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THE ORIGINAL NAWAB OF LUXURY

AR. PREM NATH

INSIDE :

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ir PERSONALITY : ABM ARCHITECTS ir GENNEXT : STUDIO LOTUS

It's the start of a new year !



A feeling of freshness, of renewal and new beginnings. A chance to wipe the slate, clean out the garbage and sundry other clichés. But however old the thought and jaded the thinker, there's really nothing clichéd about a new beginning.

Given the interesting economic climate and the approaching elections, the Indian markets continue to stay somnolent. Few suppliers say they've recovered from the three-pronged attack of GST-RERA-DeMo. Huge market whammies like the IL&FS debacle, though not directly implicated in the sector, have had their footprint on the collective backside of the industry. Housing sales lack momentum and this has impacted far more than just the buying and selling of homes. So what does this bode for the interiors sector? Interestingly, not just gloom and doom as business continues, perhaps not 'as usual' but continues nonetheless. Deals, stock off-loading and multiple this-for-thats keep the customer engaged and the markets moving.

So where's the silver lining ? It's in the evolution of the market; in the dynamism of the markets that continue to astound with their tenacity and capacity to survive the most trying circumstances. Smaller events and initiatives gain momentum with their smaller investment footprint and focused reach. More design initiatives driven by bespoke manufacturers and magazines have clawed a place in the wallet-share of the big spenders. Sadly, the weak are culled and the peripheral players are either decimated or deleted from the map completely. But that's the fierce beauty of the jungle. And as much as we might wish it otherwise... it is a jungle out there and that is the distant roar of the tiger !

Team IFJ wishes you a brilliant, creative and happy new year 2019 !

I look forward to hearing from you.
Please send your thoughts to me at edit@ifj.co.in

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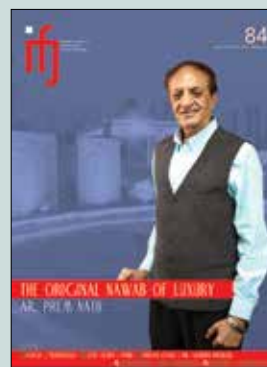


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AR. SHAMI GOREGAOKER

architects do the talking, as they wander through the world, pointing to architectural and design features they have loved along the way

Docklands, Melbourne

A waterfront area along the banks of the Yarra River, Docklands is a sought-after business district with the big names like the National Austria Bank, ANZ, Medibank and Ericsson on one bank, with luxurious modern villas on the other. All buildings are modern and each one is unconventional, transforming the area into a spectacular experience for daily office-goers as well as tourists. On the other side of the river are outstanding luxurious villas making it a vibrant destination for the well-heeled. The villas offer a beautiful view of the river and there is a range of cafes, restaurants and parks for people to hang out. Docklands is one of the most modern ongoing urban renewal projects and is one of the landmark destinations of Melbourne.



Little Venice, London

Apart from the most desirable properties this neighbourhood has to offer, it also has a Little Venice in a tranquil canal at the far end. It is lined with waterside cafes and pubs and is the perfect place to enjoy a summer afternoon watching boats go by. Little Venice is also known for its theatre scene where you can see anything from puppet shows to plays to free live performances at the amphitheater. You can take a canal boat ride from Little Venice to Camden Town, another electrifying place to visit.



University of Melbourne

The oldest university in Victoria, its primary campus in Parkville has been extended with a delightful mix of period buildings and modern structures. The Bailieu Library building is a modern building with spacious library areas inside. The underground South Lawn car park is one of the university's most distinguished features, designed using the most innovative structural systems. The design comprises a series of reinforced concrete shells with parabolic profiles supported on short columns. The columns encase pipes to drain the soils above for the planting of lawn and trees of the South Lawn. Excavations involved substantial earthworks to retain the lawn at the same level of the 'Old Quad' building, the historic core of the university. The east entrance to the car park incorporates a door from a 1745 house in St Stephen's Green, Dublin, and the west entrance is constructed with the salvaged doorway and is framed by two Atlas figures from the demolished Colonial Bank, Elizabeth Street.



Ar. Shami Goregaoker,
Design Director, GA Design,
Mumbai



Interlaken, Switzerland

The fascinating city of Interlaken is nestled in the eastern part of Switzerland and is one of the most unique cities in the world. On the West of Interlaken is Lake Thun, with Lake Brienz to its East. To the North, lies Harder Kulm, the highest peak of Interlaken and Grindelwald First Mountain to the . The urbanized city of Interlaken is well-planned with vast green spaces and a combination of period and modern architecture.



Grindelwald, Switzerland

Grindelwald is a small place, restricted to mainly one street. This small village consists of numerous chalets, most of which are hotels, along with souvenir shops and supermarkets. Grindelwald has an intriguing view of the various snow-capped mountains which overlap each other, including the famous Jungfrauoch, which is the highest peak of Europe. At one end of the main street lies the Grindelwald Railway Station with four platforms, which merges seamlessly with the main street outside. As I visited Grindelwald in mid-May, I was fortunate to witness the locals conduct a Bell Parade, in which the officials wear their uniforms and march with huge Swiss bells to create a mellifluous atmosphere while others carry the town's Mayor on a chair as a mark of respect.



South Bank, London

One Sunday, I wandered off to South Bank to meet a cousin. It is right by the Thames, near the London Eye, in the heart of the city. What I didn't realize was that South Bank is a cultural hub, a home to art centers and performances. It was a lovely, sunny day and the place was full of people trying to remain outdoors to get more sun. It was buzzing with activity and there were things for all age-groups to do. As a backdrop to all the open-air pubs and themed bars serving cocktails and finger food, stood the iconic modern architecture of South Bank Centre overlooking the Thames. The zone stretches between Westminster and London Bridges on the south side of the Thames and remains energized throughout the day. ifj