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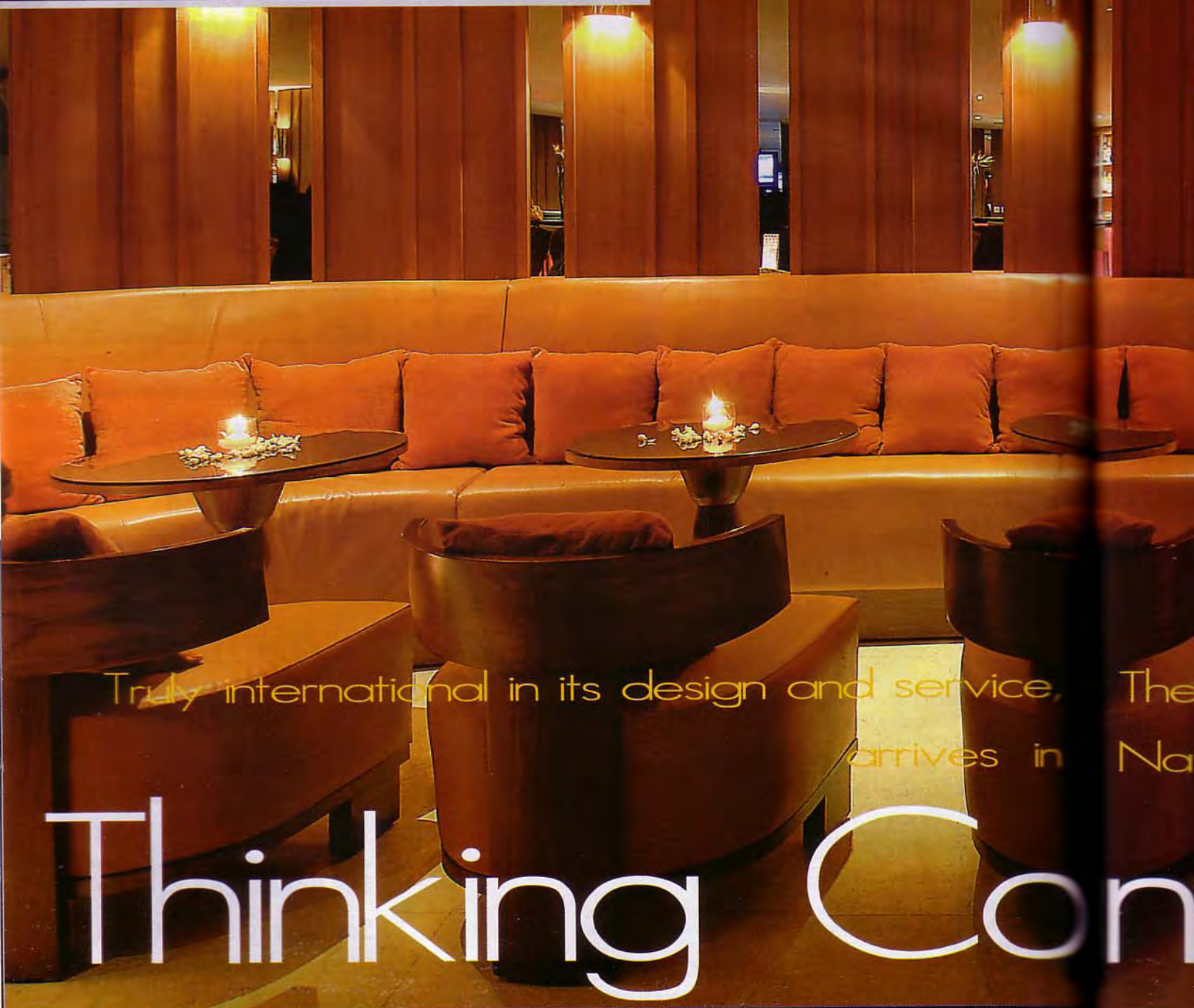
# INTERIORS



Bobby Mukherji's Art & Tech look  
for Le Meridien

Beautiful spaces designed by  
Kumar Moorthy & Associates,  
Bankim Dave, Goregaokar  
Architects, and Kartik Punjabi





Truly international in its design and service, The  
arrives in Na

# Thinking Con

TEXT: SUMISHA ARORA ■ PHOTOGRAPHS: PRASHANT BHAT



CURTAIN RAISER

The Park, designed by Project Orange,  
Navi Mumbai.

contemporary



An urban getaway as they call it, The Park Navi Mumbai is a contemporary and elegant setting with the interiors a fusion of traditional Indian patterns and textures with clean lines and modern shapes. Bringing together East and West and located amidst stunning views of hills and lush green foliage, the hotel designed by Project Orange re-defines style and class.

"Every aspect of the project was treated as a design opportunity," say the designers on their design approach. There is something *Mumbaiya* about the design. Though not really in the face, one finds subtle nuances referring to the city by way of cushions, etc. Guests are welcomed with the beautiful fragrance of *mogra* and a warm *namaste* through a giant canopy and up a short flight of steps into the main hall. As the warm ambience sinks in, one is introduced to a world of international standard decor and service. High ceiling and slender concrete columns bring grandeur while the snug seating areas make one feel at home. Two curved walls, one containing the bar Dusk, and the other sporting the reception, lead to Zest, the all-hours restaurant. The reception wall makes way for a cosy seating area further down, which appears to be floating. The wall, white with geometric patterns, subtly adds to the ambience. A little ahead is a circular room embellished lavishly with silk, designed for informal meetings and casual discussions. Beautiful ceramic stools add colour and style to this room.

The design follows four approaches: classical order, contemporary graphic, miniature traditional and the natural world. The reception is a combination of traditional and graphic brought out in a combination of woven carpet and bold architectural lines of the curved walls. The coffee shop is very much an urban and graphic environment, while the bar is more classical. "We bring all of these elements together in the rooms where we have designed four cushions that reflect each of the themes," describe the designers. The colour scheme is mainly warm ambers, reds and golds off set with slices of pale blue and shards of black.

The rooms are arranged around an enclosed atrium, bringing natural light in to the circulation areas. On the top floor are larger rooms with a kitchenette facility for long stay guests. All of these spaces are informal and friendly, offering the guest a chance to relax or interact with friends and colleagues.

The highlight of the hotel is its architecture, posing wonderful play of light inside as well as on the façade. The mini-atrium is a wonderful piece of art with a highly contemporary mirror pool. Sprinkled landscaping and art installations add interest to the area. All of the rooms are accessed off











open corridors that surround the internal light well. Quirky red lanterns over each door add to the drama.

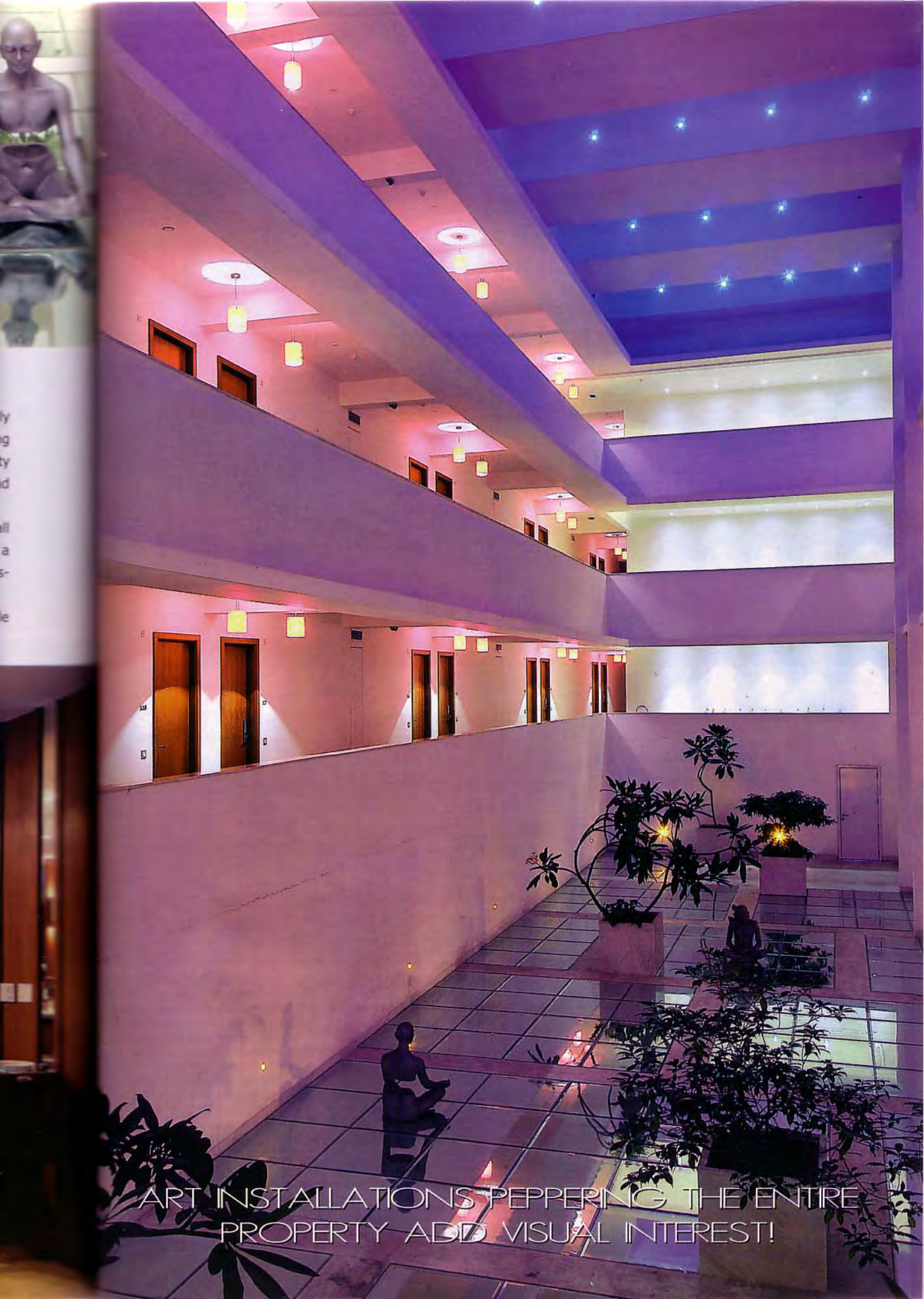
Dusk is stylishly elegant bar with walls clad in a random series of vertical teak slats interspersed with mirror. Swarovski designed brass wall lights exude candle-like points of light. The furniture is a combination of formal leather sofas and armchairs with an eclectic mix of armchairs placed on Indian rugs. The dimly-lit ambience gives it a lounge feel, while the variety in seating caters to all kinds of moods. The bar counter with strings of beads, adds drama with its splendid display of LED lighting. The cigar box is the main attraction with cigars of well-known brands displayed beautifully.

Zest, the vibrant all-hours restaurant enjoys views of the terrace through full-height glass windows. The bar wall is a huge tiled surface in a traditional Indian pattern abstracted in shades of red and orange. The centerpiece is a doughnut shaped serving counter, topped in brown Italian Marble, and lit by a huge curved hood lined in gold leaf. Black rods behind the leather banquette screen the restaurant from the rest of the facilities on this floor.

Bamboo, the Chinese speciality restaurant due to open shortly, has an arresting décor with a beautiful shade of red.







ART INSTALLATIONS PEPPER THE ENTIRE  
PROPERTY ADD VISUAL INTEREST!





green dominating the shade card. Its combination with white makes the restaurant look even more appealing, especially since the French windows overlook the "White Garden". White marble floor and oak-clad columns complete the look. The Oriental touch is reflected in the minimal eastern motifs like the mirrored wall panelling, silk and leather upholstery.

Aqua, the signature poolside space of The Park, is characterized by a huge glass mosaic mural in blues, greys and oranges creating an abstract backdrop for the dramatic black elliptical pool. In the evening guests can sit on the timber deck with views of the landscape framed by the huge circular windows of the boundary wall. An awe-inspiring art installation of a hand adds interest.

On the first floor is the main banqueting space, Rosewood Hall, clad in dramatic dark wood, black glass with a polished brass trim. This large room is supported by three breakout rooms, Banyan 1, 2 and 3. Two smaller meeting rooms overlooking the garden are ideal for boardroom discussions or intimate cocktails. A lot of care has





THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE HOTEL POSES A WONDERFUL PLAY OF LIGHT INSIDE AS WELL AS ON THE FAÇADE.



been taken to design the banqueting facilities because "the hotel is targeted at the business traveller looking for a perfectly calm and rejuvenating experience," explains Priya Paul, chairman, Apeejay Group of Hotels.

Homage to Modernism and the work of Le Corbusier, this property has an open plan approach that connects the entire hotel to create a vibrant environment. The brilliant white exterior catches the sun that casts dramatic shadows across the deep reveals. Warm amber LED lights bring in the night while the garden side is bathed in midnight blue. The landscaped gardens use only white flowers to create a cool retreat.

Distinctive architecture, unusual design elements, attention to luxurious comfort and other special touches characterize this boutique hotel, a class above the rest! ■

