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CEO-Broadcast & MD, AETN18 : Avinash Kaul

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SUBSCRIPTIONS : Kamlesh Mathkar, Vaibhav Ghavale (8356912841)

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Create Happy!

Gloom... that's what we all are largely feeling these days, so I promise not to dwell on the global phenomenon which is making headlines. Trying times like these are even more reason to surround yourself with happiness, colour and tranquillity. Design and decor play such a lovely role in creating this atmosphere. A small change in the cushion covers, rearranging your furniture, rejigging your accessories, creating some artwork... are just some of the ways you can dramatically change the look of your home. Plus, you'll also have something concrete to do during this locked-in scenario. And it would certainly impress your boss and colleagues when you video-conference from a lovely backdrop.

Our features this month would give you some interesting ideas to steal. The cover story, for instance, is a Vadodara store designed by The Crossboundaries. Made to look like a home, the space does not refrain from throwing an eccentric surprise. Case in point, the colourful installation of chairs — which look flung on each other — near the display window. We also feature the Abdul Halder flagship store in New Delhi designed by Pantone Collective. Here, a striking green hue, a minimal material palette, graceful arches and sensuous velvet come together for some intense drama. In *Habitat*, we bring you the Mumbai penthouse apartment designed by Studio Lagom, which is cocooned in greenery and filled with light; and in *9 to 5*, an office space designed by The Ashleys for Schbang Digital Solutions that's youthful and filled with impressive artwork.

Another engaging project for you is the GGIS Atha campus (a pre-primary school) in Pune which saw Studio Infinity render a fresh new perspective towards learning outside the classroom. Studio Lotus surprises once again with the design of the Fields Club, a clubhouse in Bengaluru which offers a 'live, work and play' experience to young professionals within a suburban residential complex. *Bazaar* this month is just what your home would need for a quick summer makeover — soft furnishings like cushion covers, bed linen, upholstery and curtain fabrics in soothing yet striking hues. And for the latest from prominent brands in the ACs, coolers and ceiling fans category, check out our *Parade* pages. Yes, you can't shop now, so scan through all the lovely curations we've for you this month... mark them, and head to stores when the curfew lifts. For now, just focus on being healthier and happier. Namaste!

Deepa Nair
Editor

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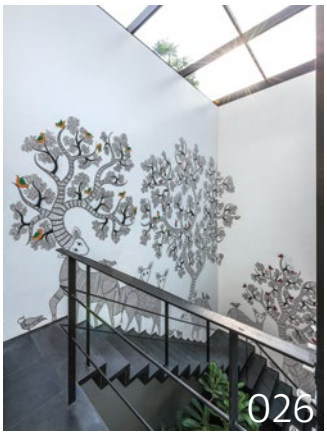
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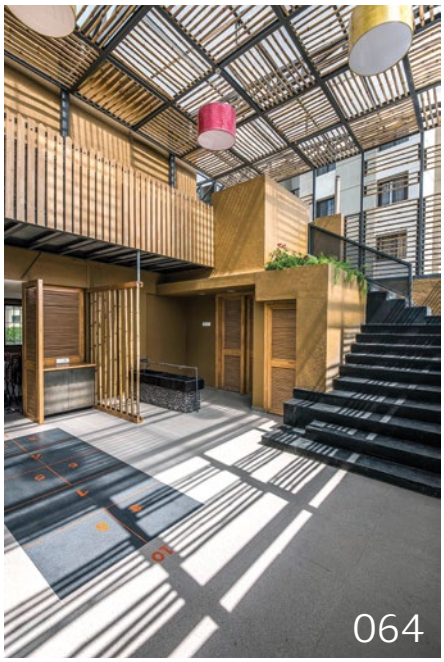
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Cover photograph:
Ishita Sitwala, courtesy The Crossboundaries
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SUMMER SOLACE
Refresh your home this summer with our selection of upholstery fabrics, cushion covers, bed linens, drapes and curtains in soft hues.

026 **HABITAT**
VILLA IN THE SKY
Architect Hardik Shah of Studio Lagom delivers a villa-like duplex apartment bifurcated into private and public spaces with minimal materials and abundant greens in Mumbai.

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THE WHOLE SCHBANG!
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085 **PARADE**
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Prep up for the long summer days ahead with our round-up of tech savvy and energy-efficient ceiling fans, air coolers and air conditioners from leading brands.

Network 18

Give your home the perfect design attitude



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IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING



For the last ten years Better Interiors has brought out well-researched and unbiased content, aptly supported by spectacular visuals. The comprehensive product sourcing section on accessories, textiles, furniture and white goods offers lay-reader innumerable choices to create beautiful individualistic spaces. The magazine is also a treasure trove for those seeking information on the materials and technological advancements in the architectural and design industries. Project categories featured include: residential; restaurants and hotels; retail outlets and renovation projects. Better Interiors' online presence has won them more design patrons.

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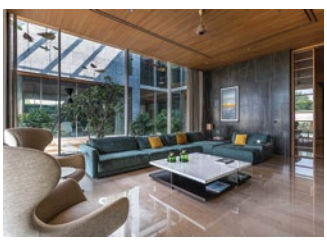
Write back



FINDING GEMS

The Gurugram home featured in the *Habitat* section of the March edition by interior designer Nitin Kohli is simply wow. This is exactly how I would want my dream bachelor pad to look like. The intense blue sofa complementing the neutral shaded walls, and minimal bespoke furniture just fits perfect in this studio apartment. And to top it, it is simply amazing how the designer managed to deliver a masterpiece on a budget and that too being his first project. Simply genius. Speaking of geniuses, the Beyond Designs Home and Bistro featured in the *Double Duty* segment is another gem! Interior designer Neha Gupta has smartly and innovatively created an amalgamation of bistro and retail space. I love how the space emancipates the aura of French designs such as the wicker chairs, shimmering chandelier, and wooden arches. I am definitely visiting this place.

VIRAJ SINGH, GURUGRAM



H FOR HAPPY

I have been reading **Better Interiors** for as long as I can remember. The magazine has grown so much in terms of its content. The projects it features are not only unique but so relevant and appealing. It is difficult to pick a favourite. Anyway, what really caught my eye is the H-House featured in the *Habitat* section of the March edition. Co.lab Design Studio architects Hansika Jain and Vikram Bhatt have created a luxurious house with a touch of green. And this is exactly what I loved about the project. You see all these big bungalows and concrete apartments but they lack life. This Surat house is transformed into a home by these architects who have beautifully captured the essence of natural world into the four walls.

ANUSHAYA PANDYA, AHMEDABAD

BEAUTY AT ITS BEST

Let me begin by saying **Better Interiors** you are a beauty! Shades of crimson pink artistically blending into blue hues amplifies the cover of your March edition. It is a treat for the sore eyes. The cover (featuring Mind Manifestation Design LLP's school project featured in *9 to 5* segment) is simply irresistible. I couldn't hold myself from reading the story ahead. And as I ran through the magazine, the *Thing Tank* section featuring product designer Karan Nawab, caught my attention. It is quite fascinating and motivating to come across people who have given up mediocre jobs and tried their hands at something unique.

SUMIT POKRANKAR, PUNE





LETTER OF THE MONTH

I am truly spellbound by the *9 to 5* segment in the March edition of **Better Interiors** that featured Mind Manifestation LLP's work of transforming a school's unused terrace space into its admin office. I mean how innovative that is! I am quite intrigued with how architects Anand Deshmukh and Chetan Lohoti have implemented slates with quotes, the abacas table, cut pieces of Chinese puzzles, the magazine rack and other 90s symbolic elements in a school's office space. The office space is nostalgic for the parents as well as its multi-purpose compositions are super beneficial to the staff and kids. Kudos to the team. Also, the *Bazaar* theme of the March edition was thought-provoking. I am awed by the curated list of recycled and upcycled accessories, artwork and furnishing. **Better Interiors** you have busted the myth that eco-friendly things cannot be gaudy or attractive and affordable. My favourite from the list is the kitchen serveware and rugs. Thanks for the curation.

PANKAJA SHARMA, NEW DELHI



FORMAL SIMPLICITY

The house project Celestial Dreams by interior designers Mayur Mangukiya and Ankit Sojitra of Studio 17 featured in the *Habitat* section of the March edition is impressive. Its interiors boast of a blend of local crafts with global aspirations such as the use of Bandhini art on the walls, ceiling, and even the floor. Its contemporary material palette with exceptional artworks accentuates the entire space. Despite its simple aesthetics, I feel the house is an ode to artistic values and modern sensibilities. Small elements like the arches in the puja room, the Panch Tatva wall art, island counter in the kitchen, and the hand-painted artwork in guest room make this house extravagant.

CHANDA BANERJEE, CHENNAI

NATURALLY NATIVE

I remember reading about the Sagar weekend home in **Better Interiors** back in 2012. I fell in love with the place so much that, that very year I planned a quick getaway with my family there. And now knowing that they have also introduced a quaint restaurant amid the lush green space – all thanks to **Better Interiors** for featuring it in its March edition of *Space & Spice* segment – I cannot help but plan our next weekend trip there. Interior designer Shabnam Gupta has done a noteworthy job on the Farm Cafe at the Tooth Mountain Farm. Minimal and simple furniture gives a homey vibe to the restaurant, and the lights and other accessories just enhance its charm. Its outdoor appears to look like a nursery, while the interiors look relaxing. And to add a cherry on the top, the restaurant serves organic food. I cannot contain my excitement to visit this place and share my experience with you guys.

MELISSA D'CUNA, MUMBAI

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Round About

A ROUND-UP OF WHAT'S NEW IN STORES, PRODUCTS, ART SHOWS AND MUCH MORE.

QUICK TAKE

RR DECOR'S KALON FURNISHING FABRIC RANGE

RR Decor has launched its new collection of furnishing fabrics Kalon that promises a durable, crisp and wrinkle-free experience. Ideal for upholsteries and cushions, the Kalon weaves offer characterful textures in rich as well as subtle hues with contemporary style.
Website: www.rrdecor.com

KAUNTEYA LAUNCHES DASARA TEA SET COLLECTION

Inspired by the Indo-Saracenic architecture of the Mysore palace, luxury tableware brand Kaunteya has launched its Dasara tea set collection. Impressively hand painted in turquoise blue with reddish pink flower and peacock motifs, the collection is crafted in fine bone china with 24 karat gold. The set includes six tea cups and saucers, one tea pot, a creamer and sugar pot and a side plate.
Website: www.kaunteya.in

BERGER PAINTS' WEATHERCOAT ANTIDUSTT

Berger Paints' WeatherCoat AntiDustt is equipped with Dust Guard technology which does not allow dust to settle on the exterior of walls. It also offers a long-lasting protection against wall stains and black stripe marks. Besides, its soft sheen finish keeps the walls sparkling for years.
Website: www.bergerpaints.com

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF

Lladro's boutique store opens in Mumbai



LLADRO HAS OPENED ITS NEW concept boutique store at Mumbai's Palladium Mall located in Lower Parel. Spread over 100 sq ft on the ground floor of the mall, the store has been designed by renowned Spanish architect Hector Ruiz Velazquez. His vision encapsulates an amalgamation of the historical origins of the brand and the avant-garde designs Lladro is now known for, thus creating a perfect meeting place that is both approachable and luxurious. The store's interior has been created with the components of porcelain, kaolin, feldspar and quartz, alongside white Calacatta marble floor. The grey veins of the marble is reflected in the cement texture of the walls, both contrasting with the delicate art pieces on display. The store aims to offer the newest trends and a complete cross-selection of Lladro's varied catalogues of porcelain offerings including sculptures, lighting, home decor, jewellery, functional and decorative works handcrafted in Spain.
Address: Palladium Mall Mumbai, 462, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013

Bengaluru welcomes Roca's display studio



ONE OF INDIA'S LEADING manufacturers of bathroom products, Roca, has unveiled its display studio in Karnataka. Being the first in the state and seventh in the country, the studio is located in Bengaluru and spread across 4,400 sq ft. The display studio aims to offer a one-stop solution to all bathroom needs, and hence, will be showcasing an array of products — faucets, bathtubs, basins, WCs, showers, kitchen sinks, and bathroom furniture — from Laufen, Roca and Parryware. It will showcase few collections including Kartell and Palomba range from Laufen, Carmen, Beyond and Insignia collection from Roca, and Alpha and Kidz Range, to name a few. This new studio will not only be an experience centre for architects, interior designers, and customers; but it will also have training sessions for channel partners and plumbing contractors.
Website: www.roca.com

P3 Architectural Solutions to represent Dupen Group in India



ONE OF THE LEADING BEDS, MATTRESSES AND FURNITURE brands from Spain, Dupen Group, will now be exclusively available in India through P3 Architectural Solutions. Dupen Group's factory has facilities of more than 60,000 m2 for the manufacture of mattresses, bed bases, bunk beds, beds and other accessories. That said, Dupen Group has a production of 1,000 mattresses per day, with the best production standards and quality. One of the first products to be introduced is the Organic Sense mattress which is crafted from natural latex and natural wool. Natural latex gives the Organic Sense mattress great elastic and breathability qualities. For its part, natural wool helps keep the temperature constant and releases moisture from the body.
Website: www.pcubesolutions.com

Hand Painted Stories transform digital photographs into hand-painted art



STEPPING AWAY FROM THE RACE TO DIGITIZE, HAND PAINTED Stories has leveled up the gifting game with its timeless creations of turning photographs into hand-painted art. The luxury business solutions start-up helps one in designing gifts or pictures differently from others. The provided photographs will be organically recreated by the best artists available on its platform by using oil paints, acrylic or water colours on a canvas, thereby crystallizing one's digital memories into old-world-like art pieces. All one has to do is upload the photograph on the website, after which the image will be hand-painted with a technique chosen by the artist and in two week's time the final product will be shipped either wrapped or framed.
Website: www.handpaintedstories.com





Jakob Schlaepfer enters Indian market

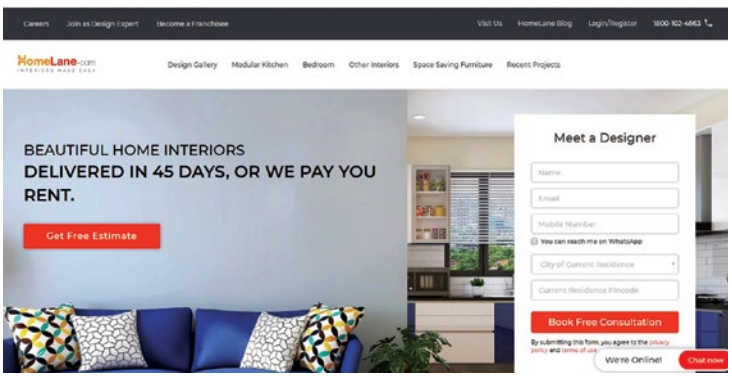
SWISH LUXURY FABRIC MAKER JAKOB SCHLAEPFER HAS marked its debut into the Indian market with the launch of the Parade of Souls installation. A joint work of architect Akshat Bhatt of Architecture Discipline and fashion designer Amit Aggarwal, Parade of Souls comprises a set of mannequins that stand dramatically within a glass box with drapes in nine handpicked Jakob Schlaepfer fabrics. The installation explores the idea of self-actualisation in today's world, creating a spatial construct that invites visitors to pause and deliberate in a world fixated on fast-paced transitions. Parade of Souls extends itself to be more than just a representation of Jakob Schlaepfer's transformative composition of work, and crafts a series of layered experiences through the glass box that houses it, thus facilitating meaningful engagement with the visitors. The pop-up installation is currently open at Stir Gallery in DLF Chattarpur Farms, New Delhi till April 30th, 2020.
Website: www.jakob-schlaepfer.ch

Stanley Lifestyles forays into luxury home solutions



STANLEY LIFESTYLES HAS ANNOUNCED its entry into complete luxury home interior solutions and personal accessories through Stanley Level Next. Spread across 1,00,000 sq ft on five floors, the store houses over 40 internationally renowned furniture brands from across the globe, offering premium luxury furniture designs, kitchens and wardrobes. That said, in 2019, the company had commissioned two new factories: one for kitchen and wardrobes, and the other for premium mattress and bedding; and presently has 20 exclusive stores and 30 sales points across 10 Indian cities. With the launch of its flagship premium lifestyle store in Bengaluru, the company aims to open five more such stores and expand its omni-channel mid-segment furniture outlet, Sofas & More, from seven to 50.
Website: www.lovestanley.com

HomeLane to offer Schneider Electric's Easy Homes solutions



TO PROVIDE SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC'S EASY Home products to its customers, HomeLane has collaborated with Schneider Electric. Easy Home is Schneider Electric's innovations in the home automation space, which offers convenient, easy-to-install solutions, thereby enabling homeowners to manage power in their homes with the support of technology through a single app. Easy Home helps in transforming home into a smart home by turning every switch and appliance into a connected device without disrupting the existing wiring. It can be customised and operated with four interfaces — Alexa or Google Home, smart phones, and remote and switches. The Easy Home catalogue will be available at HomeLane and will have curated products such as Easy Homes Automation Gateway, Easy Homes 4 Channel Automation Relay, Easy Homes Curtain Controller and Easy Homes 1 Channel Analog Dimmer + 1 Channel Fan Controller.
Website: www.homelane.com

FYI



ID-OD: Inner Dimension - Outer Dimension

27th March to 29th April
Gallery Espace, 16, Community Center, Sujan Mahindra Road, New Friends Colony, Near Surya Hotel, New Delhi 110 025
Tel: (011) 2692 2947
The exhibition is a series of mid-scale, kinetic sculptures by artist Sunil Gawde. The dichotomy between reality and perception is the leitmotif of Sunil's sculptures, paintings and kinetic installations. They highlight the absurd, paradoxical and contradictory nature of life with visual dualities. He explores the possibilities of these ready-mades by transforming their physical quality and size, thereby creating a metaphoric tension. The juxtaposition of familiar objects in these works project a series of surreal fables, while leading us to question our traditional understanding of their meanings.



Yatrika - A traveller

12th April to 16th April
Open Palm Court, Habitat Centre, 94, Lodhi Road, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi 110 003
Tel: (011) 4366 2024
The solo art exhibition by artist Alka Bhrushundi is her humble attempt to portray the weaves, waves and webs of thoughts in her mind and the freedom therefrom. The journey we undertake from birth to death is what we call life. This journey is a physical one but more importantly, it is that of the mind. The artist has tried in creating an infinite space which cannot be seen but only felt, whose vastness is much larger than our discernible world.

Please note: For insertion in this column, we require details of upcoming events at least a month in advance. We request you to send in event schedules to: *deepa.nair@nw18.com* Updates on events is at the discretion of the organisers. Information is valid at the time of going to print.

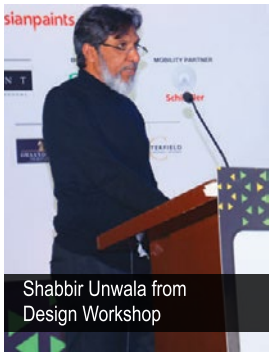
DESIGN PERSPECTIVE

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Landing at the 3rd city for the year 2020 and 56th edition overall, the Design Perspective series took place in Pune on 13th March, 2020. The evening brought the designers in the city together with renowned speakers, as well as showcased prominent products by exclusive market leaders in the field of architecture and interior design. The stage was set for a graceful keynote by Ar. Rahul Shankhwalker, who tapped into his critical side and talked about the failures he faced in his professional career as well as the learnings from them that, ultimately, helped evolve his perspective on design.



Rahul Shankhwalker, Studio HBA Singapore
In His Element As The Keynote Speaker



Shabbir Unwala from
Design Workshop





Demonstrating the setbacks that taught him invaluable lessons, Ar. Rahul Shankhwalker presented on '5 failures that changed the perspective of my design'. Preparation for the topic got him thinking about the 'the important role failures have played in his life'. Not being one to choose architecture consciously, he dived into it not knowing what he was in for. He tapped into his philosophical side by providing a perspective on the inevitable role of destiny in taking us to the strangest of places. Rahul admitted to naive notions during his youth he eventually learned from. 'Design is not about flying solo," he remarked, "It's a collaboration. It's a team spirit. It's about human connections."

Rahul presented projects that had their success in the fact that they failed in numerous ways. He also delved into the applications of these learnings into their projects, like practising contextual architecture especially for his Indian projects, and locally sourcing materials for sustainable construction practices. Some of the projects include World One, Mumbai, a spa in Pune, and a resort in Goa. He acknowledged the futility of the idea that one needs to live, breathe and sleep design to excel at it and respected the fact that design inspiration comes from the most unexpected places. He truly delivered a thought-provoking presentation that grabbed the attention of the full-house audience.

The audience was then greeted with the brisk series of DTalks presentations, featuring Shabbir Unwala (Design Workshop), Poonam Mehta (AMPM Designs), Tushar Kothawade (Studio Infinity), and Manish Banker (TAO Architecture) speaking on the topic, 'Architecture: A Breathing Phenomenon.' Buildings are created as inanimate objects, brought to life by the people using it. The goings-on in and around a structure breathe liveliness into it. Its occupants are its heart- one that throbs and pulses with each movement. Architecture is, therefore, not just steel and concrete. It's a living, breathing phenomenon. This very fact was brilliantly showcased by the speakers in their own, unique style.

As anticipated, the event gathered a lot of positive traction and mindful interaction amongst the design community. We thank our supporting patrons, participating designers and attendees in rendering the evening an evident success.





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Art Walk

SELF-TAUGHT AUTOMOTIVE ARTIST VIDITA SINGH BRINGS OUT THE DESIGN ELEMENTS AND NOVELTIES OF AUTOMOBILES OF THE BYGONE ERA THROUGH HER PHOTOREALISTIC PAINTINGS.



ARTIST

Vidita Singh

SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST VIDITA SINGH is known for documenting India's automotive history through her paintings. Hailing from the royal family of Barwani, a former royal kingdom in Madhya Pradesh, Princess Vidita is touted to be the first few automotive artists in India to exhibit her art at the Automotive Fine Arts Society Exhibition at Pebble Beach Concours, California in 2018. Brought up in a family of auto enthusiasts such as her father HH Rana Manvendra Singh who is a pioneer in the field of automotive restoration, she grew up with vintage and classic cars and amidst several automobile books. Inspired by the design elements of cars from the bygone era and its stories narrated by her grandfather and father, Vidita aims to do justice to the talent of the designers who have designed these cars through her paintings. Either in full or part, for Vidita each car's beauty lies not only in what the designer has conceptualised but also in its styling, lines and curves, and the car's situation. She has painted Cadillac, Rolls Royce, Pontiac, Bluets, Jaguars, Lancia, Delahaye and Mercedes car models, to name a few, on canvas with charcoal, oil, and watercolours against colourful Indian backgrounds such as forest and village roads, crippled forts, and polo fields.

Email: viditasingh@gmail.com











ANCHORED BY: DIKSHA JAWLE; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE ARTIST

Eco Beat

PRODUCT DESIGNER FEDERICO ROSA'S ACQUA ALTA FURNITURE RANGE — WITH NATURAL SEA REMNANTS ORNAMENTED ON THEIR LEGS — HIGHLIGHT THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF RISING SEA LEVELS AND CLIMATE CHANGE.



PRODUCT DESIGNER

Federico Rosa

REFLECTING THE SIDE EFFECTS of high tide (commonly referred as acqua alta in Italy's Veneto region) in Venice, product designer and photographer Federico Rosa has created a novel furniture collection. Federico has incorporated the remnants of tides — molluscs, barnacles and seaweed — into bronze ornaments for the furniture legs, making it appear as if there is a layer of sea detritus and water in the room, thus evoking a grim warning of climate change. The designer combined these natural elements of disruption and handcrafted them into a stylish yet thought-provoking furniture range comprising a chair, a coffee table and a mirror. Its basic design derives from classic baroque models, which are very popular in the old Venetian Republic. Leftovers of bricole (Venetian docking poles) production is upcycled into chairs and table, and its upholstery is crafted from reused materials. The mirror is created on an ad hoc basis. Also, the bronze is recycled and re-fused from older production leftovers. The only unsustainable component of the project was its first leg mould, which was printed in 3D from a model made from 3D scans of real mollusks, barnacles and seaweed.

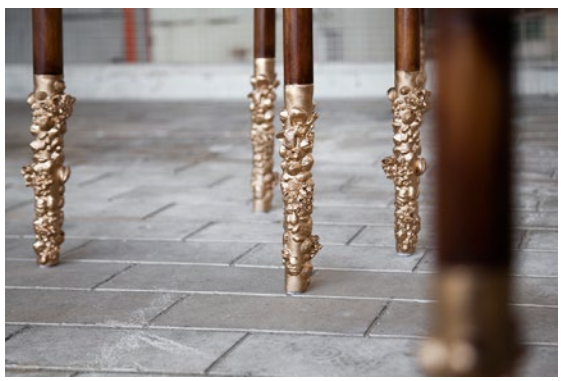
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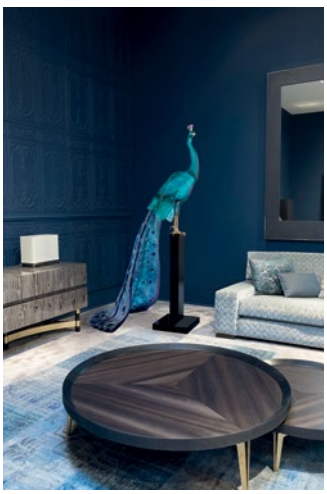


ANCHORED BY: DIKSHA JAWLE; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE DESIGNER

Choose from fine crystal figurines, travel-inspired tableware, sustainable home and garden accessories...

EMERY STUDIO

Legendry French glassmaker, Daum is now available in India through Emery Studio. Daum's gorgeous crystal accessories collection was recently introduced at Emery Studio. Blending sophistication and beauty into fine crystal work, the collection bridges the unparalleled relationship with crystal and contemporary artists through figurines. The Tropical Peacock is created from the original work of Madeleine Van Der Knoop. The crystal sculptor transposes the perception of the artist in right proportions by using the lost-wax technique. The intricate work on its feather and the blending of blue, green and violet hues represents the bird with intense realism. The Horse Head sculpture highlights the beauty of an Arabian thoroughbred horse with minute details such as its structured muscles and wild mane in amber shade. A unique interpretation of a photo of artist Kyriakos Kaziras by Maison Daum, the Arktos crystal sculpture features two polar bears emerging from ice. The magnificent bears accentuates bluish tone of the sea ice that transcribes in light. Through this centerpiece, Daum raises awareness of the importance of protecting nature.











HERMES INDIA

French high-end luxury brand, Hermes, recently introduced the Passifolia tableware which pays homage to the vegetation that protects the earth. The collection is reminiscent of the passion flower Passiflora incarnata, where designer Nathalie Rolland-Huckel has worked on highlighting the flower's delicate and detailed authenticity. An amalgamation of botanical traditions and art, the Passifolia tableware range features coffee and breakfast cups; dinner, side, soup, and dessert plates; cereal bowls, mugs, platters, tea sets, soy dishes, trays, and vases. With powerful hyperrealism, one of the plates highlight the veins of the anthurium. The exteriors of the teacups are entirely enveloped in a palm leaf design describing the extravagance of nature. Its hollow surfaces are decorated as well. A fine band of hand-painted gold filet encircled on the plates, platters and cups accentuates the zenithal sun. Multi-coloured, tiger-striped and iridescent greens mingle and overlap on the 30 pieces that forms the Passifolia tableware collection. It presents three shades of green-yellow in a single stem, five green-blues in one leaf, with a play of brown outlines, thus engaging an exceptional range of 32 colours.

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE BRANDS





MAISHAA

Brought to India by Maishaa, Nya Nordiska has launched two textile collections, namely Matisse and Alexis. The Matisse collection is inspired by the French painter Matisse and features playful graphic shapes in soft powder and nude shades. Made from a combination of 30 per cent viscose, 5 per cent polyester and 65 per cent linen; the collection is ideal for curtains, cushions and upholsteries. Available in two versions — Alexis Night and Alexis Day — Alexis is a collection of soft floating decorative fabric made from 25 per cent viscose and 75 per cent polyester. Alexis Night enchants with widespread, interlaced shapes and an interplay of transparency, whereas Alexis Day is the transparent equivalent in tender white. The Alexis fabrics are light, and thus ideal for curtains, panel curtains and roller blinds.



IKEA INDIA

Ikea India's Botanisk collection is a handmade assortment of home and garden accessories crafted by Ikea's in-house designers and six social entrepreneurs from Thailand, India, Romania and Jordan. To reflect a botanical theme, the collection — comprising pots, pot hangers, baskets, hanging planters, hand towels, throws, aprons, cushion covers and more — is made from natural tactile materials like banana fiber, jute and cotton. Botanisk aims to create employment opportunities and empower women, for which Ikea has collaborated with two social entrepreneurs from India — Industree Foundation from Bengaluru who is credited for creating handwoven baskets, flat woven rug, and plant pots with handles made from sustainable banana fibers. NGO Rangsutra will be handcrafting cushion covers that are designed together with Syrian seamstresses.





SANS SOUCI

The Grand Opera is the latest elegant lighting fixture offering from Sans Souci. Created by designers Lenka Tomanova and Jiri Svoboda, the collection features a cluster of seven pendant lights which are shaped conically. The lights are crafted from hand-blown crystals. The highpoint of its design is the sandblasted gold-plated metal components which are replaceable as per the user's mood and preferences. Elements that form a garden such as butterflies, flowers and tree branches have been encapsulated into the Garden Opera collection. With the help of its adjustable styling, one can hang (they come with a glass hook) these 38 elements (read components) all together or separately, thus giving the feeling of a new product every time you make a change in it. The lighting fixture is lit up by LED chips of 12V to 3,500K, making it decorative and highly functional at the same time.





NICOBAR

Lifestyle brand Nicobar collaborated with Mumbai-based visual artist Sameer Kulavoor to create the limited edition — Musafir — which encapsulates the idea of journey. The home collection comprises of mugs, bowls and cushions which highlight Sameer's hand-drawn minimal line drawings including figures and foliage resembling a traveller's exploration of a tropical landscape. Crafted in stoneware, the Nico Tribe Grey Mug, People Espresso Mug and People Mug feature the artist's hand-drawn illustrations such as Indian folk patterns, block prints, geometric patterns, and Mughal figurative work. A playful amalgamation of Paul Klee and Bruno Munari is seen in Sameer's illustration which is rendered on the stoneware-made Pond Nut Bowl. The Musafir Cushion highlights a monochrome Memphis pattern with a hint of gold.

SARITA HANDA

Sarita Handa has launched its Spring Summer 2020 Collection which features Turkish, ikat and floral designs in multi-coloured thread work. The Bali Beach House Collection comprises embroidered bedding, decorative cushions, and upholstery and drape fabrics in shades of blues, light greens, light browns, whites and ivories. It features a modern interpretation of Bali textiles and crafts work, which pays tribute to the evolution of Balinese motifs. The Ivory Needlecraft Collection showcases the use of ivory tone-on-tone embroideries, with a mix of acrylic, chenille, and metallic threads on a new range of sentiment cushions. Words like breathe, relax and dream are engraved in an embroidery-style that mimics crochet work, with the use of applique on rustic-chic edging on these cushions. Lastly, The Botanicals Collection showcases a mix of larger-than-life and smaller, intricate motifs, inspired by flora and fauna. Here, colours go beyond typical greens and greenish-blues, and include rich teals and wine hues. The collection aims to introduce a country home charisma infused by botanical themes in the wilderness of our concrete jungles.









ELLEMENTRY

Ellementry has recently introduced two of its bakeware collections Mano and Upper Crust; and an exquisite tableware range, Frangipani. Mano and Upper Crust are handcrafted and hand-glazed ceramic bakeware collections offering mixing bowls with small handles, loaf pans, ramekins, metal egg shell muffin trays, fruit stands and tart dishes. Mano, meaning hand in Spanish, is a two-tone range featuring light brown on the outside and white on the inside, with a spiral design on its exterior. The Upper Crust collection is inspired by nature, and features a vine engraved on blue ceramic. Inspired by the tropical flower of the same name, the Frangipani collection epitomises the flower's grace, beauty and perfection on its handcrafted wooden tableware. The collection comprises a serving tray, *roti* box, cutlery stand, salad bowl, candle holder, platter with cloche and an oval tray. The hand-painted flowers and leaves on the wooden texture have a superior quality food-safe lacquer coating, thereby lending them a sophisticated finish.

Lillian Bassman
Stanley Kubrick
Cecil Beaton
David Zimmerman
Lewis Hine
Swapan Parekh
Ralph Gibson
Raghu Rai
Kulwant Roy
Sebastião Salgado
Shahidul Alam
Eadweard Muybridge
Hari Mahidhar
Prashant Panjiar
Ansel Adams
Edward Curtis
Dario Mitidieri
Roger Fenton
David Alan Harvey
S Paul
Hippolyte Bayard
Anna Atkins
Erwin Blumenfeld
Helmut Newton
Saul Leiter
Art Kane
Tejal Patni
Shantanu Sheorey
Jeanloup Sieff
Toni Frissell
Pranlal Patel
T S Satyan
Homai Vyarawalla

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Summer Solace

For a quick summer makeover, and to bring in a sense of calm and tranquillity to your spaces, we bring you a fine selection of soft furnishings — upholstery and curtain fabrics, cushion covers and bed linen — in delicate and versatile hues.

ANCHORED BY: DEEPA NAIR AND DIKSHA JAWLE; **PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY** THE BRANDS



Maishaa

This soft pink upholstery fabric is made with Manuel Revert's Stain Stop and Clean tech, which helps remove stains and spills easily. This gentle weave groups beautifully with other printed and accent cushions.

₹ 1,300 onward



Tapestry

Part of the Oraan collection designed by Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna, this fabric is available in three colours. Seen here, a Seafoam Silver hue captured in altering wavelengths of silk and metallic yarns resulting in a vintage distressed pattern.

₹ 5,500 per metre



RR Decor

Part of the Toscana collection, this sofa is upholstered with luxurious textiles that showcase an intricate paisley design, and enigmatic imagery evocative of a faraway land.

₹ 1,800 to ₹ 6,000 per metre



Sarita Handa

Springtime is a bedding range which features soft floral motifs in vivid hues on light ivory cotton fabric. The collection includes bedspreads, pillow cases and cushion covers.

₹ 20,500



Zynna

With a comforting palette of solid natural shades, these simple polyester cushions work together to create soothing decor.

₹ 4,000 onward



The House of Things

From the house of No-Mad comes the Gunjan cushion covers which draws inspiration from the floral motifs embroidered onto Kashmiri shawls. Each cushion is made of 100 per cent linen, and finished with handcrafted *dor* (string) closures.

₹ 3,450 (each)



Portico New York

Minimalist prints find a home on the canvas of playfully clashing colours in the Hashtag collection which consists of bed linens, comforters, fitted sheets, duvet covers and dohars. The range serves up contrast styling with pillow covers in clashing patterns and prints, bordered with piping in standout colours.

₹ 899 to ₹ 3,499



Safomasi

The Dusty Blue Zen Onsen garden quilt and cushion cover are screen-printed by hand in soft pastel blue with landscape scenery inspired by Japanese gardens.

₹ 10,200 (quilt); ₹ 2,050 (cushion cover)



D'Decor

Set to become a new classic, Resham Silk has all the luxury, charm and decadence of raw silk. Complemented with a coordinating and versatile abstract jacquard weave, both fabrics come in a wide palette of playful and contemporary colours.

Price on request



Stellar Home USA

The Oliver Bed-In-A-Bag comprises of a bedsheet, pillow covers and a comforter made from cotton.

₹ 4,999



Maishaa

The exquisite texture of this upholstery fabric is slubbed in an ocean blue hue, mirroring the calmness of the sea. It is crafted with stain-resistant technology, ensuring any stains or spills on the fabric can be easily cleaned using water and a towel.

₹ 1,300 onward



Apartment9

Jaali patterns in soft blues and beige feature in this bed linen range crafted in silk.

Price on request



D'Decor

Lacee Wide is a range of easy, breezy and beautiful wide-width sheer fabrics created using natural materials. Here, subtle and contemporary stripes join plain textured weaves in a collection that is both practical and effortlessly chic.

Price on request



O'My by Anju Goyal

Inspired by Japanese and Scottish themes, the three cushions — Blessing in Disguise, Japanese Freedom Tree and Serenity — are from the Ruh collection. Made from the finest linen, the cushions are hand-embroidered with sustainable bamboo silk featuring petite floral motifs.

₹ 5,500 to ₹ 7,900



Maishaa

Hand-drawn prints of bugs, dragonflies, buds and flowers, wild ferns and leafy trails dance on this dual-purpose cotton and linen powder pink fabric from the Eden collection.

₹ 2,380 onward per metre



Good Earth

Inspired by the Valley of Flowers nestled in the Himalayas, motifs of blue poppies, magnolias and rhododendrons come alive on these luxurious linen and silk cushions.

₹ 2,800 onward



Tapestry

Prato collection by Eris blends the classic with the contemporary with ease and brings it all together with the perfect neutral colour palette. Crafted from silk, the fabrics showcase vintage damasks, abstract ikats and modern takes on the traditional *jaali* patterns.

₹ 3,999 per metre onward



RR Decor

Part of the Cathay collection, this sophisticated velvet, multi-purpose fabric lends a beautiful luminosity with its neutral shade.

₹ 1,200 per metre



India Circus
Intriguing gulf sands and palm motifs create a striking contrast on the Desert Plants Blended Velvet Cushion Cover.
₹ 499



Zynna
Chevron, herringbone and geometric textures are highlighted on this soft, linen upholstery fabric.
₹ 4,000 onward



The House of Things
This quilt from Monsoon and Beyond is part of the Anarkali hand-printed bed set collection, and is painstakingly hand-stitched and hand-quilted. The cotton muslin duvet and shams depict designs which are a modern interpretation of Mughal drawings and themes.
₹ 15,680



Safomasi
The Kapadokya collection features dreamy shades of pastel pink, mauve and orange with geometric prints screen-printed by hand and abstract motifs inspired by travels to Turkey. The range includes the cotton-linen Fairy Chimney cushion, Goremeknitted cotton throw, Pink Stone Symbol cotton fabric (pictured on the headboard) and Orange Evil Eye wool *dhurrie*.
₹ 6,500 (throw); ₹ 2,050 (cushion); ₹ 1,750 per metre (fabric on headboard); ₹ 13,500 (rug)



Zynna
Geometric patterns and stripes in monochromatic hues are printed on this stylish polyester and linen fabric.
₹ 3,000 onward



LimeRoad

These beige velvet cushion covers exhibit elegant symmetry through circular patterns.
₹ 1,150 (set of five)



Portico New York

Made from 100 per cent cotton, the Liva Home (Vintage Bloom) bed collection comprises of a super king size bedsheet, and a double sized comforter.
₹ 2,499 (bed sheet) and ₹ 4,199 (comforter)



RR Decor

An ode to Tuscany's earthy terrain, these textiles celebrate the myriad shades of the blue sky, muddy soil, and olive greenery with paisley designs and embroidered sunflowers dancing under cypresses.
₹ 2,100 to ₹ 5,500 per metre



Sarita Handa

Intricate floral embroidery in ivory beautifully caresses the blush-hued cotton fabric of the Cerise Melange bedding. This collection of bedspreads, pillowcases and cushion covers is also available in grey.
₹ 21,500



Villa in the Sky

Surat-based Studio Lagom and its founder Hardik Shah leverage the power of space-making to make a penthouse apartment in congested suburban Mumbai appear like a villa filled with light and greenery.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA, **COURTESY** STUDIO LAGOM



The pleasing frame of the waterbody with a tiny green patch at its heart is responsible for intensifying the villa-like feel of this penthouse. The planter embedded with the pool is a little skewed to create a dynamic play of lines.





THIS PAGE This is the 36-foot passage, on either side of which lie the public and private zones of the main level of the duplex. It is bounded by a teakwood-batten surface that actually conceals several doors to rooms and storage units on one side, and a simple grid-like partition that shields the living space from direct view on the other.



ARCHITECT

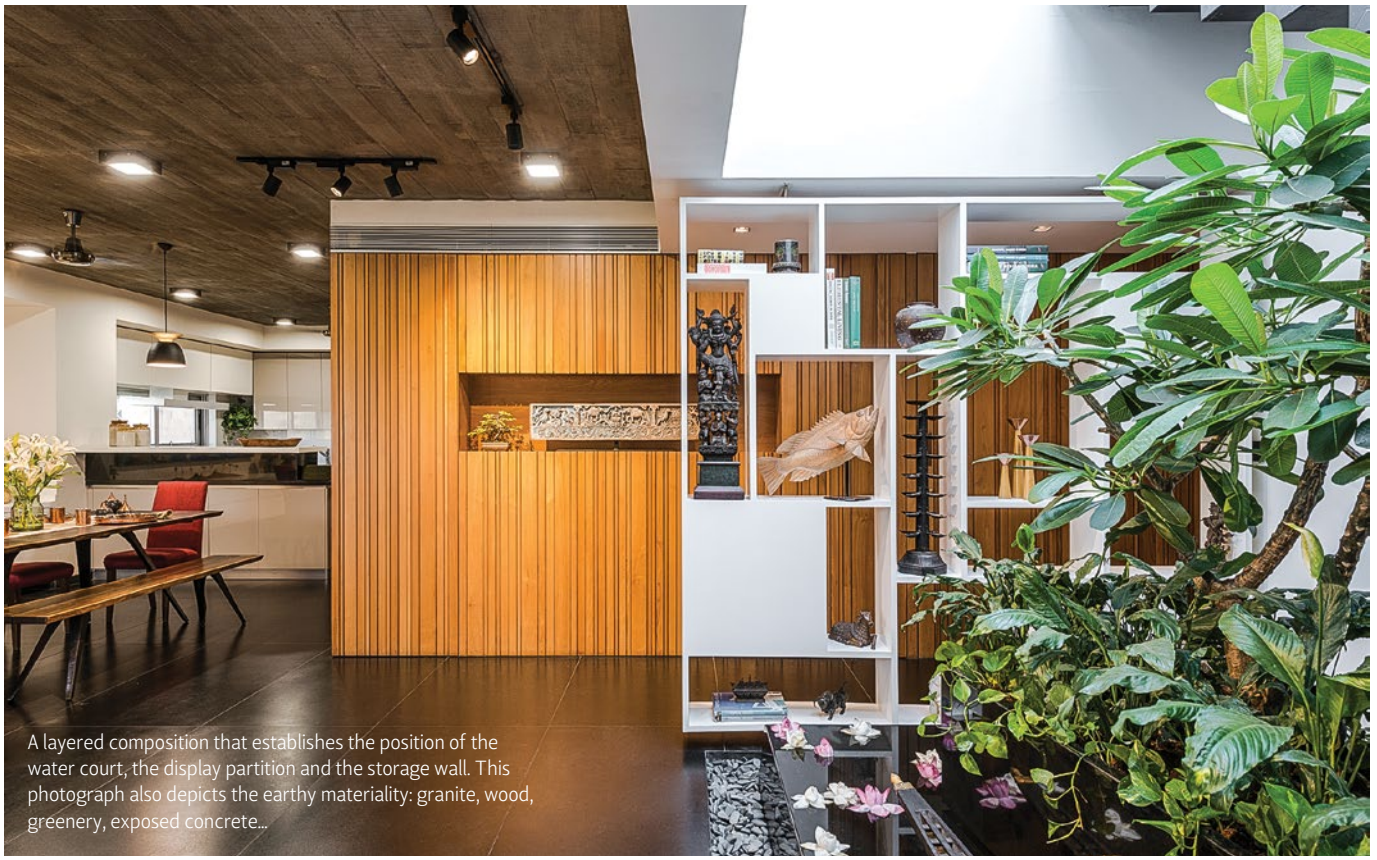
Hardik Shah

Luxury of space is a privilege not many can claim in the city of Mumbai. The owners of this duplex penthouse, however, are among the fortunate few who enjoy that blessing. The project came to Studio Lagom through previous association with the client, and was actually a corollary of redeveloping the building — a task entrusted to the Surat-based design firm — that houses the penthouse. For architect Hardik Shah, principal, Studio Lagom, this meant greater control on the interior programme of the duplex apartment, as several aspects — such as the presence or absence of walls — could be handled at the planning stage itself. “In that sense,” he says, “the project became one involving interior architecture rather than interior design.”

The brief from the client resonated with Studio Lagom’s predilection for creating spaces that were connected to nature, open to nature and exhibited a clean look rendered using minimal materials. The additional requirements — and emphatic ones at that — were a sense of being in a villa and not an apartment and plenty of storage. “So while we were developing the design, the constant thing at the back of our minds was the fact that it could not appear, at any cost, like a flat,” states Hardik. “And the challenge mainly revolved around fulfilling the storage requirements in a streamlined, unobtrusive fashion."

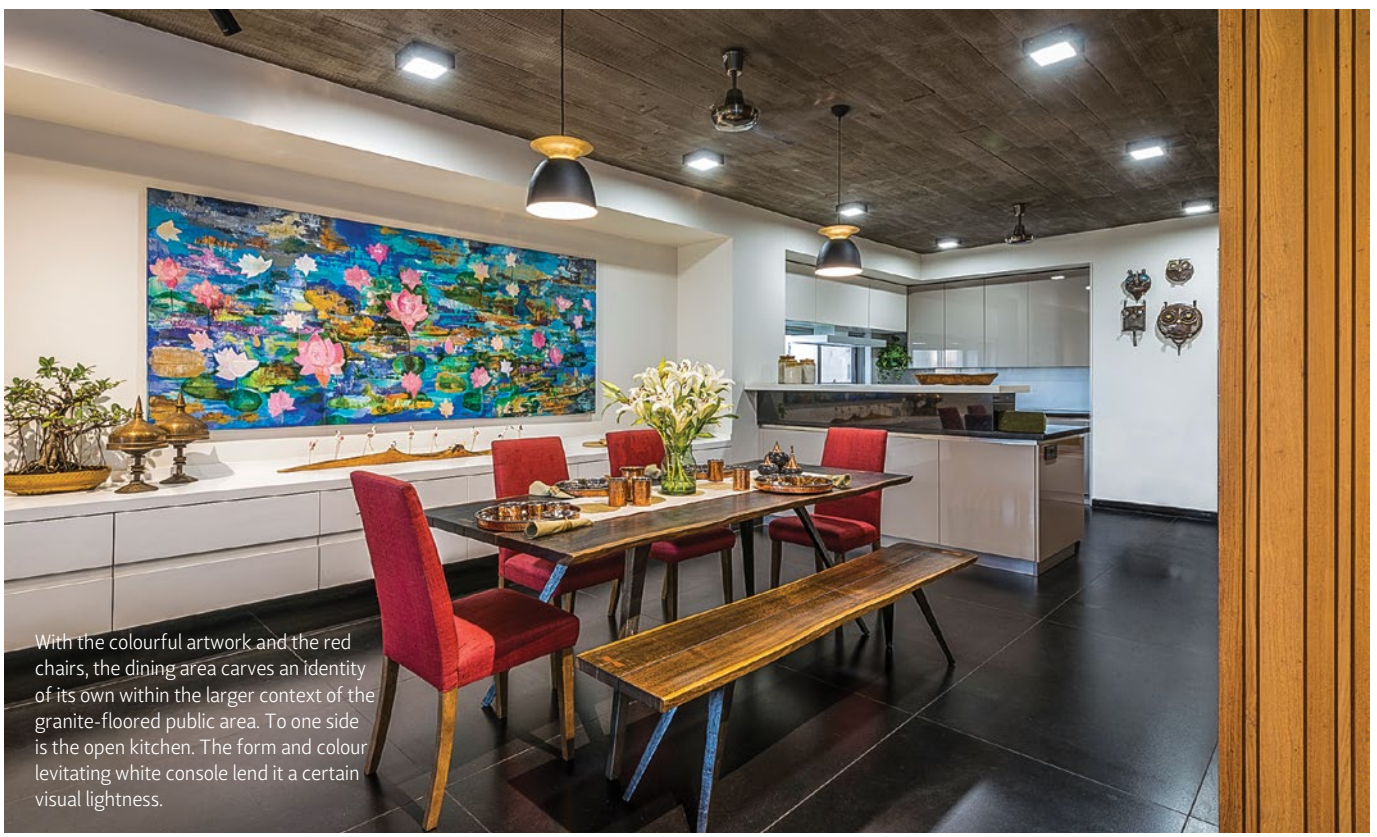
The spatial programme was driven by the owners’ wish for all the primary areas being located on the first level, with the second level being devoted to the entertainment zone/guest space and the terrace. Ergo, the lower level houses the living-dining, kitchen and three bedrooms used by the family of four; while the upper storey has the library, guest room (with attached sauna/steam), gym and the terrace garden. Simply put, the home is actually two apartments — almost independent of each other — tied by a vertical connection. “This way, guests and family enjoy a certain independence and don’t impinge on each other’s schedules... the daily household routines can continue downstairs without disturbing visitors.”

The zoning of the lower (primary) level shows a distinct delineation between public and private spaces, achieved with the help of a



A layered composition that establishes the position of the water court, the display partition and the storage wall. This photograph also depicts the earthy materiality: granite, wood, greenery, exposed concrete...

CONCEPT: To create a villa-like spatial experience in a duplex apartment typology, with special attention being paid to natural materiality, connection to the outside and green elements.



With the colourful artwork and the red chairs, the dining area carves an identity of its own within the larger context of the granite-floored public area. To one side is the open kitchen. The form and colour levitating white console lend it a certain visual lightness.





THIS PAGE The living area sports a relaxed vibe, thanks to the comfortable seating and especially the swing installed at the junction between this area and the dining section. The earthiness that pervades this level is best seen here. The L-shaped corner window lined with plants creates the illusion of a living space overlooking an outdoor garden.

36-foot passage that actually staples both the sections together. This defining element is materially expressed as an L-shaped teakwood-batten wrap that camouflages extensive storage and access points, and has, in all, some 18 doors concealed in its facade: the main entrance, and doors to the powder room and bedrooms, in addition to shutters of units that store everything from newspapers to luggage. "Configuring this element was where we spent a considerable amount of time," discloses the architect. "We undertook a close study of storage needs, from both, outside (the public zone) and inside (bedrooms/private zone), and then applied a jigsaw-like strategy to accommodate the requirements in a streamlined fashion." The main door is positioned somewhat in the centre of this passage; to its right lies the private zone and to its left the public zone.

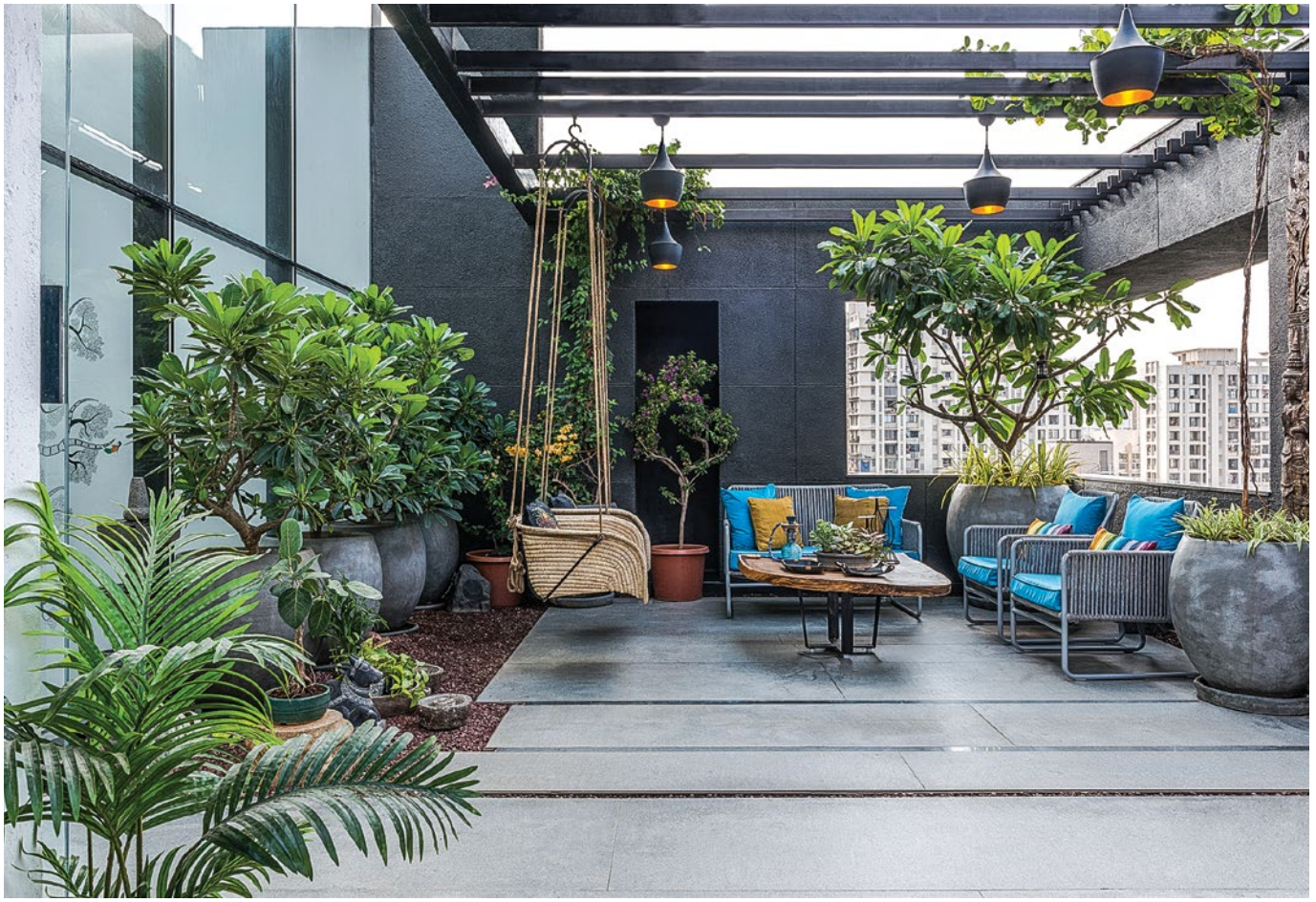
The arrangement of the bedrooms was dictated by family hierarchy (the sleeping quarters of the senior member are located first along the passage) and the clients' request that bedroom doors not face each other to respect privacy. The free-flowing, seamless public zone brings together functions of living, dining and cooking. While the orchestration of the different functionalities within the public zone creates its own sense of beauty, the cynosure of all



The stunning Gond-inspired artwork, created by artist Kruti Sheta-Patel, is loosely based on the Tree of Life icon. The skylight bathes the stairwell and the surrounding areas downstairs in natural light.









THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The terrace is — quite literally — the highlight of the penthouse. The transition from the enclosed to the outdoors is gentle, with visual connections ensured by the extensive use of glass — which becomes invisible in the evening, making the artwork of the stairwell a beautiful backdrop to the seating. The terrace can be accessed separately from the upper level — this way social gatherings don't disrupt the routine workings of the household. The south-west location of the terrace makes it well-ventilated. This, combined with lush greenery makes activities (such as taking meals and performing health regimes), pleasurable. At one end is a well-equipped bar.







THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The simple and elegant bedrooms keep away unnecessary design flourishes to create domains that are restful and practical.

eyes, however, is the landscaped water court that lies at the base of the granite-treaded cantilevered staircase that leads to the guest space and the skylight that crowns it — a volume that dovetails the clients' request for greenery with elements of nature. The reflective properties of the water pool amplify the surrounding volume of the living-dining area, while artist Kruti Sheta-Patel's enormous Gond-inspired painting, loosely based on the Tree of Life, adds an artistic flavour to the space. "The requirements of greenery, green views and — more crucially — the sense of being in a villa have been met with the help of layering windows with planters, and internally, the presence of the landscaped water court with its beautiful reflections and the subdued, gentle murmur of water," Hardik tells us.

The public zone is shielded from direct view from the main door with the help of a gridded partition that abuts the waterbody and serves as a display point for the family's extensive collection of travel souvenirs and art. The screen also offers fragmented snapshots of the landscaped court that lies just behind it, creating a feeling of intrigue in the first-time visitor.

The upper level sees generously-proportioned, well-appointed guest rooms — the owners are very caring hosts — a TV room and a gym. It also houses a terrace, quite literally the crowning glory of the duplex. Given their social nature, this was an important requirement for the clients. This beautiful lush, lounge-like space (a rarity in Mumbai) features comfortable seating at one end and a well-equipped bar. Come evening, this outdoor space assumes a soft, intimate mood, thanks to a variety of pendants and lighting concealed below parapet walls and within the greenery.

The material palette features concrete (ceiling of the living-dining-kitchen area), granite (flooring throughout the house) and wood (mainly the passage). "Somewhere, the material expression has been inspired by wabi-sabi which respects the inherent beauty of elements. The aesthetic, therefore, is natural, organic, earthy... We've stayed away from anything glossy or polished," says Hardik, who says this project, for him, reinforced the power of space-making. "What you are given is never a constraint. It's everything to do with what you can do with it, how you mould it, how you make the environment respond

MATERIALS

Flooring Black granite **Walls** Plaster **Windows** Aluminium **Interior** Recycled teak wood and veneer **Ceiling** Exposed concrete and Gypsum **Plumbing fittings** Grohe

THIS PAGE The guest room on the upper level. A large, well-stocked bookshelf provides lots of options for bedtime reading. The space has enough storage to help long-stay visitors get settled easily.









THIS PAGE The TV room is positioned next to the guest room for visitors' comfort. This way they can watch movies or TV at their own leisure, without feeling awkward about disrupting their hosts' schedules.

within and without. In this particular assignment, there were a lot of discussions with the client about how spaces had to be. It helped us clarify our thoughts and sometimes strengthen our position on certain issues."

At the end of it all, are happy clients. They are now the proud owners of a serene, almost resort-like habitat in the congested urbanity of Mumbai... in which sunlight, greenery, connections to the outside and within; and gregariousness and privacy in the right doses create a warm and welcoming home. BI

FACT FILE: **Project** House of Hidden Doors **Location** Mumbai, Maharastra **Area** 3,600 sq ft **Principal architect** Hardik Shah **Design team** Sweta Gajiwala Doriwala, Vivek Nayani, Raj Prajapati and Kruti Sheta-Patel (interior styling) **Landscaping** Umesh and Prachi Wakaley (Roots Designs) **Artist** Kruti Sheta-Patel **Structure** Gokani Consultants **Construction** Spanarch **Plumbing** Sangavi & Co **Electrical** Ramesh Gaud **Carpenters** Miral Vaja and Vinod Vaja **Flooring** Anthony **BMC architect** Vilas Nagalkar **Colour** Prakash Painter **AC** Dhesing Raj **Fabrication** Azad Fabrication **Glass** Kinjal Parekh

The whole Schbang!

The new office space of Schbang Digital Solutions in Mumbai, created by The Ashleys, wears its resilient and youthful brand identity with pride — where art plays a significant role in its exuberant design.

TEXT: CAROL FERRAO; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA, **COURTESY** THE ASHLEYS





In keeping with its young and creative vibe, the Schbang office is an eclectic mix of comforting, minimalist design and quirky, bold details — both attenuating the brand identity.



The Flock of Birds art piece on the ceiling, made of light coloured polyurethane foam, adds a fun element to the otherwise formal exposed ceiling.



INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Arbaysis Ashley and Pooja Ashley

Fuelled by passion for good design and communication, Schbang Digital Solutions is a thriving millennial-run firm in Mumbai. Co-founded in 2015 by Harshil Karia, Sohil Karia and Akshay Gurnani, the agency thrives on being edgy yet relevant, helping clients see "completeness" and "the whole shebang" of creative marketing. When it came to concretising their principles in brick and mortar, the founders turned to The Ashleys, a boutique Mumbai-based firm set up by the talented interior designers, Pooja Ashley and Arbaysis Ashley.

"Sohil, the co-founder and a designer, wanted the office to exude young and creative vibes. A modest budget was the basic brief around which we spun the whole design ideology articulating it in larger fabric as well as finer nuances of detailing," mentions Pooja as she explains how they wove their subtle trademark style throughout the project, creatively expressed with art, colour and restrained yet bold elements. "Our goal was to lend Schbang a design identity which would confirm uniqueness and an artistic approach," adds Arbaysis.

With a typical commercial layout, the brand new office space was previously a bare shell commissioned to The Ashleys as a design and build project. The planning had to account for the grid of columns in the layout, seamlessly integrating it into what would become an open floor plan office. Designed as a close-knit work environment, the 10,000 sq ft Schbang office, which accommodates 100 employees, breaks the hierarchy by laying the foundation for a design vocabulary that is as informal as it is professional. The fluidity of spaces devised the spatial alignment of the office, resulting in an open plan with a circulation pattern that encourages interaction. Art and vibrant decor accents replace obvious and expensive interior trends to express the brand identity.

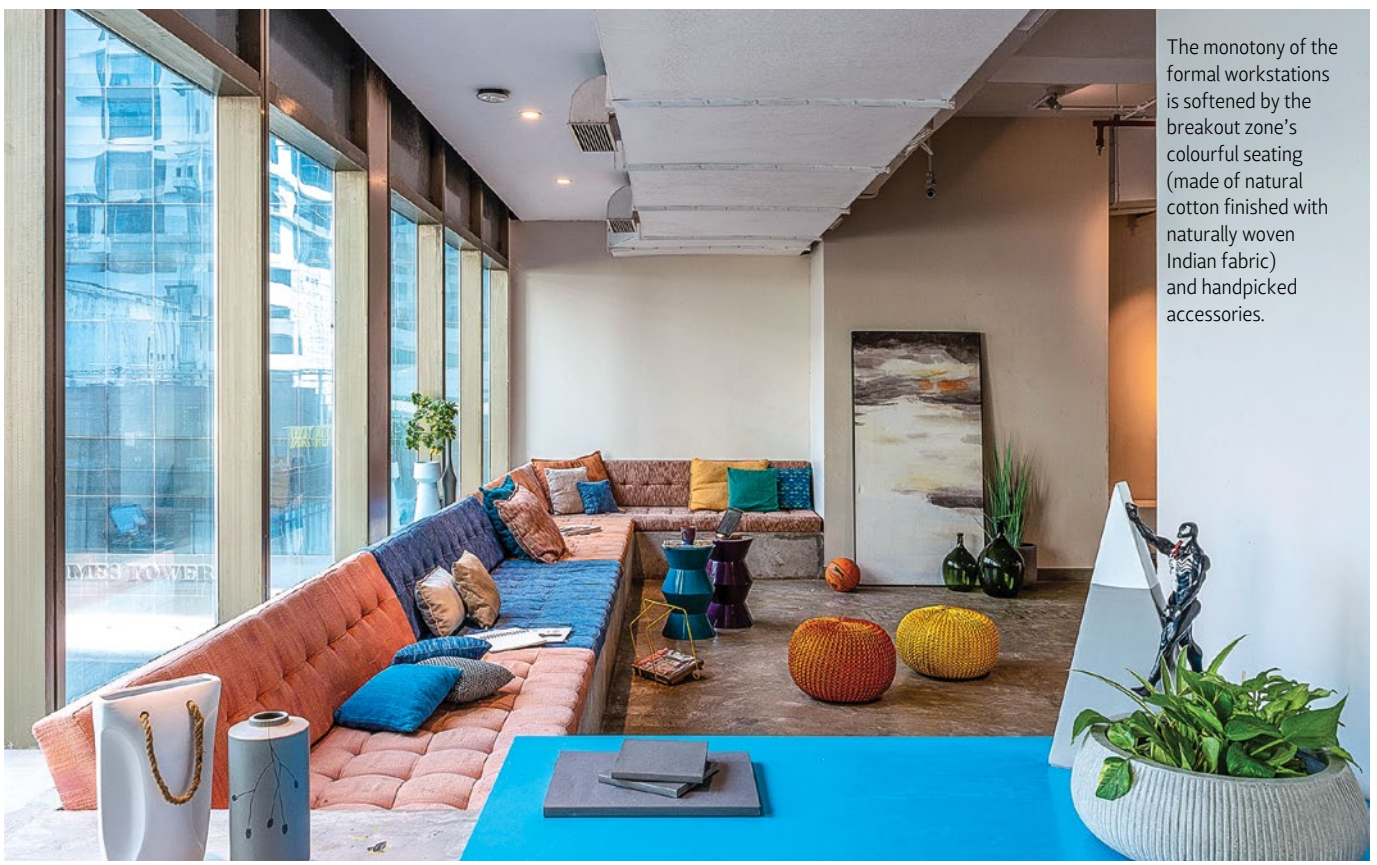
From the transparent reception lobby, the adjacent, partially enclosed conference room and the open meeting room, the fluid planning augments the perception of space and epitomises the scale of volume. Anticipating the need for flexibility and freedom in a millennial work environment, the office neatly transitions from formal to informal sections. The workstations form the core of the office space, while the breakout zones are spread out on the elongated perimeter. Along with a cafeteria and pantry, the office is equipped with a multi-functional zone to accommodate professional shoots and events.

To promote a close-knit office culture between the employee and the employer, the co-founder's office is left open, separated only



Acting both as a breakout space and informal zone to ideate, the plush, in-built seating is deliberately linear and elongated to celebrate the scale of the space.

CONCEPT: Materials, textures and colours with informal and formal characteristics are curated with handpicked art to exemplify the young and ambitious ethos of a digital agency's office.



The monotony of the formal workstations is softened by the breakout zone's colourful seating (made of natural cotton finished with naturally woven Indian fabric) and handpicked accessories.





ABOVE Instead of solid partitions, the co-founder's office is distinguished by its bespoke interior using statement elements like artwork and the wood and string lounge chairs by Defurn.

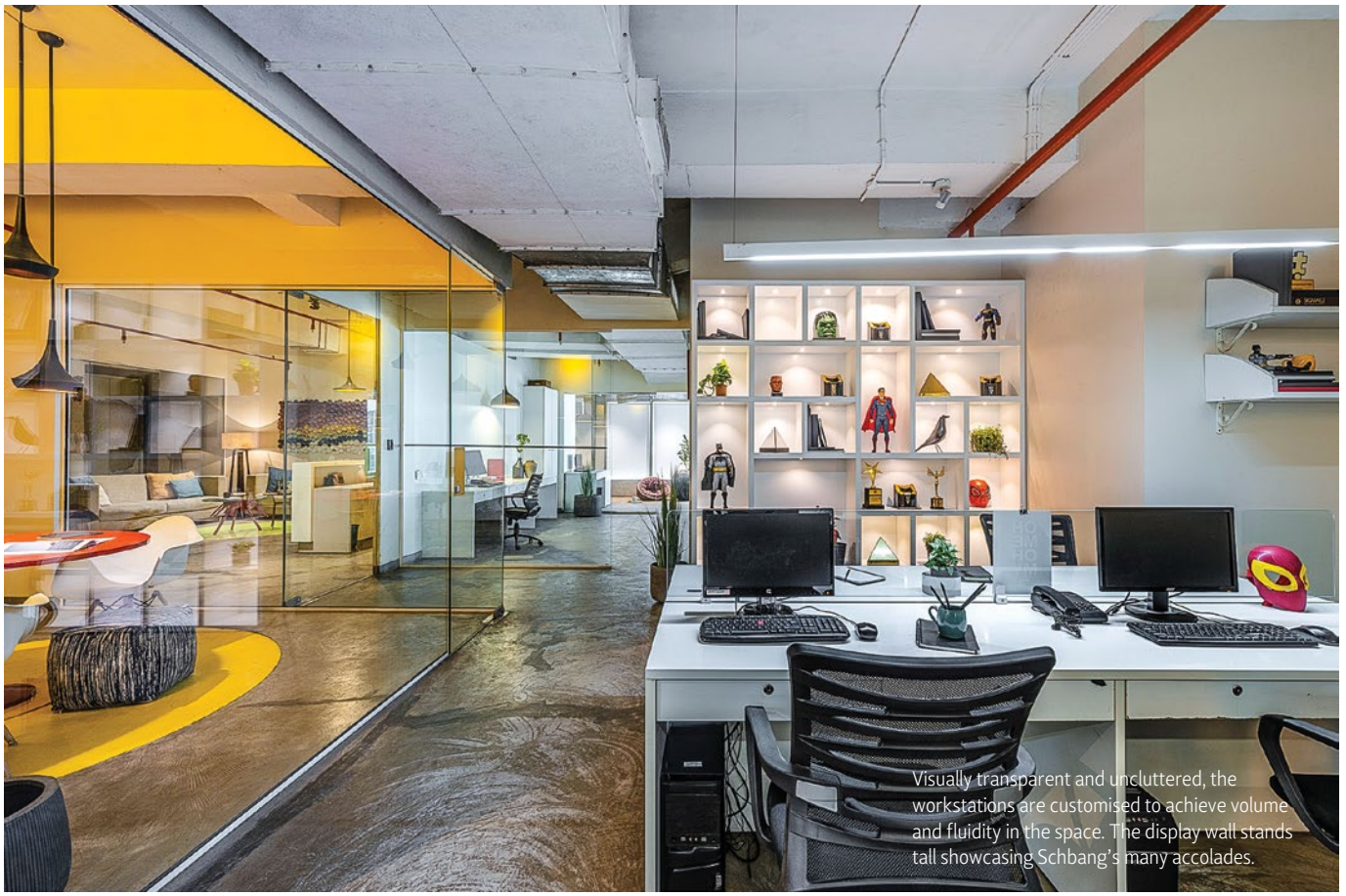
LEFT The relaxed breakout spaces are arranged in the perimeter to take advantage of the rejuvenating nature of the daylight that streams in aplenty from the transparent facade.

by its eye-catching interiors. An unpretentious, white desk is paired with statement chairs instead of regular office ones. Quirky wood and string chairs form a mini-lounge area within the workspace. Walls featuring artwork and shelves displaying creative collectibles emphasise the laid-back, youthful nature of the company.

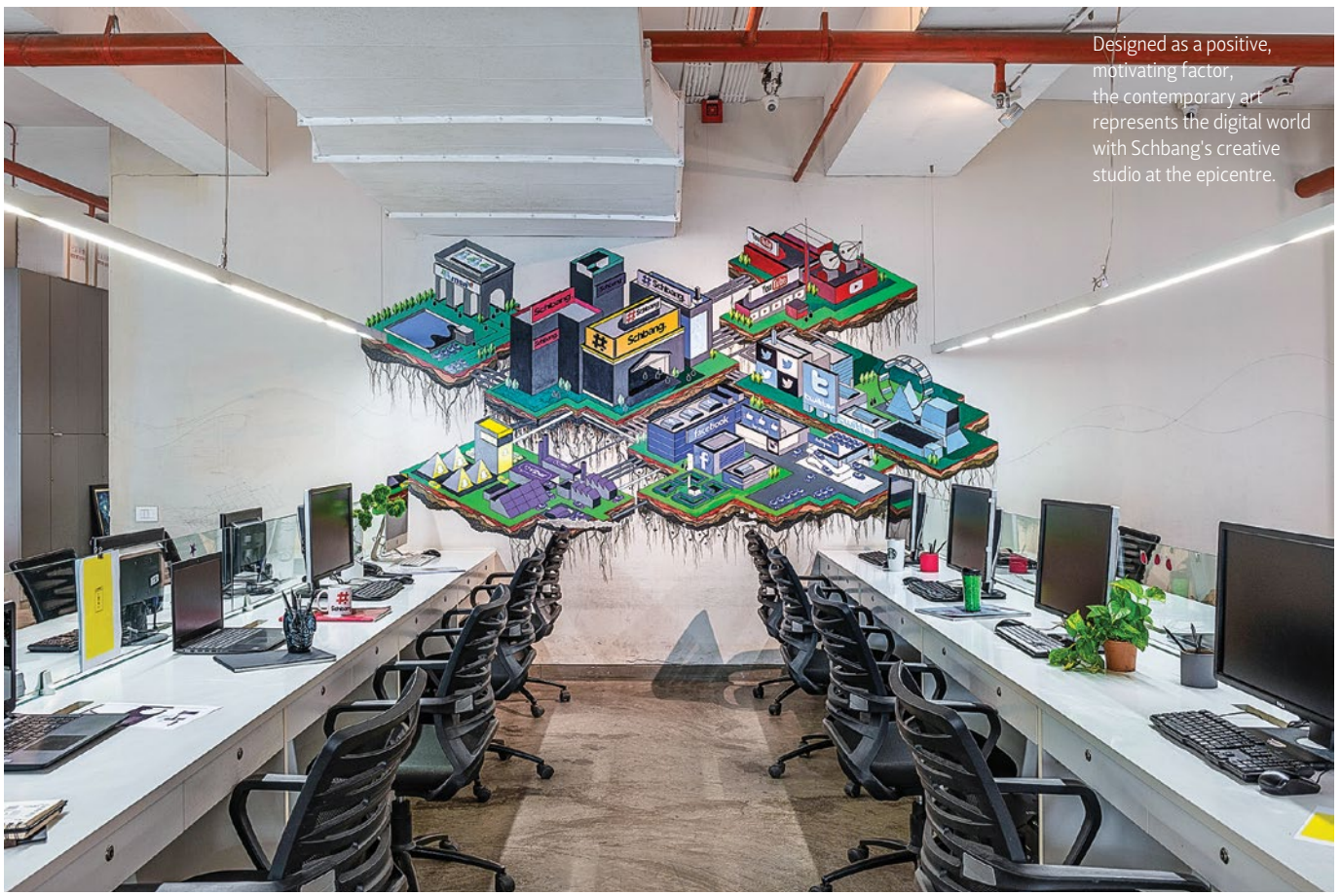
Expressing the character of the office, the reception area is a blend of formal and informal palettes. It's a canvas made up of a concrete floor, a solid mass desk in stark white laminate, white walls, glass partition and neutral toned sofas. A yellow backdrop wall with a quirky hashtag symbol and the company name adds a touch of playfulness to the space along with accent cushions and a rug. The white wall features a mural composed of bottle caps of assorted sizes — "The whole composition has been articulated using over 300 caps and layered with colour spectrums resembling waves. This was our approach to express power ideation and creativity of

MATERIALS

Floor Concrete **Walls** Bricks **Facade** Glass **Partitions** Gypsum and glass **Furniture** Plywood and laminates **Lights** Metal



Visually transparent and uncluttered, the workstations are customised to achieve volume and fluidity in the space. The display wall stands tall showcasing Schbang's many accolades.



Designed as a positive, motivating factor, the contemporary art represents the digital world with Schbang's creative studio at the epicentre.





ABOVE The partially enclosed conference room is enhanced with diverse materials and textures — a transparent left section, grey flooring, deep bold orange right wall and clear white furniture.

LEFT A quirky and artistic approach is followed in the lighting design in the meeting room, customised to complement the vibrant colour palette.

Schbang, which is the core strength of all of their services," explain the designers.

Visible from this impressive reception is the semi-open conference room, a cuboidal space characterised by merging variant material textures and colours. A glass wall softens the deep blood orange wall opposite, and over the rustic grey floor rests the clear white table and chairs. Conference rooms often tend to have a sterile appearance, but this one is bursting with energy and conducive to ideation. The floor and pendant lamps add the necessary relaxed, informal touch for balance.

Moving inside the office and observing how each zone unfolds, we notice how The Ashleys have maintained a consistent design story that is also surprisingly distinct for each space. "Colours have been carefully handpicked and layered throughout the office in a controlled and a graphical approach over a combination of raw concrete and white base," highlights Pooja. A muted, yet impactful material palette with rhythmic textures endorses a better user experience in the design. The rustic grey of the concrete floor forms a muted foil for vibrant interiors accents.

The customised workstations are arranged in the central core and are designed to be visually transparent and uncluttered. Details



An extension of the informal zone, the cafeteria and pantry sit in a cosy corner of the office with a vista of Mumbai's cityscape.

such as the low glass dividers on the workstations maintain the fluidity of the space. Custom artwork and a display wall with Schbang's array of accolades add an element of playfulness which is key to the creative process of the company. The workspace is broken by a series of columns that were carefully entwined into the layout to make them part of the design. Some double as feature walls showcasing exquisite hand-painted art.

The formal-meets-informal narrative also continues in the ceiling which is exposed, with the quirky brand identity of the company expressed by the Flock of Birds art piece suspended over the worktops. "It is inspired by the evening sky and augments the persona of the micro-environment. This is a cost-effective alternative for false ceilings," mentions Arbaysis.

The blue birds twinkle as the natural light streaming in from the transparent facade flows through the office. The informal and relaxing breakout spaces are arranged in the perimeter of the design to take advantage of the rejuvenating nature of the daylight. While the design is mostly barrier-free, the few partition walls in the office are mostly a mix of solid brick and transparent glass, decided strategically with privacy and visual flow as the two main parameters.

One of the foremost challenges for the designers was to work within the modest project budget without trading off on the design goal. "We achieved this through various strategies like simple and cost-effective art installations like the Flock of Birds, murals, wall art, etc and sleek, customised lighting fixtures that run along the whole length of the desks," the designers assert.

At Schbang, the conventional understanding of office culture is questioned with subtle interventions, making a captivating statement without being abrasive. It's just the right dose of creativity and professionalism that millennials crave from their workspace and The Ashleys' design strategy definitely comes across as spot on! BI

FACT FILE: **Project** Schbang Office **Client** Schbang Digital Solutions **Location** Lower Parel, Mumbai **Area** 10,000 sq ft **Principal designers** Pooja Ashley and Arbaysis Ashley **Vendors** Defurn and Essenza (accent furniture) and Enrica (accent lights)

Home and Art

Functionality meets bold design for a memorable shopping experience at furniture store Olvvi Lifestyle in Vadodara, courtesy the creative minds from The Crossboundaries.

TEXT: NIHARIKA JOSHI; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** ISHITA SITWALA, **COURTESY** THE CROSSBOUNDARIES





A striking installation of entangled orange chairs against a black backdrop showcases the drama and boldness of the furniture brand.







ARCHITECT

Harsh Boghani

An elliptical mirror that reflects the warmth of a brick wall. A natural teakwood writing table sitting against a woven cane panel. An exquisite, hand-polished bed illuminated under the wash of a curiously bent ceiling light... These are sumptuous glimpses of Vadodara-based Olvvi Lifestyle, a luxury furniture store brought to life by architect Harsh Boghani who heads The Crossboundaries.

The initial brief from the client required a fresh new language focusing on a variety of furniture set-ups that would appeal to a diverse clientele. Harsh and his team took the opportunity to create a multi-layered retail experience that moves through different scales of experiences, from intimate coves to a dramatic, larger-than-life display. The designers worked with existing furniture compositions, adding their own inspired touches along the way.

TOP The wide, transparent shop front gives a glimpse into the constantly changing displays of furniture and lifestyle objects.

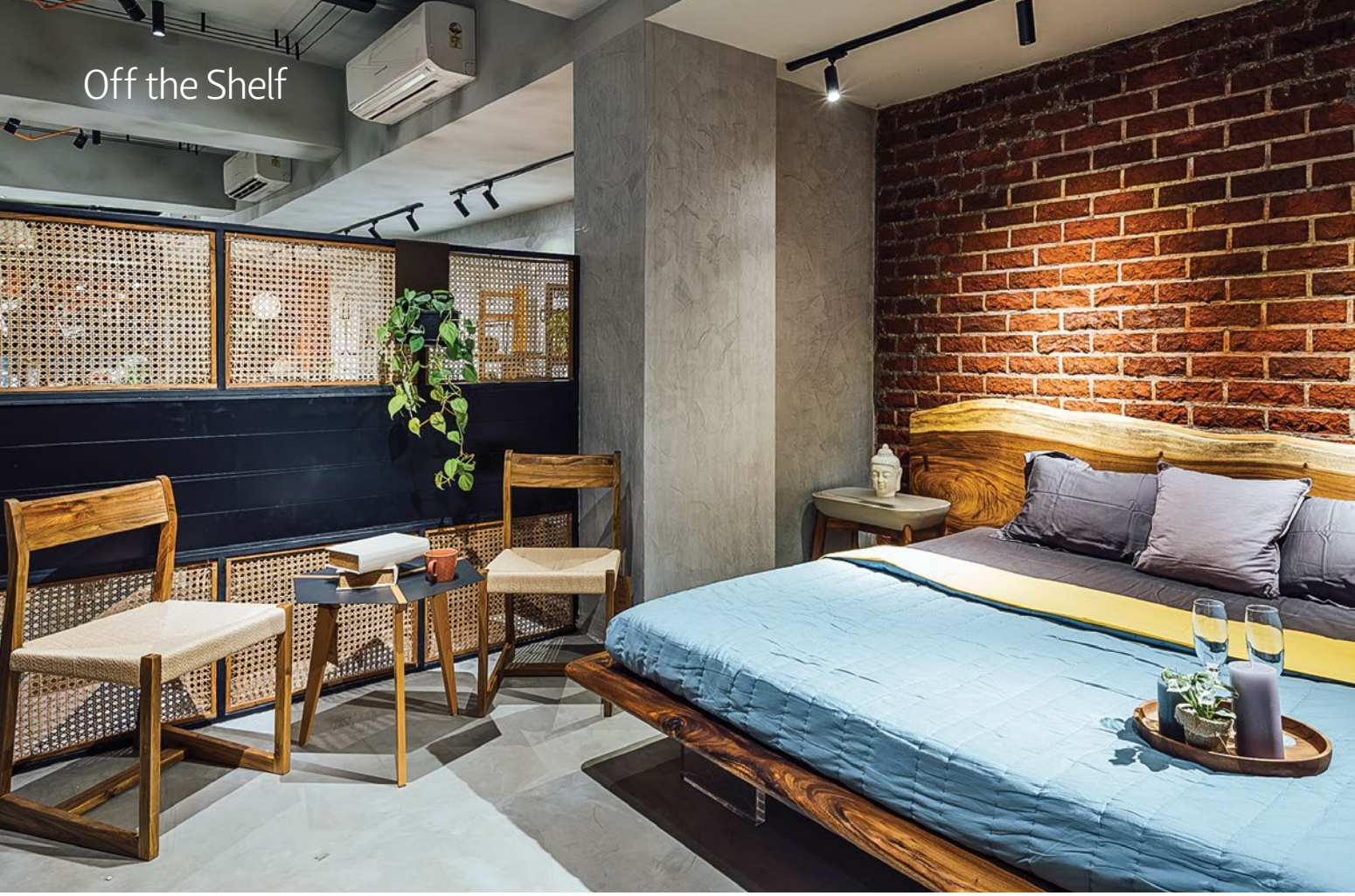
ABOVE The dramatic installation at the facade is a bold way to grab the curiosity of passers-by.



Custom-designed, bent metal pipes are arranged with calculated precision to form the light fixture on the ceiling.



Eclectic furniture is further enhanced with minimal wall graphics and abundant greens, similar to a set-up you'd find in one's home.





CONCEPT: To create a home-like setting for a furniture and decor store with clever usage of materials and colours.

ABOVE A system of low-heighted, slender partitions segregate display areas and bring order in the space. The designers worked with mild steel frames and cane to allow for lightness and partial visibility.

LEFT The partitions not only effectively divide up the store, but also create transparency through a healthy synergy of two different materials. Woven cane screens bring a touch of Indian-ness into an otherwise contemporary, minimal space.

The first thing you'll notice when you enter the Olvvi Lifestyle store is how each object and furniture piece is displayed in a natural, home-like setting, embraced by abundant greens. "We have designed the entire shop floor as an array of alcoves containing specific furniture exhibits, in unique and customised backdrops. From ideal living room and bedroom arrangements to individual pieces of furniture, the showroom showcases products in both mundane as well as extraordinary ways," explains Harsh. A muted palette of greys and deep earthy tones are used to highlight some spaces, while the rest of the store is a riot of colours and textures.

A unifying element across the open showroom is an abstract light structure suspended from the ceiling. An innovation of the design team, the lighting fixture made of metal pipes with spotlights at its bends provides a sense of distortion to the space. Each bent and joint has been custom-designed keeping in mind load transfers and structural dynamics, as well as the overall aesthetic. While the ceiling is playful, the flooring has been kept minimal with seamless MicroCrete. The flooring





ABOVE A set of sleek tables and chairs, complete with beautiful crockery and highlighted by minimal spotlights — a dining scenario thoughtfully designed by The Crossboundaries.

LEFT The careful placement of dining tables, table-linen and everyday objects, along with the appropriate use of lighting and contrast gives visitors a glimpse of possibilities for their home.

surface and texture were chosen to create a uniform background for the variety of furniture and objects being showcased.

A system of low-heighted, slender partitions have been designed to segregate display areas as well as bring order into the space. Instead of using heavy, full-heighted partitions, the designers decided to work with mild steel frames and cane work. These not only effectively demarcate different zones but also create a sense of lightweight transparency. "The woven cane screens bring a touch of Indian-ness into an otherwise contemporary, minimal space. It has always been The Crossboundaries' endeavour to combine and contrast various materials, to challenge conventional idea," explains Harsh. Each display area has been designed to be flexible, allowing for different set-ups to be created with the arrival of new stock and changing trends.

MATERIALS

Walls Paint, bricks and corrugated sheets **Ceiling** MicroCrete **Partitions** Mild steel frames and cane **Lighting fixture** Metal pipes

Off the Shelf

In tandem with angular randomness used at some points across the showroom, the angled display cases sit well with the edgy design language.

A sharp, angular, double-layered display with a cool, textured teal wall is designed to showcase singular, pristine chairs, sofas and lifestyle objects.



The store illustrates a study in contrasts and textures such as this display where deep orange is offset by a jet black backdrop.





TOP The designers have strived to showcase furniture in its natural, home-like setting through different scales of experiences, from intimate and personal to a strikingly massive visualisation.

ABOVE The double-storeyed shelves house various seating options and are evocative of plush, modern European furniture stores.

Near the entrance of Olvvi Lifestyle, an exposed brick wall washes the space in warmth, while across the shop floor, a tangle of chairs catches visitors off guard. Another wall covered with stucco marble finish paint adds visual plays with graphic elements mounted on it. As one moves inwards, an orange corner in warped corrugated sheets defines a unique aesthetic. Further ahead, an ellipsoidal absolute black space grabs attention with its dramatic installation that underlines the urgency and boldness of the furniture brand. Chairs are flung, frozen and suspended in all directions, becoming more than pieces of furniture — they traverse into the dimensions of art. Accentuated by spotlights and fresh greens, this dynamic installation is visible from the shop window throughout the day.

A sharp angular, double-layered display of furniture pieces at the far end of the store, sporting a cool textured teal wall, is designed to showcase singular, pristine chairs, sofas and lifestyle objects. The angled display cases sit well in tandem with the angular randomness used at some points across the showroom. The angled sections are painted in two different colours on either side — a contrast of deep teal and textured white. Instead of subduing the edges, they are highlighted with profile lighting and metal frame edges. Harsh





explains, "The creation of these angled partitions is evocative of plush, modern furniture stores across Europe, which are a reflection of our sensibilities as open-minded, well-travelled designers." These shelves are largely populated with abundant indoor plants and smaller home decor objects.

With the Olvvi Lifestyle store, The Crossboundaries has managed to achieve a synergy between functionality and bold design by not only optimising available space but also creating a memorable experience for visitors. Through the careful placement of rugs, side-tables and everyday objects, appropriate use of lighting and contrast and other clever interventions, the store has become a multi-layered and rich experience, for both seekers of good furniture as well as intelligent interior design. BI

TOP At the glass display facing the road: Chairs are flung, frozen and suspended in all directions, to create a dynamic and memorable visual.

ABOVE In contrast to the entangled chair installation, the neatly ordered display unit brings balance and gravity to the space.

FACT FILE: Project Olvvi Lifestyle **Client** Ankit Patel **Location** Vadodara, Gujarat **Area** 2,080 sq ft **Principal architect** Harsh Boghani **Design team** Forum Jariwala, Rishab Prajapati, Vijay Dhabi, Neel Patel and Shailesh Boghani

Off the Shelf

The programme of the 1,100-square-foot Abdul Halder Flagship store, New Delhi, uses arches — symbolic of the feminine form — as the main strategy for space modulation. A strong colour palette and contrasting luxury elements form a fitting backdrop for the elegant, rich designerwear. While working on this assignment, the architect's main focus was also to create a specific design language for the brand's upcoming stores in Dubai, London and New York.





Vaulting into the Limelight

Architect Tanya Chutani of Pantone Collective Design Studio demonstrates how a striking monotonic colour scheme can lead to powerful space-making with the Abdul Halder flagship store in New Delhi.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** NIVEDITAA GUPTA, **COURTESY** PANTONE COLLECTIVE DESIGN STUDIO



ARCHITECT

Tanya Chutani

A minimal material palette. A chromatic scheme upheld on a single colour. Graceful arches. Glints of gold. Sensuous velvet. Welcome to the incredibly striking Abdul Halder flagship store, New Delhi. The creator of this vision is architect Tanya Chutani, principal of one-year-old Pantone Collective Design Studio. However, her experience in the design field goes back further: she has collaborated on projects like PVR Director's Cut - Home, PVR Gold Class Gurugram and retail design for Sureena Chowdhri in addition to a slew of hospitality, residential and commercial projects. She admits to a penchant for creating spaces with art and colours — you'd guess as much from the name of her design firm — and that's what brought her to the notice of the fashion brand which was looking to establish a flagship store in New Delhi. The client requirement mentioned the creation of a brand identity with luxurious connotations, a spatial identity that would put the rich, elegant

The entrance is defined by an arched, brass-finish stainless-steel doorway — to give a feeling of grandeur while entering the fashion vault.

CONCEPT: To capture the essence of the luxury of the fashion brand, articulated through a progressive composition of different elements, monotone colour and materiality.



THIS PAGE The vault, where the main display pieces are placed to showcase the fashion label. The bold use of a monotone was born out of a desire to create a different user experience. The green forms a fitting canvas for creations that often sport bright tones and traditional work.



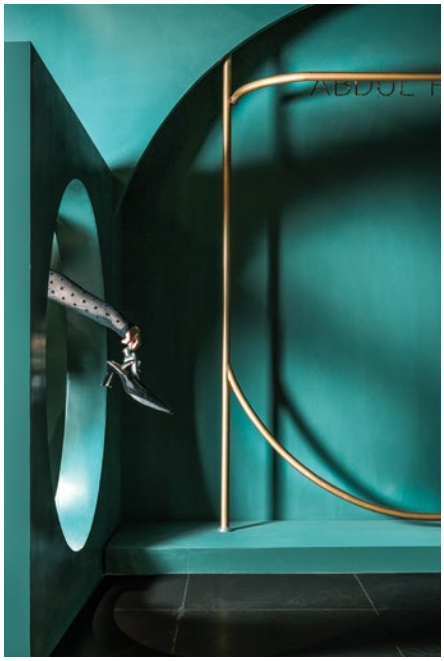
designerwear in focus. The same vocabulary would then be carried forward to its upcoming stores in Dubai, London and New York.

The design that had already been chalked out for the 1,100-square-foot retail space before Tanya stepped in the picture did not do justice to the space. "The previous site layout and planning was making the space and circulation dense and claustrophobic," she elaborates. "This immediately gave me an idea to work on an open plan concept and make the space look expansive." Given that colour was to be used as a tool for space-making, a significant portion of the development process was devoted to which colour would make the cut for this fashion retail outlet. "We wanted a bold use of colour, and we had to select one that felt right for the DNA of what Abdul Halder is about, and something, which is effortless across all seasons and different geographical locations," the architect explains. The colour, she adds, was selected after a lot of back and forth with the client. "The brand includes a lot of traditional details in their traditional wear... and a lot of bright tones in their couture wear. Working closely with their fabric collection and look books, helped decide on this deep green — the Sacramento. The dark background

THIS PAGE The display strategy uses minimal, light-on-the-eye brass-finish hangers, curved in deference to the overall design ethos. These elements are born out of an interest in creating a distinctive design through a simple language. A tinted mirror on the ceiling and on the feature wall adds illusory depth and height to the space. The use of mirrors increases the feature lighting mood inside as well as reflects the central 'sacramento' theme.

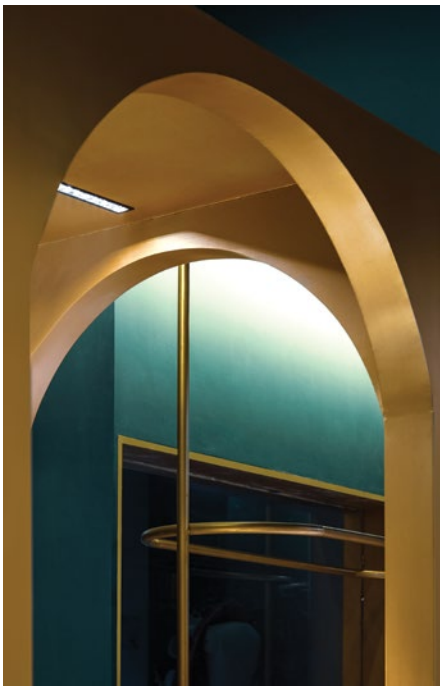












colour and the specific mood lighting on display areas create an attraction itself." But given that couture retail spaces usually keep the envelope muted so that the fashion wear 'stands' out, was there any apprehension whether the backdrop would, sometimes, overpower the creations? "Yes, there was that risk… but we wanted to do something different here," Tanya states, adding that getting the right colour and making sure it would work with all the sartorial creations were the main challenges in this assignment. "We wanted to create a different user experience with an art gallery theme to highlight the product even more, with the fashion wear becoming art."

This 'different user experience' has been articulated through a "progressive composition of different elements and contrasting colours and materiality." The open plan layout has been parcelled, with the help of arched gateways, into different functions. At the entrance lies a golden, brass-finish stainless steel arched doorway that creates a feeling of grandeur while entering the fashion vault. The space within is divided into three segments: in front of the entrance lies the 'vault' where

THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The dark (sacramento) green has been used throughout the store with a mix of antique brass-finished highlight elements — as hangers, the entrance portal, side tables and in the design of the reception desk — to create a sense of contrast with luxury. The selection of the colour itself involved a lot of discussion with the client and a close study of the brand's fabric collection and look books. Sacramento green was chosen as it resonated with the DNA of the fashion label as well as felt effortless across seasons and geographical locations.



the main display pieces are placed; to its left lies the seating/conversation area with its decadent dusty-green velvet sofas; and, on the extreme left, are the concealed trial rooms. The arches, which give the fashion store an undeniably feminine appeal — and, for the architect, its moniker of Sacramento Vault — were born out of site constraints. "There were these two fixed structural columns in the middle of the open plan… which were concealed and made into our main feature — the vault — that segregates the conversation area and the main display," Tanya tells us.

Contrasting and amplifying the rich, sensual aesthetic established by the starring colour, is a trio of supplementary materials — the beautiful and unifying charcoal terrazzo flooring; tinted mirrors on the ceiling and accent walls that magnify the art gallery-like ambience and add illusory volume; and the brass-finish SS elements that increase the luxury quotient of the space manifold.

MATERIALS

Flooring Dark charcoal terrazzo tiles
Ceiling Reflective tinted mirror **Wall panelling** Duco paint **Entryway** Antique brass-finish vault in stainless steel
Furnishing Velvet



The lighting strategy highlights different elements, contrasting colours and materials using a layering technique. A mix of architectural lights (for overall illumination) and spotlights (to highlight elements) help create the desired mood. Use of bendable LED profiles plays a major role in highlighting the main central vault while guiding the customers in aisles.

Of the latter, the entry portal is the largest, but within the store, too, the burnished metal is woven into the narrative as small furniture accents and display hangers. "Each display hanger space itself acts as an art piece, relating to the curved geometric theme of the project," says Tanya. "Instead of pure brass, they're actually constructed out of antique-finish stainless steel for reasons of longevity and strength. These elements are born out of an interest in creating a distinctive design through a simple language that puts this retail space as a unique addition to this area."

In a space so womb-like and dark, lighting played a major role in establishing the desired effect and bringing life to the design. Different elements, contrasting colours and materials have been highlighted using light layering. The strategy features a mix of architectural lights for overall illumination, and spotlights to throw elements in focus.

Bendable LED profiles played a major role in highlighting the central vault while guiding the customers in aisles. Mirrors increase the impact of feature lighting and add to the spatial presence by creating bewildering and fascinating reflections.

"Our concepts crafted for the space excited the client from the beginning... We loved the space and how it has turned out,' exults Tanya. "I still remember the feeling we got when the client and I saw the space coming up — the colours, the vault and the play of light... It was a delightful experience and a positive outcome. Team Pantone is feeling very, very proud!" BI

FACT FILE: **Project** Sacramento Vault
Client Abdul Halder flagship store
Location New Delhi **Area** 1,100 sq ft
Principal architect Tanya Chutani

DESIGN PERSPECTIVE

EVENT PARTNER

FOAID
FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGNING

The Design Perspective series, for its 55th edition, presented an exceptional show at Chennai on the 28th of February, 2020. The regional design community convened for an apprising evening of conversations at The Leela Palace. Ar. Samira Rathod, was the keynote speaker. She believes opportunities of discussions like the ones provided on the Design Perspective stage act as a catalyst to consolidate ideas and thoughts.

Ar. Samira perfectly structured her presentation, 'The Shifting Gaze', in two parts. The first part is a conglomeration of ideas that inspire her work and the second part are projects that show these ideas come to life. The idea of a circle on a spirograph metaphorically relates to our journey in the universe, on a dynamic interweave of a network of curved lines and circles. "I truly believe that it is in beauty that we can find peace. It is in beauty that we can find joy and in the struggle to create things that are beautiful, there will be sustainability." She mused.

On the practice of structures being crafted with embellishments, she said, "Craft engages people and gives a sense of dignity." Their studio, that considers process to be an extremely important part, experiments with such different ideas and manifests them in reality. She went on to show three of the studio's projects- 'The school of dancing arches' in a nearly abandoned heritage town of Bhadran in Gujarat, a community hall in the village of Bysandram near Bangalore, and 'Shadow house' in Alibaug.

Keeping up with a series of compact presentations, featured in D-Talks were four eminent designers who put on their thinking hats and delivered on the topic, 'Architecture - Trendy or Timeless'. A global phenomenon like architecture is an entity so important, it is always swinging between holding on to the classic while striving to embrace the future. Architectural styles having changed over centuries goes to show its adaptable nature while so many examples of historic buildings still standing the test of time in its awe-inducing beauty and build. Timeless designs while upholding its practicality and sophistication should also be able to capture the zeitgeist or 'spirit of the times' as timeless is not always inherently stylish. The presenters also experimented with the possibility of either mutual exclusivity or balance between the two terms. Tahaer Zoyab (Triplo O Studio), Murali Murugan (Murali Architects), Benny Kuriakose (Vedika), and Ponni M Concessao (Oscar & Ponni Architects), with 6 minutes and 20 slides on hand, presented their take on the subject.





Samira Rathod, Samira Rathod Design Atelier Mumbai In His Element As The Keynote Speaker





The Chennai edition wound up with a lot of insightful and inspiring information shared amongst all the creative minds in attendance. The conference wouldn't have been possible without the support of the participation of our respected speakers, an enthusiastic audience & patrons such as Classic Marble Company, Asian Paints, Stylam, Shera & Schindler to name a few. The series will make its next stops at two promising cities: Bengaluru and Colombo, Srilanka.



School of Thought

Underpinned by a fresh outlook towards pre-primary education, the delightful GGIS Atria campus in Pune, created by Studio Infinity, encourages learning outside the classroom and provides myriad playful ways to keep young minds engaged and happy.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** ATUL KANETKAR, **COURTESY** STUDIO INFINITY



The long bamboo-shaded corridor that abuts the four classrooms offers space to run, swap stories or indulge in scribbling.

Learning Curve





LEFT The cheerful entrance, with a mural depicting childish exuberance. The students leave off their footwear here as this is a 'no shoes school!'

RIGHT Number play: a hopscotch grid, built into the flooring, is ever ready to receive high-on-energy visitors.



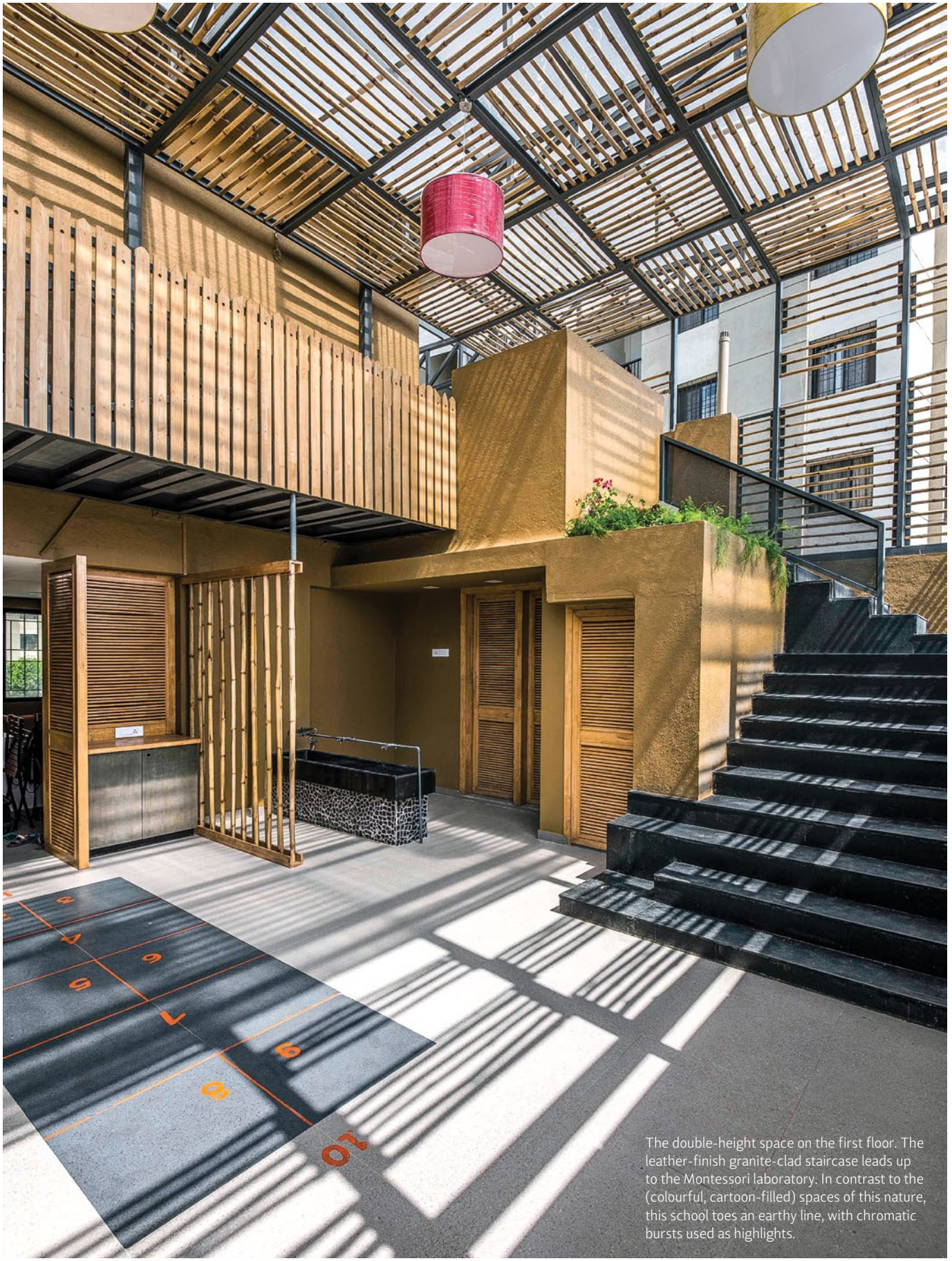
Architect Tuhar Kothawade and interior designer Chiranjivi Lukad

For an architect or designer, every project represents some learning, some incremental addition to the collective wisdom called experience. Some experiences make working on subsequent assignments easier... and some impact more fundamental aspects concerning credos and viewpoints. For interior designer Chiranjivi Lunkad and architect Tushar Kothawade, founders and principals of Pune-based Studio Infinity, it was the pre-primary school they designed in Thergaon, Pune, that brought home the fact that being user-oriented far outweighed being design-oriented.

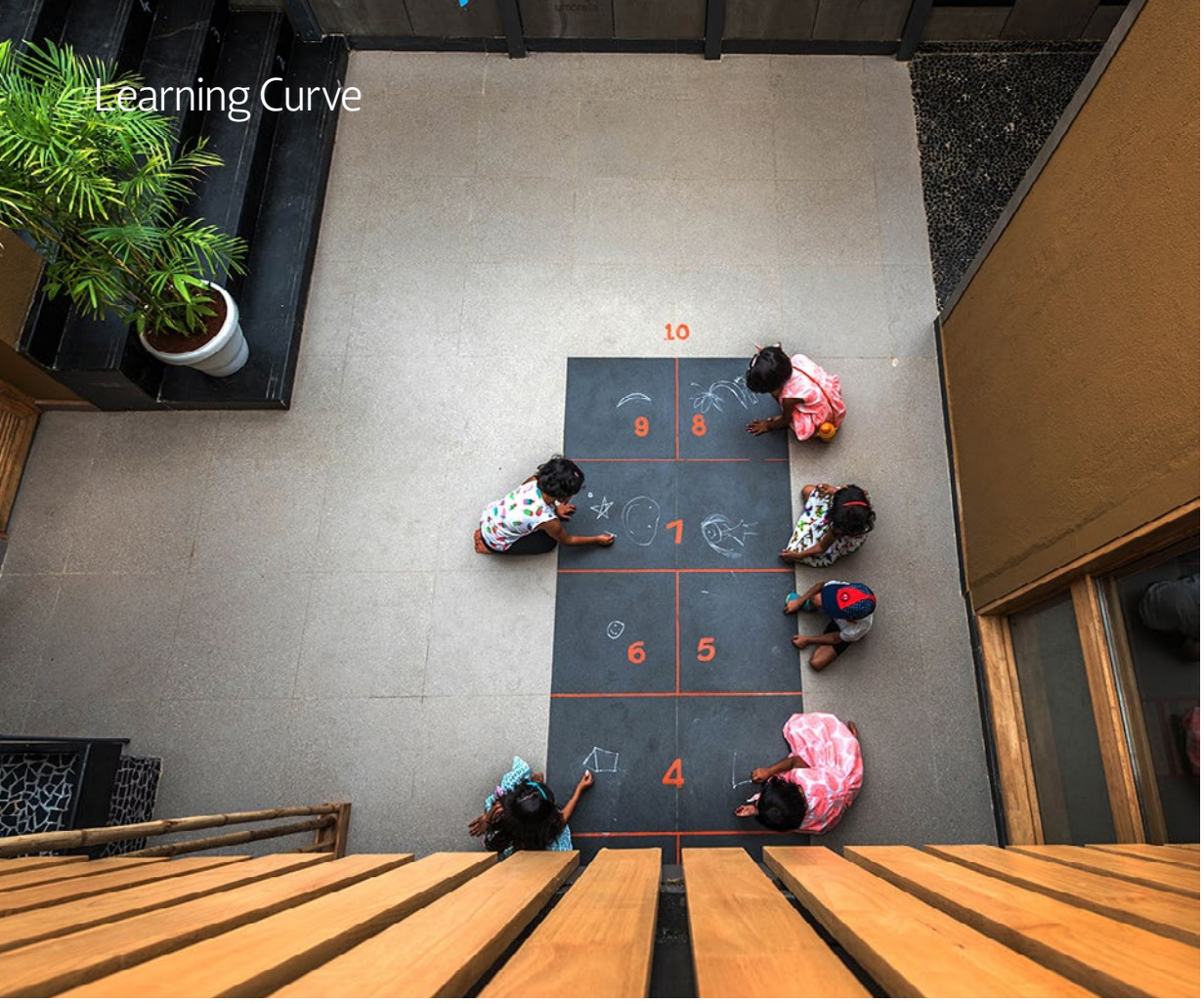
It all began when GG International School approached them to design a pre-primary educational facility for about 80 to 100 students on a ground-plus-two-floors site, which was part of a commercial building abutting a large residential colony. Having worked with them earlier (on designing parts of other schools), the designer duo was well aware of the group's philosophies and ideologies. What's more, they were well aware of the site itself, owing to an earlier plan of setting up a restaurant in the same premises they'd worked on for the same clients — which was subsequently aborted owing to difficulties in obtaining requisite permissions.

Given the plethora of such 'schools' already running in every second bungalow and apartment building, the clients wanted the design to become a differentiator, a crucial USP that would set this educational facility apart from the rest of its ilk. "The client already having two operational schools, gave us a very clear brief for this new addition. She wanted a school that would stand out from the other pre-primary schools in the vicinity, so that the number of admissions could increase. Maximum utilisation of the space available across three floors and having child-friendly premises were her prime requirements," Tushar tells us.

The design process, therefore, rolled out with an intense study of existing facilities and behavioural traits of their target audience — the 2 to 5 year age bracket. With their own daughter belonging to this demographic, Chiranjivi and Tushar found insightful material



The double-height space on the first floor. The leather-finish granite-clad staircase leads up to the Montessori laboratory. In contrast to the (colourful, cartoon-filled) spaces of this nature, this school toes an earthy line, with chromatic bursts used as highlights.



THIS PAGE The double-height court serves purposes of work and play. The steps of the staircase function as an improvised amphitheatre, when teachers use the area as an outdoor class.



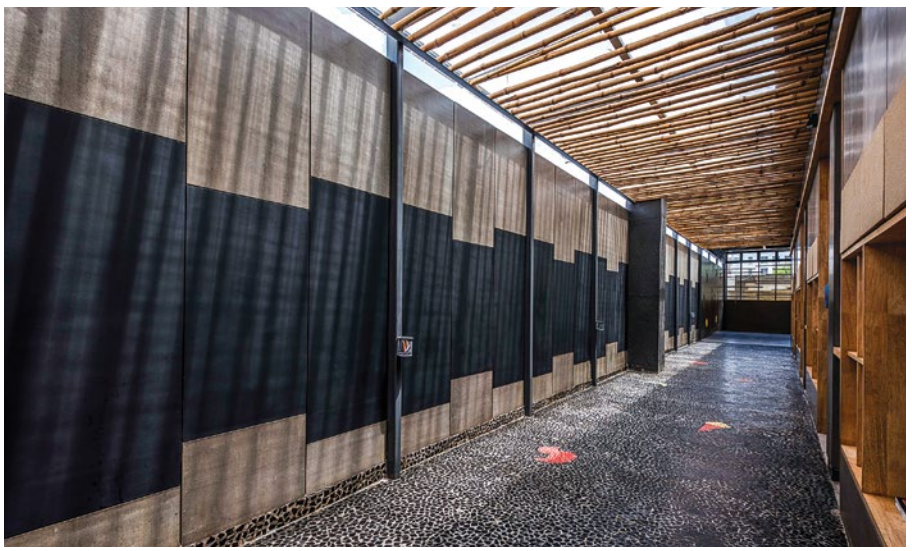
literally in their own home. The study revealed paths they would not take — the vivid, often lurid, colour schemes; and the largely meaningless, for-its-own-sake iconography were directions best avoided. And discussions with the clients brought forth the understanding of their new ways of teaching and conducting classes. "For the age group that we were looking at," discloses Chiranjivi, "we realised that confining the children in four walls of a classroom for a long time was not an idealistic scenario. Their energies had to be left free so that learning would happen as a part of their natural growing process."

This was the duo's cue for design development. "We decided to create a space that would offer opportunities to learn and grow, not only in confined classes but also outside," they say. "The idea was to create an environment for the kids to absorb, explore and learn right from the point they entered the school premises." Thus evolved The Open Classroom.

One of the first challenges for the design team was to deal with a total area of 3,000 sq ft, spread across three levels. Out of this, the covered space was just 50 per cent. The existing programme had a lobby-like space and an open verandah on the ground floor; two large halls along a corridor and washroom facilities in one corner on the first floor; and one more biggish room (originally designated as the lift room, but left unused as the premises does not need a lift) and terrace on the last level. The reformatting of the configuration involved shifting the halls on the first floor to the side that was exposed to the east light, and enclosing — or rather shading — open spaces so that they



CONCEPT: To create a pre-primary school with a difference; a space that would offer opportunities to learn and grow, not only in confined classes but also outside.



TOP The architect's childhood memories of congregating around the drinking water spout for a chat, a drink and some horseplay using water, sparked the creation of this spot, a simple creation that uses double-taps mounted on pipes and a trough-like basin. The double-taps themselves make conversing with friends face-to-face easier.

ABOVE With the school policy of leaving footwear at the entrance, the design team used the sense of touch coupled with shifts in tactile textures to signal a change of area. The corridor area, for instance, is lined in china mosaic, while the adjacent classrooms feature matte vitrified flooring.

could be used for a variety of activities. The verandah on the ground floor was repurposed to a library, and the two big halls on the first floor were transformed into four classrooms. The adjacent corridor and the double-height space of the staircase that leads to the second level became a place of myriad activities — chatting with friends, doodling on the blackboards that are mounted on the wall, playing hopscotch on a hopscotch grid built into the floor... And, the lift-room-that-wasn't on the last floor became a Montessori lab, while the adjoining terrace is now used as an outdoor play area.

The material palette and overall design vocabulary were derived from the earthen spectrum to achieve a human connect. Bamboo, black china mosaic, cement boards, agrowood, neutral-coloured matte vitrified tiles, granite, khadi fabric and blackboards help define the larger picture, which is animated with a restrained use of colour. While the design team went with the classic colours used as school houses — red, blue, yellow and green — the shades selected were earthy. "So we have four classrooms and four colours," elaborates Chiranjivi. "The passage outside a

Learning Curve



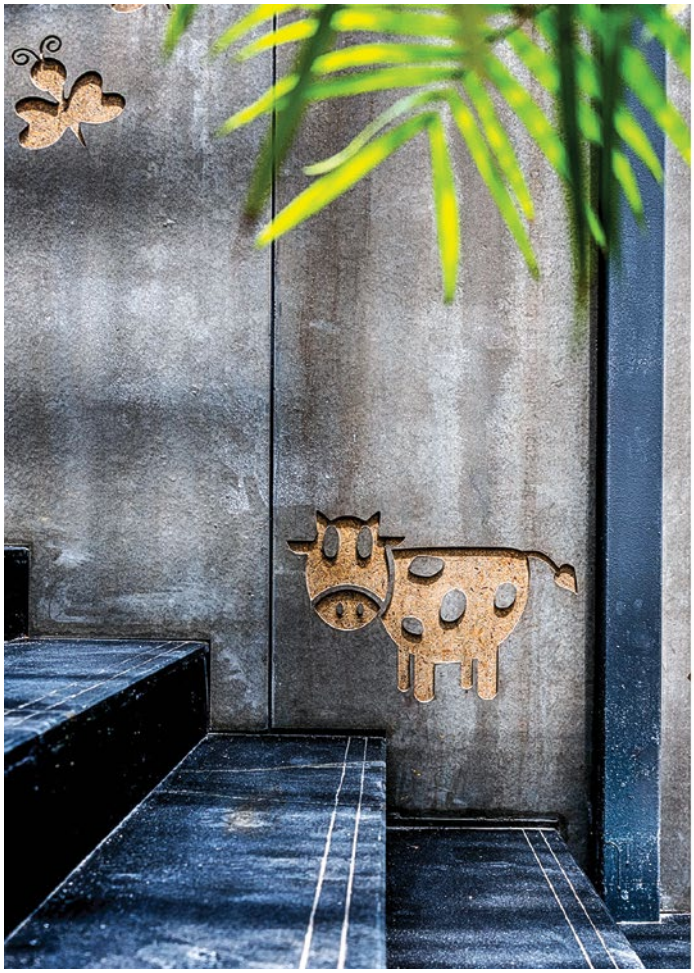


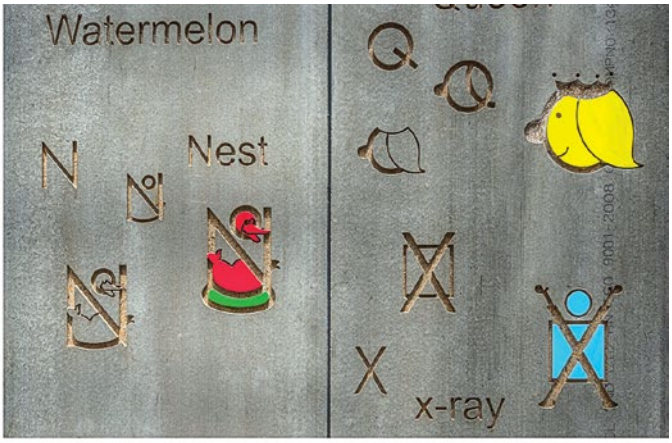


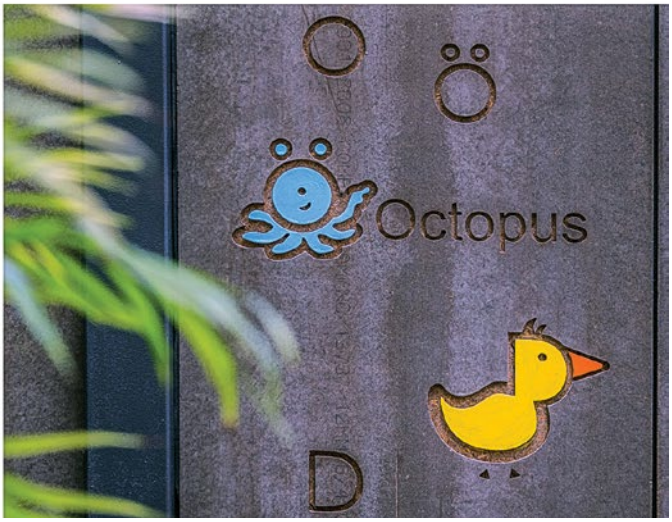














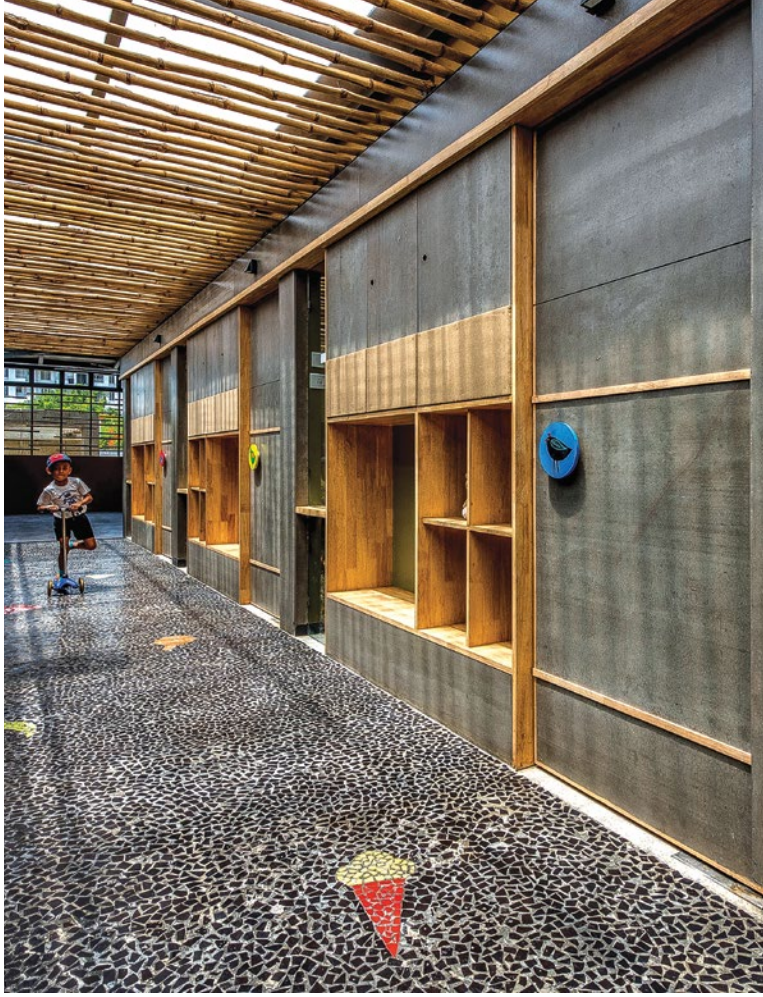






THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The spatial experience was developed by studying the target audience — children aged between 2 to 5 years of age — very closely. Creative outlets, opportunities for play, and strategies that would foster learning outside classrooms formed the kernel around which a design that offered opportunities to learn and grow grew. The minuteness of the attention to detail is evident in the design of the water-bottle hooks, the presence of chalk stands near blackboards, in little contextual artworks scattered through the space, the inclusion of niches that allow a jumble of friends to share midmorning snacks and the colour-coded classrooms that kids find fun to refer to.





THIS PAGE The design makes enough room for work and play, creating an environment which holds education and childish exuberance equally precious. A blackboard lined wall allows budding artists to copy loved icons such as the star, the ice cream cone and the cute duckling off from the china mosaic floor. Units on the opposite side help put everything in its place, and also include built-in niched seats for sharing lunch and taking a breather from high octane play.

particular classroom — say the yellow classroom — is also painted in that particular shade for easy identification. Even its door-knob follows the colour coding. Tiny graphics also add to the colour story." This restraint was deliberate; it marked a departure from the free-with-colour space aesthetics seen in other facilities of this nature.

Other than setting the tone of the space, materials (specifically those used as flooring) play another, rather interesting role, all to do with the sense of touch. "The school policy is to leave the footwear at the entrance... so all the students are barefoot," discloses Tushar. "So we played with the textures of the flooring materials to communicate shifts in functionalities. At the entrance, for example, you'll see paving tiles. The indoor spaces — including the classrooms — feature matte vitrified tiles. The corridor on the first level has china mosaic and the staircase leading to the lab has leather-finish granite."

MATERIALS

Flooring Paving tiles (external); matte vitrified tiles (indoor areas and classrooms); china mosaic/*kavdi* (enclosed areas); and leather-finish granite (staircase) **Wall cladding** Blackboards, cement boards and agrowood **Partitions** Bamboo (drinking trough) and glass and fabric (classrooms) **Screens and pergolas** Bamboo

Minute detailing, like the above-mentioned shifting of materials, is what drives the design narrative, and is, quite undoubtedly, its backbone. Other telling examples of painstaking effort taken by the team at Studio Infinity are the inclusion of shapes — stars, ice cream cones and ducklings, that have fascinated kids for generations. These shapes feature in the china mosaic flooring, the alphabet-graphic iconography carved on the cement board walls, receptacles for chalks that have been thoughtfully mounted near the blackboards, seating niches built-into the units outside the classrooms, hooks for water-bottles that emerge out of silhouettes of animals, seen from behind... But the ones that really stand out (for me) are ones in the drinking water area and the classrooms themselves. With the intent of creating visually connected spaces, the classrooms, all arranged in a row, are separated not by walls, but partitions — half-transparent, half-opaque. And the opacity itself is rendered from khadi fabric sandwiched between glass plates. The windows are at the height of three feet from the floor — just the right height, in fact, that allows the little students to see decorations (during festivals or other occasions) made by their 'next-door





neighbours' and vice versa, without disturbing each other. The design of the drinking water area was shaped by Tushar's childhood memories of congregating around drinking taps, chatting and joking with buddies. It is now articulated as a trough-like washbasin with twin taps mounted on a simple pipe, "so that friends can stand across each other and even indulge in some water-play," smiles Tushar.

So this is how this assignment changed Studio Infinity, by recalibrating their approach — which was split halfway between user-centricity and design-orientedness — to tip more towards the former. And judging by the bunch of happy children, they seem to be on the right path! BI

THIS PAGE The four classrooms are arranged in a row, and separated, not by claustrophobic walls, but partitions that are partly glazed and partly opaque. The non-transparent portions are made from khadi fabric sandwiched between two glass panes. The windows are positioned at the height of three feet, which allows the kids of one class to see the upper portion of the room next door — the portion which is used to hang thematic decorations or craft made by the children in that class. This way, the kids from two class rooms can stay connected without unnecessarily disturbing each other. The classrooms are colour-coded — red, blue, yellow and green — but the shades are earthy and mellow, not bright and 'jumpy' as is the usual practice. Also, instead of benches, the students sit on *chattais* for a more grounded and natural learning experience.

FACT FILE: **Project** GGIS Atha (pre-primary school) **Location** Thergaon, Pune **Client** GG International School **Area** 3,000 sq ft (approx) **Principal architect** Tushar Kothawade **Principal designer** Chiranjivi Lunkad **Project head** Mahesh Talekar **Design team** Ranjana Nachare, Gorvee Karnany and Sameer Ghare

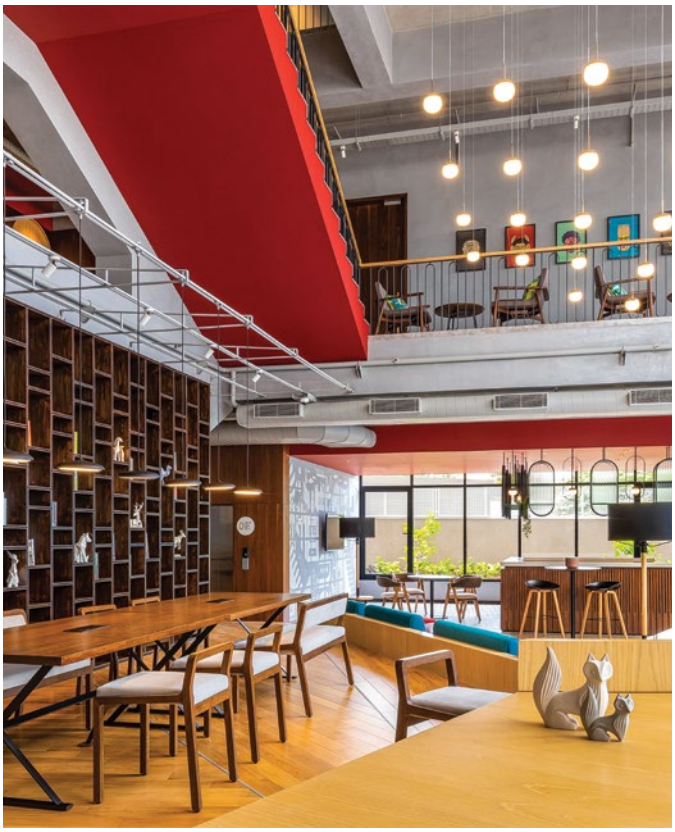


Field of Play

Fields Club, designed by Studio Lotus in collaboration with StoryStudio, is a clubhouse created to provide a 'live, work and play' experience to Bengaluru's young working professionals within a suburban residential complex.

TEXT: ANUPRIYA SARASWAT AND KUSHAGRA SHARMA; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** RAVI ASRANI, **COURTESY** STUDIO LOTUS





THIS PAGE The entrance leads visitors to the lobby which houses multiple zones through subtle shifts in the material palette and tectonic layout — such as carved pockets of relatively private F&B seating, a living room-like casual seating area, an elevated timber platform fronted by the reception desk, and the cafe beyond.



INTERIOR DESIGNER

Ankur Choksi

Whitefield, located in the heart of Bengaluru is one of the city's prime technological and economic hubs, and consequently, home to a predominantly young demographic, with a large majority of them working in the burgeoning tech industry. Developers Goyal and Co were keen to create a distinct identity for their new housing project Orchid Whitefield, which would connect with this client base. Thus, they decided to create an exclusive clubhouse, Fields Club, and handed over the design reins to the versatile New Delhi-based Studio Lotus and the talented StoryStudio.

Envisioned as a recreational wing for the residential development under way in Bengaluru, the 15,000 sq ft Fields Club offers a wide mix of amenities to young professionals and their families. The brief was to create a relaxed vibe with a nuanced urbane touch. Thus, the design scheme has been conceptualised to speak to the aspirations of this group, and incorporates a rich visual vocabulary, plush materials, and vibrant artworks.

"With the residential units under construction, the completion of the clubhouse was of great significance for the developer as a marketing device crafted to appeal to a niche demographic. We were entrusted with the responsibility of providing a holistic solution for the interiors and the architectural facade of the Fields Club building," says Ankur Choksi, principal designer and co-founder (along with Ambrish Arora and Siddharth Talwar), Studio Lotus. "We've decided to achieve this through a restrained yet quirky spatial expression to help create a design vocabulary for a premium, yet welcoming experience," he adds. The approach, hence, establishes a minimalistic architectural expression as the core spatial identity, with each subsequent zone layered with distinctive interior elements — be it colours and patterns, material finishes, or tectonic inserts — to enable specific activities.

The built envelope planned by the project architects had predetermined locations for the vertical circulation core as well as the orientation of the larger functions such as the badminton court, banquets halls, etc. The size and configuration of these elements, especially the centrally placed staircase, created significant zoning constraints that shaped the emergent design, which was subsequently developed to ensure correspondence of scale between each programmatic requirement and the larger scheme. The second guiding principle for the design scheme was the creation of an intuitive

flow and engaging interconnections between the various spaces, in order to curate a holistic leisure experience.

The design team explored different possibilities of what the space could offer and mapped user activities to arrive at the requisite spatial interconnections, the circulation scheme, and subsequently the zoning plan. The central staircase emerges as the primary focal point — both visually as well as tectonically — with the various activity zones wrapped around this central circulation core, on three different levels.

Placed adjacent to the main clubhouse entrance, the staircase is framed by a triple-height cut-out which establishes lines of sight to various amenities within the building as soon as one enters. This roughly octagonal cut-out forms the core of the lobby space. The expanse of the lobby houses multiple zones through subtle shifts in the material palette and layout — such as carved pockets of relatively private F&B seating, a living room-like casual seating area, and an elevated timber platform fronted by the reception desk. The staircase intersects this raised platform, creating quiet spaces utilised as hot-desking zones and reading nooks, overlooking the creche beyond to enable

ABOVE A cafe has been integrated in the design scheme at the ground floor lobby space, through sculptural inserts in timber. The spatial narrative at Fields Club is replete with architectural motifs — such as this simplified arch form in the design of the gantry atop the cafe counter.

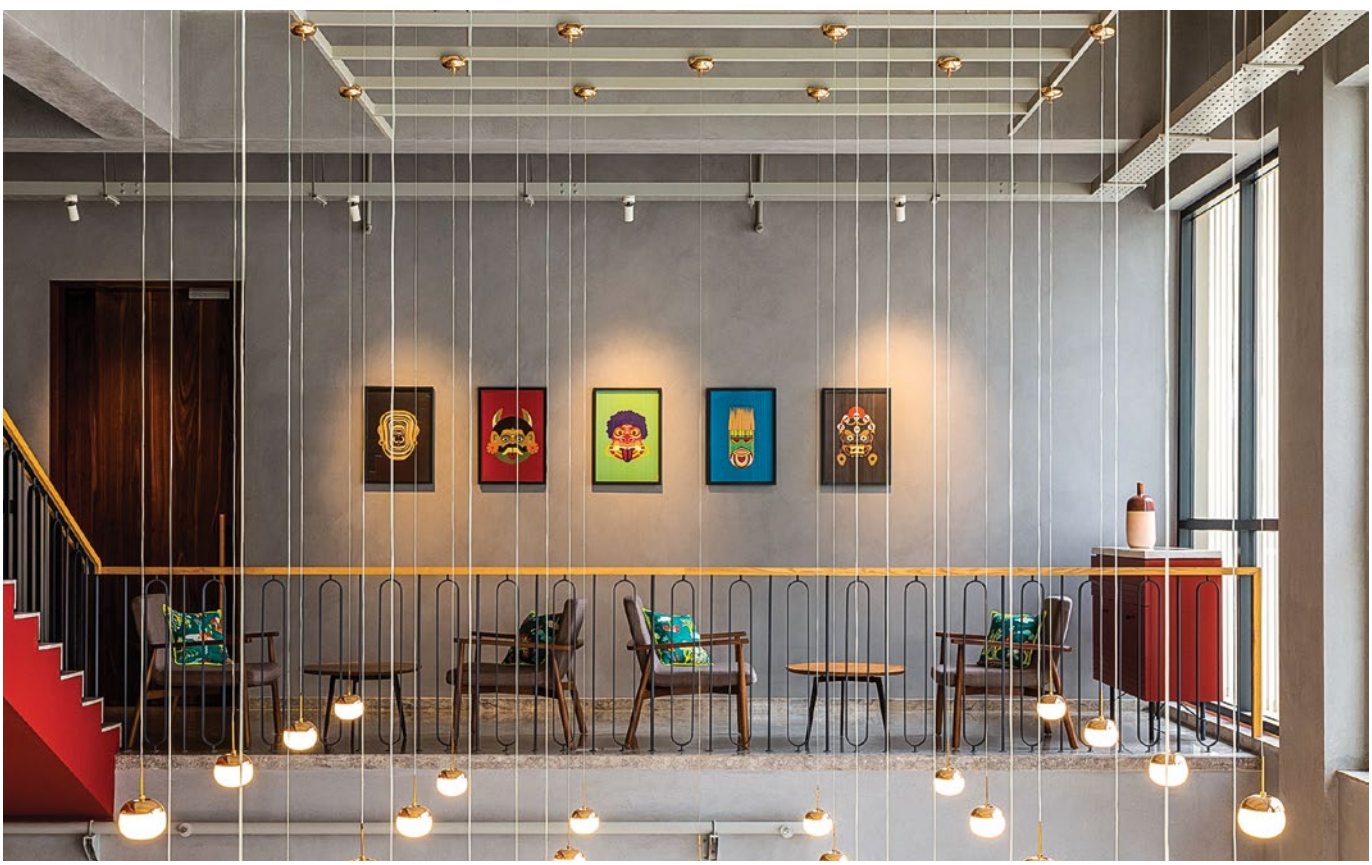
RIGHT Specially commissioned wall illustrations — created in collaboration with Kashmira Sarode and Amber Studio — offer a rich tapestry of art and materiality. Differentiated flooring patterns delineate individual pockets and functions, while tying the spatial narrative together.



THIS PAGE At the ground floor level, recurring gestures in the material palette have been achieved through the use of cast in-situ terrazzo flooring — seating pockets on this floor have been delineated through a stone inlay pattern that mimics a notional rug in the terrazzo. The inlay detail in the terrazzo also connects the indoor-outdoor experience between the dining and the verandah, as well as creates entry markers for the banquet hall. This intervention has allowed the spaces to be flexible, free-flowing and maintenance-free.

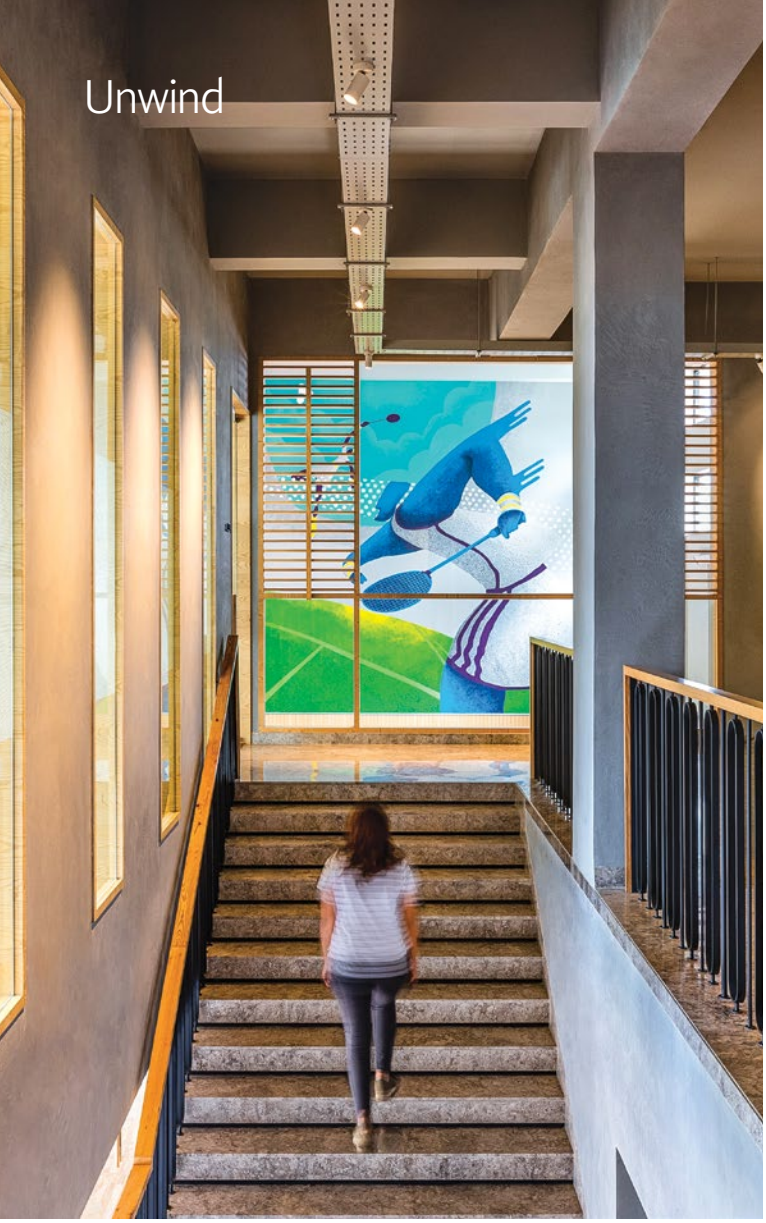
CONCEPT: To design a clubhouse that creates a work and play experience in a suburban residential complex.

THIS PAGE The vertical circulation (read passageways), while creating an intuitive flow and guiding patrons to access all amenities, engages them with vibrant wall-hung paintings and illustrations.





The badminton court is the centerpiece of the gaming experience; the material palette is a blend of natural finishes in wood and concrete. The muted shell provides a neutral backdrop for inspirational wall art and custom environmental graphics.







working parents to stay close to their kids. A cafe as well as a library unit have been integrated here through sculptural inserts in timber. The lobby opens out on the rear to an outdoor seating area, children's play space, and a private garden. The transition between the built and the open is marked by deep verandahs, and full visual access is enabled through a glass facade which connects the outdoors seamlessly with the indoors.

The facade treatment has been devised keeping in mind the placement of the residential towers in the property, the adjacent housing complexes, as well as the need to strike a balance between privacy and communal interconnection. As a response, an aluminium screening system has been designed as an outer skin to the facade glazing. The intervention comprises a rhythmic arrangement of slats over the glass envelope, with spaces in between increasing to accord greater privacy and decreasing where required to create vistas and grant access for outdoor sit outs on the clubhouse periphery.

ABOVE LEFT View of staircase that leads patrons to the gaming experience on the first level.

ABOVE RIGHT Ceilings, racks, and storage units have been painted in bright pops of green, in tandem with the lively illustrations to elevate the gaming experience.

RIGHT The creche has been positioned in proximity to the hot-desking zone and reading nooks, enabling working parents to be close to their children.





In line with this approach, the ceiling has been stripped bare to reveal the raw finish of the concrete slab; false ceilings have been limited to functional requirements, which has also helped retain the original ceiling heights. Services planning at the execution stage adds to the design outcome, with exposed conduits becoming an intrinsic part of the overall scheme. The monochromatic architectural shell provides a neutral backdrop for the vibrant artworks and custom environmental graphics that define the clubhouse narrative. The minimal base also helps highlight the important user touchpoints, which have been expressed through finer finishes in contrast to the shell.

The material palette primarily engages a rich combination of natural finishes — such as concrete from the architectural shell, a tactile paint system, and timber in natural and walnut tones — as well as mild steel, ceramic tiles and marble. Recurrent gestures help create a cohesive narrative through the three floors of the clubhouse. At the ground floor level, this has been achieved using cast in-situ terrazzo flooring – seating pockets on this floor have been delineated through a stone inlay pattern that mimics a notional rug in the terrazzo. This inlay detail also connects the indoor-outdoor experience between the dining and the verandah, as well as creates entry markers for the banquet hall. This intervention has allowed the spaces to be flexible, free-flowing and maintenance-free.

Another recurrent element is a simplified arch form, manifesting in various sizes and configurations — be it the porous partition system in the games area, in the design of the gantry atop the cafe counter, the metal profile for vanity mirrors in the washrooms, or balustrade detailing for the staircase. In subtle contrast, a wide colour palette of pastel shades and visually engaging patterns helps create a sense of place for each zone.

The furniture has been sourced from multiple suppliers, with some of it conceptualised in collaboration with Mangrove Collective, a bespoke furniture design studio and manufacturer from New Delhi. Apart from curating the furniture and accessories, specially commissioned mural-like wall art has been executed in collaboration with local artists such as Kashmira Sarode and Amber Studio. Envisioned as high-octane illustrations that are inspirational and uninhibited in their use of colours, the artworks add vibrancy to the pared-background floor spaces and elevate the gaming experience in the first floor

MATERIALS

Walls Textured concrete finish, textured paint **Floor** Cast in-situ terrazzo flooring featuring small patterned maroon tiles (ground floor lobby and lounge), Light oak finish (reception, crèche, gym), **Ceiling** Exposed concrete ceiling highlighted by red paint in distinct areas **Partitions** Glass and metal partitions **Panelling** Router-cut stone panels **Furniture** Timber, metal and stone

ABOVE LEFT Washrooms across the three levels feature a distinctive interplay of materials and patterns. The palette primarily engages a rich combination of natural finishes — such as concrete from the architectural shell, a tactile paint system, and timber in natural and walnut tones — as well as mild steel, ceramic tiles and marble. The simplified arch form manifests as the metal profile for vanity mirrors in these areas.

ABOVE RIGHT View of the yoga room on the third floor. A specially commissioned wall and ceiling art has been executed in collaboration with local artists such as Kashmira Sarode and Amber Studio. The designs articulate the architectural expression of the project across all three levels of the building.





THIS PAGE A view of the pool room with chess tables lined along the periphery — part of the gaming experience in the first-floor recreation zone.





TOP The walls adjoining the community seating on the second floor feature high-octane illustrations that are inspirational and uninhibited in their use of colours. The artworks elevate the gaming experience in these recreational zones; their incorporation also exhibits a viable model of patronage for local artists within commercial developments.

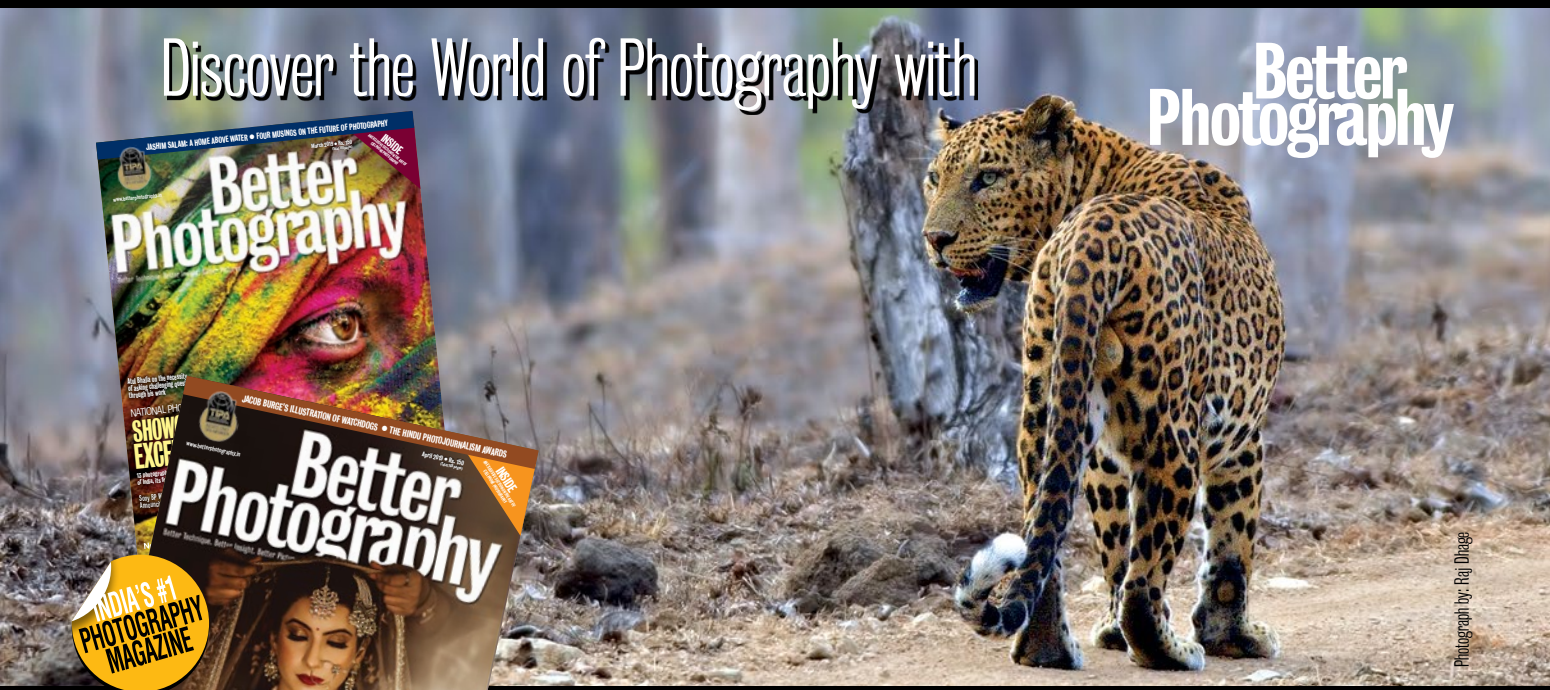
ABOVE The audio-visual room features a distinctive design expression — punctuated by recurring arch forms along the periphery — and a dark background offset by stepped seating in pastel shades.

recreation zone. Their incorporation also exhibits a viable model of patronage for local artists within commercial developments.

Through the Fields Club at Orchid Whitefield, Studio Lotus has successfully turned the idea of a conventional clubhouse into a differentiated experience that is an extension of the lifestyles of the residents of this project — a space to foster a sense of community where they can congregate, engage and unwind. BI

FACT FILE: **Project** Fields Club, Bengaluru **Location** Whitefield, Bengaluru **Client** Tanmay Goel (Goyal & Co Developers) **Area** 15,000 sq ft **Design Firm** Studio Lotus and StoryStudio **Principal designer (Studio Lotus)** Ankur Choksi **Principal designers (StoryStudio)** Kristel Sequeira and Shikha Gupta

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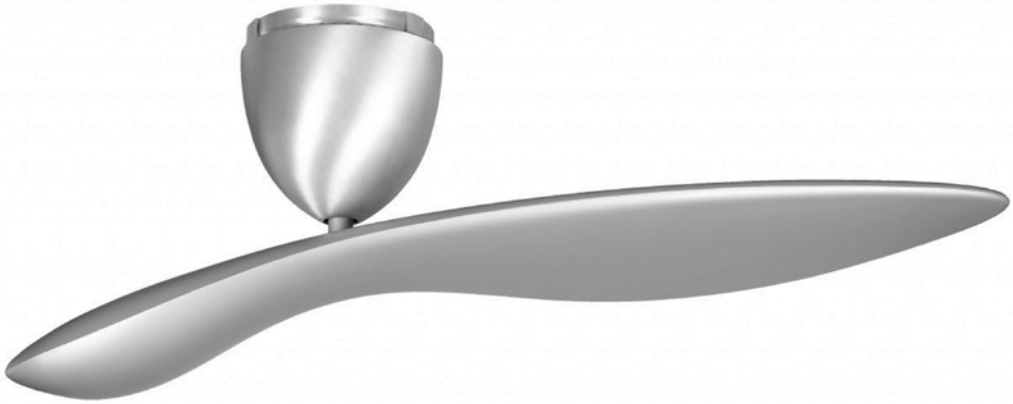
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Luminous Power Technologies

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Fanzart

The Divine is equipped with energy efficient 52'' DC motor, which consumes 70 per cent less power. Its multi-coloured LED lights offer an ambient of three colour lighting options alongside a dimmer. Its blades are crafted in fine ABS, delivering airflow of 7,489CFM. It comes with a summer-winter feature, where the fan rotates anti-clockwise to give out cool breeze and clockwise for cosy, warm air. The fan is available in coffee/matte and white colours.

Price on request



Anemos

Designed keeping in mind style and cooling, the Canvas ceiling fan comes with a DC motor, MB body finish and four canvas blades. The blades provide air delivery with a high speed of 139rpm. Subtle khaki colour finish highlights the dark border of the blades.

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₹ 4,990 to Rs 7,990



Windmill

The Asana Hugger is specially designed for low ceiling height installation. The fan is powered by an 18 pole high torque super cool reversible motor. Its blades are crafted in solid teak whereas its body is made in rugged die-cast aluminium. Its screw-less look complements the 16W LED lights. The product comes with a three speed IR remote and five speed wall controller, and offers a 280rpm.

Price on request



Orient Electric

The i-Series range of fans powered by ECM technology saves 50 per cent energy as compared to ordinary fans. The new range includes three variants namely i-Float, i-Floral and Hector 500 featuring aesthetically pleasing aerodynamic design, super-efficient noiseless motor, 100 per cent rust-free blades and high gloss premium finish. The i-Float fan is IoT-enabled and can be operated via Orient Smart mobile app or with voice commands via Alexa and Google Assistant.

₹ 2,850 onward



LG Electronics India

This IoT enabled fan has Dual Wing fan-blades and come with an advanced inverter motor which delivers outstanding performance along with increased safety, durability and reliability. The Dual Wings recreate reduce turbulence by up to 22 percent, and features an attractive LED display. Designed to mimic the shape of a humpback whale's powerful fins, the wings effortlessly keep noise generation to under 49dB.

₹ 16,990



Luxaire Luxury Fans

The IoT enabled Lux 5130 compliments every smart home as it is Wi-Fi enabled. The four wooden blades of the fan sport high gloss premium finish, and is available in two colours: matte white motor with matte white blades and black motor with walnut colour blades. The accompanying under light is a 20W warm white 3000K LED. Its BLDC motor uses lowest power consumption (only 26W), ensuring 70 per cent energy savings.

Price on request



Usha International

Part of the Goodbye Dust fans portfolio, the Usha Bloom series fans takes inspiration from flowers — Daffodil, Primrose, Magnolia, Dahlia, and Lily. The sweep size ranges from 1250mm to 1300mm at speeds of 260rpm to 380rpm. The fans are available in attractive colour combinations ranging from a sparkle grey and blue, sparkle golden and cherry, and sparkle red and black, as well as the greys and blacks.

₹ 3,100 (for the 3-blade Bloom Daffodil, Magnolia, and Primrose series); ₹ 4,700 onward (for the 4-blade Bloom Dahlia and Lily series)



Crompton Greaves

The energy-efficient Energion fans boasts of the ActivBLDC technology which saves up to 50 per cent power. These BEE five star-rated fans use permanent magnets instead of electromagnets to work twice as efficiently as regular fans. The smart remote with the fan uses RF technology allowing one to operate the fan without pointing at it. These anti-dust fans come in three variants: Energion HS, Energion Jura, Enegion Aura.

₹ 2,800 to ₹ 4,000



Hindware Appliances

Hindware Snowcrest ceiling fans come with a high performance heavy copper motor, double ball bearing for smooth performance and aerodynamic blades for even air distribution at a high speed of 380rpm. It offers optimum air delivery of 255m3 per min even at low voltage. Additional features include easy-to-clean dust resistant blades and premium metallic paint finish.

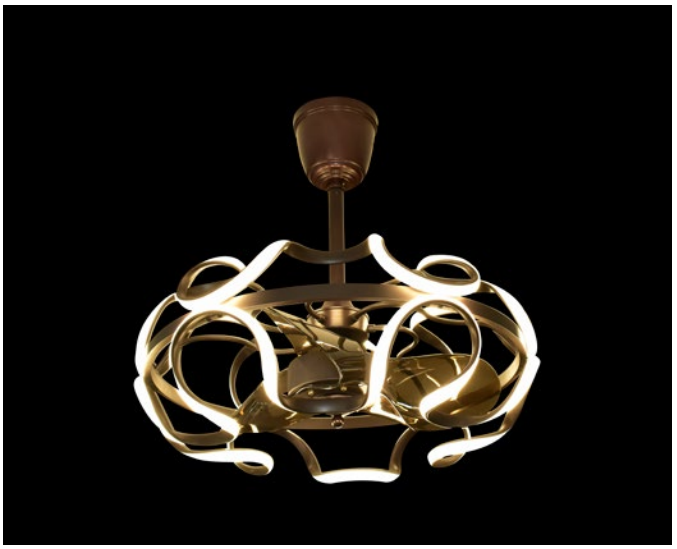
₹ 1,499 to ₹ 2,999



Luminous Power Technologies

The Jaipur Mahal ceiling fan captures the rich culture and vibrant history of the illustrious city of Jaipur with its opulent and extravagant design. These fans perfectly capture the historic relevance of the Mahals in their royal looks. The Blade Edge design of the fan has been delivered via foil stamping. It comes with a strong 16 pole motor and delivers an air sweep of 1320mm.

₹ 6,490



Fanzart

The Windflower is India's first ceiling fan equipped with 5D vortex blades that allows the fan to reach a 450rpm with 8,000CFM airflow without making noise. Its BLDC motor consumes 70 per cent less power. The fan also includes LED lights with three colour options, and a dimmer. Its summer-winter feature enables the fan to give out cool breeze (during summer) while rotating anti-clockwise and cosy warm air (during winter) while rotating clockwise.

Price on request



Havells India

Carnesia-I is an IoT enabled fan which offers a multi-user mode feature. The Smart Mode of the fan senses the temperature and humidity in room and adjusts the fan speed accordingly. Apart from this, the fan also offers new auto modes like Sleep and Breeze for night comfort and natural breeze effect. Other features include five-level speed control, timer setting and automatic on/off.

₹ 4,500



Luxaire Luxury Fans

Part of the Tropical Collection, the Palm Tropical (52" four blade) ceiling fan comes with palm-leaf, colonial style acrylic blades — with an option of light fixtures. The Palm fan features drop mounting, three-fan speed, low noise, a winter function and comes with a pull chain to regulate speed. It comes with a motor warranty of 10 years, and is also available with a remote-control option.

₹ 70,000 (without light kit); ₹ 82,000 (with light kit)



Windmill

The Amalfi ceiling fan is inspired by the pristine and surreal beaches of Italy. It offers a sweep size of 1,200mm and 1,400mm, an airflow capacity of 5,890CFPM, and high air delivery of up to 246rpm. Its blades feature teak ply finish whereas its motor finish is available in polished aluminium. Additional features include a LED light kit, reverse fan operation switch, custom length down rods and a special mount for wood or concrete ceilings.

Price on request



Anemos

The Bare ceiling fan is equipped with a DC motor, and four ABS blades with a DK finish. The three-blade fan provides air delivery at the speed of 180rpm and is available in a matte black body finish.

₹ 24,000



Usha International

Usha Racer is an ultra-high-speed range of fans which sport a glossy powder coated finish for durability. Its high lift angle blades operate at 400rpm yet function silently even at low voltages. Racer fans are available in 1200mm sweep in five vibrant colours: white, brown, ivory, blue, and red. The range also offer 900mm sweep and 600mm sweep variants in white, brown, and ivory hues.

₹ 1,750 onward

ACs and Air Coolers

Whirlpool of India

The 3D Cool Inverter Air Conditioner is equipped with 3D Cool Technology that ensures up to 60 per cent faster cooling even in the peak of summer thanks to its 3-air-intake vents which removes hot air from the room quickly. With its Intelli-Convert with 8-in-1 Modes the user can switch between different modes with the touch of a button. Its in-built air purifier clears the air of dust particles and PM 0.3 pollutants. Aiding ease of usage, it can be operated via Google Home and Wi-Fi.

₹ 36,720 onward







Crompton Greaves

The Optimus series has increased the fan size of coolers using high-density cooling pads with a large ice chamber to maximise cooling performance. With larger and wider fan blades (18inch), the series gives the highest air delivery and air throw. Moreover, it also has a thicker honeycomb for prolonged and better cooling. The easy-to-clean large ice chamber is fitted with an auto-fill and auto-drain feature to help manage water.

₹ 10,000 to ₹ 13,000 (tower coolers);
₹ 19,500 to ₹ 21,500 (desert coolers)

Blue Star

The highlight of the newly launched inverter split AC is its ability to deliver 30 per cent more cooling based on the heat load inside the room.

Price on request



Havells India

Grande Heavy-Duty Air Conditioner from Llyod comes with advanced Heavy Duty Duo compressor. The AC improves the room air quality with its unique elements: Nano Silver Anti-Bacterial Eva Coils, Catechine Coated Dust Filter and Green Bio Air Filter. Additionally, the product offers advanced features such as Wi-Fi and voice-based connectivity. The Heat Exchanger coil is made of 100 per cent inner grooved copper tubes with corrosion-resistant coating.

₹ 67,990



Haier India

Haier is augmenting its popular PuriCool range of ACs with the new PuriCool Pro. The new smart range of ACs that are available in 5 and 3 Stars variants come equipped with industry's best IFD Filter (Air Purifier) and are Wi-Fi enabled. These ACs have a voice control feature which is compatible with Alexa and Google Home. The ACs are knitted with Haier's latest self-cleaning inverter technology (SCIT) and Triple Inverter+ Technology which saves 65 per cent energy.

₹ 74,500



LG Electronics India

LG Dual Cool Inverter AC works on variable tonnage technology which adjusts the cooling as per user requirement by controlling the compressor speed. The Convertible cooling efficiently limits power consumption and saves upto 57 per cent energy; while its Ocean Black Protection keeps away rust and corrosion. Its Smart ThinQ technology allows users to control and monitor the AC at any time, and from anywhere with an app.

₹ 32,990 onward



Samsung India

This Triple Inverter Technology AC is designed for less electricity consumption, and comes with a Convertible Mode which changes the cooling capacity depending on the number of people present in the room. Its Anti Corrosion Durafin condensers, are supported by Multi Jet+ Technology that enables faster cooling and reduces condenser leakage. The AC offers a 10 year warranty on compressor, 5-year warranty on Durafin condenser and, a 2-year warranty on PCB Controller.

₹ 45,400 to ₹ 75,000



Godrej Appliances

The brand recently introduced India's first cooler with inverter technology which saves 50 per cent more energy. The coolers have copper wired microprocessor-enabled BLDC (Brush Less DC) Fan motor which adjusts the fan speed and pump operation as per the ambient temperature. Additional features include: Quick Chill technology, Ice Drip (ID) Technology and Humidity Control. It's Honeycomb pads are odourless and are up to 50mm thick for high water retention.

₹ 12,300 onward



Orient Electric

The brand's new range of energy-efficient inverter air coolers powered by ECM (Electronically Commutated Motor) technology provides up to 50 per cent savings on energy. The range also includes smart air coolers which are IoT-enabled, work on Wi-Fi and can be controlled by voice. Key features include: super-efficient motors, honeycomb pads with DenseNest technology ensuring 25 per cent more cooling, AeroFan technology for longest air delivery, Auto Fill function, humidity control and anti-mosquito breeding.

₹ 5,190 onward



Hindware Appliances

Snowcrest Air Cooler is India's first air cooler with changeable colour panels. Its Varycool technology helps in managing cooling with high, medium and low modes, and controls the water flow on the honeycomb pads from within. The cooler has a powerful fan for high air delivery of 3,800m³/h. It is equipped with an auto-fill tank, inverter compatibility feature, empty tank alarm, humidity controller, mosquito and dust filter, and 2.0 USB port for speedy charging.

₹ 15,990 to ₹ 17,990



Usha International

The Usha Striker air cooler has a tall design ensuring direct cooling at the seated level. It comes equipped with larger water tanks of 100 litres and 70 litres capacity. Additional features include honeycomb cooling pads for higher water absorption, and an auto-fill tank that ensures ease of use. The range comes with a stronger airflow of 3685m3/h to provide superior cooling.

₹ 14,990



Maharaja Whiteline

Hybridcool air coolers are equipped with an innovative concept of having both wood wool and honeycomb pads, making them highly efficient and durable. The air cooler range is armed with a three speed motor to run the new Aerodynamic Plastic five blade fan (16") and ensure consistent performance. The range provides an air throw of 52ft and air delivery of 5000CMH. The high air suction coolers come with easy to remove panels for regular maintenance and pad replacements.

₹ 15,199 to ₹ 17,199



Eureka Forbes

Forbes is India's first health conditioner which does more than cooling. Equipped with Active Shiled technology, it delivers 99 per cent microbes-and-germs-free air within two hours. The all-weather health conditioner provides clean air in winters too while keeping the compressor off. It offers four-stage filtration, turbo mode, and eco mode. Its sleep mode increases cooling 1°C per hour for the first two hours, and then holds steady for the next five hours. The Follow Me command automatically adjust to the temperature around you.

₹ 43,990 to ₹ 64,990

Panasonic India

Panasonic's new range of connected ACs provide convenience with the AI-enabled Miraie App; comfort with better cooling via the unique JetStream and aero-wings technology, and health with its Nanoe-G technology that removes bacteria and PM 2.5*. With customised sleep mode, one can pre-set temperatures profiles through the night for comfort. Additionally, Panasonic's new range of connected ACs can be operated via smart phones and voice assistants such as Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant.

₹ 35,990 onward



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FENESTA

Fenesta has launched its state-of-the-art designer doors, which are made of hybrid polymer — it gives the aesthetics of wood with the durability of polymer. Replacing traditional materials, they are crafted from wood fibre and thermoplasts, thereby also making them environment-friendly. These doors are resistant to termites and water, and require minimum maintenance. Unlike traditional doors, these models do not expand or contract with extreme temperatures. They are available in plain and designer finishes, and four colours: White Oak, Natural Oak, Teak and Walnut. The company also offers ready-to-install integrated door solution systems including frame, trim, panel, lockset, handle, hinges, stopper, buffer; besides transportation and installation.

PRICE ON REQUEST



LUXURY PERSONIFIED

Devialet, available through Luxury Personified, has introduced the Phantom Reactor 900 speaker in a matte black version. Its matte finish on the aluminium core body is achieved with an aqueous solution, creating a soft touch and a smooth finish capable of handling intense power and pressure. Its two opposing woofers pulsate against one another, thus delivering excellent bass. Its patented Analogue Digital Hybrid technology, Speaker Active Matching, Heart Bass Implosion, and Active Cospherical Engine ensure exceptional amplification. Additional features include intuitive touch control button for volume adjustment and forward play, a physical 3.5mm input, and synching via local network.

₹ 1,09,000 ONWARD



EUREKA FORBES

The newly launched air purifiers Aerogurad AP 700 DX and Dr Aeroguard HPA 500 come with six and nine stage filtration, respectively. Touted as India's first air purifiers with a disease protection system and an H1N1 HEPA filter that helps prevent swine flu, these air purifiers ensure safety from air pollutants and removes up to 99.97 per cent of micro-particles, such as particulate matter, fine dust, pollen and mould spores. Its activated carbon filter binds gases and odours, whereas the anti-bacterial filter inhibits the growth of micro-organisms. Additionally, the Dr Aeroguard HPA 500 offers photo catalyst TiO2 filter and UV technology to destroy micro-organisms, and air ioniser to maintain the freshness levels in the room.

₹ 19,990



STEELCASE INDIA

Steelcase's newly launched Migration SE Pro is a height-adjustable desking platform that aims to enhance and inspire work performance. It includes various configurations to support application requirements from individual to group settings. The system provides the right structural support for the work surface as well as houses the high performance components in a precise fit to reduce sound emission from reverberation. Its anti-collision sensor detects any change in angle on the work surface to rebound on contact with objects below the desk. Migration SE Pr comes with two leg options of round and rectangular, and is available in seven renaissance colours and finishes. The Migration SE Pro incorporates recycled PET into its components, thereby making it sustainable.

PRICE ON REQUEST

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE BRANDS



JAQUAR

The newly introduced Jaquar Aqua Swim Spa offers state-of-the-art top swim jets, multi-colour LED chromotherapy and UV filtration system, cushioned headrests, and ergonomic seats for an ultimate home spa experience. Its smooth, non-porous surface inhibits the growth of algae thereby making it easy to maintain. It is equipped with set and forget control system for absolute convenience, an ozone filtration, a variable speed air blower and an extreme heat lock insulation. It also has a host of programmable functions such as digital control panel, micro filtration, duraflex plumbing, circulation material, and powerful and efficient pumps. Additionally, the Jaquar Aqua Swim Spa comes with a swim hand rail bar and grab bar for safety.

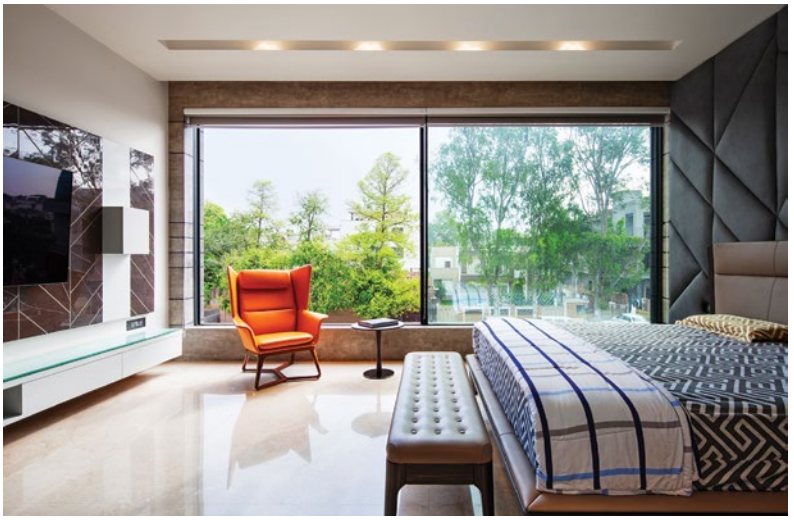
₹ 12,75,000



SERTA INDIA

One of the leading mattress brands of the US, Serta has launched its most innovative product Ergo Bed in India. These beds are made of superior five zone pin core latex with high-grade specifications for optimal body support and comfort, and come with an adjustable base mechanism for freely adjusting to any position of activity. Also, these beds are designed to provide a therapeutic experience including one touch Zero G technology which helps in adjusting legs at a higher level than your heart, thereby reliving pressure off your lower back. The bed frame decreases the risks of swollen joints and heartburn. Crafted in sleek European design, the Ergo Bed comes with a wireless remote control and an adjustable base which can be attached to any standard headboard.

₹ 4,92,804



GREEN FUTURE WINDOWS

One of the leading brands in the field of UPVC doors and windows, Green Future has introduced Slimline Glass Door Series. The highlight of the series is a minimal aluminium framing of 20mm which provides a much greater glass area than current standard casement doors. Its engineered bearing mechanism makes it possible to slide these heavy panels with ease. The doors are sound-proof, rust-proof, water-proof and termite-proof, thus making them last long. Suited for modern and traditional houses, the glass doors can be customised as per space requirements, and are available in different sizes, frame colours and models.

₹ 1,500 PER SQ FT ONWARD



AO SMITH INDIA

AO Smith India has introduced a technologically advanced water purifier X7+, which can be mounted on the wall or table. This easy-to-use 9L water purifier comes with a patented side stream RO membrane, eight stage purification and TDS Max technology which can purify water with TDS level of up to 3,000ppm. The RO+SCMT (Silver Charged Membrane Technology) ensures double protection by preventing any potential secondary level contamination. The mineraliser technology (MIN-TECH) maintains the purity levels of water irrespective of the water sources and adds essential minerals like calcium and magnesium into the water. Additional features include a digital full tank indicator and convenience advance alert for filter change.

₹ 19,500

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ZYNNA
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HABITAT

ARCHITECT HARDIK SHAH
STUDIO LAGOM
Khimchand Mansion, Opposite Mahavir Hospital Road, Sagrampura, Surat 395 002; Email: hello@studiolagom.in; Website: www.studiolagom.in

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THE CROSSBOUNDARIES
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101 Pinnacle Business Park, Above RBL Bank, Near Tulsidham Circle, Manjalpur, Vadodara 390 011; Mobile: 97243 77885; Email: accounts@olvvi.com; Website: www.olvvi.com

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PANTONE COLLECTIVE
DESIGN STUDIO
2, Westend Marg, Saidulajab, Sainik Farms, New Delhi; Mobile: 99994 12272; Email: pantonecollective.in@gmail.com

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Plot No 300, Phase 2, KIADB Industrial Area, Harohalli, Kanakpura 562 112; Tel: (080) 2801 1200; Website: www.aosmithindia.com

EUREKA FORBES
(See Parade)

FENESTA
Plot No 52, Sector 32, Gurugram 122 003; Tel: 18001 029880; Email: response@fenesta.com; Website: www.fenesta.com

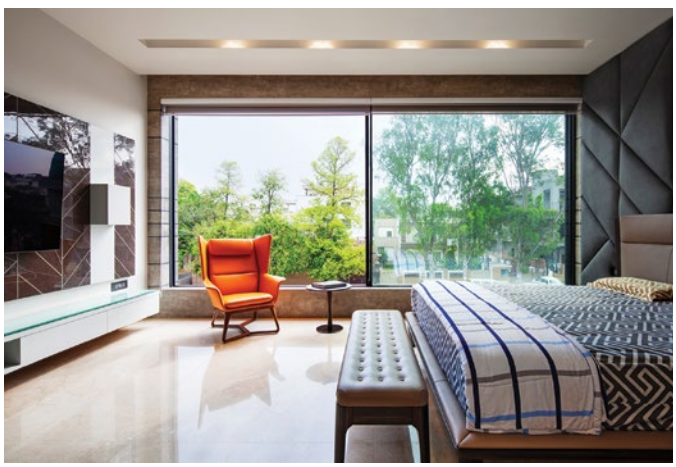
GREEN FUTURE WINDOWS
A-35/1/2, Site IV Industrial Area, Sahibabad 201 010; Website: www.greenfuture.in

JAQUAR
Fifth Floor, Chheda Arcade, A-1, Khira Nagar, Above Gold Gym, SV Road, Santacruz, Mumbai 400 054; Tel: (022) 6601 3200; Email: mumbai@jaquar.com; Website: www.jaquar.com

LUXURY PERSONIFIED
Sun House, 2/5 West Patel Nagar, Opposite Metro Pillar 194, New Delhi 110 008; Tel: (011) 4980 8900; Website: www.luxurypersonified.co.in

SERTA INDIA
Emirates Sleep Systems Pvt Ltd, Office No 955, L-9, Raheja Towers, East Wing No 26/27, MG Road, Bengaluru 560 001; Website: www.sertaindia.com

STEELCASE INDIA
Steelcase Mumbai Worklife Center, Unit No 701-C, Seventh Floor, Tower 2, Indiabulls Finance Centre, Senapati Bapat Marg, Prabhadevi 400 013; Tel: (022) 6121 3500; Website: www.steelcase.com



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