

# MGS

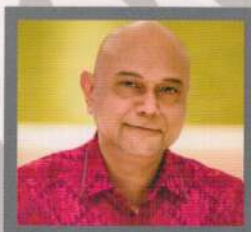
## Modern Green Structures & Architecture

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A NBM Media Group Publication

# Emergent Indian Architects

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue



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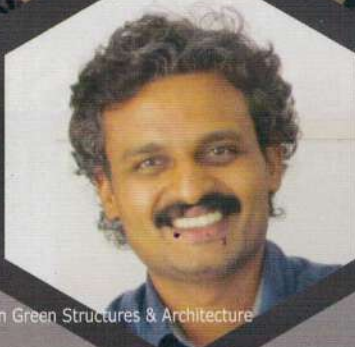
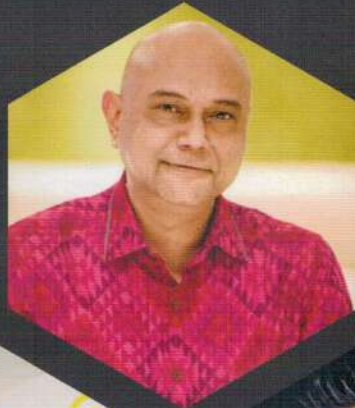
SELF-DRILLING SCREWS





# Emergent Indian Architects

Indian architects are emerging with fresh skills and commitment towards carrying forward cultural aspects with good practices. They are steadily widening the scope of architecture to include international standards and making a statement within the Indian context. They are using modern technologies with dexterity to offer solutions beyond expectations. It is with élan that they blend Indian values and redefine the contemporary Indian aesthetics. Presented here are the design philosophies, inspirations and imaginations of the emerging Indian Architects with their individual success mantras in the journey to make a mark on the architectural scene with individual flair.





## Architects & Projects



"There is no single written philosophy to M:OFA but it is an open ended, constantly evolving work in progress, guided by a vision that drives it to excel in whatever it does."

**Ar. Manish Gula**  
Principal Architect, M



# Architects & Projects

Manish Gulati, Principal Architect for Manifestation of Fluid Architecture (M:OFA), has graduated from CEPT, Ahmedabad in 1999. After three years of work experience in Retail, Exhibition and Event Design, he set up his Architectural and Interior Design practice in 2002 in New Delhi along with his wife as a partner, Tanushree Gulati, a civil engineer and alumnae of the same institution.

The name M:OFA was formalized in 2007 as the practice expanded to include Urbanism within its expertise. Starting from a pure architectural practice, today, the firm is dealing with projects of infrastructure, urban design, environmental planning, product design and even interaction design through multiple analysis, strategies and systems all designed to give the best design solution to every project.

Under the stewardship of Ar. Manish, who is an explorer and a keen observer, M:OFA works with an underlying goal of excellence and innovation. Conceptual thinking, art, technology, innovation and creativity are few of his inherent qualities which keep him driving. Crafts, sustainability, planning, infrastructure, indigenous practices/systems, technology and its application are some of the influences that the Think Tank tries to integrate in design and research.

Apart from having a scientific bent of mind, Ar. Manish was always extremely good with fine arts. His childhood is dotted with days filled with all things creative. Intuitively, he was already on this path and it came together to him as a realization in high school when he understood what Architects actually do, "I knew that this felt more right than anything else I had ever known."

He says, "What still keeps me going on is that as a Designer, by giving enough thought to my research and creativity I feel I can make a difference. It is one the fields where I have always felt that we as professionals can accomplish anything, with our knowledge and interest in almost everything around us. To me, design is everything and solution to any problem in the world can be achieved through good design. It is this drive, that inspires all of us working with M:OFA to accomplish something new through innovation every day."

"Having named the practice 'Manifestation of Fluid Architecture', it was always clear that there would be no single written philosophy to the practice but it will be an open ended, constantly evolving work in progress, practice that would be always guided by a vision that drives us to excel in whatever we do," added Ar. Manish.

Talking about the inspirations he gets for his projects, he explains, "When you observe the world around you; its hues, textures, psyches, people, diversity, landscape, all become a part of a collective consciousness. The next stage is abstraction or intuition.....free flowing.....everything excites me, energizes me and I am forever willing to learn not scared of walking of unknown paths.....observation, intuition, and this sense of exploration is perhaps what led to many a

unknown paths and projects... Also our own aspirations play a very important part in all this. We are a very driven firm; we look at design intrinsically and push ourselves and others to think out of the box. Collaborate, Innovate."

Ar. Manish is completely agreed with the statement often said that Architect and Architecture are greatly influenced by the context and their biographies. "Architecture is going back to its basics....people....all styles, technology, trends and movements are receding in the background somewhere as mere tools as they always ought to have been.....Across the world people are embracing their individual context. Be it Australia, Asia, Africa, indigenous practices and languages are coming up across the world mixing with technology, people, issues.....It is a very creative time to be practicing Design...."

He informed that various design faculties, along with professional from various fields be it, scientists, economists, and engineers, are all collaborating with architects to provide better solutions to the world every day. "It is this modern renaissance that we feel very lucky to be a part of where the design sparks all around us are creating these grand symphonies that we are enjoying constantly while working on them simultaneously. Understanding our own roots, context, economies, need of the hour and a very sincere desire to be a part of and contribute towards change, we at our end are exploring and understanding from our own context and evolve indigenous architectural and design expression + solutions."

Ar. Manish shows willingness to work on such projects which make him think, relook, and redefine the basics. He feels that if one changes the smallest cell then everything around it gets changed. To know, understand and experience Architecture as a whole there is no categorization in the type of projects, everything is design whether it is the design of a city or a single dustbin within it, they both need to function efficiently, simultaneously through the virtue of their design. Hence he suggests all to keep learning and absorbing more from everything around while constantly evolving design, not as a subject to discuss over cups of tea but as an everyday practices frequently as breathing the air out and in.

For him, Mantras of a successful life are "never quit in the face of adversity, courage to take risks, immense passion and perseverance to keep walking the path, come what may. Walk alone, walk against the tide, against conformity and cliché's but walk for what you believe in.....everyday. Being a strong non-conformists it helps him to question his own notions keeping the thoughts and the mind fluid constantly."

Ar. Manish believes that the present, always is constantly changing.....as it is still unraveling...keeps forming newer impressions and experiences every day. It's extremely important being a designer to start afresh every day as becoming static and appreciating one experience would lead to getting trapped in it preventing from moving beyond and further.





bird's eye view

## National Institute of Fashion Technology Himachal Pradesh

**N**ational Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), located at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh was commissioned to the architectural practice M:OFA as a winning entry during a National Level competition in 2009. The entire master plan as a zero discharge 'Green' campus was to be constructed on a steep hilly terrain within the existing old banyan, mango and silver oak trees.

The concept for the NIFT Kangra begins with understanding fashion design as an art form, expressed through a combination of visual graphic with textural quality. M:OFA chose to weave the building with the surrounding context; a visual graphic of agricultural fields rich in textural depth and variations, as a natural growth, where paths in the forests grow into the streets of a future urban fabric and the fields translate into urban footprints.

The knitting threads drawn from the existing agricultural terraces, were woven together to form a uniformly flowing pattern of many intersecting cuboids. The pattern closely follows the site contour and the design then develops vertically; as an analogy of the way the Great Himalayas developed. The building matter folding onto each other, twisting with the forces, leaving in between gaps or cracks in the fabric that become the passages and places of various interactions.

### Special Design Features

As a respect to the existing trees on site, M:OFA faced a challenge of designing 200 rooms for the faculty and residences for the professors without cutting a single tree. Designed through a cellular growth of space, following the existing contoured topography, the building



### Project At A Glance

Project: National Design School / Institutional, Kangra, (Dharamshala) Himachal Pradesh

Client: NIFT, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Architect: M:OFA

Size: 2,50,000Sqft

Awards Won:

- Winner Dubai Cityscape Awards 2013 for Best Community and Culture Project in Emerging Markets
- Winner A plus D Cera 2014 for Best Institutional Project
- Shortlisted NDTV Architectural Awards 2014



designed as a play of rooms conceived as positive spaces intersticed with light courts, conceived as negative spaces. These courts were distributed organically around the trees not only in plan but also in sections connected with circulation corridors within the same modules, reminiscent of the organic streets of the villages of Kangra. These streets with their changing levels, winding around

trees continuing like a labyrinth create a mysterious story that has multiple beginnings and endings, ever inspiring the students of design to never have constant rigid ideas but a fluid flow of thought during their entire stay here.

### Green building Aspects

NIFT has a very strong International presence which is taking responsible action in the preservation of the natural wealth. M:OFA as an Architectural Design Firm is and has been committed to making Sustainable Green Building Solutions. The firm strongly believes and stresses upon making NIFT Kangra towards a Zero Discharge campus. What is generated here, namely solid waste, storm water and sewage is used here. Various parameters to make the campus self sustainable like ground water recharge, sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants for use in irrigation, flushing & non portable uses on campus, solar geysers & solar landscape fixtures have been fitted in the smallest to largest aspects of the design. It has consciously woven the guidelines of GRIHA rating for new construction and major renovations into the Campus Master Plan & Design after studying the site/land topography, climate, connectivity and local materials & techniques.





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Extreme care was taken during the construction by the executing agency DSIIDC, the engineers and the architects to not only protect the trees through a series of retaining walls but at times, the design of the rooms altered and adapted in order to accommodate the spread of the banyan and the mango tree branches. It's a sheer joy to experience this wonderful play of nature and architecture, within multiple verandahs and terraces where, the design students would be able to work with nature surrounding them and the sweet tasting mangoes literally falling in their lap from the trees that surround them. The second phase of the project is under construction, which includes the academic campus, residences for the professors, and the remaining part of the Girls hostel.

### Material Palette:

- RCC, Steel
- Local Stone Slate,
- Kota, Terrazo, Karappa.
- Aluminium





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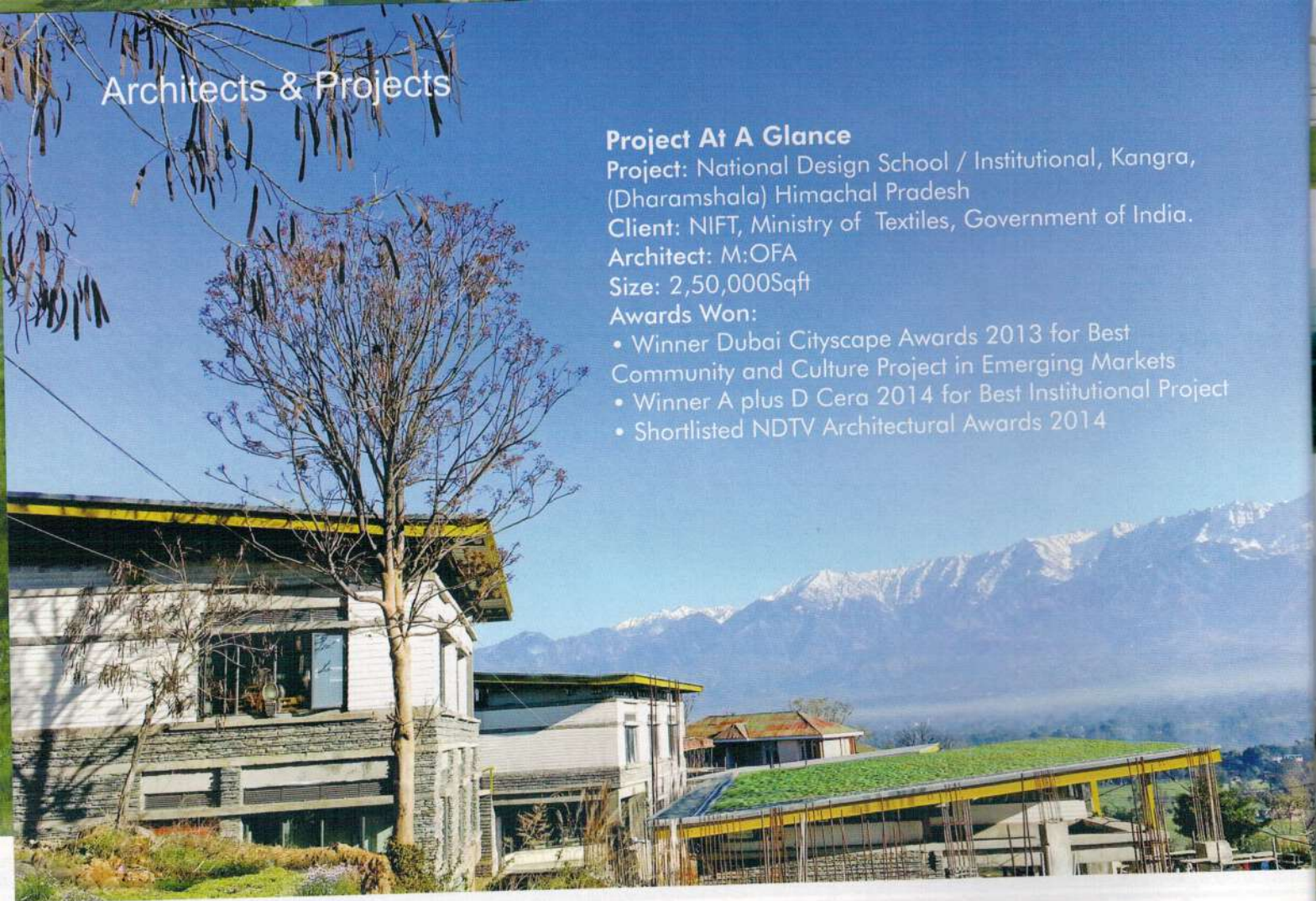
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