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THE BOLD CLUB

THE DESIGN NEXTGEN: TOP 30 UNDER 45

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The Disruptors

By **MOHAN SIDDHARTH & KAMAYNI**, STUDIO GULMOHAR

“As an architect you design for the present with an awareness of the past for a future which is essentially unknown.”

– Norman Foster

Architecture is one of the most prominent reflections of a culture. Throughout history, architecture has told us about the customs and lifestyles of people living in unique environments.

This is a three-part series that focuses on the Top 30 architects and designers under the age of 45 who are creating a powerful impact on the architectural and designing landscape of India and across the globe. They are the new age

trailblazers who have carved a niche for themselves in their respective fields of construction, development, art, design, lighting and architecture.

Architects create structures that inspire and interior design breathes life into it. It transforms the structure of beams and pillars into a space that thrives with life. Architecture and interior design go hand-in-hand in building habitable and pleasing places where dreams are realised and destinies are built.

This eclectic list is a mix of young leading architects and interior designers some of whom have ventured out on their own, a few have launched successful partnerships, some have given a

new direction to their family legacy while some others have created their own niche in renowned firms.

Renowned designer and architect Cameron Sinclair has said: “If you focus on design, you can call yourself a designer. If you focus on the implementation of your designs, you can call yourself an architect.”

In modern society people rely on function, durability, and visual appeal when selecting designs for their homes, businesses, and places of leisure. Great architecture elevates its interiors while exquisite interiors enhance built architecture.

Here’s presenting the first of the three-part series celebrating the best in the business.



METHODOLOGY

The research for the final list of Top 30 under 45 followed a step-by-step process. First, an exhaustive list of over a hundred young and promising architects and interior designers was created. Next, a basic sanity check that included age, education, experience, achievements and prominent projects narrowed it down to 50. Last, the ones who made it to the final 30 fulfilled a defined set of parameters comprising their work philosophy, challenges faced, vision and prospective contribution to the field of interior design and architecture.

For the Love of Building

Pentaspaces Consultants has been named as one of the fastest growing architectural practices by government body IEDRA. Co-founders Gaurav Sanghvi and Harsh Pote nurtured the idea of starting a firm while in college at Rachana Sansad Academy of Architecture, Mumbai. In 2007, along with their architect spouses, Pragya Sanghvi and Bhakti Pote, they embarked on this dream and set up Pentaspaces.

In spite of coming from a business family background, Sanghvi always wanted to be an architect. “Buildings always fascinated me, while travelling I was naturally drawn towards the monuments and the architecture of that area.”

Pote, on the other hand, grew up amid the architectural landscape, as his family is into the real estate business. His insights and interest in architecture led him to take up a part-time job at an architectural firm while he was still a school boy.

Today, Pentaspaces is among the leading architectural firms in the real estate market, with around 100 completed projects in housing, retail, hospitality, industrial and commercial spaces. They provide a holistic real estate experience backed by interior design and research. The co-founders with their varied background and skill sets have catapulted the firm to this stage.

“Since the beginning, we wanted to position our firm as an architectural firm. We penetrated the market as such, and then set up our interior and research department.”

Every project needs to be dealt with on its own challenges and merit. A new project comes in as a concept and passes through the development and conceptualisation stage that involves a lot of brainstorming



Gaurav Sanghvi and Harsh Pote (seated) want to draw on Indian heritage

Pentaspaces Design Studio, Mumbai

Gaurav Sanghvi, 41

Co-founder

Harsh Pote, 41

Co-founder

backed by research. Their projects are in confluence with the neighbourhood, like the project Rainforest in Mumbai that is set among rainforest trees. They believe making a building more efficient in

terms of running costs, efficiency and capital cost is extremely important.

As for their favourite project, Sanghvi states, “The SBUT project in Bhendi Bazaar is like a crown jewel of our projects at this stage of a life cycle, where we’ve been able to push the edge in terms of a concept and a building of that look, feel and stature.”

India has a rich architectural heritage as they feel, “We need to be more relevant to Indian heritage. We need to learn from the old, use it in the new and then create a new product.” **F**

● KAMAYNI, STUDIO GULMOHAR