

 Alankrita

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Sachin Jain
Landscape Architect





1) How and why did you choose this career?

After completing my Bachelor's degree in Architecture from School of Planning & Architecture, Delhi, I worked with Mr. Ranjit Sabikhi where I had opportunities to interact with Prof. Mohd. Shaheer, who was providing consultancy to Mr. Sabikhi. His work, his thought process and his approach to site planning of projects and his handling of the relationship between outdoors and indoors really enthused me and I took admission in Master of Landscape Architecture programme at SPA Delhi, which was being headed by Prof. Shaheer. I completed my course with distinction and went on to work with Prof. Shaheer at the

beginning of my career as a landscape architect. In the year 2000, I established my own practice with my brother, Saket, who had completed his Masters in Urban Design from SPA. Since then we have had a long and fruitful journey in which we have built up a diverse portfolio of projects both public and private and of all typologies from Recreational, Commercial, Retail, Hospitality, Infrastructure, Heritage Conservation, Group housing and of course small private properties and farm houses.

2) What is it about landscape gardening that attracted you?

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is increasing over the years. At the same time there has been a paradigm shift in treating gardening like an embellishment to being a self-sustainable ecosystem by itself which responds to climate, topography, function as well as aesthetic.

We have had the opportunity to design very large gardens and public parks like Lohia Park Lucknow, Biodiversity Park Noida (in association with Prof. Shaheer) to Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park Noida to several farm houses in Delhi to gardens of the smallest scale of private residences and even terraces.

Landscape Gardening gives you an opportunity to bring nature into the city and into the urban environment. It makes you happy,



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soothes the eye, is of course green lung of the city along with all other environmental benefits like absorbing pollution, carbon sequestration, conserve rain water.

3) Given any typical project, do you follow any specific direction?

Of course, every project is different. Has a different focus. Somewhere landscape is meant to complement architecture like in a commercial or retail, hospitality etc. In a garden or a recreational, the landscape drives the project. You take clues from context, site features, topography, or theorize around a chosen theme. In heritage conservation, you respond to the heritage resource, which could be built or natural. In a small garden, you satisfy the clients / your own

wish lists.

However, one realizes that over a period of time every designer develops a discernible signature to his projects perhaps.

4) What is your favorite planned or built landscape and why?

If you ask me about the projects that I have been involved with, I think very satisfying projects have been Epicuria, Nehru Place, Delhi. It was a tough terrain in a densely urban environment and equally dense programme but with the judicious use of terrain and materials, we were able to create a very successful and nice urban landscape. Rajasthan High Court Jaipur Bench was also a very satisfying project where despite the enormous footfall and an existing

campus, we were able to turn it around and it is one of the greenest and most soothing court complexes of the country. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park Noida has been equally satisfying.

From projects done by other landscape architects, I rate Sunder Nursery by Prof. Shaheer to be the ultimate.

5) What challenges did you face while growing up?

Initially getting substantial work was a bit challenging. After being able to establish oneself, sometimes it is not easy to balance out the whims of the client or moderate the programme to design what is environmentally suitable and aesthetically as well.

6) What is it that you contribute to increase awareness amongst people about this field?

I try to demonstrate a consistent design philosophy with an approach which is environmentally suitable and make people aware. I have been involved with teaching landscape design also at SPA as a visiting faculty for almost 13 years. I have served a term as the President of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects and a couple as its Honorary Secretary and promote the discipline in my small way. I have been a Member of the Board of studies member at SPA, Bhopal besides being a jury member at various schools of architecture. I have been involved with several research and documentation projects and have been a member of the task forces and various committees constituted by the DUAC. I have

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Epicuria Nehru Place Delhi ▲

been a Member of the Committee for the Revision of the Chapter on landscape Architecture in the National Building Code of India in 2016.

7) What are the rules, regulations and guidelines that you have to follow while working in this industry?

The first rule is to be conscientious, honest and put what you have read and been trained for into practice, not indulge in unethical practices. Then of course adhere to the prevailing laws and regulations, respond to the brief of the client, be honest and try to do your best for the client.

8) What are your long term professional goals as a landscape consultant?

In my own small way contribute to making the earth more liveable, conserve environment, design aesthetic spaces based on the design

philosophy suitable for the project.

9) Please tell us about you and your establishment including accomplishment?

My practice in landscape & urban design by the name of “S J A Consultants”, which I run along with his brother has been involved in a variety of projects in India and abroad ranging from landscape design & planning of integrated townships, infrastructure projects, recreational parks, heritage projects, hospitality, residential group housing, commercial and retail. Some key projects include formulation of policy for Jama Masjid and its environs as a consultant to the High powered committee formed by the Hon’ble High Court from 2002 to 2005, Epicuria at Nehru Place Delhi, Rajasthan High Court, Tata Raisina Residency Group Housing Gurgaon, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park Noida besides several award winning

projects and sustainable landscape projects.

10) In your opinion how INA can be of help to Landscape Architects?

Nurserymen and Landscape Architects are complimentary to each other. No landscape can be complete without the contribution of nurserymen, who help us to source all the plants. With the rising emphasis on native plants, the Nursery men can address this requirement of future and focus on such plants rather than just the imports of exotics. There are a very few nurseries or individuals presently, who cater to these requirements. They can assist landscape architects by preparing database of plants suitable for and cultivated in specific areas along with cataloguing and sourcing information of these.

In several of our projects, for instance, the contribution of Mr. Y. P. Singh, Greenways Landscape is hugely important in making the project successful through his efficient and professional approach.

11) Please suggest how Indian Nurserymen Association can help in progress of Indian Plant Nurseries both for home consumption as well as export.

By efficient availability of information pertaining to the different plants in different regions along with their availability and sourcing information and as I also mentioned earlier by creating database of plants. ■