



SIRAJ AND RENU ARCHITECTS END THE MÖVENPICK HOTEL AND BANGALORE BUILDING AN INTEL-LIGENT AND CONTEMPORARY DESIGN. he building of the new Mövenpick
Hotel and Spa Bangalore blends
easily with the ever-expanding
skyline of the city; just as easily, its
contemporary design sets it apart from other buildings
that crowd the urban landscape. "The operators,
Mövenpick Hotels, wanted a contemporary look and





Another 'architectural and engineering feat', continues Hasan, was to make the ballroom column-free. He elaborates, "Normally, when a hotel requires a large banquet area without columns, one can create a podium that juts out, with the tower of the hotel somewhere at the back. This takes the weight off of the banquet hall and creates a space on the top that is usable for a lawn or a terrace."

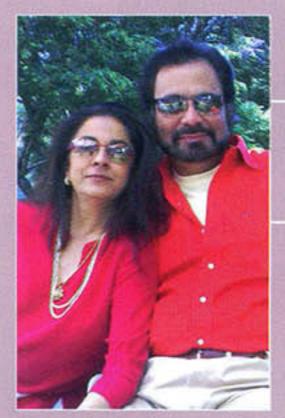
At Mövenpick however, space was a constraint, and the rooms were resting atop the banquet hall. In a massive engineering effort, Hasan brought down the columns from the guest rooms above and terminated them on a service floor that floats on a beam stretching across the breadth of the floor. This beam, made of structural steel, is almost 10 ft high. With this, the design team cleverly circumvented the need for columns in the banquet hall, which can now cater to almost 700 people at a time. The idea comes with a downside though – a slightly lower ceiling height, which could have been almost 6 ft higher.

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

To add a sense of novelty to the hotel, Hasan has installed a 20 m long swimming pool with an infinity edge on the second floor. The water from the pool cascades down, creating a backdrop for the coffee shop on the lower floor. This not only adds to the aesthetics of the coffee shop but also envelops

Meet the architect

Siraj and Renu



FIRM: Siraj and Renu Architects, started in 1977.

FIRM SPECIALISA-TION: Hospitality interior design and architecture.

DESIGN PHILOSO-PHY: The three major factors that are woven into an architectural solution are aesthetics, function and economics. Once you get

a good mix of this, voila! You have an excellent design.

PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS LIFE: I always believe that the meaning of true knowledge is to know that you know nothing.

FAVOURITE DESIGNER/ARCHITECT: Frank Lloyd Wright





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THE UNIQUE FACTOR

Every hotel has to adhere to the National Building Code, which defines the parameters of designing and constructing a building; one of the most important is fire safety. Hasan had to provide the hotel with an open staircase for the fire escape. Seeing an opportunity in the challenge, Hasan has made this staircase a design element of the hotel's architecture – the staircase is actually at the front of the façade and blends well with the general sense of arrival that has been created by the flyover, especially when the hotel is lit at night.

"I have always believed that architecture and building design should serve the purpose of those who utilise it and not that of the designer," says Hasan. And he definitely seems to have achieved this in the Mövenpick's Hotel and Spa!

PHOTOS | HYWELL WATERS

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