

Inside Outside

THE INDIAN DESIGN MAGAZINE

www.insideoutside.in

ISSUE 401

JANUARY 2019

₹100



A tranquil cottage retreat for Bimal Roy's family in the heart of bustling Bandra

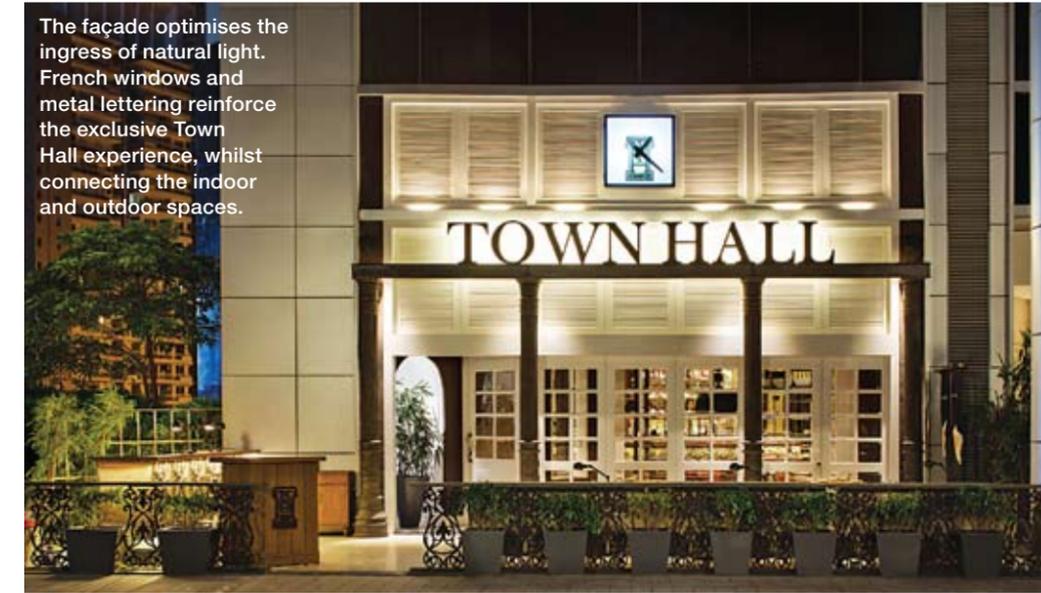


Contemporising a Legacy

New Delhi-based groupDCA, presents a top notch brand – the bespoke Town Hall restaurant in Gurugram.

Town Hall's location in a plaza amidst a contemporary setting provided the opportunity to generate a small outdoor seating space.

restaurant



The façade optimises the ingress of natural light. French windows and metal lettering reinforce the exclusive Town Hall experience, whilst connecting the indoor and outdoor spaces.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDRÉ J FANTHOME
COURTESY: GROUPDCA, NEW DELHI

Situated along Golf Course Road, in Horizon One Towers, among Gurugram's high brand and premium corporate hubs – and in the midst of a discerning residential context – Town Hall restaurant has established its own identity resonating with its old-world charm.

Starting out in 2015 to become one of New Delhi's leading restaurants, the same tenet and ethos have been recreated in this new NCR property. The ambience is deep-rooted in historicity, making it a pinnacle of design.

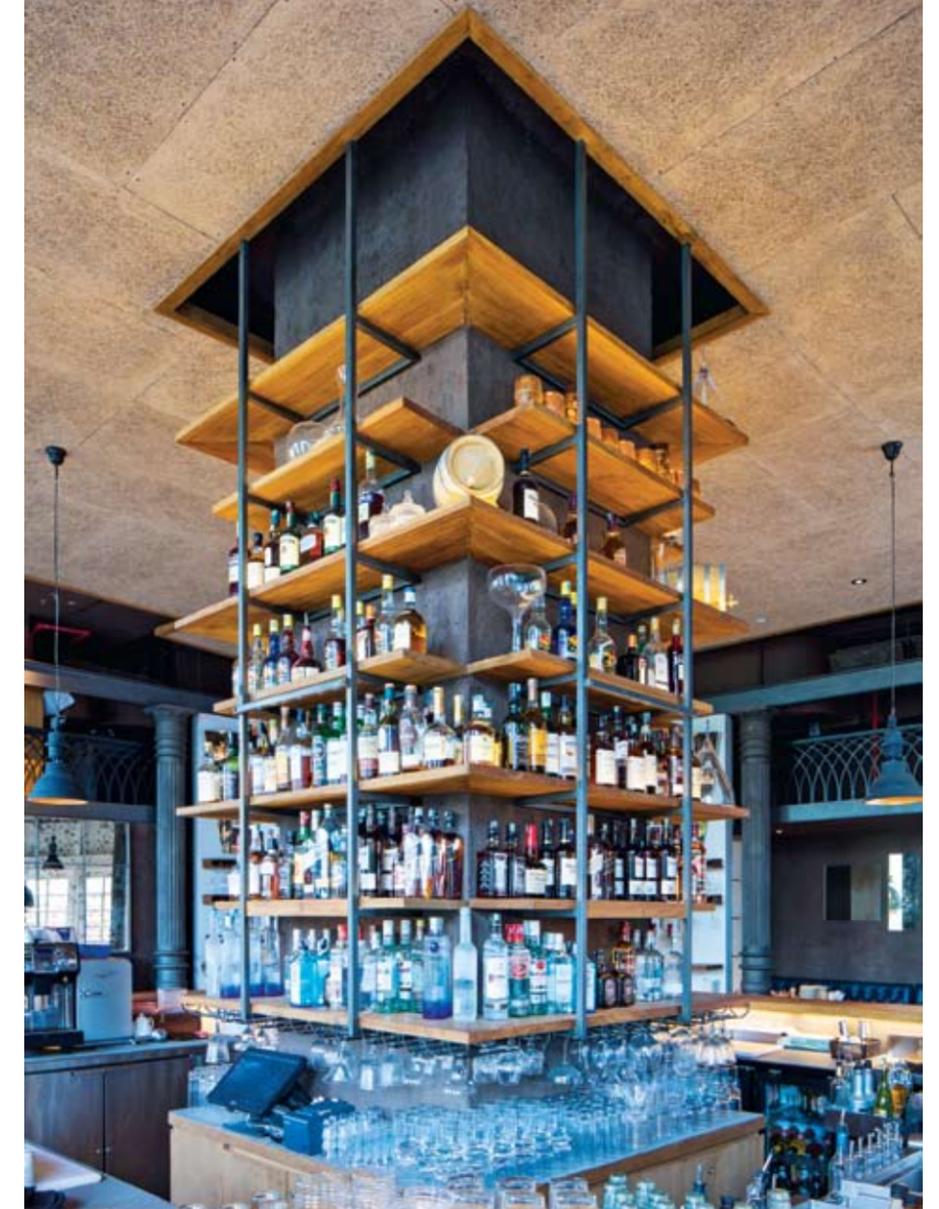
'The location, around a central plaza in the midst of other restaurants in a contemporary glass and granite commercial tower, had its own multiple challenges. One was to recreate the original Town Hall's charm and character.



Cast aluminium columns reminiscent of European aesthetics, underline the colonial visual style.



The new Town Hall reinforces the legacy in a new locale, crafting its own unique identity, including an attractive black and white floor, while carrying the tradition forward.



The bar display stands in the centre of the octagonal double-height space and acts as Town Hall's focal point.



Small ancillary seating alcoves emanate from the central octagonal space and provide a sense of privacy in a largely public space.



The bar counter with its tall stools, stands in the middle of the floor plan, facilitating informal conversations.



Large windows look onto the plaza outside, while allowing daylight penetration into the interiors.



The wine rack duplicating as a feature wall at right becomes a conversation piece. Overhead lamps brighten an overall darker seating zone.

The most daunting part was the odd-shaped site, with an angular entry and multiple oddly placed columns. The façade design and glazing had to be exploited to optimise natural light and to create a small outdoor seating area. French windows and cast-aluminium columns, metal lettering and the clock tower in the signage, the design of the planters and the railing continue to reinforce the Town Hall experience, whilst con-

necting the indoor and outdoor spaces. To retain Town Hall's archetypal character and identity, an emblematic, large central public space was created, with smaller ancillary spaces around it,' says Ar Amit Aurora, Partner, groupDCA. The odd shape of the site was countered with an octagonal layout, which practically enables functionality in the limited space available. The private nooks and corners

crafted as a result still remain a part of the main zone. Cast-aluminium columns bring in the European aesthetic and demarcate the voluminous space. At the top, the octagon is tied together with metal girders, which break the height and add a sense of intimacy. Plastered columns and pseudo-balconies complete the vintage aesthetic. Four, large customised chandeliers made of hand-beaten brass augment the decorative

symmetry. The wine display unit is integrated with a ladder for the DJ to climb up to play music, while the bar allows guests to enjoy a private moment in a public space. Acoustics become crucial in such an environment; a straw board ceiling primarily designed along the periphery facilitates better sound management, while enhancing the double height character of the central space. A formal, black and white

FACT FILE

Typology: Restaurant

Project: Townhall

Location: Horizon One,
Golf Course Road,
Gurugram

Client: RVN Hospitality

Completion: 2017

Area: 3620 sq ft

Architect: groupDCA,
New Delhi

Team members:

Sandeep Kumar Dang,
Bhavuk Jain

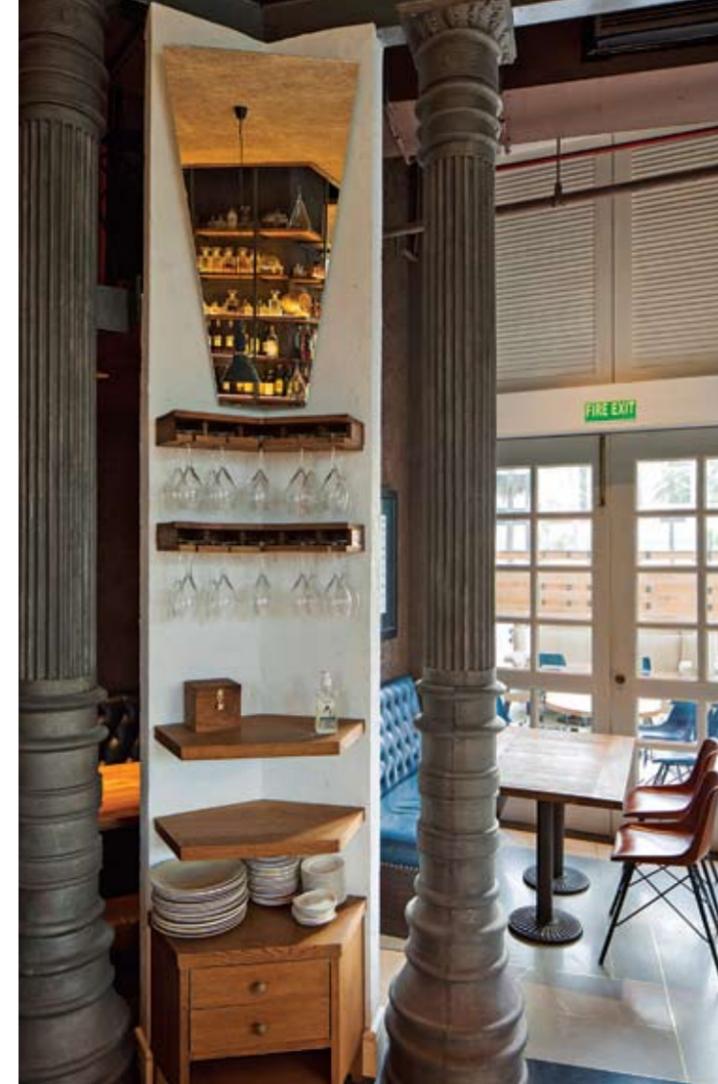
Furniture: DCA Architects

Lighting: Vizion lighting

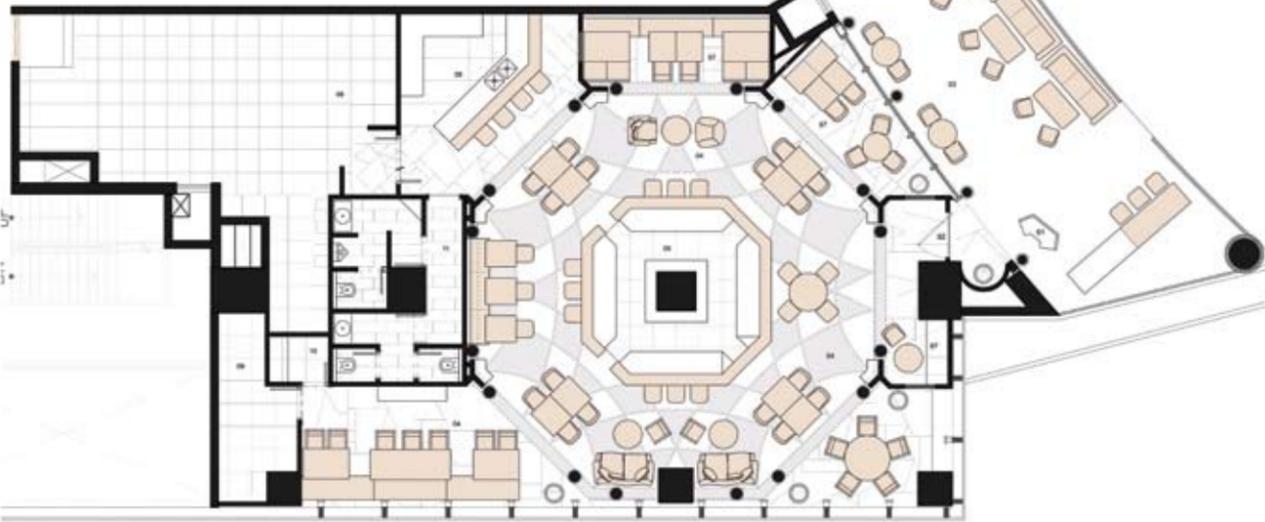
Electrical: Design Matrix



From left: groupDCA's Partners Ar. Amit Aurora and Ar. Rahul Bansal.



1 Lectern desk, 2 Entrance, 3 Semi open seating,
4 Indoor seating, 5 Octagonal bar counter, 6 Sushi
counter, 7 Alcove seating, 8 Kitchen, 9 Liquor store,
10 Cashier's cabin, 11 Washroom block



terrazzo flooring augments the spatial layout as it carries forward the colonial visual. Varied seating spaces with the play of antique mirrors in the background create drama by providing different perspectives from every angle in the restaurant.

The detailing is focused on visual and aesthetic appeal, together with practical solutions. The clock tower, an integral component of the archetypal Town Hall identity, is recreated to carry the legacy forward. The waiter stations are strategically incorporated in the angular walls to facilitate ease of operations without hampering circulation. Rigorous attention is paid to detailing – cast-iron metal

Two photographs showcase the detailing that marries functionality with visual appeal. Wine glasses hang on wooden panels above the waiter stations.

Varied seating spaces with highlighted backdrops add character and create drama to enhance dining experiences.



restaurant



bases are crafted for tables. Also, to enhance customer convenience, antique plug points are placed and hooks are affixed under tables to hang bags.

The lighting design focuses on people, the conversations and the overall experience. While day lighting is maximised through the windows, all the tables are well-lit amidst

an overall darker space. Mood lighting is assisted with an individual lamp from the side of every table, while pendant lights reinforce the antiquated Town Hall vocabulary.

Bespoke materiality and design elements include the cast-in-situ terrazzo floor and the cast-aluminium columns. To retain the antique aesthetic milieu, walls are

Custom-designed installations – brass stools and cast iron jaalis on the bar – buttress the larger theme of antiquity.

The washroom walls, finished in distressed plaster and painted dark brown, continue the antique appeal.

finished in distressed plaster painted in white and brown. The tables are made from reclaimed, sandblasted teak wood, while sofas and chairs are upholstered in leather. The customization continues in cast iron jaalis, metal planters, brackets, railings and the pendant lights.

‘The new Town Hall overall reinforces the legacy of the brand, crafting its identity amid experiential antiquity, while carrying the tradition forward – and creating its own niche in Gurugram,’ sums up Ar Rahul Bansal, Partner, groupDCA.

