

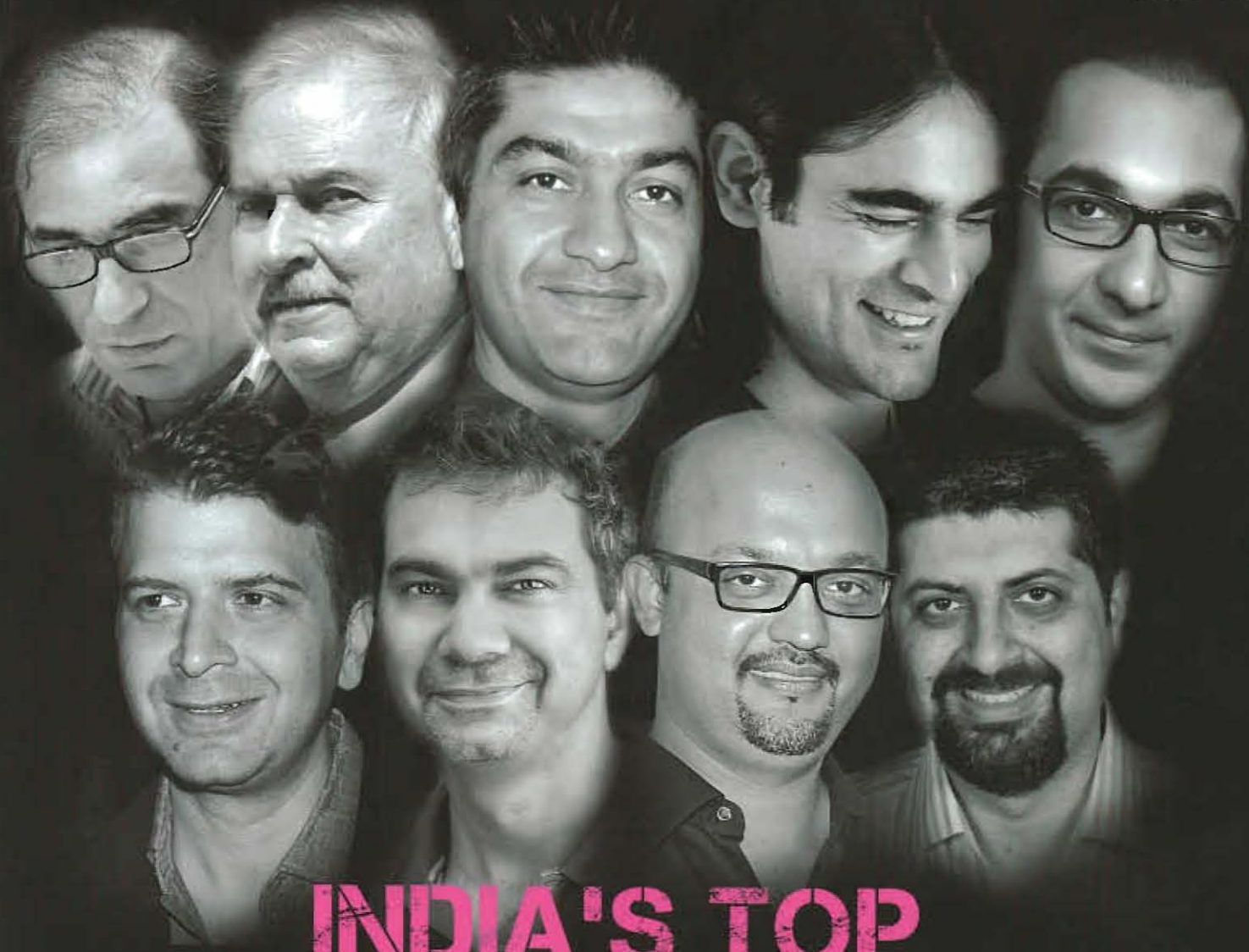


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INDIA



INDIA'S TOP INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTS

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Martand Khosla is an architect with the soul of an artist. Even as he goes about moulding the urban landscape, he remains sensitive to issues concerning social infrastructure, displacement and deprivation. Under Khosla's leadership, RKDS has designed several architectural projects from headquarters for Volvo-Eicher in India, townships in Karnataka, and cutting-edge modernist homes. The Castro Cafeteria designed by Khosla for Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi has been chosen as one of the best buildings of the century and has been featured in the Phaidon Atlas of World Architecture (21st century).



What does innovation in architecture mean to you?

Architectural innovation could encompass a very large number of aspects from spatial innovation, to material, social and technological innovation. From a purely design perspective, the ability to continually re-imagine space, and to attempt to sculpt it would be a goal to aspire to. The seed of the re-imagining of space stems from a re-imagining of existing social norms and practices.

The most innovative and flexible material you have come across and why...

The speed at which newer materials are being introduced has rapidly increased over the past few decades and is likely to present several more possibilities in the future.

1. The Greenply Industries Corporate Head Quarters, Gurgaon is designed using only MDF and laminates and the entire project was delivered in just ten weeks.
2. To satiate the client's need for an open view, an extended skylight spanning the entire stretch of this house in Himachal Pradesh was built.

The most innovative piece of architecture you have come across and why...

Singular pieces of architecture have always set the foundations for newer trajectories and imaginations of the future. The Pompidou Centre in the 1970s, Unite d'Habitation in the 1940s, The Finsbury Health Centre in the 1930s, The Barcelona Pavilion in the 1920s are such buildings that have achieved greatness because they have challenged existing paradigms and laid foundations for new imaginations.

An innovation in architecture you look forward to...

Do-It-Yourself, extremely low-cost, lightweight housing solutions for the urban poor.

3. The Royal Enfield office in Gurgaon was designed to resemble a casual cafeteria to create a relaxed ambience for work and meetings.
4. The corporate office for Volvo Eicher has a unique span free steel structure which is set outside the main building envelope and designed on the principle of stabilised cube which is diagonally braced.

