

ENTREPRENEUR



Avani Shree Kanoria

New-age entrepreneur

■ *Siya Mukerji*

The youth are the future of the world we inhabit; they are representative of what tomorrow holds for the global population. They are the leaders and influencers of the time to come and they shoulder the immense responsibility of ensuring the creation and maintenance of a fair and sustainable world. One such individual, committed to the call of a better world, is Avani Shree Kanoria, Founder Director of Arterra, a real estate and architecture company headquartered in Kolkata, India.

A 2017 graduate of University of Berkeley, California, Avani is a talented, dynamic and young commercial and restaurant architect who stands her ground and puts her best foot forward to achieve what she desires. Post her studies at Berkeley, Avani worked at a retail and restaurant architecture firm in San Francisco and eventually made her way back to her homeland to explore opportunities for such projects in India. During this time, and encouraged from all the

learning and experience that she had under her belt, Avani founded her start-up called Arterra with projects in Mumbai, India and Africa.

On a more personal front, Avani is passionate about food and has culminated this passion into her skills as a plant-based culinary chef. A fan of travelling and having new experiences, Avani believes in taking the extra step and making the effort to draw from all that she has seen and been exposed to and put that to practice in her daily life. She is also an avid fan of adventure sports and driving. Born into a business family, Avani was the first to try her hand and succeed at something outside what she was born into.

Avani, a studious child, found herself inclined to both the technical sciences as well as the creative arts. When the time came to pick her career, determined to find a way to align her affinities, Avani picked the Sustainability course at Berkeley and qualified herself as an Architect. Her journey has had some major ups and downs, but her passion for her work and getting the job done carried her through and helped her cultivate her love for architecture. Addicted to feeling the experience and learning through it, Avani believes that on-site work is only effective way to ensure the success of her work.

Avani is committed to reviving the Architectural tradition of India. She believes that as an architect, she has the responsibility of utilising the rich and vibrant culture of India in her work across the globe. Genuinely committed to her work, Avani believes in establishing a real connection with her projects and gaining knowledge of the true motive and purpose of the project; without which her journey as an architect would be incomplete. Determined to ensure that her projects are sustainable in nature, Avani makes a call of going back to her roots and seeking inspiration from local and historical traditions of building and architecture, in a simplistic and versatile manner.

Determined to leave her footprint on the world, she tries to use all her summers to travel and learn and experience different architectural trends, patterns and cultures across the world. She has worked in Spain, Hongkong, Greece and New York, contributing to her diverse profile and helping her figure out that her passion lay in commercial spaces and work in public spaces.

As for the combination of her profession as an architect and that of her role as a culinary chef, Avani believes that food and architecture are two sides of the same coin; both offer a unique and unforgettable experience. A connoisseur of the Michelin Star experience, Avani dreams of opening her own restaurant that offers complete sensory upliftment to customers and heightens their experience on all fronts. ■

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