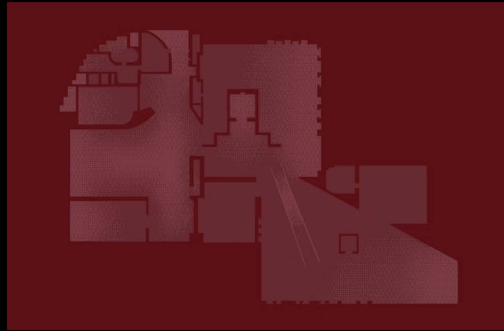




Kenneth Hopkins · 16 hours ago · 3 min read

Contextures at TARQ: Ranjit Hoskote Curates RMA Architects — What to Expect [Explained]



One of Mumbai's most respected art galleries has handed its walls to an architecture practice — and hired the city's foremost cultural theorist to make sense of it. Contextures: RMA and The Practice of Embedded Architecture opened at TARQ on July 15 and runs to August 21, and the pairing is more pointed than it looks.

Contextures — RMA and The Practice of Embedded Architecture opened with a preview on July 15, 2026, 6-9 pm, at TARQ, KK (Navsari) Chambers, 39 AK Nayak Marg, Fort, Mumbai, and remains on view through August 21, 2026. The exhibition is curated by poet and cultural theorist Ranjit Hoskote and presented with the Thackersey Foundation and the Architecture Foundation, examining the work of RMA Architects — the practice founded by Rahul Mehrotra — through the lens of what it calls embedded architecture: building that grows out of its social, climatic, and historical context rather than being imposed on it.

The curator is the argument. Hoskote curating an architecture show is a statement that RMA's work should be read as cultural practice, not portfolio — the way a biennale reads art. Mehrotra is the rare Indian architect with equal standing in academia (long tenure at Harvard's GSD) and on the ground (from conservation work to projects engaging Mumbai's informal city), and embedded architecture is essentially his career thesis given exhibition form. TARQ hosting it extends the gallery's decade-long pattern of programming beyond market-friendly painting — and with the Architecture Foundation involved, this reads as a deliberate push to give Mumbai the serious public architecture discourse that usually stays locked inside academic conferences.

Architecture exhibitions almost never get gallery real estate in India — there's no object to sell, so commercial spaces rarely bother. When one happens with this pedigree, it becomes the season's talking point for the design community and a template others copy. If footfall is strong, expect more Indian galleries to test architecture and design programming, and expect Contextures to travel in some form — the material is too institutionally credible to live for five weeks only.

The poster's plan-drawing motif — those fragmenting room outlines dissolving into cracks and root-like lines — is itself the thesis rendered graphically: architecture breaking out of the neat plan and bleeding into context. And note what the title withholds: no building images, no project names on the invite. A practice that has built landmark projects is being introduced through an abstract diagram, which tells you Hoskote's show is about the idea of practice, not a greatest-hits display of finished buildings.

Quick Facts

- On view: July 15 - August 21, 2026 (preview was July 15, 6-9 pm)
- Venue: TARQ, KK (Navsari) Chambers, 39 AK Nayak Marg, Fort, Mumbai 400001
- Curator: Ranjit Hoskote
- Subject: RMA Architects (founded by Rahul Mehrotra) and embedded architecture
- Partners: Thackersey Foundation, Architecture Foundation
- Access: Free gallery entry during TARQ's regular hours

FAQs

What is Contextures at TARQ about?

It examines the work of RMA Architects through the idea of embedded architecture — buildings shaped by their social, climatic, and historical context. It is curated by Ranjit Hoskote.

How long is Contextures on view?

The exhibition runs from July 15 to August 21, 2026, at TARQ in Fort, Mumbai. Gallery entry is free.

Who is behind RMA Architects?

RMA Architects was founded by Rahul Mehrotra, an architect and urbanist known for conservation work, civic projects, and his academic career at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Why is an art gallery showing architecture?

TARQ, with the Thackersey Foundation and the Architecture Foundation, is positioning architecture as cultural practice worth exhibiting — a rarity in India, where commercial galleries seldom host non-saleable architecture shows.

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