

*A tribute to great Architects
and Architecture from
Sharon*



*This is the first of a series that Sharon is planning to bring out
and we hope you will preserve this even after the year has gone by
to have the complete series.*

*Your feedback and suggestions as to whom and what
you would like to see featured in the coming series will be greatly appreciated.*

*If you want us to send this to an architect colleague
of yours next year, please email us to sharonply@vsnl.com before November*

2005



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January 2005



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Le Corbusier
1887 - 1965

An architect with a radical imagination, Corb felt the need for a new architecture in the spirit of the machine age. His early work explored the "machine for living" concept. Corb's famous book 'Toward a New Architecture' influenced many of the twentieth century architects. An ardent social reformer, he worked on several projects in India including the city of Chandigarh. Some of his seminal works are the Chapel at Ronchamp, Villa Savoy and the Unité d'Habitation in Marseilles.

February 2005



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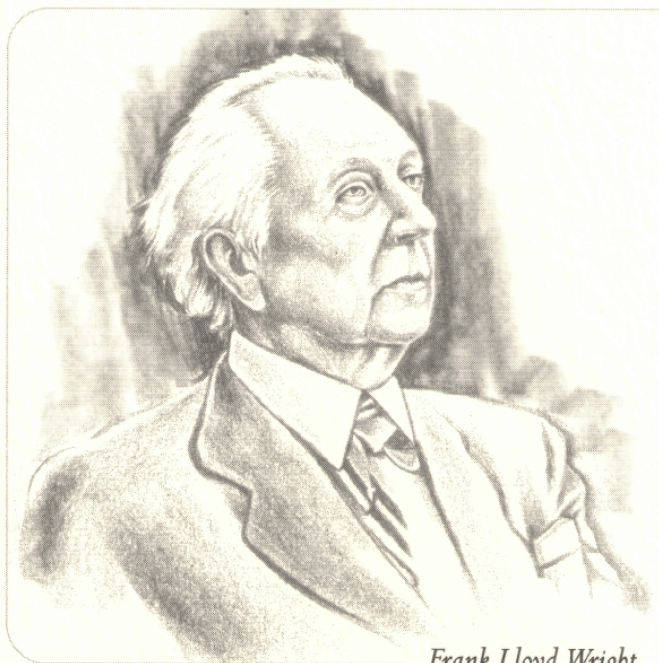
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Frank Lloyd Wright

1867 - 1959

Recognized by the architectural community as one of the greatest architects of all time, he has reserved his place in history. He propounded the philosophy of 'Organic architecture'. He believed that the home should fit into nature. He designed homes which grew from the land rather than sat upon it. While hundreds of his designs never saw life, more than four hundred Wright designed buildings, bridges, and monuments did reach completion.

March 2005



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Alvar Aalto

1898 - 1976

His name in itself means 'wave' which later would come to life in his work. Aalto's international style rest on a distinctive blend of modernist refinement, indigenous materials and personal expression in form and detail and has come to be known as the scandinavian style. His belief that buildings should be individual solutions to a given set of problems has become internationally accepted. The Saynatsalo Town Hall and Villa Mairea, Finland are some of his acknowledged works.

April 2005



Strong to the core

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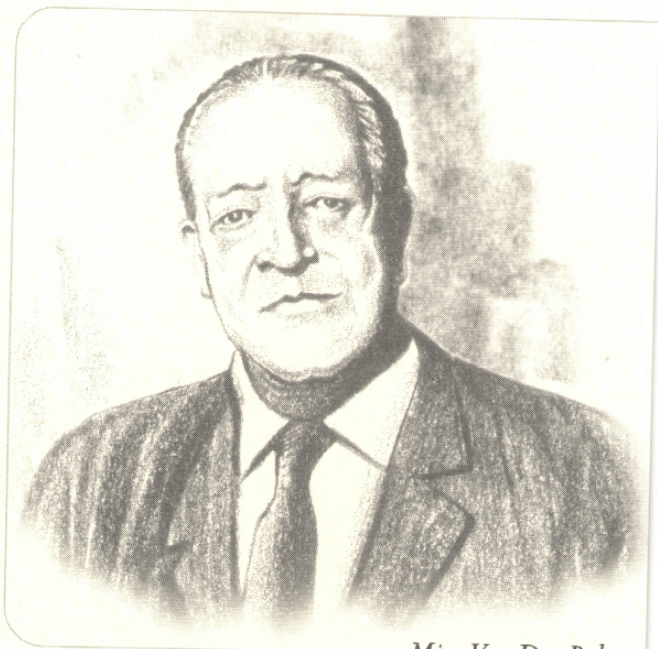
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Mies Van Der Rohe

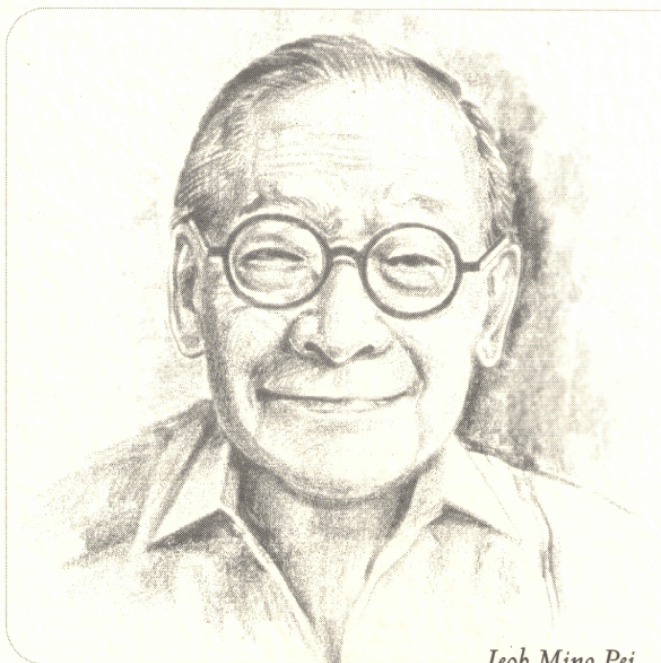
1886 - 1969

Known as the father of the steel and glass structure, he designed with the idea that 'less is more'. His structural approach to architecture brought him to the forefront of architecture. He adapted symmetry, frontality, and axuality for his civic buildings and monuments. He adapted asymmetry, fluidity, and interlocking volumes for his residences. He paid great attention to the detailing of the structure since according to him 'God is in the details'.

May 2005



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Leoh Ming Pei
1917

One of the most recognizable architects in the world today, he was born in China and made America his home in mid 1930's. Pei has a strong belief that geometry is the key to all architecture. The interlocking of the simple forms and the use of the glass pyramid are characteristics of Pei's work. His famous work include - Pyramid of the Louvre, Energy Plaza in Texas and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

June 2005



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Louis Kahn
1901 - 1974

Kahn's work is notable for its simple, platonic forms and compositions. His design of buildings, characterized by powerful, massive forms, made him one of the most discussed architects to emerge after World War II. Kahn's work was controversial during his lifetime. However, his work was reviewed more favorably by a new generation of critics, who declared him one of the most original and important architects of the 20th century. IIM-Ahmedabad and the National Assembly, Dhaka are among his many well known designs.

July 2005



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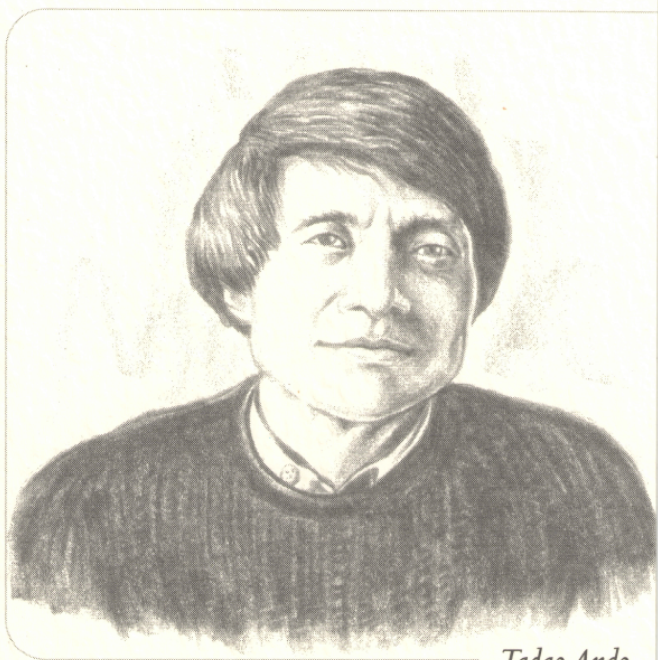
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Tadao Ando

1941

A proclaimed self taught architect Ando draws on the Japanese culture and incorporates its concepts into his work. His minimalist style, stripped to the bare essentials, beckons tones of spirituality. In all his works, light is an important controlling factor. He creates enclosed spaces mainly by means of thick concrete walls to create a place for the individual—a zone for oneself within society. His monuments strip away all but the most essential natural elements which allows for divine and supreme designs.

August 2005



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Charles Correa
1930

Architect, planner, activist and theoretician, Correa has emerged as a major figure in contemporary architecture world wide. Over the last Four decades, Correa has done pioneering work on urban issues and low cost shelters for the Third World. From 1970-75, he was Chief Architect for 'New Bombay' an urban growth centre of 2 million people, across the harbour from the existing city. In 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi appointed him Chairman of the National Commission on Urbanisation.

September 2005



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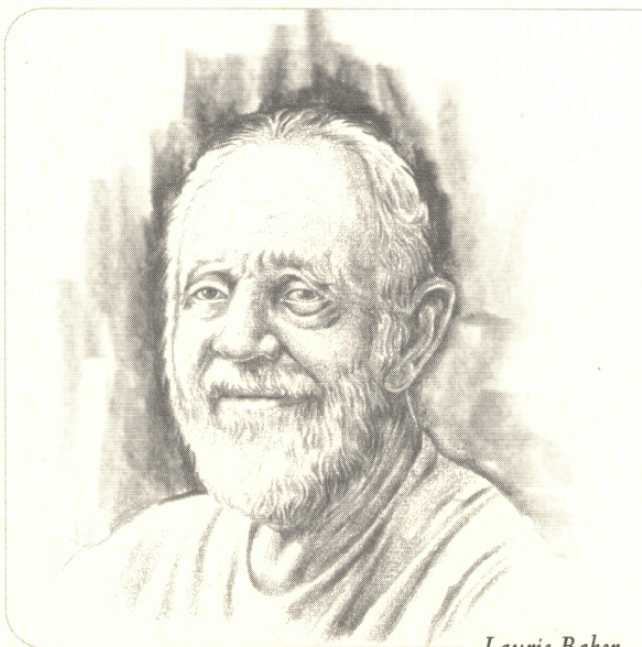
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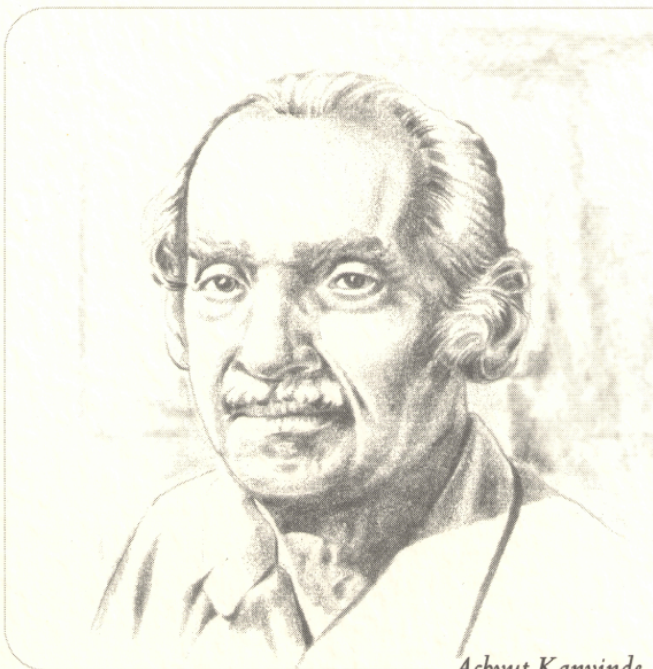
Laurie Baker
1918

Baker's unique style has heralded a new movement in the history of architecture. Rejecting the designs alien to the place, his use of local tiles and bricks and the optimum use of scarce materials, an ideology of creative sustenance, he has provided solutions to the roofless millions through low-cost housing. Be it the huge mansions, private residences, church or other institutions, Baker's buildings have an aura of tranquility, freedom and a touch that is ethereal and down to earth.

October 2005



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Achyut Kanvinde

1866 - 1944

"Humanism is the principal element in design" says the pioneer of the Modern school of thought in architecture, Padmashree Achyut Kanvinde.

And still true to humanism, the best designed cities of his choice are places where there is life. Kanvinde doesn't believe in building for the sake of building or create spaces which will lose their human appeal with time. I find the older cities more purposeful. In Italy, Sienna and San Manjiano, Jaiselmer in India are self-contained cities," he discloses.

November 2005



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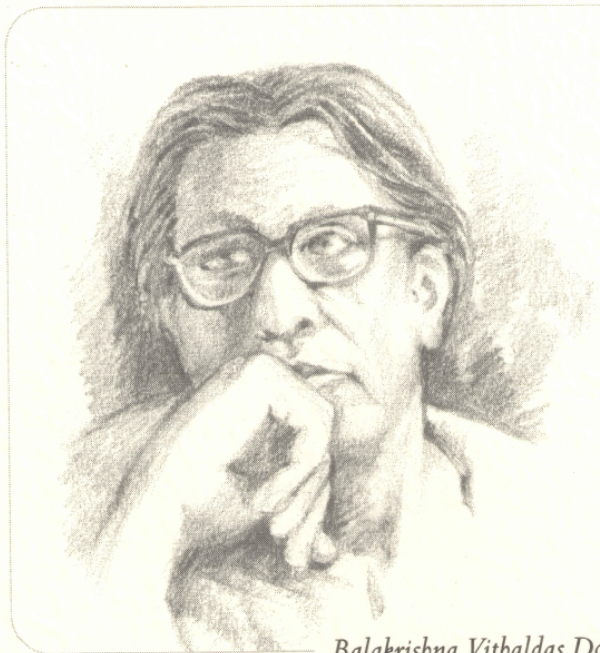
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Balakrishna Vithaldas Doshi
1927

Having worked with both Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, Doshi over the last fifty years has contributed immensely to the search for a truly Indian architecture, rooted to its place. As an educationist, he founded the school of Architecture and Planning in Ahmedabad. IIM - Bangalore, Gandhi Labour Institute and his various proposals for new cities, as well as his housing designs provide one of the most important models for modern Indian Architecture.

December 2005



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— Maya Lin
1959

Born on October 5th, her works include the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the Civil Rights Memorial, Groundswell, The Wave Field, and many other amazing and influential projects. She was a senior at Yale when her design was chosen as the winner of Vietnam Memorial. The design was the object of much controversy but she held her ground ensuring that a beautiful and moving memorial would be built for all to touch and see. In addition to being an architect, was also a sculptor, artist and also the author of a book entitled "Boundaries".