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“Contemporary worship
spaces must be ancient and
modern at the same time to
connect with the communities
they need to serve.”

AR. BRIGITTE SHIM,
Shim-Surcliffe Architects,
Toronto, Canada



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ir PERSONALITY : DESIGN FORUM INTERNATIONAL (DFI) | ir GENNEXT CREATIVE : SHROFFLEÓN

Endings and beginnings.



As we embark on another new year, like the many gone before, there is a sense of endings as much as of beginnings. Let me quickly reassure all those kind enough to read the edit, that I don't plan to start the march of IFJ 2018 with gloom and doom, and that this is meant in the most positive way possible. So while 2017 joins the annals of history, (always wanted to use that in a real sentence! Or does the word annals itself make that an unreal sentence?), and we look at 2018 with the usual mix of hope and trepidation, a tiny voice says, the worst is behind us. A feeling echoed by the World Bank which has issued the wonderful forecast that India is expected to be the fastest growing economy in the world, in 2018. Intuitive reasoning says this is probably true, and that if we could survive the 1-2-3 of de-monetization, RERA and GST all within months of each other, world domination is just moments away !

The other rationale for better times ahead is that the last few years have been so awful, that things can only get better. That's almost puerile in its simplicity, but again, made possible by the existence of the business cycle and the general principle of what-goes-up-must-come-down and the corollary.

So, in a word, there's more than just smog in the air, as we enter this year, there's hope. This seems to have started a kindling of sorts and prodded the somnolent markets into the beginnings of activity. Despite being directly related to the real estate sector, which we know has seen some dark times recently, traders and manufacturers in the interiors sector speak of an awakening and resurgence of demand. The reduction in GST for certain sectors too has sparked more hope. This is the start of the new year, the rekindling of hope and the promise of good things around the corner. While there is still some uncertainty on the length of the walk to that corner, the quickening of the step and increased lightness of it, feels right and good.

IFJ wishes all its readers a happy and creative year and as always, thanks you all for being just that, our readers !



I look forward to hearing from you.
Please send your thoughts to me at sylvia@ifj.co.in

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DESIGN FORUM INTERNATIONAL (DFI)

ar. anoj tevatia, ar. goonmeet singh chauhan,
ar. anand sharma



this firm describes itself as a forum where distinctive architectural talent can find self-expression and contribute in a democratic and collaborative work environment

It all began in 1995, over a cup of tea in the campus tea-shop at IIT Kharagpur. That's where the three founders of Design Forum International (DFI) – Ar. Anoj Tevatia, Ar. Goonmeet Singh Chauhan, Ar. Anand Sharma – decided to go into business together, as the architectural practice Tevatia, Chauhan & Sharma Architects. Driven by their huge desire to strike a path of their own, today, the firm, renamed DFI in 2003, comprises a vibrant team of over 100 professionals, each pursuing a distinctive value-based architectural spirit.

“Architecture lies at the perfect crossroads of science and art. For an aspirant who is scientifically aligned in their outlook but has a creative side, which needs expression, architecture becomes a natural career choice,” says Ar. Tevatia, explaining why the three of them chose the profession. Ar. Chauhan adds, “We realized that there was a need to bring vision, execution and perfection in execution together while delivering architectural services. We designed our delivery mechanism to stitch all these together and back it up with unflinching honesty

and commitment to the client.” Ar. Sharma agrees with this, adding, “DFI executes each piece of work with a deep sense of optimism, excellence and integrity, keeping in mind that each project is a legacy for our future generations.”

This includes ensuring that every project has an eco-friendly dimension. Ar. Sharma explains, “At DFI, sustainable architecture isn't a prescription- it is an approach and an attitude. All our projects are optimized for passive design performance, using the power of the sun, wind and rain to minimize the

environmental impact of the buildings and the spaces we design.”

This, according to Ar. Chauhan, lets people see that reality is not removed from fantasy. “We would want people to feel the grounded-ness that we try to infuse into our designs,” he explains, adding, “The contextuality and pragmatism should be felt and understood.”

And what advice does this achiever trio have to offer to future generations? Ar. Tevatia sums up it up succinctly: “Have fun with architecture - just like we do.”



Cyberwalk, Manesar

Category:
Commercial

Location:
Manesar, Haryana, India

Concept:
Cyberwalk was conceived to bring man and nature together, within an office space that would enable better ideation, and lead to innovation in a relaxed working environment.

Design Elements:

- This is the first LEED Gold certified building in Manesar, Haryana. High performance glass 'Envision' was chosen as the architects wanted a glass that would ensure energy efficiency.
- Cyberwalk has three buildings: Evergreen Tower, Eco Towers and Eco Suites. Evergreen Tower has been designed with a unique sloping roof pattern that gives access to green open areas. A four-floor cutout at the center of the building houses a 6,000 sq ft open air cafeteria. The spectacular view of the green landscaped central plaza of the campus is visible from every floor.
- The Eco Towers features terrace gardens, while food courts and cafeterias are located on the ground floor and roof. A plug & play business center on the 1st floor has special stilt parking for senior management.
- Eco Suites house 147 serviced apartments in two identical towers. They are developed keeping in view the 'walk to work' concept. Every room has spectacular views, while the suite has a large sunlit atrium.





GD Goenka Public School

Category:
Institutional

Location:
Hyderabad

Concept:
Reinvent the school experience by creating interactive environments that are a blend of study, activity and play areas and support formal and informal teaching methods.

Design Elements:

- The two-acre site is situated on a busy road, which mandated a sound-proof and completely air-conditioned building. One acre was set aside for sports facilities. The entire built volume was lifted up on stilts and the setback area used to park buses.
- A simple C-shaped plan allowed for the development of a modular string of well-ventilated, glare-free classrooms along the periphery of the C. Two fire escape staircases are provided in the corners; the staff rooms are also situated here. An entire floor at the top is dedicated to libraries, music and dance rooms etc.

- The central zone is enclosed by a four-floor high screen and has a rubberized floor for indoor sports. At the lower level, there is a large column-free space for stage performances with a capacity of 150-200 and free spaces on the sides. The sports area has a central internal atrium joined to the external performance arena to allow for an event for the entire school, whilst crafting space for a large athletic track, a small football field, swimming pool, volleyball court and a basketball court.
- The use of traditional materials like Dholpur and Agra stone symbolically represents the enabling canopy of a banyan tree, a safe haven for learning and enlightenment.





BDI Ambaram

Category:
Residential

Location:
Alwar, Rajasthan

Concept:
In an endeavor to provide super design value to clients, DFI came up with a 'cost effective' housing project, an intervention to solve the affordability problem.

Design Elements:

- The project is a low-density settlement spread across 13 acres, where the lower cost of land allowed for low-rise development.
- The use of modular construction helped to cut down on the cost and construction time. The project was finished in 14 months and delivered to the end user four months prior to the agreed date of delivery.
- The amenities were made to match with the initial price point and the maintenance costs during the lifecycle of the building. The housing scheme was designed sensitively, keeping in mind the needs of the end user.
- The site welcomes visitors with a beautiful palm-lined entry boulevard. The high-rise towers are aligned on a North-South axis, allowing 50 per cent of the units access to the morning sun, while the other 50 per cent get the afternoon sun. The streets were designed such that they receive sunlight through the day.
- As a result of the compactness of the cluster plan, the area required under circulation was substantially lower than a linear corridor plan, with the added advantage of all units getting ventilation, light and most importantly visual privacy from another unit.
- Much attention was paid to landscape details to integrate the functional and sustainable aspects of the design, while offering the perfect outdoor setting.

