

room report *retro chic*

Lights. Colour. Drama. The Three Bay Suite at The Park hotel in Chennai, reflects the energy of its location with pride. By Meenakshi Singh

SUITE
4001

The Park
CHENNAI



star location

You step out from the cocoon of luxury that surrounds you at The Park Chennai into the dark South Indian night, and suddenly you are floating amidst the stars. This is Chennai's most famous landmark, the Gemini Studio. The roundabout next to the hotel is called the Gemini Circle. It does not matter if you don't know about Gemini Studio or its legendary twins blowing their trumpets at the start of every film. The Park celebrates the fantasy world of film and the magic of being at the movies in a manner that is both elegant and amusing. And this is apparent in Suite 4001 as well.

stylish space

The Three Bay Suite is named because it is located on the exclusive Residence floor of The Park and features three separate areas that virtually make it a private apartment. The colours: beech-coloured parquet floors, the moss green, mushroom and bark-brown décor with dramatic touches of cerulean blue against the bedroom walls suggest understated elegance. But it's the accessories that startle. There's a magnificent daybed at the entrance to the lounge area ❶. You can almost imagine Rhett Butler rising from its upholstered depths, brandy glass in hand to greet Scarlett. Even before you can murmur "gone with the wind," the expertly trained staff materialise to help you entertain your guests in the adjoining dining room, with its well-stocked pantry next door. It's a formal dining room, with a circular table, good lighting, comfortable seating ❷ and discrete works of art on the walls by artists such as Satish Naik. It can also double up as a conference room.

eclectic accessories

Though the overall design of The Park has been done by Hirsch Bedner Associates, Los Angeles, the artefacts



have been handpicked by Priya Paul, MD, Apeejay Surrendra Hotels. Her ability to create her own style of retro modern chic combining glass, steel and leather with bamboo and ceramic, woven grass trays filled with green-blue mussel shells 6, handmade paper lamps and a stunning collection of contemporary Indian art make each area distinctive. In the living room the wall facing the plasma screen has two panels in textured browns by the artist Anwar 9. The bedroom has a delicate piece of work by Smrithi Dixit that is perfectly offset by a truly brilliant poster of *Gharana* by Gemini films that features the famous heroine of the sixties—Asha Parekh 8.

URBAN HAVEN

Muted colours, chic, contemporary décor and rich textures create the perfect backdrop for a relaxing and luxurious experience.



private sanctuary

The beautiful stand-alone porcelain tub is straight out of the movies 6. Its marvellous chrome fittings and accessories can be seen from the bedroom, via a glass partition that also has gauze curtains. There are separate shower cubicles, a private toilet area and a very well-lit space for personal toiletries and clothes 7. The queen-size bed has a 10-inch mattress and soft goose down pillows from which you can access your own private DVD, VCD and audio player. That is to say, when you are not hanging out of your private balcony catching a glimpse of the magic of the old Gemini Studios' location.



The Park, 601 Anna Salai, Chennai, India; 91-44/4214-4000; www.theparkhotels.com; the Three Bay Suite costs Rs 22,500 or USD 500. +