

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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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



The appreciation of art, sculpture and great design comes from a seed of curiosity that Niyoshi Sanghvi's father planted in her very early on. The transformation of a childhood fascination into a formal calling took her to Parsons The New School of Design, where she enrolled for a graduate degree in interior design. "I have never worked harder than in design school," smiles Sanghvi. "One of the biggest takeaways was the importance of research, building new concepts and pushing the boundaries with materials," she states, adding that sketching and story-boarding are her two go-to tools while developing designs.

A big fan of Tadao Ando – for his enthralling play of light, texture and material, the young designer was exposed to other icons such as Yabu Pushelberg at Parsons, whose "aesthetics and design sensibilities have made a great impression on me. India Mahdavi is a designer I look up to, her bold unapologetic use of colour and material is something I aspire to use in my design story," discloses Sanghvi. All this, and experiences garnered from work stints in San Francisco, New York and London, prompted her to move back to India, and utilise the "knowledge, passion and drive" that she had built over the years. Thus, in December of 2015, Akari Studio was born, with an objective

of creating transformational spatial experiences that transcend the merely visual.

One of Akari Studio's most significant projects is the 20,000sq-ft office designed for financial technology firm TresVista. "Our growth trajectories are entwined," says the 32-year-old interior designer, who quotes Paul Rand ('to design is to transform prose into poetry') when asked for her take on 'true design'. "As the team was growing significantly, we were involved not only in the technical designing and soft styling – but also in organisational behaviour. This depth of human interaction and how a space would facilitate it, was truly path-breaking."

Of the opinion that budding designers should be curious, learn the importance of research and create more timeless design as opposed to what's current, Sanghvi counts travel, exposure to different cultures and exploring other genres of design (typography, experimental art...) among her sources of inspiration. "Being creative means drawing from what you see, expose yourself to and immerse yourself in – and you can only achieve this by taking the time to explore."

#10-YEAR CHALLENGE

10 years back...

"I think design in India has truly blossomed over the last 10 years. I have witnessed a transformation in the outlook towards good design. Clients want to understand a concept and appreciate the importance of light, material, colour and texture."

10 years from now...

"I would like to be able to create an alternative design house that encompasses many disciplines like architecture, interiors, product, graphic and brand building – a truly integrated design environment."



NIYOSHI SANGHVI
 FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR,
 AKARI STUDIO, MUMBAI

“Being creative means drawing from what you see, expose yourself to and immerse yourself in”

PROJECT

Signia Pearl Residence, BKC, Mumbai



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