

# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Ideas, inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

Volume 03 | Issue 12 | March 2012 | ₹50

An ITP Publishing India Publication

## SPECIAL REPORT

APSDA 2012 in Goa:  
IIID seminar on design  
for changing lifestyles



3<sup>rd</sup>  
anniversary

recycle



green power



# ROUTING FOR CHANGE



## MAHESH NAIK

PRINCIPAL, ORGANO SPACE



NOW I AM ALONE WHILE SETTING OUT FOR MY DESTINATION... SOMEDAY, OTHERS WILL JOIN ME ALONG THE WAY, AND IT WILL BECOME A CARAVAN



While deciding on a career for himself, Mahesh Naik was weighing chemical engineering and architecture as his options. Thanks to his instincts — and what he refers to as pure chance — the balance tilted in favour of the latter. Though he enrolled for a bachelor's degree in architecture from Pillai's College of Architecture, he found himself frustrated with the course. "I was not able to understand architecture," recalls the 33-year-old architect. "It was boring!"

Thankfully, six months down the line, he had the opportunity to see Metro Shoes, one of the houses built by Nari Gandhi in Lonavala, a hill station midway between Mumbai and Pune. "It changed my whole perception about architecture," discloses Naik. "His work was fresh and creative — synonymous with paradise. It is perfect indigenous Indian architecture."

Passionate about organic architecture like his idol famously was, he wrote his final-year dissertation on the Tibetan Art & Craft Centre in McLeodganj in Himachal Pradesh — and was the proud recipient of an acknowledgement letter from the Department of Education, Central Tibetan Administration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. After completing his B. Arch in 2001, Naik worked as an apprentice to Dean D'Cruz for a few months before another



Red Mars in Alibaug.

Photographs: courtesy Organo Space

stint with Hafeez Contractor. He then started a design firm called Organo Space.

His design for the Ebrahim family house in Alibaug, Maharashtra, was nominated for the tenth cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2007. It was also included in 21st Century World Architecture by Phaidon press atlas, London.

Disillusioned by present-day architecture and the fact that it ignores the quest for truth and values, Naik observes: "Today's design

in India is neither science nor art; it's just commerce. Architecture is being designed more with a calculator than a T-scale."

Red Mars in Alibaug and Moonlight in Kot, Ratnagiri, are attempts to balance form and function — as Naik believes these should go together. His work is an expression of his spirit of honesty, for he practises what he preaches, always relying on indigenous materials from near his sites. ■

• Maria Louis

*mazboot humsafar*

FROM

**SONEAR**

PLY • VENEERS • LAMINATES • FLUSH DOORS