



Deepa Dhar
President,
FOLIO Architects Inc.

FOLIO is an architectural & interior design firm with an expertise in high-tech & biotech projects. Our projects endeavor to exhibit a commitment to sustainable design and the confidence that well-designed spaces are a powerful strategic tool to enhance productivity in people who occupy those spaces.

Residence: Los Altos

Education: Masters in Architecture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Boards/volunteer work: Bay Bio, International Facility Manager's Association, Bio2Device, International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers, American Institute of Architects, Forum of Women Executive & Entrepreneurs.

First Job: As a fresh graduate, my first job was in a large internationally reputed design firm overseas. That experience provided a strong foundation in the design profession and instilled in me the finest principles and values of architectural practice.

Business Hero: Steve Jobs. From a purely business perspective, with his strong focus on simplicity, quality, integrity of design and his uncompromising demand for excellence, he has had remarkable success in all his business endeavors.

Proudest Achievement: Every successful project, with well executed solutions that improve work processes and user environments is one to be proud of. Meeting actual users working in spaces designed by me and hearing how they appreciate and enjoy their new facilities makes me proud. Opportunities to work with talented individuals and developing long lasting friendships along the way, is an added perk.

Biggest workplace challenge: An architectural office, by the very nature of the business can have dramatic shifts in workload as projects are put on hold or timelines get accelerated and it is my constant endeavor to ensure a healthy balance of work and life for all employees.

Something that would surprise others: Having established a practice doing a wide range of technically challenging projects, most people believe that I only design research or manufacturing spaces that require technical understanding and expertise. However, I also have a significant portfolio of non-technical spaces, including commercial offices, hospitality, retail and even custom homes, which allow greater expression of creativity and high design

Five-year goal: I have several, but probably the most significant goal is to grow the business to be the recognized premium architectural practice of choice in the Bay area