

iGen 2014

PADMINI PANDEY
 FOUNDER &
 PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT,
 STUDIO PADMINI PANDEY



“Architecture is not about spaces, volume or materials. It’s about life within those spaces, volume of emotions and culture of materials.”



Aesthetic, functional and emotional experiences are qualities inherent to Padmini Pandey’s architectural design sensibilities and creations. Her years of experience across continents, and the sensibility she brings to the communicative elements in space design, are clearly reflected in her projects - ranging from hotels, restaurants and night clubs to fitness centres, offices and homes. A good design, for her, is anything that fits seamlessly into its environment - be it spaces or forms that stimulate the right human senses to create a unified monolithic lifestyle.

After acquiring her Bachelor’s degree in Architecture from Rizvi College of Architecture, Mumbai, Padmini did her Master’s in Interior – Living & Space Design from the Instituto Europeo di Design, Italy. While living in Milan from 2007 to 2010, she worked on projects with Campari, FaremItaly and Swarovski through her research and design programme.

The 37-year-old architect started Studio Padmini Pandey in January 2011 after travelling across the world and understanding the correlation between design and lifestyle in various countries. Her studio is an embodiment of world experiences and inter-cultural exchange. For this young architect, “architecture is not about spaces, volume or materials, it is about ‘life within those spaces’, ‘volume of emotions’ and ‘culture of materials’... which connects to the soul through the senses.” Her vision is to create a world with the collaboration of the people [who will inhabit it] through a blend of their beliefs and her expertise.

Her international exposure to Italian products and companies, along with her expertise on local [Indian] culture and crafts led to a strategic partnership with veteran Italian architect, Marco Piva. Padmini is also the exclusive representative in India for Italian furniture giant Gruppo Sintesi – specialists in hotel furniture, high-end luxury home furniture and commercial space furniture. One of her upcoming projects is the Kalpataru sales office at Baner in Pune. The show villa, afloat on top, is oriented towards the panoramic mountain view of the Western ghats – thus creating a sense of living within nature.

Sharing her thoughts on the Indian design scenario, Padmini says, “India is going through an exciting phase in design, where people have just started to understand the power of the ‘simple’. This is a thrill, as it allows us to stay true to the space, form and materials.” Studio Padmini Pandey endeavours to create an honest, beautiful and natural lifestyle that’s tailor-made for their clients by avoiding any unnecessary façades. After all, for her, it’s all about “editing” [by which she means:], deleting the unnecessary.

PROJECT
 Kalpataru sales office, Pune