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**AVAILABLE NEAREST HARDWARE SHOWROOM**

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What trends do you see emerging in kitchen design, materials, and colors?

In recent times, the focus of consumers has been shifting from simply aesthetics to durability and sturdiness. To cater to these needs, Arancia Kuchen offers a wide range of products that are low on maintenance and at the same time gives kitchens an aesthetic appeal.

The preference for solid colors is increasing. We have recently launched 12 metallic shades in our Membrane Range which gives the impression of real Gold, Copper and Silver. These shades and textures can be used in various furniture products like bedroom sets, dressing units, crockery units, wall paneling, TV units, etc.

Moreover, based on the current trend of seamless kitchen cabinet shutters, we are offering an acrylic range under our Concors range of shutters, in Marine Ply.

Is there a special focus on germ-resistant surface materials for kitchens?

In light of the current situation, anti-bacterial solutions are the need of the hour. At Arancia Kuchen, we understand the importance of safety and are therefore offering the option of products with germ-resistant materials and surfaces. In fact, we have put special emphasis on ensuring that our products are made of germ-resistant materials.

What technology/hardware fittings are present in Arancia kitchens?

We offer a wide range of hardware fittings in Arancia Kuchen and at the same time, if desired, we also offer the option of Blum hardware. Our aim is to ensure that a wide collection of products should be available to customers of Arancia Kuchen to cater to their diverse needs.

What new kitchen models is Arancia developing/offering?

Our Metallic range of foils in membrane shutters is the latest addition to our product line. These shutters provide a metallic, polished look to the kitchen furniture and makes the furniture indistinguishable from what real metal looks like – giving a dynamic look to the kitchen interiors. Textured metallic shades are also available in this range, which can be used as highlighters, if desired.

What is the lifespan, maintenance requirements and after sales services offered by Arancia?

We offer 5 years of conditional warranty on all Arancia Kuchen products. After-sales services is catered by our franchise partners. For any manufacturing defects, customers can get the products replaced whereas if any parts are damaged due to regular wear and tear then a nominal fee is charged by our franchise for replacement.

We have a pan India presence with around 50 franchisees across the country, and 5 franchisees in Nepal. We are also exporting our products to Canada, Oman, UAE and Australia.

Our range of modular kitchens is built on the foundations of ample storage, functionality, durability, and low maintenance; this is because our expert team of designers strive to design the best modular kitchens, keeping in mind individual tastes and preferences of Arancia Kuchen buyers.

Samir Patel
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Taiwan-based Pojiali Enterprise Co. Ltd. has brought to the Indian market its unique lead-free faucets that incorporate an ultra-filtration membrane for giving clean, purified water. **Norman Wang, Senior Marketing Manager,** discusses the faucet’s unique features and its use in household sanitary products, public places, and in various industries.

**What sets the Pojiali® brand apart from its peers?**

Most faucet manufacturers usually focus on the faucet design, finish and color innovations, whereas Pojiali® also considers the public’s health as regards the quality of the water they use. We have, therefore, developed a series of large-flow water purification faucets. In fact, Pojiali Triworwater is the world’s first faucet design which has set a benchmark and a new trend in the design and function of faucets, by giving clean, healthy water, along with energy efficiency.

**What are the special features of Pojiali® faucets?**

We produce about 50,000 faucets a year and more than 1 million filters based on an advanced thin membrane technology. In addition, we develop and produce various biotechnology membranes according to customer needs, such as food material extraction membranes.

We have recently launched various types of water purification faucets and faucet water purifiers. The main objective is to provide exclusive filter membranes according to different needs, with the characteristics of stable quality and guaranteed functions. These can be used in household sanitary products, public places, and in various industries like food, pharma, etc.

**What are the quality control systems and endurance tests at Pojiali®?**

Our company is located in the Central Science Park in Taiwan and has a membrane laboratory to conduct quality management for various products.

Before the official launch, a comprehensive inspection of each filter element, including function test, endurance test and dissolution test is carried out.

After the product is on the market, a 1/1000 sampling destructive test is taken. Our company also regularly commissions third-party inspections (such as SGS) to ensure product quality.

**What are the advantages of Pojiali® lead-free faucet with ultra-filtration membrane?**

Because of environmental pollution and increasing population, the Indian people need a clean and hygienic water source. Pojiali® faucet has a built-in Molong PVDF® filter, which can provide a large amount of clean water (removing 99.9% of bacterial impurities in the water) without any electric power. Pojiali faucets provide clean filtered water for drinking, washing fruits and vegetables and even bathing (above 7L/min).
What’s more, the price of the consumables is cheaper than that of the RO. If widely used, our faucets will definitely enable a more healthy and sanitary living environment for the Indian people.

**What are your marketing activities in India and what has been the response to your products?**

Our company is currently looking for online and offline sales channels through Taiwan’s Commerce Development Research Institute (CDRI). We also have service personnel based in India, who are looking for distributors to promote and sell our brand across the country.

Many of our customers are highly appreciative of our faucets while some feel that they are too expensive. We are trying our best to reduce the price. However, the cost of materials and components in Taiwan is very high so there is some limitation in reducing the price. Our company, therefore, is willing to provide better services and tie-ups with local OEM factories for the production of water purification faucets. With local production of Pojiali faucets, we will be able to reduce their price to a great extent.

**How will your brand compete with other international and Indian brands present in India?**

We believe that India has very good branded products. We will compete with them with our most unique water purification faucet. Combining Taiwan’s exclusive membrane technology, and the company’s years of experience in the sanitaryware industry, our faucets will provide healthy, clean, purified and filtered water for the Indian people. Our large flow purification faucets are already selling in Japan and the United States.

---

Pojiali Triworwater has set a benchmark in faucet design and function by giving clean, healthy, filtered water, along with energy efficiency. We are now looking for OEMs in India for production of Pojiali faucets.

**Norman Wang**
Rich Textures & Exquisite Designs

Xylo Woodworks is offering ready-to-use decorative panels for interior spaces, seeing the growing demand for pre-finished wall panels and highlighters, informs **Utkarsh Arora, Director, Xylo Woodworks**
Bringing the natural world indoors, wood panelling is making a comeback. The wooden panelling enhances the look and feel of any space, be it casual or formal. With an earthy and natural character, wooden panelling complements all types of aesthetics in terms of colour, setting, mood, etc. The cladded wall acts as a highlight in the space while creating a dialogue between the wall and the rest of the space. Our products come with durable colours and long-lasting textures which makes them easier to maintain.

Our range includes natural wooden mosaics, pre-finished MDF decorative surfaces, and an extensive variety of plywood, PVC, and WPC. Our ready-to-use panels are manufactured using materials like MDF, HDHMR, Plywood, PVC, and raw natural wood. They display rich textures, exquisite designs along with a wide variety of design combinations.

With over 20 years of experience and expertise in the timber and plywood manufacturing business, Xylo Woodworks was set up in 2012 in New Delhi. Our manufacturing plant are in Samaypur Badli, Industrial area, and in Ismaila Industrial Area, Bahadurgarh. A dedicated in-house team of designers understand and conceptualize the client’s needs whilst keeping up with the latest trends in the market. State-of-the-art machinery helps execute these concepts with finesse. Our customers comprise architects, interior designers, hoteliers, and end-users.

The entire ethos and design concept at Xylo are based on providing customers with minimum hassle and maximum convenience in the application of our panels, which can be installed with ease in a single day in any interior space.

Utkarsh Arora

Jali, Xylo Woodworks
A new apartment project in Milan stands testimony to the aesthetic appeal of Gorlini Double Superior windows and panoramic sliding Apex Fine door-windows. The Double-Superior wood-aluminium fixtures, with hidden hinges and flush-wall installation make the interiors warm and cozy due to their oak coating, while a stylish and clean finish outside is afforded by the aluminium profile. The Apex Fine door-windows, with their aluminium coating and panoramic glass, allow spectacular views of the city outside.

In the Double Superior, the design of wood/aluminium doors and windows is combined with high resistance to environmental agents in the external part as they come with a triple seal. The doors and windows have glazing beads with no visible nails or screws, which are fixed with the glassblock invisible system. Profiles without glazing beads are also possible for a more modern style. They come with thermo-insulated threshold, as well as with burglar-proof hardware with concealed hinges.

The Apex Fine sliding system of external doors and windows in aluminium and glass maximise visibility and minimise the obstructing frame. Combining German technology with Italian design, the system is suitable for big houses, penthouses and resorts that are nestled in green surroundings or are high in the sky. Since all Gorlini doors and windows are made-to-measure, the architects interact with the customer from the start to understand their requirement for perfect execution. Minimal appearance and top-notch performance are the hallmark of Gorlini brand, which, along with its age-old technical know-how of the fenestration system, ensures a superior door and window system. The Double Superior doors and windows and Apex Fine sliding system of external doors are available at New Delhi-based Ottimo, which represents some of the best-known Italian brands in India.

Architect Mattia Vittori found a perfect match with fixtures by Italian brand Gorlini when refurbishing an apartment in the heart of Milan. With their elegant and flexible designs and high technology, Gorlini doors and windows enhanced the whole look of the apartment by lending it a clean, minimal look.
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Architects have always used ornamentation to enliven and inform their work. The Greeks favoured caryatids, Gothic designers embraced gargoyles, and the Art Deco era saw the rise of pyramidal motifs. With the Great Grand Gazebo, Karara Mujassme brings the charm of Europe to India. Of pristine marble, The Great Grand Gazebo is an amalgam of artistry and exquisite design. The thought-provoking and intriguing pavilion, designed and crafted by Indian artisans, can stand the test of time and withstand the extremes of climates as well as natural disasters. It is an heirloom to be passed from one generation to the next.

The Great Grand Gazebo is the third in a series of marble gazebos created by Karara Mujassme over its 25-year history. This majestic pavilion is the largest of the three, featuring 12 columns, and boasts of detailed decorative elements. It has been crafted from Proconnesian marble sourced from Turkey and it took 5-6 artisans over two years to complete this piece of art. The entire gazebo is made from the same lot of marble; therefore, the hue of the marble is uniform throughout. The marble block was carefully selected from the mines, keeping in mind the desired colour and density. Additionally, the gazebo was carved using the age-old European technique of compass cutting.

The front and back façade of the gazebo are accentuated by detailed Romanesque arches supported on columns. The arches are adorned with carvings depicting paradisiacal scenes complete with angels. The intricately crafted caryatid marble columns and floral details add elegance and artistry to the gazebo. Each column and arch are unique and feature distinctive elements. For instance, the pavilion’s four main columns depict the four seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter. Small slabs of marble placed between each column can be used as holders for decorative pieces, planters, or urns, and also offer a spectacular spot to sit and gaze out into the garden.
Limitless Possibilities of Concrete

With the advancement in technology, today, concrete can be moulded into a piece of art; in fact, every product crafted in concrete is not just beautiful but functional and durable as well, says Ajaay Srinivas, Founding Director, Nuance Studio.

Nuance Studio has introduced the luxury side of concrete through its products that include customized products like wall panels, bar/kitchen countertops, tables, seaters, sinks, etc, as well as standardized products such as large format panels, Perspectiles (3d tiles), washbasins, etc. The stunning yet strong grey material is curved beautifully to limitless possibilities. Using the technologically advanced and ultra-high-performance concrete called Litheoz, unique spaces are created for both indoors and the outdoors.

Nuance Studio’s recently introduced trendy series of Monolith washbasins are beautiful and functional. There are no joints between the counters and washbasins, which simplifies cleaning, maintenance, and promotes hygiene. The washbasins are monolithically cast along with the vanity counter, fascia, and backsplash, if needed, and are available in innumerable forms, colours, and textures.

We manufacture the washbasins using cutting-edge technology of concrete called Litheoz, which is highly malleable and sets to become rock solid with increased strength and low porosity. Our clients can choose any product crafted in almost any form and shape. The surface is coated with multiple layers of breathable advanced sealer system that keeps the washbasins resistant to stains from food, soap, removers, oil, vinegar, wine, lime, etc. What’s more, the surface of the basins can be refurbished to make the basins look as good as new by waxing them periodically, or cleaned with diluted soap and sponge.

Washbasins originated in the 16th century and were a privilege enjoyed by the rich in ancient Roman Bath Houses. Most of the basins were made in lead for standard use, but the more exclusive ones were made from stone. We are continuing the tradition of making exclusive basins, using new-age concrete technology. We endeavor to deliver the utmost level of quality and design through our in-house research and development in this classification of concrete and our state-of-the-art production set up. We are working alongside architects and interior designers to be a part of landmark projects across the country catering to HNI homes and corporates such as Google, Facebook, HSBC, Uber, Cisco, Microsoft, Wipro and many more. Today, concrete washbasins are trending and are well accepted globally.
We will continue our efforts in providing quality, innovative, cost-saving, rust-free, leak-free sanitaryware & fittings to the end-customers. Our next project will be in the pipes and fittings segment and a zero-waste electroplating plant for polymer bath fittings. We will aggressively promote the products in each segment where we foresee opportunities for an established brand like Watertec.
Watertec India
Amalgamation of Technology + Design

Bantwal Ramesh Baliga, CEO, Watertec India, shares with MGS Architecture the company’s focus on R&D and innovation for developing sustainable, water efficient and affordable products; plans for setting up more factories across India; diversifying into new product lines; and why architects and interior designers should only consider quality, value-for-money sanitaryware products and plumbing solutions.

Quality, Design & Functionality
Indian sanitaryware companies have set international standards in quality and design of their products.

In India, today, sanitaryware manufacturers have set all the quality parameters and standards that match those of the international sanitaryware market. In India, high-quality materials, advanced infrastructure for production, modern designs, and the required manpower are easily available. But, if we were to have fully-automated plants then our production numbers would increase significantly, as is the case in China.

Each country customises its products as per their customers’ needs; in India, for example, we prefer a broader commode. At Watertec, we factor in the market trends and design products as per the demand. Our highly aesthetically Design Series, for instance, is designed for the mid and high segment of buyers. Our cisterns come in three design ranges: Oval, Round and Square and we offer a 10-year warranty for them.

The design and look of sanitaryware for home interiors are an important consideration, as are the products’ functionality and reliability.

We have a full-fledged Research & Development team that crafts the products based on the design inputs received from architects and interior designers, who keep a close eye on international designs. We customise the products to meet Indian requirement for ease of functionality and comfort.

Today, consumers in the mid and high segment prefer a wall-hung commode that makes the bathroom look smart and spacious. Also, easy-to-clean floors and dry bathroom concepts are becoming popular. The colour white has a wider attraction than ivory. The sale of the flushing system has also increased as it is a space saver. The main consideration seems to be the commode size for comfortable seating.

Total Bathroom & Plumbing Solutions
We have a variety of brands for every segment of Indian and international markets.

With a broad product portfolio that caters to all the segments of buyers from the affordable to the premium variety, we now have a strong presence in Tier 2, 3, and 4 cities. We specialise in showers, rain showers, faucets for home, hospitals and institutions, concealed cisterns, sanitaryware products, bottle traps, and connection tubes. Products range from premium, super-luxury to mid-high, mid-low to lower end.
Our products are designed in snow-white colour and manufactured as per Indian working conditions. Our prices are affordable and available for every segment of the market. We even manufacture high-quality Orissa pans at a very affordable price for rural and Tier 3 markets besides cisterns, concealed cisterns, flush valves, touch sensors, etc.

We manufacture products for drainage, piping for the front and behind the wall. We use only NSF approved resin for our CPVC systems, and also manufacture uPVC column popes and SWR pipes. In fact, Watertec has over 22 years of experience in manufacturing polymer products. We have tie-ups with international brands like CONTI+ for their unique CNX water management system that allows the user to control up to 150 link taps, showers, wash basins, and urinal flush valves within a range of 350 meters – all this with the tap of a button. We are offering SS 316 products under a tie-up with VRH, which is Thailand’s largest stainless-steel faucet manufacturer.

Our sanitaryware range is in line with the latest trends in design and quality and all our products are technology-driven.

When we call ourselves a total bathroom & plumbing solutions provider, it means that we have ensured that our faucets, bathroom accessories, and sanitaryware range are in line with the latest trends and are technology-driven too.

One of our premium Bathroom Fittings & Accessories range that has made its way into the demanding Indian market is our home-grown brand AQCETO. This stylish and versatile range has been designed by an elite panel of world-class designers, architects, and engineers. Every AQCETO product offers supreme functionality, is highly durable, eco-friendly, conserves water, rich in finish, and technologically engineered to live up to performance standards.

Our luxury brand Teorema from Italy offers the most aesthetically designed faucets and bathroom accessories. Our VRH brand of Thailand offers a completely stainless-steel range of faucets and bathroom accessories and is best suited for India’s coastal areas. Made of Marine Grade Stainless Steel, this range is extremely suitable for areas that experience scaling and corrosion of hardware and faucets.

Our hallmark brand is Conti+ of Switzerland. Its CNX – water management system functions with a tap and can remotely control up to 150 faucets. Conti’s sensor faucets and soap dispensers are the need of the hour and they have some of the best designs and a long battery life.

We provide technical training to our service engineers for plumbing and piping solutions and for trouble shooting.

As a company that believes in imparting training to all technical and non-technical staff, we provide periodic training to our service engineers in our in-house plumbing lab, once in every

Revolutionizing Bath Spaces

Watertec’s journey began in 1997 with a single-minded mission: to revolutionize bath spaces by replacing sub-standard metal fittings and accessories with Superior Virgin Grade Engineering Polymer Products. Today, Watertec is not only the market leader in the polymer-based bath fittings space, but also one of India’s fastest-growing end-to-end bathroom solutions provider with its unique ‘H2O Promise’ that offers Health, Hygiene and Original Products. In the coming years, it will foray into the chrome plating and stainless steel market, with a strong focus on technology-based water-saving products.
quarter. Practical inputs are given by dismantling the products and making them reassemble it. The nuances of servicing our products are provided, for them, which they have to apply when working at sites. We give them complete Service Kits to facilitate seamless onsite work. Our service engineers besides providing pre and post installation technical inputs, also educate the customers on the right installation methods. In fact, even our sales and marketing team undergoes technical training on plumbing to better serve the customers.

Art & Engineering

The end-to-end manufacturing, designing, and engineering of Watertec products are backed by the latest technology and superior craftsmanship

We have built robust technical driven plants that are fully-automatic and which increase productivity. We manufacture faucets, PVC pipes, sanitary ware, and floor drains in our three plants in Coimbatore. Our manufacturing capacity is almost 34 million units of bathroom fittings, which is one of the largest capacities in South East Asia. All our products are designed to be drip-free, rust-free, and leak-free. Our adherence and commitment to quality is evident at every stage of our manufacturing process.

The end-to-end manufacturing, designing, and engineering of our products are executed in-house and backed by the latest technology and craftsmanship. Our plant in Morbi is equipped with the latest imported injection moulding machinery from reputed brands of Europe; advanced robotics from Japan and Europe; and extruders from reputed brands in India.

Our team of highly qualified and experienced engineers operates the automatic robotic arms as well as a host of other high-class instruments to ensure that all products achieve consistency in design and finish, while delivering a high level of efficiency in performance. The manufacturing process can be broadly categorised into the Distribution of Raw Materials, Treatment Processes, Assembly and Quality Control.

We have an in-house Tool Room equipped with advanced, high-tech German machines to ensure the production of the best quality moulds. These moulds are highly appreciated for their key properties such as high thermal insulation, high precision, compact design, surface strength, and anti-abrasive finish.

R&D for Hygiene, Water Efficiency & Sustainability

Our New Product Development (NPD) unit develops new products and improves the existing ones

Our motto is: finding better ways to delight customers. Our in-house R&D team puts great thought into designing, intricately crafting, and meticulously detailing new products before they go into production. After several rounds of experimenting, redesigning, and testing, the product is finally released.

Awards

- Asia’s Greatest Brand and Leader 2018 Award for premium Bath Fittings and Accessories
- Best Employer in Coimbatore Award - 2019
- Award of Excellence - 2019
- Most Preferred brand in Real Estate segment award - 2019
- India’s Greatest Brand for the year - 2019
- Super Brand Award - Architectural Product of the year 2019
- Extraordinaire Leader & Brand Award - 2020
- Business Leader of the Year by ET Now - 2020
- Most Trusted CEO Awards - 2020
Milestones
1997: Watertec commissioned a new state-of-the-art factory at Neelambur. Spread across 4.6 acres, it is equipped with internationally acclaimed German machinery.
1997-2011: The company emerged as a leading provider of Wall Mixers, Smart Tap Push Cock Solutions, Push Bib Taps, Float Valves, UPVC Ball Valves, Bathroom Accessories, etc.
2013: A new unit, sprawling across 5.5 acres, was commissioned. The company diversified its business operations and ventured into manufacturing PVC Pipes & Fittings and Accessories.
2016: Further expanded the product portfolio to include Single and Dual Flush Cisterns, Adjustable Showers, various types of Ball Valves, etc.
2016: A new factory spread across 2.8 acres was commissioned, where a new IMD and Assembly Division for Bath Fittings began operations.
2017-2018: A new state-of-the-art automation technology powered manufacturing facility of 75,000 sqft. was inaugurated.
2018: Launched home-grown premium brand AQCETO; widened reach by partnering with globally celebrated brands Conti+, VRH and WTS Group (Rubintree Teorema).

We even have a dedicated New Product Development (NPD) unit that is responsible for developing new products and improvising on the existing ones to meet the growing market demands. It typically takes 7 to 9 months for every new product launch or improvisation to undergo the 7-step process comprising of Discovery, Concept & Design, Prototype, Tooling, Manufacturing and Assembly & Release.

The post-Covid new normal stresses on health, hygiene, and touch-free products
We have designed our water management products in varied designs and as per customer requirements. Our new cisterns are anti-bacterial/anti-fungal for maintaining health and hygiene in the bathroom. The challenge is to keep introducing products in a cost-conscious market that has been subsided by cheaper products from other South Asian countries and China. The opportunity lies in tapping and manufacturing products that focus on health and hygiene which is the need of the hour.

Our objective in the creation of every product is hygiene, water efficiency and sustainability
Our products deliver the H2O promise of Health, Hygiene, and Original products to ensure 360-degree hygiene and sustainability in bathrooms. This is because we consider ourselves a socially responsible company that manufactures only good quality products. We have been engineering products to resolve the issue of contact-less usage long before it became the new norm. Our end-to-end bathroom products use scientifically formulated raw materials that are anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, anti-microbial in nature, while their external design promotes ergonomic and minimal touch. These include our sensor-based faucets and soap dispensers, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal dual & single flush cisterns, anti-bacterial seat covers, stainless steel range of products, to name a few.
High Quality Certified Materials

At Watertec, we use only high-quality, imported virgin grade engineering polymers such as ABS and Polyacetal. We believe that the first step to achieving quality products is focusing on the raw materials used. At Watertec, we use only high-quality, imported virgin grade engineering polymers such as ABS and Polyacetal to ensure that our products last longer, demonstrate higher endurance, stability, and perform well under high or low temperatures and dynamic environments.

Our pipes, approved by NSF, have a longer life span, as they are made of high-quality resin, are corrosion-resistant and lead-free, and can work in every climatic condition across India. The pipes should be installed as per the defined plumbing standards. The piping should be clamped at an equal distance so that the piping system will not have any clogs and give a clean, smooth flow of water. Pipes which are concealed in walls should be properly laid and have the right thickness as per the prescribed standards. Our pipes are NSF 14, NSF 372 and UPC-I certified, and we are now in the process of getting NSF 61 certified.

We request architects and interior designers to look at certified products only where manufacturing standards are of the highest quality.

Since the heartline of a bathroom and a kitchen is the piping system, getting approvals from the NSF on potability and ensuring lead-free products should be given utmost importance. In case any failure arises in the piping system, a huge amount of money, time, and energy will have to be shelled out to replace the expensive tiles, sanitaryware, and the fittings.

Business Acumen and Knowledge

A graduate in Mechanical Engineering, a Post Graduate Diploma holder in Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning, and an MBA, Bantwal Ramesh Baliga has studied in reputed institutions like Kendriya Vidyalaya, R V College of Engineering- Bangalore. He has over 33 years of experience in machine design, product design, sales, finance, production, and marketing, with P&L responsibilities. He has complete knowledge of sanitary ware, its manufacturing processes and designing, and has developed products that meet customer requirements in markets like India, the SAARC countries, and NEMA. He engages closely with the company’s channel partners to understand the changing demands and the latest trends in sanitaryware. In his own words . . .

I joined Watertec India in 2016 with the sole aim to position the company as a 360-degree solution provider for all sanitaryware and plumbing requirements, through innovations, deployment of technically advanced manufacturing processes, and manufacture of products that are of premium quality, high on aesthetics, affordable, and which bring value to the end-users.

Overcoming Market Challenges

Market challenges have to be taken positively, as without them; we will not be able to create a growth plan for the company. Challenges are bound to come, and we have the required team and infrastructure in place to overcome them. We have built a robust team in each department and a research team for developing various new products. As challenges emerge and we find solutions for them, we have gained a lot of experience and even the expertise in combining design, engineering, and manufacturing to take the company to the next level of growth.

Taking Watertec India to the Next Level of Growth

We have planned for the latest Industry 4.0 plants pan India and will be expanding our product range to cater to all market segments. We have a well-trained sales and marketing team in place. Our JV with 100-year-old companies from Europe will help us take the Watertec brand to the next level of visibility and growth. While we have managed to achieve our goal of becoming a debt-free company, we are now working towards achieving a turnover of Rs 1,400 crores in 5 years, based on a year-on-year growth of 27%.

Expansion Plans

We are expecting a positive growth of the sanitaryware industry in the coming years. Our strength is manufacturing affordable housing products that has the support of the government. We will continue our efforts in providing quality, innovative, cost-saving, rust-free, leak-free products to the end-customers. We are also planning to set up a few more plants in India. Our next project will be in the pipes and fittings segment with an expansion of twice the size of our existing plants; and a zero-waste electroplating plant for polymer bath fittings. We plan to aggressively promote the products in each segment where we foresee opportunities for an established brand like Watertec.
Project delays or issues arising after handing over of a property or an apartment, often occur due to faulty plumbing. Architects should ensure that the pipes are of the right size such that they can effectively meet the output rates that indicate water flow, air block challenges, or pressure bursts. The architects must pay attention to the quality and specifications given by the manufacturer as the choice of plumbing material and installation is extremely important.

To give an example, basic metal fittings are mostly made of sub-standard quality brass that contains a concentration of lead which is hazardous to health. These are not reliable as they are prone to corrosion sooner and the water that it conducts can be hazardous too.

Customer – First Policy

The pillars of our value system are Quality, Hygiene, Sustainability, Research & Development, Timely Delivery and Affordable Access

We have international standard plants in Coimbatore conforming to industry 4.0. We have built one of the largest pan India distribution networks comprising of 15,000+ channel partners and dealers, 36 warehouses and 35 branches across India and in global markets like UAE, SAARC countries, Egypt, South Asia, African countries and in the Middle Eastern markets.

Customer support is the driving force at Watertec as we have a customer-first policy. We are open to any constructive suggestion from our customers and dealers. We offer a free lifetime warranty in terms of service for our products. A dedicated call centre is available for customers to lodge their grievances or queries, which are addressed within 24 to 48 hours.

Architects must pay attention to the quality and specifications given by the manufacturer as the right choice of plumbing material and installation is extremely important.
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Winner of several awards for its contribution to Interior Design, Bangalore-based design firm ‘The KaiGhars’ undertakes complete turnkey projects for villas and apartments from inception to execution and from conceptualization to curation, CEO & Founder Abhishek Chadha, CFO Aashita Chadha, and Managing Director Vinayak Chadha at The KariGhars, share their work ethics and professional commitment to deliver projects on time.

What is The KariGhars design philosophy?
With a vision to transform the ordinary into sensational spaces, our design philosophy revolves around the fluidity of contemporary interior design with a touch of mid-century modern style amalgamated with straight lines and minimalistic styles. In fact, ‘The KariGhars’ has redefined luxury in Interior Design. Intricate detailing, cluttering one’s home with décor elements, use of too many focal points in a room, all these things are passe. The new luxury is in using the perfect blend of materials – metal, wood, stones, upholstery, in the choice of lighting and a subtle color palette – and making them come together as a whole.

From originality of designs to the quality of raw materials used, we endeavour to provide the right blend of aesthetics and ergonomics for homes and kitchens. And in our designs, we always make a provision for storage and functionality, along with an element of creativity. However, the USP of The KariGhars is that we maintain strict timelines for every step of the design process, and are honest about everything we do and the materials we use, even giving a lifetime warranty for all our products. We cater to our client’s demands while infusing futuristic trends in our designs. We prefer not to run after trends, since just like fashion, a trend comes and goes, but style stays for ever.
The real challenge is to implement sustainable development in the design of every home. Major factors like planning, efficient use of space, choosing materials with low carbon footprint and reducing energy consumption, pollution, and waste play an important role in executing sustainable practices. The notion of the “green home” has taken form and warrants the need to exchange environmentally damaging materials with eco-friendly resources.

Abhishek Chadha, Aashita Chadha, & Vinayak Chadha at The KariGhars

What technology tools/software are you using for your interior design projects?

Interior design is a growing profession that requires knowledge of the latest trends and an understanding of fabrics, materials, designs, color concepts, styles, and aesthetics. Many individuals and companies in the architecture, construction, and furniture retail sectors now rely on professionals from the interior design industry to aid them in drafting the houses they plan to build or remodel.

The use of software is one of the best ways to guide clients in the development of architectural and interior drawings. Surveys show that 81% of buyers say home staging helps them visualize the property as their future home. And, once staged, the homes spend an average of 73% less time on the market. To achieve these goals, interior designers and home staging professionals use interior design software to help create visual room layouts complete with furniture and fixtures and present a realistic view of the interior spaces.
At The KariGhars, we use state-of-the-art computer-aided-design software like Auto CAD, 3DS Max, Revit, etc. that convert initial sketches and measurements into a 3-D plan for the designer and the client. The 3D models of our designs give the clients a complete picture of how every part of their home would look like, instead of leaving things to their imagination and then later having unhappy surprises. These 3D plans can turn any conceptualized design into a viewable and navigable model. Though it may sound easy, it requires creativity, design experience, and a lot of talent. The industry is now fully immersed in using technology to enhance the living spaces.

A few recent trends have also helped offset the use of digital and scientific measures in design. The movement towards sustainable living has had a profound impact on the materials and methods used to recreate internal spaces. Furthermore, our own living standards have generated high expectations of the constant availability of technology and how and when we use it.

What are the advantages and disadvantages (if any) of tech-based design?

As technology has grown more advanced throughout the years, professionals worldwide have seen an increase in software that enhances workflow and productivity. In the field of interior design, the old ways don’t work anymore, as everything is fast-paced now. Making physical presentation boards for clients takes too long and is also cumbersome. Tech-based designs are a more feasible and viable option as they don’t leave things to mere imagination. The client can get a peek and a clear insight into what he is signing up for. The 3D models can show them how the lighting will be in their room, how a certain wallpaper will look, the flooring, and the entire color combination, etc.

On the downside, the lifecycle of a style has gotten much shorter, as trends are popping up, getting huge, and drying out faster. Also, too much dependence on technology hinders the original creative thought process of a designer as exposure to a trend is quickly followed by overexposure.

What trends do you see emerging in the design of home interiors, post Covid-19?

I feel like this is a perfect time for interior designers and for other firms like ours. We see a real need for luxury homes booming in the Real Estate sector. People want to have well-designed interiors because our homes have become the most important parts of our lives. In recent years, we’ve become used to connecting everyday devices in our homes to the internet and to each other to make the places we live more comfortable, economical, entertaining, and safe.

As the technology revolution continues to become more rapid and more powerful, we can anticipate home automation and artificial intelligence to offer domestic help in new and innovative ways. We believe that smart homes are the domestic face of the Internet of Things (IoT). We expect to see more technology being incorporated to facilitate more convenience and comfort for the homeowners - smart homes with state-of-the-art equipment.

What trends do you foresee with respect to building materials?

In terms of building materials, more rustic looking materials are trending. People want to feel closer to nature and there is a demand in transforming spaces that serve as the perfect escape from the concrete jungle in cities. Faux grass, exposed brick walls, natural stones, and authentic marble are a few building materials that are gaining momentum in the market. New germ-resistant materials, fabrics, upholstery, wall coverings, and paints are also gaining popularity and will soon be a part of every household.
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Hines, the international real estate firm and DLF, the largest publicly listed real estate company in India, have been working together with DLF for the past ten years to create landmark developments. The One Horizon Center on Golf Course Road, one of the finest office spaces in India, is a case in point. The partners are now taking this partnership to the next level by joining hands to develop a future-proof office project in Phase-V, Udyog Vihar, NH-48, Gurugram. It will incorporate Hines’ latest knowledge from around the world, including intensive involvement of its Conceptual Construction Group and Office of Innovations.

“This project will be the address of choice in future,” says Amit Diwan, MD and Country Head for Hines India. He informs that the project is being designed by some of the world’s best design consultants led by award-winning design architect Pelli Clarke Pelli. The project will incorporate world class health and safety standards and has already secured IGBC Platinum pre-certification for its commitment to environment sustainability and will procure Well Certification for tenant comfort.

Said Ashok Tyagi, Group CFO, DLF Ltd, “Implementing international best practices in the Indian conditions has been the hallmark of our partnership with Hines. After a successful collaboration in the past, we are now looking forward to take the relationship forward with the new development.”

Spread across 11.76 acres commercial land parcel, the project will be developed in two phases - 2.55 mm sf will be developed in Phase 1 while the rest will be developed in Phase 2 and is scheduled to be completed in 2023-24.
Embassy Industrial Park has announced Phase II of their warehousing project at Bilaspur, Gurugram. Spread across 40 acres, it will be built with an investment of Rs. 300 crore. The total covered area of the project is estimated to be approximately 1 million sq ft. The project features connectivity with National Highway 48 and Western Peripheral Expressway (KMP Expressway), located approximately 3km and 7km, respectively. Good infrastructure and connectivity have made this location an ideal place for the warehousing facility.

The Industrial Park has received the IGBC certificate - the most prestigious certification in the real estate sector for green building projects. With world-class amenities, the Park manages ground-water table, recycles water, and reduces energy consumption. The facility is designed with vast open spaces and maintains good landscaping which has helped in improving the air circulation and quality. Also, rainwater harvesting pits have been maintained along the storm water drains which lead to an eco-tank. This has helped in increasing the ground water level substantially. Also, to conserve water that gets wasted in the washrooms, there are eco-friendly toilets that can recycle and recirculate water for reuse.

This project is an expansion of the existing 25-acre industrial park of Embassy Group at Bilaspur. Phase I and II of the park are located strategically, also known as a warehousing hub of North India. Leading players from e-commerce, logistics, retail and FMCG are some of the biggest occupiers in this region. With the launch of Phase II, warehousing stock of approximately one million sqft will be added to the Bilaspur micro-market.

Says Aditya Virwani, COO, Embassy Group, "Embassy Industrial Parks were formed to address the challenges of companies grappling with building and managing industrial and warehousing spaces. There is an increased demand for Grade A industrial parks in the region from manufacturing, FMCG, auto and pharma sector. Our modern, well-planned, technology-enabled, industrial, and warehousing spaces are targeted at industry verticals like E-Commerce, 3PL, Automobile Ancillaries, FMCG, and Retail. The recent IGBC certification is an evidence of the services we provide and the standards we maintain at our industrial parks."
IIFL Home Finance launches 6th Kutumb Initiative to Promote Green Affordable Housing in India

Housing finance company IIFL has launched the sixth edition of Kutumb – an initiative towards Green Affordable Housing, in association with Asian Development Bank, German Agency for International Cooperation, Climate Bond Initiative, International Finance Corporation, Green Building Council of India, and CDC - a UK sovereign fund. IIFL, through Kutumb, aims to extend the mission of ‘Housing for All’ to ‘Green Housing for All’. The company brings together industry experts and affordable housing developers by offering financial support as an incentive to opt for sustainable development. In the past, IIFL had completed 5 Chapters of Kutumb across Ahmedabad, Indore, Pune, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.

The sixth edition of Kutumb is a series of webinars and podcasts, giving it a greater reach across geographies. This e-Kutumb is themed as ‘Sustainable Affordable Housing for All: A New Paradigm amid Pandemic’. The first session was graced by Prashant Kapoor, Chief Industry Specialist, Green Building and Cities, IFC, and renowned architect Ashok B Lall. The event was hosted by Monu Ratra, CEO, IIFL Home Finance Ltd. “The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the mindset of builders and homeowners as sustainable healthy living takes center-stage. In this backdrop, our efforts to build a sustainable and affordable housing initiative is reinforced and we look forward to take the idea to more people. Affordable green housing makes perfect business sense as well,” said Monu Ratra.

Drawing a parallel between other developing nations like Jakarta, Mongolia, Philippines, and Columbia, Prashant Kapoor said, “India needs a way to democratize green buildings and it will take a metrics-driven, scale-able standard to transform the market.” He also added that the key emphasis on savings through scalability is what will sell green homes and will make them affordable in India.

Talking about the design principles of building green and sustainable homes in India, Ashok B Lall said, “If we devote 60% terrace area of a 4-storey building to install solar panels, it can meet the energy demand of all its residents. The height of the building has a direct correlation with its carbon emissions & is inversely proportionate to affordability.”

SoftTech launches RuleBuddy® PLAN ASSISTTM for the benefit of Architects & Real Estate Developers

Pune-based SoftTech Engineers Limited has leveraged leading construction management software industry in India and practices in the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) domains to create value for businesses. Continuing its commitment towards innovation in the AEC domain, it has launched RuleBuddy® PLAN ASSISTTM. Powered by AutoCAD® OEM Platform, it is a unique software product to pre-check building plans before submission to the authorities. It allows import, visualization, editing and saving of 3D BIM models in IFC format to native DWGTM format.

Key features:

- Automatically calculate the areas for building plans even in complex and big projects with accuracy and speed.

Vijay Gupta, Founder & CEO, informed, “While eliminating the need to invest in any third-party CAD software license, RuleBuddy® PLAN ASSISTTM will enable architects and real estate developers to save time and money by quickly preparing ready-to-approve building plans. It will not only check building plans for applicable building bye-laws, but will also ensure peace of mind by minimizing re-submissions. The built-in ‘AI (Artificial Intelligence) Empowered’ scrutiny engine will quickly and easily check whether the building plan passes the scrutiny for applicable building bye-laws or DCR (Development Control Regulations) of relevant authority.”
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- Market Transformation
- Networking amongst stakeholders

VIRTUAL EVENTS
GREEN BUILDING CONGRESS 2020

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* As on 15th September 2020
Quirky & Fun

The Break Room designed by Sparc Design uses recycled and upscaled products such as oil drums, scrap metal, discarded packaging, and wooden strips.

The concept revolves around depicting break in different ways: there is a man and a woman sculpture that appears to punch through the columns depicting a breakthrough, graffiti depicting break out, and various caricatures and graphics depicting break even or break up - all with a hint of humour.

The project focuses on recycling, upscaling, and art, using a wide range of upscaled products such as oil drums for the bar counter, scrap metal for screens, packing and discarded wooden strips for various details. Strong, triangular graphics and shapes tie up the entire design together. Focal elements include a turquoise blue entrance door, and sculptures made of fibre and designed in triangular cuts and planes.

The central area flooring and ceiling resonate with one another in a triangular mosaic design; while the flooring is detailed in tiles, the ceiling has a distressed wood finish. The ceiling member thickness has been kept to a minimum and infused with mirrors to negate the low height of the space. Incandescent bulbs create further reflectivity and their dimmability provides a mood-lit effect. A grill in metal with mirror details adds character to the glass walls of the restaurant.

Painted oil drums in different colours hold together the long bar and the backdrop has triangular shelves with lighting. The toilets have tiles in the herringbone pattern and the under counters have painted drum bases.

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The design aims to provide a quirky, relaxed and fun atmosphere that inspires visitors to break away from routine and immerse themselves in the environment.

Principal Architect Suhani Lal Sanghra, Sparc Design
Fact File
Name of project: The Break Room
Area: 2000 sq.ft
Architect Firm: Sparc Design
Location: BizBay, Baner, Pune
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Keeping History Alive

The design by Manish Kumat Design Cell (MKDC) of an extension to the old block of the Indore Residency Club, is a seamless blend of the old and new, while keeping in mind the modern needs of smooth functionality, convenience, and aesthetics.

With a site area of more than two acres in the heart of the city, the club is a blend of heritage and modernism, and also one of the very few clubs to have maintained an equilibrium of brick and nature. An approach of minimal invasion was followed to respect the existing site that initially had 10-12 mature trees, and which were relocated in the Residency Club campus.

The planning of the club stays true to the essence of environmental sustenance. Spatially, the centrally planned courtyard keeps the building naturally ventilated. It also uses 85% of daylight, lessening the need for artificial lights drastically. The forms are placed closely and the building-height to street-width ratio is kept minimal to maximize shading.

The centrally placed courtyard also fosters visual connectivity among the different spaces in the building. Jharokha-shaped niches on exposed brick and pebbled flooring add a traditional touch to the courtyard. From the British Era, a decision was taken to not dismantle the old load-bearing structure, but to sensitively renovate it. The exterior of the new block is hence designed with a truss structure at the entrance, and finished with Mangalore tiles to complement the old block, and keep the sense of heritage intact. The tiles are matched with the existing adjacent building for the sake of continuity.
The new building was designed keeping in mind seamless functionality in the modern context. The Residency Club, which was established in 1896, is now viewed as a remarkable blend of heritage and modernism, and continues to exude an Old-World charm, despite having evolved as a contemporary structure.

Manish Kumat, MKDC
The ground floor houses a grand double-height entrance with a reception, an open-to-sky court, a restaurant, open dining, and a bar. The first floor houses a small reading lounge, a banquet for meetings, lunch and dinner, with a yoga and dance hall, and a roof-top dining area on the terrace.

The traditional touch can be seen in the various interior elements such as the door handles designed in different postures of Surya Namaskar, brass inlay on walls, wood carvings on furniture, Kota stone flooring etc reflect opulence and exquisite craftsmanship. The inlay on the wall adjacent to the staircase at the reception replicates the symbolic structural form of Rajwada, a historical palace in Indore, is done in beaten copper inlaid in siporex. Walls in stark white reflect the typical clean ambience of a club.
bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2020

is postponed to February 23-26, 2021

Gurugram/New Delhi
Functionally Aesthetic

From paint finished walls to a collection of art sculptures, from marble flooring infused with locally available granite to the furniture, from a neutral colour palette to vibrant orange, every element is in coherence with the design theme of the office interiors, crafted by Vismit Architects.

In the design of this office in Bangalore, the architects sought to create an optimum design that would consume the lowest possible energy while providing the most comfortable environment indoors. The brief for the single corporate house was to accommodate two main businesses – a software company and a real estate developer – with common facilities, independent and private spaces, and guest rooms, while maintaining the identity of a tech-rich office space.

In this commercial space, different elements meet to create luxury in spacious interiors. Utmost care is taken to allow natural sunlight and ventilation. The company logo on the facade acts as a focal point of the design, giving identity to the building. DMX dynamic lighting allows the building to stand apart as different hues and colors light up the facade at night.

In the Reception area, brown onyx marble cladding, veneer, and wood rafters in the ceiling complement the custom-made reception table, while the light fixtures, wall coverings and furniture pieces enhance the look and feel of the space.
Our design approach was to avoid architectural complexity and focus on simplicity to express the design ethos and make the space functionally aesthetic.

Ar. Asmita Karale & Ar. Vishal Karale
Vismit Architects

Transition spaces like staircases and lifts are arranged to offer views of the courtyard and the fountain. The lift lobby on every floor is done up in Natural Amber Onyx and backlit for artistic effect.

Hexagonal colorful workstations create a pleasant aura in the central spine, while planters provide visual relief.

The terrace garden provides relief from work as an informal space for relaxation.
The boardroom reflects the company’s image; it has acoustic paneling, dual screen, a marble top table offset by the orange carpet, white ceiling and a linear light pattern. Even though each meeting room is treated differently, an underlying interconnectedness is seen in their decor, colours and furnishings.
The plush interiors of the MD’s cabin include an anteroom with locker room and a restroom. Use of wood, leather, veneer paneling, Italian sofas offset by the natural fossil imprint marble flooring from Japan, adds interest and richness.

In the canteen, the focal element is the luminaire designed using randomly suspended circular lights that contrast with the colorful sound blades of Armstrong and match the stylish furniture.
Sense of Permanency in Simplicity

Nestled within a conserved area of native form, this Gurudwara in Bhopal, designed by KR Architecture Studio gives worshippers and visitors pause for reflection and prayer.

Within the quiet, natural setting, the Gurudwara’s open structure and canopy, with their animated play of light and shadow, invite people to meditate, do yoga, or hold community gatherings. The steep roof harmonizes with the surrounding mountains. The spacious exterior between volumes is accessible from anywhere as a common open yard. It provides spatial interest and a sense of continuity with stairs, ramps, walls, and alleyways. Simply formed spaces show moderate finishes and materials due to the low budget, but the simplicity evokes a sense of permanency. Its intention as a sacred space for prayers is shown in the bright white space right through to the empty framed cross - from the entrance itself.

Service rooms in the basement include halls for movie projection, seminars and lectures, an Internet club for young parishioners, a storage room, and sanitary facilities. A small temporary pavilion was designed taking into account the original building, drawing out new spatial and architectural perspectives, highlighting the relationship between the existing architecture and the new one, the exterior and interior, and the light and shadow among the shapes. Particular attention was paid to the treatment of light as an architectural medium. A glass dome/ skylight, and use of large-sized glass permit ample light into the interiors. Structural glass, safety glass, and energy-efficient glass allow new possibilities for lighting the interiors.
Material Palette
- Madurai gold granite & Makrana white marble for cladding of columns and walls
- Wood, tiles and carpet for flooring
- Oak veneer for paneling
- GRP glass reinforced plastic for Palki Saheb
- Silk cloth wallpapers in Sukhaasan area
- Wooden doors
- Crystals chandeliers, Chip On Board Light, RGB strip light

Fact File
Project Category: Religious Architecture
Location: Bhopal
Built-up Area: 7,000 sqft.
Design Firm: KR Architecture Studio
Design Team: KR Associates
Year of Completion: April 2019
Project Cost: Rs.1.25 crore

We wanted the building to become watertight, and safe and open for use, but also not to lose any of its rigor and quality as an exponent of religious teachings and an exalted way of life. The project was undertaken with the intention to both repair and protect the building, while magnifying its original design and details. Our aim during the repair was to stay true to the intent of its design and execution and thereby to the building’s principles.

Ar. Kamalroop Singh Maan
The architects took care to retain the building’s high-quality concrete, which in many areas was board-marked with the coarse grain of Madurai Gold. The design and installation of new services prevent further deterioration to the building fabric and offer a long-term solution to the underlying problems of the original construction, making the building fully fit for worshipers and visitors.

“One can notice a lot of deviation in arch forms in gurudwaras that are being built today, and they do not have any resemblance with the Golden Temple Arch. Some domes also have a different form either due to the absence of an exact drawing to create a replica or the design is left to the constructor or builder, resulting in accidental forms and varied decorative elements. Materials employed are also different, the most popular being copper and polished brass, and domes are of fiberglass; their durability or lifespan have no proven records,” observes Ar. Kamalroop Singh Maan.

“Gurudwara architecture started in the 16th century when brick (Nanak Shai) and lime mortar were the major materials and construction was manual with a few tools. The 19th century gave us better kiln-dried bricks, cement, RC Concrete, steel, and glass. The construction method, which for centuries was bricklaying, plastering, and painting, has now made way for pre-cast buildings of concrete or steel structures that are bolted together with great speed. Though functions of spaces in the planning of contemporary gurudwara architecture do not vary much, in any part of the world, there are variances in the facades due to the lighting system installed and use of decorative elements like arches and domes, which are perceived as an integral part of the gurudwara architecture,” he adds.
The project provided the architects an opportunity to adopt a more sensitive and sustainable approach to design a greener building with low carbon emissions and waste to landfills. The building's transformation was re-massed with larger floor plates on the upper floors. The sloped structural glazing on the north facade facing the road not only enhanced the aesthetics but allowed the natural glare-free light to enter the workspace and minimize heat gain. All other sides of the building have adequate rain and sun protection. A distinctive feature is the protruding elevator and the experience of seeing the road; this movement in floating space establishes a visual connectivity.

A better work environment is provided with higher ceilings, energy efficient air conditioners, and a rooftop terrace with open cafeteria. The skylight and exposed structural steel create a bisection of the building to create a stair core that brings natural daylight into the interiors and serves as the spine of the building. The zinc-coated steel structures with opaque windows penetrate deep through a central and sloped translucent ceiling that enables the main circulation space and staircase, allowing daylight deep into the core. Acrylic cantilevered treads with glazed guards and railings keep the visual appearance of the staircase light and airy.

Focus on Sustainability

Banaji & Associates have envisioned an ultramodern design to repurpose a dated industrial building to a commercial office - Crimpage Corporation in Mumbai - with state-of-the-art amenities.
Working closely with a team of structural engineers and green building consultants, we were able to arrive at an environmentally sustainable architecture that fits within the context of the site and surrounding community.

Ar. Jamshed Banaji, Director & Ar. Nirmala Banaji, Banaji & Associates
The design team of Orange Architects, ECHO urban design, Moederscheim Moonen, More Architecture and Studio Nauta - commissioned by Rotterdam developers Leyten and Stebru - has won the tender for the Zomerhofkwartier (ZOHO) in Rotterdam. Based on an explicit concept that strengthens the existing qualities of ZOHO, the winning design connects green structures and generates a sustainable and collective neighbourhood.

The Zomerhofkwartier district is located between the city centre and the Agniese district in Rotterdam. Over the past decade, creative residents and entrepreneurs have transformed this area of commercial buildings into a vibrant district of workspaces. In the tender, the municipality of Rotterdam expressed its ambition to increase the density of the area and turn it into a mixed-use district without affecting its creative identity.
With all the energy generated by the slow urbanism approach of the past decade, the district will continue to develop into the ‘new lively district’ of Rotterdam. A district where living and working are affordable, where there is space for launching initiatives, taking part, and influencing development. The spatial design respects and links the district’s DNA to new spatial and programmatic interventions. It restores the connection with the surrounding districts and creates a gradual transition from an urban context to a pleasant residential quarter.

**The Concept**

Three living environments are stacked on top of one another in the project: The Lab Layer, Land Layer and City Layer. Placed on top of the existing industrial ‘maker layer’ is a raised peat landscape, with a tower landscape on top of that. The scheme therefore not only stacks various living environments but also weaves them together with a series of remarkable public and collective spaces.

**ZOHO Lab:** The structure of the commercial buildings will be preserved as much as possible. They were constructed incrementally in the functionalist style of the post-war period, with concrete and steel as the chief materials. In the transformation, the current height of six to nine metres will be used to allocate space for entrepreneurial experiments, social purposes and innovative forms of housing.
Fact File
Name: ZOHO: the new lively district
Design team: Orange Architects, ECHO urban design, More Architects, Studio Nauta and Moederscheim Moonen Architects
Tender coordination: ECHO urban design
Developer: Leyten & Stebru
Investor: Bouwinvest
Housing Association Havensteder
Partners: Boomvannourik, Groos, Kickstad, Next Urban Mobility, New Horizon, Rebel Group, Short Stay Citizens, Workspot
Design: 2019
Gross floor area: 67,000 m²
Visualizations: VERO Visual

ZOHO Land: The peat park forms a climate-adaptive buffer that can absorb peak downpours and store water to enable irrigation during dry periods. This green roofscape also connects the various layers in the project. The park offers ample opportunities for collectives (gardening, landscape maintenance) and recreational amenities (games, walks, leisure).

ZOHO City: The City layer forms the decor for the district. The residential structures emerge out of the Land Layer as striking urban blocks. The City Layer contains eight different urban blocks of different size. They offer space for both owner-occupied and rental housing and also facilitate collective forms of living. Moreover, space for social housing is reserved in two places. In addition, the co-living hotel attracts a target group that strengthens interaction within the district and the relationship with the surrounding neighbourhood.

The project stands out on account of the rich variety of private, collective and public places. The mobility lobby, living room, collective gardens with courtyards and shared spaces inside the buildings create informal connections between the Lab, Land and City layers. The traffic-free world within ZOHO is designed with plenty of social amenities as well as entrances and lobbies for the various residential buildings. Containing a vibrant programme and dotted with public and collective spaces, the new district will be a resilient quarter in the centre of Rotterdam.
ADDP Architects and OWIU Design Studio will be commissioned to design and build their ‘Reclaiming Connectivity’ pavilion scheme for use as the main pavilion of Singapore’s Archifest 2020 - “Architecture Saving OUR World.” Launching as a Virtual Tour on September 25, 2020, the pavilion will test new architectural ideas for post-Covid-19 design, from its total prefab construction to its spatial layout, sustainable wooden material composition, functional tectonic glass design, and light manipulation. Festival goers can expect to explore a virtual Pavilion that allows them to examine the structure through an interactive 3-D tour that offers a 360-degree view, from the comfort of their home.

The Reclaiming Connectivity pavilion was originally inspired by OWIU Design Studio Founding Partner Amanda Gunawan’s photographs on abstraction of natural landscape. The Pavilion’s design uses photography print on Light Emitting Surfaces (LES) glass to capture the subtle details of water as an attempt to distort its original way of being perceived. Similarly, the Pavilion’s concept of Reclaiming Connectivity is a relook at what is current, and aims to inspire reflections on humanity’s innate need for connection, juxtaposed against the current reality of social distancing in public spaces. The LES glass is sponsored by SG-Glass and Kingboard (FoGang) Specialty Resins.

Since its founding in 2007, Archifest has become an annual festival to celebrate architecture and the built environment, and a platform to discuss, debate and dream about the possibilities surrounding architecture and the city of Singapore. It is also the official festival of the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA). The theme of Archifest 2020 - “Architecture Saving OUR World,” examines new ideas and responsible designs that benefit our ecology and humanity – climate change, public health, social equity and cultural continuity and the spirit of ‘creative activism’ within the profession. It seeks to demonstrate how architecture has the power to impact and ultimately save our world.

The ‘Reclaiming Connectivity’ pavilion re-examines public space within the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic world and is inspired by the “open plan” concept of Le Corbusier. It offers an alternative to isolation, by creating private areas of public space. Incorporating LES technology, the space enables an illuminated atmosphere of calm with one-directional circulation to ensure safety protocols of social distancing and sanitizing. The porous glass design is composed of patented-technology building material and was ideated to virtually display the work of artists and photographers.

The non-invasive walls provide a translucent frame of reference and a sense of being connected to the world, while still ensuring privacy and social distance. The pavilion will be designed using a part-to-whole method that ensures complete offsite modular prefabrication, transportability, and complete on-site construction within 48 hours. Simply assembled, the pavilion structure is composed of 99% sustainable FSC-certified timber and can be transported in one standard container.

For further information about the “Reclaiming Connectivity” Pavilion at Archifest 2020, visit: https://www.archifest.sg/pavilion.
CoEvolve Northern Star achieves Platinum rating under IGBC Green Homes rating system

CoEvolve Northern Star - near Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru, has scored a phenomenal 90 points out of the available 100 in the IGBC Green Homes rating system to become one of the greenest developments in India and the highest rated high rise residential building in Karnataka. CoEvolve Northern Star (CNS) has set a benchmark for water preservation by bringing in water management standards almost never seen in India. Most new developments conserve water through efficient plumbing fixtures and on-site wastewater treatment and reuse it for landscaping and flushing purposes. CNS takes this several notches higher by separating the sullage and sewage at source - both of which are treated using ECOSTP, which uses Biomimicry (functional principles of microorganisms and ecosystem found in a cow’s stomach to turn bad water into good water).

The treated sewage water is reused for landscape irrigation and flushing, while the sullage is treated to almost bottled water standards and supplied for domestic purposes. These, along with a robust rainwater harvesting and reuse system, will make this development almost completely water neutral. InHabit has facilitated the Indian Green Building Council’s Green Homes certification for CoEvolve Group, Bengaluru. CNS has shown exceptional performance in energy efficiency with 24% savings and an almost net zero water efficiency with over 98% savings in potable water use. These along with a closed loop solid waste management and solar powered common area lighting will provide residents a much lower cost of living and tremendous resilience during times of drought or power shortages.

The development uses environmentally friendly building materials and high-performance glass. It has set top standards in reducing environmental impact during construction. The buildings have been designed to provide excellent indoor environmental quality through improved daylighting, ventilation and thermal comfort.

Decorpot Sets up new Design Experience Centre at Whitefield, Bangalore

Interior design firm Decorpot has launched its new ‘Design Experience Centre’ at Whitefield in Bangalore where visitors can view and experience various design styles, including contemporary, Asian, eclectic, country, Scandinavian, classic, and fusion. A vast library of home interior materials promotes creative ideas for designing kitchens, bedrooms, living, dining, foyer, bar units etc. Says Shubhashis Shomil, CEO, “The center is a beautiful blend of design options curating the interior requirements of budget to luxury homes, plus it provides hassle-free home interiors solutions.”

Decorpot Sets up new Design Experience Centre at Whitefield, Bangalore
ANAROCK Retail partners with UAE-based retail design and delivery specialist Vindico

ANAROCK Retail has announced a partnership with international retail design and delivery specialist Vindico to offer comprehensive services to ensure the success of retail stores in the post-pandemic world. Innovations in construction and project delivery will play a major role in this highly disrupted industry. The objective is to design and deploy future-ready, post-pandemic retail spaces in India.

Anuj Kejriwal, MD & CEO - ANAROCK Retail, says, “The partnership will deliver scientific, success-oriented design solutions coupled with proven leasing and tenant representation services. Mall developers and retailers will benefit from cutting-edge architecture and store design that specifically address the new compulsions and realities of a post-Covid retail market. Simultaneously, our mall and store designs will fully reflect combined and individual brand values.”

With a typical contract lifecycle of 1.5 years, the new design services bouquet sits atop cutting-edge tenant coordination solutions. The combined services will include brands and location evaluation, cost estimation, and architectural design reviews.

Richard Kim, CEO & MD – Vindico, says, “This partnership is a powerful combination of experience and highly effective design capabilities that will usher in the shopping centres, branded stores, restaurants/cafes and airport retail spaces of tomorrow, for India’s organized retail industry.”

Vindico has provided retail design and delivery solutions to major retail players in Europe, the Middle East and North America. Expansion in India is a logical next step for Vindico; it counts the likes of Westfield, Heathrow Airport, and Aldar Properties, as well as Reliance Industries and LuLu International in India among its clients for retail design and construction services.

ANAROCK Retail has managed and executed 3300+ retail transactions across 55+ Indian cities, successfully closing leasing deals for the biggest international and domestic retail brands in India.

Merging specialised retail deployment capabilities and best-in-class leasing, transaction and management expertise, this partnership will be a gamechanger for Indian retail. In India’s pandemic-rebooted retail industry, mall and store designs are now critical from the perspective of social distancing and ‘touchless’ retail imperatives. In an industry wherein Covid-19 has rendered most previous design templates redundant, this partnership delivers both the know-how and implementation of extremely effective space configurations, and design elements to overcome concerns and ensure footfall and conversions.

REHAU unveils RAUVISIO Radiant Boards with Anti-Fingerprint Technology

REHAU Polymers has launched RAUVISIO Radiant Boards, a solution for stains and finger marks on furniture. The Anti-Fingerprint Technology and superior UV stability are suitable for all spaces for vertical as well as horizontal applications in residential and commercial spaces. They are highly durable and with features such as matt surface, low light reflectivity, impact and mould resistance, heat, moisture and scratch resistance, as well as excellent colour consistency. The boards come in a wide range of shades and finishes. They are eco-friendly, easy to maintain, hygienic and safe.
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Glazing & Hardware

**Type**

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**LPG 18**
Lingel - Panzer - Glazing 18 mm
Recommended for P7B as per EN356

**Type**

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Recommended for RC2 and RC3 as per EN1627-30

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Lingel - security - window recommended for RC2 & RC3 as per EN1627-30

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