

# AD

**FOURTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
SPECIAL  
EDITION**

MARCH-APRIL 2016  
**INDIA**  
₹150

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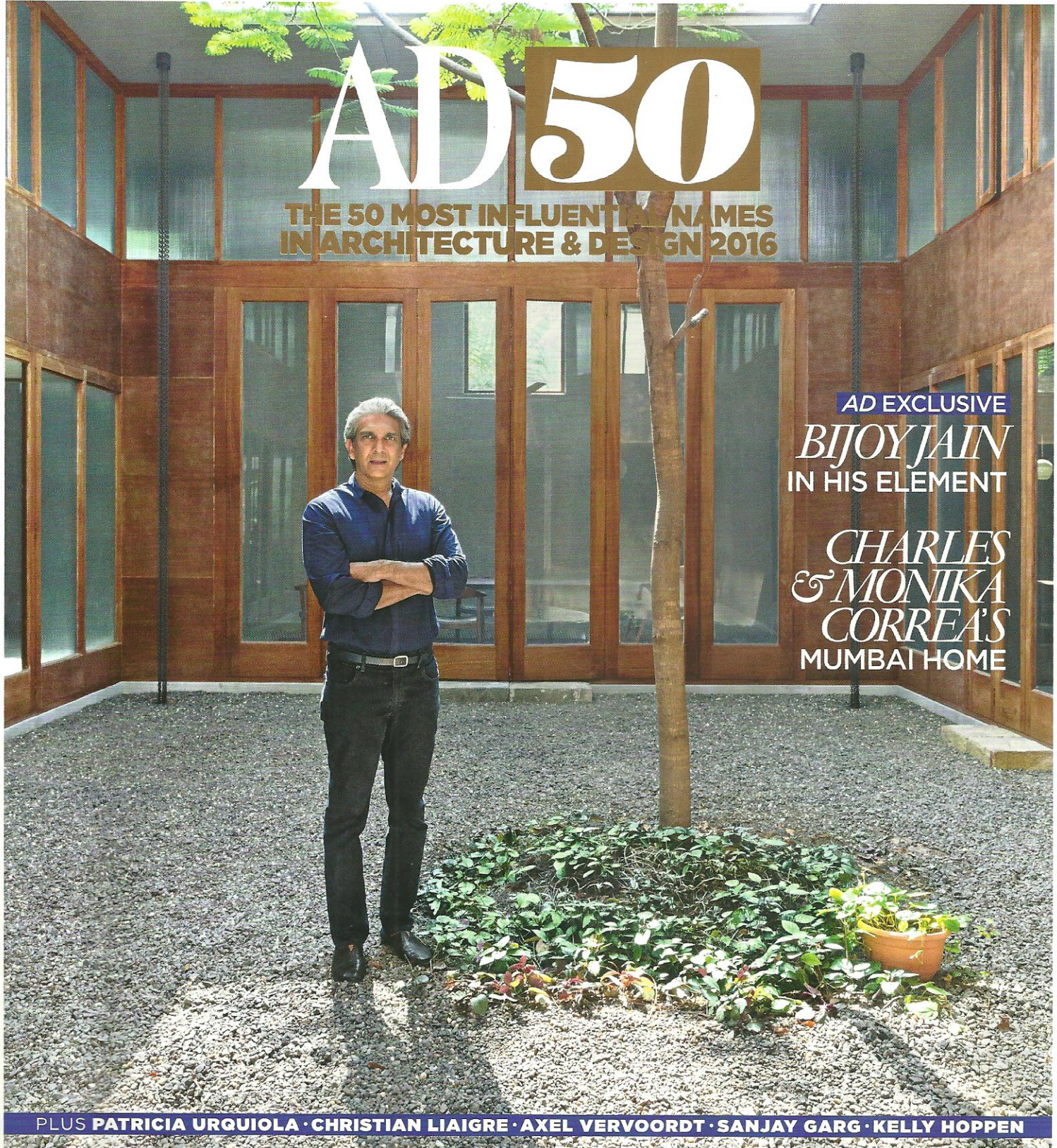
**ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE WORLD**

# AD 50

**THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL NAMES  
IN ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN 2016**

**AD EXCLUSIVE**  
*BIJOY JAIN*  
IN HIS ELEMENT

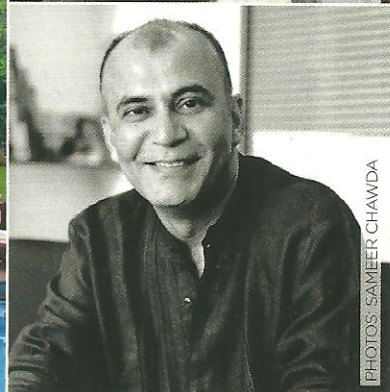
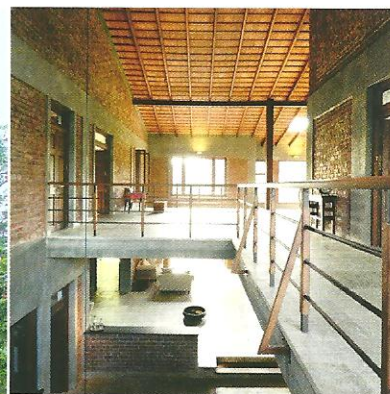
*CHARLES  
& MONIKA  
CORREA'S*  
MUMBAI HOME



**PLUS PATRICIA URQUIOLA · CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE · AXEL VERVOORDT · SANJAY GARG · KELLY HOPPEN**



PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPHIX/SEBASTIAN ZACHARJAK



PHOTOS: SAMEER CHAWDA

## PURAN KUMAR ARCHITECTS

PRINCIPAL: **PURAN KUMAR**

LOCATION: **MUMBAI**

"I don't think I built the house; the trees allowed this house to be built," says architect Puran Kumar, whose Mango House was the only Indian entry shortlisted in the 'Best Residences' category for the 2015 Inside Awards. Kumar's organic approach to designing spaces seems to have reached a crescendo of sorts with this space, his holiday home in Alibag. A design that emerged completely from the trees inhabiting the space, the house almost serves as a snapshot of Kumar's design sensibility.

**Architectural Digest:** What was it about this site that appealed to you?

**Puran Kumar:** I chanced upon this piece of land in Alibag, surrounded by lush greenery everywhere, with a view of the mountains and these majestic mango trees patronizing the plot. It's like the place sold itself.

**AD:** How did you visualize the space?

**PK:** We wanted to build the house without disturbing the 12 mango trees. But they grow horizontally, with roots that spread outwards; so they defined the layout below ground as well. When we dug the ground to lay the foundation, we discovered roots in places we never imagined they would get to! That meant going back to the drawing board. We were not familiar with their growth patterns, so we consulted the locals.

**AD:** How did the design come about?

**PK:** The design evolved organically. There is a strong exterior-interior connect. Nothing stops the outside from coming in. While the house serves the purpose it is meant for, it does so without obstructing its natural surroundings.

**AD:** Do your homes have a common design scheme?

**PK:** A common aesthetic in the houses I design is an openness—connecting with, and staying true to their surroundings. My designs don't shout, try to dominate the space, or stamp their authority. It is important to understand how much you need to do—and not do more.

**AD:** What drove the selection of materials for the house?

**PK:** The Mangalore tiles were selected for the roof because they blend best in a rural context. The exposed brick for the walls emerged as an afterthought; once the walls were built, we realized that no cover was needed. We recycled timber from old bungalows for door and window frames.

**AD:** What is the biggest change you have seen in the way homes are designed?

**PK:** There is an international influence in almost every aspect, which is a good thing, but there was a simplicity to architecture earlier that's now gone.

[purankumar.com](http://purankumar.com)