JIMMY MISTRY
DELLA-TENDA ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

It is often asked how he got into the business of architecture, Jimmy Mistry is known to reply, “I didn’t; the business got into me.” The principal designer and MD of Della Tenda Architects and Interior Designers, launched over a decade ago, in a name to be reckoned with in Italian architectural circles, is quite an interesting story. This is quite credible to someone who is not a qualified architect. Today, his company has its credit several residential and commercial complexes, IT parks and hospitality projects. But Mistry started off in a humble fashion by undertaking contractual assignments for building repairs and maintenance.

His big break came when he was offered the chance to work with furniture, and he abandoned his studies in Mechanical Engineering when he found his destiny was within the furniture design magazine, L’Officiel, that triggered off a complete new direction. “Inspired by Italian office furniture, I contacted Olivetti showroom and, on their invitation, went to Italy — which turned out to be the turning point of my career,” discloses Mistry. “The designers introduced me not just to their design, but also their methods of manufacturing and marketing. They exposed me to a new world of interior designs, and the worlds of studio like Charles Poliello, El Dado/Masuren.”

Mistry’s design philosophy is simple: “Each structure we work on should be a landmark,” says the man whose landmark projects include the UB headquarters in Bengaluru (18 floors, including Dr Vidy Malvi’s personal yacht), Shantiniketan Saharan’s shopping mall in Saharanpur, Lakshmi Mittal Steel Sajik in Purna and Bajaj Probiking retail stores across India (which won the VMDR Retail Design Award 2008). Mistry revives the freedom that designing for hospitality offers him. “Not surprisingly, he believes that his biggest contribution is the one-of-its-kind Della Extreme Adventure Park near Mumbai, probably India’s largest.”

KAPIL BHALLA

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mired with an international reputation, he went on to do his Master’s at the University of Illinois at Urbana — Champaign, after graduating from the Sir J J College of Architecture in Mumbai and work experience, Kapil Bhalla set up Studio for Environment and Architecture (SEARCH) in 1991 with wife and partner, Jayashree Bhalla. He continues to hone his skills, with his recent achievement being an Executive Graduate Education in Architecture at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. With his global knowledge and deep love for India’s architectural heritage (which led him to the profession), he has been leading this firm as the principal — to create “innovative architectures that belongs to its environment.”

SEARCH’S portfolio of contemporary Indian architecture covers projects from educational campuses, corporate headquarters, bungalows, hotels, hospitals, restaurants and spas to even workstations and art panels. The studio focuses on research, study, analysis, and unique architectural concepts that can be integrated with the environment. Both Jayashree and Kapil have led the firm with a single mission, that of creativity and variety and have designed award-winning projects (Excellence in Hospitality Design, IBD Awards Hotel & Food Service, Design Awards – national winner in over 20 Indian cities. Kapil has also worked as research for the Directorate of Engineering and Housing, DEF, US Army CERL, USA.

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