maximum creative work happens. My focus is at its peak."

A destination that’s an architect’s delight?
"There are too many cities across the world, it depends on what sense you are looking at – temple architecture, contemporary architecture or skyscrapers. One delight for me is China, purely from the point of view of new generation architecture and freedom of expression with ideas. I wish to see India transform like that."

Your best project yet?
"Della Tower undoubtedly, which is based on Persian architecture. I feel that’s my best project. It’s a 21-storey residential tower and has become quite a symbolic form of architecture in Mumbai. When I see people getting out of the cars in the middle of the road and take photographs of the building, it gives me a great sense of accomplishment and strength to keep going."

Are there tricky moments, if any, while working on your restoration projects or with the commercial and residential ones?
"There are moments when one has to decide to stick to what was existing and whether one can try (in the same context), to improvise. During restoration, you stick to the original. However, in some instances, it’s difficult to ascertain whether the alterations were originally planned in the building or were done later because of the unavailability of the historical data.

That’s a tricky moment – to try and evaluate what is original, what must have been added later and still delivers results which are in sync with the originality of the buildings."

Architects you admire the most?
"There are quite a few of them but globally, Thomas Heatherwick for his innovative approach. Architect Bergen Kingsley for his contemporary sense and in India, Noshir Talati definitely remains at the forefront for interior design. For architecture, I admire Haizel Contractor’s work."

What does the future of modern architecture look like?
"Things are improving and I have faith in good talent. It is a tough road ahead for Indian architects because the market and the government are not sensitive towards design, which is a concern. You need to have buildings that are purposeful, where architects can design path-breaking landmarks within the city, otherwise the future will remain unchanged in the country."

Advice you’d offer to young architects that they won’t learn in college?
"Young architects need to realise that there is an entire world beyond academics and that what they are learning in college is not necessarily sacrosanct. My advice is once you get a degree, get out of the well, look at the world around, try and meet architects and designers who are commercially successful and understand their method of working."

Did you always want to become an architect?
"No! I don’t have a formal education in architecture and design. I am a mechanical engineer."

Where do you work on your projects?
"I work on projects in my various offices in Mumbai, Lonavala and Daman."

How would a close friend describe your work/style?
"Eclectic. Passionate."

How has the landscape of architecture in India evolved over the last decade or two?
"The landscape of architecture in India is quite pathetic. Most of the Indian architectural design firms have turned into drafting offices for international global architects. Very few firms are doing creative work, specially when it comes to creative work at a larger scale."

The best moments of your day?
"I work late into the night. The time between 12 and 2 am are the best moments because that’s when there is no interference and when the