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THE SHOWSTOPPERS

A RAGA CALLED RAHMAN

After three decades of a journey of unbound creativity, Allah Rakha Rahman is still pushing boundaries

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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.

The Art of Uneven

Architecture is a form of art wherein the buildings start becoming homes.' Dexter Fernandes believes that basic love for art and knowledge about technicalities, as to how buildings are made, serves as a good mix for a successful architecture project.

Eighteen years ago, Fernandes and Shourya Patel got together and founded Uneven on the philosophy of yin and yang where both have different approaches, styles and methods, but their beliefs, love for nature and ultimate goal of delivering remarkable designs define the same. Together they make everything even under the Uneven canopy.

While Fernandes heads interior designing, Patel manages the architectural aspects of the projects. Together, they have designed and executed projects across cities and types—individual residences, commercial complexes and communities. They have also ventured into set designing for some films. They consider 33 LE and Back to Heaven as two of their landmark community living projects.

Fernandes is a true animal and nature lover, which is subtly translated in his ventures. "Being nature lovers, everything around us that speaks about nature has inspired us. We design our landscape with the same detailing as the buildings and interiors we design," he says.

Patel is a master doodler who likes to dress his architectural pieces tactfully so that they not only look stunning but also serve the needs and functions at the same time. "As a rule, for each new project we make sure of not cutting any trees on site. Also, providing rainwater harvesting goes hand-in-hand for our sites."

His love for exploring details through various materials, textures and compositions in any kind of space has allowed Fernandes to master interior design projects, furniture details, and landscape design under the Uneven umbrella.

Patel believes Indian culture and science go way back in time to teach us about sustainable living, which can be a great tool for working in today's time for achieving green buildings and sustainable architecture.

Going forward, they wish to take Uneven to different parts of the country and contribute to the supremely diverse architectural landscape of India.

• **MOHAN SIDDHARTH**, STUDIO GULMOHAR

Uneven, Vadodara

Dexter Fernandes, 41
Founder Partner

Shourya Patel, 41
Founder Partner



Dexter Fernandes (left) and Shourya Patel are inspired by nature, and focus as much on landscape as on the buildings and interiors

SHREYA SHAH