



STUNNING SPACES

(clockwise from left) At the East India Hotels Corporate headquarters, the central glass courtyard is the heart of the workspace; exteriors of a residence at Palm Avenue; the design of this home employs a flexible open plan, using expanding and contracting volumes to create differential experiences



Photograph by: RAJWANT RAWAT

DESIGNED FOR WELLBEING

Spaces that are as much about the inhabitant's health and happiness as they are about the design and architecture will be in the forefront

By AKSHAT BHATT

In the coming years we are going to see a renewed focus on our physical and mental wellbeing.

Designs that prioritise physical wellbeing are those that are designed sustainably. I hope to see spaces designed to minimise VOC (volatile organic compounds) emission and indoor pollution. This implies energy-efficient buildings that encourage compact, sustainable environments.

There is also a need to create positive and optimistic spaces that enhance the user's sense of mental wellbeing.



Photographs by: JEETIN SHARMA



The levels of richness that can be achieved by understanding what a space is and what it brings to the wider community is truly remarkable. Design can be used to break down hierarchies, and to create environments that encourage collaborations. I expect designers to embrace clean, well-lit, flexible spaces that are well-engineered, and styled. Well-lit, well-serviced spaces allow inhabitants to think clearly and live healthily. Good design brings joy to the people who use it.

Modern buildings are like evolutionary environments—work, leisure and domestic activities are increasingly becoming interchangeable, leading to the creation of open-ended, flexible spaces. Architecture does not begin and end with the building; rather, it creates frameworks within which our lives unfold. As users and their sensibilities change, so should our spaces—robust and flexible, they must be designed to adapt to the evolving needs of the people who use them. This approach accounts for product life cycles and serviceability, resulting in buildings and interiors that are designed for longevity and programmed for change. The essence of these spaces lies

in the positive and liveable environments that they foster: capturing light, air, and a sense of optimism for the future.

A trend that I would like to see in the coming year has to do with our patterns of consuming resources. The current rate of consumption is quickly depleting our natural resources at a pace that will make our planet uninhabitable soon. We need to evaluate what is truly essential for sustenance and consider the entire lifecycle of the resource—where it goes once it is discarded and whether it has any potential for reuse or regeneration.

A trend that I would not like to see is a return to traditionalism. I think it is a sloppy way of thinking. I can appreciate a letter written in verse, that does not mean I'd ever think of writing a letter like that today. Design needs to address the present and accommodate the future. We need to try and improve the world by doing new things.

Akshat Bhatt is the principal architect at Architecture Discipline, a multi-disciplinary practice based in Delhi. Its work spans from residential and retail interiors to large-scale public and commercial assignments.
www.architecturediscipline.com