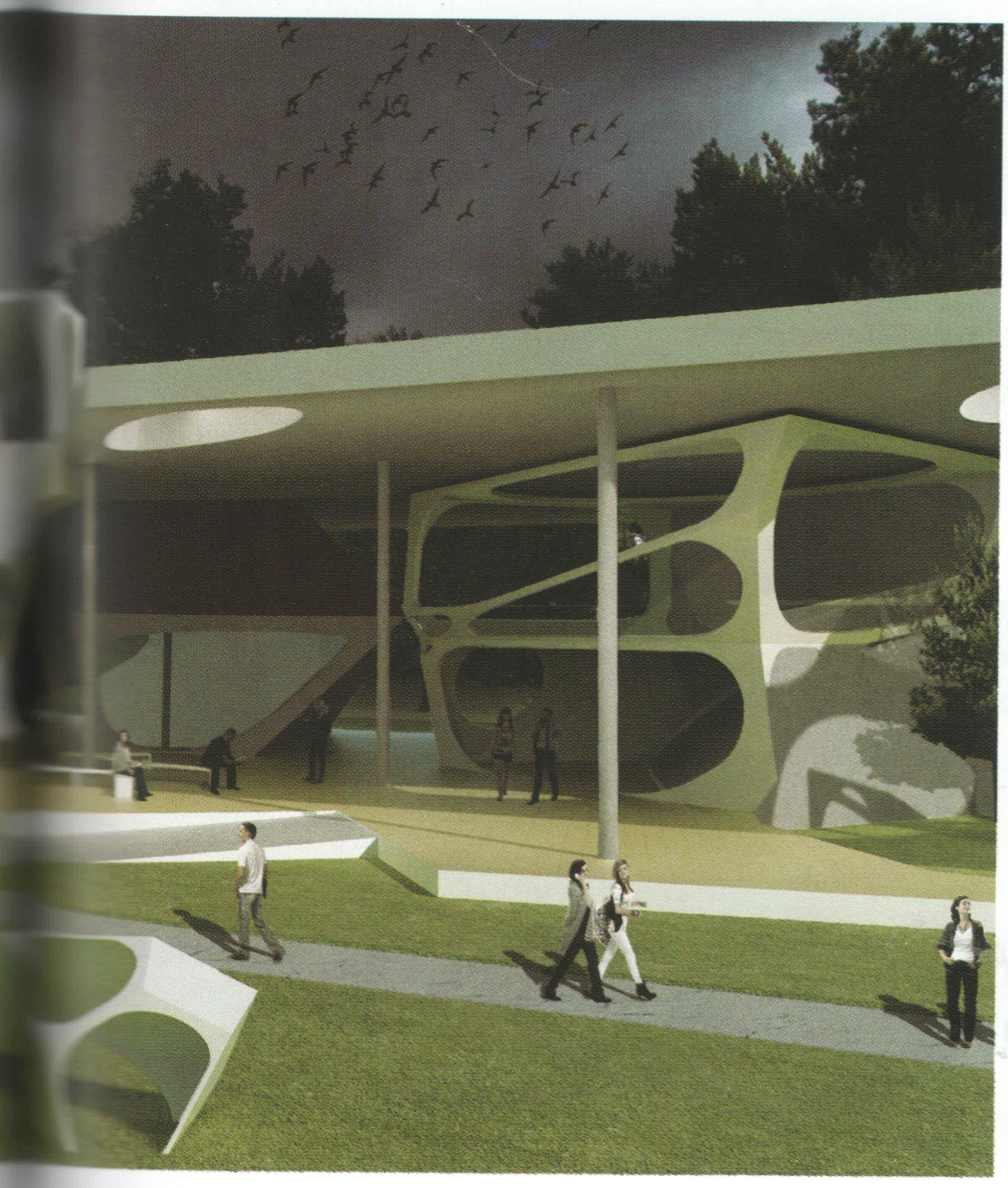

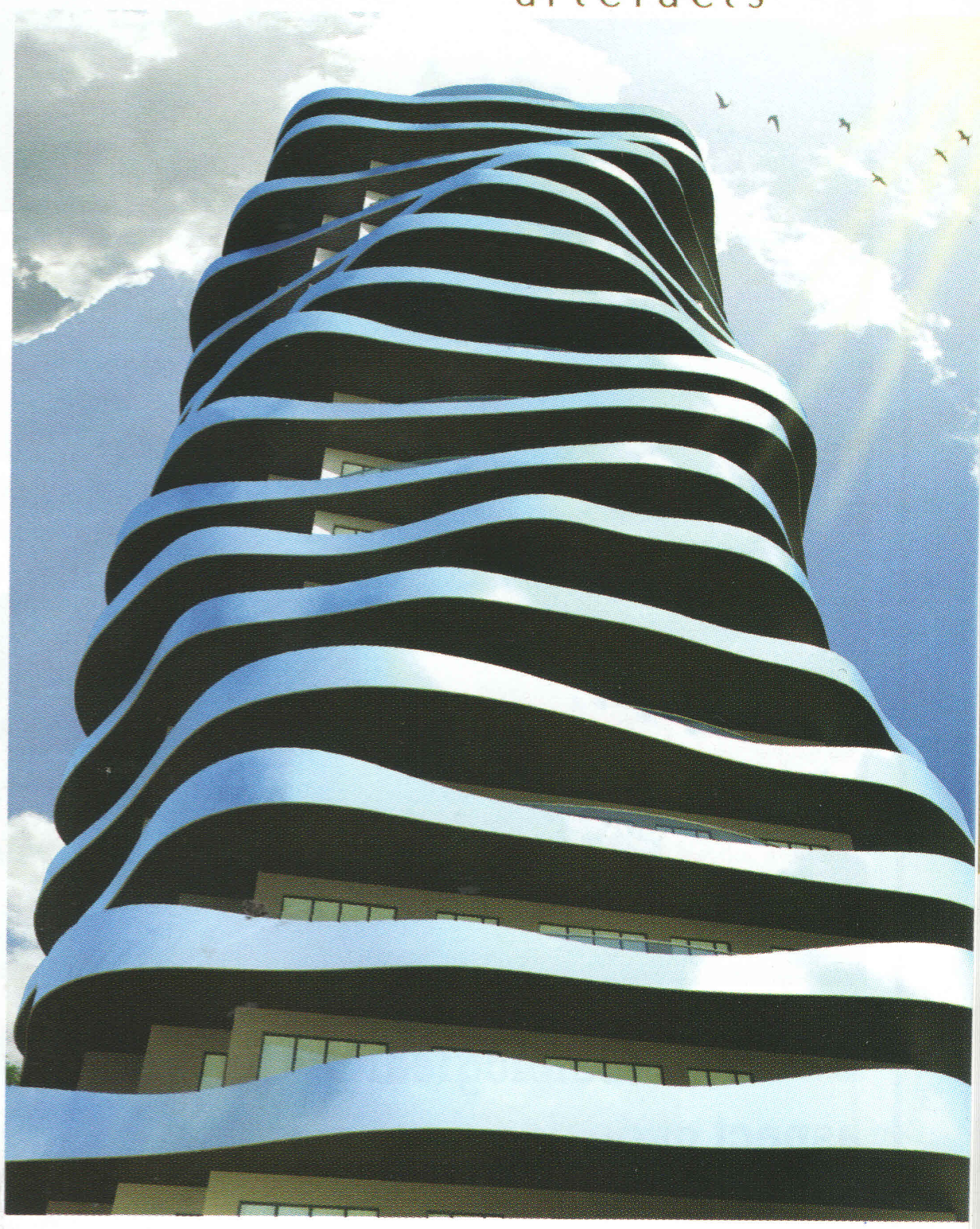

Branson for his chutzpah, Steve Jobs for design led thinking, Jack Welch for putting ideas into action and Ricardo Semler for reinventing a company are top of the mind recall. Amongst the masters, we admire work of Frank Lloyd Wright for the sheer brilliance and timelessness, Frank Ghery and Zaha Hadid for sculptural explorations, Will Alsop for unapologetic maximalism, Norman Foster for consistent high standards and Herzog De Meuron for contemporary contextual thinking. In the Indian context, Charles Correa, Hafeez Contractor and Sanjay Puri for varied reasons deserve applause. This said, we as a practice do not subscribe to a particular ideological persuasion or a stylistic preference modelled on any other role model and are inclined to exploring and evolving our own path.

What form of building materials and construction methods should be innovated for mass and low cost housing?

We need to move away from traditional practices of designing and building housing to deal with the challenge of the current deficit. Building soulless pigeonholes by conventional means has served neither the purpose of creating homes nor the purpose meeting numbers. Modular design strategy that allows for 'Mass Customisation' with elements of choice delivered through means of industrial production might offer a solution. Building assembly management or BAM coupled with suitable industrial production infrastructure can deal with scale, complexity and limited customisation and resource optimisation in a way not conceived before.

"We need to move away from traditional practices of designing and building housing to deal with the challenge of the current deficit. Building soulless pigeonholes by conventional means has served neither the purpose of creating homes nor the purpose meeting numbers"

> **The sociological aspect of design can not be overemphasised and it would serve us well to keep our solutions sensitive and contextual**

AR. KALHAN MATTOO
Architect

What difference do you see last generation architect's work and this generation architect's work?

The most apparent change has been in the in the ideological and philosophical underpinning that defined earlier works of significance compared with similar projects now. While the earlier generation looked at projects as vehicles to carry and communicate preferred ideological positions, contemporary architects tend to be more relaxed with theory and more focussed on context, constraints and opportunities to explore fresh ideas. Overall it's a very exciting time architects and architecture in general. A fair bit of creative energy has been unleashed in this time of exuberance and expression; one can almost sense the palpable feeling of euphoria in contemporary design renderings that compete to claim the greatest fracture from the past.

Share us about technical innovations, sociological conditions and ecological challenges?

The manner in which buildings are currently designed, built and maintained is in for an incredible change. We are at the cusp of a significant revolution in the building industry with the increasing adoption of building information modelling in design, building assembly modelling for construction and building operator-owner modelling on the maintenance and life cycle management. Obviously India trails this at the moment but we have a historic opportunity to leapfrog to best practices from our current level of technology adoption.

The sociological aspect of design can not be overemphasised and it would serve us well to keep our solutions sensitive and contextual.

We seem to have bought in on the western view of the ecological crisis and the solutions therefore without validating appropriateness to our context. We have to mindful of the fact that per capita we are one of the lesser polluting countries in the world and while it makes good sense to protect and preserve natural resources, it should not be at the cost of development that enables us the achieve the desired standard of living.