

INDIA'S  
BEST-SELLING  
MODERN HOMES  
MAGAZINE

# Livingetc

FOR FASHIONABLE AND STYLISH HOMES

INDIA EDITION  
NOVEMBER 2011 ₹100

NEW  
AGE  
STYLING  
COLOUR  
BLOCKS

- New  
Simplicity
- Get  
Online
- Barbecue  
Grills

LOW CARBON  
LIVING

An Adaptable Lifestyle

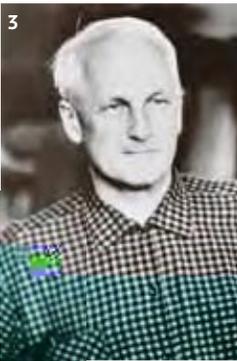


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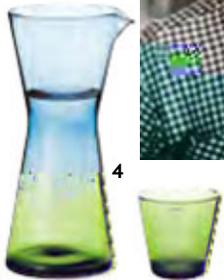
# DESIGN EDUCATION

## Pratt

**DA**  
Domus Academy



1. Rabindranath Tagore.
2. Walter Adolph Georg Gropius founder of the famous Bauhaus school of design.
3. Kaj Franck one of Finland's prominent designers.
4. One of Kaj Franck's famous glass series Kartio for Iittala.
5. Visual thinker Dashrath Patel.
6. Dashrath Patel's stackable ceramic crockery illustration.



Designers, have traditionally, taken a number of routes to concretise their creativity. Design education comes from many sources – acclaimed institutes which have spent years honing and refining campus learning; following great thinkers and masters; or fearlessly following one's designer bone in the body.

Rabindranath Tagore had realised the value of exposure to design thought when he invited the Bauhaus School to bring an exhibition to India, shown at the Indian Society for Oriental Arts in Kolkata in 1922. In the 50s and 60s when the likes of Charles and Ray Eames submitted their report and Le Corbusier and Jeanneret made their contribution, the trickle continued in the works of Dashrath Patel and his ilk. Dashrath Patel, was not formally trained in the field of design but is a fine example of one who gained a lot by being in the company of luminaries like Cartier Bresson, Ivan Chermayeff, Charles and Eames among others.

While all of the above is about thought leadership, we also need design education at a very basic level. Of late there has been a huge talk about design education and how it needs to change. At a very basic level it is about initiation - by a training of the eye and mind to observe design constants around us. Design education is especially a hard field because much of it exists in the abstract world. Nonetheless it needs to address the modern day issues of economics, engineering and aesthetics, all taken together.

If Dashrath Patel was still designing, his tableware would have been no less a hit than any other renowned collection.

*Mridula Sharma*

MRIDULA SHARMA, EXECUTIVE EDITOR



CLOCKWISE:  
Ritva-Liisa, Kesa,  
Lily filigree free  
blown glass,  
Washbasin made  
out of Corian.



FROM TOP: Oasis &  
Celebration free blown  
filigree glass, Horizon After  
Glow; and Water Lily  
porcelain tableware.



## M I N E I O L I E

# Ritva-Liisa Pohjalainen

From textiles and fashion to home and glass- designer, Ritva-Liisa Pohjalainen wears many hats with remarkable ease. She stormed into the arena showcasing textiles, and clothing in the mid-eighties as a chief designer for companies like Piretta-Pta Oy and Silo Oy among others and moved over to glass after getting back to school. Ritva-Liisa has been wowed at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Museum of Art, Shanghai, and centres in Stockholm, Helsinki, Guangzhou. Being a dedicated academic she was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Kuopio, awarded the Artist of the Year grant of the Finnish Cultural Foundation, and adjudged the topper of Finnair Design Competition, as also the winner of the Kaj Franck Design Prize.

### MY WORK

**To move from fashion to glass...**meant new possibilities for designs.

**For designs and colour inspirations...**I turn to mix of nature and metropolises.

**My favourite style decade...**is the 40's.

**My designs...**are characterised by harmony and I think less is more.

**In fashion...**I prefer an ageless, modern look with good qualities.

**Going back to school after 35 years...**was a door for future. I thought of a change because I wanted to find more possibilities.

**When working with textiles...**I enjoy working with different structures, surfaces, fibres and colours.

### MY HOME

**My home is about...**stones and white but my weekend house is a wooden house and black outside.

**Colour palette that works for me is...**natural shades or black and white with bright colours.

**My fridge will...**always have sparkling water and berries.

**Weekends mean...**relaxing with family at home.

**I relax by...**sitting by the fireplace or walking in the forests, picking mushrooms or berries, cooking for family and friends.

### MY LIFE

**When I was little...**I dreamed of going around the world looking at nice places.

**I knew I would be...**a designer when I was seven and my mother bought me a sewing machine.

**My teaching days...**meant that I could give my experience for young students.

**I could travel...**again and again to Florence because of the atmosphere and history.

**The last book I read...**was the book about the life of famous Finnish designer Kaj Franck. This year is 100 years from his birth.