

A Reflection of the Times

The reinvention of the mirror as a conscious design element is changing home decor trends



By KRITI SARASWAT-SATPATHY

Mirrors are having a defining design moment. From irregular sculptural silhouettes and handcrafted frames to backlit installations and oversized statement pieces, they are increasingly being treated as functional art. While bespoke mirrors have become synonymous with modern interiors, their association with luxury has deep historical roots in India. Fine Venetian and Belgian mirrors found their way to royal courts through trade and colonial influence, adorning the palaces of

Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Hyderabad. Used alongside intricate mirror mosaics in *sheesh mahals*, they symbolised wealth, power, and opulence. “Mirrors today influence how a space feels. They can create the illusion of depth, frame architectural features, and become focal points that elevate a space,” says Disha Subramaniam, founder and principal designer of her eponymous practice. Designers are using mirrors to choreograph light, extend sightlines and create layered visual experiences rather than simply filling empty walls. “In an entrance foyer, a statement mirror above a

console creates an inviting first impression while making the space feel more open. In dining areas, positioning a mirror to reflect a chandelier or pendant light enhances the ambience and adds visual drama. Living rooms benefit from mirrors that capture views of greenery, artwork, or natural light, making the interiors feel brighter and more expansive,” she adds. Organic curves, asymmetrical profiles, textured frames and artisanal finishes are replacing conventional rectangles. “A well-designed mirror can completely change the vibe of a room. The shape, material, and



integrate seamlessly with furniture and architecture through rotating panels, layered materials, concealed storage or customised finishes. “People are investing in fewer, but better-designed pieces, and mirrors offer an opportunity to introduce thoughtful detailing while remaining highly functional,” says Sajal Lamba, co-founder and director of luxury furniture brand Wriver. The brand’s mirrors experiment with rotating panels, oxidised finishes, integrated consoles and burnished surfaces, exploring the interplay between materiality, architecture and light. Lighting has also become integral to the way mirrors are designed and experienced. According to Amit Aurora, partner and principal architect at groupDCA, mirrors and lighting should always be



craftsmanship are what give it character. I’m particularly drawn to mirrors with sculptural forms because they add a softer, more fluid element to a space. Handcrafted wooden frames are another favourite as they add warmth and texture. That said, I don’t believe a mirror has to be bold or oversized to stand out. Sometimes, it’s the simplest designs

with the right proportions and attention to detail that leave the biggest impression,” says product designer Swetha Vegesana, founder of Intent Made. Her Ari mirror embodies this approach. Inspired by the gentle ripples of water, it is hand-chiselled from wood and finished in a rich lacquer. Homeowners are increasingly seeking mirrors that

considered together. “A strategically positioned mirror enhances natural light during daytime and softens artificial light at night, giving any room a brighter appearance without introducing additional light sources,” he says. In contemporary interiors, mirrors have become as much about what they contribute to a space as what they reflect.

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PICK OF THE WEEK



Hanging by a Thread

Interior design is giving textiles a bigger canvas. Beyond upholstery and table linen, embroidered fabrics are becoming statement wall art, adding texture, colour and craftsmanship to blank walls. Mumbai-based fashion designer and philanthropist Maheka Mirpuri brings her signature maximalist aesthetic indoors with a collection of heritage-inspired embroidered wall hangings. Crafted in rich crimson, emerald and gold, the handwoven silk pieces feature intricate zardozi embellished with Swarovski crystals, pearls, rhinestones and mirrors.



with each taking nearly 50 days to complete. “Being grand and bold, the wall hangings command attention in an unapologetic manner. With multiple elements across fabric, embroidery, and designing, each piece becomes a conversation starter,” says Maheka Mirpuri, fashion designer and philanthropist. Highlights include The Woven Legacy, a silk composition of 20 Mughal-inspired embroidered panels, and The Radiant Zaal, inspired by traditional *jaal* embroidery. The collection also features The Velvet Empress (₹5.1 lakh), which introduces faux fur for a distinctly Western touch. While designed for walls, collectors have also repurposed the pieces as tablecloths and courtyard décor.

—Samiya Chopra

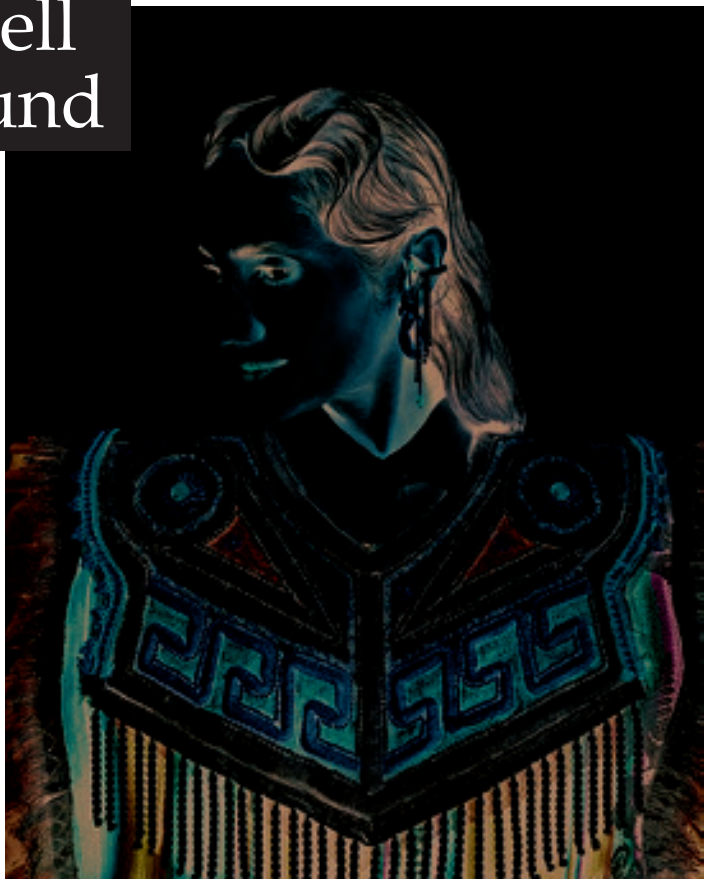
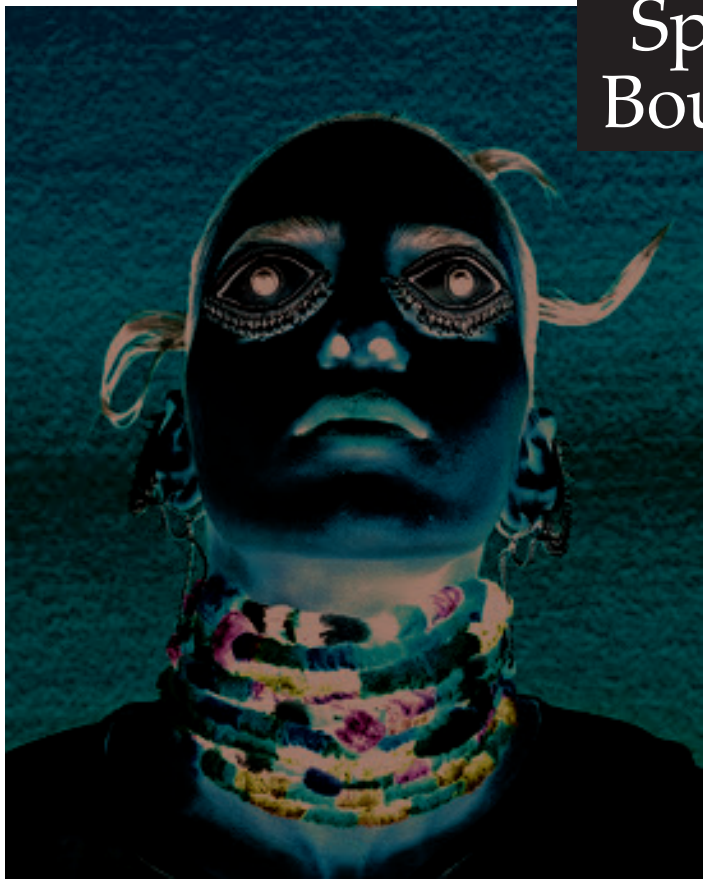
Handle With Style

A couture classic from 1952 finds a sleek new life as Dior transforms an iconic silhouette into its latest It-bag



Unveiled for Spring-Summer 2026, the Dior Cigale bag by Jonathan Anderson reinterprets the House’s storied heritage with audacious sophistication. Inspired by La Cigale—Christian Dior’s iconic 1952 masterpiece defined by a sculpted bodice and dramatic moiré pleats—this creation transposes that architectural silhouette into a contemporary icon, effortlessly balancing structure and fluidity. Its pure, streamlined contours are punctuated by a polished metallic bow, an eternal Dior motif echoing the original vintage model. Masterfully fashioned from luminous, supple calfskin, the Cigale is offered in small and medium sizes. A refined palette pays tribute to classic House hues: rose soupir, icy blue, trench beige, and moiré gray. Designed for versatility, a single handle and delicate chain allow for effortless hand, shoulder, or cross-body wear. The Dior Cigale has arrived in boutiques and is waiting to be picked up.

Spell Bound



From serpents to the evil eye, STARE reimagines India’s protective motifs as wearable art

By MANISH MISHRA

Rooted in the protective symbols that punctuate everyday Indian life, STARE is a collaboration between fashion label NorBlack NorWhite and jewellery designer Bhavya Ramesh that transforms motifs such as lemons and chillies, serpents, fangs, moons, eyes, and *ghunghroos* into contemporary adornments. Inspired by the *nazar battu* masks traditionally hung outside homes to ward off the evil eye, the collection reimagines these emblems as wearable talismans that celebrate femininity in all its complexity—

strength and vulnerability, rage and tenderness.

The collection comprises 13 jewellery pieces in sterling silver and gold, alongside a vegan leather bag and a pair of socks. Blending NorBlack NorWhite’s vibrant reinterpretation of Indian visual culture with Ramesh’s sculptural, symbolism-driven jewellery, STARE turns familiar cultural icons into bold, collectible design. Mriga Kapadiya, co-founder, NorBlack NorWhite, says, “This has no doubt been way more extensive than we expected, which comes with the territory of maintaining full creative control and being free to do this

exactly the way we want to. We wish for people to consider the process as much as the product and hopefully inspire others to take the leap and work with other independent, homegrown brands.”

For Ramesh, the collaboration is a meeting of distinct creative voices. “Seeing our worlds collide has been surreal, not because they are the same, but because they both understand the power of having a voice that is completely their own.”

The collection will be available globally through both brands’ online platforms, with select retail availability in Mumbai and Delhi.

