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**Celebrating  
Women-led development in  
Architecture, Art, Design  
& Engineering**

# 2018 WADe Asia

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# 7 WOMEN LEADERS IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN EDUCATION

Seven accomplished women industry influencers— **Prof Nandita Abraham**, Pearl Academy, New Delhi; **Dr Vibhuti Sachdev**, New Delhi; **Dean Anjali Krishan Sharma**, GD Goenka school of University and Architecture, New Delhi; **Prof Nivedita Bose**, Principal of Samana College of Studies, Vijaywada, Hyderabad; **Ar Gita Balakrishnan**, Kolkata; **Prof Madhavi Desai**, Ahmedabad, showered their wit, humor and acumen and spoke their heart out at **WADe Asia 2018** regarding the lives of contemporary women leaders in the architecture and design education and the challenges they faced in this field. The extremely talented author, architect & researcher **Anuradha Chatterjee** from Sydney moderated the discussion.



Anjali Krishan Sharma, GD Goenka school of University and Architecture, New Delhi; Dr Vibhuti Sachdev, New Delhi; Anuradha Chatterjee, Sydney; Gita Balakrishnan, Kolkata; Prof/CEO Nandita Abraham, Pearl Academy, New Delhi; Prof Madhavi Desai, Ahmedabad; Prof/Dr/Dean Prof Nivedita Bose, Principal of Samana College of Studies Vijaywada, Hyderabad.



Anju Malla Pradhan, Vice President at Society of Nepalese Architects, Nepal; Pallavi Dean from Pallavi Dean Interiors, Dubai; Manishi Aggarwal, co founder, Cosmos Design, Gurugram; Sonal Sancheti, Co-founder, OPOLIS, Mumbai; Mona Doctor Pingel from Studio Naqshbandi, Auroville; Seema Puri from SEZA, Mumbai



## THOUGHT PROVOKING DESIGN JOURNEYS OF 4 LEADING WOMEN DESIGNERS

One of the key intentions of WADe is to unleash, unveil, and upbring the design journeys of the women achievers to the world. The second panel discussion was all about the steel head feminism.

A very interesting set of panelists : **Anju Malla Pradhan**, Vice President at Society of Nepalese Architects, Nepal, **Pallavi Dean** from Pallavi Dean Interiors, Dubai, **Mona Doctor Pingel** from Studio Naqshbandi, Auroville, **Seema Puri** from SEZA, Mumbai and **Sonal Sancheti**, Co founder, OPOLIS, Mumbai shared scintillating and highly inspiring stories of their design journeys

at the event. The supremely talented and graceful young Architect **Manishi Aggarwal**, co-founder, Cosmos Design, Gurugram moderated the panel discussion.

These prominent women achievers and designers are known for their super-strong entrepreneurial skills and ability to both influence and encourage. It was truly inspiring to listen and learn how these conquerors stood tall amidst all the rejections, gender biasedness, and eventually developed a steelhead.



Ar Purnima Sharma, C.A.P.T consultants, Chandigarh; Ar Dorji Yangki, President, Bhutan Institute of Architects, Bhutan; Ar Manish Chakraborti, Conservation Architect & Director Continuity, Kolkata; Kamalika Bose, Founder, Heritage Synergies, Mumbai; Prof. Utpal Sharma, director, Nirma University, Ahmedabad; Ar Poonam Verma Mascarenhas, Conservation Architect & Director, Archinova\_Environs, Goa; Ar Tushar Sogani, Tushar Sogani Design Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur

## CITY AND HERITAGE - WADe ASIA

**O**ur cities are evolving at a great speed, some for good and some trying to cope. WADe Asia invited a remarkable group of panellists- Prof. Utpal Sharma, director, Nirma University, Ahmedabad; Ar Manish Chakraborti, Conservation Architect & Director Continuity, Kolkata; Ar Poonam Verma Mascarenhas, Conservation Architect & Director, Archinova\_Environs, Goa; Ar Tushar Sogani, Tushar

Sogani Design Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur; Ar Dorji Yangki, President, Bhutan Institute of Architects, Bhutan; Ar Purnima Sharma, C.A.P.T consultants, Chandigarh to come together and enlighten us about their cities and heritage, the good, the bad, what can be done and what must be done to make the cities liveable along with the past heritage as well. A supremely intelligent Kamalika Bose, Founder, Heritage Synergies, Mumbai moderated this panel discussion.



Mr Alok Agarwal, CMD, Orient Bell (extreme right) with the dignified panellists: (from left) Rahul Tyagi, RT Associate, New Delhi; Chandrika Sahay, Director & Principal Architect, Meraki Design; Darpan Kucchal; Neena Shah, MR Warekar & Associates Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, - WADe Asia 2018.

## IS HOUSING BECOMING MORE THAN SHELTER?

**H**omes today are no longer just shelters; global exposures, media, technology, luxurious experiences at retail & restaurants have created the demand for homes which are able to meet the new age requirements. This panel discussion touched upon the transition of residential housing – from where it was in the eighties to where it is now. Priorities, ownerships, aspirations, family size, status-quo – everything has changed.

However, has the architectural mindset also changed to catch up and is it in sync with the changing mindset? It was a real intense interaction moderated by Alok Agarwal, CMD, Orient Bell with the dignified panellists: Chandrika Sahay, Director & Principal Architect, Meraki Design, Darpan Kucchal; Rahul Tyagi, RT Associate, New Delhi; and Neena Shah, MR Warekar & Associates Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.



Brinda Miller, Mumbai; Sonali Rastogi, New Delhi; Annkur Khosla, Mumbai; Nela de Zoysa, Sri Lanka; Sunita Kohli, President, K2India, New Delhi

# WADe MASTERCLASS WITH MENTORS



"I think that the event put up by Vertica is phenomenal and very forward thinking. We as minority need to share our experiences so that the younger generation is able to counter the challenges they face. I wish I could be there. My absence is my loss. Lot of love & best wishes to all in WADe Asia!"

**Ar Sheila Sri Prakash, Founder, Shilpa Architects, Chennai**

(Unfortunately, she could not join. This was received as a video message)

The last day of WADe Asia 2018 also incorporated an amazing panel discussion by the successful and inspiring panellists, who need no introduction - **Sunita Kohli**: President, K2India (Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture, Restoration, Landscape, Construction); **Nela De Zoysa**: Nela de Zoysa, Principal Architect, Design Corp, Sri Lanka; **Brinda Miller**: Artist, former director of the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival in Mumbai; and **Sonali Rastogi**: Co-Founder, Morphogenesis, New Delhi.

The intensity of the discussions, the insightful real-life instances, the inherent need of mentors, the mindset and the tactics to deal with demanding situations and clients, the omnipresent challenges, the non-negotiable will to bounce back – it was a unique discussion that took the audience into the lives of these uber successful women in design. The young successful founder Annkur Khosla Design Studio, Mumbai, **Annkur Khosla**, marvellously moderated this panel discussion. WADe Masterclass with Mentors is one of the most loved & awaited sessions of WADe Asia since its inception.





Sabeena Khanna & Sakshi Khanna, Gurugram; Brinda Miller & Aahana Miller, Mumbai; Anuradha Chatterjee, Sydney; Alfaz Miller, Mumbai; Yatin Patel, Mumbai; Rajeev Khanna, Gurugram

## MESSAGES FROM ARCHITECT PARENTS TO THEIR ARCHITECT DAUGHTERS

One of the fascinating Panel Discussions at WADe Asia 2018 was the CANDID CONVERSATION between ARCHITECT PARENTS and their ARCHITECT DAUGHTERS, with three families joining in, **Brinda Miller, Alfaz Miller** with daughter **Aahana Miller**; **Yatin Patel** was with daughter **Ar Riya Patel** who joined from New York, who had communicated via videos; **Rajeev Khanna and Sabeena Khanna** were accompanied by their daughter **Sakshi Khanna**, Gurugram. It was moderated by Anuradha Chatterjee. The Panel Discussion was endearing and positive as all the panellists explored the complexities of how the new generation and the families balance influence and inspiration, independence and relationality, and solve new and old problems in new ways.



Ar. Lalita Tharani, Collaborative Architecture, Mumbai; Bandana Jain, Founder, Sylvn Studio, Mumbai; Ar Pallavi Dean, Pallavi Dean Interiors, Dubai; Jimmy Mistry, Chairman & MD, Della Group, Mumbai; Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala, Textile Designer, Author, Curator, New Delhi; Sushant Verma, rat [LAB] Interiors, New Delhi

## THE FUTURE OF DESIGN - WADe ASIA

A diverse group of panelists - **Sushant Verma**, rat [LAB] Interiors, New Delhi; **Ashdeen Z. Lilaowala**, Textile Designer, Author, Curator, New Delhi; **Ar Pallavi Dean**, Pallavi Dean Interiors, Dubai; **Bandana Jain**, Founder, Sylvn Studio, Mumbai; **Ar Lalita Tharani**, Collaborative Architecture, Mumbai, Maharashtra, shared their ideas & opinions about the Future of Design. The debate revolved all around how technology, new materials, lifestyle, global exposure and design thinking define the future of design. One of the best known contemporary designers and designpreneur of India, **Jimmy Mistry**, Chairman & MD, Della Group, Mumbai moderated the discussion.



Vertica Dvivedi, founder of WADe Asia; Tripti Somani, Chairperson, women Entrepreneurship Committee, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi ; Pune; Anil Khaitan, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi; Mr Udaykumar P, NSIC, Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, New Delhi; Rangnath Krishna Chandra, Senior Adviser, Mentor, Support Network, NIESBUD, Noida; Pinaki Nandi, National Sales Head Orient Bell Limited, New Delhi; Mr. Reddy

## BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE IN DESIGN

“There is a lot of support available today in terms of funds, schemes, and favourable environment. To avail them, the first step is to be aware of what is happening around you!”  
Vertica Dvivedi, WADe Asia

The 2nd and the last day of WADe Asia 2018 kicked off with a panel discussion with two much awaited themes – Business Intelligence In Design and the launch of **PHD Women Entrepreneurs Committee**. The talk was moderated by the founder of WADe Asia, **Vertica Dvivedi** and was attended by panellists:

**Tripti Somani**, Chairperson, Women Entrepreneurship Committee, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi ; Pune ; **Anil Khaitan**, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi ; **Mr Udaykumar P**, NSIC, Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, New Delhi; **Rangnath Krishna Chandra**, Senior Adviser, Mentor, Support Network, NIESBUD, Noida; **Pinaki Nandi**, National Sales Head, Orient Bell Limited, New Delhi; and **Mahesh Reddy**, Secretary General (Designate) PHD Chambers.

The discussion was about how the designers of today face severe challenges, when it comes to initiate and implement the critical business skills, irrespective of their sharp acumen and creative abilities. They also discussed about the probabilities, possibilities, and unheard government schemes for women entrepreneurs, in India. The words of the representatives of the ministries were an eye-opener about the endless funding opportunities for the lady aspirers. **WADe Asia** will take this topic forward for more discussion in future.

