



MAHEK LALAN
SML ARCHITECTS, MUMBAI

His aesthetics appear to follow the ‘less is more’ route. Through fabrics, textures and furniture, Mahek Lalan of SML Architects weaves colour, craftsmanship and functionality into his vision.

“We are too young a practice to slot our work into any style. Though we do tend to incline towards simplicity,” says the director and principal architect of the firm.

From interactions with clients, dialogues within the team, travels, interests, the craftsmen they collaborate with... His influences are wide-ranging.

“We enjoy working around constraints instead of finding ways to avoid them. So we’re always up for a good creative challenge!” Lalan enthuses.

An admirer of Ricardo Bofill, Antonino Cardillo,



Valerio Olgiati and Le Corbusier, Lalan’s SML Architects has undertaken projects ranging from luxury homes and villas to commercial spaces and public buildings.

“We hope to fuel our design endeavours with knowledge. We take our learnings from each project to our next. The process is the ultimate prize. The idea is to have a constantly questioning mind!”



RUSHABH PAREKH
RUSHABH PAREKH DESIGN STUDIO, MUMBAI

Rich textures, exclusive materials and luxurious furniture, all balanced in muted tones and a subtle palette define a grand Rushabh Parekh home. With a practice dedicated to built commissions and experimental research, Parekh focuses on developing contemporary ideas using form, materiality, modern technology and classical elements.

“The client’s well-being is always our starting point. Our designs focus on their lifestyle, and we work to enhance this aspect of their lives with our interiors,” he says.

The Rushabh Parekh Design Studio has an impressive portfolio of residential and commercial projects to hospitality ventures like The House of Medici for The Westin Pune, The Rockpool at W Goa (“Our most special and challenging project”



and luxury villas countrywide, spanning 10,000sqft to a mammoth 70,000sqft!

Besides his peers and the worlds of fashion, art, architecture and philosophy, Parekh is influenced by the works of Gilles & Boissier, Kelly Wearstler and Baptiste Bohu. “My all-time favourites are Philippe Starck, Joseph Dirand, Robert Couturier, Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas, Zaha Hadid, Un Studio and Peter Eisenman.”



PASHMIN SHAH & SATYAJEET PATWARDHAN
AMOEBIA DESIGN STUDIO, PUNE

Their studio is named after a formless organism that doesn’t conform to a particular image, allowing for constant change — much like the design philosophy Pashmin Shah and Satyajeet Patwardhan, co-founders of Amoeba Design Studio, follow.

“Architecture and interiors are nothing but a response to the place, people or environment,” says the husband-wife architect duo. “We represent the culture of contemporary India that’s constantly influenced by our travels, the people we meet, the food we eat and the art and architecture we see.”

Every space they design is an extension of lifestyles, “a balance of competing needs and a connection to the spirit of place”. Proponents of the wabi-sabi ideology, their studio specialises in residential interiors and architecture, destination luxury villas, farmhouses, restaurants and residential towers. While they find a greater muse in designs than designers, they feel a strong connect with the works of the late Geoffrey Bawa and Charles Correa for creating spaces “traditional in their souls yet contemporary in their presence”.

Shah and Patwardhan applied this train of thought in a home they designed in Talegaon, Maharashtra, which taught them “how important it is to cultivate restraint in your craft”. “A space created with purity, soul and warmth doesn’t depend on any external elements,” they emphasise. ■



INTERVIEW: SHRADDHA CHOWDHURY