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PERSPECTIVE

SEPTEMBER 2019



A TASTE OF INDIA

RIISING TALENT
LOCAL DESIGN TRENDS
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NERI&HU: THE POWER COUPLE
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S UNESCO LISTING



JEWELS IN THE INDIAN CROWN

BY KATE FARR

From hipster dining in Mumbai to palatial opulence in Jaipur, India's cities each have their own distinctive heritage and architectural points of interest

Get fortified in Jaipur at the Alila Fort Bishangarh hotel



Art deco, Indian style: The Leela Palace Bengaluru

BENGALURU

The beating heart of India's booming tech industry, the garden city of Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore) is renowned for its expansive and well-kept public parks, along with a number of architecturally interesting buildings and cultural attractions.

Where to stay

Multi award-winning The Leela Palace is Bengaluru's only contemporary palace hotel, featuring a majestic porte-cochère entrance that sets the tone for a luxurious stay. Built in art deco style, the hotel also draws architectural inspiration from the domes, arches and turrets of Mysore, along with ornate 14th-century Vijayanagara Empire ceilings. Ringed by nine acres of tropical gardens and its own lagoon, the 357-room Leela Palace invites guests to stay as royalty, with service to match.

Where to eat

Hot-off-the-press comes Stories: The Brew Chapter, a craft brew pub situated within the well-to-do neighbourhood of BTM Layout. Taking the concept of an

urban jungle to its literal conclusion, the airy rooftop location is resplendent with plant life, including a 90sqm (1,000sqf) living wall. The rainforest-like atmosphere is further reinforced by Rajasthani tree trunk dining tables, with an LED-lit glass roof creating a bright space for Bengaluru's hipsters to enjoy casual drinks and dining.

What to do

Bangalore International Centre is a vibrant arts and cultural hub, with a fascinating programme of events for visitors to experience. Designed by local multidisciplinary architecture firm Hundredhands, the 4,500sqm (48,000sqf) contemporary building is accredited for its eco-conscious design elements, which include a solar roof and extensive planting.

Founded in the 1960s, the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is a leading centre for visual arts in Bengaluru. Comprising a network of museums, galleries and archives, the complex features a valuable collection of pan-Indian folk, traditional, modern and contemporary art, alongside a college of fine arts, nurturing the next generation of Indian creatives.



Arts and cultural hub, Bangalore International Centre



A taste of Italy: Bar Palladio in Jaipur, inspired by Venetian restaurants

JAIPUR

There's more to the Pink City than its – admittedly spectacular – network of forts. In fact, Jaipur has a wealth of attractions for visitors drawn to beautiful design, both historical and contemporary.

Where to stay

The imposing Alila Fort Bishangarh hotel repurposed a 230-year-old fort in a painstaking heritage restoration project. Incorporating elements of Jaipur Gharana architecture, with Rajput and Mughal influences, the hotel was created using traditional techniques such as *araish*, a Rajasthani plastering technique. Despite its heritage, the property has an entirely modern attitude to sustainability, using passive solar design, natural insulation and wastewater management to create a luxurious yet environmentally friendly experience.

Where to eat

An ode to classical Italian dining in the heart of Jaipur, Bar Palladio was inspired by the iconic Caffè Florian and Harry's Bar in Venice, and named for Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Nestled within a tranquil garden, Bar Palladio's peacock blue-and-white colour palette,

bold murals and shady verandas make this one of Jaipur's most inviting restaurants.

What to do

Designed by renowned Indian architect Charles Correa, the Jawahar Kala Kendra is built around the concept of *navagraha* – the nine celestial bodies of Hindu astronomy. The resulting building is a multi-arts hub containing six galleries, an open-air theatre and a cafe. Featuring murals from Jain mythology and a central ceiling dome, this remarkable building is every bit as captivating as the exhibits within.

JODHPUR

Situated in the Thar Desert, Jodhpur is a city of forts, temples and palaces, famous for its spectacular views, as well as its attractive clusters of blue-painted houses.

Where to stay

Currently the world's sixth-largest private residence, the lavish Umaid Bhawan Palace was originally designed as a home for Maharani Badan Kanwar of the Jodhpur royal family. Crafted from the same marble as the Taj Mahal,



Umaid Bhawan Palace sits on Chittar Hill in Jodhpur



Alila Fort Bishangarh



Mehrangarh Fort, winner of a UNESCO award for conservation

the property stands proudly above the city on Chittar Hill; its sprawling 11ha grounds house a family museum, as well as the lavish 70-room hotel, and a breathtaking subterranean zodiac swimming pool.

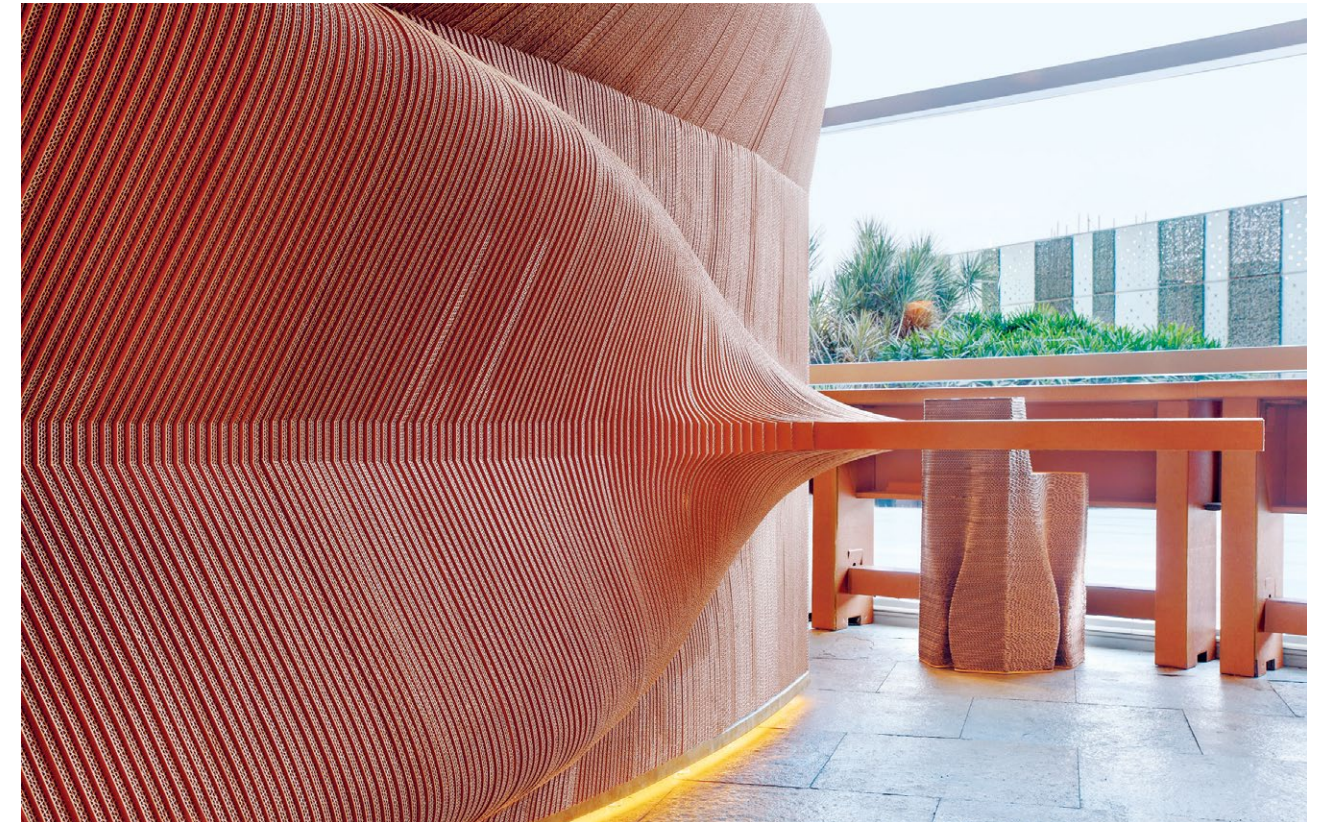
Where to eat

Named for Toorji Ka Jhalra – an 18th-century step well – the three-storey Stepwell Cafe embraces its position, offering unparalleled views across the well and the city beyond. With an archive of original paintings, photographs, letters and documents detailing Jodhpur's history, as well as design-led furniture and interiors, the cafe's interiors blend traditional craftsmanship with contemporary flair.

A recipient of a UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for architectural conservation, cultural heritage and adaptive reuse, the 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort is all set for a modern upgrade with the unveiling of the brand-new Studio Lotus-designed visitor centre. Designed as an "architectural system", as opposed to a set of buildings, the modular metal-and-stone addition will overlook the Chokelao Bagh and has been designed to complement the fort's enduring facade, while lending it a distinctly contemporary air.



The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum



In the groove at sustainably designed Cardboard restaurant



Bombay Arts Society headquarters by Sanjay Puri



Join the club: Soho House Mumbai

MUMBAI

With its finger firmly on the pulse, Mumbai (once Bombay) is India's capital of cool; a vibrant, invigorating metropolis that is a centre of the country's contemporary culture.

Where to stay

Where else but Soho House Mumbai? Attracting design mavens and media darlings, this Juhu Beach property is every bit as swish as its international stablemates. With Indian-inspired lodgings available to both members and non-members, many rooms come with sweeping Arabian Sea views as standard. The rooftop pool, 32-seat cinema, excellent dining and convivial bar all set the scene for a clubby, contemporary stay.

Where to eat

Creating something beautiful from the most prosaic of materials, Cardboard's walls, tables, chairs and even lampshades are made entirely from durable corrugated cardboard. Gorgeously tactile and invitingly textured,

the cafe's hardwearing construction also has the benefit of being sound absorbent and recyclable, paving the way for sustainably designed restaurants of the future.

What to do

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum recently launched the city's first ever Children's Museum; a 'creative cultural lab' where kids are invited to engage freely with art. RMA Architects' Rahul Mehrotra designed the purpose-built site to work in close harmony with nature, incorporating trees into a strikingly modern glass-walled building with spectacular results.

The Bombay Art Society has nurtured India's brightest and best artistic talent since 1888 and is now based in a futuristic building in Bandra Reclamation district. Designed by architect Sanjay Puri to resemble an abstract sculpture, the society's home features an amphitheatre, extensive reference library, and three galleries showcasing the best of Indian contemporary art.



The Lotus Temple

NEW DELHI

India's capital is so much more than just its political centre. Featuring a wide range of monuments, temples and museums, New Delhi's wealth of architectural styles make for fascinating exploration.

Where to stay

Situated within the Connaught Place business and entertainment district, The Park New Delhi offers guests a stylish stay. Opened in 1987 but since completely renovated, the hotel is inspired by Vastu Shastra, the ancient Hindu philosophy of building to ensure a harmonious balance between man and nature. Inside, you'll find Terence

Conran-designed interiors, and contemporary artworks lining the walls that include a specially commissioned projection piece by British video artist Daniel Brown.

Where to eat

Hauz Khas Social is the meeting place for Delhi's creatives. Part co-working space and part-cafe, this innovative eatery is furnished with 100-percent recycled and up-cycled pieces, its loungey leather sofas softening what is otherwise a rugged, industrial space. With tranquil views across Hauz Khas Lake and monument, this is an ideal spot in which to soak up some inspiration.

What to do

A striking Bahá'í House of Worship, the Lotus Temple is one of India's most instantly recognisable structures, winning a raft of architecture awards for its striking design. Described by the GlobArt Academy as the 'Taj Mahal of the 20th century', the temple is crafted from 27 marble petals, and stands at nearly 35 metres tall. With a capacity of up to 2,500 people, this is one of New Delhi's must-visit architectural monuments. ■

EVENTS

This year's FOAID (Festival of Architecture and Interior Design) is set to attract more than 6,000 delegates across two cities. Taking place in New Delhi September 20-21, before moving to Mumbai November 29-30, the festival will offer young talents and established creatives alike the opportunity to network, share ideas and celebrate the best of Indian architecture and design.

foaidindia.in

The third edition of Raw Collaborative heads to Ahmedabad from November 28 to December 1, offering a platform for designers to showcase handcrafted furniture and home decor products that are inherently Indian in their expression, process and outcome. Demonstrating the diversity of India's furniture design industry, this show displays a curated range of exhibitors.

rawcollaborative.com

Mark your diaries for India Design ID, which returns to New Delhi's sprawling NSIC Grounds, February 13-16, 2020, focusing on luxury design. Expect launches, showcases and a design symposium where Indian and international creatives gather to share their views.

indiadesignid.com



Hauz Khas Social