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MEETTHEJURY

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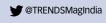


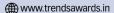
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EDITOR'S NOTE



There's a certain commitment that is required to build something from scratch. It usually comes from a place deep within us that's filled with a very special sense. Some would call it emotion, some a force, and others a feeling. I think of it as the very essence of who we are.

We have all observed this "force" in glorious action all through these pandemic months – some objectively, some actively and some even passively. There is indubitably something creative about humankind. And while I do believe very strongly in necessity being the mother of all invention, I also know that there's no "mother" without love. Maybe then, this creative force that helps us cope and survive and redesign our lives is perhaps love.

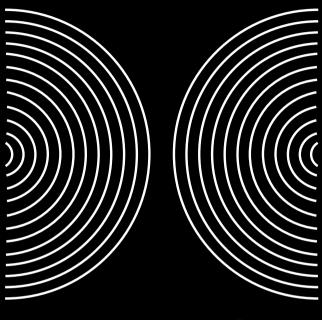
I keep circling back to how, as creatives, and design minds at that, we are all preoccupied with not only how to redesign the way we live to suit the changing climes, but how to redesign it well and with purpose. There's a huge change in the changes we're making... to walls, to furniture, accessories, solutions, our offices and most importantly, our homes.

I'm super impressed by the way it's all turning out. And what's this "it"...do you want to know? Well...the redesign. The newness of the spaces that form the new backdrops of our lives, the nowness of the scope and appearance of those spaces. I'm so impressed. Once again, kudos to a community that *is* because the rest of us *are*. And thank you, for all the incredible changes you have made to our structures (pun intended).

Ronitaa R. Italia *Editor in Chief*

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MAISON PARISIENNE

A nomadic art gallery that celebrates French contemporary creations

Text NEERJA KAPADIA



Founded in 2006 by Florence Guillier-Bernard, Maison Parisienne celebrates French contemporary creation, representing more than 25 artists and craftsmen, either French or living in France, whose talents, skills and expertise are both traditional and innovative.



aison Parisienne presents a selection of rare objects, unique pieces, and limited editions, all born from the excellence of its artists' techniques. As a wayfaring entity, it directly meets collectors by temporarily settling in unexpected and prestigious places for ephemeral exhibitions. Since it's first exhibition in 2008, over 50 art shows have taken place in the most breathtaking interiors of France and other European capitals. In 2006, in France, there was a seemingly unsurmountable gap between the different disciplines of contemporary art and fine crafts. Florence Guillier-Bernard decided to showcase French talent, thus paving the way for a French art craft movement. The very first exhibition took place in 2008 in the royal suite of the Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris. Maison Parisienne's mission is to reveal talents and enable French artists to gain more visibility and recognition, working hand in hand with some of the most prestigious institutions in the world, including the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Art Institute of Chicago. As of 2020, Maison Parisienne has a permanent showroom located in the 17th arrondissement in Paris, on the scenic Boulevard Pereire, a stone's throw away from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Élysées.



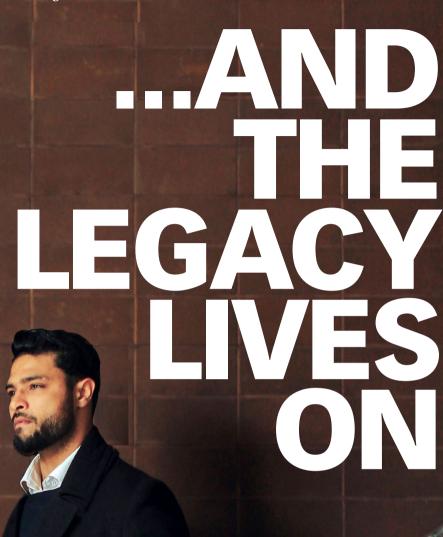
BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | Spotlight





Maison Parisienne represents several artists who combine techniques and materials in their art practices such as this fine piece by Corentin Laval - Les Meandres.

The art gallery proposes a selection of artworks that combine traditional techniques and contemporary innovation. Starting with the ancestral techniques that represent the best of French craft, each artwork is an example of contemporary innovation, either showing off modern twists, combining contemporary materials, or creating a brand new vision. Pierre Renart, for instance, uses traditional cabinet-making techniques which he combines with fresh high-tech materials, producing breath-taking pieces of furniture. Another example would be Simone Pheulpin, who uses the most traditional of materials - bands of raw cotton that are manufactured in the Vosges region of France, and straight pins from the very last French pin manufacturing company, to create stunning sculptures with organic textures. French artists and craftsmen ennoble materials such as wood, textile, metal, ceramic, glass, paper, feathers, wicker, and cardboard, offering a selection of art objects that magnify relatively common materials. A few showstopping pieces include Pierre Renart's Wave Desk,



Sanchit Arora trains his young eyes towards has propelled by his creating an architectural identity the studio founded by his creating an architectural the studio founded by his creating an architectural the studio founded by his creating an architectural how the studio founded by his creating an architectural the studio founded by his creating an architectural the studio founded by his creating and architectural the studio founded by his creating and architectural the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating architectural than the studio founded by his creating and architectural than the studio founded by his creating architectural than the studio founded by his co Concepts. We chart how the architect has propelled as one of the trajectory of RENESA, the studio founded as country the trajectory Arora, towards being touted as country the trajectory Arora, towards design firms in the country father sample awant-garde design firms in the leading awant-gardeness are the leading awant-garde Father Saniay Arora, towards being touted as one of the father san the country armined abendance are and the leading avant garde design firms and are the leading avant profile image are are under the leading as our a profile image are under the leading as our a profile image are under the leading as our a profile image are under the leading as our a profile image are under the leading as one of the leading are under the leading as one of the leading are under the leading as one of the leading are under the leading as one of the leading are under the leading as one of the leading are under the leading as one of the leading are under the leading are unde The leading avant-garde design firms in the leading as inventa gupta of the leading as inventa gupta. Text avan noges inventa a gupta project images inventa gupta

BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | Cover Story

I love looking at the most ordinary fundamental forms and constantly think of ways of reinventing them with or without its function having any repercussions. The most beautiful ideas make way from the simplest of things and that's how we as architects keep reinventing the same simple things in its most varied forms and thoughts.

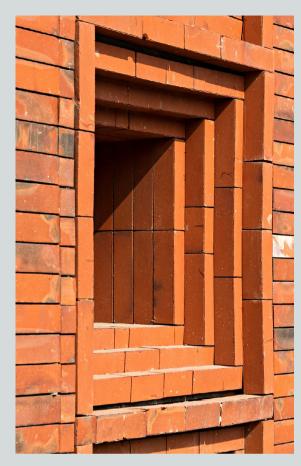
- Sanchit Arora, Principal Architect, RENESĀ

To talk about the present and the future it is very important we travel back in time all the way to when Sanchit Arora was a toddler. Ever since he could remember, Sanchit wanted to be an architect. Seeing his father Sanjay Arora, the founder of RENESĀ, scribble with different pencils as scale sets lay scattered all over the house, while drafting boards were intrinsic additions in the living room...memories of his father starting the day with design and ending it huddled with his team around old sets of slow computers are the embers that flamed his young ambition. Sanchit reminisces, "It's beautiful how life repeats itself and the whole circle keeps continuing to make way for the same memories but in a very modern way now."

In this candid dialogue, Sanchit reveals it all, including the fact that being an architect was all he thought about, but he didn't think much about RENESĀ growing up. "Like every student, the learning process was slow and steady. I always imagined that I would get my arms covered in grease (figuratively speaking), learn along the way, and then establish an identity of my own. However, post my internship and work experience, my father presented me with two options: Either I start working with him in my formative years or apply for my Masters. I've never been a believer in learning within the confines of the system of advanced studies. It was an easy decision, and I took up my father on his offer. Of course, it's not easy to work with your own parent but that's when the concept of patience stepped in," he says.



BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | Cover Story



FINDING HIS FEET

As the young architect grew into his own skin, he quickly reached a very important conclusion. "Earlier on itself, I summed up that the whole idea of creating an architectural identity through concepts was missing in India. It became a burning passion to really dwell into that scheme of design and create a new identity of brand architecture. And that quest has led me to where I am today! It's been only seven years that I have really kickstarted my career and crafted an identity for the work I do. I know I have a long way to go before I can further "reinvent" RENESĀ. At its core, the studio founded by my father has a core belief that I do align myself with...that of creating architectural identities through various projects," says Sanchit.

OWNING THE SILVER SPOON

We ask him if he had it easy, and he doesn't mince words, "Will a doctor's son open a clinic in front of his father's or mother's existing clinic or work under them to learn from the best possible guidance? The answer is simple, either you take the opportunity with both hands or let it go. I feel proud to be a part of this architectural legacy and always feel that comparing myself to my father would only stop me from growing further.



Of course, when you have a set infrastructure, you already have the silver spoon with you, but then you must decide how to make it gold rather than allowing it to oxidise further.

I have grown immensely during my time here. From creating a unique concept to curating a team with young minds that visualise in a different way altogether, to investing in post-completion photography and creating the right brand via media...we have taken steps to strengthen the infrastructure that our studio already had (administration and office principles).

Again, I don't feel the need to create a unique identity for the sake of it, we really enjoy what we do and let the end users decide how the space finds its way to them."

Previous page and this page: Titled 'The Brick Pond ', this retail project is a 550sqft expanse in New Delhi. It was conceptualised and executed for Jindal Mechno Bricks group in response to the client's requirement for an identity facelift. The overhaul of the obsolete design identity began for the studio at the façade-level; the primary interface of a visual connection that patrons establish with a retail destination.



THE WORK DYNAMICS

As is the case with many family-led businesses, the younger generation tends to follow in the footsteps of its seniors. So, is Sanchit a carbon copy of his father in terms of work philosophies and creative approaches? We wonder and hence we ask.

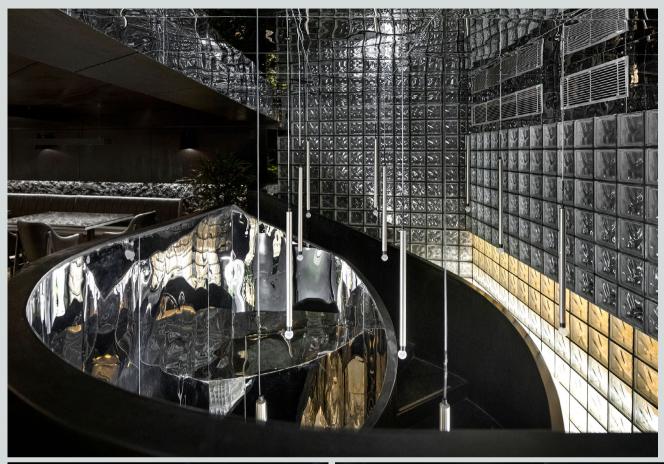
"Far from it! My father and I are two completely different individuals with different principles. The only commonality that glues us is our passion for architecture and design. The idea of immersing our studio in two different perspectives excites us. The marriage of old and young; experienced and

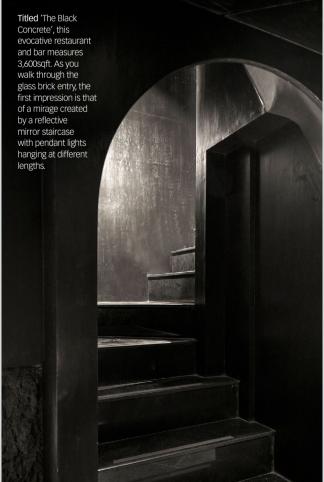
non-experienced; technically savvy and a learning individual; old gold and bold and young...all these factors create a very beautiful amalgam of thoughts and designs for the end users.

It's such a unique way of implementing experienced technical learning into bold and fresh ideologies or concepts that it ends up creating a more impactful design module than one of us designing it separately. For me, the design battles I have with my father go on to create a design by itself which is the only way we unite to approach design," says Sanchit.

Titled 'The Fluted Emerald', this is a restaurant and bar project measuring 1,500sqft. The idea for The Elgin Cafe was to reflect Udaipur green stone with fluted members. You can spot nuances of Madagascar green and pale green with contrasting salmon colour seating that adds a not-so-subtle quirk to the scheme.

BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | Cover Story







Everyday I am learning as an architect. I always feel the need to upgrade my skill set and ideologies with the changing trends.

- Sanchit Arora, Principal Architect, RENESĀ

BUILDING CONVERSATIONS | Cover Story



WHERE WE'RE AT!

Sanchit is touted as the next Gen of Indian design. From crafting evocative spatial experiences to experimenting heavily with contours and rooted materials, the architect is redefining the tenets of a traditional approach to design. Sanchit doesn't believe in I.... With him, it's all about us. His team is equally credited for milestone projects, this is reflective of his passion towards cultivating a work environment that is thriving, enabled, and creative. He says, "We believe in designing as a whole team, no hierarchy. Every individual is as important as my father and me. I don't like using the term principal architect, it adds more pressure on me than I would want currently."

TRACING THE GROWTH CHART

It's been only seven years, but Sanchit has garnered a reputation as a rebel with a cause. We elaborate on this...he is known to curate dialogues that are responsive to function and at the same time dramatic. His trajectory from then to now is quite impressive, but as Sanchit sees it, it's more about his growth as a person. "I chart my evolution more on the lines of how I deal with my clients rather than how the project is received. That to me is the real evolution...to be able to engage with my clients to live big. I believe it's crucial to be known as a good human, who also happens to be an architect," he says.



THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

At RENESĀ we have observed that no two projects are the same. Sanchit believes that at this stage talking about his evolution would be conceited. "I rather take it as a new opportunity to try another scheme or brand of architecture to create another identity for my clients," he says. In a light-hearted moment during this intense discourse, the architect breaks through the serious tenor. We wish to conclude this feature on that note, "Currently I am married to my design till I get married, hence RENESĀ is my beautiful wife till I don't marry my girlfriend."

Titled 'House of Nostalgia', this 7,000sqft farmhouse in New Delhi is a celebration of scale and bespoke elements, that are the hallmarks of this dramatic expanse.

THE BIRD HOUSE

A contemporary restoration of a glamorous Hollywood villa by celebrity interior designers **Robert** and **Cortney Novogratz**

Text NEERJA KAPADIA Images AMY NEUNSINGER AND GUS BLACK



SCULPTED SPACES | Residential

"The idea was
to bring it back
to its original
charm, but
unfortunately,
we had to bring
it down. We
rebuilt the house,
doubling its size,
but kept the
same spirit of the
original house,
with the existing
courtyard as the
focal point."

— The Novogratz

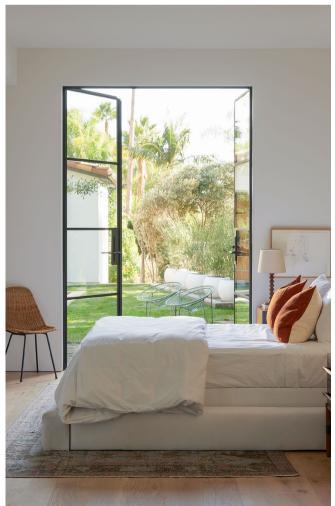




sculpted spaces |Residential|



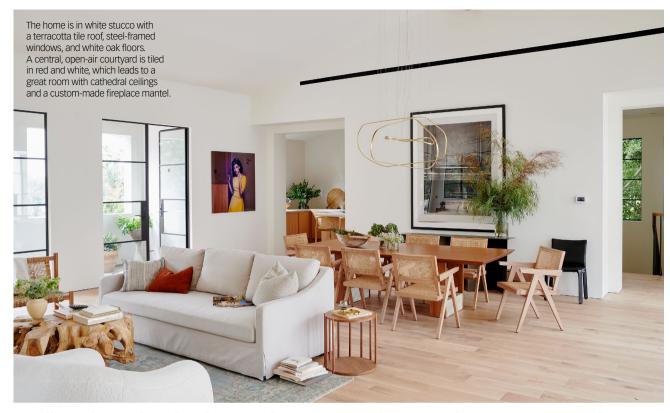






The crisp white and neutral design of the home is juxtaposed by modern art pieces collected by Robert and Cortney Novogratz, with the works of Diego Uchitel, Erwin Olaf, Tracy Emin, Marcel Dzarma, and Enoc Perez breathing new life into each room.

SCULPTED SPACES | Residential



"We bought the house in 2019 and started a gut renovation.

Unfortunately, it was right before the start of the Covid pandemic, but we got the house finished. It is perhaps the largest home restoration project we have ever done."

— The Novogratz





SCULPTED SPACES | Residential



"The client wanted a home that amalgamated earthy textures and contemporary elements. Neutral walls, grey flooring and colourful accents were integrated, with the rooms reflecting the personality of its inhabitants."

- Sneha Talati and Iesha Parekh Shellugar, Founders, TaP Design Inc





"Repetition and symmetry are prominent design elements seen in the fluting on the walls and a few of the wardrobes, the embellishments, and the patterns running through the space."

- Sneha Talati and Iesha Parekh Shellugar, Founders, TaP Design Inc



sculpted spaces | Residential





The master bedroom, revealing a vaulted ceiling, motif laden fabrics and a veneer-clad feature wall, renders a sense of warmth and elegance. The kitchen holds a relatively subtle appeal, featuring wooden tones and chequered flooring, with cane and fabric pendant lights blending into the subdued scheme yet becoming focal elements within the space.





Set in a tight neighbourhood in Gadhinglaj, Kolhapur, the 2,800sqft site offers a unique context set in a semi-urban environment.

– Rohan Chavan, Founder, RC Architects

The common garden is surrounded by the living room, the kitchen and the bedroom as it is utilised for various activities throughout the day. It also plays an important role in providing abundant light and ventilation for the entire house.







SCULPTED SPACES | Residential



Considering the harsh direct sunlight that the terrace receives, the walls of the terrace are painted tan red to minimise glare and make it a comfortable space to inhabit.

- Rohan Chavan, Founder, RC Architects



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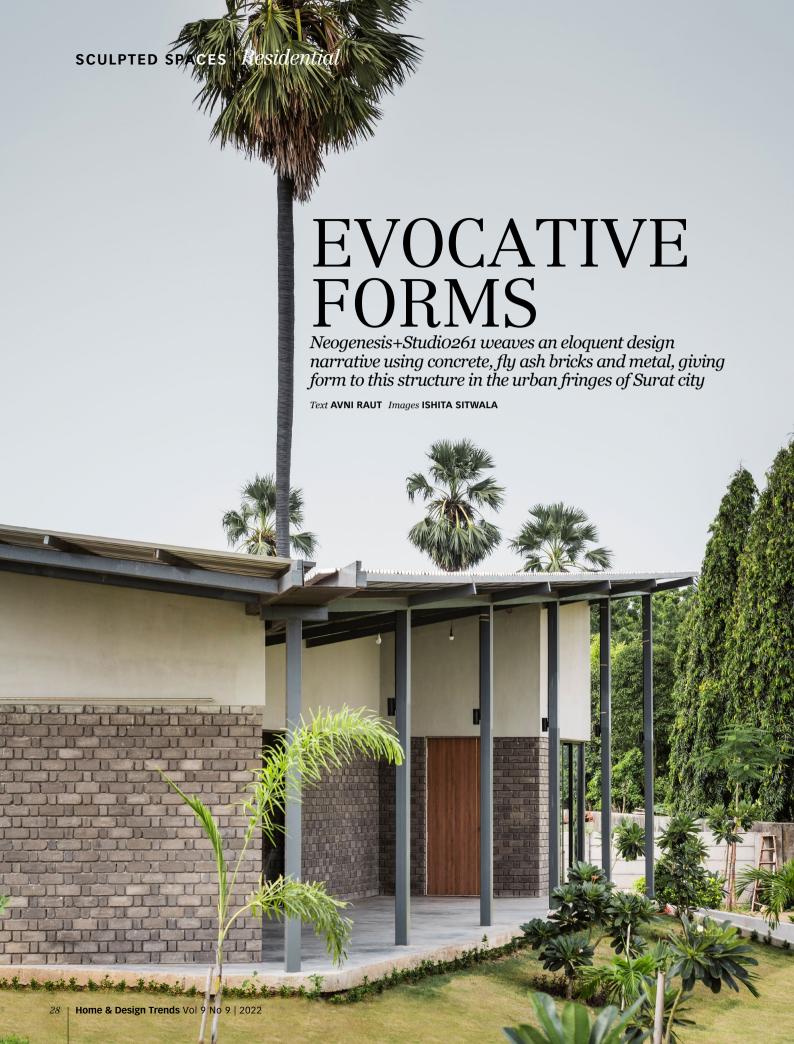


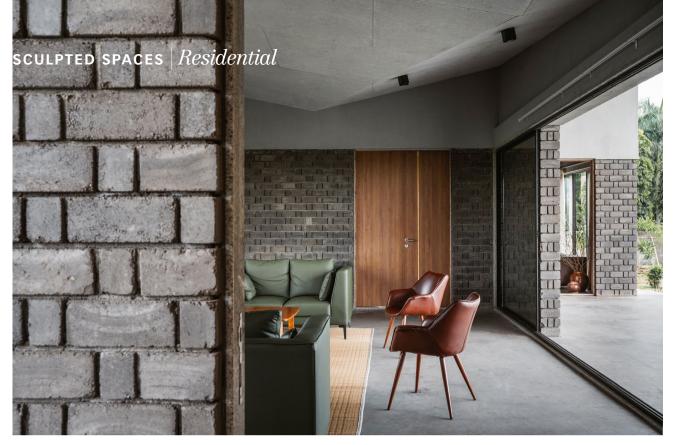






As one makes their way further into the house, they are met with the light from the overhead skylight and a glimpse of the garden ahead. While the interiors are simple and functional, it is the architecture of the roofs that sets this home apart.





"The blocks are scattered and placed at angles in a linear orientation on the western side of the site, leaving the lush landscape to take over the eastern side."

— Chinmay Laiwala, Jigar Asarawala and Tarika Asarawala, Principal Architects, Neogenesis+Studi0261





The structure comprises a multipurpose room, a family living area, a kitchen and dining space, and the toilet. The otla space outside serves as a multifunctional area for activities.

sculpted spaces |Residential|









As the site is located amidst farmlands, the surrounding landscape was an important factor and taken into consideration while designing and planning the house. The interiors and the semi-open spaces now uninhibitedly open up to these expansive views.



"Evolved as a response to the context, the house is low maintenance and well-rooted to the site. The project is smaller in scale with cost-effective yet high-quality tailor-made solutions."

— Chinmay Laiwala, Jigar Asarawala and Tarika Asarawala, Principal Architects, Neogenesis+Studi0261





SCULPTED SPACES | Commercial

Irregular shaped archways, doors and mirrors were designed to get away from the conventional 'boxes' that society expects. The 1,000sqft space has 4 cabins, a consultation room, cut and wash stations, bathrooms, and more.



"The crispy edged life we live these days, full of desires, expectations, and a certain way of living is defied by our organic furniture which tells you that it is okay to not have a perfect life - changing situations and circumstances are good."

- Karan Desai, Founder, KARAN DESAI Architecture + Design



"We opted for a seamless cement epoxy floor finish, freeing the space of joints and grouts, and eradicating boundaries and space confinements."

– Karan Desai, Founder, KARAN DESAI Architecture + Design



SCULPTED SPACES | Commercial





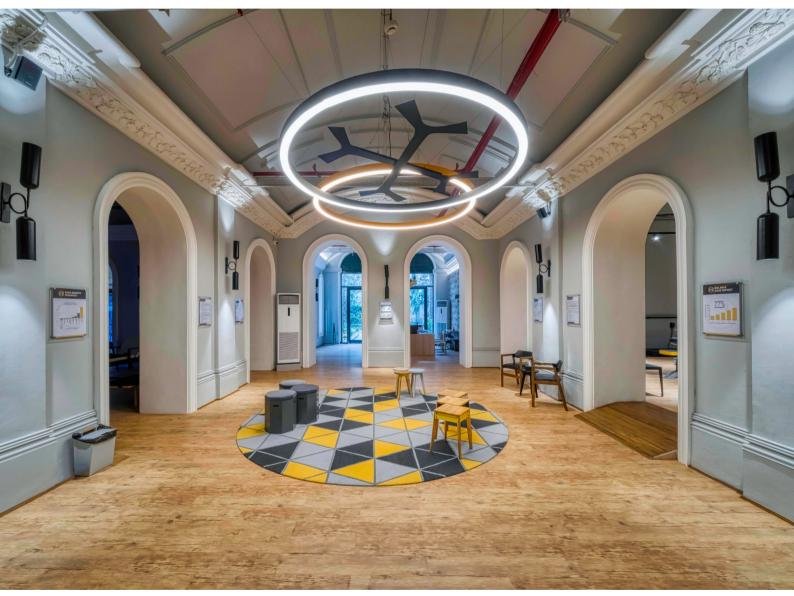




A MODERN ODE TO HERITAGE

Paying heed to the historical context this wellness centre is in, **Spaces and Design** crafts a modern expanse with an open plan and classical design elements

Text AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA Images VIVEK DAS



"This wellness centre is a 4,140sqft space located in the historical Loudon Mansion, Kolkata. The building stands out amidst the modern structures that line up here, making it a heritage project with a contemporary design brief."

– Pooja Bihani, Founder, Spaces and Design

SCULPTED SPACES | Commercial



A unique design unfolds to represent the modern image of the client with minimal tampering of the historic architecture of the building. We created this identity for the first Indian flagship of Osteostrong by adding ethnic touches.





${\it sculpted spaces} \mid Commercial$









In the foyer, round overhead lights with a design reminiscent of the Osteostrong logo becomes the highlight of the area. Towards the right is the spectrum area with four custom pieces of equipment. This leads to the training area for the staff and a hydrobath room on the right.



Yellow and black form the dominant colour scheme for the interiors, with muted textured greys and white for certain walls and cornices. Materials like metal and oakwood are used to complement the furniture.

– Pooja Bihani, Founder, Spaces and Design



HOME & DESIGN TRENDS