

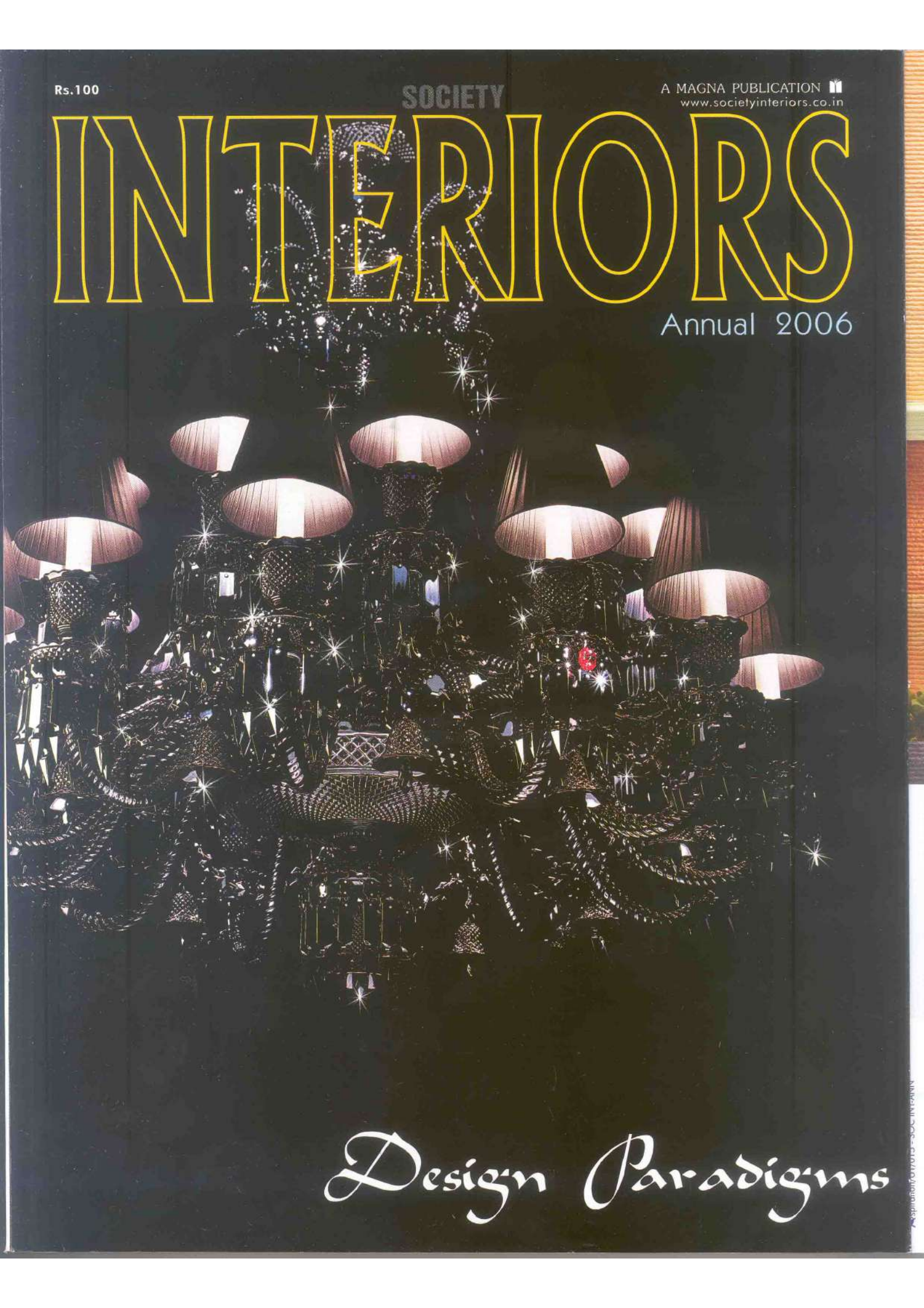
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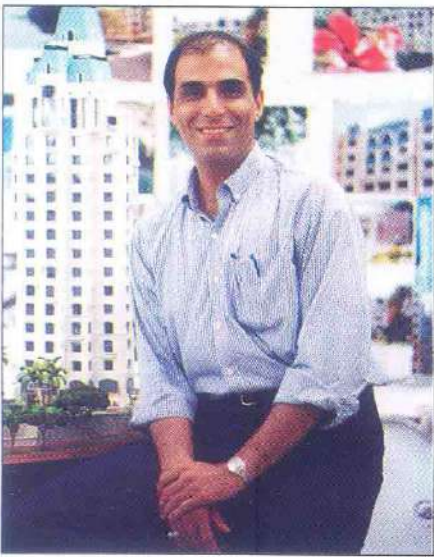
# INTERIORS

Annual 2006



*Design Paradigms*

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## HAFEEZ CONTRACTOR

Hafeez Contractor wields tremendous power over India's design, construction and real estate industry.

His architectural footsteps are permanently embossed across the Indian built landscape. The firm's devotion to design brilliance, efficient delivery and distinction in building technology applications has given rise to a portfolio that boasts of some of the most noteworthy architectural endeavours in India.

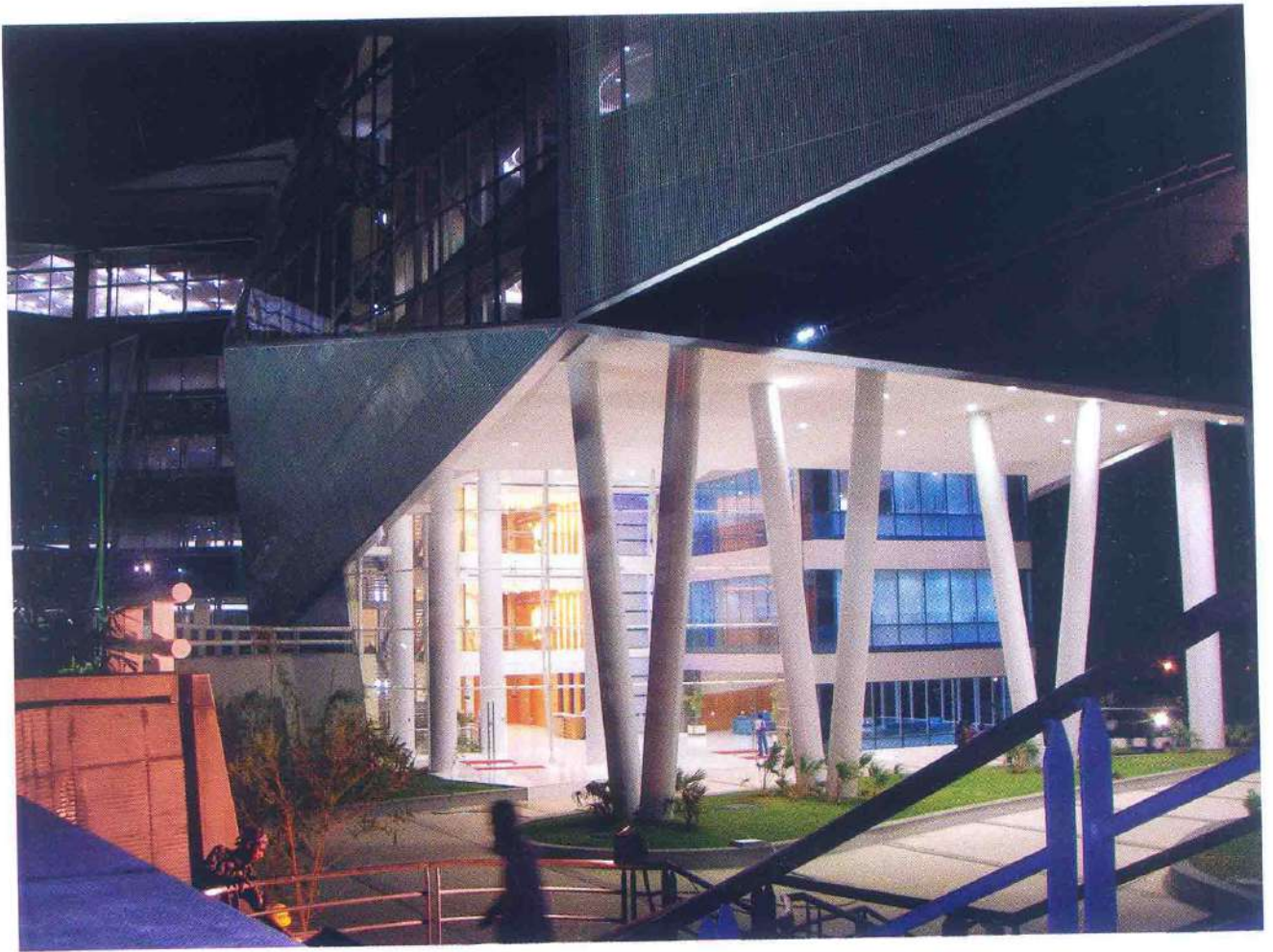
He has conceptualized, designed and executed a wide range of architectural projects just the extent and assortment of these projects seem remarkable. But, what is even more extraordinary is the indefinite array of architectural style and character these buildings highlight.

**Infosys Software  
Development Centre**



**Architect:** Hafeez Contractor ● **Project in Focus:** Infosys Software Development Centre  
● **Location:** Mysore, India ● **Type:** Commercial ● **Date of Completion:** 2006  
● **Gross Functional Area:** approx. 4 lakh sq. ft.

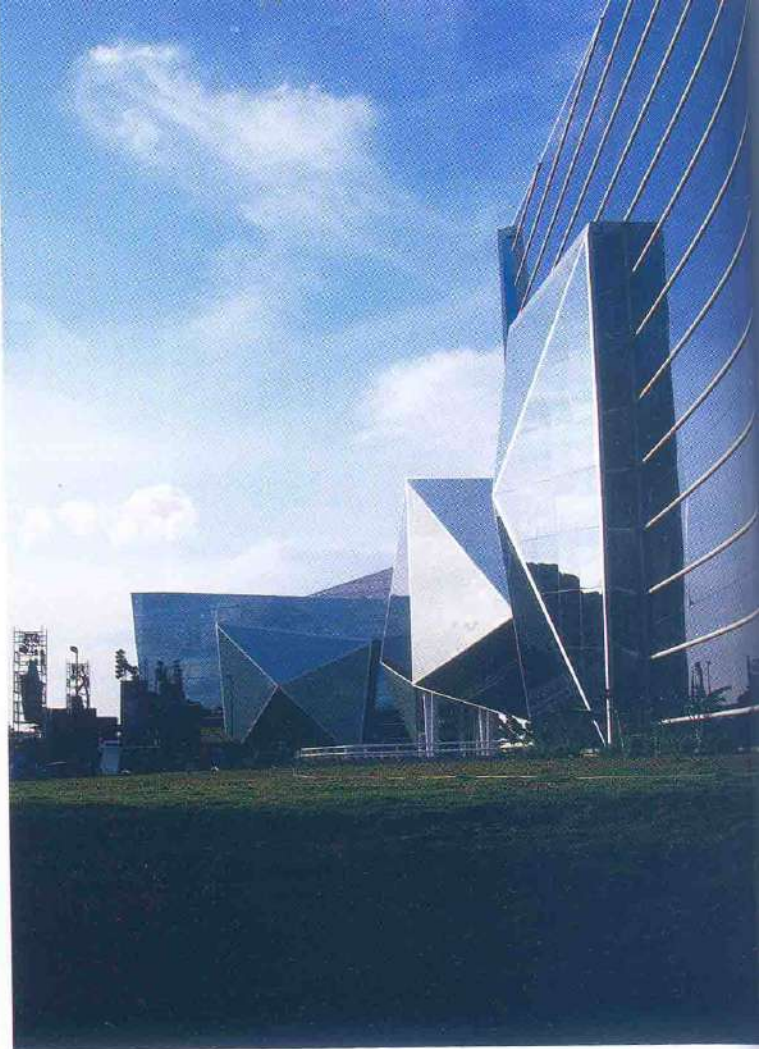
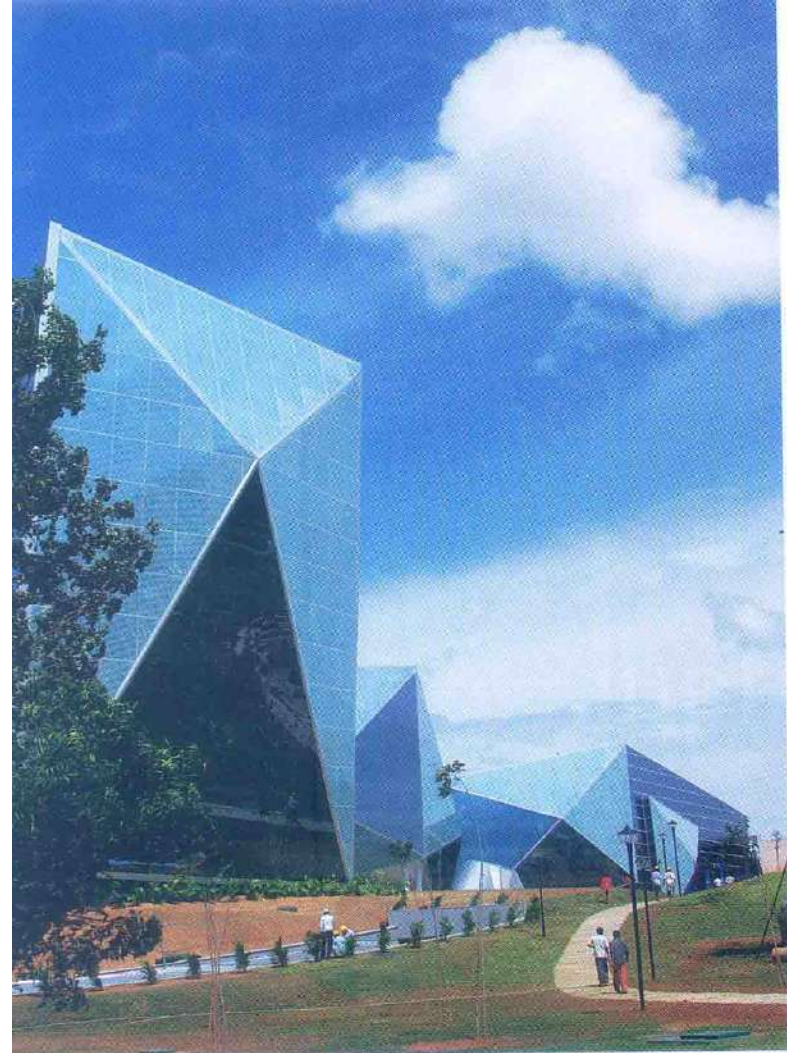




### **RISING IN A PUZZLE OF JAGGED SCULPTURAL MASSES WITH**

lopsided fragments, the new software development centre in Infosys Mysore is set to serve as an architectural landmark for the country as well as the revered software company. Infosys is a revolutionary Indian company and a world leader in consulting and information technology services. In recent times, the visionaries in the company have looked to create avant-garde facilities that would reflect their forward-looking philosophy. In this endeavour, they approached Architect Hafeez Contractor to design their facilities around the world with radical ethos. Infosys pioneers in integrating human well being, social and environmental concerns into the company's management and value system, those ideas were also meant to be reflected in their facilities.

Situated in a tremendously contoured site of the existing 270-acre Infosys campus in Mysore, the new software development centre is 140 kms away from India's Silicon Valley, Bangalore. The iconoclastic design derives its inspiration from the slightly rugged profile of the site. Hafeez on his first visit to the site decided on conceiving an architecture that would reverberate the character of



the site. Later on in its development, the design drew on the principles of origami – the Japanese art of folding paper.

In the beginning, the building had an almost rectilinear form with a few jagged edges in the vertical plane. Later it progressed into its present form, which has the signs of distorted contours in all three dimensions. These protruding jagged planes form abstract compositions with fractured geometry. The façade is in essence moving in and out in various angles and inclines giving rise to the distorted form. The façade is predominantly swathed with glass — a combination of reflective and ceramic frit glass. Aluminium composite panels also accentuate the façade in certain areas. The pyramid like projections are supported by hinged steel members cantilevered from the floors.

The entrance atriums are carved out of the mass of the building at strategic locations. The double-height atriums once again echo the avant-garde, asymmetrical character of the building. It is further highlighted by the V-shaped columns, which support the super structure.

The five-storey structure houses 2,500 professionals. The structure is made up of post tensioned slabs with large span ensuring effective office layouts. The typical open plan interior layout has rectilinear profiles whilst including distorted atrium pockets in several edges. The atrium creates an array of experiences by following the changing form of the outer skin. Its delicate distortion can become exceptionally prominent in certain levels when the outer skin moves in a more pronounced manner ▲

No discerning logician can put Hafeez Contractor's work into a box. A label that one can categorize him into is that of a non-conformist – who refuses to be bound by one set of beliefs, customs or systems.



## Prathima Manohar

An architect by profession, her creativity also extends to writing and she has recently completed a book on Hafeez Contractor.

## Anupam De

Focusing his lens on the buildings to give them a dimension beyond what the architect wanted is what he does best.

