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Prime Insights

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20 MOST INNOVATIVE & RELIABLE
ARCHITECTURAL
FIRMS IN INDIA 2024

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MR. HARPREET KHURMI
DIRECTOR

SHAPING SKYLINES AND ARCHITECTURAL
LEGACIES THROUGH INNOVATION

KHURMI
ASSOCIATES



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Shaping Skylines and Architectural
Legacies Through Innovation

The world of architecture is a captivating blend of art and science. It's about breathing life into ideas and transforming visions into structures that stand the test of time. From towering skyscrapers to cozy residential havens, architects leave their mark on the landscapes we inhabit. Today, we have the privilege of meeting the minds behind one such remarkable firm: **Khurmi Associates**.

Cover Story

Mr. Harpreet Khurmi
Director

Founded in 1979 by the visionary late **Mr. H.S. Khurmi**, Khurmi Associates has carved a unique niche in India's architectural landscape. Under his able guidance and leadership, the firm undertook the design of residential, commercial, religious, and institutional projects all over India. The legacy is taken forward by the **director, Mr. Harpreet Khurmi**. The firm carries forward a rich history of innovation and excellence. Their portfolio boasts a diverse range of projects, from luxurious hotels like the Radisson Blu Dwarka, Welcome hotel to vibrant shopping malls like D Mall in Rohini and Pitampura.

Khurmi Associates has not only shaped Delhi's architectural identity but also ventured beyond borders, undertaking projects in Melbourne, Australia. Their expertise extends beyond just design; they offer a comprehensive range of services, from obtaining local body approvals to meticulous site supervision. This dedication to every step of the architectural journey ensures seamless and successful project completion for their clients.

Intrigued to learn more about the philosophy and values that drive this success? We've got you covered! In this exclusive interview for our edition of **20 Most Innovative and Reliable Architectural Firms in India 2024**, we delve into the mind of **Harpreet Khurmi**, Director of Khurmi Associates. Get ready to extract some valuable insights and discover the secrets behind their architectural excellence.

Prime Insights: Can you tell us about the founding of Khurmi Associates and its journey over the years?

Harpreet Khurmi: Khurmi Associates was established in 1979 by my father, laying the foundation for what would become a prominent architectural firm. Our firm's story began with my father's goal to set up his architectural practice in New Delhi. A defining moment came in 1987, when we transitioned from a proprietorship to a private limited firm. This was an evolutionary step in our journey. In 1996, I took the reins, and since then, Khurmi Associates has flourished, making a significant impact on the architectural landscape.

Prime Insights: What sets Khurmi Associates apart from other architectural firms?

Harpreet Khurmi: Our adaptability and vision are key differentiators. While we initially gained recognition for

hospitality and commercial projects, our willingness to explore new opportunities, such as budget hotels, demonstrates our flexibility. We at Khurmi Associates take pride in offering a comprehensive range of architectural services, guiding your project from its very beginnings to a successful completion.

Here's what we can do for you:

- We start by translating your vision into initial sketches and estimates, ensuring everything fits your budget.
- We handle all the necessary approvals from local bodies, making the permitting process smooth sailing.
- Our team meticulously crafts detailed working drawings for every aspect of your project.
- We prepare comprehensive tender documents to attract qualified contractors and secure the best value.
- We manage the bidding process, inviting tenders, and selecting the most suitable contractor for your project.
- We ensure fair and transparent construction by checking and certifying contractor bills.
- Our team conducts regular site visits to oversee construction progress and maintain quality standards.
- Finally, upon project completion, we prepare and submit all necessary drawings to the relevant authorities for final approval.

We prioritize efficient design, ensuring that every project is not only aesthetically pleasing but also budget-friendly. Our dedicated team, led by the principal architect, plays a significant role in delivering successful outcomes, earning us client trust and positive feedback.

Prime Insights: How has Khurmi Associates adapted to changing trends in the architectural landscape?

Harpreet Khurmi: We at Khurmi Associates are proud of our legacy of designing both residential and commercial spaces. However, we're always looking to innovate and adapt to the evolving landscape.

A major turning point for us was the Commonwealth Games, where we successfully handled the design and execution of four hotels simultaneously—a true

testament to our expertise. Since then, we've diversified our portfolio to include IT parks, residential complexes, and even the budget hotel space. Moving beyond luxury projects and expanding our reach to tier-two and tier-three cities reflects our commitment to adaptability and vision.

Prime Insights: What strategies does Khurmi Associates employ to foster creativity and innovation within its team of architects and designers?

Harpreet Khurmi: At Khurmi Associates, we believe that fostering a truly collaborative work environment is key to unlocking creativity and innovation. We actively encourage open communication and brainstorming sessions. We also prioritize continuous learning opportunities, whether it's attending conferences, workshops, or inviting guest speakers to share their expertise. This combination of open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and a supportive environment allows our team members to experiment, think outside the box, and come up with groundbreaking design solutions that push the boundaries of what's possible.

Prime Insights: Can you discuss any ongoing research or development initiatives within Khurmi Associates aimed at pushing the boundaries of architectural innovation?

Harpreet Khurmi: We are never satisfied with the status quo at Khurmi Associates. We constantly work and hustle to stay ahead of the curve and explore new frontiers in architectural innovation. Our research and development initiatives focus on emerging technologies that have the potential to transform the field. For instance, we're actively looking at how parametric design can optimize building structures or how augmented reality can enhance the design visualization process. By embracing these cutting-edge tools and staying at the forefront of industry trends, we aim to redefine what's possible in architectural design and construction.

Prime Insights: How does Khurmi Associates ensure client satisfaction throughout the entire project lifecycle, from initial consultation to project delivery?

Harpreet Khurmi: Client satisfaction is paramount at Khurmi Associates. It's about building trust and exceeding expectations throughout the entire project journey. We prioritize open communication from the very beginning, actively listening to our clients' needs and ensuring we fully understand their vision for the project. Transparency is key; we provide regular updates, address concerns promptly, and solicit feedback at every stage.

Prime Insights: Can you elaborate on the importance of site supervision for successful project completion?

Harpreet Khurmi: Regular site supervision is critical for ensuring that the project is constructed according to the approved plans and maintains the high quality standards we set at Khurmi Associates. Our on-site representatives monitor the progress, identify any potential issues early on, and ensure that the construction adheres to the budget and timeline.

Prime Insights: What are some of Khurmi Associates' achievements and recognitions?

Harpreet Khurmi: We're proud of our track record of successfully completing projects with a high level of quality. This has earned us the trust and positive feedback of our clients, which is something we truly value.

We haven't limited ourselves to Delhi. We've successfully expanded our services to tier-two and tier-three cities, demonstrating our commitment to serving a wider range of communities.

Adaptability is key in this industry, and we've shown that by transitioning from designing luxurious properties to budget hotels. This allows us to cater to diverse client needs and budgets.

Our dedication to efficient and aesthetically pleasing designs has been recognized by prestigious organizations like the Urban Arts Commission. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and talent of our entire team.

Prime Insights: Khurmi Associates has a rich history spanning over four decades. Can you tell us about some of the most notable projects the firm has undertaken?

Harpreet Khurmi: Absolutely! We've been fortunate to work on a diverse range of projects throughout our journey. While it's difficult to pick just a few, some stand out for their impact and the challenges they presented. One such project was the successful execution of four hotels simultaneously during the Commonwealth Games. This truly showcased our ability to handle complex projects with tight deadlines while maintaining high quality standards.

A few more notable examples include the Radisson Blu Dwarka and Radisson Blu Paschim Vihar, both exemplifying our expertise in designing luxurious hotel experiences.

We've also played a role in shaping Delhi's commercial landscape with projects like D Mall, Pitampura, and Rohini. These projects showcase our ability to create vibrant and functional commercial spaces.

Another source of pride is our expansion beyond Delhi into tier-two and tier-three cities. Projects like these demonstrate our commitment to serving a wider range of communities.

Prime Insights: Your focus on efficient design is a key differentiator. Can you share an example of how this approach benefits your clients?

Harpreet Khurmi: At Khurmi Associates, we understand that budget is a crucial consideration for our clients. Our commitment to efficient design ensures that every project maximizes space and resources without compromising on functionality or aesthetics. This translates to cost savings for our clients without sacrificing the quality of the final product. For instance, during the design of a recent residential complex, we employed innovative space-saving techniques that allowed for more functional living areas without increasing the overall footprint of the building. This resulted in a project that was not only aesthetically pleasing but also highly cost-effective for the residents.

Prime Insights: Sustainability is a growing concern in architecture. Does Khurmi Associates prioritize sustainability and environmental responsibility in its architectural designs?

Harpreet Khurmi: Absolutely! Sustainability is a core principle that guides our design philosophy at Khurmi Associates. We strive to create buildings that are not only aesthetically pleasing and functional, but also environmentally responsible. We incorporate various sustainable strategies, such as using energy-efficient materials, maximizing natural light and ventilation, and employing water-saving technologies. This not only benefits the environment but also reduces long-term operational costs for our clients. It's about achieving a balance where human well-being and environmental responsibility go hand in hand.

Prime Insights: What are Khurmi Associates' plans for the future?

Harpreet Khurmi: Looking ahead, Khurmi Associates has its sights set on venturing into healthcare projects. We want to expand in that field too. We want to become a one-stop shop for our clients, offering comprehensive design solutions across various sectors. We're constantly innovating our services, and with the younger generation joining the firm, the future is bright. We are excited to see what the future holds and how we can continue to shape the skylines of tomorrow. We're even excited to see what new challenges and opportunities await us!

Prime Insights: What advice would you give to aspiring architects who are just starting their careers?

Harpreet Khurmi: The field of architecture is both challenging and rewarding. For aspiring architects, I would emphasize the importance of developing a strong foundation in design principles and technical skills. Never stop learning, and stay updated on the latest trends and technologies in the architectural world. Seek out mentors and internships to gain practical experience, and most importantly, cultivate a passion for design and a commitment to creating meaningful spaces. Be prepared for hard work and dedication, but also embrace the immense satisfaction that comes from seeing your designs come to life and positively impact the built environment.