

ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY™



The Craft Top

What: A nifty wooden toy children have played with from Tipu's time, famously produced in the Karnataka town of Channapatna and GI certified

Backstory: Spins a tale of craft sustainability, preserving and updating nearly-extinct designs and techniques of painting with vegetable dyes and lac-turnery

How to Use: A blur of whirling pirouettes with a practiced flick of the wrist; not for the faint-hearted

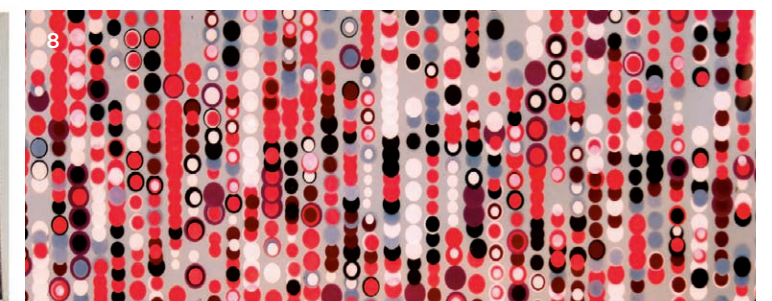
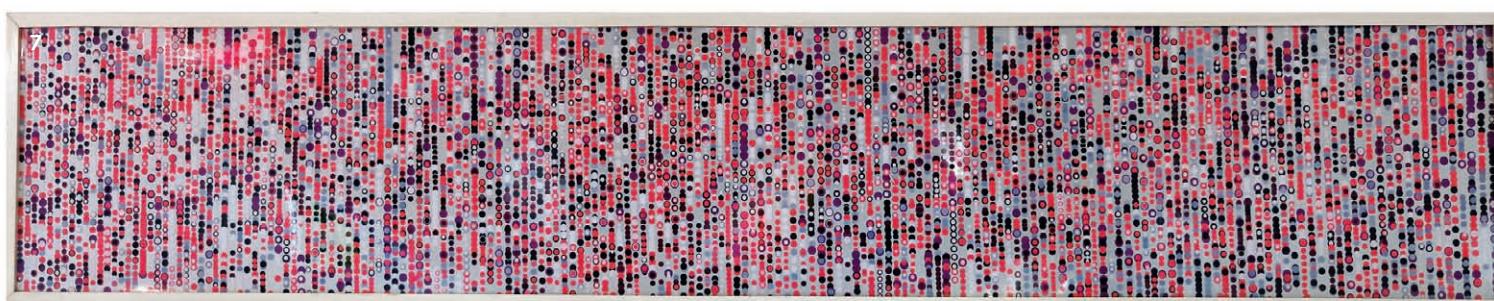
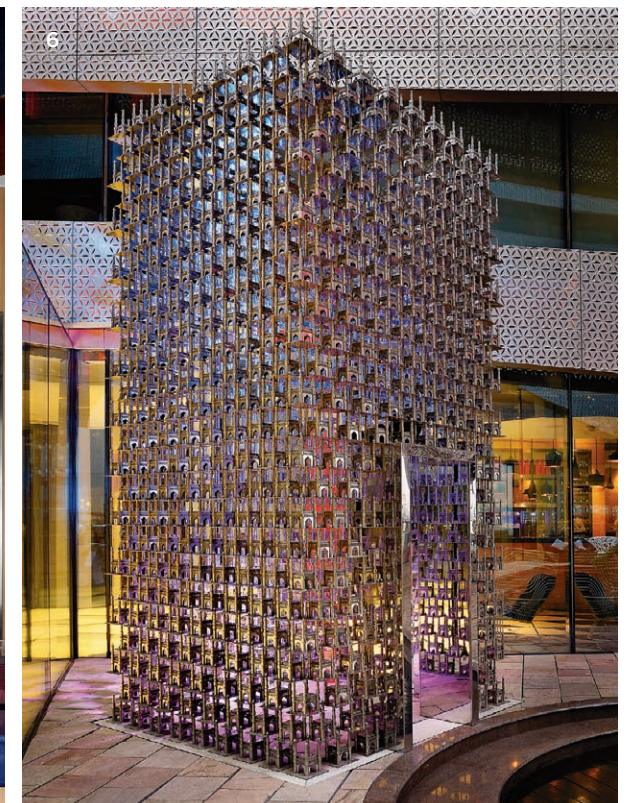
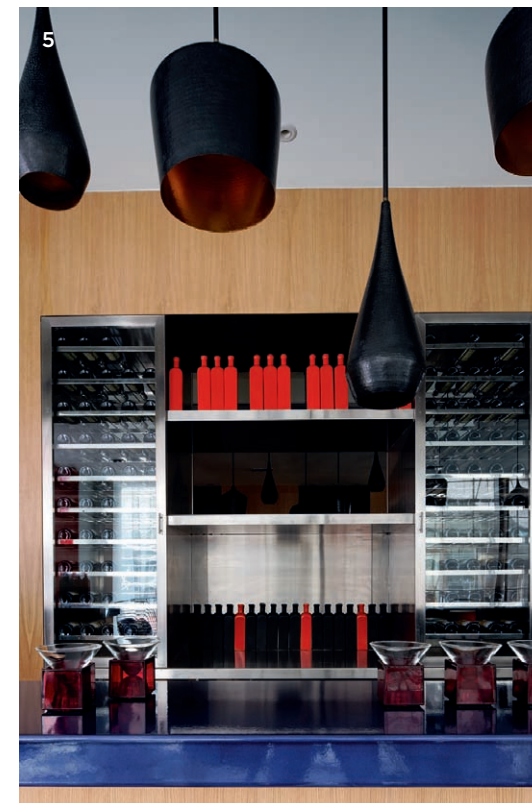
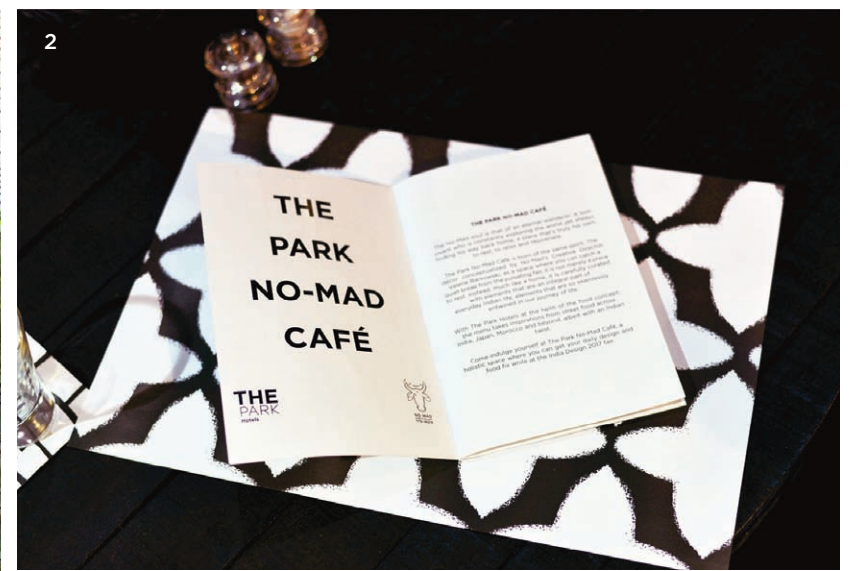
Design: Flawless

Perception: Ordinary

Reality: Anything But

ART.DESIGN.PARK

The Park Hotels have a lot of both



If the art and design scene in India has been democratised by festivals like ID (India Design) and the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, The Park Hotels are the booster shots that have electrified its arteries all the way back from 1992, with no limits in sight. At the ID 2017, The Park No-Mad café designed by the Creative Director of No-Mad 97% India, the brilliant Valerie Barkowski, had an eclectic menu created by The Park's chefs, giving tired visitors a restful yet vibrant place to ponder the imaginative works they had witnessed. The curator of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016, Sudarshan Shetty, has long been a favourite with The Park, too. His magnificent Charminar installation welcomes guests at The Park, Hyderabad. It gives them a glimpse of the city with all its complex facets, just as the Hotel does. And there's more. By featuring their works in each Hotel's collection, or by collaborating with them on original, often edgy, site-specific projects, The Park Hotels have taken on the mantle of promoting artists and designers in countless ways. Walk into any one of the Hotels and your engagement with the contemporary creative is all-encompassing: buildings, spaces, artworks, retail & cuisine. And moving outwards, through exhibits, shows and awards like The Park Elle Décor Student Contest, The Park Hotels incubate inspired creativity, both present perfect and future continuous.

EAT

Yellow Divine



A salad that looks like a work of art, tastes like heaven, and radiates health, this burst of flavours and textures is crafted from organic root vegetables and garnishings that we source straight from farms in the Nilgiris. It was created by the Chefs at 601, the all day dining restaurant at The Park, Chennai, part of the special menu 'Terre Merite' which stars turmeric, referring to it by its old name, 'merited earth'.

Thinai (Foxtail Millet) and Baby Root Vegetable Salad with Turmeric Sun Dressing

Serves: 1

Ingredients:

30 gm foxtail millet, boiled
3 baby carrots (orange/yellow/purple)
A few baby beetroots and baby turnips
5-6 black olives
A handful of dry pomegranate kernels
A few sprigs of micro greens
8-10 pine nuts
10 gm quinoa crisps

For the Turmeric Sun Dressing

20 gm avocado
10 gm fresh turmeric paste
5 ml lemon
20 ml extra virgin olive oil
10 ml honey
Himalayan salt to taste
3 gm crushed black pepper

Method:

1. Clean and chop the baby vegetables. Blanch them in boiling water for 30 seconds and then refresh them in a bowl of ice-cold water.
2. Boil the foxtail millet in salted water for 20-25 minutes until cooked. Keep aside, spreading it on a tray to prevent it from getting sticky.
3. Cut the olives into halves.
4. Season the foxtail millet with salt and pepper.
5. Make the dressing by blending all the ingredients.
6. Arrange the salad on a plate and garnish with pomegranate, micro greens, olives, quinoa crisps and pine nuts.

SPOT

The Shah of Design



Which came first? Art or design? As the debate rages on, one man makes the most of both. **Ashiesh Shah** is an architect of great innovativeness, and a designer who creates unforgettable interiors. His design is like story-telling. It is inspired by his inordinate passion for contemporary art and a personal collection which includes antiques, video and mixed media art. A graduate of Parsons, New York, Shah's spaces are highly regarded. They constantly surprise, overlaying tradition with modernity. His work appeals to a variety of folk: he has designed Ranbir Kapoor's home, Le Mill, the concept lifestyle store and Nido, the high-end restaurant. Shah's value system is holistic too. Sustainability, research and the inherent beauty of imperfection are embedded in his design. That's why Ashiesh is **Anything But Ordinary™**

MEET

Artist Extraordinaire



Photographer: Sukhi Zoe

Shilo is a phenomenon of vibrancy and anti-minimalism. Her art sails effortlessly between magical worlds of huge flowers glowing in the desert at Burning Man, illustrations for books and apps for children, and street art in urban ghettos to catalyse shared experiences that make people think and feel. She uses technology to inspire wonder, and beautiful protest posters to tell stories of change. She empowers people to create their own images to replace stereotypes, especially of women, through her coalition of artists called the Fearless Collective. She has spoken at TED Global and received much acclaim for her work.

Dream Destination: Syria, circa 100 years ago. Wander the streets of Damascus smelling jasmine.

Book on Bedside: Salt by Nayyirah Waheed.

Design to Die for: Nature's wonders. Currently I'm very intrigued by pollination.

Song on Repeat: "Think of You" by Ibeyi.

Art du Jour: Embroidered masks by James T. Merry for Bjork.

Fashion Accessory: Gold high top sneakers.

Food Fetish: Sashimi. Sea salt chocolate. Red wine.

Idle Pleasure: Pleasure is never idle.

Go-to Place for Inspiration: A rose garden, or a mythical story.

Aha Moment: Revelations last longer than moments. But being an artist, every act of beauty is a revelation.

1 Reason I Love The Park: Gotta love a swim in the pool! Looking up at clouds. After all, we are all made of water.

EXPLORE *Bangalore* | Through the Eyes of...



Bad Design is Selfish

Those who can't design must at least appreciate.

There are people out there who don't care for well-conceived design. Those reverse snobs who think ugliness is somehow hip. I know, because shamefully I used to be one of them. For example, I revelled in how little I cared for ambience when eating in a restaurant; I thought this somehow made me better, like someone whose mind was on more important things than just appearance. In truth, I wasn't special, I was just lazy.

Bad design, like bad air or bad roads, is a sign of cultural laziness, and dare I say, selfishness. Most countries with a pleasing aesthetic typically have clean streets and great air quality. And it's not always about the money; often it's about priorities. Taking the trouble to serve a great cup of coffee over insipid instant is a choice. Ironing a cotton blouse rather than wearing drip-dry, 1000% synthetic is also a choice. Neither one is necessarily the cheaper option but one demands the luxury of effort. And so lazy people will deal with ugliness, they give themselves no choice!

As the late, great graphic designer Paul Rand said — “The public is more familiar with bad design than good design. It is, in effect, conditioned to prefer bad design, because that is what it lives with. The new becomes threatening, the old reassuring.” And he's right. Human beings can get used to anything no matter how awful it is, bad weather, bad marriages and Punjabi Baroque. So let's tip our hats to the architects, couturiers, urban planners and the team that designed this very magazine — the ones who do battle against the trite, who wage war against the unsightly, and who, one design at a time, try to save us from ourselves.

Radhika Vaz gave up a career in advertising to become a comedienne and writer. Yes, *Anything But Ordinary™* which is why we value her opinion on things. Her book “*Unladylike, A Memoir*” is available on Amazon and Flipkart. Follow her on Twitter @radvaz

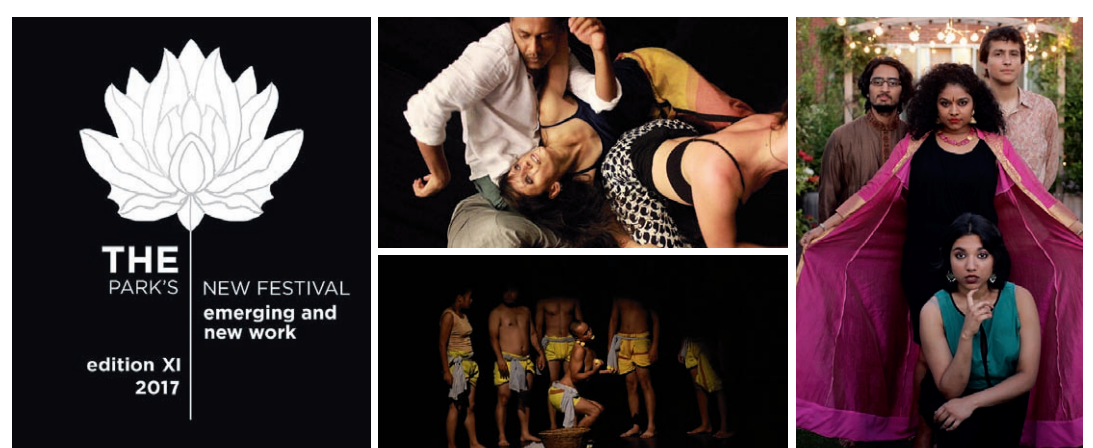


Photographer: Manou, www.wearabout.wordpress.com

Malika Verma Kashyap knows a few things about craft and fashion. For instance, she can show you over 80 ways to tie a sari. This is the outcome of The Sari Project, a unique initiative of Border&Fall, the digital publication and strategic agency started by Malika. Engaging in understated, creative ways with fashion, textile and craft industries, Border&Fall is a veritable repository of knowledge and expertise. The journal interviews emerging designers, features groundbreakers of style, spotlights artisans and craft revivals; and the agency offers business development, branding, retail consultations and more.

Bangalore offers much to fall in love in. It's not immediately revealing, and once you pay less heed to those who lament its beautiful past (sad, yes — but onward please) it charms its way into your heart. With relatively temperate climates and a soul filled with history, there is something for everyone if you know where to look (tip: skip the high streets of Indiranagar). I love its nature and historical places; often overlooked for temples on the hill, my favourite to visit is the 9th Century Bhoga Nandeeshwara Temple at the foot of Nandi Hills. Pack a lunch and have a picnic on its lawns. Sundays at Cubbon Park were made off limits to cars, and are a renewed pleasure to stroll around. Another must is Gallery SKE, a contemporary art gallery housed in one of the few remaining bungalows in Richmond Town. Antique jewelry shopping in the lanes of Avenue Road never gets old either. However, my favourite part of Bangalore is still the trees: Tabebuia early on the year, Jacarandas in the spring, Raintrees year round — when in doubt, look up!

SCOOP | *Culture Fresh*



For 10 years, The Park's New Festival has been a beacon for audiences navigating the seas of cultural discovery. The performers are at the cutting edge of their craft and Anything But Ordinary. This year, across six cities, contemporary artistes in the genres of dance, theatre and Carnatic music will stir the souls of people. Anuradha Menon, (whom you might know as Lola Kutty) enthralls with her hilarious brand of humour while interviewing imaginary celebrities. Roopa Mahadevan, classical vocalist and artistic director of the NYC-based Navatman Music Collective brings something

of her American upbringing into her music. And Surjit Nongmeikpam exposes watchers to the newest forms of expression in choreography with his co-performers, Virieno Zakiesato, Parth Bharadwaj, Diya Naidu and Abhilash Ningappa. This festival is co-curated by The Park Hotels and the Prakriti Foundation. **From 1st Sept 2017 to 21st Sept 2017, in Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore.**

For performance schedule and invites, log on to www.theparkhotels.com