

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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TOP OF THE NEW CROP

50 ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS, REPRESENTING GEN-NEXT,
POISED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR BUILT SPACES

iGen 2014

**ANJALI &
ASHWIN LOVEKAR**
CO-FOUNDERS &
PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS,
LOVEKAR DESIGN
ASSOCIATES



“Good design allows you to be yourself. It does not impose on you, but allows you to live and enhances your experience of work and life.”



Anjali and Ashwin Lovekar took up architecture for different reasons. While one is fuelled by an innate passion for design, the other carries his legacy forward. After completing their graduation from the Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai, in 1991 and working with reputed architecture firms, the couple formed Lovekar Design Associates in 1993. The firm believes in creating spaces that the owner is comfortable with and relates to as his own.

“Craftsmanship and architecture that appeals to the human scale works well. Having said that, technological wonders fascinate me,” says Anjali, who admires the legendary BV Doshi’s architecture for people and Tadao Ando’s purity of structural stability. On the other hand, for Ashwin, it is purity of thought that touches and inspires him. Designers like Chan Soo Khian of Singapore, who creates comfortable yet cosy residences in the urban context; Ernesto Bedmar, an Argentinian architect who works in the tropics with his large open spaces and meandering landscapes; and Geoffrey Bawa, with his extensive work in Sri Lanka, are inspirations that Ashwin would like to emulate.

The Lovekars believe that, though Indian architecture has evolved with the advent of technology, there is still a long way to go. “Indian architecture has not yet been able to adapt to the fast influx of high technology and materials from Western countries and China,” observes Ashwin. “Though there are loads of new materials coming in, we lack the discipline and sense of analysis to use them. Often, products from the West (such as glass blocks and ACP cladding materials) have been overused without a proper context.”

One change that this couple would like to see is in the support system that enables architects to use the new materials and technology to their fullest capacity. Skilled and trained labour, supplier back-up and good service is extremely important for the use of technology borrowed from the West, they feel. Anjali has an overriding desire to bring back respect to regional architecture in each of our states. “Demarcate a high-density urban zone that uses technology-based architecture to save space, but keep the fringe development in regulation with the natural surroundings,” she suggests.

The Lovekars strongly believe in translating their thoughts into reality, and their ideology is best reflected in their own office - which was converted from a 20-year old bungalow into an architecture and interior design studio. The interior walls were removed, and changes were made to the external elevations to make the place more environment-friendly and to create open, flowing spaces and interactive outdoor areas. The bungalow is located among full-grown trees, thus giving it shade all through the day. It also won the IIID regional awards, West Zone 2, in the Commercial Workplace (large) category.

PROJECT
Design studio of Lovekar Design
Associates, Pune