

Livingetc

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INDIA EDITION

CONSIDERED HOMES

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SUSTAINABLE STYLE

Better Bathrooms
Smart Design
Eco-conscious Materials

CONSCIOUS

LIVING

DESIGN VOICES

Akshat Bhatt
Kunaal Maniar
We Design Studio



Between the lines

WITH
AKSHAT BHATT

Akshat Bhatt, founder of Architecture Discipline, shares what defines his architectural worldview

WORDS VARUNI MOHAN



Akshat Bhatt, founder of Architecture Discipline

Akshat Bhatt doesn't see buildings as neutral containers. Since founding Architecture Discipline in 2007, his New Delhi-based studio has approached every project — from neighbourhood health clinics to high-performance hotels — as an opportunity to build atmospheres that matter. With a design language that favours clarity over excess, and systems over signatures, Akshat's work spans multiple scales and sectors. Whether it's a mass timber residence in Goa, a rewilding project in Uttarakhand, or a hotel campus in the Himalayas, the work always begins with context, and evolves through precision and purpose. But it's his candid, layered perspective that is informed by a love for music and material intelligence, that truly sets him apart.

architecturediscipline.com

If you weren't an architect, what would you be doing?

I'd be a musician. Watching Guns N' Roses' *November Rain* video as a teenager made the guitar a lifelong obsession. That, and music, shaped how I think creatively.

An early memory of a building that left a mark?

My first year of architecture school was dull until I stumbled upon the Rooftop Remodeling Falkestrasse project by Austrian firm Coop Himmelb(l)au in the college library. It proved that architecture could be audacious, emotional, and completely transformative.

A trend you wish would vanish?

I'm not particularly drawn to trends. What excites me instead is continuous innovation and finding new ways to solve old problems.

What's the first thing you notice when you enter a room?

The people — how they're using the space. Then I'm drawn to the most positive spot in the room that naturally holds light or warmth.

Your most prized design collectible?

The Maantis lighting system by Reggiani Illuminazione in collaboration with Richard Rogers' firm, and a lamp by Alberto Meda. Both are examples of technical clarity and elegant design.

How do you unwind after a long day?

I play the guitar. Loudly. It's serious therapy.

An unexpected source of inspiration?

Astrophysics. Material behaviour. Construction details. It's unpredictable, layered, and never linear.

Dream collaborators?

Richard Rogers for his systems thinking and sense of proportion, Alberto Meda for his youthful designs and sculptural clarity, and Yves Béhar for the way he connects design with everyday use.

Your favourite room at home?

Most would assume it's the guitar room, but it's the bedroom. That's where I spend the most of my time.

PHOTOS JEETIN SHARMA



*“Architecture must evolve
with its tools and responsibilities.
We’re not building neutral
containers — we’re shaping
atmospheres”*

From top: The Timber Residence in Vagator, a first in India, is framed in mass timber and wrapped in charred wood panels to blend into its forested surroundings; A home designed by Akshat Bhatt where design, nature and art commune

Your design pet peeve?

Romanticising the past. Architecture must evolve with its tools and responsibilities. We’re not building neutral containers — we’re shaping atmospheres.

Best design advice received?

Keep things simple and honest. Just because something is possible doesn’t mean it’s necessary.

Three phrases that describe your work?

Progressive, high-quality, and sensitive to context.

What creates emotional connection in a space?

Light, height, and scale — and then the feeling that the space was designed to support life with joy and clarity.

Favourite cities from a design lens?

London for its structured modernism. Rome for its layered storytelling. Paris for the way culture, design, and life blend into one another. ♦

