

# Jimmy Mistry



HELLO! has a chat with the architect, interior designer and hospitality entrepreneur, who founded the Della Group.



maximum creative work happens. My focus is at its peak.”

**A destination that’s an architect’s delight?**

“There are too many cities across the world, it depends on what sense you are looking at – temple architecture, contemporary architecture or skyscrapers. One delight for me is China, purely from the point of view of new generation architecture and freedom of expression with ideas. I wish to see India transform like that.”

**Your best project yet?**

“Della Tower undoubtedly, which is based on Persian architecture. I feel that’s my best project. It’s a 21-storey residential tower and has become quite a symbolic form of architecture in Mumbai. When I see people getting out of the cars in the middle of the road and take photographs of the building, it gives me a great sense of accomplishment and strength to keep going.”

**Are there tricky moments, if any, while working on your restoration projects or with the commercial and residential ones?**

“There are moments when one has to decide to stick to what was existing and whether one can try (in the same context), to improvise. During restoration, you stick to the originals. However in some instances, it’s difficult to ascertain whether the alterations were originally planned in the building or were done later because of the unavailability of the historical data.

That’s a tricky moment – to try and evaluate what is original, what must have been added later and still delivers results which are in sync with the originality of the buildings.”

**Architects you admire the most?**

“There are quite a few of them but globally, Thomas Heatherwick for his innovative approach. Architect Bergen Kingsley for his contemporary sense and in India, Noshir Talati definitely remains at the forefront for interior design. For architecture, I admire Hafeez Contractor’s work.”

**What does the future of modern architecture look like?**

“Things are improving and I have faith in good talent. It is a tough road ahead for Indian architects because the market and the government are not sensitive towards design, which is a reason for concern. You need to have buildings that are purposeful, where architects can design path-breaking landmarks within the city, otherwise the future will remain unchanged in the country.”

**Advice you’d offer to young architects that they won’t learn in college?**

“Young architects need to realise that there is an entire world beyond academics and that what they are learning in college is not necessarily sacrosanct. My advice is once you get a degree; get out of the well, look at the world around, try and meet architects and designers who are commercially successful and understand their method of working.



Jimmy Mistry (seen left), appreciates new generation architecture in China, which includes the impressive Shanghai World Financial Center (seen here)

Jimmy tells HELLO! that he admires Thomas Heatherwick and Noshir Talati from the world of architecture and interiors (inset, left)

Then allow your thought process to be inclined towards whichever form or style of architects you can relate to. Do not allow your education to curb your way of thinking or to negate you from thinking in a certain direction or keep you from questioning, ‘why?’ College assignments are not the beginning and the end of your careers. You are great architects and designers... don’t doubt your skills!”

**What’s next?**

“I am setting up India’s first ‘Glamour Camping Resort’ and my focus and energies are on the design and set-up of the entire resort. Also on my agenda is to roll out Della stores where we are developing products instead of projects, and plan to have our first 30,000 square foot store in the next couple of months, up and running.”

**Your ultimate goal – what do you want to be remembered for?**

“I want to be remembered as somebody who has made a positive contribution in the world of design in India. I want to get like-minded architects and try and see how we can bring positive changes in the curriculum of education or post education to the lives of young designers. That’s my ultimate goal, to push our design sensibilities forward within the country.”

**What will you do right after this interview?**

“Work in my office. It’s a long day ahead, packed with a good number of meetings which usually exceed more than 19 or 20!”

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