

CW

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+ TREND ALERT: A ROUNDUP OF MILAN'S EVENT OF THE YEAR, SALONE DEL MOBILE 2018.

Made for Each Other Architecturally

Annabelle Selldorf once said, “The secret of good architecture is having more than meets the eye.”

While architecture demands looking beyond the obvious, two heads can create a special kind of magic. CWI speaks to some amazing architect duos who tell us what makes their partnership tick.



PHOTO COURTESY: MORPHOGENESIS

← The India Glycols headquarters in Noida achieves high standards of sustainability and livability.



The conference room with emerald green chairs in the AMPM office.

PHOTO COURTESY, AMPM/DESIGNS



Akash
&
Poonam Mehta
AMPM Designs



Poonam and Akash Mehta have been practicing design together since a while. Akash has been associated with lighting products and lighting design for over a decade while Poonam Mehta started designing early on and her design sensibilities show in her clean, clutter-free aesthetics. Akash says, “I am an avid follower of Tom Dixon, a self-taught British designer. He proves that good design comes from perfection and perfection comes from passion. That has been my motto always. We have been practicing design on our individual projects. After working together on some projects as independent designers we realized how working together brought value to the other’s work. We brought out the best in each other.” The duo admit that it does take some time to recognise and respect each other’s boundaries, but then it is totally worth it. While Poonam takes care of interior designing Akash takes care of lighting design and the site work. A key trend that they are putting into practice is using Sage, slated to be the new neutral.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ampmdesigns/

Instagram: [ampm_designs](https://www.instagram.com/ampm_designs)

Website: www.ampmdesigns.in/ www.ampm-designs.com

QUICK TAKE

- **Favourite Product Designer:** *Poonam:* Philippe Starck
Akash: Tom Dixon
- **Favourite Architect:** *Poonam:* Zaha Hadid and Frank Lloyd Wright; *Akash:* Zaha Hadid
- **Your inspiration:** *Poonam:* My ex-boss Noshir Talati
Akash: Good design comes of perfection and perfection comes from passion.
- **Favourite Quote:** *Poonam:* “I don’t think you can teach architecture. You can only inspire people” - Zaha Hadid.
Akash: Vincent Van Gogh said “Il est difficile d’être simple.” It is difficult to be simple. - The complex design processes that have gone into creating such a seemingly simple, sculptural form.
- **One invaluable lesson you’ve learned on the job:**
Poonam: Design is a process. I’m still learning.
Akash: Learning never ends.



Raisoni Residence: a 7,500 sq ft apartment in Pune.



The managing director's cabin in the AMPM office.



The reception area of the office.



Zubin Zainuddin
&
Krupa Zubin
ZZ Architects



This multidisciplinary and multi-award winning design firm, is led by Principal Architects Krupa Zubin and Zubin Zainuddin. The couple's first design was a staircase that they designed for their own home. The concept and execution of this staircase won them some prestigious awards and media coverage. The couple admit, "We have been very fortunate to have found each other. Our intuition when it comes to design, and our keen attention to detail is very similar. We are constantly learning and refining our aesthetic sensibilities." Since they work on a number of projects at a time across varied categories, they divide their time based on their strengths. "Projects are segregated as per groups in our firms. We often obsess over the smallest of details and it is a matter of pride to see every project as unique and having its own response," they add. Asked if their design choices clash, they say, "These issues rarely occur as every project is driven in a precise direction keeping in mind the client's requirements, preferences and budget. We make sure that clients are an integral part of every design decision so that they enjoy a clear sense of pride and ownership."

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QUICK TAKE

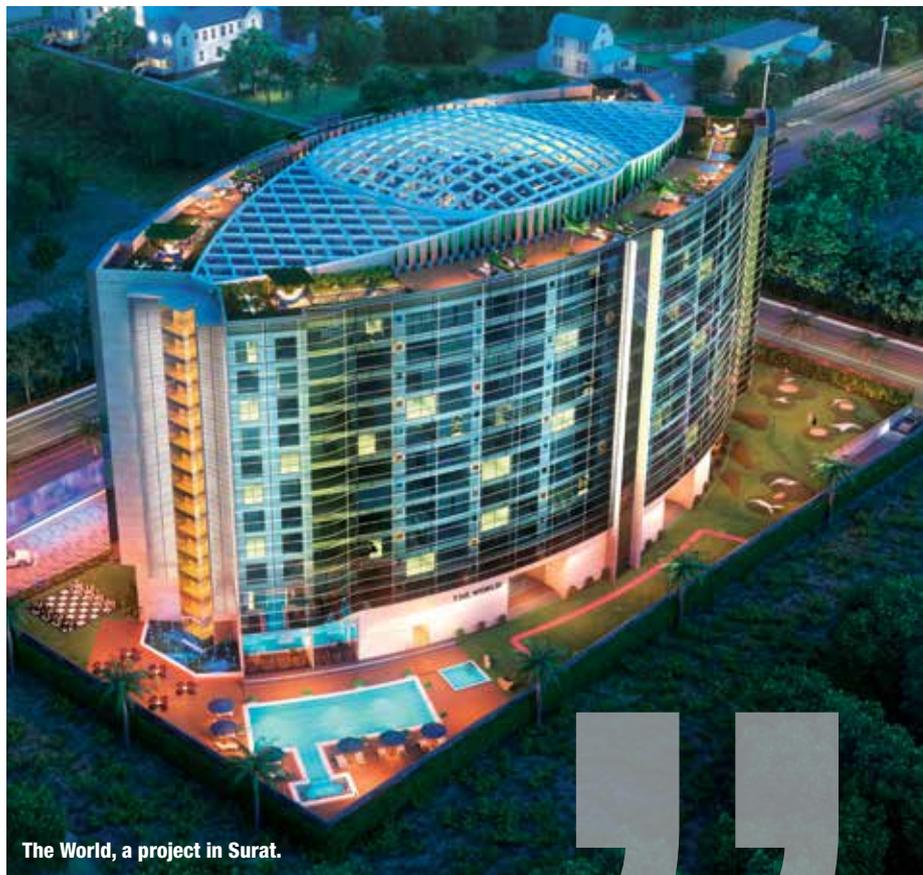
- **Favourite Product Designer:** *Krupa:* Nendo, Kelly Wearstler, Patricia Urquiola. *Zubin:* Wendell Castle, Chi Wing Lo, Jonathan Ive, Jean Michel Frank
- **Favourite Architect:** *Krupa:* Carlos Scarpa, Bjarke Ingles, John Pawson, Zaha Hadid
Zubin: Thomas Heatherwick, Norman Foster, David Chipperfield, Steven Holl, Tadao Ando, Charles Correa
- **Your inspiration:** *Krupa:* Zubin
Zubin: Art, Books, Movies and Music
- **Favourite Quote:** *Krupa:* "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." *Zubin:* "Often it's the invisible nuances that make the visible difference."
- **One invaluable lesson you've learned on the job:**
Krupa: 'Love your work and it will never feel like a job'.
Zubin: 'Constantly learning is inevitable'.



This monolithic villa in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, has a spectacular pool on the terrace.



Pushkar Resort, Rajasthan: A luxury property that combines the contemporary with tradition.



The World, a project in Surat.





Manit
&
Sonali Rastogi
Morphogenesis



Founded in 1996 by Mani and Sonali Rastogi with a vision of defining a new emergent Indian architecture, Morphogenesis has evolved into a vibrant cross-disciplinary team. The duo began their career as a two-person practice operating out of a garage and their first project together was the Apollo Tyres Corporate office. “We were very fortunate to have a client entrust us with a project of this magnitude. At the time (1996), the technology implemented was cutting edge. There was an immense amount we learned from it,” they recollect fondly. Architecture for them is not just a profession but a way of life. “The commitment required is paramount as there is a tremendous responsibility to oneself, the profession and the community at large. I always wanted to be in India and found a like-minded person in Mani to set up design practice with. It’s been a journey of engagement, discovery and learning in many ways,” says Sonali. Mani avers, “We started life together quite early. We started Morphogenesis together and it’s been more than 20 years. We have grown together and think together. So, it’s more like aiming towards a common vision.” The seamless nature of their partnership has augured well for the couple and while they brainstorm together to initiate a concept with the design team at the project level, Mani works to define the passive design strategy, setting out goals and metrics to be achieved; while Sonali carries that through into the actual design, ensuring the smooth working of the operations in delivering quality projects on time.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/morphogenesis.arch/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sawatmorphogenesis/

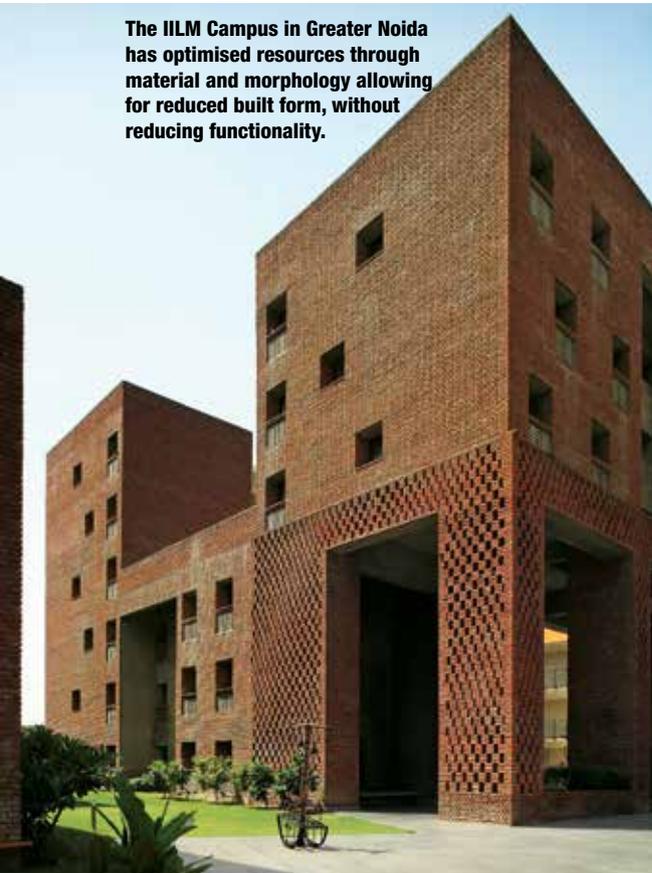
Website: www.morphogenesis.org

QUICK TAKE

- **Favourite Product Designer, Favourite Architect:** Le Corbusier, Tadao Ando, Maki, Alvar Aalto
- **Your inspiration:** Japan
- **Favourite Quote:** Architecture is not just a Profession. It is a Way of Life!



An architect's studio in his home in New Delhi. Three generations of the family reside here.



The IILM Campus in Greater Noida has optimised resources through material and morphology allowing for reduced built form, without reducing functionality.



The British School in New Delhi has liberally scattered breakout spaces.



Romesh
&
Manishi Sapra
Sapras Architects & Engineers



Even though they are poles apart in their thinking, the Delhi-based duo call it the perfect partnership. Romesh Sapra has over 23 years of experience in architecture and interiors, while Manishi has been involved with the group since 1990. Her first design was a small boutique called 'Kala Sangam' that had a hint of colonial architecture with a nice lush green courtyard. Romesh's first design was a small residence on a 200 square yard plot, with the entire front elevation in exposed brick inspired by Louis Khan's IIM Ahmedabad. "We are poles apart in our thinking, working and designing; so it is the perfect partnership as it balances our shortcomings and enhances our strength," says Romesh. For them, the secret behind working well is to have clearly demarcated responsibilities, and to honour each other's commitments. Residences and part of automobile architecture is taken care of by Manishi while Romesh takes care of corporate offices and part of automobile architecture. "There is a lot of learning with two brains working independently and in different directions. We give each other comfortable breathing space," says Manishi whose trend mantra is to be earthy, organic, green and eco-friendly.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saprasarchitectsengineers

Website: www.sapras.com

QUICK TAKE

- **Favourite Product Designer:** *Manishi:* Hans Wegner & Arne Jacobson; *Romesh:* Zaha Hadid
- **Favourite Architect:** *Manishi:* Antoni Gaudi; *Romesh:* Zaha Hadid
- **Your inspiration:** *Manishi:* Casa Batllo, a residence by Antoni; *Romesh:* Versatility & boldness - in designing of a shoe to a light to a yacht to world famous buildings by ZAHA
- **Favourite Quote:** *Manishi:* Miles to go before I sleep. *Romesh:* Respect time and time will respect you.
- **One invaluable lesson you've learned on the job:** *Manishi:* Don't Compromise; *Romesh:* Don't get disheartened, keep working



The Audi showroom in south Delhi.



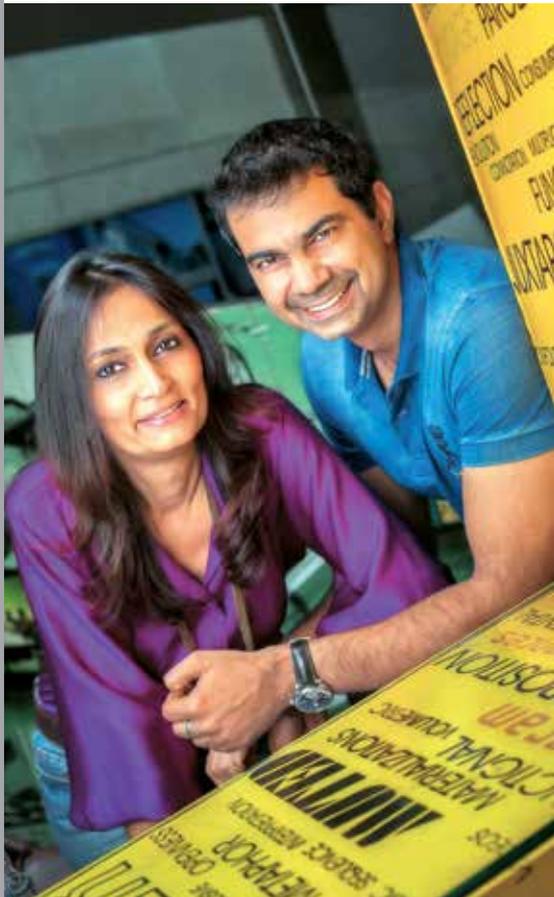
TREK's head office in Gurgaon.



The Harley Davidson Showroom, Delhi.



*Sanjay
&
Nina Puri*
Sanjay Puri Architects



A multi-awarded firm, Sanjay Puri Architects is run by couple Nina and Sanjay Puri. The firm's design philosophy is to create innovative design solutions that are contextual, sustainable and revolutionise the way they are experienced. Sanjay's first design was the interiors of a small 400 sq ft office at Kemps Corner in Mumbai done whilst studying in the second year of Architecture. The duo divide the projects making it easier for each person to focus based on their individual strengths. Most residential interiors are conceptualized and overseen by Nina, while architectural projects, commercial and hospitality interiors are conceptualized and overseen by Sanjay. "Our growth is organic and we are focusing only on projects that are interesting, where design can create a substantial difference, where free rein can be given to path breaking ideas with a contextual and sustainable design approach," says Sanjay.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sanjay.puri.architects

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Website: www.sanjaypuriarchitects.com

QUICK TAKE

- **Favourite Product Designer:** *Sanjay:* Zaha Hadid
- **Favourite Architect:** *Sanjay:* Wolf Prix, Coop Himmelblau & Zaha Hadid
- **Your inspiration:** *Sanjay:* Design in a way not done before
- **Favourite Quote:** *Sanjay:* there are 360 degrees so why stick to one.

The colours of Rajasthan form the palette of these naturally ventilated corridors that act as indoor streets in Studios 18 for Shree Cement in Ras Rajasthan.





Studios 18 is a multi-award-winning low rise housing project, which is part of a 100-acre township at Ras, Rajasthan.



Ishatvam 9, an award-winning residential project, creates apartments with twenty feet high terraces to each room.



The Crescent in Surat, is built completely in steel with curvilinear rusted metal sheets that can be dismantled and reused.



Text by: Bindu Gopal Rao