

## Bina Singh: Design Transit ARRESTING IN ITS SIMPLICITY



She was barely 26 years when the bug to start her own design firm bit her. There was no looking back since. It was a steady upward climb, having placed her feet firmly on the floor of an independent design venture where she could polish and showcase her skills and ingenuity. Architect **Bina Singh**, a student of UVCE College of Architecture started **Design Transit** way back in 2010 and currently has over 100 projects to her credit that include architecture, corporate, retail and residential interiors.



KPMG, Bangalore



CareerNet, Bangalore



Apigee, Bangalore

Bina worked close to five years for various architecture firms but realised she could not give room for her creativity and inclinations to be exercised unrestrained. Venturing into independent practice seemed a natural option, with her first project being residential. Interestingly, Bina had handled largely corporate interiors during her stint with other firms. Starting her own venture, her veering towards the same was a natural progression.

Bina believes strongly in blending function with form, where structure may be simple straight lines, yet a walk into the space would completely transform the feeling. She attributes this inclination to the strong influence of her brief tenure with Mind Space and understanding on works of architect Tadao Ando. "Mohe's designs enable you to feel the energy of the space, where the natural elements are brought in while keeping functionality in mind as well as adapting to physical challenges if any. Mohe's language is evident even to a lay person, in the simplicity and energy emitted", says Bina.

This influence manifests in her designs, her projects reflecting simplicity, yet speaking a language that brings in the energy while successfully addressing functional needs of

the space. Stresses Bina, "Design is not about complications but about simple depiction which leaves a strong impact even after leaving the space." For Bina, design is not a planned intervention but a creative effort inspired even by a small element, allowing the space to come to life, keeping the character and individuality intact.

Her corporate project KPMG spanning 20,000 Sq feet of space displays her design inclinations aptly, the geometry and colours used displaying ably her simple lines evolving in a vibrant form to exude energy and unique character. The space being curvilinear, incorporates a significant number of circles, with the curvilinear forms wrapped ingeniously in glass and overlooking the charming lake.

Plenty of natural light is brought in while the outside views are successfully captured and capitalised in terms of bringing in their intrusion into the interiors. The geometry is taken up to the ceiling too, offering a futuristic, almost radical form. Even the internal furnishings, such as seating, display curvilinear forms along with arresting colours. This is again so in the design of the work stations which have a 120 degree structure. The visual presence of the exterior greenery enhances the energy experienced inside.

Her project Infineon Technologies with 37,000 Sq feet interior spaces was designed on a restricted budget. The challenge was to ensure design was not compromised to accommodate budget constraints. Bina met the challenge with aplomb, coming up with a décor that offered colours in segments to highlight tasks, while the continuous thread in theme from reception to the restrooms brought in not just an aspect to relate to but also a wow factor. Besides colour, Bina used varying heights, shapes and forms to bring in a difference and character to the free flowing space.

The project CareerNet again proved to be one with budget trappings for its sprawling 90,000 Sq feet of interiors. Bina introduced a youthful yet sophisticated design which brought in both elegance and style to the contemporary décor. Elements such as stainless steel ceiling, glass, Solid Acrylic material were used to offer a sleek feel. Says Bina, "I have a strong inclination towards using products in their raw form such as bricks, wrought iron, cement and blend these with a strong play of colours and patterns to create a visual texture that appears light yet interesting."