

## India's Modern Architectural Wonders

The country's forthcoming wave of slick contemporary architecture is a potent symbol of its rocketing economy

<http://www.businessweek.com/inno...972.htm?chan=search>

India's rise as a 21st century global economic force is mirrored in a new building boom of corporate campuses, shopping malls, movie studios, and skyscrapers, many of which reflect a growing trend of sustainable architecture. Just as the classic Indian wonders of the world "from the elegant Taj Mahal to the spectacular temples at Khajuraho" evoke a characteristically South Asian style, India's newest wonders distinguish themselves from other nations' contemporary building types.

[ Last edited by changabula at 2007-6-22 12:06 AM ]



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Courtesy Tata Consultancy Services

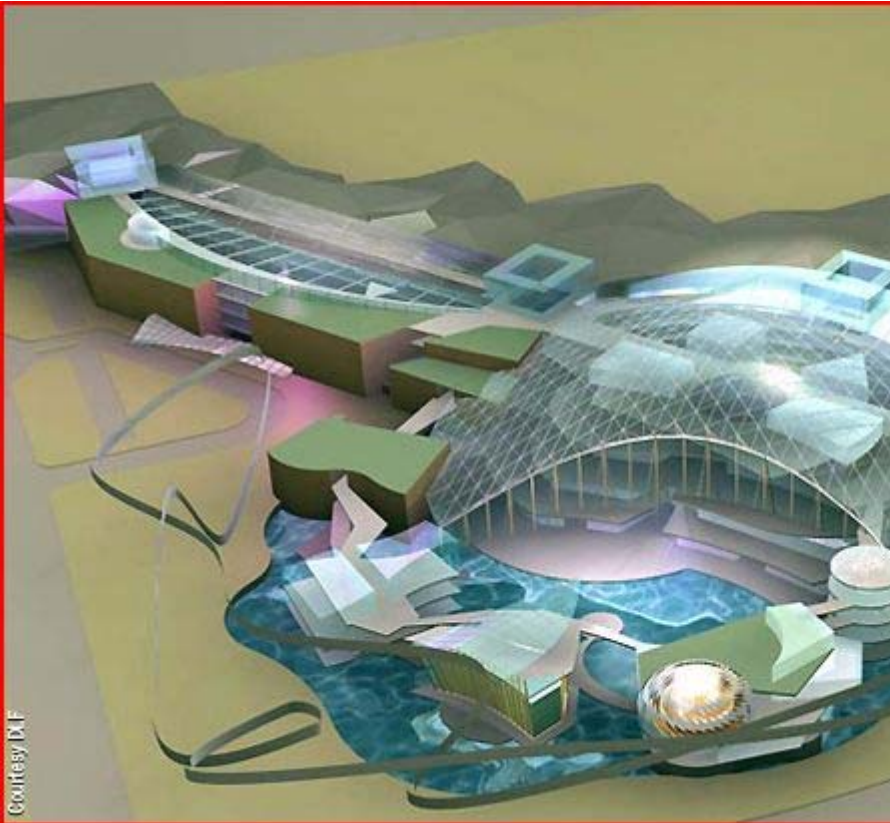
## Modern Wonders of India

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International powerhouse

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Courtesy DLF


## **Mall of India, scheduled to be completed by 2007**

Gurgaon

Developed by DLF

The Mall of India will sprawl over 3.6 million sq. ft. and house stores, cafes, movie theaters, and indoor and outdoor amusement parks. While not as large as the Dubai Mall, this promises to be one of the planet's largest, and the biggest in India. Its organic, rather than linear, floor plan suggests natural, undulating landscapes.

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## Siruseri Techno Park, to be completed by 2007

Chennai

Carlos Ott, architect

This corporate campus for Tata Consultancy Services—designed by Carlos Ott, the noted Uruguayan architect of Paris's Bastille Opera—will house up to 20,000 workers. Its 12 glassy buildings rely on natural light. The step-like structure evokes traditional South Indian temples, and the tower will be the highest in southern India.

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## Wipro Technologies Development Center,


Gurgaon

Vidur Bhardwaj, architect

Wipro's new home in Gurgaon promises to be the largest platinum-rated green building in Asia. The design will play on the traditional Indian courtyard-house structure of the haveli. The courtyard will be shaded to keep it cool, and the water pool in its center will also cool the air and thus reduce power usage.

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## **Bandra-Worli Sealink, to be completed 2007**

Bombay

Dar Consultants (India)

This set of cable-suspension bridges will span a total of 850 meters. The Sealink should cut commuting time between congested Bombay and its suburbs by 40 minutes. Although not one of the world's longest, the Sealink is still notable because it paves the way for more contemporary bridges to be built, altering India's urban landscapes.

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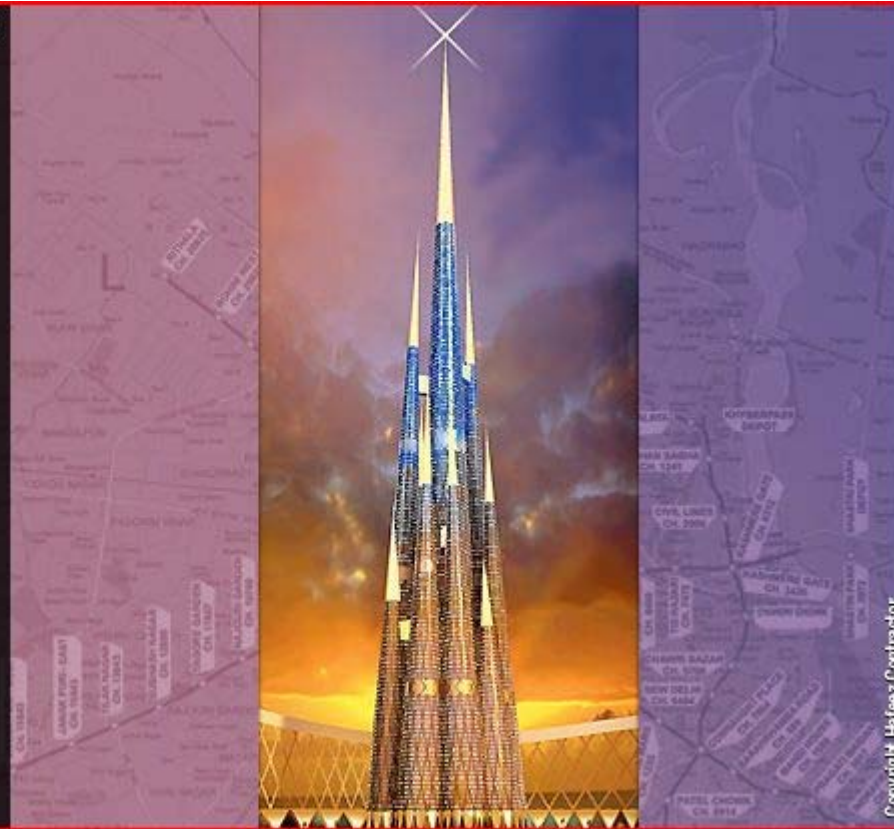
## Noida Tower, scheduled to be completed 2008


Noida

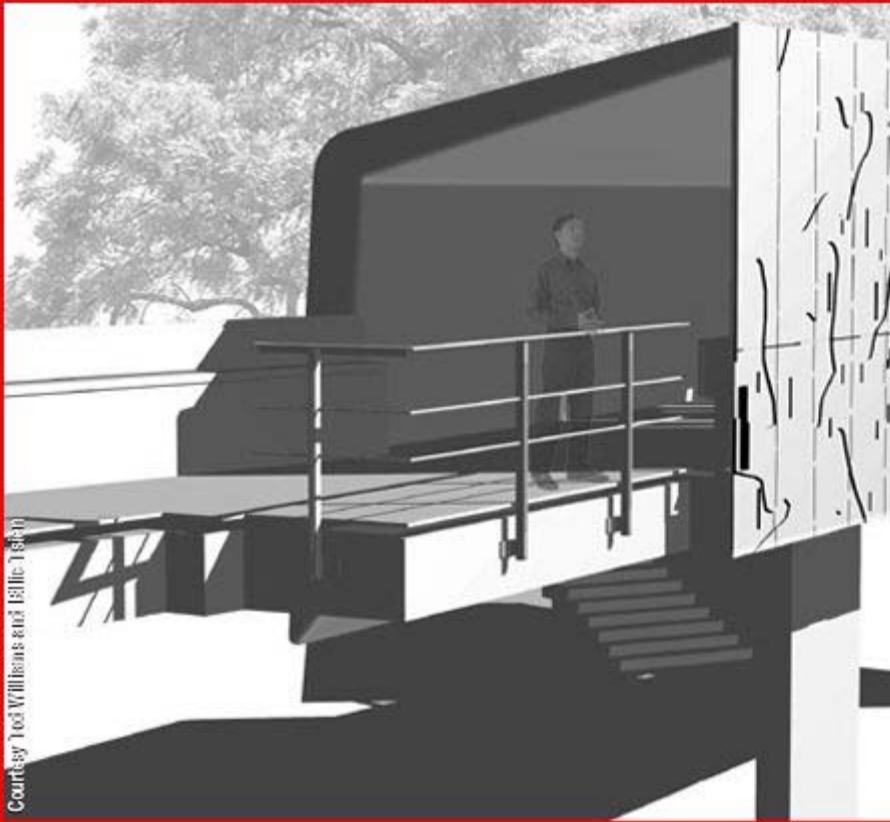
Designed by Hafeez Contractor

The early renderings for this 2,330-ft. skyscraper, which will vie for the title of world's tallest, feature a conical silhouette rather than the more traditional rectangular one. While its flamboyance has drawn criticism, the Noida Tower attempts to establish a new style of super tall building, differentiating it from angular paradigms.

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Courtesy: Tod Williams and Billie Tsien


## Tata Consultancy Services Campus, to be completed 2010

Bombay

Designed by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien

This office complex features eco-friendly elements that also incorporate traditional Indian design. Seen here is an abstract, angular update of the jali, a carved sunshade that's both decorative and functional. The campus will also feature shaded, open-air walkways for ventilation. Buildings will be built around existing Banyan trees to preserve the landscape.

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## Infosys Global Education Center, 2005

Mysore

Various architects

This 270-acre corporate campus really is a campus in the traditional, educational sense—12,000 to 15,000 Infosys employees can be trained here each year, making it the world's largest IT education center. The complex is also home to India's biggest gym and a cricket pitch that some Indian journalists argue is the best in the nation.

Read: Modern Wonders of India

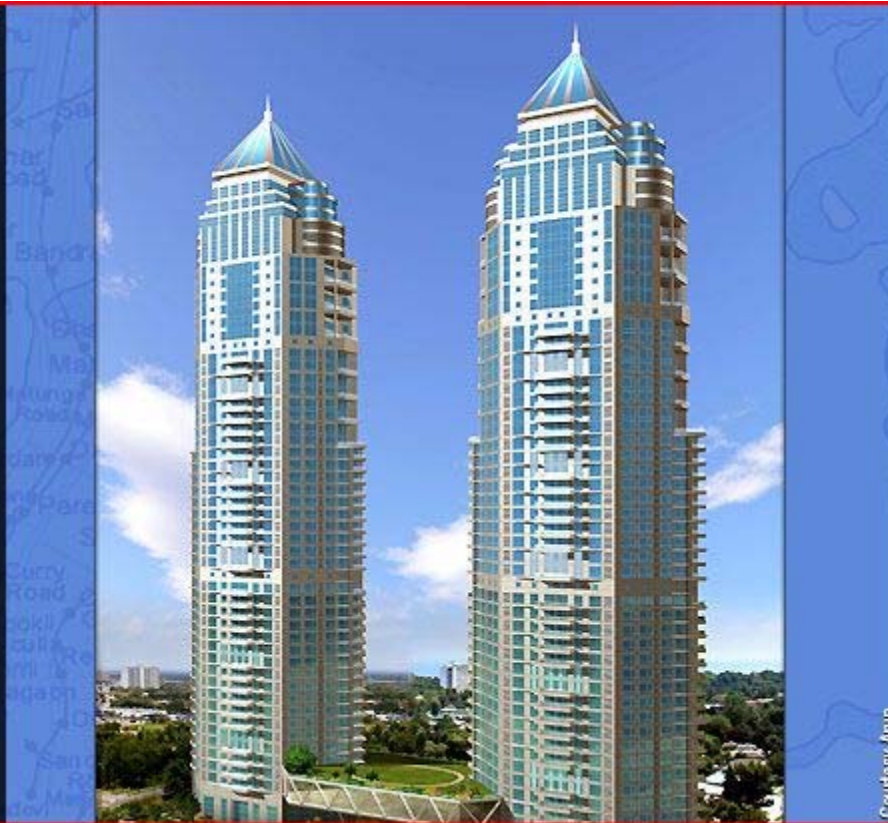
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## SD Towers, to be completed 2007


Arup and Hafeez Contractor  
Bombay

These 60-story twins will be India's highest-reaching residential towers. But because Bombay is prone to humidity, heat, intense wind pressure, and heavy rains, Arup's engineers designed a facade with extra-sturdy aluminum extrusions to protect the buildings. The abundance of glass windows also provides natural light for the apartments, reducing overall energy usage.

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Courtesy Arup

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## Ramoji Film City, 1996 to present day


Various designers  
Hyderabad

Last year, Ramoji Film City was officially recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as Earth's biggest movie-studio complex. Now 10 years old, the site has been growing over the years and spans 1,666 acres to house 47 sound stages. A whopping 40 Bollywood films can be made simultaneously at Ramoji.

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Courtesy Ramoji Film City

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## Environmental Township Pune, to be completed by 2016

Pune

Chris Lee Architects/ Kapil Gupta

This approved urban plan for a "green" township features buildings oriented to minimize sun exposure—and air conditioning bills. Half of the roofs will be equipped with solar panels. The township's 15,000 residents will be encouraged to walk in a pedestrian-friendly street layout, to cut down on carbon emissions and promote health.

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Author: changabula Time: 2007-6-22 01:29 AM

## Swaminarayan Akshardham

(an imposing cultural monument on the banks of the Yamuna in New Delhi)

The monument is built on a 100-acre complex that showcases Indian art, culture and values. It combines traditional stone art and architecture, Indian culture and civilization, ancient values and wisdom and the best of modern technology.

The main monument is a marvel in pink sandstone and white marble that is 141 feet high, 316 feet wide and 370 feet long. Designed and sculpted entirely


according to the ancient Indian sthapati shastras (ancient architectural practices), it is built to last thousands of years, profusely carved with 234 ornate pillars, over 20,000 murtis (idols) of deities and rishis, and delicate statues and statuettes, decorative arches and layers of sculpted Indian flora and fauna, reviving authentic Hindu carvings. The monument rises on the shoulders of 148 huge stone elephants, depicting ancient tales from the Purans and Panchtantra. And like a necklace, a double-storied parikrama (verandah) of red sandstone encircles the monument, with over 155 samrans (pyramidal roof) and 1,160 pillars.

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Indian Contributions to American and Global Progress