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NIKHIL DESAI
ON GOAN HANDICRAFT

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PROFESSIONAL DOSSIER

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INDOCO

The born-in-Goa success story



Rahul Deshpande

Civil Engineer, practicing Architect

Roots

Goan by birth, Rahul spent his childhood in Belgaum, to settle in Goa after graduation. Also happens to be grandson of Mangesh F. Surlacar, the founder of People's High School - Panjim.

Educational background

Schooled at St Paul's, Belgaum, and studied Std. XI (science) in Dhempe College Panjim. Returned to

Bus stand at Cuncolim



Belgaum for Std. XII, and passed with distinction from GSS. Desperately wanted to join architecture, but was advised by family friend and renowned architect B. K. Joshi to join Civil Engineering. Followed his advice and enrolled in Gogte Institute of Technology (GIT) - Belgaum and graduated with distinction in 1987.

Early Career

Moved to Goa to work with eminent engineer, Audhuth Kamat. Proceeded to United States of America to pursue Masters in Structures. In USA, was awarded a research fellowship wherein he had the opportunity to work in Washington DC with the Federal Highway Administration. Returned to India in 1993 and set up shop, Rahul Deshpande and Associates- Consulting Engineers.

Area of work

His career started in Structural design of buildings, a branch of civil engineering, which makes buildings stand firmly and safely on their foundations. But presently indulging in architecture.

Why and how the shift from Engineering to Architecture?

Architecture was his first love and during the stint as a structural engineer, he had to work with architects of those times and it dawned on him that if given a chance, he could easily design what they had, only better.

Your first break

His aunt, Swaroopa Thakur gave him his first assignment to design her bungalow in 1988. The real

big break came when MD of D-link, Mr K R Naik, asked him to design their first factory building in Verna. And since its completion there has been no looking back.

Office and Practice

Has a mix of Architects and Engineers in his office. Generally freshers. *Mantra* in office is hard work and discipline. His work has been well received and has been featured in leading design magazines in India. Won a couple of awards for outstanding work.

Area of expertise

Designs anything and everything that comes his way. Because with each new project he gets into research mode, which is thrilling and educative. For instance, he got a restoration project of an old Goan home, for Nasser Munjee, on which he researched for its details for nine months and finished the construction in six months flat. Designing Industries is his firm's main forte. He is also deeply passionate about public buildings and planning urban spaces, as it gives him an opportunity to make a difference to the lives of citizens of this country. He personally loves designing homes, as he gets to design very personal spaces.

Career landmarks

Three in fact, first to get awards in succession for Cancona and Cuncolim Bus stand. Two, being appointed on Task Force for Regional Plan 2021 and working with legendary architect Charles Correa and three, being nominated for a very prestigious international architectural award this year.

Upcoming promising projects

Has just completed the Honda bus stand and is finishing the *Prakar* and *Agarshala* building at Mangeshi. Working on re-development of EDC- Patto Plaza.

Other activities

Is a movie-buff, loves music and trying new food. He is also looking into the affairs of People's High School.

Personal life

Married to Shilpa, who is a chartered accountant. Is blessed with a daughter - Raveena.

Advice to the younger generation

There is no short cut to success ■



Restoration project