

# Indian Architecture An Experience Of A Lifetime

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## Introduction:

When anyone thinks or utters the word 'Architecture', the thing that comes to our minds is 'buildings'. And those are mostly ancient, historical or more recently built, magnificent and famous buildings which are worth seeing, worth visiting and worth remembering. Being an Indian Architect-town planner I always wanted to create such memorable buildings, which the world will recognize.

I always wonder, after more than 60 years of independence what Modern Indian Architecture has given to the International World of Architecture and Planning. For that, the simple confirmative test is to get the answer for the question - Why do Tourists visit India? The answer is obvious. It is not to see any modern buildings which any Indian Architect has created on the mother land. Most recently one of our state tourism minister said in his speech while

inaugurating a tourist spot that "We all know that tourists do not come to the state for seeing good buildings because those they have already seen in other parts of the world". When I heard this on television, I really felt ashamed of our system and of Architects as a part of system.

It has been more than 60 years since we have become independent, but are still applauding ourselves with Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Charminar et al. Auroville, Lotus temple are a few exceptions but again they are examples of not an Indian architect's work. Architecture in India today can be classified as (1) Ancient Religious buildings, (2) Historical Palaces and buildings (3) Administrative and other buildings, all made before our independence, and lastly (4) Contemporary residential buildings, Office buildings, Malls and individual residences. And these last ones do not leave any imprint on our

minds. But if we go back in time we see that before independence we had British architecture, before that we had Mughal Architecture and if we still go further back, we can find ancient Indian Temples and Palaces built during different reigns of Indian kings and rulers making their presence felt, even now.

### **Present scenario of Architecture in India: Architecture at the cross roads**

India has a mixed bag of Architecture similar to its population mix. It has its own style and diversity. But speaking in terms of Architecture, it needs a direction, it requires a self introspection, and it requires finding its class-apart kind of architecture. We are now still far away from mixing technology and architecture which other parts of the world have been using called 'Archi-Technonics'.

Architecture in India is at a crossroads, where it sees political will on one side, people's housing demand on the other side. The future of Indian Architecture on one side, making an impact at the world level and future of Architects themselves on the other side.

India has been bestowed with many opportunities but those opportunities have not been used properly. We have not been able to cash in on events like Cricket world events, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and many other international events as an opportunity to create world class buildings like other parts of the world have done. These countries have made such opportunities into a mission to develop the city and build architectural marvels, which we call it 'Induced Development', successfully. China, during the Beijing Olympics has created a different world of architecture altogether.

Coming back to India, why has the Terminal 3 of IGI Airport, New Delhi been designed by HOK? Why is the home of Mukesh Ambani 'Antilla' not been designed by any Indian Architect? Why is the Gold Certified Hotel Park, Hyderabad not designed by an Indian architect but by Ar. James Law? Why is the Cybertecture International in Mumbai designed by Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM)? Why is the proposed Namaste Tower in Mumbai designed by WS Atkins and not by any Indian Architect?





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#### **Natural Ventilation in residential units**

Ventilation is one of the most important facts in order to prepare a convenient living space. Since natural ventilation is the best qualified solution for residential spaces. In designing the project we have created some voids between the blocks of the volume in order to have an air flowing there, besides, one of the great parts of our green space that are our hanging gardens place there so the air that is passing through this green space could make a comfortable ventilation in the interiors.

#### **The procedure of creating interior space**

The obtained crossed section from volume mass transformed to a surface with 90° angle corners considering organizing lines by similar layered distances. These layers in the plan take the role of organization of structure and extending green space into the interior space and creating hanging gardens.

#### **Natural Light in Interior Space**

The light of interior space is one of the main considerations in designing the project. We tried to increase the façade's area for catching more natural light by chamfering blocks edges and also the Façade is designed in a way to control the light.

Regarding to analysis on the interior plans, the suitable light of space is between 2% to 6%. This causes moderated temperature inside the space and results in decreasing energy consumption for heating or chilling the space.



