

OCTOBER'08

S	5	12	19	26	
M	6	13	20	27	
T	7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	

LE CORBUSIER



MIES VAN DER ROHE



ZAHA HADID



ALVAR ALTO



CHARLES AND EAMES



SANTIAGO CALATRAVA



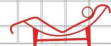
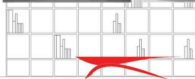
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT



RENZO PIANO



GERRIT RIETVELD



The rains are over, double basements across the country are being excavated with a fury not seen since the days of Chengiz Khan! I began my career as an architect in Bangalore, where I was abandoned on my first car ride by the hundreds of lower strata that were seen. Today that sight is commonplace in India, not just in the metros, but also in the Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Use someone once said **'There's just no stopping progress'**. All in all a good, if slightly hectic time to be an architect in India.

This wasn't always the case, in fact just a few years ago, architects were known for turning into authors, designers, exhibition designers, fashion designers, restaurant, industrial and interior packaging anything but and architect! What was done through all this was the fact that an architectural education is one of the best educations that one can receive; the key point being that you need to be willing to invest a minimum of 5 years in it.

I say this with good reason because which other course offers such a beautiful blend of art and science? To me, a good architectural education is a journey of aesthetic development, aided by science (in all its branches) accompanied by a varied liberal arts palette. Which is why it never surprises me to hear about architects who have branched off into seemingly 'unrelated' fields.



Having said all this, let me see some Indian architects who have achieved diverse levels of fame in fields other than architecture here. From left to right, you can see actor **Filish Deshpande**, author **Anandhi Roy** and musician **Ravi Fernandes**.



At the onset we had struggled having a contest called 'spot the typos' to identify our most discerning readers, thankfully **Architect** start any such thing. I say thankfully because our September issue had 4 of them. Apologies **Architect**, but since nobody pointed out any, no points awarded. Until November, then, as usual.

'NB: To the parents of all budding architects, please note the word 'nervousness'. It is quite commonplace to spend anywhere from 5 to 8 years getting this particular degree. You have been warned!

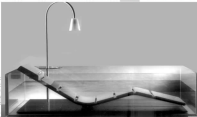
FEEDBACK:
Very good job on the newsletter... Your firm sounds like a really nice and fun place to be! **Shweta Bhat**, extremely calm and courteous as the name suggests, we thank her for his valuable comments, for encapsulating the spirit of **Architect**.

Congratulations on such a creative output! All the best! However, an authority in herself, during the entire 'Kushi' team, an entrepreneur to take inspiration from.

Anyone who can make the dreams of people and come true in what ever little form is a true architect by nature. It is soothing to know that **Architect** really is a pool of young dedicated architects.
-Mayank Jain, an apt travel consultant for the mad **Architect** travel plans. Very much an **Architect** enthusiast.

Feedback at arch@architect.in

archohm works



Villa Pearls is pioneering project for the firm in more ways than one. Not only is it a challenge to bring together various furniture design houses under one roof, but also to bring together concepts and environments to suit the Indian sense of aesthetics and more importantly, budgets. **Archohm** went through an interesting learning curve as the project exposed us to a **worldwide perspective on products, trends and concepts**.

This "model store" coming up in Panchajanya, Chaidurga's nearby suburb, boasts of furniture handpicked from all over Europe. Spread over 10,000 sqft, this five level store has been stratified into branded and designer concepts with a clear benchmark on various cost brackets to suit individual residences, developers and the hotel industry. From the popular **Fendi** and **Canali** to **Calvin** and **Minotti**, all schools of thought and ranges of products were explored. From bathrooms and kitchens, living and sleeping spaces to spas and home theatres, this is a **one stop solution for an entire living ensemble** and promises to be a culture shock for the interior Design fraternity!

The entire exercise was easier because of two reasons: maintaining up to the standards set by the most renowned companies of the world and housing them within a budgetable envelope of space. Immeasurable site visits with **Shivudut** and **Ajay Agarwal** for civils and structures, **Shanupriya** bringing ideas to paper and **Kunal** and **Tanushree** guiding the entire team, **Villa Pearls** has been a challenging experience, like no other.



The showroom is an ensemble of products from the top designers in the world. Starting from **Le Corbusier** and **Charles Eames** to **Zaha Hadid** and **Philip Stark**. This experience and exposure marks a new benchmark for high end residences by **Archohm**. An incentive for our future clients, for sure!

Alia Anir: Committed to perfection, and a perseverance that is reassuring in today's world, she is an Interior Designer in the making. As you might know she is also the author of this newsletter - chasing the contributors, Sourabh, etc, the printer, the courier chap - you get the picture, right?

Dhans Priya: Working hard to complete her Architecture degree, Dhans Priya is a determined, methodical young woman with a sense of purpose in life. Working on the prestigious **Villa Pearls** showroom, at present, she has chosen to share with us some vignettes of the project.

Fashion and architecture have always been reflections of the mindset of people. Therefore, their evolution has been synchronous. Tracing it from the start, whenever had space, we had nice closets as we regarded functionality as the need, and thus we made wide wardrobes. Given, time, space became a problem, so the architecture started growing vertically. The concept of skyscrapers came in and the same effect can be seen in fashion clothing too. The garments lost their width and grew to become vertically long like the skyscrapers. Soon, even the length was a problem, so with minimalism the length shortened and Yves Saint Laurent launched the concept of the 'Little Black Dress' which is now considered to be a must have in every girl's wardrobe. Nowadays, architecture has been very transparent with the use of glass facades thereby, revealing the complexities lying inside it. Transparency came into fashion in architecture because it is, really the mindset of people. For example, people join Orkut and Facebook etc. simply because they now want to reveal their selves and show what is going on with them in their day to day life. Similarly, by having transparency in architecture, people are now revealing the complexity that lies within, the complex lifestyle, the complex routine etc. Complexity that lies in architecture has never been exposed before.



The station entry into the over- to the airport, with a shape like that of a flying bird is massive in scale. The steel and concrete structure looks overdone from the inside. However, once you are inside, you will find that the detailing of each part is neatly taken care of keeping in mind the ever changing people (the users).

It's HUGE! Here are some mind-boggling numbers- 20000 cubic meters of concrete 50000 square meters of form work 8000 square meters of insulation

As part of the local railway network, the Stadsholmen Station is designed to accommodate the heavy traffic expected in the next few years. As a result, a third track is being added along with an adjacent trackless platform. The main structural components are the bridge itself, which is laid back from the platform, the gallery which covers the railway on the side near the station, the newly erected bridge connections and a retail level which acts as an underpass to the intermediate track.

The quality of the mountain and the valley, which arises from the positioning of the railway line, is emphasized by the structural elements in between. Light steel bridges connect both areas. The remaining elements of the station, the roofs above the tracks and the canopies etc., continue to convey the general possible utility.

"An outfit is a piece of intimate architecture which carries our body and souls within it." My collection is inspired by contemporary architecture and emphasizes on the dynamism that the current architecture holds with itself. It showcases the transparency and complexity that is exposed in contemporary form of architecture, unlike before. The collection toils the movement of strong lines and forms that exist in architecture.

The USP of my collections that created silhouettes which focus strongly on form and structure. The idea was to create a very non-glamorous collection and keep it far away from an ornamented and body revealing look. A play with seams, style lines and form themselves acts as an ornamented feature. The overall look is kept very clean, bare and minimal, emphasizing only on certain features or areas of garments that are given an 'Architectural' treatment!

This challenging concept created a zeal in me to take it forward and **Archohm** (Sourabh) was a great pillar of support who helped me achieve the best design concept asked!

You can look at Sourabh's column to have a look at the pictures taken during one of my shows. It showcases my ideas & concepts to the full.

Anchal Agarwal is an enthusiastic Fashion Designer, a keen participant in things related to architecture and design and an ardent supporter of 'Archohm' in particular and of **Archohm** in general.

in focus



The Stadsholmen railway station is an artistic structural creation of the mastermind architect and structural engineer **Santiago Calatrava**. I have highlighted the word 'engineer' as you can see technical perfection and over-use of massing in his work.

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"The interesting part is the airport and railway network combined together which forms an unlikely but not convenient form of transport network."

Water Bridge in Germany. Located in Magdeburg, near Berlin, this massive piece of work is 915 m long. It's built over the River Elbe, joining the former East and West Germany. About 6 years and 500 million Euros went into completing this bridge, which is a new form of architecture!

Nabin Palla, Architect, chief (so he claims), beer connoisseur (as we can rightly claim) and a fond of knowledge when it comes to anything to do with conservation, Nabin's readiness to help anyone in need is refreshingly akin to an era that has passed. He talks about one of Calatrava's iconic projects here.

ARCHITECT'S EXPANDED OFFICE: Believing in the maxim that 'the only thing that is constant is change', Archohm has expanded and moved part of its growing team into a 3 floor facility close to the main office building. This branch will eventually house the entire design process outsourcing vertical catering to our clients in the US, the Middle East and the Far East.



THE ARCHOHM OFFICE TRIP TO MANDAWA: Continuing an annual tradition, the **Archohm** staffers went to a well-earned retreat at Mandawra House, a heritage property in the heart of Mandawra. Here they spent the better part of three days participating in a host of 'toe-matoh' type of activities that included a treasure hunt which ended at 3AM! At the end of the activities, Swati beat the next placed, Shobhika took by a solitary point- 252 versus 251! Mandawra was adjudged the MVP for those who didn't watch the IPL. It means 'Best Voluntary Player' while **Shobhika** was the most sporting. It all culminated in an exciting cricket match where **Sourabh** and **Kunal** kept their head to cardio each other as umpires, while others concurred in more traditional aspects of the game like batting, bowling or fielding. An unexpectedly long return journey saw us drive towards Jaipur, and then back to Delhi... but that was also part of the fun... Now for next year...

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UPCOMING PROJECTS/DRP Projects: Interior interior detailing energies shall be applied to complete the service apartments at the Al Manara towers in Dubai. This marks **Archohm's** expansion into the Middle East.

Sourabh Mulla: This is a critical and prestigious link from the Commonwealth Games Village to the Sports Complex, this link is pre-requisite for the success of the games, it carries forward the string of urban transit projects.

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sourabh's desk

I chose to write on clothing though my exposure in this field is fairly limited, but the 'design' in fashion does give an impetus to my thoughts.

My personal preference in fashion is a bit complex and contradictory. It starts with the obvious addition to fabrics, its basic colors and subtle shades and ends with the clear collection of revealing ensembles.

fabIndia was founded with the strong belief that there was a need for a vehicle for marketing the vast and diverse craft traditions of India. John Bassel left his position as a buyer for Macy's new York to establish **fabIndia** in 1980 in order to have the best aspects of the east and the west collaborations. This was an architectural endeavour as well. fifteen years later the first **fabIndia** retail store was covered with a range of sophisticated fabrics, dyes and home linens. It has become a successful retail business presenting Indian textiles in a variety of natural fibres, and home products including furniture, lights and lamps, stationery, home accessories, pottery and cutlery. Today there are six retail outlets in India, in addition to the international stores. **fabIndia** works closely with artisans by providing various inputs including design. Their clothes don't make a serious statement as the design world but they have a strong identifiable character. A character that speaks of unromanticized simplicity. Ironically, it has become fashionable to identify with the 'arty look and feel', so, courtesy these complex associations, I feel I have lost a bit of its purity.



completely tangential, on levels of school of thought and economy, is the **navi bajaj** collection. a Designer, it is this era of and India. I actually bought it as a fashion item. They have an 'out of the box' feel after some boundaries of wearability, basic fabric, clean and clear, one feels extremely pampered in them, each creation exudes great quality and inspires both over the past 20 years even while the **navi bajaj** line has evolved to include more avenues of design, the guiding philosophy behind every creation remains the same - minimalistic to the last degree, the label stands for the effect that **navi is more than sum of its mountable qualities**, less is more is a famous rule even for **navi** quite a few **navi** modernist.

NEW JOINERS:
Ruchi, Interior Designer
Alia Anir, Interior Designer
Priya, Interior Designer
Architect, Interior Designer
Architect, Interior Designer
Architect, Interior Designer

BIRTHDAYS:
Mani, twenty seventh
Ani, twenty seventh
Architect, twenty fourth
Pradeep, twenty fourth
Rachna, twenty seventh
Ashish, twenty fifth

The thought of trying to evolve a line of clothing that could communicate the same feelings as a baking should, was incredibly exciting.

arch, the fashion designer went ahead to take the occasion for her theme and product line and I got an exposure to fashion, a layer of thought and process that reinforced my belief in the strength of design, an energy that transcends mediums, clothing or buildings and materials, fabric or brick.

And of course, since that watching her has been a new design experience, a **navi** of our **navi** design experience.