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In conversation with FAUZIA QURESHI, SEN KAPADIA,
NEERU KUMAR, SEBASTIAN WRONG

BONDS OF THE BEST

ALL IN THE FAMILY

The toughest job in the world is that of a parent, especially when it comes to introducing kids to many firsts that will form the core of what they will grow up to be. For some, it may be more challenging as they have to play one additional role: First boss. As an offbeat celebration in a month that cherishes lifelong relationships, here are nine unconditional love stories of creatives and their offspring, who have followed in their folks' influential path and have never looked back since

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 PHOTOGRAPHS AND SELFIES COURTESY **THE ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS**

DIKSHU & CP KUKREJA



From Above The Kukrejas, a box office success at work; Gautam Buddha University in Noida, Dikshu's vision from start to finish

CP Kukreja started Kukreja Associates 45 years ago in New Delhi, after spending a lot of time abroad working in Canada and Australia – charting out a natural course to pursue for his son Dikshu. Today, they are colleagues at the same company, bringing up some of the best commercial complexes in the country. “We function just like a Bollywood film,” says Dikshu, matter-of-factly. “There is excitement on starting a project, action on moving it fast, arguments when it does not go as planned, camaraderie to make it happen and a happy ending when it is all over.” When the son needs to reignite his creative spark, he often goes back to his father’s iconic creations like the renovation of the Delhi Gymkhana Club and



restoration of the former palace of Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir (which now operates as the Oberoi Hotel in Srinagar). “Both required a strong contextual understanding, and were great learning experiences,” he summarises.

THE SCION ABOUT CP

“Dad is a tough cookie. In spite of being a hard taskmaster, he adores and cares for me like no one else.”

“Jawaharlal Nehru University is a fantastic eco system. Built by him, JNU is a perfect harmony of structure and landscape. Green buildings may be all the rage now; but this was designed as an eco-friendly structure, nearly four decades ago.”

THE SUPERDAD ABOUT DIKSHU

“Gautam Buddha University in Noida is his best. In many ways, it strongly represents the design values that I have long believed including creating a contextual architecture and making a place that can foster invigorating academic pursuit. At the same time, it was totally different to the creation of Jawaharlal Nehru University. While JNU due to government funding was developed slowly over decades, GBU was transformed with a built-up area of 75 lakh sq ft, built within three and a half years.”

“We function just like a Bollywood film” - Dikshu

DECOR EXCLUSIVE

RAHUL & IM KADRI

With an enriching career pieced together over five decades, a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the highest stained glass mural and bringing up memorable structures in India and the world over, IM Kadri could not be more proud of the legacy he has built. His son, Rahul, has always been his wide-eyed willing student, following in his footsteps and helping his father steer his eponymous firm in the right direction. Rahul's source of constant learning stems from his Dad's "sharp intellect, wide knowledge and vast experience". "To be able to zero down on what is important...to know who to involve in certain projects – he is rarely ever wrong," points out the son.

THE SCION ABOUT IM

"Fort Aguada Resort in Goa is Dad's best. Built in 1973, it was the first of the eco friendly kind in India. It was planned so that the buildings



From Above The Kadris share a laugh; Fort Aguada Beach Resort in Goa, a vision of inspiration for Rahul



were lower in height than the stately palms that fringed the beach."

"He was a skilled batsman. I love watching a game of tennis or cricket together. We often catch up on old cricket reruns in the evenings and unwind. Also, he loves chocolate and will often have some in the middle of the night!"

THE SUPERDAD ABOUT RAHUL

"I am proud of his townships. His ability to blend environmental, social and economical ideas to create

places that people love has left me impressed."

"I have gotten my love for nature and environmentally friendly design from him. We have been doing green buildings, since the '60s and it is rooted in our DNA."

"We often catch up on old cricket reruns in the evenings and unwind" - Rahul



From Above The Shroffs ride to their ritual Ripon Club lunch; A sea facing terrace with patchwork floor lighting built by Rummy and Kayzad



KAYZAD, ROOSHAD & RUMY SHROFF

Had Rummy not decided to return to India post his studies in the University of Michigan, US, the green card holder would have served in the Vietnam War. Since then, he has lived a life of no regrets and fulfilled his wish of being a self-employed, successful architect. Inspired by his free will and infectious energy, his sons Kayzad and Rooshad have carved a niche for themselves. When the trio work together, mercury can hit either ends of the thermometer depending on the situation – sometimes everyone is on par, other times fiery debates ensue. That said, there will all come to consensus on one occasion. "We ensure our two hour Ripon Club lunches are unperturbed, especially on Wednesdays over *dhan-sak*," asserts Rooshad.

THE SCIONS ABOUT RUMY

"Behind the stern exterior lies a humble, compassionate soul," says Kayzad. "After an argument, he's calm and forgiving later, like nothing happened. I wish I could do that more often!" adds Rooshad.

"One of his best works is our

beach house," recalls Kayzad. "The individual rooms around elevated courtyards make for super interesting spaces." Rooshad says, "His greatest design is a tiny puzzle We used to play with it as kids, made using three pieces of wood that play with proportions and colours."

THE SUPERDAD ABOUT KAYZAD & ROOSHAD

"Rooshad is a perfectionist. He has a new found appreciation for traditional skilled crafts and utilises them in contemporary ways. So far, his best has been the Christian Louboutin Boutique in Bangkok." **"I admire Kayzad's professional integrity.** I am awe of his obsession for respecting time and commitment. Some of his best works have been the addition to Nasir Husain's house and the home of (actor) Imran Khan."

When the trio work together, mercury can hit either ends of the thermometer...