

News Makers

City architect shines in Dubai



Hotels, villas, beach resorts and airline operation centres. Leading architect Ashok Korgaonkar has no time to breathe. Busy

with mega projects in the desert island of Dubai, the man who left Mumbai 23 years ago, is back to attend the golden jubilee functions of his alma mater - Rachana Sansad Academy of Architecture. With Dubai showcasing the highest development activity across the world and attracting several Indian developers, Mumbai-born Korgaonkar has a major stake - 70-storey twin towers offering 1,000 rooms and 300 service apartments at Marina, a recently completed 6,000 villa project and soon coming up state-of-the-art Operations Centre for Emirates Airlines, to name a few.

But, the man had to give up his dream - a residential project in the city - due to red tape and bureaucracy six months ago. "The transparency and speed with which projects are cleared in Dubai is unmatched. The rules are clearly defined and there's no influence required to get them cleared," said Korgaonkar.

The architect said sustainable, planned development based on solid infrastructure plans could make Mumbai a hub for global business. "Look, even a big property developer of Dubai like EMAAR has preferred Hyderabad to Mumbai. The state government must instill confidence, reduce bureaucracy and partner in development," he said.

"I cannot believe why we have not developed our waterfront, when cities like Dubai have used the creek for night cruises," he said. He gears up to build a mini airport centre for the Emirates in-flight staff at Dubai airport, the first of its kind in the world.

"I was in Mumbai during the floods and for the first time I realized that Mithi was a river and not a nullah. It's sad that slum demolitions are politicized.

by Smita Deshmukh
Courtesy : DNA

Anu Khatwani's - Furnista

Anu Khatwani's line of furniture does just that! It makes an impeccable fashion statement. A classic line embellished by contemporary touches, her pieces are a delight to behold. Traditional couches and chaise lounges come alive in a bold contemporary stripe. Centre tables created from antique picture frames make a perfect conversation piece. Finely carved chairs



and old world rocking chairs add class to any corner.

K h a t w a n i blends the classic line with contemporary

touches. Exquisitely carved tables come with castors. Cushions replicating the motif complement the tables. High pot holders with crystals embellishing the carvings. The oriental motif is seen widely in her creations.

After a course in Fashion Designing from SNTD she later did Interior Designing from the Parsons School New York. On her return she has designed apartments all over Bombay. She specializes in residential Interiors and color coordination, basic floor planning and designing furniture and accessories - remain her passion. She is working towards an exclusive label, promoting Indian furniture and lifestyle accessories.

She says "having a home that is cluttered always makes you irritate and increases the level of frustration and stress. It is not a question of how much we can stuff the place with but what we put in to create a wonderful atmosphere. Less is definitely more but the style is yours to create per your tastes."

Khatwani's own apartment is a testimony to this statement. Clean lines define the master bedroom which is decidedly English. The blue and beige combination give it the right ambiance to relax in, while a walk in wardrobe, pull out trolley take of storage. The drawing area is a study in a classic lines the dining area is unobtrusively demarcated from the drawing area by a chaise lounge. A graceful dining table with

eight exquisitely carved chairs is framed by the grandfather clock in the corner.

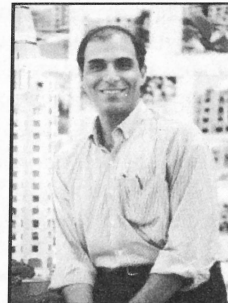
Weaving together a variety of styles, experimenting with a wide range of finishes, textures and materials and fusing old world styles with new functionality's and contemporary touches are what this designer does best.

A thing of beauty is a joy forever. The truth of this age-old maxim spurs the present day drive for artefacts and interiors that fulfill this need. Everyone today is looking for the interior or that piece of furniture that will combine the functional with the aesthetic and make a statement about them. A statement that spells class and taste.

by Rubina P Banerjee
Courtesy : DNA

Mumbai gets nothing from Delhi : Hafeez Contractor

I Don't have anything against the administration. What I do have to say is that Mumbai being the financial capital of the country, and you have people



coming from all over the country here, there should be a lot more spending on the city. Which does not happen.

The amount of money it gets from the Centre is a pittance. What Bombay needs is more money for its infrastructure. The administration cannot do anything. Criticizing everyone is not correct. What the administration can do is create policies which are pro-development which in turn will get the money to put into infrastructure.

Today the city is starving of money. Whereas the Centre is spending money left right and centre on Delhi. The Prime Minister is giving the city 500 crores whereas crores are spent on highways and Ring Roads in Delhi. They have an inner, outer Ring Road. If we had those Ring Roads in Mumbai, it would be at a higher level and people would have been able to go home.

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