

I and

interiors and decor

R.N.I. No. MAHENG/2011/40533
Vol. No.13 • Issue No. 4 • Mumbai
February - March 2024 • ₹ 200



Women Artisans: CRAFTING WONDERS WITH Elegance





INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS FOR

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

“Confluence, our approach to sustainable architectural design combines eco-friendly materials, efficient resource management, biophilic elements, and advanced technologies. Through innovation, we optimize space, foster a connection with nature, and redefine modern living with AI and IoT integration.”

Vineeta Singhania Sharma, Founder Partner & Principal Architect,
Confluence

What eco-friendly design strategies or materials do you incorporate to ensure sustainability in your architectural projects?

At Confluence, responsible design principles form the foundation of sustainable construction, with innovation playing a crucial role in the building process. The choice of materials in our projects, including bio-composting and natural elements, is central to eco-friendly and cost-effective buildings. We aim to incorporate thermal insulation on residential roofs to minimise heat gain, boosting overall energy efficiency. Moreover, we strive to incorporate strategies like rainwater harvesting that conserves water for non-potable uses while integrating grey water management

to enhance sustainability in our designs. Among the rapid urbanisation, effective urban growth management is crucial, especially in low-income or lower-middle-income countries which face accelerated urbanisation challenges, and harnessing these strategies ensures a holistic approach to sustainable residential development, which addresses environmental and economic concerns in the face of urban expansion.

What innovative design solutions do you employ to optimise space and functionality in compact living environments?

In compact living environments, using versatile furniture to promote functionality while keeping the spaces open, seamless transitions from one to another, and creating visual appeal is crucial. Modular elements facilitate



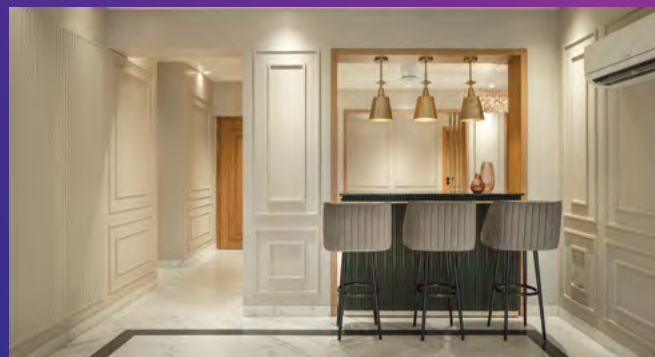
harmony, comfort, and a heightened sense of well-being. At Confluence, our endeavour is to incorporate greenery, natural light, and water features in all our designs to foster a connection with nature. This design approach encourages a sense of tranquillity and rejuvenation, supporting overall occupant health.

How do colour palettes influence the ambience and emotional response within interior spaces?

Colour palettes are crucial in shaping the ambience and eliciting emotional responses within interior spaces. Different colours evoke distinct feelings and moods, influencing how individuals perceive and interact with a given environment. Colour functions as an impeccable medium for artistic expression. Our design ethos adopts a pure and varied methodology, employing muted or pastel shades as the base, occasionally punctuated with vibrant accents on the walls. A neutral colour scheme, enriched by soft tones and complemented with natural wood furniture, textured materials, and indigenous fabrics, seamlessly uplifts the atmosphere of any space, invoking a profound sense of calmness. Conversely, combining vibrant colours and diverse textures creates an enchanting and dynamic space.

How are AI and IoT transforming the concept of smart homes, and what impact does it have on user convenience and efficiency?

Embracing cutting-edge technologies and utilising AI algorithms enables the customisation of intelligent spaces tailored to user habits. These designs seamlessly integrate with IoT, offering intuitive control over connected devices. This convergence ensures energy-efficient practices and enhances security through advanced surveillance and voice-activated systems. The marriage of AI intelligence and IoT's connectivity in projects prioritises personalised experiences, health monitoring, and predictive maintenance. This synergy redefines living spaces, making them adaptive, efficient, and secure, setting the stage for a new era in modern living. ■



adaptable layouts, optimising space based on varying needs. Innovative storage solutions, such as built-in cabinets and hidden compartments, maintain a clutter-free environment. Thoughtful use of vertical space through wall-mounted shelves and furniture ensures efficient utilisation. Additionally, integrating technology for home automation and space-saving appliances further enhances functionality. Mirrors and reflective surfaces create an illusion of spaciousness, enhancing the perceived size of the area. These innovative design strategies make compact living spaces versatile, organised, and visually expansive, promoting comfort and practicality.

In what ways does biophilic design enhance the overall ambience and well-being of occupants in architectural spaces?

Biophilic design — integrating natural elements into architectural spaces — significantly enhances the ambience and well-being of occupants. Biophilic elements promote better air quality and create a calming atmosphere, positively impacting mental health. By emulating nature's patterns, textures, and rhythms, biophilic design creates environments that resonate with human biology, resulting in spaces that promote

