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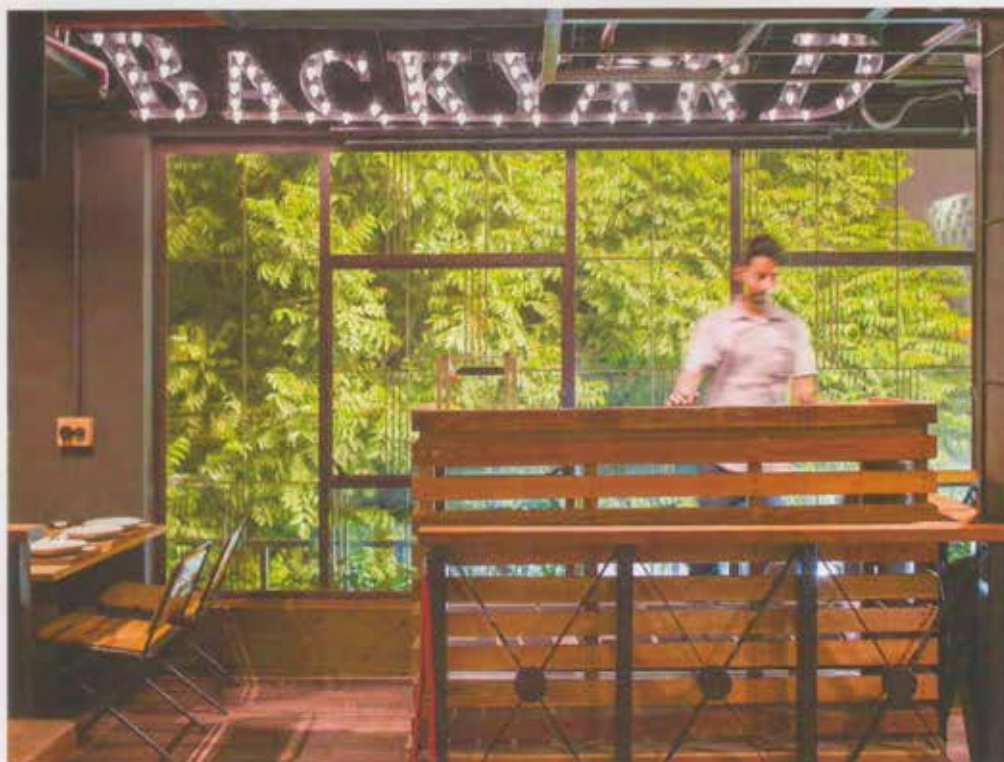
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In true form

This New Delhi restaurant and nightspot by DCA Architects is an alluring juxtaposition of concrete space and contemporary use of wood



"The owners had an existing space in this building located in the Green Park area of New Delhi. And they had the name The Backyard in mind, so that is where the design concept for this two-level restaurant grew from – to implement the sense and ambience of the backyard into a restaurant," says principal architect Amit Aurora of DCA Architects.

"Now what kind of a space is a backyard? To me it is a very casual place; being in the backyard is like being in your own house, a place where you can relax and have fun. And I have tried to create a

similar ambience in this restaurant," he explains.

The Backyard, a semi-casual all day dining restaurant, is spread over two levels and has a total area of 4000 sq ft and occupies the second and third floor of the three-storey building. The design and the layout of the restaurant can be broadly divided into three main spaces – the restaurant on the second floor, the staircase, which connects and leads to the third floor that has the terrace of the building.

While this was an existing structure, there was







no major renovation or re-structuring that we had to undergo. All we did was open up the walls facing east on the restaurant floor," explains Aurora.

Since the restaurant, on the second floor, is an enclosed space, Aurora installed large double horizontal large glass windows to bring in natural light

to the area. Planters are placed in the immediate space-outside. The green spot here solves multiple functions, such as providing a verandah-like ambience, acting as a sound buffer to any noise that might arise from the roads outside and providing the diner with a sense of privacy from the outside

Preceding pages Amit Aurora of DCA Architects takes the appealing allure of the backyard as a space and juxtaposes it with quirky furniture to create New Delhi's latest restaurant and nightspot - The Backyard.

Facing and right The colour palette of black and greys with red accents elevates the ambience of the space. Mirrors placed in frames are suspended from the ceiling giving the space depth and also allowing diners a peek at the other areas in the space. A repurposed sewing machine is designed as a table, which can be adjusted for height according to the diner's needs.



effectively creating a cosy space replicating the sense of being in one's own backyard.

The spatial layout of this space had to be designed keeping in mind that the venue would also act as a musical venue on certain nights. While the bar was accommodated in one corner of the area, the tables were set against the windows giving each guest a view. The centre part of the space was left empty to ensure smooth movement for the guests and also double as standing room during a musical performance. This floor with its teak wooden flooring plays against the black and grey colour palette used. Red accents further highlight the design and texture and quirky furniture here.

Aurora has deliberately chosen furniture and accessories that are often found in backyards; disused sewing machines have been repurposed

and used to prop up tables. Lawn chairs have been repurposed and redesigned while the strategically, symmetrically placed antique mirrors on the exposed ceilings craft a myriad of reflections creating a dynamic that adds drama to the interiors.

Access to the terrace restaurant is via the staircase, which acts as both the connecting and the transition area. The staircase is fitted with a pergola covering at the top and suspended greenery/foilage to assimilate it into the overall theme of the terrace restaurant.

The design and layout of the terrace restaurant revolves around a central pergola structure, which has layers of fittings in it and innovative lighting fixtures hanging gently from the pergola. Seating arrangements have been made using recycled wooden beer crates for table and seating purposes.

These pages A pergola at the end of the staircase welcomes diners to the terrace restaurant. Gravel flooring, repurposed furniture and a mixed seating alignment - booth seating and stand alone tables. The central seating area is made using recycled beer and whiskey crates, placed under the central pergola structure.





The bar here has been placed in one corner of this 2000 sq ft space and in the periphery of the surrounding empty spaces, further seating arrangements have been accommodated; group tables and intermittent bar tables and seats made of recycled whiskey crates, to allow visitors an expansive view of the city during the day as well as the night. To instill the theme of the backyard, a layer of loose gravel is added on the existing floor of the terrace.

"The weather in New Delhi is rarely conducive to parties in places which are open to skies, but here, there is always a breeze blowing and even in the hottest of summer nights, this place is packed with people," Aurora summarises on the popularity of the space with the customers. ■

Location New Delhi
Owners Hungry Belly Foods
Interior designer Amit Aurora; DCA Architects
Metal contractor Amir Alam Metal Works
Kitchen contractor Rajesh Sachdeva
Tiling Kajaria Eternity
Plumbing Jaquar
Electrical LeGrand
Paints Asian Paints
Ceiling Amir Alam Metal Works
Lighting Ankur Lights
Furniture J.P. Arts, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
HVAC Toshiba

Story by Moshita Prajapati
Photography by Andre Fanthome

This page The seating acts as the central area of the terrace. Drop down lamp pendants highlight the space during the night.

Facing page right The bar is located in the corner of the terrace and the wood fire oven is placed adjacent to it.

Facing page below The restaurant's bathroom is designed using riveted steel plates and reclaimed wood, which ties it to the rest of the decor.



