



Anand Sharma
Founder & Partner,
Design Forum International

Anand Sharma is a B.Arch (Hons) graduate from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and a co-founder at Design Forum International. He is a firm believer in practising socially inclusive architecture and coined the term “People-First”, which became one of the guiding principles of the practice.

Over 25 years, Anand has been instrumental in the firm's journey of being a part of 'Nation-Building' across

the country. He has worked across diverse project typologies, where he leverages his expertise in architecture, engineering and construction to provide unique, and efficient design solutions. He has played a key role in leading large scale commercial projects such as the Select City Walk Mall (Delhi) and Guwahati City Centre, the largest retail mall in Guwahati. He has also worked on competitions for civic infrastructure developments including Dakshineswar Skywalk (Kolkata), ITO Foot over Bridge (New Delhi) and the upcoming Multi-Modal Logistics and Transport Hub (Dadri), among others, and is currently leading the New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) at the Guwahati International Airport and the Bihta Airport (Bihar), modelled on the ideas of environment-conscious and human-centric design.

Sharma believes that cities must have a distinct character and an architect's role as a facilitator of change is to create contextually and socially relevant designs. Calling on his profession to rethink the approach to building design for the most impoverished communities, Anand, a philanthropist has been accredited for creating some of the major affordable housing projects in Delhi NCR, and the first-ever affordable housing project in the North-East India.

Anand has participated as a keynote

speaker at various events including General Business Meet organized by and at Indian Habitat Centre (IHC), where he presented DFI's and Airport Authority of India's collective aspirations behind the design of Guwahati International Airport's new terminal building. Further, he represented DFI at the Airport Authority of India (AAI), BIM Conference held at Indian Aviation Academy in Delhi and shared his experience and observation on how BIM is a sustainable autonomous and efficient solution to deal with complex and demanding environments of a live construction site. As a keynote speaker at Autodesk University India conference in 2019, Anand talked about the use of BIM in major infrastructure projects.

Anand is also a talented singer and a literary enthusiast. Holding expertise in real estate trends, he frequently addresses real estate issues and provides insights into the latest trends on various platforms such as Realty Plus, 99 acres, Magic Bricks and Windows and Façade Magazine. He is a frequent contributor to various newspapers and magazines including, The Morning Standard, Hindustan Times, India Today Home and The Times Property among others. In 2019, Anand has been felicitated by highly respectable personalities of India such as Padma Bhushan Shri Rajeev Sethi at the IndeXcellence Awards Ceremony.

Qualifications

- ▶ Bachelor of Architecture (Honors) from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, 1995.

Memberships

- ▶ Council of architects, India
- ▶ Indian Institute of Architects

Lectures and Workshops

- ▶ Speaker, SSMB Steel Construction Summit, 2019, New Delhi
- ▶ Industry Breakout Speakers at the AU India Conference, 2019 August-September 2019,

Trivandrum and Bangalore

- ▶ Speaker at General Business Meet organized by Indian Habitat Centre, September 2019
- ▶ Speaker at conference, organized by AAI, held at Indian Aviation Academy, Delhi, August 31, 2019
- ▶ The Dialogues 1920-2019 Edition VIII, Designed Kites Mural, 25 unique products at the show, 2019, Jodhpur
- ▶ Speaker, NDTV Hopstar, February 2019
- ▶ Jury member, FOAID 2018, Delhi
- ▶ Urban identity, Growing Indian Urban Scale, December 2013

Awards

- ▶ 2019: Top Architectural Firm, Index Excellence Awards, IFJ, September 2019
- ▶ 2017: Grohe NDTV Design and Architecture Awards
- ▶ 2017: UIA Seoul Congress, Outstanding Papers and Design Works
- ▶ 2017: Outstanding Paper and Design Work – helix Tower at UIA Seoul Congress
- ▶ 2017: IIA National Awards for Excellence in Architecture (Shortlist)
- ▶ 2016: 9th Annual Estate Awards, Affordable Housing of the Year
- ▶ 2016: Cityscape Awards (Shortlist)
- ▶ 2014: Grohe NDTV Design and Architecture Awards
- ▶ 2015: Realty Plus Excellence Awards (North), Architect of the Year- Residential
- ▶ 2013: Images Shopping Center Awards - Most Socially Responsible Shopping
- ▶ 2013: Bharat Jyoti Award
- ▶ 2011: Society Interiors – Building Design Award
- ▶ 2009: Building Information Bureau (BIB) - Real Estate Services Award
- ▶ 2008: VM & RD Retail Design Awards, Merit Certificate



Once simply considered as a dismissive solution to life's woes, "just walk it off" can now become a message with a proactive purpose. A benefit to both physical and mental well-being, walking is ideal for any fitness and commitment level. It's one of the most inclusive physical activities and a proven way to improve mood and cognitive function. Encouraging health improvement through an activity as non-threatening as walking, is an ideal way to boost the focus on workplace wellness. Walking is the best tonic to keep us hale and hearty. It provides us with calm and quiet atmosphere; time and mood to think; and of course, the freedom of being our own masters. Walking helps us to collect and organise our thoughts, to cool down our temper and to soothe our disturbed minds. So whether it's a routine walk to work or just a 15 min. walk from work, it helps spark creativity. The kind of open-air environment we seek out matters too: green and blue spaces outdoor busy city streets. Ideally walking to work can help one to reap additional benefits of immersing oneself in nature which can drastically change mood and an overall outlook on life.

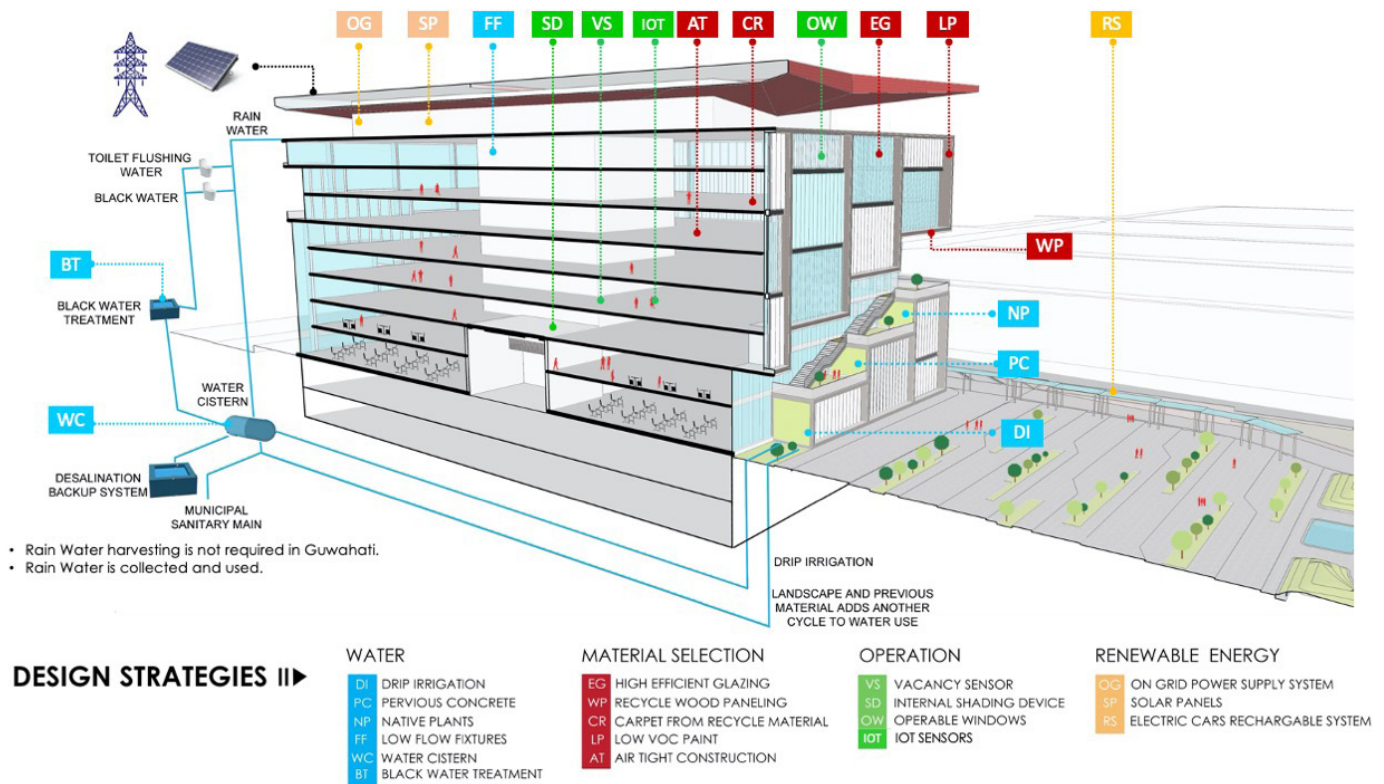
Design Forum International (DFI) is a New Delhi based architectural practice that is firmly rooted in the "People-first" approach to design. Founded in 1995 by three graduates from the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur), Anand Sharma, Anoj Tevatia and Goonmeet Singh Chauhan envisioned the practice to foster an egalitarian organization ethos, where distinct architectural talent could find self-expression and contribute towards the development of human-centric architecture in a collaborative work environment.

Since its inception, the practice has been a witness to the unfolding journey of India; from being a third-world country to the fastest growing economy. Through the diverse portfolio including projects across residential, retail, workplaces, recreational, hospitality, institutional, master planning and civic infrastructure, DFI endeavours to contribute to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of being a part of "Nation Building". Spread across the nation, their notable projects; The New Court Blocks at Delhi High Court, New Integrated Terminal Building at Guwahati International Airport, Dakshineswar SkyWalk (Kolkata), ITO Skywalk (Delhi), Select City Walk Mall (Delhi), Redevelopment of Amritsar Junction Railway Station (Punjab), Proposed Redevelopment of Azadpur (Delhi), Navami Funique Township (Bangalore), Rang Homes and Guwahati City Centre (Guwahati)—the largest mall in the North East, among others have set benchmarks in the Indian built environment.

With a portfolio that is spread across 17 states in the country, since its inception, the practice has delivered over fifty million

sq. ft. of residential, ten million sq. ft. of retail-cum-mixed use, ten million sq. ft. of workplace, over five thousand acres of campuses, and institutions ranging from a 5-acre school to 500 acres of professional training colleges. Over the years, the practice has grown from strength to strength and is currently marching ahead with a team of over 100 professionals, each pursuing a distinctive value-based architectural spirit and executing projects with a deep sense of optimism, excellence, and integrity. Being an agent of change, their efforts are rooted in principles of sustainable architecture and response to the local context while simultaneously ensuring that humans remain central to design.

DFI has won many national and international accolades for their diverse oeuvre of work, including the Index Excellence Award in 2019, IIA Award in 2017, NTDV's Grohe design and architecture award in 2014 and again in 2017, the Construction Week Awards in 2018 for the New Courts Complex at Delhi High Court in New Delhi, and the Outstanding Paper and Design Work in 2017 at UIA Seoul Congress for the Helix tower. Their works have time and again found a place in esteemed newspapers and various Architecture, Design and Real Estate magazines such as Architecture + Design, Architect and Interiors India, Realty Plus, India Today Home, The Morning Standard, Asian Age, and Economic Times among others. The firm has also been featured in the international magazines: South East Asia Building Magazine and the Perspective Global Magazine, and various online platforms such as



Design Philosophy

As custodians of the built environment, which necessitates frequent interventions in the name of capacity upgradation, DFI envisages the need to emphasize on the context and conservation of the built environment in thought and practice. The built habitat shapes and influences all human lives profoundly. The DFI design ideology strives:

- ▶ To pursue the practice of architecture with a conscience – A karmic architecture that belongs to its PEOPLE and its PLACE.
- ▶ To be reverent to the substantive context, both Immediate and the Cosmic.
- ▶ To animate with meaningful newness; combining a problem-solving approach with sensitive and delightful Urban Artistry.
- ▶ To play-IN into the continuum as opposed to playing OUT an egoistic expression of Disruptiveness.
- ▶ To embellish with thoughtful contemporary interventions that echo the aspirations of our times, while discarding architectural vestiges.

The firm employs a versatile approach to design, consciously staying clear of restrictions of project typologies – they have worked across residential, workplace, recreational, retail, master planning, hospitality, institutional, campuses, and civic infrastructure typologies. DFI has actively contributed to the once-in-lifetime opportunity of being part of “Nation Building” by creating iconic projects such as The New Court Blocks at Delhi High Court, Dakshineswar SkyWalk in Kolkata, ITO Skywalk in Delhi, Redevelopment of Amritsar Junction Railway Station and the New Integrated Terminal Building at Guwahati International Airport among others.

DFI is a ‘People-first’ organization, spotting talent early, and grooming it well. The approach is not bounded by any school of thought and centres on novelty in design. Processes inform the outcome –predetermined, pre-programmed workflow is followed with missionary zeal. At the heart of this thought is the belief that, while people may falter, processes never do.

DFI is abreast of all regulations, bye-laws, trends, and market scenarios, pertinent to individual markets. Experiences drawn from one territory very frequently find parallels in another and enrich the knowledge base, bringing substantial value enhancement to projects. While the entire team assigned to a client is available for discussion and direction on a project, there is a singular point of contact for the client: The Head of the concerned team, a Director or an Assistant Director-level professional. It is a matter of pride that 65% of the practice’s order book is repeat assignments with satisfied clients.

Key Milestones Achieved

DFI has actively contributed to the once-in-lifetime opportunity of being part of “Nation Building” by constructing across project typologies:

- ▶ Mixed-use and Retail: 11 Million sq. ft.
- ▶ Group Housing: 60 Million sq. ft.
- ▶ Master Planning: 3000 Acres
- ▶ Workspace: 8.5 Million sq. ft.