

INTRODUCTION

Hafeez Contractor is an Indian architect born in a parsi family in 1950 in Mumbai. He got his graduate diploma in architecture in 1975 from the University of Mumbai followed by bachelor's degree from the Academy of Architecture in Mumbai and master's degrees in Architecture from Columbia University, New York on a Tata scholarship.

He has designed many skyscrapers in India, primarily in the city of Mumbai. As of 2019, he is the architect of the three tallest buildings in India - The 42 in Kolkata , and the twin towers of The Imperial in Mumbai. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in January 2016 by the Government of India.

Hafeez Contractor commenced his architectural practice in 1968 as an internee at his uncle, T. Khareghat's office while studying to get his architecture degree. After working for a while he became the associate partner in the same firm in 1977 and between the years from 1977 to 1980, he served as a visiting faculty member at the Academy of Architecture, Mumbai.

He set up his own architectural firm in 1983 with a staff of two and today his firm has grown to one of the largest architectural firms in India with around 500 employees. He has built a vast variety of buildings all over India but gained large chunk of success and fame due to his residential projects. He also owns the credit of making a couple of buildings with magnificent heights, The Imperial I and II being the tallest among them all. Other than that he has also designed one of the tallest residential buildings in the world, the 23 Marina in Dubai. Apart from tall towers, Hafeez also gained enough fame for his exuberant cricket stadium designs, railways stations, educational institutes, hotels, hostel blocks and majestic airport terminals with modernistic approach.

CAREER

Hafeez Contractor started working in 1968 as an apprentice with his uncle T. Khareghat while working toward his architecture degree. In 1977, he became an associate partner in the firm.

In 1991, Contractor was enlisted to add buildings to Infosys' Bangalore campus. He went on to design that firm's first software-development park outside Pune, and its corporate educational facility near Mysore His most famous project is Hiranandani Gardens, a township in Powai, a suburb of Mumbai. In 2005, Contractor designed the twin-tower residential skyscraper, The Imperial, whose 254 metre-tall Tower I became the tallest residential buildings in India (with Tower II slightly behind) upon completion in 2010 - a distinction it held until it was displaced by One Avighna Park (266 metre) in 2017. That building was, in turn, displaced by The 42 in Kolkata, which was also designed by Contractor and architecturally topped out at 260m. He also designed 23 Marina in Dubai, which was briefly the world's tallest all-residential building, and is currently third behind the nearby Princess Tower and 432 Park Avenue in New York City.

Contractor's other projects include the domestic terminal at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport and the DY Patil Stadium, which serves as the home stadium for both the Mumbai Indians cricket team and Mumbai City FC football team. He was the architect for Chief Minister

of Telangana's official residence, Pragathi Bhavan completed in November 2016. He has been assigned to design the campus of Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Contractor has referred to the standardized ratings used in Western countries for certifying green buildings as a "joke". In his view, conditions in India require a rating system that takes into account the unique problems faced by that country, such as the loss of farmland.

In a *New York Times* profile he was described as Bollywood's "Starchitect". The article described Contractor's style as having "no signature, save a penchant for glitz." Contractor said of his own work, "You definitely like a woman with lipstick, rouge, eyelashes. So if you make your building more beautiful with some appliques, there's nothing wrong."

Here are the 9 most iconic projects of his creative career:

1. DLF Ericsson

A Technologically advanced company in the field of telecom and electronics was looking to erect a new facility in New Delhi with an architecture that reflected its brand values. The building had to symbolize the dynamism and technology associated with Ericsson. It is located in DLF Cyber City in Gurgaon on the sector road, just off national highway 8. The basic geometry in terms of a number of floors was worked out on a mathematical level. Local building codes and the requirement for a large floor area also worked in tandem to create a low-rise structure. The building designed by Hafeez Contractor offers world-class infrastructure including global connectivity, flexible floor plans, high-speed elevators, and international fire safety standards.

2. Topsia Kolkata

KOLKATA Topsia Post Office,

3. Sarala Birla Academy

Sarala Birla Academy Bannerghatta, Jigni Road Bangalore

4. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology

Dhai Ali Rd, Matok Gohain, Assam

5. Pimpri- Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation Mumbai-Pune Road,

6 .Mahindra World School, New Delhi

7. Aakriti Skypark, Mumbai

8. D Y Patil Sports Stadium

9. 23 Marina Tower, Dubai

23 Marina is an 88-story, 392.8 m (1,289 ft) residential skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It was the world's tallest all-residential building until the completion of the nearby Princess Tower. The tower has 57 swimming pools and each duplex in the tower is equipped with its own private elevator.

The building was 79 percent sold before construction started. The raft was completed on 30 April 2007.



