



**FEBRUARY '09**

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

one drives out of Delhi towards Jaipur, or Chandigarh, or for that matter any direction, you would not doubt have come across gateways, or portals, or up coming townships, of educational institutions, or simply those welcoming you to a certain town/village.

# archohm works

This month I thought we would touch upon a few of the most famous gateways from an architectural viewpoint.

At right is the **Ishtar gate**, once considered to be a wonder of the ancient world, until replaced by the Lighthouse of Alexandria. Part of the walls of Babylon, it was known for its distinctive blue glazed tiles. A symbol of Iraqi pride, **Saddam Hussein** started building his own version of this monument, only for it to be vandalised after he was deposed.

At left is the **Buland Darwaza**-built in red sandstone by Akbar in 1602 at Fatehpur Sikri to commemorate his conquest of Gujarat. It bears the Biblical inscription-**"The world is a bridge, pass over it, but build no houses upon it."** Considered to be the highest gateway of its kind in the world, this 53m tall structure echoes early Mughal design with simple ornamentation and towering arches.

The **Arc de triomphe** was built to honour all who fought and died for France. This 49m tall monument was designed by Jean Chalgrin in 1806, and completed circa 1836. Situated at the western end of the Champs-Élysées, it is in the centre of the Place Charles de Gaulle. Beneath the Arc is the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' honouring those who died in both the World Wars.

The **Gateway of India** was designed by George Wittet, and built to commemorate the visit to India of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. Inaugurated in 1924. Situated at Apollo Bunder, close to the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel, and 28m high at its centre, it is built from yellow basalt and reinforced concrete. For visitors coming by sea it was the first

monument that they would see as they arrived in Mumbai. Symbolically, the last British troops in India passed through the Gateway as they departed from India in February 1948.

Designed by **Edwin Lutyens**, and commemorating those who fell in the Afghan Wars and the Great War (or World War I as it was then called), the India Gate lies on Raj Path in Delhi. Since 1971, the Amar Jawan Jyoti (or flame of the immortal warrior) lies beneath it. The 39m high monument has the names of all the soldiers who died in these campaigns.

The city of St Louis is known by this landmark, aptly named **"Gateway to the West"**, standing 192m tall, and 192m wide at its base. Designed by the architect **Eero Saarinen** and the structural engineer **Hansmann Banded** in 1947, it was opened to the public in 1967. The structural concept is a **nutshell**-A chain that supports only its own weight is a catenary; in this configuration (a **hyperbolic cosine function**), the chain is strictly in tension. An inverted catenary arch that supports only its own weight is strictly in compression, with no shear. The shape is therefore ideal for a portal of this kind.

To all those who answered last month's question correctly congratulations. A prize is headed your way. The answer was **Leonardo da Vinci** of course. To all those who knew the answer and did not write SMS in, do answer this times question...

Classic roll rim, slipper, double slipper, double ended and pedestal are all types of what commonplace object found normally in bathrooms?

**FEEDBACK:**  
The Archohm Newsletter gets better by the issue. This one is great. Well done sirl Aditya Nath Mubayi, Quizmaster and Architect.

Archohm gives you a feeling of being very close to Archohm. You don't think of any other Architecture Firm.  
Harpreet Cheema

# editorial



Nestled in the very heart of Kowloon's bustling centre, very near **Tsim Sha Tsui** station, is the **Holiday Inn Golden**. A hotel that boasts of a fantastic location, contemporary conveniences and all the luxuries of a home.

Luckily I was given the opportunity to handle the interiors of its main restaurant. The **All Day Dining**, last year As I have decided to share my experiences with you all, I am reminded of the evening when Sourabh and Kunal asked me if I would visit Hongkong to discuss this project with **DWP**-a renowned international design firm known for its interior projects.

In hongkong, I had a detailed discussion with Lorraine- the MD of DWP Hongkong about this project. She explained the basic design theme of the restaurant and provided a few indicative 3D views. Our task was to provide a complete interior and construction documentation set for this project.

Coming back to India, we started this project with our full task force. Dead lines were tight but with Sourabh's, Kunal's and Mohi's invaluable help and support, we were able to meet the tight schedule. The methodology was to first divide the whole restaurant into various functional spaces like- all day dining, gazebo, green house, sushi bar, seating islands etc. Then we started preparing architectural documentation for these corresponding spaces. Last of all was the detailing part so as to make the entire design buildable at site. As they had dry construction, the design incorporated immense use of wall papers and timbers blended with use of modern materials like glass and mirror. Although the entire ceiling was kept plain, with cove lighting running along the length of walls, the suspended structure over the bar area and the recessed roofs over the island seatings helped to break the monotony. I really liked the concept of wooden gazebo seatings. Its beyond description how remarkably every inch and bit was designed to produce an overall warm interiors.

This is the apt platform to thank my team members-Ashwini, Aanchal, Bhadrupriya and Shaily who had put in their best to let it happen. Last but not the least my special thanks to Archana to help me in difficult areas.

This project was an excellent foundation stone for Archohm to enter the world of interiors at international level. Not only did we get exposure to new materials, finishings, lighting systems and construction techniques.



**Bhoomika**- A Senior Architect who redefines 'ownership' by taking complete charge of a project, she is responsible for several of the design outsourcing projects that Archohm is currently working on. Her job has seen her travel from Hong Kong to Dubai, for a variety of projects

# in focus



After being engaged as an independent design consultant for about 11 years, moving to a design-disciplined environment in Archohm, has been a **challenging** as well as a **rewarding experience** for me.

Archohm has exposed me to a group of thinking design individuals, experts by virtue of their talent and their passion.

It is situated on a high hill near Belfort in Eastern France. Set amidst green misty hills and deep ravines, this chapel **looks** towards heaven; something out of the world.

The church is simple with an **ambulatory** nave, two side entrances and a sculptural roof. The walls are thick stone masonry, with a rough white washed finish. The concrete roof caves inward, as if pulling the sides down. A wide gap between the shell of the roof and the vertical envelope of the walls allows for a significant entry of daylight. There are small arbitrary openings in the walls, with coloured stained glass bringing in varied diffused light. There is an altar and a pulpit on the outside of the chapel too, facing a sprawling clearing, to accommodate mass congregations.

Unlike Corbusier's other works, this one is not a rectilinear cubical form, but still the building has a symmetry and a harmony of proportions. The building fits comfortably in the context, blending with the surroundings. The dramatic form is an extreme statement by the 'Master builder' in conveying the **magnificence of a building for God**.

There had been a pilgrimage chapel on the site dedicated to the **Virgin Mary**, but it had been destroyed during the Second World War. After the war, it was decided to rebuild on the same site.

The **rambling roof of concrete** was planned to slope towards the back, where a fountain of abstract forms is placed on the ground. When it rains, the water comes pouring off the roof and down onto the raised, slanted concrete structures, creating a **dramatic natural fountain**.

Single-mindedness, dedication to paint his own vision and creating a constant sort of an energy flow that catalyzes every piece of existence in the office, is what Sourabh does, day in and day out. Suddenly you realize that there is a sense of purpose to every line that is drawn. Working on Becl Bhawan has given me hands on experience of the same. This is the reason that I foresee my longstanding association with this world class work place that will surely touch many more lives that will come in association with it.

Archohm then, is all this, and more.....

**Himani Jain** - A talented interior designer with a penchant for travel, health and fitness; Himani is known for the 'spot on' research abilities. If she recommends a product, you can bet your last rupee, pound, euro or dollar that it will be the one to purchase or specify!

# guest thoughts

# in focus



The **cathedral at Ronchamp** was a surprise, even though I had seen the pictures in a lot of books before.

It is situated on a high hill near Belfort in Eastern France. Set amidst green misty hills and deep ravines, this chapel **looks** towards heaven; something out of the world.

The church is simple with an **ambulatory** nave, two side entrances and a sculptural roof. The walls are thick stone masonry, with a rough white washed finish. The concrete roof caves inward, as if pulling the sides down. A wide gap between the shell of the roof and the vertical envelope of the walls allows for a significant entry of daylight. There are small arbitrary openings in the walls, with coloured stained glass bringing in varied diffused light. There is an altar and a pulpit on the outside of the chapel too, facing a sprawling clearing, to accommodate mass congregations.

Unlike Corbusier's other works, this one is not a rectilinear cubical form, but still the building has a symmetry and a harmony of proportions. The building fits comfortably in the context, blending with the surroundings. The dramatic form is an extreme statement by the 'Master builder' in conveying the **magnificence of a building for God**.

There had been a pilgrimage chapel on the site dedicated to the **Virgin Mary**, but it had been destroyed during the Second World War. After the war, it was decided to rebuild on the same site.

The **rambling roof of concrete** was planned to slope towards the back, where a fountain of abstract forms is placed on the ground. When it rains, the water comes pouring off the roof and down onto the raised, slanted concrete structures, creating a **dramatic natural fountain**.

Single-mindedness, dedication to paint his own vision and creating a constant sort of an energy flow that catalyzes every piece of existence in the office, is what Sourabh does, day in and day out. Suddenly you realize that there is a sense of purpose to every line that is drawn. Working on Becl Bhawan has given me hands on experience of the same. This is the reason that I foresee my longstanding association with this world class work place that will surely touch many more lives that will come in association with it.

Archohm then, is all this, and more.....

**Krunal Patel** - Almost an architect, a CEPT trainee who was being closely associated with Archohm, Krunal has the successfully demonstrated his ability to design and detail, using both 2D and 3D software skills, at a scorching pace, on a variety of projects. He was also a member of Archotour 1 as extension to his exchange program in Zurich.

# designs

# in focus



**New Year Party** Thanks to the differing travel schedules, the staff at archohm celebrated New Year a week after the event in grand style. The front court saw all the staffers with their best smiles on, whilst Sourabh clicked a snap from atop the boundary wall. As always this was an occasion to stuff one's face, with food and drink!

What happens when three colleagues and friends decide to go on a holiday in the hills... it's DON'T talk to each other, and leave a day apart along the main highway, and then come back and think -- we might have done it differently. That's Mohit Mahur, Nabin Patra and yours truly (Kunal Savarkar)... I have a feeling we might tweak our travel planning next time round (as and when Sourabh permits...)

A furniture design workshop to start an Archohm line of furniture was kicked off at the beginning of the year, involving Tanushree, Himani and Monika.

**UPCOMING PROJECTS:** Libya-Archohm has been commissioned by D.S. Constructions to provide complete design drawings for both architecture as well as other services for a township at Kufra, Libya. Additionally, we are also designing other buildings like mosques, schools, nursery schools, occasion halls, super markets and clinics at Sirt, Libya.

**Ranchi Mall** Possibly the tallest mall in India, definitely the tallest building in Ranchi, this mall designed by Archohm comes 'fully loaded' with three cinemas, an extensive gaming zone, options galore for food and wine, and shopping literally 'til you drop' everything that speaks of the good life, and aptly named 'Hi street' and scheduled to open in August 2009.

**WORLD NEWS:** An international exhibition on ceramic tiles, kitchens and bathrooms is being organised by the porcelanosa group from the 2nd to 6th of February in

The MADE expo exhibition is being held at the Milan Fairgrounds, Rho, Italy from the 4th to the 7th of February.

**INTERESTING SITES TO VISIT:**  
www.reddot.com  
www.madeexpo.it

**BIRD FEEDER:** This bird feeder made of hand blown glass can be attached to a branch or put under an overhang. It has won the 'Good Design award' and the 'iF Design award' in 2007, while being a nominee in the 'Designpreis' in the year 2008!

This bridge is suspended 4000 feet above the Colarado river on the very edge of Grand Canyon. On May 2005, the final test was conducted and the structure passed engineering requirements by 400 percent, enabling it to withstand the weight of 71 fully loaded Boeing 747 airplanes (more that 71 million pounds). The bridge will be able to sustain winds in excess of 100 miles per hour from 8 different directions, as well as an 8.0 magnitude earthquake within 50miles

**NEW JOINEES:**  
Elizabeth Architecture  
aprendice

**BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH:**  
Prem Negi first  
Archana Anand seventh  
Sanjay Kumar tenth  
Sharuli Bisht tenth  
Bhoomika Singhal eighteenth

**Mujl** has been a clear frontrunner to most design awards.  
**vitra** has been a trendsetter in furniture design.  
**alesi** is an institution in accessories.  
The **RED DOT museum in Germany** is a great window to this world of product

# designs

# in focus

started my new year with a lazy Sunday in London. thankfully, most shopping was closed and that got me focused on better things in life. my day began with a fantastic exhibition on 'design during the cold war', an incredible journey through design during the Russian and American times an how it was an interesting tool to express their individual progress and prowess.(yzy of the Americans and Russian examples)

under another collection 'super normal', that beautifully express the strength of design and its influence on our everyday life. 'super normal' may be referred to as a dialogue between 'super and normal', thereby trying to give a facelift by design to the normal. It could also mean superlative subtle qualities of the normal. a great collection of incredibly mundane everyday items with fantastic design solutions and modification to enhance them and make 'nicer things'

**waste paper basket:** not easy to revamp something normal, the slight tilt helps toss the garbage and the thickened edge assists in the loss hitting the target. a simple negative, a tilt, converts this into a design positively.

**paper clip:** tiny balls added to ends of a conventional paper clip makes the big difference to scratched paper and hurt fingers, a simple addition that brings a critical functionality.

**bucket:** an Italian modification that gave a moulded pouring spout and mofring handle represents a summi to this product, a perfect example of making life better.

To throw a few familiar names in design,  
**Mujl** has been a clear frontrunner to most design awards.  
**vitra** has been a trendsetter in furniture design.  
**alesi** is an institution in accessories.  
The **RED DOT museum in Germany** is a great window to this world of product

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.

**Design is an essential component of everyday life.** Design shapes objects with which we furnish our homes, tools with which we communicate and the environment with which we work, live and play, one can enjoy life so much more by sensitizing ones self to design in general, an elevation of the spirit by sheer thought and their application. personally, I am getting more and more influenced by design, a state of mind that makes you enjoy things at a conceptual level, a clear inspiration to develop and detail every building, every space, every column to give it a twist, a new dimension.