

Building a name for themselves

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IT WAS CELEBRATION TIME for members of the builder fraternity as they were showered with laurels at the Realty Plus Excellence Awards 2011 last week. This event was the last in the series of similar events held in Bengaluru and Delhi. Member of Parliament Sanjay Dina Patil, graced the occasion along with leading Mumbai developers.

The Mumbai event began with a CEO Forum themed Vision 2100-Imagine the Future Of Our World where CEOs of leading construction firms participated with their views and visions for the future of the realty sector. On the panel were leading builders like Lakshman Bhagatani, CMD, Jaycee Homes, Manju Yagnik, vice-chairperson, Nahar Group, Uday Dharmadhikari, CEO, Usha Breco Realty Pvt Ltd and others.

Speaking at the forum, Yangik said, "It's time India's construction standards touched global levels. With a deficit of 25 million homes in India, there is immense potential for growth of the housing sector. If we want to make Mumbai a truly modern city we need to clear the 6,500 acres of land that's now occupied by slums and old structures. Clearing land for redevelopment, promoting sustainable technologies in housing and creating better infrastructure will help build the city of our dreams." The topic shifted to the increasing use of technology and sustainability in real estate. On this issue Lakshman Bhagatani said, "We might have to reclaim land from the sea in the future like it happened in Dubai: The skyscrapers might tower 500 storeys while we may be able to convert sea water into potable water at meager cost. Solar energy might become the primary source of energy."

Talking on the matter of realty attaining maturity in India, Uday

Dharmadhikari, CEO, Usha Breco Realty Pvt Ltd opined, "Compared to other industries, real estate is still in its nascent stage. Our vision should be to provide housing for all, irrespective of the people's income or status. I would like to suggest to the government to give us TDR incentives when we construct in the far flung suburbs. This will promote affordable housing."

The interesting panel discussion was followed by the awards. The winners were shortlisted on a stringent validation and the outstanding performers were ultimately declared as worthy winners. Pallonji Mistry was awarded with the lifetime achievement award for exemplary contribution to the Indian real estate sector. The Popular Choice Developer of the Year award in residential category was awarded to Hiranandani Developers and The Phoenix Mills was awarded the Developer of the Year award in the retail category. Kanakia Spaces was awarded with Developer of the Year in the commercial segment. The title of Luxury Project of the Year was given to Orbit Arya. Suzlon One Earth by Synefra E & C Ltd was chosen as the most Environment Friendly Project of the Year. The Young Achiever's Award was given to Sarang Wadhawan of HDIL.

The awardees were chosen after a rigorous selection of developers from the entire Western India. The 25 different categories that were awarded were spread across Developer of the Year Awards (Residential, Commercial and Retail); Select Achievement Awards and Popular choice awards.

A stand up comic act lightened the mood of the evening. Post the event, builders had a relaxed time interacting with each other over cocktails and dinner.



The interesting panel discussion caught the attention of the audience



Manju Yagnik, vice chairman, Nahar Group receives the Female Real Estate Professional of the Year Award