

POETIC CONSTRUCT

Thoughts on India's resplendent architectural history, current identity and future inspiration



SAMIRA RATHOD

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.



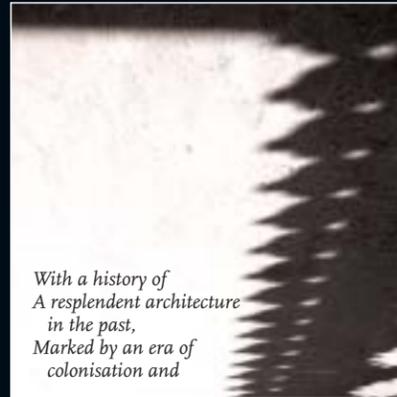
India has always been a blended culture,
A hyper reality within which we strive
and struggle.



There is naught but a struggle,
To eke out a space that can hold its own.
There is a struggle for survival
Between the heart and the mind.



It has been difficult,
Not to be mesmerised by global achievements,
Or emulate the West.
Difficult, even so
To seek out a mooring that is our own.



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



A mind that is flogged to attain perfection,



Identity?
Perhaps there isn't any absolute one.



Perched on the modern times of global
influences,



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



With a yearning that wants to rebel, love
and simply cherish,
Precious moments,
That we call life.



Those that mark our lives,
Or simply remain,
As snippets in the subconscious?



For music and poetry,



A tug of war,
Who will we surrender to?



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



For relationships.



In this mind game, to find meaning,
Can architecture be merely an art
To immortalise memories?



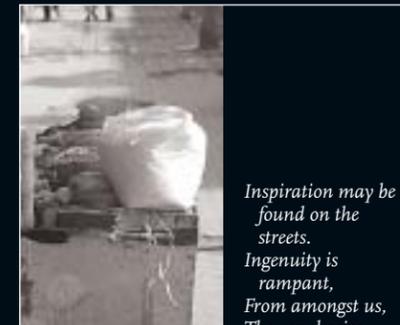
In this collage of people and aspirations,



Huge amounts of work still to be done.
We will construct...
We will falter...
We will bruise and hurt,
But we will not give up,



Relive experiences?



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



(For) time is a circle,
It has no end.

There is enough time,
Always.