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IN CONVERSATION

Manish Kumat, Founder and Principal Architect,
Manish Kumat Design Cell

INTERIORS

Indore Residency Club, Manish Kumat Design Cell
Naked, MuseLAB
The Mill, Quirk Studio
Joshi House, Atelier Ashiesh Shah

A&B



Shaw Contract Launches People Together Planet Forever

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[Shaw Contract Sustainability People + Planet](#)



People Together, Planet Forever feature film. Overview of our desire to create a just and fair future for all. ■



**KYA AB AAYI
GUCHCHA SINGH KE
OFFICE KI BAARI?**



One prized possession and many evil eyes ready to pounce. Can Guchcha Singh protect valuables kept in his office, as securely as his home? Watch 'QUEEN'S NECKLACE', the next in the series of digital films, that highlights the smart & strong, Ozone Digital Furniture Locks.



Colston Bathware Launches First Luxury Design Centre in Mumbai 2021

COLSTON®



Located in Shakti Mills, Colston's first Design Centre is a sprawling and interactive luxury zone that lets visitors experience their innovations up close and personal.

4 India's leading luxury bathware brand Colston launched its Design Centre within the design-rich locality of Shakti mills in the heart of Mumbai. The flagship store located in Mumbai is an addition to their existing experience centre in Delhi and a symbol of their indispensable presence in the world of luxury bathware. The brand also built on its legacy of constant innovation by unveiling a new collection of the De Banos series bath products, and a range of designer bathtubs and jacuzzis at the inauguration.

Colston prides itself on combining luxury with intelligent design, and the Design Centre is inspired by the exquisite Palladian style of architecture from Italy, and includes eight different Bathroom Design lounges that replicate different themes and typologies of the Colston brand. Some of the highlights of the Centre are the Swimming Pool Zone, the Live

Shower Walk, and the High Street Display Lane. Other stand out areas include the interactive conference room and Colston meeting lounge, both integrated into the Centre's design.

"The Design Centre is created as an experiential space it's a perfect platform to exhibit the Colston's Futuristic and advance approach in Bathware designs and technology," said Mr. Anil Ahuja, Managing Director of Colston Bath & Spa Pvt. Ltd. "It has an expansive floor plan with multiple functioning areas that showcase some of our most popular innovations and products. Colston is constantly innovating in the field of luxury and wellness design, and the Design Centre lets visitors immerse themselves into the complete Colston experience." ■

For further details, please contact:

Website: <https://www.colstonconcepts.com/>

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Joshi House by Ashiesh Shah stands in a chic Mumbai neighbourhood and presents a minimalistic Rajasthani haveli with a modern flair.

Cover: © MuseLAB

'Impact by Honeywell' Launches AC Controller, AI-Based Video Surveillance System, and DIY Connected Smoke Detector

Three products developed locally to serve India's growing mid-market segment; these and other offerings available on leading e-commerce platforms



Impact by Honeywell, a brand created by the Fortune 100 company to cater to the growing mid-market segment in India, announced the

launch of three locally developed products to solve the unique problems of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country. These "Make in India" offerings include an AC controller that can save up to 30% in energy costs, an AI-based video surveillance offering, and a DIY connected smoke detector. The brand is also expanding its reach through leading e-commerce platforms for these plug-and-play connected products and solutions.

Engineered in India, Impact by Honeywell's product portfolio has been designed to increase productivity, enhance safety, reduce costs, and enhance compliance for SME customers in and beyond tier-1 and tier-2 cities.

"India is a global center for innovation, production and sustainable growth. Since its launch, Impact by Honeywell has created a robust product pipeline by leveraging Honeywell's local engineering talent in design, hardware, and app-based software capabilities," said Ashish Modi, President, Honeywell Building Technologies, Asia. "The

depth of our engineering experience in India provides us with an understanding of local requirements and has helped us create a local-for-local manufacturing ecosystem. We are excited about the strong demand for our products and look forward to continuing to expand our offerings to serve our customers in India."

New Product Introductions

The Impact AC controller is a battery-operated, DIY offering created for small- and mid-sized commercial buildings. These categories of buildings conventionally do not rely on centralized air conditioning for their cooling needs, typically using remote-controlled split, cassette and window air conditioners (ACs) that require human intervention to turn on or off. The AC Controller ensures that ACs are not left running in unoccupied cabins, meeting rooms, conference rooms. AC is the main power consumer in small- and mid- sized buildings. Honeywell's offering can potentially save businesses up to 30% in energy costs.

Impact by Honeywell's portfolio is spread across building technologies and safety and productivity solutions. Since its launch, Impact by Honeywell has developed a strong portfolio of products and solutions that serve SME customers. ■

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visit <https://www.honeywell.com/in/en/impactbyhoneywell>

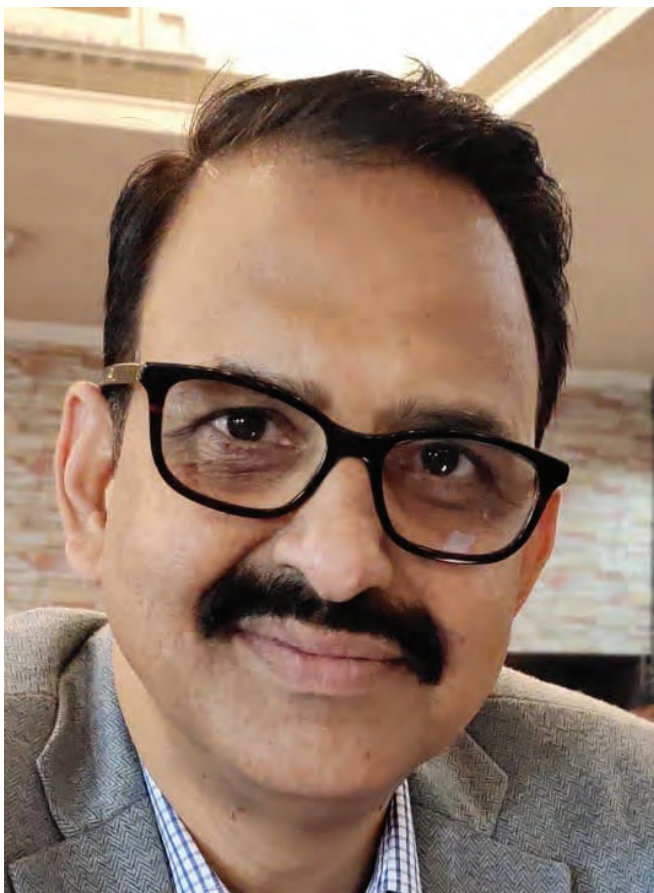
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Manufacturing a product for the future



In conversation with Mr. Shekhar Chandra Sati, President- Sales & Marketing, MDF & Flooring, Greenpanel Industries Limited. Through this chat, he sheds light on their product innovation outcomes, its USPs and their research and development initiatives which have led to cutting edge products. Greenpanel is India's largest wood panel manufacturer, manufacturing MDF, Plywood, Veneer, Doors and Flooring.

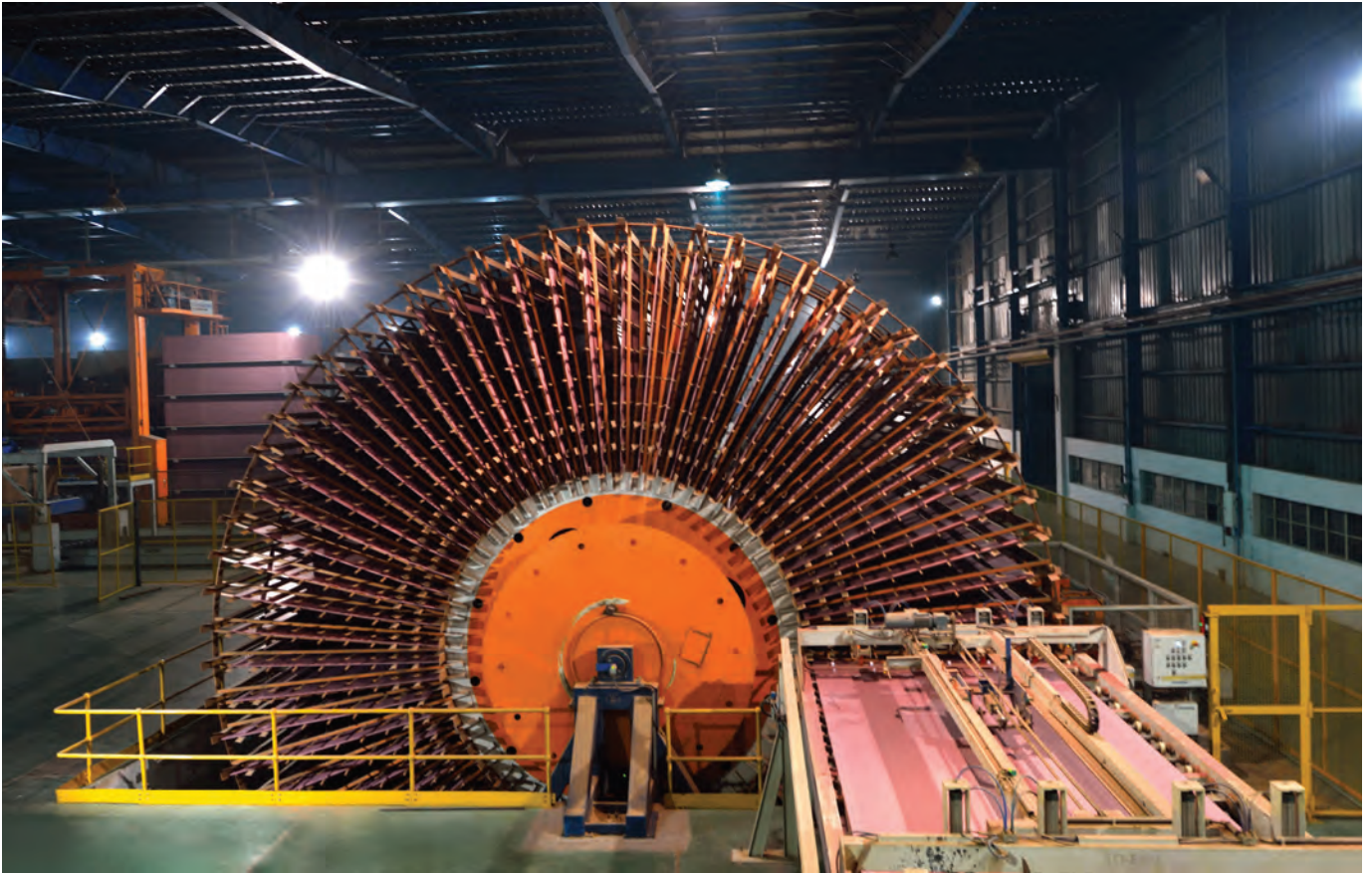
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Mr. Shekhar Chandra Sati, President - Sales & Marketing, MDF & Flooring
Greenpanel Industries Limited

Greenpanel has always advocated the culture of innovation in all their products. Can you share the latest product innovation introduced by you in the recent years?

Innovation is the core of our thinking at GREENPANEL. The use of best in class German technology and being the pioneers of continuous pressing line, ensures that all our boards meet the best of Indian and international standards. The fully automated quality control systems ensure consistent and world class quality – batch after batch. The Steinemann 14 Head Sanding Machine generates a superior surface and the Grecon Moisture analyser is then used for matt furnishing and uniform moisture distribution throughout the panel



(to avoid warping and bending). Grecon Stenograph does an in-line monitoring of density profile and the cooling wheel is used for conditioning of boards before storage and sanding. The Lucci System is used for automated material movement and stocking and improves the bonding and enhances the strength of the board with IMAL Integrated Resin Dosing System. Valmet Chip Washer facilitates unique chip wash with high pressure water spray for perfectly cleaned chips. A biogas energy plant has been employed for the safety of our environment.

All these technologies ensure that our final product meets benchmarked Indian and international standards. Pre-laminated MDF is one such innovative product in

our offering, which saves a lot of time and efforts. It is available in all varieties of MDF. In our flooring, we use patented Permaclick technology which makes the flooring dust and water resistant. In the plywood category we are constantly innovating and have some exceptional quality products such as Greenpanel Club Plywood, BWP Plywood, Gold Plywood & Accurate plywood. Due to BWP synthetic raisins in our doors don't warp or bend. They are also wider in stile, so that they can be easily customized.

Sustainability is the core for all the companies. How is Greenpanel adhering to it while delivering cutting edge products?

Greenpanel is India's largest wood panel manufacturer. We manufacture MDF,



plywood, veneer, doors and flooring. MDF is our flagship product and is environment-friendly. The product is made from quick-growing hardwood species that can be regularly replenished and take only a few years to mature. The business model, as a result, represents a win-win for our planet, farmers, manufacturers and users. We truly believe that in a world where a larger number of commercial and residential buildings are getting rated for their environment compliance, there will be a larger use of MDF. And with this background, one can pre-empt that the greater the commitment to environment responsibility, the bigger the market for MDF.

At Greenpanel, we are engaged in manufacturing a product for the future. MDF Board is engineered to ensure an efficient and consistent density that makes it durable and eco-friendly. This explains the extensive popularity of MDF in a number of countries and we believe that in India the consumption transition will accelerate, thus widening the market for us at Greenpanel. We are quite popular in the area of building and construction, residential and office furniture, wall panelling, modular kitchens, doors and wood floors. Greenpanel MDF is easier to rout, carve and finish. This makes it perfect for use in contemporary furniture.

Research & Development is key to maintaining competitive advantage and enhance product quality. Can you elaborate on the steps being taken by your company in this regard?

Greenpanel has a world-class laboratory where we are constantly innovating. They key highlights of this are:

- Fibercam equipment: For fibre measurement & analysis. Long fibres enhance the mechanical and physical properties of the board
- UV Spectro photometer and perforator: For testing the formaldehyde emission content of the MDF as per Indian and international standards.
- Universal Testing Machine: To test the mechanical property of the wood

What are the USP's of GreenPanel floors which makes it superior to other products?

Greenpanel has something to offer for everyone. Within each category, our products surpass the benchmarked BIS standards. Our Club Grade water resistant boards ensure that your furniture is warp-free and bend-free even in high-humidity and moisture prone areas such as bathrooms and kitchens. Additionally, we provide a 5-year warranty period on the same. In our flooring, we use patented Permaclick technology which renders the floor dust and water resistant.

How can Greenpanel products help architects and interior designers to design better?

Greenpanel products have been helping architects and interior designers through their superior range and quality of products. The unique selling propositions of our products are higher density vis a vis local plywood, ease of applications, cost effectiveness, highly refined aesthetics and superior finish. All our products are extremely durable and resistant to termite, borer and fungus. They allow for quick installation and conversion and are environment friendly and sustainable as they made with harvested plants. ■

Kaunteya Unveils Bespoke Tableware Series - Dasara: The Royal Legacy



Luxury tableware brand Kaunteya unveils a new collection of bespoke tableware 'Dasara – The Royal Legacy', just in time for the upcoming Navaratri or Dussehra, or Dasara as celebrated down south.

The Kaunteya collections are a grand, and nuanced celebration of Indian heritage, culture and mythology. And the Dasara collection is no exception. The incredibly breathtaking Indo-Saracenic architecture of Mysore Palace is the inspiration behind the Dasara Series.

Explore the palace, impressively painted in turquoise blue and decorated with intricate flower motifs and gold details, through this collection. As you place it on your table, you will be enveloped by the royalty of Mysore in all its glory. It is a truly elevating experience.

As a 400-year-old-legacy, Mysore celebrates the festival of Dussehra, or Dasara as it is called here, by displaying the state sword, weapons, elephants and horses in royal procession. It is presided over by the king of Mysore in an elegantly carved royal chariot, which is the showstopper of the day. With Kaunteya's

Dasara collection, you can relish the regal life, every day.

About Kaunteya

Inspired by Indian mythology and its glorious heritage, Kaunteya presents bespoke tableware that brings a regal touch to your everyday life. Each piece from Kaunteya reflects an Indian story in all its splendor. Each of Kaunteya collections takes the incredible beauty of Indian art, culture, history and mythology to the world, and enriches it with its enchanting allure and depth. ■

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Essentia Environments Unveils Elegant Bedrooms



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India's premier design and build company, Essentia Environments has unveiled a collection of elegant bedrooms. Employing neutral palettes and minimal design, they are conceived to evoke delightful calming environments.

Playing with their signature neutral palettes that brim with textural and tonal brilliance, Essentia Environments layers mesmerizing shades of greys, beiges and whites to create charming and restful spaces. Upholstered headboards and wall panels add warmth and coziness to the luxury bedrooms.

Custom furniture from the Essentia Environments stable adds the desired style. Non-fussy and clean, the spaces immediately

fill you with calm and a soothing air. Beautiful accent lighting enhances the beauty of the spaces, while specially commissioned artworks add just the right doses of colour and character. ■

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At the confluence of nature and culture

Manish Kumat, Founder and Principal Architect at Manish Kumat Design Cell speaks to IAB about his deep-rooted inspirations from nature and culture and how a holistically sustainable approach has driven his practice since its inception.

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Sustainability has never been more in focus than it has today. What are some of the practices Manish Kumat Design Cell (MKDC) follows in all its projects? Are there any trends / habits across the design and construction practices in your region that have evolved in light of the sustainable development goals?

A designer is a thinking individual, always at turmoil within. In search of inspiration, I have always asked 'why' during the journey and pondered over the evolving answers within. This resulted in a balance, or so called fusion in my design. We made a conscious effort to incorporate green within our buildings in the form of reinterpreted courtyards, cross ventilation, use of local materials, promotion of vernacular arts and crafts of our country, since the very beginning of our practice. This constant process of trying to



A handcrafted door is complemented by customized handles that were crafted on site using leftover wood.

redefine modern contemporary and fusing it with green practices along with the use of Indian arts and crafts forms has resulted in an interesting definition, which I prefer to call Indian Contemporary Design.

At MKDC, we are constantly working on reinterpreting courtyards, irrespective of the plot sizes. Apart from this, we also try to provide sufficient openings that generate ample cross-ventilation and flood our spaces with natural light to the extent of minimizing the use of electrical lighting as far as possible during the daytime. Light is the essence and the future of design. At MKDC, we dedicate a significant amount of time, between the finalizing of the design concept and the commissioning of the

working drawings, on carefully crafting the movement of light within the building.

We are also working on adapting an age-old technique of rainwater conservation, via custom designed tanks, to generate drinking water throughout the year. We are extremely delighted that this exercise has yielded positive results as I have personally experienced the freshness of this water myself. We are now encouraging our clients to incorporate this concept in their residences. This exercise will also generate greywater for landscape maintenance and flushing without the use of chemicals. Through this, we hope to save approximately 1 million litres of water annually on our projects.



A terracotta mural forms the backdrop for decorative landscape in an open-to-sky courtyard.

Is your product design vertical an outcome of material repurposing and / or employing local craftsmen that allows for creative design detailing? Do you have any signature MKDC details / items that trademark all your projects?

Product design for me is an outcome of my day to day observations. A designer, by profession, is seeing the world around by travelling and observing. Several design inspirations come from these very experiences. The mind of a designer is wired in a different way, to constantly assimilate the information, and then to convert it into a feasible, aesthetic and highly functional spatial product.

At MKDC, we infuse all our projects with some of our trademark elements that have stood the test of time. We pioneered the use of 16mm brite bar for safety window grills. This frame does not have any screw and is directly fixed into the masonry during construction. Now, the whole state is using the same design which we developed almost 20 years ago. For interior doors, we use factory finished 38mm solid flush doors from Century Greenply, which become 46mm thick after the application of veneer on both faces. These doors have stood the test of time and have not bulged during the monsoons and the lock body fits perfectly. Another trademark element of



A Lippan art wall in the lobby area of a residential project.

our residential interior design is the wood-infilled aluminum piping that forms the skeletal framework of kitchen counters. Not only does this ensure structural integrity but it also helps to keep the kitchen waterproof, termite-proof and modular to construct.

Our hath yoga inspired door handles were sculpted along the various postures of the Suryanamaskar. The idea took birth when I noticed the yoga themed sculptures at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and we adapted the scale to include as many positions as possible in one space. This series of aluminum-die cast handles complements wooden doors across the Indore Residency Club, one of our recently

projects in Madhya Pradesh. We are now in the process of scaling this design by reaching out to manufacturers in the interior design and decor space to mass produce these handles for a percentage of the sales.

Walls constitute a significant surface area of any interior design project and invariably, are decorated by widely marketed artefacts or wallpapers that are mass produced. As an authentic alternative to this, we introduce local artisans in this aspect of our design as well and strongly advocate an elegant incorporation of regional Indian art styles to keep our cultural legacy alive. So far, we have employed terracotta murals from West Bengal for large surface areas,



The MKDC office building was awarded the SVA-GRIHA Star, a Platinum rating by IGBC and an EDGE Green Building Certification by IFC for the smallest green office building in the country.

Madhubani artwork from Orissa, Lippan artwork from Gujarat, Thikri from Rajasthan and Kalamkari from Andhra Pradesh.

What role does art and culture play in your projects?

As mentioned above, arts and crafts play a significant role in our interior design philosophy. MKDC is constantly collaborating with local and regional artists across India in the endeavor to tactfully employ their craftsmanship for furnishing our contemporary interiors with a traditional twist.

The intelligent adaptation of regional artistic influences in residential interior

design goes a long way in establishing a sense of place and evokes an emotional connect through a personal experience. Bespoke elements with a strong tactile experience are more likely to evoke these feelings rather than mass produced wallpapers or off-the-shelf items. This also allows clients to feel more involved in the process and it excites them to experience first hand, the process of crafting on site. The whole process is very rewarding to the artisans, the designer and the client. The future of design lies in handcrafted and handmade items. Our designs are constantly working towards seamlessly including as many of these elements as possible with a strong focus on functionality.

How has the pandemic influenced your already sustainability and nature-focused design practice?

The pandemic has reminded us how vulnerable we all really are. It has put the world and our lives in perspective and it has been a truly humbling experience. The importance of a home has never been more apparent. However, through these months, a lot more people have become design-aware and experienced the power of good design and how exactly it impacts one's lifestyle. Now, everybody has an opinion on it and how it should work. This involvement and expectation will significantly impact the design process and what's expected of us. Given the amount of time people spend at home now, nature and sustainability have also gained a lot more importance than before and clients are now a lot more conscious and aware about what they want.

Well-traveled and well-exposed clients especially are demanding refined and aesthetic sustainable design solutions. The lockdown also emphasized the logistical and practical benefits of 'Make in India.' With perpetual uncertainty looming over, several local manufacturers experienced a boom in demand and received a platform to showcase their offerings. Commercial design has also experienced a paradigm shift in planning with mandated requirements for a quarantine room at the entrance, a medically equipped guest room (which can be easily converted into a semi private ward) and ample storage

space to stock supplies for a rainy day. For residential properties, people are looking to scale upwards and shift from an apartment to a home or to a larger apartment. Reverse migration has taken place in cases where a larger space is unaffordable. All these factors collectively have a domino effect on the real estate landscape of a region.

What are the challenges and opportunities in building - modern and complex yet resource efficient structures?

The benefits of a resource efficient building are many such as, healthier air quality, greater natural daylight, optimum use of water and electricity and improved health and wellbeing of inhabitants.

On the other hand, challenges are faced simultaneously while building a sustainable building. The main challenge is that, there is very limited awareness among citizens. A very large segment of Indian users is unaware of green buildings and its enduring benefits even today. Also, users who know a little about green buildings perceive it to be an expensive and financially unachievable option. The equipment and products used in the construction of green buildings are significantly more expensive in comparison to the conventional ones. Another significant factor holding back green building adoption in India is a lack of skilled experts and manpower as well as beneficial government policies & incentives that promote such buildings. ■

A new jewel in the crown

With equal regard to legacy, nature and sustainability, the 135-year-old Indore Residency Club welcomed a new block to its premises designed by Manish Kumat Design Studio. This new structure employs a similar material palette with an artistic twist and has been planned efficiently to reduce energy consumption.

*Text: Sailee Bhandarkar-Correa
Images: Manish Kumat Design Cell*

As a consequence of the East India Company's presence, clubs and club culture in India were born around the 1870s. Shortly after, the Indore Residency Club (IRC) was established in 1896 and was home, exclusively, to British officers and influential Indians at the time. Formerly known as the Indore Boat Club, this well balanced blend of brick and nature is located along the banks of the Khan river in Indore, Madhya Pradesh and sits on a 2-acre site in the heart of the city. Manish Kumat Design Cell (MKDC) was brought on board to add a new age extension to this club and infuse new life into the existing

built form while retaining the old-worldly charm of IRC's legacy.

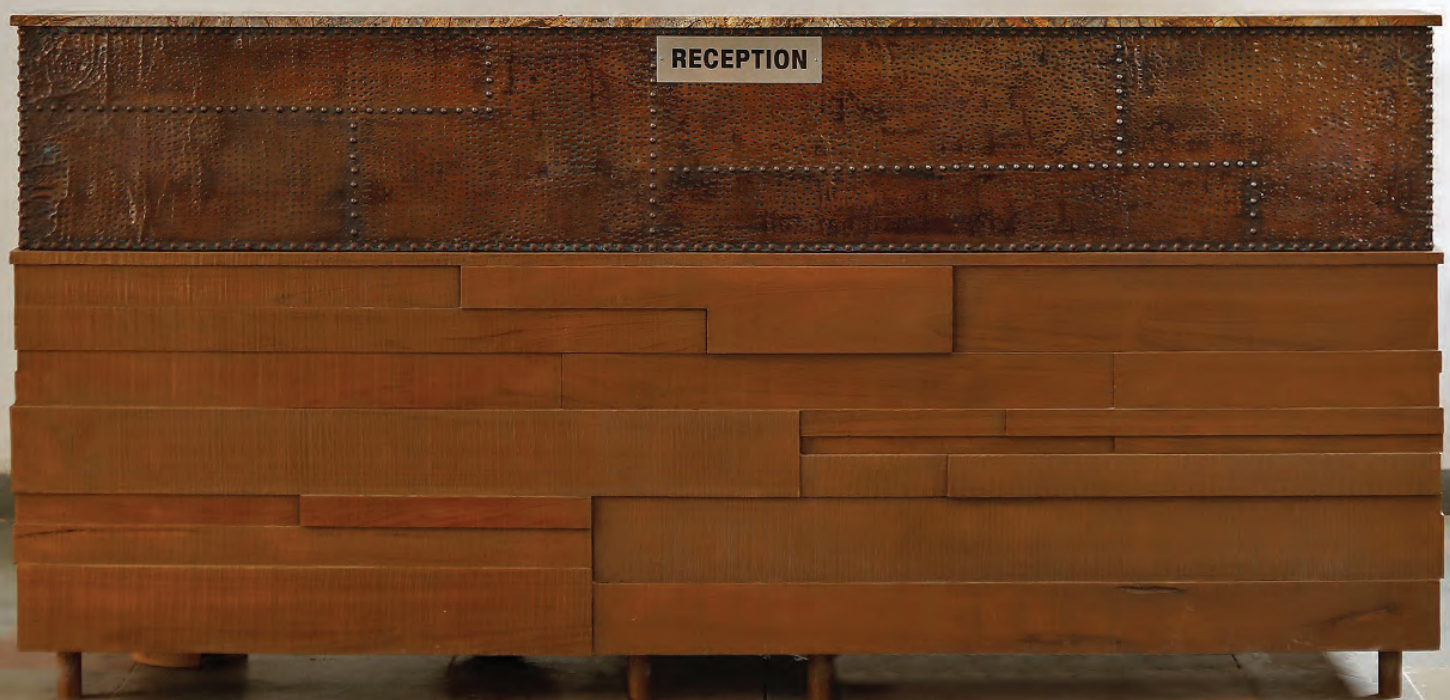
After passing through the entrance canopy, the building welcomes visitors into a double-heightened foyer that extends into an open-to-sky courtyard and is flanked by the bar and restaurant on the right and a staircase on the left. The first floor comprises a reading lounge and a multipurpose hall well-suited for yoga and events alike while the second floor terrace makes for a charming rooftop dining area. The terrace has also been fitted with solar panels to reduce dependence on external energy consumption.



The logo is a circular emblem featuring a laurel wreath. In the center, the letters 'I' and 'RC' are prominently displayed, with 'I' above 'RC'. Small circular motifs are visible on the sides of the wreath.

Indore Residency Club

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The reception desk at the Indore Residency Club.



Lush landscapes spread across the club compound.



The new form is heavily inspired by the existing buildings of the club.



The entrance of the new block has been designed akin to the existing block.



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The double-heighted entrance foyer has been finished in Kota stone flooring.



The restaurant welcomes ample daylight.



The mural along the staircase wall draws inspiration from the emblematic Rajwada elevations.

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The open-to-sky courtyard illuminates and ventilates the interior areas of the new building.

This ground + 2 structure envelops the courtyard at the centre of the layout and brings in ample natural light and ventilation, thus further reducing the need for energy consumption via artificial lighting by 85%. Pebbled flooring and jharoka shaped niches in the exposed brick wall of the courtyard subtly reinforce elements of the region's traditional architecture and add splashes of colour and texture to the building's tactile experience.

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True to MKDC's nature-first ethos, one of the key points of this project was the relocation of a dozen mature trees on this lush green site under expert guidance. With a minimally invasive approach to the built form, a pre-independence load bearing structure was painstakingly restored. The new block draws inspiration from the old block's colour palette and silhouettes and provides an elegant and functional design upgrade to the premises.



A pitched roof finished in Mangalore roof tiles delivers a similar arrival experience for the new building.

Similar to the old block, the entrance to the new block has been articulated with a pitched roof constructed using a wooden truss and traditional Mangalore roof tiles. "The tiles were also matched with the existing adjacent building to keep a sense of continuity, exuding grandeur and keeping the feel of the heritage building intact," adds Manish Kumat, Founder and Principal Architect, MKDC. ■

FACT FILE

Project name	: Indore Residency Club
Project location	: Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India
Architect's Firm	: Manish Kumat Design Cell
Principal Designer	: Manish Kumat
Project Team	: Structure- O.P Tiwari
Architect	: Shilpa Bhawe
Interior Designer	: Preeti Mangal
Site Coordinator	: Adil Marfatia
Total Site Area	: 10 Acres
Total Built-up Area	: 15,166 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2019

The humble abode

This hyper-minimalist apartment in Mumbai is MuseLAB's response to a simple brief that was inspired by Philip Johnson's Glass House. This 'Naked' bachelor pad, that has been aptly christened in spirit of its feel, comprises furniture that manifests as architectural pieces for the home and has been finished in various materials that add to the tactile experience of this house. Ample natural light highlights textures across these contiguous spaces and subtly punctuates the blurry boundaries of the various areas of this home.

Text: Sallee Bhandarkar-Correa

Images: Sameer Tawde

Drawings: MuseLAB

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The sleeping area as seen from the kitchen.



The living room and cooking space as seen from the sleeping space.



Exposed conduits on the ceiling end in downlighters from LightTexture.

Naked by MuseLAB is a literally seamless fusion of two one-bedroom units at The Trees by Godrej in Vikhroli, Mumbai. The minimalist approach for this home resulted in the complete elimination of all internal walls to create one well-illuminated volume that offered all the necessary privacy one requires and presented a clutter-free and elegant lifestyle solution by means of its open-plan layout. All the spaces of this transcendental bachelor pad are oriented towards the large windows which frame expanse views of the cityscape against a hillock and bring in oodles of natural light in every space.

The entrance to the apartment lies at the centre of the home. The main door swings open into the living area that offers sprawling views of the surroundings and creates an experiential buffer between the sleeping space on the left and the cooking and dining areas on the right. The living area acts as a welcoming gallery that frames views of the surrounding natural landscapes and adorns a tasteful mix of functional and sculptural furniture. Autumn, a pure wool hand-knotted carpet by Cocoon Fine Rugs lies at the heart of this room, under the architectural Bloom coffee table, and together they are surrounded by



The 'Naked' house is a combination of two 1-bedroom apartments.



An axonometric view of the apartment.



Natural light floods the entire apartment during daytime.

IKEA's Soderhamn sofa that blends into this neutral envelop, a pair of the Easy Armchairs by Phantom Hands and Bent, MuseLAB's very own sleek and black metal chaise. As the epicentre of the home, the living room is an amalgamation of various materials that, together, add a rich combination of textures to this largely monochrome house. "We demolished all walls to create one contiguous space sprinkled with the bare minimum furniture to create a galerie de sculptures with no patterns or colours" says Huzefa Rangwala, Director of MuseLAB Design Engine. Exposed electrical conduits form geometric patterns on the ceiling and end in cylindrical down lighters by LightTecture that aid in visually separating the walls from the ceiling.

The right end of the house comprises a monolithic steel counter for cooking and dining that was designed in collaboration with Küche7 and has been illuminated with a sleek pendant light from LightTecture. Mungaru dining chairs by Phantom Hands line the dining section of the counter and add a splash of warmth to this space with its materiality. This space is flanked by a powder room on one side and a wet kitchen and dry yard on the other. The dry yard comprises a working counter finished in East Indian walnut wood and grey cementitious walls by Concrete Works India.



The sleeping area as seen from the cooking area.



The Easy Armchairs by Phantom Hands define the blurry boundaries between the living space and the cooking area.

The left end of the apartment houses the sleeping area that comprises a wall mounted faux-tan upholstered headboard and a wooden bed that is flanked by bedside shelves. The Kangaroo Chair by Phantom Hands lies adjacent to the picture window of this space and is accompanied by a Mungaru side table. This area is further decorated by MuseLAB's Nougat II – a standalone mirror and art by FN Souza and Rabin Mondal. A walk-in closet is flanked



Nougat II – MuseLAB's standalone mirror in the sleeping area amplifies the volume of the sleeping space.

by cupboards finished in rustic light grey to coalesce into the surrounding walls. This colour scheme is an extension of the light grey vitrified tiles that cover the entire house and further extend into the bathroom that lies opposite the closet. Matt black sanitary fixtures by Vitara add a contrasting touch to this muted palette.



The Kangaroo Chair by Phantom Hands in the sleeping space.

Naked by MuseLAB offers a minimalist yet carefully crafted space wherein every piece has been meticulously designed and selected towards realising a certain *je ne sais quoi*, a seamless experience that appears so simple yet manifests the very best in design and performance. In a day and age where our minds and lives are digitally and physically cluttered, this house presents an oasis of calm and comfort that encourages us to reevaluate how much we really need.

"This particular project is extremely special for us as we are rarely presented with such daring programs. It allows us to focus on nothingness, on the essential elements. It made us think laterally; we had to de-clutter our minds to design for what one needs and not what one wants. And before we go on, the home says "I want you to see me 'naked', unapologetic, gritty but honest." ■

FACT FILE

Typology	: Residential interiors
Project name	: Naked
Project location	: The Trees by Godrej, Mumbai, India
Architect's Firm	: MuseLAB
Principal Architects	: Huzefa Rangwala & Jasem Pirani
Total Built-up Area	: 970 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2021

www.jasubhaimedia.com

Let there be light

The Mill Project by Quirk Studio is a mid-century modern and wabi-sabi influenced contemporary office in Erode, Tamil Nadu that houses an heirloom textiles operation in a quiet suburban hood. With large windows running along one façade of the office, daylight floods this office and articulates the tactile palette of this space.

*Text: Quirk Studio
Images: Kuber Shah*

The balmy city of Erode is the nucleus of Tamil Nadu's thriving textile industry and is cloaked in a riot of sound and colour. The location celebrates the harmonious coexistence of the old and new, both tingeing the city's history. With its terrain dotted with the presence of factories and industrial plants, Erode is a melting pot of modernised trade and enduring heritage that its residents have kept alive. Sequestered in one such remote factory premises, abuzz with activity is The Mill Project, an office crafted for a family-run enterprise. The rugged natural landscape on the fringes of the city, houses the built mass in its vast entirety, offering the space

a unique topography to occupy, and is evocative of creating an oasis amid barren lands.

A mandate of the client's needs dictated the requirement for a workplace that is an ode to the rooted context within which the built form was situated, a tribute to the suburban habitat where it all began. The inspiration to sculpt the blank industrial canvas stemmed from the architecture of the building — towering fourteen-foot-high ceilings punctuated with large floor-to-ceiling fenestrations overlooking abundant stretches of tropical verdure and the azure skies above.



The entrance leads into the compact reception space that is framed by a stone veneer adorned by swirling marbling patterns in charcoal, grey, and browns.



A raw material profile encompassing cement finishes, lime plaster textures, and wooden nuances is juxtaposed against the panache of marbles in monochrome palettes.



The omnipresence of glass partition systems in the interior layout ties together the floor plan visually, lending it a seamless character while the intriguing interplay of light and shadow through the glazed surfaces washes the interiors with fleeting daylight.

The entrance to the office is marked by a monolithic concrete-body reception desk that is coupled with a black and white globe cluster chandelier; this preliminary space acknowledges the ingrained design inclination of the office.

The design atelier has created pragmatic zones within the bare shell of the industrial enclosure. This forms functional spaces

that work jointly to induce a functional flow in the office. The minimalism sewn into the workplace's construct allows each space to honour the brief while engaging playfully with elements of scale, light, and materials that ink the saga of the office. A raw material profile encompassing cement finishes, lime plaster textures, and wooden nuances is juxtaposed against the panache of marbles in monochrome palettes. The omnipresence



The office comprises of two such community tables.



A private discussion room occupies a glass-enclosed cabin within the workspace which is bathed in a monotone palette and can host concentrated groups around its suave round table and upholstered taupe chairs.

of glass partition systems in the interior layout ties together the floor plan visually, lending it a seamless character while the intriguing interplay of light and shadow through the glazed surfaces washes the interiors fleeing daylight.

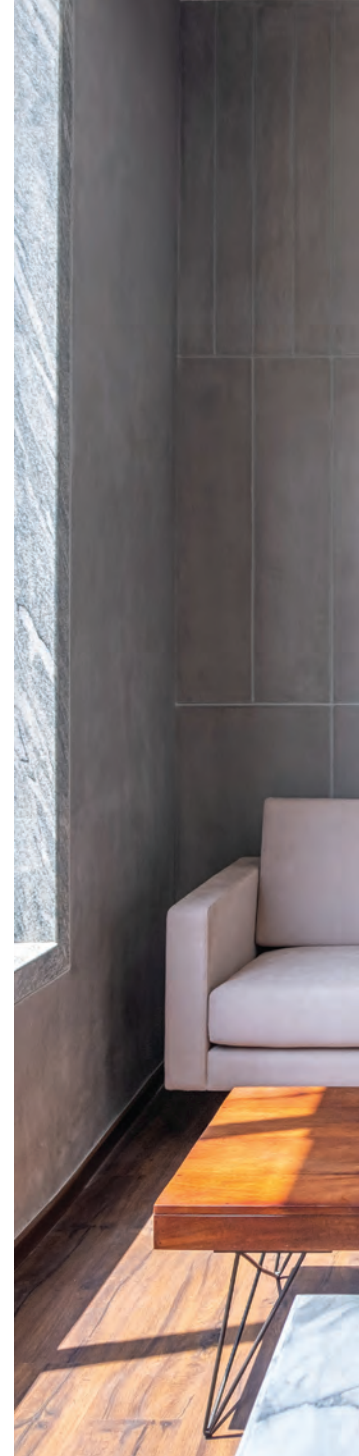
The workplace's commonalities that make the chosen design styles the idyllic fit are derived from their shared penchant for clean

geometry which departs from inessential ornamentation, the celebration of materials in their untainted form, and the prevalence of an understated yet artistic simplicity across spaces and their objects. A sense of calm continuity presides over the segments of the office with curated furniture, curios, and lighting fixtures endowing the space with a harmonious vision through the mediums



The Managing Director's cabin is set apart by its grooved wooden focal wall.

of colour, texture, and sleek silhouettes. The doses of greenery introduced indoors don a sculptural presence with their form and tall forms scaling up to ten feet, iterating the voluminous spaces.



The communal workstation bay is the epicentre of the open-plan layout and is devoid of obsolete mammoth partitions witnessed in bygone corporate spaces. The placement of furniture defines the zones



The Managing Director's cabin is set apart by its grooved wooden focal wall.

and renders it with a clean aesthetic via the employment of ergonomic wood and black metal furniture — a material alliance synonymous with Mid-Century modern aesthetics. The community desks encourage

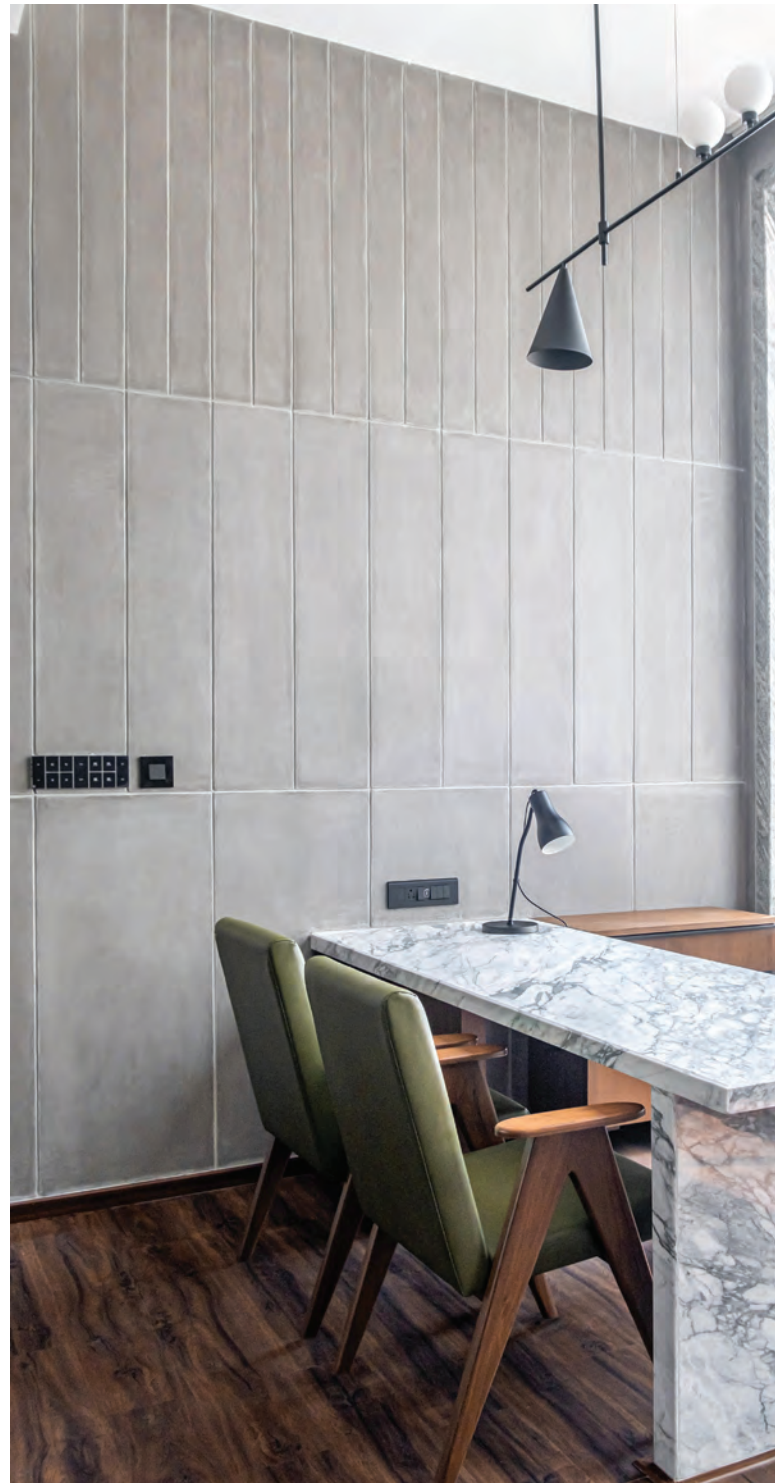
conversation and interaction among end-users while maintaining viable circulation. The ensemble of cement-finished flooring, bright ivory walls, and the grid of wooden rafters on the ceiling create a pared-down yet stimulating aura. Bordered by the window-lined façade wall on one end and a wood and fluted glass partition system on the other, the workstation bay is coherently distinguished from the private cabins by a spinal circulation passageway. The custom partition administers privacy for the private cabins towards the rear of the layout and also filters in light into the main workspace, eliminating the need to utilize mechanical lighting until dusk.

Tucked into the quiet perimeter of the layout beholding external views, the conference room bears a stated demeanour that exudes tactful material play and creates vignettes of alluring design. The pièce de résistance is the expansive ten-seater marble conference table that commands the room. A vision in monochrome with stunning accentuated veining that envelopes its body, the table is paired with slender off-white upholstered chairs that build on the tonal play. The restrained lime plastered walls and deep-toned wooden flooring humbly bear themselves to allow the design elements to take the spotlight. The ceiling bedecked in teak finishes is layered with a grid pattern of rafters. Lending it an added sense of

dimension is the poised contemporary black minimalist chandelier. The grid motif of the ceiling trickles onto the wall, creating a visual linkage between the surfaces.

A crossover amidst modernist sensibilities and intuitive forms, the Managing Director's cabin is set apart by its grooved wooden focal wall which poses as the backdrop to the space. A suede grey sofa dominates the lounge in the cabin, a stark marble desk rests boldly in the foreground, and is complemented by classic Jeanneret-inspired chairs in an olive hue. The desk area is canopied by a neoteric pendant that unites spherical and cylindrical forms gracefully. The cabin soaks in boundless views of the topography through its lofty fenestrations whilst experiencing uninterrupted privacy.

The two private cabins have been conceptualised with a shared vision in which functionality layered with statement materials, hues and textures manifest the design scheme. The former cabin employs slate grey grooved panelling that assembles to form an array of rectilinear motifs; this pattern is replicated on opposite walls to generate visual symmetry in the space. The second cabin sheaths its walls in a mild grey grid box panelling which is carried over on the opposing wall of the room. Both private cabins are peppered with marble work desks, olive-tone chairs, off-white lounge sofas, sculpturesque indoor plants, and



The other cabin employs slate grey grooved panelling that assembles to form an array

geometric-inspired monotone task lighting. The cabins too witness the stretched-out scenic views through their ample windows that look into the surroundings.



ay of rectilinear motifs.

Supplemental zones in the office are a cluster of the pantry and the powder bathroom. The utilitarian pantry assumes an L-configuration and emanates minimalism

which is summoned forth by the usage of marble as a running countertop and backsplash material and muted cabinetry. The tessellated indigo, black and grey



The pantry.



The washroom.



cement tile flooring pervades the pantry and dining nook, adding a touch of zest to the space. The slick powder bathroom is veiled in black-veined marble ubiquitously, where the framed mirror, dapper wall sconce, and Venetian blinds accent the space.

The Mill Project is a dexterous design endeavour that has inverted the approach towards conceiving spaces in the realm of industrialisation. Its acute devotion towards the adapted design grammar has allowed the workplace to redefine stated opulence in a novel light. The project liberates itself from archaic design directives to bestow its end-users with a venue that honours their bona fide roots while weaving together a perceptive narrative that straddles the past, present, and future with empathy. ■

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FACT FILE

Typology	: Commercial / Office
Project Name	: The Mill Project
Project Location	: Erode, Tamil Nadu, India
Architect's Firm	: Quirk Studio
Principal Architect	: Disha Bhavsar & Shivani Ajmera
Built-up Area	: 2100 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2021

Royalty in the heart of suburbia

Joshi House by Ashiesh Shah stands in a chic Mumbai neighbourhood, in place of an iconic café, and presents an elegant blend of traditional and modern aesthetics. Shah, renowned for his minimalist and contemporary designs, draws from elements of the owner's heritage and capitalises on the layout to create a delightfully distinct dining experience that is reminiscent of a traditional Rajasthani mansion.

Text by: Atelier Ashiesh Shah

Edited by: Sailee Bhandarkar-Correa

Images by: Atelier Ashiesh Shah

In the ever evolving dining landscape of Mumbai, Joshi House now stands in place of an iconic café that is still very fresh in the city's memories. The owner envisioned this restaurant as a conceptual recreation of his home and opening the doors of this own home to his friends, where all their favourite dishes can be whipped up whenever they visited. This was the only brief laid out to the design team and with this resolve, Atelier Ashiesh Shah was determined to create a disparate experience that not only offered a completely new identity to the restaurant but also emanated the ethos of the owner's lineage delivered with a touch of Shah's brand of finesse.

This modern cafe draws inspiration from the havelis of Rajasthan and serves as an oasis of calm in the bustling streets of Bandra, the Bohemian suburb of Mumbai. Joshi House pays homage to the client's background reminiscent of his native place, encapsulating the essence of the region's interior design and pushing the envelope with minimalism. The overall experience of dining at the restaurant draws parallels with the customs and traditions of fine hospitality synonymous with Rajasthan, in an environment that is a true testament to the local craftsmanship. This minimalist mansion finished with Shah's signature wabi-sabi aesthetic is the definition of modern luxury.



Joshi House stands in place of the iconic Pali Village Café in Bandra, Mumbai.



The red upholstery adds pops of colour to the elegant marble-clad space.

Journeying amidst the old courtyards of Rajasthani havelis, the theme-based 'private rooms' that spread across the two storeyed stand-alone bungalow adorn wooden rafters and raw plastered walls on the exterior. The restaurant celebrates age-old regional crafts in the form of hand-carved columns, impeccably detailed marble railings and hand-cut mirrored ceilings that honour the philosophies of wabi-sabi through a juxtaposition of perfect imperfection.

Every nook and corner has been treated like a work of art and has a story to tell. The custom-carved marble railings and columns spread across the length of the double-heighted restaurant and flaunt hand carved intricate inlay work on all tables as well. The bar space transports one to a night safari with its characteristic charcoal wall murals featuring elephants etched by local artisans. These monochrome murals against the golden brass bar and a delicate mirror-cut ceiling, present a different side of Rajasthan and throw light on its pomp and



The golden brass bar at Joshi House is enveloped by charcoal illustrations of a tropical haven.



A teal coloured wooden door marks a non-descript entrance to the restaurant.

pageantry. The courtyard styled alfresco dining area, comprises inviting sofas laden with fluffy cushions, vibrant red chairs and hand-carved marble balustrades alongside a gurgling marble fountain and is flanked by carefully moulded arches that frame each table. The stairway paves the way to an intimate balcony seating area that has been furnished with emerald green high-backed armchairs with silver lion armrests. The various spaces in this restaurant are instrumental in evoking different moods and emotions, thus taking the viewer through a

medley of experiences. The interior setting forms a minimal and aesthetic canvas that Shah punctuates with a riot of colour introduced via upholstery in celebration of a new avatar into the post-COVID world.

Much like Atelier Ashiesh Shah's philosophy, the space is infused with design objects and processes celebrating artisans and the notion of craftsmanship. Be it the monochromatic bar characterized by its splendid Tikdi work or the finely painted murals and wall paintings across



The dining area at the ground floor of Joshi House.



A brass finished bench contrasts against the muted upholstery and walls.

the interior, Joshi House is a synchrony and celebration of artisanship from across the country.

The infusion of vivid reds and colour blocking, accompanied by traditionally inspired geometric motifs, make the space fashionably vibrant. Although traditional, the elements borrowed from regional

influences have been subtly transformed with a modern flair, celebrating Indian design with a global appeal. Joshi House pays homage to Indian craftsmanship, and shines a new light on modern Indian design. ■

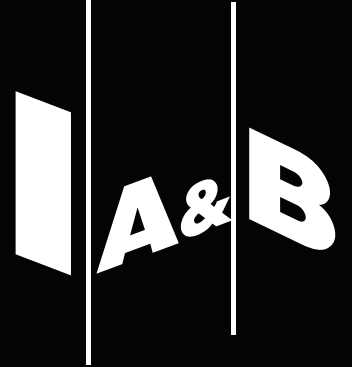


A marble table top on the first floor overlooks the dining area on the ground floor of the restaurant.

FACT FILE

Typology	: Commercial / Restaurant
Project Name	: Joshi House
Project Location	: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
Architect's Firm	: Atelier Ashiesh Shah
Principal Architect	: Ashiesh Shah
Built-up Area	: 2000 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2021

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