



“Why oppose Vaastu, when industrialists and business families openly admit their success is linked to its implementation.”

- Architect Yatin Acharya

ARCHITECT'S VOICE



Architect Yatin Acharya

Born in Dhanbad in the state of Jharkhand, Mr. Yatin Acharya did his primary schooling in St. Anthony's Kolkata and then moved to Ahmedabad because his father Kirit yearned to be back in Gujarat, his birth place. Mr. Yatin Acharya completed his architectural studies from Surat in Gujarat, and thereafter directly started practice in Ahmedabad from 2002. We met him at our Vaastuyogam office.

Excerpts from the interview:-

I have a magnetic compass at my desk and whenever I come across some new Vaastu tips I check my status and make the changes if necessary. Believe me, these small changes have really delivered results by the truckload.

First client insists on Vaastu

I got my first client the day after my graduation. His first question to me was, “Are you familiar with Vaastu? Will you design my house as per Vaastu?” As an up-and-coming architect I couldn't say no. I did not have the nerve to turn down a project so early in my career. “Yes”, I replied. “I will need some time to verify my designs with the Vaastu books I have.”

I felt at that time - why are people so crazy about this Vaastu thing? I harbored the notion that architects were needed for their innovation, creativity and their un-biased scientific approach. Vaastu, to my mind at that time was anything but that. I feared that it would hijack my thought process and submit me to its inflexible postulates. “Why does he need Vaastu?” I asked myself when I could give him better options of comfort and aesthetics by modern design, gadgetry and landscaping. However, as I mentioned earlier, it was my first job and that too just a day after I had graduated! I needed it badly, so I kept my ideas to myself and worked out a Vaastu compliant design.

Name of Vaastu in the firm's name works magic

Now here is an interesting co-incidence. Even as I was studying architecture I was toying

with the various names that I could give my firm. I finally hit upon “Vaastu Krutik” I argued that Vaastu means “Science of Building” and “Krutik” is creativity. So, what my firm's name conveyed was “creative touch to the science of building”. It was a good, catchy combination. Moreover I was following in the footsteps of stalwarts like the architect, Mr. B.V. Doshi who started his career by naming his firm, “Vaastu Shilp Foundation.” I must clarify that whilst naming my firm - Vaastu Krutik - I had no intent of alluding to Vaastushastra, the ancient Indian science of constructing buildings. In fact, I did not even have a hazy idea about it and what it could do.

However, as I found out soon enough, everybody seeing my firm's name got the impression that I was a big fan of Vaastu and that I designed only as per Vaastu. The name



Interior for Mr G Jawahar

Vaastu Krutik worked for me. My firm's name brought to me a long list of clients and this eventually got me inclined towards Vaastu. Many of my clients brought in their Vaastu consultants and I learnt from them all the benefits of Vaastu-centric built space.



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Why tamper with something that is helping out...

Today, I have overcome my initial resistance to Vaastu. Though I began with no idea about Vaastu and a heavy baggage of doubts about it, in all of my architectural practice I have not even designed one house that, as per my knowledge, has an anti-Vaastu design. Of course, I have benefitted amply from the inputs of all these Vaastu consultants.

As far as I was concerned I saw no logic in antagonizing it with pretensions of limited freedom and restricted creativity. Why tamper with something that is helping out not just me but the client as well. Vaastu has worked for me. That and the support of my wife Radhika without whom the journey so far would not have been possible.

I have started preaching Vaastu now. The application of Vaastu principles need not be restrictive. If the architect is aware of the finer nuances of the subject he will deliver better design. It is for this reason that I insist on architects being taught Vaastu as part of their curriculum. I have come across many senior architects who have picked up Vaastu at a very late stage in their career.



Architect Yatin Acharya with Dr. Ravi Rao

To those who don't believe in Vaastu I would request them to give Vaastu one honest chance. Get in touch with a genuine Vaastu consultant and implement everything he asks and then wait for three to five months for the results to show. I also ask them to have reasonable expectations and not ask for the moon. If things still don't seem to work, they should check where they have faltered or whether the credentials of the Vaastu consultant are true and good. But at the end of the day, quitting one's disbelief in Vaastu is like asking someone to quit smoking. It can only happen if the decision comes from within and if it is supported by a strong determination to get across to the other side.

When I am asked to design a house by someone, the first thing I ask him/her is whether he/she believes in Vaastu. If the reply

is negative, I suggest to the client to go through some Vaastu books before finalizing the design of their home. Even when there is no specific brief to include Vaastu, I do it on my own, but these would be rare instances because the general public has knowledge of Vaastu and believes in it. Even those who don't are not averse to it. However, I have still to come across someone who has insisted that his house be designed on non-Vaastu lines.

Vaastu is a catalyst.

I see Vaastu as a catalyst. People work endlessly. Nature has provided all with a similar quantum of grey cells yet not all are successful. One thing that differentiates successful people from the rest is the opportunities they seize and how they handle

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Interior for Mr Naresh Jha



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failures. It is here that Vaastu is of immense help. It will mitigate hardships and make the smooth times an unimaginable success roll. It is a mistake to think of Vaastu as a 'RICH DADDY' who gives away fat cheques to his favorites. There is nothing of that kind! You will have to muster your resources and get going. Vaastu will help as you move along. It will engender an environment that clears your mind and strengthens your resolve. It will not give you a readymade map in your hand that you have to follow but maybe it might sweep away the roadblocks you may find on the journey you take.

People hailing from south India are firm Vaastu believers. I have a client from Coimbatore, who is an exporter of cotton. I am designing a guest house apartment at C.G.Road for him. He is a strong believer of

Vaastu and doesn't deviate even a single inch from the Vaastu tenets. His career graph has been only a matter of unbounded progress. In the C.G road apartment that I am doing, there was a piece of 50 square feet of land that was an inappropriate extension. The gentleman paid for that area but cordoned it off into no man's land. When I asked him if he was worried about the cost he replied, "Not at all."

My lament with Vaastu and Vaastu consultants is that they are out of reach for the poor and the middle class. If somehow, Vaastu can be woven into town planning, industrial parks and low budget housing, it would be a true boon to the Indian masses. I will speak about my father and how he has still to achieve the fruits of his labor due to Vaastu ignorance. After returning to Gujarat from Kolkata he started a small scale unit manufacturing rubber parts at Vatva GIDC. Even after twenty years of honest toil and industry he has not gone far. Perhaps the missing ingredient has been Vaastu. One of my immediate goals is to ask Dr. Rao to visit my father's factory and give him his suggestions on Vaastu.

My experiments with Vaastu

So, with mere hard work and planning one can achieve only certain goals and that too with unpleasant interruptions. To go the full length, one needs luck and Vaastu can engineer luck in your favor like nothing else can. Everybody should therefore take help of Vaastu even in the small things that they do. In my own case, I am forever experimenting. When I read somewhere that the study desk should be in a

particular direction, I immediately checked my arrangement and changed it to suit the Vaastu requirement. I read that one should keep the Brahmasthan light and empty. The very next moment I sold away my heavy six-seated dining table that was in the middle of the room just where the Brahmasthan was. I purchased a smaller dining table and moved it to another corner that was more in keeping with Vaastu. I have a magnetic compass at my desk and whenever I come across some new Vaastu tips I check my status and make the changes if necessary. Believe me, these small changes have really delivered results by the truckload.

I have started preaching Vaastu now. The application of Vaastu principles need not be restrictive. If the architect is aware of the finer nuances of the subject he will deliver better design. It is for this reason that I insist on architects being taught Vaastu as part of their curriculum. I have come across many senior architects who have picked up Vaastu at a very late stage in their career. Just imagine how much good they could have done to society if they had learned Vaastu at college itself rather than at the far end. There are so many aspects to Vaastu that no architect could have any serious arguments against. In fact much of what comes under Vaastu is already taught to them under climatology etc.

But I ask, why this circumspection in following Vaastu. Why oppose Vaastu when industrialists and business families openly admit their success is linked to its implementation? ■

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Fusion of contemporary architecture with traditional elements