

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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TOP OF THE NEW CROP

50 ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS, REPRESENTING GEN-NEXT,
POISED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR BUILT SPACES

iGen 2014

JAYADEV K
FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL
ARCHITECT, SPACE STATION
ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS



“Good design relates to the senses and context; and the experience of it is the most significant outcome that we strive to reach.”



Light, materials and textures play a cohesive role in the making of the experience of good design,” says Jayadev K, whose understanding of design goes beyond it being a subject to the philosophy it is based on. The young architect believes that a creative process is essential, and he cherishes the journey of creating the space as much as experiencing it in its totality. If the user experiences the same emotion of intense joy, he considers the design successful.

Jayadev graduated in 2006 from the MES School of Architecture, Kuttipuram, and then spent a year as a research associate at the Industrial Design Centre, IIT, Mumbai. This short stint in product design helped him to realise that his calling was building design rather than product design. “As an architect, it is easy to work on anything related to design - since the foundation for the different streams has a universal root in architecture, which links all of these into a singular entity. After working with architects Jacob George and Ramesh Tharakan of Design Combine Architects & Designers, Kochi, he started his own practice – Space Station Architects & Designers – in 2010. The firm is mainly involved in residential and commercial projects, including interior design.

The 31-year-old architect has been inspired by a long list of personalities: Louis Kahn for his Phillips Exeter Academy Library and Kimbell Art Museum with the subtleties in lighting; Geoffrey Bawa for his rich and earthy palette of materials and for being the ‘original’ vernacular tropical modernist; Luis Barragan for the sophistication of his spaces; IM Pei for his ability to instill a sense of fun, playfulness and variety into commissions like the National Gallery (east building) and the Louvre; and Frank Lloyd Wright simply for the amount of great architecture he has created. “One person who commands respect is Kahn, as he could actually put his intense theory into practice,” adds Jayadev.

In all his work, the design is arrived at through a process of simultaneous study of planning, material and the form as tuned by the user and his/her tastes. One of his recent projects is a residence in Munambam, where a family of five wanted to build a home on a piece of land behind their existing ancestral home. This was done without breaking it down until the end of construction, which would then make way for a commercial development. The challenge was to ensure that the core living area was completely daylit and naturally ventilated, despite being surrounded by the other rooms. The final outcome was a space that looks inwards, introvert in character, silent from the inside and unassuming from the outside. This project won a commendation award at the IIA State Awards Kerala Chapter 2013.

PROJECT
A residence, Munambam