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ELLE DECOR

JUNE – JULY 2025

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TRENDS AND ACCESSORIES

- 26 **HEART OF GLASS** From barware to furniture, glass is clearly having a moment
- 36 **CARDINAL** Asian Paints Colour of the Year 2025 brings a lavender haze to moody monsoons
- 42 **DECOR WISHLIST** Take cues from the latest designer products gracing local and global stores

DECOR PEOPLE

- 46 **IN CONVERSATION WITH SOUMITRO AND NISHA MATHEW GHOSH**
The architect-duo speak with Namrata Dewanjee on why just architecture is not enough
- 54 **WHO WORE WHAT WHEN** Into Pranay Jaitly and Shounak Amonkar's fantastical world of fashion

NOW LOOK

- 58 **LIAISON WITH LUXURY** Luxarte Living's Surat store by CO.lab redefines retail spaces
- 64 **PICK A DOOR AND TUC K-IN** Imrun Sethi and Guneet Singh take us inside The Kin hotel in Mumbai that brings you up to speed with the slow life
- 68 **DINING BY A THREAD** The Wire Room in Chennai by Amisha Thanawala and Pronit Nath of Urban Studio makes ordinary objects extraordinary
- 72 **STAY A LITTLE LONGER** Peacock Life by the Countryside is a maximalist design haven by Shabnam Gupta you'll wish you could move into!
- 78 **A CONFLUENCE OF NOSTALGIA & NARRATIVE** Nostalgia meets drama inside Ziya at The Oberoi, Gurugram designed by Akshat Bhatt of Architecture Discipline

BUZZ

- 101 **EDITOR'S PICK** Hot products to look out for
- 102 **STREETS, STORES AND SIGHTINGS** The latest trends in products and lifestyles across India



ON THE COVER

A metropolitan home for the modern soul? In Mumbai, Vaishali Kamdar and Komal Sanghavi Vasa bring a well-travelled Parisian allure to the familiarity of Indian art

PHOTOGRAPH BY **SULEIMAN MERCHANT**



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Inside Ziya are blue arched dining pods for diners, adorned with curving lines of metal foil and punctuated in front with a statement light designed by Architecture Discipline

A CONFLUENCE OF NOSTALGIA & NARRATIVE

Akshat Bhatt of Architecture Discipline crafts a heady mix of nostalgia, detailed drama and material marvel at Ziya in The Oberoi, Gurugram

TEXT BY **MEHAR DEEP KAUR** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JEETIN SHARMA**

In a time driven by immediacy, stillness is a rare luxury. And a slow meal? Almost radical. It calls for presence, patience and pleasure. At Ziya's new home within the water-laced architecture of The Oberoi, Gurugram, that spirit of unhurried indulgence finds a physical form. Conceptualised by Akshat Bhatt of Architecture Discipline along the lines of contemporary nostalgia, the restaurant unfurls like a sensorial *thali*, each element distinct yet collectively whole. >>>



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP A centrepiece in itself is the custom-made 36-foot liquid metal table with blue dining pods in the backdrop; Custom chandeliers and lamps cast a warm glow on the furniture, artworks and solid walnut parquet floors; The table top resembles deep hues of caramel atop a chess piece-inspired base modelled to mimic timber Channapatna toys



Here, repose is staged through the lyricism of curvaceous forms, clean lines, warm woods and old-world textures that make time feel expansive. Nothing about its design settles for simplicity. The first clue? A portal-like entrance clad in fire-fused glass and aged timber; equal parts time machine and teaser. Step further inside, a statement table greets you; sculptural, lustrous and so fluid that you'd think it was poured into this space. "A conversation starter that shimmers in liquid metal," muses Akshat. To one side, deep blue dining pods cocoon diners in curved intimacy, wrapped in arcs of metal foil. "We were inspired by the aroma of caramelised sugar that we'd catch as kids from a candy floss maker on his bicycle," he reveals, highlighting the glass-topped table, which is ambered like caramel. Its base is shaped like a chess piece and modelled after the playful geometry of Channapatna toys.

Look up, and the ceiling swoops in quiet parallel. Sinuous grooves echo the central table's silhouette, exaggerating perspective and guiding the gaze. Each zone plays its part deftly: a bar gleaming in metallic leaf work, a server station discreetly tucked away, a private dining room and cosy tables along the glazed facade enjoying panoramic views. Throughout, it's the discerning details that ensure poetic cadence: the timeless charm of monolithic chairs, the glow of hand-formed sconces and bespoke chandeliers, all grounded by a rich walnut parquet underfoot. Much like its menu — reimagined Indian fare with a reverence for origins — Ziya's interiors are steeped in memory and finesse, with Architecture Discipline delivering a space where belonging becomes a matter of mood and materials. ♦ Website: www.architecturediscipline.com Instagram: @ziyagurgaon