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THE ART OF EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATING
AWARD-WINNING
ARCHITECTS



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THE ART OF EXCELLENCE: CELEBRATING AWARD-WINNING ARCHITECTS

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DESIGNS THAT DEFINE: AWARD- WINNING ARCHITECTURE



**ARTI GUGNANI
PARTNER
VIJAY GUPTA ARCHITECTS (VGA)**



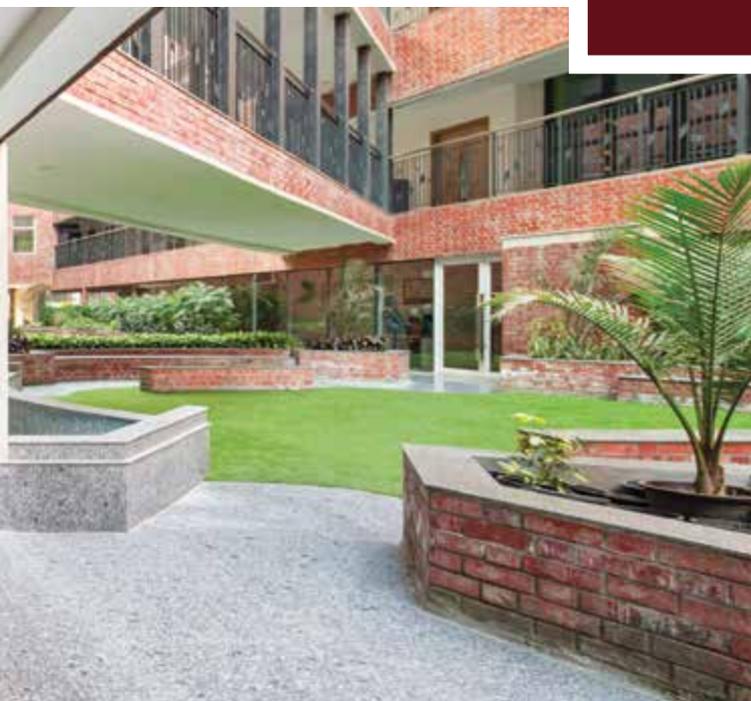
Every transformative project begins with a defining choice. Could you share one bold design decision that seemed risky at first but ultimately redefined your approach to architecture?

One of the most defining moments in my 30+ years of practice was learning to embrace restraint. In projects such as the Buddha Medicity in Gorakhpur, transformation emerged not through addition, but through reduction — refining every element until only what was necessary remained. Circulation patterns were simplified, wayfinding made intuitive, and materials chosen for calmness and clarity. Every design move was measured against a single intent: to create spaces that supported healing. This disciplined restraint redefined our approach to institutional architecture, proving that thoughtful simplicity can profoundly influence human experience.

“For Ar. Arti Gugnani, architecture is not about grand gestures but meaningful impact. As Partner at Vijay Gupta Architects, she champions restraint, empathy, and human-centered design. Her work—from educational institutions to large-scale healthcare projects—reflects a quiet confidence that architecture, when guided by intent, can truly serve, heal, and endure across generations.”

Your work often blends function with emotion. What anchors your design philosophy at its core?

For me, architecture is a form of service — a way to enhance daily life by creating environments that respond to human needs with intelligence and empathy. The legacy of VGA, founded by my father, taught me the importance of process; I’ve built upon it by grounding design decisions in human experience. Whether it’s a classroom or an emergency ward, our design begins with people — their movement, emotion, and interaction with space.



Cover Story



Projects such as HRM Global School and KCC Institute of Technology and Management are shaped by how students learn and teachers engage, while healthcare facilities begin with mapping the patient's journey. The goal is to craft spaces that feel intuitive and supportive — where users feel considered, not controlled.

How do you balance global design standards with local context to create work that feels both original and rooted?

Working across India demands an approach that is both globally informed and locally grounded. At VGA, we adopt international standards of process, sustainability, and technology but reinterpret them through the lens of context. A hospital in Jodhpur, for instance, must meet global healthcare norms yet respond to local climate, family structures, and cultural perceptions of privacy.

Originality, for me, lies in resolving these layers thoughtfully — aligning efficiency with empathy. This approach ensures that a design in Delhi, Lucknow, or Bengaluru feels globally competent yet unmistakably local. It's about integrating modern systems with the human and cultural nuances that give architecture its soul.

How should we measure architectural success — through recognition, user experience, or long-term impact?

Awards are gratifying milestones, but they capture only a moment in time. The true test of architecture lies in its endurance — in how it performs, adapts, and continues to serve. In projects such as the Emergency



Block at Safdarjung Hospital, success is not defined by its inauguration day but by the daily experience of caregivers, patients, and visitors. When design reduces stress, improves efficiency, and sustains its purpose socially, economically, and environmentally, it has succeeded.

Recognition adds confidence, but the ultimate validation comes years later, when a building still functions effortlessly and continues to nurture those it was built for. Architecture, at its best, stands quietly resilient — measured not by applause, but by lasting relevance.

As the world changes, how do you anticipate evolving design needs — and what advice would you give to young architects about creating enduring work?

Anticipating future needs begins with observing where architecture currently falls short. Much of our innovation stems from studying how people adapt — how patients navigate healthcare systems or how families redefine domestic life. In healthcare, this led us to develop scalable frameworks that respond to both urban and rural realities.

To young architects, I would say: design with intention, humility, and patience. Don't chase trends; understand people. Let function reveal form. The buildings that endure are those that evolve gracefully, age with dignity, and continue to serve without excess.

In the end, architecture is a balance between restraint and expression, permanence and change. The spaces that stand the test of time are not the loudest — they are the most attentive to life itself. ■