

# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Ideas, inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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## fab



**THE WHO'S WHO OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN**

**+ THEIR VIEWS ON NEW-AGE INNOVATIONS**

# INDIA'S SHINING

ARCHITECT AND INTERIORS INDIA PRESENTS 50 FABULOUS PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY



Abha Narain Lambah



Benny Kuriakose



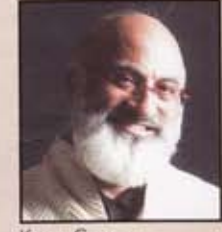
Chitra Vishwanath



Dulal Mukherjee



Jaigopal Rao



Karan Grover



Alfaz Miller



Bimal Patel



Christopher Benninger



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Jaisim Krishna Rao



Nitin Killawala



Ambrish Arora



Bobby Mukherji



CN Raghvendra



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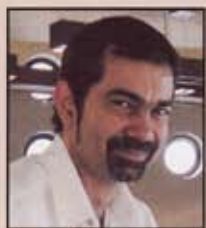
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Nuru Karim



Rahul Kumar



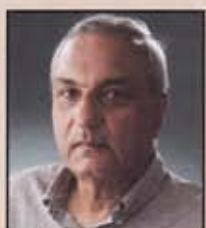
Sanjay Puri



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Nimish Patel & Parul Zaveri



Sen Kapadia



Tony Joseph



Prem Nath



Rajeev Kathpalia



Shantanu Poreci &  
Manisha Agarwal



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PK Das



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Shimul Javeri Kadri



Vikas Dilawari



Rahul Gare



Ravi Sarangan



Shirish Beri



Yatin Pandya



Rahul Kadri



Reza Kabul



Sonali Bhagwati



Zubin Zainuddin &  
Krupa Zubin

**This is not a competition** or an awards proclamation, so we would like to begin by urging our readers to refrain from looking upon this handpicked collection as a Top 50 listing. The idea behind this special feature that marks our second anniversary is to highlight the creative differences that make India's architecture and design scene so varied, colourful and exciting. The philosophies and mantras that drive the creative engines of these design personalities must be applauded for being idealistic yet practical and thought-provoking. They could transport us into a new, improved era for our image in the global mirror – if we and our chosen government exert responsible choices when we make decisions that affect our built environment.

While embarking on this journey of discovering the guiding mantra and defining projects of our leading lights, we were filled with trepidation that we would be unable to pin down 50 extremely busy architects and designers at short notice. If we have succeeded, it is all thanks to their unstinting support. While most of them undertook the task of answering our queries with unquestioning co-operation within the stipulated deadline, a few demanded answers themselves... which we promptly gave. That we could not convince a handful of them to spare their valuable time to focus on areas of their work that we were interested in this time, is indeed our misfortune.

Due to the paucity of time, some globe-trotters did not make it to our final 50 either. Again, the loss is ours – but rest assured that you will hear about them and their work here.

Our companion piece on what our Fab 50 have to say about new-age innovations and their potential to change the world we live in, is enlightening – to say the least. From new products to novel technologies, they have cited what they think is making a difference to their chosen field and how they function. The outpouring of diverse responses we received encourages us to believe that the design community needs such a platform for the exchange of seminal ideas. And we hope to provide that.

by Maria Louis

## BENNY KURIAKOSE, VEDIKA

“TRADITION AND HERITAGE MUST BE USED AS A CONCEPT RATHER THAN A STYLE, WITH NATURAL MATERIALS AND ELEMENTS FROM VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE”



**Chennai-based architect Benny Kuriakose** began his career by joining Laurie Baker on site. That was in 1984 at Thiruvananthapuram, where he was completing his graduation. He has also served a short term as joint director with COSTFORD in Thrissur, a firm founded by Baker for the promotion of cost-efficient construction practices.

After obtaining an MA in Conservation Studies from the University of York on a Charles Wallace India Trust Award, in 1986, Kuriakose joined the Integrated Rural Technology Centre, Palakkad.

In 1994, at the request of the Malayala Manorama group, he designed the village of Banegaon as part of the reconstruction process following the Latur earthquake. Soon after, he went back to his village in

Kerala and focused on furniture making. But a call from the actor Mammootty, to design his Chennai home, pulled Kuriakose back to architecture. In 1996, he designed the Kerala buildings and the public buildings for DakshinChitra – a centre for culture near Mahabalipuram.

Kuriakose's recent projects include the tsunami reconstruction project at Tarangambadi and Chinnangudi in Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district, design of the Mayor Ramanathan Chettiar Centre in Chennai (with architect Jeevan V), the Institute of Palliative Medicine in Calicut, layout of Chapredi village and for the Kutch Earthquake Rehabilitation Project.

Among his conservation projects are the St George School in Chennai, Gables Bungalow in Coonoor, and the Senate House

in Madras University as a consultant on INTACH projects.

In the Chandramandapa, a sunken arena at Spaces, the art foundation at the late dancer Chandralekha's residence in Besant Nagar, Chennai, Kuriakose has explored the concept of 'kalari' (a sunken pit where the martial art form 'Kalaripayattu' was taught) from the Kerala tradition. The Chandramandapa is about 3.5ft below ground level. Lined with brick walls, the space has Cuddappah stone flooring and black oxide seating. The two-tiered Mangalore-tiled sloping roof reaches a height of around 21ft at the centre.

Currently, he is working on the conservation and restoration of the ambitious Muziris Heritage Project in Kerala. ■

by Renu Ramanath



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Chandramandapa features a "kalari", traditionally a sunken pit where Kalaripayattu was taught.

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