

IN CONVERSATION

Dr. Brinda Somaya, Somaya &
Kalappa Consultants

Prem Nath, Prem Nath & Associates

Abin Chaudhari, Abin Design Studio

Rahul Kadri, IMK Architects

A&B

Godrej Interio commits to use recyclable packaging solutions



~Godrej Interio targets to reduce specific plastic consumption in plastic packaging by 5% YoY~



Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group strengthened its commitment towards combating the growing environmental concern about plastic pollution. In alignment with Godrej & Boyce's 'India Plastics Pact' commitment, Godrej Interio India's leading furniture brand in home and institutional segments revealed that it has also committed to reduce specific plastic consumption in plastic packaging by 5% year-on-year as part of their strategic initiative 'Greener India' under the company-wide Good & Green initiative.

A first of its kind in Asia, the 'India Plastics Pact' pact is a joint initiative between CII and WWF India and has been established with the goal of envisioning 'a world where plastic is valued and does not pollute the environment.' It aims to achieve this by promoting a circular economy for plastics through a public-private collaboration that enables innovative ways to eliminate, reuse, or recycle the plastic packaging across the plastics value chain and collectively achieve the long-term targets.

As a part of the extended producer responsibility initiative, Godrej & Boyce recycles 100% of plastic packaging quantity by partnering with 3

PROs (Producer Responsibility Organizations). Godrej Interio is aligned with this initiative which is administered by the 'Environmental Engineering Services,' a department of Godrej Construction.

Commenting on the sustainability initiative, Anil Sain Mathur, COO, Godrej Interio said, "At Godrej Interio, our commitment to reduce plastic consumption is aligned with Godrej & Boyce's 'Good & Green' initiative and its commitment towards 'India Plastics Pact' which underscores our deep and abiding belief that innovation and sustainability must go hand-in-hand. We are proud to be part of a company that commits to global initiatives such as India Plastics Pact and that as Godrej Interio, we can help further this commitment thus helping lead the way on smarter plastic usage."

To eliminate the use of thermocol in its packaging, Godrej Interio has shifted to a recyclable, eco-friendly alternative by using paper honeycomb boards for protective packaging. This packaging material resembles a honeycomb geometry and minimizes the amount of material needed for the packaging, making it lightweight and durable.

For further information, please visit <https://www.godrejinterio.com/> ■

For further details, please contact:

Elizabeth Bocarro, +91 9819279154
ebocarro@godrej.com

**GUCHCHA
GHAR PE HO
YA BAHAR,
DOOR KHULENE
KE LIYE AB NO
INTEZAAR.**



What happens when you have guests waiting at your door at home and you are stuck at office? Watch Mehmaan Nawazi, the next one in the series of Digital Films that showcases Guchcha Singh smartly getting out of an uninvited situation, with the help of Ozone Digital Locks.



Legrand India inaugurates its (12th) state-of-the-art experience centre, Innoval in Pune



Innoval to house all Legrand's products and solutions under one roof brings the range of connected devices to the customers

Defines the next level in customer engagement and Designeering

Showcase of trending Connected offering



The narrative at Innoval is based on the concept of 'Source to End Usage', where the products are arranged in relation to each other and according to where they fall on the energy and data distribution grid. Keeping in mind the vastly different profiles of visitors, the products are arranged as per the business verticals, namely - User Interface, Energy Distribution, Structured Cabling, UPS and Cable Management.

The design approach is based on the concept of Designeering. It has all the technicalities of engineering but is put forth in an intuitive and easy to understand communication system.

Mr. Tony Berland, CEO & Managing Director, Legrand India said, 'The breadth of Legrand's offer has diversified over the last years in India. It has developed product solutions for various industries and its users (investors, system integrator, architects, panel builder, end customers etc.)

Mr. Samir Kakkar, Director - Sales, Legrand India said, "Legrand has a vast offering of electrical and digital infrastructure products across several business verticals. ■

For further details, please contact:

Laxman Tari | laxman.tari@legrand.co.in

Priyanka Rane | priyanka.rane@legrand.co.in

Legrand India, a global leader in electrical and digital building infrastructure inaugurated its 12th state-of-the-art experience centre Innoval, housing the entire range of Legrand's products in Pune today includes newly launched connected offering. Innoval will host its India group company products - Legrand, Numeric & Valrack. Globally Innoval's are present at France, Greece, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Dubai. Innoval made its first-time entry in the Asia Pacific region with its launch in Mumbai, India followed by its successful launches in Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Dehradun, Coimbatore, Kochi, Chennai, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Vizag and its first voice controlled experiential center in Bangalore. The company is now all set to amaze the Pune market with its experiential centre launch today.

Innoval is Legrand's global brand of product showcases. The name Innoval reflects Legrand's brand value of developing ranges of innovative products (Valley of Innovation).

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Registered Office: 26, Maker Chambers VI, 2nd Floor, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, INDIA. Tel.: 022-4037 3737

Fax: 022-2287 0502, E-mail: sales@jasubhai.com

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IN CONVERSATION

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With a strong focus on social, economic and environmental impact, Somaya & Kalappa Consultants founded by Dr. Brinda Somaya is a multi-disciplinary design firm that offers refined and mindful solutions across projects of all scales and typologies and merges architecture, conservation and social equity in projects across the spectrum.

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Founded by Abin Chaudhari, Abin Design Studio is a socially conscious design firm that strives to provide a 'soul in a shell'. Guided by a fierce passion of material and technological experimentation, the firm explores the mechanics of space and form through a socially relevant lens and fosters the spirit of learning to drive community participation.

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Rahul Kadri, Partner and Principal Architect, IMK Architects, elaborates on his guiding mantras that have resulted in several celebrated sustainable and future-proof designs. With a keen focus on public engagement, the firm endeavours to create inclusive designs by optimising the talent of the entire team.

Cover: ©Abin Design Studio

Kirby India expanding to Gujarat with third PEB facility



After revolutionizing India's steel buildings manufacturing market with the introduction of Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings (PEB), Kirby Building Systems sets its eyes on furthering the industry as it expands toward a third India-based facility in Gujarat. The global steel building powerhouse, part of Kuwait's Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the Middle East, broke ground on its new 114,000 m² facility, with operations commencing by October 2022.

Kirby India already operates in Hyderabad and Haridwar with an extensive PEB manufacturing capacity that supplies to the Indian market. With the new Gujarat facility soon to be added to Kirby's arsenal, the company aims to revitalize the local economy with hundreds of new jobs, as well as plans to double the employment capacity in near future. Alongside this economic stimulus, Kirby India's manufacturing will boast a higher metric tonnage (MT) among its trio of facilities, rising from 200,000 MT to 300,000 MT per year.

"We are proud to announce a third addition to our Kirby India fleet in Gujarat," said D Raju, MD – Kirby India and Head of Kirby International. He also expressed his gratitude to the authorities of Gujarat, adding "Our expansion in Western India reflects our commitment to maintain our innovative spirit in the PEB industry, while ensuring we meet the needs of our customers and energize our immediate economy with jobs and services alike."

The new entry to Gujarat marks the expansion of India's western region for Kirby, as it allows the company to become closer to its customers in the area. The new plant joins Kirby's global fleet, which includes two in India, one in Kuwait, one in Vietnam and one in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"In a short time, we established a global standard in the market with pre-engineered buildings," D Raju said of Kirby's innovative journey. "With this new facility, we will continue to raise our standards and drive the industry forward." ■

Accent your home entrance with Orientbell Tiles' Elevation Range to give your house a modern yet classic finish!



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Orientbell Tiles brings to you an easy to install and low maintenance option for the final touch to your new home – the HDP Elevation range. Their newest range of tiles brings over 50 design options in the Elevation range for home owners to choose from. Playing with colours and textures, here are 4 ways you can include Elevation tiles to uplift the whole look of your dream space.

Utilising Elevation Tiles as feature walls:

Adorn one wall of your room with a neat brick

and rock finish in complete white color to add to the modern look of the house. The range is available in two sizes (300x600 and 300x450 mm) for a seamless look to your walls.

Living up the lobby space in your homes:

Textured surfaces form a stunning design feature and are a great way to add depth to your interior décor. Liven up your lobby/ entrance area by opting for aesthetically pleasing 3D block designs.



Cosying up the walls of your bedrooms

When it comes to interiors, it's not just the outside walls that can be adorned, Elevation tiles in your bedroom sure help to create a rustic look.

Using Elevation range to change the look of outer walls

Show your signature style on your outdoors with an eclectic mix of beautiful designs of bricks, bamboo, stones and wooden patterns to make an outstanding first impression!

Adding themes to Commercial Spaces

The geometric designs offer the flexibility of getting a different look each time just by laying the same tile in different ways, thus imparting a unique theme to spaces around swimming

pools and fountains in hotels even with the same tile design.

"We have emphasised on providing consumers with an eclectic range of Elevation Tiles, to help create a perfect vision for their house with natural looking designs of woods, stones, bricks and bamboo. Our new collection brings an abundance of options to choose from for every wall to make an outstanding first impression!"

- Mr. Sumit Thapar, Category Head, Orientbell Tiles. ■

For further details, please contact:

<https://www.orientbell.com/tiles/ceramic-tiles?tiles=elevation-tiles>.

Varun Baweja Designs Unveils Glamorous Bathrooms

Varun Baweja Designs is making a mark in the high-end interior segment with their strikingly opulent, sumptuously indulgent, yet imaginatively designed spaces. A collection of bathrooms they have launched confidently up the glamor quotient.

Befitting the ultra-luxury homes, they are located in, the bathrooms unveiled by Varun Baweja Designs impress with a dialed-up style, daringly bold features and high sophistication. And above all, a dramatic juxtaposition of uber luxury materials and features that result in show-stopper spaces.



This bathroom makes a design statement with a custom vanity fitted with hand-carved shutters and claw feet embellished with gold leafing brings out the French side of the vanity. The mirror-mounted faucets are the other attraction. The walls are covered with veneers and carved mosaic.



A fine blend of rustic and refined elements results in an elegant bathroom that shines with opulent touches. Rustic mirror in the brick pattern along with the black-gold vanity, made in house, is balanced by Statuario marble walls and flooring which brings out the glamour quotient. The mirror ceiling adds height to the space, as well as enhances the golden accents.

Varun Baweja Designs has made a name for itself in the high-end interior segment with their uniquely luxurious and detail-oriented opulent spaces. Founding Director Varun Baweja's natural expression is his unabashed maximalist style that seamlessly blends the classic with the contemporary to make a bold statement reflective of the client's persona.

VBD is a one-stop solution for a host of services including architectural consultancy, residential and commercial interior projects,

luxury furniture, contemporary décor and embellishments. The fine details and larger-than-life aspects of space are optimized in the most unique of the projections.

"At VBD the intent is to provide a harmonious dwelling place enriched with timeless aesthetics. For me, the excitement hovers around delivering the embalming and energizing impact of the natural elements. It might be your place, but we transform it into your signature domain."

– Varun Baweja ■

For further details, please contact:

Varun Baweja Designs
B-25, G-58, Sekhewal,
Ludhiana, Punjab, 141008.

Contact: +919041773172

Email: varunbawejadesigns@gmail.com

Instagram: [@varunbawejadesigns](https://www.instagram.com/varunbawejadesigns)



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A guardian of the built and the unbuilt

Somaya & Kalappa Consultants is a multi-disciplinary design firm that offers refined and mindful solutions across projects of all scales and typologies. With a strong focus on social, economic and environmental impact, this collaborative firm founded by **Dr. Brinda Somaya**, merges architecture, conservation and social equity in projects ranging from institutional campuses and rehabilitation of an earthquake-torn village to the restoration of an 18th century Cathedral, showing that progress and history need not be at odds.

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Dr. Somaya is a celebrated professional, a globally distinguished professor and an invaluable leader. She was on the board of the International Archives of Women in Architecture (IAWA), USA and has delivered analytical and critical talks as well as presented papers in India and abroad on her work. Dr. Somaya is also the Founder Trustee of the HECAR Foundation which has released several publications on Heritage and Architecture.

“I believe that development and progress must proceed without straining the cultural and historic environment. My philosophy: the architect’s role is that of guardian - hers is the conscience of the built and un-built



Bhadli Village, Bhuj.

environment. This belief led to the formation of Somaya & Kalappa, the company I founded and have headed for the last four decades. My work includes corporate, industrial and institutional projects that extend to public spaces, which have been rebuilt and sometimes reinvented as pavements, parks and plazas.

I don't think I can separate India and 'Indianness' from myself. My buildings speak for themselves about my beliefs and ideas of a sustainable practice. I am an Indian, and all that I am comes from my heritage. It is an intrinsic part of my being and will naturally reflect in my work in many ways. Our ancient scriptures have always

told us to tread the land lightly, and I think that is a belief which I have had from the very first building I designed over 30 years ago. This was long before 'green' became such an important word in an architect's practice. I believe there is a need for professional concern with the environment and an improved quality of human life for all Indians. We have to go beyond buildings and work with programmes that transform society.

While a set of few fundamental ideas and elements form the foundation of our work at SNK, the design process enriches the architecture and ensures that no two responses are alike. For instance,



विद्या ऽ मृतमश्नुते
VIKRAM SARABHAI LIBRARY
अभिज्ञान सायक
विद्या ऽ मृतमश्नुते



Goa Institute of Management, Goa.

the Nalanda School courtyards are very different in their scale, composition, proportion, materiality and surfaces articulation as compared to the courtyards at the Goa Institute of Management and at the Zensar Campus. In hindsight, I think these patterns are subtle, and readable in my work, but they are not obvious. I do really enjoy working with these elements, and I focus on them as they become a part of the design vocabulary that has evolved over the last few decades of my practice. While I don't subscribe to ideas of style, this foundation has given my work a sense of identity and uniqueness. If one looks at our projects carefully, one can decipher a

strong thread that exists and underlines my belief in these core elements and ideas.

I enjoy the challenges of greenfield projects as much as conserving old heritage buildings. Architecture, for me, has always been about connecting and creating spaces between earth and man. It is about places; it is a collective memory. India is a large and complex country with people of different cultural and economic backgrounds. Since we cannot build everything new, we must create a future for the buildings from the past. It is essential to conserve the various tangible and intangible values that are inherent to the buildings. I believe that the



Tata Consultancy Services, Indore.

restoration and retrofitting of everyday buildings that give a city its character are just as important as landmark buildings to preserve the fabric of the city.

Every project becomes a journey and a learning experience in itself. While preserving the old brings great satisfaction, building the new brings its share of excitement. The relationship between architecture and the environment has historically been (and continues to be) a complex interaction of site, technology, climate and other natural forces, building materials and most importantly, the human presence. Unless architects are able to

meaningfully engage in civic projects, the discipline will be peripheral to society. I believe that if we nurture the seeds, they will grow. An architect also needs to be an activist where you build, conserve and protect.

I would like to thank Indian Architect and Builder who have published the work of my studio over many decades and also wish them all the best in the years ahead. IAB must continue to support and nurture young practices by publishing their works and sharing their thoughts and ideas." ■

An explorer's guide to architecture

Founded by Abin Chaudhari, **Abin Design Studio** is a socially conscious design firm which strives to provide a '*soul in a shell*'. Guided by a fierce passion of material and technological experimentation, the firm explores the mechanics of space and form through a socially relevant lens and fosters the spirit of learning through community participation.

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As proclaimed advocates of the power of design, Abin Design Studio demonstrates how architecture can further expand its sphere of influence beyond defining the visual and material culture of its immediate context.

Through all their projects, the studio works towards marrying design into the urban and peri-urban fabric as a catalyst for deliberate change. Abin's approach focuses on the idea of holistic design that extends beyond ideas and results in physical manifestations through multi-disciplinary collaborations. The firm is constantly working towards pushing the boundaries of thought prevalent in socio-cultural landscapes and spatial constructs by challenging the role



The Gallery House by Abin Design Studio is a community centre in the peri-urban locale of Bansberia, West Bengal, India and is reminiscent of Bengal's 200-year-old burnt brick and terracotta temples.

of architecture in society through bold and unfamiliar explorations. In 2014, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York featured works by Abin Design Studio in a publication and the traveling exhibition titled 'Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities.'

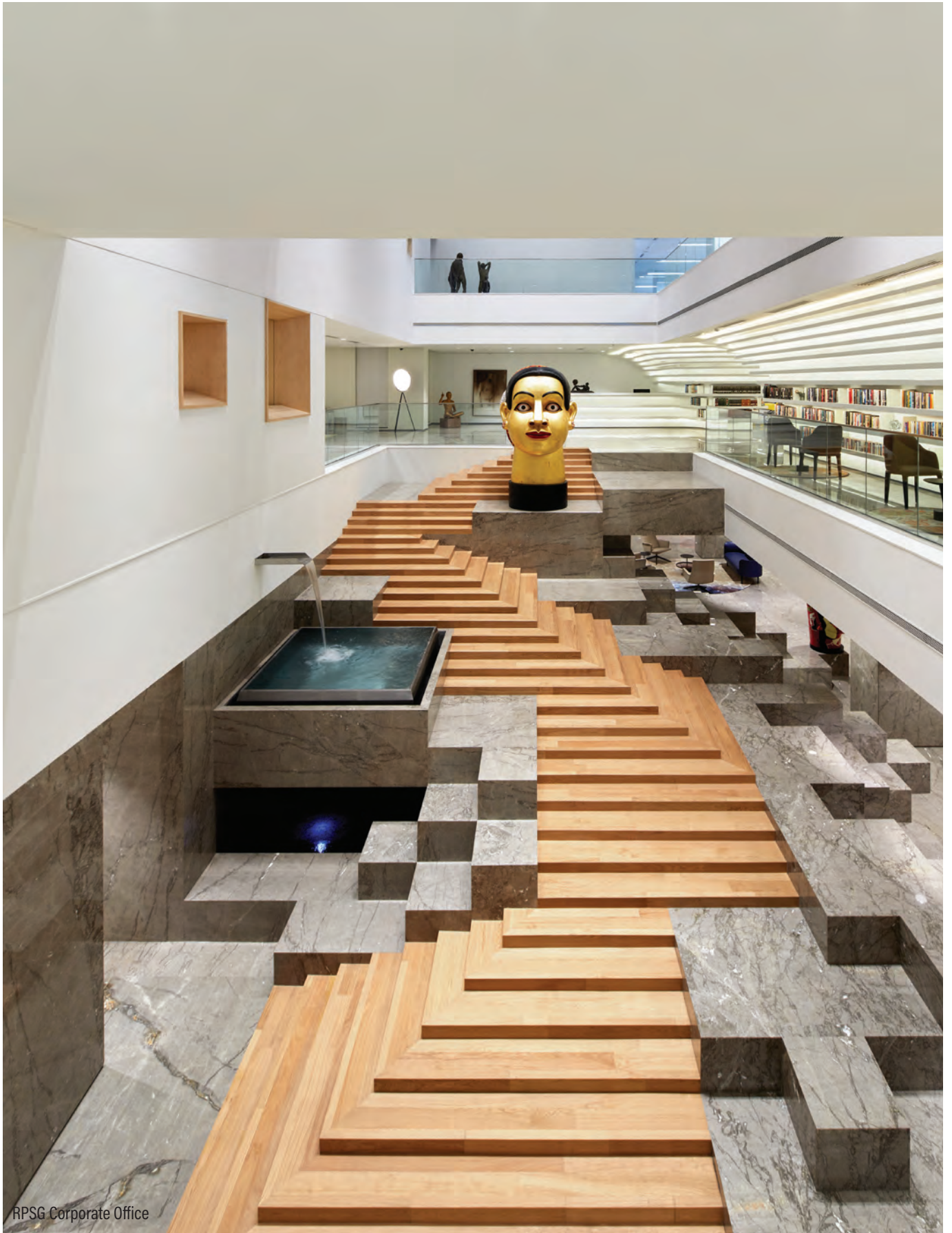
"We are privileged to create, as we are responsible to manifest. This honor is earned through tireless hard work and the responsibility is realized as an emotion inherent to our paths in life. The architectural

practice has always bridged the complex gap between people's needs versus their aspirations, sometimes falling into a set pattern of beliefs, past learning and known results. To break the stagnant glass ceiling, it is often the new paths taken in our lives, that create a new state of practice, one that is responsive to the changing timeline.

The studio has strived to create confidence in the common man, of the value of good design, through our vocabulary as well as experimentation with materials and



Navyom Sales Pavilion





House of Sweeping Shadows.



IMI Bhubaneswar.

technology, by going beyond mainstream projects and working in the public realm through installations and pro bono practices. In the course of this journey, we have found ourselves unafraid of unfamiliar explorations with interactions spaces, context and materiality, strengthening our

faith in the ability of design in changing lives.

It is our belief that the respect of the common man may be earned by dissipating the myth that architecture is only for luxury, and proving that it has a long-term responsibility towards socio-cultural



Nazrul Tirtha.

development. Staying relevant through time has much to do with identifying currents in the socio-political landscape and upholding architecture as a science of creation, an artistry of technology and a giant canvas for change. Our paths have, thus, begun as explorations, our work posing

questions, not only to us, as architects, but to us, as a society, the answers to which are our experimentations with design, ideology and the human spirit. Our language of imbibing “soul in the shell” endeavours to stay constant, but our vocabulary is ever-evolving.





Unbox Pavilion.

Time and again we have realized that architecture is a collective venture, of the dreams and passions of the client and designers rising hand-in-hand, the skills and enthusiasm of the craftsmen standing at the forefront, hoping to inspire the world around them. The variety in practice, from the expansiveness of high-rises to the minutest details of fixing, have been an exploratory journey for the mind, pushing us to discover further, not just through ideation, but also through physical manifestation, to immortalize the idea.

Our projects not only speak about our efforts, but also the stories of the people working with us, being deeply involved

in the process, through extraordinary sacrifices, the chance to meet future mentors from unusual walks of life, giving manifold guidance to the studio, and the opportunity to continue our exploration through their unflinching support.

The past few years have birthed projects, which remind us that every good work of architecture is in itself a great teacher. Taking inspiration from each such lesson, the studio as a team have poured their passion, dedication and thought-process, reflected into their work." ■

A man of many firsts

Prem Nath, is a practicing architect and interior designer for the last 50-years, and has excelled in a wide array of projects viz. residential and commercial complexes, IT parks, integrated townships, hotels, resorts, malls-multiplexes and high-end residential homes. Qualified from Sir J. J. School of Architecture, Mumbai 1965 with Top Honors in Design; Prem Nath is also a Fellow of Indian Institute of Architects, a Chartered Engineer, Certified Valuer, Real Estate Appraiser and an Advisor for FDI Investments. His clients believe him to be their lucky mascot and he has frequently been referred to as a 'Seminal Architect' and the 'Nawab of Luxury'. In the recent years, he has won multiple awards, notably – India's Top Architect 2020 by Construction World, a Gold Medal from the Indian Institute of Architects, 2019, the HUDCO Award of Green Architect 2015 and the CNBC Award for High End Interiors.

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"Architecture is one of the best professions one can practice. It is perhaps the only profession that enables one to be involved in every aspect of human life. It demands that one understands how a particular family lives and thrives. To be able to design their home, one has to deep dive into their personal references and lifestyles, akin to how a specialist doctor works to design a highly performing hospital or perhaps, how one has to study mythology and religious scriptures to design a religious structure. This is one profession, which demands a futuristic approach and requires that one thinks ahead of their time, since an architect designs what shall last for atleast another 50-70 years, if not more.



HMEI Township.

Fresh out of college and with good grades to my credentials, I entered the professional world with a bang in 1966, only a year after graduating. My first project, that also marked the beginning of my own firm, was a residential bungalow in Mumbai for Indian cinema's He-Man, Dharmendra. After a fortuitous meeting at another site, he invited me over for a detailed conversation regarding the design of his home. While several others pitched for the same, I was awarded the project and so began the illustrious journey of Prem Nath & Associates.

After 3 years into my own practice, I had the opportunity to travel the world. This inspired me and gave me unparalleled

exposure that no amount of classroom learning or professional experience rooted in one context could give. This insight into global architecture enabled me to think beyond our times and bring a universal appeal to all my future projects. The projects I did immediately after this marked an acceptance to global design in the Indian context and helped me grow my practice further. Some of our landmark projects include my very own home at Pali Hill that was very well received and gave birth to a large design-aware market and aspirational value to well-designed homes.

Some of our firsts were also the country's first. In 1975, Prem Nath & Associates designed India's first revolving restaurant.



The SBI office building.



A resort in Goa by PNA.



Bhakti Park is a residential complex in Wadala E



In 2006, we designed India's first multiplex theatre. We also designed India's first health spa and body rejuvenation center at the Golden Palm Resorts, Bangalore in 2003. 2012 marked my first and India's first Gold graded & HUDCO Award Winner Township. We also designed India's first Platinum rated school at Vadodara, Gujarat in 2015. This year, 2021, we are working on a health resort in NCR with India's first artificial beach.

Today, Prem Nath & Associates provides complete design, engineering and turnkey solutions to the entire cross-section of real estate forms. However, what continues to drive us is that 5 decades in, we are still finding new firsts in the new world." ■

The evolution of a legacy

Rahul Kadri is a Partner & Principal Architect at IMK Architects, an architecture and urban design practice founded in 1957 with offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Rahul Kadri took over the reins of the practice from his father I. M. Kadri in the 1990s after completing a graduate diploma in architecture from the Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, USA. With Kadri at the helm, IMK Architects has evolved to focus its practice on social consciousness and urban ecological sensitivity.

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The 1990s were marked by significant shifts in India's socio-cultural landscape in a newly liberalised economy. Models of patronage and typologies of projects evolved while modern technology made inroads into the architecture and construction industry. Concerns of climate change emerged in mainstream discourse as well. At such times, IMK was the first architectural practice in the world to adopt SCRUM, a unique, collaborative design process, which involves intense workshops with all project stakeholders. It helps to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of holistic design solutions from buildings to city master-plans - vibrant, dynamic, healthy and robust spaces where people



Sona College of Technology, Salem.

thrive. In light of this, Kadri's work has been widely acclaimed with multiple felicitations from the Indian Institute of Architects, the Times Network and the Construction World and Builder Awards 2020. Most recently, IMK Architects was honoured as the '*Supreme Winner*' as well as the winner in the '*Public Building Exterior*' category at the **2021 Surface Design Awards, London.**

"Since my father is an architect, I was exposed to architecture at a very young age. However, while growing up, I never wanted to be an architect—I was fond of horses and wanted a stud farm. Later, in boarding school at the Sherwood College, Nainital, I spent most of my time walking around in the

forest and that's where my love affair with nature started. This early relationship with nature infused within me a deep passion to create buildings and spaces in harmony with their natural context. At around the age of fifteen, I remember my father taking me and my siblings for a drive around the city of Mumbai. He wanted to show us some of his buildings. He took us on three drives, and it was really those drives that made me realise what a difference it makes when you start looking at buildings in a different way and my love for buildings began from there.

I went on to study architecture at the Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, and then moved to the University of Michigan,



The Club Mahindra Madikeri Resort, Coorg | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

USA, for a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, where I was influenced by the work and writings of British-American architect and design theorist Christopher Alexander and American architect Charles Moore. Their ideas of holistic architecture and social architecture particularly influenced me. Reading 'The Pattern Language' and 'The Timeless Way of Building' were the biggest watershed moments in my life. The books spoke about human behaviour and geometry, how design affects what we do, and how patterns link to patterns of behaviour. That way of thinking really grew on me and I have been growing that way of thinking ever since.

I was so fascinated by Christopher Alexander's writing that after graduating from the University of Michigan, I landed up at his door and expressed a desire to work with him. He told me that I was lucky as he needed someone to join him the next day. I worked with him for around 6 months during which time I learnt so much from him.

In 1989, I returned to India and began working with my father, slowly imbibing my own approach into the work of the firm. My first semi-independent project was an engineering college in Salem. The project helped me learn to trust my instincts and



Symbiosis International University, Pune. | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

to understand that I needed to develop my own style that was different from my father's.

However, my first independent project - a notable milestone in my career - was the Club Mahindra Madikeri resort at Coorg. We won a design competition against six architectural firms to secure the project. The Madikeri Resort in Coorg, Karnataka is a hospitality project that was designed for Club Mahindra Holidays and Resorts. The design takes cues from the indigenous Kodava culture and upholds biophilia as a central element to create a site-sensitive habitat that is in harmony with nature. With

maximum exposure to nature, the soul of the design lies in the interaction between people and the outdoors. Through the revival of the age-old vernacular techniques, the resort creates a green abode amidst the hills.

The Symbiosis International University, Pune, is another important project in the journey of our practice - yet another project we won through a competition. The campus is home to 1000 students and houses educational and administration functions for four faculties - the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, the Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication,



Rahul conducting a workshop with members of a Housing Society in Mumbai for a self-redevelopment project.



Rahul conducting a workshop with members of the Treeshade Cooperative Housing Society in Mumbai.



Symbiosis International University, Pune. | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

the Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management and the Symbiosis Institute of Photography – in addition to an auditorium and convention centre, a library, and housing, dining, and recreational facilities for students and staff. We designed the buildings and systems to respond to local climate and ecology so they would integrate seamlessly with the landscape, fostering a harmonious relationship between people and nature, while a hierarchical network of open spaces cultivates social interaction and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Another milestone project is the master planning and campus design for the Sona College of Technology in Salem. The campus master plan and all the buildings within have been designed by IMK Architects over a span of over 3 decades in close association with the client.

Discovering the SCRUM process in my search for the effective and efficient delivery of holistic design solutions across varied scales of projects - from buildings to city master-plans - was another breakthrough in our journey. SCRUM, simply put, is a framework for project management that



The Club Mahindra Madikeri Resort, Coorg. | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

emphasizes teamwork, accountability and iterative progress toward a well-defined goal. This process focuses on bringing clarity to our client's vision. Intense workshops with the clients and all stakeholders help to identify and establish the desired brief; following which requirements are analyzed and prioritized. Together with the clients, tasks of high priority are identified and addressed first, so as to enable us to deliver high quality in a tight time frame.

I enjoy projects which are challenging and have scope for innovation – those that have the potential to fulfil modern society's

growing demands and can be made future-proof. We constantly seek to make places where people thrive. We don't create places or use geometries only for visual effect. It is the relationship between human aspiration, activities, and the geometry of space that interests us. In recent years, we have also been experimenting with design processes that strive to utilize the full creative potential of each member of the team.

I believe that it is imperative for all public projects to truly be representative of the needs and aspirations of the cities and the people that they serve. Participation of



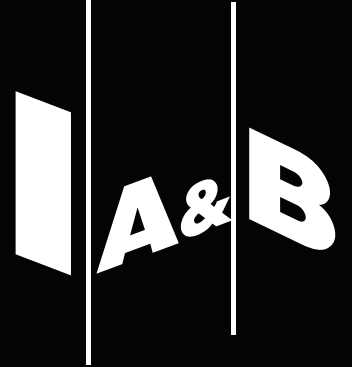
Sona College of Technology, Salem.

citizens is key to creating a shared future. As we shape cities of the future, we need to encourage diversity in thought and value local knowledge. As we shape cities of the future, we need to encourage diversity in thought and value local knowledge."

I.M. Kadri was born in Ahmedabad in 1929, finished his schooling in New Delhi at Jamia Millia Islamia and completed his civil engineering degree at the Engineering College of the University of Pune in 1953. Driven by the belief that architecture shapes society and human life over time, he set up his architectural practice I.M. Kadri

Architects (now IMK Architects) in 1957 at Churchgate, Mumbai, and later expanded it in 1971 to Bengaluru and Muscat. Practicing in a newly-independent India that witnessed mammoth transformations and ideological shifts in a brief span, Mr. Kadri's work navigated questions of tradition and modernity and business and politics. ■

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