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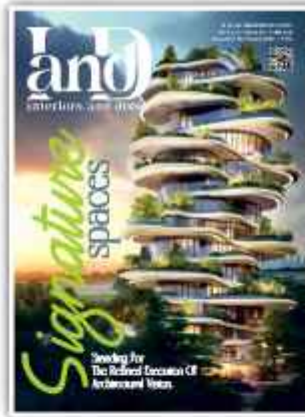
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**T**he Dec'25-Jan'26 edition of Interiors & Decor Magazine ushers in the new year with a thoughtfully curated exploration of design that blends aesthetics, innovation, and comfort. Anchored by the Cover Feature: "Signature Spaces", this edition celebrates how contemporary interiors are being shaped by refined craftsmanship, evolving lifestyles, and a growing emphasis on personalization.

The Signature Spaces cover story spotlights exemplary residential and commercial projects where design transcends visual appeal to create meaningful, immersive environments. Leading architects and interior designers share insights into how materiality, spatial planning, bespoke detailing, and sustainability are redefining modern interiors. From luxurious residences to experiential hospitality and workspaces, the feature highlights spaces that reflect individuality while responding to functional and emotional needs.

Complementing the cover story is a dedicated Feature on Bath Fittings, focusing on how bathrooms have evolved into wellness-driven sanctuaries. The article explores innovations in faucets, showers, sanitaryware, and accessories that combine design sophistication with water efficiency, smart controls, and sustainability. Industry leaders discuss trends such as minimalist aesthetics, matte finishes, touchless technologies, and eco-conscious solutions that are shaping the future of bathroom design in India.

Adding to the comfort narrative is an in-depth Feature on Air Conditioning and Climate Control, examining how indoor comfort has become central to modern living. The article delves into advancements in energy-efficient air conditioning systems, smart climate control, and solutions tailored for residential, commercial, and hospitality spaces. With a growing focus on indoor air quality, sustainability, and thermal comfort, the feature highlights how HVAC technologies are seamlessly integrating with interior design while supporting green building goals.

Together, these features make the Dec'25-Jan'26 edition of Interiors & Decor Magazine a comprehensive guide to creating interiors that are elegant, efficient, and future-ready—setting the tone for inspired design as the industry steps into a new year. ■

Readers, Feel free to send in your suggestions and feedback,  
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SIGNATURE SPACES  
SPACES IMAGINED BY ARCHITECTS,  
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WHERE DESIGN MEETS LIFE



Hafeez Contractor, Founder & Principal Architect  
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## GEZE Shower Fittings Precision that Perfects Every Shower



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## FRESH N NEW

### ANTICA CERAMICA LAUNCHES A NEW WALL & FLOOR TILE COLLECTION FOR HOSPITALITY SPACES

**A**ntica Ceramica unveils its latest collection of wall and floor tiles, thoughtfully designed for cafés, restaurants, boutique hotels, lounges, and contemporary hospitality environments. Blending global design sensibilities with advanced material technology, the collection responds to the growing demand for surfaces that are immersive, durable, and visually distinctive.

Crafted in a versatile 600 x 1200 mm format with a 10 mm thickness, the tiles are engineered for seamless installation and long-term performance. Ideal for high-traffic commercial spaces, they offer excellent resistance to stains and wear while maintaining aesthetic clarity over time. The range features a rich mix of designs—from warm wood-inspired textures and refined stone aesthetics to intricate, globally influenced patterns—allowing designers to create spaces that are expressive, layered, and brand-driven.

Speaking on the launch, Rahul Bhugra, Director, Antica Ceramica, shares, “Hospitality design today is about creating memorable experiences. This collection empowers designers to express identity and emotion through surfaces.”

With this launch, Antica Ceramica reinforces its position as a leading name in design-forward architectural surfaces for the hospitality industry. ■



### TRESTLE UNVEILS THE BRIO LOUNGE CHAIR: SCULPTED COMFORT FOR CONTEMPORARY SPACES

**T**restle, the contemporary Indian furniture brand from the S.R. Jindal Group, introduces the Brio Lounge Chair, designed for relaxed seating across modern residential and commercial spaces.

The Brio Lounge Chair features a cushioned seat with a supportive backrest and armrests, offering relaxed seating for living rooms, offices, and hospitality spaces. Its clean form is paired with a metal base, available in fixed and swivel options, making it suitable for different functional needs. The chair's compact proportions allow it to fit easily into both small and large spaces.

Crafted with attention to detail, the Brio Lounge Chair is available in premium fabric and leather upholstery options, allowing flexibility in finish while maintaining a consistent design language. Practical and versatile, Brio reflects Trestle's focus on creating well-designed furniture that fits naturally into contemporary spaces.

Now available at Trestle's flagship studio, the Brio Lounge Chair embodies the brand's philosophy of creating furniture that is intuitive, inviting, and enduring, designed to be lived with and admired over time. ■



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## FRESH N NEW

### LOCKS AND ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTIONS BY GODREJ BRINGS LIFESTYLE-LED ARCHITECTURAL FITTING INNOVATIONS

Locks and Architectural Solutions by Godrej presents a curated showcase of architectural fitting innovations designed to elevate everyday living through thoughtful design, movement, and functionality. Rooted in a lifestyle-first approach, the display highlights how seemingly subtle elements—touch, motion, comfort, and spatial efficiency—play a defining role in shaping contemporary residential and commercial environments.

The showcase features a focused portfolio of advanced solutions, including HDH systems for smooth and controlled door movement, Murphy Bed solutions that enable intelligent space optimisation, and Hikido inline sliding systems engineered for silent, space-efficient wardrobe and closet applications. SKIDO solutions further enhance layout flexibility, responding to evolving spatial needs. Complementing these systems is a refined range of home décor handles across four design themes—Neo Luxury, Euro Modern, Urban Chic, and Smart Ethnic—crafted to add visual finesse to doors and furniture.

The display also includes an ergonomic electric bed with motorised adjustability for personalised comfort, alongside one of the industry's most expansive digital lock portfolios, featuring Advantis IoT9, Catus Connect, and the Neo Series—reinforcing Godrej's commitment to design-forward, lifestyle-led architectural solutions. ■



### GRAVITY BATH ACQUIRES ITALIAN LUXURY BRAND DILUSSO, MARKING A NEW CHAPTER IN DESIGN-LED GLOBAL BATHWARE

**G**ravity Bath Pvt. Ltd., one of India's fastest-growing premium bathware brands, has acquired DILUSSO, an Italian luxury bathware label celebrated for its sculptural forms, artisanal metalcraft, and precision engineering. The acquisition marks a strategic step in Gravity Bath's journey to build a globally competitive, design-driven luxury portfolio that fuses European craftsmanship with Indian innovation.

Founded in Italy, DILUSSO is widely specified in boutique hotels, luxury residences, and high-end hospitality projects across Europe, admired for its minimalist silhouettes, hand-finished detailing, and performance-led design. Gravity Bath identified the brand as a natural fit, pairing DILUSSO's Italian design heritage with its own strengths in R&D, smart technology, and scalable manufacturing.

"This acquisition is both strategic and creative," says Anoop Garg, Founder & Director, Gravity Bath. "DILUSSO represents design purity and engineering finesse—values that align seamlessly with our global ambitions."

Aligned with Gravity Bath's 'Road to 1000 Crores' vision, the move strengthens its presence in the luxury and ultra-luxury segments. Together, Gravity Bath and DILUSSO will deliver a unified portfolio defined by timeless design, advanced engineering, and future-ready bathware solutions for discerning global markets. ■



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## FRESH N NEW

### THE GREAT EASTERN HOME BRINGS CERAMIC CRAFTSMANSHIP INTO FURNITURE DESIGN

**T**he Great Eastern Home unveils an exceptional collection of handcrafted ceramic furniture that redefines material boundaries in contemporary interiors. Rooted in a global movement toward material fusion, the collection brings together ceramic — one of the world's oldest craft materials — with the warmth and strength of fine wood, creating furniture that is both sculptural and functional. From striking centre tables to refined side pieces and accent designs, each creation balances visual drama with timeless elegance.

Conceived at The Great Eastern Design Studio, the collection reimagines ceramic beyond its traditional role. Master artisans and designers collaborated to develop advanced shaping, glazing, and high-temperature firing techniques, enabling ceramic to achieve the structural integrity required for furniture. Paired with meticulously crafted wooden elements, the pieces reveal a compelling contrast of solidity and warmth.

Every piece begins as a hand-drawn sketch and is shaped, glazed, fired, and finished by skilled artisans, ensuring each creation is truly unique. More than furniture, the collection stands as a testament to The Great Eastern Home's commitment to innovation, craftsmanship, and enduring design. ■



### ELEVATE YOUR KITCHEN WITH HINDWARE'S CARMELA BLDC AUTO-CLEAN CHIMNEY

**S**tep into a smarter, cleaner cooking experience with the Hindware Carmela BLDC Auto-Clean Chimney — designed for modern kitchens that value performance, efficiency, and style. With a powerful 1500 m<sup>3</sup>/hr suction capacity powered by an energy-efficient BLDC motor, this inclined wall-mounted chimney efficiently eliminates smoke, grease, and odours, even during heavy cooking.

The advanced thermal auto-clean technology removes grease buildup at the touch of a button, reducing maintenance and ensuring long-lasting performance. Its filterless design with automatic louvre opening maintains consistent airflow without the hassle of clogged filters, while nine speed levels adapt effortlessly to different cooking needs.

Bright, energy-saving LED lamps illuminate the workspace, and intuitive motion-sensing touch controls allow seamless operation — even with messy hands. Finished in a sleek curved black glass profile, the Carmela Chimney enhances kitchen aesthetics while maximising headroom and usability.

Built for durability and peace of mind, it comes with a 3-year comprehensive warranty and an impressive 12-year warranty on the BLDC motor, making it a smart, future-ready addition to contemporary homes. ■



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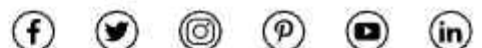
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## FRESH N NEW

### PIONEER SERIES BY SPAN FLOORS ELEVATES SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR DECKING WITH ADVANCED COMPOSITE TECHNOLOGY

**T**he Pioneer Series by SPAN FLOORS sets a new benchmark in high-performance outdoor composite decking in India, responding to the growing demand for refined, durable, and sustainable outdoor spaces. Designed for luxury residences, hospitality projects, and design-led architecture, the collection blends advanced engineering, eco-conscious materials, and the visual richness of rare hardwoods—without environmental compromise.

Crafted from reinforced bamboo foamed-PVC composite with glass fibre reinforcement, the Pioneer Series delivers exceptional structural stability, reduced expansion and contraction, and long-term performance across diverse Indian climates. High-resolution digital printing technology authentically recreates the grain and tones of rare timbers such as Ipe, African Rosewood, Yellow Balau, Acacia, and Weathered Ash, offering the beauty of natural wood without deforestation.

An ultra-protective wear layer enhances resistance to fading, stains, and scratches, ensuring low



maintenance and lasting appeal. Available in multiple profiles and widths, the collection supports versatile decking, cladding, and vertical applications with seamless installation systems.

Produced using recycled materials, rapidly renewable bamboo, and partially solar-powered manufacturing, the Pioneer Series reflects SPAN FLOORS' commitment to responsible luxury and sustainable outdoor living. ■

### TEMPLE TOWN UNVEILS ARTFUL FESTIVE DINING: HANDCRAFTED TABLESCAPES THAT BRING TRADITION TO THE TABLE

**T**emple Town celebrates the spirit of Indian festivities with an evocative dining showcase that transforms the table into a canvas of heritage, craftsmanship, and togetherness. Rooted in the nostalgia of family gatherings, the brand presents a series of handcrafted festive dining settings that honour tradition while resonating with contemporary sensibilities.

Each setting is anchored in a refined blend of cane and teak—materials chosen for their timeless beauty, natural strength, and sustainable character. Meticulously shaped by skilled artisans, the furniture reflects India's rich craft legacy, where every table and chair transcends function to become heirloom-worthy. The tactile cane weaves paired with the warmth of polished teak create an atmosphere that feels familiar yet elevated, grounding modern homes in cultural comfort.

The experience is further enriched through thoughtfully curated details—serene mural backdrops, traditional flooring accents, vintage lighting, and artisanal dinnerware—each element contributing to a layered narrative. Together, these tablescapes celebrate the rituals of festive dining, where meals become memories, conversations flow across generations, and the joy of togetherness takes centre stage. ■



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## FRESH N NEW

### 'AURA LOUNGE' IS A MODULAR SOFA AND SEATING COLLECTION

**A**ura Lounge', a new modular soft seating collection designed by internationally acclaimed French designer Patrick Norguet, has been launched in India by The Senator Group India, a subsidiary of The Senator Group. Created under Allermuir, the collection is conceived for contemporary commercial and hospitality environments, including corporate lounges, reception areas, breakout spaces, hotels, cafés, and restaurants.

Defined by refined comfort and spatial flexibility, Aura Lounge features a highly modular system composed of convex, concave, and straight units with back options, allowing designers to configure seating layouts that adapt seamlessly to diverse interiors. The collection embodies a sense of quiet luxury, balancing visual softness with sculptural precision. Its flowing lines and considered proportions create an inviting sit while ensuring the design remains visually compelling from every angle—ideal for open-plan settings rather than wall-bound arrangements.

Available in both a relaxed Lounge version and a more upright Dining version, Aura Lounge supports varied postures and programmes. The result is a versatile seating system that merges artistry, functionality, and adaptability—crafted to elevate modern shared spaces through thoughtful design. ■



### VALUELINE ELEVATES MODERN BATHROOMS WITH HATRIA'S NEXT COLLECTION

**V**alueline, a leader in premium home solutions since 2002, introduces the Next Collection by HATRIA—an Italian sanitaryware brand renowned for precision engineering, innovation, and refined ceramic craftsmanship. Designed for contemporary bathrooms, the collection offers a fresh design language that seamlessly blends advanced technology with understated elegance.

Defined by its sleek form and seamless detailing, the Next Collection features a compact concealed discharge system that creates a lighter, more streamlined appearance, free from visual clutter. This thoughtful approach enhances spatial continuity, allowing the WC and bidet to integrate effortlessly into modern interiors.

The collection's sculptural silhouette,



marked by soft and unexpected curves, highlights the expressive potential of ceramic while balancing comfort with visual refinement. Sustainability is integral to the design, with HATRIA's patented, TÜV-certified flush system efficiently cleansing the bowl using just 3 to 4.5 litres of water. Available at Valueline, the Next Collection reflects a commitment to globally recognised design, performance, and responsible innovation. ■

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Cover Story

REDEFINING LUXURY THROUGH LIGHT,

# Landscape, and Liveability



HAFEEZ CONTRACTOR

Founder & Principal Architect.

Architect Hafeez Contractor

*"Hafeez Contractor's Jade Park emerges as a thoughtfully crafted urban sanctuary that challenges conventional high-rise living by placing space, light, and landscape at the heart of its design narrative. The development prioritises liveability and timeless material integrity, redefining what it means to live well in Mumbai—offering residents calm, clarity, and enduring comfort within a rapidly evolving urban environment."*





spatial generosity rather than density. While the towers rise vertically, the planning recalibrates height with openness- through expansive layouts, fluid circulation, and light-filled interiors. The design rejects compartmentalization in favour of adaptable, breathable spaces that foster movement and visual continuity. Openness unfolds across layered experiences- landscapes, wellness infrastructure, and community zones – ensuring vertical living never compromises horizontal freedom. In a city defined by congestion, Jade Park positions openness itself as the ultimate luxury.

**As this project bears the stamp of Hafeez Contractor, what signature architectural elements or design principles did you bring to Jade Park that set it apart from other luxury developments in Mumbai?**

At MICTL's Jade Park, we created a rare urban sanctuary- where openness, calm, and liveability define luxury. The design prioritizes breathing spaces, allowing architecture and landscape to coexist seamlessly. The contemporary aesthetic is expressed through clean lines, sculptural forms, and a refined balance of form and function. Material integrity plays a central role, with Italian marble, vitrified tiles, granite, premium aluminum finishes, and branded fittings selected for longevity and timeless appeal. Expansive floor plans, abundant natural light, and seamless spatial flow counter Mumbai's density, ensuring every residence feels airy, composed, and enduring- hallmarks of Hafeez Contractor's design philosophy.

**What was the guiding design philosophy behind creating signature spaces that balance vertical luxury with expansive openness in a dense urban location?**

Jade Park is rooted in a philosophy that redefines luxury as

**How did this advanced system influence the architectural planning, aesthetics, and interior spatial efficiency of the project?**

The advanced zoning framework- dividing built and unbuilt areas, organising towers around landscapes, and introducing Water and Nature Zones- shaped both architecture and spatial efficiency. Buildings are oriented to maximise views, privacy, and natural light, while circulation paths seamlessly transition between themed zones. This structure enhances visual clarity, reduces clutter, and strengthens the connection between interiors and curated outdoor vistas. Living spaces, balconies, and corner windows are aligned to landscape



## Cover Story



anchors, making homes feel expansive, wellness-driven, and visually immersive.

What aspects of Jade Park's planning, material choices, and spatial design make it a future-ready luxury address for the next decade—especially for professionals and families in a rapidly evolving urban environment?

Jade Park's future readiness lies in its forward-thinking planning, enduring material palette, and adaptable spatial design. By establishing a clear thematic structure, the landscape itself became an organizing framework for the built environment allowing buildings to be positioned to maximize views of curated landscapes—serene water features on one side and richly layered greenery on the other, strengthening the sense of privacy and exclusivity. Circulation routes, entrances, and courtyard placements were also planned to seamlessly transition between these two zones, creating a cohesive experiential journey throughout the project. Interior spatial efficiency improved as layouts were optimized to capture natural light, and outdoor vistas corresponding to each thematic zone. Living areas, balconies, and corner windows were intentionally aligned toward the most impactful external features, ensuring that the interiors feel more expansive, connected, and wellness-oriented. A gated community model, climate-responsive zoning, and premium materials ensure long-term

relevance in an increasingly dense city. By prioritising quality of life over built mass, Jade Park positions itself as a resilient, sophisticated luxury address designed for the decade ahead.

### What design elements—inside the homes and across the property—were created to meet the expectations of this discerning audience?

Jade Park's design responds to a discerning audience by focusing on spatial intelligence, material authenticity, and lifestyle adaptability. Inside the homes, expansive layouts, clear sightlines, and abundant natural light create a sense of calm and openness, while premium finishes such as Italian marble, modular planning, and high-quality fittings ensure timeless elegance and everyday functionality. Across the property, landscape-led planning, peripheral tower placement, and themed Water and Nature Zones enhance privacy, ventilation, and visual serenity. Curated amenities— from wellness and work-from-garden spaces to social and recreational zones— support contemporary, multi-dimensional living without compromising design coherence. ■





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Cover Story

THE RISE OF SALUTOGENIC SPACES: ARCHITECTURE WITH

# Soul and Science



JIMMY MISTRY

FOUNDER & CMD, DELLA TOWNSHIPS

*“Jimmy Mistry, Founder & CMD of the Della Townships, design transcends aesthetics to become a powerful force for well-being. Rooted in biophilia, sustainability, and global wellness science, his signature spaces are conceived to heal, energize, and elevate everyday living—ushering in a new paradigm of salutogenic design in India.”*

**What defines a “signature space” for you?**

A signature space is one that moves you— not just visually, but emotionally and sensorially. It’s where design, purpose, and well-being align effortlessly. For me, a





space must have soul. Yes, it should look beautiful, but it must also heal, energize, and create belonging. With Della Townships and my collaboration with Mayrlife Austria, I'm bringing salutogenic living to India- not as a trend, but as a new design paradigm where every environment actively improves your life. A signature space is memorable because it makes you feel better the moment you step into it.

### **How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?**

My philosophy is simple: design must transform people. I believe in creating spaces that deliver a powerful emotional and physical uplift through biophilia, intelligent planning, and modern wellness science.

Della Townships is the purest expression of this- where indoor and outdoor realms flow into each other, light becomes a design material, and nature is not an accessory but the backbone. The Mayrlife partnership brings global medical-wellness knowledge to Indian design, allowing us to build communities that are not just beautiful, but truly life-enhancing.

### **How do you balance creative expression with client aspirations, budgets, and cultural context?**

Design becomes extraordinary when creativity and constraints collaborate. I immerse myself in the client's aspirations, cultural lens, and practical realities- then elevate them through innovation and craftsmanship. Della Townships is a great example: international wellness standards harmonized with Indian cultural rhythms. The result is a living environment that feels global in thought yet deeply rooted in India's soul.

### **With sustainability becoming central to design... how do you marry it with luxury?**

For me, sustainability isn't an obligation- it's the new language of luxury. Eco-conscious materials, energy-efficient systems, and biophilic elements are integrated naturally into our design DNA.

Luxury today is not marble and glass; it is comfort, conscience, and longevity. A space that respects the planet automatically becomes timeless.

### **How are digital tools, AI, and smart technologies reshaping your work?**

Technology allows us to design the future before building it. Through immersive visualization, clients walk through their wellness-driven homes far before they exist. AI helps us understand behaviours, optimize light, air, and energy, and create environments that are hyper-personalized. Smart tech isn't an add-on- it's now an integral part of crafting intelligent, health-forward living.

### **Clients today want individuality. How do you infuse personality while keeping coherence and timelessness?**

I always begin with the client's life story- their habits, aspirations, memories, and vision. Then I distill that into colours, textures, forms, and natural materials that anchor the space. The individuality comes from the narrative; the timelessness comes from respecting quality, proportion, and natural harmony. This balance ensures the design remains relevant for decades.



## Cover Story

### What role do materials and craftsmanship play in defining your spaces?

They are everything. I've always believed that craftsmanship is the true luxury. Whether it's cutting-edge sustainable materials or hand-crafted installations by Indian artisans, the tactile quality of a space determines its longevity and emotional depth. Great design is not mass-produced- it's built, shaped, and finished with intention.

### Which design trends are redefining Indian interiors today? And which timeless principles guide you?

India is embracing biophilic and wellness-led design faster than ever. Flexible, tech-enabled living and sustainable materials are reshaping the landscape. But the timeless principles remain: balance, proportion, authenticity in materials, and a deep respect for human comfort. At Della Townships, you'll find the future of design built firmly on these eternal foundations.

### One project that reflects your "signature" style?

Della Townships is the most holistic representation of my design DNA. It combines biophilic architecture, salutogenic amenities, abundant greens,



and tech-driven wellness systems- crafted for a new Indian lifestyle that values health as much as luxury. It is design with intention, emotion, and legacy- and that is my signature.

### How do you see the future of design in India, and where do you see your practice within it?

The future is clear: India is moving toward immersive, regenerative, planet-positive spaces. Architecture will increasingly be expected to heal, not just house. My practice is at the forefront of this shift- bringing global wellness expertise, pioneering salutogenic principles, and shaping communities where design becomes a tool for better living, better health, and better human connection.■



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Cover Story

DESIGNING THE  
EMOTIONAL CORE OF

# Contemporary Living



ANISH K. MOTWANI

Design Head , Anish Motwani Associates

*"Anish K. Motwani, design is an emotional and functional dialogue between space and its user. Rooted in empathy, craftsmanship, and clarity, his approach balances individuality with timelessness creating interiors that are deeply personal, intuitively functional, and designed to endure evolving lifestyles."*





### What defines a “signature space” for you—does it lie in aesthetics, functionality, or emotional experience?

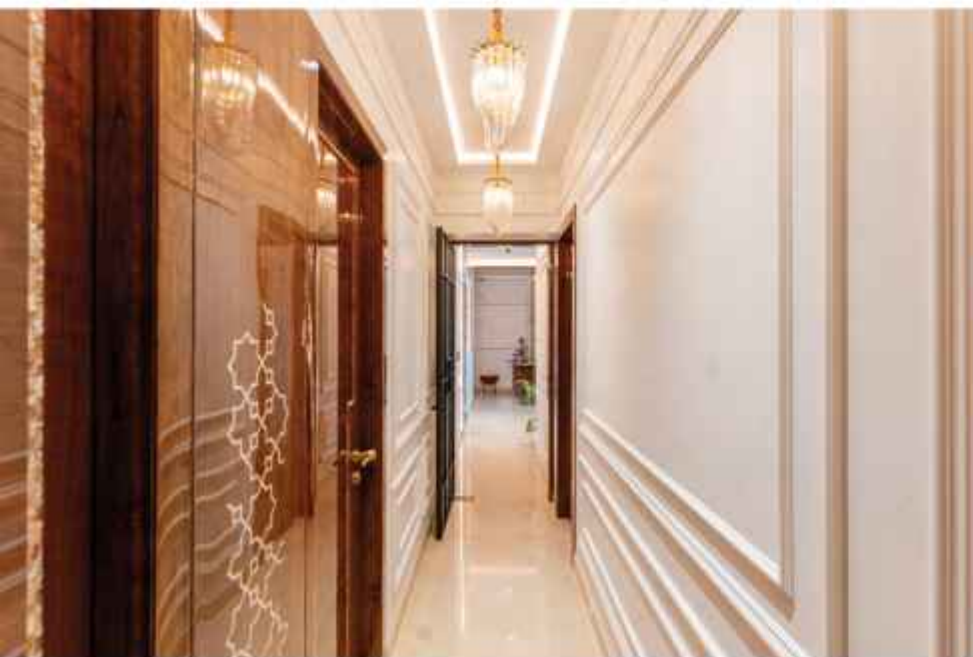
A signature space, for me, is one that leaves an emotional imprint long after you have stepped out of it. It isn't defined by a specific aesthetic language or a passing trend, but by how seamlessly functionality, identity, and emotional resonance come together. A space must speak for the

people who inhabit it reflecting how they live, what inspires them, and what brings them comfort. When design aligns with these elements, the space moves beyond being visually pleasing and becomes experiential. It feels intuitive, personal, and memorable. That emotional connection is what truly defines a signature space it is not just seen, but deeply felt.



### How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

Our design philosophy is best summed up by our motto: “Making Sense Out of Space.” Every project begins with understanding the client's habits, aspirations, cultural context, and everyday routines. A space only becomes meaningful when it responds organically to the people who use it daily. In recent projects—ranging from luxury residences to boutique offices and signature clinic spaces—this philosophy has translated into a careful balance of form and function. Curves are introduced to soften spatial transitions, warm neutral palettes create calmness, and handcrafted



## Cover Story



details add character and depth. These elements recur not because they are trends, but because they enhance the human experience and bring a sense of ease, warmth, and belonging.

### How do you balance creative expression with client aspirations, budgets, cultural context, and sustainability without compromising luxury or style?

Every client brings dreams, constraints, and personal narratives to the table. Our role as designers is to translate these stories into tangible spaces without losing creative integrity. We follow a collaborative approach listening deeply to client aspirations, educating them about materials and layouts, and co-creating solutions that respect both budgets and lifestyle needs.

Cultural nuances such as vastu considerations or multigenerational living patterns are integrated sensitively rather than imposed. Creativity, in our view, must elevate the design—not overshadow the people it is meant for. Sustainability today is not a trend; it is a responsibility. In luxury projects, we embed sustainability into the backbone of the design rather than treating it as an add-on. Long-lasting materials, local craftsmanship, VOC-free paints, natural fabrics, recycled wood, and energy-efficient lighting systems are prioritised. True luxury lies in longevity, wellbeing, and mindful living not excess.

### How are digital tools, AI, and smart technologies influencing your design approach and client expectations?

We use technology selectively—only where it genuinely adds value to design clarity and execution. Rather than relying heavily on 3D or VR visualisations that can sometimes create unrealistic expectations, we focus on accurate drawings, material mood boards, and on-site samples that reflect the true look and feel of a space. AI-assisted planning helps improve efficiency in layouts and circulation, while smart-home technologies for lighting and climate control are integrated when they enhance everyday comfort.

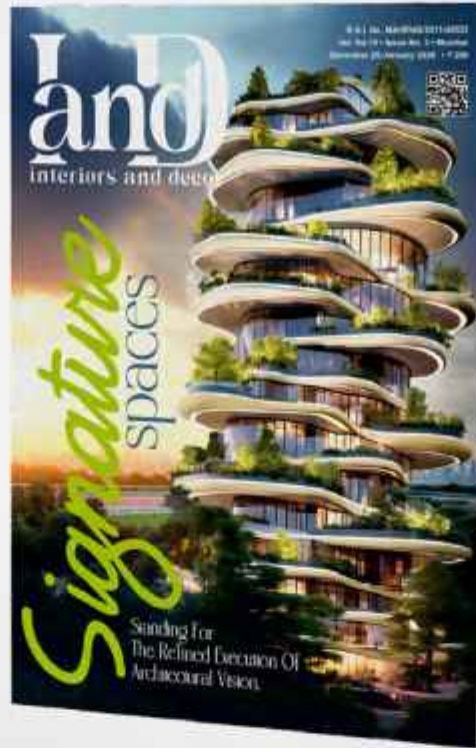
For us, technology is a support system—it enables precision and efficiency, but the heart of our work remains rooted in real materials, craftsmanship, and thoughtful spatial planning.

### 5. In an era of individuality-driven design, how do you maintain coherence, timelessness, and craftsmanship in your spaces and how do you see the future of Indian interiors?

In today's post-Instagram era, clients seek authenticity over imitation. They want spaces that feel personal, not replicated. We infuse individuality through custom furniture, vintage collectibles, heirlooms, handmade materials, and curated art. However, timelessness is achieved by grounding these elements in balance—proportion, harmony, natural materials, and clarity of function. Craftsmanship remains the soul of Indian interiors. Our artisans bring life to woodwork, metal inlays, fluted panels, stone carving, and handwoven textiles, while material innovation ensures durability and performance. Together, they define the character and longevity of a space.

Looking ahead, India's design landscape is moving towards emotionally driven, sustainable, and technology-integrated living. As vertical living increases and luxury evolves, the demand for bespoke design and meaningful spaces will grow. At Anish Motwani Associates, our vision is to stay ahead of this transformation—crafting spaces that are deeply human, progressive, and designed to last for generations. ■





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DEFINED LUXURY,

# Intentionally Designed



ATULYA VERMA

Director

Ettore Interior And Construction

*At the helm of Ettore Interior and Construction, Atul Verma defines luxury through subtlety rather than statement. His approach centres on spaces that reveal themselves slowly—through light, scale, material, and movement. Guided by a commitment to bespoke design and timeless sensibility, his work prioritises emotional comfort, spatial clarity, and an enduring connection between form and function.*





## What defines a “signature space” for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?

At Ettore, a signature space is defined by quiet sophistication and experiential depth rather than overt expression. It is not about how a space looks at first glance, but how it reveals itself over time. Scale, proportion, materiality, and light are orchestrated to create environments that feel instinctively refined and emotionally grounded. True luxury, in our view, is subtle and immersive — it is sensed in the comfort of movement, the calm of well-resolved spaces, and the effortless way functionality integrates into daily living. A signature space feels personal, timeless, and inherently composed.

## How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

Our design philosophy is rooted in bespoke, context-driven luxury. Each project is approached as a unique narrative shaped by architecture, lifestyle, and long-term vision. We consciously avoid formulaic design language, preferring restraint, clarity, and depth. In our recent projects, this philosophy is reflected through refined spatial planning, layered neutral palettes, custom-crafted elements, and a strong emphasis on material authenticity. The outcome is an aesthetic that feels contemporary yet enduring, expressive yet measured — designed to mature gracefully over time.

## How do you balance creative expression with client aspirations, budget, and the cultural?

Balancing creative expression with client aspirations requires sensitivity, precision, and deep collaboration. We believe the strongest design outcomes emerge from informed dialogue and trust. Cultural nuances, functional needs, and personal preferences are carefully studied and respected. Creativity is channelled through relevance rather than indulgence. Budgets are addressed strategically, allowing us to prioritise areas that elevate experience and longevity — craftsmanship, detailing, and material quality. The result is a space that feels intentional, refined, and deeply aligned with its occupants.

Sustainability is an integral layer of luxury in our work, not an added feature. We integrate responsible practices that enhance comfort, durability, and environmental consciousness without compromising aesthetic integrity. This includes the use of responsibly sourced woods, natural stones, low-VOC finishes, energy-efficient lighting systems, and passive design strategies that optimise daylight and ventilation. For us, sustainability enhances luxury by improving well-being and ensuring that spaces remain relevant, efficient, and valuable over time.

## How are digital tools, AI, or smart technologies influencing your design approach and client expectations?

Digital tools and emerging technologies have transformed both our design process and the way clients engage with design. Advanced visualisation tools allow us to communicate ideas with clarity and precision, enabling informed decision-making early in the process. Smart technologies are seamlessly integrated to enhance comfort, privacy, security, and spatial control. Our approach ensures that technology remains intuitive and discreet — supporting lifestyle needs without overwhelming the design language or visual calm of the space.

## Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality. How do you infuse personality into your designs while maintaining coherence and timelessness?

Individuality is expressed through curation rather than statement. We infuse personality into our designs through bespoke furniture, tailored joinery, art integration, and nuanced material combinations. Instead of following transient trends, we rely on proportion, balance, and material honesty to create coherence and longevity. This allows each space to reflect the client’s identity while maintaining a timeless, refined aesthetic that does not date with changing preferences.

## What role do material innovation and craftsmanship play in defining the character and longevity of your spaces?

Material innovation and craftsmanship are fundamental to defining the character and longevity of our spaces. We work closely with skilled artisans, specialist fabricators, and trusted manufacturers to explore custom finishes, refined detailing, and advanced fabrication techniques. From hand-finished surfaces to precision metalwork and tailored woodwork, craftsmanship introduces depth, tactility, and distinction. These details not only elevate the visual experience but also ensure durability and enduring quality.

## Which design trends do you believe are redefining India’s contemporary interiors — and which timeless principles still guide your work?

Contemporary Indian interiors are increasingly shaped by refined minimalism, tactile richness, and experiential design. There is a growing appreciation for natural materials, muted palettes, and spatial openness. While design trends continue to evolve, our work remains guided by timeless principles — clarity of space, thoughtful planning, and emotional resonance. At Ettore, we design with a long-term perspective, creating spaces that feel relevant today and enduring for the future. ■



Cover Story

# Timeless by Design:

## THE ART OF THOUGHTFUL

# Architecture

AR. APOORVA LEKHA  
co-founder, AD Studio9

*"Ar. Apoorva Lekha, Co-founder of AD Studio9, views architecture as an intuitive dialogue between space and its user. Rooted in empathy, nature, and restraint, her work prioritises emotional comfort, liveability, and timeless design over visual excess—creating environments that quietly enrich everyday life."*

What defines a "signature space" for you?

For me, a signature space is not about a fixed aesthetic or a recognisable visual language—it is about the experience it evokes. Every space must be designed for the individual it serves. When someone enters a space and instinctively feels comfortable, grounded, and connected, the design has succeeded. Architecture is fundamentally about people. A space that responds intuitively to how one lives, works, rests,





and moves carries an emotional resonance that far outlives any stylistic expression.

### How would you describe your core design philosophy, and how does it reflect in your projects?

My design philosophy is rooted in subtlety, liveability, and a strong connection to nature. Architecture should never overpower its users; instead, it should quietly support and enhance everyday life. Integrating the five elements—light, air, water, earth, and greenery—is essential to creating truly liveable environments.

Landscape integration, open-to-sky spaces, natural ventilation, and green pockets help ground a project and improve its microclimate, while clean lines and modern materials lend a contemporary identity. My recent projects prioritise comfort, spatial flow, and long-term usability, proving that simplicity can be both functional and deeply enriching.

### How do you balance creative expression with client aspirations, budgets, and cultural context?

Balancing creativity with client expectations and practical constraints is one of the most challenging yet rewarding aspects of practice. While architects often visualise the end result early on, a project truly succeeds only when the client feels equally confident in the journey.

Design is a collaborative process built on dialogue and trust. Listening is as important as proposing ideas. Through clear communication and mutual respect, disagreements transform into opportunities for refinement. The strongest projects emerge when creativity is guided by context, empathy, and informed professional judgment.

### With sustainability becoming central to design, how do you integrate it without compromising luxury?

Sustainability should go beyond buzzwords. Merely labelling a project as “green” achieves little. I believe in integrating sustainability intelligently and seamlessly. Passive design strategies—orientation, cross ventilation, shading, and climate responsiveness—should come before technological interventions.

Using locally sourced materials, incorporating rainwater harvesting, and designing structures that respond to climate enhance both comfort and efficiency. True sustainability elevates a space without drawing attention to itself, ensuring that luxury, elegance, and environmental responsibility coexist effortlessly.

### How are digital tools, AI, and smart technologies influencing your design approach?

Digital tools and AI have transformed the design process, especially in visualisation and communication. Clients often arrive with AI-generated references, which help in speeding up discussions. However, these tools lack the human understanding of space—how it feels, functions, and evolves over time.

When used thoughtfully, technology becomes an asset, allowing architects to streamline workflows and focus more deeply on design intent, detailing, and execution, rather than replacing human intuition.

### How do you infuse individuality while maintaining coherence and timelessness?

At AD Studio9, we begin with a detailed onboarding process to understand our clients’ routines, habits, and lifestyles. This insight allows us to create spaces that feel personal without being trend-driven.

Timelessness comes from restraint, proportion, functionality, and material honesty—not from following fleeting styles. Once the client’s personality is understood, the architect’s role is to translate it into a coherent, enduring spatial narrative.

### What role do materials and craftsmanship play in your work?

Material selection and craftsmanship define both the character and longevity of a space. Innovative materials ensure durability and performance, while skilled craftsmanship brings warmth and authenticity. Together, they create environments that age gracefully and remain relevant over time.

### Which design trends influence you—and which principles remain constant?

I do not believe in chasing trends. Trends fade, but clarity, function, and purpose endure. By staying true to context and human needs, architecture naturally becomes timeless.

The future lies in creating spaces that are emotionally intelligent, environmentally responsive, and universally resonant. That is the direction I aim to continue building toward.

### How do you envision the future of architecture in India, and your role within it?

India’s design landscape is evolving rapidly, with growing awareness and global exposure. I see immense potential in this transformation. My aspiration is to represent Indian design on an international platform—showcasing work that is globally relevant yet deeply rooted in context, culture, and craft. ■



Cover Story

PURPOSE-DRIVEN  
DESIGN FOR THE

# Modern Workplace



AR. BHUPENDRA KUMAR  
Founder, Aeiforia Architects

*"Ar. Bhupendra Kumar, Founder of Aeiforia Architects, architecture is a powerful catalyst for culture, collaboration, and well-being. Rooted in sustainability and social responsibility, his design philosophy transforms workplaces into experienced environments—where material intelligence, environmental performance, and understated luxury converge to deliver long-term value for both people and the planet."*





### What defines a “signature space” for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?

In 2025, the office has evolved into a strategic tool for culture, collaboration, and high-stakes meetings. As a designer in the commercial sector, I am likely witnessing a shift where the office is no longer a passive container for work, but an active experience-led destination.

Ultimately, a signature space is where the architecture does its most important work, it maximizes the return on environment by blending aesthetic prestige with high-performance functionality, turning square footage into a powerful asset for recruitment, retention, and collective innovation.

### How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

We believe that architecture should not only serve aesthetic and functional purposes, but also contribute positively to the community and the environment. The purpose of a forum is to bring together diverse voices to discuss solutions, and we work with clients, stakeholders, and community members to create spaces that are environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and economically viable.

We prioritize sustainability throughout every stage of our projects with a focus on innovative design. Using eco-friendly materials and incorporating renewable energy solutions, our goal is to harmonize architecture with nature, ensuring a lasting impact for future generations.

At Aeiforia Architects, we envision a world in which every building embodies sustainability principles, fosters a sense of community, and reflects the essence of our name. Join us in shaping a world where architecture not only enhances our lives but also nurtures the planet.

### With sustainability becoming central to design, how do you integrate eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient practices without compromising luxury or style?

At Aeiforia Architects, we view sustainability not as a constraint, but as the ultimate catalyst for sophisticated design. We integrate eco-friendly practices by redefining luxury through the lens of material intelligence and seamless performance. By selecting premium, low-impact materials like mass timber and reclaimed stone, we provide a tactile richness that outperforms synthetic alternatives while grounding the workspace in natural warmth.

The phrase “Right to Breathe Right” in Aeiforia’s motto encapsulates the core idea that every individual should have access to spaces that promote not just physical well-being but also mental and environmental health. The statement suggests that the environment people live and work in is fundamental to their health, comfort, and overall quality of life.

In the context of Aeiforia’s vision, this quote can be interpreted as an emphasis on sustainable, ethical, and conscious design choices that enhance the air quality, natural light, ventilation, and overall livability of spaces. It goes beyond just the aesthetic or functional aspects of architecture and design, it incorporates a deep commitment to ensuring that the built environment contributes to the betterment of its inhabitants and the world at large.

### Could you share one project that best reflects your “signature” style and what made it stand out for you professionally?

One such office reflecting our style is, ESRI, a workspace executed by Bhupendra Kumar, Founder Aeiforia Architects, redefining modern corporate interiors with its restrained aesthetic, purposeful materials, and understated warmth.

The guiding design principle, “Minimal, Yet Meaningful,” encapsulates the essence of the space. It emphasizes simplicity not as a lack of design, but as a deliberate approach to creating functionality, calm, and elegance through clean lines, natural elements, and curated accents.

The spatial layout encourages interaction and movement while supporting task-driven activities. Open-plan work zones flow seamlessly into quiet meeting rooms, breakout areas, and the cafeteria. The use of glass partitions throughout the building maintains transparency and visual connection while also defining a spatial hierarchy. Natural and subtle finishes evoke calm and ensure long-term functionality while being durable for the space’s material palette. The architects opted for the natural and subtle finishes to establishing the tone and texture of the design. ■



Cover Story

DESIGNING WORKPLACES THROUGH

# Insight and Intent



BHAVIN PATEL

Senior Partner & Strategy Lead  
GM Design Pvt. Ltd.

*"Bhavin Patel, Senior Partner and Strategy Lead at GM Design Pvt. Ltd., views workplace design as a strategic discipline informed by human behaviour, organisational culture, and performance metrics. Guided by insight-led thinking, his approach blends functionality, emotion, and data to create intuitive, resilient environments that enhance productivity, well-being, and long-term relevance."*

What defines a "signature space" for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?

For me, a signature space goes beyond visual identity; it's defined by how intuitively it supports people. A workspace





becomes memorable when functionality, emotion, and intent align seamlessly. If users feel comfortable, focused, and connected without any spatial parameters affecting their work, it becomes a successful, signature space for us. Aesthetic expression matters, but it must be purposeful. The real signature lies in creating work environments that quietly influence productivity and well-being while remaining authentic to the organisation's culture.

### How would you describe your core design philosophy, and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

Insight-led thinking and measurable impact drive the design process for me. I believe workplaces need to be deeply informed by how people work and interact. This philosophy translates into environments that are flexible, human-centric, and performance-driven. In our recent projects, this is evident through adaptive layouts, sensory balance, and the strategic use of data to validate design decisions. The vision to enable people and businesses to thrive through mindful spatial strategies drives our design process.

### With sustainability becoming central to design, how do you integrate eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient practices without compromising luxury or style?

Sustainability and luxury are complementary for me. True luxury lies in comfort and well-being in a workspace. We strive to integrate locally-sourced materials and energy-efficient strategies early in the process, ensuring they feel intentional rather than added on. Natural light, tactile materials, and biophilic elements enhance both experience and performance. When sustainability is embedded at a strategic level, it elevates the design in the most natural way.

### Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality. How do you infuse personality into your designs while maintaining coherence and timelessness?

I feel that personality needs to be reflected seamlessly as a part of the workspace itself. We focus on translating a brand's values and working style into spatial cues through layout, materiality, and subtle visuals that portray the brand's story. Timelessness comes from restraint and clarity. When the core idea is strong, the space doesn't need to shout. By layering individuality thoughtfully and avoiding excess, we create environments that feel distinct today and relevant years from now.

### What role do material innovation and craftsmanship play in defining the character and longevity of your spaces?

Material innovation and craftsmanship define how a space ages and performs. I'm deeply invested in understanding how materials feel, function, and endure over time. Craftsmanship brings authenticity, and it's where design intent meets execution. Thoughtfully detailed elements create trust and comfort, especially in workplaces people inhabit daily. When materials are chosen with care and executed well, they create a sense of belonging in the minds of people.

### Which design trends do you believe are redefining India's contemporary interiors — and which timeless principles still guide your work?

Human-centric planning, multi-functionality of a space, and a deep-rooted approach to sustainability are reshaping contemporary interiors in India. Micro-zoning, biophilia, and data-informed design are becoming essential. However, timeless principles, like proportion, natural light, material honesty, and spatial clarity, still guide our work. Trends may influence expression, but fundamentals ensure longevity. I believe the most successful spaces balance contemporary needs with enduring design values.

### Could you share one project that best reflects your "signature" style and what made it stand out for you professionally?

The Apex Group office in Bangalore is a project that truly reflects our core design philosophy. The workplace seamlessly balances cultural context, human experience, and performance-driven planning. From the common Town Hall space acting as a social anchor to flexible work zones and locally inspired art, every decision was rooted in how people interact and feel at work. What stands out for me is how the space strengthens collaboration while preserving individual comfort, proving that thoughtful design can be both emotionally resonant and operationally effective.

### As India's design landscape evolves, how do you envision the future of architecture and interiors — and where do you see your practice within that transformation?

I see the future as deeply adaptive, data-informed, and empathetic. Design, across varied spaces, will increasingly respond to human behaviour, environmental responsibility, and rapid change. At GM Design, I see our role as bridging strategy and design, creating spaces that anticipate the needs of people and adapt in alignment. As India's work culture evolves, our practice will continue to focus on designing work environments that enable growth, resilience, and meaningful human connection. ■



# Architecture as Expression

WHEN SPACES REFLECT THE PEOPLE WITHIN

ANANYA SHARMA &  
ADITYA TOGNATTA  
Co Founders, Custom Design Stories



*"Ananya Sharma, Co-founder of Custom Design Stories, design is less about predefined styles and more about authentic storytelling. Rooted in adaptability, material honesty, and thoughtful detailing, her practice creates spaces that reflect individuality, balance creativity with practicality, and remain timeless beyond trends."*





**Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality. How do you infuse personality into your designs while maintaining coherence and timelessness?**

We believe in adding character to each space. Curated spaces, well detailed and rounded functionality speaks our personality in volumes across all our designs. We love to design spaces that are an extension to our client's personality. We are of the opinion that while design is subjective, a well-designed space commands respect and stands mighty through ages.

**Could you share one project that best reflects your "signature" style and what made it stand out for you professionally?**

A project that really stands out for us is A Copper Tilt. For us, this workspace is not just an office interiors project, but a reflection of Custom Design Stories' belief in bold originality, contextual responses, and uncompromising material clarity. We had a very tight brief for this project, but we ensured to use this constraint as a catalyst for its design language. What sets A Copper Tilt apart is its attitude. It doesn't try to imitate a design trend or soften itself for universal appeal. It stands firm in its identity, assertive, confident, and original. And that, to us, is a signature space: one where the narrative is authentic, the materials are expressive, and the user's personality is unmistakably embedded into the architecture.



**As India's design landscape evolves, how do you envision the future of architecture and interiors — and where do you see your practice within that transformation?**

We are all about experimentation – from forms to materials. The idea of evolution excite us. We see a strong shift in the design industry across all disciplines wherein adherence to a particular design style is getting replaced with a stronger vocabulary dominated by the designer's prerogatives. We admire bold and meaningful designs and we can't wait the space to flood itself with less of Pinterest inspirations and more of bold originals. ■

**What defines a "signature space" for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?**

Aesthetics and functionality are very relative phenomenon. A space is signature to us only when it can tell a genuine story, prove to be an extension of the user's personality and has deeper meaning with every element it houses.

**How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?**

As a design practice, we find our pride in not marrying a particular design style, rather imbibing the unique design sensibilities and styles that come to us with each project and every client. Once you browse through our portfolio you realize that no two projects have similar designs

**How do you balance creative expression with client aspirations, budget, and the cultural or**

We, as architects are generalists and have fantastic analytical skills. We have the ability to understand the need, the aesthetic, the brief and at the same time we understand cost, value engineering and estimates & budgets as well as optimization or prioritization. The balancing here comes naturally to us. And we strongly believe that budgets don't compromise designs, utilizing budgets smartly with robust prioritization lead to max efficiency as well as impeccable design.

**With sustainability becoming central to design, how do you integrate eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient practices without compromising luxury or style?**

This area demands a lot of up skilling and awareness for us to stay at speed with the most recent developments. While, we work a lot with agencies like PWC as energy consultants, we also educate our clients. We focus on energy efficiency in our buildings largely, we choose to solve via design and material selections.

**How are digital tools, AI, or smart technologies influencing your design approach and client expectations?**

We are learning to leverage AI tools to help expedite our initial referencing, mood boarding and presentation steps. We try a new tool every single day and we have one two many thoughts on them every single day. Who wrote a better prompt is often a evening coffee chat nowadays at our studio.

Cover Story

INTERIORS WITH INTUITION: WHEN PLANNING,

# People, and Purpose Align



DIVYA KHULLAR &  
ASWATH NARAYANAN

Co-founders

1405 Design Studio

*"1405 Design Studio, design begins not with a visual signature, but with listening. Co-founders Divya Khullar and Aswath Narayanan shape interiors through empathy, context, and careful planning—creating spaces that feel intuitive, personal, and enduring. Their work prioritises lived experience over ornament, crafting homes that quietly support everyday rituals and evolve gracefully over time."*





## What defines a “signature space” for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?

For us, a “signature space” isn’t one that looks recognisably ours, it’s one that feels right for the people who inhabit it. We believe a home should hold emotional meaning before it holds aesthetic identity. A signature space is one that feels intimately aligned with its user — where function sits quietly but confidently beneath an evocative narrative, and where beauty stems from honesty rather than ornamentation. What truly defines a space is how it nurtures comfort, connection, and a sense of belonging. When a space responds intuitively to the rhythms of everyday life, it becomes memorable not because it is striking, but because it is deeply personal.

## How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

This idea ties directly to our design philosophy, which is rooted in curiosity, context, and conversation. Our design philosophy is rooted in listening. Every project begins with understanding how people live, their habits, rituals, passions, and even the little quirks that make them who they are. Both of us come from contrasting worlds, one shaped by expressive experimentation and the other grounded in craft, construction, and clarity. Our practice emerged from this duality. Good design isn’t about imposing a visual formula; it’s about shaping an environment around human needs. The client, the program, and the context shape the story, which in turn guides the functional planning. Planning forms the backbone of our work, once the logic is sound, the visual and material language grows organically. That’s why our recent projects focus so strongly on intuitive circulation, gentle transitions between functions, and tactile materials that quietly enrich the experience of being. When a space has internal coherence, when everything just flows, it feels effortless because it has been thoughtfully planned.

## With sustainability becoming central to design, how do you integrate eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient practices without compromising luxury or style?

Sustainability in our practice is grounded in longevity, not trend. It is woven into the way we think, not added at the end. We believe the most sustainable choices are those that last, well-planned spaces, functional clarity, precise detailing, and materials chosen with purpose. We avoid doing things for the sake of being “green” and instead prioritise decisions that minimise waste, reduce rework, and stand the test of time. We favour materials that age



gracefully, minimise maintenance, and enhance comfort. In our climate, smart planning can naturally reduce heat gain and energy consumption, that’s sustainability as practicality, not performance. In this way, our sustainability is less about performative gestures and more about responsible, thoughtful design rooted in common sense and tradition. A space that continues to feel relevant and comfortable years later is perhaps the most sustainable choice one can make.

## Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality. How do you infuse personality into your designs while maintaining coherence and timelessness?

Clients seeking individuality, not a “styled” space but a meaningful one, aligns perfectly with our ethos. We infuse personality not by adding decorative layers but by grounding spaces in the client’s story. To us, it is not about dramatic gestures; it’s about meaningful choices. We infuse personality into spaces by reflecting the user’s values, habits, and emotional needs. Simplicity supports this expression, when proportion, light and ease of movement are resolved, the space becomes timeless. Trends fade, but spaces built around real people endure.

## Is there a project that encapsulates your belief that spaces should be built to hold life rather than impress and how has it shaped your outlook on the future of interior design?

One project that reflects how we work is a riverside penthouse ‘Nesavu’ shaped by the couple’s love of classical dance and coffee culture. Those passions informed movement, materiality, and atmosphere. The home didn’t try to impress, it tried to hold the people living in it. That project reaffirmed our belief that spaces are not built to show; they are built to live.

Looking ahead, we imagine interiors becoming more emotionally intuitive, culturally rooted, and climate-sensitive. As a practice, we hope to continue designing spaces that feel gentle rather than assertive, personal rather than generic, and enduring rather than trendy, places that quietly support the lives unfolding within them. ■



DESIGN BEYOND STATEMENT AND

# Spectacle

SHUBHRA DAHIYA

Partner  
Team 3

*For Shubhra Dahiya, Partner at Team 3, design is an act of attentive listening—to people, place, and tradition. Her work is shaped by a belief that meaningful spaces emerge not from excess, but from balance: between emotion and function, innovation and craft, individuality and context. Rooted in India's material heritage yet responsive to contemporary living, her approach creates interiors that feel intuitive, adaptable, and quietly enduring.*





### **What defines a “signature space” for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?**

A signature space feels authentic and adaptable, where design supports how people live and interact without overwhelming the experience. It’s less about making a loud statement and more about creating a setting that allows personal stories and memories to grow naturally. What makes it lasting is the balance between emotion, function, and aesthetics because when a space feels intuitive and meaningful to its users, its design becomes memorable rather than just visually pleasing. The right balance of simplicity and detail creates a space that’s both comfortable and inspiring.

### **How do you balance creative expression with client aspirations, budget, and the cultural or contextual realities of a project?**

Balancing creativity with client needs and context is a dynamic conversation rather than a fixed formula. At team3, we appreciate when clients provide a clear sense of their aspirations—it frames the project’s goals. But within that framework, we try to find room for exploration and discovery. The key is to listen closely, respond thoughtfully, and evolve the design collaboratively. Budgets and cultural contexts aren’t constraints but starting points for meaningful innovation. For example, respecting local crafts and material traditions can yield both authenticity and cost-effective solutions, while still allowing for bold, contemporary expressions. This dialogue between what is asked and what is possible drives our designs.

### **What role do material innovation and craftsmanship play in defining the character and longevity of your spaces?**

Materiality and craftsmanship are at the core of our design ethos. We see materials as storytellers, carriers of culture, and anchors of sensory experience. Our approach honours tradition by working with artisans and celebrating indigenous crafts, while also embracing innovation through new sustainable or high-performance materials. This dialogue between craft and technology enriches the character of our spaces and ensures they age gracefully. The tactile warmth of natural stone, the nuanced texture of handwoven textiles, or the subtle play of light on bespoke metalwork all contribute to a sense of authenticity and longevity that transcends fleeting trends.

### **Which design trends do you believe are redefining India’s contemporary interiors — and which timeless principles still guide your work?**

Contemporary Indian interiors are evolving through a blend of quiet luxury, biophilic design, and sustainability. There’s a growing appreciation for bespoke craftsmanship, natural textures, and curated art that personalise spaces. At the same time, bringing nature indoors, through living walls, greenery, and organic materials, reflects a desire for well-being and connection. Despite these shifts, we remain guided by timeless principles of designing for human experience, cultural resonance, and spatial flexibility. Good design should be adaptable, inclusive, and grounded in context, allowing spaces to grow with their inhabitants and remain relevant over time.

### **As India’s design landscape evolves, how do you envision the future of architecture and interiors — and where do you see your practice within that transformation?**

India’s design landscape is steadily evolving, moving towards a more conscious synthesis of tradition, technology, and sustainability. The future lies not in replacing traditional practices, but in reinterpreting them by using indigenous materials, climate-responsive design, and local craftsmanship alongside contemporary technologies and new spatial ideas. Indian architecture has always been sustainable at its core, and this next phase is about rediscovering and adapting those principles to modern lifestyles. At team3, we aspire to stay open and curious through this shift—learning, adapting, and contributing in ways that remain rooted in cultural context while being forward-thinking in approach. For us, sustainability goes beyond materials and energy efficiency; it also includes longevity of design and respect for local skills, communities, and social context.

### **Could you share one project that best reflects your “signature” style and what made it stand out for you professionally?**

The B-10 Residence in New Delhi captures our approach of creating homes that balance simplicity, quality, and a deep connection to nature. Designed for a client with a strong appreciation for authentic materials and craftsmanship, the project uses timber and stone textures to craft a calm, timeless environment. The expansive balconies and terrace garden blur the lines between indoors and outdoors, bringing natural light and greenery into daily life. This residence stands out for how it embraces context, climate, and client needs, offering a modern, minimalist design that feels personal and grounded. ■



Cover Story

BEYOND AESTHETICS:  
CRAFTING HOMES THAT

# Live and Evolve



AR. NAYAN SHAH

Founder  
Palindrome Spaces

*“Ar. Nayan Shah, Founder of Palindrome Spaces, architecture is less about visual signatures and more about emotional resonance. Rooted in clarity, proportion, and layered warmth, his design approach prioritises how spaces are lived in—how they age, adapt, and quietly support everyday rituals, creating homes that feel deeply personal, composed, and enduring.”*



**What defines a “signature space” for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?**

A “signature space,” for us, is not defined by a repeated motif or a recognisable aesthetic stamp. It is defined by resonance. A space becomes signature when it feels inevitable to the people who inhabit it, as though it could not have been designed any other way. Aesthetic identity matters, as does functionality, but the lasting imprint comes from the emotional experience the space creates. When a home supports how its occupants move, pause, gather, and retreat, it transcends decoration and becomes deeply personal.



## How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

Our core design philosophy is rooted in clarity, proportion, and layered warmth, with an increasing openness to expressive detail when it is earned. We believe good design should feel composed rather than performative. In our recent projects, this manifests through deliberate spatial planning, tactile material palettes, and an emphasis on atmosphere over ornament. Even when we introduce colour, pattern, or collected elements, we do it with control, allowing richness to sit within a coherent architectural framework. We avoid designing for the photograph alone. Instead, we design for how light changes through the day, how surfaces develop patina, and how a space feels six months or six years after completion.

## Sustainability becoming central to design, how do you integrate eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient practices without compromising luxury or style?

Sustainability today is central, but it should never look like an aesthetic compromise. We integrate eco-conscious choices through material longevity, responsible sourcing, and energy-efficient systems rather than visible virtue signalling. Low-VOC finishes, responsibly procured timber, reclaimed or locally available stones, and durable natural materials are chosen for both performance and tactility. Lighting design prioritises efficiency through layered ambient planning and smart controls, while passive cooling strategies, glazing decisions, and spatial orientation reduce energy dependency. For us, luxury and sustainability meet where longevity begins. Fewer replacements. Better craftsmanship. Materials that age beautifully.

## Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality. How do you infuse personality into your designs while maintaining coherence and timelessness?

Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality, and this is where we see a meaningful shift in India. There is growing appetite for richer, more expressive interiors, sometimes described as a return to maximalism. We view it as a move toward curated personality. We infuse individuality

through narrative. Collected art, heirlooms, bespoke furniture, artisanal textiles, and nuanced colour, always anchored by proportion and spatial logic. Coherence is maintained through a controlled palette, consistent detailing language, and disciplined layering. Timelessness, to us, is not minimalism. It is balance. Spaces that allow identity to evolve over time remain relevant far longer than those designed around a fixed aesthetic moment.

## Could you share one project that best reflects your "signature" style and what made it stand out for you professionally?

Villa Anantya, a 10,000 sq ft private residence, best reflects our approach to design. What set this project apart was the depth of trust and collaboration it allowed. The brief was not to create a statement home, but a space that could hold memory, ritual, and everyday life with equal ease. The architecture is calm and structured, while the interiors are layered with warmth, craft, and collected elements. Materials were chosen to age gracefully rather than impress instantly, and spatial planning was driven by movement, light, and pause. Moments of expression appear through vintage furniture, texture, and subtle colour, always within a disciplined framework. The result is a home that feels personal without being precious, expressive without being overwhelming.

## As India's design landscape evolves, how do you envision the future of architecture and interiors — and where do you see your practice within that transformation?

As India's design landscape evolves, we see a clear shift toward authenticity, craftsmanship, and culturally grounded spaces. The future lies in thoughtful maximalism, sustainable material choices, and technology that supports living quietly. Architecture and interiors will merge more seamlessly, prioritising experience, wellness, and longevity. Within this shift, our practice sits at the intersection of restraint and richness, designing spaces that are rooted, enduring, and capable of evolving with their inhabitants. ■



Cover Story

INTERIORS WITH INTENT: CELEBRATING

# Individuality Over Imitation



AR. SMITA VIJAYKUMAR

Founder

ReNNovate Interiors

*"Ar. Smita, a truly successful space is one that sparks instant emotion and lasting joy. Rooted in trust, timeliness, and honest collaboration, her approach celebrates individuality over rigidity, crafting homes that reflect evolving lifestyles, personal stories, and the delight of living well—without being bound by convention or permanence."*





## What defines a "signature space" for you? Is it about aesthetic identity, functionality, or the emotional experience it evokes?

Signature space is an end product which reflects the design sense of both the client and the designer in the best possible way! There are so many homes that we design but the ones we look back on as our best signature spaces are the ones where we proposed a great design and the customer had the trust and design sense to accept it and then it becomes a reality.

We, at reNNovate, find that true appreciation for the interiors comes on the day of housewarming when guests see the space for the first time and gasp! As designers and the clients, we know the back stories, struggles, design iterations that brought us to the end product and we forget temporarily, the initial emotion we were shooting for!

So yes, it's about aesthetic identity of the designer whose envisages the idea with the best intention in mind and the client who trusts the vision and approves. It is always about functionality because design serves a purpose with an overlay of great aesthetics or material overlays which end in a great emotional experience

## How would you describe your core design philosophy and how does it manifest in your recent projects?

Our core design philosophy frankly is to finish a project on time and on budget! The biggest demotivator is a slow dragging project because it diminishes the joyful feeling of good design.

We love to experiment with new looks and the cherry on the cake is always- customer delight! Our newest project at crescent bay was a wonderful Japandi inspired home in Mumbai with beautiful lime wash walls, starkly highlighted by black and white wallpapers, art deco black and whole table tops!

## Clients today seek spaces that reflect individuality. How do you infuse personality into your designs while maintaining coherence and timelessness?

Only when each home reflects customer individuality does it become unique and interesting to see! Our job is to create that coherence with that uniqueness and that's exactly what



design is. We don't aim to achieve timelessness, many times nor do customers! We only aim to achieve joy.

Timeless looks appeal to certain demographic profiles only, not everyone. Customers are open to doing homes or upgrading them in a 10 -15yr horizon as the average customer age has decreased in the recent years. We have customers who get interiors done in their early 30s and 40s.

## Could you share one project that best reflects your "signature" style and what made it stand out for you professionally?

Crescent bay is a beautiful project for a young couple with a small child. Their aspiration was to have an offbeat home with a beautiful designer palette. The master bedroom was a sage infused with rattan cane and wonderful printed floor tiles. The entire room is such a holiday vibe!

Even the living dining is a unique Japandi inspired space with beige as the dominant colour creating a relaxing, yet inviting space to just calm ones senses from the humdrum of office.

The focal point, or 'space hook,' is a striking black and white botanical wallpaper by lifeincolours positioned behind the TV unit, elegantly framed by complementary wooden elements that immediately draw attention and define the area. Adding a textural layer, the long wall extending from the entrance through the living and dining spaces is finished with expansive lime wash walls by Asian Paints, applied over an arch texture to highlight the apartment's length.

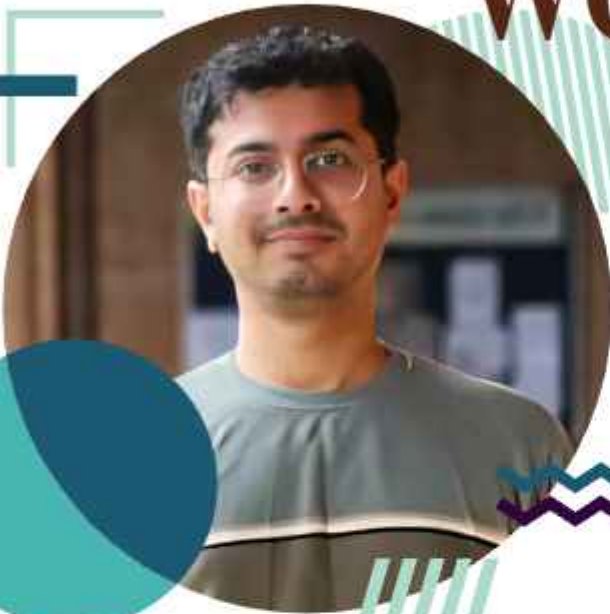
There are tropical plants, art work and wallpapers that add to the getaway feel for the working couple. The kid's room is even cuter with a silk wallpaper. The ceiling is designed with the moon and clouds, while the walls with stars. This image garners so many likes daily for us.

What made it stand out is that it truly encapsulates that new age homeowner and their new age aspirations and emotions.■



SUSTAINABLE BY DESIGN: SARV'S  
MATERIAL-DRIVEN APPROACH TO MODERN

# Workspaces



AR. MRUGENDRASINH  
AJAYSINH SARVAIYA  
Principal Architect & Founder  
SARV Sustainable

*"At a time when most offices are built from mass-produced, synthetic materials, SARV Sustainable takes a refreshingly grounded approach. Their latest workspace reimagines sustainability through the use of natural, locally sourced materials like mud, lime, bamboo, and jute – creating interiors that are both cost-effective and deeply human-centric."*





## Your firm is known for integrating sustainability with aesthetics. What inspired the design philosophy behind this project?

In an era dominated by synthetic finishes and imported materials, we wanted to prove that sustainability doesn't have to mean compromise. The idea was to create a workspace that feels natural, comfortable, and contextual — using what's available locally while still achieving design refinement. Our approach is grounded in material honesty. Instead of concealing, we celebrate textures, imperfections, and the life cycle of materials. Every decision — from (treating wall as an integral element) choosing lime plaster over paint to reusing furniture — was made to minimise environmental impact while enhancing comfort and visual warmth and a sense of belonging.

## How did your material selection support both sustainability and design expression?

We replaced conventional office materials like PU, laminates, and synthetic paints with natural and reusable alternatives. Walls finished in mud and lime plaster provide not only an earthy aesthetic but also thermal comfort of 5-7 degree centigrade during peak summers and breathability. Bamboo — much of it reclaimed — became a core element, shaping walls and ceilings with a rhythmic, textured character. We used jute fabric and rope to add tactility and softness to seating, partitions, and storage, creating a calm, grounded environment. These materials aren't just eco-friendly — they age gracefully and tell a story through their patina and variation. Inclusion of indoor plants like Monstera, Spider, Snake and bamboo improved the indoor air quality whilst thriving in a breathable indoor environment.

## Sustainability often comes with budget considerations. How did you ensure the project remained cost-effective without losing design integrity?

Cost-effectiveness was a central design challenge. Instead of buying new furniture, we repurposed and thrifted existing pieces, giving them new life and extending their use cycle. This not only saved costs but also introduced a sense of character and narrative. Locally available materials like mud, lime, bamboo, jute, and rope require minimal processing and support simpler construction techniques, keeping budgets practical. Moreover, bespoke joinery crafted in-house allowed us to reinterpret natural materials into functional, aesthetically pleasing pieces without the "factory-made" cost premium.

## How did spatial design and environmental considerations come together to enhance user experience?

The design maximises daylight and natural ventilation, reducing dependence on artificial lighting and mechanical cooling. The inherent thermal properties of mud and lime plasters help regulate indoor temperatures, contributing to comfort year-round. The palette of earthy tones, green plants, and woven textures creates a biophilic environment that nurtures calm and creativity. The result is a workspace that feels warm, grounded, and deeply connected to its natural context.

## Many talk about "green interiors" as a label. How does this project move beyond that to embody real sustainability?

True sustainability isn't just about certifications or eco-branded products — it's about a mindset. Our goal was to demonstrate that a low-impact, high-value workspace can be built from accessible, local materials and thoughtful reuse. By choosing materials with low embodied energy and re-use potential, the project reduces its carbon footprint throughout its life cycle. It proves that sustainability can be both aesthetic and attainable, not an elite ideal. This approach is replicable for homes and offices alike — inspiring designers and clients to look inward, towards materials and craftsmanship that are already part of our ecosystem.

## Looking ahead, which interior-design innovations or material breakthroughs do you believe will define the next wave of sustainable homes & work spaces in India?

The next phase of sustainable interiors in India is likely to be shaped by emerging material solutions rather than fixed design styles. Innovations such as agrocrete and other agricultural-waste-based composites show promise as low-carbon alternatives to conventional boards and concrete. Alongside this, greater use of breathable natural finishes, reclaimed materials, and passive design strategies may gain ground. These developments point toward interiors that respond more thoughtfully to climate, resources, and long-term performance. ■



# SEVEN ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS THAT WILL SHAPE INDIA'S BUILT LANDSCAPE IN 2026

As 2025 draws to a close, Indian architecture finds itself at a pivotal point of transformation. Across public institutions, educational campuses, hospitality developments and emerging urban districts, architecture is being redefined to respond to changing social, cultural and environmental needs. At the forefront of this shift, CP Kukreja Architects continues to shape landmark projects that balance scale with sensitivity and innovation with context. As several of these works move into critical stages of development, 2026 is set to be a defining year for the practice. The following seven projects highlight key interventions that will influence India's architectural and urban narrative in the year ahead.



## 1. Thal Sena Bhawan, New Delhi

The upcoming headquarters of the Indian Army is one of the most consequential institutional developments in the country. The proposal translates the spirit of the Army into an architectural expression of unity, clarity and strength.

The design draws from the crossed swords and national emblem of the Army's crest, abstracting it into a powerful geometric form. This gesture creates a structured, dignified presence within the Delhi Cantonment, while maintaining sensitivity to its natural surroundings and

hundreds of existing trees on the site.

Connectivity, security and ease of internal movement shape the core planning idea. The building's internal circulation is organised to minimise travel distances across departments, taking cues from global precedents such as the Pentagon and the Hexagone Balard. Landscaped courtyards are interwoven within the building's footprint, creating a campus that feels calm and secure at the same time. In 2026, the project will move into further detailing and coordination, marking a significant step toward creating a new national landmark.



## 2. International Convention and Expo Centre for ONGC, Goa

The ONGC campus in Goa is one of the largest institutional projects currently underway. Designed as a comprehensive environment for training, conventions and public events, the campus includes three major components: A Convention Centre, an Exhibition Hall and a Management Training Facility.

The Convention Centre is planned as a high-capacity venue with a multi-tiered retractable stage, VVIP and VIP zones, large pre-function spaces and a variety of meeting rooms. The circulation strategy separates public, VIP and VVIP flows, with direct access from a helipad for high-level delegations.

The Exhibition Hall provides a flexible hall spanning nearly 120 metres, supported by efficient service and mezzanine levels. The Management Training Facility creates an academic setting with classrooms, syndicate rooms and collaborative spaces, all planned around clear circulation and outdoor linkages.

Across the campus, the architectural language draws from the colours and textures of Goa, creating a contemporary environment rooted in its coastal character. With major construction and coordination activities planned for 2026, the ONGC campus will become a significant national venue for knowledge exchange, capacity building and large-format events.

## 3. Queen Elizabeth School, Gurugram

Queen Elizabeth School reinterprets Elizabethan architectural traditions for a contemporary educational

environment. The school, originally founded in the 16th century during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, carries a historical lineage that the design respects while introducing newer architectural language for today's learners.

The academic blocks express this heritage through red brick facades, stone detailing, gables, towers and articulated rooflines. These features bring back the proportions and visual rhythms of English Renaissance buildings. In contrast, the auditorium emerges as a sculpted, modern form inspired by the crown, giving the campus a fresh identity and a clear anchor point.

Spatially, the masterplan organises learning, sports and residential zones into a cohesive whole. Landscape, courtyards and pedestrian movement become important structuring elements, ensuring that even a large campus feels walkable and inviting. With façade development and final visualisation now in place, the project is set to advance into major construction milestones through 2026.



# Project Watch



## 4. Technocity and Technopark IT Building (Technopark Phase IV), Thiruvananthapuram

Technocity, the fourth phase of Kerala's Technopark development, is positioned to become one of India's most important IT hubs. Spread across nearly 390 acres, the masterplan designed envisions a complete technology city that merges workplace infrastructure with open spaces, ecological corridors and social amenities.

The plan is structured around three linked districts. The Central District holds the public face of Technocity with mixed-use functions and activity nodes. The Eco District preserves water bodies, forests and natural features, turning them into part of the everyday experience of the campus. The IT Park District brings together high-density commercial and technology facilities.

Mobility planning focuses on pedestrian movement, non-motorised transport and a network of interactive streets. Elevated nature walks, link bridges and shaded pedestrian spines ensure accessibility across the campus. Sustainability guides every layer of the plan, from stormwater management to afforestation and energy performance.

Within this larger vision, the team is also designing the Technopark IT building, which will serve as a major anchor for Phase IV. Together, these will enter a deeper phase of detailing and development in 2026, setting the foundation for one of India's most forward-looking technology districts.

## 5. American Embassy School, New Delhi

The American Embassy School (AES) in Chanakyapuri is undergoing a significant multi-stage transformation. The long-term plan reorganises the campus into a more flexible, future-ready environment while ensuring continuity with its

evolving academic needs.

The sequence of development begins with a new Wellness Centre and a High School Annex, followed by the renovation of the existing high school, upgrades to the central administration block and the construction of a new cafeteria. Later phases include new workshops, plant facilities and infrastructure reorganisation across the campus.

The project is notable for its sensitive phasing strategy. At every step, learning spaces remain functional and safe for students. The circulation pattern, play areas, entry gates and service access are all recalibrated to support uninterrupted academic activity.

As the school moves into deeper implementation stages in 2026, the transformed AES campus will set a benchmark for international school planning in India.

## 6. Rashtrapati Udyan, Dehradun

The redevelopment of Rashtrapati Udyan is one of the most ambitious public landscape projects in Uttarakhand. Set against the foothills of the Himalayas, the design creates a park that celebrates ecology, culture and recreation.

The masterplan organises the site into distinct experience zones: The Sanskriti Udyan and Cultural Walk, the Bio-diversity Zone, the Udyan Lake, forested ecological areas and





vibrant activity pockets including an amphitheatre, food court, maze garden, meditation pavilion, play courts and outdoor fitness spaces.

Elevated nature walks, cycling tracks and secondary pathways create a varied experience for visitors. The landscape strategy focuses on regeneration through Miyawaki forests, oxygen-producing plantations, thematic gardens and aviaries. The project aims to bring people closer to nature while strengthening Dehradun's public space network.

In 2026, Rashtrapati Udyan will move into active development and will emerge as one of the most significant public parks in North India.



## 7. Taj Hotel, Lucknow

Taj Lucknow marks the expansion of one of the city's most iconic hospitality landmarks at Vipin Khand. Adding 96 luxury keys across approximately 100,000 square feet, the design extends the legacy of the existing Taj hotel while responding to its prime setting overlooking the Ambedkar Memorial Park and Gomti Nagar riverfront. The architecture draws from the hotel's established classical vocabulary, using symmetry, proportion and a refined façade language of arches, rectilinear windows and corniced parapets. A double-height arched colonnade defines the arrival experience, while guest rooms are oriented to landscaped courts and green edges. The spatial planning emphasises clarity, natural light and quiet luxury, creating an addition that is both contemporary and contextually anchored.

### Looking Ahead

Across these diverse projects, a common thread is visible. CPKA continues to approach architecture as a way to shape institutions, cities and landscapes for the future while staying sensitive to culture, heritage and ecology. As these seven projects progress through 2026, they will add new references to India's built environment and strengthen the architectural narrative of the country. ■





## ENVISAGE: THE OGS OF CULTURAL HOME DESIGN AND THE ARCHITECTS OF HERITAGE REVIVAL



**L**ong before 'cultural homes' became a buzzword in contemporary design, Envisage was consistently shaping a movement rooted in craft, memory, and identity. At a time when the industry is only now beginning to rediscover the romance of roots, Envisage stands apart as the studio that did not follow the cultural home revival, they helped define it. As the firm moves forward with upcoming projects such as The Mann

School faculty lounge and the Devgarhi project, it continues its trajectory of exploring new design typologies, while reaffirming that within the residential realm, cultural homes are not a style or aesthetic, they are a language the FIRM has been speaking since day one.

Founded by architects Meena Murthy Kakkar and Vishal Kakkar, Envisage emerged at a unique intersection of design curiosity and cultural sensitivity. Their work has always transcended trends, rejecting the surface level interpretations of tradition and instead engaging with the depth of Indian craft, the nuance of local materiality, and the embedded narratives people inherit through their homes. Every project becomes an act of preservation, reinterpretation, and storytelling, not as nostalgia, but as a living, breathing design vocabulary that evolves with the family it belongs to.

For Envisage, the idea of a cultural home has never been about adding motifs or curating objects. It is about creating spaces of belonging, ones that feel emotionally anchored in memory yet proudly contemporary. Their homes whisper stories through textures, celebrate legacy through handmade details, and honour lineage with quiet sophistication. Whether through murals inspired by folk art, arches that echo regional typologies, or earthy palettes that recall timeless craft traditions, Envisage builds spaces that feel familiar even when new, intimate even when expansive.

Envisage continues to champion India's design heritage with a distinctly contemporary hand. Their work reminds us that culture is not something you add, it is something you build from. As the world rediscovers the value of authenticity, Envisage stands firmly at the forefront, the original custodians of cultural home design, crafting spaces that honour where we come from while shaping where we are going. ■



## HAFELE'S MATRIXBOX SLIM DRAWER SYSTEMS

**H**afele introduces the MatrixBox Slim Drawer System, a refined storage solution designed to complement contemporary interiors with its slim proportions and precise functionality. Developed for modern living, the system brings together clean design and reliable performance across a variety of residential applications.

The MatrixBox Slim Drawer System features an elegant, minimal drawer profile that enhances the visual appeal

of furniture while maintaining smooth and controlled movement. Its integrated soft-close mechanism and synchronised runner technology ensure a stable and quiet operation, delivering a consistent user experience in everyday use.

Designed for flexibility, MatrixBox Slim can be seamlessly incorporated into kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and living spaces. The system supports a wide range of furniture layouts and storage requirements, making it suitable for both compact and spacious applications without compromising on design continuity.



Available in Graphite Grey, Stainless Steel and Midnight Black, MatrixBox Slim offers a refined palette that aligns with contemporary material trends. The choice of drawer side designs further allows the system to adapt to varied interior styles, enabling cohesive and customised storage solutions.

Aligned with Hafele's established quality standards, the MatrixBox Slim Drawer System reflects the brand's focus on precision engineering and long-term performance. With its balanced combination of design clarity, functional versatility and dependable operation, MatrixBox Slim is a practical drawer solution for modern homes. ■

# Air-Conditioning



## REDEFINING COMFORT: HOW MODERN AIR-CONDITIONING SHAPES CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR SPACES

*“Mr. Hirokazu Kamoda, reflects on the quiet yet profound transformation of air-conditioning in modern interiors. No longer confined to functionality, contemporary cooling systems now influence spatial aesthetics, indoor wellness, and energy performance—driven by AI-led intelligence, design-sensitive engineering, and a strong commitment to sustainability.”*

### HIROKAZU KAMODA

Director - HVAC Business  
Panasonic Life Solutions India



**How are advancements in AI, IoT, and automation influencing the design and functionality of modern air-conditioning systems?**



Modern air-conditioning systems are undergoing a profound transformation through artificial intelligence and IoT integration. Panasonic's MirAIe platform exemplifies this shift, powering India's first Matter-enabled residential air conditioners that seamlessly integrate into smart home ecosystems. Rather than passive temperature management, True AI technology actively reads room conditions and external weather patterns, sensing heat and humidity to automatically calibrate temperature, mode, and fan speed.

Voice control compatibility with Amazon Alexa and Google Home, smartphone-based remote management, and adaptive sleep profiles transform cooling into an intuitive, responsive experience — what can be described as conversational cooling.

▶ **With changing climatic conditions and rising energy demands, what new technologies are shaping the next generation of cooling systems?**

Panasonic's 7-in-1 Convertible technology allows users to modulate cooling capacity from 45% to over 100%, enabling precise energy management without compromising peak performance. Combined with inverter compressor technology that dynamically adapts to actual heat load, these systems deliver rapid cooling during extreme heat while significantly reducing energy consumption — an essential consideration as India progresses toward its 2030 sustainability targets.

▶ **As interiors become more design-led, how do you ensure your products complement contemporary aesthetics without compromising performance?**

Panasonic's design philosophy treats air-conditioning as both an appliance and a spatial element. Minimal frame designs with hidden temperature displays, sleek outdoor units crafted from Japanese steel, and refined proportions allow systems to visually recede into the background. Guided by the "Air-Archi" concept, designs rely on clean lines softened by subtle curves, enabling harmony with modern interiors while delivering uncompromised performance.

▶ **How is your brand addressing the growing need for indoor air quality enhancement through integrated filtration and purification technologies?**

For spaces where occupants spend extended hours indoors, indoor air quality has become a critical design parameter. Panasonic's nanoe™ X technology harnesses hydroxyl radicals to neutralize bacteria, viruses, allergens, and odours continuously. These biological safeguards operate silently and invisibly, ensuring purified air without disrupting interior aesthetics — making wellness an inherent part of spatial design.

▶ **What role do architects and designers play in shaping the selection or integration of air-conditioning systems in residential and commercial spaces?**

The growing sophistication of HVAC systems has repositioned architects and designers as active collaborators. Decisions related to cooling loads,

zoning, ventilation, and thermal comfort are now addressed at the conceptual stage. Whether for compact urban homes or expansive luxury developments, early HVAC planning ensures seamless integration that balances performance, energy efficiency, and visual coherence.

▶ **Beyond energy efficiency, what other sustainability factors—such as materials, refrigerants, or lifecycle performance—are driving innovation in your products?**

Sustainability today extends beyond operational efficiency. Panasonic's ECO-Tough outdoor casings are engineered to withstand harsh climatic conditions while retaining visual integrity over time. Copper condenser coils reduce long-term maintenance and prevent corrosion-related degradation, enhancing lifecycle performance. These material innovations ensure durability, reliability, and reduced environmental impact across the product lifespan.

▶ **How do you see India's regulatory landscape and green building certifications influencing the future of HVAC system design and adoption?**

India's push toward achieving 50% non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 is accelerating HVAC innovation. Green building certifications are evolving from compliance tools into market differentiators, influencing consumer preference toward systems with demonstrable energy performance, sustainability metrics, and long-term efficiency.

▶ **Consumers today expect personalized comfort—how is your brand reimagining user control and experience?**

Consumer expectations have shifted from simple on/off controls to deeply personalized comfort. Features such as adaptive sleep profiles, remote pre-cooling, real-time air-quality monitoring, and app-based customization enable users to tailor comfort around their daily rhythms — transforming cooling systems into proactive wellness enablers.

▶ **Looking ahead, what key innovations or strategic directions will define your brand's role in India's transition toward intelligent and sustainable cooling?**

Panasonic's future strategy focuses on intelligent systems that learn user behaviour, integrate with renewable energy ecosystems, and operate within interoperable smart-home frameworks. The expansion of Matter-enabled portfolios signals a shift toward unified, sustainable living environments where air-conditioning functions as a coordinated design and performance component rather than an isolated utility. ■



## Bath Fittings



## BEYOND FIXTURES: THE EXPERIENCE OF BATH

*"Priya Rustogi views the modern bathroom as a space shaped by wellness, sensory comfort, and intelligent design. As consumer expectations shift from functionality to restorative experience, she shares how water-led innovation, material exploration, and discreet technology are redefining the bath as a personal retreat within contemporary homes and hospitality spaces."*

### PRIYA RUSTOGI

Leader (Managing Director) India  
LIXIL IMEA



Have you observed a shift in consumer expectations, from functionality to luxury or wellness in recent years?

Absolutely. The bathroom has evolved from a purely utilitarian space into a private retreat. We are seeing the rise of the home spa mindset, where the focus is on wellbeing through water, and consumers are looking for experiences that restore and recharge. There is growing demand for sensory comfort, showers inspired by natural rainfall, steam modules that support relaxation, and thermostats that ensure stable temperature. It is no longer only about owning a premium product; it is about creating a space that improves daily living and supports physical and mental well-being.

▶ **What are some of the most exciting technological advancements your brand has introduced to enhance user experience and hygiene?**

The most meaningful innovations are those where technology quietly improves the experience. A strong example is the combination of Rainshower Aqua and GROHTHERM Aqua within the GROHE SPA offering. Rainshower Aqua introduces modular ceiling shower tiles that allow users to tailor water experiences, from gentle mist to more powerful, immersive flows. GROHTHERM Aqua Tiles replace traditional mixers with refined control elements, separating temperature and volume for precise personalisation and a cleaner, more architectural look. On hygiene, GROHE IGINA brings a more minimalist, contemporary approach to the shower toilet category. With features such as Triple Vortex flushing, AquaCeramic coating, and touch-free functionality including self-cleaning nozzles, it delivers a high level of cleanliness while remaining effortless to use.

▶ **How is your brand experimenting with new materials, textures, and finishes to create distinctive design statements?**

We are moving beyond the traditional definition of “finish” as colour alone, toward a broader exploration of materiality. Designers increasingly want contrast not only in tone, but also in texture. A good example is our collaboration with Caesarstone, integrating premium quartz surfaces into elements within the GROHE SPA portfolio, including handle inserts for collections such as Atrio Private Collection and Allure. This creates a refined interplay between precision-engineered metal and the warmth of stone. This is complemented by GROHE Colors Collection, where PVD technology supports durable finishes such as Hard Graphite and Cool Sunrise, helping designers create bathrooms that are both expressive and built for longevity.

▶ **With the premium housing and hospitality segments growing, how are you aligning your product range to cater to both luxury and mid-segment consumers?**

We believe in democratising quality, not diluting it. GROHE SPA offers bespoke solutions for the luxury segment, while key engineering benefits carry through across our broader portfolio. Technologies such as GROHE SilkMove, which supports consistently smooth handling over time, and GROHE EcoJoy, which helps reduce water consumption, are available across different price tiers. This ensures that whether a project is a boutique hospitality concept or a large residential development, the core GROHE DNA of performance, durability, and comfort remains consistent.

▶ **How important is product customization in today's market, and what solutions do you offer for designers or project developers seeking tailor-made fittings?**

Customisation and increasingly personalisation has become central to how luxury is defined. Designers want cohesive spaces where every element feels intentional rather than mixed and matched. GROHE supports this through our Perfect Match philosophy: if a designer selects a specific finish for faucets, the same finish can be carried across showers, flush plates, and accessories. For deeper architectural flexibility, GROHE SPA solutions like Rainshower Aqua and GROHTHERM Aqua enable modular planning by separating water outlets from controls. This allows architects to design a bespoke shower zone that fits the space and the user's rituals, not the other way around.

▶ **How do smart and IoT-enabled bathroom solutions contribute to convenience, hygiene, and long-term efficiency?**

In the Indian luxury context, smart technology is less about adding gadgets and more about curating experience. GROHE F-Digital Deluxe, for example, allows users to control light, sound, and steam modules to create personalised routines, whether for energising mornings or restorative evenings. For hygiene and efficiency, touchless solutions play a growing role. Sensor-based faucets and the touch-free functions of GROHE IGINA reduce physical contact and support a higher standard of cleanliness, while also contributing to efficiency through precision and controlled use.

▶ **How do you maintain a consistent design language across diverse product categories while innovating each season?**

Consistency is essential to creating timeless spaces. Our design team in Germany works with three signature elements, the Ring, the 7-degree angle, and the Lozenge, subtle geometric codes that run across GROHE categories. These design principles create visual harmony across faucets, showers, flush plates, and accessories. It also supports longevity: GROHE designs are intended to remain relevant over time rather than chase short-lived trends. ■



## Bath Fittings



## BEYOND FUNCTION THE LANGUAGE OF WATER

*Ziggy Kulig, CEO and President of GRAFF, views the bathroom as more than a functional space—it is a personal sanctuary shaped by sensory experience, craftsmanship, and innovation. In this interaction, he shares how evolving notions of luxury, material refinement, and technology are redefining the bath as a daily ritual of wellness, comfort, and understated elegance.*

### ZIGGY KULIG

CEO and President  
GRAFF



▶ Have you observed a shift in consumer expectations — from functionality to luxury or wellness— in recent years?

Yes, absolutely. Today, the bathroom is no longer a purely functional space; it has become a private sanctuary for wellness. Consumers increasingly seek sensory experiences: tactilely pleasant materials, calibrated acoustics, and interplay of light and temperature. The concept of luxury is evolving toward everyday self-care, less ostentatious, more intimate, and focused on quality of experience.

▶ **What are some of the most exciting technological advancements your brand has introduced to enhance user experience and hygiene?**

Many of GRAFF's latest innovations are designed to elevate user comfort and well-being. Digital technology allows precise water control, including thermostatic systems that memorize the ideal temperature and touchless faucets that combine sensor reliability with fluid responsiveness. Advanced finishes like PVD ensure durability against moisture and corrosion while enhancing aesthetics.

▶ **How is your brand experimenting with new materials, textures, and finishes to create distinctive design statements?**

GRAFF is among the few brands with a portfolio of 28 finishes, developed through a combination of traditional craftsmanship and cutting-edge industrial processes. We continuously experiment with new materials and treatments, made possible by our fully in-house production. Our finishes range from hand-brushed textures, giving each piece a unique tactile and visual identity, to modern PVD coatings, offering vivid colors, high performance, and long-lasting durability. This fusion of craftsmanship and technology allows us to create iconic products — aesthetically refined and built to endure.

▶ **With the premium housing and hospitality segments growing, how are you aligning your product range to cater to both luxury and mid-segment consumers?**

We ensure brand consistency while offering solutions for various market segments. Our collections range from classic to contemporary, including transitional lines that bridge styles and meet diverse aesthetic requirements. Similarly, our wide range of finishes allows us to offer multiple price points, accommodating different budgets without compromising on the handcrafted quality and luxury that define our brand.

▶ **How important is product customization in today's market, and what solutions do you offer for designers or project developers seeking tailor-made fittings?**

Customization has become a key driver in the industry. Architects and interior designers seek faucets that harmonize with a project's identity. We provide extensive modular systems capable of meeting virtually any style or design requirement. It's a true co-creation process: our manufacturing expertise serves the designer's vision, generating unique solutions. For instance, our MOD+ collection offers over 63,000 combinations, thanks to an extensive mix of materials and finishes.

▶ **How do you maintain a consistent design language across diverse product categories while innovating each season?**

Maintaining coherence across collections is a delicate challenge. Our motto, Art of Bath, is more than a slogan: each collection must aspire to be a work of art within the space, not just a functional object. While we introduce new products annually, they always reflect and reinforce our brand DNA. Innovation, for us, means evolving naturally rather than breaking with the past.

▶ **What trends or consumer behaviors do you believe will define the next decade of bathroom design and product development in India?**

Over the next decade, we see bathrooms taking on a truly transformative role in the home, evolving into what we like to call 'wellness sanctuaries.' They're becoming spaces that focus on both wellness and personalization, where smart solutions integrate seamlessly, finishes are refined, and multisensory experiences turn daily routines into moments of pleasure and self-care. Think of it as a home spa, especially in the shower, where the combination of water, light, and innovative technology creates a unique, immersive experience. A great example of this vision is our recent Riva collection, which features ceiling- and wall-mounted systems with water jets, ambient lighting, and more, designed to engage all the senses and elevate the everyday shower into a moment of true relaxation.■



# Elevator



## Vertical Mobility: The Silent Force Behind India's Rising Skyline

*As India's skyline reaches new heights, elevators have emerged as the silent force powering vertical growth. At the forefront of this transformation is TK Elevator, whose advanced mobility solutions are redefining how tall buildings are designed, built, and operated—making urban vertical living faster, safer, and more sustainable.*

### MANISH MEHAN

Chief Executive Officer and  
Managing Director  
TK Elevator India

#### ▶ How do elevators contribute to the evolution and growth of tall buildings in India?

The rise of tall buildings in India has gone hand in hand with advancements in elevator technology. As urban land becomes scarce and cities grow denser, vertical expansion is no longer a choice—it is a necessity. Elevators act as the backbone of this transformation, ensuring seamless, safe, and efficient movement within high-rise structures.

High-speed and high-capacity elevators have made it possible for buildings to grow taller without compromising user comfort. Intelligent traffic management systems, such as destination control, help streamline passenger movement, reduce waiting times, and prevent congestion—particularly critical in mixed-use skyscrapers where residential, commercial, and hospitality functions coexist under one roof.

Innovations like machine-room-less elevators, compact gearless machines, double-deck systems, and TWIN technology also help optimize core space. In simple terms, less space for shafts means more space for people—unlocking better layouts and bolder architectural designs. Add to this enhanced safety features such as seismic sensors, fire-rated components, and emergency rescue systems, and elevators become not just facilitators of height, but guardians of reliability in tall structures. In many ways, they are the quiet engines powering India's vertical ambitions.

#### ▶ How are innovations in elevator technology optimizing building design and reducing costs?

Modern elevator solutions are helping developers kill two



birds with one stone—optimizing design while keeping costs in check. Machine-room-less elevators, for instance, eliminate the need for a dedicated machine room, reducing construction materials, shaft space, and overall building height. Similarly, TWIN technology allows two independent cabins to operate within a single shaft, cutting down the number of shafts required and freeing up valuable real estate.

From a construction perspective, lightweight materials, compact machinery, and smarter shaft planning simplify structural design and lower civil and façade costs. On the operational side, energy-efficient motors, regenerative drives, and smart standby modes significantly reduce power consumption over the building's lifecycle.

Digitalization further sweetens the deal. IoT- and AI-enabled predictive maintenance systems monitor performance in real time, helping prevent breakdowns before they occur. Fewer surprises mean lower maintenance costs, reduced downtime, and happier building owners. Intelligent destination control systems also ensure optimal traffic handling with fewer elevators, proving that working smarter often beats working harder.

### ▶ What solutions from your company enhance energy efficiency and sustainability in tall buildings?

TK Elevator places sustainability at the heart of its innovation roadmap. Its regenerative drive systems capture excess energy generated during elevator operation and feed it back into the building's power grid, improving efficiency while reducing heat and energy loss.

The company's next-generation EOX elevator platform incorporates eco-modes, LED lighting, lightweight materials, and real-time energy monitoring—helping buildings meet green certifications such as LEED and BREEAM. Space-saving solutions like the TWIN system further reduce material usage while delivering higher transport capacity, making them ideal for high-density developments.

Pushing the envelope further is TK Elevator's breakthrough MULTI system—the world's first ropeless, multi-directional elevator technology. Tested at the Rottweil Test Tower in Germany, MULTI allows multiple cars to move vertically and horizontally within a single shaft, significantly reducing footprint and redefining sustainable skyscraper design.

Digital platforms such as MAX predictive maintenance and AGILE destination control complement these innovations by optimizing traffic flow, reducing idle

time, and extending equipment lifespan. Through modernization programs, TK Elevator also enables existing buildings to upgrade to energy-efficient systems, proving that sustainability isn't just about new builds—it's also about future-proofing what already exists.

### ▶ What challenges does the elevator industry face in India's tall-building landscape, and how can they be addressed?

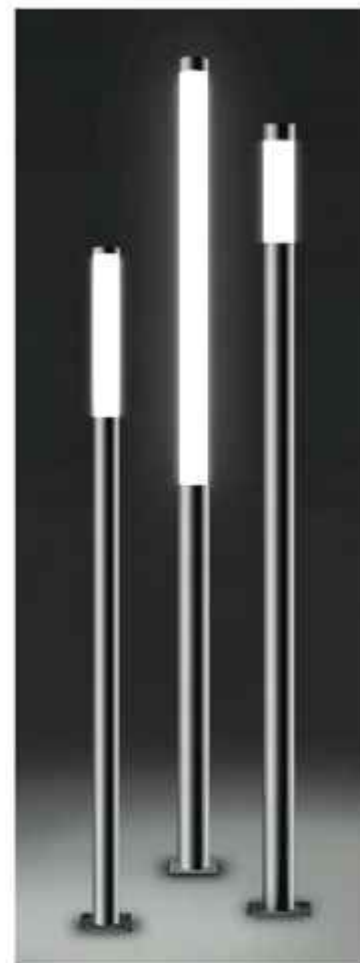
India's tall-building ecosystem presents a unique set of challenges. Infrastructure readiness remains a concern, with inconsistent power quality and site constraints often affecting installation and performance. Tight core space allocations push manufacturers to deliver compact yet high-capacity solutions, while diverse climatic conditions—from coastal humidity to extreme heat and dust—demand robust, corrosion-resistant designs.

Another pressing issue is skill availability. Advanced systems such as high-speed gearless elevators, TWIN technology, and IoT-enabled platforms require specialized expertise, and the industry faces a shortage of trained professionals.

Addressing these challenges will require a multi-pronged approach. Greater use of digital diagnostics, predictive maintenance, and remote monitoring will ensure reliability even in demanding conditions. Early collaboration between OEMs, developers, and consultants can optimize shaft planning and traffic flow from the drawing board stage. Equally important is investing in training academies and certification programs to build a future-ready workforce.

With the right mix of innovation, collaboration, and talent development, the elevator industry is well-positioned to support India's rapidly rising skyline—one smooth ride at a time. ■





## POLAR LIGHTING POLES

**D**esigned for contemporary urban landscapes, the K-LITE Surface Mounted Polar Lighting Pole seamlessly blends architectural elegance with advanced LED technology. Engineered for durability and energy efficiency, it offers versatile design configurations, robust construction, and environmentally responsible lighting performance — making it a preferred solution for city beautification and infrastructure projects.

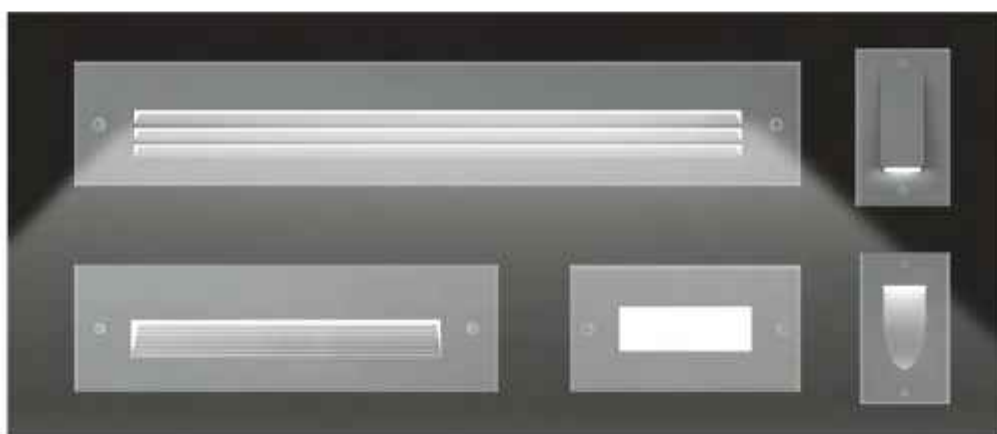
The 'K-LITE' Surface Mounted Polar Lighting Pole, integrated with an LED Lighting Module, is an exclusive choice of designers for city beautification projects, offering both functionality and architectural appeal. It is available in a complete range of contemporary designs including Single Arm, Double Arm, L-Arm, V-Arm, Square Arm, and Parallel Arm configurations.

The pole is engineered to withstand adverse environmental conditions. Its sections are precisely welded using special grooving techniques and high-end MIG welding processes

to ensure strength and durability. The control box is integral, featuring a built-in service door with a locking arrangement and safety chain. The mild steel pole is coated with an epoxy zinc phosphate primer and finished with an environmentally stable polyurethane-based paint. Each pole is supplied with the necessary foundation hardware suitable for normal soil conditions.

The Polar Lighting Pole arms are integrated with an LED modular lighting system, classified under the green lighting category for its environmental friendliness. The LED lighting modules deliver higher lumen output with lower power consumption. Each module is IP68 protected, developed after extensive research to meet diverse illumination requirements for urban spaces.

The LED driver design ensures a harmonic distortion level not exceeding 10%, a power factor greater than 0.9, and built-in surge protection. Each LED module is individually rated at 60 watts. The control gear tray, pre-wired with terminal connectors, MCB, and loop-in loop-out arrangement, is housed within the control box integral to the pole. ■





## SMART HOME EXPO 2026 RETURNS TO MUMBAI, 28-30 APRIL AT JIO WORLD CONVENTION CENTRE

*Smart Home Expo, India's largest smart tech event for residential and commercial spaces, returns for its 7th edition from April 28-30, 2026, at the Jio World Convention Centre, BKC, Mumbai.*

**B**uilding on the strong momentum of the previous edition, Smart Home Expo 2026 is set to bring the smart living and intelligent buildings ecosystem under one roof, with a 15,000 sqm gross exhibition area and 450+ exhibitors, in a format designed specifically for trade visitors.

The three-day show brings together 450+ leading brands showcasing solutions across smart home technology, home automation, lighting technologies, audio video solutions, smart security systems, smart building solutions, and consumer electronics, creating a focused platform for decision-makers to explore what's next and build business across the channel.

Smart Home Expo 2026 is supported by a strong lineup of partners across key categories. The show features Havells Crabtree as the Title Partner, Electronics Mart India Limited as the Powered By Partner, and KNX National India as the Technology Partner.

The Platinum Partners include Sonos, Cavitak, Miantic AV, Cinebels, ProFX, Vinshek, Smato, CP Plus, KEI, and GM, while the Premium Partners lineup includes RTI, Marantz, Basalte, AK International, Focal Powered by Naim, LG, Epson, BenQ, CasaDigi, B.E.G., Origin Acoustics, Gallo Acoustics, Crestron, Optoma, GM Modular, ViewSonic, OKAS, Raylogic Control Systems Pvt. Ltd., Klipsch, Rako, Sonus faber, JBL, Krix, L-Acoustics, Theory, Loewe, Smart Node, AERO Visual Brilliance, James Loudspeaker, Dorset, Sound & Vision, Digilux AI, MDT Technologies, moorgen, EverGlow, JR Automation Technology,

and Nice Group.

Smart Home Expo 2026 is also backed by key industry organisations, like the Connectivity Standards Alliance (CSA) and the Z-Wave Alliance, supporting the show as Supporting Partners, and the Council of Architecture coming on board as a Knowledge Partner

A key highlight for 2026 is the return of the AV Demo Rooms, created as purpose-built, acoustically treated environments where professionals can experience high-end home cinema and audio performance exactly as intended, across reference-grade speakers, immersive formats, premium projection, and integrated AV control.

Curated with leading global and Indian brands, the AV Demo Rooms are designed to support serious evaluation, deeper product understanding, and high-quality conversations for the audio-video and custom integration community.

Smart Home Expo 2026 will also feature the dedicated KNX Pavilion, returning as a focused showcase for KNX manufacturers, with the pavilion expected to host leading KNX brands as part of the show's core automation ecosystem.

Beyond the exhibition floor, Smart Home Expo continues to expand its experience-led and knowledge-led formats through Lighting Connect, Smart Space Awards, and the Smart Building Summit, giving visitors multiple ways to engage with design, technology, and real project thinking across the built environment.

Lighting Connect brings the lighting design and technology community together to explore smart lighting, lighting controls, and human-centric design through focused conversations and practical insights.

The Smart Space Awards continue to recognise excellence where design and technology come together across residential and commercial projects, celebrating the teams shaping modern smart spaces.

The Smart Building Summit is positioned as a dedicated forum exploring the future of intelligent buildings and connected spaces, bringing together perspectives on how innovation, strategy, and design are redefining the built environment. ■



## WOFX - WORLD FURNITURE EXPO 2025 REAFFIRMS ITS POSITION AS AN INDUSTRY TRADE EVENT



**T**he fifth edition of WOFX – World Furniture Expo concluded on a high note, reaffirming its position as India’s leading international B2B platform for the furniture and design industry. Held at NESCO, Mumbai on 4–5–6 December 2025, the three-day event brought together manufacturers, brands, buyers, retailers, franchisees, designers, architects, policymakers and industry leaders—creating a dynamic ecosystem of business, knowledge, and global opportunity at a time when India’s furniture sector is poised for accelerated growth.

The show witnessed strong participation from across the value chain, reflecting the industry’s growing confidence in India as



8,300 buyers not only from India but also from countries including Canada, the UK, Italy, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE—underscoring India’s growing relevance as a global sourcing destination for craftsmanship, scalability, and design innovation.

Reflecting the show’s global sourcing relevance, Mr. Ranjit Chandhok, Global Sourcing Lead, Worldwide Home Furnishings Inc., Canada, shared, “As a first-time visitor, I’m extremely impressed by the scale, innovation, and confidence of India’s furniture industry showcased at WOFX. The craftsmanship and professionalism here clearly signal India’s readiness for global partnerships. I look forward to returning next year.”

Knowledge platforms such as SMARTTALK 2025 and the Home & Home+ Conclave featured thought leaders from across the industry, addressing themes like Make in India, skilling, productivity, modern retail, design and manufacturing excellence. The sessions drew strong attendance, reflecting the industry’s appetite for practical, future-ready insights.

The Expo also celebrated creativity through the F+D Awards, recognising excellence in design and innovation, evaluated by a distinguished jury from the Indian Institute of Interior Designers (IIID). Exhibitors and buyers alike praised WOFX for its quality of participation, curated showcases, and meaningful business engagement.

Sharing his experience, Mr. Mustafa Merchant, Founder & Chairman, Urban Living, remarked, “This is the fourth time we are participating in WOFX as it continues to be a powerful and relevant platform for the furniture industry. The quality of participation, buyer engagement, and industry conversations make it a show where meaningful business truly happens.”

With strong exhibitor participation, robust global buyer presence, impactful knowledge platforms, and industry-wide engagement, the industry now looks forward to the next edition of WOFX which would be held from 8–9–10 December, 2026—setting the stage for an even stronger future for India’s furniture industry. ■



both a domestic consumption market and a global sourcing destination. With well-curated exhibition, structured buyer interactions, and knowledge-led forums, WOFX 2025 once again demonstrated its evolution from a trade exhibition into a comprehensive industry ecosystem built by and for the furniture industry.

The Expo was inaugurated in the presence of distinguished leaders from government, trade bodies, and the design fraternity. Speaking at the opening, Mr. Rajesh Bhagat, Chairman & Managing Director, Worldex India, highlighted WOFX’s evolution into an industry-led ecosystem that channels India’s growth and global ambitions through structured engagement and knowledge exchange.

With strong participation of over 80 brands, WOFX 2025 attracted over

Spotlight



*A Home Rooted in*  
**HERITAGE, DES**



For A&K Design Studio, this project was an exercise in restraint, sensitivity, and storytelling. Set within a heritage structure, the home reflects its homeowners' love for art, memory, and modern ease. Original architectural elements were carefully preserved, while contemporary interventions were thoughtfully layered to enhance comfort and functionality. The result is a residence where old-world charm and modern living coexist with quiet confidence.

Aarti Somani & Kruti Sheth

► Can you describe the homeowner's personality and how this translated into the home? Also, how did they find you?

The homeowners are a warm, art-loving family with a deep appreciation for heritage, craft, and contemporary comfort. Their personalities exude quiet sophistication — rooted in nostalgia yet defined by a modern, collected sensibility. They wanted their home to reflect this duality, to feel timeless without being traditional, and contemporary without losing its soul.

This vision translated into interiors that balance grace with ease. Their curated art and travel finds lend intimacy and narrative, while the preserved terrazzo floors, arches, and mouldings honour the home's original character. Every space feels personal and intuitive — a reflection of a family that values beauty, memory, and the effortless charm of a life well-lived.

# IGNED for Today



## Spotlight



### ▶ What were the challenges when designing the home?

Designing this home came with the delicate challenge of working within the framework of a beautiful yet aging structure. The heritage nature of the building meant that no false ceilings could be added and no walls could be chiselled for new electrical work — restrictions that demanded thoughtful ingenuity. Instead of treating these limitations as obstacles, they became opportunities for creative expression.

Custom lighting was designed to work with existing points, transforming practical necessities into sculptural statements. Every intervention had to respect the integrity of the original architecture, from the intricate cornices to the terrazzo floors. The process required patience, precision, and an unwavering sensitivity to balance the old and the new, ensuring that the home's timeless character remained intact while embracing the comfort and functionality of contemporary living.

### ▶ Any fun(ny) anecdotes from the project design/execution that come to mind?

The family's dog had a strong opinion about the rugs — every time we laid one down, he'd promptly claim it as his spot. By the end of the project, he'd unofficially approved every soft furnishing in the house.

### ▶ What's your favourite "happy accident" from this home?

Definitely the lighting! What began as a limitation, the inability to add false ceilings or conceal wiring, led us to design custom fixtures that worked around existing points. These lights not only solved a technical challenge but became sculptural features that now define the mood and character of each room. It was an unexpected twist that turned a restriction into one of the home's most distinctive design elements.

### ▶ What's the one thing visitors always comment on first?

Visitors always pause at the entrance — the wide foyer and long passage make such a strong first impression. The high ceilings, arched doorways, and old terrazzo floors immediately set a warm, nostalgic tone that everyone comments on.

### ▶ Which design rule did you secretly bend for this project?

We broke the rule of sticking to one design language. By pairing neoclassical architecture with clean, contemporary furniture, the contrast brought out the best of both — elegance with ease.

### ▶ If the rooms could speak, which would have the most stories to tell?

The passageway, without a doubt. It connects every corner of the home and has witnessed all the comings and goings — laughter, conversations, even quiet moments. It's the true storyteller of the house.

### ▶ If this home were a movie, which genre would it be?

A period film with a contemporary twist — think old-world charm meeting modern storytelling, much like the home itself. ■



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# DESIGN-CENTRIC & SOPHISTICATED

*"Soul & Space is a refined expression of modern maximalism by Ar. Ekkta Ahuja. This Mumbai residence reinterprets luxury through layered materials and nuanced textures, creating a deeply personal home where emotion, memory, and intuitive flow guide every design decision."*

**I**n a world where minimalism often sets the tone for contemporary living, Soul & Space stands out as a bold yet balanced embrace of modern maximalism. Conceptualized by Ar. Ekkta Ahuja, this sprawling 5,000 sq. ft. Mumbai residence is a celebration of layered living—crafted not just to be admired, but to be deeply felt.

Situated at the iconic RK Studios in Chembur, the home was envisioned for a well-traveled, design-conscious family who sought more than aesthetics. They wanted a space with depth, character, and soul. The result is an intuitively designed residence where every detail, texture, and tone tells a story—personal, elegant, and enduring.

Originally two adjacent 3.5 BHK apartments, the home was reimagined as a unified 5 BHK layout. Rather than simply combining square footage, the design was driven by the idea of creating a cohesive spatial narrative. Structural walls were reworked, layouts realigned, and sightlines refined to allow for natural light and seamless flow throughout. The transformation





goes beyond architecture—it's a spatial rebirth, one that prioritizes connection, calm, and balance.

The home's entry makes an immediate impression. Intricate marble inlay work in the lobby feels like a contemporary floor tapestry—an elegant nod to luxury that sets the tone for what lies ahead.

In the living room, expanses of white marble are softened by delicate inlays that introduce subtle rhythm. The furniture is curated with global flair—Rugiano sofas and tables anchor the space in structured sophistication, while Turkish carpets lend warmth. The palette remains muted to highlight the tactile play of stone, metal, wood, and glass. Layered lighting ensures the space feels dynamic and immersive, adjusting effortlessly with the changing light of day.

The dining area shifts the mood with a dash of drama. A statement Rugiano dining table, crafted from polished metal and marble, draws focus, while Elie Saab dining chairs elevate the setting with couture elegance.

Floating agate shelves serve as shimmering backdrops—functional and beautiful, reinforcing the home's core narrative of



refined layers and lived-in luxury. Designed as a sanctuary of calm, the master suite blends luxury with subtle material richness. A striking green quartzite wall serves as the focal point, surrounded by taupe and tan finishes that promote rest and ease.

A concealed panelled door leads to a walk-in wardrobe featuring a refined mix of glass, PU, and leather-finished shutters. Natural light is maximized through a suspended mirror, while the en-suite bath continues the textural story in tones of black and taupe. A custom-crafted vanity with a sculpted marble basin anchors the space in tactile sophistication.

For the daughter's room, Ekta Ahuja—collaborating with Tejomaya Designs—crafted a soft, whimsical retreat. A fuchsia round bed with a bow-shaped headboard becomes the sculptural centerpiece, while a custom wallpaper of a girl beneath a rainbow adds narrative charm. Sunlight filters through ombre curtains in soft yellow, pink, and white—layered with sheer polka-dot drapes—casting a dreamy glow. Bespoke storage solutions, including multi-hued wardrobes with name-carved handles, add a joyful, personal touch.

Even the en-suite bathroom continues the design language with curves, pastels, and playful detailing. The son's room channels imagination and energy. A bold astronaut mural sets the tone, while a rust-orange, honeycomb-tufted headboard adds warmth and tactility.

Designed with zoned efficiency, the space includes a study nook, display shelves for Lego builds, and a concealed wardrobe and bathroom for clean lines. A wall-mounted ladder and rope offer daily opportunities for movement and play—making fitness a seamless part of daily life.

A true chameleon, this multi-purpose room adapts to various needs. A Murphy bed folds away to reveal a chic lounge, defined by burnt orange floor chairs and a graphic circular rug that adds playfulness.

A swivel-out study desk sits within the media unit, enabling effortless transitions from work to leisure. Espresso-text blinds and deep blue niches inject character, making this space equally suited for guests or personal retreat.

Tranquil and minimal, the parents' room is a canvas of greys and whites. Fluted paneling, strategic mirrors, and layered drapes create a visual softness, while the restrained palette brings timeless elegance. Every element is tuned to create peace and comfort—an inviting retreat at the heart of the home.

Soul & Space doesn't follow trends—it follows intention. With every room tailored to reflect a unique personality or purpose, the home emerges as a deeply emotional, ever-evolving place. It's a celebration of design that feels personal, not performative—where maximalism is expressed not through clutter, but through curated depth, honest materiality, and soulful storytelling. ■

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# Women in Design

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