



"Architecture and interiors are not separate and thus the spaces and its objects need to contain the same philosophy of life. It is an idea of imprinting memories, of nostalgia and of detail."

AR. AMIT KHANNA,  
Amit Khanna Design Associates



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if FOCUS : UNCONVENTIONAL LIVING SPACES | if INDUSTRY FORUM : HOME FURNISHING

if GENNEXT CREATIVE : POMEGRANATE | if PERSONALITY : AR. AMIT KHANNA

## The desire to create



a different space for one's self in a 21st century context seems very like the desire to stay close to Earth. There seems to be an almost primeval longing to cocoon oneself in an approximation of something 'Earth'; trees, bark, stone, rock or wood. In some instances, this is underscored by the double container, where Earth is both container and contained, as in the reflecting surface that covers the box home in the Sweden (page 45). Am thinking, what drives us then to do this sort of thing? A very understandable need to be free of the material chains that cloy and bind? The need to rediscover something less plastic? The need for complete immersion into Nature, which in this case translates to suspension or insertion into a shell of trees or rock or air.

Freedom in the context of an increasingly screen-connected society seems to imply a complete disconnect from screens and 'the other' as more and more ecologically-aware builders and creators ideate and create living spaces that keep them away from the hurly burly of life and its continuum of demands. So while it is perhaps a mark of human perversity that desires an escape from the things that gave us the capacity to create the escape, its also a creative force that has spawned the strange and lovely spaces we show in this edition of IFJ.

For those of us who might not be able to create escape spaces, may we gently suggest to the Powers-that-are in political residence that they can help with supporting shared green spaces for children to play in and for us to enjoy a moment of grass-under-ones-feet and moments of quiet (yes of course its possible ! with a simple mandate to appropriately schedule noise-producing things such as trucks, or even televisions). If this is all too Big Brother, and one can't really create one of these fabulous spaces for ones self, one could carve out a moment as a gift to oneself, and exult in the rejuvenating power of Nature, silence and screenlessness.

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Please send your thoughts to me at [sylvia@ifj.co.in](mailto:sylvia@ifj.co.in)

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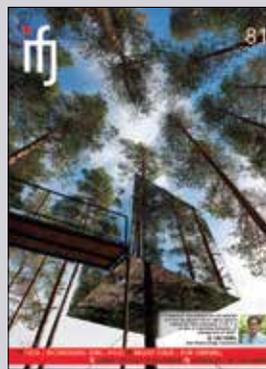


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# AR. ANIKA MITTAL

architects do the talking, as they wander through the world, pointing to architectural and design features they have loved along the way



## **Angkor Wat, Cambodia**

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Angkor Wat means 'the city of temples' and its compound (spread over the entire city) is steeped in history and culture. The most intriguing aspect however is the symbiotic relationship developed over centuries between nature and the built form. There are whole parts of the not-so-long-ago lost compound where buildings have been completely overrun by the forest, with trees becoming one with the temple architecture as their roots wrap around stone. The temples themselves have finely balanced elements and proportions and are very intricately carved. These clusters of temples are truly architectural spectacles.

## **Saint Paul De Vence, France**

This small medieval village on a hill along the coastline of the French Riviera is an artistic paradise with its combination of natural scenery and beautiful architecture. What I love is that architecture is everywhere - stunning hill views, narrow cobbled alleyways with staircases branching from them, small squares with fountains, gardens and houses. One can understand how this place has given inspiration to so many great artists over the years.





Ar. Anika Mittal,  
Founder & Director,  
Mold Design Studio, Delhi

### ***The Robie house, USA***

The house is one of the great examples of the Prairie style (the architectural style developed by Frank Lloyd Wright) with very distinct horizontal lines, low proportions, slightly sloping roofs and the use of materials like brick and wood. The architectural style of the house is modern and in harmony with Nature and natural materials.



### ***Florence, Italy***

Florence, the city on the banks of the river Arno, possesses historic, cultural and artistic wealth. This UNESCO World Heritage site is famous as the origin of the Renaissance, as well as its architecture, exquisite art and gourmet Italian food. Florence is extremely rich in museums, palaces and churches that have the greatest collections from some of the greatest artists of all time.

It's always the best experience to stroll through the city and enjoy its magnificent history. Wandering around the narrow, cobbled streets leads you to the an enchanting view of the river, which has multiple moods during the day, with the change of light. The panoramic view of the city from the top of the Piazzale Michelangelo is extraordinary. Florence is a breathtaking city!





## ***Edinburgh, Scotland***

Edinburgh is a great place to visit to get a taste of the medieval old world charm of Scotland. The city is so picturesque and historic that it's not surprising that the old town and the neoclassical new town have been named UNESCO world heritage sites. The city has a great mix of medieval and modern architecture that reflects the respect for its rich heritage. The city's main street leads you to explore hidden courtyards, churches, historic buildings, through steep narrow cobbled alleyways and stairs, creating curiosity and excitement. Smoky rustic dark buildings define the character of the old city. The Edinburgh castle sits on top of castle rock, dominating the city's skyline. The Calton hill has splendid view of the old and the new city. Can't get enough of this city.



## ***Road trip to Leh, Ladakh, India***

Leh- the capital city is slightly over 11,400ft above sea level surrounded by mountains and rivers and certainly it is a treat to the eyes. Travelling from Delhi to Leh via Srinagar and from Leh to Delhi via the Manali highway are equally adventurous, challenging and breathtaking as one finds narrow steep areas, broken roads or no roads, crossing water streams and climbing high altitudes, but that's exhilarating. There is so much diversity in the topography – from green landscapes rolling hills to barren mountains, rivers, streams, valley views, semi-arid plains, snow clad mountains, small rural settlements, monasteries etc. it leaves you spell bound. The drive to Pangong is beautiful but the view at the end of the drive is overwhelming; the crystal blue water surrounded by mountains is Nature's best! ifj