



ANYTHING  
BUT ORDINARY™

### 50 Years of Curating Culture

What: The Nataraja Statue

Claim to Fame: The original Drama King

Found: Elegantly displayed in living rooms, dancers' studios and stacked in rows in almost every handicraft store

USP: A freeze-frame of Lord Shiva dancing the Tandavam — in classic proportions based on ancient Indian texts

Design: Dynamic

Perception: Ordinary

Reality: Anything But



# CULTURE VULTURES

*From curating art and design, to architecture and performance — The Park weaves into the cultural fabric of cities. The contemporary Indian art scene is a rich mix of influences and perspectives. And The Park Hotels are discerning collectors of the classical and the quirky. Like The Big Mama, a gigantic nude, merrily sunbathing at The Park Calangute Goa. Or the serene Vishnu Mudra, a visual meditation by Praful Singh at The Park Navi Mumbai. Some of the installations that provoke and inspire are specially commissioned. Like Sudarshan Shetty's towering Charminar at The Park Hyderabad that connects with the old city. In the performance arts too, The Park leads the way. Amongst India's only multidisciplinary dance and music festivals, The Park's New Festival, in its 11th edition, highlighted Nerves — a thought provoking dance performance by young boys from Manipur, and a musical rendition by renowned vocalist Roopa Mahadevan, rooted in the South Indian (Carnatic) classical tradition.*

*As pioneers of luxury boutique hospitality in India, we are amongst the first to use design to create truly immersive experiences. At The Park Chennai, with the hypnotic Lekha Dot by product designer/artist Lekha Washington. Or The Park Hyderabad, where we have collaborated with over 24 designers to create a rich canvas of contemporary Indian design, including the spectacular Kalamkari ceiling by Preksha Baid and master craftsman Neeranjan from Kalahasti. Our engagement with contemporary design goes far beyond our spaces. We promote talent through various partnerships, including India Arch Dialogue; India Design ID for which we are the Strategic Design Partners; CII's Indian Design Summit (Priya Paul was the CII Design Chairperson 2017-18); and The Park Elle Decor Student Contest. At The Park, be prepared to be engulfed in fantastic design. We don't just reflect culture, we create it.*

1 Torobaka by Akram Khan Dance Company, The Park's New Festival 2015 2 The Osmania Suite at The Park Hyderabad designed by French textile designer Jean Francois Lesage 3 Sputnik Fantasies at The Park Kolkata 4 Mural by Harshvardhan Kadam, The Park Baga River Goa 5 Carved Teak Pillar in Hoysala style by traditional artisans, The Park Bangalore 6 Vishnu Mudra by Praful Singh, The Park Navi Mumbai 7 From The Third Eye to The Second Eye by Bharti Kher, The Park New Delhi 8 Handcrafted Kalamkari ceiling by Preksha Baid and Neeranjan, The Park Hyderabad 9 Detail, Untitled by Sonja Weider, The Park Chennai

# EAT

## *Riot* on a Platter



**Mysore Chocolate Mousse with Timur Pepper:** Silken, light and rich with flavor, nothing ends a meal like the perfect chocolate mousse. And with the tiniest kick of Timur pepper, ours is positively gourmet. Try it at Fire, The Park New Delhi, or whip it up for yourself with our easy to follow recipe.

### Ingredients:

600 grams single-origin Mysore chocolate  
100 grams cream  
16 egg whites  
8 egg yolks  
150 grams sugar  
5 grams Timur pepper

### Method:

1. Melt the single-origin Mysore chocolate on a double boiler and keep aside.
2. Warm the cream and gently mix it into the melted chocolate.
3. Make a sabayon by adding 100 grams of sugar to the egg yolks and cook it on a double boiler, stirring constantly until it reaches a custard-like consistency.
4. Gently fold the sabayon into the melted chocolate and cream mixture.

5. Whip the egg whites with 50 grams of sugar until it forms stiff peaks.
6. Fold the whipped egg whites into the chocolate mixture.
7. Crush the Timur pepper and add to the mix.
8. Pour the final mixture into a bowl or individual glasses and leave to set in the refrigerator for about two hours.
9. Serve cold.

# MEET

## *The Original* Madman



Considering he won his first Cannes Lion when he was just 22, you'd wonder what **Swapan Seth** has left to achieve. But this logic-defying creative person never seems to take a breath between accomplishments. He started the super successful agency *Equus* at just 28, when he was already done with biggies like *Clarion* and *Trikaya Grey*. We settled in for a freewheeling chat with the man who's still making ears prick and eyebrows rise.

**Dream Destination:** Faroe Islands

**Book on Bedside:** *Tiny Beautiful Things: Advice on Love and Life from Dear Sugar* by Cheryl Strayed

**Design to Die for:** Globe-Trotter

**Song on Repeat:** *Condolence* by Benjamin Clementine

**Art du Jour:** Art by Ayesha Singh

**Fashion Accessory:** Sleeve-holders

**Food Fetish:** Microgreens

**Idle Pleasure:** Cinema

**Go-to Place for Inspiration:** My computer

**Aha Moment:** When both my sons came home with their Delhi State T-shirts for cycling and football

**1 Reason I Love The Park:** It is ape-shittingly cool!

# SPOT

## *Re-envisioning* the Theatre



**Nikhil Mehta** is a radical voice. He was assistant director for the Broadway musical *Sunday in the Park with George* starring Jake Gyllenhaal, and assisted Vishal Bhardwaj on development workshops for *Monsoon Wedding - The Musical* and *Rangoon*. He recently directed a sold out run of *The Shakuntala Project*.



The Shakuntala Project by Nikhil Mehta featuring Prashant Prakash and Sharvari Deshpande

Nikhil Mehta's Black Box Okhla is a laboratory for exploration and performance. Converted from an abandoned factory in Okhla, it offers a space that is as much part of the show as the performance. The factory's unique architecture inspires environmental experiences that are impossible to create at traditional performance venues. So space, the environment created to tell a story, becomes an integral part of theatre. In fact, Black Box Okhla is built on the principle that space is the fundamental differentiator between films and live performance. This state-of-the-art theatre is completely flexible. Theatre-makers can choose the kind of audience-performance interaction to fit their story telling. Here, no two shows ever look the same. Black Box Okhla is the result of the essential reimagining that Mehta believes Delhi theatre needs. And this just might be the revolutionary approach that will help audiences understand communal experiences in the digital age. It's curtains up on yet another path-breaker.

# EXPLORE

# Delhi

Through the Eyes of..



*Hanif Kureshi is creating art on every street corner. And, with St+art India Foundation, he introduces larger audiences to the rich artistic history preserved by wall art. His own art has been showcased in Biennales all over the world, and he was named one of the 50 most influential young Indians by GQ.*

Many of Delhi's historically important centres have re-emerged as contemporary hubs. Because of this, visiting the past histories of the city, reimagined, and specifically that of street art is an incredible way to experience it.

Lodhi Colony is the last colony the British built before Partition. It is flanked on all sides by markets, monuments and cultural centres and features work by exemplary International and Indian artists like Borondo, Gaia, Daku, Shoe and Lady Aiko.

Telling artworks can be found in the recesses of the Shahpur Jat village undiscovered by designer stores and visitors. Discovering iconic artworks

by Tona, Bond, Tofu and Alias here also opens doors to the old cloth-dyeing and tailor shops, unearthing its intrinsically artistic lineage.

Hauz Khas is an important marker of heritage and culture. The famous Wall of Fame features years of writing by various graffiti artists, establishing Hauz Khas as a haunt for the underground street art scene. It hosts famous murals such as the Totem by Okuda, as well as work by infamous Delhi graffiti writers such as Zero and Daku.

# Rewind

Travelling Back in Time...



The legendary artiste Pandit Ravi Shankar at The Park Kolkata

Pandit Ravi Shankar was Anything But Ordinary. Sitar maestro, dancer, flower-child, he switched roles as smoothly as the notes he played. In fact, he's known as the Godfather of World Music. We remember him playing at Woodstock, his face scrunched in that famous lost-in-the-music expression. And of course for his famous kurtas: simple, distinctive, stylish. Here, he is strolling into The Park Kolkata with his characteristic swag.

*Rewind is a cheeky wink at the years of party-creatures, rule-makers and trend-setters that have shimmied through our doors. Everything else changes, but The Park has, and always will be host to the world's most unique people. Here we feature photographs and stories that capture some memorable times.*

# SCOOP

# Escape

The Park Baga River Goa



Welcome to The Park Baga River Goa. A stylish 28-room hotel, tucked away on a quiet lagoon on bustling North Goa, with its contemporary cool style and bold yellow Portuguese influences.

The hotel, with unmatched views overlooking the river, surrounded by rich greenery and coconut trees, is located close to the beach, the market, as well as Goa's hottest party spots. Here, the emphasis is on privacy, and bespoke cultural experiences that are Anything But Ordinary. This is your chance to explore relaxed Goan life. Indulge in spa treatments in your room, or dine at secret private venues across the hotel. Experience glamorous alfresco



pool-side dining at Aqua, curated beach walks and more. Get creative with photography and cookery workshops or attend art classes by renowned Goan artist, Subodh Kerkar. Be inspired by our fantastic selection of art inspired by the region. If you are feeling adventurous, other activities include yoga, kickboxing, surfing, sailing and spectacular river cruises.

The Park Baga River is only open to guests above 18. A few days with us is the tonic you need to feel energized, to get in touch with your mojo, and reconnect with your most favourite part of you.