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**STEEL
STRUCTURES
& METAL
BUILDINGS**

SSMB.IN
nerve of steel construction



Big Interview



MANISH SHAH
Director, Structural Design
MR Waterkar & Associates

DESIGNing for Efficiency

Inside



ANAND SHARMA

Partner
Design Forum International

An accomplished architect, leader, and versatile talent, Anand Sharma, Partner, Design Forum International, champions context-driven design. In this conversation, he shares his thoughts on the trends of steel construction in India, the importance of feedback and more.



JITESHENDRA MEGHAJANI

Founder & Principal Consultant
Megh Engineering Consultants

In his journey from a curious student to a seasoned professional, Jiteshendra Meghrajani, Founder and Principal Consultant, Megh Engineering Consultants, shares his thoughts on the challenges faced, streamlining construction practices and more.



SUDHIKSHA PAREKH

Founder & Principal Architect
Sapient Architects

From her experience as the Founder and Principal Architect of Sapient Architects to her exploration of steel, Sudhiksha Parekh shares her journey in a candid conversation.



JIGAR SHAH

Director
Divya Consultants

With the development of 15 educational projects across various locations in Senegal, West Africa, this project encompasses a total area of approximately 825,000 sq. ft. Jigar Shah, Director, Divya Consultants, shares more.

USER-CENTRIC PROJECTS WITH A TWIST

With a gold medal from CEPT Ahmedabad and over 100 successful projects under her belt, **SUDIKSHA PAREKH'S** journey has been an impressive one. From her experience as the Founder and Principal Architect of Imprints Architects to her exploration of steel, Parekh shares her journey in this candid conversation...



Q Your academic journey is impressive, having graduated with a gold medal from CEPT Ahmedabad. How did your educational experiences shape your architectural perspective and approach?

A When I was studying and working on campus projects at the time, I realised that the only thing that mattered was who used the space, i.e. designed and built. If there's one lesson I got from that space, similar for the contextualities, the pulse, until for each place, each plot would still be defined. It's due to the physical bordered which is now a habit. The little bit of information, family or neighbourhood. How different perceptions of the space, bring what they need from it. Understanding this need is what allows me to shape the place.

Q With 100+ key projects delivered, what key lessons have you learned about navigating the complexities of construction in general, and involving steel construction in particular?

A Initially, we did Launched designs, we also wanted to break new approaches construction due to establishing concerns. Gradually, I also realised that this journey of the construction should be in a circle as the design. So, involving ourselves with the design on paper will not help us deliver our best. Now, we are from the ground level involved in treating the projects take shape. Projects does turnkey projects with the user in mind.

Q It was a very quick understanding that timeless is a criterion for our clients. In case of a long process, they look interested in it, becomes the main focus. I always look at iron ourselves to find a material that makes this process smooth. We're on this path. To make this material, locally available stone, bricks, basalt, and more. But since the school out because of it's efficiency terms of the material project, for design and client require. For the

past 5 years, steel has been our go-to material for almost every project.

Q Spotlight a project that holds special significance in your career. Whether due to design innovation, or the impact it had on your architectural journey.

A Our projects in general, we changed the urban design, each project set of challenges. A few of our projects have been on the beach and we bid and that to have a sense of the beach. The design project in Mumbai, we had to account for steep slopes, Ritrang, the material from the top constraints regarding the materials is open, difficult. So, instead of constructing the foundation in concrete, we decided to go for steel in the project. Along with the materials, the membrane required were very adaptable. By choosing steel, we were able to cut down on the labour, friendly, increasing the safety on site.

This project in Khandala is one we are most excited about as a team. We went with the concept of an infinite house which is completely integrated with nature. When one enters the site, the lawns, the houses. The terrace starts at the road level and the entire house is below, merged with the slope of the mountain, which is why we decided to use steel, as the main structural element. Constructing this concept in RCC would have delayed for the land and raising the foundation to a height. In turn, resulting in different levels of construction as a land rises. Also, for such a project, steel was the perfect material to work with.

Q Your personality is described as patient and detail-oriented. Could you elaborate on how this patient approach leads to the efficient execution of a project?

A When you want to do something, there is no shortcut. The aim is to try and see what is necessary. So, I think I put focus on the detail, I may not be a person who is quick to make decisions, but I try to understand the design and the detail. The process is very important. The project may have new questions, they may also have new problems, therefore, it may take more time. As a result of meticulous execution,

conventional project, the client rich, convenient to project, with me, they may have more. So, more case, I may have questions, they may also have new questions, they may also have new problems, therefore, and may take more time. As a result of meticulous execution, but it's too slow with a professional, beyond a certain time, tried again, want it to be trained accordingly.

Q What gaps do you see in the Indian construction industry vis a vis your experience abroad?

A The availability of steel is tricky because while we are able to easily procure the material needed for larger projects, I find that it's difficult to do so with smaller ones. We use steel for almost every project, so if we are not able to acquire the required amount of material, we end up paying more. We also see a difference in the quality of the labour. Steel is a material that needs to be handled delicately for good finishing, here, the labourer have to be trained accordingly.

Q Looking forward, what are your aspirations for your architectural pursuits, and how do you see your design philosophy intersecting with the evolving trends in the construction industry?

A Along with design, I want to explore the construction aspect more since it has been a personal challenge. Whatever I want to create, it would only be possible if I have the one to execute it. So, understanding shall act as construction masterplan is our goal. As a company, we are moving to steel in construction of fully cold steel. We have taken the concept of a simplified style in steel. This shall be a survey structure and the building will be housed within it. We also want to expand. Our usage of steel with permanent feature in our buildings, and make beautiful, free-flowing structures.