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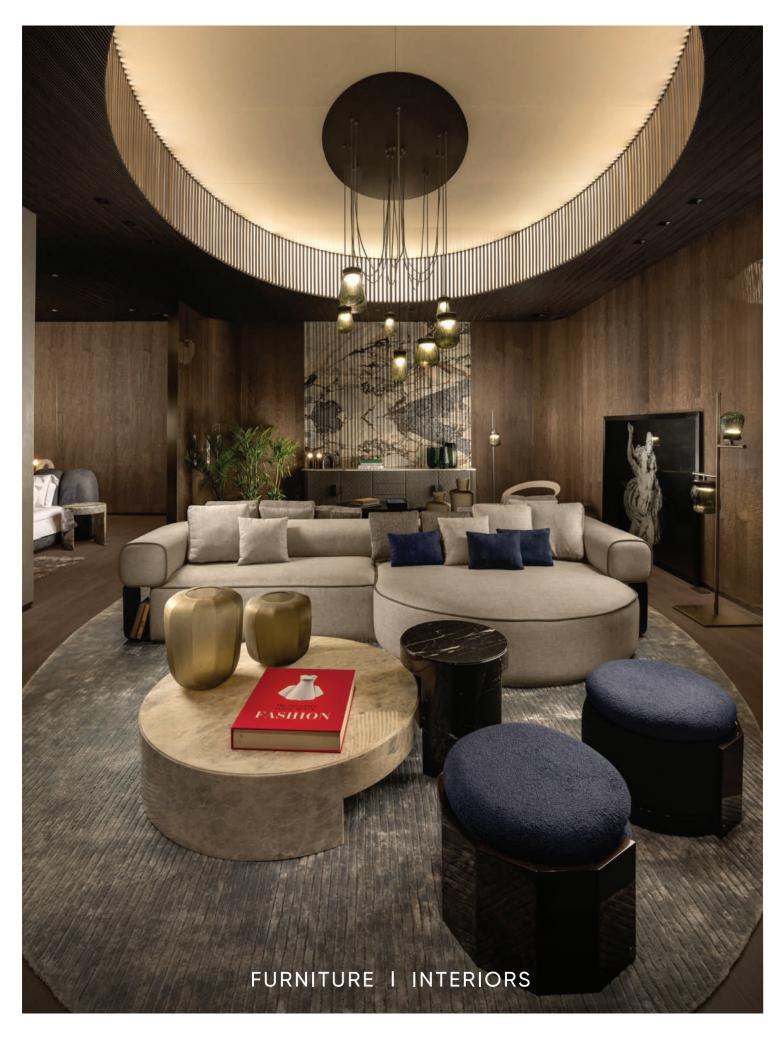
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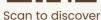






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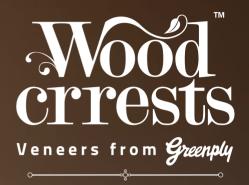


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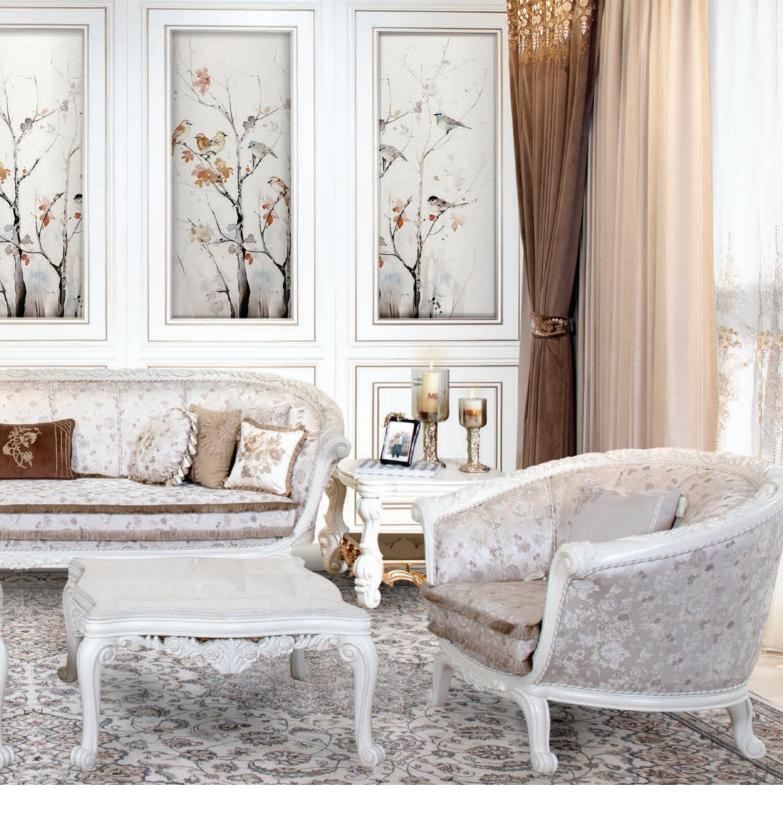
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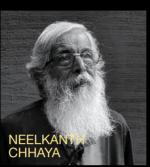
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#### ON THE COVER

Bhupal Ramnathkar's high-rise home in Mumbai roars with and revels in iridescence

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
FABIEN CHARUAU

PRODUCED BY

MRUDUL PATHAK KUNDU









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#### ELLE DECOR is published for Ogaan Media Pvt Ltd

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A1102, Naman Midtown, Behind Kamgar Kala Kendra, Prabhadevi (W), Mumbai 13. Tel: (022) 41586500

**NEW DELHI** 

First Floor, 118 KS House, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi 49. Tel: (011) 48524800

VOLUME 13 NO 4 Printed and published by Takesh Mathur on behalf of Ogaan Media Private Limited, and printed at Rajhans Enterprises, 134, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 44, and published from A1102, Naman Midtown, Behind Kamgar Kala Kendra, Prabhadevi (W), Mumbai 13. Editor Mrudul Pathak Kundu. Processed at Reproscan.

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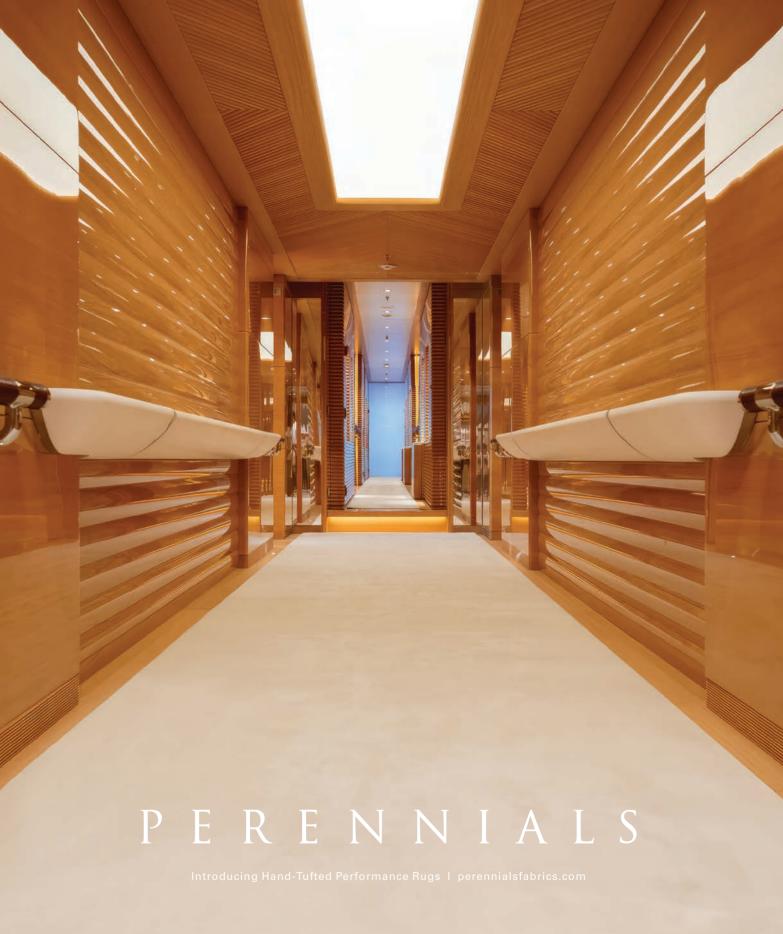
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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ELLE DECOR brings you in-depth articles and insights into design, architecture, decor and culture. Introducing our special contributors



BHUPAL RAMNATHKAR

With over 25 years of a career in advertising, winning Indian and international accolades, Bhupal founded Umbrella Design in 2000. He was also the first Indian judge for the Outdoor Category at Cannes in 2006 and went on to judge the Design Category at Cannes in 2013.

**Design to me is...** Oxygen **A fond monsoon memory...** Working under my umbrella

A quote that has stayed with you... Everything is design, design is everything In this issue, he welcomes us to his residence in Mumbai that is designed by the man himself, pg 142



SILKI AGRAWAL STYLIST & FASHION DESIGNER

A gifted home stylist and fashion designer, Silki's extensive travels around the world have endowed her with a broad perspective and global sensibilities. She has worked on several high-end residential projects and the Belgadia Palace as a creative consultant.

On my bucket list... Japan A monsoon essential... A colourful and patterned umbrella

I'm currently reading... Ikigai by Francesc Miralles and Hector Garcia

A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Coorg

**In this issue**, she takes us into a restrained yet resplendent Kolkata home, pg 152



HARLEEN KAUR ZEN DESIGN STUDIO

Over the past decade, Harleen has transformed more than 100 homes. Her passion lies in creating beautiful, functional spaces that reflect each homeowner's unique personality. She is dedicated to delivering tailored design solutions, ensuring every project feels like a reflection of its inhabitants.

**Design to me is...** Creativity, functionality and expression through spaces

I'm currently reading... Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Bali

**In this issue**, she takes us into a restrained yet resplendent Kolkata home, pg 152



ANAND DESHMUKH

After completing his Masters' education in Singapore, Anand founded Mind Manifestation in 2014 in collaboration with Chetan Lahoti. Their practice has developed a portfolio with a varied range of projects in architecture and interior design. They believe in creating spaces that combine minimalism, opulence, simplicity and elegance.

**Design to me is...** Turning an "oops" into an "aha"

I'm currently Reading... Subtitles! A monsoon getaway I'd like to visit... Dolomites

**In this issue**, he brings us into a Mumbai home inspired by the sand and seas, pg 162



PREETI MAHENDRA
THE LOFT INTERIORS

With a portfolio spanning modern urban lofts, rustic cottages, farmhouses, minimalist offices and lush outdoor spaces, Preeti's work reflects her commitment to personalised, artistic and innovative design. The Loft Interiors offers curated collections, all with hands-on services that resonate with the patrons' preferences.

On my bucket list... To see Rome on foot I'm currently reading... The Nine Unknown by Talbot Mundy

A monsoon getaway I'd lik to visit... Meghalaya (again) In this issue, she takes us into a restrained yet resplendent Kolkata home, pg 152



CHETAN LAHOTI MIND MANIFESTATION

Post gaining valuable experience in Delhi, Chetan focussed all his energies in laying the foundation for Mind Manifestation in 2014 in Pune, in collaboration with Anand Deshmukh. Their practice has now completed a decade and is known for its unique approach to every project that they undertake.

On their bucket list... Skydiving
A monsoon essential... Trek and tea
Design to me is... I am still exploring
What am I currently reading...
My Gita by Devdutt Pattanaik

**In this issue**, he brings us into a Mumbai home inspired by the sand and seas, pg 162

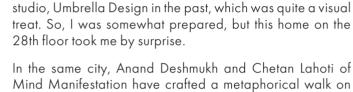


#### **EDITORIAL**

#### LIVING IN COLOUR

Mumbai Mahanagari, often heralded as the city of dreams in countless Bollywood tales, captivated me over two decades ago when I arrived in search of my calling. At the end of long days, the breeze at Marine Drive provided solace to many of us — the city was yet to embrace us, or perhaps it was the other way around. I would watch the sunset paint the sky pink above the silhouette of high-rises. Mumbai's skyline, a blend of the old and the new, has left a lasting impression on my mind. And the following homes are reminiscent of just that sentiment!

The homes featured in this issue are high-rise marvels brimming with personality. Our cover home on pg 142 in Mumbai, designed and inhabited by Bhupal Ramnathkar, is a surprising discovery. It showcases a new way of embracing the tangibility of colours while staying rooted in the traditional idea of making a home feel like a true sanctuary. ELLE DECOR had published his design



In the same city, Anand Deshmukh and Chetan Lahoti of Mind Manifestation have crafted a metaphorical walk on the beach. The only catch is that it's on the 45th floor of a high-rise! With a subterranean charm, airy hues and earthy textures, reminiscent of a beachside boardwalk, the home on pg 162 is equal parts sun (and sea-kissed).

And finally, on pg 152 is a triplex that occupies the 18th, 19th and 20th floors in Kolkata by Preeti Mahendra and Harleen Kaur, a zen oasis that soars to the sky but is grounded and amicable at the same time. Don't miss the outdoor nook that they have created for the views, on pg 160.

With rainbows dancing in my thoughts, I found myself craving a delightful cassata ice cream. My team turned the idea around its head and served me a granita. Our interpretation of the trend highlights sorbet hues making a

big impact. Called Gorgeous Granita, it's like a style smoothie. Imagine a blend of vibrant gelato colours in a blender... Brighten up the monsoon skies with these bold sorbet hues on pg 34.

While on the topic of joy and brightness, we have an upbeat Focus on Bathrooms. On pg 171 are unique styles and products that truly make a splash in the bathroom. Speaking of bathroom finds, I can't stop thinking about the Gessi shower in our annual Salone report. Get in with all the action from the Milan Design Week on pg 122.

As we close out this editorial, my team and I are gearing up to savour some crispy *kanda bhaji* from the nearby street corner while taking in the monsoon clouds from our Mumbai office's pantry. Oh, and did I forget to mention? The view is fantastic!

Until next time... Stay happy and grab a chai (or two!)

Mrudul Mrudul Pathak Kundu Editor

Write to us on edfeatures@ogaan.co.in Follow me on @mrudul.pathak Photograph by Manoj Mane Apparel by @theflamestore







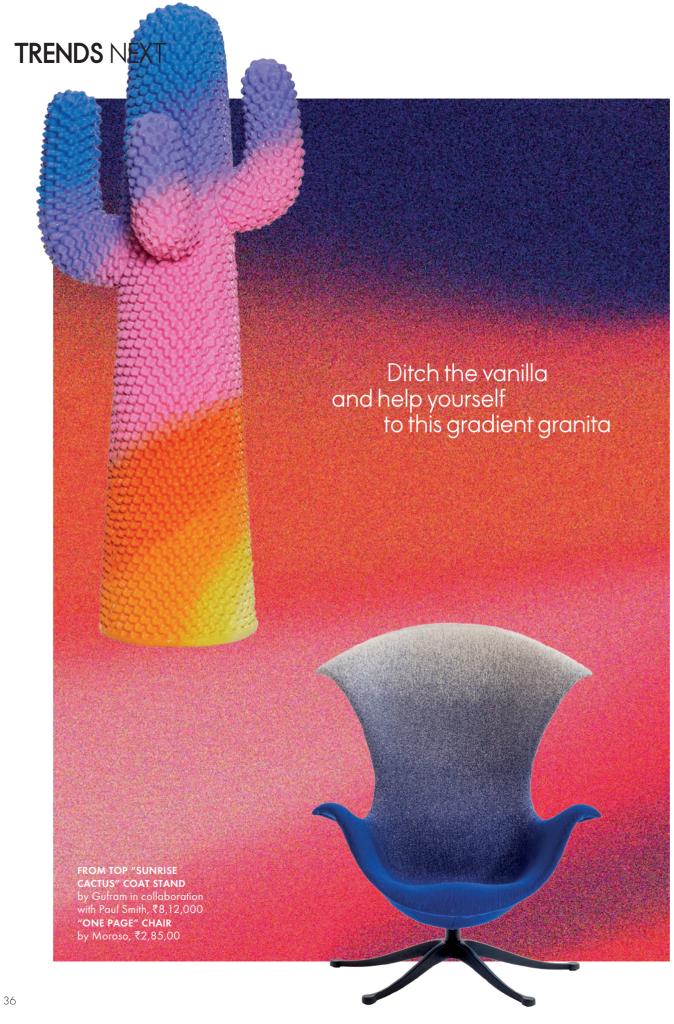
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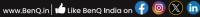
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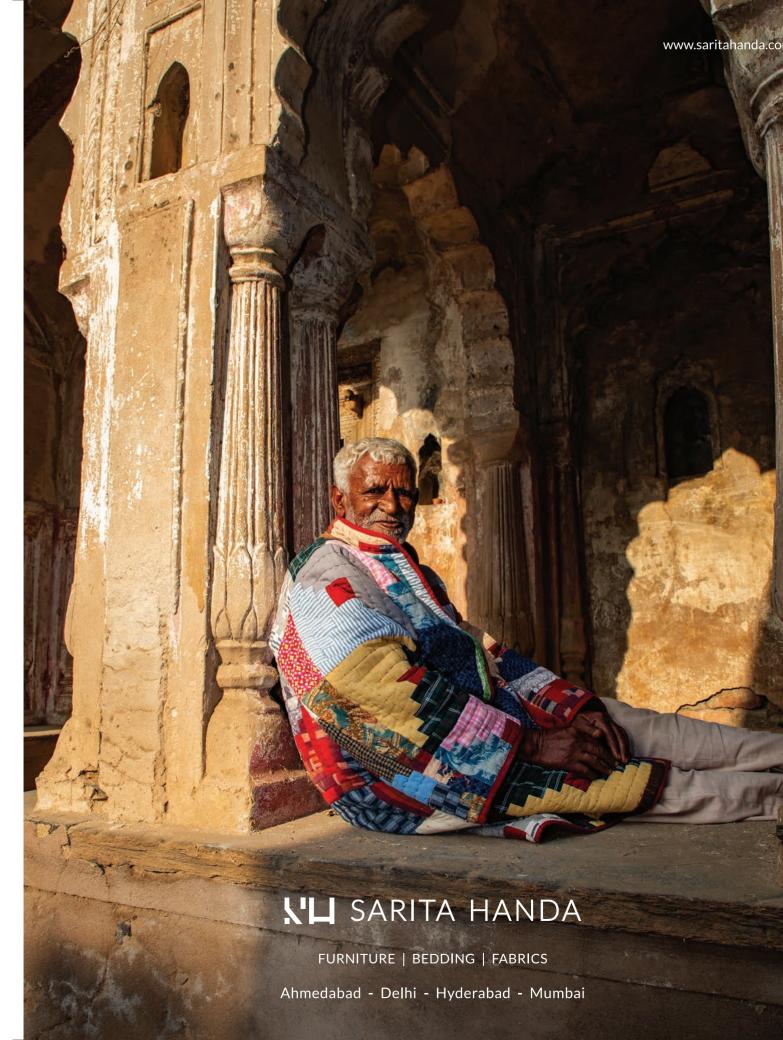












#### **TRENDS NEXT**



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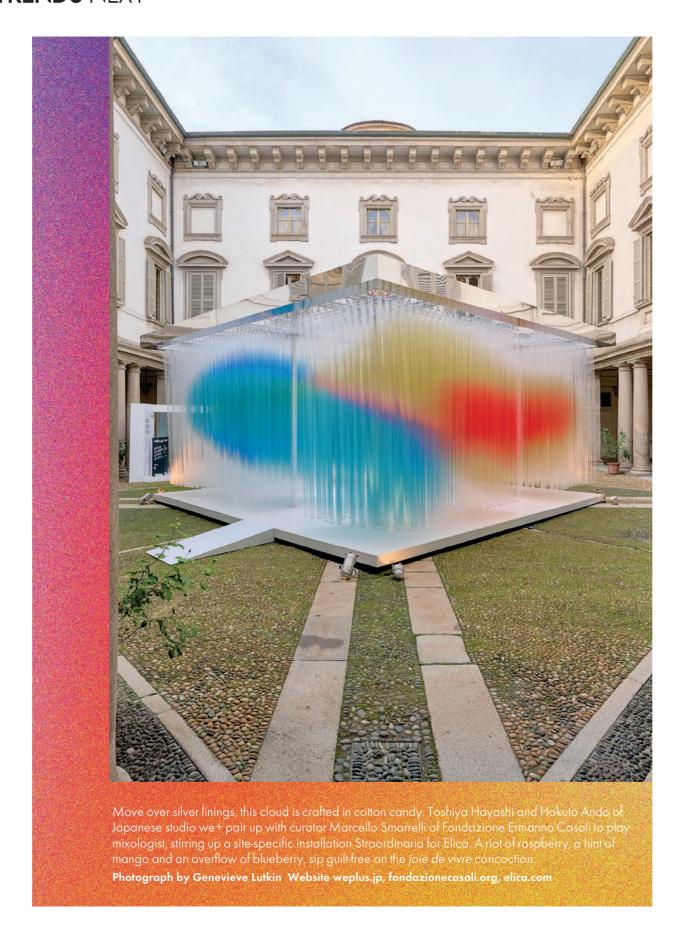
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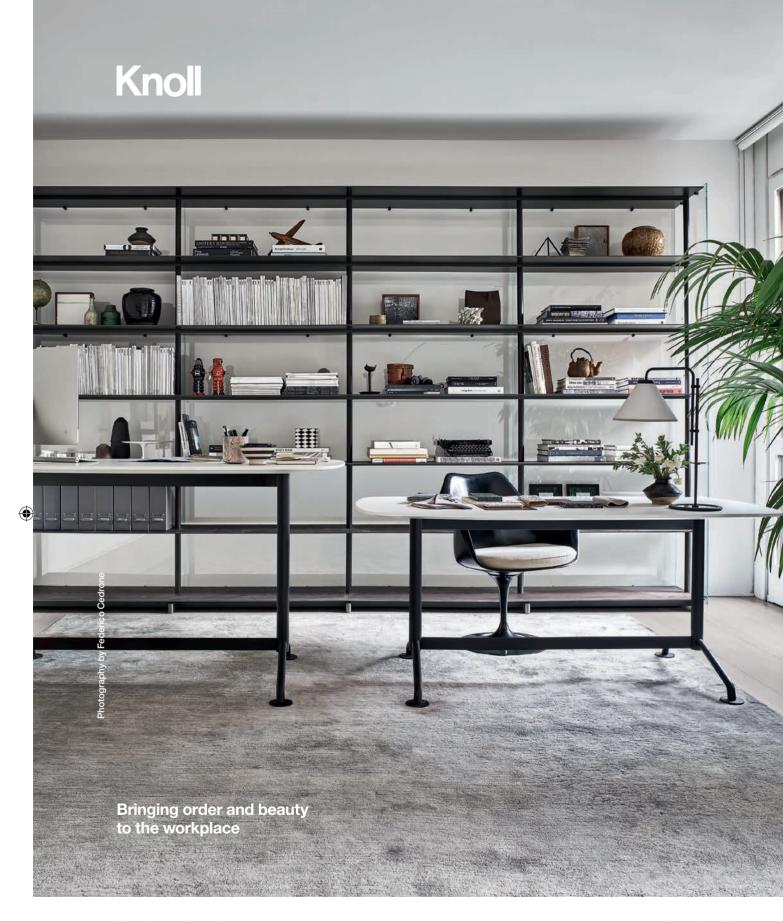
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#### TRENDS NEXT





**Grasshopper Console** 

Piero Lissoni, 2021

**Tulip™ Armchair** Eero Saarinen, 1957

Red Baron by Knoll

Piero Lissoni, 2018

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# IN PINK, WE TRUST

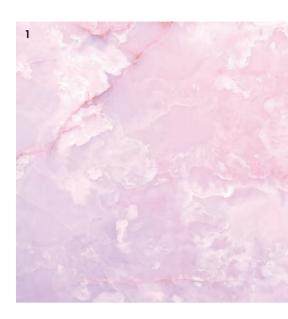
Everyone's obsessed with pink but no one confesses it. Secrets as us millennials love harbouring, are precisely why this silent revolutionary of a shade — Neo Pink tops the charts as the sweet suspect of this season

TREND DIRECTION BY YASHIKA PUNJABEE
PRODUCED BY JUHI AGARWAL and APEKSHA RAO
TEXT BY PRATISHTHA RANA



#### The Inspiration

I was never a fan of pink. This risky, anti-pink antithesis of a confession always draws me to the gentle superpower of pink. A colour sans gender. A colour reminiscent of Barbie's iconic days. It's young. It's wise. It's a relentless rebel disguised in saccharine seduction. Sit back and watch this new-age palette tickle your attention as its ironic candy character takes over our living spaces (and of course the internet!)

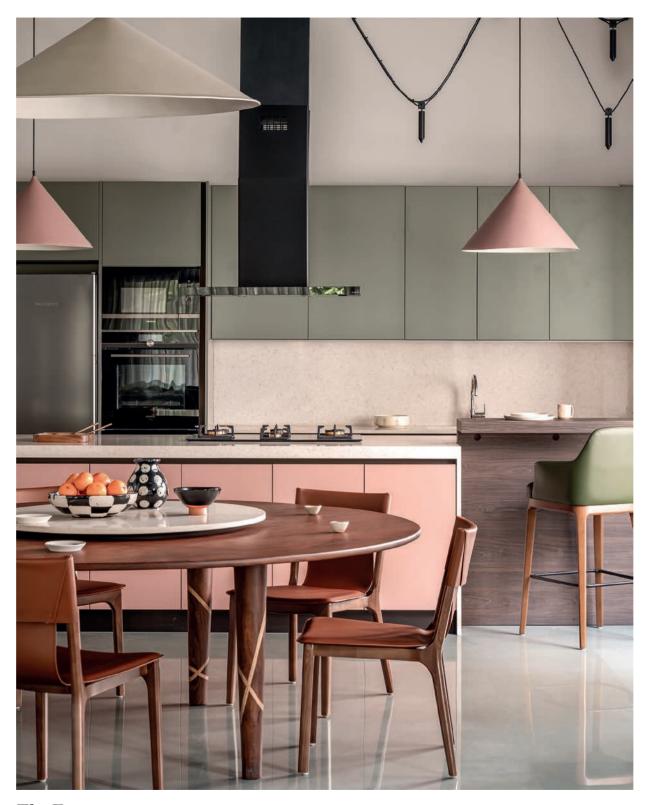






1. PINK ONYX STONE by Stonex India 2. "DUSK" VETRITE GLASS SLAB part of the Onigem collection by Sicis, available at Tessera 3. "ROSE RHAPSODY 8130" ROYALE LUXURY EMULSION PAINT by Asian Paints 4. "002 DRAGEE OUISTITIS & CO" WALLPAPER part of the Confettis collection by Pierre Frey, available at Asian Paints all prices on request 5. "NARA" SUBWAY TILE by Ikigai, an FCML Surfaces Venture, ₹264 per sq ft 6. "BOUDOIR" VELVET FABRIC by Dialogues by Nirmals, ₹2,430 per metre 7. "GIR WOOD ROSE" COTTON LINEN BLEND FABRIC by Gulmohar Lane, ₹3,090 per mtr 8. "AMAZONIA" FLORENCE PINK DYED SILK WALLPAPER part of the Chinoiserie collection, designed by Edgardo Osorio of Aquazzura for de Gournay, price on request 9. "QUARTZ" BRASS AND CRYSTAL HANDLE by Mantara, ₹2,599 per piece 10. "THE HUNT" METALLIC WALLPAPER part of the Inscape collection by Raseel at CASA POP in collaboration with Floor & Furnishings, ₹9,486 per sq mtr 11. "MIAMI PINK TINKISSO" KITCHEN TAP by Dowsing & Reynolds, ₹15,445 per piece

#### **NOW** PALETTE



#### **The Features**

What would it be like to binge on pink? Visually or otherwise. This home in Ahmedabad unpacks a renewed neutrality that Neo Pink carries with(in) it, glazing the kitchen and dining spaces created by Huzefa Rangwala and Jasem Pirani of MuseLAB. Seasonless, delectable and just joyous, the easy versatility of pink seeps into the surfaces and interiors, reflecting a burst of familiarity. Website: www.muselab.in Photograph courtesy Nayan Soni @nayansoni21





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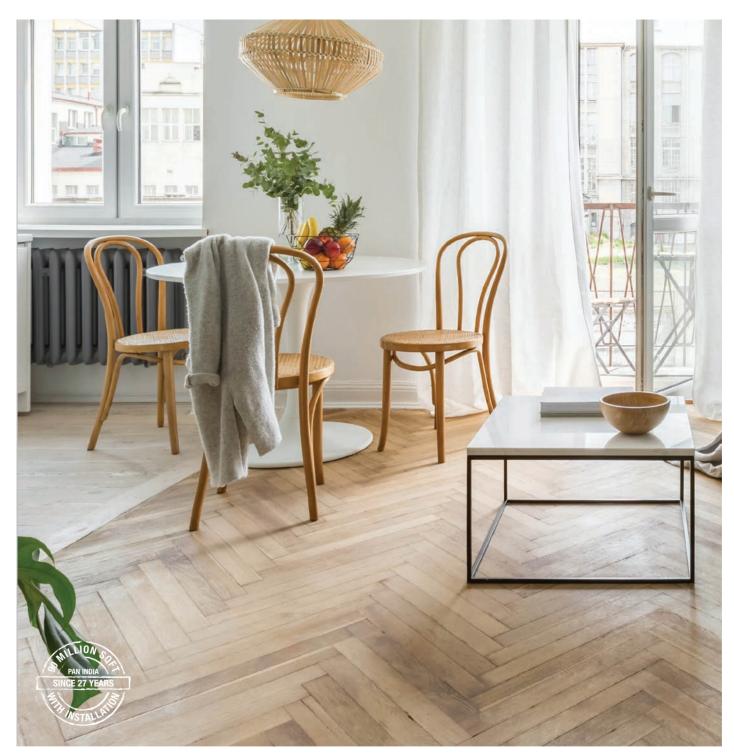
#### **NOW** PALETTE

# **The Products**

With a sober dynamism, shades of pink adorn a multitude of shapes and forms for refined and experimental pieces to layer up the living spaces

1. "MINERAL" VELVET ARMCHAIR by Vincent Mazenauer 2. "CACTUS" WINE **GLASS** part of the Desert Plants collection designed by Alessandra Baldereschi for Ichendorf Milano, both prices on request 3. DRIP COFFEE MACHINE IN CADILLAC PINK designed by Deepdesign Studio for Smeg, ₹36,000 **4. "MAHALO" DINING** CHAIR designed by John Koga for RALPH PUCCI International, price on request 5. "FIUME" GLASS WATER PITCHER by Ikai Asai, ₹1,800 **6. "MACARON" TABLE** LAMP designed by Lucie Koldova for Brokis, available at Innovative Design Group, price on request 7. "MINNEN" BED FRAME by IKEA, ₹8,990 8."DEVIL'S FAMILY" VASE designed by Alessandro Mendini and Daniel Eltner for Cappellini, available at Opulin, price on request For Details, see Address Book





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1. "CELESTIAL" COPPER AND BRASS CONSOLE part of the Unrealism collection by Scarlet Splendour 2. "BAYAMO" GLASS AND WOOD BAR UNIT part of the Mexicola collection by Beyond Dreams 3. "LUNA" WOODEN STOOL part of the Ombre collection by Gunava Design in collaboration with Room Therapy Collective 4. "LOULOU" SWIVEL LOUNGE CHAIR by DeMuro Das, all prices on request 5. "THEYYAM" HANDBLOWN GLASS VASE by Collektklove, ₹50,000 6. "EMBRACE" BENCH by Bombay Design Lab, ₹2,15,000 7. "SEAM" AND "TOASTED SCULPTURAL" PAPIER-MACHE LAMPS part of the In Between collection by Vahe Ensemble, ₹35,200 and ₹32,000 respectively For details, see Address Book



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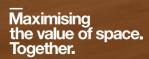
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1. "CHROMA #21" MORIKI WHITE JAPANESE PAPER WALL LAMP designed by John Wigmore for RALPH PUCCI International 2. "FRIDA FLOWER" NEW ZEALAND WOOL RUG designed by Ken Scott for Carpet Edition 3. "APEX OUTDOOR" OTTOMAN designed by Sacha Lakic for Roche Bobois 4. "CONTAINA" RED LACQUER FROSTED GLASS SIDE TABLE by Dean Norton 5. "REMIS" WOOD AND GLASS COFFEE TABLE designed by Patricia Urquiola for GLAS ITALIA 6. "CHAIRMAKERS CHAIR X 2LG" designed by L. Ercolani in collaboration with 2LG Studio 7. "AVIATOR" TABLE LAMP by Zafferano in collaboration with Poldina and Peanuts, all prices on request For details, see Address Book

## DTALE

# Urban Organic Living





#### DECOR PEOPLE



#### "SUCCESS IS NOT THE QUESTION OF PIECES SOLD OR THE MONEY RAISED, BUT THE EXPERIENCE THAT PEOPLE LIVE WITH AN OBJECT"

I ow do you define good design? "A good design project is supposed to be explained to your mother over the phone. It is not a question of shapes, forms or finishes. It is a question of what you want to say and what you want to express." Where it begins. Where it ends. Mathieu Lehanneur questions the serendipitous versus the intended premise of life, rather differently. That is, what happens in between it all? An irrepressibly composed yet flamboyant sense of being surrounds the 49-year-old French designer, when we meet him for a long conversation, connected across continents, through our screen. With technology so palpably embedded in that moment, I can't help but draw parallels between his idea of design in entirety. Can technology be a bridge to emotional spirituality? Can an object mirror real-life experiences? How can scientific discoveries be an ally to human beings? And that's when the multihyphenate Mathieu reveals that a few years ago, an elderly Indian couple discovered Mathieu's Liquid Marble at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. As he was later informed by the staff, they spent nearly the whole day sitting by this vast, polished black marble object - depicting the surreal fluidity of the static sea. "I'm convinced that they were probably living the same experience as my young self sitting in front of the sea. For me, success is not the question of pieces sold or the money raised, but the experience that people live with an object."

Most recently, Mathieu headlined reports on creating the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics Torch. A momentous time in his book of history perhaps. He was also crowned Maison&Objet's Designer of the

Year 2024. Design, however, wasn't exactly his plan early in life. "I decided to become a designer very late at 18 or 19-years-old." With his works now displayed at top art authorities such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York and Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, Mathieu adds, "I am the youngest one in a large family and grew up in the suburbs of Paris. As a teenager, I once wanted to be a doctor, a job that potentially could save a life." Soon after. Mathieu discovered another way of creating life. Giving material shape to his thoughts. From 1994 to 2001, he studied at the prestigious Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle.

Now a loval dweller in central Paris, Mathieu recounts spending months of quiet time in Corsica, Southern France, where his father, who used to be a hydraulic engineer, spent his childhood. Contemplation, clairvoyance go on to become unbending fundamentals of his recent installation at Maison&Objet 2024 titled Outonomy. "This project was to not provide answers but to ask questions." He adds, "We are ready to live in this type of a house, is the best answer I could get from visitors." How was the term Outonomy coined? "I wanted this project to work on an autonomous way of living, connected with the outdoors, nature and with being outside of the city. So we combined out and autonomy." The installation draped in confident hues of yellow, intertwines function, technology and layers of perspectives. For his other complex yet superemotional installation 'Tomorrow is Another Day' for Palliative Care patients at a hospital in Paris, "I designed a new window in each room with a screen displaying what the sky

of tomorrow would look like across geographies and weathers," which patients during their last moments could see, be connected with...

Mathieu, whose design grammar is as technologically-informed as his appetite for eccentrically intelligent ideas, moved out of his initial studio recently. He calls the new whereabouts in the lvry-sur-Seine neighbourhood the 'Factory', "We are in a large, centuries-old historical building, next to Paris. I call it the Factory because we're producing ideas here and the pieces too. For me, this is also a reminder of Andy Warhol's The Factory (New York)." With plans to soon reveal his new Pied-à-terre in New York, a universe of his fascinating creations on display, he promptly adds, "In my opinion, even if I define myself as a designer - as a designer, I'm not supposed to make very specific things. Nobody in this world is really able to define what a designer is supposed to do. It is a blur. This allows us to investigate the field of architecture. Sometimes go more into the artistic or the scientific field. Because the question is to not choose a domain, but be more connected with humans and nature itself." ◆

#### **SECRETS OF EXPERIMENTING**

"For me, experimentation is one stage of the project, but you don't have to remain there. That's one of the steps of the process, but not the whole."

Mathieu Lehanneur, Paris Website: mathieulehanneur.com

#### DECOR PEOPLE





#### OUTONOMY

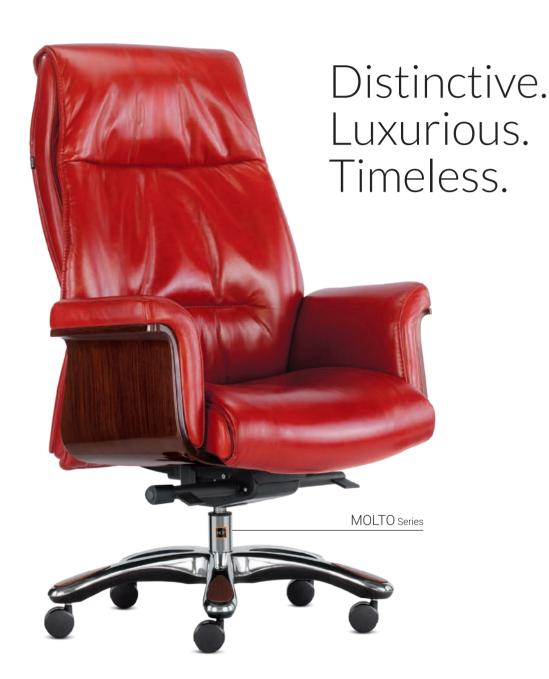
What do we really need to survive?
Outonomy, displayed at Maison&Objet 2024 in a monochromatic yellow facade, attempts to answer this question in the form of an innovative ecosystem, or perhaps an isolated modern cave, created with science, technology, architecture, objects of utility and humans at its nexus. Outonomy decodes the French creative's perspectives. The first was to put different questions and fields together in the project. The second was to be a designer and ceaselessly listen to people's thoughts on how they can change their ways of living. The final perspective was to combine different scales in one project, from the use of objects, gadgets and devices to furniture and architecture.

### **SNEAK** PEEK INTO

Installations and product designs by Mathieu Lehanneur that oscillate between realism and surrealism









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#### DECOR PEOPLE

#### HAPPY TO BE HERE

With glass as its primary protagonist, the Happy to Be Here collection of furniture for eccentrically-progressive living spaces, exemplifies the material technique of glass. The console that seems to be floating (but with purpose) against gravity is anchored with hand-blown glass bubble-shaped legs. An oxymoronic display of strength in fragility.





#### LIQUID MARBLE

A garden with water as the muse? Liquid Marble is a visual extension of Petite Loire, a freeze-frame of the subtle movement of France's longest river, Loire. "A few dozen metres above the river's natural level, Petite Loire cuts cleanly through the garden's surface, delving into the soil to reveal a fluvial relief, both vertiginous and practicable, in green marble," delves Lehanneur.



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SAINT-HILAIRE CHURCH An architectural milestone with a religious identity at its centre, the Saint-Hilaire Church in the old-historical town of Melle, France, highlights the marvels of geology in its geometrical built. The structure, like a box sunk into the sand, is a part of the natural landscape. Lehanneur says, "I imagine that when this 'box' was sunk into the ground as if pushed by an invisible, maybe divine hand, it revealed the visible aspect of a mineral and massive form."

#### 2024 PARIS **OLYMPICS TORCH**

moodboard for the mega quadrennial sports advent, Mathieu Lehanneur envisions the trailblazing torch for the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, with the material supported by the steel company ArcelorMittal and the frame following equal parts symmetry and

### A once in a lifetime

curves. As he describes it, "Simple like a hyphen and fluid like a flame."

#### **QUICK WORD**

A QUOTE THAT HAS STAYED WITH YOU... "Form is the essence brought to the surface" - Victor Hugo IF NOT A DESIGNER, YOU'D BE...

READING... Against Nature, Joris-Karl Huysmans (1884)

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substances and their reactions.

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#### DECOR PEOPLE



An annual rite of passage, the 22nd edition of the Elle Deco International Design Awards (EDIDA) 2024 concluded on a celebratory note with multiple toasts to the winners. Results were declared following votes cast by the Editors-in-chief of the ELLE Decoration International network with ELLE Residences Miami as the official partner for the very first time. The winners have been photographed at the Fiera Milano crafted by architects Massimiliano and Doriana Fuksas

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCESCA FERRARI STYLE BY MARTINA LUCATELLI ARTWORK BY MASSIMO COLONNA TEXT BY CHIRANSHA PRASAD



# INTERIOR DESIGNER OF THE YEAR DIMORESTUDIO

Based in Milan with Emiliano
Salci and Britt Moran at its helm,
Dimorestudio's research work ranges
from domestic to retail, hotels to
hospitality venues and culminates in
a sensational display every year as
a part of the events programme at
Fuorisalone. Incorporating influences
from the worlds of fashion, music, film
and art, their unmistakable design
language is nostalgic and decadent.

Website: dimorestudio.eu

### YOUNG DESIGN TALENT OF THE YEAR

#### LAURIDS GALLĒE

The Austrian designer intersects traditional techniques like woodworking and textile weaves with innovative, novel materials like resin and LED lighting. A beaming example of his design philosophy is his collection of furniture, dubbed Tralucid. The collection contains benches, stools and chairs featuring geometric modules devised from resin resulting in three-dimensional pieces that radiate light, replete with colour and soft shadows.

Website: lauridsgallee.com





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A minimalist piece that combines design with architecture, the fixture features two elements – the marble wash basin fitted into a solid wood storage unit, with a slender stainless steel water stem extending

outwards. Capable of serving multiple purposes, the piece pays homage to the Japanese inspiration behind it through its

clean, innovative design.

Website: falper.it

# Designed by the Italian master, the bed's lightweight base consists of a precise aluminium structure at its core, with its multiple components screwed together. Capable of being dismantled and reused with ease, it incorporates a headboard made from a sound-absorbent, recycled material paired with

made from a sound-absorbent, recycled material paired with soft upholstery that smoothly covers the bed's curved edges.

Website: cassina.com

#### FLOOR COVERING

#### MSHWY01 by STUDIO MARY LENNOX FOR JOV

Featuring an abstract reinterpretation of an oyster mushroom as a rug, this project by the Berlin-based studio is inspired by natural and botanical elements. Made using New Zealand wool and Lyocell, the piece has been crafted with a diverse range of earthy hues, supplemented with fabric varying in thicknesses. **Website: marylennox.de** 







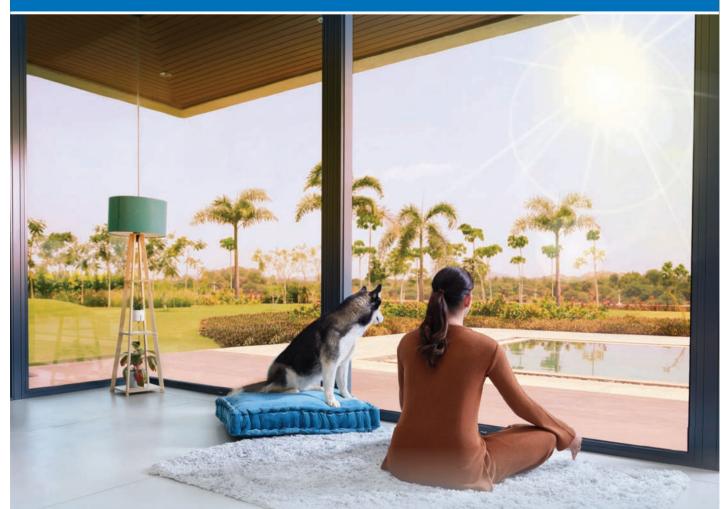








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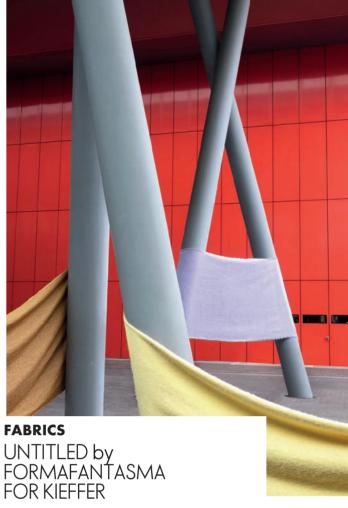






Titled Linea, the limited-edition collection by the Italian master consists of two sideboards and a bureau, their surfaces inlaid with colourful cellulose acetate. A range of geometric shapes in primary hues like red, dark blue and light blue illuminated by strokes of black, yellow and white characterise the surface.

Website: porro.com



The collection features a range of home textiles rich in texture, crafted using natural pigments and materials such as hemp, jute, wool and felt. The aim for their latest collection under the creative direction of Kieffer was "Textile as [an] interface." They seek to enrich spaces occupied by people tangibly through sustainably made fabrics in the domestic realm. Website: rubelli.com/en/kieffer







### Natural cozy spaces

So cozy you think your bathroom is the living room.

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### DECOR PEOPLE

#### **KITCHEN**

### COLUMN by INGA SEMPE FOR REFORM

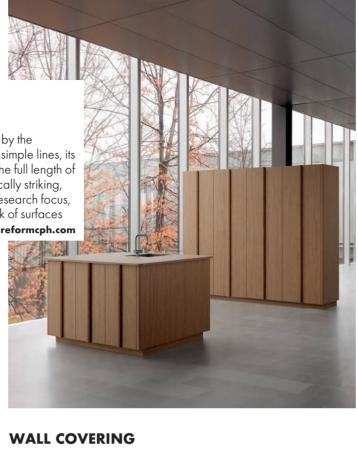
The natural oak or white ash kitchen by the Scandinavian brand features clean, simple lines, its oversized, vertical handles running the full length of the door. Durable, solid yet aesthetically striking, the project exemplifies the brand's research focus, where they seek to transform the look of surfaces through innovative design. **Website: reformcph.com** 



### PALINFRASCA by VINCENT VAN DUYSEN FOR MOLTENI&C

This series is a part of the Landmark project, featuring natural teak sofas and armchairs designed by the Antwerp-based Belgian designer at its helm. The seats feature fine carpentry details, alongside a distinct cosy, rounded, corner-less design strengthened by a robust structure. **Website: molteni.it** 

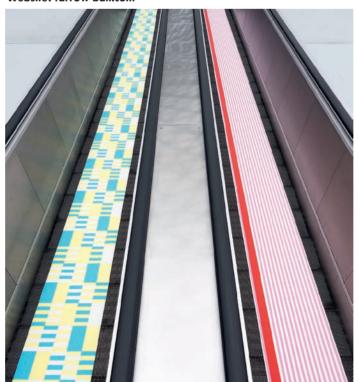




### CARTE BLANCHE by CHRISTOPHER JOHN ROGERS FOR FARROW & BALL

Designed by an American fashion designer, the contemporary wallpaper collection features a vibrant, bold palette that combines geometric elements with opposing pop nuances and neutral hues. Available in three different versions titled Check, Stripe and Dot, the wallpapers are peppered with graphic symbols that pay homage to the textile works of Bauhaus designer Anni Albers. The wallpapers harbour a strong visual impact, playful in nature.

Website: farrow-ball.com



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### DECOR PEOPLE

#### **TABLEWARE**

### THE CANDY COLLECTION by HELLE MARDAHL

The Danish designer's confectionery-like collection of tableware comprises glasses, plates, cups, cutlery and accessories, cast in rounded designs crafted with candy-like colours. The unique, artistic pieces that make up the collection truly look good enough to eat. Website: hellemardahl.com



### LIGHTING

# VIS Ā VIS by MICHELE GROPPI FOR DAVIDE GROPPI

Dubbed Vis à Vis, the rechargeable, direct-lighting methacrylate lamp comprises a cylindrical base crowned by a magnetic, transparent lampshade. With a Fresnel lens effect that hides an LED source, it produces a luminous glow while concealing the light source.

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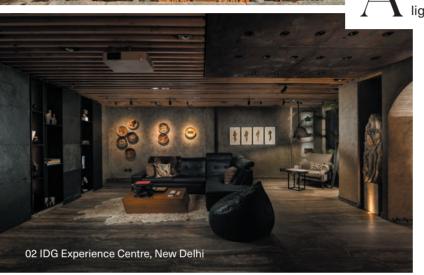
# TANE GARDEN HOUSE by ATELIER TSUYOSHI TANE ARCHITECTS FOR VITRA CAMPUS

The Tane Garden House has been constructed by the Paris-based Japanese architect within the confines of the Vitra Campus, constructed entirely out of stone, wood, rope and straw sourced from the surrounding area. The facility is also accessible to those taking care of the green spaces within the campus. Website: at-ta.fr









01 Sun Temple, Modhera





# istry and precision craftsmanship are exemplified, where lighting surpasses functionality to become an exquisite art form. As the exclusive partner of the world's most prestigious lighting brands, ILDL imbues every project with unmatched quality and a unique vision, setting a new standard in lighting. At Sun Temple Modehra, their expertise seamlessly merges ancient heritage with contemporary illumination, as warm-hued luminaires evoke the gentle embrace of the rising sun while grazers delicately accentuate intricate architectural details. Transitioning to the modern realm, ILDL's mastery shines at the Experience Centre, where light

& shadow gracefully dance amidst dark, rustic motifs,

complemented by exquisite installations. At DLF Techpark, ILDL's prowess in facade lighting transforms architecture into a breathtaking spectacle. Meanwhile, at Avadh Shilpgram, they honor tradition while

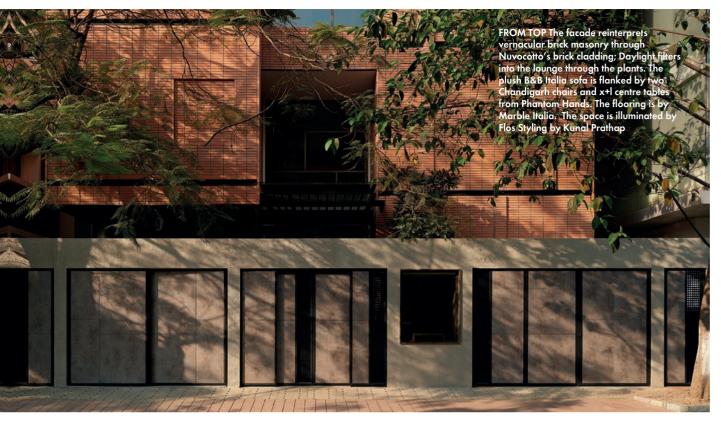
embracing modernity, celebrating the rich culture of the 'City of Nawabs' through thoughtful lighting. ILDL enriches the vibrant space with a harmonious blend of heritage and innovation. From ancient temples to modern tech parks, ILDL's unwavering dedication to crafting illuminative experiences ensures

that each project becomes an illuminated masterpiece, captivating and inspiring all who encounter it.

# FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION



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### **A VERDANT VENTURE**

This workplace designed by PR Design Group in Bengaluru looks inward into nature with an introspective and contemplative approah

TEXT BY NAMRATA DEWANJEE PHOTOGRAPHY BY GOKUL RAOO KADAM





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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Seating in the courtyard is crafted out of black granite while the flooring is by Nexion. The cushions are from IKEA; In the lounge, the owner's collected works of art occupy the walls; The Chester sofa and the Roberto Lazzeroni's Fiorile coffee table are from Poltrona Frau

rom hosting the dot-com boom to housing co-working spaces and high-rises packed to the brim with multinational corporations, Bengaluru has seen it all. However, in this city of entrepreneurs, how does a company stand out and narrates its story through design? In a brick-clad Koramangala office, the architects at PR Design Group turn inwards in search of a solution. The five-storey workspace houses landscaped decks and courtyards, channelling ventilation and offering necessary pockets of verdure. Designed around the idea of a luxurious human experience, partners R. Ramraj and Pritvi Rao explain the approach behind the design of the lower levels, "There are large double height spaces and landscaped courtyards with the workstations having access to them visually and physically. All workstations were adjustable in height. So, if a person wants to stand and use it for an hour, they can do so. Or sit on a high stool. They have all these options!" >>



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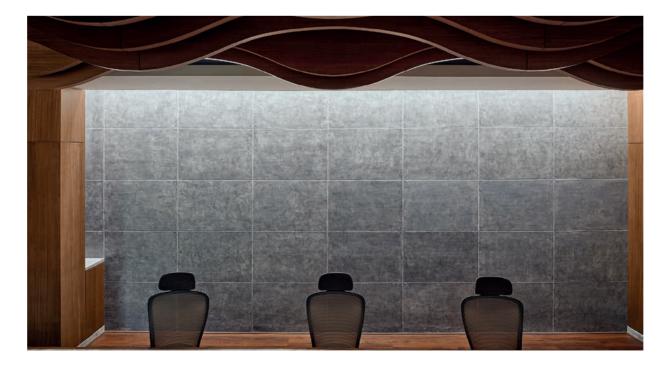




CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT A Baccarat chandelier illuminates the director's cabin. The bookshelf is from Poltrona Frau while the centre table is from Hessentia. The carpet is a Jaipur Rugs find; A Flos chandelier brightens the stairwell clad in white Statuario marble; The cabin sports furniture from Poltrona Frau; In the conference room, a bespoke ceiling adds visual interest against the cement textured wall finish by Asian Paints

On the upper levels, the idea of luxury morphs, heightening aesthetics and adopting a more indulgent material palette. Adding layers of material interest, marble, onyx and quartzite grace the surfaces. The space boasts multiple works of art from the owner's private collection. When it comes to furniture, the language is just as eclectic, varying from sleek modern silhouettes to period collectibles. Crowned by exquisite chandeliers, the workspace could fit right into a fantasy novel! "The upper levels resonate with the image of the company and the lower levels focus more on user sustainability," state the designers. However, the loftiest form of indulgence in a cacophonous metropolis is the central double-height tropical landscaped courtyard with its own rain and mist feature. The visuals would take any seasoned resident to a saccharine slogan from the early 2000s seen across Bengaluru – City of gardens, lakes, opportunities, empowerment & champions. Perhaps it is nostalgia and romanticism, but who could have guessed that in the next two decades, these two distinct identities of tech-city and garden-city could converge under one roof?  $\spadesuit$ 

Website: prdesigngroup.in





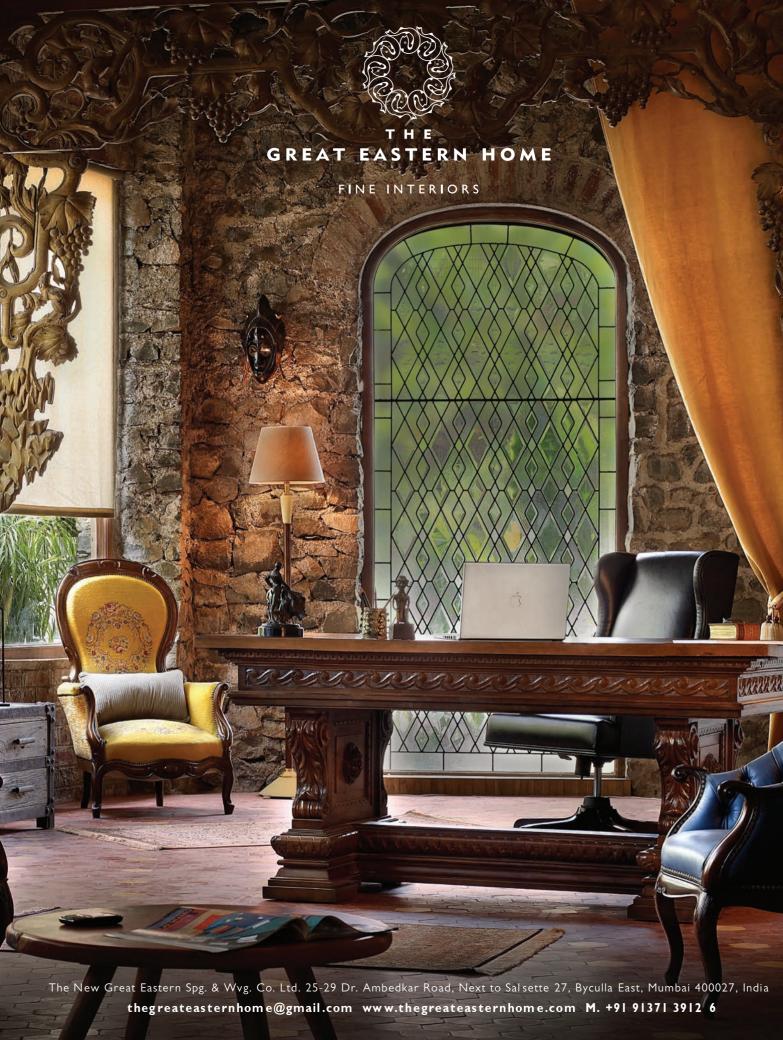
# Add comfort to shared workspaces.

The Zeph Side Chair brings a new level of comfort and functionality to side chairs. A unique hybrid with a range of uses, it works as well in individual work and small group settings as it does in educational settings.











CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The bright green shelf in the library with red and white stripes amplifies the eclectic personality of the space; The aquatint sceneries on the wall of the main cabin are by English landscape painter Thomas Daniell. Sourced from the neighbouring Jehangir Art Gallery, the tranquil illustrations lend an artistic flair that resonates with the heritage art district outside; Framed by playful polka dots, the dome of the sombre Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya stands out in vivid contrast Styled by Sonia Gehlot of Architecture & Beyond

o, I cannot picture Harvey Specter in polka dots. Although, after taking a look at this lawyer's chambers in colonial Mumbai, designed and styled by Architecture & Beyond, I cannot get the image out of my head. "Anything but typical," was the brief given to principal architect Sonia Gehlot. Call her approach cheeky or call it subversive, she brings a visual language into the 1,000 sq ft workspace that you would not associate with the sombre cabins of law offices. She turns to Yayoi Kusama for inspiration. "YK's art and its nonconformist energy are what I wanted to tap into for the conference room." Glance outside and you might be left in disbelief. The dome of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is framed by black and white polka dots that seemingly descend from all around. The practice of law is infamously intense. "I think the balance was to know where to stop designing," confides Sonia. She continues, "I had to be very careful of watching the line of not overdoing the polka as it can become very overwhelming for people to work with daily."

Breaking away from the norm, Sonia incorporates unexpected elements, bold patterns and audacious colours, turning the experience of an office into an immersive feerie. Situated in the art district of Mumbai, the location of Kalaghoda also played a muse in the design process. In the main cabin, Thomas Daniell's Indian watercolour landscapes sourced from the neighbouring Jehangir Art Gallery stand out in their serene simplicity. "I wanted something which would resonate well with the local artistic and historical ambience," she states. The brilliant green and candy cane library, on the other hand, looks straight out of an illustrated children's book. Although rooted in creative expression, the space maximises natural light and even offers verdant views of the mango trees outside! "That is what keeps the interest going when one walks through from one space to the other, eyes keep wandering to explore more," concludes Sonia. lacksquare

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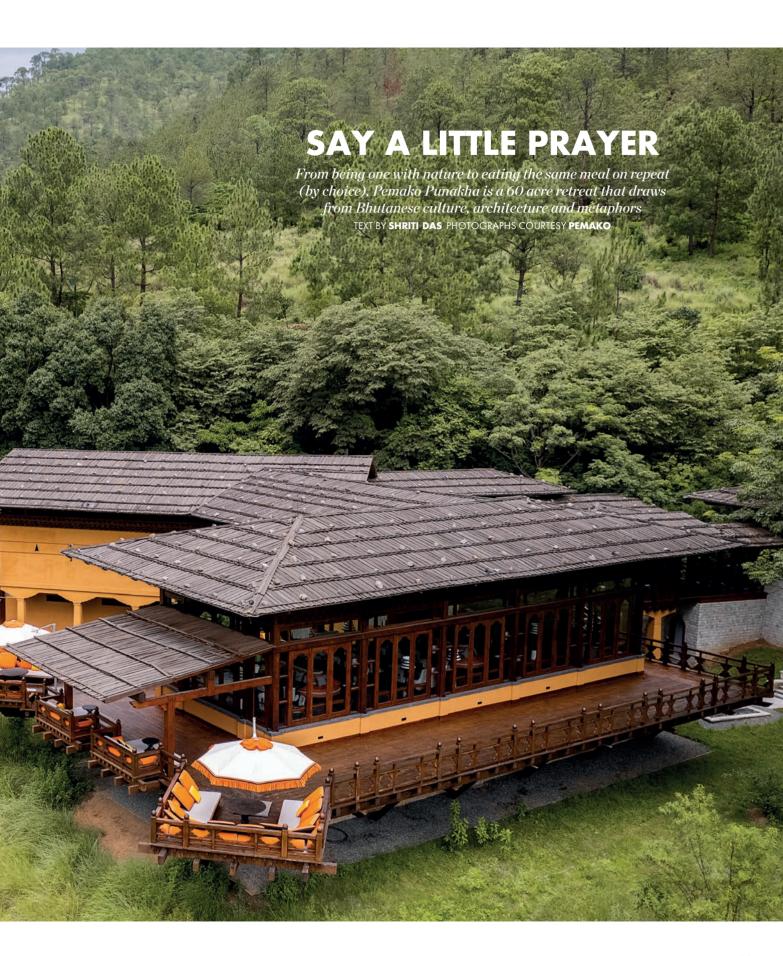


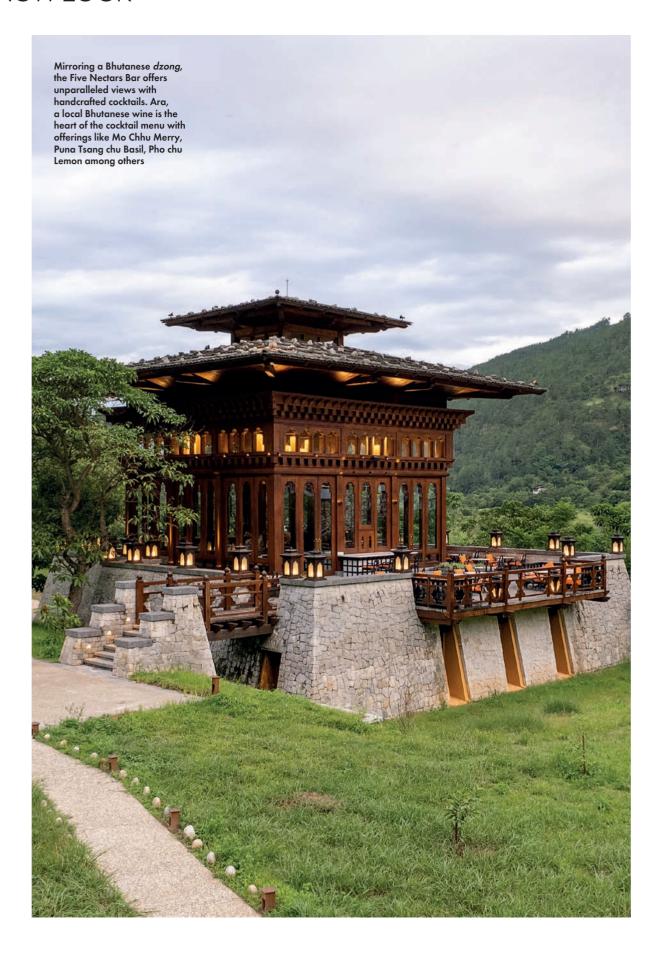


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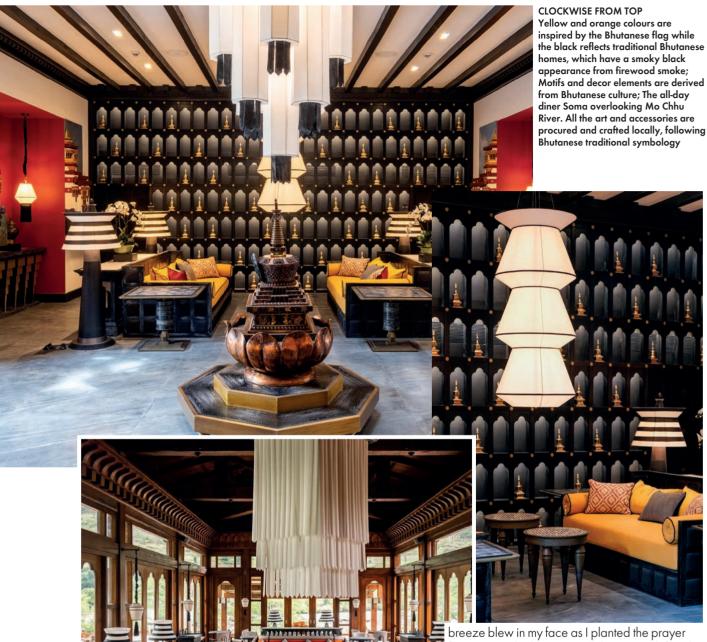








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lose your eyes and make your wish.
When you plant a prayer flag, it grants
you whatever you wish for," said lama-ji
at Pemako Punakha. I thought hard. A flurry of
ideas fleeted my mind. I remained indecisive with
a million prospects. The lama-ji smiled at me, "Do
you realise the privilege and power that you have
right now? Think of all those who are in need but
may not have the means. Those who are not as
blessed, those who need a miracle." I watched
the Mo Chhu River run its gentle course, a gentle

breeze blew in my face as I planted the prayer flag. I won't disclose my wish, but it was definitely a moment of clarity. I'm at Pemako Punakha, a 60 acre luxury experience tucked away in the Bhutanese Himalayas.

Bhutan has always fuelled a curiosity amidst those who know the land. So, to spend four days in its ethereal company at Pemako Punakha was nothing short of spectacular. Conceptualised by Bill Bensley in accordance with Buddhist theology, the concept of Pemako is a hidden paradise on earth waiting to be discovered. Although it is positioned (and rightfully so) to offer the pinnacle of luxury and hospitality, to bracket or limit the intent and experience would be an injustice. Staying true to one's roots and embodying the essence of a nation's values is a remarkable achievement.



### ELEMENTAL ECOLOGY

Ecology and elements reign as Amrutha Kishor of Elemental receives the Everest NextGen Award in the Residential category



usceptibility to sustainability is approaching the trend territory. But how can one even deny the plausibility, when it is quite literally a means to sustenance for society? Everest NextGen Awards by Everest Industries bring the spotlight on sustainability, by honouring innovators and architects that don't just represent, but spearhead the cause of sustainability.

Out of every space we exist in, our home is the most sacred. And

Out of every space we exist in, our home is the most sacred. And when that sacred is founded on posits that value ecology? Icing on the cake. Amrutha Kishor of Elemental takes the award home for residential with The EcoHouse. The 14,375 sq ft home in Kottayam, Kerala marries contemporary design with traditional design practices.

Tailored to suit an environmentally conscious family, the Ecohouse melds sustainability with critical regionalism. The climate-responsive philosophy behind Elemental is reflected in their holistic approach of anchoring nature's abundance of solar, wind and water resources with the individual site and its surroundings. Mangalore-tiled roofs provide a cooling effect in harsh summers, framing the pristine white walls. The wooden tiles imbue warmth to the overall neutral palette. Inspired by the old palaces of Travancore, Amrutha takes a minimalist approach to Kerala architecture. Every corner of the home is interspersed with natural daylight and graced by the Kottayam breeze. Passive cooling technologies enabled them to create a home bereft of air conditioning, because really, what is more important than keeping a cool head?

Websites: www.everestind.com, elemental-architects.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
This climate-conscious residence
designed by Amrutha Kishor
of Elemental has won the
Everest NextGen Award in the
Residential category; Natural
materials keep the interiors
cool; The space references
traditional and contemporary
features; Amrutha Kishor of
Elemental; Passive cooling
technologies enabled the
designers to eliminate the use
of air conditioning

At this point, I am aware that I sound like a hopeless romantic, but so be it. It's a scenic three hour drive with a short lunch break at Pemako Thimphu to reach Punakha. We abandoned our cars to cross a wooden bridge over the Mo Chhu River. We entered a wooden structure crafted like the Bhutanese homes and dzongs. And we don't spot a single room or telltales of a resort. Only mountains meet my eye till I am led to my tented villa upon a winding road. On this expansive hillside, hidden away from plain slight are 21 luxury tented villas. A small parcel of land that is the world's first carbon The design borrows cues from traditional Bhutanese architecture and symbols. There are hidden metaphors and symbols across the property, some indiscernible, some obvious. For example, most stairways are oriented around a stupa-like structure in their atrium so as for the user to circumambulate around it. Most trees were retained on site, and the parcels of ploughed land navigate themselves around these trees to locate themselves. A couple of pockets by the river, some on hilltops are converted into picnic areas or a date spot, however you'd want to spend the day. Or simply stay put in the room with private heated infinity pools overlooking the river and hills.

Some structures like Alchemy House, the Bhutanese restaurant are finished in black since traditional homes were black owing to smoke emanating from firewood. The tented accommodation camouflages with the forests but the interiors are mostly black. Food options were unlimited, but I chose to eat the same meal everyday much to the dismay of our hosts who tried to egg us to sample other offerings. But the ema datshi,

fiddlehead fern, aubergine, pork with radish and mustard greens had my heart. A meal I ate on repeat even on our pit-stop back at Pemako Thimphu. Even with these seemingly unlimited avenues of luxury, food, space and nature, there's something so grounding about Pemako. I still cannot put my finger on it. I have always been in awe of Bhutan, the country that measures success through happiness. A terrain that has never been invaded or colonised. negative country nestled between two world powers. Whatever be your point of reference to Bhutan, Pemako will leave you happy, humble and grateful all unequivocally.

Website: www.pemakohotels.com





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Perched on a hill is the picnic deck with panoramic views: One of the tented luxury suites; Living room of the residential villa; The Lotus Realm Spa uses holistic techniques that date back to the eighteenth century. It utilises local herbs and ancient techniques guided by the techniques of Sowa Rigpa (one of the oldest medical traditions of the world)







CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP Everest NextGen
Award in the Commercial
category was awarded
to the Polycab Experience
Centre in Gujarat; Sriram
Ramakrishnan of FHD India;
Sustainable and stylish,
this ecologically mindful
space brims with opulence;
The designer crafted the
commercial hub for one
of India's largest cable
manufacturers into a net
zero building

### <sub>everest</sub> NextGen

Spotlight on sustainability

Commercial yet conscious? Sriram Ramakrishnan receives the Everest NextGen Award in the Commercial category for the Polycab Experience Centre in Gujarat

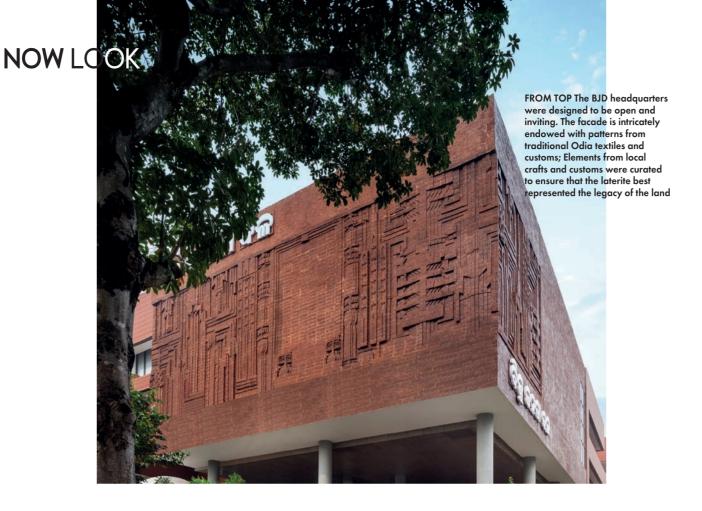
ommercial buildings can be a precarious territory to navigate. Finding that sweet spot between sustainability and community living can be tough but Sriram Ramakrishnan of FHD India manages to do exactly that with the Polycab Experience Centre in Vadodara, Gujarat. Winning the award in the commercial category, he built a commercial hub for one of India's largest cable manufacturers to be a net zero building. This project garnered enough attention to be presented forth as a case study in international forums. "But the key is to embody the spirit of sustainability beyond projecting numbers," reflects Sriram who fulfilled his desire to preserve the natural topography of this project. Under one sustainable roof a corporate office, an experience centre and an auditorium find an abode. The auditorium floats above an atrium, connecting the office and experience centre, the atrium connects to the factory behind. A copper Banyan tree mural stands tall at the entrance lobby, representing the local culture and the copper that carries energy inside a cable to create light.

Setting a precedent for sustainability is as causal, as it is cardinal. "It is best for our environment and future generations if all projects in all fields are treated as sustainability-based projects. It is not a passing trend but rather the need of the hour," proclaims Amrutha, and Everest Next Generation Awards fosters exactly this resolve.

Websites: www.everestind.com, fhdindia.com







### **TACTILE TRADITIONS**

Biju Janata Dal's Headquarters in Odisha by Studio Lotus meld heritage and history in a three storey edifice standing at the junction of politics and people TEXT BY PAAKHI BARANWAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUDIO SURYAN//DANG





**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Everest** NextGen Award in the Hospitality category was awarded to Udit Mittal for this bamboo guest house in West Bengal; The project is located in an NGO campus in the Sunderbans; The built form was constructed majorly with locally sourced materials; Udit Mittal of QX Design; The designers utilised local craftsmanship to create this built form



### ROOTED IN RESILIENCE

Sustainability in the Sunderbans? Udit Mittal receives the Everest NextGen Award in the Hospitality category for a bamboo guest house





ospitality honed by intent? Principal architect of QX Design, Udit Mittal's goal to create a cyclone-resilient public building with bamboo and thatch won him the award in the hospitality category. This guest house in an NGO campus in the Sunderbans, West Bengal transformed from an avenue worth exploring to an abode beckoning the affluent and thoughtful to experience the opulent interiors. "I had worked earlier with Laurent Fournier on a rather small and basic prototype of a cyclone-resilient house, in the same NGO campus where the project site was, where he had deployed similar techniques. Now, to take that learning to a larger scale was something worth exploring," muses Udit. Built majorly using locally acquired materials, the intent was to incite donors to support the cause. Sporting the cause, instead of using RCC for the stilt floor above the flood level, it was created with local bricks by making shallow domes. Luxury rooted in local - emphasising the larger call for sustainability - extends to building relationships with workers and partaking in festivals that are held in the village. "The cost for such a project can drastically come down only when the used construction techniques are applied enough times leading to the workflow and craftsmanship getting standardised. To conclude, it's safe to assume that lowering cost shouldn't be a driving factor to begin a project based on the principles of sustainability. Those principles should itself be enough," reiterates Udit whose brainchild literally took a village to

### everest NextGen Spotlight on sustainability

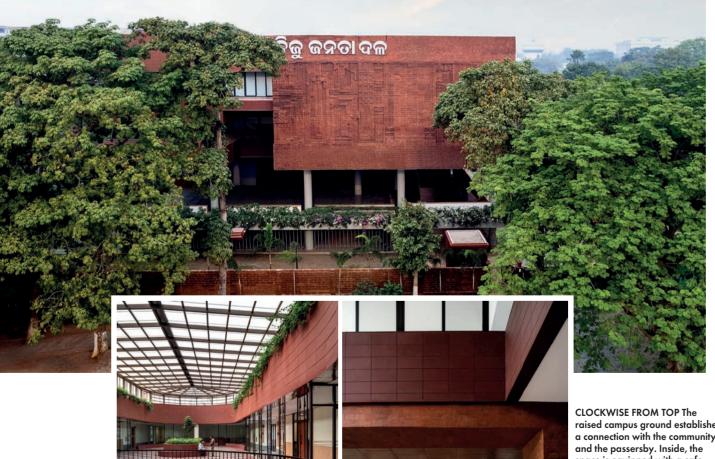


build. Website: www.everestind.com, Instagram: @qx\_design

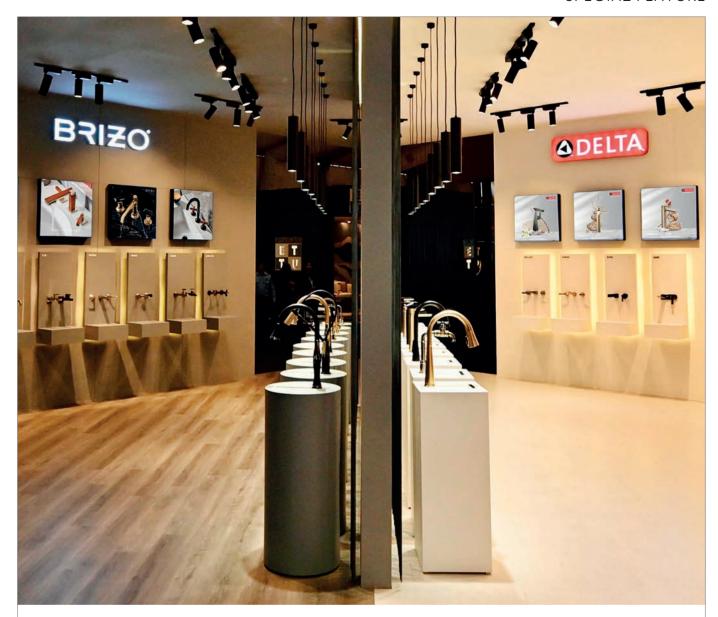
The prevailing notion of a political party's headquarters is that of power and persuasion. Rarely do they ever embody approachability with an innate sense of culture. For Studio Lotus, this was their biggest hurdle when envisioning Biju Janata Dal Party's headquarters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha where they have reigned responsibility for two long decades. This 1,22,546 sq ft space was originally meant to be a five-storey structure but was reduced to three storeys to enrich connection with the people and surroundings. It stands out distinctly, but also blends in just enough. The external facade was designed with Siddhartha Das Studio, with intricate detailing of Sambalpuri and Ikat weaving styles along with other traditional elements denoting the intention behind this office — to represent that it is the people and the culture that drives change. "Contemporising these elements was a careful balancing act. We wanted to celebrate the crafts without simply replicating them," emphasises Sidhartha Talwar, Principal and Co-Founder of Studio Lotus.

The double-height auditorium creates a space for cultural and political creations. The second floor is distinct in the sense that it has cabins for party leadership and also video and conference rooms, embodying the modern but rooted approach the space has been built around. A microcosm of sustainability has been born in this three-storey space. Windows that let natural light in. Terraces for limited heat gain. Internal courtyards for comfort. Thoughtful landscaping, accompanied by solar panels and rainwater harvesting measures. "Our collective experience of government buildings is that of an outsider's, even though the government is elected by the people and for the people. This building is designed to bridge the gap between bureaucracy and the populace by incorporating welcoming public amenities, creating a vibrant community hub that instils a sense of collective ownership amongst ordinary citizens," concludes Sidhartha.

Websites: www.studiolotus.in, www.siddharthadas.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The raised campus ground establishes a connection with the community and the passersby. Inside, the space is equipped with a cafe, library and a 360-degree audiovisual gallery; The space offers expansive views of the green outside, enabling relaxation and calm; Internal courtyards flood the floorplates with natural light



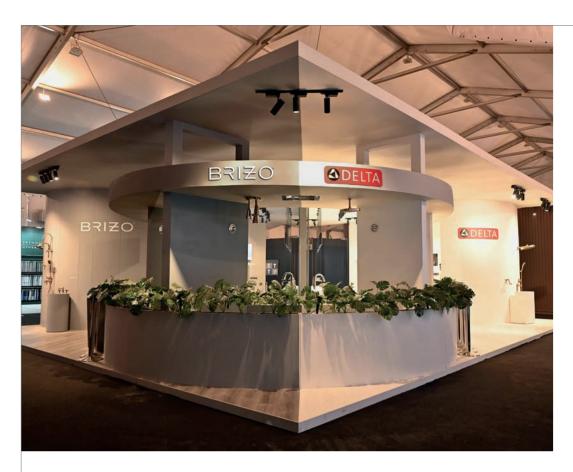
### FAU-SETTING THE TONE

The Delta Faucet Company creates a splash with their booth at India Design ID 2024

It's where the day starts, with the first splash of water on the face, with a refreshing shower that resets you for the day. If the home is a sanctuary, the bathroom is where we renew ourselves everyday, where we get ready to face the world. The Delta Faucet Company has been elevating the lifestyles of their patrons, providing them with unparalleled bathroom solutions since 2012.

With the belief that water has the power to transform the way people feel every day, Delta plays muse with the flow of water. At the India Design ID 2024 — one of the biggest luxury and design weeks in India — Delta exhibited an installation with organic wave-like forms, drawing inspiration from the natural movement of water, with a display of their vast range of bathroom faucets, kitchen faucets, bathroom shower heads and sanitary solutions. Crafted by Deepanjali Chawla, principal architect and founder of Visarg Design, it is segregated into two spaces — Delta and Brizo. The flagship brand Delta offers on-trend designs and finishes with innovations that transform water in meaningful ways and Brizo is for those discerning customers whose sense of fashion permeates their lifestyle. >>

The sleek finish palette of Delta and Brizo products glistens at India Design ID



FROM TOP Segregated into two zones, one for Delta and the other for Brizo, the exhibit highlights the width and depth of designs and finishes offered by Delta Faucet; The layout of the display area is defined by transparent curtains and the ease of movement like that of water FACING PAGE Water is at the forefront of the brand's offerings for patrons who prefer luxury and special experiences in their bathroom spaces





Every element in the installation — be it the products or the design of the display itself — takes inspiration in the form and flow of water. The circulation within the space was defined by transparent curtains, mimicking the ease of the movement natural to water. The products themselves are cutting-edge with the latest technologies like  $\rm H_2Okinetic^{I\!\!R}$ , ShieldSpray  $\rm H_2Okineti$ 

To Delta, water isn't just an element, it is an entire experience, one that should brighten days and elevate lifestyles. The products themselves are testament to this "experience-making" of water, providing a luxurious touch to something all of us use every single day. The display is a glimpse of the magic that Delta creates with its bath solutions, combining design with innovation and simplicity. **Website: deltafaucet.in** 





merger of creative innovation and technological ingenuity is what sets intelligent design apart. Imagine stepping into a restroom where every interaction is touch-free, imbuing your daily routine with the comfort of not having to worry about cleanliness, whilst indulging in a cosy bathroom experience. QUEO with their Q-Smart Toilets, revolutionises exactly this experience to guarantee comfort. Made in both wall-hung and floor-mounted models, these toilets are made to fit your needs, with the added plus of sophisticated design. A little wave of the hand and voila! It's not quite magic, but is technology not enchanting? The intelligent radar system detects your presence, opens the cover and the sensor-driven auto-flushing



system ensures no ick! Seats with adjustable temperature settings and levels of water pressure secure sanitation at your fingertips. And not to forget — the front and rear wash modes with warm water and a gentle warm-air drying system, complete this hassle-free hygiene practice. Enjoy unparalled comfort, as Q-smart toilets are fitted with an innovative nozzle that automatically cleans itself with both water and UV sterilization before and after each use for good measure, eliminating germs and creating a safe and hygienic environment. Made to complement the contemporary age, your bathroom deserves a Q-Smart Toilet for serenity and sanitation.

Website: www.queobathrooms.com

FROM TOP The ergonomic design features a classic form capable of elevating any bathroom it inhabits; The pressure flushing system is an efficient solution; It undergoes automatic UV sterlisation after every use, creating a hygienic environment FACING PAGE FROM TOP Queo Q-smart toilet range extends beyond the conventional, fitted with cutting-edge technology that maintains a higher standard of cleanliness; A closer look at the Q-smart toilet's warm air drying system; With seat temperature customisation it takes care of all basic functions on its own effortlessly



# On a design quest to Make Every Millimetre Count

Revolutionising the world of Interior and Furniture Design, Millimetre® brings innovation to the industry with a coordinated range of surface solutions. Anchored by the belief that 'every millimetre counts,' Millimetre offers high-pressure laminates with perfectly matching band edges that give designs an absolutely seamless finish.

Millimetre was founded by Punit Tambi, Devshrut Patel, and Nihar Jain with a common goal: to combine their diverse backgrounds and experience to transform the surface industry. Together, they aim to drive innovation by uniting multiple stakeholders and tackling industrywide issues. Today, Millimetre has revolutionised a typically unexciting product category by developing surface solutions that provide a uniform finish in modern cabinetry effortlessly.

Millimetre has quickly become India's leading producer of laminates and allied products, known for its quality and accessibility. With a strong focus on product innovation, Millimetre specialises in every aspect of the product's life cycle, from design to nationwide distribution.

Surfaces with are adjusted to the second sec

Collezione Deci.mmal is a coordinated range of surface solutions, available in solid, suede, wood and textile finishes.

From left to right: Devshrut Patel, Punit Tambi & Nihar Jain - Partners at Millimetre.



Let's celebrate the misfits
Those who shun the rule book
For a whisper from their gut.
Those who vilify the asterisk on agreements
And simply pay heed to their pulse.
Those who live in this mad world
And are madder enough
To chart their own path.

Let's celebrate the fearless, the unabashed
Whose religion is the details
Whose faith is in perfection
For whom truth counts
For whom beauty counts
For whom Every Millimetre Counts.



The brand's leading offering includes Collezione Deci.mmal - India's first superior-quality coordinated range of surface solutions for interior and furniture design. Comprising high-definition decor laminates, accompanied by perfectly matching band edges (Band. Edge<sup>™</sup>) and high-density laminated compact sheets (Hi. LAMM™), this collection offers a wide range of products available in suede, leather, wood and textile finishes. Millimetre's innovative 1mm PVC sealing edge strip aims to revolutionise furniture and interior design with Texture On Your Edge (T.O.Y.E™), enhancing aesthetics through seamless visual and tactile integration to give a consistent 'Surface-to-Edge™' appearance. Together, these cohesive components offer an all-inclusive package of surface finishing solutions, particularly tailored for modern cabinetry and carcasses.

Millimetre laminates and matching band edges, that together give designs an absolutely seamless finish.



Millimetre is committed to delivering internationalquality products at compelling value pricing, ensuring an exceptional customer-buying experience. "We embrace a culture of continuous improvement and accountability by seeking ways to enhance our impact positively within the surface industry and the larger design fraternity. ", says Devshrut Patel, Partner at Millimetre.

"Our consumer-centric approach at Millimetre, combined with a quest for perfection, strives to challenge stereotypes and create products for the future. We want to break the mould by bringing more compelling solutions for the AEC industry that are ahead of the curve. ", says Punit Tambi.

Millimetre has expanded its presence to the western and southern parts of India, reflecting its commitment to empowering the Indian design and building industry with globally recognised quality standards. The Millimetre vision encompasses expansion to the nationwide distribution of their products and expertise, catalysing progress and setting new benchmarks of excellence in interior and furniture design.

Photography credits: Photographix (PHX India)

Follow Millimetre to learn more:







@lamitude



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### MADE IN FRANCE, FOR INDIA

The French Art of Living Exhibition held at Bikaner House in New Delhi expedited the burgeoning market of French Decor in Indian spaces



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The Bikaner ballroom was transformed into a Baroque masterpiece; Brands showcased visual marvels; Princess of Jaipur Smt Diya Kumari and His Excellency Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India graced the exclusive preview to this world he burgeoning presence of French magnificence in India creates a trail of French decor in spaces that fuse our traditions with the nation's penchant for grandeur. Embarking on a journey of visual delight to bring brands from across France to Bikaner House in New Delhi, 30 French brands showcased architectural and decor marvels, engaging with seasoned designers in sessions titled Creative Dialogue. The French Art of Living Exhibition was opulence exemplified. This exhibition was organised by Business France in collaboration with the French Institute in India, the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry and India Design ID. Art de Vivre à la Française, corroborated French design and India's cultural abundance, as attested to by the





was all about art, opulence and decor; The showcase featured the conjunction of traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design; A slice of France in India; Experts from the field and beyond visited the exhibition; Bleu, blanc and rouge were embodied in stunning display

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The exhibit** 

stunning scenography by GCG Architects who envisaged the exhibition's cosmopolitan ambience. The Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles was brought to India, with the transformation of the Bikaner Ballroom into a gilded Baroque masterpiece for the dinner on the grand opening night organised by Alexis de Ducla. The exhibition, held from March 20th to March 22nd, culminated in a dinner and cocktail soiree hosted by DLF at The Chanakya Mall. It reflected on how design talk is never ephemeral, it cultivates enduring and alluring spaces. Website: www.buisnessfrance.fr

Instagram: @businessfrance









FROM TOP Every inch of the space is a lesson in maximising the ethereal effect of luminosity; Colours reign in this dystopian world envisaged by Lionel Ohayon of ICRAVE

visual feast straight out of dystopian fantasies? This prodigious sphere embodies eclecticism with a touch of ethereal maximalism. Lionel Ohayon of ICRAVE envisioned the largest spherical structure ever built for Sphere Entertainment, translating their vision of reinventing live performances and immersive experiences in Las Vegas. Lionel reveals anecdotes and thoughts that shaped the design process.

#### What was the idea behind the design?

We were commissioned by Sphere Entertainment to design the interiors and lighting for Sphere and create a visitor experience unlike any other. In solving this challenge, we developed a design approach that engages one in an ethereal world and brings a sense of limitlessness as soon as one enters the building. Three main components were implemented to achieve this goal: the use of continuous curved lines, layers of indirect lighting and an all-encompassing reflective floor that removes the horizon, reinforcing the sense of limitlessness.

#### What was the most difficult aspect of this project?

The scale was the biggest challenge – it is the largest spherical structure ever built. We had to trust the science and the research behind it. We needed to design in 3D and were heavily reliant on 3D modelling.

#### What is the technology behind lighting design?

Sphere's interiors create a unique and unfamiliar setting with lighting playing a central role. The mood and energy are manipulated through a layered series of continuous and directional lighting juxtaposed by expansive indirect washes with deliberate strikes of light. The long spaces are metered by repetition and the use of colour lights versus white lighting build up the story as one makes their way towards their seat in the performance bowl. Uninterrupted columns soaring through the breathtaking atrium are outfitted with bespoke programmable lighting that can transform the space for different events or shows.



We honed in on Signify for a few reasons, but primarily due to our ongoing relationship with them and the reliability of the brand. Signify has been a pioneer in LED technology since its inception, continuously innovating its products. This long-standing expertise gave us confidence in utilising them for some of the main features in the space. The light fixtures needed to accommodate a wide range of white LEDs alongside a diverse colour spectrum, given the multifunctional nature of the atrium.

#### Were there any anecdotes that made a big difference during this project?

Throughout this endeavour, we have questioned what it means to design in today's context. Can we adequately assess a project without comprehending the key performance indicators rooted in human experience? We believe not. Consequently, our studio has transformed, incorporating numerous teams working in previously unexplored domains. This includes designing for digital and physical environments where patrons can transition between in-person and at-home engagement.

Websites: www.philips.co.in, www.icrave.com



FROM TOP The radius bar overlooks the atrium; The gleam of

deep blues sets the tone for a futuristic tale of live entertainment

## IT'S TIME

India's most monumental product design honour! This is our call to the winners who love designing. Or well, vice versa? Now inviting entries to claim the trophy for EDIDA India (ELLE DECO International Design Awards)

TOTHINK FUTURE

## IT'S TIME

Defy and redefine. Play and proclaim. With a record of 15 categories, our past awardees surpassed all signs of ordinary. What are you ready to bring to the table?



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Participate now! Think local. Make local. All for a glorious chance to rise on the global stage of design and become a part of something historic. One for the books



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#### IN THIS ISSUE

## ELLE DECOR BUZZ

Offering the finest product designs, craft finds and architectural musings that are revolutionising the Indian design scene—tune in for shopping ideas and inspiring creations. Plus, our specially curated edit of new releases

TEXT BY NAMRATA DEWANJEE PRODUCED BY SHRITI DAS



#### DECOR BUZZ

#### **Knotted** nature

Temple bells ringing. The chirping of birds. Jasmine blooms and intricate kollam. Sona Reddy collaborates with House of Knots to spin the tales of South India into handmade rugs as tributes to traditions and memories.

Websites: houseofknots.com, sonareddystudio.com



#### SINGLES' MIXER

Sigh, have you ever faced the dilemma of how your furniture does not match your outfit of the day? Fret not, Sources Unlimited brings you a stylish solution. Meet Cappellini's Lud'o Lounge armchair designed by Patricia Urquiola that will have you reminiscing about the nostalgic colour blocks of your childhood

> Ludo boards. Website: cappellini.com Instagram: @sources\_unlimited



#### Film Noir

Bet you didn't think marble could fold like origami! Watch enraptured as Wa Bespoke by Sage Living's coffee table dubbed Hexa imbues your living room conversations with dramatic flair. Over a cup of joe or a bucket of popcorn, this geometrical jewel dazzles in your dwelling, be it in the backdrop or as a centrepiece.

Website: sageliving.in

DOES FORM FOLLOW FLORALS?

#### 1. Linear language

The vessel to contain your flowers should be as striking as the blossoms themselves. Freedom Tree's cylindrical ceramic Raavi vase is both sculptural and geometric. Sporting a raw and urban finish, this creation calls out to city dwellers – there is hardly anything more poetic than florals that grow out of concrete. Only here, it is by design!

Website: freedomtree.in

#### 2. Curves and contours

Have you noticed how the natural world has no straight lines? Well, neither do these vases. Crafted in ceramic with a rustic matte finish, Maison by Nirmals' organic forms curated from Belgium add whimsy to your spaces. Here's a curious conundrum: if the vessel itself is so striking, who needs flowers?

Instagram: @maisonbynirmals

#### 3. Vivacious volumes

Understated and abstract, these vases by Rococo Milano offer a subdued canvas for your flowers. The vivacity of nature comes alive against the paredback palette of their Monochrome Series. These volumetric explorations range from sleek cylinders to asymmetric silhouettes and exude a wondrous wabi-sabi spirit.

Website: rococomilano.com



#### Open book

Perhaps all bookworms can relate to the feeling of being drawn into a fantasy world like a moth to light.

MuseMART takes this a step further. Behold the sciography of the intricate woven cane pages and stand spellbound by these Reeding Lamps

Website: musemart.co.in



#### **AU NATUREL**

Art knows no boundaries. Onset Homes' summer collection honours the spirit of creative collaboration and joins Manovikas Kendra in Kolkata, an institution that imparts education to differently-abled students. And what better way to express collaboration than to take a leaf out of nature's book? The Flair of Nature collection abstracts flowers, leaves and birds into myriad motifs that you can bring into your interiors as soft furnishing.

Websites: onsethomes.com, manovikaskendra.org





#### **DECOR BUZZ**

#### IN(SPIRE)D BY ROYALTY

Perhaps it is Netflix to blame for our recent obsession with all things regal. Harkening back to the forms and silhouettes of the *shikhara*, Anantaya fashions their Spire Jar to store all your royal dreams (and of course your knick-knacks, if there is any space left!)

Website: anantayadecor.in

#### Colouring outside your life

Colour analysis might be gaining in stride online, but it is far from a novel concept. In their Rang Collection, Cocoon Fine Rugs delves into Persian folk heritage to find hues that reflect human emotions. The calmness of indigo, the ecstasy of yellow, the green of growth and fiery red passion weave expressions of life and warmth into your space.

Website: cocooncarpets.com





#### **BEYOND THE FRAME**

Heritage reborn. A window into grandeur. Brushstrokes evoking awe and admiration come to life with Bridge Bharat. In this Kalighat painting by Anwar Chitrakar titled Ganesh Janani, the elongated features of the subject give away its 19th-century Bengali origins. Spanning over 18 states, the initiative collaborates with over 50 families of artists spanning 18 states, serving as a custodian of creative legacy. **Website: bridgebharat.com** 



#### DECOR BUZZ



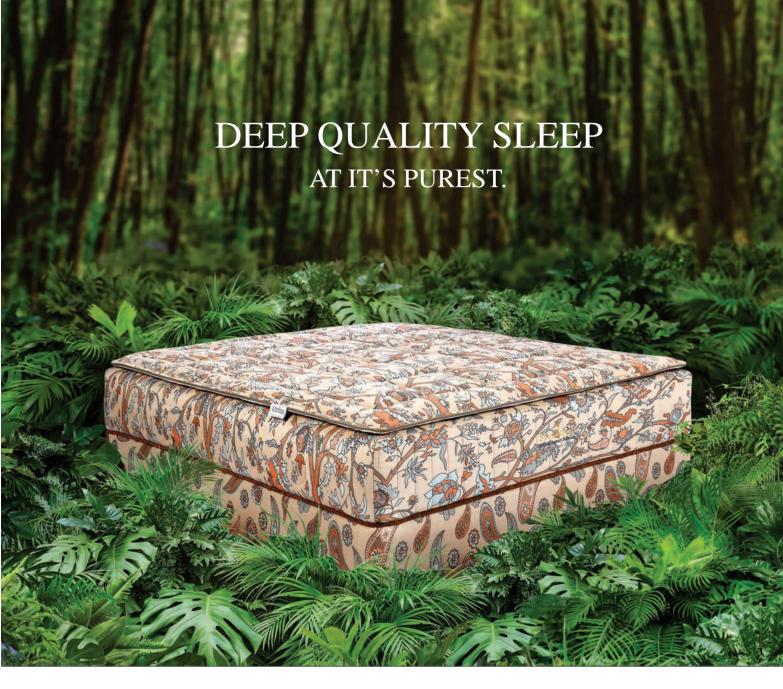


#### **SINUOUS SILHOUETTE**

In 1954, Pierre Guariche bent the rules (and wood!) for Steiner with the Papyrus chair. Available at Ligne Roset, this sinuous single-shell silhouette sits on a metal base, making it a perfect perch, fit for a pharaoh.

Website: ligne-roset.com







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HANDCRAFTED IN THE HIMALAYAS















From the house of India's oldest sleep luxury mattress company - Snoozer Quietly chosen by the discerning for over three decades. Because we spend a third of our life in bed.















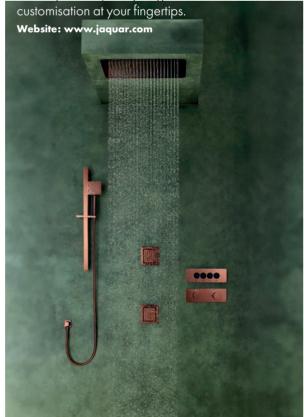


#### **BRAND NEWS**

Exciting new releases, store launches and the coolest finds in furniture, lighting and home appliances—our curated selection of what you need to look out for this season TEXT BY CHIRANSHA PRASAD

#### **SHOWERS GALORE**

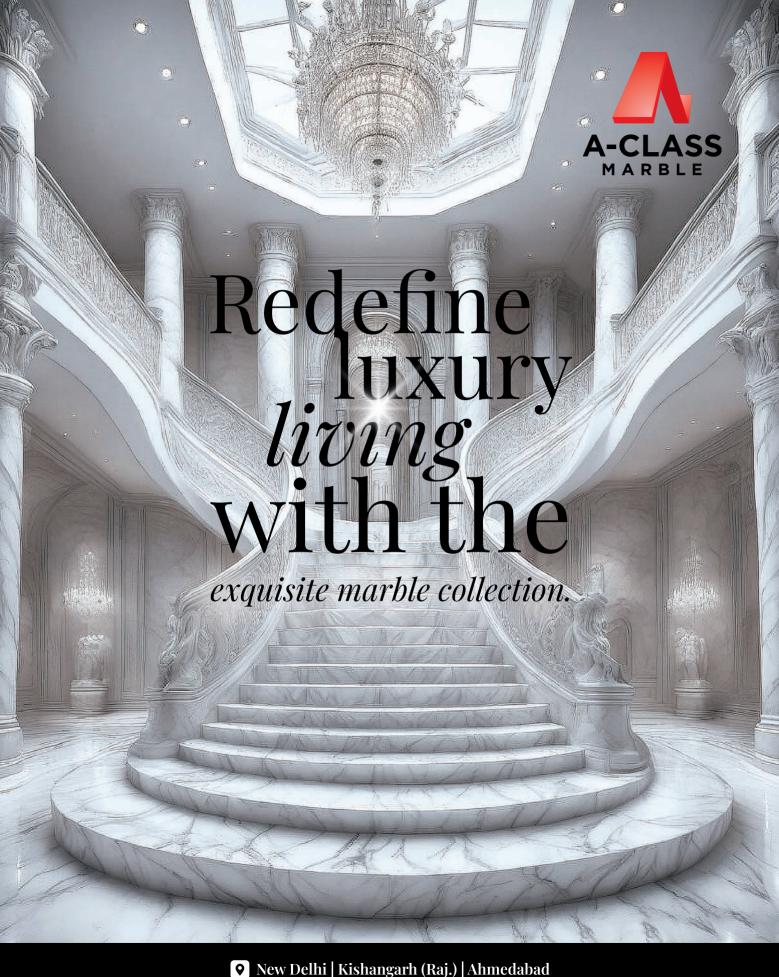
Sing, daydream, rinse, repeat! Jaquar Qloud is an innovative hybrid touch shower experience that caters to all your needs. From the flow to the temperature, everything is available for





#### **WOOD HAVE, COULD HAVE**

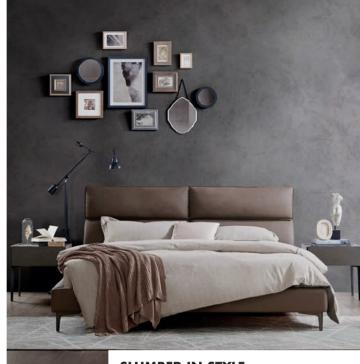
We're yelling timber, because these doors by CenturyPly ward off termites, moisture, fungi and unwanted guests (if you keep it closed, of course). Covered in Century Laminates, they are sturdy, reliable and protected against daily wear and tear. **Website: www.centuryply.com** 



#### DECOR BUZZ

#### **EVERYDAY TOI-LUXURIES**





#### SLUMBER IN STYLE

Sleep is sacred. While you snooze, let your bed do the talking with Kuka Home's collection of furniture available at SUN&KRIS. Marked with Scandinavian simplicity, their pieces can fit within any interior space, imbuing it with luxury that is simultaneously functional and elegant.

Websites: kukahomeusa.com, www.sunandkris.com

#### **SUNNY SIDE UP!**

Meet your newest lounging partner. If you wish to prioritise stunning design without compromising on comfort, the Tavolo seating set by The Garden Room is well-suite outdoors, ideal for creating a comfor space that can accommodate yo<mark>ur</mark> Website: thegardenroom.in

#### MAIN CHARACTER ENERGY

If you wish to decorate your space with statement furniture that makes for a great conversation starter

- Driade's new range of furniture, available at Strott, includes an avantgarde MT3 chair by Ron Arad that stands out from the crowd with ease

Websites: www.driade.com, strrot.in



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Linear lighting ensures that every crevice is impeccably lit; Hettich lighting gives your closet a striking flair; Magic Lights by Hettich are an embodiment of perfect luminosity; Their lighting suffices for every inch of your home and your range of moods







esigning resplendent living spaces that fit your needs can prove to be a mammoth task at times. Especially, choosing befitting lighting for the many rooms and corners. Lighting surpasses mere illumination. It sets the tone for one's mood and how they perceive the interiors as they walk through a space. Now envision a collection that allows you to modify its configuration, whether that be lighting up your home office or setting up for an evening soiree. This effortless functionality is what Hettich's Magic Lights bring to us. Hettich has been a pioneer in innovative fittings solutions, introducing a range of nouveau solutions: Linear lighting, Spot lighting and Special lighting. All oriented towards

different functions. The ability of Linear lighting to uniformly illuminate every nook in contemporary spaces makes it a perfect addition to imbue efficiency while Spot lighting works as a one-stop solution for spot illumination, perfect for drawing attention to the artefacts in your spaces. These lights bring in a dramatic flair with wide and narrow beams and even a side spot for a dazzling effect. From motion sensor lights in the walkin closets to those providing precise illumination, the Special lighting offers interior design solutions that add an aesthetic flair without compromising on utility. A statement in itself, Hettich's customisable lights are here to revamp your perception of spaces and the ways of living. Website: www.hettich.com



#### **RESPONSE TO STIMULI**

Best known for their luxurious bath and kitchen fixtures, Graff has gone one step further and introduced touch-free sensor faucets that seek to elongate the limited life span of metal fixtures, minimising wear and tear. Reducing water wastage, the product is a must-have.

Website: www.graff-designs.com







O PARMAN O E DESIGNS

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Design By: Param Deswal and Manuj Shukla of Parman Designs





#### 1. MINOTTI

Part of their 2024 Outdoor Collection, Minotti's Drake Dining set-up exudes the comfort and panache of your indoor spaces within the al fresco environment. The Italian brand also brings this mindful Mid-century Modern savoir-faire in their 2024 Indoor Collection. A sublime setting for you to lounge lavishly this season. **Website: minotti.com** 

UNMISSABLE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOTTEST FURNITURE FAIR

## SALONE DEL MOBILE 2024

Fantastic collectibles and where to find them: well, Milan Design Week, of course. Flip through the pages to see what caught our eye from nouveau collections, design covetables, ingenious installations and more

PRODUCED BY MRUDUL PATHAK KUNDU TEXT BY NAMRATA DEWANJEE AND CHIRANSHA PRASAD





Visual artist and designer Andrés Reisinger presents an experiential exhibition titled 12 Chairs for Meditation at the atrium of Nilufar's Viale Lancetti. Curated by Reisinger and Nilufar's founder, Nina Yashar, the multisensorial theatrical expression unveils a collection of chairs and a site-specific mosaic along with a musical composition by the artist.

Websites: reisinger.studio, nilufar.com

#### 3. BAXTER

Solid yet woven? Baxter's rosewood lacquered LOOM table, part of their indoor furniture collection, blends parametric technology with rhythm and imagination. Encapsulating the brand's tryst with technique and craftsmanship, it is set to infuse a dramatic dynamism into your space.

Website: baxter.it

#### 4. PALOMBA SERAFINI ASSOCIATI X FENDI CASA

Leather and furniture are fast friends. Ludovica Serafini and Roberto Palomba reinvent this classic combination for Fendi Casa, much like their longstanding collaboration. The F-Stripe sofa decked in neutrals, sports a play of material and lines. Paired with signature silhouettes, the creation promises elegance and character.

Websites: palombaserafini.com, fendicasa.com



#### 5. CC-TAPIS X INDIA MAHDAVI

Indian artistry stuns the Italian fair through carpets by cc-tapis. Designer India Mahdavi spins this Criss Cross collection of carpets in a collaboration with the brand. A reinterpretation of the tartan pattern, this chain-stitched and hand-tufted rug is available in a melange of shades highlighting her distinct visual language.

Website: cc-tapis.com, india-mahdavi.com

#### 6. MATER X PATRICIA URQUIOLA

Mater joins designer Patricia Urquiola to use waste wisely. The Danish green tech design brand presents their Alder collection starring Matek, their blend of biodegradable plastic derived from sugarcane with coffee residue and wooden fibres. Rest your cup of joe on the side table or perch with a purpose on their plush stools.

Websites: materdesign.com, patriciaurquiola.com

#### 7. NATEVO X DANIELE LO SCALZO MOSCHERI

Grace – a fitting descriptor for this lamp as lithe as a paper lantern. In his first collaboration with the brand, Daniele Lo Scalzo Moscheri highlights the sartorial strength of Natevo, a brand under Flou. Floating above the pedestal with a warm glow, this lamp embodies an ethereal lightness.

Websites: natevo.com, flou.it, loscalzomoscheri.it



#### 10. KARTELL X LIBERTY

Classic silhouettes and colourful fabrics. A (mix and) match made in furniture heaven? In a confluence of creative energies, Kartell and Liberty turn a new chapter for contemporary living on the latter's 150th anniversary. A dialogue of decorative arts ensues as the legacies of the two brands meld together to add a flair to your transversal lifestyle.

Website: kartell.com, libertyfabric.com

#### 11. PORRO X **NAO TAMURA**

Inspired by the precise art of crafting a Kimono, the Origata bench by Nao Tamura features an austere structure crafted from an aluminium sheet cut up and affixed through screws to minimise wastage.

Websites: porro.com, naotamura.com

fashion world into interiors.

Website: turri.it. matteonunziati.com



#### DECORATION NEWS



#### 15. PORRO X GAMFRATESI

The Italian furniture manufacturer corrals narratives of modern living. Porro conjures the warmth of a home in the Romby armchairs by GamFratesi. Their geometric and retro allure bestows an abstract charm to your space.

Website: porro.com, gamfratesi.com

#### 16. NANIMARQUINA X SABINE FINKENAUER

Nanimarquina and Sabine Finkenauer trace the form of a pearl bead into minimalist rugs and runners. In a composition of earthy yet soulful shades, the Pearl collection is an ode to ancestral weaving techniques.

Website: nanimarquina.com, sabinefinkenauer.com



17. B&B ITALIA

B&B Italia offers its Bambola armchairs in a nouveau avatar. Originally a part of Le Bambole collection designed by Mario Bellini in 1972, the new colourways are flamboyant and fun. What's better? These are now fit for the outdoors, making it too tempting to cancel your evening plans.

Website: bebitalia.com

#### **18. KNOLL**

"A chair is a very difficult object," confessed Modernist master Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. In a reissue of the iconic 1929 Tugendhat Chair designed by van der Rohe and Lilly Reich, Knoll reveals two finishes and a melange of upbeat upholstery options. Less is now most definitely more.

Website: knoll.com

#### **DECORATION NEWS**



#### 20. BISAZZA X

of a glass mosaic with a manga by Daniel Arsham for Bisazza. Titled Fractured Idols 1 Mosaic, the piece alludes to the frailty of human existence across time, materialising in a sense of fragmentation.

danielarsham.com



#### 22. VIKRAM GOYAL X NILUFAR GALLERY

The Archimedes Chandelier is a striking lighting fixture carved out of metal by Vikram Goyal featuring hollowed-out brass twisted in an artistic, seemingly infinite loop. This piece was showcased at the Time Traveler exhibit presented by Nilufar Gallery, curated by founder Nina Yashar.

Websites: vikram-goyal.com, nilufar.com

#### 23. ADORNO DESIGN X NITUSH - AROOSH

The Monolith sculpture is a 1.8-metre-tall reflective creation made of stainless steel by Indian artists Nitush and Aroosh in collaboration with Adorno Design, exhibited at Alcova 2024. Inspired by the concept of Animism, the sculpture's narrative encompasses its viewers and its surroundings reflected across its surface.

Websites: alcova.xyz, nitusharoosh.com, adorno.design

#### 24. FLEXFORM

Fine curtains and lit screens envelop the space housing Flexform's new collection, their new Camelot seating system occupying pride of place in an exhibit dubbed Between the Folds. The brand's distinctive design language harmonises with the space, balancing tradition with modernity.







#### 25. KOHLER X SR A

Orange is the new black, says Kohler x SR\_A in their limitededition smart toilet Formation 02 and installation for Fuorisalone. Introducing a nouveau silhouette on Kohler's Eir Smart Toilet, the bold industrial Haptic Orange hue pays homage to Kohler's 1967 Tiger Lily bathroom line and SR\_A's signature colour.

Websites: kohler.com, sr-a.com, sra.kohler.com

## DECORATION NEWS 26. SERAFINI X KARAN DESAI

The Chaise Lounge designed by Karan Desai in collaboration with Alessandro Serafini, features three ergonomic contours crafted out of marble for seating, placing a plant or even keeping belongings safe on a built-in flat surface.

Websites: serafini.com, karandesaihome.com



Crafted by Jacopo
Foggini, the Milano
chair by Edra seeks to
redefine royalty in the
contemporary age,
inspired by the Duomo
di Milano. With a surreal
back weaved with long,
linear polymer threads
that extrude, the reflective
chair is crafted with
translucid polychrome
polycarbonate.

Websites: edra.com, jacopofoggini.com



Marking a moment of nostalgia, Preciosa's arresting lighting installation titled Crystal Beat 2 featured 400 pendant lights dubbed Crystal Pixels. Resembling their namesake in appearance, they are fully customisable with an RGBW lighting effect. Synchronised with a 3D sound system playing a 1980s-inspired musical soundtrack, the installation recreates the hypnotic allure of the early gaming universes drenched in vibrant hues.

Website: preciosa.com







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Design By: Param Deswal and Manuj Shukla of Parman Designs



# DECORATION NEWS 29

#### 29. IMPERFETTO LAB

Vara, designed by Imperfetto Lab's co-founder Verter Turroni, is a fibreglass seating structure inspired by the brand's ethos that celebrates imperfection — utilising objects of different scales and contrasting elements that elude predictability and redefine functionality.

Website: imperfettolab.com

#### 30. SALVATORI X PATRICIA URQUIOLA

For her third collection in collaboration with Salvatori, Patricia Urquiola forays into the bathroom. Dubbed Small Hours, her creations combine the grittiness of natural stone, understated forms and the smoothness of steel.

Website: salvatoriofficial.com, patriciaurquiola.com

#### 31. GIORGETTI

Cosmopolitan creativity defines Giorgetti's 2024 collection. The Liz-valet designed by Silvia Musetti, accompanied by a bench and a console offers an organisational solution with soft silhouettes. Sporting a metal hanger rod and trouser bar with non-slip leather, the two cylinders also offer a tray for knick-knacks.

Websites: silviamusetti.com, giorgettimeda.com

#### 32. VISIONNAIRE X STUDIOPEPE

This is not your typical Ottoman. Reinterpreting its classic silhouette, this soft and supple Fedro day-bed by Studiopepe and Visionnaire is perfect to languidly lounge on weekends. Echoing the vintage allure of the 70s, this is a part of their Nomad collection.

Websites: visionnaire-home.com, studiopepe.info





E: info@fimacf.in | W: www.fimacf.in Contact for Queries: +91 8283 011 822



#### DECORATION **NEWS**



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Fun and flamboyant, JUNG gives modern building technology a new spin; JUNG brings German precision to India through their sleek and stylish range of products; The electrical switches come in a diverse range of shades

## ABUZZ WITH INNOVATION

Garima Saxena brings to the interior world the German excellence of the automation and switch industry pioneer IUNG

uch like the people who are inhabiting the house, our requirements for the space are constantly evolving as well. The need of the hour is a system that is intelligent, networked, sustainable, secure and flexible. Building control is a complex endeavour with energy management and networking becoming unexpendible in the design process. That's where JUNG comes in, offering products that provide flexible and future-proof solutions for the widest variety of application areas. Garima Saxena, the founder and director of Ablaze N Desizn since 2017 brings this German excellence to the interior world. Be it lighting, blinds, air conditioning, energy, security, multimedia and door communication, JUNG's modern building technology covers a diverse range.

A'blaze N Desizn, a lighting design pioneer, revolutionises spaces by balancing aesthetics and functionality. Garima brings her prowess in spatial understanding to JUNG's Indian projects. She plays crucial roles like undertaking sales and consulting with designers for luxury spaces. Take the LS Touch for instance, it allows you to control all the electrical components in a room at the same time. The best part? The LS Touch is as striking as it is utilitarian. For their partners in the electrical trade and for their patrons worldwide, JUNG stands as a testament to their century-old principle of "progress as tradition."

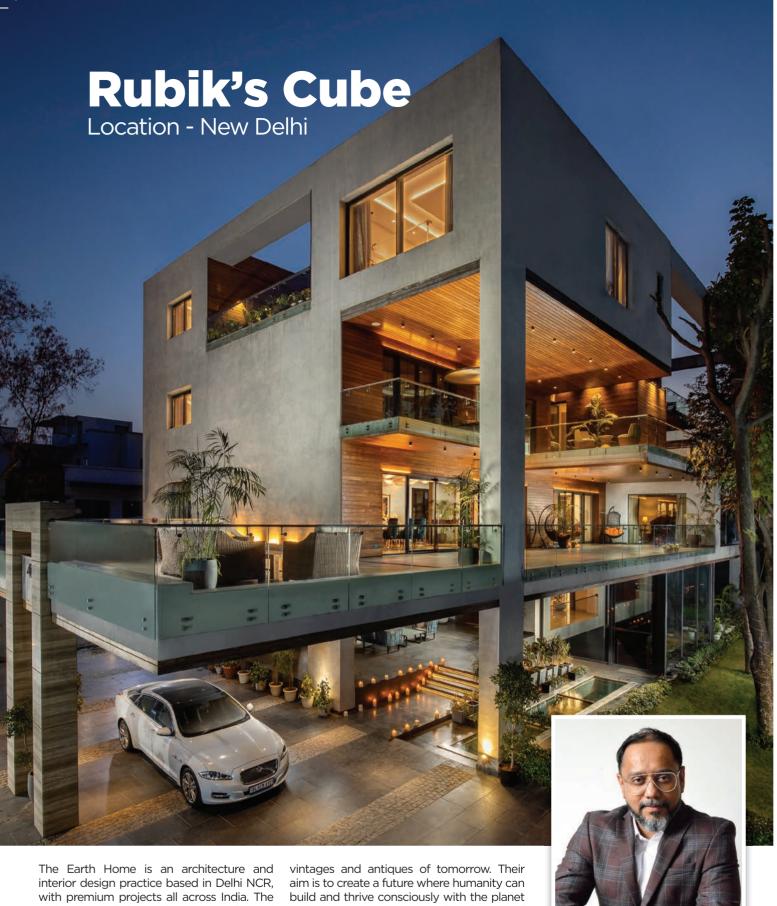
Website: www.jung-group.com Instagram: @ablazendesizn











architecture of The Earth Home is informed by their study of sun movement, winds and natural features.

They create from hedonism - the inherent desire for luxury and the elegance of living. The spaces and objects are designed to last generations and are the monuments, and stay harmoniously with all its diversity of

Adreesh Chakraborty The Earth Home (TEHA) Year established - 2016









The site, a 2000 sq. mtr. plot, at the periphery of the New Delhi, had a full grown tree line close to the northern edge of the site apart from the trees that dotted the other edges.

The house was designed to sit close to this tree line with the north face opening onto the foliage. The house was conceived like a cuboid with chunks of double height volumes subtracted from various parts of the cuboid. This subtraction was used as a strategy to open up spaces from within to look onto the most desired areas. The zoning was an outcome of climatic design with the summer sun being cut

off from the main habitable areas by buffer zones like dressers and toilets.

The house is awash with natural light with large decks and verandahs opening onto the greens. The spaces are bold and the movement feels dynamic with large volumes and planes cantilevered across the lines of sight.

The house is fitted with a heated wave pool, a gymnasium, a salon with a service lift apart from a main passenger lift. The basement is washed with natural light with strategic volumetric subtractions that create the entry foyer and extended part of the party areas in the basement.





For more details www.theearthhome.com adreesh@theearthhome.com & infocentral@theearthhome.com

CLOUDY SKIES: HIGH-RISE HOMES WITH THE ALLURE OF MONSOON MOODBOARDS

## ELLE DECORSTYLE

Page 142 SELF REFLECTIONS of Bhupal Ramnathkar's artistic legacy echo in his Mumbai home Page 152 THE SKY IS JUST THE BEGINNING for this Kolkata abode by Preeti Mahendra and Harleen Kaur drenched in neutrals and nuances Page 162 IT'S A SHORE THING that this dwelling by Mind Manifestation draws on the serendipity of the sea and sand













tacks of books on design and graphics. Sightings of rare objects and decorations. Colours and some more colours. A glimpse of groundedness. I like to call this home: a sanctum of realisation. A realisation of years and decades of Bhupal Ramnathkar, the seasoned advertising and graphic design doyen, who in fact does not like to bracket himself with any labels. "I'm an artist. Artists can do anything." He says with conviction when we first sit down for a conversation at his new residence in the Lodha World Towers in Mumbai's prime locale Lower Parel.

If the space could be described only on the basis of first impressions, I'd say it is a sense-tingling journey of his life so far. Colours at the core of it. What in fact makes Ramnathkar an artist of his own league is that he designed, curated and pieced this whole puzzle by himself. A feat achieved during the lockdown in moodboarding and assembling ideas to life. "My previous home in Prabhadevi – a stone's throw away from Lower Parel – was also designed entirely by me." Originally a four-bedroom layout, the apartment now harbours three bedrooms, a media room, a living room with a shared dining corner, a kitchen, a breezy deck, en-suite bathrooms and a powder bathroom - composed for his wife, a son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. His inspiration? "I research and glimpse through magazines and Instagram. Then I ask myself, should I not do something that no one has seen before?" So he chooses to trust his instincts and intel. While also layering the existing canvas with a troupe of unique materials and texture play. Colloquially referred to as "Ramu" by his circle, Ramnathkar was in his early teenage years when he first came to Mumbai from his birthplace in Belgaum to pursue studies at SirJJ. Institute of Applied Art, one of the oldest institutions in the country for fine arts. A happenstance of sorts that decided the course of his life ahead, "When I was about 12 or 13 years old, it was my relative, also an artist, who suggested that I study at J. J. School of Art and move to Mumbai after seeing my drawings." And the rest is history. The home is deliberately planned such in its experience that a sense of rooted familiarity lives on through its rooms and sections despite its anomalous eccentricity. >>

The dining table with porcelain teaware by Pip Studio, Amsterdam faces the kitchen as well as leads to the home bar with a red SMEG coffee machine standing alongside the spirits and a Russian doll-shaped vodka bottle on the sliding counter that effortlessly opens up and closes to blend into the MDF wall as one FACING PAGE A flock of white birds chandelier designed by Ramnathkar and crafted by Shailesh Rajput soars above the rose quartz dining table, also imagined by Ramnathkar and executed by Ronak Jain of Almost Stone becoming the perfect corner at home to gather and share epicurean meals with family and friends







**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT The** arched foyer leads to the many bedrooms with a Globe Light by Ace Lighting casting its glow at the far end. Tiles by Terrazzo India guide the steps across the home; Ramnathkar's life-like statue created by Shashikant Wadke adds a visual commentary in the artistic abode with green armchairs designed by himself and executed locally, paired with striped IKEA cushions; Colours and clean shapes drape the living room with a pink sofa set as the central character alongside other striking elements and the MDF wall by Nilesh Powalkar in the background FACING PAGE The home is dressed in Asian Paints Royale and extends into the media room with an all-blue tint where the artist himself leans on a self-designed console layered with collectibles









Talk about its appearance? "I want to surprise everyone who first sees this home. I want them to feel my presence and the existence of my aesthetics yet be surprised at the outcome." The thing with designing your own house is that you are not bound by anything. Which ironically is also a challenge. "When you are your own client, it could be difficult to please yourself. Because every morning you get up and spot something different. So every day it's the birth of a new idea that you'd want to try."

A rested inspection of the home brings forth some interesting facets. One being the bespoke chandelier pinned above the dining table, dotted with motifs of tiny birds all over. "It was something I had drawn first. After discussions with product designer Shailesh Rajput, he created this lighting for the home." Then of course is Ramnathkar's life-like statue decked with a phone in the hand, which stands in the living room. "Since the camera has become a critical part of mobile phones, I keep shooting my reflection. I have about six thousand images of mine in the gallery. And that's how the idea of this statue came to life." With the soul of an experimentalist and an affinity for technology, Ramnathkar's early years were nurtured by his stints at advertising giants like Enterprise Advertising, Leo Burnett, DDB Mudra and a few years in Dubai, after which he founded Umbrella Design in 2000, an expression of his savvy insights built over the years. He is especially excited to curate his third edition of the Reflections exhibition, which recently enjoyed fanfare at Snowball Studios. He recalls, "Early in my life, I wanted to pursue photography, but it was a very expensive business. So I said, let me do the illustration because the camera costed 3,800 rupees and a pencil was just 25 paisa. Now I want to focus on being a fine artist." Like many instances in our real life, this home defies the logic of the ordinary. "My approach to designing is different since I've not studied interior design. While others have a methodical way of doing things, there is no logic to my process." Thus strokes of pink, blue and gold reign supreme here, emanating the innate warmth of its homeowner, without overshadowing each other. And what comes next from Ramnathkar's hat of ingenuity will be a story for another time.

LEFT TO RIGHT The playful emphasis on pink resurfaces in the primary bedroom's dresser corner punctuated with a glossy pink chair from DEFURN Furniture and a collection of designer handbags dotted on the shelves; The tonal and material palette is a stunning vision in this part of the home that also conceals a walk-in wardrobe merged with the pink wall. A banana silk carpet from Nepal complements the astute glazing of different shades of pink and gold, alongside the materials keenly curated by the artist's wife Smita Ramnathkar **FACING PAGE The primary** bathroom exudes a gilded canvas with flooring and walls by Terrazzo India and sanitary fittings from the Queen's Prime range by Jaquar



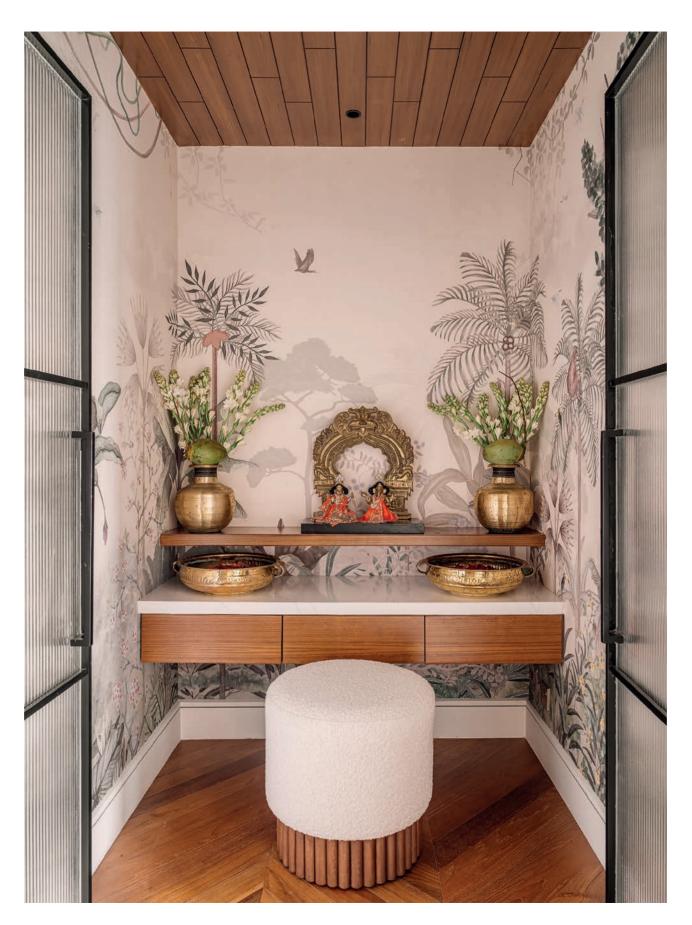






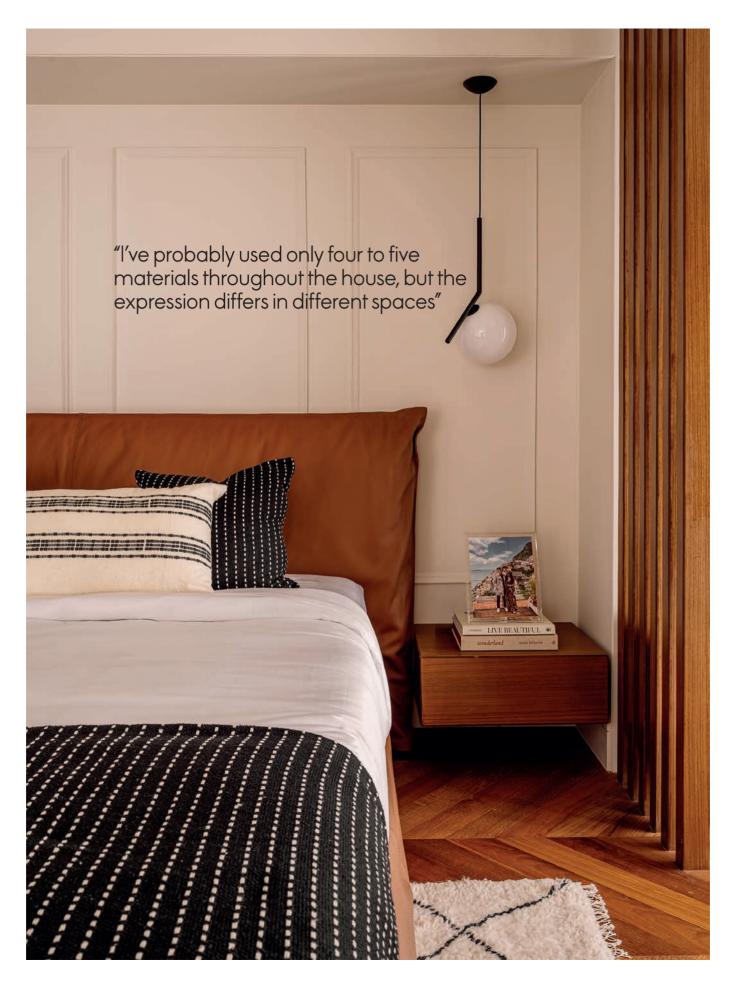


#### **HOME** KOLKATA





# **HOME** KOLKATA The family's canine companion Yuno in the son's bedroom on the 19th floor. The stunning wallpaper by Kalakaari Haath, a chair by Phantom Hands and a side table from Ravi Vazirani Design Studio create a multipurpose cosy nook FACING PAGE Quite the practical space, the son's bedroom makes for a quaint haven with the Piumotto Bed from Pianca, a hanging light by Flos, a rug by Jaipur Rugs and cushions by Craft and Kar CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE





#### **HOME** KOI KATA

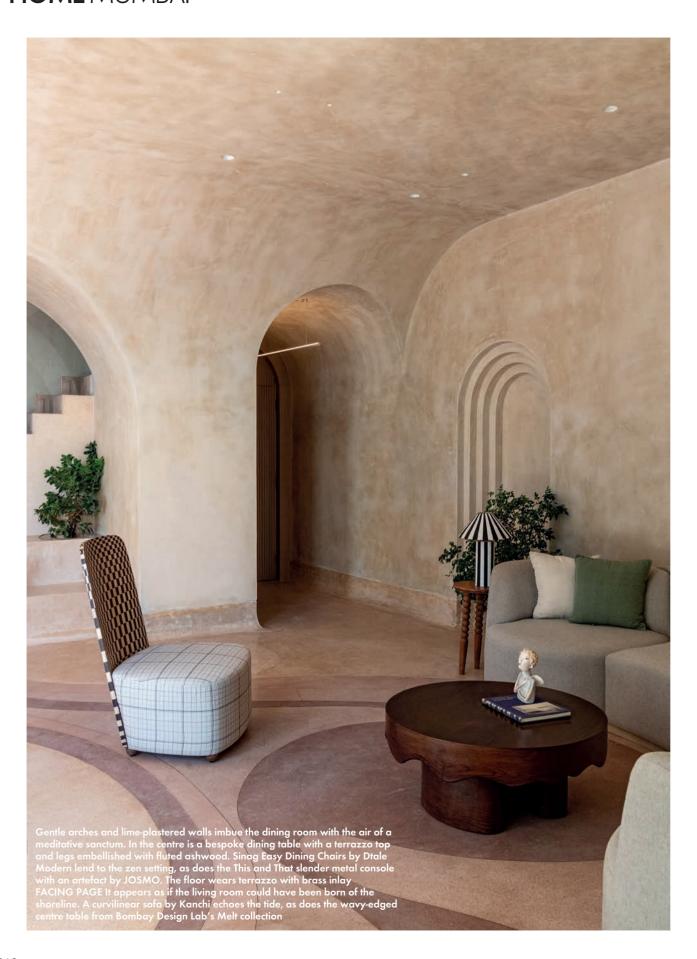
he Sky House in Kolkata is nothing short of every designer's dream. For starters, it is massive -a 6,000 sq ft open-plan, triplex space enabling endless design possibilities. It is also far removed from the chaos of the city by virtue of being situated literally in the sky, on the 18th. 19th and 20th floors. This rare, dreamy space inspired interior stylist and visual conceptualiser, Silki Agrawal to make the sky a vital part of the everyday living experience. Her keen eye for all things beautiful, thoughtfully incorporated functional details and the interior design prowess of her friends Preeti Mahendra and Harleen Kaur have shaped the abode into a stunning haven that the homeowners love and cherish every day. The living room with a bar and open terrace, dining area, kitchen, puja room and guest rooms are housed on the 18th floor. The 19th floor has the master suite with a walk-in closet, a study area, an informal living area and the son's bedroom. On the 20th floor, there is a large terrace with a study and lounge space, which also converts into a yoga room. The space is designed to respect the privacy of a multi-generational family while offering them ample space to spend quality time together.

The owners wanted a home that was calming and zen. "Everything about the house was just perfect for creating this vibe. There was so much natural light, with panoramic views. It almost felt like the sky was just an extension of the house, which is rare in a congested city like Kolkata," Silki shares. She decided to accentuate the already-amazing aspects of the house, adding minimal but impactful design flourishes and material expressions to complement and highlight them. Silki and her team skillfully curated a harmonious colour and material palette throughout the triplex. Neutral tones reign supreme, yet depth, dimension and subtle pops of colour emerge through meticulously chosen accessories and soft furnishings.

"I've probably used only four to five materials throughout the house, but the expression differs in different spaces. It gives the design a cohesive look but doesn't feel monotonous," she adds. There is an abundance of wood in the dwelling, from furniture to flooring, wall cladding and sun-screening partitions. The warmth of wood is offset by the cool elegance of marble, another abundantly used material in the space. Besides, carefully selected mature sculptural plants such as China doll, fiddle fig, *Dracaena draco* and birds-of-paradise add visual interest and colour to various parts of the house, making it feel more lived-in and homely.

Silki had a very particular vision for all the furniture, lighting and accessory pieces she used in the home, social media being a source of inspiration. "I follow several great brands on social media. I started collecting pieces one by one and by the end of the project, everything fell in place. Every piece complements the other as if they were made especially for the Sky House," Silki elaborates. But the home is much more than its aesthetic aura. Functional details like speakers installed in every corner of the house for the music-loving clients, multiple coffee stations and electrical points, a bar that doubles up as a temporary workstation, keyless doors with touch keypads and a concealed home theatre system in the master suite are just a few examples of Silki and her team's commitment to enhancing the quality of everyday life. "Preeti, Harleen and I have all been hands-on homemakers, so we knew that the last thing one wants is a beautiful house that isn't intuitively designed. Our years of combined experience and caring for our families' needs helped us create a thoughtful home without compromising on beauty. So the Sky House has everything one needs and then some more," Silki explains.

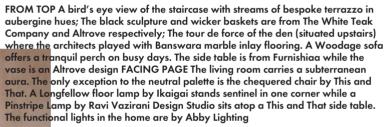
So what did the clients think of the finished project when they saw it for the first time? "Let's just say the design is a very apt reflection of the well-travelled, discerning homeowners who've continued to add their personal touch since moving in. The mid-century modern style with European and Indian influence, chevron tiles, natural materials, endless views of the sky and functional beauty of calming spaces perfectly encapsulate their aspirations for the house. What's not to love?" Silki sums it up and we wholeheartedly agree!













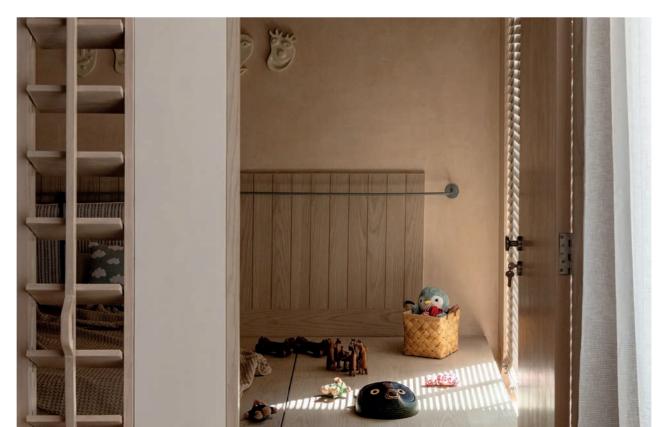








FROM TOP With beige used across walls, counters and tiles, the kitchen cedes the spotlight to the views. Terrazzo with brass inlay enhances the floor. The tiles are from Piccolo's Mosaics series; The floors are finished in terrazzo with brass inlay; Wall art by Nimrat Kaur Narang in the kid's room peeks out into the corridor FACING PAGE Spherical IKEA lights masquerade as art in the living room. A scalloped cornice-style motif, sculpted with Plaster of Paris and finished with lime plaster, gives the wall a playful spin





he thing about sea-facing abodes, as some designers might argue, is that attempting to equal or exceed the view is a rather impractical folly. So impractical, that when it came to designing a coastal eyrie in Mumbai's Lower Parel, architects Anand Deshmukh and Chetan Lahoti of Pune-based multidisciplinary practice Mind Manifestation decided to simply opt out of the said zero-sum game by extending the view indoors. "We imagined the interior as a sun-warmed beach, like something the tide could have washed ashore," says Anand. True to the pair's vision, the 45th-storey, 3,000 sa ft duplex seemingly levitates between the sky and sea, somehow, at once, evading the currents of heightened activity and existing in a slipstream of its own. There's a subterranean quality to the material palette – think floaty hues, earthy textures, wooden decks à la a beachside boardwalk – as if the sea itself swallowed the home whole and surfaced it back to life.

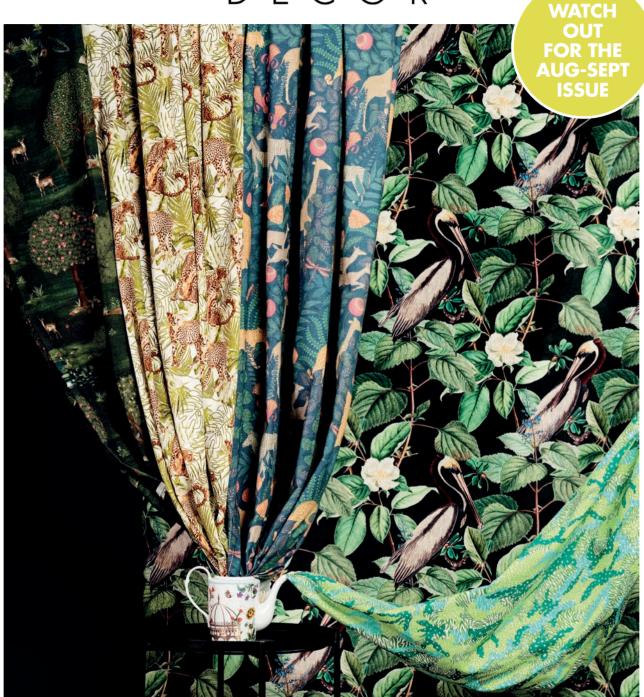
For the homeowners, entrepreneur Vedansh Gupta and his wife Priya, a fashion designer, the transformation of the home with four bedrooms and five bathrooms was rooted in a plural sense of purpose. Creating a beautiful interior was one thing but as parents of twin toddlers and a rambunctious pup, maintaining it was quite another. This meant only one thing: coming up with clever substitutes to conventional solutions, starting with the floor, which the duo gave pride of place with sweeps of sun-kissed terrazzo to eliminate the need for any spill-prone, dandercollecting rugs (a mandate they were particular about). Equally important, if not more, was the safe (and strategic) placement of furniture and easily cleanable surfaces. Be that as it may, nothing here feels static. There's a sense of fluidity between spaces, a legerdemain the architects achieved by enhancing volumes in one way or another. Entrances and alcoves were softened with curves and arches. The walls were calmed with smooth lime plaster. Treads and risers received dazzling streams of terrazzo. Even the terrace, part outdoors, was treated with the same shimmering stone as the interior. The furniture wasn't exempt from the deepwater design ethos, as evidenced by the wavy-edged centre table and elliptical side tables in the living room, designed by Bombay Design Lab and This and That respectively. Sea-inspired tidal contours grace the dining area too. In a move that might seem counterintuitive but which the architects confirm is patently not, the layout on the lower floor was divided into equal parts interior and exterior. Not that you'd care to notice thanks to meandering spaces that spill onto either side of the threshold. The triple-height terrace, driftwood-style wooden flooring and bouquet of al fresco dining spaces are each a case in point — there's no saying where the indoors meet the outdoors or whether they do at all.

If the lower floor is the seashore, the upper level is the briny deep. It's calmer, bluer, quieter and as Anand puts a finer point on the subject, "it feels like it's underwater." Meditative it may be but it's also highly functional, with three bedrooms, each outfitted in mellow hues and a den that double-hats as a study. Admittedly for the architects, it wasn't all plain sailing, not least the triple-height terrace, which, when combined with the sprawling living areas, for better or worse, seemed to appear a tad too vast. So followed an exercise in taming its proportions. In came tall plants. Up went artworks. Down went flagstone flooring. There were functional considerations too, such as ensuring proper ventilation and adequate weatherproofing while maintaining a well-ordered visual and physical transition between spaces. The result is a space that lends itself to the view on either side of the threshold and gives itself and its inhabitants enough room to breathe – a rare luxury in a megalopolis like Mumbai. But, as Anand points out, the real luxury is that there's room for yet more breathing, yet more growing, yet more living. "It was designed to evolve with them," says Chetan about the abode, which he and Anand tailored to adapt with the family, not just in this season of life, but also in all the seasons after.



The triple-height terrace is characterised by driftwood-inspired decks with Bambufy cladding, terrazzo flooring, planters and cosy al fresco spaces. Plants from Corona Greens inspire a mini Eden FACING PAGE A river of terrazzos appear to flow out of the living room and rise up the stairs





#### FOCUS ON FABRICS

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE Don't fret about the thread count of your sheets. Rather, countdown the days until our next issue, brimming with luxurious swathes of fabrics, rugs and textiles to drape over your home or lay under gleefully as you catch up on your Zzzs.

#### FOCUS ON BATHROOMS

### E L L E DECOR FOCUS

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TREND AND STYLE DIRECTION BY YASHIKA PUNJABEE TEXT BY PAAKHI BARANWAL PRODUCED BY JUHI AGARWAL & APEKSHA RAO











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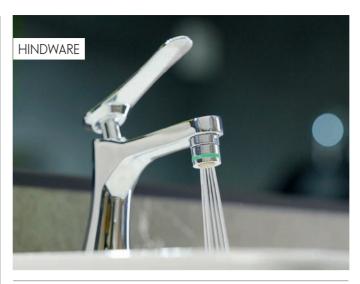


1. "WALLOW" BATHTUB IN LITHEOZ CONCRETE by Nuance Studio 2. "PULSIFY S" CHROME SHOWER FIXTURE by Hansgrohe 3. "ANIMA" MARBLE BATH ACCESSORIES designed by Yabu Pushelberg for Salvatori 4. "7.0" MELAMINE CABINET designed by Metrica for Falper 5. "ANTAO" BLACK CERAMIC TOILET designed by Kaschkasch for Villeroy & Boch 6. "ORIGINI" BRASS TAPS IN SHADES #726, #275, #845 by Gessi, all prices on request 7. "LIQUID" ILLUMINATED MIRROR designed by Tom Dixon for VitrA, ₹1,53,610



#### FOCUS ON BATHROOMS





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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP KIDS THEMED HI-FLOW DIVERTER, HAND SHOWER, BASIN SPOUT DIVERTER, HEALTH FAUCET, TABLE TOP, WALL CLOSET, PNEUMATIC CISTERN by Bathsense Canvas "ROOT" FLUSH PLATES by VitrA, both prices on request "PENDANT" CHAMPAGNE BRONZE SHOWER HEAD part of the Pendant Collection by Delta Faucet Company India Pvt Ltd, ₹1,29,600 For details, see Address Book

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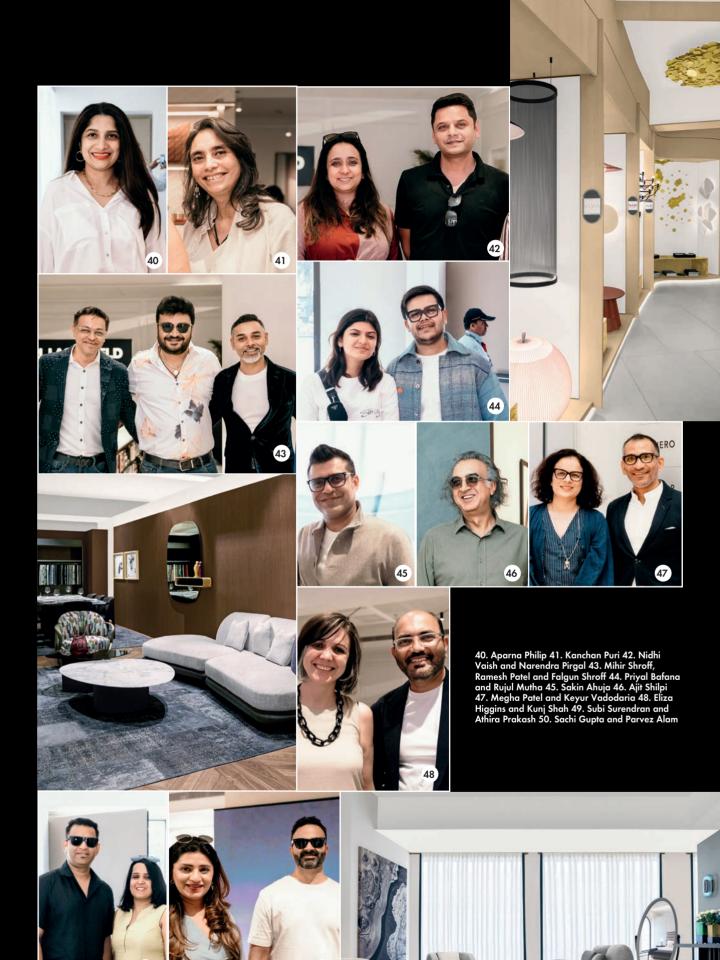














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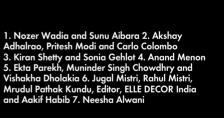






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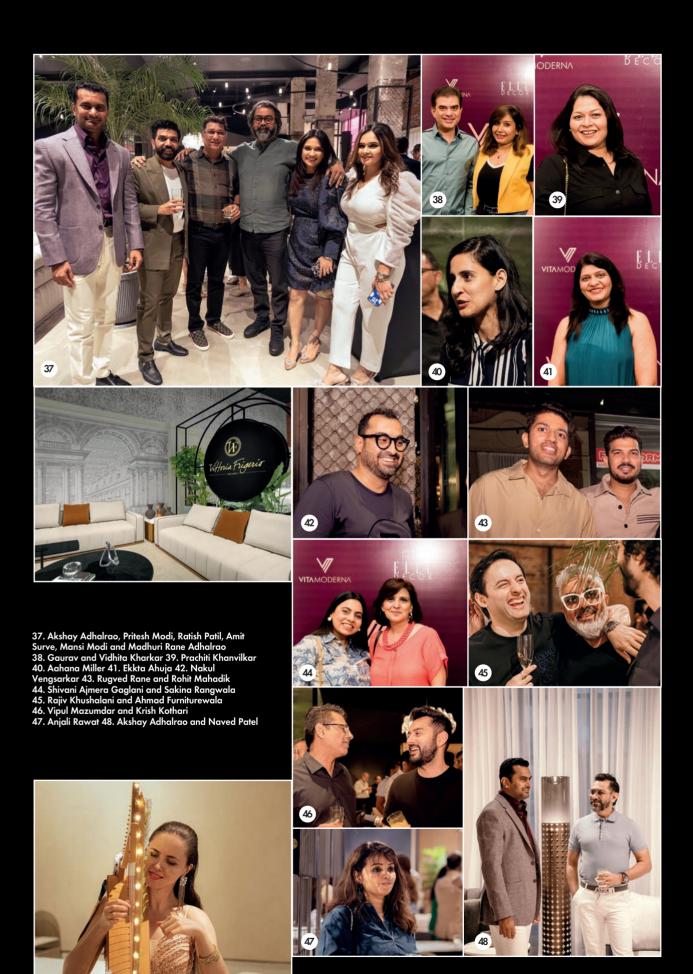












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- 1. Place of Publication: Mumbai
- 2. Periodicity: Bi-monthly
- 3. Printer's Name: Takesh Mathur for Ogaan Media Pvt Ltd Whether Citizen of India: Yes Address: 765, Pocket-E, Mayur Vihar, Delhi 110091
- 4. Publisher's Name: Takesh Mathur for Oagan Media Pvt Ltd Whether Citizen of India: Yes Address: 765, Pocket-E, Mayur Vihar, Delhi 110091
- 5. Editor's Name: Mrudul Pathak Kundu Whether Citizen of India: Yes Address: 701, A-Wing, Yamuna, Vasant Sagar, Thakur Village, Kandivali (E) Mumbai 400101
- 6. Name and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partner or share holders holding more than one per cent of the total capital
  - 1. M/s Oggan India Pvt. Ltd. H-2, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi-110016
  - 2. Ms. Kavita Bhartia 2 Amrita Shergill Marg, New Delhi -3

I, Takesh Mathur, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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