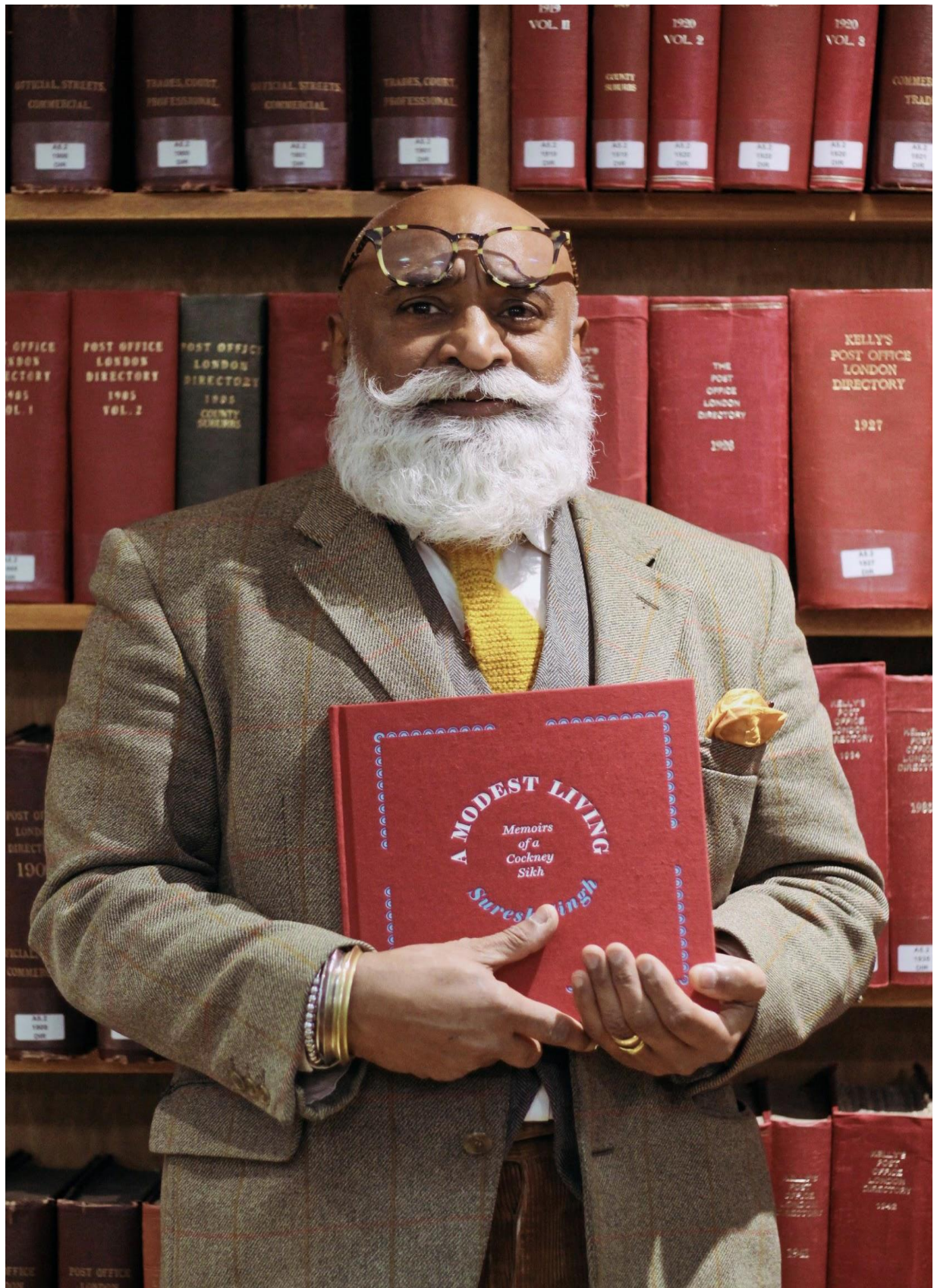


Suresh Singh

An East End writer and architect



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Suresh's father, Joginder Singh, came to the UK in 1949 from a small remote village in India. His father worked hard to send money abroad to Suresh's grandmother and the village community. Joginder settled in a house on Princelet Street, East London (close to Brick Lane). This is where Suresh was born and raised. Suresh's father was a devout Sikh and taught him to avoid luxury and greed.

Suresh's mother and father could not read and write, and remained illiterate until their death. They both wanted their children to do well at school and, therefore they sent Suresh to Sunday school and Whitechapel Library regularly. As a child, Suresh liked to 'read' shapes: buildings, pictures and geometry rather than texts. He later went on to study architecture.

At home, Suresh spoke Punjabi and found school hard. He sometimes didn't understand the accent of his teachers and found it difficult to relate to some English authors. He wanted to listen to the stories from his father at home about the Gurus and the village in India.

Suresh always had an ambition to write a book. When his father passed away Suresh decided to write a love story to his father. His book, *Memoirs of a Cockney Sikh*, celebrated his father, who gave so much love and support to his family and many communities.

Suresh describes his book as a piece of architecture accessible to anyone. He is very happy that it is now held in libraries and at some Sikh temples, called Gurdwaras. Suresh strongly believes that his father would love the book, if he was alive today because his favourite pictures are in it.