



Profile

science of ergonomics, workspace lighting and space planning are key to working on office interiors. OFIS retails renowned brands like Wilkhahn (Germany), Unifor, Interface carpet tiles, Parador flooring, Della Valentina (Italy) and other leading furniture and flooring products, which gives me a strong product base to work from. Since the company's principles provide high quality, ergonomically designed products, it is the best ingredient in a total solutions service.

Dubai's commercial real estate market is rapidly developing and offers a great potential for exciting turnkey projects.

OFIS gives me access to some big corporate clients in the UAE market, which is great platform for realising my work.

What is the importance of selecting the right colour palette in office design?

To create a workspace that allows more productivity, it is important to use colours that bring that sense of coherence. In office design trends, a whole new generation of spa colours are being used to evoke a sense of calm. A colour palette is only as good as the lighting used to enhance the space, which is why it is equally important to choose the right kind of ambience in the task of lighting. I prefer natural light to any other kind, because it gives a sense of transparency to a space and research has proven that people are more productive in natural light.

How has office design developed over the years? What kind of research are you involved in while taking up a new assignment?

Offices are not sterile spaces any more. They are synonymous with corporate identity and culture. As we move in concept from a 9-5 to a 24/7-work environment, it is imperative to bring in elements of comfort to the workspace to increase efficiency. For every client, I usually research the nature of the work and time spent in different areas of the office. As most companies now encourage interaction between employees, because it leads to idea generation, it is important to have common areas. These areas are usually designed like small lounges with sofas and coffee tables.

The open plan office is probably the best indicator of the need to maintain transparency and increase communication. It is also probably the first time in history that there are more

than two generations working in the same office, which is something to consider.

We also have a new mobile workforce because of laptops and PDAs; employees are used to a plug-n-play office. These factors are re-defining how people work and therefore how spaces are designed in keeping with that.

Your keen interest lies in sustainable design. Kindly comment.

It is my professional responsibility to design products and spaces, which are inherently sustainable. I am a student of sustainable design, in which I am constantly upgrading myself on the latest recyclable products and energy-efficient manufacturing techniques. I use interface carpet tiles in flooring solutions, because they make a concerted effort, as a company to sustain our environment.

Congrats for having been short-listed to be among the top 20 of India's Creative Future. Tell us something more on this account.

The British Council and IIM Bangalore have spent a lot of energy and time in giving the country's chosen 20 creative entrepreneurs a high-value business education and a unique platform to leverage their business potential.

From J Ramachandran (one of the top three professors in the country), Kris Gopalakrishnan (COO, Infosys) to Subroto Bagchi of Mindtree, we were taught by some of the best minds in the country today.

I am extremely humbled at being a part of such a talented and creative group. The Indus Entrepreneurs, IIM Professors, British Council India and various industry experts till February 2007 will further mentor the 20 of us while we work towards raising capital for each of the 20 creative businesses. The projects offer some great investment opportunity for business angels/private equities and more information is available with the British Council.

What are your forthcoming projects?

I am working on a chain of premium Fine Art boutique galleries, in collaboration with International photographer Michel Haddi and with the support of the British Council. The gallery project is still in the funding stage and is a dream project for me. It will bring together both Indian and International artists on a common platform. It is a starting point for a worldwide structure of similar galleries in the different visual hotspots of the world. ➡