

Inside Outside

THE INDIAN DESIGN MAGAZINE

ISSUE 320 FEBRUARY 2012

₹ 50



**Architect
D Mukesh's
home in
Salem**

**A business school and office
by Aapl in Ahmedabad**

**The home of Yasmin & Hannes
in the Netherlands**

Go green
with Revathin &
Vasant Kamath in
a Raipur resort

Rahul Mehrotra creates a bungalow in Alibaug





The New Kid on the Block

Think high-tech, fast paced and enter the world of high spirited youthfulness. This isn't just a story about a bar.... Sohini Datta says that it is only the beginning of this living design!

PHOTOGRAPHS: PRASHANT BHAT, COURTESY
ARCHITECT Sandeep Karkhanis

A bar is the Great Bath equivalent of our civilisation and thankfully, by several standards less wet, even though there have been many sightings of bar-goers leaving drenched.

From the meeting of two great minds gathered to discuss Plato's Republic to a bunch of 20-something year olds to celebrate another day of survival at their miserable jobs, bars are more important to the human social network than we like to believe. Sure, alcohol is injurious to health but visiting a bar is not about alcohol most of the time. Ninety-nine percent of times according to popular belief, it is about meeting other fellow human beings...like an isle in the ocean... for the brief time spent at the bar...our mundane, worrisome lives cease to exist.

Meet the new isle in Mumbai – the I Bar. Short for Interactive Bar, it fits perfectly into our word of iPods





The place was conceived as an interactive lounge bar where they customised an interactive bar table which works on motion-sensed technology. For a truly ET-Star Wars experience, just run your hand on the table or place your drink glasses on it, and be amazed as it creates different graphic images. And of course, the menus are viewed on iPads.... You can be sitting at your table and place orders which get sent directly to the bar and kitchen.

and iPads. The place was conceived as an interactive lounge bar where they customised an interactive bar table which works on motion-sensed technology. For a truly ET-Star Wars experience, just run your hand on the table or place your drink glasses on it, and be amazed as it creates different graphic images. And of course, it is old news that the menus are viewed on iPads, because we wouldn't have it any other way. You can be sitting at your table and place orders which get sent directly to the bar and kitchen, can call in for assistance and also check which dishes are out of stock and the daily specials. Liking the dish is also an option which once liked, posts a direct photograph of the dish to the Facebook page and says that you were at I Bar and have liked the dish. iPads can also be used to play games and surf the internet till the food is prepared, and if a guest beats a high score of any of the games the management presents them with a free shot. Yes, it is a bar custom-made for the fast high-tech generation of ours. For once maybe, you can impress the new date with a high-score on a game...the possibilities are endless. And all this from a teetotaler!





The place was conceived as an interactive bar. The fine dine area has a 'drawer wall' with cove lighting and display rack of wine bottles accentuated by a hand-painted wall and a central chandelier.



Meet Sandeep Karkhanis who doesn't touch a drop, but yet in his magical way fulfills the needs of all of us who like a bottle on the side. He said, 'I guess I was high on design and didn't need alcohol for inspiration!' It takes a young mind to understand another...Sandeep heads a young design team at Shashi Karkhanis and Associates. After graduating in architecture with a merit ranking from Pune University, he worked with renowned architect Christopher Benninger and gained valuable experience working on varied architectural projects and designing institutional buildings. 'We design very modern, contemporary interiors and pay attention to the minutest details. Our firm is abreast with the latest trends in design, technology and materials and we use them judiciously to create unique spaces which are custom-designed for every project. We undertake turnkey projects under our firm "Space Forte". I founded this firm in 2008 and we have designed and built several residences, corporate offices, a few retail outlets and restaurants.'

Spread over 1,650 sq ft, the original space was a dilapidated office premise with numerous partitions and a low height ceiling. The central duct area

BAR



'We broke down all walls and false ceiling, removed the vinyl flooring and punctured the front facade to do away with the claustrophobic feel. The favourite moment was to see the space transformed with the various lighting effects, reflective surfaces and highlight elements into this snazzy and techno-savvy bar with a very positive vibe and the desired interactive feel.'

was a huge constraint as it fragmented the space and acted as a visual barrier cutting the depth of the space. He says, 'We broke down all walls and false ceilings, removed the vinyl flooring and punctured the front facade to do away with the claustrophobic feel. The favourite moment was to see the space transformed with the various lighting effects, reflective surfaces and highlight elements into this snazzy and techno-savvy bar with a very positive vibe and the desired interactive feel.' While the name I Bar is derived from Interactive Bar, the entire logo, branding and signage were also done by them in-house. Sandeep adds, 'My wife Dimple Karkhanis is a graphic designer and heads the graphics/advertising division of our firm. She conceptualised the logo and branding.'

Maybe you are taking a look at the photographs and wondering, 'Well, it's just blue and snazzy...what's different?' This bar is a design experience. The interactive table with glass top and reverse projection to create visual and graphic effects is based on touch (and yes, now I want a table like that in my own house!). The table is treated with blue mirror and LED lights along with sharp angular cuts to give it a high-tech touch. The fine dine area has a 'drawer wall' with cove lighting and display rack of wine bottles accentuated by a hand-painted wall and a central chandelier. The V-shaped, staggered mirror-clad, 20 ft long bar storage is equipped with up lights which are strategically placed to cast shadows of the alcohol bottles placed on them. So that you can look and admire your spirits while you sip on them!

Here's an insider tip to order the Cosmo Watermelon while you are there and let me just be your mother for a second and remind you...Do Not Drink and Drive. 