

## **Riddhi Parakh**

Working as an Architect in an Architecture and Design firm called Gensler; Riddhi Parakh has fulfilled her and her parents dream. Riddhi smiles at the number of things that make her feel warm and proud, one of them being the fact that she completed her Masters in Architecture and Urbanism from Architectural Association in London.

Riddhi is a part of family of four, born in Pune and is now currently in London and has been there for past 5 years.

She never faced any particular difficulties being a woman and that's only and only because her parents were always very supportive. They believe that education is the most important thing in life and they themselves went through a lot to make sure that Riddhi and her brother studied in the best institutions. Her parents made her an extremely independent woman since she was very young and let her try everything in life and learn from her own experiences.

Before talking about anything else and before sharing the details of her struggle so far and her success story, Riddhi is eager to talk about whatever Lila Poonawalla Foundation has done for her. In particular, she is keen on talking about Lila Mom and Firoz Dad who have been instrumental in her success, professionally as well as personally. She has mentioned that "Apart from the scholarship I received for my higher studies in London, Mom and Dad always kept in touch, came to meet me when they were in London and always encouraged me to go ahead in life". She is extremely fortunate to have such mentors to look up to. Riddhi dedicated whatever little she had achieved in life so far to her parents, her brother, Lila Mom and Firoz Dad for their unprecedented support always.

Through the course of her educational journey, there were many things that did not seem to be in Riddhi's favor. Yet, things somehow seemed to work out for the best, making her the working professional she is today. She is working with one of the biggest design firms in the world with about 5000 employees and offices in 43 locations around the world. Mostly she works on

hospitality projects but is expertise in Digital Architecture and has worked extensively on facade design using smart computational design tools.

**Recently she won an award for Best Conceptual Project category for her project “London Underline” in the London Planning Awards 2015 which are hosted by Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Apart from that Riddhi has been selected for the emerging leadership program called “NextGen” by Gensler where they select 24 candidates from across all the offices for a 6 month training program in the USA for young leaders.**

Her only strong message to the girls is “Never let go of your dreams and ambitions. It might not be easy but it’s never impossible. If you really like something and want to do something, do it irrespective of what obstacles you might face because in the end it will all be worth it”.