

# I and

interiors and decor

R.N.I. No. MAHENG/2011/40533  
Vol. No.13 • Issue No. 4 • Mumbai  
February - March 2024 • ₹ 200



## Women Artisans: CRAFTING WONDERS WITH Elegance





HARMONIZING TRADITION  
AND MODERNITY,  
RENOVATING

# HISTORIC STRUCTURES

*"Preserving historical buildings is a delicate balance between honoring heritage and meeting modern needs. Adaptive design offers a solution, breathing new life into these structures while retaining their cultural significance. Architects like Vipul Varshneya advocate for honest architecture that responds to the spirit of the time, promoting sustainable, compact cities."*

**Vipul Varshneya**, Founder, Director & Principal Architect  
STHAPATI

**What eco-friendly design strategies or materials do you incorporate to ensure sustainability in your architectural projects?**

Sustainability is a buzzword that no industry can escape from today. However, there is little discourse on understanding how practices can truly contribute towards a sustainable future. If one were to go through the plethora of ancient Indian heritage, the understanding of design was far ahead of its time. Context was used as a defining conceptual element, bringing sustainable design practices to the fore. In an attempt to address the challenges of infrastructural inadequacies, pollution, rising population, and climate change, building with sustainability is the

first step. There is a need to identify and map potential areas other than urban centres, mostly near rural areas, where sustainable resources, renewable energy resources, and human capital may come together. If architects spearheaded this initiative, identifying local communities, harnessing the power of traditional building knowledge and skills, and including these in their design processes, it would empower local communities and greatly reduce the strain on natural resources.

**What innovative design solutions do you employ to optimize space and functionality in compact living environments?**

STHAPATI prides itself on unique design concepts and bold execution while remaining responsive to the client's



diverse requirements; solutions are crafted appropriately to the needs of each client. The rapid growth, massive body of completed work and impressive clientele bear testimony to the firm's commitment to producing the best in every project commissioned.

We have successfully designed and executed works for clients ranging from large real estate developers, public sector undertakings, large corporations and institutions to health care entrepreneurs. In addition, large residential complexes, hospitals, educational institutions, and large town and city planning schemes have all been undertaken and completed in record time. Sthapati's substantial experience and the large and well-resourced team put the firm in the enviable position of being better equipped to successfully deliver designs for jobs of any size, nature or complexity. This allows the firm to focus single-mindedly on its core competence of conception, creation, and realisation of great design projects.

**When renovating historic structures, how do you balance preserving the original charm while incorporating modern functionalities?**

History has left us with a treasure trove of architectural



gems that testify to our past. However, as the needs of society evolve, preserving these historic buildings becomes a delicate balance between honoring their heritage and adapting them to meet contemporary demands. The art of adaptive design offers a compelling solution, allowing architects to breathe new life into these structures while retaining their cultural significance. By respecting and preserving the original character, architects lay the foundation for a harmonious blend of the past and present. Vipul Varshney is a member of the Lucknow Heritage Committee and Convenor INTACH Lucknow, with an active executive committee member of ICOMOS. She believes that architecture should be honest and must respond to the spirit of the time characterized by distinct ideas, disparate missions, contrasting convictions, and divergent preferences. A strong advocate of the vertical growth of cities, judicious land use, and the need for sustainable, compact cities, to maintain perfect harmony between increasing population and limited land resources. ■

