

# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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**iGen  
2014**

## TOP OF THE NEW CROP

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



- 01 Aafira Zacharias
- 02 Abin Chaudhuri
- 03 Afsha Hakim
- 04 Akshat Bhatt
- 05 Aman Aggarwal
- 06 Ameya Kamat
- 07 Amit Gupta
- 08 Amit Khanna
- 09 Anjali Lovekar
- 10 Ankita Sweety
- 11 Anuradha Puri Rathore
- 12 Ashwin Lovekar
- 13 Athira Prakash
- 14 Behzaad Noshir Kharas
- 15 Bhavya Kenkare
- 16 Britta Gupta
- 17 Gaurav Sanghavi
- 18 Gowri Rao
- 19 Harshad Pote
- 20 Jayadev K
- 21 Kayzad Shroff
- 22 Ketan Jawdekar
- 23 Lester Rozario
- 24 Madhav Raman
- 25 Mallika Thakker
- 26 Maria I. Jimenez Leon
- 27 Mihir Katak
- 28 Naman Shah
- 29 Nanda Kumar Birudavolu
- 30 Nikhil Mohan
- 31 Niroop Reddy
- 32 Nifin Patel
- 33 Obaid Hakim
- 34 Padmini Pandey
- 35 Prajwal Krishna
- 36 Pratyosh Chandan
- 37 Priyak Thakker
- 38 Rinki Katak
- 39 Rupana Reddy
- 40 Sanya Desai
- 41 Shivjit Sidhu
- 42 Shweta B
- 43 Smrut Kamat
- 44 Sourabh Gupta
- 45 Sudhir PS
- 46 Sumit Arora
- 47 Tushar Joshi
- 48 Vaibhav Dimri
- 49 Vijay Dahiya
- 50 Vivek Singh Rathore

BY MARIA LOUIS

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Once again, it's that time of the year when we wade through a sea of information and images in our quest to unearth the ideals, inspirations and icons of India's next generation of architects and designers. We have consistently celebrated excellence in the Indian design fraternity, through the magazine as well as our networking initiatives. As we have done in the past, this eagerly-awaited iGen issue will unveil a fresh crop of Indian architects and designers who represent the energy, dynamism and enthusiasm that characterises generation-next.

Intelligent, inspired, informed and individualistic – these are just some of the many 'I's that characterise our youth. As a young publication conceived with the purpose of disseminating ideas, inspiration and insights among Indian architects and designers, we identify with this new generation.

We believe that the spark of their creative passion must be fanned to prevent them from becoming jaded like many older but not necessarily wiser folk are wont to do. So, we asked them to share with us the thrills and chills of their journey – the early inspirations and ideals that made them take the first steps, the signposts that told them they were on the

right track, and the stars that they follow so they don't lose direction in reaching their destination.

As we have said before, while we continue to provide our readers with information to help create inspirational designs, we would like to give talented young professionals the exposure that will help them further their career. Through this issue, we showcase the sense of vitality, optimism, animation, creativity and essence that defines the new India.

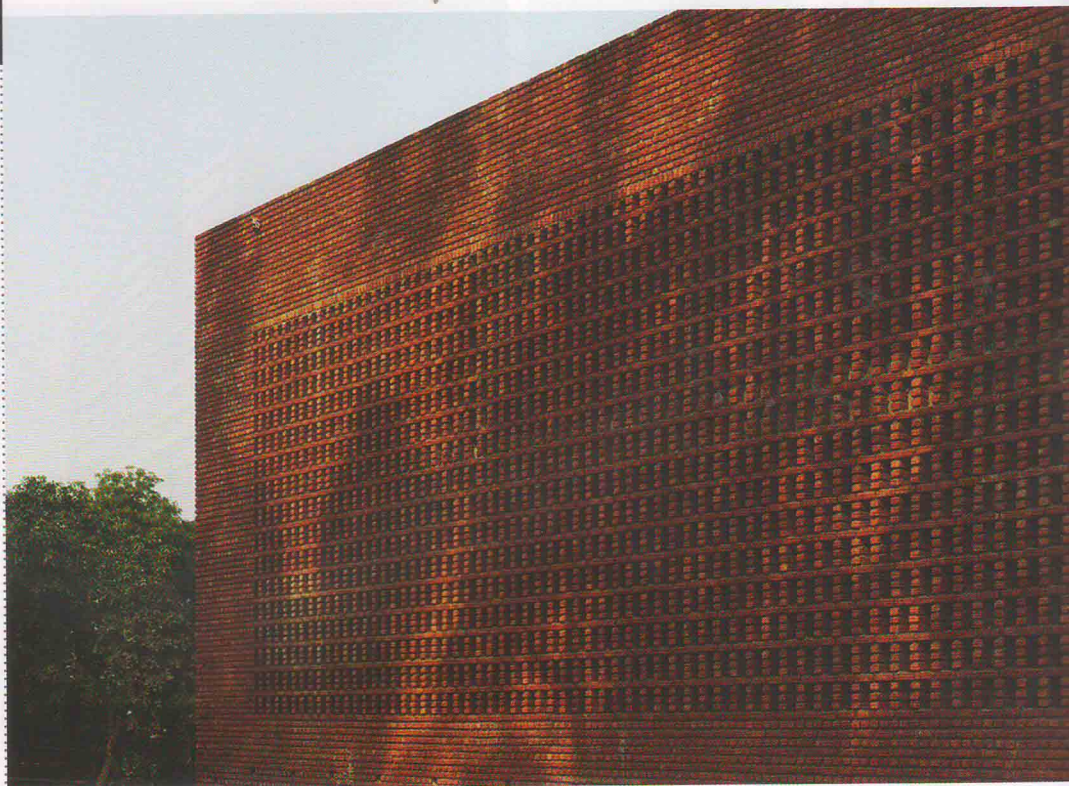
Turn the pages to discover the torch bearers of the idealism, innovation and individualism that mark those influenced by the legacy of Steve Jobs: the iPhone, iPad, iPod... in short, iGen 2014.

# iGen 2014

**AMIT KHANNA**  
DESIGN PRINCIPAL,  
AMIT KHANNA DESIGN  
ASSOCIATES



“Buildings by the same architectural firm can and should look as disparate as their local conditions and requirements need them to be.”



**A**mit Khanna spent his childhood in Kenya, and it was here that he was fascinated by “what seemed, at that time, an interesting life” of a family friend who was an architect. Curiosity got the better of him, and he went on to study at the School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, before setting up Amit Khanna Design Associates in 2004. That early fascination got him into this profession, but inspirational architects like Louis Kahn and Renzo Piano as well as iconic structures like the Kimbell Art Museum have kept him rooted.

The work at AKDA encompasses more than architecture and interior design; furniture, lighting and product design are also part of its diverse portfolio - for the studio “loves building things”. In recent years, it has tried to step into the urban space and, through its design intervention, benefit non-paying users on the street. No matter what kind of project or scale, the philosophy is “to make regional specificity and sustainability intrinsic to the design process and product”.

Even while designing a warehouse, an otherwise monotonous design space, Amit managed to come up with a sustainable solution. The space had to house a high degree of automation and the spatial dimensions of robotic arms and stocking pallets dictated the planning, including the 20-foot-high ceilings. The 1,40,000sq-ft building is wrapped with a perforated brick screen with a glazed dust barrier, recessed from the south and north facade to create a buffer zone that cuts glare, acts as a utility zone and provides a high degree of passive insulation. “The thing we are most kicked about, is the ambient temperature and light quality within. It is cool and well-lit, without the glare - which, in a climate like Delhi’s, is nothing short of a miracle,” explains Amit. When not busy coming up with such effective designs, he is either teaching at his alma mater or engaging in his passion for photography and writing.

“Architecture used to be the work of an aged master, one who had learned, over time, the many things that make a great building. That information is now available to everyone who wants to know,” says the 35-year-old architect. This influx of information can be seen among clients too, but AKDA is not threatened by it. “Rather than fight for control over the process, we embrace our clients’ awareness and allow them to participate in the evolution of the design,” discloses Amit. If there is one area that AKDA wants to contribute to, it is the civic spaces in India - “poorly conceived, cheaply executed and ill maintained”. By designing simpler, more navigable spaces with robust detailing, they hope to create better quality spaces for our cities.

## PROJECT

Automated warehousing facility, Delhi