

CASE OF THE COPYCAT

Every design idea finds its early foothold in something that already exists



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Principal architect at Samira Rathod Design Associates, Mumbai, Samira celebrates design and considers every project an opportunity to critically test parameters. About herself, she says, "I am an architect and enjoy being one".

60 years from freedom,
The image of India is still forming. 1



It has been difficult,
To not be mesmerised by global achievements,
Nor emulate the west. 2



Difficult, even so
To seek out a mooring, that is our own.

Identity?
Perhaps there isn't any absolute one. 3

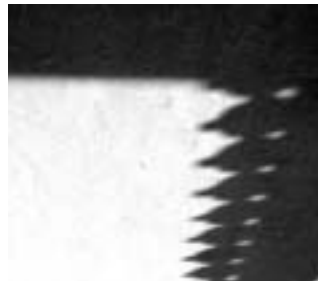


India has always been a blended culture,
A hyper reality within which we

strive and struggle. 4



With a history of
A resplendent architecture in the past,
Marked by an era of colonisation and 5



Perched on the modern times of
global influences, 6
There is naught but a struggle,



To elk out a space that can hold its own.
There is a struggle for survival

Between the heart and the mind. 7



A mind that is flogged to attain
perfection, 8



Through logic and reason
And the heart that is left alone in
darkness, 9



With a yearning that wants to rebel,
love and simply cherish, 10



Precious moments,
That we call life.
A tug of war, 11



Who will we surrender to?
In this mind game, to find meaning,



Can architecture be merely an art
To immortalise memories?

Relieve experiences? 13



Those that mark our lives, 14



Or simply remain,
As snippets in the subconscious?

And through this science,
Cannot each endeavour become a
legend,
That we can pass on to our children?



In this collage of people and
aspirations, 16



Inspiration may be found on the
streets.
Indigenuity is rampant,
From amongst us,
The very basics.
For form, size, shape and colour, 17



For music and poetry, 18



For relationships. 19



Huge amounts of work still to be
done. 20



We will construct....
We will falter....
We will bruise and hurt,
But we will not give up,
(For) time is a circle,
It has no end. 21



There is enough time,
Always.

