

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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iGen
2019



YEAR CHALLENGE

AS WE COMPLETE A DECADE OF CELEBRATING INNOVATION, OUR TOP 50 YOUNG ARCHITECTS
AND DESIGNERS SHARE THEIR MEMORIES AND THE MILESTONES THEY ARE WORKING TOWARDS

10th anniversary issue



ANKITA BAID



ARCHANA BAID



ASLAM KARADAN



ATRI SHAH



GARGI DE



GAURAV KANKARIYA



GOPAL TANWANI



HITESH SHARMA



MAYUR GUJARE



MAYUR N MEHTA



MEGHA BHATIA



MEGHA PATEL-VADODARIA



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PRESENTS

iGen 2019 THE TRAILBLAZERS

Intelligence, individualism, innovation and ingenuity are just some of the many qualities that set these young architects and designers apart

BY MARIA LOUIS

When ambition meets excellence in the field of architecture and design, you get a dynamic, powerhouse of talents that must be celebrated.

Each year, we take great pride in dedicating a special issue to young trailblazers who have earned our recognition of the title iGen – a word that we coined back in 2012 as a tribute to Steve Jobs for a generation that grew up on a diet of his innovative iPods, iPads and iPhones.

This year is very special, because it's our 10th anniversary and we wanted to showcase up-and-coming firms from across India, each distinct from the other. Recommendations from senior architects and an extensive search from our editorial team led us to these 50 gems and their impressive line-up of work. From designers who were once inclined to be CAs to IIM graduates who found their true calling in reviving skilled carpentry, this diverse group is truly passionate about design and willing to pay the price to pursue their dreams.

Read on to find out more, as they take the 10-year challenge to mark our decade of existence.

Contributors:

CAROL FERRAO, RUPALI SEBASTIAN,
ARUNA RATHOD & GAURAV SAXENA



The simplest thing I learned at the school was that the journey and the process of making is far more superior and enjoyable than the actual goal!

The richer the process, better the gratifications," recalls interior designer Megha Patel-Vadodaria of her days as an undergraduate enrolled for a Bachelor's degree in interior design from the School of Interior Design, CEPT, Ahmedabad. This seemed like a natural progression for a child who had enjoyed the act of making – be it toys, objects or small structures from agricultural waste. Now, the pleasure of creating hide-outs between wooden trusses under sloped roofs has blossomed into a fascination for the works of Carlo Scarpa, and Charles and Ray Eames. "I appreciate the details of smaller space elements and objects, furniture along with the larger context," she says of their oeuvre.

For nine years after her graduation in 2005, Patel-Vadodaria and her spouse, architect Dr. Keyur Vadodaria garnered professional experience by working in the UK – post which the urge for home-coming and taking the process of decision making into their own hands proved too irresistible. "We started our practice Patel Vadoraria Design Research Studio (PVDRS) in early 2014. Despite the construction industry being largely unorganised in India, we always appreciated the opportunities

that India offers in terms of the craft-skills' set and the possibilities of material explorations and bespoke detailing," says the 36-year-old designer, a strong advocate of a collaborative (client-craftsperson-designer) work process – something, she feels, is still lacking in India.

Both founders of PVDRS are very particular about all areas and aspects of their projects, and especially rely on mock-ups and prototypes to vet ideas and concepts. Which is perhaps why the award-winning studio's two initial projects (the Aranya Farmhouse and the 3R Pavilion) helped define its belief right at the outset. "They reflect our approach towards design – a language that is modern and yet rooted in the cultural context within which we operate, and our continued effort in reducing the environmental footprint of building and construction," reveals Patel-Vadodaria, for whom picking up pieces and trying to fit them forcefully in a space without considering the user is anathema. "Design is truly design," she states emphatically, "when it truly reflects its users! When it makes them want to be in the space, over and over again."

#10-YEAR CHALLENGE

10 years back...

"Our work has grown to cover architecture, interior design and overall landscape design strategies. We find ourselves designing everything, from the front gate to the wardrobe handle within a house!"

10 years from now...

"Our exploration with material and craft, as well as our efforts towards achieving sustainable build-ings will be at the forefront of our design process."



MEGHA PATEL-VADODARIA

PARTNER, PVDRS, AHMEDABAD

“We always appreciated the opportunities that India offers in terms of the craft-skills' set and the possibilities of material explorations and bespoke detailing”

PROJECT

The Munshaw Home, Ahmedabad



PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS: MONIKA SATHE & BHARAT AGGARWAL