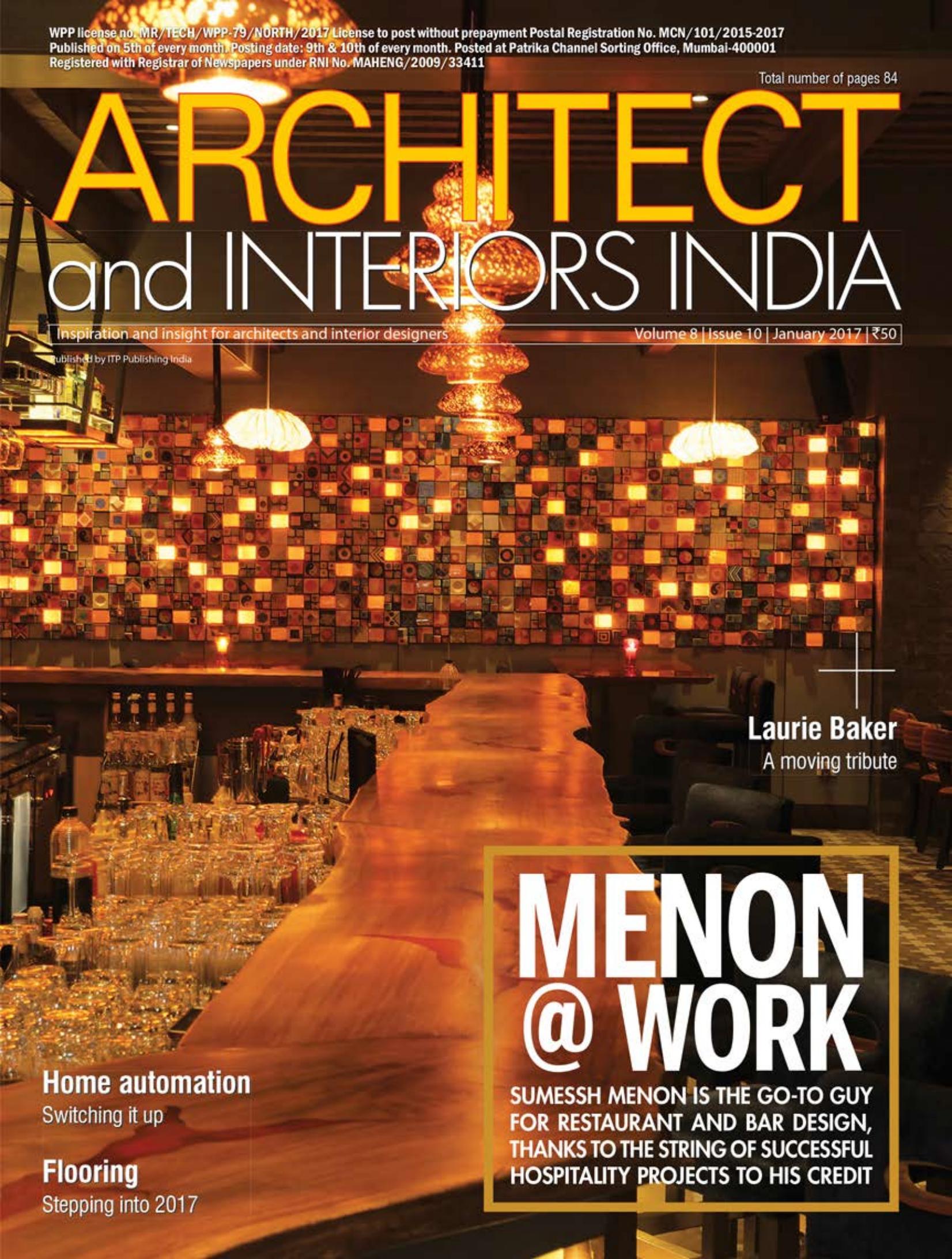


# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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**Laurie Baker**  
A moving tribute

## MENON @ WORK

SUMESSH MENON IS THE GO-TO GUY FOR RESTAURANT AND BAR DESIGN, THANKS TO THE STRING OF SUCCESSFUL HOSPITALITY PROJECTS TO HIS CREDIT

**Home automation**

Switching it up

**Flooring**

Stepping into 2017

# CASE STUDY: ESSENTIA ENVIRONMENTS



**A**lok Hada, director, Anusha Technovision Pvt Ltd, discloses that the clients' brief was that, whatever technology is used or implemented for automation (lighting controls, motorised shades, audio-video automation, cameras, etc), the one thing that had to be kept in mind was: make it simple and easy-to-use! The second, and most important, part was going through the checklist of automation one by one, in order to find out what they felt was needed in the house.

- ❖ It was agreed that since lighting played an important part in the ambience, control of lighting was essential and, hence, lighting controls were needed. However, to make it simple, the decision was taken to use Lutron keypads that have backlighting. Each button is custom engraved with the function that the button press would achieve. The architect wanted only glass finish, and that is what was offered.
- ❖ Mrs Jain wanted convenience – and the fact that, with motorised shades, pressing a button to let ambient light in becomes easy, motorised shades were used.
- ❖ Ms Monica (the interior architect) did not want any console below the TVs, but preferred a 'clean' look. This meant that all video feeds (such as cable TV, Blu-Ray player, Apple

1,2&4. Motorised shades control daylight and easy-to-use Lutron keypads were chosen for indoor lighting controls.

3. Alok Hada, director, Anusha Technovision.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Name of the project:** Parveen Jain residence

**The client:** Mr and Mrs Parveen Jain

**The designers:** Monica Chawla from Essential

**Size:** 5-bedroom apartment

**Location:** DLF Magnolias

**Cost:** Automation system (Rs60 lakh plus taxes)

**Duration of project:** 10 months

**Date of completion:** January 2016

TV, etc) had to be centrally located. This called for a media distribution system to be installed, which could transfer audio and video from a central location to each of the TVs in all rooms.

- ❖ The client wanted the facility of being able to know if someone was ringing the main door, even when they were not at home. Further, to see who was there and, if required, open the door from wherever they were in the world. This meant an IP Video Door Phone had to be integrated.
- ❖ The client wanted to do away with the multiple remotes when they watch TV. So, a control system (Crestron) with a customised user interface was developed by Anusha's engineering team for the client. This went through many design changes before it was finally accepted by the client.
- ❖ The client wanted *bhajans* (devotional songs) to be played early morning in the common areas, automatically. This was achieved through the combination of a time clock, control system, and the audio system that was 'distributing' *bhajans* seamlessly throughout the house every morning.

Co-ordination between architect, contractor and end user and Anusha's team, in terms of expectations and implementation, was a major challenge for the project. Because of the flexibility that control systems offer – be it in setting lighting scenes or in the Grafik User Interface look – freezing things for the end user finally, also becomes a challenge. Hada explains that, by convincing the end users (Mr and Mrs Jain) that "it takes a little bit of getting used to the idea that there are no light switches in the house and that pre-set scenes ultimately work better" or the fact that once you have a touch panel, you do not really need individual remotes; they could overcome such obstacles. And once the clients got familiar with the automation system, they were very quite satisfied. ■