



## MARTAND KHOSLA

FOUNDING PARTNER, ROMI KHOSLA DESIGN STUDIO

“THINK WITH COMPLEXITY AND BUILD WITH SIMPLICITY: THIS IS WHAT I WOULD ALWAYS ASPIRE TO DO”

Though he is the son of a celebrated architect, architecture was not a foregone conclusion for Delhi-based Martand Khosla. He decided to enroll for a course in architecture only after he visited the Architectural Association. “The school had such a varied and creatively free yet rigorous agenda aimed firmly at developing the creative process! Buildings appeared not to be the prime objective of teaching. One could study for five years there without ever designing a building.” Obviously, it was time well spent.

Khosla finds particular projects and buildings are truly inspirational, pointing to examples such as the Kanchenjunga building by Charles Correa, the India International Centre by J.A. Stein and The Spastic Society School by his father (Romi Khosla).

While growing up, the 39-year-old found different favourites at different points. “Some I return to and some don’t mean as much to me anymore,” he discloses. “In India, the Indian Institute of Management and the Mill Owners Association are true favourites of modern architecture. The Pompidou Centre is a reminder of what great patronage can do for the development of architecture. Places that I revisit in my mind are the Thermal Baths at Valles and The Salk institute, Brasilia.”

As the founding partner of RKDS, an



Shantanu and Nikhil showroom in New Delhi

Photographs: courtesy Romi Khosla Design Studio

architectural and design firm with projects throughout India, and in the Netherlands, UK and Uzbekistan, the junior Khosla’s work has won several international awards. He has enjoyed working on projects such as the Castro Café, the Plus House, the A House and the Dental College; and he would love to use building materials such as stabilised mud blocks and other earth-based materials with low embodied energy, besides fast replenishing woods.

A firm believer in the tenet that good design should be available to all, irrespective of economic status, Khosla is committed to working on projects for the economically weaker sections of society. Presently designing a maternity home and a hospital for the Sir Sobha Singh Charitable Institute, he recalls that his first project was a shelter for the families of poor patients being brought to the GTB Hospital in Delhi. **MB**

• Maria Louis



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