



RETHINKING GREEN DESIGN

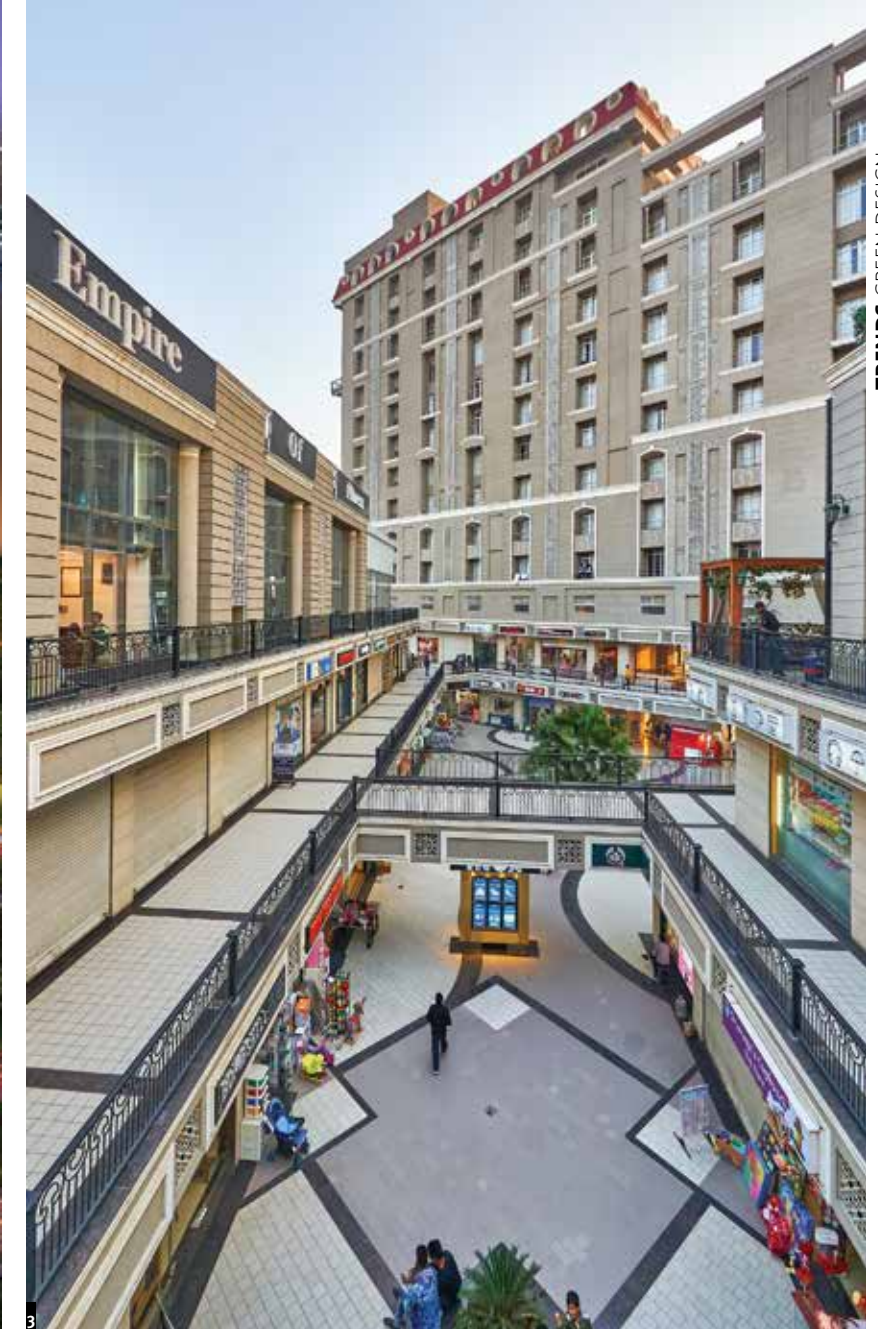


1. Mahagun Marina Walk in Greater Noida is designed as one of the first Malls with sustainability adopted to its core and proposes to have building integrated photovoltaics on its façade.

2. Sachin Goregaoker, Director, GA design.

GREEN DESIGN HAS BEEN A BUZZWORD FOR MANY YEARS NOW AND THE NEW DECADE IS REFINING ITS REAL ESSENCE. THE SPACE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN HAS MORPHED INTO A GREENER SETUP TODAY. WE SPEAK TO LEADING ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS – SACHIN GOREGAOKAR, MEENA MURTHY KAKKAR, MITU MATHUR, AMARDEEP GULRI, PANKHURI GOEL, NILANJAN BHOWAL - WHO INTERPRET SOME SPECIFIC DESIGN TRENDS

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO



3 The Sapphire uses AAC blocks instead of traditional bricks courtesy GPM Architects and Planners.

4. Mitu Mathur, Director, GPM Architects and Planners.

REPURPOSING AND UPCYCLING

Today, designers are teaming up with local craftsmen and artisans to come out with aesthetic solutions for rebranding products. "This trend has become popular in urban cities, thanks to easy access to social media.

Buyers are interested in stories behind that perfect furniture piece which holds a place of pride in their homes. Designers are seeking out opportunities to work with or buy items which are products of repurposing and upcycling masterminds," says Sachin Goregaoker, Director, GA Design.

BRINGING OUTDOORS INSIDE

Hydroponic farming is a trend which is fast catching on. It is an excellent application for terraces and balconies, with advantages like zero carbon footprint and fresh foods. Meena Murthy Kakkar, Design Head, Envisage, says, "Breathing in clean air and letting sunlight in for its sanitizing effects is essential. Biophilic design is an evidence-based approach to designing. It is both scientific and aesthetic. This approach helps us find the best ways to design spaces in harmony with nature. More emphasis needs to be given for families to interact with each other as a unit, by creating interactive or shared spaces within one's homes."

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIALS

In keeping with the green initiative, innovative materials are being developed in the market at breakneck speed. "One of the less polluting construction technologies is the AAC blocks, a sustainable alternative to traditional brick construction. Shading devices such as tensile canopies and polycarbonate roofing systems can be adopted for semi-open areas to limit exposure to glare and ensure thermal comfort. Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPVs) for the façade that generates electricity can be used for lighting back-up and landscape street lighting. Besides this, internal finishes composed of low volatile materials and heat-reflecting paint on the exteriors can further cut down on the heat gain," says Mitu Mathur, Director, GPM Architects and Planners.

TECHNOLOGY AIDING SUSTAINABILITY

The future of eco-friendly building is sure to bring even more green technological integration. "One should not underestimate the amount of energy that will be consumed by appliances, electronics and lighting. Look for appliances that are Energy Star certified. Solar rooftop panels can provide a long-term, cost-effective way to boost the passive energy of a home. Use of sensor lights and self-irrigation systems for gardens and green walls



5. Meena Murthy Kakkar, Design Head, Envisage.

6. Amardeep Gulri, Founder & Principal Designer, Deco-Arte.

7. Anubhuti Residence by Envisage shows how sustainability and green design play a key role in designing homes in the 21st century.

8. Use of natural greens and large windows in homes courtesy Deco Arte.

9. Terrace Garden adds an element of green courtesy Deco Arte.

also help to save light and water," says Amardeep Gulri, Founder & Principal Designer, Deco-Arte.

BE A MINIMALIST

Warm and earthy materials derived from nature continue to remain all-time favourites among designers and clients, owing to their strength and distinct aesthetic character. "Earthy and durable timber and cane furniture have become highly popular, especially outdoors. Jute and rattan furniture are other materials such as wood that add a layer of simplicity and lend a warm and welcoming facelift. There is a tendency for designing living areas and bedrooms with pared back aesthetics characterised by earth tones and warm neutrals," says Pankhuri Goel, Principal Architect, Studio Lotus.



10. A home inspired by the site and the culture around it, designed using local building material and technology courtesy Architect Nilanjan Bhowal.

11. Innovative use of traditional materials to improve their thermal efficiency courtesy Architect Nilanjan Bhowal.

12. For environmentally conscious residents, eco friendly and durable timber and cane furniture have become de rigueur, especially outdoors courtesy Studio Lotus.

13. The use of eclectic home decor elements with bright pops of colour brings in cheer and vibrancy in this Cooonor House designed by Studio Lotus.

14. Pankhuri Goel, Principal Architect, Studio Lotus.

15. Ar. Nilanjan Bhowal, Principal Architect, Design Consortium.

GREEN CHECKLIST

- Smart lighting – use of LED lights and sensor-based technology
- Non-synthetic and breathable natural fibres for curtains and upholstery like burlap, jute, cotton
- Furniture made from natural wood or upcycled furniture
- Cleaning material and detergents made from natural products
- Non-toxic paint
- Renewable energy – installation of solar panels for energy-efficient heating
- Energy-efficient heavy electronic items like ACs and refrigerators
- Efficient plumbing and bath fixtures which help in water-conservation
- Efficient waste-management – segregation of wet, dry and recycled waste
- Provision of ample natural light and ventilation
- Plants for a healthy environment and natural cooling

RETURN OF TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

Ar. Nilanjan Bhowal, Principal Architect, Design Consortium confirms that there has been a rise in the use of AAC Blocks, Fly Ash Bricks, Compressed Earth Bricks and even lime, which is more ecological and sustainable. "On-site waste management, waste-water treatment and rainwater preservations are being preferred. Today, 40 per cent of global emissions are attributed to buildings. Sixty per cent of waste generated comes from buildings or related activities. India's ancient buildings speak of a civilisation that believed in a spiritual connection with nature. Its forts, palaces and houses were built in harmony with nature and very often with minimum wastage and using locally available materials. That is the way forward."