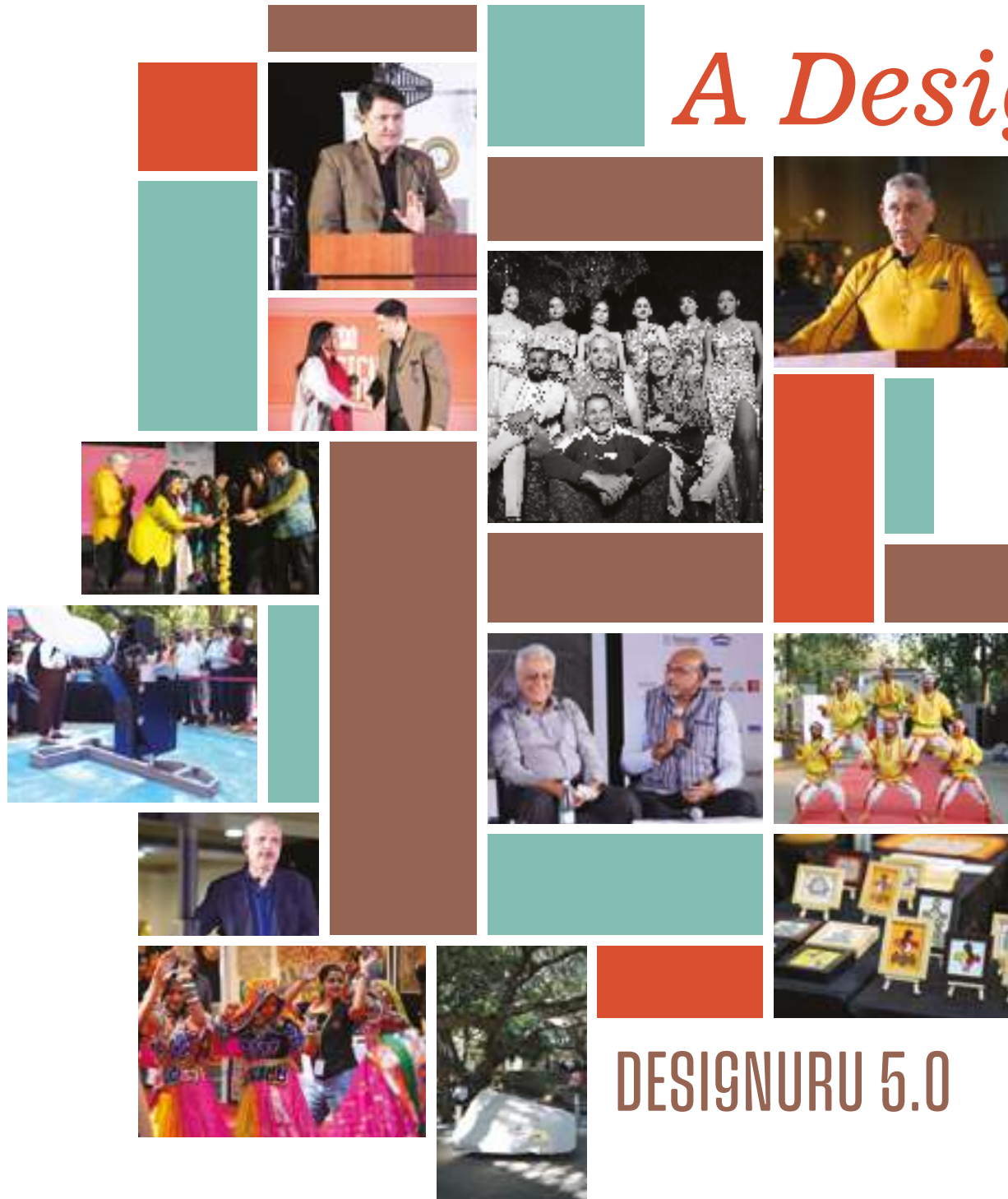


# antarya

AN IIID BANGALORE REGIONAL CHAPTER PUBLICATION



*A Design*

Extravaganza

DESIGNURU 5.0

### INNOVATIVE. INSPIRING. SUSTAINABLE.

Impart individuality to your buildings with sustainable cladding solutions from Fundermax. A wide range of decors in nature, material, unicolours with varied textures to add that extra bit to your architecture and make it unique.

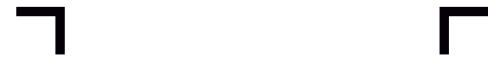
Explore the new EXTERIOR 2.3 KOLLEKTION of Fundermax.



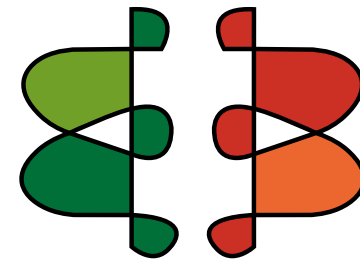
**Fundermax India Private Ltd.**  
Tel: +91 96113 99211  
E-mail : officeindia@fundermax.biz  
www.fundermax.in



For you to create



# Fundermax

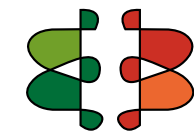


IIID BANGALORE REGIONAL CHAPTER

#### IIID BANGALORE REGIONAL CHAPTER EMBLEM

The letter form B and its mirrored version together form this symbol. The idea is inspired by the forms of Rangoli. Bangalore as a city is a unique combination of the traditional and the contemporary. This coexistence of dual cultures is iconic of Bangalore as it is present in arts/architecture and the general landscape of the city and its culture.

Using Rangoli (Traditional) as the basis, we have created letter form B (Modern) and reflected this form to enclose the space in between (Interiors). The colour palette is also representative of the traditional and modern.



IIID BANGALORE REGIONAL CHAPTER

**PUBLISHED BY**  
IIID BANGALORE REGIONAL CHAPTER  
N G Associates, 302, 3rd floor, Riverstone chancellor,  
50 Sivanchetti Garden Road, Halasuru, Karnataka 560042 | E: iidbrc@gmail.com

**COPYRIGHT**  
IIID Bangalore Chapter has the copyright on design pictures and editorial content used in this magazine unless otherwise specified. No part of the magazine can be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher.

# Chairperson Speaks



V. VISHWANATH

**Dear members,**  
Team Mitra had the privilege of President IIID, Ar. Jignesh Modi installing the Chairperson and 22 MC members for the forthcoming term 2025-27. The theme, 'Traces to Translation', was unveiled, covering a range of events involving design students, faculty, architects, interior designers, through knowledge sharing, cultural events, sports and many more.

The grand installation day was also host to our first Master Series, with an outstanding presentation by Ar. Johannes Schafelner, Director, Zaha Hadid Architects. We thank our Diamond Inner Circle Partner, SDP Stones for being a spectacular host. Our first Master Class happened at BMS School of Architecture, Yelahanka, with Ar. Johannes Schafelner holding a knowledge session. This was followed with yet another innovative student intervention, 'Catch them Young', in November at BBMP Bhavan's School. The intent is to propagate Design Thinking amongst school children, especially BBMP schools. Mistry Architects participated with an exciting set of activities for the grade 10 students.

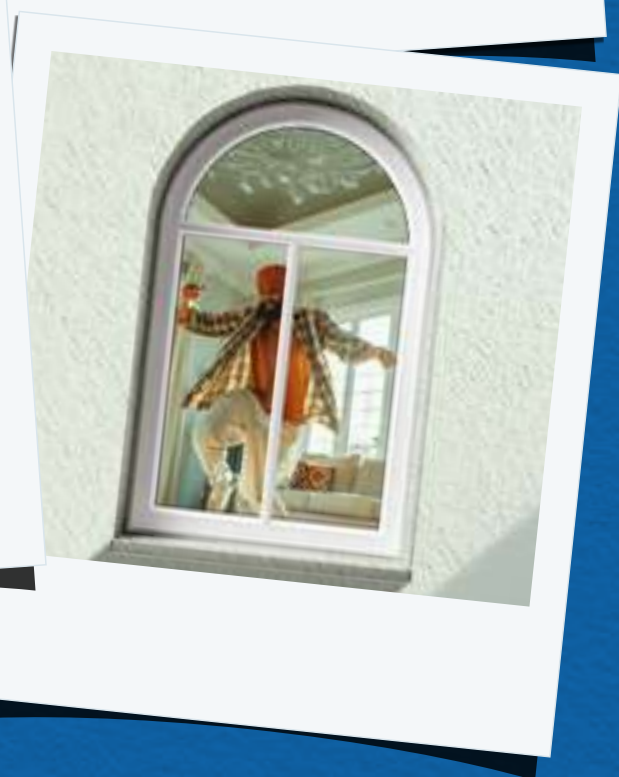
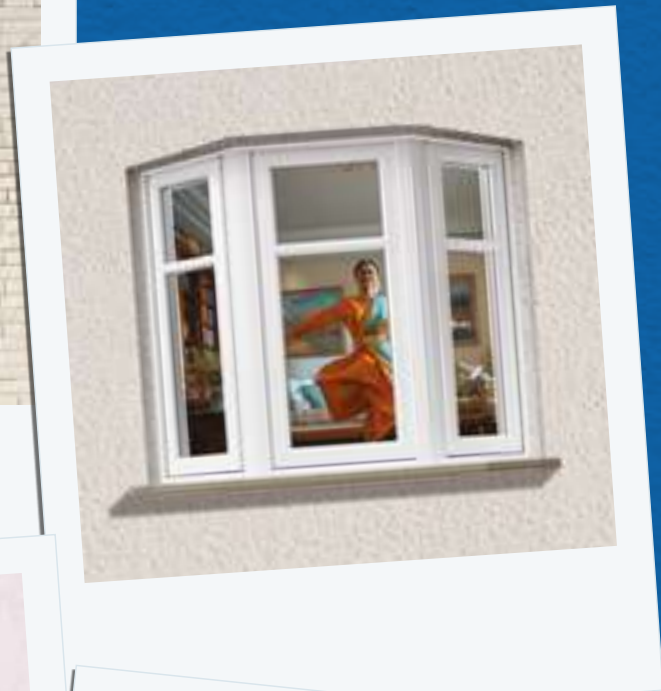
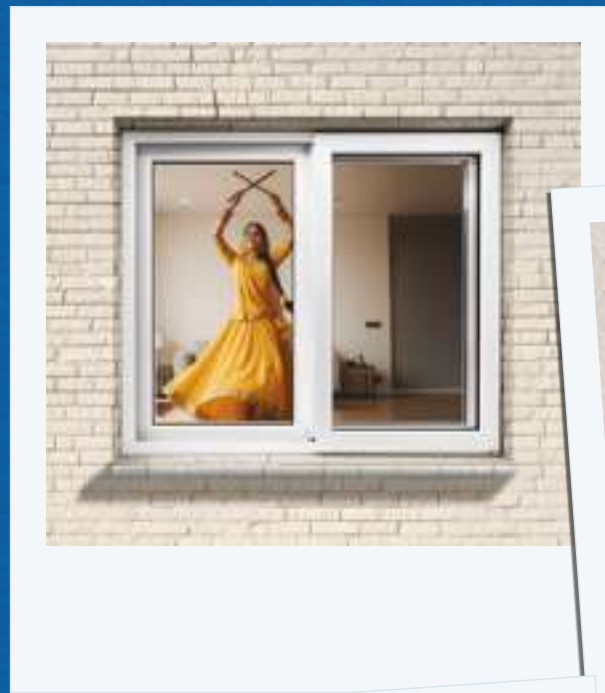
December was host to Designuru 5.0 held at Chitra Kala Parishad, with a footfall of 2000 people—designers, students and public. Inaugurating the design extravaganza was Ar. Shamini Shanker Jain, President Elect, IIID. The four-day event witnessed multiple presentations, exhibits, discussions with government officials, a range of cultural activities. The massive exhibit of Ar. Peter Rich, the 'Artisan Corner', 3D printing demonstration, an extravagant fashion show curated by Ar. Thomas Abraham and Prasad Bidappa, drew large crowds, stepping beyond design talks. Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was our President, Ar. Jignesh Modi.

BRC also received the 'Best Performing Chapter' for the Term 2023-25 at our first Joint NEC of IIID in Surat. We have a range of exciting events in the coming months and the term ahead. Do tune in and participate.

**V. Vishwanath**  
**Chairperson - IIID BRC | 2025 - 27**  
**vish@yvarchitects.com**

INDIA'S LARGEST SELLING  
uPVC WINDOW

INDIA'S  
FAVOURITE  
GERMAN



WE'RE MANY. YET, WE'RE ONE.

VEKA. ONE MORE THING THAT BINDS US.

Across pin codes and towns, a VEKA is here, there, and everywhere. Crafted precisely with German technology, and to European standards. VEKA is India's largest selling uPVC window. Made perfect, to stay perfect.

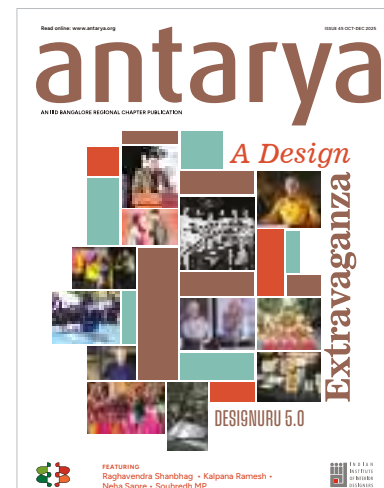
1 million+ homes | 130+ cities | Largest fabricator network

Soundproof Weatherproof UV-resistant Energy-efficient

**VEKA**

MADE PERFECT. STAYS PERFECT.

1800-266-0106 | veka.in



ISSUE 45 | OCT – DEC 2025

COVER DESIGN

Showing the highlights of the event in the form of Building Blocks.

## Editorial Team

MANAGING EDITOR

Dinesh Verma

CONTENT EDITOR

Nandhini Sundar

STAFF REPORTERS

Yamini Kumar, Akshara Verma

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maresh Chadaga

EDITORIAL BOARD

Jaffer AA Khan, Maresh Chadaga,  
Kavita Sastry, Gunjan Das

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

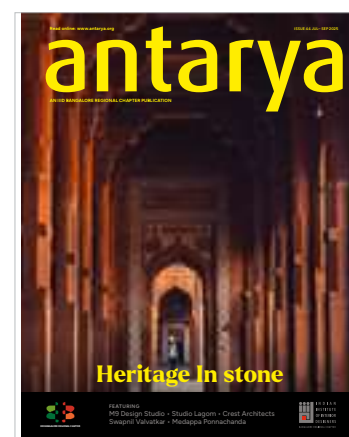
Deval Maniar

www.anulom.in | deval.work@gmail.com

PRINT

Gaptech Press, Bangalore

www.daxgap.com | girish-daxgap@gmail.com



ISSUE 44 | JUL – SEP 2025  
REVIEW

"Antarya thoughtfully captures and interprets the spirit of the projects, the intent behind the design, the spatial experience. It is very rewarding to see such sensitive, detailed interpretation by the editorial team."

ARCHITECT JESAL PATHAK  
M9 DESIGN STUDIO

## From the Managing Editor's Desk



DINESH VERMA

Dear Members,

Design is often misunderstood as something exclusive to the elite. At IIID BRC, we aim to dispel this myth.

True design is found in the simplest utility items that are timeless and used by everyone. Products like the paper clip, the safety pin and the pencil have remained largely unchanged since their inception because they are perfectly designed for their functions. These items have been used for over a century and remain without competition.

Designuru, the yearly mega program of IIID BRC, focuses on spreading the value of design to the masses. Our goal is to foster a public appreciation for design so that people begin to demand quality in their everyday environments.

IIID BRC has launched several initiatives for its members and our magazine, Antarya, holds a special place among these programs and events. Do communicate with us with your latest works for publication. Remember - Antarya is your magazine, help us make it better.

DINESH VERMA

verma@acegrouparchitects.com

◆ COVER STORY

# A Design Extravaganza for the masses

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR

08



◆ INDUSTRY FEATURE

30

## Bond with Pidilite

FEATURING PIDILITE PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS



RETAIL VIEW

48

## When profiles get classy

FEATURING ASTRONEA



\* DESIGN SPOT

38

## Restoring a forgotten heritage

FEATURING AR. KALPANA RAMESH



\* DESIGN SPOT

52

## A quirky twist to fine dining

FEATURING AR. NEHA SAPRE



◆ WINE & DINE

58

## Designing an experience

FEATURING AR. RAGHAVENDRA SHANBHAG



◆ INBETWEEN

66

## Building with plastic

FEATURING SOUHREDH MP



DESIGN IDEOLOGY

70

## Design dreams defined

PROF. JAISIM KRISHNA RAO

● TRAVELOGUE

72

## A Mahal of Art and Colours

BY MAHESH CHADAGA



## Happenings in BRC

OCT TO DEC 2025

78



# A Design Extravaganza for the masses

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR



It was a spectacular show of design, creativity, innovation, traditional artforms, along with an energetic platform for discussion and deliberation at the fifth edition of the bi-annual Designuru hosted by IIID Bengaluru Regional Chapter in the month of December. Hosted at the venerable seat of art, the Chitra Kala Parishad, the four day design festival was a veritable display of design in multiple forms and segments, diligently crafted not only to enthrall the designer fraternity but also serve as a spellbinding design experience for the residents and visitors of Bengaluru.

Designuru 5.0, hosted with the explicit intent to take design to the masses where the common man understands the nuances as well as the benefits of good design featuring in daily life, had a spectacular start, with rhythmic beats and colourful traditional dances of Karnataka resounding through the venue. It was a fascinating scene of drum beats, vibrant colours marking the entry to a range of exhibits that left the visitor spellbound with their creativity and innovation.

The venue was host to 27 mindboggling installations put up by Bengaluru's architect and interior design fraternity in collaboration with Inner Circle Partners of IIID BRC, each arresting in their structural form, creativity, theme and innovative approach. Supporting these installations were the numerous design panels showcasing the multiple award winning projects of architects and interior designers as well as the stand alone stunning exhibit of Master Architect, Peter Rich, renowned for his low carbon approach to design and construction.

Vying for attention against this backdrop was the Students' Adda where the Schools of Architecture and Interior Design had their students participating in putting up their student exhibits. Cherry on the cake was the Artisan Corner, hosting over 18 stalls, each home to a range of traditional artisans from across the country, displaying their arts and crafts.

## Day One: EXHIBITS AND PRESENTATION

A scintillating inauguration marked the commencement of Designuru 5.0 with a fascinating Shiv Thandav dance performance by classical dancer, Yashasvi Jana. Day One began with the visits to multiple installations that were spread across the campus, bringing forth a festive ambience against a backdrop of incredible design. While each of the installations stood out, loudly proclaiming the depth of thought, creativity and execution of the theme chosen, making it hard for the Jury to zero in on the winners, five installations were picked for featuring literally as the icing on the cake.

Standing tall, capturing the limelight amongst these was the large exhibit of Architect Peter Rich, prompting every visitor to curiously walk through the massive installation, read the script displayed, stand back and ponder after digesting its import. The evening began with a thought provoking address by President Elect, IIID National, Architect Shamini Shanker Jain, which was followed by an absorbing talk by Architect Peter Rich. Walking the gathered design fraternity through the DNA of hospitality design was the Keynote Speaker, Architect Raghavendra Shanbhag of WATG Architects, presenting three of his hospitality projects.

In his presentation, Shanbhag pointed that the DNA of hospitality design is chiefly about successfully curating the experiences of the



**TOP LEFT AND RIGHT**  
Inauguration of Designuru 5.0 by President Elect IIID National, Ar. Shamini Shanker Jain, Ar. Peter Rich, Ar. Vishwanath, Chairperson IIID BRC, along with MC members, IIID BRC.

**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Keynote Speaker, Ar. Raghavendra Shanbhag

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Ar. Shamini Shanker Jain, President Elect IIID National



PAGE 10 & 11  
Follies displayed at Designuru 5.0



destination for the guest, irrespective of whether this destination is a massive hospitality space or one that is of the bespoke variety. "To create this experience, it is important to bring in strongly the sense of the place as this goes to create a memory that lingers on, long after one exits the destination".

### A HAND FOR TRADITIONAL ARTFORMS

An unfortunate factor that prevails and cannot be brushed under the carpet is the expectation of traditional forms of arts and crafts to be available cheap. Many a time, machine made products serve as affordable replacement endangering the continuance of these traditional artforms passed down generations. If this situation

continues and awareness is not created in conserving, promoting these rare, skilled arts and crafts originating from different parts of the country, these traditional forms of engagement would soon be available only in record books.

Sensing this urgent need to revive, conserve, promote the traditional artforms and encourage designers to adopt them in their projects, IIID BRC engaged with 15 traditional artisans hailing from across the country, with many of them being State and National Award winners. Designuru 5.0 had these artisans displaying as well as demonstrating their crafts, leaving the visitors to their stall, captivated.



Madhubani Art



Pattachitra Art



Gond Art



Molela Pottery



Stalls at the Artisan Corner



Surpur Art



Chittara Art



Kinnal Craft



Gond Painting

### THE WINNING FOLLIES

When creativity reigns supreme, the task of choosing the best can prove to be herculean. Exactly what the Jury assigned to pick the winners of the installations, faced with. Yet, they strived and succeeded in picking five amongst the 27 follies exhibited, commending both the Design Firm as well as the supporting Trade Partner.

The **first place, Winner**, went to the installation, **Sacred Ground**, conceptualised by design firm **Atto Atelier**, in collaboration with **Inner Circle Partner SDP Stones**. The installation, using natural stones that had been discarded as waste, erected under the canopy of trees, questions the format of the cities, their planning, the fractured realities that come with it, the market economics that goes into its creation, where nature and culture are slowly, continuously being pushed into the background. The installation brings forth the key factor of context in terms of culture, sociology and ecology. The design features as two elements, a soft porous periphery that demarcates the ground marked as sacred and the core within this sanctum.

The **Second Winner** was **Evince, Shifting Symmetries**, designed by **Spacebridge Design Studio** in collaboration with **Inner Circle Partner Moon & Baker**. The theme of the installation veered around the Prakruthi which brings in the harmony and balance through the five elements where each element comes with its own inherent characteristics. This cosmic order is visualised as five colour pendulums that symbolise the living rhythm of the city's ecological balance. When this cosmic order is disturbed, Prakruthi manifests as five ideologies, Dharma, Karma, Ahimsa, Dama, Santosh.

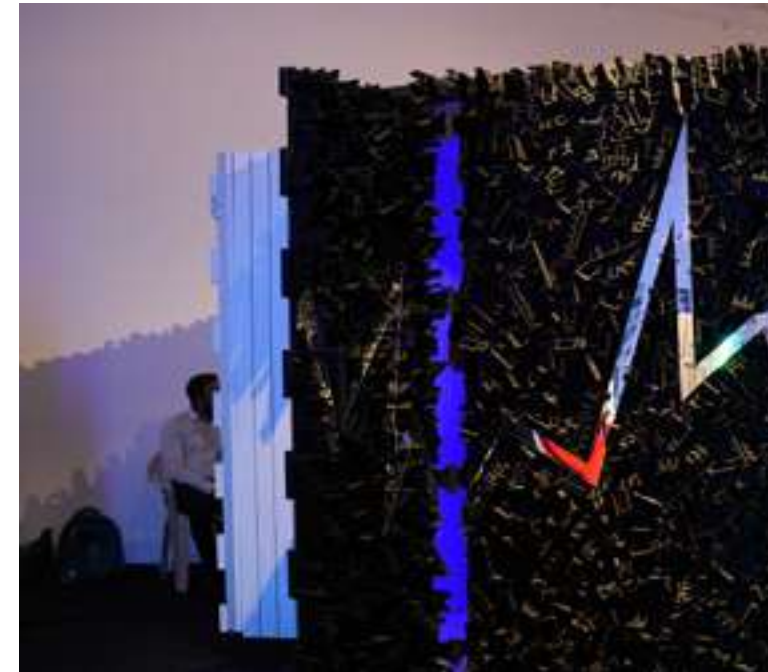
The **Third Winner** was **Nestflix**, designed by **ARTSU** in collaboration with **Inner Circle Partner Arpitha Exports**. The installation featuring as a poetic statement on biodiversity and coexistence, questions the glorification of built forms in our cities. Viewing through the fragile architecture of an insect's nest, the installation draws attention to the unfolding of a miniature human civilisation, prompting the viewer to relook at life through nature's lenses and identify our place through the larger web of life that reminds of what 'normal' should be.

Two commendations were given. The first going to the installation, **A Breath of Space**, designed by **Studio Detailine**, in collaboration with **Inner Circle Partner MCI**. The theme focused on the unseen balance exercised in the universe where opposite forces prevail, yet support each other in an unseen relationship which is fraught by tension, where each member is dependent on the other. Pull one out and the entire delicate balance of this ecosystem collapses. The installation used natural stone to depict this delicate balance of the universe.

The second commendation went to the installation, **Invisible City, Living City**, designed by design firm **Masons Ink** in collaboration with **Inner Circle Partner Dash Square**. The theme came up as a sensory installation that focused on the hidden biodiversity of Uru. It invites the visitor to pause on the rocking chair to reflect, rediscover the small joys of the city where sunlight would filter through the Gulmohars and rain trees, where the current broken sidewalks and traffic has made one forget this essence of the Garden city. The installation serves as a gentle reminder of the distant calls of nature that continue to intertwine with the present abounding concrete.



Folly Winner -- By Atto Atelier / SDP Stones



Folly Commendation -- By Mason's Ink / Dash Square



Folly Third Winner -- By ARTSU / Arpitha Exports



Folly Second Winner -- By Spacebridge Design Studio / Moon & Baker



Folly Commendation -- By Studio Detailine / MCI

## Day Two: DISCUSSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

The second day of the design festival had a spectacular start, the Artisan Corner beginning the day with a vibrant North Karnataka music rendition, displaying the rich cultural roots of Bijapur, Karnataka, complementing the traditional artisans and crafts housed in the 18 stalls. The design fraternity had an equally fabulous start with a walk through the massive installation of Architect Peter Rich, led by none other than the Master himself. The day witnessed workshops for students, discussions amongst the design fraternity organised by IIID BRC.

The event packed day culminated in an absorbing discussion on the travails of Bengaluru city, between the administrative heads of the

city's municipality and leading architects of Bengaluru. Symbolising the partnership between design and governance, industry and professionals, ideas and implementation, an MoU was signed between IIID BRC and BCIC to foster innovation, design thinking and infrastructure excellence.

The objective for signing the MoU was to foster collaboration, innovative approach and better design to create a smarter, future ready Bengaluru. "Designuru is about taking the message to the public that design is for everyday life and for everyone, not just for a niche segment", pointed Architect Vishwanath, Chairperson, IIID BRC, commenting on the MoU signed between BCIC and IIID BRC.



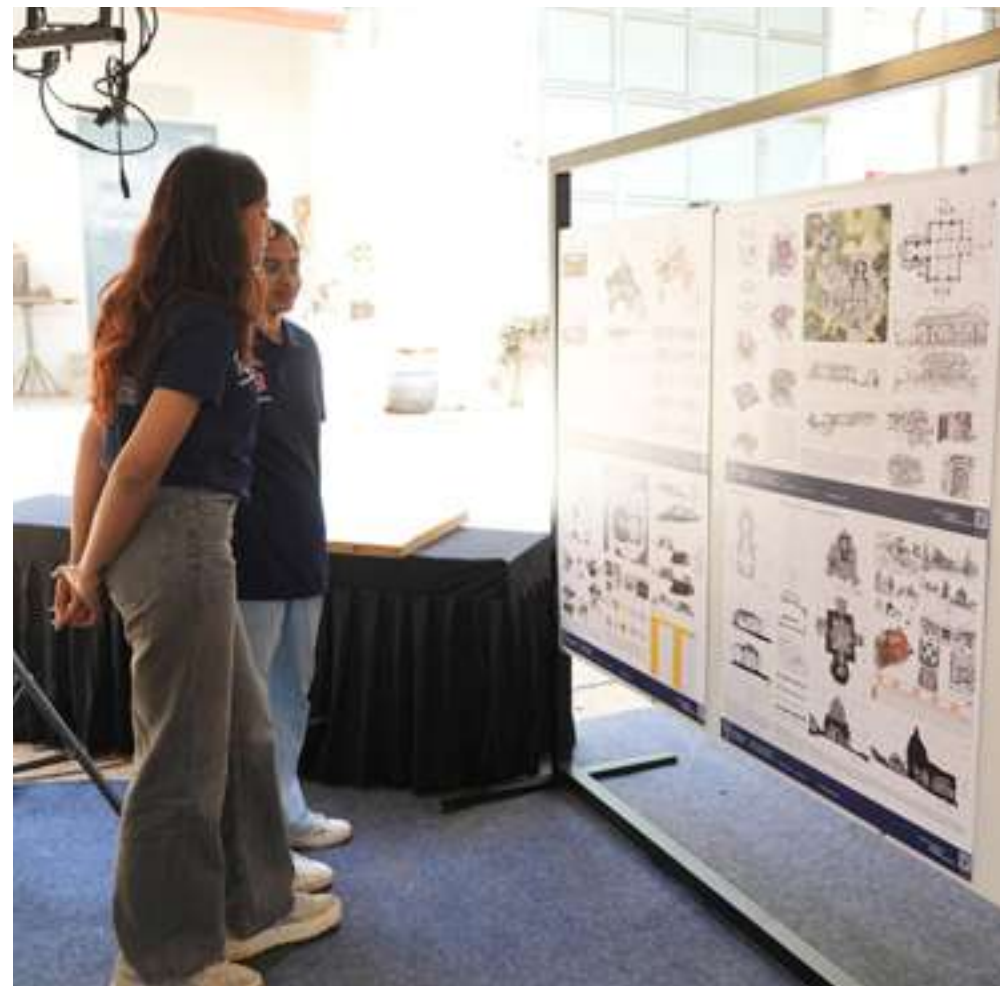
PAGE 16, 17  
Grand Exhibit of Ar. Peter Rich Installation  
Picture Credit : Mahesh Chadaga



Ar. Peter Rich making a point to the gathered designers



Students' models and exhibits at Students' Adda



Signing of MoU between IIID BRC and BCIC

### DELIBERATING ON THE CITY WOES

An engaging panel discussion moderated by Architect Gayathri Shetty ensued, the participating panellists being Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Uma Reddy, Chairman of FKCCI, L K Atheeq, Chairman Bengaluru Business Corridor, Architect Naresh Narasimhan and Architect Dinesh Verma. The discussion veered around two key segments, a game plan for the city of Bengaluru and citizen volunteerism.

Prompted to give one bold long term idea that would define Bengaluru's next two decades, Maheshwar Rao said, "The key factor being sought by people in the city is efficient public transport that would facilitate easy movement, with good connectivity. Addressing this will sort a large portion of issues ailing the city. The focus should be on creating good public spaces and efficient public transport with good connectivity. This will also deter high use of private transport."

When Naresh was asked to suggest one key infrastructure solution for Bengaluru to implement with immediate effect, he stated, "There needs to be a single interface point for citizens to report their complaints, which currently is not there. Each segment is a different corporation and there is no integrated command control to which all of them report and this becomes an issue for citizens when they need to connect. This incidentally has been set right with the formation of GBA. What we need is an integrated service hub to be created in every ward of the 369 wards that we have currently, where we can have a 'hyper local governance' in each neighbourhood, where citizens can lodge their complaints."

He pointed that we already have a physical infrastructure in the city to support this in the form of metro stations that are placed every two kilometres. "These spaces remain underutilised. These can be



Cultural presentation by artistes from Bijapur

converted into integrated service and cultural hubs for access and use of citizens. The corporator office too could be inside this."

Asked about one innovation that can dramatically improve our city when scaled effectively, Uma stated, "we should also have a tech hub which will enable citizens to participate where they will be provided a structure, mechanism for the same. This would encourage, recognise and facilitate their individual contributions to bring in a change. The exponential effect of this too would be high."

While challenges are galore, what action can be taken to unlock the city's best possible future, Atheeq was asked. "We need to look at strengthening and creating neighbourhood based local cities where each comes with its own personality and localised micro cities that



Panel discussion hosting Uma Reddy, Chairman of FKCCI, Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA, L K Atheeq, Chairman Bengaluru Business Corridor, Ar. Naresh Narasimhan and Ar. Dinesh Verma, moderated by Ar. Gayathri Shetty

become the activity centres. These city centres can connect to the metro stations and to the peripheral ring road. In short you are creating micro cities within the city. Unfortunately, at present we do not have common spaces to facilitate community gatherings in each neighbourhood”, he remarked.

About how design can be used to create more inclusive, people friendly public spaces, Dinesh elaborated, “All public spaces should be designed to welcome people to use the space. Currently the design of our open public spaces is structured to shut out people rather than welcome them to use. For instance, the Lalbagh is fortified with a wall instead of coming with a fence that visually welcomes the public in. Our public parks have time based restrictions on entry.”

He further added, “we have a penchant for constructing a building in any open space instead of leaving it open for use. Unfortunately this is an inherent tendency in our social fabric where open spaces are not appreciated. Lack of appreciation leads to lack of demand. When there is no demand, planners of our urban spaces will not give it too.”

Commenting on ways to rethink about our public spaces, to make the city more pedestrian friendly, Uma stated, “our industrial parks spread across the city should collaborate with GBA as their understanding of the local conditions and needs are high and would facilitate a more appropriate, speedy action and redressal of issues faced, besides creating a more pedestrian friendly neighbourhood.” Naresh added, “We cannot have patchwork solution to address the ails of the city. It calls for a mindset change, from projects to framework to bring in effective solutions where the framework provides the common standards that need to be adhered. This also aids in allocating resources in accordance. The Ejjipura flyover in Koramangala is a classic example of what happens when you think as

a project rather than a framework. However we need to commend the administration for putting up an Urban Design Cell, which is a first in the country.”

Summed up Maheshwar Rao, “we need to have a neighbourhood plan. We can make a big difference by addressing the open spaces available in each neighbourhood and develop them. A huge amount of attention is required to be given to infrastructure, that includes addressing air quality, good public transport, good quality roads, pedestrianisation, a proper design approach to building our city, and most importantly a sea change in our attitude towards how we handle garbage. In short, cleanliness should be apparent across the city.”

### THE MISTRY WAY

The evening went on to host yet another enthralling interaction to recall four decades of Architectural Practice of one of the icons of Bengaluru, Late Architect Sharukh Mistry. Recollecting the much-loved architect’s approach, design and sensitivity to life and people were Architects Sandeep Umapathy and Sunandha Radhakrishnan, both Associates at Mistry Architects. The interaction had them recounting many anecdotes which spoke of the ‘Mistry Way’ of doing things.

Architect Sandeep narrated his first interaction with Sharukh, where he nervously rustled up all his thoughts and skills to be ready to answer the questions that he expected to come firing in. But what greeted him were three questions from Sharukh; ‘Do you know to drive, swim and drink.’ “When I told him I could do none of them, Sharukh gave me four months to learn all three, offering his help with the last to make me a ‘responsible drinker’!”.

Co-founder of Mistry Architects, Architect Renu Mistry and Sharukh firmly believed that building a team is most important and precedes building anything else; where everyone’s voice is heard, collaborated,

which created an atmosphere that was sans fear, inhibitions, even for youngsters to share their thoughts, ideas. This translated into the work that came up, pointed Sandeep. “This also built the trust which is again most required in a workspace. For Sharukh and the Practice as a whole, sustainability was not a buzzword to follow but one that manifested in the design through humility, as a mindset—not as a checklist that needed to be ticked”.

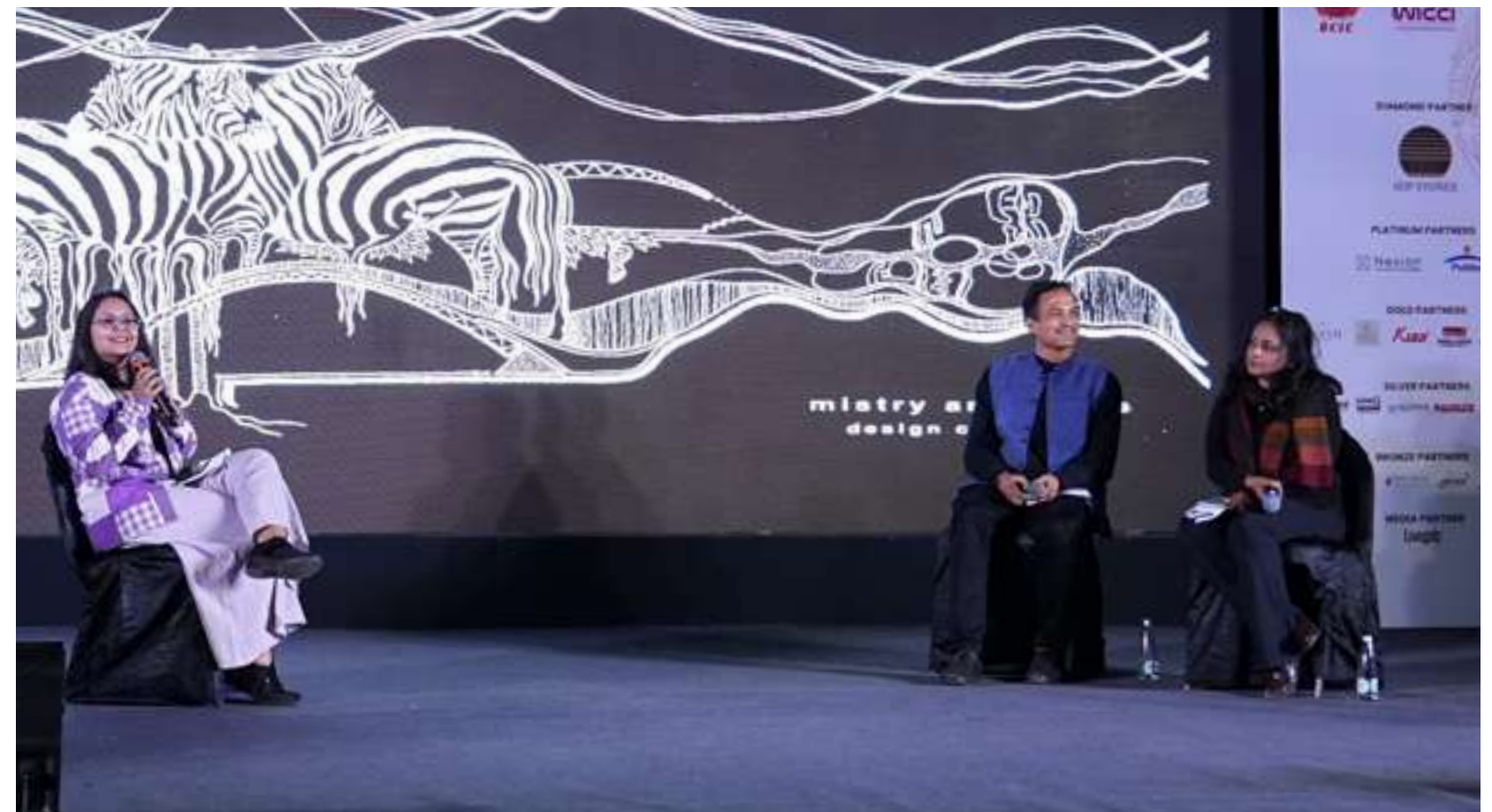
Empathy was another chief plank that the Mistry Way rested on, where it accounted for the lifestyle, the experience of the people, filtering in automatically into the design approach. Renu Mistry was always practical in her approach to design, carving out most efficient spaces even out of the smallest sites that came up for design, while Sharukh’s approach was “larger than life, going beyond the brief with big ideologies of saving the planet fused into it.” With both approaching from two different spectrums while sharing the same ideology, the learning curve and the values gleaned, were immense for those working with both, recounted Sandeep.

Sunandha compared the Mistry office to a banyan tree, where the founders feature as the canopy and trunk, sheltering, while designers come in, drop their roots to go deep and wide while being nourished under its shade. “The work atmosphere is one that engages with nature”, she added, elaborating further on the community projects that Mistry Architects was involved in to make a difference to the

lives of those still caught up at the bottom rung of the ladder, including building institutions to address rural education such as the Agasthya Foundation.

“The issue of context, culture and place come into play strongly in these projects besides the added layer of catering to those who have faced many travails, such as destitute women, orphaned children in the SOS Children’s Villages, whose needs are kept squarely in focus while coming up with the design.” It is about questioning ourselves, “do we want to build for people and the planet or do we want to build for screenshots or for lived experiences. This drives our design”, Sunandha summed up the design intent and approach of the ‘Mistry Way’. “Every project is grounded in context, the design explicitly asking, what does this land want to become” added Sandeep. “The goal is, should we shape buildings or should we shape the future.”

Speaking on their experience at Mistry Architects were other leading architects of Bengaluru. “For Sharukh and Renu it was about connecting to people rather than building structures. Their buildings spoke about the people who used them”, stated Architect Arjun Nambisan. “What Sharukh taught was not just how to go about building structures but also how to build each other with generosity, trust and resilience”, added Architect Arun Balan. The evening culminated in a gala dinner for all the members.



The Mistry Way--Ar. Sandeep Umapathy, Ar. Sunandha Radhakrishnan

### Day Three: EMERGING TECHNIQUES, ALTERNATE METHODOLOGIES

The third day of the design festival opened up to host a day long seminar on emerging construction technologies and alternate methodologies of construction. The morning witnessed engrossing topics for discussion such as precast construction technology becoming the way forward, the fast emerging techniques of 3D printing and robotic construction as well as AI in construction. A live demonstration of 3D printing at the venue left the participants enthralled.

Adithya VS, CEO and Co-Founder of Tvasta took the audience through the techniques of concrete 3D printing which is emerging as a future construction technique. His presentation veered around digitisation of construction industry, reducing reliance on manual labour and heavy construction machinery. Pointing that investment has doubled in this segment over the last decade, he opined that sustainability factors, desire for lean construction techniques will propel this segment in the coming years.

Elaborating on the present widely used precast construction technology was Srinivas Reddy, MD, ARTO. He took the audience through a lengthy presentation of this emerging technology which has become the defining element of current and future large constructions, dwelling on the advantages of the same and the

impact on the construction site, the duration period of construction, the uniformity, quality, precision that came with it, along with the less reliance on huge volume of manual labour which was the case earlier.

The afternoon was host to a session with Architect Vinu Daniel, who has almost become legendary with his unconventional construction methodologies and sustainable approach. Presenting Wallmakers' works was Architect Preksha Shah, taking the audience through a spectacular journey of the stage-by-stage process adopted in the three projects identified for elaboration. Each project had a diametrically different site condition, functional expectations and each was responded to with an extremely creative, innovative idea, both in design and material use.

The end of the presentation hosted an interaction with the master himself, where Vinu patiently, many times, humorously responded to the multiple questions posed by the audience. A panel discussion further ensued, with yet another icon of Bengaluru, Architect Senthil Kumar, renowned for his brick vaults, joining in. The session was moderated by Architect Prathima Seethur.

The day long seminar ended with a scintillating session hosted by WICCI on Women in Architecture. The panel discussion, moderated by Architect Apurva Bose Dutta, hosted as panellists, Architects Vijaya Bhargava, Gunjan Das, Kiran Keswani and



Adithya VS, CEO and Co-Founder of Tvasta



Srinivas Reddy, MD, ARTO elaborating on Precast construction technology



Panel discussion hosting Ar. Vinu Daniel, Ar. Preksha Shah, Ar. Senthil Kumar Doss, Nandhini Sundar, moderated by Ar. Prathima Seethur



3D Printing live demonstration



Lambani Dance at the Artisan Corner



WICCI Panel discussion hosting Architects Gunjan Das, Vijaya Bhargava, Kiran Keswani and Champa HS, moderated by Ar. Apurva Bose Dutta



The literally unforgettable fashion extravaganza not only had leading models along with Mr India walking the ramp, enthralling the audience, but also the members of IIID BRC putting up a stunning show, with creativity peaking.

**PAGE 24, 25**  
*The Grand Fashion Extravaganza lit up the stage and the evening, curated by Ar. Thomas Abraham and Prasad Bidappa*



Champa HS. The evening was host to an astounding fashion show, 'Woven Extravaganza', curated by Architect Thomas Abraham and Prasad Bidappa. The literally unforgettable fashion extravaganza not only had leading models along with Mr India walking the ramp, enthraling the audience, but also the members of IIID BRC putting up a stunning show, with creativity peaking. The icing on the cake was the final walk down the ramp by none other than the Managing Committee of IIID BRC.

**Day Four:  
NAMMA MANE AND WAF**

The final day of the four day design festival offered yet another delectable feast to both public and the design fraternity, with an extremely informative session on the issues faced by citizens while venturing to build their individual residences. Anchored by Architects Gunjan Das and Kavita Sastry, the session answered multiple questions posed by the public on the need for architect intervention, the role of design, the unending bureaucratic formalities and approvals that need to be fulfilled before commencing construction, to mention a few. The day was also host to presentations and exhibits

of award winning residential projects curated by the Indian Institute of Architects, Karnataka Chapter.

The day had its equal share of cultural intervention, with a day long dance performance by Lambani women from North Karnataka, the spectacle not only proving to be vibrant in colour and rhythmic performance, but prompting the visitors and members to join in to shake a leg.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the WAF shortlisted projects from Bengaluru along with the presentation of the winning project from GNA at the World Architecture Festival 2025. Presenting their respective WAF shortlisted projects were Architects Gunjan Das of NG Associates, Akshay Heranjal of Purple Ink Studio, Smaran Mallesh of Cadence Architects. Presenting the winner at WAF 2025 was Architect Gayathri Shetty of GNA, the project winning under the Unbuilt Category.

The evening also hosted the release of 'The Ancestral Homes of Tulunadu', an architectural book that documented and celebrated



Panel discussion hosting the shortlisted winners and winner of WAF, Architects Smaran Mallesh, Gayathri Shetty, Gunjan Das, Akshay Heranjal, moderated by Ar. Swapnil Valvatkar



Ar. Kavita Sastry and Ar. Gunjan Das at the Namma Mane



Ar. Jignesh Modi, President, IIID National making a point



Musical concert



Ar. Jignesh Modi felicitated by Ar. Vishwanath and Ar. Zubair



Ar. Mueen Haris and Ar. Rakesh Kodoth from IIA Karnataka Chapter at the Namma Mane



Ar. Jignesh Modi felicitating Ar. Gayathri Shetty. Also on stage is Ar. Vishwanath

The final day of the four day design festival offered yet another delectable feast to both public and the design fraternity, with an extremely informative session on the issues faced by citizens while venturing to build their individual residences.

the ancestral homes of South Karnataka, some of which date back to a few hundred years. The book, conceptualised and written by the Heritage Conservation department of GNA, was elaborated by Architect Sharath Chandra, who heads the conservation initiatives of the firm.

Designuru 5.0 came to a close with an inspirational address by Architect Jignesh Modi, National President, IIID, followed by Architect Vishwanath, Chairperson IIID BRC tracing the many months of preparation that went into hosting the spellbinding four day design festival at the Chitra Kala Parishad. Vishwanath thanked all the members and participants, with a special thanks extended to the Inner Circle Partners, the Managing Committee and the design fraternity which came together to participate, lend their hands to make the design festival an unforgettable experience. The evening concluded with a traditional *Elai Oota* dinner, cementing the memorable four days of design extravaganza. ◆



Winning follies felicitated



# SDP STONES

ITALIAN MARBLE | TRAVERTINE | ONYX | QUARTZITE

CRAFTING ELEGANCE IN EVERY STONE

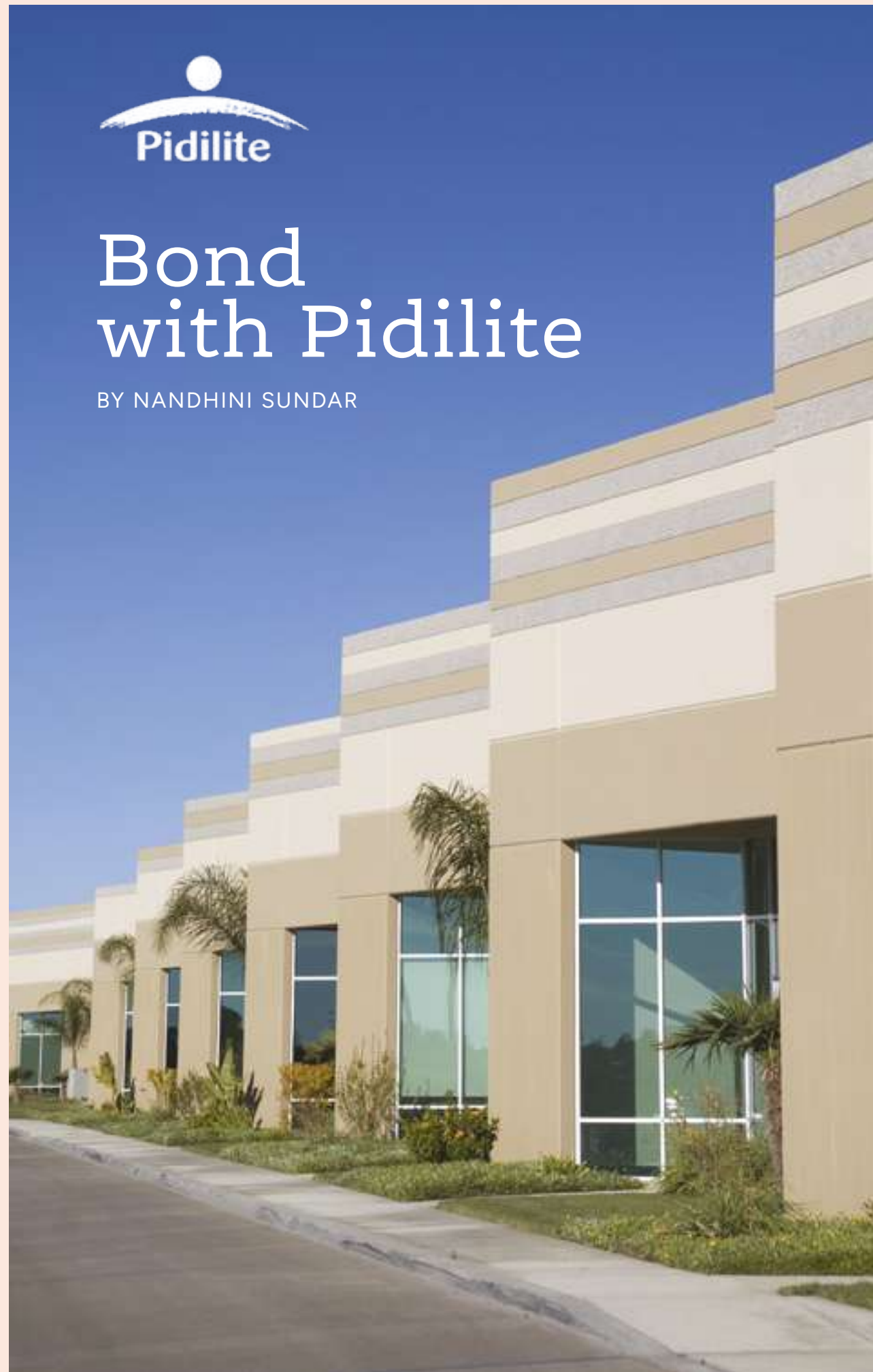
Address : SY No. 217,218/1 E, Shoolagiri Village, Hosur, Krishnagiri,  
Dist. - 635109 Tamil Nadu - INDIA | Mob : +91 98290 72224

 SDP Stones

 sdp\_stones



info@sdpstones.com | [www.sdpstones.com](http://www.sdpstones.com)



It is a journey that began in 1959 in Mumbai, progressing thence to make adhesive synonymous with its brand name, Fevicol. Pidilite Industries Ltd, has witnessed an extraordinary growth, crossing many milestones and expanding its footprint to cover a range of segments specific to construction and interior solutions over the last six and a half decades.

In 2024 March, **Pidilite Professional Solutions** was formed with the specific intent to work closely with Architects, Interior Designers and Structural Consultants where the participation can commence at the design stage. Working with this strong intent, the company has emerged as a unique solution provider for all the construction and interior solutions such as waterproofing, flooring, façade, tiling, grouts, stone care, sealants, speciality adhesives and wood finish works that come up in the construction and interior design industry.

## Why Pidilite Professional Solutions

A built space comes with many challenges that require address and these call for appropriate solutions to be in place to offer a remedy that is not only complete but also long lasting.

### Comprehensive solutions

**Pidilite Professional Solutions** offers a range of building solutions that span from waterproofing, durable flooring for industrial spaces, a perfect, long lasting bonding material for diverse surfaces, natural stone care, insulation and façade solutions. Catering to these varied requirements and segments are its diverse product offerings, Dr Fixit, Dr Cipy, Roff and Tenax solutions, Unofin, Wallace and ICA, each unique and explicitly formulated to solve specific as well as a wide range of issues pertaining to the built structure.

### Customised interventions

Given the objective of connecting with the design professionals at the design stage, **Pidilite Professional Solutions** lends itself to extensive customised solutions based on site conditions as well as unique design requirements. The solutions are keyed into the project at the design stage, making the interventions more effective by ensuring the appropriate solutions are in place at every stage as the structure evolves.

### Overseeing execution

With the involvement occurring at the design stage, **Pidilite Professional Solutions** offers its professionals to audit and supervise the execution of the solutions sought till it is completed. This handholding process ensures the solutions are executed in the right manner, increasing the effectiveness and lifetime of the interventions.

### Trained assistance

Where required, trained, inhouse application professionals are available to assist in the execution of the solutions in the project, increasing the effectiveness as well as the lifetime of the solutions sought.

### Sampling before execution

Each site comes with its own unique challenges and this calls for not only choosing the appropriate application but also customised site specific solutions. **Pidilite Professional Solutions** firmly believes in doing sampling at the site to ensure the solution selected is of the perfect fit.

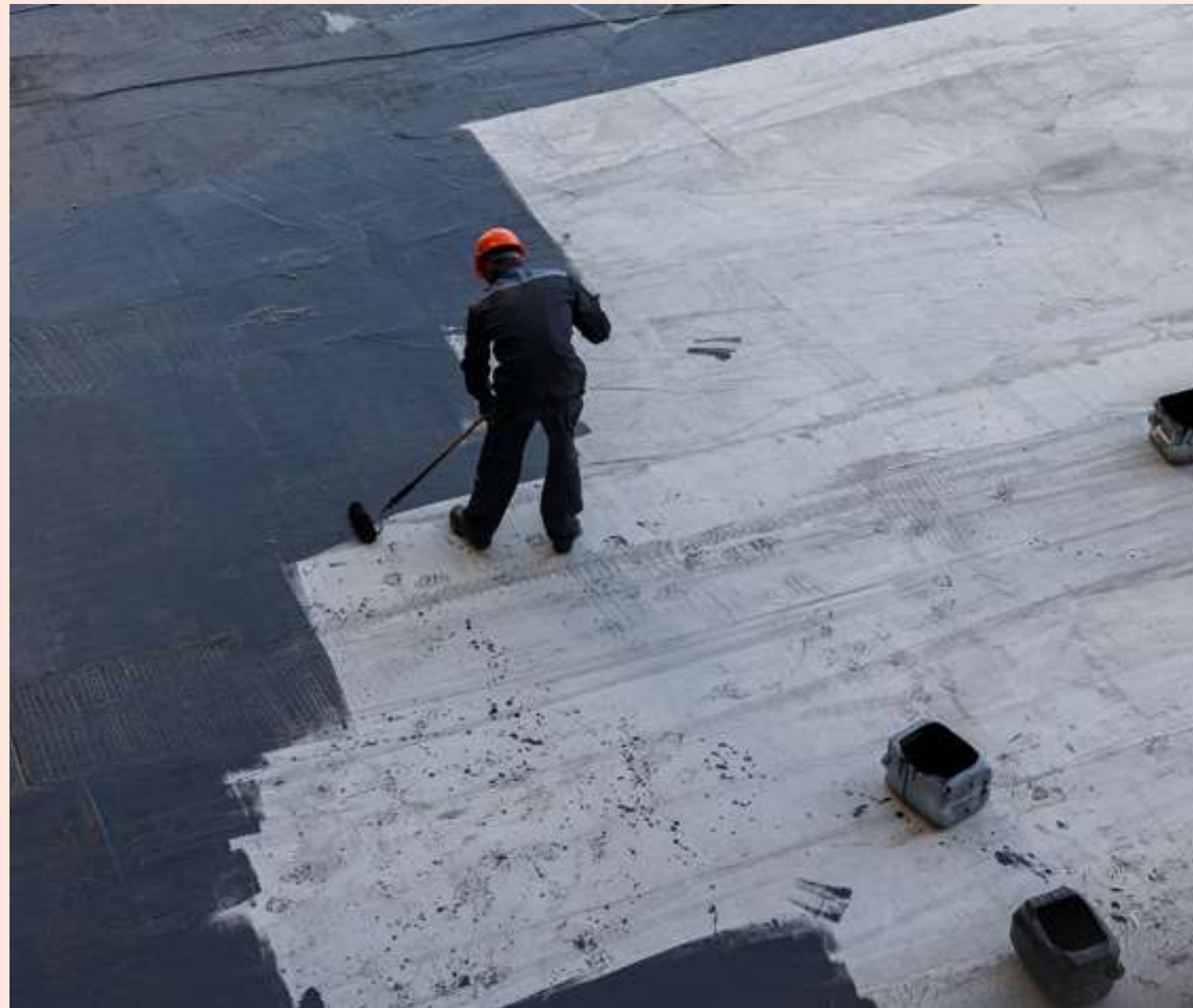
### Post care presence

**Pidilite Professional Solutions** takes its presence beyond execution of a solution, by facilitating customers to reach out to the helpline desk in case of any concerns post application.

# Extensive range of applications

The range of solutions, applications on offer from **Pidilite Professional Solutions** are extensive, each meticulously produced to address the unique, singular requirements of each site. For instance, its 25 year old brand, 'Dr Fixit' is widely popular across the construction industry for its long lasting waterproofing solutions and applications. Similarly, the brand Dr Cipy provides customised decorative binding and surface solutions that come with a long life span. Likewise, the Roff and Tenax brands serve as a much sought after adhesive solution for both internal and external surfaces while Unofin features as an exclusive plastering solution for the exteriors. Catering to green sentiments are the solutions offered by Wallace while ICA looks into the specific requirements of wood used in construction.

Application of Dr Fixit FlexiPU500GC



## Dr Fixit

In keeping with its striking name, the brand offers an excellent waterproofing solution, from the basement of a building to its terrace, covering flooring, retaining walls, podium, terrace to water tanks. The brand also offers special bonding solutions for dissimilar materials that are not easy to bind.

### DR FIXIT FLEXIPU500GC

Irrespective of whether the moisture features on the terrace or a retaining wall or a podium, Dr Fixit FlexiPU500GC literally fixes the problem, serving as a most unique solution. The efficacy of the application is only dependent on ensuring there is no standing water while the application is done. The coating serves as a flawless waterproofing element, ridding the structural portion off water seepage.

## DR FIXIT TANK PRO

This differential solution to address water seepage from the walls and floor of a water tank, proves to be merely a seven-day duration waterproofing solution as against the conventional 28-day intervention. The conventional approach involves four layers of treatment inside a water tank post construction to ensure it is leak proof. As against this, Dr Fixit Tank Pro requires no plastering, no screed protection, no tiling, no food grade epoxy coating. It comes in as a direct application on the walls and flooring of the water tank, thus featuring as a hassle free, yet leak proof waterproofing solution.



Dr Fixit Tank Pro application inside a tank

## TRIFLIX SOLUTION

When two materials that need binding are dissimilar, the sewing together may give way after a period, calling for repeated interventions. However, the Triflix Solution serves as an excellent binding product to stitch together different materials such as wood and metal, metal and concrete, metal and glass. Besides taking the credit for being the only such solution available to bind dissimilar materials, the Triflix Solution also facilitates the critical binding at junctions of joints, ensuring no gaps prevail and it is a complete waterproof solution.



Binding with Triflix Solution

## WONDERPROOF 100

Featuring as a hybrid PU solution for exposed roofs, Wonderproof 100 is used as an application for existing terraces that have encountered leakage and require strong waterproofing. The application is long lasting, reporting zero seepage of water post application.



Wonderproof 100 application on exposed roof

## Dr Cipy

Being a resinous flooring system where the application is most suited for industry flooring and high traffic commercial spaces, Dr Cipy is both durable and attractive, featuring as a decorative, durable industrial flooring solution that is also anti-skid, a primary requirement especially for industry shop floors. Dr Cipy is available in a range of industrial solutions that feature as epoxy, PU, PU concrete, Inorthane solution. The fast setting, hard wearing, self-smoothing Inorthane flooring application is most sought after where durable, hygienic, self-levelling surfaces are solicited.

## TERRAZZO FLOORING SOLUTION

Lending itself to heavy customisation in terms of design patterns used for the floors, this decorative flooring solution is resistant to stain and chemicals emanating from industrial usage. Given its low maintenance factor permitting heavy usage in terms of high footfall as in a public area, it becomes a popular solution that is sought after.



Terrazzo Flooring executed inside an airport

It is highly suited for high traffic areas such as entrance lobbies, coming with strong characteristics such as scratch resistance, high compressive strength, zero cracks and breakage. Capping this is its feature of being a green certified product that can be customised to meet individual leanings.

## DECK FLOOR

A protective application for car parking spaces and open area decks, the Deck Floor is an anti-skid coat that can be applied on the concrete floor. Available as epoxy, epoxy PU and PU, it serves as a fine protective layer over the concrete, preventing cracking, staining, chipping besides ensuring reduced normal wear and tear. The anti-skid property also ensures the cars do not skid in case of an oil spill in the car park. This low maintenance solution comes with the added advantage of having epoxy PU as part of the solution which is available only with **Pidilite Professional Solutions**.



Deck Floor coating applied inside basement car park

## Roff and Tenax

An application that mimics cement fixing, Roff and Tenax solutions are much more durable than conventional methods. The bonding achieved is 100 per cent when this solution is used for tile fixing, be it horizontal or in vertical scale, both interiors and exteriors. What is more, the tile can be fixed on any surface, be it metal, wood, concrete, even glass. The Roff solution is available as tile grouting and tile adhesive. Tenax serves as an unmatched natural stone care solution, where it protects the porous stone from staining when laid over concrete. Soft stones such as marble are further protected by sealing cracks that ensue while handling.

### ROFF MASTERFIX

Featuring as a two-component based PU material, Roff Masterfix is a special adhesive to glue a tile on any surface, both interiors and exteriors, where cement fails to bind. The adhesive is applicable for both horizontal and vertical tile fixing.

### ROFF STARLIKE

This two-component epoxy grout, patented with quartz technology, comes with the advantage of being UV resistant, stain and acid resistant. The solution, applicable for both internal and external spaces, is also easy to execute for an applicator, in comparison with other epoxy grouts.



Application of Roff Masterfix

### TENAX ANTI-EFFLUENCE

A water based solution used as a back sealer for natural stones, Tenax Anti-effluence prevents effluences from penetrating the porous stone when laid over a concrete surface. This prevents staining of the stone besides aiding to preserve its natural beauty without entry of contaminants.

### TENAX PROSEAL

A solvent based waterproof sealer, Tenax Proseal coats the surface of the natural stone to prevent water from seeping in when used as a cladding material in the exteriors. Tenax Proseal also offers a range of sealers to seal the natural cracks that emerge in natural stone, besides aiding to densify the stone, enhance the colours as well as polish and make it stain proof for low maintenance usage.



Tenax Anti-effluence back sealer for natural stone



Roff Starlike used for tile grouting



Tenax Proseal to waterproof exteriors



Textured with UnoFin Select



Insulated with Wallace

Application of UnoFin Prime for the facade



Low VOC PU coating  
Aqua Bella

## UnoFin

An exterior wall solution, UnoFin comes with the unique advantage of requiring no plastering, no putty, no primer and paint for a raw constructed wall. Featuring in a range of shades, the colours remain fast, with an expected duration of 25 years. It comes with the added benefit of combining a waterproof solution, along with being dust proof. With factory-controlled quality being in place, the wall solution is also highly crack resistant.

### UnoFin PRIME

Featuring as a combination of lime and cement based application, UnoFin Prime eliminates the four layers of finishing post the erection of a wall. What is required is merely direct application of the solution on the brick, hollow block or concrete wall to bring in the desired finish. With nil plastering, putty, primer or paint needed over the raw surface, the UnoFin Prime is offered in two finishes—scraped finish, floated finish.

### UnoFin SELECT

A cement based coloured textural solution, UnoFin Select is a finishing solution used for the external façade to lend a stone chipped finish to the walls while serving as a protective layer against water ingress.

## Wallace

An excellent green building solution, riding on the sustainability plank, with the ECSBC mark to its credit, Wallace serves as a fine insulating material, both against the extremities of heat and cold. The finish is also used directly on the brick blocks and requires no plaster, the exterior coat being done with Acrylic Renders. Wallace also packs in the qualities of UnoFin, making it more comprehensive and much sought after.

## ICA

A solution explicitly formulated to be used on wood and metal, the application features as both water based coat and PU coat. Available in gloss and matt finish and a range of colours, the water based solution comes with the added advantage of packing in sustainable features. Applicable on interior and exterior wood flooring and wall surfaces as well as wood furniture, ICA offers a protective layer for both veneer and solid wood surfaces.

The exterior applications come with the added advantage of UV protection, where the finish does not fade or crack in sunlight. It also serves as a shield against temperature changes, thus preventing the wood from expanding and contracting during seasonal changes. Apart from providing waterproofing solution, the application is also fungus proof and termite resistant. Available in multiple colours and textures, it comes in a range of finishes such as stone, metal, thus meeting unique aesthetic aspirations.

## AQUA BELLA

A water based finish, this PU of ICA is green certified, coming with low VOC. Being a water based product, the density is thin, enabling easy application, through brushing or spraying. With zero emission of fumes or odour, the application meets all criteria for health requirements, making it safe for use in interiors as well as exteriors. With a long lasting finish, the application comes with the advantage of being scratch and stain resistant. The product is finely suited for hospitality sector as well as health related projects.

## Launching anew

**Pidilite Professional Solutions** has launched a few more products to add to its unique range of applications to address the construction and interior solutions requirements.

### 3D TEXTURE PLUGIN

Many a time, the colours and textures laid out in the drawings, the 3D renders do not match the actual execution on site and this can be a cause for concern. The newly launched 3D Texture Plugin is explicitly designed to ensure the final actual finish and colours match what was given in the 3D renders.



For 3D Plugin Texture – A dedicated link is created for the 3D Plugin Texture, allowing designers to access and use ICA product textures. Link - <https://3dtexture.icapidilite.com>



# Restoring a forgotten heritage

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR

FEATURING AR. KALPANA RAMESH



The site was a garbage dump, with mounds of construction debris, mud, household waste, plastic waste filling in, with sewage also filtering in through the open outlets bordering it. Amidst this overflowing trash could be seen small portions of old stone structural members that owed their date of origin back to a few centuries. What lay beneath this enormous pile of waste was a forgotten history as well as a source of life that had sustained the neighbourhood centuries back.

When **Architect, Interior Designer and Water Conservationist, Kalpana Ramesh** of The Rainwater Project stumbled upon the Bansilalpet Stepwell in Secunderabad, she realised she was not only staring at history but also one of the key sources of groundwater which was fast perishing, the water tables sinking to dangerously low levels in not just the city, but the entire state of Telangana.

What then started as a conservation of a historical edifice and a source of life, then became a movement to now encompass the restoration of over 320 stepwells across Telangana where they currently feature as ongoing projects initiated under The Rainwater Project. The Rainwater project is a Design Enterprise working for social causes focussed on water conservation.

“Water is the life source and sustainability in water will need to be addressed both through built and unbuilt projects so as to impact its availability”, opines Kalpana. “Through SAHE, our NGO, we had initiated water conservation a decade back to create communities that can function with zero dependence on water tankers.” She



Mounds of plastic and solid waste that needed removal

had commenced this by creating a 25000-litre holding capacity sump in the basement of her residence which was part of a large housing colony, “in tune with the traditional wisdom practised in the erstwhile Havelis”. The sump served as a rainwater collector with coal and sand filters in place to address the purity of water collected.

“Besides collection of rainwater, it is also imperative to ensure wastage of water is stemmed in terms of greywater discharge”, she points. These measures along with bringing in place 26 rainwater pits, 16 injection wells in the housing colony paid back amply “during the drought year of 2016 when the complex was self-sufficient for water.”

## Extending the footprint

The success of her housing colony intervention prompted Kalpana to approach the state government to do similar rainwater harvesting under the existing flyovers in Secunderabad. This took her thence to the Bansilalpet Stepwell. “All that could be deciphered from the mounds of garbage piles was an old pulley system, a pointer to the forgotten history buried underneath.” Kalpana took up the task of clearing the garbage, “also ridding the location of unsocial activities that was rampant around the unsanitary site”.

While the municipality division and local corporator aided immensely in removing over 2000 tonnes of solid waste that included plastic, household waste, accumulated mud and debris along with sucking out the water that was contaminated with sewage spilling in from around the site, ‘it was pure intuition and a decade of work done in water conservation’ that aided Kalpana to prepare for what finally emerged. “To start with, we were clueless where to begin and how to execute the intervention. It was a learning process that came up with every step taken”, she adds.

## Tackling the social fabric

The first step for Kalpana was about raising the required funds, from donors as well as the government to commence the work.

The second was to address the social issues that came up, given that the neighbourhood was home to different religious cultures. The Anganwadi next to the stepwell was already in a dilapidated state and home to nefarious activities at dusk which also needed address. “One part was about reclaiming the site to start the restoration and the other was to coordinate with each department in the municipality to address the infrastructure and utilities around the site, starting from the roads, the neighbourhood park, the street lights, the sewage pipelines”, lists Kalpana.

These interventions included the almost impossible task of shifting a small temple in the premises which had been there for a few decades. The targeted interventions were successfully achieved within the stipulated timespan of 11 months, with the area around the stepwell pedestrianised, a multi-purpose space built for hosting a museum, art exhibits, meetings and curated events, the neighbourhood seeing a facelift and redevelopment to the point of



Tracing the stages of restoration



Capturing the ongoing restoration

boosting its micro economy. “What came about was not only the restoration of the centuries old stepwell but also a transformation of the social life for the different communities housed around the site”, she adds.

The sensitive restoration to not only restore a forgotten history as well as revive the natural recharging of ground water in the area, but also transform the site to become a cultural hub, has ensured the Stepwell generates its own funds for its continuous upkeep. “The Stepwell has transformed into a tourist centre and a hub to host cultural events. Regular visits of students from educational institutions further makes it a point of awareness and learning on water conservation, a much needed factor for future sustenance.”

## Initiating the restoration

The eleven month long restoration process began with clearing the humongous pile of garbage, with the government pitching in to dig out over 40 per cent of it “while the rest we had to dig out though the municipality aided in carting them out”. This was followed by pumping out the black water, desilting the well, disinfecting the shaft as the garbage had leached into the groundwater.

“The removal of debris and black water revealed the actual depth of the stepwell which is 53 feet. The clearing of the silt also opened up the aquifers in the stepwell resulting in fresh water seeping in through the stones. The inflow of water was so strong that overnight the well was filling up 5 to 6 feet”, says Kalpana.

Interestingly, the excavation of the accumulated garbage was majorly done by women numbering 70. “We were clueless as to what lay beneath or when a stone member would collapse and the entire operation had to be done with meticulous care using least force and women were considered ideal for such an intervention”, she elaborates.

The next step was to initiate condition mapping of the structure by **Conservation Architect GSV Suryanarayana Murthy of Kshetra**. Incidentally, the only guide for doing this mapping were the historical maps that were referred to. The beams and pillars on one side of the stepwell were already in a crumbled, collapsed state. The existing, still standing beams had many cracks, with the roof members needing to be strengthened or erected where they had fully crumbled. “Half the structure was already seriously damaged or not existing anymore and the restoration involved redoing them based on the still standing structures”, explains Suryanarayana.

## Rebuilding the edifice

The restoration began with first cleaning the bottom portions of the Mantapa, strengthening the existing structural columns and roof joints. “Where the structure had crumbled totally, it was rebuilt using new material, replicating the original structure of the stepwell.

“Half the structure was already seriously damaged or not existing anymore and the restoration involved redoing them based on the still standing structures”, explains Suryanarayana.



Work progress during restoration



Rebuilding portions partly or fully damaged



However, to retain the authenticity of the heritage structure, the reconstructed new portions were revealed in their new state while the restored existing members appear distinct in their original state”, clarifies Suryanarayana. The crumbled stone columns were thus rebuilt along with the stone roof and ornamentation in the form of sculptural details, mirroring the portions that were successfully salvaged.

“This involved condition mapping of the site and structure to decipher the quantity of material required to restore the edifice. The process of cleaning, procurement of new material and reconstructing the stone Mantapa in line with what originally prevailed, took over four months”, states Suryanarayana. The stepwell had seven columns replaced which had totally collapsed, along with 25 damaged roof members redone using new material. “Only the stones that were not damaged were reused. All that was broken were discarded.”

### Manpower challenge

Getting labour that was skilled and knowledgeable to work on conservation proved to be yet another challenge, hindering the progress. “The geometry, the dimensions had to be accurately matched and the picture of the original stepwell was the only guide to execute the work”, he states. Local labour had to be trained to do the restoration and “their learning is on the site, based on specific site requirements as the concept of conservation experts is a myth when it comes to labour”, he laments. The stones on the retaining walls also had to be individually cleaned, pointed before the use of lime plaster to replicate the erstwhile structure.

Besides the stone columns and roof structure of the Mantapa, the brick parapet wall enclosing the stepwell had also collapsed,



Women workers restoring the structure



Ar. Kalpana Ramesh with the workers at site



Strengthening, rebuilding the structural members



Damaged structures recreated



Restored stepwell



Cultural events at the restored stepwell

with merely small portions of the original structure still remaining. This needed to be rebuilt, replicating what originally prevailed. The random rubble masonry structure of the stepwell came with lime plaster and the restoration required using a similar lime plaster. "The lime plaster again comes in three layers, the first rough layer filling in and covering the raw surface, the second layer being the finishing layer. The third, final layer of lime is referred to as the Cebara plaster where it is smooth in texture." An old pulley that resonated with past wells dating back over a century, was successfully sourced from a local antiquities market and installed in the Stepwell.

## Mood lighting

Post the successful structural intervention to restore the ancient stepwell, the heritage structure required appropriate lighting, especially if it had to serve as the planned cultural hub. Kalpana worked extensively with lighting designers to create a mood that would resonate with the diyas, the form of lighting used in the Stepwell in its ancient past.

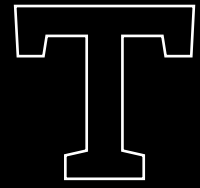
While the measures executed to turn the Stepwell into a cultural hub and become self-sustaining in its maintenance were successful, Kalpana was faced with yet another probability. That of garbage finding its way back into the precincts. She circumvented this possibility by installing high fencing around the Stepwell, so that it would be "physically impossible for anyone to throw garbage into the premises".

Given its dimensions of 100 x 120 feet, with a depth of 53 feet, the Bansilalpet Stepwell has the capacity to hold 35 lakh litres of water that stream in through the multiple aquifers lining it, which have now been opened. Besides serving as a captive space to harvest rainwater, the rejuvenation of the Stepwell has successfully

increased groundwater levels in the area, Kalpana points. "These ancient Stepwells are a core source of harvesting rainwater and replenishing groundwater to ensure the water table does not stand depleted as is the case currently", she fervently points.

Post her restoration work at Bansilalpet Stepwell, Kalpana has successfully revived and restored, to date, over 30 Stepwells in the state. The project is Winner of the prestigious Big 5 Construction Impact Award in Dubai under the Sustainable Initiative of Year Category. The project also is the Winner, IIID National Award 2022-25 under the Institutional & Civic Interiors Category. ✨

Project: **Bansilalpet Stepwell**  
 Design Firm: **The Rainwater Project**  
 Location: **Secunderabad**  
 Built area: **12000 Sqft**  
 Completion: **2023**  
 Design team : **Architect Kalpana Ramesh, Keshav, Sanjay Gupta, Tejaswini, Akhil, Bharghav**  
 Structural conservation: **Conservation Architect GSV Suryanarayana Murthy of Kshetra**  
 Material: **Granite, Lime Plaster**  
 Picture Credits : **The Rainwater project**  
 Awards : **Winner, Big 5 Construction Impact Award in Dubai under the Sustainable Initiative of Year Category. Winner, IIID National Award 2022-25 under the Institutional & Civic Interiors Category.**



# TRADE DIRECTORY

DEAR TRADE MEMBERS,

Team Antarya has an irresistible proposition for all the Institute of Indian Interior Designers Bangalore Regional Chapter (IIID BRC) trade members where they can seamlessly connect with the design fraternity through our design magazine Antarya.

We propose to feature a trade directory in every issue of Antarya going forward, where the participating trade members can list their company and products to enable architects and interior designers to use the same as a ready reckoner. The engagement of each trade member participant will be for four consecutive issues of Antarya spanning a year.

As members are aware, Antarya has been serving as a fertile connect with the design fraternity, not only with members of IIID BRC but across the country, since January 2013. Antarya has a captive audience of architects and interior designers from across the country through its hard copies circulation and extensive digital presence. The projects and designers featured in every issue serve as the icons of architecture, not just in the country but internationally too.

Every issue of Antarya is based on a specific theme around which the cover story rests, along with unforgettable features of master architects from Karnataka and rest of India, where each has left an indelible mark on architecture. The features are carefully selected and the projects diligently assessed to bring in only the very best of designs, making every issue of Antarya a collector's magazine. The design magazine has also proved to be an immense learning curve for young architects, with architecture schools eagerly seeking every issue for their libraries.

Starting 2021, team Antarya decided to go a step further and engage IIID BRC trade members through a Trade Directory, so that a mutually beneficial connect is established between the trade members and the design fraternity.

## MODE OF PARTICIPATION

1. The participation from the trade members will be in the form of insertions in the trade directory about their company and their products under the defined colour coded categories.
2. Every page will have 5 listings, each coming in the size of 5cm x 20cm
3. Based on the products, the listing will be done under Colour Coded Categories
4. A person can also choose 2 modules instead of 1.
5. Trade Members are to provide their company and branding details to fit the module.
6. Antarya will develop a QR Code for all Participant Trade Members; this will lead readers to their website. This special feature will enhance their communication.

## CATEGORIES

FLOORING | WINDOW | TILES | FURNITURE & FURNISHING  
 SANITARY WARE | MARBLE & GRANITES | PLYWOOD  
 KITCHEN | DESIGNER FANS | WATER PROOFING | BLINDS  
 ARTWORK ITEMS | LIGHTING | ELEVATORS  
 AIR-CONDITIONS & WATER HEATER

## TARIFF DETAILS (Special Rates for IIID Members Only)

5 CM X 20 CM = INR 15000+ GST  
 10.5 CM X 20 CM = INR 25000+ GST

### CONTACT

VIKRAM SAMPATH  
 T: +91 99020 21443 | E: livingelements.vikram@gmail.com

### MARLIN PANIKULAM

T: +91 99454 51086 | E: marlin@acegrouparchitects.com



## Crafting Elegance In Every Stone

- Curated Marble Selection
- Nature's Finest Stone
- Refined Surface Finishes
- Trusted Craftsmanship Legacy

Address : SY No. 217,218/1 E, Shoolagiri Village, Hosur, Krishnagiri, Dist. - 635109 Tamil Nadu - INDIA | Mob : +91 98290 72224

SDP Stones | info@sdpstones.com  
 sdp\_stones | www.sdpstones.com



## Your Expert Partner from Sketch to Site



### Expert Brands for Construction and Interior Solutions

- DR FIXIT** | Expert Waterproofing Solutions
- ROF** | Precision Tile & Stone Fixing Systems
- TENAX** | Specialized Stone Care Solutions
- STARLIKE** | Decorative Epoxy Grout
- WalAce** | External Wall Insulation & Finishing
- UnoFin** | Decorative Waterproofing Render
- cupy** | Specialized Flooring Systems
- Araldite** | The Heavy - Weight Adhesive
- ICA** | Premium Wood Coatings

Reach out to us at pps@pidilite.com

“Architecture is the learned game, correct & magnificent, of forms assembled in the light.”  
 – Le Corbusier



**3D Textures**

A collection that brings the best inspiration of contemporary Italian design to every type of space and environment.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FURNISHED HOME AND A FINISHED HOME.



**HOME BY  
KOSENE**

WHERE ELEGANCE FINDS A HOME

At Home By Kosene, we bring together premium soft furnishings like **curtains, upholstery, wallpapers, blinds, wooden flooring, CARPETS and luxury bedding** to transform spaces into experiences.

Every element is thoughtfully selected to create interiors that feel timeless, refined and deeply personal.

For homeowners, architects and designers who believe a home should be as exceptional as the people who live in it.

**VISIT OUR EXPERIENCE CENTRE**

#57 Pheonix Building, 1st Floor, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore (Above Airtel Showroom), 560038.

Connect with us: 91 7204099706 | @home\_bykosene

Store Timings: Monday - Saturday | 10.30 am - 7.30 pm



Scan to follow



moonandbaker.com

✓ 60ft wide door opening  
✓ 100% uninterrupted openings  
✓ 100% security screening without bars or grilles

An Australian product that has been researched and developed over the last 105 years.

**Moon & Baker Window and Door Suites:**

- Chain Winder Awning Windows
- Counter Balanced Double Hung
- Air-o-flow Windows
- Secure-view Casement
- Gas Strut Awning Windows
- Sliding Windows
- Window Wall
- Sliding Doors [3 Track/5 Track]
- Bi-fold Doors
- Hinged Doors
- Corner Sliding Door



Bring your design concepts to life

”I said I do not want to make a building that looks like a building.”- BV doshi

“A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines.”  
- Frank Lloyd Wright

**KICH**<sup>®</sup> KICH है तो BEST है

34 years of Excellence

India's Largest Manufacturer & Exporter of Stainless Steel Architectural Hardware & Railing

Karnataka : +91 94481 17529  
Website : [www.kichindia.com](http://www.kichindia.com) | Helpline : 1800 212 3638

Contact Us @

+91 98864 46620  
raj@astronea.in

**Astronea**<sup>®</sup>  
ITALIAN WARDROBE CONCEPT

Mysore Rd,  
New Guddadahalli,  
Guddadahalli, Bengaluru,  
Karnataka 560026

**PASOLITE**

Create Unique Ambient Lighting For Your Home With The **PASOLITE**

www.pasolite.in

**Pasolite Electric co.**  
# 7, 14th Cross, Kilari Road, Bengaluru - 560 053, Customer Care : 080 - 22871845, pasolite@gmail.com

**TWIGGR**  
DESIGNS

Plywood  
Veneers  
Laminates  
Flooring  
Claddings  
Furniture  
Curated furnishings  
from Ayawi designs

**Wood & Metal**  
Metal Furniture Accessories

From concept to execution, we manage end-to-end projects, ensuring durability, elegance, and precision. With a team of skilled artisans and cutting-edge technology contemporary design.

91-76250 99069  
sr@woodandmetal.in

“To create, one must first question everything.”  
-Eileen Gray



# Natural Stone Theatre

Marble | Granite | Onyx | Travertine | Shellstone | Sandstone  
Limestone | Quartzite | Dolomite



**HMG**  
STONES  
Natural Forever

ISO 9001:2015 & 5S  
Certified Company

+91 9066 00 1111



**ARPITHA EXPORTS**

Arpitha Exports is a premier organization dedicated to delivering high-quality goods and innovative solutions to the construction industry. Founded on the principles of excellence, integrity, and customer-centricity, we have established ourselves as a trusted partner for businesses pan India & worldwide. With an unwavering commitment to superior quality and professional service, we ensure that every product meets the highest international standards.

We do have 75+ products for construction work

- BRICK WORK PRODUCTS
- CONCRETE WORK PRODUCTS
- PLASTERING WORK PRODUCTS
- Tiles, Marble / Granite Work Products
- Car Parking & Road Safety Products
- Expansion Joint Products

HEAD OFFICE : No. 56/1, 1st A Main Magadi Main Road, Kottigepalya, Bengaluru - 560091, Karnataka, India.  
Mob No. 9880737665, 9901467733, 9880551364, 7899836065, 7899836066

Branch Office : #3323/A, Chandralok, DLF Phase IV, Gurgaon - 122002, Mob : 9910036493



## Transforming Spaces with Intelligent Audio-Visual Experiences

HAVI Design is a leading audio-visual and lighting systems integration company delivering end-to-end solutions for corporate spaces, auditoriums, educational institutions, hospitality venues, and large public facilities. From concept and design to installation and maintenance, we create seamless technology experiences that enhance communication, collaboration, and entertainment.

### Key Strengths

- End-to-End AV Integration
- Pan-India Execution
- Custom Designed Solutions
- In-House Engineering Team

www.havidesign.in

+91 97897 87828



Scan to know more



### Applications

- Oil & Gas Sites
- Wind Power Projects
- Transmission Lines
- Road Construction
- Crane Surfaces
- Heavy Load Transportation

www.isotrack.in

9611399211



**AIRCONDITIONERS: Design / Sales / Installations / After Sales Services**  
Water Heat Pumps

Also deal in: Refrigerators, Washing Machines, LED TVs / Deep Freezers / Bottle Coolers / Water Purifiers / Water Dispensers

No. 18, Jai Maruti Street, M.S Nagar P.O. Subbanpalya, Bangalore-560 033  
e-mail: yeekaycoolers@yahoo.com, website: www.yeekaycoolers.com  
Tel : 980-25450583 | M : 9915825504 / 9845042429 (juma)



**THE POWER OF 5-AXIS**  
Rover AS 15

**ELLIPSE & LEON**  
THE MASTERPIECES CREATED USING BIESSE'S ROVER A 5-AXIS CNC AND THE LATEST B\_SOLID SOFTWARE.

biesse.com



**APPLICATION**

We strive to make sure our products are easy to install and maintain so you can enjoy your space for years to come. We understand the importance of creating a space that reflects your individual style and needs, so we take great care in designing our products to make sure they meet these requirements. Our tiles can be installed in various areas such as hotels, schools, homes, offices, etc., across India. For projects, we have the perfect tile for you.

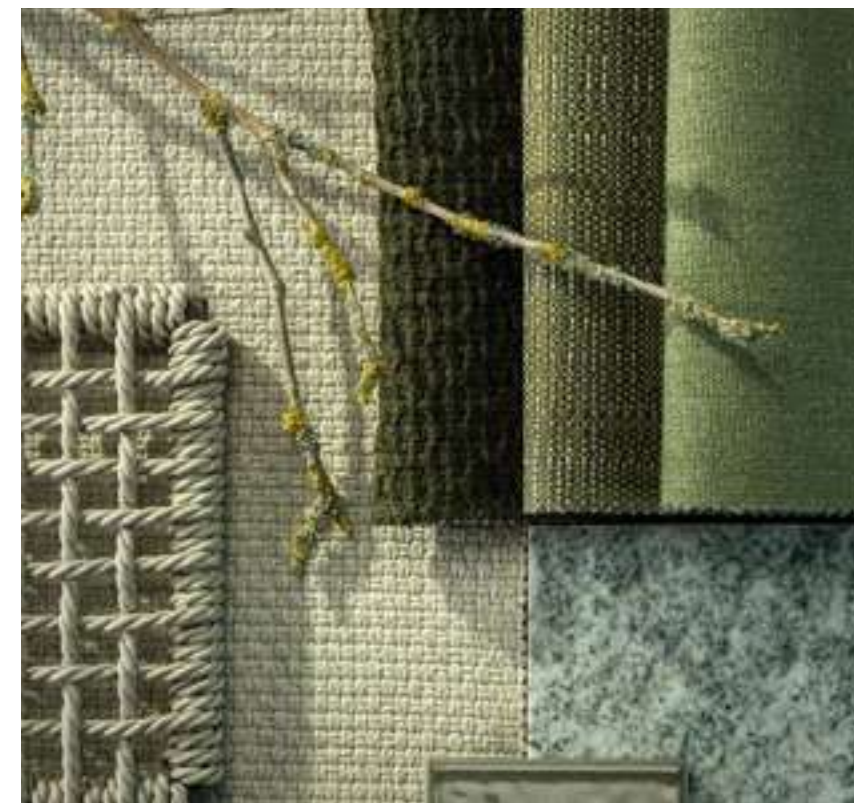


Commercial Building	Hotel, Restaurant	School, College	Hall & Corridor
Airport	Gymnasium	Industry	Spa
Residential	Hospital	Mall & Super Market	Religious Place

- Eco friendly
- Skid Resistance
- Highly Durable
- Low Water Absorption
- Frost Resistance
- Acid/Stain Resistance
- Abrasion Resistance
- Heavy Duty Tiles

Superior Quality | 
 Unmatched Prices | 
 Timely Delivery

More Information : 080 4162 7602 / 13 | mclblore@naveentile.com



**SKIPPER FURNISHINGS**

UPHOLSTERY | CURTAINS | BLINDS |  
 WALLPAPERS | CARPETS | MATTRESSES |  
 DRAPERY RODS | BED & BATH

42, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560042   
 080 41134356/57   
 skipper@radhafurnishings.com   
 skipper\_bangalore

INDIA'S LARGEST SELLING uPVC WINDOW | INDIA'S FAVOURITE GERMAN

**WE'RE MANY. YET, WE'RE ONE.**

**VEKA. ONE MORE THING THAT BINDS US.**

- Soundproof
- Weatherproof
- UV-resistant
- Energy-efficient

Across pin codes and towns, a VEKA is here, there, and everywhere. Crafted precisely with German technology, and to European standards. VEKA is India's largest selling uPVC window. Made perfect, to stay perfect.

**VEKA**  
MADE PERFECT. STAYS PERFECT.

1 million+ homes | 130+ cities | Largest fabricator network | 1800-266-0106 | veka.in

SINCE 2001

**India's Leading Luxury Brand**

Redefining Fine Living, Trusted by Architects & Designers.

**DASH SQUARE**

Scan & Connect

www.dashsquare.com | 8722 002 222 | @dash.square

'The elegance of simplicity is unbeatable'

Nuance Studio pioneers in manufacturing designer surfaces, furniture, wash basins and many other luxury products in a technologically advanced material - Lithojet Concrete from Germany.

www.nuancestudio.com

Bathtubs | Surfaces | Basins

Make Your Best Home Interiors

With 20 Year's Expertise

**AMBADAS HOME STORE**

AMBADAS.IN | 944806030 | info@ambadas.in



**WHITELION**

**Smart Home Automation  
For Smart Lifestyle**

  
Control  
Appliances

  
Lighting  
Control

  
Smart  
Sensors

  
Smart  
Security

  
Curtain  
Control

**To Know More, Book your appointment**

**M: +91 92288 30000 | W: www.whitelion.in**



**We curate  
your space**

**MC**  
Maruthi Ceramics

BANASWADI | INDIRANAGAR | JP NAGAR | RAJAJINAGAR | LAVELLE ROAD | SARJAPUR ROAD  
www.maruthiceramics.com

BANASWADI | INDIRANAGAR

www.mcluxury.in



**mudkart**  
Earthy. Ethnic. Authentic.

**Looks Cool.  
Feels Cooler.**  
Terracotta Filler Slabs

- Multiple sizes & embossed designs
- Pan-India delivery
- Available throughout the year

☎ +91 76762 30556 ✉ reshma@mudkart.com

**Elevate every space**

22 of the world's most reputed brands.  
Original European furniture.

**SIMPLY SOFAS**<sup>®</sup>  
SO FA, SO GOOD<sup>®</sup>



LIVING . DINING . RECLINERS . KITCHEN . BEDROOMS . OUTDOOR . ACCENTS

simplysofas.in      Bangalore . Chennai . Kochi . Coimbatore



**TRISHA**  
Interiors · Extraordinaire

☎ +91 97409 99351    www.trisha.co.in    ✉ rajiv@trisha.co.in



www.thelightlibrary.in    hello@thelightlibrary.in    +91 7353349997

**THE LIGHT LIBRARY**

CHANDELIERS | PENDANTS | CEILING LIGHTS | WALL LIGHTS | TABLE LAMPS | FLOOR LAMPS & SO MUCH MORE!

Scan for more

Window System Solutions  
by  
**VALUELINE**<sup>®</sup>  
Curating Luxurious Lifestyles

Exclusive Partnerships:  
**Alumil**  
**SAUC**  
**KELLER**  
minimal windows

Sri Krishna Square No.953, 12th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, P: +91 95919 99853, Email: bl@valueline.in  
Hyderabad | New Delhi | Bangalore | Chennai | Vizag | Vijayawada

Photography is an Art of Observation. It has little to do with 'What' you see & Everything to do with 'How' you see it.

**AV**  
Architecture | Interiors | Photography | Fine Art

+91-9743786161

-Elliott Erwitt

**PRISM LIGHTS**

**BEST DECORATIVE LIGHTS**

admin@prismlights.net | www.prismlights.net | +91-80-22227806 | +91-80-22120887 | +91-9008-066-444

#64, Richmond Rd, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025

CORK PANELS

3D WALL PANELS

RATTAN CANE PANELS

FAUX LEATHER PANELS

DECORATIVE PLANS

**Our Best Services :**

- Residential Interiors
- Luxury Interiors
- Landscaping & Property Management

**Our Locations :**

- Bengaluru, KA
- Palakkad, KL
- New Jersey, US

Book a Free Consultation Now!  
7090346555 | 8722224325

To Stay in Touch, Follow us on  
@pencilinteriors

www.pencilinteriors.co.in

Some people look for a beautiful place, others make their space beautiful. Elevate your space with our exquisite designer panel range.

**Indo Burma Agencies**  
House of decorative interior products

No. 19, J.C. Road, Opp. 385, Bangalore - 560 002, Karnataka, India.  
+91-9338834405 / +91-80-41247250 / 22222994  
enquiries@indoburmagencies.com

**Home Canvas**  
Furniture | Lighting | Decor

THOUGHTFUL DESIGN,  
JOYFUL LIVING.

www.homecanvas.com | +91 74117 36665 | @homecanvas

**magnific**  
DESIGNER FANS

**Nissar**  
Fusion of designs with grace

www.magnific.in

**Unlock Your Full Design Potential with BricsCAD + CADPower**

**BricsCAD** <sup>2D</sup>

**CADPower**

BricsCAD offers a powerful, all-in-one CAD platform that supports 2D drafting, 3D modelling, and BIM, with the flexibility and cost-effectiveness you need. Elevate your productivity further by integrating CADPower, the essential add-on that streamlines your workflows with an array of time-saving tools for design, drafting, and data management. Whether you are optimizing your drawings or automating repetitive tasks, the BricsCAD + CADPower combo ensures you get more done in less time, without breaking the bank.

**DesignSense**  
Bricsys® Premium Partner  
part of Hexagon

**Experience unmatched versatility and efficiency—upgrade your DWG CAD workflow today!**

**DesignSense Software Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**  
M: +91-9243438300 / 8073279755  
E: rakesh.rao@thedesignsense.com W: [www.thedesignsense.com](http://www.thedesignsense.com)



**Pfanisleep**  
Natural Luxury Beds.

# Pranasleep Mattress

India's First and Only ALL NATURAL MATTRESS.  
Sleep naturally on a mattress crafted from pure, sustainable ingredients

SRE Cotton Wool Kanatali Hair Natural latex Adaptive Coil

Exclusively available at its Company Owned Experience Centre of Pranaliving Bengaluru LLP.  
#5, 19th Main Rd, Sector 4, HSR layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560002.  
Ph: 080-4379 0971, M: 96201 78901

www.pranaliving.in



**SNOOZER**  
Luxury Beds & Mattresses.

# Snoozer Mattress

Mattress made for healthy back & spine

- Orthopedic
- Posture care
- Beauty Sleep
- Presidential Suite

Exclusively Available At its Company Owned Experience Centre At Pranaliving Bengaluru LLP.  
#5, 19th Main Rd, Sector 4, HSR layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560002.  
Ph: 080-4379 0971, M: 96201 78901

www.snoozer.in



**REBART SOLUTIONS**

3D & 2D CNC Routing & Laser cutting, engraving & embossing on Stones, Marbles, Quartz, Metals, Acrylic, ACP, Fundermax, Corian, Plywood & MDF with Duco Services

23071, Kuggarika Main Road, Sarvaahomya Nagar, IIM Post, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore

+91-9688231481  
+91-9013042343  
rebartsolutions@gmail.com



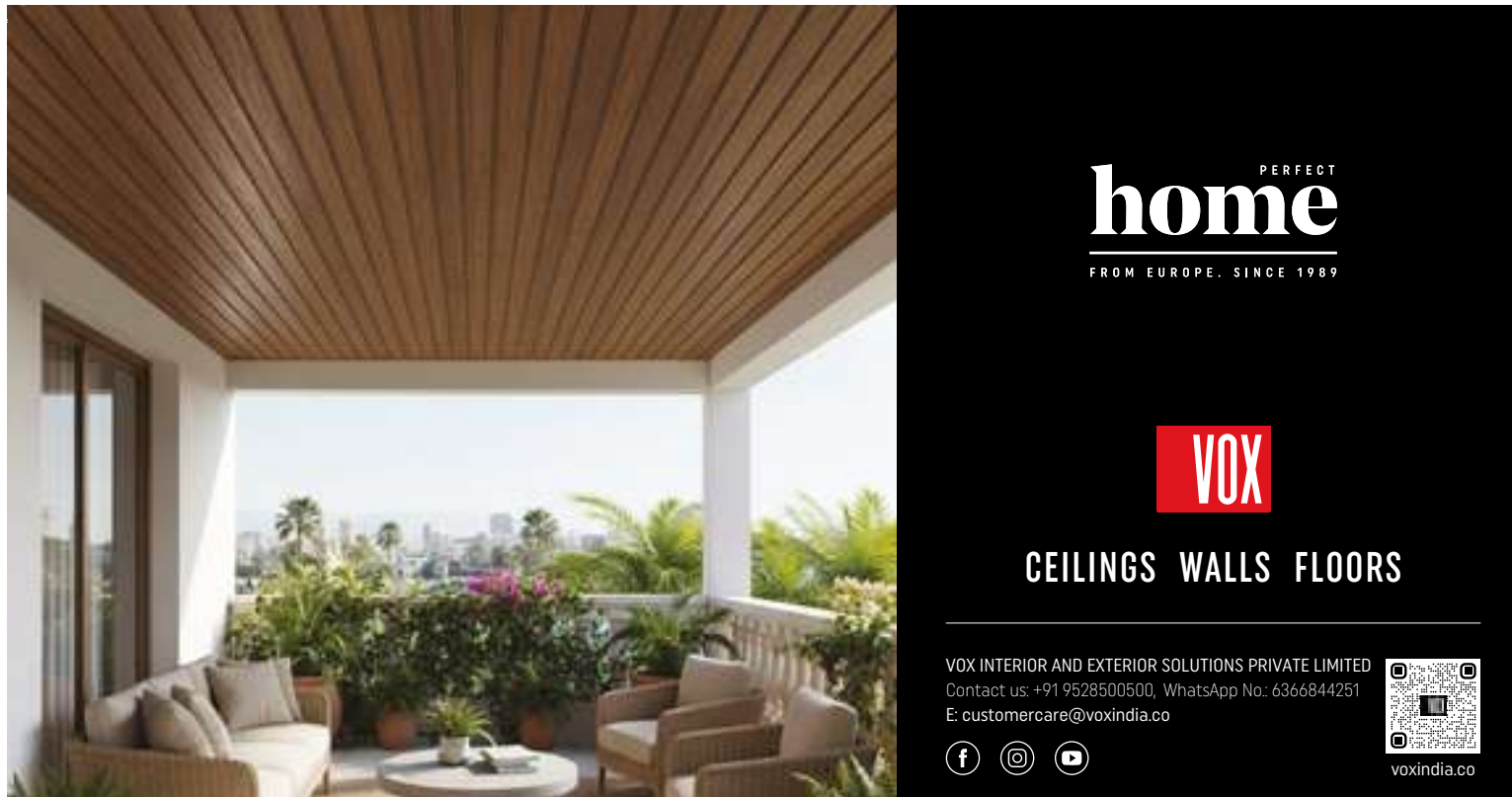
**Interclas Creations**  
Authorised Importer, Stockist, Distributor & Dealer for

# 22, Yireh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cross, Lavender Lane, Dr. Bendre Layout, Gubbi Cross, Kothanur, Bangalore - 560077

Email : [interclas@gmail.com](mailto:interclas@gmail.com) / [www.interclascreations.com](http://www.interclascreations.com)

Mob: +91 98453 52618, 97415 50022

CASADECO rasch YORK



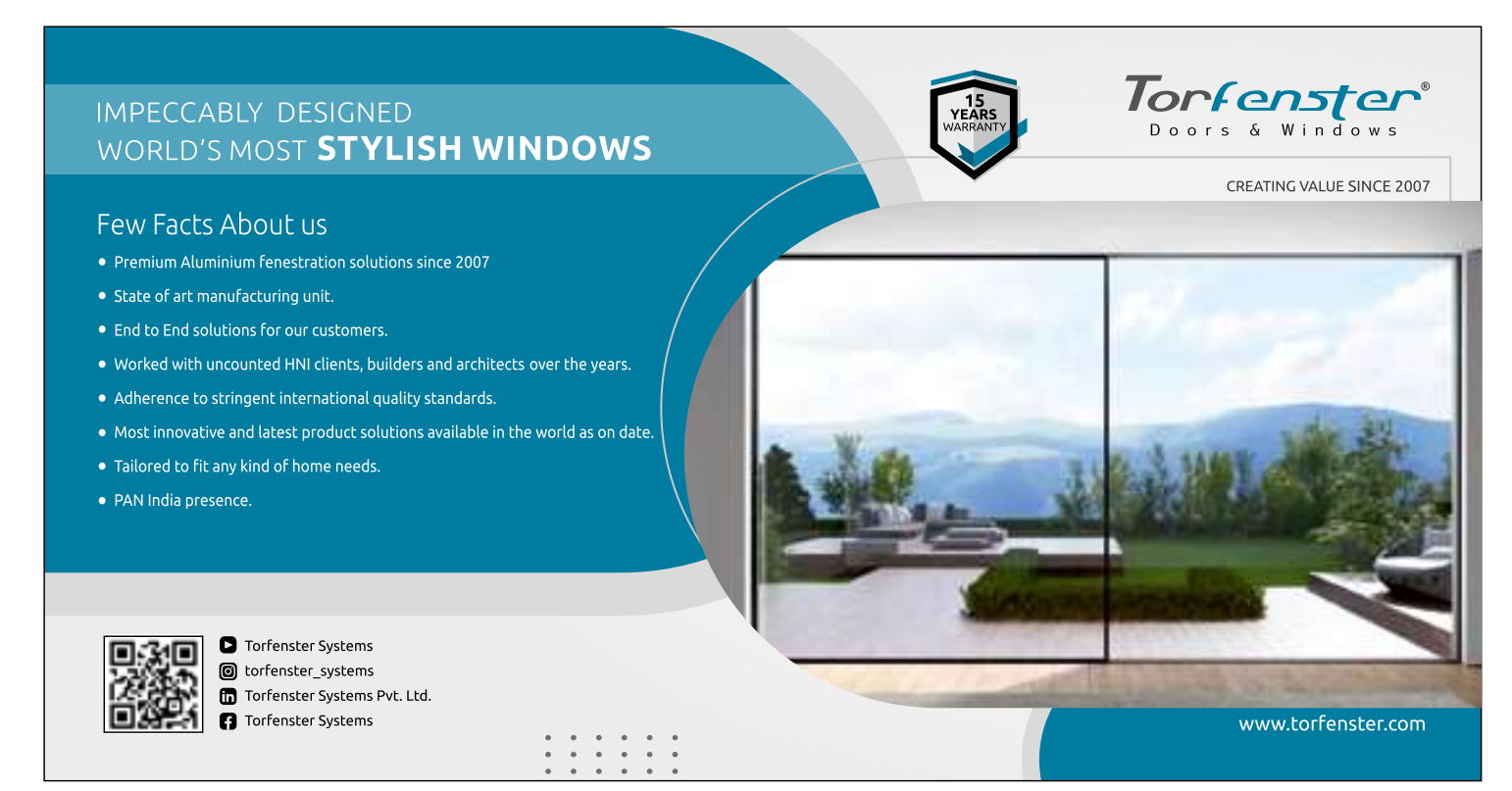
**home** PERFECT  
FROM EUROPE. SINCE 1989

**VOX**

CEILINGS WALLS FLOORS

VOX INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED  
Contact us: +91 9528500500, WhatsApp No.: 6366844251  
E: [customercare@voxindia.co](mailto:customercare@voxindia.co)

voxindia.co



IMPECCABLY DESIGNED  
WORLD'S MOST **STYLISH WINDOWS**

**Torfenster**  
Doors & Windows

CREATING VALUE SINCE 2007

15 YEARS WARRANTY

Few Facts About us

- Premium Aluminium fenestration solutions since 2007
- State of art manufacturing unit.
- End to End solutions for our customers.
- Worked with uncounted HNI clients, builders and architects over the years.
- Adherence to stringent international quality standards.
- Most innovative and latest product solutions available in the world as on date.
- Tailored to fit any kind of home needs.
- PAN India presence.

www.torfenster.com

“Even a brick wants to be something.”  
– Louis Kahn

“The mother art is architecture. Without an architecture of our own, we have no soul of our own civilization.” – Frank Lloyd Wright

**LUXAIRE**  
LUXURY FANS  
Shop @ Luxaire.in

Contact Luxaire

LUX FA0047

LUX VG0002

**Futura**  
SINKS THAT THINK

INTRODUCING  
**GLASS RINSER SINK**

**FUTURA SINK STUDIO**  
2/2, Mandoth Mansion, BTS, 1<sup>st</sup> Main Road, Wilson Garden,  
Bangalore-30. **Mo:** 63629 47419 | **Web:** www.futurasink.com - Smart Sink | Smart Design | Transforming Kitchens

**Automation for Modern Living**  
Revolutionize Your Home

**WHITELION**

+91 74050 29863  
info@whitelion.in | www.whitelion.in

Scan for Instagram

**H<sub>2</sub>O POOLS**

Crafting Beautiful Swimming Pools & Spas

CONSULT - CONSTRUCT - CARE

- CONSTRUCTION OF SWIMMING POOLS (DESIGN & BUILD)
- CONSTRUCTION OF WATERBODY & FOUNTAINS (DESIGN & BUILD)
- CONSTRUCTION OF SPA'S:  
SALT ROOM  
STEAM ROOM  
ICE ROOM  
SAUNA

www.hzopools.in

**FACTORY FINISHED FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS**

**kalatmax**

30+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE | 250+ SKILLED EMPLOYEES | 75,000+ SQ. FT. MANUFACTURING UNIT

+91 96861 69225  
rajesh@kalatmax.com  
www.kalatmax.com

**CEILING WALLS**

**VOX BUILDING PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED**  
6th Floor, Leela Collonnade, The Leela Palace, No. 23, HAL, Old Airport Rd, Bengaluru - 560008, India

www.voxindia.co | P: +91 80 4374 1810 | Email: customercare@voxindia.co

**NISHA RUIA**  
DIRECTOR

**TWO SISTERS TILES STUDIO**  
A tile art on floor, walls & bathroom

9880745724  
twosisterstiles@gmail.com  
www.twosisterstiles.com

- Imported Tile For Wall & Floor
- Natural Stone
- Wall Claddings
- Sanitaryware

# 1638/11, 8th A Main COAL Layout, 'B' Block, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore - 560092.

**ROYALÉ TOUCHÉ**  
LUXURY LAMINATES | PLYWOOD | WOODEN FLOORS  
PREMIUM VENEERS | SOLID ACRYLICS

**STRONGER THAN THE STRONGEST!**  
Luxury laminate with Anti-Bacterial Shield

**220+ SHOWROOMS** | **950+ EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS**  
**100+ TEXTURES** | **NEW DESIGN EVERY 4 DAYS**

**INDIA'S FIRST 1.25MM LAMINATES**

Phone No.: +91 81519 03444  
sales@royaletouche.com | www.royaletouche.com

**V-TECH BUILDING SYSTEMS PVT LTD**

**FUNDERMAX** | **SALAMANDER**  
WINDOW & DOOR SYSTEMS

Visit our Experience Center for full range of FunderMax - HPL & uPVC Windows and Doors Display

Head Office:  
No.693, M.N.S Arcade, East facing, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, 6<sup>th</sup> Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560010  
email - vtechbuildingsystems@gmail.com Web: www.vtechwindows.com, www.vtechfacade.com Cell: 9740422863/ 9980111468

**HONEYCOMB** Design & Digital | **Photostop** YOURS FOREVER

### Enchanting expression of Art and Photography for your interiors

- Superior quality prints on archival fine art papers and canvases.
- Prints done on 12 colour printer giving 50+ years of shelf life.
- Variety in synthetic and wooden frames.

Accepts order across the globe.

For further details: [sreekumar@honeycombindia.net](mailto:sreekumar@honeycombindia.net) | 9901273816 | 9845128760 | [www.photostop.in](http://www.photostop.in) | [www.honeycombindia.net](http://www.honeycombindia.net)

**CEILINGS WALLS**

VOX BUILDING PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED  
6th Floor, Leela Collonnade, The Leela Palace, No. 23, HAL, Old Airport Rd, Bengaluru - 560008, India

[www.voxindia.co](http://www.voxindia.co) | P: +91 80 4374 1810 | Email: [customercare@voxindia.co](mailto:customercare@voxindia.co)

**BRINGING THE WORLD OF BALI TO YOU**

In our 12,000sq.ft Experience Store

Contact Manager  
Pradeep - 7411101589 | Deepankar - 8310302277

Location map: [BALIHINDH GUNJUR ON GOOGLE MAPS](#)

“A house is a machine for living in.”  
– Le Corbusier

Upgrade your projects with contemporary aesthetics and supreme reliability

Customer Care no: 1800 419 4272  
Discover the range at [www.se.com/in](http://www.se.com/in)

Unica Pure | AvatarOn | Clipsal X | Life Is On | Schneider Electric

**LUXAIRE** LUXURY FANS  
Shop @ [Luxaire.in](http://Luxaire.in)

LUX FA0047 | Contact Luxaire | LUX VG0002

**eGlu** Smart Homes

**ZENITH** series  
Unrivalled Luxury, Redefined.  
[www.myeglu.com](http://www.myeglu.com)

“Architecture is really about well-being. I think that people want to feel good in a space... On the one hand it’s about shelter, but it’s also about pleasure.” - Zaha Hadid



RECLINERS  
SOFAS  
DINING  
BEDS

**ORCA**  
Finely Crafted Furniture



8073300617



**HAPPY HOMES FURNISHING**  
home styling through  
design and customisation  
in furnishings and furniture



Drapes Blinds Sofas Wallcoverings Chairs Woodenflooring Rugs

studio located at  
# 27/1, Prabhas Complex, S.Kariyappa Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru karnataka-560004  
email.contact@happyhomesfurnishing.com Web: www.happyhomesfurnishing.com Mob: 9886823009/9886773325



**MANTRY STONEX**

Indulge in the largest Collection of Granite and Quartzite in Bangalore

21/6, Begihalli Village, Jigani Main Road, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore- 560105

+91 9535788008 info@mantrystonex.com www.mantrystonex.com

At Living Aquatic Systemz, where waters gracefully dance, Consultancy and design, a captivating trance. From concept to handover, we meticulously weave, Aquascapes, landscapes, dreams to believe. Global networks entwine, technology meets design, In diverse regions, our endeavors shine. Expertise unfurls, standing tall, Crafting wonders globally, where aquatic dreams enthrall. Softscapes and hardscapes, seamlessly aligned, Water as the focal point, a vision well-defined.

**Waterbodies and Aquatic Life**  
Design | Build | Consult | Maintain



Living Aquatic Systemz  
Bring Nature Home

Ornamental Ponds | Natural Swimming Pools | Aquariums  
Lake Management | Landscape Solutions | Nano Ponds | AMC

Bengaluru, Karnataka  
Ph.: 080-2333 0101, +91 9845039631

support@livingaquaticsystemz.com http://livingaquaticsystemz.com



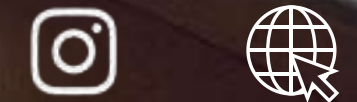
Know us better



**TWIGGR**  
A twig of nature

**TWIGGR  
STUDIO**  
*One-of-a-kind*  
**INTERIOR  
RETAIL  
STORE**

Plywood  
Veneers  
Laminates  
Flooring  
Claddings  
Furniture  
Curated furnishings  
from Ayawi designs





# When profiles get classy

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR

It was year 2005 when the foundation for **Astronea** was laid in Mumbai in the form of a company importing aluminium profiles from Italy. What started as a company dealing merely with aluminium profiles under the brand name K-Zone, expanded to cover a wide range of solutions using the profiles, the diversification commencing in 2016 under the leadership of Mr Raj Burana and thence the birth of **Astronea** in Bengaluru in 2018, a name that has become much recognised and associated with aluminium partitions, wardrobes, kitchens and profile solutions.

Christened to strike resonance with its strong Italian connection, **Astronea** has metamorphosed to come up with customised solutions for a range of requirements in a luxurious interior, starting from the living areas, bedrooms to cover even the bathrooms. The 12 to 15 feet imported aluminium profiles from Italy are cut to suit the individual requirements of both site as well as functional aspirations of the user.



Sleek, Walk-in wardrobe solution

## Expansive range of offerings

**Astronea** caters to multiple requirements that arise in an interior, be it a residence, office space or commercial space. Be it a classy, state of the art wardrobe solution in a luxurious residence, a cabinet in an office, a partitioning wall in a workspace or residence, an imaginative bathroom door or a shower cubicle, **Astronea** has a range of options on offer to meet the exacting expectations of the customer.

Be it the precision cut 12 to 15 feet Italian profiles, versatile solutions to cater to living areas, bedrooms, luxury bathrooms, innovative range of hardware that come with 3600 rotation and seamless stacking technology, the aesthetic finishes coming with a unique fusion of metal, leather and textured glass, **Astronea** features as a much sought after brand providing interior solutions.



Metal and glass classy toilet entry door



Seamless flexible door solution for the bedroom



Metal and glass sleek shower cubicle

## Captivating partitions

Many a time a demarcating wall is solicited to lend privacy, yet it comes with the rider of it being flexible to open up the space in totality when functionality demands. Catering to this are the customised foldable demarcating partitions from **Astronea**, built with the imported aluminium profiles and hardware. These customised partitions are completely foldable and stackable to bring about a seamless space once opened, permit 360° rotation of the partition, the movement flawlessly smooth. The glass fittings on the profiles also permit heavy customisation, with fabric, prints, artworks sandwiched between two layers of glass or alternatively, the glass coming with its own textural or fluted finishes, to captivate.

## Hi-tech wardrobes

A primary requirement of any bedroom is a strongly customised wardrobe solution. **Astronea** meets this requirement with a flourish, bringing in state of the art technology and solutions in an elegant form that leaves the viewer enthralled. Designed to meet the most exacting requirements, the wardrobes, built with glass, plywood or leather as the case maybe, come with sleek interiors that key in strong functionality, both in terms of storage as well as accessibility, along with a full range of hi-end Italian accessories.

The customised 10 to 12 feet wardrobes pack in corner solutions, lockers, unique jewellery storage, segments for different attires including footwear, all designed tastefully, the imported accessories, customised individual baskets making accessibility and usage extremely efficient. Just as the interiors are customised to meet functionality, the aluminium profile doors too lend themselves to heavy customisation. The aluminium profile doors thus feature leather-wrapped profiles and artisanal glass sandwiched with fabric, artwork, prints or alternatively textured glass based on individual leanings.

Walk-in wardrobes with a 360° rotatable aluminium profile partition wall and leather wrapped island consoles where the aluminium profiles match the leather colour, serve as yet another unique wardrobe



Wardrobe with sliding door solution



Wardrobe with stackable doors

solution from **Astronea**. The quality and exclusivity delivered are of exacting standards, tailored to meet the requirements of luxury residential and commercial spaces.

## Modular solutions

The design of a door can alter the exteriors of a space as well set the tone for expectations of the interiors. **Astronea** has a range of high quality, unique modular door solutions, each fully customised with outstanding functionality, flexibility, and innovations. The modular solutions pack in cross-functionality with wide applicability, where the clear expression of artisan tradition stands out along with advanced technology.

Be it plywood, leather, or glass, the aluminium profiles used for the doors are specifically coloured to match the choice of material. The hardware used is fully sourced from Italy, the final ergonomic door solution offered being one of unmatched standards in both quality of material as well as exclusivity in design.

Hosting a fine team of designers, engineers who collaborate with leading architects and interior designers, it is not surprising to see the extraordinary solutions on offer that understand market trends, interpret the change to offer unmatched lifestyle solutions that come with a strong Italian taste.



Metal and glass open wardrobe



# A quirky twist to fine dining

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR  
FEATURING AR.NEHA SAPRE

The space to be designed was a restaurant housed inside a large mall that saw footfall from all age groups, a clientele that looked for both fine dining as well as a quick bite. The brand that was being catered to was one that offered fine dining experience, the cuisine being South Asian.

When **Architect Neha Sapre of Studio Taan** took up the project, she realised that she would need to retain the fine dining experience, while lending a youthful, informal ambience that invited a casual quick meal too, catering to all age groups.

The design that ensued was one that was quirky, casual, youthful, yet very creative in its approach and execution, with a fine balance between a vibrant speak and minimalist, earthy tones. The almost triangular layout came with a glass enclosure on one side and the mall walkway on the other, where the entrance to the restaurant was placed. With the accent placed on functionality along with casual and fun elements, the décor conceptualised was explicitly one that came with an easy flow, with flexible spaces that permitted a quick meal as well as one that could be lingered on to sit back and relax.

## Southeast dining experience

With the cuisine being South Asian, the décor opted was consciously one that reminisced the dining experience of the Southeast such as Japan, Bangkok. Neon lights, bold patterns and pictorial depictions enhance this experiential quotient. The ambience created speaks of an industrial shell, the exposed utilities on the ceiling lending a rustic flavour, matched by the grey textured paints on the walls that mime exposed concrete. Vitrified tiles miming terrazzo and clay tiles, mark the flooring, ushering in a fine blend of the earthy and rustic palette.



## Thoughtful seating

The seating is thoughtfully done to cater to a blend of age groups and functional expectations. A combination of sofa and bench seating flanked by planters brings in flexibility along with a sense of privacy. A large sculptural light fixture, designed as a set of rectangular boxes, features in the midst, grabbing the attention with its sheer size and vantage placement in the eatery.

The loose seating laid diagonally under this impressive cubical light fixture, is designed to be flexible, explicitly to cater to a quick meal for a smaller or larger group, before stepping out to explore the mall. "The intent behind bringing in this massive light fixture was to create a sense of intimacy in an otherwise unstructured seating arrangement", says Neha.

## Indulging the Sushi

The Sushi Express features next to the diagonal seating as a large table and a Sushi belt, with high chairs akin to a bar, to facilitate serving. Drawing attention to this corner are the deep rustic tones of a large tassel fabric lighting fixture that hovers over it, overpowering with its imposing size as well as unique design format. Accentuating further the prominence of this zone is a feature wall with attractively painted ceramic jars, serving as a unique backdrop that is reminiscent of the Far East whose cuisine is being served.

## A dynamic interface

Similar painted forms feature in the glass walled segment of the restaurant, where the caricatures on the wall find themselves reflected on the glass facade which is covered with iridescent film. "The iridescent film on the glass facade was specifically selected to create a dynamic surface that would reflect everything in the interiors, in an array of colour, instead of the glass wall being just a transparent interface between the mall and the restaurant", points Neha.

## Lighter tones to accentuate

The interiors are predominantly marked by minimalism and earthy tones, where the light tones of Birchply and Oak seating aid to accentuate the colours and patterns brought into the space. Likewise, the vitrified, clay-tile-finish flooring mark the pathways, contrasting the light tones of the wood, while the terrazzo patterns feature under the seating to serve as a demarcating element. Placed strategically, without crowding the seating area are planters, the greens ushering in the energetic cheer and a connect with nature, to tie in the largely neutral palette of the décor. Complementing the greens is the abundant play of wood in the space, that goes beyond the wood seating elements, featuring as wall panels.



The large sculptural light fixture serves as the highlight over the flexible seating



Glass facade with iridescent film becomes a dynamic interface



A large sculptural light fixture, designed as a set of rectangular boxes, features in the midst, grabbing the attention with its sheer size and vantage placement in the eatery.



The two large light fixtures become the talking point in the eatery

Adding to this copious play of wood is the Birchply screen wall overlaid with pegs, placed at the entrance of the eatery, setting the tone for what features inside. The exterior façade comes with a similar play of Birchply, overlaid with pegs, featuring on one side of the entrance, while the other section hosts a range of brightly painted caricatures, resonating with the mascot of the eatery's brand.

### A layered outcome

While the material palette as well as the design approach for the restaurant serves to be explicitly minimal, yet, the presence of dashes of colour, patterns, the neon drop lights and the massive sculptural light fixtures, combined with the iridescent film on the glass façade that reflects both colour and patterns of the interiors, together work to create a thoughtfully designed, layered look to the space, drawing the eye to the multiple interesting features placed within.

Project: **Lucky Chan**  
 Design Firm: **Studio Taan**  
 Location: **Bengaluru**  
 Built area: **2500 Sqft**  
 Completion: **2024**  
 Design team : **Principal Architect Neha Sapre, Architects Chandrlekha Paul, Philip Koshy, Arun M, Nikita Xavier**  
 Materials: **Birchply, Oak, Tiles, Fabric, Mirror, Textured Paint**  
 Picture credits: **Jubin Johnson**  
 Awards: **Winner, IIID National Award (South zone) 2022-25, Hospitality Interiors Category.**



# Natural Stone Theatre

Marble | Granite | Onyx | Travertine | Shellstone | Sandstone  
 Limestone | Quartzite | Dolomite



ISO 9001:2015 & 5S  
 Certified Company

+91 9066 00 1111



# Designing an experience

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR

FEATURING AR. RAGHAVENDRA SHANBHAG

When it comes to designing hospitality projects, the key factor that needs to be focused on are the elements that would enhance the experience of the customer, wrapping in the strong, fundamental facets of the location, the context, the cultural fabric as well as the history of the place, Architect Raghavendra 'Shan' Shanbhag of WATG firmly declares.





AR. RAGHAVENDRA 'SHAN' SHANBHAG

To him, the DNA of hospitality design is about successfully curating the experiences of the destination for the guest, irrespective of whether this destination is a massive hospitality space or one that is of the bespoke variety.

To create this experience, bringing in strongly the sense of the place is critical as this goes thence to create a memory that lingers on, long after one has exited the destination, Shan points. The question then arises, what factors make the visit memorable, prompting the visitor to carry back this strong experience. This begins with the design narrative where the individual segments of the hospitality space come together as gems in a necklace, each capturing the inspirational moments of the destination.

The next aspect is the brand identity where each hospitality brand comes with its own individual DNA which however requires customisation to fit into the locational context. Close on the heels of this identity is the level of operational efficiency achieved where the services of the hotel remain firmly tucked out of sight. The challenge then emerges, on how these can all be successfully fused into the design.

Nature abounds reminiscing what prevailed historically



## Listing the tenets

To successfully execute the strategic elements required to make a hospitality destination a memorable experience, Shan lists out a set of rules which almost serve as tenets for hospitality design. "Responding to the land in terms of its history, site conditions. Responding to the local and cultural context where the lifestyle, art and cultural forms are celebrated. This could manifest as part of the entertainment offered to guests where they can access and learn about the local cultural heritage. The manner of transit designed for the guest, from the lobby to the individual rooms. How aligned the hospitality is to the latest technological services. These serve as key factors to ensure a memorable experience is captured and executed in the design", he elaborates.

Each location comes with its own individual history. Exploring this, understanding this so that the design intervention connects to this past and thence to the future is imperative, Shan further adds. In keeping with these perspectives, he delves into three projects where the design packs in this philosophy and approach, turning these individual hospitality spaces into memorable destinations.



The naturally ventilated lobby soaks in the visual delights of the mountains

## A destination on the mountains

Snugly fitted into the valley between two lush green mountains, the project, Banyan Tree is located near New Clark City in the Philippines, spread over 52 hectares. One of the mountains is in crater form where lava from the volcanic eruption had flowed down the slopes, prompting both the flora and fauna to perish in the region as well as the local tribes to leave. The design intervention had to keep in perspective this local context, the history of the site while fusing in the local arts and culture, such that the experience offered could encompass the same.

"While designing the landscape, we wanted to ensure the local flora and fauna, including the butterflies were brought back, making the experience authentic to what prevailed historically", Shan points. "The objective was to celebrate the two volcanic mountains, Mt. Arayat and Mt. Pinatubo that were revered by the indigenous tribes and create a structure that is light in footprint." In keeping with this, the Banyan Tree is situated on top of the valley while the family hotel, features at the bottom, on an 18 acre site.

## Keeping it simple

The arrival lounge is designed as a simple shelter which prompts the visitor to pause. Connecting the lobby to this arrival lounge is a pedestrian bridge where the visitor is nudged to absorb the spectacular views of the valley, while walking down the path. "This physical connect to the scenery and location begins right at the

arrival point, the design initiating the experience from the starting point. The pathway is lined with flora, to solicit the physical connect too besides the 210° view of the valley that it affords", elaborates Shan. The arrival lounge as well as the lobby are naturally ventilated, "to facilitate the physical feel of the mountain air while soaking in the visual delights."

The oculus roof, inspired by the sun, celebrates Mt. Arayat and serves as a captivating feature, with a massive crater in the midst that leads to the all-day dining area beneath. "The crater connects to the history of the site while the simple structure cascades down, with the spaces abundantly depicting the local arts and crafts". The climb down this crater brings in yet another experience, that of water, in the form of an infinity edge pool.

The villas are inspired by yet another local feature, that of the Nipa huts witnessed in the Philippines, where they are designed as a pod that can rotate on an elbow, with the intermediate spaces spread out based on the existing trees on the site. Given the customary inclination to experience a different space at breakfast and dinner, the night dining area is designed as a bridge at the bottom of the valley, where it is suffused in greens, leaving an indelible dining memory for the guests.

## An ancient canal town

The project MGallery at Wuxi, China was in an old erstwhile canal

town that came with interconnecting canals and ancient structures, moon bridges from where the boatmen could be seen cruising along, doing their fishing. This context and historical fabric needed to be captured into the experience of the hotel and what ensued was a courtyard style design. "The site for the project belonged to a teacher of the royal family and this history needed to be woven into the design along with the Wuxi culture where water is an integral part. The heritage aspect too had to be fused in given the ageing ambience of the town with its ancient structures", explains Shan.

The design that followed was flexible in approach, each pavilion hosting the cultural aspects of the town, the lobby purportedly designed to reflect the erudite nature of its erstwhile occupant, where it appears as a library that was later converted into a lobby. "The design explicitly takes on a traditional form that connects to the history of the place, yet, the elements opted are consciously contemporary."

### Connecting to water

The town features buildings intertwined with canals and this structural form is taken into the design of the residential villas where they are built between the canals that find their way into the site. Water thus becomes the connecting element combined with artforms where the individual clusters lend the expression of the fishing village. The master plan features as a sequence of courtyards,

where an aerial view appears as a village with an existing set of old houses that manifests as a hotel. On entering the lobby, the guest has the choice to either hop on to a waiting boat to proceed to the villa or walk through the labyrinth of pathways that snake through the canals, thus getting the feel of walking through the fishing hamlet. The arrival area incidentally features in the narrowest section of the site where a circular opening in the roof of the lobby connects to the sky. A large window further opens the lobby to the village beyond, connecting to the daily activities that proceed in the community.

The connect to water is brought into the lobby area too, with a water curtain featuring in the circular opening on the roof, where the sound of flowing water successfully masks the traffic sounds that filter in from the abutting road. Drama unfolds at night too, the starry night sky permeating into the interiors through this opening, thus bringing forth layers of expression into the space. A moon bridge connects to this lobby, as an extension of the already existing 800-year-old moon bridge on the opposite side of the canal. Commemorating the canals is a large artwork inside the lobby, that connects to the bar.

### Designing to be noticed

When the project Crowne Plaza at Sanya came up, the challenge was to build a 400-room hotel in the midst of a location that already



The residential villas built between the canals



Sun washed seating spaces



The canals find their way to connect to the villas



The Bar





The arrival lounge mimes the entry of a large ship with its imposing slanted roof



had in place a burgeoning hotel industry. “We had to come up with a design which would make the project unique, sought after amongst this crowded segment”, points Shan. With the site featuring on an island, what ensued was a hotel that mimes a nautical feel, as in a ship that is under construction. The entire design follows a herringbone pattern with double loaded corridors that are inclined towards ocean views. An atrium features in the midst, bringing in the duality into the interior structural form.

Taking inspiration from the rocks existing in the location, the bottom of the structure features as a series of rock forms, with the building packing in numerous sky lobbies to connect with the exteriors. While the individual units on each floor face each other, the load of the building is transferred on to a platform and thence to the columns. “The entire base of the structure is designed to appear detached, featuring like a rock formation”, Shan adds.

In keeping with the sentiments of letting the locational experiences to seep in, the lobby is not air conditioned, the salty sea air permeating the interiors with gay abandon. However, given the island being a typhoon frequented region, “we took the precaution of creating invisible shutters that would cover the entire façade of the building during a typhoon.”

The arrival zone again mimes the entry of a large ship, the imposing slanted roof coming with strong nautical visuals. Given the hotel catering to multi-age groups, multiple pools feature, catering to both children and adults, with an infinity edge pool built on the sky deck. “In a hospitality project, the structure is essentially the combination of the inside and the outside, the tangible and intangible experiences of the location. And the structure in essence, dissolves in this experience”, sums up Shan. ✱

When the project Crowne Plaza at Sanya came up, the challenge was to build a 400-room hotel in the midst of a location that already had in place a burgeoning hotel industry. “We had to come up with a design which would make the project unique, sought after amongst this crowded segment”, points Shan.



The atrium in the midst of the interiors

# Building with plastic

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR  
FEATURING SOUHREDH MP



The sight of mounds of plastic waste lining the municipal dump yards, floating on the sea and our rivers, has been a continuous cause of environmental concern, given their impact both on the aquatic life as well as the soil and groundwater they leach into. Worse when cattle enter the scene to feed on the waste, consuming the plastic along. While recyclable plastic waste is picked for recycling, it is the non-recyclable plastic that finds its way into waterways and landfills.

Incineration of this non-recyclable plastic waste, a common mode of disposal, results in release of dioxins which are highly toxic when inhaled.

Observing this mounting plastic waste generated year on year and its irreversible impact on environment, **Souhredh MP** decided to find a way to not only dispose of the waste safely but also explore possibilities of using the waste in construction industry which is presently a huge source of carbon emissions. This commenced the collaboration with various technical institutes in 2017 to identify the manner in which the waste can be used in construction. This collaboration resulted in developing a block made from the waste plastic which was then tested at NIT Kozhikode and CIPET Kochi in 2019.

With the tests yielding positive results, commercial use was explored, with formal commercial production of roof tiles made from the plastic waste starting in 2022 through his venture, Orion Polymers Pvt Ltd. "We found that in Kozhikode alone the quantum of single use plastic waste generated is 90 tonnes per day", Souhredh points, indicating the quantum available for recycling and reuse, besides the environmentally safe mode of disposal.

"We conceptualised a polymer composite which uses 49 per cent non-recyclable plastic waste, with the rest 51 per cent made up of industrial waste which would otherwise again end up in our waterbodies or landfills." Apart from the industrial residues, the byproducts of industries dealing with organic products are also combined into the blocks to lend different colours and textures.

## Fire safety

While the concept of the polymer composite blocks as building material seemed viable, yet, the question of fire safety in the use of plastic for construction came up. Plastic comes with a thermal stability of 80 to 100°, but by combining the residues from industries which includes sand as one of the products, the polymer composite block comes with a thermal stability of 370°, making it fire retardant. "Of course, this is still much lesser than concrete which comes with a thermal stability of 600 to 720° and bricks that come at 1000°. Yet, when compared to that of electrical wires and wood, both of which are below 300° thermal stability, it still rates higher in terms of fire retardance", contends Souhredh.

## Cashing in on the properties

Keeping in perspective the characteristics of the polymer composite, Souhredh focused on cashing in on those properties which would serve to enhance the living experience when used in a building. With roof tiles being the first product explored and produced, the thermal conduction or heat transfer potential as compared to clay tiles which are the traditional roofing solution was assessed. Clay tiles are considered to be a very cool solution when used as roofing material, with a thermal conduction of 0.8 to 1W/MK. "Yet, polymer composite roof tiles come at .323W/MK, making them cooler than clay tiles because of the UV stabilisers used in their production", explains Souhredh.



Besides, plastic is not porous like clay to absorb the heat but on the contrary, "plastic tends to reflect the heat". Clay tiles are also delicate, given their high potential to break easily. "The polymer composite roof tiles are much stronger, with a tensile strength of 39.67 N/MM2, which is even higher than concrete at 15 to 30 N/MM2. This makes it stronger than concrete too, essentially because of the bonding happening between sand and plastic." Further, the modules of rupture of these roof tiles were calculated at 46.43 MPA, making it not too easy to break in case of heavy landings on the roof, where the clay tiles would instantly give way. "This makes it equally strong as concrete in terms of breakability."

## Walled with plastic

The lightweight tiles come with an added advantage of requiring less structural members to bear the load, "even lesser than clay tiles where their water absorption feature requires computing a heavier load into the calculation." Given their intrinsic features, the polymer composite roof tiles serve as an excellent substitute for clay tiles, ceramic tiles, shingles, metal roofs, besides being a perfect solution for coastal areas and harsh weather locations, adds Souhredh.

With the success of the polymer composite roof tiles, Souhredh decided to explore coming up with an entire structure using the polymer composite blocks. This led to the manufacture of the interlocking bricks that can be assembled "with zero mortar". The polymer composite bricks are manufactured using the similar composition of non-recyclable plastic waste, combined with waste sand and other residues comprising of industrial waste. "They pack in similar properties of the roof tiles given their composition to be majorly the same. Their modules of rupture stand at 39 MPA which is far higher than the 8 MPA that clay bricks host", points Souhredh. This makes them far superior in the breakable strength as compared to the conventional bricks.

With the polymer composite bricks manufactured as hollow blocks to permit routing of utilities during the time of construction, the gap between the outer layers of the bricks creates an insulation pocket, thus keeping out extremes of both "heat and cold". The walls, which incidentally can be assembled in record time, with no mortar or curing, also come with high screw holding capacity to permit heavy wall décor or interior solutions. It also permits windows and doors to be screwed in, sans the conventional lintels, reducing both material and cost while adding to the contemporary aesthetics.



## Lightweight and waterproof

Yet another strong property of plastic is its water resistance. Unlike clay and concrete which host 10 to 20 per cent water absorption leading to leakages, plastic comes with zero water absorption. Souhredh capitalised on this and likewise on the lightweight feature of plastic as compared to clay tiles or concrete which can serve as a dead load on the structure. Given that being lightweight can also cause concern in a windy terrain, these tiles, laid in similar pattern as clay tiles, are also screwed in to be secure, making them watertight as well as windproof.

"Not only can lintels be dispensed with, but also beams as the walls themselves serve as load bearing elements." The interesting part is the 'Do it yourself' kit that is furnished along with the sourcing of the polymer composite bricks to facilitate those interested in putting together the structure themselves. Where required, the bricks also permit cutting to customise and facilitate the specific structural design. While the bricks are available in chosen colours and textures, they also permit direct application of PU based paints if painting of the walls is solicited.



### Paving with plastic

Stepping beyond the roof and wall solutions, Souhredh decided to look at the floors too, especially industrial flooring which requires a material that can withstand stains, heavy loads, rough usage and also serve as an anti-skid surface. This resulted in the development of polymer composite paver blocks that is anti-skid, acid spill resistant, scratch resistant, easy to clean and comes with zero water absorption. "These paver blocks come with a breakage load of 91 tonnes which makes them a perfect solution for industrial flooring", says Souhredh.

### Sustainable technique

Besides the sustainable quotient of the ingredients used for the polymer composite, the production technique opted too is strongly sustainable. For instance, the air and dust released in production is carefully collected and cleaned before being released. Likewise, the water used for cooling is periodically cleaned and reused so as to ensure zero discharge. The sediments filtered from the water is recycled back into making the polymer composites. About 80 per cent of the production is powered by solar energy, thus ensuring low

tapping into conventional energy. Capping it all is the fully recyclable property of the polymer composite, enabling it to be reused when the structure is dismantled or is at the end of its life cycle.

### Swift execution

Since the polymer composite bricks and roof tiles require only assembly in the form of interlocking to build the structure, with nil requirement for mortar or any binding material, the execution time for erecting a structure is astoundingly short. "A 550 Sqft, two bedroom, low cost residential project executed in Kozhikode took only 15 days with the use of 3 local labourers to erect the shell structure." Further, Souhredh points to the quantum of non-recyclable plastic waste used in the polymer composite bricks for this structure, "which was 4.9 tonnes—a quantity prevented from entering our seas and landfills", reiterating the prudence of using the polymer composite bricks, roof tiles for residences, resorts, commercial projects and industrial sheds.

(Souhredh MP can be contacted on <https://orionpolymers.in>)



Polymer composite roof tiles manufactured using single use waste plastic

Residence roofed with polymer composite roof tiles

# Design dreams defined

BY PROF. JAISIM KRISHNA RAO

Design Dreams with defined objectives realised into reality. This manifestation is the role the elements fused by the senses. But it demands a language to express. Here is the beginning of an adventure as Architecture awakens and smiles.

Architecture is the great fusion of Culture, History, Environment and all aspects of life, where we humans live and exercise over time, past to present, dreaming a future. Philosophy and Spirituality awaken architecture which is abstraction of life; Design smiles. Discipline demands a language which starts with letters which become words and words dance in rhythm to become sentences. Sentences with words go on the stage. Paragraphs compose a Chapter of stories as the curtain opens. Music and drama come alive to create a story. The story demands a composition and becomes a book of chapters.

The spiritual philosophy of architecture through disciplined design composed from introduction and over the chapters creating the story becomes a book. The author is the Architect; the story is the dream of the client. The actors are the lives that shall play with the spaces and the décor both functional and recreational becomes the drama of time realised. Many books become the library which is the practice of the designer architect.

How does a dream occur and manifest into reality is the question young aspirants ask. As I sit next to the lake and observe the water interacting with the elements awakening the senses, the fish jump in and out, the birds chirp, the floating lotus inspires and suddenly this nature is awakened by humans walking around talking loudly and throwing stones, the night transforms into day, the Sun awakens the water into a misty cloud which rises and shrouds the Sun, the awareness drops as rain and thunder barks, Life is, is, is.

Here, walks in the Ecologist, with the environmental architect as the designer to redefine this space into a cohesion of life and all that surround. Peace reigns. A communication awakens, a language transforms the space, Music slowly and with rhyme and rhythm dances with nature as a meaning unfolds, time pauses, the heavens open, universe unfolds another story. Another avatar in many manifolds takes over. When realised into physical reality, Architecture fuses with Design to interact with time and space to evolve another habitat.



The story is the dream of the client. The actors are the lives that shall play with the spaces and the décor both functional and recreational becomes the drama of time realised. Many books become the library which is the practice of the designer architect.

## The Great Defection: Talent Flight and Entrenchment of Mediocrity

The contemporary landscape of architectural education is undergoing a structural transformation marked less by innovation than by systemic erosion. While universities promote images of advanced studios and celebrated faculty, a quieter crisis is unfolding: a Great Defection of intellectual talent, driven by institutional practices that privilege administrative self-interest over pedagogical excellence.

A defining symptom of this crisis is the departure of doctoral candidates and experienced professors from the academy. This trend, predating recent global disruptions, is rooted in stagnant remuneration, diminishing academic freedom and escalating administrative demands. Faculty report chronic burnout, exacerbated by the imperative to secure external funding in an era of austerity. The migration of leading scholars to private industry or foreign institutions deprives students of mentorship and intellectual rigor, undermining the quality of undergraduate and graduate education.

The vacuum left by departing faculty has been filled by a culture of neoliberal managerialism, wherein governance is increasingly shaped by managerial priorities rather than academic deliberation. Universities operate as corporate entities, emphasising revenue generation, branding and procedural compliance. In this environment, quantifiable metrics and conformity are rewarded, while intellectual risk-taking is discouraged. Public commitments to diversity and innovation often mask internal practices that marginalise dissenting voices, producing what may be termed institutional hypocrisy.

Historically, tenure provided the security necessary for faculty to pursue critical inquiry and radical pedagogy. Today, tenure density has declined precipitously, replaced by a precariat of adjunct and sessional instructors who constitute between 50 per cent of faculty worldwide. While many are dedicated educators, their temporary status limits continuity of mentorship.

Empirical studies demonstrate that increased reliance on adjunct teaching correlates with lower student graduation rates. Moreover, job insecurity pressures instructors to relax grading standards to secure favourable evaluations, contributing to grade inflation and a longstanding critique of design education is the widening gap between academic theory and professional practice. Design studios, though central to curricula, often dominate at the expense of building technology, sustainability and management.

Research confirms that this divide remains entrenched, with students and practitioners alike calling for stronger emphasis on technical competence. The data from the Royal Institute of British Architects indicates that 80 per cent of stakeholders believe architectural education privileges theoretical discourse over practical ability, leaving graduates underprepared for professional realities.



BY DR JAFFER AA KHAN

Institutional prestige frequently conceals toxic internal cultures. Reports have documented systemic bullying, harassment and racism persisting over decades. The design jury or “crit” process, intended as constructive evaluation, has at times been weaponised as academic hazing, reinforcing hierarchies without empirical accountability. Allegations of nepotism within faculties further erode trust, compromising both teaching quality and student experience.

Despite these challenges, counter-movements are gaining traction. The Architecture Lobby advocate for curricular reform that interrogates the architect’s role within shifting global contexts. These initiatives seek to reorient education toward labour, technical rigour and collective well-being, challenging the dominance of bureaucratic endurance as a measure of institutional success.

In conclusion, the Great Defection represents not merely a symptom but a structural warning. Architectural and Design schools must reconfigure their priorities, moving beyond administrative self-interest to serve the profession and the public. Excellence cannot be conflated with endurance or branding. Instead, institutions must cultivate frameworks that value mentorship, technical competence and the dignity of academic labour. Only through such recalibration can architectural education reclaim its role as a site of critical thought and professional integrity.

It is time the regulating bodies have a wider discussion on the present crisis to resolve the future and more dangerous situations that may emerge impacting design education. One aspect would be to integrate local and forgotten knowledge that have survived for centuries and depart from the “colonial” system which has plagued the design education.

*(The author is a renowned architectural educationist widely worked in Asia Pacific region and presently based in New Zealand)*



# A Mahal of Art and Colours

BY MAHESH CHADAGA

Situated within the formidable 15th century fort of Bidar, the Rangeen Mahal stands as a stunning edifice of colour, art and architecture where craftsmanship rules, leaving the visitor captivated by its intricate detailing and workmanship. **Interior Designer Mahesh Chadaga** captures with his lenses the master piece that prevailed as the vibrant Queen's Palace for the Bahamani Sultans.



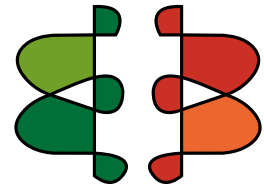


The colourful Rangeen Mahal was built in mid-16th Century during the reign of King Ali Barid Shah who nurtured a strong inclination towards Persian art and poetry. This leaning manifested in the colourful frescos, rich blue tiles, intricate wood carvings, a flourish of verses from the Quran that decorate the walls and ceiling of the Mahal. Evident in the architecture is the confluence of both Hindu and Islamic influences, manifesting as Persian art in the deluge of inlays, floral patterns and calligraphic texts that mark the brightly hued interiors.



The Mahal serves as a strong testament to the high level of craftsmanship that flourished during this period, the skilled artisans leaving their indelible mark in every corner of the palace, be it the exquisite wood carvings, the mother of pearl inlay work, the stone carvings, the stucco art that lavish the entire space. The palace features on two floors, each coming with a hall and multiple adjoining rooms.





# Happenings in BRC

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025

## THE GRAND INSTALLATION

The month of October began with a bang, witnessing the grand installation of the new Chairperson IIID BRC, Architect Y Vishwanath who took over the mantle from outgoing Chairperson, Architect Gunjan Das after her outstanding two year term, 2023-25. Ar. Vishwanath presented to the gathered members, his elaborate program for his two year term. Putting forth his theme for his term, 'Traces to Translation', Vishwanath envisioned the two years as a creative progression where ideas are traced and translated into a conceivable built form.

The evening saw the introduction and oath taking of MC members, followed by the felicitation of the Inner Circle Partners. The presentation of the broad events planned by 'Team Mitra' for the

two years included service to education under the event 'Catch them Young', sports initiatives to unwind and network for members, Master Series hosting design luminaries, Pro-Series to celebrate the works of architects from across Karnataka, Faculty Development Program for Design Schools, design competition for students of architecture, podcasts featuring Bengaluru's master designers, cultural extravaganza to connect with the local roots, besides the bi-annual Designuru extravaganza.

The evening had the privilege of hosting IIID National President, Architect Jignesh Modi who addressed the gathered designer fraternity. The grand installation concluded with a scintillating presentation by Master Architect Hannes Schalfelner, Director Zaha Hadid Architects, who left the gathered members spellbound with the details of the projects presented.



The grand installation and oath taking of Team Mitra



The formal handing over of charge by Ar. Gunjan Das to Ar. Vishwanath

Architect Hannes Schalfelner, Director, Zaha Hadid Architects



UPHOLSTERY | CURTAINS | BLINDS | WALLPAPERS | CARPETS | MATTRESSES | DRAPERY RODS | BED & BATH



42, Dickenson Road,  
Bangalore - 560042  
Contact us : 080 41134356/57  
skipper@radhafurnishings.com

### NEC MEETING

At the Joint NEC meeting in Surat, IIID BRC was awarded the 'Best Performing Chapter' for the Term 2023-25.



Ar. Sarosh Wadia awarding Ar.Gunjan Das

### CATCH THEM YOUNG

To enable students to understand and develop an interest in design, there would need to be awareness created and built. IIID BRC decided to do just that, launching the first interactive session for school students, especially from the government schools, studying in class ten. Christened 'Catch them Young', the initiative is structured to build awareness on Design education and Design as a profession.



Ar. Vishwanath with Ar. Sandeep Umopathy and Vikram Sampath



Students of class ten at 'Catch them Young'

The first session was held in November at Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, a BBMP school, with Bengaluru's Mistry Architects conducting the program. Needless to state, the initiative proved to be a resounding success, the students evincing immense interest. The program is the first of more such sessions planned for the schools over the two year term.

### DAY OUT IN THE GREENS

Golfing can be most relaxing, rejuvenating, especially with friends and like minded professionals for company. IIID BRC recognising this, organised a weekend outing for its members amidst the sprawling greens of the golf course in Mysuru. The weekend getaway, hosted by Inner Circle Partner FunderMax India in the month of November, had the members not only enjoying the game but also taking the opportunity to network, bond, away from the constant bustle of never ending professional work.



Team Mitra at the Golf Course

### UNIVERSITY VISIT

Month of November was also host to a visit by MC members of IIID BRC to the Architecture School of REVA University. Not only discussions ensued on the possible programs, participation and collaboration that could be explored between the two, the active role that REVA could take up in the upcoming Designuru 5.0 too was elaborately discussed.



Team Mitra at REVA University



KICH है  
तो BEST है



Helpline: +91 95377 03638 | Toll Free: 1800 212 3638 | Email: [customercare@kichindia.com](mailto:customercare@kichindia.com)

## MC MEETINGS

The months of October and November were host to MC Meetings. The October meeting was hosted by Inner Circle Partner, Dash Square while the November meeting was held at Inner Circle Partner HMG Stones showroom.

Team Mitra at the MC meetings held in Dash Square and HMG Stones showrooms



## DESIGNURU 5.0

The month of December was witness to the spectacular four day design event, Designuru 5.0, at the Chitra Kala Parishad. The four days of design extravaganza was host to 27 remarkable design installations put up by Bengaluru's architect firms in collaboration with Inner Circle Partners, elaborate design exhibits, the Artisan Corner that hosted leading traditional artisans from across the country, a vibrant fashion show, traditional music and dance dipping into Karnataka's cultural roots, besides the most absorbing presentations and panel discussions by industry experts, master architects as well as administrative heads of government and the municipal corporation.



Ar. Shamini Shanker, President Elect IIID National along with the audience at Designuru 5.0



Ar. Jignesh Modi, President IIID National with Ar. Gayathri Shetty, Ar. Vishwanath, Ar. Gunjan Das at Designuru 5.0



The Grand Finale--Team Mitra at the end of Designuru 5.0



Unmatched  
Strength And  
Durability

The Arcus Q Metal Plate



## **BANGALORE**

DEFA LIGHTING SOLUTIONS  
PRIVATE LIMITED  
# 4, King Street, Richmond Town,  
Bangalore - 560 025, INDIA

## **HYDERABAD**

DEFA LIGHTING SOLUTIONS  
PRIVATE LIMITED  
Jubilee Hills, Balaji associates  
Road No. 20, Hakimpet Village,  
Shaik pet, Hyderabad  
Telangana - 500033

## **MUMBAI**

DEFA LIGHTING PROJECTS LLP  
Unit no 2902, 29th Floor,  
Marathon Futurex,  
Mafatlal Mills Compound,  
NM Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai,  
Maharashtra 400013

[www.thedefa.com](http://www.thedefa.com)  
Mail id : [chandrika.k@thedefa.com](mailto:chandrika.k@thedefa.com)  
Contact Number : +91-8722218327

# DEFA

Service with Passion