

Living

THE PARK Magazine

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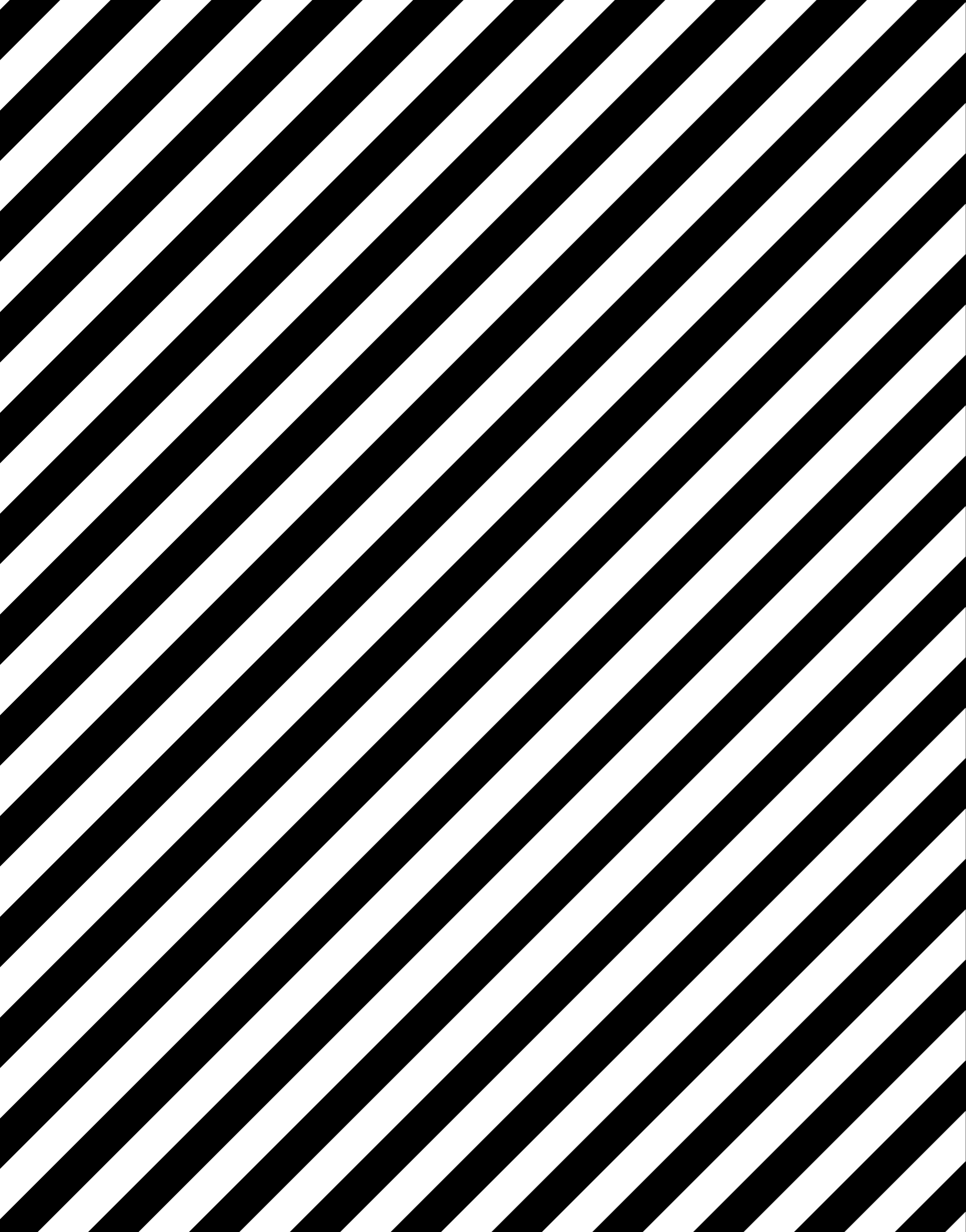
LIVING / Issue 10 / Contrast

LIVING is a barometer for global drifts, glimpsed through the unique lens of The Park Hotels. Traversing the landscape of contemporary lifestyle in the 21st century, it reflects on inventive thinking in design, hospitality, cuisine and artistic expression.

How does the juxtaposition of opposites create a whole new engagement? In the final issue of our volume that looks at the world through the building blocks of design, we explore contrast and its power to augment experience.

TRUST

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in. congruity

Within the white walls of a factory turned gallery, thousands of stainless steel pots and pans stand in a perfectly haphazard pile. Under the big top of the Great Bombay Circus, its resident *pehelwan* (wrestler) makes his grand entry on a toddler's tricycle. Her pink hair drenched, a teenager stops to pour water on a golden Buddha before pointing her plastic gun at the crowds gathered for *Songkran* on the streets of Bangkok. Things that don't go together have this uncanny way of working together beautifully.

What turns a bucket into a thing of art? There's scale, and there's craftsmanship. But the sheer contrast of context in Subodh Gupta's installations, the mundane everyday planted bang in the centre of discourse, tells a tale that the same bucket could never convey in your bathroom. Both engineered or unintended, contrast can be a powerful phenomenon. Whether it is in light, size, shape, colour, context or meaning, the perfect juxtaposition of seemingly disparate elements adds another layer to the narrative, making it whole. While the idea of contrast as a tool in the visual arts is central and quite apparent, in an age where all art, architecture and design is increasingly more about crafting an experience, contrast transcends its traditional visceral bounds.

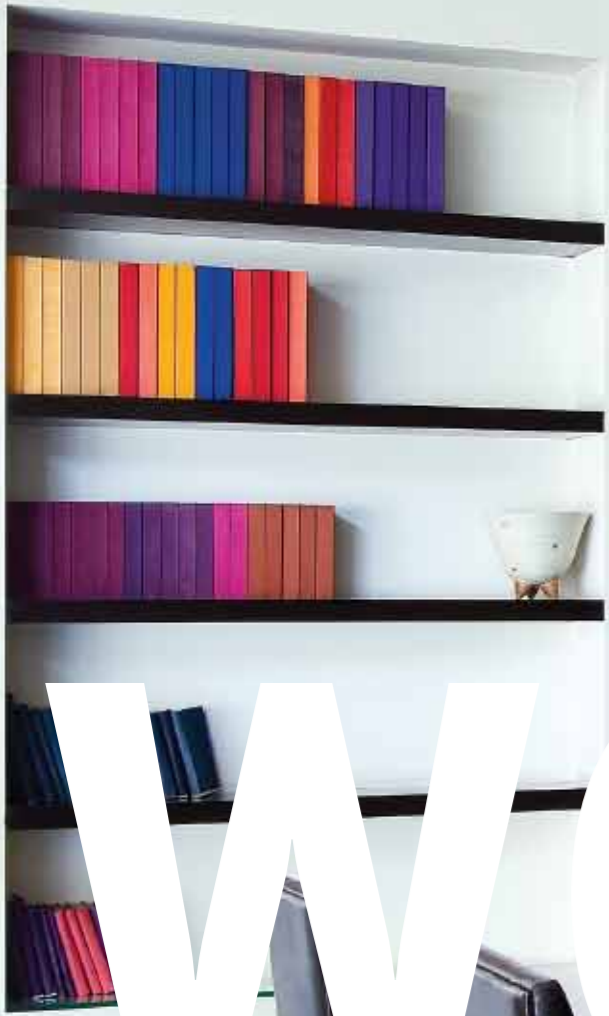
At The Park, contrast is not so much about bringing together the incongruous, but finding a deeper congruity in it. Every idea is driven by the intention of giving you well-thought-out choices rather than a mixed bag of flavours and spaces. We've consciously studied how different elements work together, why contrast enriches perception and how we can use it to weave a rich and layered experience. Like a Pierre Hermé salted caramel macaron, sweet and salty, crisp and soft.

German literary critic and philosopher Friedrich von Schlegel once said, "Combine the extremes and you will have the true centre." While he may have had questions of the human spirit in mind, from the interplay of extremes at The Park — the old and the new, business and leisure, energy and serenity, east and west — emerges a balance. That moment where the converse begin to converse.



recharge

At The Park, Hyderabad, Carbon and Aura are as different as night and day (literally), and the two experiences complete each other as naturally. Dark and dramatically lit, the bar reverberates with an uptempo energy, while the luminous spa, predominantly white, envelops you in a cocoon of calm.



WO RK

Separated by a sheet of glass, the poolside energy of Aqua leisurely wafts into a business lunch at Monsoon. Two completely different spaces at The Park, Bangalore, one heightened by the other.



play



funky



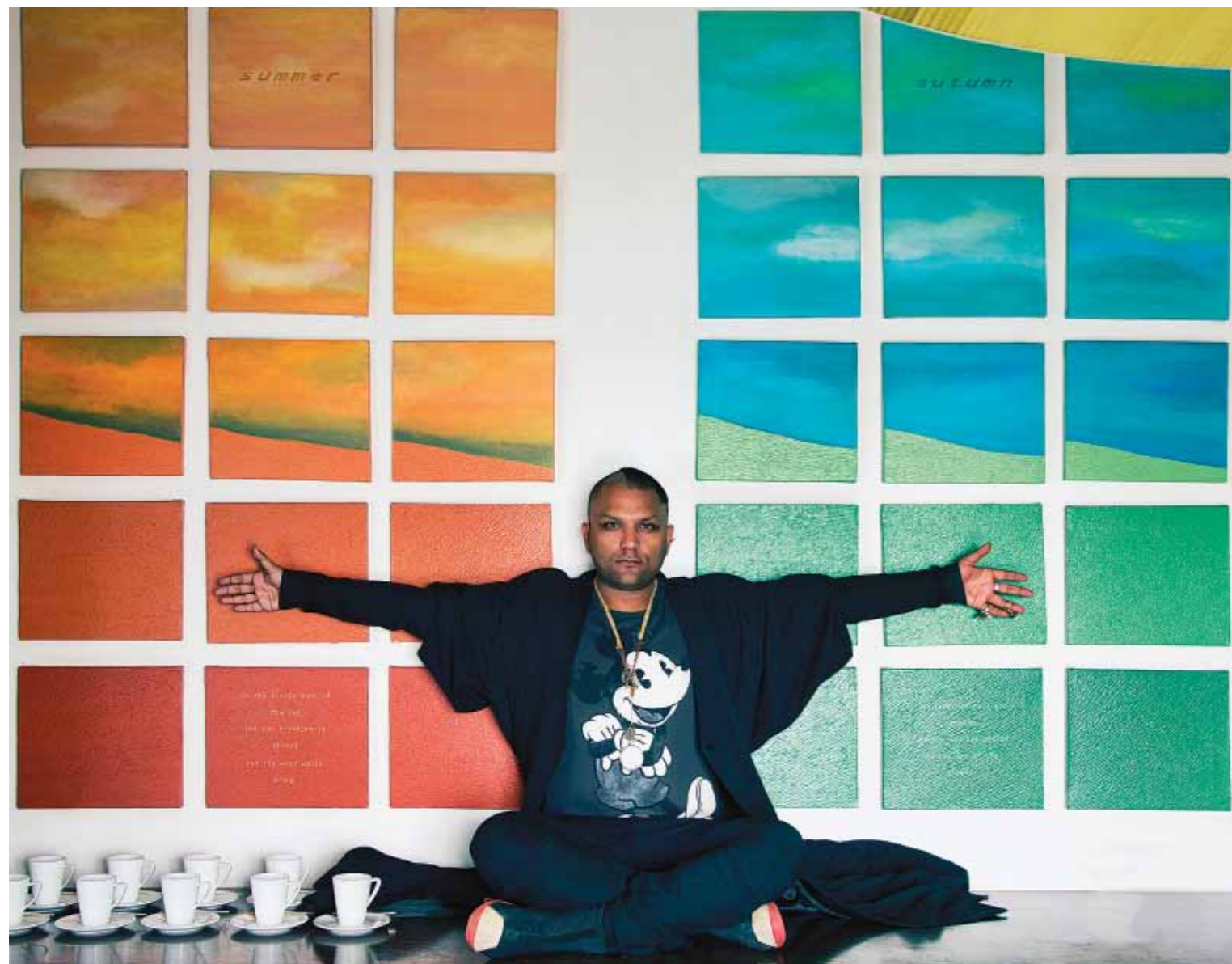


plush

The sound of stilettos on marble and the silence of bare feet in the sand; The Park isn't one experience but many. The glamour of our flagship hotel in Kolkata is as much The Park as our lovely little boutique escape in Goa. Contrast is built into the brand in a way that our guests can soak in the varying vibe of every city we are a part of.

IT'S NO WONDER THAT OUR GUESTS ARE AS ECLECTIC AS THE EXPERIENCES WE CREATE.

Contemporary couture designer Gaurav Gupta is as much at home at The Park, New Delhi, as the stylish Laila Tyabji, founder-chairperson of Dastkar, a grassroots society for traditional crafts and craftspeople.



converse.

DIALOGUES ON CONTRAST

We caught up with some of our favourite curators, creators and influencers of contemporary India and here's what they had to say.

SUJATA ASSOMULL

SIPPY As one of India's earliest fashion columnists, Sujata Assomull Sippy has seen fashion evolve from being a filler in serious business magazines to becoming serious business. She was the founding editor of Harper's Bazaar India and is a brand consultant for leading labels.

IN BLACK & WHITE

They say opposites attract, and in fashion there is one marriage of contrasts that never seems to fail. Monochrome is the contrast story that this industry revisits season after season. There are times when fashion goes entirely black and white and there are times when it's just part of a colour story, but it never really fades away completely. Contrast is at the very centre of fashion, whether it is about being modern yet traditional, being bold yet beautiful or being elegant but still experimental. But there is no question that monochrome is the one contrast technique that fashion cannot get enough of. Its simplicity is what gives it an edge over other methods of contrast, and its visual appeal makes it a classic statement.

Many of fashion's most bold statements have been made with the straightforwardness of black and white. There is Christian Dior's New Look of 1947, and Chanel's iconic Little Black Jacket, often teamed with white inners. Black and white was a combination that Gabrielle Chanel used again and again. She even said, "Women think of all colours except the absence of colour. I have said that black has it all. White too. Their beauty is absolute. It is the perfect harmony."

"Contrast is at the very centre of fashion, whether it is about being modern yet traditional, being bold yet beautiful or being elegant but still experimental."

Fashion's current love affair with monochrome started last year. There are designers like Anamika Khanna, Abraham & Thakore and Ashish Soni who always stay faithful to this stark statement. This year, even those who have colour as part of their DNA, have gone black and white for Fall 2014. You will see black and white in the collections of Masaba Gupta, Varun Bahl and Tarun Tahiliani. This season, colour loyalists have flirted with a more neutral palette for various reasons. What could be more Audrey Hepburn than black and white? Of course it is not all about a vintage look, as the other *trend du jour* is androgyny. In keeping with fashion's belief of playing with opposites, these two trends, of course, contrast each other.

Delve into European costume history and you find that black and white first entered the aristocratic woman's wardrobe when horse riding became fashionable. This was the first time a lady's outfit was allowed to take some sartorial inputs from a gentleman's attire. It was in some ways the beginning of androgyny. Which is probably why designers who constantly refer to men's detailing like Kallol Datta and Arjun Saluja use so much black and white. Says David Abraham, "It is the purest way to make a design statement. Colour can often just confuse."

This also makes black and white perfect for India's current fashion scenario. While Indian fashion is traditionally all about colour, today's focus is all about making craft contemporary. Interestingly all the designers who have the monochrome palette as a constant in their collection, are also the designers who are known to be craft's contemporisers be it Abraham & Thakore or Anamika Khanna. Colour would take away from their message.

Contrast, at least in colour is not just about style when it comes to fashion. It is also a reflection of what is happening around the industry. First of all, retail is suffering. Look at all the promotions, sales and offers around — it is a sign that retail is scared. While everyone likes to say the recession is over, the truth is that lots of people have learnt their lesson and most are spending with care. That could explain why designers are going black and white — it is a safe bet, it works and does not date as much as colour. Fashion as we all know goes in cycles, and it is no coincidence that you will see the black and white trend come back whenever there are signs of instability, be it political, economic or social.

Colour has a feel of celebration. Right now no one is in the mood for decadent indulgences. Even fashion, an industry that loves extravagance and experimentation has had to learn that in times of uncertainty it is best to play it safe. Fashion is all about juxtaposition, so while the concept of contrast is all about standing out, fashion has managed to make contrast a note of caution.





Image Courtesy: ELLE India
Photographer: Hormis Anthony Tharakan

ABRAHAM & THAKORE

The kings of Indian couture, David Abraham and Rakesh Thakore need no introduction. Their work strikes the perfect balance between craft and design, the traditional and the contemporary. No strangers to The Park, they have designed select accessories for our hotels.

The beautiful balance of western silhouettes and Indian fabric is evident in your work. Tell us about contrast and balance.

As practising designers, we live in a very fluid and globalised environment. We've always been interested in the perception of India and Indian-ness in the field of design. For example, how does one take a traditional temple motif from a saree border and re-imagine it in a different context without losing a sense of its origin and identity? One maintains a balance by trying to evolve a design language that is simple and easily understood.

Traditional craft and contemporary design — how different are the two worlds and how do you bridge the gap between them?

A large part of what we design at Abraham & Thakore is informed by our training as "makers", as the weaving and the printing of textiles formed a large part of our education at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Our exposure to traditional craft shaped our design sensibility. In our field of fashion and textiles, we have always seen one as a logical extension of the other. We also incorporate contemporary technology whenever relevant, like we did in our Autumn Winter 2014 collection where we used laser cut Tussar silk fabric.

What about contrast in working styles/tastes/personalities? As partners who have worked together for years, has it always been easy to find middle ground?

Abraham & Thakore has three partners: David Abraham, Rakesh Thakore and Kevin Nigli. Our working styles and points of view may differ sometimes, but through discussion and shared values, we have articulated a strong and instinctive language for our brand.

MONICA DOGRA

She stormed onto the Indian stage as one half of the Mumbai-based electronica duo, Shaa'ir + Func and has since been the face of the independent in entertainment, on the big screen and small. Singer, songwriter, improv artist and actor, Monica Dogra is the complete artiste.

Music, spoken word and acting — while they are all part of the performing arts, as a performer is there a distinction in the way you connect to each pursuit?

I feel that there are distinctions and there are commonalities. I feel an urgency to express, to unify, to create within my world in order to transform it, to connect people — and through various mediums I am doing that. I feel I may even find new and unexplored mediums for me to channel these desires. For example, I have a new line of clothing coming out soon. But as far as distinctions go, so far, my poetry is my psychiatry, my performance is my meditation, my dance and my music is my practice, and my running is my stretching.

Growing up in the west and then coming back to India — how does straddling the two worlds influence your art?

Initially, India emancipated me from having to be a stereotype of what an Indian was 'supposed' to look and behave like — this was something taught to me in America. Now, I do find a calling to straddle both worlds — probably because I don't feel like I particularly identify completely as belonging to either place. I find my art grows the more time I spend learning in the west, and I would never like to settle for a position of comfort in my career despite what I've built in India. That kind of stagnation is as bad as death. I must keep growing.

"My poetry is my psychiatry, my performance is my meditation, my dance and my music is my practice, and my running is my stretching."

Does the fundamental idea of contrast in creative expression excite you? What role does it play in performance in general and specifically in your work?

As a musician, I studied the concept of ultimate harmony or chiaroscuro, which is the balance between light and dark. In my work, I inadvertently end up playing with colour, tradition, dance, often combining styles unexpectedly. I think this comes from the fact that I've never felt like I could 'fit in' to a category. I've always felt like I'm so many things that rarely occur together, in equal measure, all at the same time.

Tell us about your journey with The Dewarists where you bring two, often very different, artistes together.

While being a pivotal movement in my career, The Dewarists was a transformative vessel for India. Artistes, who were once never afforded platforms on contagious media like television, were finally getting their due. I was proud to be a part of such a vision. It was arduous, time-consuming, but absolutely wonderful.

NATHANIEL GASKELL {TASVEER ARTS}

Nathaniel Gaskell is Curator-Director at Tasveer, among India's leading galleries that focus exclusively on photography. A photographer by training, he has written extensively on photography in India and is a nominator for the Prix Pictet prize.



Two Old Men, Old Delhi
© Raghu Rai, Courtesy: Tasveer

In photography, more apparently than in anything else, contrast plays a crucial role. Is there a particular photograph/photographer that immediately comes to mind when you think of contrast?

The play of light and shadow is the basic language of photography. Sometimes this very fact becomes part of the subject of the work itself, like a painter using the impasto technique to reveal the process of painting to the viewer. In the work of Raghu Rai for example, the grain of the photograph is visible, and we see how the image is made up of contrasting grains of black, white and various tones in between. Rai often uses the idea of contrast in a more lyrical way in his subjects. Take his famous 'Two Old Men': if photographed or seen independently, they would seem banal and inconsequential. Seen together, contrasted within the frame, however, we are presented with a profound and meaningful image.

Integral to the idea of contrast is its opposite, congruence. What are your views on this?

Much as photographers use contrast to describe and make visible their ideas, it is the corresponding element of harmony or congruence, often within the same frame, that can really make a photograph special. To use Rai's image as an example again, whilst the two gentlemen are contrasted in their social status, there is also a sense of congruence in this image — they are both simply 'two old men' as the title suggests, who come together and cross paths — Rai is therefore both contrasting them, and simultaneously uniting them.

As a curator, within an exhibition, do you consciously introduce the element of contrast in your selection of different works?

When something is seen in isolation, its meaning is more fixed. As soon as a secondary, especially contrasting, element or image, is introduced, a dialogue begins. This can be seen in microcosm within a single frame (of shadow and corresponding light), or in macrocosm of an entirely curated exhibition. It is through contrasts, juxtapositions and sequences that meaning is teased out, and whilst as a curator this begins as a conscious exercise, accidental contrasts and congruences are often the most interesting.



Photo: No-Mad Decor

A Bird's-eye View of the Monarchs of Style

THE PARK

spotlight

01 RADHIKA VAZ

"At 40 I have the confidence I wish I'd had at 20, the body I pray I will have at 60, and nose hair", says New York-bred comedian and improvisation sketch artist Radhika Vaz. Her second one-woman comedy special 'Older. Angrier. Hairier.' has sold out in NYC, LA, Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai. Vaz writes a biweekly column for The Times of India and has just signed a deal for a non-fiction book of short stories with Aleph.

www.radvaz.com

03 MAGNETIC FIELDS

A royal camp out music festival, if there ever was one, Magnetic Fields is set in the former residence of the Thakur of Alsisar. Electronica echoing through the *haveli* courtyards, Rajasthani cuisine and juicy steak burgers, four poster beds and bedouin tents; Magnetic Fields is a fusion of contrasts. Block your calendar for December 12-14, 2014 — rumour has it that it is notoriously difficult to get a festival pass.

www.magneticfields.in

05 MANIL ROHIT

Brothers in art and otherwise, Rohit and Manil are the new face of painting in India. An aerosol can in one hand and a brush in the other, the duo effortlessly navigates through the complexities of graffiti and high art. They are represented by the Nature Morte Gallery in India and have been a part of exclusive exhibitions abroad like Saatchi Art's recent Power Pop. Catch episodes of The New Creative India, their pioneering show on art, fashion and design for NDTV Good Times on Youtube.

www.manilrohit.com

02 NO- MAD

Revisiting archetypal Indian motifs/objects and infusing it with a new function or a strain from a culture beyond, No-Mad's line of lifestyle products is surprisingly not the *desi* kitsch one has grown to expect. This proudly made-in-India brand is the brainchild of Mumbai-based entrepreneur Anuj Kothari and Belgian designer Valerie Barkowski. Beautifully curated and precisely crafted, No-Mad rises decisively above the east meets west fusion-littered din of design today.

www.no-mad.in

04 GAATHA A TALE OF CRAFTS

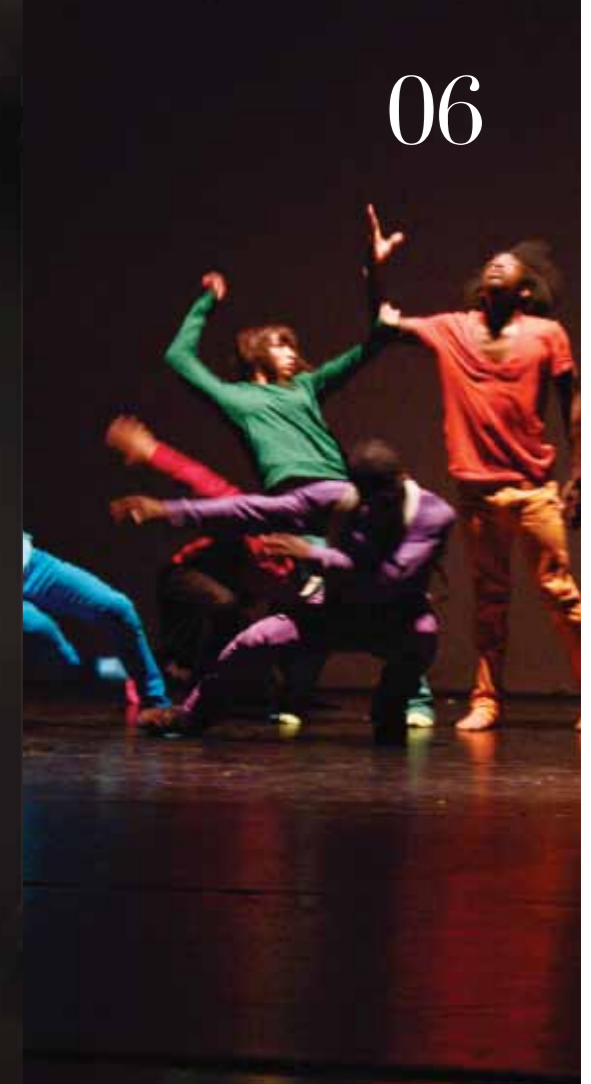
What began as a design research project by three NID graduates exploring dying traditions of Indian craft, became one of design revival. The Gaatha online store tells the tale of everything from the humble broom to the intricate Baluchari sari, while offering an exquisite selection of handcrafted products, straight from the artisan.

www.gaatha.com

06 AVANT GARDE

The v London Dance Associate Company fuses hip hop and contemporary dance in a passionately individualistic way. Founded by Toni Adigun, Avant Garde has performed across the UK and internationally. Walking the very distinct line between the commercial and the artistic, the critically acclaimed experimental dance company will be touring India as a part of The Park's New Festival this October-November.

www.avantgardedance.com



THE PARK *explorer* {delhi}

Tourism

Jantar Mantar

A walk around Jantar Mantar is like a trip in a time machine — one minute you're looking at a giant 18th century sundial, the next you're wading through placards and posters in Delhi's favourite protesters' spot.

Jama Masjid

Follow your nose through the labyrinthine lanes around the red sandstone and marble Jama Masjid, for they offer many a gastronomical treat. Try the legendary Burra Kabab at Karim's and flavoursome Paya at Al Jawahar. A rickshaw ride away is the famous Paranthe Wali Gali (the bylane of fried bread). **Jama Masjid, Open 7 am to 12 pm, 1.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Karim's Restaurant, 16, Gali Kababiyon, Chandni Chowk, Tel: 011 2326 9880. Al Jawahar, Opposite Gate No. 1, Jama Masjid, Tel: 011 2326 4126**

The Heritage Transport Museum

From antique howdahs to a restored 1940's Piper J3C Cub aircraft, this little gem of a museum chronicles the evolution of transportation in India. The automobile gallery with a collection of vintage cars is complete with a memorabilia-filled retro petrol pump. **Bilaspur-Taoru Road (Major District Road 132) Off NH 8 (Bilaspur Chowk), Taoru, Gurgaon (Haryana) 122 105, Tel: 011 2371 8100**

Art

Lado Sarai

What's evolving into Delhi's indisputable art district, Lado Sarai isn't hip Hauz Khas Village's poor cousin anymore. With around 15 galleries including Anant Art, Gallery Threshold, Exhibit 320 and Latitude 28, it's no wonder cafes and other hangouts are sprouting in the neighbourhood.

Food

Cafe Lota + National Crafts Museum

Discover giant terracotta sculptures, miniature paintings, handloom textiles and other arts and artisans of India at the National Crafts Museum. Pitstop at the charming al fresco Cafe Lota, with a pan-Indian menu — from Sali Boti to Bhapa Doi Cheesecake. **Bhairon Marg, Pragati Maidan, Tel: 011 2337 1887**

Yeti

Remember that steaming hot Thukpa after a trek down a mountain in a wayside cafe, when Kathmandu was still a few days away? Those authentic flavours of Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and Himalayan India await you at this simple yet stylish downtown Delhi cafe. **M20, M Block Market, GK II, Tel: 011 4100 8884**

Mehar Chand Market (MCM)

Here's a trend that even your grandma would approve of: healthy, straight from the source, organic food, never mind the price tag. Delhi's current haunt for all things trendy has at least three stores that urban yogis must visit.

The Kirana Shop

MCM's organic supermarket has everything from grains, grams and groceries to personal care and cutlery from select brands. Try their dips, jams and what are possibly Delhi's cleanest vegetables. **30 Mehar Chand Market, Lodhi Road, Tel: 011 4905 1822**

Nourish Organics

Cereal, nuts, health bars and a roomful of high fibre goodies. You can catch up with a friend at the in-store organic cafe; we can't vouch for the gossip, but the grub will be guilt-free. **30 Mehar Chand Market, Lodhi Road, Tel: 011 4905 1184**

The Altitude Store

Meat and cheese, baby food and pasta, tea, bread, soaps and even dog food, Altitude offers the finest in natural and certified organic products from all over the country. What's more, they deliver right to your doorstep. **110 Mehar Chand Market, Lodhi Road, Tel: 011 4905 0405**

Shopping

En Inde

At the superbly curated En Inde flagship store threads by Pero and Rajesh Pratap Singh rub shoulders with banana fibre baskets and te Mill furniture. Our pick: the eponymous stainless steel and mixed media jewellery line that started it all. **125/126 Mehar Chand Market, 1st Floor, Tel: 011 4905 0832**

Nappa Dori

Handcrafted leather bags, boxes and things that will make even the most sensitive vegans wish they weren't. Vintage meets avant-garde at designer Gautam Sinha's Nappa Dori. **25 Mehar Chand Market, Lodhi Road, Tel: 011 2462 2599. Also at Inner Lane, Hauz Rani, Malviya Nagar**

Safomasi

Sarah Fotheringham and Maninder Singh travel, sketch things they see on the way and turn them into adorable textile products for your home — an absolute win. Buy online at www.safomasi.com, Tel: +91 98111 30305

The Box

A boxful of beautiful things to take back home to friends, the gift shop at The Park, New Delhi has an eclectic range of clothes, accessories, stationery and bric-a-brac. **The Park, 15 Parliament Street, Tel: 011 2374 3737**

The Oxford Bookstore

It's the kind of bookstore you can spend hours in. Take as long as you want along the book-lined aisles of The Oxford Bookstore, flipping through the latest page turners, both fact and fiction — perfect with a cup of tea at the Cha Bar. **N 81, Connaught Place, Tel: 011 3350 3291/92/93**

Manga Cafe

Two words: Manga heaven. Well, as close to it as you can get in the middle of Delhi. Part of The Japan Foundation, the Manga Cafe has a great collection of comics, some action figures and Shonen Jump magazines. A good place to connect with the city's manga fans. **Manga Cafe, The Japan Foundation, 5A Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, Tel: 011 2644 2967**

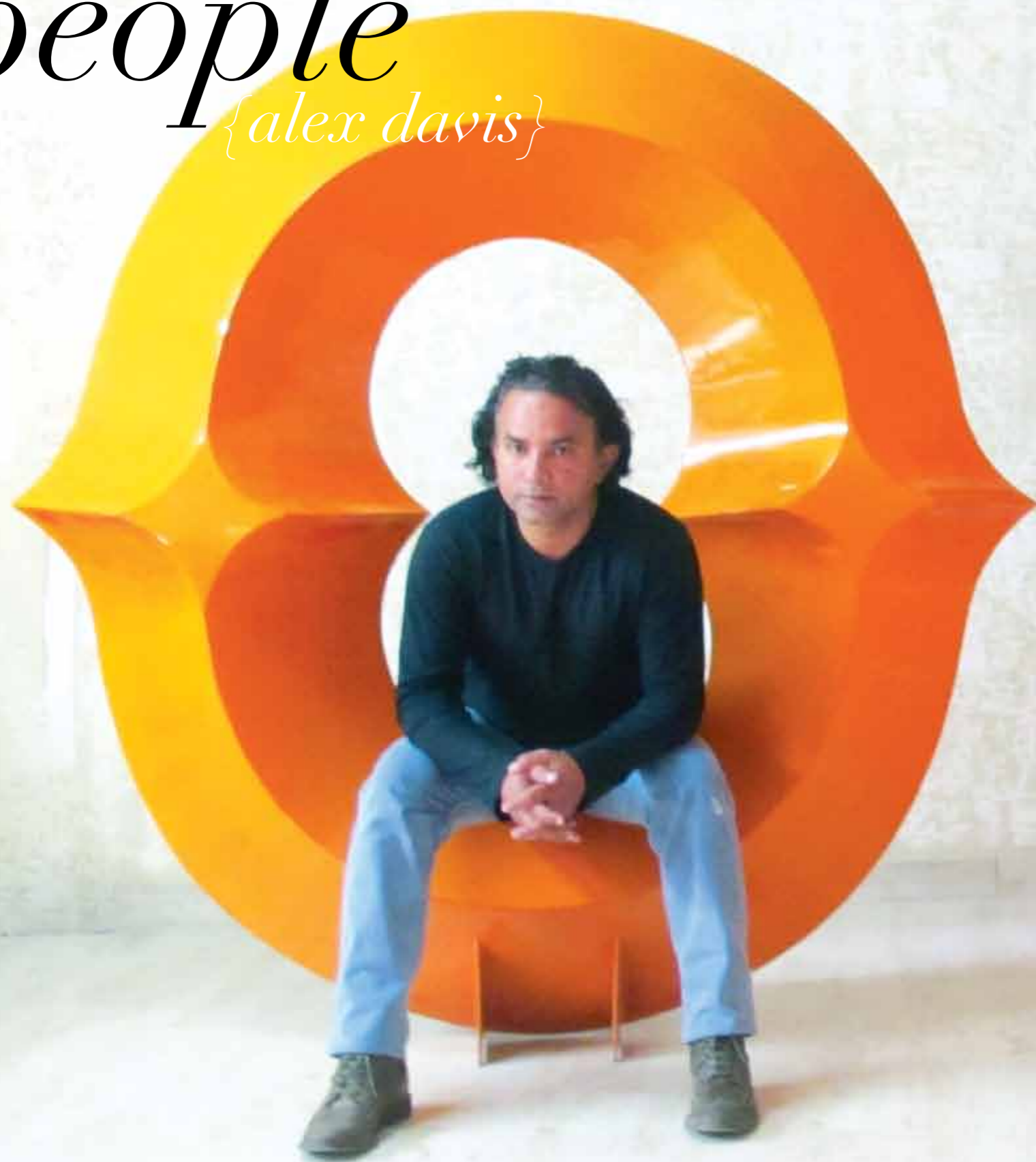
Bhane

This is how you do basic. Excellent fabric, good tailoring, timeless cuts and interesting details, Bhane is a home-grown answer to made-in-India-styled-elsewhere high street brands. And the store's great to hang out at too. **135/136 Mehar Chand Market, 1st Floor, Tel: 011 4905 0752**

“DELHI HAS A
SENSE OF CONTIN-
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REGENERATION
THAT I HAVE NOT
MET ELSEWHERE”

Sam Miller in Delhi: Adventures in a Megacity

THE PARK
people
{alex davis}



Whether it's silk carpets on exhibit in Milan or pop art installations on the streets of India, Alex Davis' art invariably beguiles the beholder. Out of his small studio in New Delhi, he churns out life-size installations that have travelled the world. Alex turns humble inspiration like flowers and foliage into futuristic high gloss stainless steel sculptures, the most memorable of which is his now famous 'My Lazy Garden'. Three years ago, Davis unveiled 'Dented Painted', where he recreated motifs and typography typical of Indian trucks in lacquer and steel, turning commonplace kitsch into a well-crafted spectacle.

An Industrial Design alumnus of Domus, Italy and the National Institute of Design, India, his work which epitomises Indian Modern has been showcased in Maison et Objet, Paris and Salone del Mobile, Milan. In 2007, he was Elle Decor India's Designer of the Year and more recently his work has been selected as one of the Best Five in Furniture and Accessories Design by the Indian Institute of Interior Designers. Shown at The Park, New Delhi for a week, his latest installation series, 'Once Upon a Time', straddles the past and the future elegantly, where the domes and minarets of a bygone era are expressed as three dimensional line drawings in steel and brass.

Alice slice OF THE PARK

*A perfect meal is a harmonious blend of contrasts, says
Chef Srinath Sambandan, Executive Chef at The Park, Vizag.*



Differentiation

How do you start with the same basic ingredients and turn them into something that's anything but ordinary? As a chef, I explore the million nuances of a cuisine in its most authentic representation and then redefine it with my own culinary expression. The Park celebrates differentiation in every aspect of hospitality, enabled by knowledge and a culture of continual refinement.

Contrast

Contrast, to me, is the essence of life itself. It plays a huge role in the way we conceptualise a menu for a particular restaurant or a banquet. We factor in how ingredients, texture, taste, colour, mouth-feel, shape, temperature and even the session of the day come into play in every dish. Does the menu represent one or a blend of cultures; can two completely different elements be combined within a single dish or across courses — these are important questions while creating a menu. Contrast is essential in food because it can subtly stimulate the connoisseur's palate.

Harmony

A touch of sweet jaggery (traditional Indian unrefined sugar solids) enhances the fiery Pulusu, a classic tamarind gravy from Andhra Pradesh — good food is a harmonious blend of elements that contrast each other while heightening the overall gourmet experience. This manifests in the use of ingredients, colours, textures and most importantly, in the components of the dish that invigorate the palate. Take the humble mint chutney — the heat of blended green chillies is balanced by the cool temperature of the mint itself. Black pepper in a dessert? Sounds strange but that's exactly what lifts the flavours of Junnu, a milk-based pudding.

Plating Up

Not all contrasting factors can be ultimately fused into a single dish, but almost always, a majority of them do. Take for instance plated dishes which invariably include the traditional values of classic western cuisine in terms of protein, roughage and starch components. These constituents can compete in contrasts or complement each other to unify a dish. The Chicken Kiev, a signature dish at The Park, Vizag epitomises contrast where a crisp crumb gives way to a soft melted butter centre. The soft shell taco is another example: a neutral flavour starch flatbread with a heated spicy protein element of grilled or roasted chicken/beef, some smooth refried beans, warm queso picante (spiked cheese sauce), fresh pico de gallo, coriander, chunky guacamole, lettuce and chilled sour cream — there's so much contrast in shape, colour, taste, heat, texture, ingredients and mouth-feel. Most of us enjoy the dish, not necessarily conscious of all these vitals. And there lies the beauty of a dish where opposing elements work beautifully together.

Contrast at The Park

Restaurants at The Park, Vizag are uniquely different from each other and, in a sense, differentiation is what actually ties them all up! The decidedly urban menu at The Shack and its setting on the sand is a lovely balance of what could be considered opposing elements. Between the tropical fare of sea swept Vista and wood-oven pizzas at Aqua, the poolside club, guests have many experiences to choose from.

Combining Worlds

We love to experiment with flavours from around the world and have created some unique dishes. At Bamboo Bay, our version of Norimaki Sushi has a Pesarattu crepe instead of toasted seaweed and Bisibele Baath instead of traditional sushi rice. Barbecued spare ribs basted with Saunth chutney is another favourite and a dish that embodies the theme of contrast. A while ago we brought the north and south of India together on a plate with the Mera Yaar Chettiyar festival, a fusion of Punjabi and Chettinad cuisines. While purists may frown at the idea of artisanal pasta with an Indian twist, we've always believed that a different perspective can lead to fresh discoveries. The idea is to create not just for the sake of creating something new but to widen the palate.

{grilled chicken soft shell tacos}

2 Chicken Breasts, cut into strips and grilled crisp with a simple marinade of lime, condiments and oil

4 Wheat/Corn Tortillas

1/2 cup Refried Beans, a simple combination of pinto beans, garlic, spices and lime juice cooked soft and then mashed

1/2 cup Shredded Romaine and Iceberg Lettuce, stored in iced water to retain freshness

1/4 cup Pico de Gallo, finely diced tomato, bell peppers, onion and jalapeño

4 tbsp Fresh Tomato Salsa, blanched tomatoes, onions, jalapeño, garlic and coriander

4 tbsp Guacamole, ripe avocado and sea salt mashed together

4 tsp Sour Cream, 3 1/2 parts heavy cream mixed with 1/2 part yoghurt and left standing overnight at room temperature

4 tsp Queso Picante, a slow cooked dip of red cheddar cheese, milk and chilli paste

8 sprigs Coriander

Warm the tortillas to make them pliable and lay side by side. Spread about 2 tbsp of refried beans along the centre of each tortilla and top with a tbsp. of tomato salsa. Arrange some lettuce and the sliced grilled chicken on top distributing evenly along the centre. Top with pico de gallo and spoon the queso picante, sour cream and guacamole over. Crown it with a couple of sprigs of coriander and some shredded red cheddar (optional). Fold in from both ends of the tortilla like a wrap and enjoy!



THE PARK *SCOOP*

Your quarterly round-up of events, entertainment and all things happening, brought to you by The Park.



What's On

The Park's New Festival

Kick off the season with a month-long gala of the performing arts beginning on the last day of October. Catch The Park's New Festival and its exciting line-up of artistes in Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. The eighth edition brings you experimental hip hop and contemporary dance company, Avant Garde, that has taken the UK and now, the world by storm. Next, watch out for the thought-provoking 'Notes on Chai' a soliloquy by talented artiste, Jyoti Dogra, featuring excerpts of everyday conversations one has over tea, woven with a curious interplay of sound and light. Or, have "Jack of all trades and master of puns" comedian Azeem Banatwalla of East India Comedy fame tickle your funny bone. Alternatively, tap your feet to the sounds brewed by Filter Coffee, a Mumbai-based fusion band which combines the beats of the traditional tabla, the bamboo flute and the electric guitar.

The New Creative India

Presented by The Park Hotels, The New Creative India is the country's only show on mainstream television that focuses solely on art, design and fashion. Hosted by artists Manil and Rohit, the show takes you into the studios of leading artists and designers, giving you an insider's view of their creative process. Featured guests include Thukral and Tagra, Little Shilpa, Manish Arora, Suzanne Roshan and more. If you missed it on NDTV Good Times, catch episodes on their Youtube channel.

What's New

Aqua Bangalore

Bangalore's favourite poolside lounge, Aqua at The Park is back with a refreshing makeover. Chill out at the many new spaces — the pool deck by day which transforms into a stage for after-hours revelry at night, The Bar Pavilion or The Lounge Pavilion on either end of the temperature controlled pool or The Hidden Garden, our lovely little patio. A modern menu with global cuisines with a selection as eclectic as Chorizo and cheese croquettes, Thai spice scallops and Tandoori saffron prawn, legendary cocktails and an extensive wine list complete a perfect day/night out. For reservations, call 080 2559 4666.



art
AT THE PARK

“Once Upon A Time is my tribute to the artistic legacy of architectural ornamentation of the bygone eras...”

Alex Davis

‘Once Upon A Time’ is a line of art and design inspired by the splendour of the decorative arts of majestic forts, lyrical tombs and precious palaces of the subcontinent.



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