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JANUARY 2026

TREND REPORT 2026

Your guide to
design's biggest
moves this year

IN CONVERSATION
WITH ARCHITECT
DIANA KELLOGG

INSIDE
A COLOURFUL
CHENNAI
APARTMENT

RNI No. DE/ENG / 2006 / 20557. Not for sale. To be
circulated free with India Today in Mumbai, Delhi &
NCR, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata. *Supplement
to India Today issue dated January 26, 2026

UPDATED GREEN DREAM

Biophilia, says **Amit Aurora**, is becoming deeply integrated into architecture, beyond just adding houseplants in 2026



NATURE STUDY
(clockwise) A biophilic experience centre designed for comfort and clarity; House of Verandahs, Delhi; the groupDCA studio in Gurgaon

Photograph by SHARIK VERMA



Photograph by NIVEDITAA GUPTA

Biophilic design is no longer limited to an aesthetic overlay and is now approached as a holistic framework that informs relationships between people, climate, material and spatial behaviour. For me and especially at groupDCA, biophilia has consistently been treated as a performance-driven concept. It begins with a building's response to context. Light is shaped by depth and orientation, air is guided through courtyards and transitional spaces and materials are chosen for thermal comfort, ageing and longevity. These strategies draw from vernacular intelligence, not as stylistic reference, but as systems shaped by long-term environmental understanding, reinterpreted through contemporary construction methods, regulatory frameworks and programme demands. Across typologies, we continue to



Photograph by JEETIN SHARMA

design spaces as ecosystems rather than sealed volumes, where verandahs and shaded terraces play a critical role in enhancing comfort while reducing reliance on mechanical systems.

An important evolution in biophilic design lies in its influence on movement and behaviour. Fragmented planning, layered circulation and indoor-outdoor spill-outs encourage slower transitions, intuitive gathering and moments of pause. These spatial cues shape how people navigate buildings, supporting focus in workplaces, social exchange in hospitality environments and retreat in residential settings. Material choices prioritise locally sourced, durable finishes that age gracefully, while visual connections to gardens, water bodies and open skies are carefully choreographed to reduce stress and enhance focus. These engagements with nature remain subtle yet continuous, embedded into everyday routines and allowing spaces to respond to seasonal shifts and changing patterns of occupation.

Technology supports this approach through environmental simulations, performance modelling and detailing that strengthen our relationship with nature rather than replacing it with superficial treatments. For us, biophilia is not a trend to adopt, but a lens through which architecture becomes more resilient, adaptive and human. As the built environment faces increasing ecological pressures, this approach remains central to how we design and continue to evolve our practice responsibly.



Amit Aurora is Partner and Principal Architect at groupDCA, a vanguard of contemporary Indian design, shaping architectural narratives for nearly three decades
www.groupdca.in