

left out? "Not at all," says architect Mohit Gujral, "there is enough work for us both in India and abroad if you are ready to work differently." Well, he should not have a problem: Gujral's hands are full.

Realty experts feel that foreign firms will continue to win projects here, but they will be hired for a limited purpose only. They would design the master plan of projects, while the execution part would continue to be taken care of by their Indian counterparts. Thus you have residential projects like Orchard Country, Sun City, Malibu Towne, Nirvana Country and Karma Lakelands that boast of international civil engineers and architects.

Many developers, in fact, draw in from a pool of international architecture firms. Emaar MGF has in its pool SRSS Architects from Singapore and Bentel Associates from South Africa for its various projects in India. Some developers hire multiple design firms for a single project. Unitech, for instance, has 10 global architecture and design consultants for the \$3 billion super luxury housing project Unitech Grande in Noida expressway. Names include U.S. based mall designer Callison, landscape

artists SWA and EDAW, U.K's RMJM for architecture and interiors and HOK for floor plans, besides Australian golfer Greg Norman to design the course around which the project has been built. Likewise, the villas in Ansal API's 5,000-acre Sushant Golf City in Lucknow has been designed by New Zealand's Woodham Meikle Zhan Architects Ltd, the golf course by Martin Hawtree and landscaping by Thailand-based KTGY.

Indeed, there are many advantages of flying in foreign architects and planners. However, there are some problems as well. For one, "foreign architects do not understand the complexities of doing business in India. They do not understand tax laws, cultural sensitivities and building bylaws," says Narinder Harshe, a civil engineer working for Design Plus Architects. Adds Dr Nazma Rizvi from the School of Planning and Architecture, "Global firms are definitely good when it comes to designing projects. However, on occasions, the initial designs done by them don't make any sense. Finally, Indian architects have to enter the scene to undo the damage." House that?



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— Compiled by **Shuchi Jain**  
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