

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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YEAR CHALLENGE

AS WE COMPLETE A DECADE OF CELEBRATING INNOVATION, OUR TOP 50 YOUNG ARCHITECTS
AND DESIGNERS SHARE THEIR MEMORIES AND THE MILESTONES THEY ARE WORKING TOWARDS

10th anniversary issue



His pull towards architecture and design saw its origin during his school days. When assigned to create a simple two-dimensional object or art project, Jay Vidyut Shah would create a 3-D model out of waste or disposable material. “For example, I made a hydro power station with an electronic moving turbine and waterfall when I was in the seventh or eighth standard. And I realised how much I loved making, creating and building,” he recalls.

A graduate from Academy of Architecture in Mumbai in 2003, Jay then did his Master’s in Advanced Architectural Design from The City University, New York. “Luckily, both schools allowed me to explore my imagination and create out-of-the-box designs,” he discloses. “At the former, principal Pradeep Amberkar allowed me to extensively take part in design competitions – which gave me tremendous confidence and led to an exposure to many respected jury members like the late Charles Correa, PK Das, Uttam Jain, etc. The interaction with architects like the late Zaha Hadid, Peter Cook and Rem Koolhaas further developed and transformed my thought process towards architecture during the Master’s programme.”

Renowned professionals in the field have had a big impact on his understanding of the profession. Jay points out, “Architects Noshir

Talati and Nozer Panthaky have been my mentors and played a very important role in my professional development – as I was associated with Talati and Panthaky Architects as the principal associate for almost 11 years...” Other architects he draws inspiration from include Rem Koolhaas, Norman Foster, BV Doshi, Charles Correa and Brinda Somaya.

Jay and wife Naini (both 39) started their own practice recently, after she added a course in interior design from Rachana Sansad, Mumbai, to qualifications in business administration and jewellery design (earned while she lived in Belgium). “Change is the only constant. We believe in creating designs by challenging ourselves in every project. Our research and development is a continuously evolving process,” say the partners, who believe every project is unique. “We realised, in a 500-acre golf course development, that it’s not necessary for a building to be iconic or flamboyant...to be noticed. Architecture can also blend into the landscape to create a subtle presence.”

They are proud of the Intelligent Commercial Building in Pune, designed as an urban and interactive built space. Instead of an enclosed glass box, super high-tech technology and an intelligent performance glass façade will allow the building to breathe and save energy.

“Our practice doesn’t believe in forcing form in architecture,” add the Shahs, for whom designing is not work – but a passion. “We believe in shaping a design with justification to the brief and sensitivity to the people affected directly or indirectly. Design is truly design when one can achieve a balanced interaction between nature, surroundings and users.”

A tool that is essential is a pencil and tracing paper – after which one can advance to research and development, enhancing the output using technology, insist the partners, who love to travel and explore various cultures.



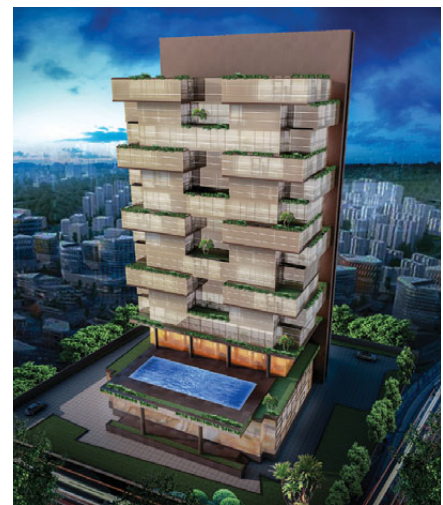
NAINI MEHTA SHAH & JAY VIDYUT SHAH

PARTNERS AND PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT, RAVID & CO., MUMBAI

“It is not necessary for a building to be iconic or flamboyant or larger than life to be noticed”

PROJECT

Intelligent Commercial Building, Pune



#10-YEAR CHALLENGE

10 years back...

“We were continuously amalgamating creativity and pragmatism. That is what makes for a successful design and project.”

10 years from now...

“We hope to have a multi-disciplinary practice based on solid foundations, and hope we keep creating and evolving – personally first, and then as a firm.”