



MINNIE BHATT

DESIGN DIRECTOR, MINNIE BHATT DESIGN

With 22 glorious years in the world of design experience, even today, each day is just as exciting for Minnie, who challenges herself to create and evolve with every new project. Minnie Bhatt has trained under some very renowned interior designers and with her experience, she set up - Minnie Bhatt designs, 8 years ago. Minnie's style of design is mainly eclectic and contemporary. The mantra of Minnie Bhatt Designs is not only to create exquisite spaces that are timeless and authentic, but also never to repeat these creations. Today, Minnie with her creative genes has been single-handedly re-defining the restaurant interiors with new innovation. Another unique project that makes a special mention in Minnie's profile of work is a 400-year-old temple in Vrindavan, Mathura. This particular project involved Minnie to recondition the temple whilst retaining the old heritage interior. Minnie Bhatt Designs is currently working on several hospitality, residential and other commercial spaces. The process of each project involves getting into the depth of the concept and also giving it character that reflects the personality of the owner. Hence, fulfilling her drive and passion for her work.

What were different hurdles you faced while pursuing your education and career as an architect/ interior designer? How did you overcome them?

I was studying commerce at H.R. College in Mumbai and after the first 2 years I had a lot of time on hand. My best friend from school was with me in college too and she told me she was thinking of applying to a design college to study interior design. I decided to apply with her and got into Sophia Polytechnic. She went ahead to study finance instead and I did a 3 year interior design course along with completing my degree in commerce. As I was studying both it was challenging to do well in both courses. I managed with a lot of encouragement from my parents to successfully complete both.

Initiatives undertaken by you to uplift the society and women at large

These have been on a personal level. I support the education of 2 children for a less fortunate family. My team top consists of 12 women and one boy. So it's pretty much an all-woman set up.

How do you strike work-life balance?

My work I'm extremely passionate about and so I really don't feel like I'm working when I am! My office has half days on Saturday to encourage the team and myself to do activities that we don't get time during the week for. Post work on a weekday, I either meet up with friends or wind down at home with International TV shows.

Do you think women have achieved equality in terms of gender, status, power, respect and pay in the society?

I do feel in urban India women are far better off than in rural areas. We have come a long way since the way things were when I started my career 22 years ago. Back then, while my female colleagues and I were both respected, contractors did not like taking instructions from us. Over the years this has changed. In my profession now, women are respected, appreciated and paid as much as their male counterparts.



“ Women naturally have intuitiveness and intuitive design comes with experience and exposure too. It's important to harness this intuitiveness and create your own style and design language that expresses your individuality as a designer. ”

