

CRAFTING TOMORROW: THE VISIONARY ARCHITECT'S DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

IN CONVERSATION WITH ARCHITECT AMIT MAHAJAN

In the realm of architecture, the name Amit Mahajan resonates with a harmonious fusion of creativity and functionality. With a remarkable career spanning over 15 years, Amit Mahajan has made significant contributions to architecture. Having earned his M.Arch. degree in the UK, Amit has left his mark on architectural endeavors across Germany, Bulgaria, London, and Hungary. His international collaborations include renowned firms like Benoy, recipient of the prestigious Queen's Excellence Award in the UK.

Throughout his journey, Amit has garnered accolades, including two Wide-Angle Awards and an Eldrok Award for his outstanding work in residential project design. His work has been acknowledged by the 'Makers of Nashik Awards' and Top 100: Most Influential Architects in the year 2023 by leading radio channel and he has been invited as a jury member for ACE/TECH awards thrice.

In this exclusive interview, Amit Mahajan shares profound insights into his inspirations, design philosophy, and experiences.

What is your approach when it comes to architectural design and design philosophy?

At the heart of my architectural approach lies a profound commitment to design centrality. Each project I undertake is meticulously shaped by a thorough understanding of its contextual environment. I delve into an exhaustive analysis of the site, emphasizing not just its physical attributes but also its cultural and social nuances. Evaluating the project's feasibility and conceptual viability, ensuring that creativity aligns seamlessly with practicality. Factors such as human movement, social interactions, culture, demographics, and individual preferences and the importance of social sustainability are intricately woven into my designs.

What makes your firm different from other firms in Nashik?

ONE DESIGN stands apart with a steadfast commitment to the integrity of our projects. We operate on the principles of a proactive problem-solving ethos. Our task is not merely to meet our clients' design visions but to elevate them. We assist our clients in pinpointing their Unique Selling Proposition (USP), making their projects stand out. Simultaneously, we specialize in the art of spatial optimization. Our designs focus on effective utilization, ensuring that every element serves a functional purpose while exuding an aura of creative brilliance. As the



Amit Mahajan

design will change the future and functionality.

Can you share some significant projects where your design approach contributed to their success?

The firm's journey includes collaborative ventures with Ajmera Builders for residential redevelopment in Mumbai and the creation of office spaces for Bollywood Director Aneez Bazmee and the corporate office for Turtle Mint (featuring MS Dhoni as their brand ambassador). We've also lent our expertise to the development of a striking Commercial Building in Shirampur, charming Row-Houses in Devlali, Nashik, and innovative Factory Designs in Sangamner and Loni. Our commitment to fresh perspectives and inventive design dynamics remains unwavering. My methodology involves exhaustive ground-work and detailed research, evaluating elements like Building science, Character of Access, Edge Conditions, Spatial Analysis, Scale, Volumetric Analysis, Views & Vistas, Client's design and commercial aspirations.

TESTIMONIAL

Amit and his team displayed exceptional professionalism and efficiency. I am truly impressed by the outstanding work completed within a challenging deadline. Thank you for your remarkable efforts; I highly recommend their services!

Fintech Blue Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Brand - Turtle Mint), Mumbai

What are the challenges in architectural design in Nashik, and how do you tackle them?

The challenges in Nashik's architectural landscape are intertwined with a resistance to change, often manifesting as the 'matchbox' mentality. At ONE DESIGN, we address these challenges with a comprehensive approach. Our focus on thorough research and careful consideration enables us to offer cost-effective solutions. We advocate the value of well-thought-out designs that optimize functionality.



Master Planning | Architecture
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TRANSFORMING EDUCATION TO EMPOWER YOUNG MINDS

In a world where traditional approaches to education often take precedence, Dr. Sanjyot Vaidya stands as a beacon of change, reshaping the educational landscape in India with her child-centric approach. She is an educator, parenting and life coach, counselor, and philanthropist. Dedicated to nurturing young minds and empowering individuals to realize their true potential, she runs her 16-year-old brain-child, Strawberry English Medium School, alongside her NGO, Shri Vyankatesh Education Society. Dr. Vaidya has also delivered motivational speeches at more than 200 different institutions across Asia. In this exclusive interview, she sheds light on her inspiring journey, the unique aspects of her school, her role as a motivational speaker, and her vision for the future of education in India.

What inspired you to start Strawberry English Medium School?

My journey as an educator and school founder began with a deeply personal desire. I wanted to provide my own child with a learning environment that was child-centric and activity-based, a stark contrast from the conventional approaches followed by many schools in our country. My vision was to establish a primary school that placed a strong emphasis on a child's holistic growth and development. This vision materialized into the founding of Strawberry English Medium School, which has since grown to have students up to the 12th grade.

What makes your school stand out from the rest?

The uniqueness of Strawberry English Medium School lies in our unwavering commitment to instilling values, nurturing language skills, and fostering independent thought. At our school, we provide students with numerous opportunities to explore a wide range of fields, like financial literacy, farming, ATL (Atal Tinkering Labs), and coding through platforms like White Hat Jr. We give students the creative freedom and autonomy to think independently, while guiding children to discover their own paths than enforcing

As a motivational speaker, what are the key teachings you impart to your audience?

I draw from the "15 Principles of the Universe" to impart wisdom to my audi-



Dr. Sanjyot Vaidya

enabling individuals to take responsibility for their actions, cease blaming others, and become architects of their own destinies. I also have my YouTube channel "Sanjyot Vaidya Life Coach" to spread these valuable insights.

What is the vision and mission of your school?

The vision for Strawberry English Medium School is to mold self-reliant, independent individuals. The driving motto behind the mission of my school is "one nation, one family," and I strive to bring changes in people's life by bringing that ray of sun, just like my name.

I envision transforming our school into a prominent educational brand with a presence in every city in Maharashtra. My mission revolves around nurturing a generation of learners who are not only academically competent but are also equipped with life skills that will serve them well beyond the walls of the classroom.

In your opinion, what are the



major issues with the education system in India?

The primary issue with the education system in India is its rigid structure and the lack of opportunities for children to think independently, as everything is

spoon-fed. I believe in the importance of shifting from a rigid approach to a more open-ended and exploratory one. Moreover, the adverse effects of constant comparisons based on grades and marks often lead to morale problems among students. In our school, we shift the focus to self-improvement, self-competition, and the enhancement of individual skills to help students become the best version of themselves.

Can you tell us more about your awards and recognitions?

One standout moment was in 2014 when I and my students were invited to celebrate Children's Day with then-President Pratibha Tai Devisingh Patil at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. I've also received several notable awards, including the "Mrs. Ahmednagar District

Beauty Queen Contest" by Rima Lagu, the "Best Lioness Chairperson" award, and recognition for "Innovation in Education" from Dr. Kiran Bedi. Among my prestigious titles is "ICON of Maharashtra" from Sakal newspaper. My journey was also featured in Udyog Maitrini magazine and in the book "She is the boss" by noted writer Smita Gun.

What message would you give to educators and teachers?

It's imperative that we, as educators, recognize the significance of shifting from a rigid and structured approach to one that is more open-ended and exploratory. We must create an environment where students are encouraged to question, experiment, and innovate. It's in these moments of exploration and discovery that true learning occurs.

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EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS: WHERE MENTORSHIP SHAPES SUCCESS

Choosing the right coaching institute for competitive exam preparation is a pivotal decision that can significantly impact your academic journey and future career. The right institute not only refines your intellectual prowess but also provides valuable mentorship and guidance. One city-based institution that stands out as mentor-friendly is C.A.W.S. (Crack Aptitude With Sarika).

STUDENT CENTRIC APPROACH

At C.A.W.S., the emphasis is not only on academic quality but also on personalized mentorship. The institute understands that each student is unique, with individual strengths and areas for improvement. Therefore, the coaching program is designed to provide a mentorship-driven approach, ensuring every student receives the guidance and support they need.

TEAM BEHIND CAWS

One of the critical features of CAWS is its team of experienced mentors, spearheaded by Sarika Tulsiani, who are not just educators but also industry professionals with a wealth of practical knowledge. These mentors serve as guides, helping students navigate the complexities of competitive entrance exams and providing insights into the business world beyond the classroom. Sarika Tulsiani is a focused and ambitious trainer with around 8 years of work experience in the field of teaching for various competitive exams (MBA CAT, CET, IPM, CLAT, TISS, NMAT, SNAP, Bankpo, CDS, campus recruitment etc) for Quantitative Aptitude and Logical Reasoning. She has trained around 5000+ students and dreams to change the future of millions of students in future. Sarika has also prepared IITians for group discussions and personal interview sessions for placements.

"The primary reason for starting this institute was to be less commercial and more of a friend and mentor to the students. The goal is to provide the right kind of guidance depending on the student's potential and interests. We are not only a class but a family where we have fun, we laugh, enjoy and study," says Sarika.

"The future vision for C.A.W.S. is to remove students' fear concerning Mathematics. Today, most students have a weak base of Maths from their earlier classes and leave this subject in higher grades. So, I aim to make students comfortable with this subject as it is a beautiful subject and extremely crucial in every aspect of career," she adds.

LEARNING METHODOLOGY

The mentor-friendly environment at C.A.W.S. is characterized by open communication and accessibility. Students are encouraged to seek guidance not only on academic matters but also on career choices, goal setting, and personal development. The institute recognizes the importance of



Sarika Tulsiani

TESTIMONIALS

You've endlessly supported me and my dreams in every way possible. The positive impact that you have instilled in our minds will stay forever. I'll be forever grateful to you, ma'am and thank you for being the most fantastic teacher

– Disha Mohane – JBIMS

This dream would've remained a dream without you, ma'am; you always were the best teacher, mentor and best friend.

– Swaraj Chhajjed – IHM Goa

You did more than prepare me academically; you prepared me for life. Thank you for all of the lessons you've taught me. I will remember them and you forever. Thank you so much ma'am, I feel so truly lucky to have a teacher who shows all of the care, understanding, and patience that you do. Thank you for everything.

– Adishree Sakhare – MNLU



holistic mentorship in shaping well-rounded future business leaders. The coaching methodology focuses on building a deep understanding of business concepts and honing analytical skills. Sarika and her team of mentors engage students in interactive sessions, case studies, and real-world simulations to ensure the practical application of theoretical knowledge.

Moreover, Group discussions, team projects, and collaborative problem-solving enhance the overall learning experience and prepare students for the collaborative nature of business environments. The mentor-friendly ethos extends to the institute's commitment to tracking each student's progress individually. Regular feedback sessions and performance assessments help Sarika tailor her guidance to address specific needs, ensuring no student is left behind.

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REDEFINING REAL ESTATE: QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND ECO-FRIENDLY LIVING

In the world of real estate, where innovation and quality reign supreme, a remarkable transformation is taking place. In 2018, a dynamic duo Rohit Gandhi and Ankit Patil, embarked on their journey as government contractors, driven by a passion for construction and a vision of creating homes that would stand as a testament to excellence. Fast forward to 2020, and the landscape of their endeavors underwent a significant shift as they transitioned into private construction.

The brainchild of these visionary entrepreneurs, the journey began with their inaugural project – four stunning row houses. This endeavor was not just about bricks and mortar; it was a realization of their dream to create living spaces that seamlessly blend comfort, luxury, and affordability. Joining forces of Rohit Gandhi with Ankit Patil, the partnership forged a path towards revolutionizing the real estate industry.

Today, these visionaries stand proudly at the helm of two ongoing projects that epitomize their dedication to crafting homes that surpass expectations - Rivera Sky Garden at Serene Meadows and The Iconic Tower at Gaikwad Nagar, Mumbai Naka.

RIVERA SKY GARDEN: WHERE LUXURY MEETS AFFORDABILITY

Nestled in the serene environs of Serene Meadows, Rivera Sky Garden is a testament to the belief that luxury should not come at an exorbitant price. This residential masterpiece features a seven-story building that boasts a total of 20 flats. The diversity of choices is evident in the availability of 2 and 3 BHK flats to cater to various preferences.

The design of Rivera Sky Garden is a meticulous blend of art and functionality. Six floors host three flats each, comprising one 2BHK and two 3BHK flats. The crowning glory of this development is the 7th floor, which offers two exclusive 3BHK flats complete with private terraces, providing residents with captivating views of Serene Meadows.

What sets Rivera Sky Garden apart is its commitment to quality and affordability. At just Rs. 3500 per square feet, it offers the best pricing in the area, compared to competitors charging Rs. 4000 and above per square feet. Quality is paramount, with the use of premium materials, such as Jaguar and Kohler fittings, and tiles sourced from Simpolo and Millennium, ensuring durability and aesthetics.

AMENITIES THAT REDEFINE LIVING

At Rivera Sky Garden, luxury extends beyond your living space. The development boasts an array of amenities, including a green gym for fitness enthusiasts, a serene sitting area for relaxation, and a barbecue



Rivera Sky Garden

area that's perfect for memorable gatherings with friends and family. Sustainability is a cornerstone of this project, with EV charging points available for every parking space, promoting eco-friendly living. Solar energy powers common areas, eliminating the need for residents to bear additional costs for lighting and lifts.

THE ICONIC TOWER: LUXURIOUS LIVING AT MUMBAI NAKA

The commitment to quality and sustainability extends to The Iconic Tower at Gai-



The Iconic Tower

kwad Nagar, Mumbai Naka. This residential gem features a unique scheme, offering six floors, each with six luxurious 3BHK flats. Just like Rivera Sky Garden, The Iconic Tower is equipped with solar panels and EV charging points on each floor, aligning with the developer's eco-friendly vision.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

From government contractors to private real estate developers, the journey of these dynamic entrepreneurs embodies a dedication to quality, affordability, and sustainability. These projects, Rivera Sky Garden and The Iconic Tower, showcase their unwavering commitment to providing homes that exceed expectations and offer a superior standard of living.

"As we continue to develop these projects, we are excited to welcome you into our growing family of satisfied homeowners. We are confident that Rivera Sky Garden at Serene Meadows and The Iconic Tower at Gaikwad Nagar, Mumbai Naka, will meet and surpass your expectations." Says Rohit Gandhi

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