

Bimal Patel

HCP DESIGN, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

THE ROOTS

Dr Bimal Patel's introduction to architecture began at his own home, with his father, architect Hasmukh C Patel, as his foremost inspiration and role model.

THE NURTURING

An alumnus of the prestigious CEPT University, Dr Patel pursued a Master's degree in Architecture and City Planning as well as a PhD in City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley.

A man who finds inspiration in those who are passionate about transforming the world in sensible ways, Dr Patel recalls some of his earliest mentors: Fr Zavala, SJ, the art teacher, and Fr Erviti, SJ, the social service league head at his primary school, as the people who introduced him to the joy of working with different materials and instilled in him a sense of social purpose.

THE FRUITS

He joined his father's architectural practice in 1990. In 1997, he founded Environmental Planning Collaborative (EPC), a not-for-profit company, to work with local governments on city planning. He is currently the president of his alma mater, CEPT University.

As the principal architect at HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt Ltd, Dr Patel built on his father's approach to design and practice. From its modest beginning in 1960 under the leadership of Hasmukh Patel, today, the firm provides professional services in the fields of architectural design, urban design, urban planning, master planning and project management. It adopts good management practices while striving for excellence in design, planning and construction.

"The firm's design philosophy is rooted in the

belief that design is essentially a problem-solving process," declares Dr Patel. HCP has been recognised for the quality of their work and have received several awards over the years, including the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (1992), the UNCHS' 100 Best Practices Award (1998) and the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Urban Planning and Design (2003).

THE TURNING POINTS

While all of their projects resonate with the philosophy centred around problem-solving, some of HCP's milestone projects are the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project, CG Road redevelopment, the new campus for IIM-Ahmedabad, and the Ahmedabad Management Association building. Each of these projects provided the firm with an opportunity to approach and resolve novel design problems with groundbreaking solutions.

THE DESTINATION

With an unrelenting passion for achieving neat and clean design solutions to projects, Dr Patel sees himself older and wiser in the next decade or so, and envisions his revered practice's success in achieving more and more inventive results. ■



- ◆ A built structure that gets a perfect score in your opinion... and why. Kanchanjunga Apartments, for its brilliant and bold concept.
- ◆ An Indian practice that you would give a perfect score... and why. Christopher Charles Benninger Architects: this practice tackles contemporary challenges in an innovative yet well-rooted manner.
- ◆ An international practice that merits a perfect score... and why. Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners: the practice is very successful at working on different scales in clever and innovative ways.