

**Powerhouse Designers from various fields unite to discuss the future of collaborative creative practice at AVID Online's next LIVE Session**

*“The current state of architecture and design requires extensive collaboration and an investigative attitude ...”*

- Zaha Hadid

**For Immediate Release**

**The Kala Ghoda Association (KGA)** and **Avid Learning** present **Design Futures: Collaboration and The New Normal** a live discussion as part of **AVID Online** on the future trajectory of the field of design and how practitioners are working together increasingly to create collaboratively cohesive practices.

This session is part of **Creative Collaborations 2020 (16<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020)**, a thematised set of programming that will explore perspectives on creative collaborations between the arts and design. This has been a period of extraordinary creativity and virtual rallying- and this programming will trace the efforts, examine final end-products and explore new processes of working and creating- together- in the New Normal.

*Leading Architect and Interior Designer **Kohelika Kohli**, Award-winning Architect and Interior Designer, **Ashiesh Shah** and Designer at IKEA and Visual Artist **Akanksha Deo Sharma** will be in conversation with Columnist and Author **Aparna Piramal Raje**.*

*Please read on for more details:*

The COVID pandemic and ensuing growth in the creative space online has resulted in artists, designers, architects and all kinds of creative practitioners and thinkers to not only reinvent and re-evaluate themselves as creators, but also the modes and mediums of creation and creative expression. Producing creative products or projects, disseminating their message and creating unique cross disciplinary works- be they books, films, collaborative design or art. Now due to the pandemic, various histories will be seen to intersect and produce remarkable events that in turn inspire the need for more creativity.

These experts will discuss the evolutions, innovations and collaborations that have ensued particularly in the field of design. They will explore how they themselves as designers and creative individuals have shifted their practice to incorporate and embrace the digital and evaluate if collaboration holds more importance in this scenario in terms of execution, dissemination and innovation.

They will also discuss how this time will result in unprecedented innovation and the development of new hybrid creative practices as well as intersections and advancements in existing disciplines.

**When:** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

**Press Email:** Ayesha Dadachanji on [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)

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#CREATIVECOLLABORATION2020



**DESIGN  
FUTURES**  
Collaboration and the New Normal

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#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**

 <p>Leading Architect and Interior Designer <b>Kohelika Kohli</b></p>	 <p>Award-winning Architect and Interior Designer <b>Ashiesh Shah</b></p>	 <p>Designer at IKEA and Visual Artist <b>Akanksha Deo Sharma</b></p>	 <p>Columnist and Author <b>Aparna Piramal Raje</b></p>
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DATE: **THU, 19 NOV 2020**  
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**  
REGISTER: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

 

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## About the Speakers

**Akanksha Deo Sharma**, born in 1991 in New Delhi, graduated from India's National Institute of Fashion Technology and started working at IKEA as an in-house Designer in 2017 and has been listed

under Forbes India 30 under 30 list for year 2020. A fashion designer by qualification and a visual artist, she specialises in textiles and craft. She has collaborated with several Indian fashion brands and has exhibited her art as part of collaborations. Her most recent project with IKEA - Förändring won Elle Decor EDIDA India 2019 award under tabletop category and her work has been featured in Dezeen, Design Boom, Architectural Digest, Elle Decor and Vogue amongst others. Form, function, quality, sustainability and affordability are common denominators in her work — because leaving a positive impact on people and the planet is her driving force. Inquisitive by nature, Sharma seeks to understand — and address — the ways in which society is evolving

**Kohelika Kohli** is the co-founder, CEO and Creative Director of K2India, established

in 2010 with her mother Sunita Kohli, an award-winning designer. She did her A-levels from Millfield School in England where she was appointed Head of School. Kohelika Kohli graduated as an architect in 2004, from the Pratt Institute of Design, New York USA, where she also studied carpentry and photography. She has interned in England with Sir Norman Foster, working on projects in London and in the USA, notably on the Foster Extension to the Boston Fine Arts Museum, originally designed by IM Pei. She went to Rome for a Study Abroad Programme. She travelled extensively throughout Italy, primarily studying the works of Palladio and Michelangelo and also the works of one of her favourite designers, Carlo Scarpa. On her return to New York, besides architectural school, she began to work for the well-known architectural and design firm, Oliver Cope Architects, who specialize in high-end town houses in New York and the Hamptons. She returned to India in late 2004 and started her own architectural practice and furniture manufacturing firm, Kohelika Kohli Architects, which executes projects in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Singapore and England. Kohelika Kohli has won several design awards and her work has been widely featured in architectural and design publications. She has had the distinction of being the youngest architect whose project has featured as a cover story in AD India 2015. A trustee of the Museum of Women in the Arts India, Kohelika Kohli is also a board member of the JS Institute of Design. Kohelika Kohli believes that the job of an architect/designer cannot simply be based on one's credentials and academic qualifications. An equally important role is played by one's experiences and exposures to people, places and cultures.

Architect **Ashiesh Shah** began his career in New York City in the mid 2000's after graduating from Parsons School of Design with a degree in Interior Architecture. Finding a semblance between art, architecture and design, Shah has been spearheading his own design firm Ashiesh Shah Architecture + Design, handling various high-end design projects in India and beyond. From office spaces and penthouses to concept stores and restaurants, architect and interior designer Ashiesh Shah's portfolio is extensive and diverse. His aesthetic sensibility has found its way to the renown celebrity homes of Hrithik Roshan, Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Arjun Rampal, Meher Jessica, Abhishek Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez, Aditya Roy Kapoor, Cecilia Morelli-Parikh and Hemant Oberoi to name a few. His practice is rooted in the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi, which has influenced his vision of space and his choice of materials, resonating with his characteristic of being a tastemaker in the architectural world. An extension to Shah's design practice, he opened his very own atelier in 2019 which amalgamates experimentation, craftsmanship and technique into a creative ecosystem for collaboration and development. Furthermore, amid a global pandemic that has brought the entire world to a standstill, Ashiesh wanted to create a formalised body of change amongst designers and has been able to conceptualise and collaborate to launch The India Design Fund (TIDF), an oasis through the trying coronavirus pandemic in early May, 2020.

**Aparna Piramal Raje** is a thought leader on business, design and workplaces. Her first book, Working Out of the Box: 40 stories of leading CEOs was published by Penguin Random House in 2015. The book is based on Head Office, her popular monthly column in the Mint newspaper, which features the heads of organizations, and looks at leadership through the lens of workspaces and workstyles. Aparna has earlier contributed to the UK's Financial Times Weekend, a leading global publication. She

is a Visiting Faculty Member and on the Board of Studies at the Anant National University, dedicated to the study of the built environment, in Ahmedabad. She also serves as a member of the Confederation of Indian Industry's National Design Committee. Former CEO of BP Ergo, one of India's largest modular office furniture companies, Aparna completed an MBA from Harvard Business School and read Economics, Politics and Philosophy at Oxford University.

## **Partner Information**

### **Kala Ghoda Association and Festival**

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