

HOME & DESIGN

A TIMES OF INDIA PUBLICATION

TRENDS

VOLUME 9 NO 1

TRENDS Exclusive with

Design icon Kelly Wearstler

Innovative Spaces

Between Spaces
Studio Mestry
Ultraconfidentiel Design
Usine Studio

**On a Mission
to Build
Stronger**
**RAHUL
KADRI**



CONTENTS

10

DESIGN IN CONTEXT

Handpicked products that blur the lines between art and functionality

FORM AND FUNCTION

17 CONCEPT

The Playhouse by Haruki Oku Design and PAN-PROJECTS challenges conventional retail stores with an experiential space that incorporates elements of theatre and drama

19 SPECTACLE

Transformative public interventions that alter perceptions and neighbourhoods

21 PORTFOLIO

Beyond the Pot by studio d-o-t-s delves into the vegetal realm, encouraging young designers to adopt a phytocentric approach to design



ON THE COVER
Kelly Wearstler
Image: Joyce Park

INDIA'S FIRST CURATED LUXURY LIVING SHOW IS COMING TO BANGALORE!

TEJAS

AUTOMATION | LIGHTING | HOME CINEMA

PRESENTS

D/code

A Times Group Initiative

CURATED BY

Shernavaz
Bharucha

SOUTH EDITION 2021

HOME & DESIGN

TRENDS

TO PARTICIPATE, COLLABORATE AND KNOW MORE,
WRITE TO US AT [DCODE@WVM.CO.IN](mailto:dcode@wvm.co.in)
FOLLOW US @ [@_DCODE](https://www.instagram.com/_dcode)





BUILDING CONVERSATIONS

27 COVER STORY

The reigning queen of interiors, Kelly Wearstler takes a retrospective look at her two-decade-long electrifying métier

33 DIALOGUES

Architect Rahul Kadri gives us an insight into the true mission of architecture and how he works towards achieving it, brick by brick

SCULPTED SPACES Residential

37 CALM AND COLLECTED

Usine Studio incorporates the principles of zen living into this pristine white dwelling in Gujarat



40 OPEN-ENDED LIVING

Between Spaces designs a simple, pragmatic and modern home for a multi-generational family

Commercial

43 DIVIDED FOR FLUIDITY

Studio Mestry creates a subtly-partitioned workspace that's neat and modern, with crisp lines

46 ON-TREND

Regional Indian elements are given a modern twist in the Amazon BLINK fashion studio in New Delhi by Ultraconfidentiel Design

CALL FOR ENTRY

ARCHITECTS

INTERIOR DESIGNERS


PRODUCT DESIGNERS


LIGHT DESIGNERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ENTRIES OPENING ON
MAY 15, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE TO trendsawards2021@gmail.com

 [@trendsmagind](https://www.instagram.com/trendsmagind)

 [@trendideas](https://www.facebook.com/trendideas)

 [@TRENDSMagIndia](https://twitter.com/TRENDSMagIndia)

 www.trendsawards.in

TEJAS

AUTOMATION | LIGHTING | HOME CINEMA

PRESENTS

TRENDS

EXCELLENCE
AWARDS 2021

FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

DECADE SPECIAL

HOME & DESIGN

TRENDS

High-end Indian and International Homes, Extraordinary Architects & Designers, Best in Product Designs, Celebrated Guest Columnists, Latest Commercial Spaces, New Properties and more. Your authoritative guide to architecture and design is now on the web.



FOLLOW US ON

f Home & Design TRENDS

@ trendsmagind

TrendsMagIndia

E-MAGS AVAILABLE ON



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DEEPAK LAMBA

EDITOR IN CHIEF

RONITAA ITALIA

Associate Editor

Senior Features Editor

Content Producer

Deputy Art Director

Senior Graphic Designer

Senior Editorial Coordinator

Chief Financial Officer

Head Human Resources

Content Studio Vice President

Printer & Publisher

Head Marketing

Head Digital Solutions

Marketing Manager

Avril Noel D'Souza

Tina Thakrar

Radhika Sheno

Shalaka Shinde

Anushree Kumar

Harshal Wesavkar

Subramaniam S.

Meghna Puthawala

Vidyut Patra

Sunil Wuthoo

Priyadarshi Banerjee

Chandni Chopra

SALES HEAD

SUNITA QUADROS

sunita.quadros@wmm.co.in

BRAND SOLUTIONS

WEST

Mumbai

Vice President

- Brand Solutions & Business Head

- Femina Salon & Spa

Gautam Chopra - 9820181757

gautam.chopra@wmm.co.in

Pune

Aditi Shrivastava - 9960163182

aditi.shrivastava@wmm.co.in

SOUTH

Vice President South

& Business Head - Femina Tamil

Pravin Menon - 9840323246

pravin.menon@wmm.co.in

EAST

Assistant Vice President

Alka Kakar - 9830331780

alka.kakar@wmm.co.in

Kolkata

Bijoy Choudhury - 9830187067

bijoy.choudhury@wmm.co.in

NORTH

Vice President -

Brand Solutions & Sales Head -

Long Form Content

Anjali Rathor

anjali.rathor@wmm.co.in

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Asha Kulkarni, Manager Marketing

asha.kulkarni@wmm.co.in

Call: 18001210005 (All India toll free number)

Associate General Manager (RMD Magazines)

Sakshi Kate - sakshi.kate@timesgroup.com

For subscription, visit: mags.timesgroup.com/home-trends.html

SMS: TRNDSUB to 58888

Mail: subscriptions.wmm@wmm.co.in

Call: 18001210005 (All India toll free number)



Printed and published by Sunil Wuthoo for and on behalf of Worldwide Media Pvt. Ltd. The Times of India Building, 4th floor, Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai 400001 and printed at Rajhans Enterprise, No. 134, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560044, India.

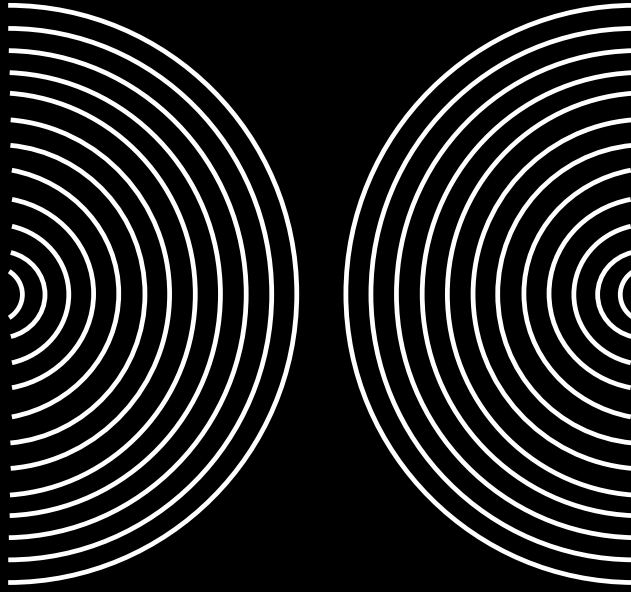
The publisher makes every effort to ensure that the magazine's contents are correct. However, we accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Unsolicited material, including photographs and transparencies, is submitted entirely at the owner's risk and the publisher accepts no responsibility for its loss or damage.

All material published in Home & Design Trends is protected by copyright and unauthorized reproduction in part or full is forbidden.

CIN: U22120MH2003PTC142239

ANNOUNCING

THE ECONOMIC TIMES



DESIGN
COUNCIL

THE AID THINK TANK

Brought to you by



An Economic Times Initiative

Powered by

HOME & DESIGN
TRENDS
GoodHomes INDIA

@trendsmagind
@trendideas
@TRENDSMagIndia

@goodhomesmagazine
@goodhomesmagazineindia
@goodhomesindia
www.goodhomes.co.in

EDITOR'S NOTE



As I sit to write this editorial – my way of reaching out and checking in on all of you – I feel compelled to count my blessings.

Very little is right with our world right now, there's a lot of pain and malaise of the mind that is also doing the rounds. Every single family in our country has someone dear to them who's been affected by the viral infection. There are people gasping for every breath of air they take...with no sign of the pandemic dying down any time soon and yet, here I am writing my almost-monthly note to you.

To me, this certainty of the unbending routine is what makes all of it bearable. Thanks to my old-school tutelage, I know that no matter what, the show must go on. No matter what, we've got to look for the silver lining. No matter what, we've got to do our jobs, because there's a lot at stake on every front.

So here I am, counting my blessings, writing to you all, hoping you're all safe and staying home for the second time around. I'd also like to say that as a community of thought leaders, being where we are, doing what we do, we have the power and the ability to touch lives and change the way people live, for the better.

I consider that, in today's age, one of our biggest blessings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Ronitaa'.

Ronitaa R. Italia
Editor in Chief

INTRODUCING

A SIGNATURE MICRO SERIES REPRESENTING
THE MASTERS OF DESIGN



HOME & DESIGN
TRENDS
GoodHomes INDIA

Stay Tuned @ @_dcode

DESIGN IN CONTEXT

Products where design blurs the lines between art and functionality

Text **TINA THAKRAR**

EXTENDED LETTERS

The Font sofa system, first developed for the Swedish Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, was born from a need to have a visually simple and graphically clear modular sofa, which ranks high in functionality, mobility and ease of use. Now reinforcing its contemporary versatility with an additional line of furniture are interior architect Matti Klenell and Swedish furniture studio, Offecct. The first set of straight and curved modules was launched in 2018, which now counts the new armchair, straight benches and added curved modules in its repertoire. The idea was to have more outward-facing seating, and to create pieces that would be suitable for public use as well. The strong angles and curves are what gave the furniture series its name, inspired by the form of letters that can be shaped and combined into this distinct furniture language. ►

IMAGES: BORN CEDER





SOUTHERN SIMPLICITY

Magari's latest Aayutha collection of furniture takes a deep dive into history, pulls out the geometric forms of the Tamil script from the Sangam Tamil era in 400 BCE, and transforms them into modern-day pieces for home interiors. A blend of primarily stone and wood, along with detailing in brass, leather and paper, Aayutha comprises tables - dining, study, console, side and centre tables; seating - armchairs, rocking chairs, ottomans and dining chairs; a bar unit, and a charpai. Each piece has an innate characteristic, like low seating, stone carvings, hidden wheels or stone stands, that can be traced back to traditional uses and artforms. There's an innate simplicity to the series, which is highlighted by comfort and ergonomics. ►



A STROKE OF STRENGTH

A global construction and building material, wood finds use as a structural element, as well as in frames and coverings. The Gusset collection of furniture by architect Paulo Kobyłka champions this all-encompassing strength of wood, while minimising its weaknesses. Taking inspiration from the construction design of wooden trusses, Paulo has devised this furniture collection with unusually strong joints, which are otherwise susceptible to breakage. Trusses often have gusset plates fitted at the ends, to make the piece more rigid. Paulo explored a reinterpretation of the gusset plate, by screwing the wooden legs into tubular profiles, making the joints between the backrest, seat and legs more resistant, and creating a seating line that celebrates the glory of wood. ►

IMAGES: ANA KOBYLKA



ARMED WITH COMFORT

A thin tubular steel frame, a single-piece upholstered seat and backrest, an integrated head cushion and leather straps for armrests - the Henry armchair by Harris & Harris is minimalistic, elegant and restrained. Armchairs are designed to be brazenly inviting, but Henry takes a subtle approach to comfort. Its form and lightness is influenced by the Modernist furniture designs of Marcel Breuer, Charlotte Perriand and Jean Prouvé, and it's named after a residential street in London where the founders of Harris & Harris, Sharon and Alexander Harris once lived. It's designed to sit well in living areas, libraries, lounges and breakout spaces. ►





IMAGE: MARKO MIHALJEVIC

SHAPESHIFTER

The minimalistic Kontrapunkt recliner has two forms - it's an elegant armchair in one, and a chaise longue in the other. Cleverly designed by Neisako and Prostoria, Kontrapunkt is a technologically advanced seating option in fabric or leather, with an armrest that moonlights as a footrest. In the language of music, Kontrapunkt means 'two opposite points', a concept that's been applied to this design composition. By simply raising the backrest and pulling down the armrests, the armchair is harmoniously transformed into a chaise longue, without disturbing the visually light aesthetic or using any electrical mechanism. ►



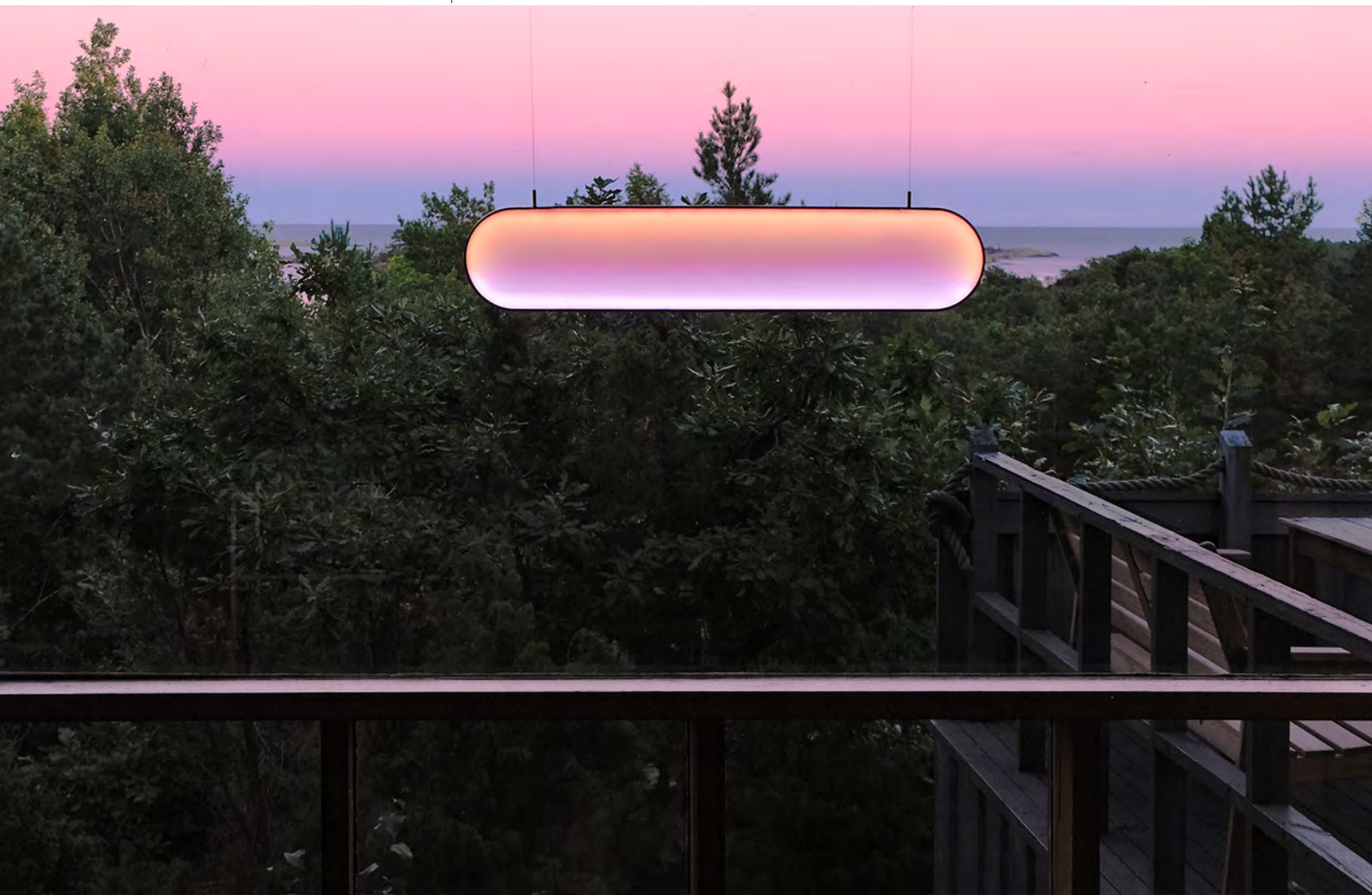
IMAGE: DAMIR KOVACIC



RIPPLE EFFECT

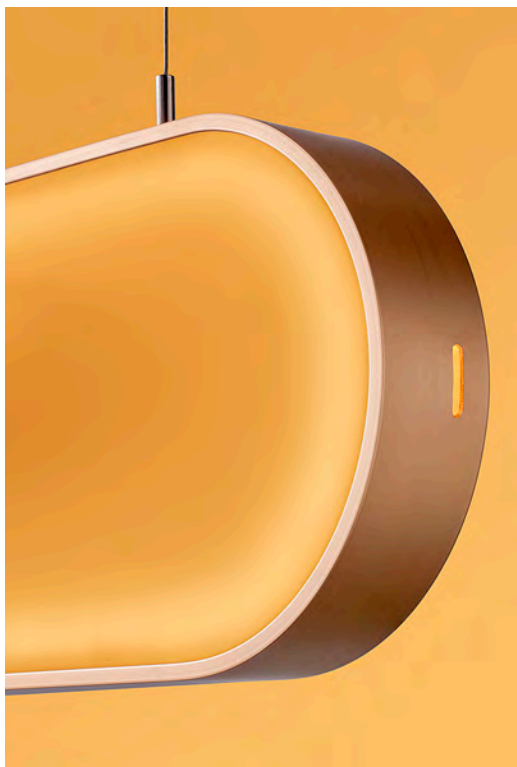
The Gala seating system by Cristina Celestino for Saba considers the sofa as a place instead of an object. Its design draws from the retro-futuristic atmosphere of the 70s, and explores the sofa as a volume-free piece of furniture that fits in all forms of residential and commercial contexts. The flexibility of use here comes from a central backbone that draws pleated curves between front and back seating zones. This design explores how a sofa shapes interior spaces in the modern context, and its function as a place for exchange and interactions. ►





A MOMENT IN THE SUN

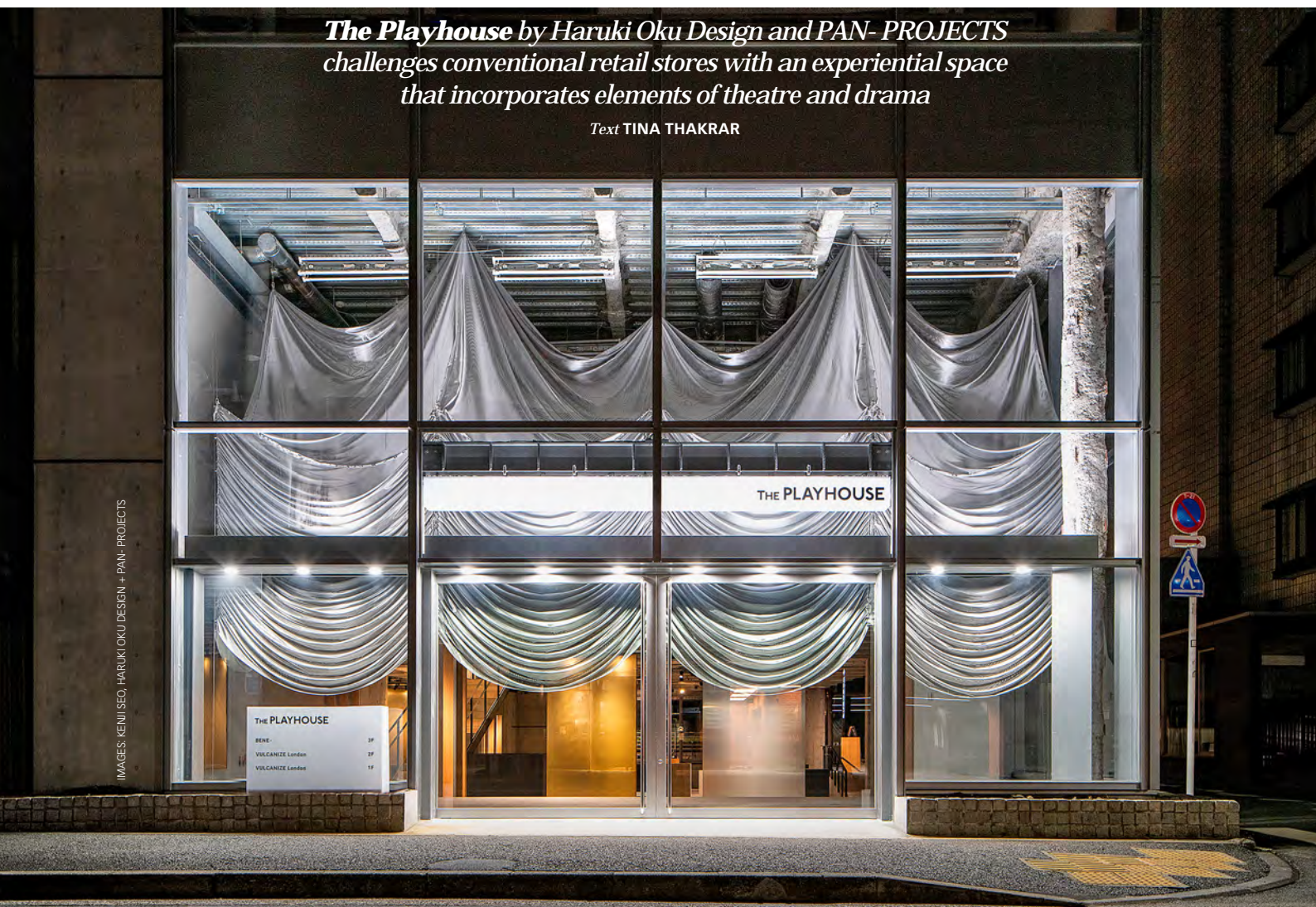
The Sunne light, designed and launched in March this year by solar designer Marjan van Aubel, imitates its namesake, the sun. The autonomous, ambient solar light illuminates your surroundings when the sun can't, and has three settings that replicate all the natural moments of the sun; Sunne Rise, Sunne Light and Sunne Set. Combining sustainability, design and technology, Sunne is shaped like the horizon, and can be hung from two steel wires. Since it's filled with solar cells, Sunne needs no external plug. The smart device charges itself during the day, and stores the energy to emanate ambient light at night. Aubel, who has designed solar tables and solar windows in the past, aims to create a whole range of products along similar lines, to help integrate solar energy into daily use. **H&DT**



ULTIMATE RETAIL

The Playhouse by Haruki Oku Design and PAN- PROJECTS challenges conventional retail stores with an experiential space that incorporates elements of theatre and drama

Text TINA THAKRAR



IMAGES: KENJI SEO, HARUKI OKU DESIGN + PAN- PROJECTS

The future, post 2020, is seeming entirely virtual, and most brands that hadn't already jumped on the digitalisation bandwagon have done so in the last year. Of these industries, the shopping world has entirely moved online, creating demand for more virtual than physical stores for the actual purchase activity. However, this has brought about a gap in customer education, attraction and product experience, which can have a huge impact on product sales. Crazy, Inc. & BLBG, Inc. in Japan identified this gap, and commissioned Haruki Oku Design and PAN- PROJECTS to design The Playhouse - a renovated, three-storied building in a busy fashion district of

Tokyo. Equipped with movable walls and curtains, the primary function of the store is to elevate the consumer's purchase activity in a place to learn, discover and experience the cultures related to the brands of products, and thus increase product sales.

The building accommodates a British fashion store on the ground and first level, and a wedding hall on the second. The design process started by looking at the whole building as an alternative form of theatre, and creating transformable architectural elements that allow for events, pop-up stores and innovative displays.

Enrobed in a movable curtain, the entrance atrium is probably the highlight

of the building, and functions as a makeshift stage for talks and concerts. The ground floor also has a shop area with rotatable walls that provide great flexibility for pop-up markets, fashion shows and workshops. Each wall is dedicated to a specific brand, which helps create an array of pop-ups on the floor. The first floor serves mainly as a foyer leading guests up to the second floor, and is bordered by a display of products by permanent brands. Lastly, the top level is swathed in textile walls which create flexibility of space for events. Culture and sales co-exist in every corner of every floor of The Playhouse, exploring the possible future of the retail experience. **H&DT**



The Playhouse has been designed in response to the current social situation and the rapid transition of retail stores from on-ground to online. This concept considers the physical store as an experiential space that initiates product sales.



SPECTACLE

*Transformative public interventions that
alter perceptions and neighbourhoods*

Text TINA THAKRAR



BREAKWATER BY CORYN KEMPSTER AND JULIA JAMROZIK JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

Emphasising the role of playscapes as social infrastructure that brings communities together, Breakwater is a large-scale concrete element that's been lifted from its original maritime context and placed within a city, where it can be used by people of all ages. The installation has been crafted from concrete dolosse, which are essentially prefabricated elements used to break the force of the waves on the shoreline. Four unused pieces, weighing thousands of kilograms each, were salvaged from the Army Corps and placed in the city park. They have been given a colourful polyurea coating and are placed on a rubber surface for safety. Breakwater is situated along a bike path, encouraging riders to use it as a resting place. Although the form is unfamiliar, its usability for sitting, climbing, sliding, lounging and playing is high, attracting everyone from children to adults to interpret and use it as per their will. This installation not only revitalises an underserved neighbourhood, but also introduces the masses to the juxtaposition of a hardy industrial element and its use for relaxation and soft play. ►



IMAGES: CORYN KEMPSTER



CIRCO AÉREO BY KOGAA LOGROÑO, SPAIN

Even in the most densely packed cities, you're bound to find unused or underutilised urban spaces that are often converted into barren parking lots or junkyards. Addressing this problem, architecture firm KOGAA created an inflatable amphitheatre that can be used for events, or simply a place for rest and leisure. Circo Aéreo is a ring-shaped object that can serve as a canvas for projections, a shaded area during the day, and a light source after sunset. It comprises a lower body, which is a wooden structural holder for the upper ring, which has been recycled from previous use. The lower structure has seating members, but users have to stoop to access it. This ensures that once inside, they're completely surrounded by the white circle and can experience it undisturbed. **H&DT**

IMAGES: JOSEMA CUTILLAS AND JAVIER ANTON

DEEP-ROOTED

*Beyond the Pot by **studio d-o-t-s** delves into the vegetal realm, encouraging young designers to adopt a phytocentric approach to design*

Text **TINA THAKRAR**

ALL designers must find a way to work with different kinds of clients. The Beyond the Pot exhibition by studio d-o-t-s at ESAD Valenciennes - School of Design in France, held after week-long design workshops at multiple design schools, pointed to a rather curious client - plants. Through a series of education endeavours, the team asked students to think of plants as their clients, and conceive devices, installations and furniture keeping vegetal needs in mind. The idea was to generate a shift from the prevalent anthropocentric to a phytocentric point of view, to help humans establish new connections with the plant world.

Houseplants are often considered to have pretty basic needs, which means that they're generally handled with standard care with regard to light, water and soil. More often than not, small tweaks in the care pattern for each individual plant can help them bloom faster and stronger. For Beyond the Pot, six houseplants with very different desires and needs were chosen and catered to. The resultant creations are a medium for humans to understand and respect the needs of the vegetal world, just as we would our own.





Retrouver ses racines by
Clémence Henault, Zoé Guevar-
Baisier, Ameni Yezza

The revered Bromelia Tillandsia is native to Central America, and is an epiphyte, which means it relies on external elements for support. Unfortunately, it is sold and grown in pots in Europe. This ritualistic installation pays homage to its history and origins.



Carnivore, et alors? by Arthur
Grethen, Téa Laurent,
Léo Sprimont

Often referred to as a carnivorous plant, the Dionaea Muscipula is considered violent because it feeds on flesh. This device looks at the plant differently; as a delicate being that needs to be protected from overly curious humans.

FORM AND FUNCTION | *Portfolio*

Gradus Scindapsus
by Clothilde Delsart,
Gaëlle Langlets,
Nicolas Tondeux
Gradus Scindapsus
This device has a
graduated structure
that allows humans
to keep track of the
growth of the Pothos
plant, direct its
vines and trim it
easily.





Morris Pimp by Gabrielle Gustin & Charline Mavet
The *Platynerium Bifurcatum* or Staghorn Fern is an epiphyte native to the equatorial forests of New Guinea and Australia. To allow it to adjust to an urban landscape, a DIY kit was created as its supportive feature.

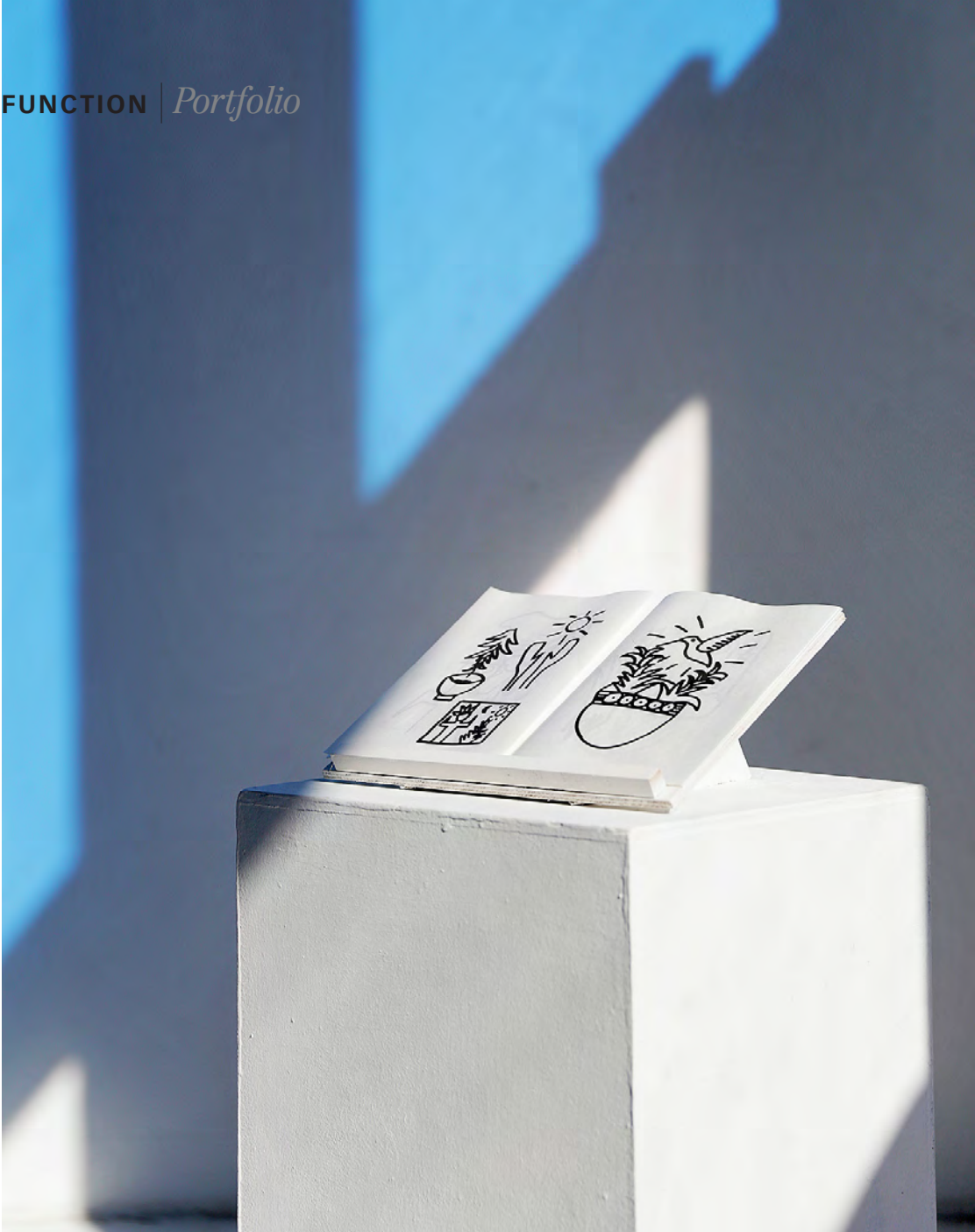


1Fourreau by Scott Froidevaux, Yalhna Robette, Noémie Vinchon
This device houses an *Echinodorus Grisebachii* or Water Sword, whose growth is organically governed by regular elevations of river water. To replicate this, the device is fitted with two pulleys, and translucent faces that allow diffused light in.



Sans titre by Paul Bourne-Madelenat, Lilas Doat-Tan Ham, Mathilde Douilly
The Chlorophytum has offshoots that allow it to grow very quickly, even indoors. This scalable device matches pace with its life cycle, and maintains its orientation towards light with the help of an integrated rotating system.

The designs create actual living conditions or 'residences' for the plants, honouring their functions, needs and roots, both literally and figuratively.





The reigning queen of interiors,

Kelly Wearstler

takes a retrospective journey
of her two-decade-long
electrifying métier

Text NITIJA IMMANUEL
Profile images JOYCE PARK

“Interior design combines so many of my passions – architecture, art history, sculpting – with patterns, textures, light and movement. It truly is my dream job,” muses celebrity designer Kelly Wearstler. Renowned for her playful take on Mid-century modernism and a virtuosic eye for colour, Kelly is the patron of an increasingly coveted trait – a distinct style. From fashioning homes for high-profile celebrities to turning hospitality projects into iconic landmarks, from starring in a reality design show to launching her own fashion line and capsule colour collection, Kelly has truly revolutionised contemporary American design, and she is just getting started.

BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | *Cover Story*

Kelly's had a successful two-decade-long career, during which she's created several eloquent and diverse creations that can be attributed to her childhood, and her mother's keen eye for all things design. "My mother was a designer, and she took me to flea markets and antique sales, honing my eye for design from a young age," she recollects.

Over the years, it's become clear that Kelly's passions have evolved. After graduating from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, she held a few design internships before moving to the West Coast and waiting tables whilst launching her own design business. "It started out with one client. I was referred by a friend and hired to design one room in their home. From there, I slowly grew my business by word of mouth," she adds. It was 1995 when she officially established her studio: Kelly Wearstler Interior Design.

Some of the earliest commissions that boast her inimitable aesthetic are the Avalon Hotel in Beverly Hills, the Viceroy Santa Monica and several other international properties for the Viceroy Group. Other key residential projects include the Bellagio Residence Bel-Air, and private residences for Gwen Stefani, Cameron Diaz and Sebastian Maniscalco in Beverley Hills. "These, for me, are the standouts, because we established great relationships and have remained close friends since," says Kelly fondly.



(Above) Downtown LA Proper Hotel

(Below left) A palette of earthy browns and tans dictate the lobby at The Austin Proper Hotel
(Below right) The Peacock, an Eastern Mediterranean restaurant in the hotel



IMAGES: THE INGALLS



A sophisticated colour palette punctuates the Harper Avenue Bungalow by Wearstler. The designer dotted the home with an infusion of contemporary and vintage art pieces by prominent and emerging artists.

Her latest masterpieces include the glamorous projects for Proper Hotels, of which the Santa Monica Proper stands out as a stark contrast from her maximalist design approach, channeling a moody, California-maritime story for the reception, with artful interpretations of iconic coastal elements. “The palette is nature-inspired and earthy, features raw materials and organic textiles, and the art and landscape brings a rich sensory feeling into the hotel,” she says.

Her own house in Beverly Hills has an extremely cool and rich Hollywood history, evoking postcard envy. Fitted with a freshly manicured garden, interior courtyard and vintage interiors, the house originally belonged to Albert R. Broccoli, the producer and creator of the James Bond movies. Inside, the furnishings are by a mélange of progressive contemporary designers and artists, blended with vintage furniture and curated finds from her travels.



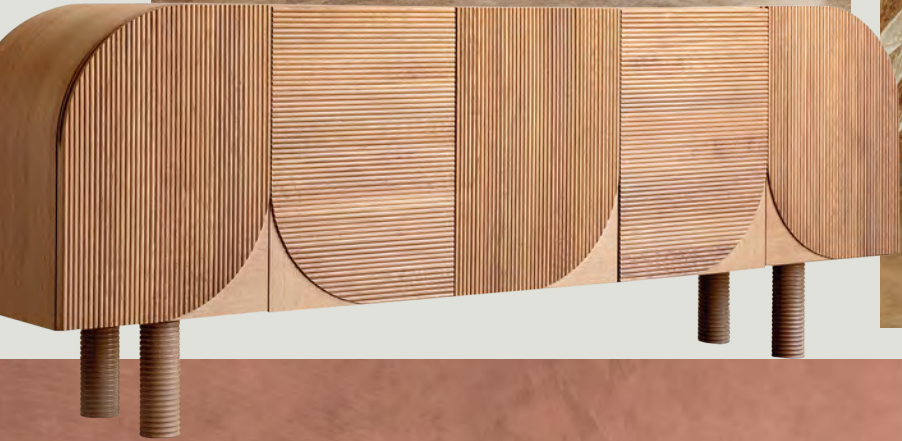
BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | *Cover Story*

For the unsuspecting, the name Kelly Wearstler is not uncommon to shoppers at Bergdorf Goodman. Stumbling upon fashion by chance, in 2011, she debuted her own lines of ready-to-wear clothing, clutches, and jewelry. Wearstler attributes fashion as the creative inspiration for her design work and vice versa. “I pretty much dress the way I design interiors — combining something old and something new,” says Wearstler, who also acted as one of three primary judges in *Top Design*, a reality TV contest.

Unlike her contemporaries, Kelly’s turning point is not a proverbial climax in her professional life but far from it; it is an ode to her humble beginnings. “When I moved to Los Angeles from New York after graduating school, I painted my first apartment a bright yellow. It felt bold, enigmatic and optimistic. I’ve been thinking about that project a lot recently as I designed my first paint collection with Farrow and Ball and created the yellow hue, Citrona. It feels like an amazing full circle!”



Inside Kelly’s private residences (Clockwise from top) The family home in Beverly Hills, California; A lofty, arched window opens up to the view of the landscaped courtyard; The designer’s airy seaside Malibu home takes direct inspiration from the panoramic seascape view; A sculpture in the form of a nautilus shell



Wearstler recently launched her A/W 2020 home collection, which is a series of furniture and lighting pieces in clean lines and fluid curves characterised by colour and asymmetrical forms.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KELLY WEARSTLER

"I start every day with exercise; I usually go for a run, then do a rigorous workout in the morning, followed by a cold plunge into the sea if I'm staying at the beach in Malibu. In one day, I can enjoy design sessions for interiors, architecture, products, and furniture. The amazing cross-pollination is what inspires me most and keeps me on my toes. When the workday is done, it's all about spending time with my husband and two lovely boys, indulging in fun cooking sessions or simply playing board games."

STYLE AS SUBSTANCE

Kelly doesn't care for the word 'style', or for pigeonholing her own, although she does admit that the influences of her formative years in Myrtle Beach are inescapable. She finds influence and inspiration from such a wide range of sources, "I love the 1970s and 80s, and also my peers in contemporary design." With Wearstler, elegant volumes and clean vocabulary replace colourful gestures, and the drama unfolds as you move through the space. She explains that her aesthetic has always been about mixology – the juxtaposition of contemporary and classic, masculine and feminine, raw and refined.

COLOUR ME POWERFUL

She's an inspiration to many, but we can't help but wonder what inspires her. "Design is largely intuitive for me and I am truly inspired by everything. Mother nature, architecture, fashion, art, travel, photography, landscape design are all incredible influences." She lets us in on her secret to using the colour wheel to her advantage, which she believes creates the spirit of a room. "Before selecting a colour palette, I gauge the surroundings – What's outside the window? Is there a towering brown oak tree or a street art tableau? What are the colours outside? – and make my choice accordingly."



LOOKING THROUGH A TELESCOPE

Over the years, Wearstler has published five books that have all garnered rave reviews, and she hints at a possible sixth. "My books capture different evolutions in design and style. As I've evolved over the years, I wanted to share what I have learnt. I'm constantly evolving so yes... there could be a sixth book!" She reveals.

Over the last decade, Kelly Wearstler has truly emerged as a global lifestyle brand, which is a conglomerate of her accomplishments, supported by a small, inclusive, multidisciplinary team of 50. She is currently working on upcoming furniture, textile and lighting collections along with other residential projects that are underway. "I am extremely passionate about design, and every project truly has a special place in my heart," she concludes. **H&DT**

BUILDING WITH MIGHT

Architect **Rahul Kadri** is a force to be reckoned with, and his buildings are even more so. He gives **TRENDS** an insight into the true mission of architecture and how he works towards achieving it, brick by brick

Text **TINA THAKRAR**

There are numerous facets to the architectural prowess of award-winning, socio-cultural and eco-conscious architect and urban planner Rahul Kadri. The most telling one is that he spearheads IMK Architects, founded by his father I.M. Kadri in 1957, and during this time, has amassed decades of experience, a portfolio of over 150 large-scale projects across India and overseas, and a notable client list comprising the Taj Group, JSW Energy, The Supreme Court of India, Symbiosis Society and Club Mahindra.

In the 1990s, in the newly liberalised Indian economy, Rahul took over the reins of his father's practice. At the time, modern technology was making inroads into the architecture and construction industry, and concerns about climate change were arising. At a time when sustainability was an incipient idea, the firm was already developing green building concepts and tapping into the potential of architectural solutions that would last generations.

From his first independent project, which was an engineering college in Salem, to the biophilic, site-sensitive Symbiosis International University in Pune, to his ongoing educational, residential and hospitality projects around the country, Rahul has remained steadfast in his focus on social consciousness, urban ecological sensitivity, climate and context, social models, and innovation. Whether it's standalone buildings or city masterplans, he hasn't wavered from his attempts to rope nature into his designs.



“We constantly seek to make places where people and their activities will thrive. What interests us is how human aspiration to do certain activities relates to geometry of space.”

– Rahul Kadri, Partner & Principal Architect, IMK Architects



(Top) Auric Hall,
Aurangabad, 2019
(This image) Club
Mahindra Madikeri
Resort, Coorg, 2010
(Right) Symbiosis
University Hospital
& Research Centre,
Lavale, Pune, 2019





(Left) Symbiosis International University, Lavale, Pune, 2008
(Below) A render of the ongoing Sona Vistaas, Bengaluru

“Functional spaces are used by the end users to perform to their highest capacity. Form is perceived by everyone, and creates lasting memories and a sense of belonging to the place. All building planning starts with functions, but form also needs attention.”

– Rahul Kadri, Partner & Principal Architect, IMK Architects

As with most globally-renowned architects, this organic connect can be traced to Rahul's formative years. Although architecture had an overarching presence during his childhood, he never truly considered pursuing it until his teenage years, when his father introduced him to his buildings on drives around the city of Mumbai. This, coupled with his education at Sherwood College in Nainital, surrounded by vibrant landscapes, towering mountains and lush forests, infused within him a deep passion to create buildings and spaces in harmony with their natural context. To see this newfound passion through, Rahul got a graduate diploma in architecture from the Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, USA.



(Below Left) A render of the ongoing
Treeshade Housing Society Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai
(Self-redevelopment)
(Below Right) Club Mahindra Madikeri
Resort, Coorg, 2010



“Today, students are not only more aware and impressionable, but also more competitive, curious and socially exposed. It is our responsibility as architects to create a comfortable and optimal learning environment for them.”

– Rahul Kadri, Partner & Principal Architect, IMK Architects

“I was influenced by the work and writings of Christopher Alexander. His books spoke about human behaviour and geometry, how design affects what we do, how patterns link to patterns of behaviour. That way of thinking really grew on me and I have been growing that way of thinking ever since.”

After graduation in Michigan and before returning to India to join his father’s firm in Mumbai in 1989, Rahul made the intrepid move of walking right up to Alexander’s door, and expressing a desire to work with him. As luck would have it, he was hired for six months, and that experience became the chassis for what is now a successful and inspirational career in architecture and urban design.

Educational institutes are the mainstay of IMK Architects since its inception, but the firm has also developed expertise in healthcare, which has become increasingly technical and challenging. The idea is

for these buildings to be future-proof and malleable enough to fulfil modern society’s growing demands.

“We have designed buildings in almost all verticals of a design office, but what I now wish to design are buildings or spaces that are tailor made for the citizens of Mumbai. It could be a public park that provides recreation for the surrounding neighbourhood or helps self-redevelopment of an old residential society completely on its own, without being at the mercy of a builder,” he says, throwing light on his affinity for people-centricity in his designs. He aims to create more buildings and spaces where the designers are empowered, and the users thrive.

As a way to support and strengthen communities beyond the medium of architecture, Rahul is an active member of multiple charitable projects across the country. He is the Managing Trustee of Save The Children India, Vice-

President of The Pride India (Planning Rural-Urban Integrated Development through Education), and Trustee of the Kadri Foundation, a non-profit trust that runs a school for under-privileged girls in Ahmedabad. “We firmly believe that education is the core component in any process of empowerment. It has been our constant endeavour to try innovative models that bring the joy back into education.”

He shares this belief with his wife Shimul Javeri Kadri, a multi-award-winning architect, speaker, jurist, teacher, and country-wide propagator of women’s rights in education, civic society and design. The two work in their own practices, but continue to share the mission to build sustainably, practically, contextually and in harmony with natural elements. However, their autonomous approach is reassuring, in that they’re able to make twice the impact in the architecture milieu. **H&DT**

SCULPTED SPACES | *Residential*

CALM AND COLLECTED

Usine Studio incorporates the principles of zen living into this pristine white dwelling in Gujarat

Text NITIJA IMMANUEL Images ISHITA SITWALA





"Each room has been carefully designed keeping our ethos and aesthetics in mind. Handpicked furniture pieces and artefacts complement the comforting white theme of the house."

– Yatin Kavaiya, Co-founder, Usine Studio



SCULPTED SPACES | *Residential*

For the daughter's bedroom, the designers imbued a minimal look with a dusky pink bed, emerald chair and wooden flooring.



"It was a challenge for us to offer a new set of design experiences that reflected the client's seasoned yet understated lifestyle, with a subtle overarching theme."

– Jiten Tosar, Co-founder, Usine Studio



CLICK HERE
TO READ
MORE



OPEN-ENDED LIVING

*For this multi-generational family, **Between Spaces** designed a simple, pragmatic and modern home where each member is able to explore the space in their distinct manner*

Text AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA Images SHAMANTH J PATIL

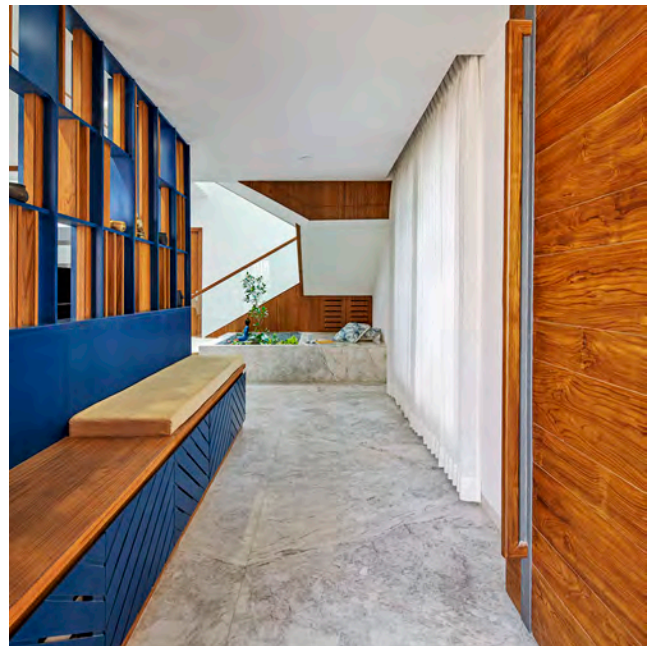


"This house is built on a tight corner plot. The structure's narrative was conceived around the idea of creating a playful yet pragmatic design. We call this home the Cuckoo's Nest, as it alludes more to the playful imagery of the namesake clock.

– Pramod Jaiswal, Co-founder, Between Spaces



Just as the onion skin peels away to reveal a delicious inner, the architectural layering of this project sequentially takes us from the busy outdoors to the serene indoors.



"The design is an interpretation of the typical layering in a south Indian temple complex, where the inner sanctum is surrounded by layers of pillared verandahs, with a tall outer fence.

– Divya Ethirajan, Co-founder, *Between Spaces*



"We wanted to create a home that resonated with three generations. The house is designed to be a sanctuary of silence and quietude tempered with the sounds of conversation."

– Pramod Jaiswal, Co-founder, *Between Spaces*



DIVIDED FOR FLUIDITY

Studio Mestry creates a subtly-partitioned workspace that's neat and modern, with crisp lines

Text TINA THAKRAR *Images* ANISH PADALKAR

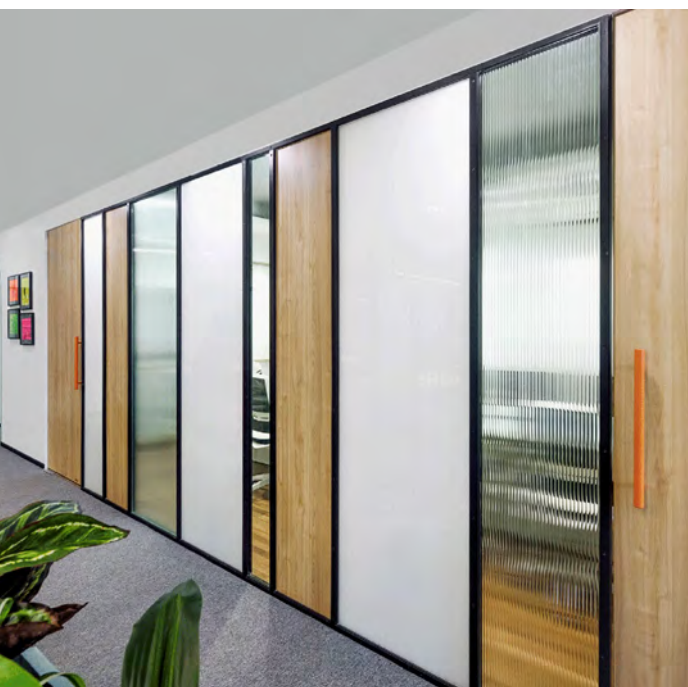
"The simple office design uses geometric shapes, clean graphics and arches set against a monochrome backdrop and lots of plants."

– Akshaya Mestry, Founder & Principal Architect, Studio Mestry





The office is bordered by windows on two sides, alongside the conference room and private cabins. Natural light seeps into the central area through glass partitions, thereby illuminating all areas of the office.



"Most of the floors, furniture, walls and fixtures are bright and white, contrasting with bold injections of orange, yellow, and teal. The material palette adds balance through neutral tones."

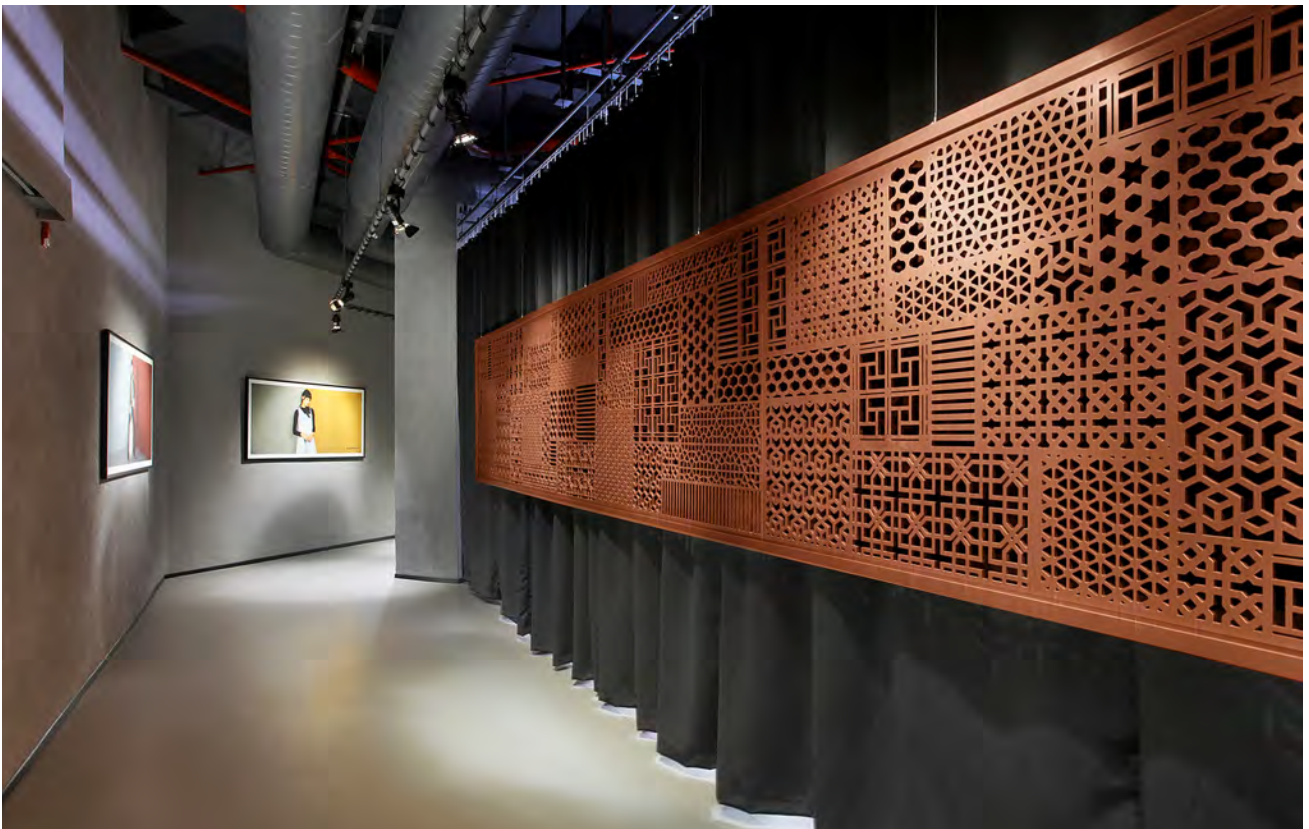
– Akshaya Mestry, Founder & Principal Architect, Studio Mestry



ON-TREND

*Regional Indian elements are given a modern twist in the Amazon BLINK fashion studio in New Delhi by **Ultraconfidentiel Design***

Text TINA THAKRAR Images KAPIL KAMRA





Replete with open and collaborative areas, the fashion studio is rooted in India in terms of its design. Customary elements like *saris* and Mughal *jaalis* get a fresh upgrade in this 44,000sqft workspace.



“A subtle blend of modern designs and revisited Indian traditions inhabits this studio. Our design team brought in well thought-out details to tell a story and depict not only fashion but also the essence of India.”

– Pierre-Arnaud Cassin, *Managing Director, Ultraconfidentiel Design*



The design style is contemporary, fresh and industrial, with references from BLINK offices in New York and London. The spatial plan boosts collaborations and interactions between all generations of fashion designers.



CLICK HERE
TO READ
MORE



"The design expectations were set high. It was a challenging project, and a lot of technical aspects were involved, which made the project more exciting."

– Pierre-Arnaud Cassin, Managing Director,
Ultraconfidentiel Design

HOME & DESIGN

TRENDS