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ARCHITECTURAL
EXCELLENCE:
PROJECTS BETWEEN
VISION AND REALITY

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"Deeksha Gulati, Architect, Architecture Discipline, approaches architecture as a continuous dialogue between context, people, materials, technology and performance. Her design philosophy moves beyond aesthetics to explore how buildings can respond intelligently to their surroundings while remaining adaptable and enduring. Through an integrated approach to structure, landscape, sustainability and materiality, she seeks to create architecture that is purposeful, relevant and built to last."

Deeksha Gulati

Architect
Architecture Discipline

How do you translate a project's context into an architectural language without imposing a predetermined aesthetic?

Architecture rarely begins as a finished idea. It develops through a continuous dialogue with its context, shaped by climate, structure, material, technology, budget and, most importantly, the people who will inhabit it. For us, design is not about imposing a predetermined aesthetic but allowing the building to emerge from these overlapping considerations. Every decision should add depth and meaning to the original intent while responding to the specific character of the site and its surroundings.

How did the relationship between structure, landscape and architecture shape the design of Trident Residences in New Delhi?

Trident Residences reflects this approach particularly well. Set within a dense urban context, the fundamental idea was to create an oasis within the city. The buildings are lifted above the ground, allowing the landscape and pedestrian realm to flow beneath them, creating a more generous communal environment. The Y-shaped columns are a good example of how structure can become an integral part of architectural expression. Rather than being treated simply as structural necessities, they create a sense of lightness while freeing the ground plane. The architectural language evolved through the resolution of structure, envelope, landscape and services, allowing each element to contribute to the larger design intent.

How do you balance design intent with material choices, budgets and technical requirements?

The objective is to understand what is essential to



the architectural idea and then find intelligent ways of achieving it. A disciplined material palette, efficient planning and rigorous technical systems can help preserve the core intent while improving project viability. At Trident Residences, fair-faced concrete, fluted glass, bronze and timber establish a restrained material language, while locally sourced materials helped improve cost efficiency without compromising character. Similarly, technical considerations were integrated into the design rather than treated as separate layers. This approach allows architecture to remain coherent while responding realistically to budgets, regulations and execution requirements.

What role do sustainability and technology play in shaping architecture that performs well over the long term?

Some of the decisions with the greatest long-term impact are often the least visible. How a building responds to heat, light

and water, how efficiently its services operate, how adaptable its spaces are and how much maintenance its materials require ultimately determine how well it ages. At Trident Residences, high-performance glazing, green roofs, bio-walls, smart controls and water-management systems contribute to environmental performance. These are not additions made after the design; they are fundamental to it. As expectations from buildings become more complex, technology, environmental responsibility, material innovation and construction intelligence are becoming inseparable from architectural thinking.

Looking ahead, what do you believe will define architecture in India over the coming decade?

I believe architecture in India will increasingly move beyond the distinction between what looks good and what performs well. Climate responsiveness, resource efficiency, adaptability and long-term performance will become fundamental expectations rather than optional additions. For us, timeless architecture does not emerge from pursuing a timeless style. It comes from clarity of intent. When a building responds intelligently to its context, uses materials and technology with purpose, performs effectively and creates meaningful experiences, it has the potential to endure. The ambition is to create architecture that belongs to its place and time while remaining capable of evolving with future needs and practices.■

