



WINDOW & FACADE MAGAZINE

NAVIGATING THE COMPETITIVE EDGE: INNOVATIONS & CHALLENGES IN INDIA'S HARDWARE INDUSTRY

BALANCING AESTHETICS & PERFORMANCE IN
ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE

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Selecting the Right Architectural Hardware for Your Project



Sunroom serenity: Expanding living space in a Los Altos residence

The choice of architectural hardware plays a crucial role in the overall design, functionality, and aesthetic appeal of any building project. Whether it's a residential home, office space, retail store, or hospitality venue, the right selection of hardware for doors, windows, skylights, and façades can make all the difference. In this article, we'll explore the latest trends and considerations when choosing architectural hardware for various types of projects.

In residential projects, the hardware selection process prioritises creating a warm, inviting, and personalised space that reflects the homeowner's unique style. While achieving an aesthetically pleasing look is important, functionality and durability remain equally crucial considerations. Popular trends in residential hardware include minimalist and streamlined designs offered in finishes like matte black, brushed nickel, or aged brass. For enhanced convenience and security, smart locks and keyless entry systems are becoming increasingly popular choices. To ensure a cohesive visual flow throughout the home, customised hardware suites are gaining traction. Additionally, energy-

efficient options like low-E coatings on windows and skylights are being incorporated to promote sustainability and cost savings.

For office environments, hardware must prioritise functionality, security, and durability to withstand constant use. However, aesthetics can't be ignored, as the chosen hardware should align with the company's brand and culture. Popular trends include high-performance

hardware like heavy-duty commercial-grade locks and door closers that ensure smooth operation and reliable security. To achieve a modern look, sleek and modern lever handles in finishes like stainless steel or chrome are popular choices. Additionally, integrated access control systems that work with employee badges or smartphones offer enhanced security and convenience. Finally, sound-proof interior glass partitions with concealed hardware create an open and collaborative atmosphere while maintaining acoustic privacy.

In retail stores, hardware plays a critical role in creating an inviting atmosphere for customers while simultaneously prioritising security to safeguard inventory. The chosen hardware should also complement the store's overall branding and effectively display merchandise. To achieve this balance, retailers consider durable and tamper-resistant door locks and hinges for security. Storefront window displays can be transformed & product visibility enhanced through creative use of hardware like hanging systems and standoffs. Additionally, ADA-compliant door handles and push bars ensure



Hardware should prioritise a luxurious and comfortable feel

Architectural Hardware

accessibility for all customers. Finally, for unique displays, specialty hardware like ladder racks or wire suspension systems can be employed to efficiently organise and present merchandise.

In the hospitality industry, hardware should prioritise a luxurious and comfortable feel that fosters guest trust. Functionality and ease of maintenance are equally important. To achieve this, hotels are increasingly opting for electronic RFID card locks for guest room doors, offering both convenience and security.

Elegant door levers and knobs in classic finishes like polished brass or oil-rubbed bronze enhance the aesthetic appeal. Additionally, concealed door closers and hinges maintain a clean, streamlined look, while decorative hardware on armoires, minibars, and bathroom fixtures elevates the overall guest experience.

Across all types of projects, there is a growing emphasis on hardware that promotes hygiene, such as hands-free or antimicrobial options. Sustainability is another key consideration, with a preference

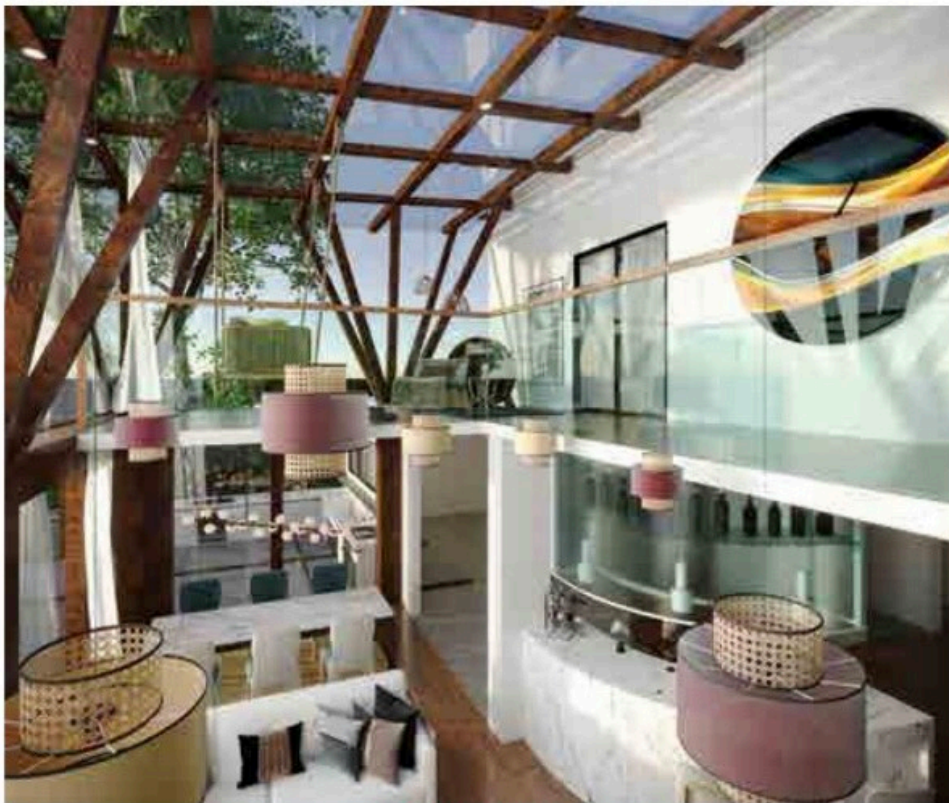
for hardware made from recycled materials or that enables energy efficiency.

Ultimately, the best architectural hardware seamlessly blends form and function. It should support the overall design intent, meet performance requirements, and leave a lasting positive impression on those who interact with the space. By staying attuned to the latest hardware technologies and design trends, architects and designers can select options that are a perfect fit for their project's needs.

Case Study

Sunroom Serenity: Expanding Living Space in a Los Altos Residence

Los Altos, California



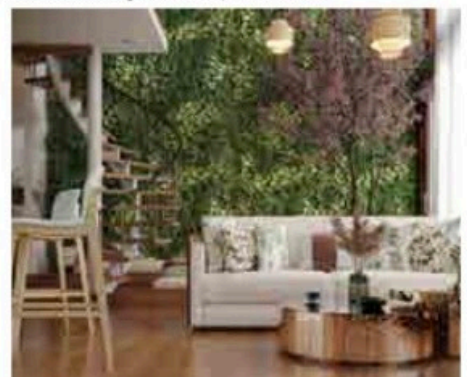
The grand sunroom

Nestled amidst the rolling hills and lush pastures of Los Altos, California, a charming residence recently underwent a remarkable transformation. The home, belonging

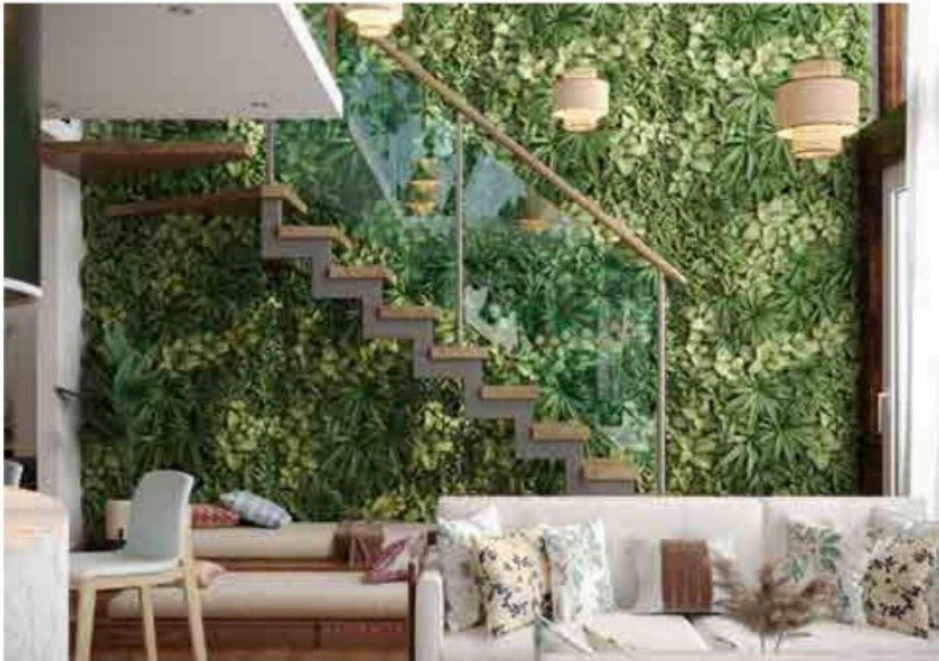
to a senior stakeholder and their family of four, was blessed with ample outdoor space but lacked sufficient interior living areas to fully accommodate their lifestyle. Shailja Awasthi of Shailja Awasthi: Sublime

Spaces and Places was entrusted with the task of reimagining the home, focusing on creating a spacious and inviting environment that would seamlessly blend with its picturesque surroundings.

At the heart of the renovation was the creation of a grand sunroom addition. Awasthi and her team extended the existing structure, crafting a soaring 20-foot ceiling that immediately established a sense of openness and grandeur. This light-filled space now serves as a multifunctional hub, effortlessly accommodating a cozy living area, informal gathering spot, dining nook, outdoor bar, and a quaint library alcove. The sunroom's expansive windows and glass doors create a seamless connection to the outdoors, inviting the beauty of the surrounding landscape inside.



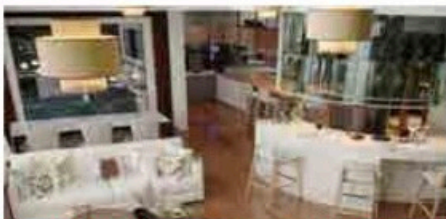
Architectural Hardware



A sculptural staircase of steel and glass

One of the most striking features of the sunroom is its dramatic vaulted ceiling, adorned with exposed wood trusses. Awasthi drew inspiration from the majestic trees that populate the property, mimicking their natural forms and positioning in the ceiling's design. A gentle slope was incorporated into the roofline, adding visual interest while ensuring proper drainage. The result is a space that feels organic and harmonious as if it has always been a part of the home's fabric.

Adjacent to the sunroom, the kitchen underwent a stunning metamorphosis. Awasthi and her team incorporated professional-grade appliances, a spacious central island perfect for casual meals and food preparation, and a convenient walk-in pantry to keep essentials organised and out of sight. The kitchen flows effortlessly into a formal dining area, which in turn opens onto the sunroom, creating an ideal layout for entertaining and family gatherings.



The kitchen underwent a stunning metamorphosis

To further enhance the home's functionality and charm, a sculptural staircase of steel and glass was introduced, connecting the sunroom to the upper level. Here, a delightful play zone awaits, featuring a whimsical built-in swing that adds a touch of playfulness and invites relaxation while taking in the treetop views.

Throughout the renovation, Awasthi skillfully balanced luxurious and rustic elements, creating a space that feels both sophisticated and warmly inviting. Polished stone and rich woods are juxtaposed with raw concrete floors and unfinished wood beams, resulting in a harmonious blend of textures and finishes that perfectly complements the home's pastoral setting.

The completed Los Altos residence stands as a testament to Awasthi's keen eye for detail, innovative use of materials, and client-centric approach. By thoughtfully expanding the living spaces, incorporating inspired design elements, and forging a strong connection to the outdoors, Awasthi has transformed this once modest dwelling into a true oasis for its delighted inhabitants. The home now serves as a stunning example of how careful planning, creative vision, and a deep understanding of a client's needs can result in a living space that exceeds all expectations.



SHAILJA AWASTHI

Founder and Principal,
Shailja Awasthi: Sublime Spaces and Places

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shailja Awasthi, Founder and Principal of Shailja Awasthi: Sublime Spaces and Places is an acclaimed interior designer, lifestyle products creator, and visual storyteller, who creates spaces that speak about the people who live and work in them. Nominated as one of the top 10 designers in India by Business World in 2018, Shailja is a one-of-a-kind creative force to be reckoned with. Her attention to detail is unparalleled when it comes to the creation of stunning designs, interiors, and décor. The same is visible in a decade-long experience with 250 successful luxury projects. Her design ethos is inspired by nature, science, art, mythology, and technology. She believes it is imperative to push boundaries and challenge established rules when it comes to all her work.