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158-page Issue

OCTOBER 2013 ₹ 100

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# interiors

IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING

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4 key areas that become the pillars of a healthy home



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# The World Within

Whether it's Gurgaon, Mumbai, Bangalore or far away Spain, with ample space comes a multitude of ways to create a look. But it's the right execution that makes all the difference. We present four such spaces... each with a distinct, impressionable character.

- Interior designer Rohit Kapoor weaves some Mediterranean magic into his 6,000-square-foot Gurgaon apartment. With chandeliers, canopy ceilings and a generous sprinkling of art works, he brings his favourite part of the world into his home.
- When green and blue stand in contrast with stark white, it becomes a jaw-dropping abode by design firm Egue y Seta in Santa Caterina, Barcelona. This 1,184-square-foot apartment lives in perfect harmony with its surroundings.
- Somber and peaceful, the Dhvani Shah and Hiral Shah-designed Purohit residence in Thane, near Mumbai, brings the classic and contemporary together.
- The Humming Tree in Bangalore can be anything you want it to be — a restaurant, a hide-out or even your regular hang-out. Conceptualized by FADD Design, this place has been custom-made to inspire.





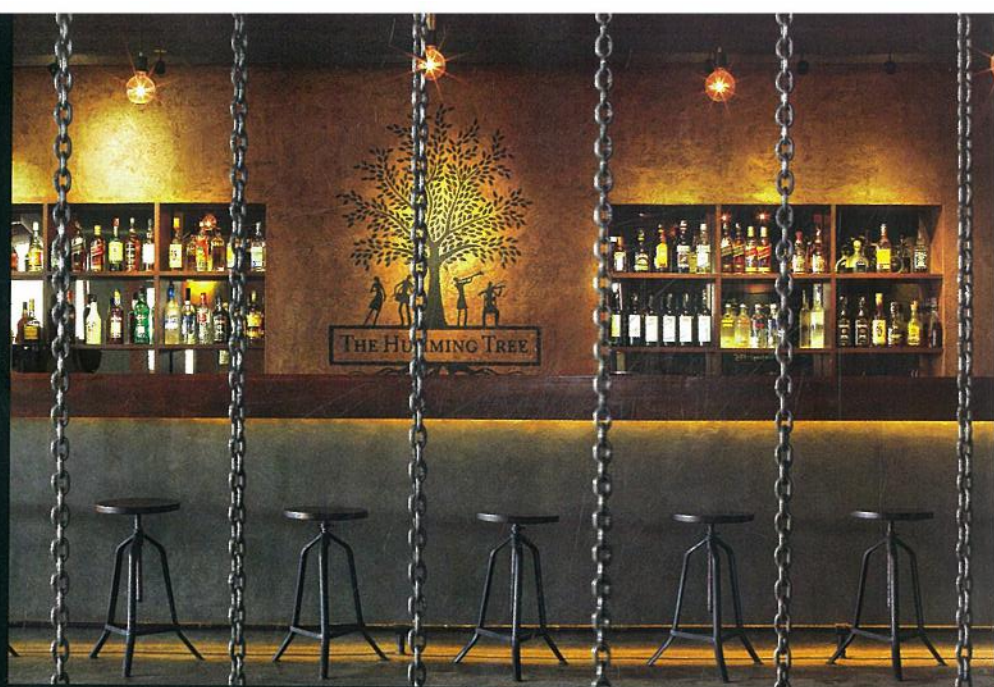


# When Imagination Hums

Call it your playground, your joyful jaunt or your retreat, The Humming Tree in Bangalore plays a multitude of roles... depending on what you feel like. Stop over for a glass of wine, or play a drunken game of darts with your friends or simply curl up in one of those cosy corners and lose yourself in a book. This is one restaurant that fulfils all desires.

TEXT: REEMA MOUDGIL; PHOTOGRAPHS: MANOJ MASAND; COURTESY FADD STUDIO





**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT** Distressed furniture against thoughtfully created wall finishes adds character to the space.

A visual transition created by streams of hanging chains and burnt ochre walls with long-lined mirrors all come together seamlessly.

The bar against the humming mural of a tree is austere-yet-dramatic because of the way lighting plays with the grey and ochre surfaces.

The stage has a dark and dense vibe and the walls have been punched occasionally with circular windows. Music is celebrated with a collection of rare posters.

The terrace is a work in progress but already shows off FADD's knack of using unusual shapes, colours and reclaimed or cost-effective objects to create an enchanting atmosphere.





Unwind



**ARCHITECTS**

Farah Ahmed and Dhaval Shellugar

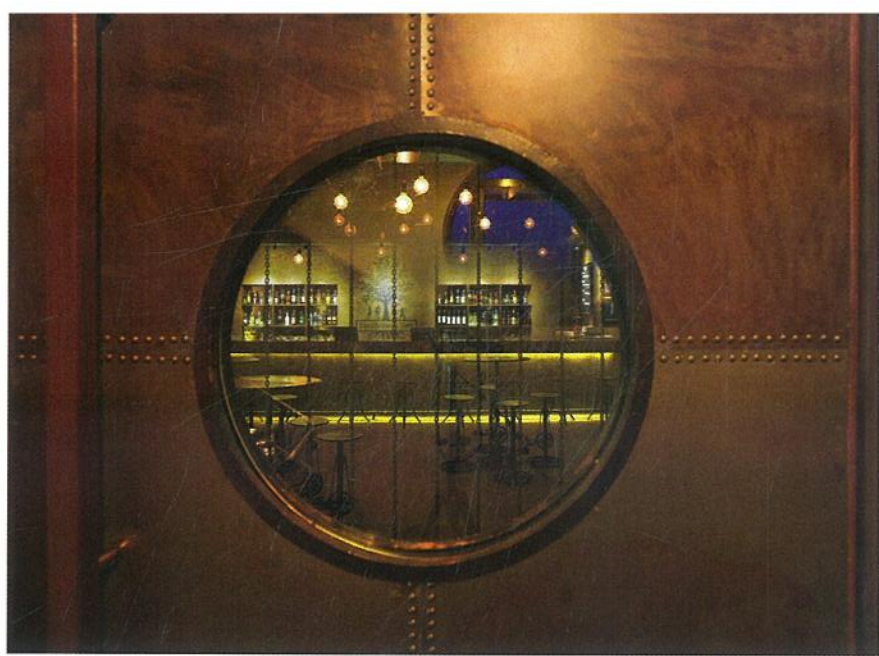
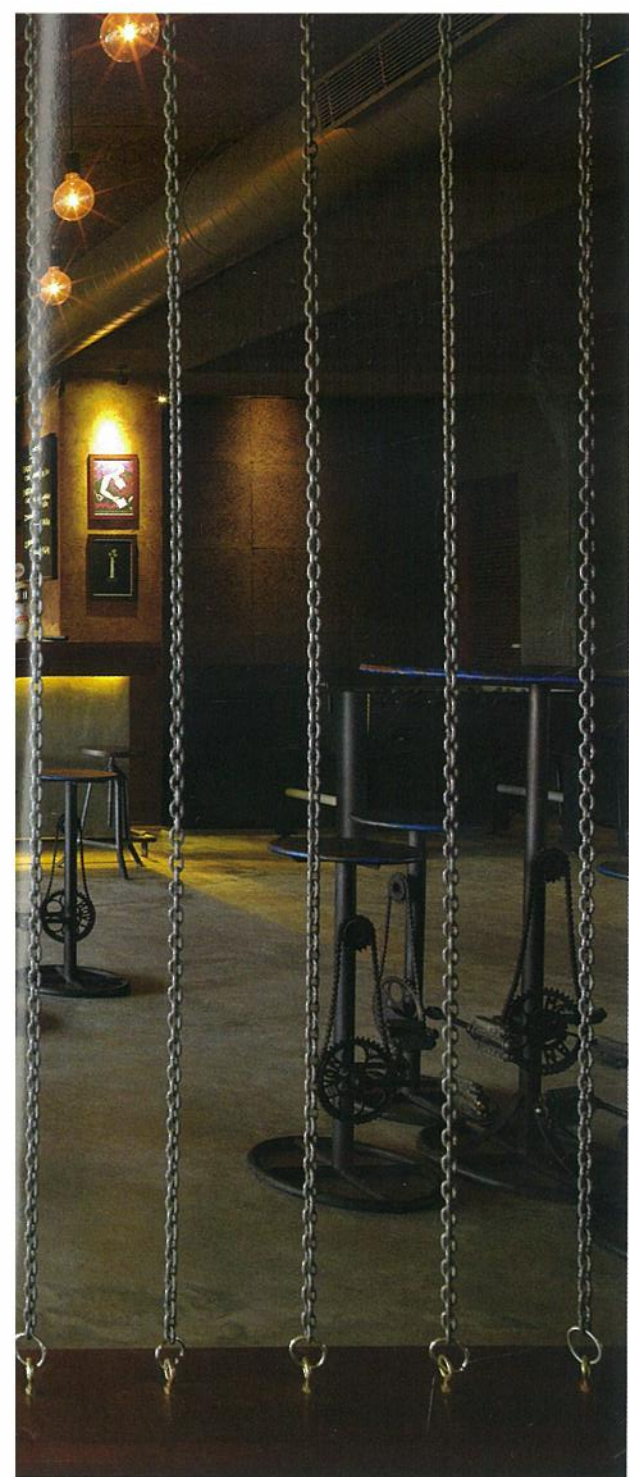
**I**t is a small world if you love design, because no matter where you go, you will always end up connecting dots, finding serendipitous memory triggers and making up stories about the spaces you fall in love with. Not too long ago, a little restaurant off Bangalore's Lavelle Road had made me chuckle at the way it defied its small confines, and created an audacious style statement with simple tricks such as stenciled 'chandeliers' (embedded with real bulbs!) on walls, distressed wood and quirky finishes to create drama, humour and warmth.

A few months later, I found myself at The Humming Tree, a multifaceted hospitality

space in Indira Nagar, Bangalore, and there was an instant sense of *deja vu*. Not because there was any direct resemblance between that space and this one, but because the sensibilities were the same.

The Humming Tree, as I explored it, revealed itself as not a space of excess but of concentrated joy. In a large rectangular breathing space, roles and functions flowed and the central position was taken by an informal bar with restored bar tables and stools reclaimed from old bicycles. The bar space is anchored by a swooping, show-stopping chandelier made of large old-school bulbs.





On the right is a stage for musical performances and this is where the hum in The Humming Tree comes from. On the left, there is a library nook, and a cosy living room-like setting that overlooks tree tops, both flowering and dense green. And there are the finishes. Distressed wood, cement-finished flooring, stencilled wall murals of a tree leaping with vitality. And the interplay between lightness and density of colour, texture and energy. Luminous mirror frames on a stark grey wall and hand-picked poster art peppering up the rather brooding stage area. And a vibe that welcomes, invites, amuses and engages, but never shouts or overwhelms.

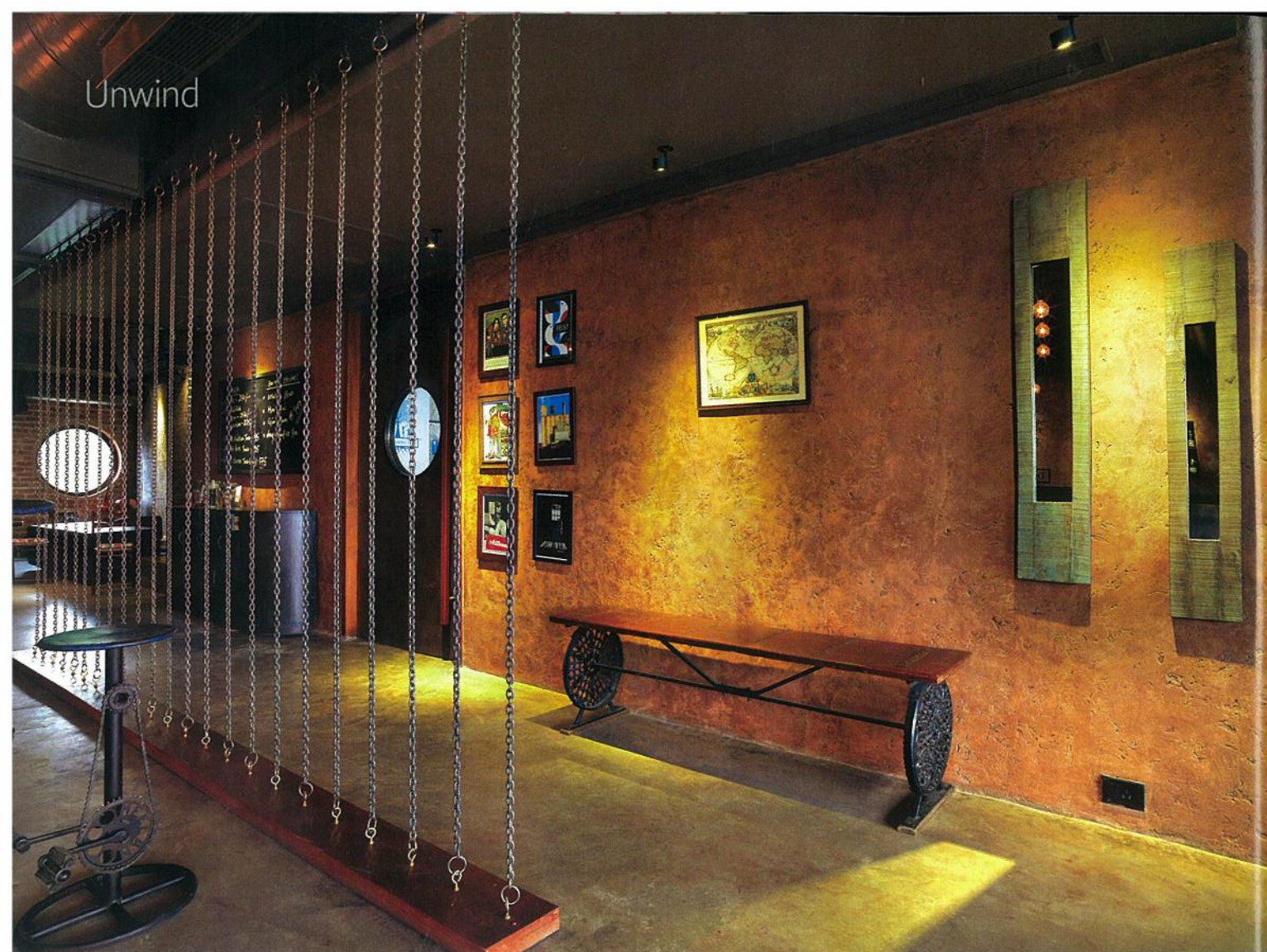
**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT** The bar doesn't associate with any trend, giving it a degree of agelessness. Intelligent use of old-school bulbs, cement-finished flooring and stools reclaimed from old bicycles create an unpredictable and amusing design idiom.

The mood is set right from the entrance: an oxidized riveted metal door with circular glass allows a sneak peak of The Humming Tree.

The cement flooring extends to make a rustic-looking bar counter, which adds to the quirkiness of the space.



Unwind

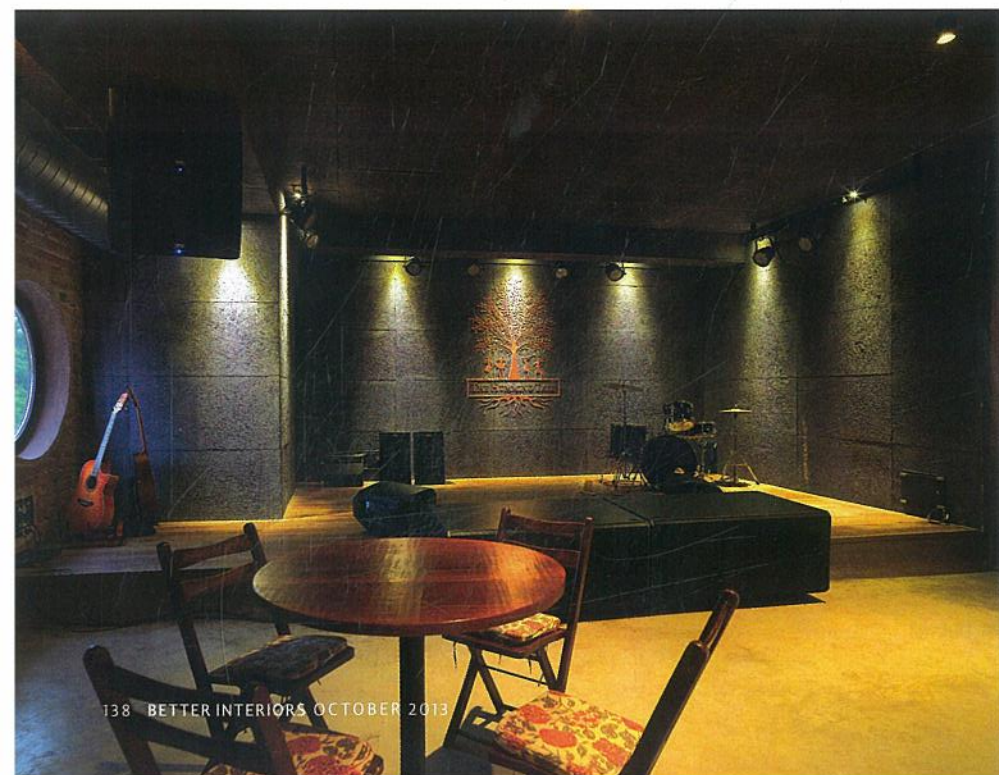


**CONCEPT:** To create a space that fits everyone's needs. A restaurant, a bar, a hang-out, a musical venue and a reading corner, it's everything rolled into one.

The creative minds behind this vibrant space are the young designers Farah Ahmed and Dhaval Shellugar of the young FADD Studio. Since 2012, they have created several unusual spaces like a houseboat, a flower boutique, a club house and luxury villas... and yes, The Humming Tree is one of the most satisfying projects they undertook. Nikhil Barua, the young client, understood them and theirs became a harmonious meeting of minds.

Both designers have clarity of thought invested in the minutiae of details, all of which create a thrumming big picture, where everything works and fits together, as is visible here. Ask the young designers to define themselves and they say, "We have no fixed style. Our vision is young and we want to create original spaces even when the budget is limited and the constraints are many."

One of their challenges was to find the right workmanship. And they were lucky to find a wall finish specialist, who gave the walls character and a burnt rust patina that can't come without an understanding of technique and a vibrant imagination. The other challenge was to fit into a budget-friendly design palette,







**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT** The entrance wall is a gentle explosion of textures with a warm, burnt-ochre wall, a smattering of mirrors, unusual posters, a chain partition, a quaint bench and a chest of drawers which retains the markings of the ply it was crafted from.

A brick wall creates a New York loft-like vibe with smart posters and unusual stools crafted from bikes.

The stage is an elevated spot meant for reading and concerts by upcoming bands.

Canister lamps, reading nooks, picture windows and lush couches make this zone perfect to read, play board games, work or just lounge.

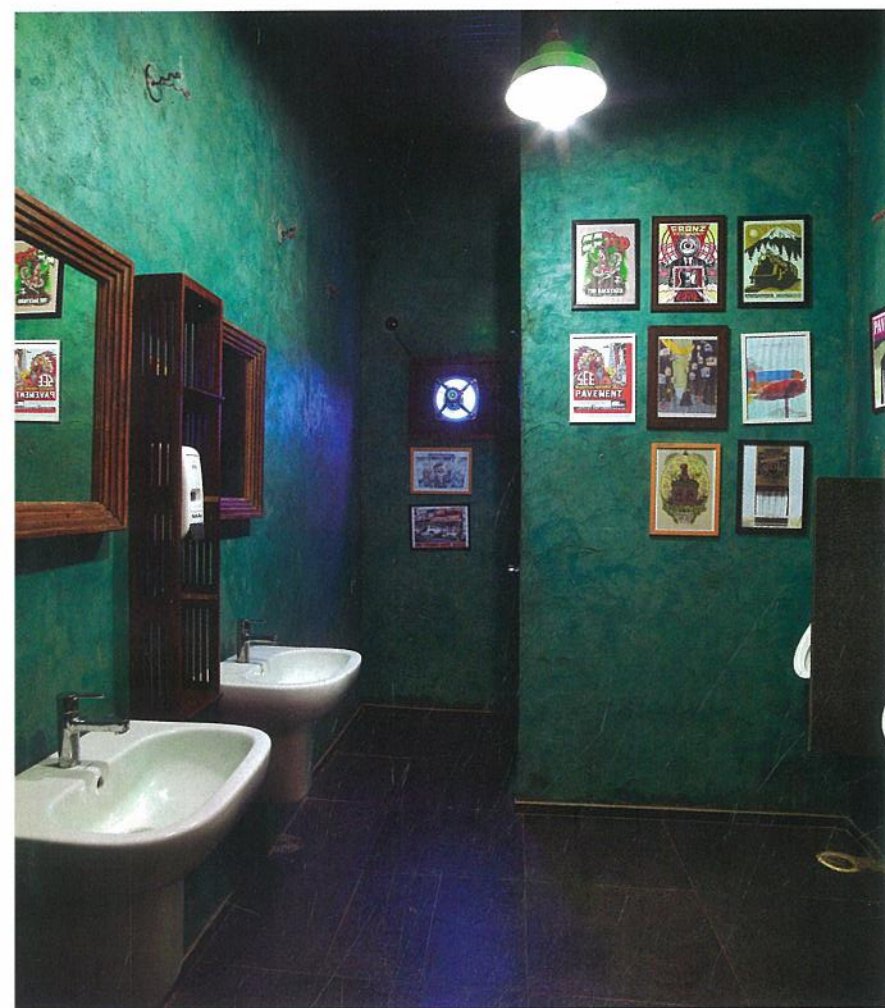
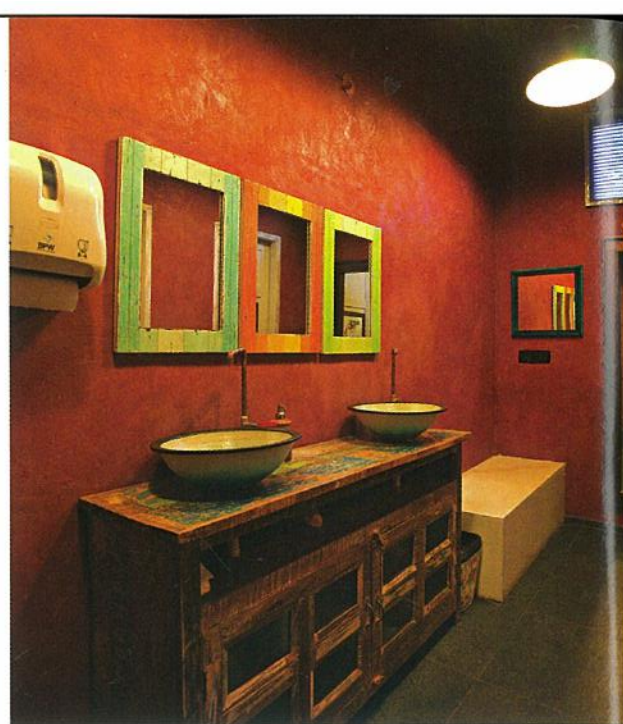
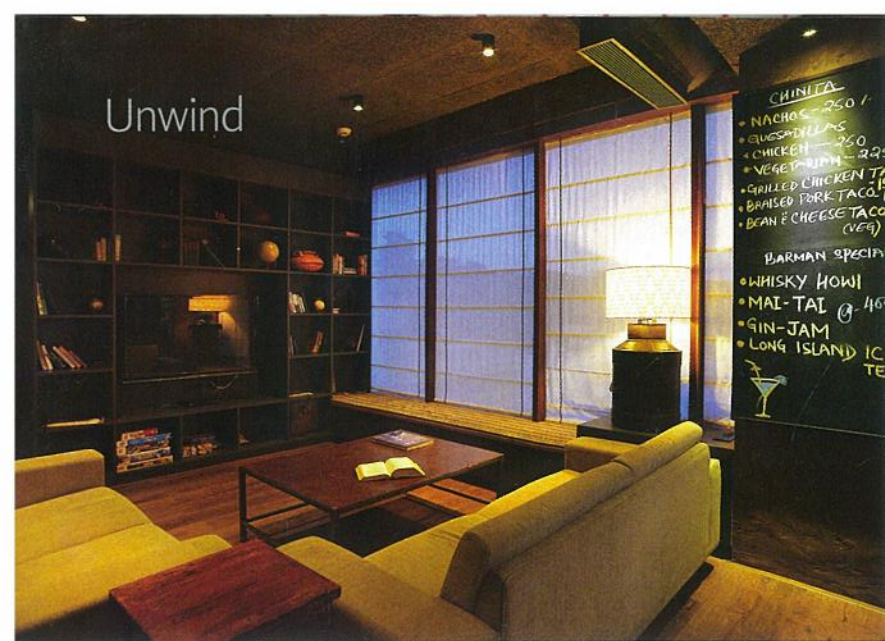
## MATERIALS

Interiors Metal, cement and bricks  
 Entrance door oxidized metal riveted  
 door Floor Grey concrete Walls Burnt  
 rust cement





Unwind



all that The Humming Tree aspired to be. A bar, a restaurant, a cafe, or a hangout where a glass of wine and a short bite can be had in a relaxed, unfussy ambience. A place to watch TV or play a game of darts, foosball, monopoly or scrabble. A place with corners that invite you to work or read or just be — but most importantly a place that celebrates music and musicians.

Apart from the organic flow, the acoustics had to be taken care of. So the ceiling was soundproofed. The oxidized metal riveted door, the industrial lights, the metal and cement accents, the brick walls, the exposed AC ducts, the intentional edginess in the design recall the images of a New York loft where impromptu jam sessions occur and music flows boundlessly.

Farah excitedly walks me to the restrooms. The feminine vibe in one is established by a baked pink wall finish and a funky triptych of mirrors. The masculine washroom has a blue wall finish and a set of wooden frames is rounded off by quirky industrial lights and poster art from Nikhil's personal collection. The terrace with its Mediterranean colours, its flowering pots and cheerful outdoor furniture is still a work in progress just like Farah and Dhaval's journey towards a repertoire that is original, all-inclusive, fearless and full of joy. **BI**

**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT** Can a hospitality space become your second home? Possibly, if a TV nook invites you to sit down and watch a game like The Humming Tree's hang-out zone does.

The women's restroom has baked pink walls, cheerful mirrors and a strong feminine vibe. Don't miss the charm of the unfinished vanity chest.

The men's restroom has a blue textured wall, masculine wooden notes and the ubiquitous smattering of posters.

**FACT FILE:** Project The Humming Tree Client Nikhil Barua Area 5,300 sq ft Design Team FADD Studio (Farah Ahmed and Dhaval Shellugar) Civil contractor Sneha Interiors Lighting Prism Lights and Purple Turtle Sound Acoustic Control Air conditioning NN Air Con Systems Pvt Ltd Landscape Orange Bicycle