

## **For Immediate Release**

Design Temple in partnership with Avid Learning presents an exciting seminar titled The Future of Design Thinking: Mapping the Past to the Present on Saturday, 21st January 2017, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan.

The title and description of the panel are as below:

This seminar is the last in the series of talks centered around the exhibition Design: The India Story, a seminal show on design development in the subcontinent, through the lens of ideas and objects in the home space, presented across two befitting venues in Mumbai's art district.

Objects Through Time, presented in collaboration with CSMVS (till 8th Jan 2017) traced the evolution of design in India while Ideas Through Time, at the Gallery Max Mueller Bhavan, (till 22nd Jan 2017) puts forth eight philosophies from ancient India that are pertinent to the present and future of design globally.

Space, Style and self on 5th Jan explored the way the interior design industry, furniture design and Indian notions of aesthetics have evolved and been shaped from the 1930s up until the present day. It was an enlightening discussion between Professor Abigail McGowan from the University of Vermont and Greg Foster, Editor of AD Magazine.

Design Debate on 7th Jan was a forum in which designers from various fields came together to discuss, debate and deliberate on matters of Design, followed by the launch of Phaidon's SAR: The Essence of Indian Design. This upcoming seminar will examine eight intrinsic Indian concepts of practice and design and will be decoded by five industry experts: Anita Lal, Founder and Creative Director of Good Earth, Bijoy Jain, Celebrated architect and founder of Studio Mumbai, Ektaa Aggarwal, graphic and UX designer and former Creative Director for IDEO.Org New York, Hemmant Jha, Chief Design Officer at the Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd., Priya Paul, Art collector, design aficionado and Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels and Sandeep Sangaru, multidisciplinary designer, educator, entrepreneur.

These stalwarts will share their experiences with implementing these concepts - with the objective of evaluating their potential in shaping the future of design globally.

Convening the session are Divya Thakur, Design Practitioner and Founder of Design Temple who will elucidate on the eight pillars of Indian Thought and Sudhir Bhatia, Founder and Creative Director of bRnd Studio who will summarize the discussion and speak about application of these concepts in the contemporary and future design world.

Do join us for rare insights from these industry experts as they weigh in on the future direction of design in India.

**Where:** Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai, K. Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai

**When:** Saturday, 21st January 2017, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, Registrations & Refreshments 11:00- 11:30 AM; 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM – Discussion

**RSVP Email / Call:** register@avidedu.in / +919769937710; prior registration required

**Press Email / Call:** Ayeshah Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297

## **Bios of the Panelists:**

**ANITA LAL** is Creative Director of Good Earth and oversees the brand's design collections and the retail experience. Over the past two decades, Good Earth has grown to into a cult brand, known as a pioneer of stylish retail in India and much loved for original design through an Indian prism. Mrs. Lal is a natural storyteller with reverence for nature, culture, tradition and craft. Her commitment to supporting artisan communities comes from an appreciation of crafts as the wellspring of India's creativity. Her philosophy of Sustainable Luxury is rooted in a passionate belief that we can benefit the environment and society, in a meaningful and relevant way, through the revival of craft and wellness traditions.

**BIJOY JAIN** is a celebrated architect and founder of Studio Mumbai. He has long been well-known for his earth-bound material sensibilities, and an approach to architecture that bridges the gap between Modernism and vernacular construction. His projects are developed through careful consideration of place and a practice that draws from traditional skills, local building techniques, materials, and an ingenuity arising from limited resources. His works have been presented in many venues including the Alvar Aalto Symposium, the Architectural League of New York and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. He was also a finalist in the Agha Khan Awards 2010 Cycle. Bijoy has won the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture from L'Institut Francais D'Architecture in 2009, The Design for Asia Award from the Hong Kong Design Center also in 2009 and the Third BSI Swiss Architectural Award in 2012.

**EKTAA AGGARWAL** is a graphic designer, a UX designer and a practitioner of Human-centered design. She uses design as a tool to facilitate behavioral change for social, cultural and economic impact. Ektaa's past experience includes Creative Director for IDEO.Org New York, Creative Director Landor India and Creative Director Google's 30 Weeks in New York where she was helped design a new Social Entrepreneurship program for the design community. Ektaa facilitates multi-disciplinary teams to design and deliver solutions to complex problems. Some of the notable brands she has worked on as part of a diverse portfolio are - Coca-Cola, Mahindra Group, Vespa, American Express, The Guggenheim Museum, Barista, House of Anita Dongre, The Park Hotels, Johnson & Johnson, Saks Fifth Avenue and TATA.

**HEMMANT JHA** is Chief Design Officer at the Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd. At Godrej, he sets standards and guidelines for design, delivers high quality designs to businesses and drives excellence in industrial and engineering design for all products that G&B manufactures and sells. This covers design and materials language, engineering design efficiency, technology roadmaps, and product sourcing strategies. He also oversees the IP Strategy for the Design+Technology Group at the G&B Innovation and Design Center. Prior to G&B, he was Design Director at IA Collaborative, founder and principal of design and technology development company think/thing, Senior Designer at the Sony Electronics Design Center and designer at the Harman International Advanced Research Group. Hemmant is founder and executive director of Wheelwell, a non-profit organization dedicated to the creation of products and technologies for physical disability needs.

**PRIYA PAUL** is Director of Apeejay Surrendra Group and Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels as well as an Art collector and design aficionado. A prominent business woman and one of the most revered personalities in the hospitality industry; Priya is the creative powerhouse behind India's leading collection of contemporary luxury boutique hotels – The Park. She has been working in the industry for 25 years and her design sensibilities are well-acknowledged. She was awarded "Excellence in Design Innovation 2011" by Condé Nast Traveller India, Aatithya Ratna Award by Hotel Investment Forum India, 2011. 'Hall of Fame 2011' was bestowed to her by Hotelier India. She has received the Padma Shri in 2012 for her services to Trade & Industry by the President of

India and in 2014, was conferred the prestigious Insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (National Order of Merit) by the President of the French Republic.

**SANDEEP SANGARU** is a multidisciplinary designer, educator, and entrepreneur. He studied Industrial design and has specialised in Furniture design from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He owns Sangaru Design Studio, a multidisciplinary design consultancy firm and founded Sangaru Design Objects Pvt. Ltd. based in Bangalore. Since inception his studio has been actively involved with the Craft Sector working with local people with local material to create global products as this is exciting and creatively satisfying. His company designs, manufactures and markets furniture, products and accessories for contemporary urban Home, Work and Play, which will bring together traditional knowledge & skills in crafts with design and technology to make objects of daily use invaluable, accessible and enjoyable.

**DIVYA THAKUR** has been the acting Director of Design since the inception of Design Temple in 1999. As a multi-disciplinary designer, she seeks to create and curate a relevant identity for Indian design, through her various endeavours. At Design Temple, she is responsible for the conception and implementation of exhibits, design projects and various product lines. Having worked with clients across the globe, her work has won awards at New York Festivals and One Show. She has curated several shows on design over the last 2 decades - Indigenous India in 2004, Milan, India Now in 2007 at Victoria and Albert Museum, London and India Past Forward in 2015 at Millesgarden Museum, Stockholm. Design: The India Story is her most recent curatorial venture.

**SUDHIR BHATIA** is the Founder and Creative Director of bRnd Studio, a boutique design consultancy specializing in conceptualizing innovative and integrative thinking processes to assist in the development of product strategies for new and established markets. He was a Visiting Professor at the Pratt Institute's Industrial Design Department for 2 years and was a guest lecturer at Syracuse University. Presently, he is a guest instructor at IIT's Industrial Design Center, Mumbai and has been conducting workshops on Design Thinking at AVID Learning as well as corporates and NGO's in India. He has served as a juror for the Consumer Electronic Show as well as the International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA). His work has been featured in several international publications. He holds 21 patents and has won multiple design awards including two silver IDEA's; one in the Design Research category and the other in Consumer Electronics.

#### **About Partners:**

**About Avid Learning:** Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 600 programs and connected with more than 55,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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**About Design Temple:** Founded in the fertile period of post liberalized India, Design Temple is dedicated to building a visual vocabulary that is indigenous in syntax yet universal in outlook. As a dynamic platform for contemporary design in India, the studio engages in several pursuits, including spearheading of exhibits across design capitals like London, Milan, Stockholm, Paris, New Delhi and Mumbai, a cultural and creative space at Colaba for engagement and design experiments and a multi-disciplinary design practice. Since its inception, Design Temple has placed strong emphasis on building a contemporary design vocabulary for India. To this end, and to provide design from India a global platform, they have spear headed several shows and exhibitions in design

capitals like London, Milan, Stockholm, Paris, New Delhi and Mumbai. Started in 2011, in the heart of Mumbai's art and design district, Design Temple Colaba is a much-needed space for creative inspiration and interaction. It comprises of an art & design gallery, a Creative Cave and a design shop. Illustration, photography, typography and more are on display at The Artworks Gallery, which has seasonal shows and houses an exceptional collection of affordable art & design prints. Talks, meet-ups and other events, tying in with the season's display, are a regular feature, and usually free of charge. Visitors are encouraged to Bring Their Own Brew, for coffee and conversation at the Creative Cave, or while they browse the gallery for prints, wallpapers and hunt for cool collectibles at the Design Shop. Over the last two decades, the studio has provided excellence and consistency of design services to demanding clients and projects across the globe. From motion picture graphics for brands like Fox Searchlight, to graphic and space design projects for Leading Hotels, Hospitals and Creative Artists - Design Temple has gained recognition and respect for its unique design expression.

#### About **Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai**

The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany and has been working actively in the fields of art, cinema, theatre, dance and literature by supporting programmes, that are interdisciplinary and promote cultural exchange of ideas. It has a state of the art gallery space, which focuses on contemporary art and photography. The institute has a well-established language department, which offers German language courses, translation courses, corporate courses and intercultural trainings, teacher training programmes and promotes the language in schools across Mumbai. They have a well stocked and efficient Library, which houses books, magazines and other research material on German culture and society.