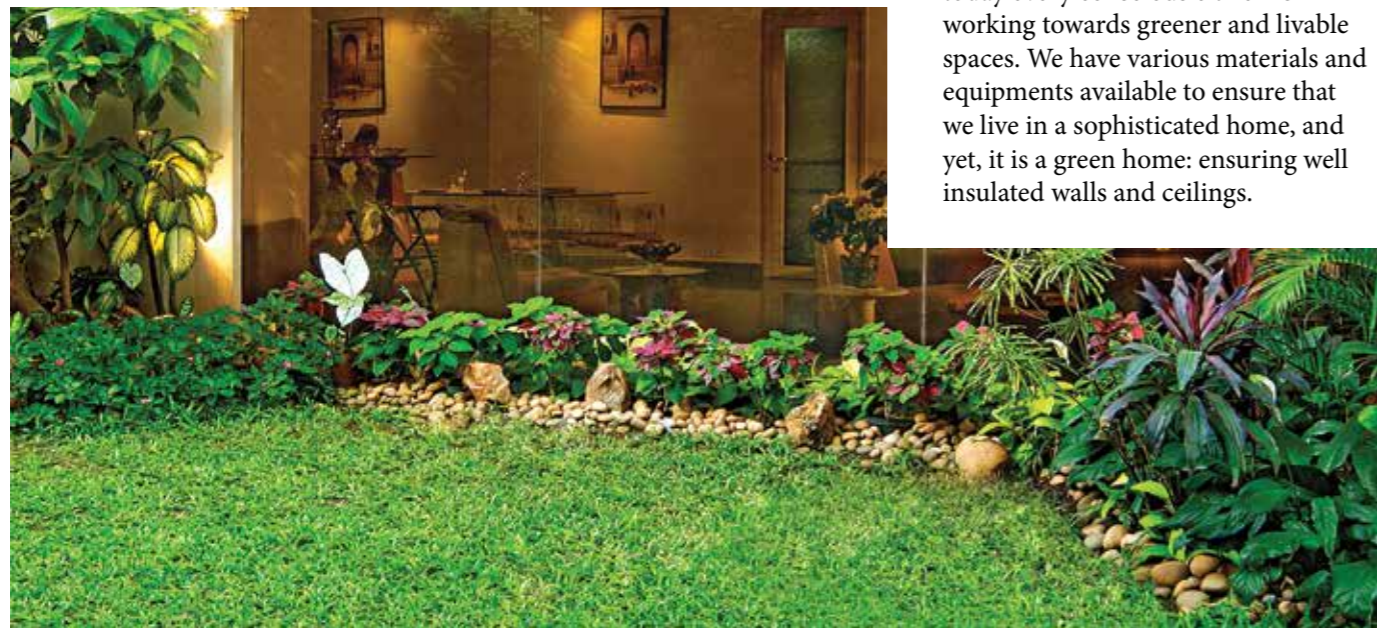


# Green Architects

TIHG takes a look at five famous sustainable architects who are leaving a green mark on our built environment

**IMPRESSIONS: BENOY SEBASTIAN**



Architect Prem Nath

## PREM NATH ASSOCIATES

Green is simply in vogue right now! According to architect Prem Nath, “Green homes were a way of life during ancient times - all houses were made from locally available materials, all homes were planned with north orientation and wind direction in mind; there were central courtyards planned for better ventilation, and all structures were insulated and planned as per the local weather.” Somewhere on-the-way to mimicking the western world, we seem to have lost track, and the inclination, towards building green homes he further mentions. Adding to this view he says, however, today every conscious citizen is working towards greener and livable spaces. We have various materials and equipments available to ensure that we live in a sophisticated home, and yet, it is a green home: ensuring well insulated walls and ceilings.



Architects  
Gayathri Shetty &  
Architect Namith  
Varma

## GAYATHRI & NAMITH ARCHITECTS

It is important to push the envelope on sustainability and integrate environment responsible features to a building's life cycle right from the conception stage to its construction stage. The definition of sustainability continues to evolve, and we see that it's become more of a social responsibility now. The architect duo recently designed a headquarter for a known bathware brand in Delhi NCR, which is a fine example of traditional approach to design. Architect Gayathri Shetty says, “The building mass is distributed in such a way, so as to provide for better ventilation and air flow, indoor air quality and reduction in energy consumption. For optimum water efficiency, hundred per cent water consumed by the building is recycled. Rainwater is collected and low flow fixtures are installed. Waste recycling is practiced where the waste generated is deposited into an energy plant and sewage treatment plant wastes is converted into manure.” For better energy efficiency, solar PV system of 975 kilo-watt capacity have been installed along with the radiant cooling systems making it a net zero building. Altogether, this project is a class apart, and lays the foundation for a greener tomorrow for India's rising tech parks.



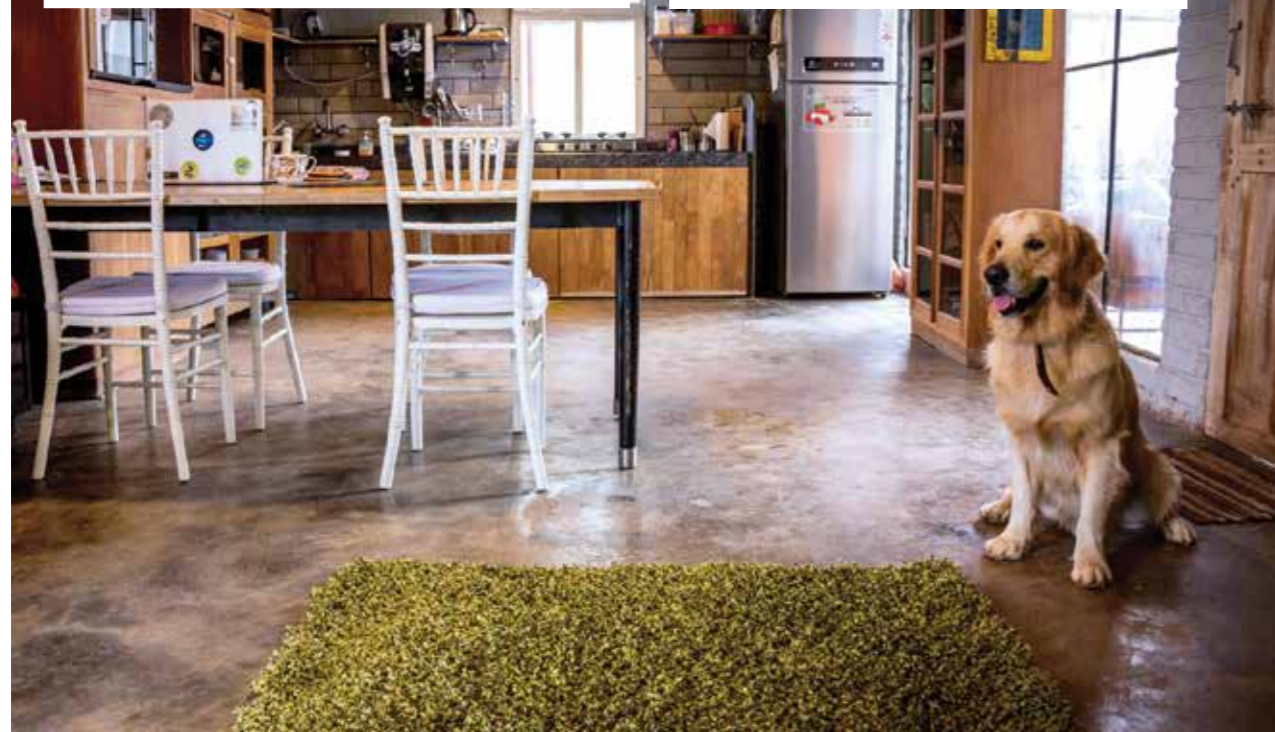


**STUDIO OSMOSIS**

The focus of sustainable design lies in achieving quality spaces with contextual and site as well as location driven materials and skills or technologies. Architect Shilpa Jain Balvally says, “The success of a design is about the way harmony is achieved among all these elements, in accordance with the human scale and material proportions, so that the spatial experience will make the perception of design and spaces exceed its materialism.” For every project, there should be solutions that are intuitive and flexible, of equitable use, work within context and constraint, communicate ideas visually, are experimentally sustaining, conform to codes, demonstrate environmental sensitivity and importantly, enable future-forward concepts.



Architect Shilpa Jain Balvally & Architect Sameer Balvally



Architect Vivek PP

**DE EARTH**

Green homes inspire elements of nature such as - the earth, the sky and water. The dynamics that evolve by the creative articulation of nature, keeps spaces as close to nature, and allow people to connect with nature. The major design element is nature herself, and spaces that compliment and allow one to enjoy it. Architect Vivek PP says, “Reducing the footprint of building, and reducing the impact on mother earth is important. Simplicity in spatial design helps in creating soulful spaces along with nature, thereby minimising the barrier between the built and the un-built spaces.” Reducing the building footprint and including landscape as a part of design, creates a whole new ambience to the built spaces. Climatic responsive designs, which reduces the maintenance costs and allows the buildings to age gracefully thus reducing the impact on environment is the key to attain sustainable homes.





## GREEN EVOLUTION

Today, it is clear that unsustainable development across all sectors is causing climatic changes globally. This kind of development will need to be curtailed in order to mitigate the increasing rate of carbon emissions and environmental destruction. Architect Anupama Mohanram says, "A crucial step that we can take is to be conscious of energy, water and material use in our homes; in other words, make our homes green. Opting for sustainable designed homes greatly aid in cutting down energy use. A home which has not been designed to let in adequate natural light will lead to artificial lights being used through the day, resulting in

increased electricity usage. Similarly, in a hot and humid climate if windows have not been planned to let in adequate natural ventilation, it will result in the use of mechanical cooling and therefore increased energy use." Installation of low-energy use appliances along with the use of renewable energy will further minimise electricity use. Also, as a responsible citizen we need to be conscious of the amount of water used. By treating and reusing waste water, we can easily minimise water footprint. Use of building materials that are non-polluting and materials that are insulating will further prevent environmental degradation.