

The Treasure Within



About the chapter

- 'The Treasure Within' is a lesson based on a conversation between Ms. Bela Raja, editor of the newsletter-'Sparsh' and Mr. Hafeez Contractor, one of India's leading architects.

Hafeez Contractor was good at drawing sketches. But as a school boy he didn't do well in academics. He passed his exams only by copying.

Architect Hafeez Contractor is full of surprising and revolutionary ideas. He looks at the face & clothes of a client and learns about his habit and tastes. This helps him to design for the client.

His designs are stimulating and spontaneous. His famous designs are Lake castle Building, Imperial Towers, MP Compound Mill, etc.

Hafeez explains: "Architecture can give form to beliefs, and can make building into a real and arresting symbol of brand intent."

Planning the Process



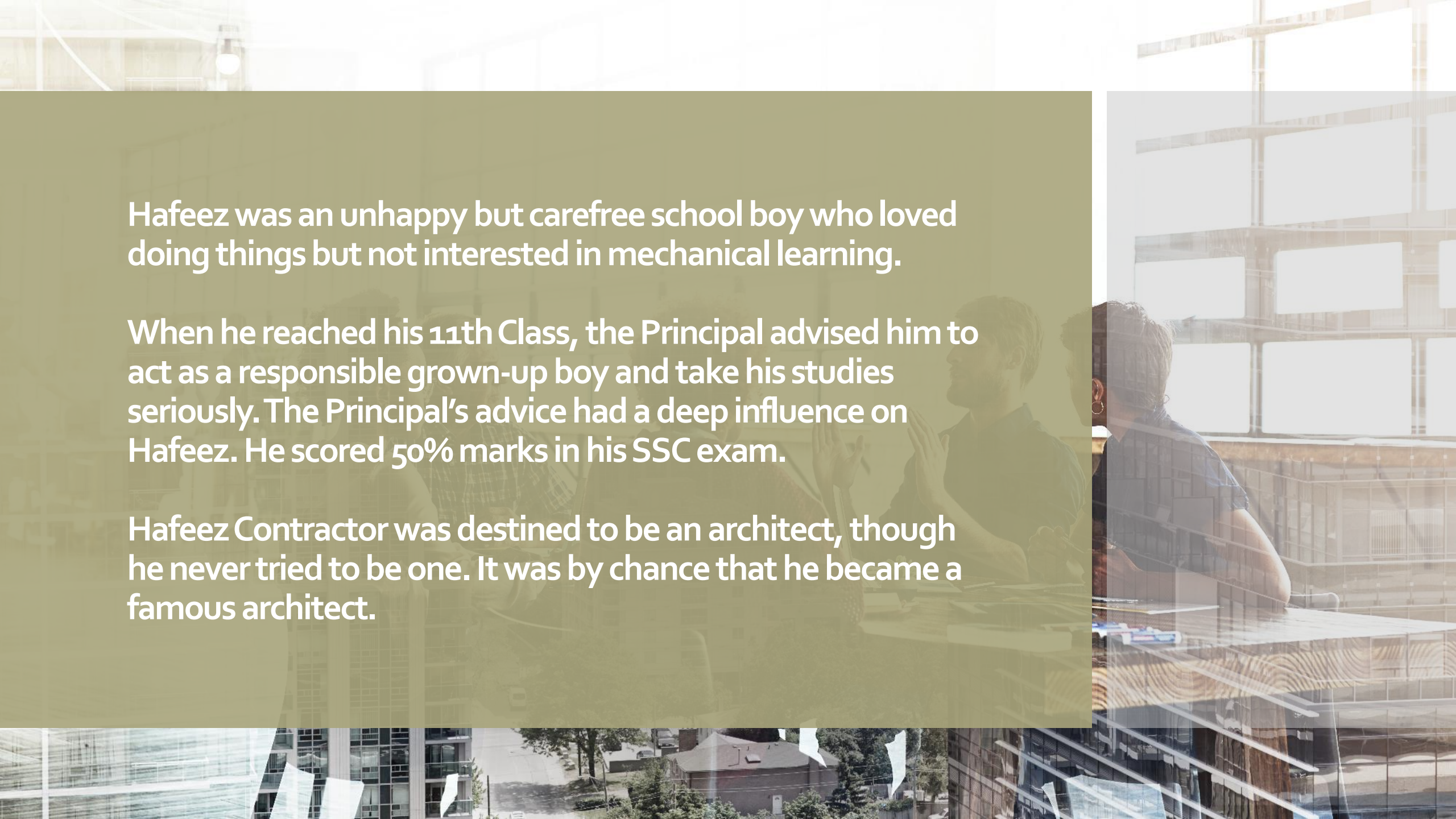
DREAM



DESIGN



BUILD



Hafeez was an unhappy but carefree school boy who loved doing things but not interested in mechanical learning.

When he reached his 11th Class, the Principal advised him to act as a responsible grown-up boy and take his studies seriously. The Principal's advice had a deep influence on Hafeez. He scored 50% marks in his SSC exam.

Hafeez Contractor was destined to be an architect, though he never tried to be one. It was by chance that he became a famous architect.

Biography of Hafeez Contractor

- BORN on 19th June, 1950 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- FAMILY- Parsi / Zoroastrian, Nationality : Indian,
- Mother: Roshan, who was a teacher. Father : Sorab Contractor , a businessman.
- Education-He did his Graduate Diploma in architecture from Mumbai in 1975 and completed his graduation from Columbia University New York (USA) on a Tata scholarship and then went on to pursue a post graduation degree from Columbia University in New York.
- Presently, he is a member of the Bombay Heritage Committee and New Delhi Lutyens Bungalow Zone Review Committee

MORAL of the chapter

- The lesson highlights the key idea that every child is talented and a potential achiever and is different from other children in his/her style of learning and areas of interest.