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SHE>SPEAKS

BEING A WOMAN IN DESIGN

Some Untold Stories



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TAKBIR FATIMA

Founder, DesignAware, Hyderabad

BEING A WOMAN IN DESIGN

We are fortunate to be working in a time when gender norms and stereotypes of all sorts are being taken apart. There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that the fields of design and architecture are safe, inclusive, egalitarian and merit-based, but there is also a lot of awareness being raised every day. When I speak of gender I speak from a privileged perspective because, fortunately, I have not faced gender-based discrimination for most of my life, be it at home, in college or at work. My independent practice has allowed me to take charge of things in the studio, in which I have strived to create an inclusive and egalitarian environment, I must acknowledge that this is not the case in every office or college or on every project site.

The beginning of every journey is optimistic and idealistic. However, as we matured as a firm, we began to see that more women than men apply to work with us, and many of them are enthusiastic to be a part of a team led by women, where they are sure they would not face issues only because of their gender. We have also seen that there are some men who don't take positively to being managed by or being answerable to women very well. As a result, over the years, we have had more women in our team than men.

“As we matured as a firm, we began to see that more women than men apply to work with us, where they are sure not to face issues because of their gender. We have also seen, some men do not take positively to be managed by women.”



THIRUPURASUNDARI SEVEL

Founder, Studio Conclave, Chennai

RAISING AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

Let's talk about light in Design. For women or anyone to gain safe access to spaces after dark is to easily interpret the environment they are in, light is one of the key aspects that must be considered while designing. For design of spaces for the specially-abled or children or elders or for anyone, lighting plays a major role and can directly impact the user experience. We look at the design, especially design of public infrastructure from pedestal and thus design it like doing someone a favour - if we start designing them, like we would for ourselves - there would be more sensitive / sensible design. Talking, discussing and understanding the needs of everyone in the artisan / construction team, made us realise this aspect even more .

Are we worried about the state of our construction workers / artisans?

Do we credit or atleast acknowledge their presence?

PRAGYA SANGHAVI

Director, Pentaspace Design Studio, Mumbai

BEING A WOMAN IN DESIGN

Wearing a cap of a designer, entrepreneur, mother and a wife, as women we need to juggle our time and still keep our passion and desire to excel and grow. From a dream to construct, to researching on a new housing system has been a roller coaster ride for me as a woman in design. As a woman, representing my research, I feel proud and honoured to sit with the biggest names and companies in the real estate industry.

And my journey as a design innovator has just begun!

