

# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

Volume 6 | Issue 4 | July 2014 | ₹50

Published by ITP Publishing India

**Zaha Hadid's  
Olympic design**  
Good or bad?

**iGen Design Forum**  
Event of the month

**Contemporary  
bathrooms**  
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**Salamat Husain**  
The legacy of MF Husain

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# NATION BUILDING

ARCHITECT HAFEEZ CONTRACTOR, THE FIRM, BOASTS A BODY OF WORK THAT SPANS VARIOUS CORNERS OF THE COUNTRY

+

**AHC's  
key people  
& projects**



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3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL  
iGEN DESIGN FORUM 2014  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2014,  
Palladium Hotel Mumbai

# CELEBRATING INNOVATION

The iGen Design Forum 2014 was a festive occasion with a serious note

**A**rchitect & Interiors India has made its mark as a leading publication that inspires, offers insights and showcases the most noteworthy events in the industry. Moving beyond its commitment to this purpose, it has also been consciously seeking out fresh talent that will go on to create the architecture of tomorrow. While the path ahead for gen-next is exciting, it isn't without its road blocks and challenges. In an attempt to enable them to share their experiences and discuss common issues in order to forge ahead, ITP Publishing has conceptualised and organised the iGen Design Forum. Not only does it bring together 50 promising young architects and designers on to a common platform, but they get a chance to meet their seniors too.

In the past, the iGen Design Forum has hosted an array of thought leaders, academicians, practising architects and designers; and in its wake, created a community that recognises design as a key element for growth and development. After two very successful editions, the third one was held in Mumbai on June 27, 2014. The forum, which provided much-needed food for thought on architecture and design in



The iGen architects and interior designers of 2014 were felicitated at the end of a thought-provoking day.

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1. Vikas Gandhi of ASSA ABLOY.

2. Bharat Rao of Formica.

3. Savio Fernandes of HP.

4. Hafeez Contractor giving a special address, and Nirupa Shankar of Brigade Hospitality felicitating him.

6. Karan Grover giving the keynote address.

7. *Formica Forever*, a commemorative book that captures the company's 100-year evolution, was launched at the iGen Design Forum.

8. Pearl Contractor of AHC with editor Maria Louis.

9. Shafquat Ali felicitating Sanjay Goyal of Daikin.

India through its presentations and panel discussions, will be covered in greater detail in the next issue – but here is a brief recap of the event of the month.

After a warm welcome by Sai Kumar, deputy managing director, ITP Publishing India, Sanjay Goyal (vice president, VRV Systems, light, commercial and technical support, for Daikin Air-Conditioning India) delivered the welcome address. Through partnerships like this, Daikin has always attempted to provide a comprehensive insight into the initiatives and innovations that drive the field of architecture, construction and design. So, it was only fitting that they flag off the iGen Design Forum 2014.

Hafeez Contractor then made a special address to the young architects and designers. Expressing how proud he is of this generation of architects and designers, he shared a few interesting incidents and anecdotes that highlighted his own 'never say die' spirit and his 'don't give up' approach to challenges as a young architect.

Karan Grover, an industry stalwart who has always been a staunch supporter of the iGen Design Forum, dedicated his keynote address to the 50 'heroes of our future'. "If competition is the soul of invention, then creativity is the heart of an individual, and inspiration is the foundation for everything we create. These intrinsic aspects of design continuously challenge us to improvise our thoughts and actions. The architecture of today must be multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and represent functionality – both in terms of beauty and usability," stated Grover, principal at KGA.

Pointing out to a once overlooked fact, Grover said, "Our history continues to stand as evidence of how magnificent

structures can be built with limited and optimal resources; and this is the crux of what we now call 'building sustainably.'" He emphasised that new technology such as aerated faucets and waterless urinals cannot help conserve resources, if we simultaneously continue to pollute groundwater and fail to use grey water. His thoughts on waste management, heritage and the need for technical innovation constituted valuable learning for the gathering of youngsters.

To make cohesive the various ideas, subjects of discussion and opinions of the industry representatives, the iGen Design Forum 2014 featured three panel discussions.

The first session, *Battle Royale or Team Work?* moderated by Karan Grover, discussed the working relationship between real estate developers and architects in India. While designing and constructing a structure, the latter seek to create a certain design for, both, functional and aesthetic appeal. A builder hopes for the same, though with optimum use of construction methods. The goal is common, but becomes disparate when architects act as the authority on cost and construction techniques or builders do the same with design. Panelist Sunil Mantri, CMD, Mantri Realty, made an observation about how impractical designs that blindly ape the West have now started to sprout in our cities.

Constructing a building that's climatically responsive is more important than an impressive elevation, Mantri stated. With regard to housing, he added that low-cost housing and mass housing is the future of the architecture and construction community; and that there are various aspects that need to be considered for the growth and development of this sector – such as speedy construction, replication of product and

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10. Priya Vakil of EdEn speaking about *Ultra Chaata*, a water harvesting project.

11. Rakesh Rathod of Superstone.

12. Gitesh Agarwal, DnM Interior Solutions.

13. Ameya Komat and Tushar Joshi with Maria Louis.

14,16&20. Audience interaction with the panelists.

15. Niroop Reddy, Aman Agarwal, Abin Chaudhuri and Nanda Kumar Birudavolu of iGen 2014 with Karan Grover.

17. Delegates networking during the coffee break.

18. The attentive audience.

19. Architect Conrad Gonsalves makes a point.

optimum use of resources. Bobby Mukherji, principal, Bobby Mukherji & Associates, showed the other side of the coin: where regulations, profitability and other factors hinder creative potential.

Subodh Runwal, director, Runwal Group, then clarified: "There is a synergy between architects and developers; and if this synergy is good, one can produce incredible work."

No talk of the built environment can be complete without discussing sustainability. The second panel discussion was on *Profit by Sustainability – Why does it make economic sense?* Many firms see the drive toward sustainability as a forced march, one in which the government plays the role of drill sergeant, mandating regulations and requirements. Designers and developers find it daunting to contemplate an affordable yet sustainable strategy; what and when could be the expected return on investment? Mala Singh, CMD, PEC Group was the moderator of this panel.

Karl Wadia, associate architect, Architect Hafeez Contractor, conveyed how architects and consultants can work together and accomplish sustainable projects with collaborative efforts. The other panelists also spoke about how adopting a sustainable approach positively impacts the bottom-line of a project, in the long-term.

The scale and magnitude of the Indian 'brain drain' continues to be substantial. *The Big Fight – Attracting and retaining talent*, moderated by Alan Abraham of Abraham John Architects, highlighted that challenges occur due to preferential treatment meted out to international firms. In response to this, many from the audience shared that leniency and favouritism bestowed on international design firms,

whether in terms of timelines, freedom of design or even fee structures, has constantly thwarted the growth of the local architecture and design fraternity.

The last session, *Creating Future Leaders*, explored a topic closely related to the very purpose of the forum. It is useful to consider leadership in terms of scales of influence – from mentoring an intern, leading project teams and directing community development to formulating national policy.

Apurva Parikh of Architect Hafeez Contractor pointed out, "To convert young minds into tangible leaders of tomorrow, they need to be ingrained with a certain set of responsibilities and be made aware of the commercial aspect of architecture."

Another highlight at the iGen Design Forum 2014 was the unveiling of *Formica Forever*, a commemorative book published and launched by Formica Corporation to mark its centennial. There was also a presentation of a case study, *The Making of Ajanta*, by Rakesh Rathod, MD, Superstone. Through visual aids, he illustrated how exact replicas of the caves (complete with the frescoes) were created with cement.

The day-long design forum concluded with the much-awaited felicitation of the Top 50 iGen 2014. As Maria Louis, editor of *Architect and Interiors India*, pointed out in her special address before the finale, the main criterion for selection was their passion for the profession they have chosen. Strongly rooted to the past, deeply concerned about wholesome development in the present and unwavering in their creative resolve for the future, the iGen carry the torch of a rejuvenating purpose of architecture. Bibhor Srivastava, publishing director, ITP Publishing India, closed the day with a note of thanks to all who made the event a success. **AS**