



# TRANSFORMING INTERIORS

**ARCHITECT BRIJ PANJWANI TELLS BINDU GOPAL RAO HOW HIGHLY INTELLIGENT ARCHITECTURE IS BORN OUT OF DEEP THOUGHT FOR THE CONTEXT AND USER**

**A**s a child Brij Panjwani's father gifted him a Lego set, and he spent an entire evening creating different structures out of the blocks. "It fascinated me that by simply changing the arrangement of a few blocks I could alter the whole structure of the building. The amusement of building things with my own hands soon turned into a passion and I fell in love with architecture. For me, architecture is the perfect amalgamation of art and logic and fulfils my desire of turning my dreams into reality."

After doing his schooling from St. Gabriel's Academy, Roorkee, Brij went on to become a gold medalist Architecture graduate from the University of Roorkee (presently IIT Roorkee) in 1981. He is now the founder of North India's most renowned architectural firm, 'Panjwani Architects' based out of Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Brij and his wife Ila started the firm, working night and day to build it up brick by brick. "Ila is the backbone of this company. She is rightfully the 'behind the scenes magician' who has been part of all the struggles and successes. We have sailed through all the roadblocks along the way, from working on the smallest of residential projects to building a portfolio of big size projects."

The firm is known for their highly intelligent architecture born out of deep thought for the context and user. Their projects celebrate a simple material palate, creating generous spaces by using strong technical knowledge in the fields of functional design, engineering, geometry, logistics, building techniques and ergonomics with a sensibility of the arts and aesthetics.

"The early days of my career were tough as people rarely recognised the talent of an architect, often confusing them with draftsmen and civil engineers. Due to the 1982 Asiad Games, architecture gained the recognition of being a skilled profession. Patience and perseverance have been my greatest learning's throughout this journey."