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# nasikream



**WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY.**

  
**NASIKLUB**

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# HAFEEZ

*On the occasion of 'World Architecture Day' observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, Manas Moghe and Satyajee Patwardhan explore the 'Nasik Connection' of Hafeez Contractor, the Architect of World renown, a Global professional celebrity, in an exclusive interview for Nasikream.*

"My mother thought of putting her only precious child onto a right footing in life". Her search for the best place, the right place for his upbringing marinered her to Boys Town School in Nasik. Her prime concern like all mothers was to ensure the kind of people her son would live with, his food and his diet. She entrusted her child to Mr. Bejon Desai and Boys Town School and at the age of five Hafeez became a boarder of this Institution many years ago, begins the interview with a sensitive chord.

"This" he says is his Nasik connection with a grin.

"The food in our school was very very good, I can say we used to have banquets every day," he reminisces today.

## AT SCHOOL

We used to be very mischievous kids in School remarks Hafeez and elaborates the role played by the then Principal of the School Mr. Bejon Desai in his life.

HE was like a father when it was required, he was a Principal when it was time for advise and he was a tyrant when it came to discipline recalls his student.

## VERY FORTUNATE

"I was very fortunate that HE did all that was needed to be done to me at the right time" gratifies Hafeez in his memoirs talk. Be it spirituality, principles of life or life in general, those little talks always guided me. Najjo Auntie and Bejon Desai are a RARE COMBINATION. She was always there when a child was sick, if he was in bouts of extra hunger. Affectionate and caring ever.

## CHANGED MY LIFE

The life of a playful naughty child renaissanced into a very studious serious boy in the SSC Class just by the 15-20 minutes talk that HE gave Hafeez the day he entered his final year in School remembers the World acclaimed Hafeez today.

He attributes his fame and success to those words epitaphed on his mind by Mr. Bejon Desai that day.

## INDEBTED

Mrs. Nargis Gupta his primary school teacher once said to him when he was in class III. "you draw well, when you grow up become an Architect". He did not know much about Architects then although some of his cousins were Architects says Hafeez.

# .....And his Nasik connection.

Another person who signifies his life is his Science and Maths teacher Mr. Tattoo. He uses to write on the black board 'NO LUCK WITHOUT HARD WORK' on all the 365 days, every day narrates Hafeez, it was a joke then and all the children would make fun of the golden words but the teacher would only exclaim "Dikrao, dikrao, you will remember these words when the time comes" and these words have made a lifetime achievement to many students confesses the architect with indebtedness to his teachers.

## INCLINATION TOWARDS ARCHITECTURE?

A versatile allrounder student Hafeez was very fond of 'designing'. He would design boats, cars, buildings and guns, drawing and designing was his favourite pass time. He was also good at it. He would have competitions with his friend Behram Divesia who had the same hobby too. "Once in my cousins Office, one Mr Dallas was drawing a window detail which I betted was wrongly drawn" narrates Hafeez, "I won the bet" and his cousin was astounded by the expertise with which he drew all the professional details with a slight difference in abbreviations used in drawings without even knowing the technical versions of them he remembers. Mr. Dallas, the cousin and another cousin in the States became the 'knock' of opportunity to the entrance exam for Architecture which he passed with an A+ and finally enrolled for the GD Arch Course. The Professional Colleges would not give his admission otherwise, ironic but true a revelation by Hafeez of fame today.

The hobby he was so ardently pursuing happened to be called Architecture he enlightens.... there is a difference you see... says he.

## YOUNG ARCHITECT.

Young Architect Hafeez never had a 'NO' for his clients. He listened to them and worked hard to give them what they wanted. From morning till the next, he worked incessantly without restraint for the best output of his design. "Do good work" is his philosophy and satisfy a customer in the best possible manner is his style. Criticism and appreciation do not disturb his profession. Criticism is just a part of life he comments. Both are important.

## FAVOURITES???

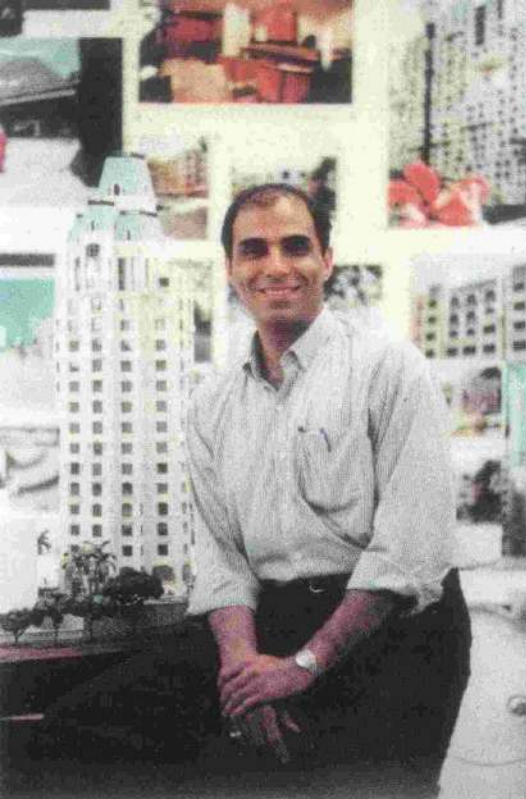
He does not have any favourite Architect. There is something he likes in each. Same with his own Projects. "I am not a ONE man ONE Project person. His superlatives vary within every four to five months. He is in love with his particular work for a short span and then he moves on to another. Diverse tastes make him like everything in life. Traditional, modern, lots of work and varied music. "My biggest problem is that I don't hate anything" says he with utmost humility.

## ANY PLANS IN NASIK?

Is answered by "in life you don't make plans. I take it as it comes."

Global Architecture is a very broad term but Urban Architecture is passing through a very crucial time remarks Hafeez about the Architecture in the world as compared with India. Life is different, economy, economic policies, needs, climatic conditions and situations are different in various parts of the world. Indians have now begun to express their opinions aloud.

The development of our cities will give a direction to our future and the new generations he states.



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