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**RED HOT
RIGHT NOW**

RISING STARS AMONG GEN-NEXT, THE 50 ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS WHO MADE IT TO OUR HOTLIST ARE SET TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO INDIA'S DESIGNSCAPE IN THE FUTURE

Lekha Washington on the Dot Chair designed by her

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The Z-Axis conference, organised by the Charles Correa Foundation, offered much food for thought.



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THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

These Top 50 architects and designers who made it to our hotlist this year, promise to make a difference to our lifestyles through their inspirations and innovative ideas

BY MARIA LOUIS



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We, at *Architect and Interiors India*, take our mission of encouraging the idealism and innovation of generation next very seriously, and this is most evident in our iGen initiative. Every year, we put on our talent scout hats and seek out the best of the fresh crop of architects and designers who are idealistic, intelligent, informed, individualistic and innovative – all adjectives beginning with the small and humble ‘i’. Thanks to the illustrious Steve Jobs, this alphabet has been elevated to unparalleled heights via the ubiquitous iPhone, iPad, iPod, iMac and iTunes; and adding to the contemporary lexicon is a new icon – the iGen.

Our selection of gen-next architects and de-

signers is eagerly awaited every year. On the basis of the quality of work done, we invited these architects and designers to share their dynamism, energy and enthusiasm through this forum.

This year, we had the privilege of encountering not just a dynamic, young bunch of design enthusiasts – but also passionate souls who desire to elevate Indian architecture to great standards. Whether it is socially responsible, sustainable or contextual architecture, our iGen architects and designers are aiming for a design revival in the country’s urban and rural areas. From pedestrian walkways to institutions, their portfolio is diverse and, through their work, they seek to infuse ‘good design’ into every sphere of everyday life.

Having been inspired by the legendary archi-

tects of the past and present, this fresh crop of professionals is taking forward the vision and ideologies of their role models and giving them new meaning. This continuation of the past with the contemporary is a sign of how the current generation doesn’t stand in contradiction – but, rather, wishes to take forward all that was good and holistic from the architecture of the past.

As you flip through these pages, prepare yourself to be inspired by the people who are shaping the future of their individual cities and the country at large. Get a glimpse into their practice as they discuss their definition of ‘good design’, the role of technology in modern architecture and design, and the changes they would like to see in the architecture and design ethos of the country.



“Good design, for me, is holistic and sensitive. It is about how far the designer is willing to look and test the girth of the craft.”

PROJECT
Ghose House, Bengaluru

GAURAV ROY CHOUDHURY

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT - GAURAV ROY CHOUDHURY ARCHITECTS (GRCA)

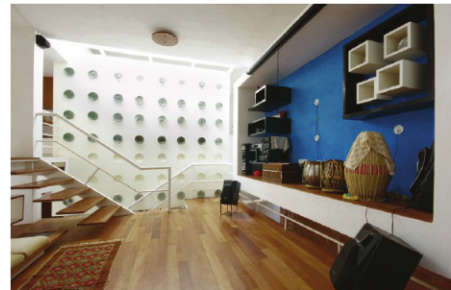


He looks up to film makers, artists, musicians and writers who create what they believe in. “There are masterpieces scattered all over the world which no one knows about. But today, everything is about fame and money. Sometimes, it feels like the whole world wants you to abandon your beliefs - because it’s so much easier and so much more financially viable. I respect everyone who has the strength of character to do what they believe in,” declares architect Gaurav Roy Choudhury of GRCA.

After his graduation in 2002 and post-graduate fellowship in 2004 from KRVA, Mumbai, Choudhury joined Mathew & Ghosh Architects in Bengaluru. Since he started getting small projects in the city, he set up a small practice. Gradually, more and bigger projects came his way – and the Mumbai boy decided to consolidate his practice in Bengaluru in 2007. Today, the firm’s portfolio includes a number of projects in architecture, interior design, graphic design, urban design and housing. A self-proclaimed dreamer, Choudhury’s imagination always had a spatial sense. With an artist mother and an engineer father, he had a flair for both – thus paving his way to architecture.

GRCA is a small-sized firm because “it keeps the logistics simple and creativity in focus.” Their philosophy is to increase the sensitivity and aptitude of the practice by pushing themselves to “feel” more during the design process. For them, getting a feel of the space will indirectly push the ideas of functionality and sustainability in the form and space equations of architecture.

The 35-year-old architect always liked spaces which didn’t try too hard to ‘look pretty’, but just



seem to have manifested from a process of listening and observing. “I like the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, for what it started; and I am a fan of the earlier works of Charles Correa, for their honest aesthetic,” he discloses.

The young architect also has some very sharp insights about technology; observing rather woefully how we are losing skills and crafts to technological innovations that never seem to be made for the average-income person. He perceives the construction industry to be getting out of the hands of normal folk.

Choudhury believes the challenge is to push design and, with it, society, to a more responsible place. “We need to become responsible citizens and participate. Sensibilities need to evolve quicker – so that our world is no longer a place shaped by our insecurities, but by our honesty and vibrancy,” he recommends.

Though it follows his belief of sensitive architecture, Choudhury feels that the studio has not yet produced a path-breaking project. However, he lists the Ghose House as his favourite. It was his first and significant project, which led him to set up GRCA in Bengaluru; and he believes that the project has a visceral relevance to his design thinking in all the work that followed.