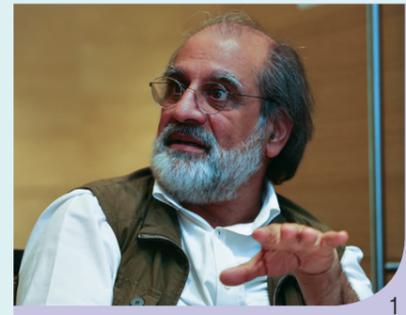


# INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND A STRONG CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ARE THE BEDROCKS OF GREAT DESIGN

The debut edition of Forbes India Design Awards, held on March 11 in New Delhi, was judged by 11 of India's accomplished architects who reviewed projects in two pivotal arms of design—Architecture and Interiors. The jury members, who comprised of India's biggest architects and designers, were divided into teams of twos or threes across the 11 categories they were judging. The multi-faceted winners, representing a cross-section of dynamic architectural and design practices from the country, were judged on the criteria of innovation, sustainability and an unconventional approach. The projects that made it to the winners' post stood out amongst the rest, for their fresh, creative & visionary designs.



The jury, voted with certain objectives in mind—sustainable design strategies, resource optimisation, projects that are contextually rooted and displayed a high level of social and environment sensitivity. The extraordinary architects and designers, who were ultimately chosen as winners, had submitted projects that established new benchmarks on India's architectural and design landscape.

**1) INTERIOR - RETAIL & HOSPITALITY**

**Studio:** Fadd Studio  
**Project:** Misu Restaurant

The terrace restaurant overlooks one of the busiest streets in India's IT capital, Bengaluru. Since the word 'Misu' translates to mean 'a water ripple', the design was inspired by earthy colors and elements of nature such as water, wind, earth and fire, interpreted in a manner that is global in design language, refined, polished and chic.

**2) INTERIOR - INSTITUTIONAL**

**Studio:** Archohm Consults  
**Project:** The Design Village

The Design Village, an interdisciplinary design school, was looking at moving into a bigger space. Studio Archohm zeroed in on an abandoned kattha (catechu) factory which had immense renewal potential. The entire revitalisation process turned the desolate structure into a swish design village while retaining its inherent character.

**3) INTERIOR - OFFICE**

**Studio:** Artha Studio  
**Project:** The New Studio

The New Studio is an intelligent retrofitting of space in a commercial part of an old residential building. The architects leveraged three main architectural principles: flexible functionality of space, efficient workability in terms of materials used and dynamic studio set-up for office management. Customised carpentry work and furniture

crafted from salvaged wood ensure that the studio stands scrutiny on principles of sustainability.

**4) ARCHITECTURE - COMMERCIAL**

**Studio:** Stapati  
**Project:** Malabar Headquarters

The headquarters of the Malabar Group is located on a steep slope, which was a challenging site to work on. Stapati created a series of levels along the contours of the slope, which reduced their intervention to a bare minimum. The architects followed a transparent open plan to take advantage of the breathtaking views by strategically building balconies.

**5) ARCHITECTURE - COMMERCIAL**

**Studio:** Dipen Gada & Associates  
**Project:** Sanket India

The electronic shopping complex, part of the client's commercial establishment, is situated in Anand district of Gujarat. Since Anand is hot and dry most of the year through, the architects blocked the south sun using 14" thick angular walls, facing the east. The terrace gardens on second level double up as spill-over space for second floor cabins and help reduce heat penetration through the roof.

**6) ARCHITECTURE - GROUP HOUSING**

**Studio:** Seza—Seema Puri And Zarir Mullan Architects and Interior Designers  
**Project:** Pali Palms



The architectural built form of this group housing project has been evolved in response to the humidity levels in coastal Mumbai. The masonry facade that are recessed within deep overhangs allows for generous amount of sunlight to infuse within the space and the edgy aluminum mesh, a modern interpretation of the traditional *jaali* design, envelopes the entire façade in response to the local climate.

**7) ARCHITECTURE - HOSPITALITY**

**Studio:** Kumar La Noce  
**Project:** Cardamom Club

The beautiful retreat is spread across a lush network of cardamom plantations on a steep terrain in forest-covered Thekkady, in Kerala. The site also includes an open-to-air pool with adjacent stepped decks and a spa block divided into three interconnected volumes, all of them raised on stilts. The structures, envisioned as light and elegant floating volumes, have been crafted out of rich reddish Bangkirai hardwood sourced from sustainably managed plantations.

**8) ARCHITECTURE - INSTITUTION/CULTURE/PUBLIC**

**Studio:** Calm Studio  
**Project:** Apollo Tyres Global R&D Centre

Given the crucial role that global R&D plays, this high-profile centre would receive international visitors. The architecture firm created a visual statement that could express Apollo's modern and global vision. Design strategies included multiple water and green courtyards, a green spine running through the entire length between the office block and the laboratory building, and office spaces opening up to the terrace gardens.

**9) ARCHITECTURE - SOCIAL IMPACT PROJECT**

**Studio:** Venkataraman Associates  
**Project:** Church Street Re-development Project

Placed at the heart of Bengaluru's social life, Church Street is a complex street that girdles entertainment establishments, businesses and residences. The need for urban intervention emerged from the fact that this street reeked of civic apathy. Redevelopment involved a complete overhaul of the 100-year old road and was centered on the concept of 'Pedestrianisation'. The cobblestone pattern is inspired by 'Kasuti', an embroidery design practiced by

artisans from Karnataka.

**10) ARCHITECTURE - CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**

**Studio:** Spaces Architects@Ka  
**Project:** Haveli Dharampura

The restoration project, first of its kind in the ancient walled city of Delhi, revitalised a 135-year-old Haveli (built in 1880) into a hospitality project with 14 rooms, a spa, a museum, two shops and a restaurant. The designing process involved an elaborate two-years research project of the entire urban fabric of Chandni Chowk. The resulting space had elements from Hindu, Mughal, Jain and Rajasthan's architectural traditions.

**11) ARCHITECTURE - HOUSE**

**Studio:** Malik Architecture  
**Project:** House of Three Streams

The house fits into the palimpsest of contextual parameters: the topography of the land, the material memory of the surrounding forts of Tungi and Lohgad, the light within the forest, and the deep water discharging ravines. Everything, from the spatial quality to the material language, echoes the spirit of the site.

**12) ARCHITECTURE - HOUSE**

**Studio:** Artha Studio  
**Project:** A Farmer's Abode

A Farmer's Abode is located in the landscape of the countryside and is redolent with refreshing scents of sugarcane, tomato and cauliflower harvests. The innovative design is born by conserving and repurposing materials, even as it invigorates local economies, employs vernacular technologies and revives time-tested sensitivities.

**13) INTERIOR - HOUSE**

**Studio:** Dar & Wagh Designs  
**Project:** 42 Wagholi

The weekend house, set in the rural hinterland outside Pune, is designed as a series of interconnected spaces that directly open to the landscape. Walls are blurred at the ground level and rooms get their definition, volume and geometry from steeply sloping symmetrical timber roofs. Internal ceilings become a defining character and a starting point for the design.