HOT 100

RED HOT RIGHT NOW

The top names in the world of Indian architecture and design disclose to us which of their landmark projects is on the anvil.
Jimmy Mistry's contractual association with some of the finest architects and designers in the country led to his full-fledged presence in the domain. Self-admittedly, despite his lack of academic qualification in design, his exposure to mechanical engineering (which he pursued up to the final year) stood him in good stead. While he absorbed precious learning—be it scalability, optimal utilisation of material or methodology, his mentor Nareman Nalla Sheth gave him invaluable insight into the practicalities of plumbing, etc. The turning point in 2004 was a three-day session on design processes with IDEO, that led Mistry to his present interior practice. There was no looking back when he won an IID MK award for his first turnkey for Star TV under his company Della Tecnica. This led to him zeroing in on multiple architectural projects, primarily township and master planning. In 2014, the Della Group shifted focus to their own projects—a resort, an adventure park and a community of luxury second homes. Mistry’s 21-storey Della Tower in Dadar, Mumbai is an ode to iconic Iranian architecture. Other definitive projects include HDFC at Ramon House, Star TV’s Kamala Mills office in 1999, the Star News building at Mahalaxmi, Mumbai and Mistry’s expression—the 18-storey UB Towers for Vijay Mallya. Della by Jimmy Mistry, a large 30,000 sq ft store, is intended to change the buyer experience of interior products manufactured in-house. Next, Mistry looks to replicating all Della verticals across a couple of cities in India.

Kamal & Arjun Malik
MALIK ARCHITECTURE

Architecture, for Kamal Malik, is a synthesis of ‘Ecology’ and ‘Spirit’. Founder and principal architect of Malik Architecture in Mumbai, he was born in Shimla where he learned “the language of a deeper communion with nature and the grace of the sages”;
and with the passage of time, he realised he is more effective as a “catalyst than a doer.” In his over 37 years of practice, he has not only drawn inspiration from nature, its principles and processes—but also tried to reinvigorate the Indian artisan, by relying extensively on local, sustainable materials. Their work, therefore, explores the beauty of load-bearing brick masonry, stone masonry, exposed concrete and, most recently, the innovative use of structural steel. “Architecture and site should have an experiential connection... if we consider the order (the Idea) to be the outer perception and phenomena (the Experience) to be the inner perception – then in a physical construction, the outer perception and inner perception are intertwined,” shares Malik senior.

Bringing his own philosophical bent to the firm and contributing to its dynamic portfolio – residential, commercial, R&D, healthcare, hospitality, educational, cultural, institutional as well as master-planning projects, son Arjun Malik believes that architecture is a deeply personal subject and requires an intense analysis of people and place. “a journey into the objective and subjective.” Not one to resort to whimsical ‘trends’, he believes, “Reproducing meaning and context in favour of easy-to-digest cookie-cutter solutions has become the norm rather than the exception, and does not augur well for our profession.”