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RELAX AT HOME

CONVERSATIONS WITH
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OUR EDIT OF
BEDROOM
INSPIRATIONS,
MAKEOVERS AND
MUST-HAVES





Getting candid with Akshat Bhatt

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT, ARCHITECTURE DISCIPLINE

Known for his bold and conceptual designs, Delhi-based architect Akshat Bhatt chats with us and reveals what gets him inspired, his outlook on life and design, as well as

To start at the beginning, I'd love to know what drew you to this field...

I was thirteen when I saw an architect's drawing board for the first time at my uncle's place. I was fascinated by everything on it and at that age, it was a contraption that could move in all directions, with tools, tackles and really cool, coloured stationery. Seeing all this stationery excited me and that is when I decided that I wanted to be an architect.

Who are your idols—who do you look up to (for their work, drive, energy, etc) and why?

It was the work by design studio COOP HIMMELB(L)AU, which first inspired me and made me realize that architecture can be bold, edgy, and progressive. Practitioners such as Norman Foster, Richard Rogers, and Daniel Libeskind showed me that architecture can move beyond the run-of-the-mill style of architecture.

What, in your opinion, sets you apart?

By designing a building from the inside-out as much as from the outside-in, we inculcate a sense of continuity and connection, to the wider world. As a result, Architecture Discipline's work has two qualities not normally associated with one another—scale and intimacy. We also have a unique approach of integrating a traditional, rational approach with cutting-edge technology, to create uplifting spaces with spirit and heart.

How do you work on a project...take us on a journey from concept to realisation

My approach to architecture is influenced by my long engagement and study of progressive music and the guitar as an instrument. Over the years, it combined with my education in architecture, to cement my beliefs on progress, optimism, sustainable development, and a strong work ethic. I compose music around the guitar, and then every other instrument is layered around it to strengthen the melody. That's exactly how I think of architecture as well, which is why we don't build up to an idea. We find an idea and build around it.

What kind of challenges have you faced in your career?

While I was trained to be an architect, I was never groomed to be an entrepreneur. Architecture is not a competition, but the business of architecture certainly is. And while I'm good at geometry, math terrifies me. So, one of the biggest challenges I've faced was being able to overcome learning the mechanics of running my practice, also as a business. We've been lucky enough to have our clients find us by word of mouth and this meant that they came with an understanding of the kind of work we do.

What do you think people should understand about architecture?

Architecture is a form of public art and is in constant evolution. What may seem crazy at first, becomes normal in time as perceptions change. Projects are like people, they have a good side and a bad side, a past and a future, and we must embrace them in entirety...so practice for the right reasons, because you have a unique story to tell, in a way that only you can tell it. ♦ architecturediscipline.com



From top: Justa Nuo hotel in New Delhi, has a facade that's distinguished by a playful composition of projecting bays and balconies that optimise views and daylight; The East India Hotels Corporate Headquarters in Gurugram has central glass courtyard which forms a defining feature and creates a tranquil oasis; The Discovery Centre at Bhartiya City, in Bengaluru is a flexible town hall that acts a modern beacon for India's IT Capital (OPPOSITE PAGE) Akshat Bhatt, Principal Architect at Architecture Discipline

WORDS VARUNI MOHAN PHOTOGRAPHS JEETIN SHARMA