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DESIGN LUMINARIES



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“
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How do you formulate ideas/ plan / concepts for your design? Kindly elaborate on the process?

I like looking at the immediate regional context, identifying the key construction issues and I like the buildings to project a strong statement in an effort to answer those issues. We like to work on the fundamental anatomy of the building, getting the scale right, getting the choice of materials right - be it brick bonding of a residence or the spacing of steel frames of an industrial structure.

An architectural anecdote that keeps you going...

At the School (of Planning & Architecture), the library was often my refuge for quiet, protracted reading and drawing. I devoured Vitruvius, Corbusier, Correa in equal measure, and I would not say that I was taken in by one more than the other. What did stay with me was the consistency of the problems in design - the issues that Bernini & Borromini grappled with, were similar to those affecting FLW & Mies, and Doshi & Rewal were also searching for answers to similar issues.

Role traditional architectural conventions in modern designs...

Practice in India today is driven on a largely western-centric preconceived aesthetic ideal that does not take into account our local resource economy, our climate and our vast traditions for creating passive solutions to complex, nuanced and diverse spatial concerns. We are a new society but an old civilization that has faced multiple eras of cultural amnesia, so it is understandable that we are rediscovering ourselves and in that process we are going to see movements and trends that are driven by false motivations.

What kind of design software and equipment do you use in your work?

We use products from Autodesk & Google for design drawing and modelling spaces. There is a lot of work done by hand in the office, with younger members encouraged to draw to mould the project in their mind.

