

FINTECH PUSHES THE LIMITS

PRICE ₹200  
MAY 17, 2024

INDIA

# Forbes

## PEDAL TO METAL

How CEO **Warren Harris** is leveraging Tata Technologies' deep automotive expertise to design and engineer electric vehicles as well as foray into adjacent sectors like aerospace



Network 18 [www.forbesindia.com](http://www.forbesindia.com)





# Modern Masters

Architects go beyond the glitz and opulence today and design structures that are all about understated elegance and following eco-friendly practices

## Show of Creativity



**A**nand Menon & Shobhan Kothari, alumni of the prestigious KRVA, have more than two decades of experience in architecture and design. They are founding partners and principal architects of ADND LLP & KDND LLP, a multiple award-winning architecture and interior design studio, whose strength lies in its collective ethos of conversations and relentless innovations.

An eye for detail and curiosity about putting things together led to Menon, an artist at heart, pursuing design and architecture as a career. A thinker and a man

**Anand Menon & Shobhan Kothari**  
Partners & architects, ADND LLP & KDND LLP

of structured discipline, Kothari found delight in the world of interior design which inspired him to be an architect. With their diametrically varying takes on life and creativity, Menon and Kothari have found deep commonality in celebrating and inventing bespoke designs.

For Menon and Kothari, luxury living is not only about grandeur and aesthetics, but it also embodies

the essence of freedom to choose consciously and to respond to genuine needs rather than succumb to superficial desires. It is not merely about extravagance, but about the quality of experiences the environment facilitates.

With every new project, they are driven by the idea of possibilities and an attempt to make a difference in the landscape of design. A new project presents an opportunity to explore uncharted territories. However innovative and meticulous approaches need to be taken to design spaces that seamlessly blend luxury with environmental responsibility to effectively reduce the carbon footprint in our ecosystem.

In a rapidly changing world, where technology is changing the way we live, biophilic design emerges as a crucial counterbalance, fostering harmony between humanity and nature. Menon and Kothari believe this symbiotic relationship between the technological advancements of smart living and the innate connection to nature is poised to redefine luxury living. This convergence not only enhances the aesthetics of living spaces but also nurtures our mental and physical well-being. Projects like Casa Feliz, Zydu Guesthouse building, Earthweavers towers, private bungalows constantly ensure conscious living with smart technology and nature-infused designs. 

• KAMAYNI

# Best of Both Worlds

**A**mit Bhat has an impressive career of over two decades in architecture and design—in India and abroad. Early on, his parents observed that his creative potential manifested through sketches and model-making, and inspired him to pursue a career in architecture and design.

For Bhat, principal architect of Amit Bhat Architects, luxurious living is not merely about grandeur and opulence, its essence lies in the comfort and functionality it provides to its inhabitants. With every new project, the excitement of creating something novel and the prospect of contributing positively to society inspire Bhat to design spaces that not only fulfil functional requirements but also enrich the lives of those who inhabit them. However, designing environmentally responsible luxurious spaces comes with its own challenges, especially while convincing the client of the value of sustainability amidst notions of added cost and maintenance. Efforts need to be taken to redefine their concept of luxury and make them aware of the importance of environmentally responsible spaces. With innovation, collaboration and persistence, new technologies and designs need to be created that are truly environmentally conscious in the long term.

Bhat believes that the fusion of smart buildings with biophilic design is the future of luxury living and holds great promise by getting the best of both worlds together. In his words, “The advantage of absorbing nature’s blessings with the splendour of man-made opulence at the same time opens up a wide spectrum of further numerous possibilities of exploring the ever-unfolding nature’s multiple



## Amit Bhat

Principal architect,  
Amit Bhat Architects

facets.” His commitment to thinking smart and right is reflected in his designs. Using naturally sourced materials and creating green designs that blur the boundaries between indoors and outdoors add a sense of tranquility and harmony in the spaces designed by him.

Bhat feels that the future of luxury living appears dynamic and transformative, intertwining nature and technology to

redefine the high-end residential experience. With space becoming a luxury commodity, the world of high-end space design will continue to push boundaries, weaving multifunctional elegance, sustainability and innovation into the fabric of luxury living. He states that as architects and designers, ‘we bear a profound responsibility to approach our craft with a sense of duty as every decision made on paper has the potential to redefine the present and future of society, and hence have a major impact on people’s daily lives’.

• KAMAYNI

**A** former state-level skating champion, Aparna Kaushik was initially drawn to a career in medicine, but her trajectory took a unique turn, merging her passion for disciplined physical practice with an intrinsic fascination for art and history. A leading designer of ultra-luxury estate homes, Kaushik is the founding principal and design director of Aparna Kaushik Design Studio which works across architecture, interiors, furniture, lighting, product design and landscaping.

Kaushik's commitment lies in creating coherent and harmonious spaces. Beyond opulence and aesthetics, she defines luxurious living as a comprehensive approach that prioritises functionality, personalisation and sustainability. "True luxury in architecture and interior design is a harmonious blend of elegance, functionality and a conscientious approach to creating spaces that endure and enhance the quality of life," she says.

For Kaushik, the convergence of smart building and biophilic design marks a transformative era where innovation and organic elements converge, redefining the essence of architectural luxury. By seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology with an innate connection to nature, Kaushik aims to create harmonious, sustainable and technologically advanced spaces that prioritise both comfort and ecological consciousness. Her approach involves meticulous research for sustainable materials, integrating cutting-edge technology, collaborating with eco-conscious suppliers and embracing biophilic design principles.

Projects such as Balinese House, Stable House, Panther House and

# Eye For Aesthetics



## Aparna Kaushik

Principal architect, Aparna Kaushik Design Group

The Oasis from her design studio showcase Kaushik's commitment to holistic and sustainable living. Each of these projects embodies a harmonious composition of innovation, aesthetics and enduring design, thereby establishing unprecedented standards within the architectural realm.

Driven by a passion for design excellence, Kaushik aspires to collaborate with creative minds globally, aiming to set new benchmarks in architectural and interior design standards that seamlessly blend luxury and

timelessness with the dynamic needs of contemporary and future lifestyles. Through a synthesis of craftsmanship, technology and a deep understanding of human behaviour, she aims to shape environments that elevate the human experience.

Looking ahead, Kaushik foresees a convergence of innovation and sustainability, with a heightened emphasis on wellness-centric designs and infusion of personalised, experiential spaces poised to shape the next era of architectural luxury. Her design studio sets forth to shape a future where design is not just a visual endeavour, but a transformative force that enhances the quality of human life and reflects the spirit of the times. 

• KAMAYNI



# More Than Opulence



**A** high-ranking and award-winning architecture student, Behzad Noshir Kharas began his career with renowned architects Hafeez Contractor and Pronith Nath before setting up his own architecture and interior design firm, The BNK Group, in 2005. The group's expertise includes interior design planning, architectural concepts, conceptualisation, design, development and execution.

For Kharas, luxury living transcends opulence and aesthetics to embrace an elevated state of the human mind. It is about enhancing clients' lifestyles in every aspect of their daily lives, from how they live and work to how they eat, sleep, pray

or play. Kharas believes technology, particularly artificial intelligence, has transformed how we interact with our built environment. Biophilia, the integration of nature into urban spaces, plays a crucial role in this transformation, bringing greenery and nature vertically into our buildings as land becomes scarcer.

The BNK Group is dedicated to creating path-breaking and landmark architecture and interior design, which are luxurious and environment-friendly. Their portfolio boasts many such projects, a recent one is a villa project in Nashik, where not a single tree on the plot was cut and the whole villa and façade features were built around the existing trees, creating an urban

## Behzad Noshir Kharas

Chairman and managing director,  
The BNK Group

forest within the home. Automated systems regulate water and lightning based on environmental conditions allowing the residents to immerse themselves in the calming ambience of biophilia in their luxurious abode.

Looking ahead, Kharas foresees responsible luxury as the key trend in architectural design. The evolving technological landscape will continue to shape luxury spaces, leading to constant innovation and trend-setting ideas that enhance well-being and environmental stewardship. 

• KAMAYNI

# Out-of-the-box Solutions

**A**nand Puri and Milind Nulkar co-founded Centre for Design Excellence, a professional consultancy providing architectural and design services, in 1997. Since then, the company's project portfolio has spread across multiple locations across India. They embarked on this journey in architecture and design fuelled by their passion for creativity. Their way of looking at things more objectively and creative 'out-of-the-box' thinking prompted them to pursue a career in architecture.

For Puri, luxury living is no longer just about grandeur and aesthetics, it embodies a mystique unique to the cultural tapestry of India,

intertwining architectural marvels of the past with the comforts of modern living. From the regal styles of Rajput architecture to the serene elegance of South Indian designs, luxury living speaks of the grandeur of the rich cultural heritage blended with today's living standards. The clients are desirous of better-quality living spaces, blending design-driven luxury spaces with cutting-edge technology. The integration of intelligent spaces with biophilic principles not only enhances comfort and aesthetics but also champions

environmental responsibility.

Centre for Design Excellence has initiated several projects where they have successfully integrated smart building technology and biophilic design principles. At Purple Palms Resort & Spa in Kushalnagar, there is a harmonious symphony between indoors and outdoors where all habitable spaces are built around a manicured landscaped courtyard, creating a seamless connection with nature. Another exemplary project is the Parag Milk Foods Guesthouse in Manesar where


## Anand Puri & Milind Nulkar

Designated directors  
 Centre for Design Excellence



landscaping courtyards are built near the private and public areas.

For Nulkar, every new project begins with visualising the property and envisioning the possibilities that kickstart the creative process, leading to innovative design solutions. Challenges in the form of intermittent changes required by the client or balancing traditional design principles like 'Vaastu' with modern sustainability requirements can be intricate in the design process.

Puri and Nulkar envision architectural luxury characterised by better volume and height in spaces, offering a sense of openness and grandeur. They believe that incorporating MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) engineering services directly into the designs can streamline processes and enhance functionality. 

• KAMAYANI



# Comfort Factor

**Z**ubin Master, Ruby Khanna and Suleiman Bhanji, whose careers span over three decades, are the co-founders and directors of Design Matrix Interiors, a leading multidisciplinary spatial design studio specialising in offering bespoke interior design solutions across various sectors, including residential, commercial, hospitality and theatres.

They believe that luxurious living transcends mere grandeur and opulence; it is about prioritising wellness and comfort above all else. In their view, luxury living should be about creating spaces that are accessible to everyone, achievable through simple-yet-effective means. Whether it is a beautiful piece of art, a comfortable chair or a high-pressure shower, luxury is synonymous with self-care and promoting positive vibes.

For Master, Khanna and Bhanji, the innovative convergence of smart building technology with biophilic design is exciting as it holds immense potential to revolutionise luxury living. Blending comfort with well-being through nature using inspired elements has redefined luxury living as a holistic experience. By incorporating biophilic design, stress levels can be reduced, and one can improve the quality of life by naturally increasing focus and performance.

Design Matrix has been instrumental in integrating smart buildings and biophilic design principles in their architectural and interior design projects. From incorporating green spaces within views to maximising indoor plant corners and planting foliage on site, they aim to blur the lines between indoors and outdoors, thereby enhancing well-being and connectivity with nature. Projects



## Suleiman Bhanji, Zubin Master, Ruby Khanna

Directors, Design Matrix Interiors

like Bela Wadi at Alibaug, Casa Bela at Goa, Shangri La at Khandala, and Richard Gere Foundation at Godrej, Vikhroli, exemplify their commitment to this ethos.

The inspiration for each new project is driven by the prospect of creativity and continuous learning. Collaboration with diverse partners further enriches learning and experience, fostering a dynamic environment of shared knowledge and expertise. However, each endeavour presents its own set of challenges, which provides opportunities for innovation and growth. In the realm of designing

spaces that are both luxurious and environmentally responsible, sometimes it is a challenge to convince clients that sustainability can enhance luxury through innovation. Further balancing the demand for luxurious amenities with the imperative for eco-conscious design requires careful navigation and innovative solutions.

Looking ahead, they feel sustainable designs and environmentally friendly and energy-efficient practices, including green buildings and renewable energy integration, are shaping the future of architectural luxury. Flexible living spaces with smart home technology and adaptable interiors to enhance comfort, convenience and security are becoming increasingly prevalent. 

• KAMAYNI

**A**jinkya Dhumal, founder director & principal designer of Infinity Architects & Interior Designers, has an impressive career spanning more than two decades and he is a recipient of many accolades. Under his and Sanam Dhumal's (executive director & principal designer) leadership, Infinity has successfully designed and executed a large number of projects.

Driven by a passion for creativity and attention to detail, they pursued a career in architecture and design. They were allured by the impact the built environment has on our lifestyle, how spaces are designed and their influence on our daily lives. Their motivation to create aesthetically pleasing, functional, and thoughtful designs comes from the inspiration to enhance people's experiences and well-being.

For the Dhumals, luxurious living is beyond just opulence and aesthetics. It is a philosophy that revolves around quality, comfort and holistic well-being. Luxury should be about creating functional-yet-beautiful designs with attention to detail, using premium materials, serene outdoor spaces, personalised services, and creating environments that promote harmony and elevate daily life.

They believe that the fusion of smart buildings and biophilic designs offers exciting prospects in the realm of luxury living. This convergence combines cutting-edge technology with nature-inspired design, creating environments prioritising sustainability, and seamless integration with the natural world. From energy-efficiency and intelligent automation to incorporating natural elements like greenery and natural light,

# Attention To Detail




## Ajinkya Dhumal & Sanam Dhumal

Founder director & principal designer; executive director & principal designer, Infinity Architects & Interior Designers

this approach not only enhances comfort and convenience but also fosters a deeper connection to the environment.

Infinity Architects is committed to this revolution to redefine luxury living by offering residents an unparalleled blend of innovation, aesthetics and harmony with nature. Projects like Infinity Office, Callisto Elements and Shrenik Shah Bungalow are examples of successful integration of smart building technology and biophilic design principles. They believe that the challenge in designing spaces that are both luxurious and environmentally responsible includes

creating aesthetically pleasing, cost-effective, and sustainable designs using eco-friendly technologies and materials providing functionality and comfort. However, integrating green building principles into existing luxury designs and meeting the expectations of clients accustomed to traditional luxury standards may pose significant hurdles. Hence, effective collaboration between architects, designers, engineers and clients is crucial to overcome these challenges and achieve a harmonious balance between luxury and environmental responsibility.

Looking ahead, the Dhumals foresee architectural luxury embracing sustainability, smart technology and wellness-focused design. Flexible living spaces, advanced automation and a deeper connection to nature will define the luxury landscape of tomorrow. 

• KAMAYNI



# Sustainable Spaces

**M**istry Architects is a renowned, multiple award-winning firm based in Bengaluru. It is helmed by Sharukh Mistry, who is known for his integrity and inspirational leadership following ‘green design principles’ in his architectural career spanning around five decades. He was drawn towards architecture by reading about the works of architectural luminaries like FLW, Mies, and Corbusier. However, his greatest inspiration was Renu, his future wife with whom he co-founded Mistry Architects around three decades ago to provide extensive architectural support under one roof. Since then, the firm has become an epitome of architectural elegance known for its sensitivity towards design, and a profound commitment to sustainable practices.

They believe that luxury living has transcended lavishness and is no longer about the glitz and glamour of the rich. According to them, architects need to design affordable buildings, with design empathy and compassion, to provide comfort and well-being for the inhabitants and that a building should embody a harmony between human needs and environmental stewardship.

The team at Mistry Architects includes talented and hard-working associate architects like Sunanda AJR, Sandeep Umapathy, Deepa S Wani, Vinoth Kannan, Dhyaneswar Prasad and Varsha Koulapur. Following the ethos of Mistry architects, they believe in practicing ‘natural’ architecture, innovating to include every known sustainable means to leave an ever-lighter footprint. The design philosophy should integrate nature’s principles and smart building technologies to create sustainable architecture, conserve energy, have



Standing (from left): Varsha Koulapur (associate architect), Vishwanath Balan (associate engineer), Vinoth Kannan (associate architect), Anand R (associate engineer); Sitting (from extreme left): Deepa S Wani (associate architect), Sandeep Umapathy (associate architect) Sharukh Mistry (principal architect), Sunanda AJR (associate architect)

## Sharukh Mistry

Principal Architect,  
Mistry Architects

minimal environmental impact, and contribute to a harmonious relationship between humans and the environment. Associate engineers, including Anand R and Vishwanath Balan, strive to integrate human-centric AI with nature’s billion-year-old embedded intelligence to create spaces to elevate the human experience.

Agastya International School campus in Andhra Pradesh, SOS Children’s Villages across India, Tsunami rehabilitation on the East coast of India, and earthquake rehabilitation in Nepal are a few of the many projects under the umbrella of Mistry Architects,

which exemplify this ethos, providing sustainable solutions to marginalised communities.

At the onset of a new project, the team endeavors to be open-minded and adaptable and challenge conventional norms to provide creative solutions and designs that are both functional and sustainable, bringing joy to the users. They strongly believe in mindful consumption of resources, celebrating simplicity, and finding luxury in basic materials if used indigenously and crafted sensibly.

At Mistry Architects, they foresee the future of architectural luxury in collaboration, resourcefulness, and community-centric designs. They are hopeful that localism, artistic craftsmanship, and holistic well-being will shape the discourse in future. **F**

# Shaping The Future

**W**ith over 30 years in the industry, Rahoul Singh and Lakshmi Chand Singh have become names to reckon with in the architecture and design industry. Rahoul, an architecture and fine arts graduate from Rhode Island School of Design, USA, founded RLDA in 1997. Lakshmi, a trained architect from Sushant School of Architecture, spent a few years working on architecture and design projects in India and abroad before joining RLDA. The dynamic duo is driven by their desire to create work that not only reflects cultural values but engages with people, places, materials and climate. Over the years, RLDA has completed several projects for the retail, hospitality, commercial and residential sectors in the Indian subcontinent and the Middle East.

For both of them, luxurious living is about creating spaces that are both resilient and empowering. This involves judicious use of materials and engagement with natural elements like light, air and water that collectively create comforting environments and a response to environmental sustainability. In their words, “Luxurious living is to give back a little more than you took away.”

Rahoul believes that the integration of smart building technology and biophilic design enables them to create forms and situations that are highly developed and customised. This convergence enables them to design spaces and environments that not only meet functional requirements but also seamlessly integrate with the natural world. This adaptability fosters resilience, enabling spaces to thrive in diverse environments and situations. Projects like The Brick House, Clay Company, and Ishara



## Rahoul Singh & Lakshmi Chand Singh

Partners, RLDA Architecture, Design & Research

Art Foundation are some examples of their commitment to this initiative.

The opportunity to shape new futures, innovate, collaborate and create meaningful change is the driving force behind Lakshmi’s passion for design. However, the biggest challenge in designing

spaces that are both luxurious and environmentally responsible is overcoming short-term consumption patterns and reducing reliance on non-recyclable materials with high carbon footprints.

Looking ahead, they foresee a shift in key trends and developments in architectural luxury from large global brands and products towards non-homogenised luxury and locally sourced products that celebrate cultural diversity. 

• KAMAYNI



# Smart Craftsmanship

**A**n innate fascination with design and diligence propelled Sumesh Menon to make a career in design. He set up his interior design studio Sumesh Menon Associates in 2007, specialising in high-end and bespoke residential, commercial and hospitality interiors. Since its inception, the firm has garnered widespread recognition and various awards.

For Menon, “Luxury is intimate and bespoke”. It is about craftsmanship and creating personalised designs tailored to the unique lifestyle and preferences of each individual. He believes that beyond opulence and grandeur, luxury living is about striking a balance between comfort and indulgence achieved through meticulous planning and diligence on the minutest scale.

Menon is enthralled by opportunities created by the fusion of smart building technology with biophilic designs. This seamless integration of technological advancements that enhance comfort, efficiency and security with biophilic designs emphasises the innate connection with nature. By incorporating elements such as living walls, indoor gardens and natural materials alongside smart systems that optimise air quality, lighting and ergonomic spaces, luxury environments can be created that not only exude opulence but also promote well-being.

Every new project provides the opportunity to explore unique ideas and experiment with new materials. The challenge lies in designing spaces that are both luxurious and environmentally responsible. It requires pre-meditated efforts and efficient planning to find ethically sourced materials that



## Sumesh Menon

Design director, Sumesh Menon Associates

are durable and timeless and design interiors integrating smart solutions that are both opulent and eco-friendly that can balance comfort and energy efficiency.

In its luxury residential projects, the firm has used smart home automation, energy-efficient sanitaryware, and HVAC systems to orchestrate personalised spaces as per the client’s lifestyles and has minimised energy consumption.

When combined with biophilic elements such as responsive lighting that mimics natural daylight or scent diffusers releasing forest fragrances, they have created a dynamic and harmonious environment.

Menon feels various contemporary trends and developments are transforming India’s architectural landscape. Versatile spaces that adapt to diverse lifestyles, health-centric design solutions and integration of bespoke art in interior design are taking centre stage in shaping the future of luxury living. 

• KAMAYNI