

ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN

A N I N D I A N J O U R N A L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E



CURATOR
OF
Style
APARNA
KAUSHIK

BESPOKE SPACES

By

ABHIGYAN NEOGI

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SHIVANI GUPTA AND

AYUSH MITTAL

VIHAR FADIA

Decoding New-Age Luxury

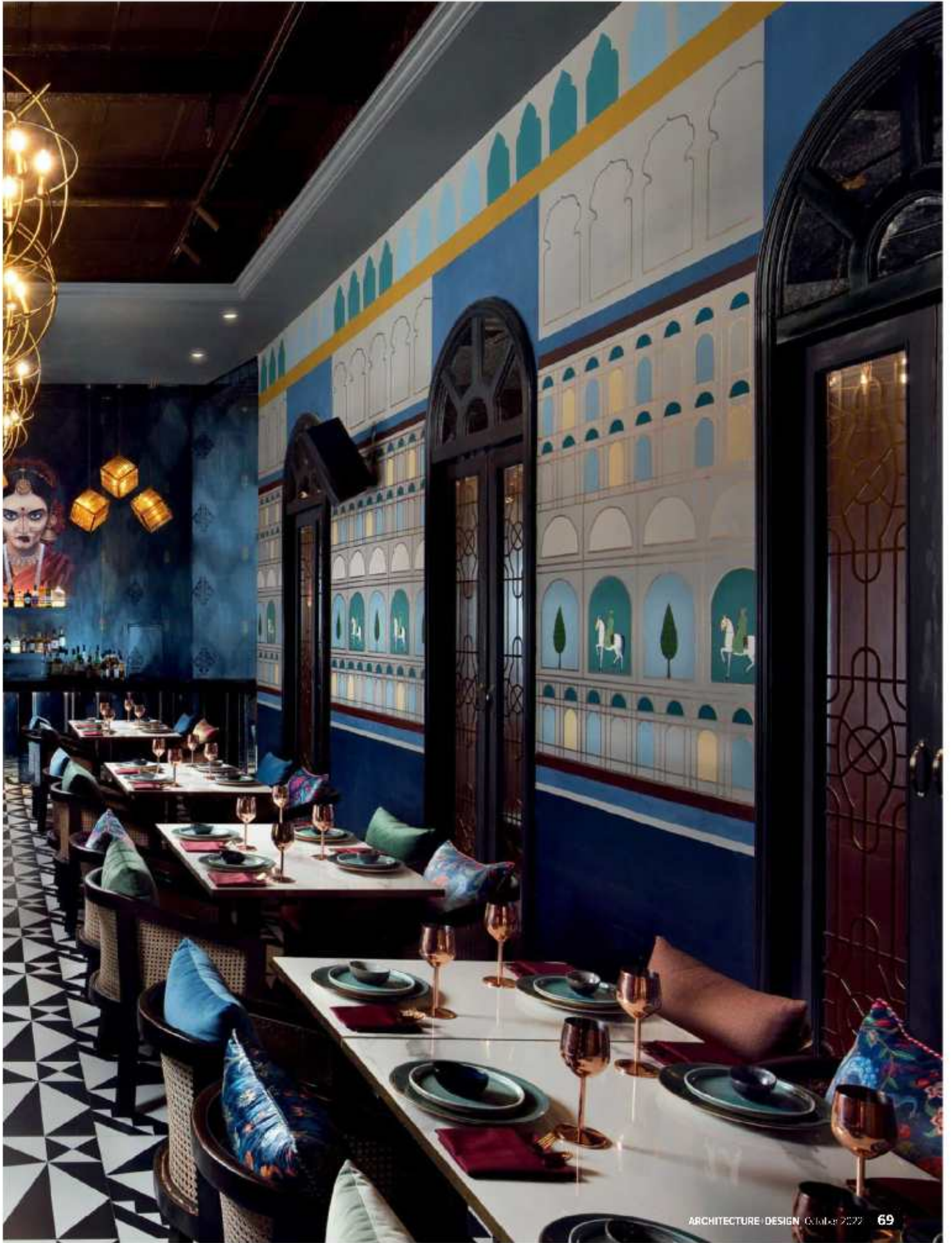
MODERN REGAL

Project: Jalsa, Kolkata; **Architects:** A Square Designs

The restaurant designed by A Square Designs features a fusion of the old and new, the classic and the contemporary, creating vibrant spaces.

The project is a restaurant that serves modern Indian cuisine rooted in ancient recipes with an innovative twist. The interiors boast of its unique philosophy, as well as the majestic architecture of the building it is housed in. The designer conjures spaces that effortlessly carry visitors back in time while still looking modern. The colonial time structure located in the heart of the city on Ho-Chi-Minh Saran, opposite the American Consulate, features exquisite architecture with high ceilings of up to 16ft, arched windows and some quaint details. As you step into the restaurant co-owned by Harsh Sonthalia, Apurva Saraburja and Aman Chittlangia, an old-world charm laced with glamour envelops you.







The designer fuses the old with the new, classic with contemporary, to achieve vibrant and timeless spaces that become unique venues for elegant dining in, celebrating special moments or simply creating eye-lasting memories.

The restaurant features three parts— a central main dining hall for everyday dining, a private dining area with an intimate atmosphere, and an events and party space complete with live cooking, buffet station, lounge, etc, that is set aside for celebrating special occasions. While a common thread of rich classic-contemporary style runs through the restaurant, the three separate areas receive distinctive treatment. Just like the cuisine it offers, the restaurant interiors create a nostalgic world of art and design that takes one straight to royal dining rooms. The designer enunciates a regal atmosphere using hand-painting techniques, old lead work on glass used in the churches of yore, and a captivating colour palette.

The narrow entryway incites much enigma and interest with its walls painted in a deep red shade, black-and-white striped flooring and concealed lighting.

The concept of the restaurant is inspired by the urban woman who has her feet firmly planted in tradition, yet is modern, with an independent mind and loves to celebrate. A 7ft painting of a woman on the wall behind the 27ft-long bar in the central dining hall aptly personifies this idea. The adjacent wall is decorated with paintings of women in various moods.



AJAY ARYA, founder, A Square Designs

Established in 1999, A Square Designs specialises in interiors for residential and commercial spaces. Founder Ajay Arya has conjured up delightfully modern and contemporary interiors for various properties. Transforming urban spaces into visually stunning creations has been his forte. Creative by nature and an interior design consultant by profession, Ajay has an unparalleled passion for creating space perfection.







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The wall opposite is hand-painted to depict imagery of royal architecture featuring arches, bringing about an otherworldly grace to the space. The dazzling chandeliers add a hint of opulence.

A striking black-and-white ceramic flooring is common to all areas, laid out in different patterns in different spaces, and evokes an unmistakable glamour. In the long central dining hall, they sport an intricate pattern. The metal screens in gold finish also reinforce the theme of arches. Custom-made vintage seating adds to the mood of the environment.

The design of the private dining room further accentuates the arches. An old door, hand-painted by a local Kolkata artist, enhances the theme on one wall, while a series of small arches, like 'jalas', in pastels repeats the pattern. Old arched windows are given a face-lift with hand-painted patterns that resemble the black lead work done on glass in old churches.

The cushions in rich fabrics and vibrant florals add just the right dose of exuberance. The event venue for private parties features lounge-like seating and high tables. It's a warm space, with walls covered in wood and decorated with moldings. The chevron black and white flooring and stained glass effect details on the windows create an alluring environment.

The interiors, along with the cuisine, make dining and entertaining a magical experience. ✚



FACTFILE

Principal Designer: Ajay Arya
 Carpet area: 4,500 sq ft
 Year of Completion: 2021