

4,6&7. Frames and doors from Greenlam's Mikasa brand are strong, fire-rated and maintenance-friendly.

5. Parul Mittal, director, Greenlam Industries.



experiences hot weather throughout the year. Contemporary architecture is popularising the use of ultra large format porcelain slabs in façade applications. Being durable and light in weight, the slabs can be installed with utmost ease. Being less porous makes them resistant to moisture and heat as well as keeps them stain free – lowering the maintenance needs and increasing sustainability.”

Amit Shah, managing director, Classic Marble Company, too, highlights the positive aspects of this cladding material – which is now being produced, thanks to technology, as large single units that are light and ergonomic. “The function of a façade is to protect a building from external conditions that affect a structure, thereby increasing its lifespan and reducing maintenance. With high resistance to water, dust and heat, porcelain tiles address the most common issues associated with tropical weather and are the best solution for façade installations,” he says. “Besides this, the products are totally fire resistant, nonflammable and UV resistant.”

#### OPEN AND SHUT CASES

Doors and windows are an important part of façades and have to be chosen carefully with regard to the climate. Parul Mittal, director, Greenlam Industries, feels, “India is home to a variety of climatic regions, and it is hard to choose doors and windows that are durable and will last long in a variety



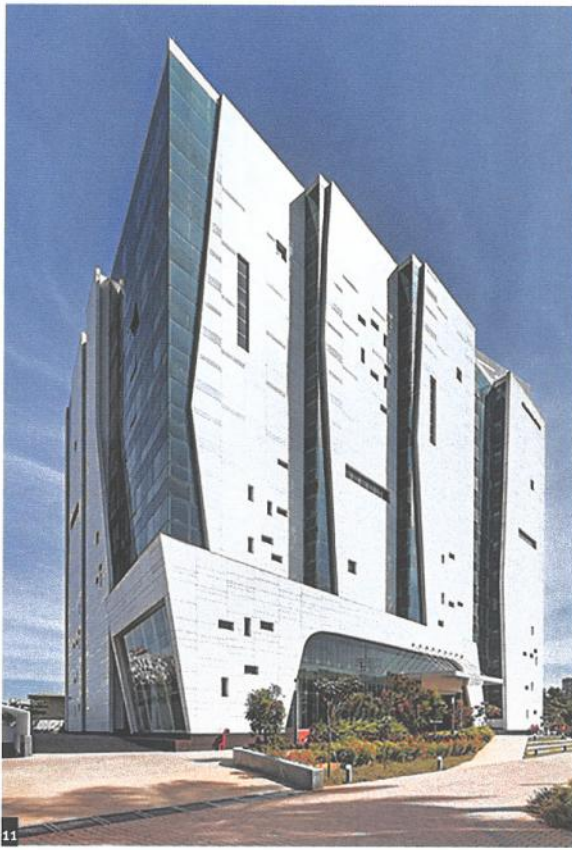


8. Dr. Prashanth Reddy, MD, FunderMax India.

9. Piyush Srivastava, national façades manager, Schueco.

10. Schueco's VentoLife air purification system.

11. Sattva project by FunderMax.



of weather conditions. Houses built in a tropical climate require doors which can resist high temperature." Keeping this in mind, installing products that are capable of withstanding these kinds of onslaught seems wise. A frontrunner in this segment are Dura doorsets from Greenlam Industries' Mikasa brand. "The Dura doorset is a function of five layers of tubular core and a 6-side protection that shields the doors from the hostile weather and makes them apt for both, residential and commercial ecosystems," elucidates Mittal.

### TALL CHALLENGES

While India may be blessed with abundant natural light throughout the year, most of it is wasted because buildings, especially tall structures, are exposed to glare issues due to excessive light. Furthermore, studies have shown that productivity of people in our country is affected due to poor conditions of visual comfort. Dr.Reddy explains, "Tall buildings are exposed to climatic extremities and, hence, designing a façade for taller structures is a relatively challenging task. It involves detailed structural calculations revolving around the wind load requirement. This is also to help withstand the current spate of floods and cyclones. Ignorance or wrong calculations may lead to weak installations, thereby running the risk of damage and injury. The ideal façade system in tall buildings must be able to accommodate building movements, and they should have a hard surface for high-impact resistance. Additionally, the smog and silica particles may cause visual defects and, hence, the material should also have anti-graffiti properties."

