

and

interiors and decor

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50+ ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS



CONTENT

12 FRESH & NEW



22

COVER STORY

50+ ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER



90 DOORS & WINDOWS

Innovative And Certified: The Future Of Engineered Doors - **Sleek Board**

Innovating Fenestration Trends: Redefines Quality And Style - **Nehal**

Bazari Head- Marketing Eternia,Hindalco Industries Limited (Aditya Birla Group)

What's New From Lingel Windows Transforming Spaces Into Favorite And Healthier Places, From The Inside Through The Outside

Koemmerling Sliding Doors and Windows: Elegance Meets Efficiency

95 BATH FITTINGS

96 ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE

99 HOME AUTOMATION

100 FLOORING

101 ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING

102 HOME FURNISHINGS

107 PIPES & PLUMBING

108 ELEVATOR

112 SANITARY WARE

114 PROJECT WATCH



ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR: A NEW ERA IN URBAN DESIGN

Gaurav Sanghavi,
Co-Founder & Principal Architect
Pentaspaces Design Studio

"Gaurav and Pentaspaces's Chambers building, completed in 2022 in Andheri's bustling Chakala commercial area, and epitomizes their ambition and innovation. Conceived in 2008 amid the nascent Mumbai metro discussions, it triumphantly overcame design and structural challenges to become a landmark with its iconic diamond-shaped facade and dynamic interiors."

The project was first conceived in 2008, at a time when conversations around the Mumbai metro were taking shape, and Pentaspaces was taking root as a young and independent design studio. The building form today embodies the story behind the evolution

of not only the site and its context, but also the ambitious goals of the firm. Chambers was completed in 2022 after 13-years of planning and execution, during which the design unfolded through the challenges of the metro construction along the adjoining road, modifications in municipal and construction rules, as well as a tight site and height restrictions.

The site is an odd-shaped, curvilinear plot, positioned in the face of the Western Express Highway metro station. Owing to the latter, the frontage of the building was compromised, only to be salvaged by a unique design proposition that has now come to define the building as the jewel of the area. The building elevation was turned diagonally north-west at a 45-degree angle, to open it up to the busy highway and the surrounding cityscape.

The composite structure uses glass (high performance and DGU), concrete and steel in varying proportions to achieve its one-of-a-kind design. The building's crowning glory is the iconic diamond-shaped facade that encapsulates a grand double-height driveway that enables free circulation of traffic within the limited plot, and a breezy pyramidal atrium at the bottom.

The building interiors have dedicated levels for retail, commercial and recreational activities. Two retail levels with a transparent facade and three parking levels with a digital facade for advertising take up the lower part of the building.

Rife with just as many design opportunities as structural challenges, Chambers is the perfect example of an atypical project leaving an indelible mark on its surroundings, its occupants, and its creators. ■

