

# ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN

A N I N D I A N J O U R N A L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E

## THE LEGACY CONTINUES

SUBASH DUGGAL & ASHWANI DUGGAL

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### SCALE DOWN, THINK BIG

- AKSHAT BHATT • AKSHAY SINGAVI • ANUJA MARUDGAN • RITIKA RAKHIANI
- SHRIDHAR RAO & SHIKHA DOOGAR • SURBHI SINGHAL & DEEPANSHU ARNEJA
- TANVI JAIN & HARSHIT SINGH KOTHARI



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# BIG INNOVATIONS, TINY FOOTPRINTS

Who would have thought Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's most sought after and celebrated ideology 'Less is More' would have countless interpretations today. Some take the theory true to its meaning while others, like me, opt for an alternative route. While exploring the theme of Micro Architecture, I found myself contemplating its very essence. Can lesser footprints cause a massive ripple in our daily lives? In India, where rapid urbanisation has escalated housing shortages, healthcare and economic disparities, micro architecture isn't just a smart move, it's absolutely indispensable.

To understand micro architecture, we sifted through a plethora of projects that despite their small scale, managed to capture attention with their utility. The idea was to explore how architects maximise functionality and aesthetics in projects such as the AC waiting pods for delivery agents in Chennai, sleeping pods in airports, capsule hotels in India or just some small homes. Our journey led us to some exceptional masterpieces: the Tiny House prototype in Indore by Harshit Singh Kothari and Tanvi Jain, Plug and Play pediatric clinic in Gurugram by UrbanMistrii's Ritika Rakhiani, Anuja Marudgan's Ikigai office in Pune, R+D Studio's TOILET 001 in Amritsar, Studio Akshay Singavi's Gulmohar Clinic in Nashik, Architecture Discipline's Mohalla Clinics and SIAN Architects' Madam Narangi street laris.

Through these projects, we discover how small-scale designs amplify big ideas: sustainability via recycled materials, functionality through modularity, and social equity by equalizing access. Join us in celebrating India's microarchitecture revolution—where every square meter counts.

PRODUCED BY: KASHISH KAUSHAL

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The Mohalla clinic's design capitalises on the structural strength of a discarded shipping container and works with it as a module

**“One of the biggest benefits of the container-based Mohalla Clinics is their rapid deployability. Prefabricated from shipping containers, the clinics are designed as ready-to-install units, requiring minimal on-site construction.”**

—**AKSHAT BHATT**, Founder & Principal Architect, Architecture Discipline

## MOHALLA CLINICS BY ARCHITECTURE DISCIPLINE

**AKSHAT BHATT**

- **Footprint:** Two 20-ft containers
- **Location:** Various locations in Delhi
- **Material Innovation:** Recycled shipping containers with VOC-free plywood
- **Sustainability:** Rapid deployment with minimal on-site construction
- **Insights:** Can be deployed in as little as 3-15 days to address healthcare gaps
- **Photography:** Jeetin Sharma



The antimicrobial vinyl flooring and medical-grade stainless steel countertops were designed to be sterile and easy to maintain

**D**emocratising Access. Mohalla Clinics, the brainchild of Akshat Bhatt, have conquered a major aspect of micro architecture. Along with being reachable to everyone, these shipping container clinics are economically feasible and have proved to be a boon to the healthcare industry. They also represent micro architecture's potential for scalable social infrastructure, transforming 500 square feet of discarded containers into comprehensive healthcare facilities. "One of the biggest benefits of the container-based Mohalla Clinics is their rapid deployability. Prefabricated from shipping containers, the clinics are designed as

ready-to-install units, requiring minimal on-site construction," shares Akshat. The modular design featuring two 20 ft containers separated by a metal deck demonstrates micro architecture's structural innovation, optimising functional space while maintaining portability. Interior micro architectural elements include VOC-free wall panels, hospital-grade vinyl flooring, and concealed lighting systems that create an optimistic environment within severe spatial constraints. The Type A and Type B models show micro architecture's adaptability, with upper-level reading rooms transforming healthcare spaces into community resources. +