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HOT 100

CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

TRENDSETTERS

5TH ANNIVERSARY

JIMMY MISTRY

DELLA TECNICA ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Often asked how he got into the business of architecture, Jimmy Mistry is known to reply, "I didn't; the business got into me." The principal designer and MD of Della Tecnica Architects and Interior Designers, launched over a decade ago, is a name to be reckoned with in Indian architectural circles. This is quite creditable for someone who is not a qualified architect. Today, his company has to its credit several residential and commercial complexes, IT parks and hospitality projects. But Mistry started off in a humble fashion by undertaking contractual assignments for building repair and maintenance.

His big break came when he was offered the chance to work with furniture, and he abandoned his studies in Mechanical Engineering when he found his destiny. It was the furniture design magazine, *L'Officio*, that triggered off a completely new direction. "Inspired by Italian office furniture, I contacted Olivetti Synthesis and, on their invitation, went to Italy - which turned out to be the turning point of my career," discloses Mistry. "The designers introduced me not just to their design, but also their methods of manufacturing and marketing. They exposed me to a new world of interior design, and the worlds of studios like Charles Pollock, El DialoManenni."

Mistry's design philosophy is simple: "Each structure we work on should be a landmark," says the man whose landmark projects include the UB headquarters in Bengaluru (18 floors, including Dr Vijay Mallya's personal yacht); Sushanto Roy Sahara's shopping mall in Sahara Gunj, Lucknow; Bajaj headquarters in Pune and Bajaj Probiking retail stores across India (which won the VMRD Retail Design Award 2008).

Mistry revels in the freedom that designing for hospitality offers him. Not surprisingly, he believes that his biggest contribution is the one-of-its-kind Della Extreme Adventure Park near Mumbai, probably India's largest.

KALHAN MATTOO & SANTHA GOUR

PLANET 3 STUDIOS ARCHITECTURE

Architecture, in keeping with the spirit of the times, has shed its ideological baggage and embraced unfettered free-spiritedness in aesthetics, is globalised, democratic and ambitious," states Kalhan Mattoo, who is not afraid to go beyond the tried and tested. At Planet 3 Studios, both Kalhan and Santha (as directors) have whipped out refreshingly new design concepts and set themselves apart with their diverse portfolio. Their work has been recognised at both international and national platforms: Spark Design Award 2011, Honor Award from DesignShare, USA'07, World Architecture Community Awards '08, 'Multiplicity' International Product Design Award, USA '08, Artist in Concrete Award 2011, IIA Award for Interiors 2011, Indian Architecture Design Festival - Achievers in Architecture Design, etc.

"Every age has been an exploration to go beyond what is already existing, pushing limits of understanding and acceptance. Today is no different; every day is an exploration to seek the new and the different," quips Santha. Together, they earnestly explore new horizons in design, and introduce spaces that are unconventional but still inviting. At Planet 3, the duo has worked on projects ranging from institutes, banks and corporate offices to restaurants, lounges, resorts, housing, residential interiors, retail, exhibitions, product design and more. They have also ventured into new endeavours focusing on product design and design build projects. With a strong entrepreneurial stride and unmatched design capabilities, their firm continues to sustain a fresh outlook to architecture and design.

KAPIL BHALLA

SE-ARCH

Armed with an international degree (he went on to do his Master's at the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign, after graduating from the Sir JJ College of Architecture in Mumbai) and work experience, Kapil Bhalla set up Studio for Environment and Architecture (SE-ARCH) in 1990 with wife and partner, Jayashree Bhalla. He continues to hone his skills, with his recent achievement being an Executive Graduate Education in Architecture at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. With his global knowhow and deep love for India's architectural history (which led him to the profession), he has been leading this firm as the principal - to create "innovative architecture that belongs to its environment."

SE-ARCH's portfolio of contemporary Indian architecture covers projects from educational campuses, corporate headquarters, bungalows, hotels, hospitals, restaurants and spas to even workstations and art panels. The studio focuses on research, study, analysis, and pursues architectural concepts that can be integrated with the environment. Both Jayashree and Kapil have led the firm with a single mission, that of creativity and variety; and have designed awards-winning projects (Excellence in Hospitality Design, IIID Awards; Hotel & Food Service, Design Awards - national winner) in over 20 Indian cities. Kapil has also worked as researcher for the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), US Army CERL, USA.