

ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN

A N I N D I A N J O U R N A L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E



43RD ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



TOP FIFTY

*The minds reshaping
architecture, interiors, and
the way we live*





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43 years is a long time to keep watch over a discipline as dynamic as architecture and interior design. Since 1984, we have witnessed the ideas, the buildings, and the practitioners who have transformed the way India builds, inhabits, and understands space.

As we commemorate this milestone, we are delighted to bring back our annual tradition of celebrating India's most influential architects and interior designers through a special editorial feature. This year, the feature arrives with a renewed sense of purpose and a sharper curatorial eye. Fifty names. Fifty practices. Each one a unique answer to the question of what contemporary Indian design looks like at its most ambitious, and most alive.

These are the studios to know. The minds to follow. The spaces that will define how we remember this moment in Indian architecture.



ZAFAR CHOUDHARY & MONIKA CHOUDHARY

FOUNDERS, HABITAT ARCHITECTS
LUDHIANA | EST. 1992

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Habitat Architects is driven by a desire to redefine spaces through innovation, technological integration, and design that is both creative and forward-looking.

H

abitat Architects is a multidisciplinary design practice founded in Ludhiana by Zafar

Choudhary along with Monika Choudhary and co-founder Ranjodh Singh. Over the years, the studio has developed a broad and influential body of work spanning India, Dubai, and London, establishing itself as a practice that merges bold architectural thinking with refined interiors and strategic growth. Led by Zafar's passion for innovation and Monika's strength in design development, business strategy, and sustainability, the firm approaches each project as a unique opportunity to craft spaces that are both distinctive and deeply functional. This balance of creativity, leadership, and execution has helped shape the studio into a widely recognized name in contemporary architecture and design, known for creating spaces that are aspirational, purposeful, and enduring.

PROJECT IN FOCUS

The Frame House is conceived around a clear architectural idea: to open fully toward the landscape without compromising privacy, shade, or environmental control. A sequence of offset concrete frames extends and recedes across the site, using the horizon as the primary organizing datum. This creates a house that feels measured, calm, and precisely aligned to its surroundings. The ground floor is kept low and continuous, with living, dining, and formal spaces oriented toward the lawn and water so that views, daylight, and airflow move through the plan without interruption. Deep overhangs, recessed glazing, verandahs, and shaded thresholds temper heat while strengthening the relationship between inside and outside. Above, the private areas become more compact and step back to form terraces, opening selectively toward the sky while maintaining seclusion. Materiality remains restrained, with exposed concrete giving the house its weight and permanence, while glass draws in reflection, light, and visual depth. Rather than relying on decorative excess, the architecture is held together by proportion, alignment, and climate-sensitive planning. +



SIGNATURE FEATURES

The offset concrete frames are the project's defining gesture, simultaneously structuring views, shade, and privacy. They turn the horizon into an active architectural device rather than a distant backdrop.

