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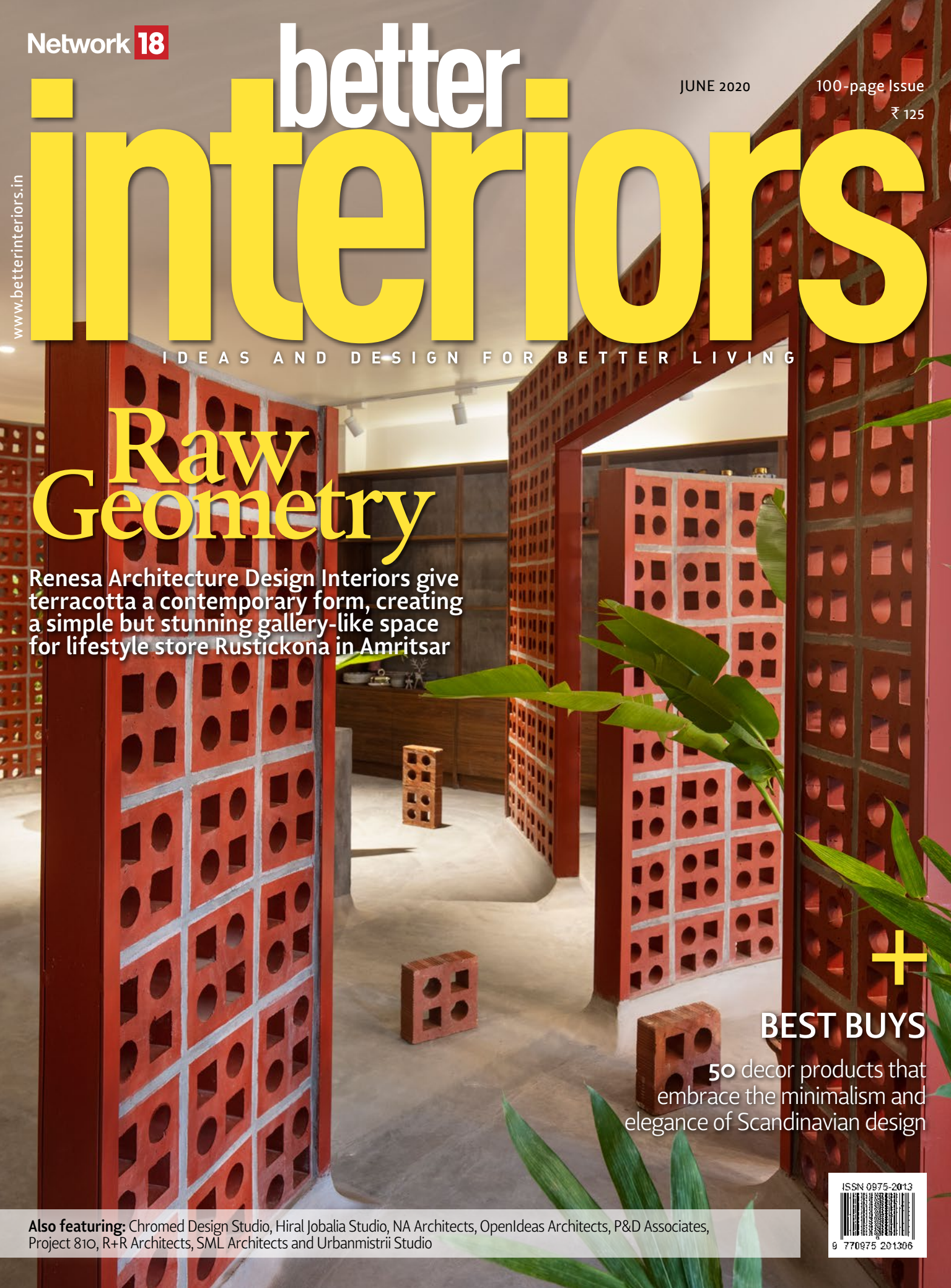
JUNE 2020

100-page Issue

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IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING



Raw Geometry

Renesa Architecture Design Interiors give terracotta a contemporary form, creating a simple but stunning gallery-like space for lifestyle store Rustickona in Amritsar

+

BEST BUYS

50 decor products that embrace the minimalism and elegance of Scandinavian design

Also featuring: Chromed Design Studio, Hiral Jobalia Studio, NA Architects, OpenIdeas Architects, P&D Associates, Project 810, R+R Architects, SML Architects and Urbanmistrii Studio

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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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Keep it simple…

And just like that it's June! And here we are with another digital edition of **Better Interiors** as we enter the fifth phase of our lockdown due to the pandemic. Before I give you the lowdown on all the stories we've lined up for you this month, I've to thank you profusely for the kind words and messages we've received for our 15th anniversary (May 2020) edition dedicated to interior-architecture photographers. It encourages us to bring you more such fantastic works from the design world — and we promise to deliver nothing but goodness, every month.

This issue, we've showcased nine fabulous projects… While some lean on intricate material and design details, others make use of humble ones and glorify simplicity. In *Habitat*, we feature three homes: a villa in Ahmedabad renovated by R+R Architects where the clients wanted ash veneer to be the most prominent material; the NA Architects-designed Hyderabad house which is modern, earthy and welcomes natural light abundantly, just like the owners ordered; and a 720-square-foot Mumbai apartment created by SML Architects which is a study in how to be minimal, warm and detailed… all at once.

The office of automation company All Automatic designed by OpenIdeas Architects features in our *9 to 5* section. It's heartening to see how the office, though technology-driven in its operations, is forward-looking and respectful of traditional wisdom in its design. The central courtyard here is bliss! Am in complete awe of the work done by Hiral Jobali Studio for the experience gallery of Stonex India in Jaipur primarily because it celebrates the most sought-after material, stone, in every fibre of its being. Turn to our *Off the Shelf* pages for more… This brings us to the project which made it to our cover this month — lifestyle store Rustickona designed by Renesa Architecture Design Interiors. Based in Amritsar, the space uses modest terracotta bricks to tell a story of modern retail design. Photographer Niveditaa Gupta's artistic eye has captured the architect's vision so beautifully… it gave us not one, but many frames to choose from.

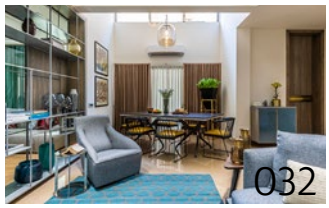
Restaurants, cafes and hotels are still out of bounds, but we've two of the newest ones you can visit once they are open — Padmanabham in New Delhi, designed by Urbanmistrii Studio, and the United Coffee House Rewind in Chandigarh created by Chromed Design Studio. We also feature a calming winter-themed, no-fuss and elegant office by P&D Associates in Bharuch for Vivek Tapiawala. Indulge!

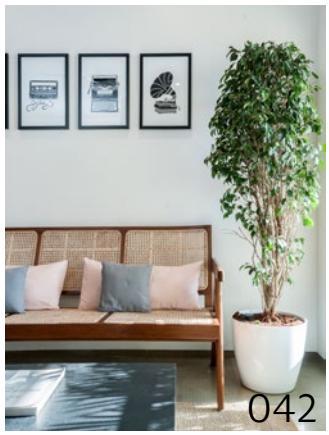
Deepa Nair
Editor

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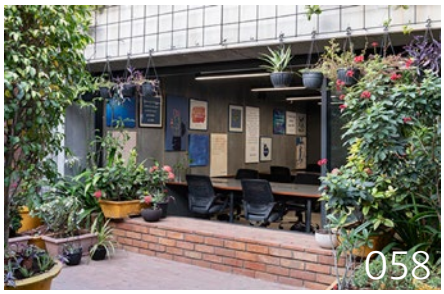
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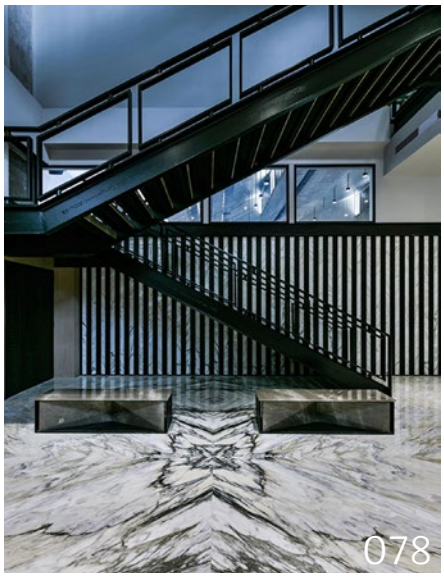








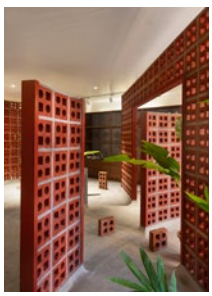






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Cover photograph: Niveditaa Gupta, courtesy Renesa Architecture Design Interiors. *Turn to 'Brick by Brick' on page 68.*

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078 LIVING STONE
Hiral Jobalia Studio celebrates the design concept of Stonex India's experience gallery in Jaipur with a distinct material — stone.

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We feature the newly launched Urbanmistrii Studio-designed Padmanabham in New Delhi; alongside United Coffee House Rewind in Chandigarh by Chromed Design Studio; and the Tapiawala office in Bharuch created by P&D Associates.

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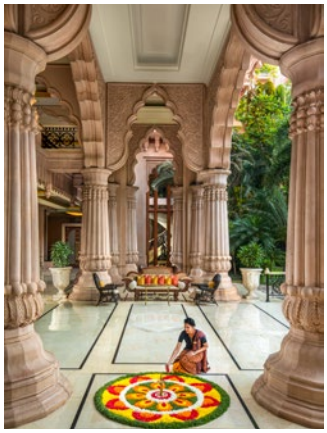
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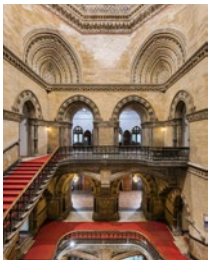
Write back



SIMPLY PERFECT

Despite the tough times that we are living in today, the team has beautifully brought out the May edition — truly a collector's item with a perfect amalgamation of the finest photographers. It's just so hard to pick one of the best pictures when all are great — for instance, Niveditaa Gupta's aerial shot of The Village; Atul Pratap Chauhan's capture of the Leela Palace Bengaluru; Bharat Aggarwal's glamorous Haveli Dharampura shoot; Justin Sebastian capturing an eccentric, dramatic frame for a residential project; the sun-kissed epicenter of a home by Monika Sathe, and more. **Better Interiors** has done an amazing job in finding these hidden gems!

KOMAL POKHARKAR, CHENNAI



BALANCED BRILLIANCE

A picture speaks a thousand words and that's the case for Suleiman Merchant's marvelous shot of the Victoria Terminus. I had visited the monumental building back in my college days on account of some academic work. Seeing this lovely photograph by Suleiman, it took me down the memory lane. Given that it's a government (railways) building, it is not a quiet building. People keep storming from one room to the other, and floor by floor. And it got me thinking how the photographer managed to get this perfect shot. Imagine the kind of patience and determination that must have gone into just this one picture. Similarly, I was very impressed by the story behind the capture of Mondeal Heights in Ahmedabad by Purnesh Dev Nikhanj. The patience and the risk he took by standing 40-feet above the ground on a man-lift to get the shot is simply praiseworthy. Kudos to the photographer. And lastly, happy 15 **Better Interiors**!

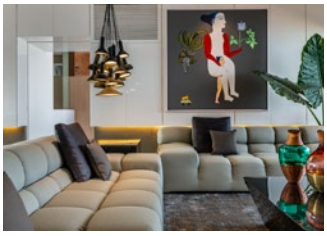
SUJAY NIGAM, ORISSA



PHOTO MAGIC

I am in love with the May edition of **Better Interiors**. The magazine has beautifully paid its due to the amazing photographers who play a major role for bringing the works of design professionals alive through images. I am a photography student. I couldn't contain my excitement on seeing the list of the 25 photographers featured in the issue. I loved the entire Q&A of Kunal Bhatia. I found his story extremely motivating. I like how he is thorough on the subject and puts forth his aesthetic sensibilities into the frame. Similarly, I have developed keen interest in Suryan//Dang as the team photographically narrates a story. The striking shoot of Rajat Sodhi of Orprojects is my favourite from the three images they shared. The picture highlights the prominent design, its strength and the futuristic projection of the designer. I cannot imagine the struggle the photographers must have gone to take this shot. Amazing work!

PUNEET SINGH, NEW DELHI



DREAM TEAM

I have always loved Sebastian + Ira's work, and I've seen many of their photographs not only in **Better Interiors**, but on other design magazines and websites. I remember this one picture of a living room (designed by Rajiv Saini) with a lovely painting hanging on the wall which had made it to the covers of one of your editions — I have been a **Better Interiors** fan since then. And I saw it again, in this edition, truly one of their best captures! Each of their work shows the immense dedication and an unsaid sync that follows between these two photographers. This duo's story is simply inspiring — from Sebastian's 15-20 years in the industry to welcoming an architectural graduated Ira. While Sebastian balances the act with skillful sturdiness, Ira brings out a young vibe. Not only has the magazine come a long way but also Sebastian and Ira. Kudos guys!

ASHWINI TAMNEH, PUNE



LETTER OF THE MONTH

Happy 15th anniversary, **Better Interiors**! I've been your ardent follower for more than a decade now, you have come a long way, and readers like me, I am sure are happy beyond words. This is one amazing journey that you have embarked upon and I want to wish the team nothing but prosperity and success. The concept of the May edition quite stunningly commemorates the magazine's 15th year by giving a hearty shout out to the interior-architecture photographers, who are the unsung heroes. All the 25 photographers featured in the May edition have inspiring stories. It is extremely difficult to pick one of these brilliant artists, but if I have to, it would be Andre J Fanthome. His journey as a photographer is inspiring. I've seen his works in some publications, and I've noticed how every subject that he captures in his frame tells a story, such as the Bengaluru International Centre shoot. It is simply wow! I also loved the photographs captured by the two photographers — Prasanth Mohan and Justin Sebastian — from my home state, Kerala. The thought they put behind the frames they captured were awesome... so so impressed. Thank you **Better Interiors** for this fantastic edition. Wish this collector's issue was available on print!

JAYESH NARAYANAN, KOCHI

KINDLY WRITE IN WITH YOUR RAVES OR RANTS TO:
deepa.nair@nw18.com or post to The Editor, Better Interiors, PARC Premises, Swastik Mills Compound, VN Purav Marg, Chembur, Mumbai 400 071
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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
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WHO ARE THEY?

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Round About

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

QUICK TAKE

FRANKE FABER INDIA'S BUILT-IN STEAM OVENS

The Faber Steam Oven allows cooking by steam and conventional method at once. It has variable temperature settings and can easily steam food from a frozen state. Additional features include: sensor touch interface, reminder function, door interlock for safety, large viewing window and more.
Website: www.faberindia.com

BREAKFAST TRAY COLLECTION BY INDIA CIRCUS

Moulded in teak, the breakfast trays from India Circus double up as laptop trays as well. The Floral Galore tray highlights vibrant hues, in contrast to the Monochrome Palms breakfast tray. The raga of robin birds along palm trees and deer are seen on the Robin Bird Park and Deer Park breakfast trays, respectively. The Wildlife Safari tray captures the essence of wildlife featuring elephants, cheetahs and peacocks along with tropical motifs.
Website: www.indiacircus.com

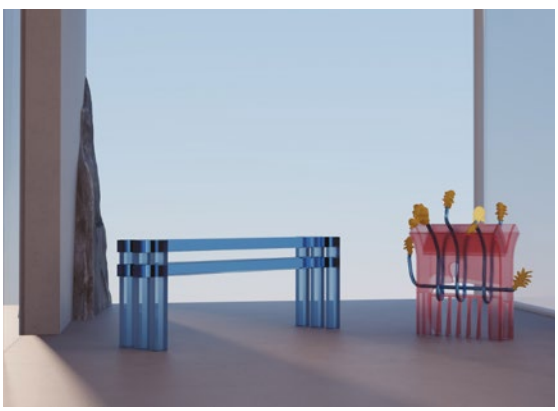
ZERO KI KHOJ UPHOLSTERED SWING BY FUSION ACCESS

IndiGenius by Fusion Access has launched an exemplary swing inspired by the theory of zero. The Zero Ki Khoj Upholstered Swing is made from stainless steel frame and has a tungsten rope. The swing is available in a backless option as well.
Website: www.fusionaccess.com

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF

Soft Geometry presents virtual design show: Imagined, for uncertain times





DESIGNERS UTHARAA ZACHARIAS AND PALAASH Chaudhary of furniture design studio Soft Geometry conceived the idea of curating a virtual gallery showcase featuring 11 independent design studios from nine countries. Coined as 'Imagined, for uncertain times,' the show aims to share hope amid the world pandemic. The show explores dual themes of imagining unbound and uncertainty through the distinct lens of each participating studio. 'Imagined, for uncertain times' features a visual narrative of the 10 extraordinary works of furniture, lighting and sculpture, inhabiting an imagined gallery landscape created by Barcelona-based SPOT studio. Many design week and trade shows have been cancelled due to the pandemic, leaving the designers and art lovers to miss out on important cultural trends. The visual gallery presents a model vision for creative collaboration, mutual support within the design community and an opportunity to engage with a distanced audience. The response received has been overwhelming, where designers have exchanged stories of challenge, loss, determination, and hope in the opportunity to come, offer support and create. The show is available for viewing on their website till June 8.
Website: imaginedforuncertaintimes.com

Thomas Goode & Co set up for refurbishment



LUXURY TABLEWARE RETAILER THOMAS GOODE & CO'S flagship store on Mayfair's South Audley Street, which is approaching its 200th anniversary, is set for a luxurious refurbishment by Cain International. The privately held real estate investment firm operating in Europe and America, Cain International secured the planning consent last month for the heritage building. It is set to undergo a major refurbishment, which will include the creation of 23 luxury-serviced apartments operated by the Oberoi Group, which is headquartered in New Delhi. The work is expected to be completed in three years.
Website: www.thomasgoode.com

Priyasri Art Gallery organises online exhibitions



AMID THE WORLD PANDEMIC, PRIYASRI ART GALLERY IS curating two online exhibitions Untitled I and Untitled II to keep up the spirit of art. The exhibitions have been launched on May 15 and will remain open for virtual viewing till June 15. The Priyasri Art Gallery is dedicated to its role of exhibiting contemporary and experimental artworks, and showcasing young artists alongside established ones. The exhibitions will be showcasing some of the fine works of artists who have been connected with the gallery and its art studio AQ@Priyasri in Baroda for a long time. Some of the artists featuring their works include Kumar Misal, Avni Bansal, Ritesh Rajput, Ashish Dhola to name a few.
Website: www.gallerypriyasri.com

Ikea's Space10 presents bespoke Bee Homes





ALTHOUGH BEING VITAL FOR THE ECOSYSTEM, THE bees are on the verge of extinction due to climate change. Understanding their importance, Ikea's research and design lab Space10 has collaborated with technology-driven design studio Bakken and Bæck and product designer Tanita Klein to launch an open source Bee Home. The home is designed for solitary bees which do not live in hives or produce honey but are prolific pollinators. Inspired by Japanese wood joinery, the Bee Home is carved of multiple storeys with specific hole dimensions and locked together through a spine and key system that maintains the home's structural integrity while making it easy to assemble and dismantle. It is glue and toxic adhesive free. One can visit the Bee Home website to customise a Bee Home (for free) in size, height and visual expression. The design files are free for downloading too.
Website: www.beehome.design

AIM writes to Finance Minister seeking help for the magazine industry



Association of Indian Magazines

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman 15/04/2020
Honourable Minister of Finance
Government of India
New Delhi

Respected Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji,

Reg: Request for urgent relief to Magazine Publishers and save the Sector from extinction

Greetings from Association of Indian Magazines (AIM)!

At the outset, we would like to thank you for reducing the Customs Duty on newsprint, from 10% to 5%, which had provided some relief to the magazine publishers.

As you are aware, Magazines play a very important role in the society, by serving millions of readers by providing insights, analysis, chronicling trends and marketing of goods and services. Magazines are not just content but experiences. Taking into account this role played by the magazines in dissemination of knowledge, our constitution has provided many concessions to magazines and are always treated on par with Newspapers.

The Magazine Industry has been going through hard times. The Advertising revenues have declined as advertisers face the pressure to reduce marketing spends, due to the prevailing macro-economic conditions. Coupled with this, is the rising input costs, resulting in low or no profitability for magazine publishers.

COVID-19 and lockdown have now cast its shadow on magazine publishing and has thrown our business completely out of gear. Though classified as 'essential services', distribution of magazines has been severely hampered during lockdown. Most magazines are printed in one city and transported to others states through the Railways network and it is the postal and local courier services that we rely on for delivery of subscription copies. Both are currently not happening. Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, businesses have deferred their advertising spends, depriving magazines of their major revenues. This has forced magazine publishers, across country, to take drastic steps like slashing the number of pages and skipping issues. However, given the severity of the problem, these measures will not suffice and survival of magazines will be difficult unless Government steps in with a bail -out package.

At this backdrop, kindly consider the following requests to salvage the magazine publishing sector:

- Remove the remaining 5% Customs Duty on Newsprint. (Before the Union Budget 2019-20, there was no Customs Duty on Newsprint.)
- Withdraw the GST on Newsprint or at least make the GST on LWC (paper used by magazines) on par with SNP/ GNP (used by newspapers) at 5%. As per PRB Act, both newspapers and magazines come under the definition of 'Newspapers'. (Prior to the introduction of GST, LWC upto 70 gsm had no duties or taxes, whatsoever, for end users.)
- Tax holiday for two years.
- Allocate 10% of the BOC (DAVP) budgets to Magazines.
- Soft loans for two years at 5% interest, with a moratorium for 6 months
- Bring down the GST on Digital Content Writing to 5% from the existing 18%. (Content writing is our core business and to supplement income, magazine publishers have entered into Digital Content Writing)
- Reduce GST on Events, conducted by magazine publishers, to 5%. (Our Events are extension of our Content and we have created them to engage with our readers further.)

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

R Rajmohan
President
Association of Indian Magazines (AIM)
New Delhi
9810017854
rrajmohan06@gmail.com | rajmohanr@mm.co.in

THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS HAS affected many sectors, including the print industry (read magazines and newspapers) which relies heavily on advertising revenue. However, the magazine industry is suffering at large with a decline in advertising revenues, cutting back pages, and skipping issues. With no printing and distribution due to the lockdown and no clarity on getting back the distribution network of railways and local courier services back on track, it is essential that magazine publishers seek aid to maintain the smooth working of livelihoods of all those who are dependent on this business. Hence, R Rajmohan, President, Association of Indian Magazines (AIM), in his letter to Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister has brought to light how the pandemic has cast a shadow on magazine publishing. In his letter he has outlined a set of steps that could help magazine publishers to bring their businesses back on track. Some of the suggestions made in the bail-out package includes: removing the 5 per cent customs duty on newsprint; lowering of GST on digital content writing from 18 per cent to 5 per cent; withdrawing GST on newsprint or making GST on the paper used by magazines to the same level as used by newspapers. Furthermore, he has also requested for an allocation of 10 per cent of the BOC (Bureau of Outreach and Communication) budgets to magazines; a tax holiday for a period of two years, and reducing GST to 5 per cent on events that are conducted by magazine publishers.

AkzoNobel India introduces powder coatings with BioCote's anti-microbial technology

AKZONOBEL INDIA HAS accelerated the addition of BioCote's anti-microbial properties to its range of architectural powder coatings Interpon D1000 and 2000. The market-leading anti-microbial solutions provider, BioCote's anti-microbial technology reduces up to 99.99 per cent of bacteria and mould which can cause bad odour, staining or material degradation, thereby protecting the building interiors and keeping them fresh and clean. The Interpon D AM is the first product of its kind in the company's architectural segment and an effective solution for architects. It can be used on a variety of internal surfaces, such as window frames, ceiling tiles, metal office partitions, metal doors and elevator doors. The powder coating is available in the same extensive selection of colours and finishes as the existing Interpon D range, including metallic effects and coarse or fine textures.
Website: www.akzonobel.co.in



Duravit unveils playlists curated by designers

Duravit Music through its Spotify account is giving a sneak peek into the musical worlds of well-known designers including Philippe Starck, Christian Sieger, and Christian Werner; and a wide variety of other musical delights as well. The account features a carefully selected playlist for every taste, from the best and most recognisable soundtracks from Breakfast at Tiffany's to Game of Thrones, compositions by Chopin and Brahms and rock anthems by AC/DC.
Website: www.duravit.in

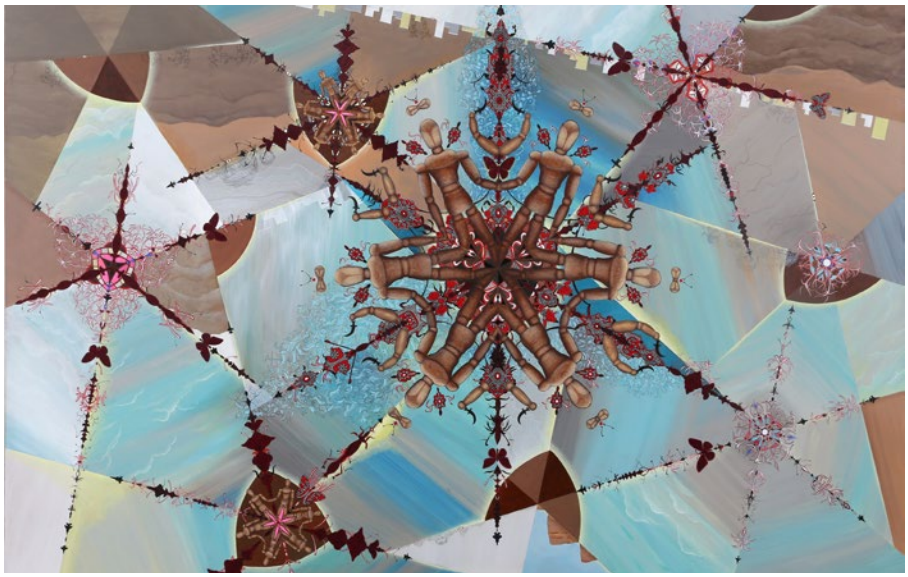
Art Walk

PAINTER AND SCULPTOR JAGANNATH PANDA DOCUMENTS THE EVER-GROWING TENSION BROUGHT BY SOCIAL CHANGE IN HIS MIXED MEDIA ART WORKS BY MIXING MYTHOLOGY WITH REALITY.

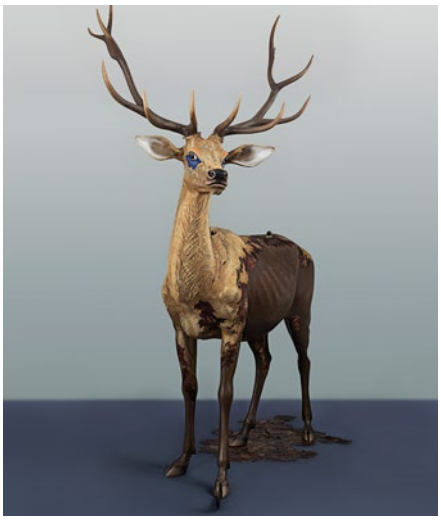


PAINTER AND SCULPTOR

Jagannath Panda











PAINTER AND SCULPTOR JAGANNATH Panda is known for exploring the concerns of globalisation and rapid development through his mixed media art works by often humanising animals as his subjects. Born in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, he completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts from BK College of Art and Crafts, and Masters in Sculpture from the MS University of Baroda, Gujarat. He further pursued an MA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art, London. During his years of learning, Jaganaath exhibited solo shows in Tokyo, London, Berlin and San Francisco, Mumbai and New Delhi, and has been honoured with a handful of prestigious awards. His earliest works showcase an experimentation of different media on paper, mixing collage and drawing techniques which observed the socio-political situations in contemporary India. On moving to Gurugram, Jaganaath started focusing on opposing elements such as nature and man, and modern and traditional in an objective way by drawing inspiration from personal experiences. His paintings reflect the divergence we face on a daily basis alongside mass migration leading to urbanisation, thereby resulting crowd and displacement of life. To stress upon the reality of his subject, Jagannath also employs the use of external materials such as silver foil, thread, and tracing sheets in his sculptural installations and landscape paintings.

Email: jpanda08@gmail.com

ANCHORED BY: DIKSHA JAWLE. **PHOTOGRAPHS:** COURTESY THE ARTIST

Eco Beat

JEFFREY SIMPSON AND ANGUS WARE OF SYDNEY-BASED STUDIO, HELIOGRAF, FASHION FISH-SHAPED SOY SAUCE PACKETS INTO POP ART LAMPS TO CURB THE MENACE OF PLASTIC POLLUTION.



INSPIRED BY THE FISH- shaped soy sauce packets which are served with sushi in many sushi shops around the world, designers Jeffrey Simpson and Angus Ware launched a range of glass LED lamps shaped like these packets. They created Light Soy lamps, a design-led solution, at their Sydney-based studio, Heliograf, to highlight the damaging effect of single-use plastic which is destined to clog landfills. The idea incepted when the designer duo was shocked by how many of the disposable, soy sauce packets they had used while eating sushi. Thus, with an aim to create 'something that will be treasured and not trashed,' the designers created two lighting fixtures — a USB-C rechargeable table lamp, and a main-powered pendant light. Both the lamps feature borosilicate glass shades with powder-coated aluminium accessories and come with a built-in 3000K energy-efficient, touch-controlled dimmable LED. Heliograf collaborated with industrial design studio Vert Design in Sydney to develop these high quality lamps which would have a small footprint. Its modular design allows for easy repair, refurbishment and replacement, to maximise product life and minimise waste, and the decision to not supply a USB power adaptor encourages reuse of e-waste. Heliograf has also made use of cardboard and biodegradable semi-wet press bagasse sugarcane fibre for packaging. Its integrated cotton handle facilitates carrying the lamps home without the use of a plastic bag.







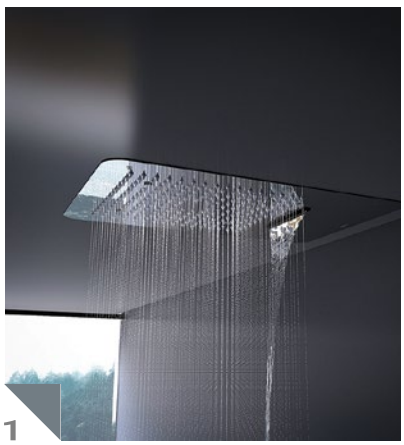


Website: www.heliograf.com

ANCHORED BY: DIKSHA JAWLE; PHOTOGRAPHS: DANIEL HERRMANN-ZOLL, COURTESY HELIOGRAF

HIGH Five!

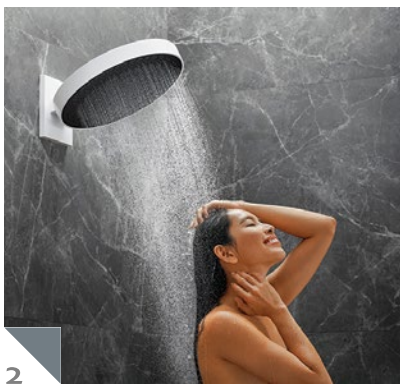
THESE FIVE SMART, SLEEK AND HI-TECH SHOWER SYSTEMS WOULD REDEFINE YOUR BATHROOM AS A SANCTUARY OF WELLNESS.



1

HAFELE INDIA

The stainless steel body of Neptune III Slim Shower System has a chrome finish. Its triple-function of 3-in-1 spray patterns — Rain, Mist and Cascade — comes with a flexible hose of thickness 1.5mm providing a seamless showering experience.
₹ 49,000



2

HANSGROHE INDIA

Rainfinity comes in a concave shape and innovative wall connection that makes the conventional shower arm superfluous. The innovative wall connection allows tilting of the head shower between 10° and 30°. It is equipped with three spray modes and the range offers a handshower, showerpipe and the innovative shoulder shower for no-shampoo days.



3

AMERICAN STANDARD

The Spectra collection offers a multi-functional shower system. The full-body soak with focused high-pressure streams of water adds value to the design. Securing the hand shower with the Dock-Tite docking system and switching between the spray heads using Divert-Paddle, makes users enjoy four different spray functions via Aqua Toggle.



4

AXOR

Developed by Axor with Phoenix Design, the Axor 250/580 overhead shower is made of pure metal. The large, rectangular spray disc of the shower wets the entire body with a variety of sprays that it is integrated with. The RainFlow flood jet provides a gentle neck massage, the concentrated powerful Mono jet delivers a revitalising spa feeling and the sensual Rain jet envelops the entire body.



5

GRAFF INDIA

Ceiling mounted showerhead is developed in stainless steel to guarantee a long-lasting, high-performing life and minimal design. They are available in a rectangular, square and circular shapes and includes both rain and mist functions for a fulfilling spa experience. The LED chromotherapy function can be activated and regulated through the provided remote control.

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE BRANDS

UNLISTED PRICES ARE ON REQUEST

Rugs celebrating Mughal architecture, statement furniture, sleek bathroom units, and more...



IDUS

The latest offering from Idus is the Animal Print Furniture Collection which comprises armchairs, pouffees and lounge chairs. The Laza leisure chair features a solid wooden frame, a comfortable curved back and durable leather fabric in a zebra print. The Leolux designer chair is crafted in black lacquered with a leather seat and zebra printed fur on the back of the wooden legs. The contemporary Mint armchair is made of leather and wood, and the fashionable Philapao pouffee (featured here) is crafted with a solid wood frame and mohair upholstery. The collection also includes the contemporary sofa, Wafer. Prices start from ₹ 75,000 and go up to ₹ 95,000.





OBEETEE

The latest offering from Obeetee is the Rekhta collection comprising a limited edition of 15 rugs. The collection celebrates rich Mughal architectural carvings with motifs and patterns derived from these structures in ivory, green, silver and shades of blues. The rugs are hand-woven using an authentic Turkish knotting technique that binds together the finest Afghan wool and recycled saree silk. The collection highlights the geometric, floral and rectilinear elements including pools, fountains, chandeliers and carved planters, and contemporary version of Persian and artistic impressions inspired by the splendour of animals, birds and trees.



MINT HOMEZ

Mint Homez has launched the Mint Homez Bespoke collection of sofa sets, dining tables, buffet cabinets, armchairs, mirrors, and coffee tables which are influenced by Turkish culture. It features a complete living and dining room collection which can be customised with your choice of upholstery fabrics, and more. The couches are made of pinewood with a foam seat covered in soft velvet upholstery. The dining table is crafted in solid wood with high gloss metallic finishes. The cushions feature jacquards and suede. The range highlights bold hues of black, magenta and mustard as well as neutrals such as beige, grey and white.



IOTA

Italian furniture brand Naos is exclusively available to Indian consumers through Iota. The brand recently introduced a series of multi-functional sleek coffee tables and a dining table from Naos. The Myflower coffee table (seen here) features three synchronised swivelling tops with the first one circular and the bottom two shaped like flower petals. While the first and the last sections are crafted in Calacatta ceramic, the centre is made of clear glass. Hive and Bonne Vie are extendable coffee tables with ceramic and glass tops, with a painted or galvanised steel base. The tables function on a mechanism where the topmost section rotates, allowing the three surfaces below it to open. Similarly, the Volare extendable dining table is equipped with a synchronised, remote-controlled mechanism with the lateral extensions for widening, and the central extension for lifting. Its top comes with a choice of glass or ceramic, and the legs are made of chromed steel or stratified glass.

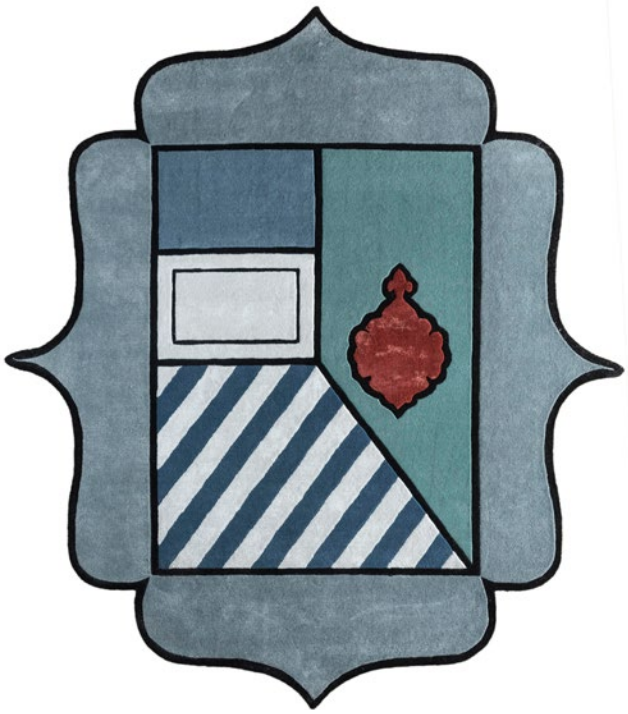
COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE BRANDS

JAIPUR RUGS

Jaipur Rugs, in collaboration with interior design studio Shantanu Garg Design, has produced — Concoction — a collection of woven and hand-knotted rugs. Weaving together cross-cultural amalgamations, including graphical inspirations from the Bauhaus movement and a distinct Ottoman influence, the 12 designs of the collection is a fantastical representation of India's architectural saga. Shantanu's vision for this collection are the Mughal and Byzantine structures which he finds quite monumental and clean. Therefore, details such as grand arches, high ceilings, flooring and the layout of communal spaces are depicted on the rugs. The contrasts in design are highlighted by vibrant colour palettes. Also, the stark, sharp geometric cleanliness of chevron, stucco and mosaic work is softened by intricate arabesque detailing and cross-cultural sacred symbols. The rugs make for the perfect two-dimensional mediums to express the depth of design, and the orchestrated 'ebb and flow' of detail, because of their textural character. The result is a 'pixelated' fantastical expression, one that not only simplifies the geometrical nuances of the inspiring designs, but also the architectural complexity of the warps and wefts in weaving. Featured here: the Baori, Vilay and Blue Room rugs.













VISIONNAIRE

Visionnaire has collaborated with Italian brand Antolini for creating the Leonardo wellness unit and Kobol wellness unit with natural Antolini stone tops. The marble tops of the units undergo the Azerocare process which makes it waterproof, and protects it from the most common aggressive agents, while maintaining the natural appearance of the stone. The Kobol unit is crafted from a variety of materials: ribbed wood with an open-pore finish marble slab by Antolini, Dover white marble, and steel alternate in a light composition with retro overtones. The washbasin of the Leonardo wellness unit has a constructive structure with a raised body from the ground. The unit's doors are made of waterproof MDF and polyester lacquers, whereas the curved doors of the rest of the Leonardo range are made of mould-laminated MDF and worked in 3D with vertical fluting. The ceramic sinks reproduce the elliptical shapes of the cabinet with taps and knobs made of solid brass and finished in a polished champagne colour.



The 810/One collection of furniture is handcrafted in an earthy material palette and features striking mid-century silhouettes with a hint of contemporary Indian aesthetics.

Mid-Century Nostalgia

With minimalistic, handcrafted organic forms, interior designer Vritima Wadhwa's maiden furniture collection 810/One brings a contemporary Indian twist to the timeless, old-world charm of mid-century modern design.

TEXT: DIKSHA JAWLE; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** REUBEN SINGH, **COURTESY** PROJECT 810



The Rumi series is well-crafted with simple yet elegant structures. Seen here is the Rumi stool, which is seamlessly handcrafted in solid teak with a natural or walnut graduation polish. Sturdy yet playful, the stool is ideal for small spaces.



INTERIOR DESIGNER

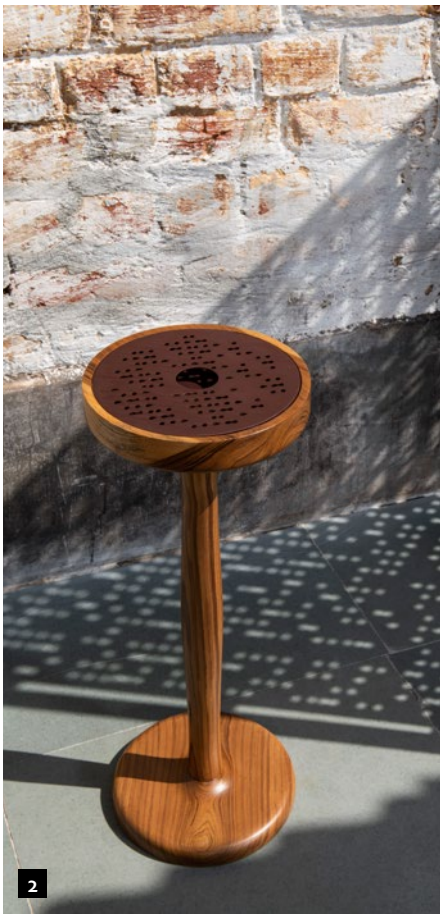
Vritima Wadhwa

The mid-century modern decor, which was popularised in the 20th century, is yet to leave the mainstream watch. Sleek and organic designs, simple forms, nominal ornamentation and maximum functionality collectively resonates its timeless appeal. Mid-century furniture is known to function well on account of its simplicity and fine craftsmanship, and interior designer Vritima Wadhwa's New Delhi-based design studio Project 810's maiden furniture collection — 810/One — is a living proof of it.

But before we dwell into the finer details about this collection, we have to know its creator a little well, and what encouraged her to create this exclusive collection. "Growing up in a family of creative entrepreneurs, it was clear that the field of art and design was meant for me," she says. Vritima went on to pursue furniture design at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, in 2006,



1



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1 Each piece of furniture in the 810/One collection is designed to complement both each other and any space. As their names suggest, Dori for One and Dori for Two are contemporary Indian single- and two-seaters, respectively. They are handcrafted with teak and rope to reflect the emotive quality of Indian materials.

2 With an added level of utility and form, the teak and mild steel made Renga peg table serves as large ashtray, or a quaint side table.

3 The Renga screen allows you to play with your space and create an interesting backdrop or private nook in a room. It is made of two linear, solid wood structures and an aluminium sheet, and is finished in natural or walnut metal and a brick red hue.

4 Although part of the Dori series, the Dori high stool reflects some of the Rumi aesthetics of clean, linear wooden composition.

5 The Dori bench is made of teak and wickerwork.

6 A solid teak structure and modest mild steel support forms the chic and visually lightweight Renga swivel stool and side table. The table has a white resin inlay and stands stable on its sleek but sturdy legs.

7 The three-legged Merak console is made of teak, Indian leather and brass accents, and is available in natural or walnut leather, red, tan and brown finishes.

8 The Rukh floor lamp is a graceful amalgamation of wood, brass and blown glass.

9 Teak and white resin inlay highlight the organic form and subtle dotted pattern of the low-lying Merak centre table.



The teak vanity mirror and tall mirror are also part of the Renga series. The former is pensive and compelling and is designed to rotate around its brass neck for easy use; whereas the tall mirror is a rectangular rendition of the Renga aesthetic.

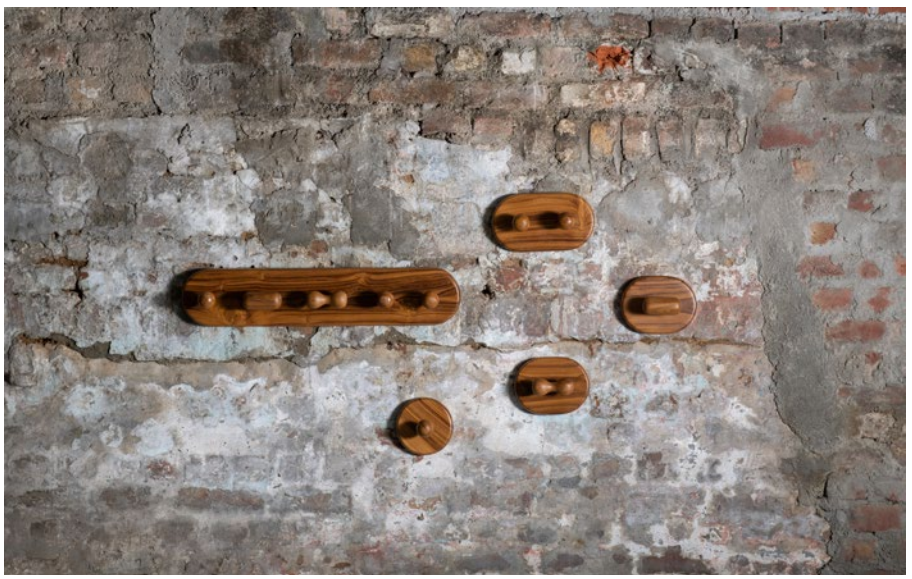
and in the following years, she collaborated and worked with several recognised architects, designers and patrons of art in New Delhi and Ahmedabad. "These stints at some of India's most inspired design environments — and a little confidence — helped me formalise Project 810 in 2014," Vritima tells us. From crafting detailed pieces of furniture to building expansive interiors, the studio has made its mark with retail, hospitality, workspace and residential projects. However, for Vritima, furniture design is what's closest to her heart. "I've always felt very strongly about furniture. It makes the human tactile experience possible," she adds.

So when Project 910 decided to work on their debut furniture collection, Vritima decided to collaborate with a bespoke design studio — Designers Home — which has been doing some fantastic work for the last 35 years. Of course, the fact that she knew the owner of Designers Home, Vibha Wadhwa (a little too well), as she happens to be her mother; and also the *kaarigars* who have been working with Vibha for a long time... was an added bonus. Vritima knew, quality and craftsmanship will be top-notch!

Nearly 50 kaarigars, including carpenters, cane weavers, upholsters and polishers, were brought on board to bring 810/One to life. The first three months were spent in researching and creating moodboards, followed by another eight months of drawings, rounds of prototyping and production. "We designed a large number of pieces and rejected those which weren't resolved to its last detail," Vritima shares. In a span of eighteen months, 810/One came into being, comprising leather-stitched armchairs, solid teak stools, wood and metal floor lamps, sleek tables, a handwoven bench, an organic centre table and console, wooden coat hangers, a room divider, and a vanity mirror — bespoke pieces for every room.

The range echoes simplicity with a nod to mid-century design with a contemporary Indian touch. Each piece is handcrafted to precision from locally sourced wood. Machinery is used





TOP The Mahtab nest of tables (set of three) are inspired by the phases of the moon. Each are crafted in a half-moon shape and are made of teak and brass with natural dark walnut gradation on their legs.

ABOVE The Renga wall hangers are made of teak with metal hinges on the back. Minimal in form, the tiny knob-like fixtures appear floating and light.

sparingly, mostly for processes such as laser cutting for metal screens and creating acrylic buffers and a few metal parts. "The collection is an ode to materials we love, forms we admire and the simplicity we want to achieve. We are inspired a lot by the mid-century aesthetic. Our current inspirations are from the contrasting nuances of minimalism and brutalism, and the exemplary skills of our craftsmen and *kaarigars*," explains Vritima.

For Vritima, the collection embodies a spectrum of emotions in a poetic manner — such as the melancholy of the Rumi series of armchairs, the fluidity and playfulness of Renga stools and table, the grace of Rukh floor lamp, and the sombreness of the Dori chairs. If you're looking to bring some of this poetry into your home, the studio arranges visits on request and you can browse through the catalogue on its website (*www.project810.com*). The collection will also be available via The House of Things (*www.thehouseofthings.com*) shortly.

Before we part, Vritima lets us know that 810/One isn't just a one-off stroke of creativity. "We're also looking at the two contrasting nuances of minimalism and brutalism for inspiration for a whole new line. Furniture requires months of perfection and we don't want to tie the creative process down by setting rigid strategies. The pieces hold an inherent potential to grow into subsequent versions of themselves," she muses. Well, as Project 810 walks into its seventh year with new projects, we're excited to see where Vritima takes us on her "design adventure". BI

Nordic Nuance

It's often the simple things in life that are the most beautiful — the Scandinavians have beautifully illustrated this thought with their chic, clean-lined and timeless designs. Bring some of this stylish minimalism into your own home with our handpicked assortment of furniture, furnishing and accessories that range from modern to warm and earthy.

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



Plusch

The Mel Lounge sofa from brand Cor is available in two frame variations and is manufactured either in chrome-plated steel or lacquered in Cor colours. The narrow steel runs with the rounded angles and sits on the outer edge of the upholstery, thereby making the sofa lighter and appear almost floating.

Price on request



Gulmohar Lane

The Bryn Dining table is beautifully crafted from kiln-dried treated hardwood. Its angled legs sets it apart and lend visual interest. It is paired with the sophisticated San Diego Dining chairs made from solid hardwood in a warm patina. They feature an amply padded seat upholstered in fabric and a comfortable open backrest.

₹ 46,500 (table) and ₹ 17,200 (per chair)



Anantaya

The Rib dining chair uses iron rods across its back to mimic the human ribcage — its organic shape envelops the body providing supreme comfort. The fibreglass seat is upholstered in weather-proof fabric, making this chair usable both indoors and outdoors. The chairs are accompanied by the Jeeves Floor Lamp, also made from iron pipe and topped with a white linen shade.

₹ 15,871 each (chairs) and ₹ 11,032 (lamp)



Red Blue & Yellow

Combining art and function and playing with the concept of geometry, this centre table features a complex, angular wooden base with a seamlessly balanced glass top.

₹ 44,500 onward



Freedom Tree

For a soft and pleasant decor setting, the Aravali Pine Wood Console and Entertainment Unit are perfect candidates.

₹ 31,800 (console) and ₹ 29,100 (entertainment unit)



Light & You

Designed by Clara von Zweigbergk for Louis Poulsen, the Cirque 220 Suspension is a play between colours and forms inspired by balloons, carrousels and light. The shape echoes the well-known onion-shaped domes on several of the buildings in Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens. It is made from drawn aluminium, and is available in copper, grey, red and yellow hues.

₹ 33,107



The House of Things

Shreeya, Vallari and Varada are a range of pizza and cheese platters from Dotto: Objects of Curiosity crafted from reclaimed teak wood and brass. They're a simple yet distinctive addition to any dining table.

₹ 4,190 onward



Ikea India

Made from banana fibre, this basket from the Hantverk (meaning handicraft in Swedish) collection is handmade by women artisans in India through Industree, a social enterprise that provides women with long-term employment opportunities.

₹ 399



Baro

The Saab audio-video unit features mid-century modern aesthetics with minimal angular lines and chamfered edges. Designed by Siddharth Sirohi, it is made of reclaimed teak with lacquered mild steel handles. With three drawers of varying sizes, it offers ample storage and is crafted to keep your equipment ventilated.

₹ 75,000



Sources Unlimited

Walnut Canaletto wood and contrasting fabric define the Baron small armchair. Designed by Roberto Lazzeroni for Giorgetti, the chair is versatile, making it ideal for office and residential use.

Price on request



The House of Things

Perfect for entryways, the Bamboo Mira Squircle mirrors from Mianzi is available in three shapes. The surface of this mirror frame has been made more durable by a protective coat of lacquer.

₹ 6,990 (each)



Iqrup + Ritz

Highlighting classic mid-century modern design, the Betty 3-seater sofa showcases slim tapered legs and buttoning detail from the 1950's. It is available in a variety of upholstery fabrics.

₹ 1,93,980



Dbel Studio

Metal Concrete is an elegant and minimalistic pendant light that has been delicately designed with metal.

Price on request



The Purple Turtles

Part of the Wabi Sabi collection, the Woodlot Cubiture table lamp is handcrafted from 'feather cement' with a teak finished pine wood stand.

₹ 5,842



InLiving

This sleek table is crafted from mango and sheesham wood and features clean lines and an open steel base.

₹ 5,000



Obeetee

Inspired by Moroccan textiles, Linen Flatweave is a perfect combination of the linen ivory yarn, black wool and thin strips of heather yarn.

₹ 38,000



Script by Godrej & Boyce

The Lagoon bed comes with a high-reaching, tapered headboard and several handy features, from a large storage bench and laptop tray to a tiny clothes peg ensuring everything you need is easily within reach. It is made from mild steel with fabric in a combination of warm beechwood membrane and white PU paint. The accessories are crafted in aluminium.

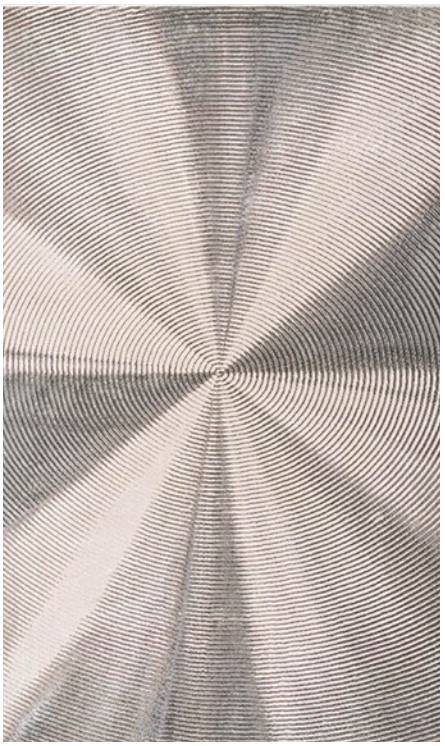
₹ 90,900



It's All About Home

The Toulous bed, which also doubles as a storage unit, is part of the Contemporary Style Bedroom collection. It is designed in a vintage style with moulded trim along the rails and frame and nail-heads detail on the upholstered panels. Matching it are the Toulous bedside table and Avery bench. The table is masterfully crafted from wood with minimalistic linear pattern, and the bench features a wooden frame with turned feet in black finish, dark piping along the seams and cotton fabric upholstery.

₹ 14,995 (bench)and ₹ 1,29,995 (bed)



D'Decor

Part of the Naturals Collection, the Silver Birch rug is available in four sizes.

₹ 4,700 onward



Ellementry

Made of mango wood, the Wood Peg table easily fits into different styles of home decor and doubles up as a storage unit.

₹ 6,490



Ikea India

This cabinet with a plinth is part of the Havsta series which is inspired by traditional Scandinavian furniture design that's based on practicality and simplicity. It is made from sustainably sourced solid pine that shows in its form and surface with careful details that create a handcrafted look.

₹ 15,500



Idus

The striking Cluny armchair is designed with a silhouette of vibrant fabric on minimal steel frame.

Price on request



The House of Things

The Incense Collection is designed by Bram Woodcrafting Studio in oak wood. The low seating and bulky cushions adds cosiness. The coffee table follows the language of the seating, with rounded legs and a cane table top.

₹ 1,90,450



Script by Godrej & Boyce

The Switch sofa has a unique headrest which is designed to be used in both open and closed positions, letting you choose your sitting posture. It is made from polyester fabric with virgin PU foam on the seat and has a pinewood back with horizontal webbing mesh and zigzag springs.

Price on request



Anantaya

An ode to Milan-based designer Ettore Sottsass (co-founder of Memphis Group), the Ettore Bindi Platters pay tribute to the zany, postmodern geometries and bacteria-patterned squiggles and vibrant colours of the '80s. These pieces are hand-turned in cast glass by master artisans.

₹ 1,430 onward



The Purple Turtles

Crafted in metal with a matte finish, this contemporary planter comes with a stand and is available in two sizes. It is perfect for big foliage and larger plants.

₹ 4,838 (large) and
₹ 3,226 (medium)



Ikea India

The Hantverk cotton cushion covers display hand embroidery that blends beautifully with its printed patterns. They have been made using leftover fabric from another collection, presenting an example of how waste can be used and transformed into something new.

₹ 799 (each)



Iqrup + Ritz

The Barcelona sofa is an example of modern Danish design. It is made with black coated metal legs and comes in two soft and luxurious Lipari leather options.

₹ 2,28,200



Danube Home

Kiefer TV Stand is made from high-quality MDF with legs crafted from wood. It comes with ample storage, making it an ideal inclusion in any space.

₹ 34,099



Red Blue & Yellow

The Paradigm centre table has a complex, repetitive zigzag form made from solid Burma teak and is based on a hollowed-out pyramid with sharp stylish angles. It comes with a glass top.

₹ 42,000 onward





Dash Square

The clean-lined Brovada dining table from Ashley Furniture Homestore is made of wood and engineered wood. Its tabletop and chair seats are finished with a brushed texture in a light wash finish with hints of grey for a weathered look.

Price on request

Plusch

The Jalis chair from Cor is a pleasing contrast of Orient-inspired upholstery either in leather with a delicate base construction of wire frame in chrome or black lacquer.

Price on request



Ikea India

The Norraryd table comes with four chairs and is made from solid birch wood. Every table is unique, with varying grain pattern and natural colour shifts. The clear-lacquered surface is easy to wipe clean. The chairs are made from solid birch wood and wood veneers.

₹ 37,790



The House of Things

Subtle dents and impressions on the Apple Katori, designed by AJ Pottery, lend handmade charm to this piece of tableware. The bowl is made from clay and then glazed for durability.

₹ 520 (each)



Dbel Studio

Made from brass, Amaranthine lamp has a modern industrial look, warm glow and clean lines that will embrace just about any style of interiors.

Price on request



Ikea India

The Markerad daybed is designer Virgil Abloh's tribute to Scandinavian design. It is a multi-functional platform for a home in constant motion, and is made from solid pine with a Bonnell spring cotton and polyester mattress.

₹ 29,980



Light & You

The NJP Floor Lamp from Louis Poulsen has a simple mechanical system which allows great freedom of movement. The shade is painted white on the inside and reflects diffused light. The lamp is made of steel, aluminium and anodised aluminium and is available in black, dark aluminium grey, light aluminium grey and white.

₹ 50,589



Dash Square

The Stownbranner end table Ashley Furniture Homestore brings a relaxed farmhouse style with a sturdy wood base in an antiqued white finish and slightly flared legs. Its contrasting tabletop is distressed with a herringbone design which accentuates its country appeal.

₹ 13,995



Script by Godrej & Boyce

The Outfit wardrobe come in the four door, double door and single door options. Each unit is made from PLT boards, with PU-painted MDF doors and aluminium handles with a brush finish.

Price on request



Freedom Tree

The Salaka woven upholstery fabric features a bold print with variegated stepped stripes in a timeless black and white colour scheme.

₹ 780 per metre



Light & You

The iconic AJ Table Lamp from Denmark-based Louis Poulsen was first designed by Arne Jacobsen in 1960 for the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen. It has a spun steel shade, die cast zinc base and steel stem, and is available in 14 colours, including Aubergine, Midnight Blue, Original Grey, Pale Petroleum, Pale Rose and Stainless Steel Polish among others.

₹ 69,436



The House of Things

Made entirely from reclaimed teak wood and brass, Ekaa is an elegantly designed full-length mirror from Dotto: Objects of Curiosity. Use the delicately carved wooden knobs to hang jewellery pieces or scarves.

₹ 65,950



Freedom Tree

Complement your serveware with the soft hues of the Enamel serving trays. Perfect to serve that watermelon and feta salad or even rounds of dry snacks.

₹ 1,760 (set of two)



Anantaya

The minimalist Bowl tables are available in two sizes. They are crafted in mango wood in natural matte or grey stained wood finishes, and stand on sleek black matte powder-coated iron legs.

₹ 11,623 onward



Gulmohar Lane

The elaborate Netherlands wooden basket is made from teak wood with natural, rugged edges that give it a raw appeal. Use it for storing and displaying fresh fruits and veggies, or your treasured collectibles, or simply as a statement decor piece.

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AYN RAND
THE FOUNTAINHEAD



THIS DPOUBLE SPREAD The formal living room talks about refinement and comfort, seen in the curated compositions of imported furniture and artefacts. The artworks, however, are originals by Indian artists.

Refined & Revitalised

R+R Architects rejuvenate an existing villa in Ahmedabad by adding strategic extensions to its footprint and applying materials as chromatic and textural expanses.



Interior Designer Ramesh Lohar and Architect Raghav Patel

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA, **COURTESY** R+R ARCHITECTS

The only constant is change. A pre-Socratic statement whose relevancy, ironically, hasn't changed from the time it was articulated some 2,500 years ago. Nothing, it says, is permanent, stable or constant. And when you extrapolate this statement to spaces of human habitation — manifestations of personalities are so deeply linked to occupants and their changing needs — it is not surprising that they, too, need to be updated from time to time. It was at this juncture that a family of five found itself when they started considering the idea of renovating their ground-plus-two, four-bedroom villa in Thaltej, Ahmedabad. Fortunately, they didn't have to look afar for partners who'd help them in this process. They saw what Ahmedabad-based design firm R+R Architects had done for one of their





TOP A view of the formal living room, looking towards the informal living area and the staircase block. The Burberry marble seen in the rest of the spaces is replaced by engineered wood.

ABOVE The entrance foyer whose narrow confines were 'liberated' by streamlining obstructive elements. The serigraphs by Jogen Chowdhury grace a space above a corrugated metal console, which strikes a chromatic counterpoint to the volume of the blue back-painted glass-clad puja space. The beautiful Ash Wood weave is seen clearly on the ceiling.

relatives, and the work resonated with them — especially, and curiously enough, the application of (the material) White Ash veneer therein. Getting R+R Architects on board for their home was a matter of quick action, accompanied by a brief that asked for an extensive use of White Ash veneer, and a home that was cohesive, yet included spaces with individual identities.

"When the site was handed over to us," say architect Raghav Patel and interior designer Ramesh Lohar, founders of R+R Architects, "it was in a good condition structurally. However, the spaces were small vis a vis functional requirements." Thus, the first step of the process of rejuvenation entailed spatial reconfiguration — essentially liberating areas that felt 'closed' and hemmed in. Reclaiming margin areas and shifting functional entities such as washrooms and seating spaces to the new extensions increased elbow room within. In some cases, rationalising space allocations within the same footprint created a more streamlined and less fragmented appearance. For instance, the entry vestibule was constricted by the presence of a puja room — which was reinterpreted as a sleeker presence, creating a larger access point. In a similar vein, a slit-like cut-out in the ceiling slab of the dining room was widened to create a play of levels, and consequently a sense of





ABOVE The informal dining space nestles against the teak and marble staircase.

LEFT A customised MS and White Ash frame-like unit, displaying, among other objets d'art, a trio of blown-glass heads by Vijay Roy, separates the formal and informal living areas.

spaciousness. The provision of small courtyards at different points within the spatial programme enhanced the ambience. "Throughout this exercise, we made sure that each space amalgamated with the next, while retaining its individuality," discloses Ramesh.

The material and chromatic directions were established right at the outset, owing to the clients' inclination towards White Ash veneer and grey tones. Vibrant elements — in the form of soft furnishings, art, accessories and back-painted glass surfaces — were added to this understated scheme to infuse vitality. The material palette embraced both exotic and local elements: if Burberry marble and travertine were employed, so were local Kota stone and bamboo. Surfaces were given textural qualities — a woven ceiling, latticed screens, ribbed doors, a spliced bamboo enclosure — were teamed with brass (as hardware and inlays) for a rich, nuanced aesthetic.

While the civil changes were undertaken fairly easily and posed no problems, it was the material applications that proved to be painstaking and somewhat of an experimental exercise. The stretches of White Ash veneer were large. The natural tendency of expansion and contraction of this species, which was exotic to India, was something that preoccupied the architects greatly. The

CONCEPT: To create a rejuvenated living environment by optimising space, with the internal aesthetic led by White Ash veneer.



THIS PAGE The dining area is accommodated within a double-height pocket, and is therefore bathed in natural light through the day. The unit on the right is the washbasin counter, with a counter-top washbasin supported by a back-painted glass box.





ABOVE The cosy seating lounge of the master bedroom features an MS, wood and lacquer-finish TV unit.

LEFT The landing of the first floor is animated by the woven ceiling and an imported lacquer-finish unit with copper handles.

second challenge was the brass inlay in travertine, which, again, hasn't been tried out in Indian conditions. Similarly, the spliced bamboo stalks that were painted and used to enclose an outdoor bathroom area, needed a lot of deliberation.

"Most of the wood surfaces, barring a few instances, are rendered from White Ash. Its most emphatic presence, however, is on the ceiling of the ground and first floor," Raghav and Ramesh tell us. "It is articulated as a weave-like surface ornamentation. It was achieved by creating CNC-cut modules and installing them manually on the ceiling. The whole process took about two or three months." A similar process of manual assembly is seen in the lattice doors of the master bedroom — this time in teakwood.

Art, too, contributes significantly towards establishing a narrative that is rich, detailed and discerning. Names such as Thota

MATERIALS

Flooring Burberry Marble
Wall panelling/screens White Ash
Woven ceiling White Ash



The powder toilet on the ground floor features a levitating brass-inlaid ebony travertine box holding the washbasin counter. The floor is lined in mosaic tiles.



A Thota Vaikuntam serigraph presides over the master bedroom. Both, the bed and the bench at its foot, are customised. The teakwood lattice on the right screens the large ensuite bathroom. The individual square components were painstakingly assembled on site.



The sprawling bathroom attached to the master bedroom. The notable part is the open-air shower area with its painted, split-bamboo enclosure.





THIS PAGE This bedroom is home to two young children — as can be seen in the sunny yellow lacquer finish that accompanies the White Ash surfaces. The artwork above the bed is by Vijay Roy.





ABOVE The guest bedroom on the second floor is a comfortably appointed, cosy space designed to put guests at ease.

LEFT The seating area of the guestroom is defined by a break in flooring material. The marble of the rest of the room changes to laminate wood flooring here. Together with the wooden ceiling, it makes for a warm and cosy space.

Vaikuntam and Jogen Chowdhury appear as serigraphs, while original work by Gajendra Shah, Vinod Shah, Kalpit Panchal, Anil Majumdar and Vijay Roy (installations) weave in refinement.

The orchestration of spaces, the deployment of courtyards, the scale and proportions, and the rich materiality have contributed positively to a home that now gives much joy to its residents. BI

FACT FILE: **Project** White Ash Home **Location** Thaltej, Ahmedabad **Area** 1,513.15 sq ft (ground floor); 1,562.02 sq ft (first floors); and 1,015.60 sq ft (second floor) **Principal architect** Raghav Patel **Principal designer** Ramesh Lohar **Design team** Bhargav Patel **Agencies** Dhwanish Suthar (PMC) and Pranav Patel (lighting) **Art installation** Vijay Roy

The living area is marked by a reclaimed teak wood and woven cane three-seater sofa and two armchairs — both, crafted in-house by SML Architects. They are accompanied by a tailor-made coffee table crafted out of river finished black granite which appears to be floating above the ground. The side tables are pale pink coloured wooden monoliths.







THIS PAGE A tall ficus plant, minimal art prints from Art & Found Co, a carpet made from hemp in a neutral shade, and cushions in handloom cotton are the only accessories in the living area.

HANDCRAFTED TRANQUILLITY

Less is more, keep it simple, simplicity is the ultimate sophistication... the Grey-Ceiling Home designed by SML Architects in Mumbai is living proof of all these popular aphorisms.

TEXT: DEEPA NAIR; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** SAMEER TAWDE, **COURTESY** SML ARCHITECTS



ARCHITECT

Mahek Lalan

When architect Mahek Lalan first walked into the 720-square-foot apartment on the 22nd floor of a suburban Mumbai high-rise, he was greeted by large windows which offered views of a dense landscape nearby and the skyline of the Maximum City beyond. Now that's a fantastic prospect for most Mumbaikars considering the cookie-cutter homes we live in, with few pleasant sceneries (read nature) to meet our eye when we look out of our windows. Amusingly, nature dictated the whole design of the 2BHK home we feature here. But before we get to this part, let's get some routine information — like the client brief — out of the way. "From the couple of meetings that we had with the clients before starting work on site, we





THIS PAGE The dining table is made up of reclaimed Burma teak wood with frames painted in black. It has a flame-finished black granite table top. The chairs are the iconic mid-century Wishbone Chair by Hans Wegner. The artworks are abstract art prints that continue the pale pink colour seen in other parts of the house, while the two bespoke pendant lights are crafted from brass.

realised that they had led a very simple life... that for us was the starting point for the design of the house and also the selection of the materials. They were extremely open in letting us set the brief for the project," the architect says. "Unlike others for whom we design homes in Mumbai, this particular client didn't require a lot of storage space in the house as the family led a very minimal lifestyle."

As Mahek (who heads the Mumbai-based SML Architects) was working with the Samants for the very first time — the client had seen their work and was recommended by a friend — he underwent some long discussions to understand their lifestyle better. It was during one of these meetings that the design philosophy of the house geminated, or should I say, fell from the sky. "The sky transitioned from a unique soft pink to a dramatic grey for the one hour during which we were at site discussing the project with the client. This gave us clues and was the starting point for us for the colour schemes and the decision to use grey and pink in different capacities and scale," Mahek recalls. The plus point was: the design team got a clean slate to work with as the apartment was in a newly constructed building, with a typical builder shell, and required no structural changes.

The layout of the 720 sq ft space was straightforward too — one enters the large living-dining area, beyond which is the kitchen towards the left, and a washroom on the right. The master bedroom with an attached washroom, and the son's bedroom are next to each other towards the rear. In keeping with the client's almost zen-like lifestyle, Mahek's approach for this house was to achieve a sense of



CONCEPT: To design a minimal and simple home for a family of three with handcrafted furniture pieces, and less storage units.

tranquillity — encased from the bustling city around — with clean lines, simple design and natural materials. Therefore, the aforementioned hues, grey and pink, are the only two dominant ones seen through the space. In fact, Mahek cleverly used grey for the ceiling in all the rooms, tying the whole house together with this one move. This is also how the project got its name... Grey Ceiling House. Into this soft colour palette, the architect introduced natural materials for the flooring and furniture in keeping with the firm's practice of incorporating eco-conscious materials and doing away with all the synthetic ones. So, the flooring sees alternate patterns in Shahabad stone; while reclaimed old Burma teak wood was used for the frames of the loose and fixed furniture and wardrobe shutters. Infill for these frames were either in fluted glass, cane or rope. "We wanted to establish a visual continuum by way of materials, colours and textures. You'll notice pale pink and grey ebb and flow across spaces along with the yellowish gold of the teak wood and greyish dull yellow of the Shahabad floor," explains Mahek.

Here, I must mention what wowed me the most about this minimalist project... its bespoke furniture pieces. Each one holds its own in its designated space, doing their job, and being a glorious example of what happens when genuine materials, superior craftsmanship and handmade goodness comes together. The architect explains, "The social spaces are arranged to offer casual comfort for daily use and generous hospitality during gatherings with friends and family. It's furnished with a combination of bespoke hand-crafted and iconic mid-century pieces designed by masters like Hans Wegner and Pierre Jeanneret. The bedrooms are detailed

MATERIALS

Walls Paint **Floor** Shahabad (locally found limestone) **Furniture** Reclaimed Burma teak in combination with either cane, rope or fluted glass **Furnishings** Handloom cotton **Lighting fixtures** Brass for the dining pendant lights **Artworks** Prints **Windows/doors** Teak wood

Close to the entrance door, two customised shoe racks, which also double as a sideboard to display artefacts and artwork, find place. These units are made in teak wood and feature cane weaving. Note the legs they stand on — mere six-millimetre-thick metal plates powder-coated in a pale pink hue.







THIS PAGE Designed for the Samant's 21-year-old son, this bedroom has a floating bed with an interesting teak wood and rope infill headboard. Continuing the theme of the house, the minimalist work station (a wooden desk and chair) here is enlivened by a set of monochrome paintings and a powder-pink tripod lamp. The use of fluted glass for the large surface of the wardrobe shutters adds a level of transparency and depth to the otherwise compact room.



The master bedroom accommodates a double floating bed made in reclaimed teak wood with an interesting teak wood and rope infill headboard. As the senior Samants are voracious readers, an open book shelf crafted in teak wood was introduced in the already existing alcove behind the double bed.





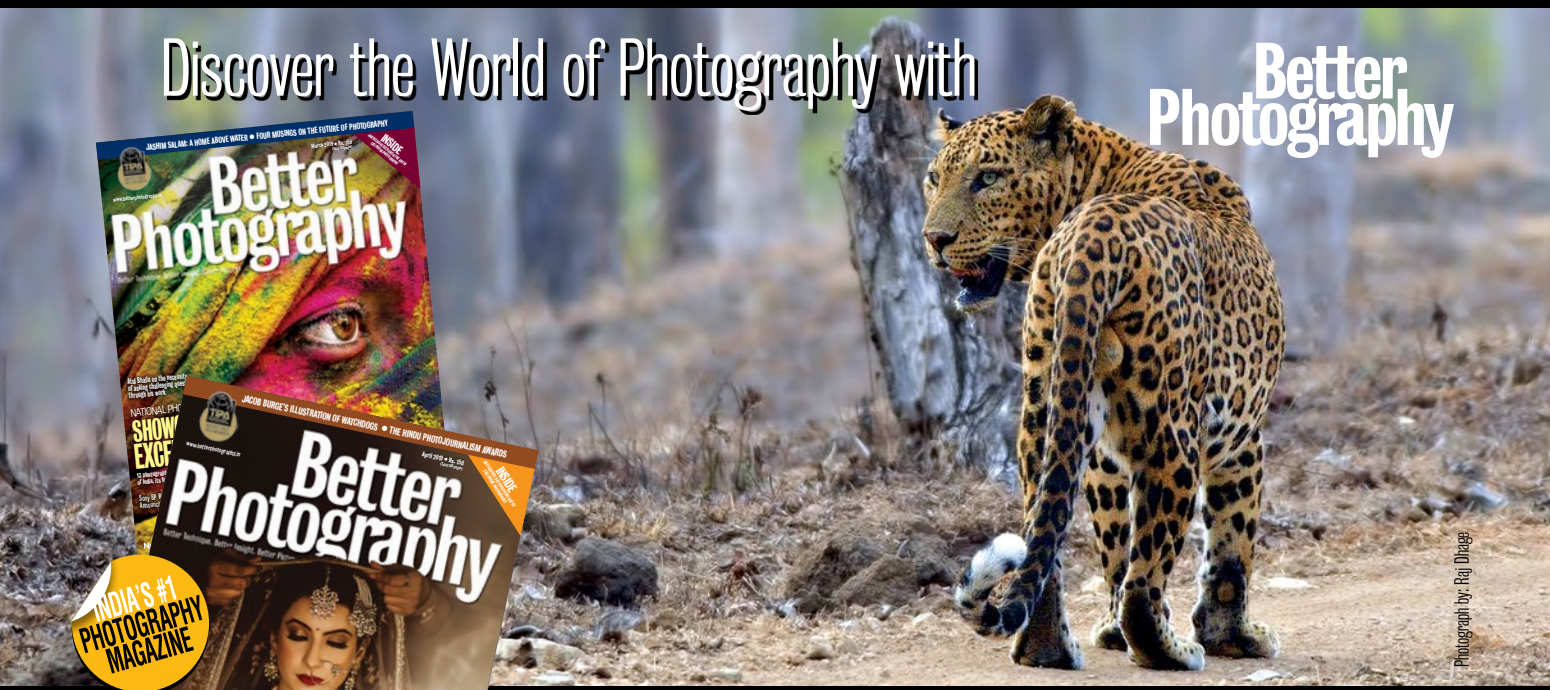
The master bedroom has floor-to-ceiling reclaimed teak wood wardrobes displaying fixed horizontal louvers. A closer look would reveal the design of the handle — it is carved into the three-inch-thick teak wood frame of the shutter. The dressing unit here just like the shoe rack unit near the main door is crafted in teak wood, and stands on six-millimetre-thick metal legs — this was done for continuity in the design language.

with custom-made furniture including floating beds with rope and teak frame headboards, wardrobe surfaces, door handles and storage cabinets." The carefully handpicked artwork, lighting fixtures, and even the potted plants; everyone has a role to play, and has been used for a reason.

"Practicing restraint was the most challenging aspect of the project," Mahek says on a parting note. There's a thin line between a little under, just enough and a bit much. And the attempt is to always hit the balance." Reminds me of a quote I read somewhere which is best fit for this project: the key to finding a happy balance in modern life is simplicity! BI

FACT FILE: **Project name** Grey Ceiling House **Client** Rajesh Samant **Location** Malad (W), Mumbai **Area** 720 sq ft **Principal architect** Mahek Lalan **Carpentry** SML Architects

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Resting on the sandy textured wallpaper in the formal living room is a painting that complements the design concept of metal and wood fused together to create a contemporary home. The double height formal living room maintains a restrained yet captivating ambience through wall features like the customised sandstone detail executed through CNC.

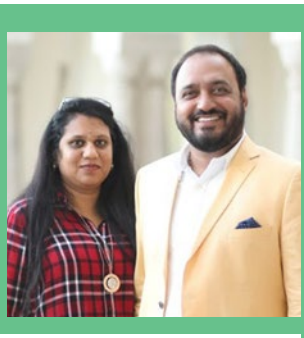


For the facade, the designers wanted grandeur but with simplicity. Avoiding heavy elements, the exterior is kept functional and low maintenance.

Bright and Beautiful

At Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, stands an introverted house composed as a minimalist canvas where daylight and a restrained, earthy palette symbolise true opulence — a narrative woven by NA Architects.

TEXT: CAROL FERRAO; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** RAVI KANADE, **COURTESY** NA ARCHITECTS



ARCHITECTS

Rupana Reddy and
Niroop Reddy

Residential design is often marked by complex briefs hidden behind seemingly simple requirements — a living area, bedroom and a couple of leisure zones. Architects Rupana Reddy and Niroop Reddy who run the Hyderabad-based firm NA Architects know what we're talking about. Specifically, they recall a project in Hyderabad where they were to design a contemporary, multi-generational home for a client and his son's family. "The five members planned to live in the same house and wanted individual private spaces that had to look like one independent residence," mention the architects. Working on two different private spaces in one house was a design adventure for all involved. Additionally, the client wanted their home to have a unique attribute: not opulent or extravagant — as one would expect considering its upscale location of Jubilee Hills — but a "daylight house" with just the necessary furniture.

The site at hand was linear with a busy urban setting around it. While formulating the design, the architects responded to the crowded



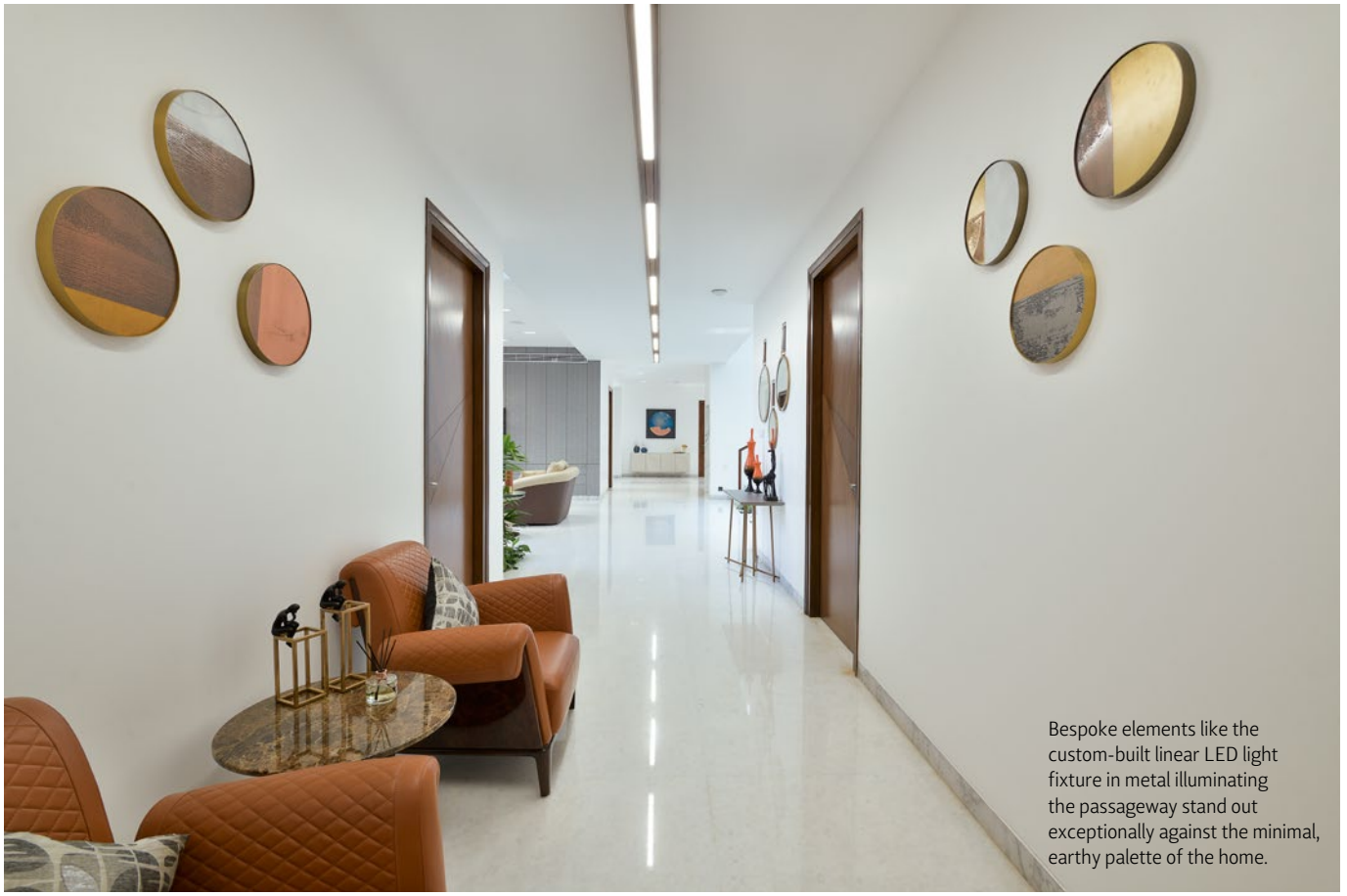


ABOVE In keeping with the overall design scheme, the dining room features a white marble floor, gypsum ceiling, and walnut veneer doors. Over the bespoke leather furniture hangs a contemporary light fixture made of a stack of solid spherical glasses.

LEFT The ceiling in the formal living room is finished with walnut veneer in matte polish and features a chandelier inspired by a flower and the Fibonacci sequence, reimagined through layered brown mirrors.

surroundings by creating introverted spaces that communicated with the outside world through courtyards and skylights. "This would check both the privacy factor and the client's preference to have as much daylight coming into the house as possible," informs Rupana. "Since privacy was not a problem at the front of the house, we added double height glass as a finishing touch to the design concept." Exhibiting grandeur with marked simplicity, the facade skips the use of heavy elements and instead is functional and maintenance-free with a cantilevered porch and sleek, double height glass fenestrations. "The 16-foot, double height porch standing tall is a unique concept which we consider an engineer's miracle," highlights Niroop.

When it comes to spatial planning, on the ground floor, the house branches out from the grand, double height car porch to a double height formal living, kitchen, formal dining, puja, home office, informal living room with a small adjoining courtyard and three bedrooms. A stairway with a skylight leads the way to the first floor comprising three bedrooms, a formal living, family living and kitchen that are occupied by the client's son and family. Uniting the two families is the recreational second floor housing a home theatre, gym, space for indoor games such as table tennis and billiard and an open terrace for parties.



Bespoke elements like the custom-built linear LED light fixture in metal illuminating the passageway stand out exceptionally against the minimal, earthy palette of the home.

CONCEPT: A two-storey, introverted house for a family of five that communicates with the outside world through courtyards and skylights..



The family living area enjoys daylight that streams in from the mini courtyard and skylight, which are closed with a double glazed insulated glass on top. The grey wall is a customised design in sandstone.





THIS PAGE The interiors are mostly introverted in their spatial quality but make the most of the courtyards and skylights, including the stairwell. The house features two different private spaces: the first floor is occupied by the client's son and family and the second floor houses leisure activities and areas for social occasions.

A uniform design scheme is evident throughout the house — white interiors that complement earthy tones of wood and green pockets. "The client preferred earthen tones over bright composites," explain the architects when quizzed about this choice. Both the family living and the formal living areas exhibit the scheme albeit differently. A mini courtyard and skylight (closed with double-glazed, insulated glass) with indoor plants adds an informal touch to the former. "This space is the client's favourite because he gets to experience an open garden but with privacy and comfort," says Niroop. The double height formal living is well-lit thanks to tall windows that frame the exterior landscape. No curtains obstruct the view; instead, motorised blinds provide privacy when needed. A grand crystal chandelier suspended from a walnut veneer ceiling lends the space subtle grandeur.

MATERIALS

Floor Italian white marble and hardwood
Walls Plastered brick masonry, sand stone compilation and self-textured wallpapers
Ceiling Gypsum and wooden ceilings
Facade Paint and teak wood battens
Display units Plywood, veneer and deco paint **Furniture** Metal and leather



One of the highlights of the house is the wall art displayed on the stairway wall — this bold brass metal frame is the architects' take on abstractism and monochromatism — which makes you pause and appreciate the interesting narrative of the space. The pigeon red colour highlights and breaks the intersecting fluid lines.



TOP The home theatre on the second floor is fitted with Danoline acoustical ceiling panels painted in matte black, acoustical fabric wall panels with a veneer passing midline and hardwood flooring.

ABOVE The open kitchen on the first floor for the son's family is composed of quartz countertop, modular fittings, grey stone backsplash and an exotic veneer wall panel with an embedded mirror that separates and hides the wet kitchen.

The formal dining area on the ground floor is resplendent in white, from the marble floors and gypsum ceiling, to the bespoke leather furniture and a crystal light fixture over the dining table that adds a glow to these surfaces. The stark interiors are the walnut veneer details seen on the doors and side credenza. In comparison, the open kitchen and dining on the first floor has a relaxed, casual vibe with grey stone walls, a quartz countertop and an exotic veneer panelling with an embedded mirror that keeps the wet kitchen out of sight.

Even the curated artworks follow the design scheme faithfully. From metal details to wood tones, the canvases are completely one with the home while still retaining their individuality. The metallic fluid art on the staircase wall, however, is the real show-stopper. It follows the concept of parametricism with an experimental take on fluid architecture. "The parametric design along with the 16-foot, double height cantilevered porch were two elements that had us on our toes," mentions Niroop.

When it comes to the individual rooms, the spaces are personalised with textured wallpapers and distinct flooring. The ground floor master bedroom features a self-textured wallpaper on one wall and decorative charcoal panels on the other. "The client's simplicity





TOP Textures play a defining role in the master bedroom on the ground floor and its classical aesthetic. Decorative panels serve as a backdrop to the bed, paired with a textured wallpaper on the adjacent wall. Given the window configuration, motorised blinds are chosen over drapes for optimum daylight infiltration.

ABOVE Hardwood flooring juxtaposed with white Italian marble floor, along with the leather furniture, adds a youthful vibe in the master bedroom for the son located on the first floor.

and elegance are reflected through this room," explain the architects. Blinds, instead of drapes, once again ensure that daylight isn't compromised. "The shape, position and reachability of the windows influenced our decision to pick blinds over curtains," the duo explain. In the first-floor master bedroom, which belongs to the son, a generous window with minimal frame leading to a private balcony maintains the "daylight" theme. From the wallpaper to the pairing of the hardwood floor next to white Italian marble reflect a trendy yet classical design approach that resonates with the son and his family.

What makes this project stand out is that it defines luxury but does so by avoiding the typical, overused standards of modern homes. Rather it sees beauty in a free commodity — daylight — and welcomes it with a canvas that is inviting and unpretentious. BI

FACT FILE: Project House 835 **Client** Ravi Shankar **Location** Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad **Area** 12,000 sq ft **Principal architects** Rupana Reddy and Niroop Reddy **Structural engineer** Sri Designs **Landscape** Progress

THIS DOUBLE SPREAD These images feature the lush, green heart of the workplace at the All Automatic office. For the staff and the management, this is what makes all the difference in a typical workday.





A Pleasing Program

Ahmedabad-based OpenIdeas Architects' organic and intuitive design for All Automatic — an office of an automation company — demonstrates the impact of life philosophies on spatial expression.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA, **COURTESY** OPENIDEAS ARCHITECTS





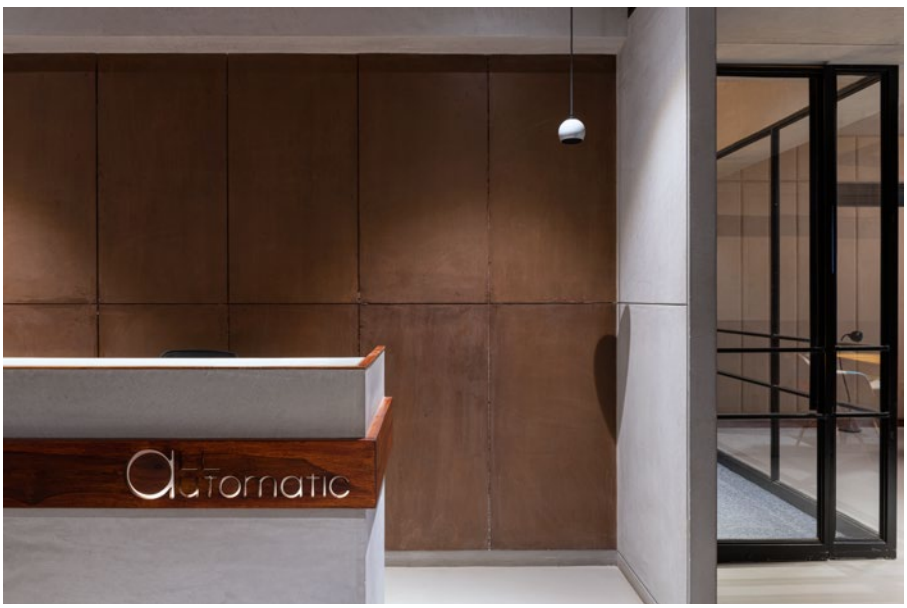


ARCHITECTS

Monarch Champaneri, Niralee Champaneri and Nilesh Gajera

Automatic. Synonym cluster one: mechanised, preprogrammed, automated. Synonym cluster two: instinctive, spontaneous, unconditioned. One word with two antipodal aspects. One word that's associated with a beautiful workspace of an automation company in Ahmedabad, designed by OpenIdeas Architects (OIA).

All Automatic, the company in question, is a typical young firm, full of positivity, energy and a go-getter attitude. Architects Monarch Champaneri, Niralee Champaneri and Nilesh Gajera, principals of OIA, have been associated with All Automatic in the capacity of clients — they've entrusted the automation of several of their projects to the company in the past. So when the founders of All Automatic approached OIA for designing their office, it was a case of role reversal — something which both entities were quite happy about. "We have known All Automatic since it was a fledgling firm employing two people. Their current staff strength is 35," discloses Monarch. "We were familiar with the working style and the professionalism of this organisation, and, as importantly, they were conversant with ours. So when they



THIS PAGE The office eschews 'glossification' of any sort, as seen in the understated reception area. This is from where you can either enter the experience centre or the workspace proper.

approached us to design their office, there was a welcome sense of comfort for both of us."

The upward trajectory of the young firm, intent on leaving a larger mark within their product segment, was fittingly reflected in the location of their office-to-be — a completely open terrace on the penthouse level (12th storey) of a commercial tower in Ahmedabad. After obtaining the requisite permissions to create an office on a terrace, the prelude to place-making started with understanding the site vis a vis structural strength, waterproofing and services. Ensuring a sound intervention to the building and creating a comfortable internal environment (given Ahmedabad's searing summers) were all in a day's work for the architects. What was trickier, Monarch tells us, was capturing the personality of the clients. "While their entrepreneurial venture is driven by technology, all three founders exhibit a strong rootedness in traditional values and sensitivity towards the well-being of both, the environment and self. This contradiction of sorts prompted us to think outside the box of a routine workspace format," he states.

This dichotomy between product (technology) and personality (grounded to earth) was bridged through materiality —



THIS PAGE The experience centre has been designed along the lines of a well-appointed home. Seen here is the glass-encased conference room that is visually connected to the 'living room'.

CONCEPT: To create a workspace-cum-experience centre for an automation company by articulating philosophies and idelogies of the founders.



The main workstation area enjoys views of the adjacent courtyard. Deep, commodious window sills display small islands of green, making the connection with the central space deeper and more satisfying.



The home theatre is a part of the experience centre.



lime plaster, weathered metal panels, cement-bonded particle boards, exposed brick and concrete — and a clean-lined expression of form. "Materiality has been used as an articulation of the clients' personalities and their life philosophies, and therefore eschews any attempt at 'glossification'," explains Niralee. "The materials are used to express the ideologies of a company that is both forward-looking and respectful of traditional wisdom. Upon this muted canvas, colours have been sensitively overlaid through art and accessories. Lighting, too, follows a mellow route, with a couple of carefully selected fixtures lending their own touch to the overall narrative." But the most emphatic nod to the life credo of All Automatic's founders is the courtyard that forms the heart of the section where the company's work happens. This soothing,

THIS PAGE One can enter the courtyard through a narrow corridor. Clients are often taken along this corridor, lined by panels that display products on one side and exposed bricks on the other.



MATERIALS

Floor Concrete micro-topping (Pandomo), polished concrete (partner's cabins) and brick and pebbles (courtyard) **Walls** Lime plaster, exposed brick, cement-bonded particle boards (Bison panels) and weathered metal panels **Ceiling** Lime plaster and cement-bonded particle boards (Bison panels)

9 To 5





green-filled space is also what sets this office apart from conventional workspaces.

Paradoxically, the development of the office of a technology-related venture didn't involve too much technology. "The process," Nilesh tells us, "was quite open-ended and organic. Our usual workflow freezes almost everything before we roll out the implementation. Everything is structured and regimented... there are drawings, there are 3Ds. So you know exactly what you'll end up with. But here, it was quite different — we went with the flow, with an instinct. It was more about the feel of the space, how it felt at a visceral level."

The blueprint was based on the nature of the project — which, on one hand, would function as an office, and, on the other, an experience centre for the firm's high-tech products. The zoning was seeded in the circulation paths that would be taken by the staff and the company's clients. To allow these two sets of people to mix in a controlled fashion, the two-pronged strategy positions the experience centre portion to the front of the office, and the 'working' portion beyond it. The two sections have their own access points, both located within the reception block.

Given the nature of the space, the design was expected to work as a marketing vehicle to



THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The highlight of the spatial experience at All Automatic's office is this patch of green, almost oasis-like in appearance. It is ringed by workspaces so that employees and bosses can partake of its green serenity. Pots and planters of all sizes and the wireframes for creepers ensure that the lushness is well-distributed.

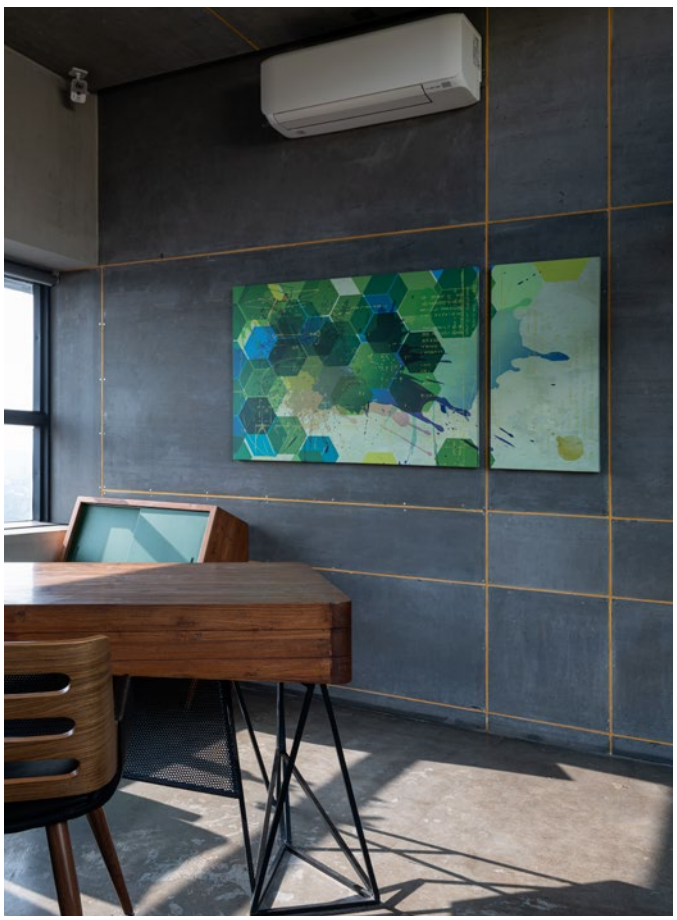




convey to potential clients the impact and benefits of the high-tech products. In order to do so in as 'life-like' an environment as possible, the ambience of the experience centre — comprising a conference room, a living room and a home theatre — was tailored as a well-appointed, contemporary home. The familiar atmosphere also ensures meetings, which are typically protracted, are conducted in a comfortable manner. In addition to the 'front-end' working of the products, the top management at All Automatic was also keen on showing their clients the back-end operations (largely to do with hardware), and the systematic way in which the company handles them. "Typically, and this has been our experience as well, clients are quite overwhelmed with the automation back-end system with its large rack and tons of wiring," says Monarch. "So here, the decision was to showcase the hardware and networking the way the company handles it. Firstly, this was to convey to the end-user the company's methodical approach and secondly, to reassure them that things are being handled in a systematic manner for glitch-free working. For this, we created special rotatable glass-racks in one of the corridors to make it into a gallery of sorts."

Coming to the workspace, the usual constituents — executive cabins, the accounts department and the main workstation area — are deployed around a courtyard, with open and semi-open sections brimming with lush greenery housed in pots big and small, built-in planter boxes, hanging baskets and climbing on wired supports. The organic, back-to-basics aesthetic is established impactfully, with brick paving interspersed with pebbles,





THIS DOUBLE SPREAD
The highlight of the spatial experience at All Automatic's office is this patch of green, almost oasis-like in appearance. It is ringed by workspaces so that employees and bosses can partake of its green serenity. Pots and planters of all sizes and the wireframes for creepers ensure that the lushness is well-distributed.

deck wood flooring. Glazed expanses and large windows make the green serenity of the courtyard a constant companion to the users of the office space, offering them respite from routine tasks. "Additionally," Monarch points out, "the outdoor space functions as an extension of the experience centre by allowing All Automatic's clients to see the application of exterior products." While the lion's share of embodying the core values of All Automatic's founders is shouldered by the courtyard, an interesting point worth noting is that it has resonated well with the company's clients, putting them in the right frame of mind to conclude their deliberations.

If the client's client is happy, the client is happy. And if the client is happy, the architect can't be far behind! BI

FACT FILE: **Location** Ahmedabad **Area** 4,952 sq ft **Principal architects** Monarch Champaneri, Niralee Champaneri and Nilesh Gajera **Design team** Jainika Patel, Ketki Patel, Nidhi Rawal and Zeenal Shah **Lights** David Groppi, Futura **Automation** Elan automation platform **Audio** Sonance and Waterfall **Furniture** Gulmohar Lane and customised **Graphics** Designsane



When you enter the living room, the panelled wall finished in veneer and brass captures your attention instantly. The geometric pattern is an abstract play of motifs seen in Bandhini print.

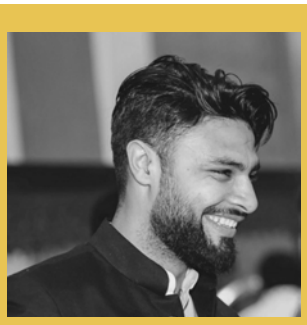
Brick by Brick

Inclusion/exclusion, enclosure/open-ness, gallery/showroom... Renesa Architecture Design Interiors deftly juggles with contrarian concepts while taking the indigenous, deconstructed route to retail design for Rustickona in Amritsar.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** NIVEDITAA GUPTA, **COURTESY** RENESA ARCHITECTURE DESIGN INTERIORS



The gravitas of the concrete rendering is balanced by the rustic red of the logo and the brick walls throughout the store.



ARCHITECT

Sanchit Arora

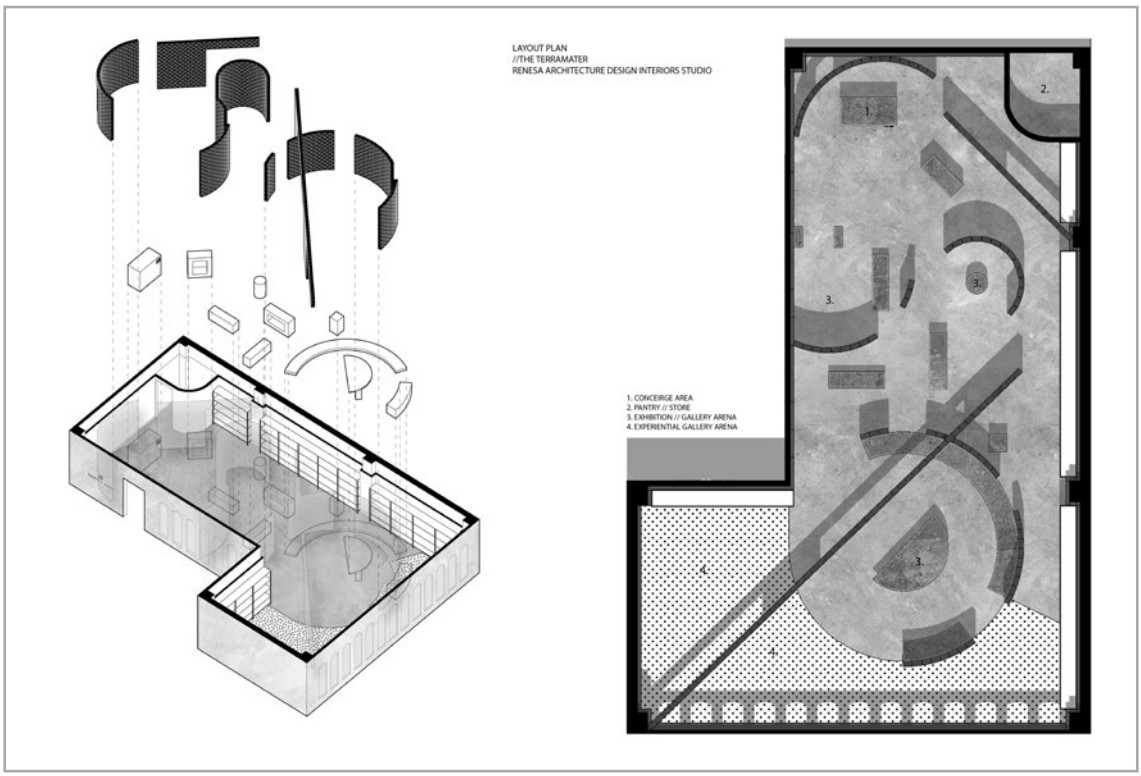
Architect van der Rohe has famously stated, "Architecture starts when you carefully put two bricks together. There it begins." Everything, he has also said, depends on how a material is used, and not on the material itself. These two masterful statements converge at home decor store Rustickona, designed by New Delhi-based Renesa Architecture Design Interiors.

The name started it all. A concatenation of rustic and *kona* (corner in Hindi), the moniker pointed to the nature of products retailed at the store, "... mostly influenced by a mix of old and new design order," reveals architect Sanchit Arora, Studio Head, Renesa Architecture Design Interiors. Spurred by the Make in India spirit, the space designers looked towards local materials that could be harnessed for this exercise. These explorations were also buttressed by the clients' desire for "a fresh scheme to be executed in a very modern way to grab the attention of the Amritsar retail market," says Sanchit. "The idea was to take the market by storm by creating a simple yet design-centric space that would give a new definition to the concept of a retail showroom."

This 'newness' was manifested by stepping away from the conventional idea and programming of a retail space. "We sought to contextualise the space as a gallery that provides the consumer with an experience of viewing the products by presenting them in an engaging setting," the architect tells us. "The design allows the customers to interact with the products through the various pockets created, and get a sense of their inherent quality. The final concept removes and cuts through the entire space creating a manoeuvring pattern across the store. Simple curves and diagonals are interspersed to create receptacles of display. These different shapes forming the spatial ideology, dissect and resurrect the design forming a frame for the products," he states further, adding that the clients were quite receptive to their approach and design process. "From the beginning, the clients were expecting something new and innovative which incorporated their products in the most suitable and economical manner," explains Sanchit. "Once the 3D was conceptualised, the overall design was maintained, barring a few changes in terms of layout and product display."

With the design firm being entrusted with both the brand identity and the spatial





The circulation pattern has been deliberately made to be perambulatory so that the process of viewing the products becomes one of gradual unfolding. The orchestration of the perforated screens also introduces an element of intrigue and mystery into the spatial experience.



CONCEPT: To steer away from the traditional showroom approach, and present a gallery-like experience in an engaging setting.





THIS DOUBLE SPREAD Square 8"x8" perforated bricks have been used to erect partitions in different sizes: with two heights, 7" x 4" and 5' x 4", and widths ranging from 5' x 4" to 36'— all mounted on a six-inch base. The shapes also vary, from gentle arcs and semicircles to straight lines, some independent, others intersecting. This creates a maze-like configuration that makes the process of viewing products more interesting.







THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The existing space came with several constraints — chief among them the odd beams and only one windowed wall. This frontage was leveraged by creating a simple rhythm of arches, with a gravelled bed that serves to display products. Besides furthering the brand identity and creating a novel retail experience, the perforated terracotta *jaalis* help in disbursal of natural light — which, in turn, is reflected by the white ceiling.

identity of the store, the logo and space development fed off each other. The process had to perform a balancing act in terms of setting the tone for the brand's language as well as zero in on a material that would allow a pattern to be formalised into a module for creating space modulators. "Terracotta bricks was the answer," points Sanchit. "It is a local material that's readily available at a low cost."

The site of The TerraMater — which is what people at Renesa Architecture Design Interiors call this project — was a bare, empty shell in a newly constructed "shop unit" with rough plastered walls and raw concrete ceilings. "There were a lot of structural challenges at the site such as heavy beams protruding out at random corners and a low ceiling height," reminisces the architect. One more major setback was that the ingress of natural light was limited only to the front facade, which made the

MATERIALS

Wall Raw concrete texture **Floor** Concrete and gravel **Partitions** Terracotta bricks and cement



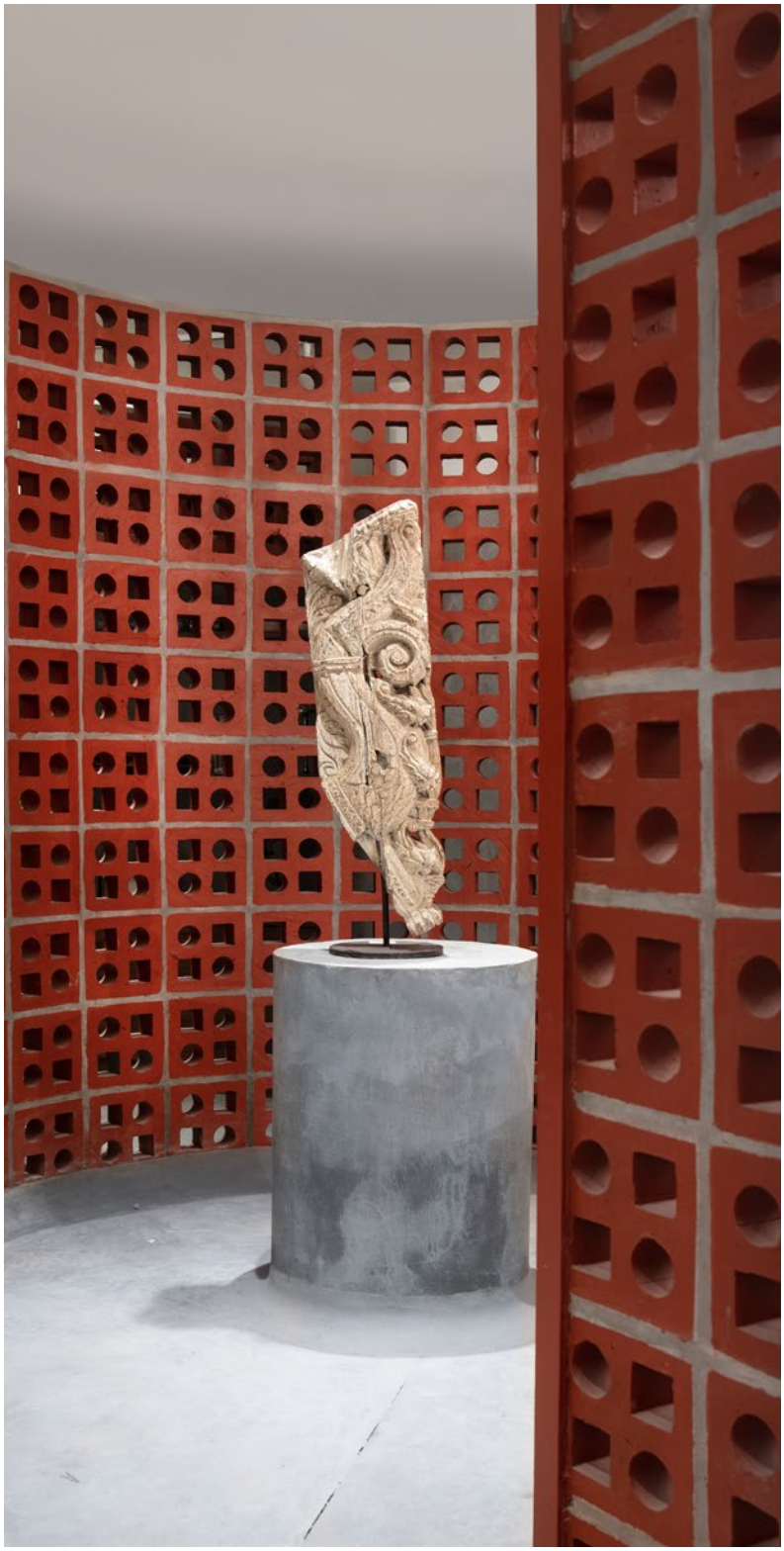


space appear volumetrically small. "Along with these existing constraints, the big issue was to complete the design within a tight budget, yet make it look rich in terms of the material play as well as the ambience," reveals Sanchit of an assignment which took four months from ideation to handover.

The frontage, which is positioned along the short, sleeping arm of the L-shaped plan was articulated as a series of arches giving a glimpse, across a gravelled foreground, of the interiors. The terracotta *jaalis* that delineate the main shop floor into a series of discrete yet connected parcels, are used as a series of curved and straight expanses, some standalone, others intersecting; some tall, others a little short. Cement has been used as the binder for the bricks, which, in turn, helps form a grid that breaks the rustic red of the terracotta modules. The material also establishes a continuum with the concrete rendering used on the arched wall and furniture. Within the volumes defined by bricks walls, concrete forms — tables, consoles, blocks, cylinders — emerge from the concrete floor to serve as pedestals for display. "In terms of materiality, the raw concrete texturisation resonates with the terracotta bricks forming a transitory space that can be curated like a gallery and showroom," expounds Sanchit. "The natural colours and the textural variation found in the material scheme forms spaces that can be curated according to their products."

The resultant spatial experience evokes a gallery-like atmosphere, wherein the objects are enjoyed through a gradual reveal, each showcased on its own little stage. The brick expanses perform the dual (and contrarian) function of exclusion and inclusion — by carving out enclosed spaces and establishing visual connections via perforations. "Amritsar, being a relatively smaller town, the idea was to maximise the products at display but also not to put them forward in a cluttered manner. Our strategy, formulated in discussion with the clients, was to create segregations between product displays that would account for both, maximum product displays and isolation from other products for a 'minimal' appearance. This is where the idea of using partitions with openings and perforations came in so as to create barriers but also maintain visual connectivity at all times."

The role of the brick walls was not restricted to underscoring the brand identity and modulating space alone. They played a significant role in the dispersal of natural light in a space which was beset with structural shortcomings and had only one windowed wall. "The inclusion of





THIS DOUBLE SPREAD The crux of this design is that it questions the norms of retail design. Some of the products are displayed conventionally, on shelves, towards one end of the space. The main volume of the store, however, is modulated into a series of discrete gallery-like pockets with monolithic, in situ furniture that allows products to be displayed almost like art pieces. The beauty of the strategy is that the screens both isolate and connect owing to their porous nature.

natural light is always important for every project, but specifically in this one, it was crucial... Hence the idea was to allow natural light to seep in through the only available front facade windows, percolate through the perforations and bounce off the white ceiling to give the space, more volume, experience and air."

For Renesa Architecture Design Interiors — a design firm known for graphical, visually cutting-edge work — the main learning and takeaway from this project was to never shy away from bold and indigenous material choices that are available within local markets. "This has helped us take a small step towards incorporating sustainability as a major development in retail design," says Sanchit. The result is a space that can be enjoyed by both the client and the consumer, adding to the diversity of contemporary aesthetic. BI

FACT FILE: **Project** The TerraMater **Clients** Chinki Mehra, Vneet Mehra and Kavish Khurana **Location** Amritsar **Area** 1,300 sq ft **Principal architect** Sanjay Arora **Studio head** Sanchit Arora **Principal designer** Vandana Arora **Studio technical head** Virender Singh **Design team** Akarsh Varma, Jagdish Bangari, Aayush Misra, Prarthna Misra, Tanushi Goyal, Navdisha Kukreja, Ayushi Gupta and Anushka Arora



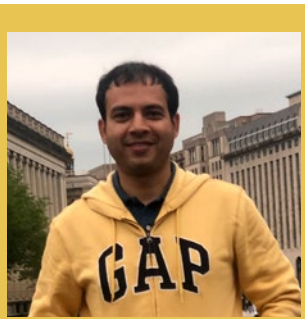
The four-metre-tall boundary wall is made of Pietra Fino limestone dry cladding. The fine texture of the column was achieved with a CNC machine and the horizontal bands are in a matte finish.

Living Stone

In Jaipur, the experience gallery of Stonex India designed by Hiral Jobalia Studio transforms the popular cladding and flooring material — stone — into a work of art in an ambience that feels like (a dream) home.

TEXT: CAROL FERRAO; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** PRASHANT BHAT, **COURTESY** HIRAL JOBALIA STUDIO

Good design thrives on a trusted client-architect relationship, and the decade-long association between Stonex India and Hiral Jobalia Studio is proof. The brand — which is well known for its Indian and imported marble, semi-precious stones, granite, travertine, onyx, limestone and composites — turned to the Mumbai-based firm in 2010 to create its first gallery and office in New Delhi. Since then, the two have built not just an amicable relationship but also a productive dialogue on design and concept. "When they approached us to design their experience gallery as well as their exclusive stockyard at their new state-of-the-art facility at Kishangarh, Jaipur, it was more like homecoming for us," shares architect Hiral Jobalia.

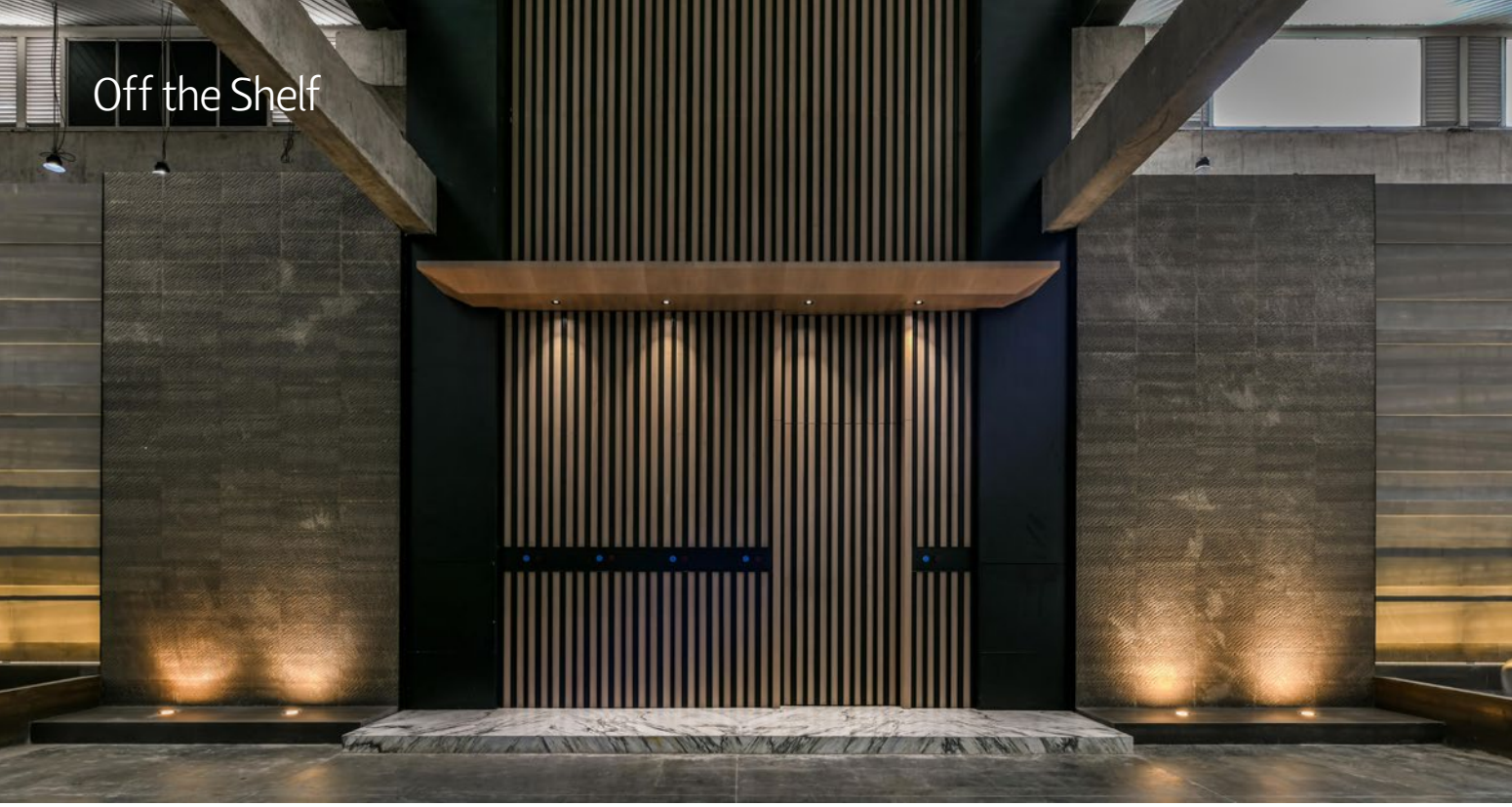


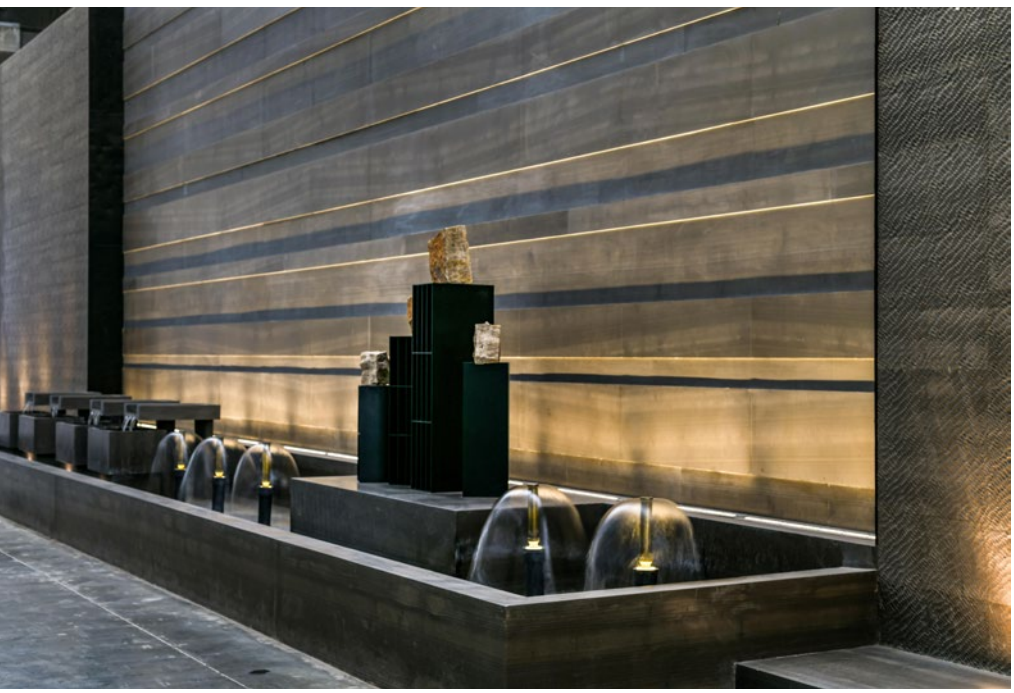
ARCHITECT

Hiraj Jobalia

Nothing thrills an architect more than being trusted with a site where space is not a constraint. The "enormous site", Hiral explains, was to be defined by a stockyard and gallery, covering 30,000 sq ft and 4,000 sq ft respectively with the gallery space sporting an excellent height of 14 feet. "The idea was to create a stage for their unique collection of materials as well as the brand's impressive technical abilities to tame and sculpt them," explains the architect who envisioned the gallery as symbolising "passion for nature and creativity." The challenge was to execute the concept in just 100 days with no room for delay as the clients had already frozen the launch date.

Exquisite stone transcends trends but Hiral wanted to ensure the gallery, while rooted in the familiarity of the material, broke away from the norm. Not only does the design concept celebrate the material, it





TOP The double-height scale exudes grandeur, a theme that is continued by the adjacent waterbody made from the same block of Pietra Fino limestone that renders the exterior a distinctive look. Shards of stone arranged on a pedestal of limestone are displayed as art.

ABOVE Sculpted from stone, the waterbody exemplifies the design concept of showcasing the versatile uses of stone and its multiple design forms.

also ignites the imagination with the promise of limitless possibilities. The architect's design philosophy is pretty simple: "When you walk into a space, it should resonate with you. It should make you feel peaceful and excited at the same time. This kind of interior becomes more personal and people can relate to it. Such a space in our mind is one that is well-designed."

Placed right in the middle of the stockyard, the experience gallery promises a surreal experience that lives up to the design philosophy as well as the client's singular brief. Maintaining a sense of mystery, the gallery is surrounded by a four-metre-tall boundary wall that leads the visitor through the experience centre and onwards to the stockyard. The double-height main entrance, featuring a combination of wood and painted aluminium extrusions in ribbed pattern, sets the larger-than-life design in motion. The rest of the boundary wall, fashioned as a facade, is treated like a hard landscaped area with textured Pietra Fino limestone dry cladding. A waterbody carved from a similar block of limestone renders a definite shape to the design with its distinctive look. This statement entrance wall sets the narrative for the gallery, which is divided into the lobby, an expansive lounge, a discussion area and a stairblock that leads to the mezzanine floor overlooking the stockyard.

You enter the lobby through a second camouflaged door that is cladded with Bianco Vogue marble and painted aluminium slats in continuation with the wall. Handcrafted by skilled craftspersons, this was one of the most



In the lobby, a custom-designed bench made from a combination of painted metal and Grigio Bronze Armani stone makes an arresting statement.

Off the Shelf

Bianco Vogue marble has been extensively used on both horizontal and vertical surfaces in the entrance lobby.

CONCEPT: An experiential gallery for marble and other premium stone surfaces that impresses visitors with both form and function.

Aluminium extrusions, painted in black and sandwiched between slats of 20-millimetre-thick Bianco Vogue marble, create an optical illusion of an even plane and discreetly hides the entrance door.



challenging details executed in this project. "We wanted it to work flawlessly but appear completely invisible. Thankfully, we achieved this without adding any wooden element at all," elaborates Hiral, adding that the result is now one of the most cherished design elements for both him and the client.

A large seating area over a sea of Bulberry Grey marble flooring welcomes you as you step into the gallery. The metal fretwork panel and accent lighting from Flos and IGuzzini further ensure that you are immediately captured by the effortless grandeur of the space. Instead of the stark layout of traditional gallery, this space mimics the comfort and charm of a living room. It was an intentional approach, Hiral explains, since most of the clients that Stonex India caters to are from the residential sector. "Visitors would spend a substantial amount of time in this space and hence, the ambience had to be subtle and sophisticated."

Facing the lounge is the discussion section which features walls and columns cladded in Grigio Bronze Armani marble with brass insert detail. The focal element is the cantilevered exotic Patagonia stone ledge supported by columns and connected with solid steel pins.

The discussion ledge, with its resplendent natural veins, resembles a breakfast counter with a pendant light crafted in Alexander Pink stone and suspended by a sturdy, hand-stitched leather belt. Talk about a perfect setting from which to take in the unique beauty and technical capabilities of stone!

Since the gallery primarily highlighted a single material — stone — it was imperative to break the monotony with complementary materials and design elements. An amalgamation of metal, brass (as wall inserts), dyed veneer (in the panelling) and painted aluminium (in the entrance door) have thus been integrated seamlessly with the stones on display. However, it wasn't an easy task. "We took a big risk in combining a very basic material like aluminium with an exotic marble like Bianco Vogue. It took us a lot of time to identify the right aluminium extrusion which would work

MATERIALS

Floor Bianco Vogue Marble **Bulberry Grey Marble Walls** Grigio Bronze Armani, brass **Ceiling** POP **Facade** Pietra Sienna Limestone **Partitions** Dyed Veneer

Grigio Bronze Armani marble is also seen as wall cladding with brass inserts in the lounge area. The deep veined stone strikes a contrast with the light coloured marble floor and the dyed veneer panelling.





THIS PAGE A total clear height of 14-feet in the gallery results in ample volume for the marble to shine through. Black metal fretwork as windows allow natural light to flood the space from the stockyard, while also adding a layer of intrigue to the ambience.



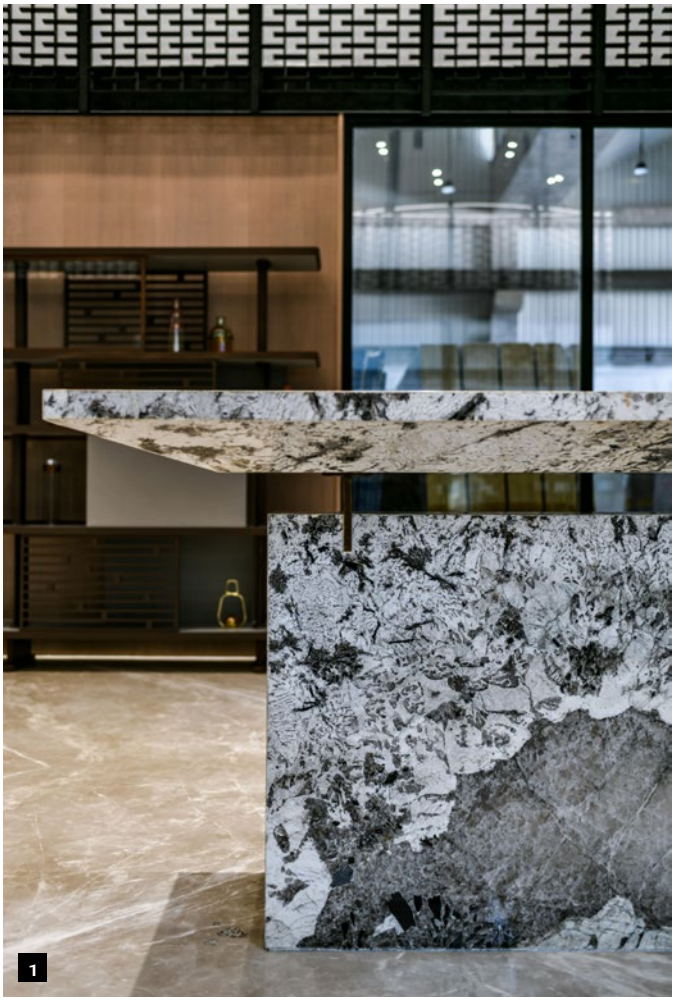






THIS PAGE A series of photographic landscape art adds character in the seating area. The pyramid-style artwork was chosen to depict teamwork and the growth of the company; an abstract piece of art was chosen to resonate with the overall colour combination of the space and the console carved out of a single block of Giallo Sienna stone was purchased from Europe.

Off the Shelf


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1 A close up of the Exotic Patagonia stone discussion ledge cantilevered on metal brackets.

2 Staggered, asymmetrical wooden boxes displaying stone art.

3 Several stone pedestals with artefacts have been arranged in front of slatted wooden screens giving a sculptural assertion to the gallery.

4 The circular Stonex India logo in wood is placed as an artistic detail over a black painted aluminium extrusion on the entrance door.

5 Customised metal pedestals balance uneven blocks of stone as sculptural art.

6 A waterbody with a faucet-like feature carved from a block of Pietra Fino limestone.

7 The custom-designed wooden handle of the camouflaged entrance door.

8 The automated vehicular door of the stockyard in a metal frame with aluminium extrusion and five-millimetre-thick Laminam (ceramic slabs) makes an arresting design panel.

9 The metal staircase that leads to the mezzanine level is made of Bianco Vogue marble with painted aluminium extrusion detail in the background.

10 A Grigio-Bronze Armani marble cladded column with brass detail.


5

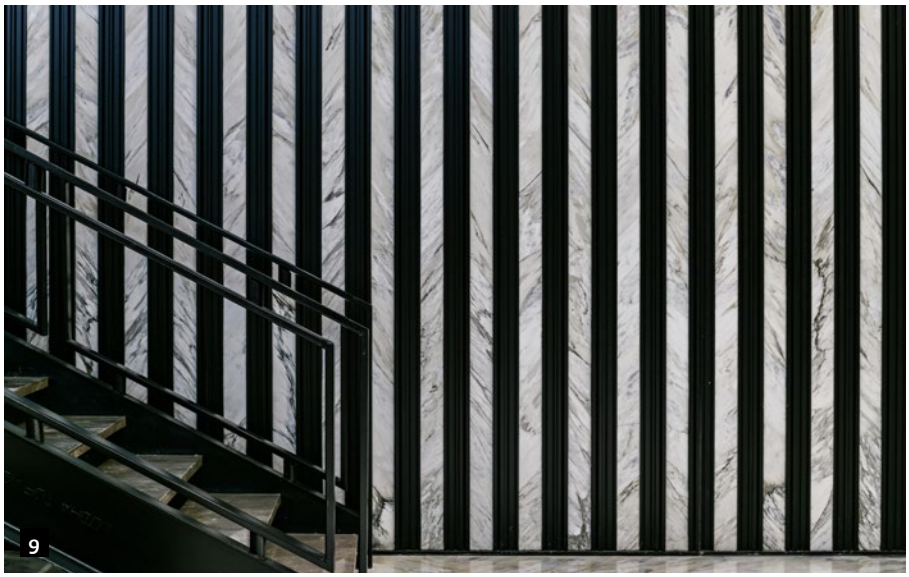

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TOP A large multi-faceted Grigio-Bronze Armani marble installation at the rear of the gallery provides a spatial pause to admire the material as art. "It sets the mood for a conversation on design and stone, where one can informally sit on the ledge as well," mentions Hiral.

ABOVE The discussion area is for architects to brainstorm with clients and for the sales staff to make presentations with a screen at their disposal. Exotic Patagonia stone forms a cantilevered discussion ledge, supported columns that are attached by solid steel pins. A bespoke pendant light crafted in Alexander Pink stone is suspended by a sturdy, hand-stitched leather belt.

well with our detail. But it actually paid off and gave us the boost to not be afraid of taking calculated design risks," mentions Hiral.

The risks definitely paid off — and splendidly if we may add. The experience gallery treats stone not just as a functional material but also honours it as a work of art. At the rear entrance, for example, a large multi-faceted Grigio-Bronze Armani marble installation provides a spatial pause, beckoning one to admire its natural beauty. "It works well to set the mood for a conversation on design and stone," says the architect.

True to its function, the space is an incredible experience of stone crafted with high calibre passion and skill. Hiral Jobalia Studio has captured this humble material's magnificent beauty and immortalised it within four captivating walls! BI

FACT FILE: Project Experience Gallery, Kishangarh **Client** Stonex India Pvt Ltd **Location** Kishangarh, Jaipur **Area** 30,000 sq ft (stockyard) and 4,000 sq ft (experience gallery) **Principal architect** Hiral Jobalia **Design team** Alankar Dandekar, Piyush Talsania and Kalpesh Thapani

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North Meets South

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** AVESH GAUR, **COURTESY** URBANMISTRII STUDIO





With everything from local signature delicacies to international cuisines, to say New Delhi is a foodie's haven is stating the painfully obvious. So, what we're here to tell you instead is that the city's stomachs have one more reason to rejoice — Padmanabham, a restaurant in Janpath that specialises in traditional South Indian fare.

Situated on the ground floor of Connaught Place arcade, the eatery is spread across 3,100 sqft with a private area on top of its split level, all beautifully executed by a young, local architectural design firm Urbanmistrii Studio headed by architect Ritika Rakhiani. The client, who is a devotee of god Vishnu, wanted his restaurant to pay tribute to the deity. The name Padmanabham refers to one of Vishnu's personified avatars, where 'padma' mean lotus and 'nabha' mean navel. Therefore, the design of the restaurant loosely riffs off this concept and aims to create an authentic experience for visitors by using traditional elements in a contemporary setting.

Padmanabham draws major inspiration from the Chettiar culture of Tamil Nadu, which is known for its vibrant colours, ornate wooden elements and motifs. Its interiors highlight elaborated details and embellished features









such as paintings and wooden handicrafts. As you walk in, an artwork spanning the length of the central seating area depicts the life cycle and ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu with floral motifs. Intricate lotus-themed mandalas are painted on the ceiling, where each colour and band represents virtues such as mindfulness and wisdom. Pop relief work in the shape of a lotus rising from a pond is carved on the walls, representing prosperity and purity. Golden lighting fixtures along the nave highlight the blooming lotus. The space showcases a blend of teal and beige on the walls, which complement the Attangudi tiles on floors. The crafted columns are specially shipped from Chettinad to portray authenticity.

The chairs and seating booths are polished in wood finish with teal upholstery which pops against the neutral walls. The seating, located at the front and end of the restaurant, accommodates groups of four to six, each cluster separated by a wooden partition for privacy. For Ritika and her design team, the most challenging part of the project was the central section on account of its height restriction. The arcade was built in 1930s and was further planned to accommodate shops at the bottom. Therefore, the plot was linear with its length seven times the width. Ritika smartly and seamlessly overcame this structural challenge by creating open seating and counters to make the space appear voluminous.

At Padmanabhan, residents of New Delhi are in for a treat that appeals to all senses — from the vernacular architecture of South India, its interesting artworks to savoury treats from the region — making the dining experience a holistic one. BI

Zen at Work

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA, **COURTESY** P&D ASSOCIATES





When Vivek Tapiawala approached P&D Associates to create a private office for himself, interior designers Devang Patel and Pratik Siddhpura knew exactly what was expected and needed to be delivered. "We have worked with the client previously for his residence, so we knew what direction to go forward for this particular office space. He gave us all the freedom we want in terms of design," informs the duo. The firm believes in creating contemporary spaces that are functional and reflective of their client's lifestyle. Sticking to their core ideology of simplicity and elegance, Devang and Pratik executed the 745-square-foot office in Bharuch by employing minimal interiors and a muted winter-themed colour palette.

In terms of spatial necessities, the client requested a quaint greeting space, a main

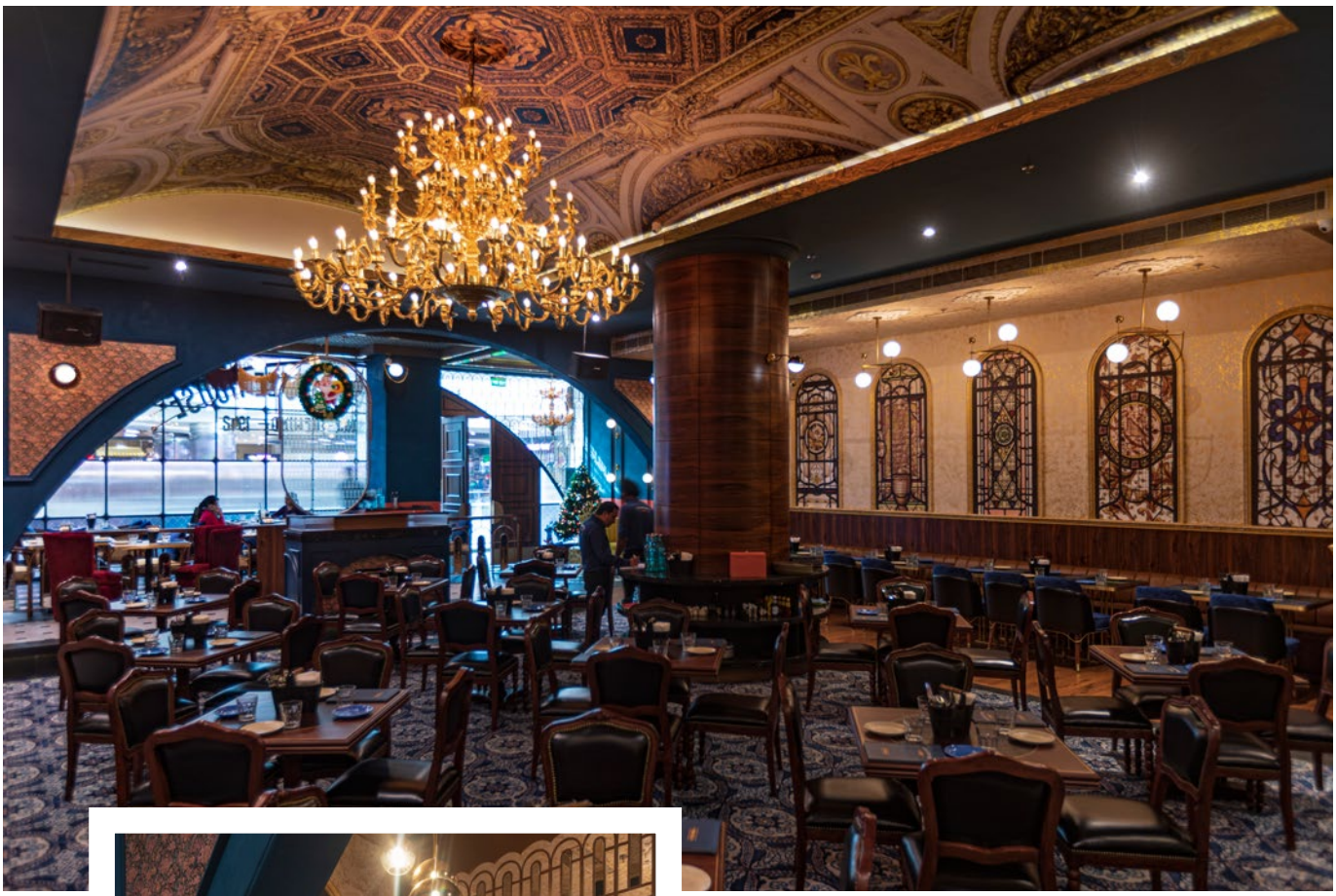


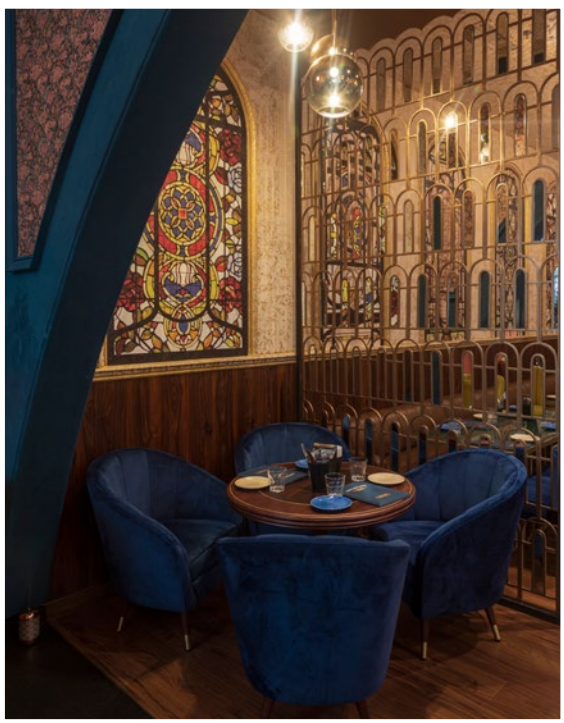
cabin and account space. Glass partitions with frosting at the bottom offer privacy yet keep the main cabin connected with the remaining areas. Custom-made herringbone wooden flooring effortlessly sets this zone apart from the rest of the office space which is made of custom-made tiles from Bharat Floorings and Tiles that complement the minimal colour palette. The main cabin is aligned to a full-height window with automated window curtains.

Art deco styling with zen aesthetics blend smoothly throughout the office. Delicate, neutral shades of greys and whites with a play of turquoise and green dominate the Tapiawala office. The soft pastels seen in the pink coloured sofa set and centre table in the reception sticks to the shade card, while a hint of green planters and wall art breaks the monotony of the colour scheme. A set of paintings by well-known Spanish painter Juan Genoves adds stark and dramatic character to the all-neutral aesthetics of the office. A pop of brass elements and subdued flooring patterns provide elegance to the space. The wall of the main cabin is the highlight of the office — it features white terrazzo circles with brass studs which form a picturesque frame behind the desk. Apparently, designing this small private office for Devang and Pratik was 'quite an experience'... and we're sure visitors will feel the same way. BI

Time Travel

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; **PHOTOGRAPHS:** DHRUV DV, **COURTESY** CHROMED DESIGN STUDIO





Drawing a balance between millennial fare and classic dishes, the United Coffee House Rewind in Chandigarh is a modern cousin of the legendary 75-year-old United Coffee House in New Delhi. The restaurant reinvents the brand's charm with its chic yet contemporary setting and amplifies the regal charisma of the city with the help of architect Abhigyan Neogi of Chromed Design Studio.

Spread across 2,750 sq ft, United Coffee House Rewind gives a much-needed break from the trite cafe culture with its unique design scheme. Abhigyan and his team have recreated the vintage style of the original restaurant with modern elements. The design connects the past and present while balancing the glamour of different design styles of India's historic colonial architecture. A colossal door fixed in an expansive arch welcomes you in. The subtle facade is contrived with glass cladding and brass lattice embodying arches. The seating is patterned with Boho-chic lighting fixtures and complements the patterned tiles on the floor and solid colour blocking with presiding hints of blue.









Every zone of the restaurant is brought together with arches of multiple scales and sizes, most noticeably the brass lattice (*jaali* pattern) which can be seen across the space. The wallpaper, inspired by veteran Indian fashion designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee's regal creations, adds a robust demeanour. Architectural styles from different eras converge at the dining space that's housed under an enormous arch. The essence of the Baroque print is encapsulated in the vaulted ceiling and the Gothic stained-glass windows leave a lasting impression on a visitor's mind. Accentuating the space is an impressive candelabra chandelier suspended from the ceiling, rendering a timeless appeal to the design. The seating area on the right is magnificently fashioned with heavy curtains and striking orange arches with ornate white motifs embellished upon it. The booths are segregated by more opulent arch-shaped brass lattice work.

Another meticulously conceived space is the DJ area which features a giant glass ellipse with a pattern similar to the brass lattice formed with vinyl stickers. The lit bar backdrop encompassing a waffle slab circumscribed in an arch, serves as the showstopper for the walkthrough. An array of arch-shaped mouldings on the walls with bohemian artwork and the intricate carpet design serves as other key focal points for the restaurant's interior design scheme.

A masterstroke of Chromed Design Studio, the United Coffee House Rewind is an example of the value of balanced design with its bold expressions and vintage magic. BI

A host of innovative and stylish solutions to maintain social distancing, upgraded ovens, technologically superiors ceiling fans and more...



BSH HOME APPLIANCES

BSH Home Appliances recently introduced combi-steam oven range 400 and 200 with an automated cleaning system from German high-end home appliances brand, Gaggenau. The system uses a cartridge and the oven's water supply to thoroughly descale and clean the cavity. Its automatic programs offer assistance suiting individual tastes by inputting personalised settings and preferences into the intuitive TFT touch display. The full surface grill behind the glass allows easy cleaning. New rounded steel side grids complements the interiors with built-in LEDs. The 400 and 200 series are equipped with multiple core temperature setting, a vacuuming drawer, and larger waste water tanks.

PRICE ON REQUEST



USHA INTERNATIONAL

To beat the rising temperature, Usha International has added Racer Chrome fans to its Racer series. The Racer Chrome range offers high speed of 400rpm with a higher air delivery of 210CMM as it has a high lift angle blade for wider air throw. The fans operate well even at low voltage. Its high permeability grade electric steel lamination allows greater durability and superior resistance from extreme weather conditions. The fans are aesthetically pleasing with silver and bronze coloured rings and trims. It comes with a two year warranty, and is available in Rich White Silver, Rich White Bronze, Rich Ivory, Rich Smoke Brown and Rich Brown colours.

₹ 1,850



EVOLVE INDIA

One of the popular brands in liquid metal and decorative concrete finishes, Evolve India — an architecture and interior products company — has introduced three door panels. The Antico Teal Rust Panel and Antico Copper Slate Patina are finished in liquid copper patina. Their hand textured designs highlight their minimalistic and rustic, and sleek and voguish looks, respectively. Both the door panels have a MDF or ACP base and are available in a thickness of 4mm to 6mm. Designed in 3D, the Liquid Gunmetal door panel is made of liquid metal. It is ideal for residential applications, and is available in thickness of 12mm to 16mm.

₹ 36,000 (ANTICO TEAL RUST PANEL AND ANTICO COPPER SLATE PATINA); ₹ 55,000 (LIQUID GUNMETAL)



HAFELE INDIA

To minimise exposure of cross contamination, harmful microbes and infectious viruses, Hafele recently released its Foot Panel Plate. Mounted towards the bottom of the door, the foot plate offers the option of pulling the door open with one's foot instead of a door handle. This provides the user a hands-free, and germ-free way of exiting a room. The plates are made of stainless steel grade 305. It requires a minimum installation height of 5mm from the floor. It can be installed easily and is suitable for timber, steel, aluminium-framed doors, single swing doors and doors installed with deadbolt lock.

PRICE ON REQUEST

COMPILED BY: BI STAFF; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE BRANDS



OTTIMO

To curb the major design challenge of social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Italian custom design company Momenti — brought to India by Ottimo — has unveiled Security and Protection Shields. These shields are made of a highly transparent material which is unbreakable and shock-proof. Ideal for creating flat and curved surfaces, these shields can be arranged in various configurations based on the specific needs of a space such as shopping centres, workplaces, hotels, gyms, restaurants, etc. Equipped with smart bases with panel locking plates, they come with matching totem dispensers for hand sanitiser and gloves. They can be also customised with graphics from Momenti's Crazy Paper and Crazy Paintings collections as well any user suggested image.

PRICE ON REQUEST



ORIENT ELECTRIC LIMITED

The i-Float ceiling fan is part of Orient Electric's i-Series range of inverter fans which are powered by ECM technology. Its aerodynamic design allows the fan to deliver 230CMM of air and operates silently and efficiently even at low voltage. The fan is BEE 5-star rated and consumes 32 W of power to provide 50 per cent savings on energy and electricity cost. The IoT-enabled fan can be operated via Orient Smart mobile app, Alexa and Goggle Assistant. Besides, the fan is aesthetically pleasing as it depicts a floating effect which complements its metallised deco ring. Available in Peal White, Cosmos Black, Lakeside Brown and Space Grey finishes.

₹ 5,010 ONWARD



HAVWOODS INDIA

The Click System Herringbone from Design by Havwoods is an innovative flooring solution that comes with a click system for easy installation of herringbone pattern. Its interlocking system allows for fast installation and eliminates the need for right and left handed boards, whereas the click lock system provides tighter joints. Its easy-to-install technology makes it suitable for wall cladding as well. The boards are scratch-and dirt-resistant, durable, easy to clean, and Class E1 safe. Of the six shades, HW2000 Aintree, HW2002 Ascot, HW2004 Bath, and HW2006 Cheltenham feature matte lacquered finish; whereas HW2008 Epsom and HW2010 Windsor have an oil finish which accentuates the beauty of the colour and grains. All six shades are FSC certified, and available in a 725mm x 130mm x 14mm size.

₹ 650 TO ₹ 700 PER SQFT



ORIENT BELL LIMITED

A series of glazed vitrified wall and floor tiles called Inspire is the latest offering from Orient Bell. The tiles are created by drawing inspiration from the best nature has to offer — the Natural Rock Grey Dark tile is inspired by granite mountains, the Natural Rock Beige tile is inspired by cave rocks and the Natural Rock Grey Light is inspired by the moon. The tiles are acid, alkali and frost resistant, with negligible water absorption and high breaking strength. Also, they have an attractive resemblance to marble. Ideal for residential and office projects, they are available in a 600mm X 600mm size. Proprietary tools Quicklook and Truelook are available to visualise the final looks.

PRICE ON REQUEST

directory

HIGH FIVE

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GRAFF INDIA
Website: www.graff-faucets.com

HAFELE INDIA
Tel: 1800 266 6667; Website: www.hafeleindia.com

HANSGROHE INDIA
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IOTA
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DASH SQUARE
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ARCHITECT HIRAL JOBALIA
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