

# BUILDING DREAMS

FOR THIS PUNE-BASED ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER, DESIGN HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART WITH EXTREME ATTENTION TO IT FUNCTIONS AND SMALL DETAILS THAT ENHANCES IT



Teena Khatnani, Architecture & Interior Designer & Founder of TKA Designs

“From the time I can remember, my answer to the question as to what I wanted to be was ‘I want to design buildings’, unaware of the professional term,” says architect and interior designer, Teena Khatnani. An independent professional now, she first had a brief stint with SAaP Ltd. for two years, post graduating from ACOA, Pune in 2017. Teena’s interest in the field came very naturally to her, giving her creative side a wider scope of design, not in only in terms of scale, but also with respect to an understanding of the details at micro levels.

The most challenging aspect of Teena’s journey has been starting from the ground up; not having anyone to mentor her in the field of her choosing meant she had to learn everything from scratch. “Right from the client meetings to documentations, drawings and then the execution of those drawings with complete justice, all of it is important and extremely tedious. But I believe every day brings with it new learnings,” she adds.

Teena’s diverse portfolio of projects includes

high-end residential and commercial spaces. Her range of work ensures best fit architectural solutions to all her clients, through consultation, technical assistance, and design. Design has always been an important part of her life with extreme attention to how it functions and how it can be felt by people by merely existing in those spaces. This sums up her motto of transforming a space into a unique solution that responds to a user’s functional and aesthetic needs, with a combined thought on creative and conceptual innovation. “When a client approaches us, the first thing we do is understand their lifestyle, taste of things, their daily functions for that space. Clients have millions of references that they want to have implemented in their space; to our advantage it helps us understand what the kind of experiences, they want to have gone ahead into their new homes or commercial spaces. This helps us chalk out a plan of action best fit for them. We then offer technically sound suggestions and solutions for these ideas to be implemented and executed,” adds Teena

Teena, who started her company officially in January 2021, which was mid-pandemic, feels her decision came with its own pros and cons. She says, “Clients were more aware of the problems they faced in their existing spaces, they realized the importance of design and were more willing to incorporate it in their daily spaces. We worked on projects where even the smallest of spaces, whether commercial or residential, was designed with the concept of maximizing functionality while keeping the space aesthetically pleasing. We also had to move meetings online, and quite a few projects were discussed entirely via sharing screens and emails. I feel that posed a hurdle in building connections with clients as it limited our options for exploring and experimenting with different ideas and materials.” Speaking about her work and journey so far, Teena believes it doesn’t matter if it’s a small interior project or a larger scale architecture project when our clients use that space and are extremely satisfied with it, that’s when I feel that we have reached our goal and that is our achievement, we take the projects extremely personally as thou these spaces are our own and how we would like to visualize it in its best possible way.

In the near future, Teena aims to increase her reach by enhancing the lives of more clients with design. “As my experience leans towards the commercial sector, I would like to incorporate the idea of luxury and functional interiors in this space as well,” she signs off. **F**