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Architecture & Design

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MORTICE HANDLE
ULTIMATE CHOICE OF HARDWARE
anySCALE has created a progressive office space for Shanghai Porsche HQ at the Lu Jia Zui Financial Plaza in Shanghai. The office, designed with the philosophy S.P.A.C.E: Smart, Passionate, Attractive, Collaborative and Engaging, combines new technology and digital upgrades with tailored services aimed at realizing the full potential and creativity of Porsche China’s workforce.

For Porsche’s new work environment, it was essential that the themes of speed and passion speak boldly through the language of design. Long, horizontal lines with strong black and white contrast guide people and support the allocation of the reception, waiting lounge, and displays areas. The staircase, as a major vertical connector, links the large public areas and fosters communication. A 1:1 scale model of the 919 hybrid racing car is displayed alongside a trophy wall, an engine block and a model car timeline. Large bonsai trees hint at luxury and the importance of China to the brand.
Commenting on the transition of Porsche’s work environment from a traditional office concept to an activity-based environment, Simon Berg, Director of anySCALE in Shanghai, said, "The New Porsche Headquarters is designed as a progressive open plan office with a minimum number of private offices. In addition, there are multiple dedicated spaces to perform special tasks such as focus rooms, and quiet rooms, etc."

**Fact File**

- **Client:** Porsche China  
- **Location:** Shanghai  
- **Size:** 13,000 sqm  
- **Completed:** May 2019  
- **Photo credit:** Xia Zhi  
- **Source:** V2Com

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This project overcomes the preconceived notion that a park chalet (pavilion) has to fulfill functional needs by creating a strong signature through expressive architecture. Designed to rationalize space, a simple rectangular volume makes it possible to access the different functions from the outside. The large roof edges create protected passages to overcome the absence of internal distribution. Spread out around this box two steep volumes give a geometric impetus to the architecture of the building. This singular shape attracts the eye and invites the passersby.

No existing roof system allowed the use of Corten steel cladding on a wall and roof, in perfect continuity. The architects have developed in partnership with a manufacturer a variation of a metal wall panel system for the pavilion roof. This system, installed on an insulated sealing system, is equipped with openings to evacuate the condensation and to drain it. On the flat roof, the decking tapers towards an integrated gutter which defines a ridge of fineness of 200 mm. This coating was chosen not only for its aesthetics but also for the sake of sustainability related to the problem of vandalism, often encountered in the parks of Montreal.
The layout has been carefully chosen to respect the natural elements of the park. The architectural ensemble is hidden in a small wooded area. The rust color of Corten steel cladding contributes to this concealment. Everything has been designed to preserve the trees, their transplantation and planting of new trees.

R) Project architect & designer Pierre Labonté & Co-designer Rébécca Raynaud (L)

The strength of steel was associated with the fineness of wood. It was chosen for the structure, both for the aesthetics and the atmosphere it creates, but also in order to raise the public’s awareness of the environment. It is intentionally left exposed (columns, wall decking and ceilings).

The use of a thin mill roof in the wood structure shows the delicacy of the roof line. The interior wood frame is intact because the ventilation system is hidden in a centerpiece. The sheaths are in roof boxes that can be distributed in each room. Two zones with low ceilings make the distribution to the main room. The power supply and the plumber system pass under the slab. A white membrane on the flat rooftop and local materials (12 km from site) have been used.
Fact File
Project name: Park pavilion
Location: Clémentine-de-la-Rousselière Park, Montreal
Project area: Institutional
Budget: CAD $ 2.3 million
Project end date: March 2019
Project architect and designer: Pierre Labonté
Co-designer: Rébécca Raynaud
Civil engineering: Equation Groupe Conseil
Electromechanical engineering: HF Experts-conseils
Photographer: Martin Girard
Source: V2Com
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A Building’s Regeneration

For architect firm T2.a, the restored building Jazz Loft project proves that a solid plan, the architect’s vision and great determination aren’t the only requirements for a great building; sometimes the building itself will have a life of its own.

Renovated from an abandoned 19th Century mill, architects Bence Turanyi and Gabor Turanyi were first tasked with the refurbishment work back in 2005. When the project first began, the conservation of the old industrial property - which was used as a mill and constructed in the 1860s - was of the utmost priority. This was on top of a new apartment complex that was to be built as part of the neighbourhood’s development, requiring the two buildings - old and new - to share a harmonious aesthetic as well as a communal garden. But it was the industrial look of the old mill’s structure that was compelling. The red brick exterior was restored, which was then reinforced with concrete to maintain the integrity of the building, while also pairing a modern industrial look alongside the more traditional.

However, when the financial crisis struck in the late 2000s, the project moved further and further away from T2.a’s original intention of high quality, ultimately leading the client to abandon the project altogether. The architects had been under pressure and eventually had to stop the restoration of the old mill. However, this forced break inspired a series of architectural photos of the abandoned half-finished concrete skeleton of the building which motivated the architects to redesign the project into something the city is very proud of today.
The old mill lay dormant once again - this time for almost a decade, until which point a new client came on board. “The new owner understood the values of the building and its potential,” Bence explains while highlighting the importance that high quality architectural and technical restoration held for the project from the start. “We restarted the project though we were unsure if we could even still use the structure because it was so wet and full of salt. The main task was to find a way to keep it as it is.”

In this way T2a could ensure that the building’s original heritage could live on. The attached concrete structure inspired the architects in its simple, naked elegance, which led to a new approach towards the mill. The building’s regeneration was more homogenous now with its origins, blending the brick facade with a careful and elegant roof created from an asymmetrical line. With the purple clinker brick and large double-glazed windows that the added top floor is built from, there’s an immediate contrast that gives the industrial building a modern appeal.

While the outward facing walls maintain a stoic sense of its history, the inward facing walls which overlook onto a gardened area - have a more playful appearance. This is how the original mill building and its modern apartment block opposite were able to blend seamlessly, as the brightly coloured balconies add character to the structure and refer back to the look of the apartments. This is true of the interiors, too, most notable in the staircases that combine stark unpainted concrete with the exposed brick of the building. It’s these staircases that give the building its name, too, which are named after famous jazz musicians.

This modernity was prevalent from the client’s desire to create a smart, high-quality, sustainable building that is a world away from the post-Industrial Revolution building that formed the basis of the property and the socialist building blocks so common in this part of the city. Inhabitants can control many of the functions of their homes - such as the heating, lighting or window shades - while the building itself has implemented cutting edge smart technology such as the heat pump system based on renewable energy, which can be operated to react to the time of day, outdoor temperature, and even orientation of the apartment.
For T2.a, the Jazz Loft project has been a long process, but one whose extended time ultimately led to a better, more refined building in the end. "As an architect, it is painful to see the decomposition of a house half finished," says Bence Turányi. "But when we restarted the project, I suddenly saw the beauty in its rusted and decaying concrete torso that we had built on top of the mill a decade earlier, that even inspired us to create a series of photos of the beauty of the architectural structure in this condition. It was a moment of inspiration that ultimately led to what Jazz Loft is today."

Credits
1st phase (2006–2009)
Architects: Gábor Turányi and Bence Turányi (T2a Architects)
Project architect: Levente Skultéti

2nd phase (2016–2018)
Architect: Bence Turányi (T2a Architects)
Project architects: Renáta Gyuresó, Gábor Balla
Interior design of communal areas: István Ölbey (HOME.HU)
Developer: Merkapt Zrt
Photos: Zsolt Batar
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Composition of Varying Volumes

In the design of this office by Sanjay Puri Architects, a series of architectural volumes create an office for a furniture contract company within their factory.

Each of the spaces within the office is formed by elliptical volumes that create organic circulation spaces between them. A material palette of glass, metallic paint walnut and wood, sound insulation boards, cork and concrete accentuate each area differently. A large reception space is punctuated by a 36’ high seating area in the form of elliptical pods floating in a shallow reflecting pool at one end and a landscaped courtyard at the other end.

Towards one side, a 36’ high multifunctional space with movable modular platforms is designed to be used as a furniture display space, a seminar hall or a social interaction space. A cantilevered sweeping stairway spirals asymmetrically through this volume connecting the 3 levels of the office.

Lighting is integrated into the design in multiple ways. Perforated partitions of wood fused with Plexiglas, pyramidal modules ceilings, a conference room with an installation of light-infused aluminium pipes. On each level, large openings allow natural light into the internal spaces from the northern side and unobstructed views of the factory on the southern side.

Exposed ducting and exposed structural steel supports allude to the industrial space of the factory along with the steel finishes for most of the partitions.
Volumes within volumes lend each functional part of the office their own identity

Ar. Sanjay Puri
Fact File
Client: Narsi & Associates
Area: 20,000 sq.ft.
Location: Navi Mumbai
Principal Architect: Sanjay Puri
Project Architect: Ishveen Bhasin, Abhishek Kadian
Photo credit: Vinesh Gandhi
Source: V2Com

Each of the workstation areas, the discussion rooms, the cabins, conference room, multi-functional space and video conferencing room is individual in identity and arranged organically over 3 levels forming an architectural interior with a composition of varying volumes.
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A Hospitable Office

The Numi Office designed by Urban Zen exudes a raw, contemporary ambiance with its minimalistic approach.

From collaborative spaces to individual work zones, this office is a wholesome space which inculcates ingenuity, fun and learning. The space was kept as simple as possible while highlighting its distinctive character. The client’s brief was to refurbish an old house to create an office that could accommodate a headcount of about 45 people. Several civil changes were made to incorporate the open space with an office-like vibe, which was critical to the design brief. The result is an efficient and proactive space.
The idea was to fabricate a hospitable working environment with varied work settings

Founder & CEO, Rohit Suraj

Fact File
Name of project: Numi Office
Location: Film Nagar, Hyderabad
Area: 4500 sq.ft
Completion Date: December 2019
Photo courtesy: Ricken Desai
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Indian Tapas Bar

Amalgamating a casual bar and fine dine restaurant, Chromed Design Studio creates a resplendent space where every detail is fundamentally Indian.

The space is divided into various zones with a common seating area and 2 PDR sections for private dining space and are segregated by sheer curtains. The bar counter front has fluted white marble cladding highlighted with LED strips at the top with hanging shelving above the counter. A distressed mirror wall creates an illusion of space. The earthy contours and the minimalistic décor find expression in the cane furniture, upholstery in Ikat printed fabrics in combination with plain fabrics, terracotta colour on the walls, brick tiles in the flooring pattern with printed tile inlays, cane and brass props, and lights made with fabric and tassels. All these add to the regional vibe that the space emanates, while a crystal chandelier in the PDR area draws attention with its brilliance. The entrance is made attractive by a curved cast iron railing that surrounds it in the front and double side entry gates.
Fact File
Project name: Maachis, Indian Tapas bar
Location: Ardee City Mall, Gurugram
Gross Built Area: 2000 sqft
Commencement: 20 May 2019
Completion: 28 August 2019
Architect Firm: Chromed Design Studio
Design Team: Shriya, Abhigyan Neogi
Photo credits: Arvind Hoon

Our aim is to create atmospheres rather than mere designs with an eclectic mix of materials, colours and textures, never sticking to a particular style, rather letting the space speak a language that is informal yet bold, enhanced by a design that never fails to surprise for its ingenuity.

Ar. Abhigyan Neogi
Designed by Ar. Ravi Kaimal, the private residence project shoot was commissioned by VMZINC. The secluded location, the sloping terrain and the two-sided accessibility was a challenge while carrying the photography equipment. The brief was to focus on the zinc cladding and to highlight its quality of merging seamlessly with the architecture of the building. In order to obtain the right angles that enhance the pure and honest portrayal of the project, a wide angle lens (for the building panorama) and a telephoto lens (for detailed shots) were used.

To maximize the use of the constantly changing natural light owing to the clouds and wind, a trial shoot was done to understand the best sun angles. Due to our complete dependency on natural light to showcase the natural colour of the product, the photo shoot was extended from 6 hours to 12 hours. Keeping in mind the contemporary architectural context of the project, careful attention was paid to frame angles that best showcase the design intent, and which highlight the zinc cladding and emphasize the play of light with architecture.

Into The Woods

Jaipur-based Studio BluOra, an architectural & interior photography studio, undertakes a project in Sitla, Uttarakhand, and the challenges thereon

Photo-shoot
As architects turned photographers, this private residence shoot put to test not only our architectural knowledge but also our patience and stamina.

Ar. Gitesh Gupta, Founder & Ar. Sarah Goswami, Co-Founder, Studio BluOra
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Swimming Pool

Materials & Features for Balance & Harmony

Designing a swimming pool involves combining several features, but whatever the style, the pool design should seamlessly blend with the landscape and the architecture of the house, says Ar. Aparna Kaushik. The first requirement would be to identify the space and decide on the size. The layout and shape of the pool will depend on the size of the plot. Rectangular pools are the most common, while customised, organic contours are recommended when there is enough space to draw up a freehand shape. Choose a style that complements the natural setting and the home/villa it is attached to. If it is a luxury contemporary home, then I would suggest a modern style with minimum bespoke elements and superior materials. In case of a classic structure or a vintage villa, a more decked up plan with eclectic elements would exude an old-world charm. The design elements should enhance the beauty of the surroundings to create a Zen-like ambience. Hence, a balanced and trained eye is essential to make sure that harmony is maintained in the way the materials, features and lights are combined.

Designed as part of sprawling contemporary farmhouses, these pools present a no-fuss, modern design, featuring minimal decor interventions. The designs rely on the beautiful facades of the structures, carefully planned lighting and a thoughtful selection of materials and finishes. The backdrop facades are designed with natural materials, textured paint in muted tones, Travertine stones and Kharad stones on the walls, High Pressure Laminates (HPL) in wood shades and on the undersides of the roof extensions. Labradorite dark stone around the pools and the wooden deck tiles create a peaceful, natural atmosphere while the sculptural potted plants and greenery add vibrancy to the surroundings.
Swimming Pool

Intelligent use of façade and ambient lights orchestrate an elegant play of light and shadows. Especially in the night, when the placid waters of the pools mirror the shower of lights on the facades, it's a magical atmosphere.

Ar. Aparna Kaushik

Backdrop: The façade of the pool house should reflect the chosen style, or vice versa. Painting the walls in a neutral shade, using stones and bricks for cladding, terracotta tiles for the roof, or covering the underside of roof extensions with wooden laminates or High-Pressure laminates that are weather-proof, lend a natural look to the structure. We have used Travertine stones and Kharad stones on the walls of some of our pool houses. Similarly, include rock formations, trees, green grass, foliage, pebbles, etc. to create a natural habitat. Adding potted plants in various sculptural shapes will bring vibrancy to the surroundings.

Deck tiles: The pool surrounds, called the deck or patio, determine most of the look you want to create. So, the deck materials and finishes should be chosen with care - not just to achieve the appeal you desire, but also keeping safety and comfort in mind. The materials selected should conform to the style you have in mind, but should also be non-slippery and practical to use. Popular materials include wood, stones, cement or paver tiles, concrete, ceramic tiles, composite or engineered wood. Wood offers a rich, warm look and can be laid out in various patterns to create interest. However, being a natural product, it is susceptible to effects of the weather and will need periodical refinishing. Stones, with their exotic colour shades and textures, diverse sizes and shapes, offer versatility in pool design and layout. Paver bricks too come in various geometric shapes and sizes that can be used in different patterns. Unglazed tiles have been a traditional choice. Or, one can opt for a combination of materials for a vibrant look.

Lighting: Lighting is an important aspect of pool design as it enhances the experience around the pool in the night. Apart from under-water lighting in different colours that makes night-time swimming fun, good outdoor lighting around the deck is necessary for safety, and also to emphasise the various design elements and the backdrop. Deck lights can be placed strategically to highlight sculptures, planters and foliage. Intelligent use of façade and ambient lights orchestrates magical scenarios in the night. Grazer lights and other soft diffused lights create a stunning play of brightness and shadows.

Deck furniture: Depending on the space available, one can add lounge chairs and sofas; a dining area or a gazebo; and a barbeque or a cooking area to the pool side.
Natural Charm of Stone Flooring

From the appealing limestone surfaces to the classic marble and granite, and from the graceful mosaic to the more rustic travertine and slate, the variations in usage of the rugged stone flooring are limitless, says Hemil Parikh, Founder, Elysium Abodes LLP

There is no denying in the fact that the eternal elegance of stone has astonished the human race since ancient times. This is mainly true for natural stones because of their magnificence and characteristics. This robust material, available in unlimited shades, forms, dimensions and in various textures, is often used for the purpose of highlighting the indoor and outdoor areas in modern homes.

In the bathroom: Stones like marble and travertine are known for their glossiness and clean lines, which makes them a good option for the bathroom. They can be used seamlessly as insets or even on their own, and are best for areas where humidity will require a surface that is slip-resistant. Travertine can enhance the look and feel even of ordinary bathrooms, when applied on floors and walls in creamy hues. A black and white marble flooring will lend a monochromatic luxury to the space. If you have a bathroom with aqua as the theme, you can opt for a travertine flooring or large format stone tiles in grey colour which will make the bath area appear more roomy.
In the kitchen: Incorporating stone floor tiles is a good option in the kitchen as it is a high traffic area. Using old-style stone floors will not only enhance the look and feel of the space, but the flooring will also last a lifetime. Tiles inspired by natural stone complement kitchens that have barn-themed interiors. Incorporating natural stones such as granite and quartz will accentuate the counters and tabletops in the kitchen. Stones lend a visually attractive look when used to highlight the backsplash. A mosaic made of tiny stones in two different shades will lend a rare look. In order to create an earthy ambiance, you can also have a dining table with a robust and stunning stone top. Addition of colourful tiles will further emphasise the beauty of the table.

At the entryway: Stone floorings have an ability to bring a sense of the outdoors, when used at the entryway. Being strong and enormously resistant, a travertine hallway will balance the interior and readily connect the spaces. A grey stone flooring will lend a look of completeness to the entryway. A flooring in natural blue stone and limestone will enhance the space, while a rough stone floor will add a touch of warmth to the entrance.

In the living area: Natural stone floors look tremendously appealing in open layout areas such as the living room. If your personal space follows a Mediterranean theme, opt for aged stone to accentuate the space. Natural stones can be readily used to design cupboards and tables and they lend a practical and functional appeal. Highlight your taupe living room by including a beige stone flooring.

Carpet flooring: Soft and visually attractive carpet floors made of natural stones can create even surfaces and lend an alluring ornate pattern to balance the living room and bedroom designs.
42mm Architecture Unveils Exciting Entertainment areas

42mm Architecture’s new entertainment areas make an edgy statement with their unique design themes and fun elements.

An entertainment area needs to exude a certain energy, and also bear the stamp of the owner’s personality. Here, each space showcases exclusive features from casual to formal and to absolutely decadent.

Fun playing card designs become interesting wall art. Formal seating, chandeliers and floor lamps highlight the raw walls and wooden ceiling.

A combination of rustic and sophisticated elements — unfinished wall, wooden ceiling with track lights, casual furniture pieces create a chic laidback ambiance.
A rich flooring and specially treated ceiling set the stage for an entertainment area with an uber stylish bar. The black and white artworks add a hint of quaintness.

Decadent design elements are combined in a heady mixture. Striking geometric and graphic patterns highlighted with golden accents on the wall and the floor; a grand chandelier; a detailed bar unit with stylish stools with gilt touched legs, fuse harmoniously.
Navigating Spaces

Wayfinding solutions play a significant role in simplifying and organising the data into easy to understand chunks of information, that make journeys pleasurable, says Baarish Vasant Date, Head Strategy, Graphics Beyond. The company offers articulated design strategies to help de-clutter the mind-space to better understand the built-space around.

How important is signage in a location or building?

Wayfinding and signage systems ease navigation, enhances one’s understanding of the physical environment, and lend a unique identity to a place, which seamlessly integrates with the environment. Due to the scale and complexity of the projects today, navigation has become complicated; being lost in a complex building gives an unpleasant experience. The inclusion of navigational systems helps users find their way and brings clarity to chaos. It creates a strong sense of place and communicates the built narrative, thereby fostering strong conversations between the person and the space.

Today, there is an increasing number of complicated spaces like shopping malls, townships and multi-terminal airports - all of which require good navigational systems. Effective and appropriate wayfinding design solutions highlight the statement made by a campus, precinct or a building, and strengthen its presence. They play a crucial role in translating the spaces to the users as they exhibit meaning, form, function, and purpose.

What is the thought process involved in signage planning and design?

A good wayfinding strategy is about delivering a better experience to users by aiding navigation in a simple and effective manner. Designing a comprehensive wayfinding program is a holistic process, which involves a number of sub-processes to achieve a design solution. It is a confluence of design sensibilities that are user-focussed with combined technical knowledge and innovation. The process includes studying the location’s architectural drawings, surveying site to understand operational requirements, analyzing movement patterns and user behaviour, schematic mapping and developing a signage masterplan.
A good wayfinding strategy is about delivering a better experience to users by aiding navigation in a simple and effective manner.

**Baarish Vasant Date**
**Graphics Beyond**

A strategy is conceived based on the gathered insights, for maximum ease and efficiency. The various design intentions, their visual interpretations are then explored, which form the preliminary idea expressions. On approval of the concept ideas, schematic designs with study models are developed and then worked on in detail to give the final design scheme. The design mockups and prototypes are studied to assess the final outcome and refined further, if required. These final drawings are given for fabrication following which, the finished signs are ready for installation at the locations.

**How would you address the challenge of clutter, especially in a large commercial complex, with numerous signage vying for attention?**

Making signs visible and legible from the clutter of competing messages and stimuli all vying for attention is extremely challenging. By encountering a chaos of signs, people are already in a state of sensory overload, where they are exposed to far more information than they can process, resulting in no attention or less attention to any particular sign. A thoughtful design can help make a sign stand out against a clutter of signs. A sign could be made visible and attractive by applying various design strategies like appropriate use of size, font, contrast, optimum information, strategic location, and proper illumination. This would ensure and create attractive, highly appealing signage that is readable, appealing to the eye, and carries the most impact.
Sans Souci Decorates Ritz Carlton Berlin

Czech lighting giant Sans Souci, renowned for creating tailor-made decorative lighting fixtures, glass objects and architecture features for projects around the world, has recently decorated the luxury hotel Ritz-Carlton in Berlin.

Located on Germany’s famous Potsdamer Platz, the Ritz-Carlton reflects Berlin’s golden age with its exquisite Art Deco design. Sans Souci redesigned the hotel in cooperation with the GA Design and Licht 01. Tasked with highlighting the atmosphere of the Hollywood and Art Deco era, Sans Souci employs an eye-catching, lavish approach to embellish the luxury hotel. As you enter the majestic lobby, the Starburst components fill the atmosphere with the brightness and excitement of firecrackers.

Next, the simple, yet elegant design of Space Balls defines the modern and vibrant tea lounge. The play of contrasts with silver and brass nano-coating finish have subtle references to the Golden age, but with a modern twist, adding a new dimension to the space. The enchanting Bowls, a light fixture with contrasting metallic coatings – cold white combined with warm gold tones – highlights the luxe ambiance of the Den of Heaven. So, with site-appropriate designs that enhance the spaces, Sans Souci adds yet another feather to its illustrious cap.

Drawing on the experiences of past generations of glass-makers, with the quality of work defined by the purely Czech origin of their products, Sans Souci also masters in creating original architectural features, such as railings, stairways, tables, skylights, columns, and others.
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Sanitaryware

**TOTO: Balancing Design & Technology**

TOTO aims to enhance brand awareness and brand experience, having established its presence in 8 major cities of India, and plans to now expand to Tier 2 & 3 cities, besides launching a new faucet series, which the company has already introduced in China, informs Taro Muroi, MD, TOTO India

How is India’s sanitaryware market growing and what is driving its growth?

The luxury sector particularly has seen steady growth in the recent years due to the increase in spending power. Indian customers are gradually purchasing more premium and high technology products for their bathrooms. Overall, the premium sector has seen the growth of around 10-12%. Key factors driving the market and its growth are the changing users’ habits, usage patterns and preferences; the competitive market landscape; production planning and material availability; and after sales service and customer feedback.

What are the latest trends in bathroom design and how do they influence product design?

We have seen a lot of changes in material and design in the past 5 years. When we speak of materials, in addition to ceramic, we also see a variety of other materials used such as steel, acrylic/reinforced marble, cast-iron being used in lavatories, bathtubs and faucets. However, ceramic is still preferred in WCs. So far, as regards design, many manufacturers and exporters are trying and proposing new shapes, colours and designs of bathroom products. Major design experimentations happen in the Faucets and Lavatories segment.
We give a lot of focus to eco-friendliness along with functionality, comfort, and design, giving customers a consistent experience every time they use a TOTO product.

Taro Muroi, MD, TOTO India

Please give some examples of TOTO’s technologically innovative products.

With demand for technology driven bathroom spaces, consumers are also looking at designs that offer aesthetics, quality, functionality and sustainability, which make the bathroom and sanitation spaces more dynamic and consumer driven. All TOTO products are designed to facilitate these changing needs.

TOTO products with technologies like Ewater+, Actilight, Cefiontect, Rimless designs give consumers the highest level of hygiene, while technologies like Tornado flush, Auto faucets, Eco Cap and Ariel Pulse help in reducing water consumption.

In the bathroom space, we have moved from the basic WCs/Commodes to Washlets (Electrical Toilet seats with bidet) and the more modern Neorest NX. Neorest Series comes with Sleek, Low profile One-piece skirting combines Integrated cleaning and comfort function in the seat. Speaking of luxury, Tornado flushing system can be operated by remote or by sensor operation, as can our automatic toilet seat. In the Bathtub category, we have shifted from normal bathing experience to advanced floatation bathtubs that give a more relaxing massage sensation to an indulging zero-dimension experience.

This year, TOTO is introducing its luxury and premium range of faucets called Z- G- & L- Series and showers called Z- & G-Selection, with exquisite colours, finishes and forms.

With features like Comfort Glide, Warm Spa, Comfort Wave, Active Wave – for soothing, Heat Protect and Safety Thermo - for safe operation, and Mini Unit – for compact design, this new range is a perfect balance of design and technology.

What is your company’s contribution towards developing eco-friendly products and eco-friendly manufacturing processes?

At TOTO, sustainability is key and plays a major role in our product development processes. All our products come with water saving and clean technologies which require less maintenance than other products available in the market. Our manufacturing unit located at Halol Industrial Area near Baroda in Gujarat, follows global manufacturing standards and processes and is approved by the Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS), which is one of the most eco-sustainable manufacturing processes.

What is TOTO’s presence in India?

We launched our first flagship showroom in Delhi in the month of February 2019 to enable our customers to experience advanced technologies and help them create luxury bathroom spaces as per their requirements. The showroom showcases a wide range of TOTO products which includes W.Cs, Washlets, Washbasins, Showers, Faucets, Urinals, Hand-dryers and accessories. They can also see plumbing spaces of the future in action. We have over 100 Authorised Channel Partners in India and plan to grow more.
Brilloc’s Aesthetic Edge

Sanjay Kalra, President & Chief - Bath Products & Tiles, Brilloc Limited shares key trends that are shaping the modern bathrooms in 2020 with respect to quality, materials, colours, and the latest products

What changes are you seeing in the way interior designers are approaching bathroom décor?

Bathrooms have come of age: They now represent one’s personal style and status quotient, and are seen as an integral element of every home, and adding to the overall aesthetic appeal of the house. This has led to a remarkable increase in spending in designing and/or renovating the bathroom. Whether consumers are looking for a complete makeover or a few minimal updates to their bathroom, the following trends are set to emerge as the mainstays in 2020:

Statement Tiles: Today, interior designers are increasingly seeking inspiration from nature. Large tiles with geometric forms, hexagonal and triangular tiles will be in vogue this year. Dramatic styles and intrepid colour palettes in metallic and lacquered finishes are some of the few flooring trends that will gain popularity.

Metallic Accents: The sheen and shimmer of metallic finishes are timeless, but overtime, there has been a gradual shift from blush and copper accents to earth tones in bathroom design. The trend is only set to grow stronger, and we can expect greater uptake of sanitaryware with metallic accents on cabinet doors, drawer pulls, sconces, and even plumbing such as faucets and showerheads.

Technology: The introduction of technology in living spaces has exploded over the past couple of years, and bathrooms are beginning to catch up. Smart showers with automatic temperature controls and sensors; self-cleaning and bidet-style toilets; showers with LED lighting; and motion control and voice-activated lighting, will be in vogue. Technologically advanced and innovative products such as water-saving European water closets (EWCs), electronic flushing systems, sensors, operated flushing systems and decorative ceramic accessories, among others, will gain popularity.
How is Brilloca enhancing its brand presence and value in the Indian market?

Brilloca launched its super premium brand ALCHYMI and collaborated with India’s celebrated fashion designer Manish Malhotra to curate super premium bathroom suites in FY 2017-18 and in a short span of time, we have received extremely encouraging response from customers. These suites lend an aesthetic edge to the designs which appeal to buyers who are looking beyond functionality.

Consumers are also looking out for value added experiences while they shop, and, therefore, we have set-up our experience centres called Lacasa as a one-stop destination for sanitaryware products. The stores are equipped with 3D visualiser, an assistive technology in bathroom selection intended to helphelp discerning customers envision their dream bathroom and explore our products before making a purchase.

What are the latest design and technical inputs in Brilloca products?

QUEO is known to experiment with new tones and for being a source of inspiration to architects and designers with its Italian craftsmanship that elevates the design, colour and finish of the bathroom fixtures.

Taking our luxury offerings to the next level, we are offering a digital range of products that include the Queo SmarTap’s technology which enables the users to enjoy a smooth flow of water at the right temperature, sustained throughout the shower. SmarTap is an intuitive bathing system that can regulate the shower, bath and sink to create a synchronized bathroom tailored to customised tunes and different bathing scenarios. It can be controlled through a smartphone app, voice commands via Amazon Echo, or by manual digital controllers. Our F - Acqua Wall Water Fall is an advanced shower system that provides a smart function for controlling water by releasing the exact, pre-defined water volume.

What are Brilloca’s plans for expanding its presence across the country?

Our six-decade long experience has made us proficient in comprehending the market ecosystem and evolving customer needs, making us one of the most dependable and recognised brands in the market today. Our innovative products and marketing initiatives drive our brand recall and we continue to refresh our initiatives in line with evolving market realities.

Over the years, we have successfully built a robust channel of distribution. We continue to engage with our dealers and participate in exhibitions. We also launched two digital tools in FY 2018-19—The Hive and BizBuild to improve our marketing strategy.

Our products are marketed by the industry’s largest and best-trained direct sales-and-service force, who advise and assist customers in creating their dream bathrooms. In order to expand our market penetration, we are expanding our distribution network and building our digital assets to reach out to a larger consumer base and to service small towns and cities as well.
Grafdoer has introduced a premium Rain Shower with an in-built LED temperature display which will ensure that every time one takes a bath, the water is at the desired temperature, and a unique arc shaped design shower with Hydro Power Generator. The device indicates the temperature of the water flow as blue when the temperature is less than 32°C; green when the temperature is between 33°C – 42°C; and red when the temperature is between 43°C – 50°C. When the temperature rises greater than 50°C, the red light starts flashing. The product is priced at ₹3200/- and is available on the company’s website and its showrooms.
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What does Voltas’ product portfolio offer?
Voltas is offering ACs in different capacities, in different models that can be applied as standalone units or in large joint spaces. Our range encompasses products like window and split ACs, a dynamic range of inverter split ACs, cassette and tower ACs, ducted systems, VRF and Chillers. We offer a split AC as small as 0.75 tons going up to a single chiller with a capacity of 4000 tons.

We have a new category called the Freematch, which is a sub-VRF system, designed for a 2 ~ 5 BHK apartment, where space could be limited for placing multiple condensing units. This model gives the option of one outdoor unit connected to multiple indoor units. It comes at the price of a normal 5-star inverter split AC, and is highly energy efficient, with both heating and cooling options. We strongly recommend it for North India which witnesses two severe climate changes of extreme cold and heat, making it an All Weather AC.

In which segments are you seeing the most demand?
At this time, demand is being led by the infrastructure space such as airports, ports, and metro stations. The infra sectors are experiencing a lot of uptake while the residential sector (from the developer-led perspective) is slightly down presently, as the real estate market is going through a lean period. We are seeing an uptick, however, in developer led commercial spaces, where we install VRF and Chiller systems, and have also seen increased interest from industries that requires specialized AC solutions for process applications.

Our Domestic Projects Group, which focuses on Mechanical, Electrical & Public Health (MEP) installations within the country, has become the preferred contractor in Metro Rail Projects in New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata, apart from major airports in Kolkata and Chennai (including supply of 16000 TR of chillers at the new Chennai and Tirchy airports). The capacities are large; range is wide which enable us to cater to any segment of customer – from high to premium.

What environment-friendly efficiencies are manufacturing companies bringing into their air conditioning solutions?
All AC companies are increasingly focused on improving the COP (coefficient of operating performance) of their air conditioners. In fact, energy efficiency is going to be one of the guiding themes for the entire industry because as the cost of energy keeps on increasing, energy efficiency and lowered bills are what customers are going to demand from the AC companies.

Next, moving to green refrigerants which have less Ozone Depleting Substances and low Global Warming Potential. At Voltas, we maximize use of environment-friendly refrigerants. We apply special coatings on our outdoor units to increase their life, especially in corrosive environments, where coil corrosion leads to a drop in machine efficiency. The fins are now
being coated in black or blue color, as are the joints and the connections. We do a spray test on the body of the unit to ensure that they have a long life, especially in salty seashore environments.

What interior design flexibility are the modern air-cooling systems offering the architects and real estate developers?

We prefer to get in at the initial stage of designing, if possible. Architects too are becoming more progressive and they want to integrate air conditioning as early as possible. Architects are now using BIM, Revit and 3-D impressions of buildings to see how the air conditioning can mesh within their design. Designs led by these tools, will help AC companies to integrate their products and solutions in a way that enhances the building, not detract from it. For example, planning can help minimize the unsightly lines of condensing units stacked outside a building and creating what is called a hot air envelope.

The modern VRF system ensures a very long piping distance, so architects can move the condensing unit all the way up to the terrace of the building. Chillers too are either terrace or basement mounted, which is removing a lot of clutter such that the aesthetics of the building are not affected.

How is the Voltas brand positioned in India’s AC market?

With a market share of 24.4%, currently, Voltas is a clear number one in room ACs. We also have the widest spectrum of products for any segment of users. In commercial AC systems, we cover a wide spectrum of products and are prominent players in each category. At Voltas, the focus is on performance with energy efficiency. ACs were earlier designed at 35 degrees Celsius outside ambient temperatures / air conditions, and now, looking at Indian conditions (being a tropical country) we need to have solutions for heat, humidity and dust. This means that we must have systems that work at a base of 40 degrees and go all the way up to 54-degree C.
Durable & Beautiful

APL’s new Apollo Signature pipes designed for stylish interiors and exteriors come with special embossing which makes them aesthetically superior to other products in the market, says Sanjay Gupta, CMD, APL Apollo

Introduced by APL Apollo Tubes Limited (APL Apollo), India’s leading branded steel pipes manufacturer, the new Apollo Signature range of designer pipes give an aesthetic edge to buildings. The galvanized pipes are an upgrade to the conventional steel pipes by virtue of the engraved designs on them. They can be used in Rooftops, Furniture, Pillars and Interior Design.

Apollo Signature pipes also prove to be a better option as they are highly resistant to corrosion and rust because of their galvanized layer, and have great durability and strength, while the pure and thicker zinc coating makes them of supreme quality. Moreover, these pipes require low maintenance once installed. They are also eco-friendly as they are made of steel and not wood, which greatly reduces the need for felling trees. Being environment-friendly, they are a better substitute and resonate the company’s motto: Steel for Green.
Steel Pipes

Features and benefits
• Apollo Signature pipes have 400 YST, which makes them highly durable and strong.
• Their 150 GSM zinc coating makes them corrosion-resistant.
• Along with attractive and premium surface, the pipes boast of unmatched strength and longevity. As a substitute for wood, they outperform with extraordinary quality and aesthetics.
• Welding in the corners gives a smooth and even finish to the pipes and ensures that the welding does not take away from the aesthetics.
• The designs not only beautify the pipes but also add to their strength and sturdiness, and the pipes are available in a wide range of choices.
• As a steel product, the pipes require zero maintenance after installation.

To meet the demand for designer products in the interior design industry, we have launched an attractive collection of designer pipes that impart elegance to the interiors and exteriors of buildings. Apollo Signature is redefining the conventional steel design to make buildings look more premium and classy.

Sanjay Gupta
What new technical innovations in HVAC systems has Hitachi introduced recently?

Hitachi, a premier brand in the Indian air conditioner industry, is constantly working on new cutting-edge technologies which consume less energy and deliver the best output in its room ACs, VRFs, chillers and other commercial air conditioners. Our new air-conditioner range uses intelligent technology that addresses not just the current requirements of changing consumer needs but also for a sustainable future.

Last year, the company introduced the ‘Hitachi air’ concept, which ensures a pleasant indoor environment by conditioning the air through five technology innovations. The Air Conditioners come with iFresh (Frost Wash Technology) that washes away dust from inside the AC unit. The dew/moisture collected on the heat exchanger is converted into frost, which on melting, flushes away the dust accumulated on the heat exchanger. Later, the unit is dried and clean. This process reduces 93% bacteria and mold and prevents water droplets to stay inside the unit, resulting in clean and hygienic air all the time.

The Auto Filter Cleaning Technology – iClean has a brush attached to the filter that cleans it automatically at regular intervals. This ensures clean and dust free air, power saving, low maintenance and lifelong consistent cooling. The innovative Soft Dry technology gets activated on turning off the AC and removes moisture from the coil. A dry unit inside prevents the growth of bacteria and gives fresh odour-free air every time the AC is turned on and also enhances its performance.

A perfect airflow distribution has always been a concern for consumers. With intelligent engineering and ingenious design, Hitachi has been able to develop big deflectors that can move up and down by 90 degrees. These provide uniform cooling in every corner of the room, even right below the AC by directing airflow there. A uniquely designed fan reduces air cutting noise and also allows larger air throw.

Please name some of Hitachi’s new products.

The industry has been witnessing a continual shift towards inverter ACs, which contributes 40% of overall industry sales. Our innovative products are designed to perform efficiently in hot or extremely hot and humid conditions of the northern plains and extremely hot-cum-humid
conditions of the coastal areas. For the residential segment, Hitachi has introduced about 96 models ranging from 1 TR. to 3.1 TR. The latest 1.25 TR serves as the perfect SKU between 1 TR. and 1.5 TR. for a room size of 115~135 sqft. The company has also introduced a Window Inverter AC.

For the commercial building segment, we offer VRF Systems, Ductable Air Conditioners and Chillers. Our new SET-FREE Sigma (∑) Series is designed keeping in mind the needs of Architects and HVAC Consultants as it offers higher energy efficiency, engineered aesthetics, enhanced strength, and a compact design for maximal capacity in minimalistic floor space, along with high performance.

airCloud Pro is one of our latest ground-breaking innovations that offers 24/7 control and remote access of VRF systems to ensure energy savings, centralized control, flexible user management, pre-emptive alerts, and trouble-shooting. It is ideal for application in offices, hospitals, schools, universities, restaurants, hotels, retail etc.

**With the increasing focus on building green structures, how is the HVAC industry meeting this demand?**

While ‘energy efficiency’, ‘environment conservation’ and ‘green building’ having already become the new buzzwords in the global scenario, the Indian HVAC industry has also started working towards incorporating these into their designs and products that ensure proper ventilation and thermal comfort. Today, HVAC system manufacturers are developing smart, futuristic technologies.

HVAC systems consume a lot of electricity and energy savings would be quite substantial if the right technology is used. According to the TechSci Research report, India’s HVAC market is projected to surpass $7.7 billion by 2022 on account of rising need for energy-efficient HVAC systems, increasing construction activities, surging infrastructure-based developments, and growing replacement of HVAC systems.

As the fight against climate change intensifies, governments across the world are tightening regulations for all kinds of equipment and appliances to check emissions. It is not surprising, then, that the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) industry is constantly being nudged by regulators to move up on the energy efficiency performance rating without being detrimental to the environment.

Meeting customer specific requirements and customization of HVAC solutions with the fast-changing ecosystem, is another big challenge. The market is also dealing with stricter regulations and new system concepts. Hence, it is crucial for the HVAC industry to have the right technology and solution for each application, supported by environment-friendly innovations and green manufacturing practices. By leveraging new trends of energy saving, improved IAQ (Indoor Air Quality), perfect air conditioning experiences, superior service infrastructure, the HVAC industry in India can set new benchmarks for the world to follow.

**What environment-friendly manufacturing practices does Hitachi follow?**

Hitachi’s state of the art factory in Kadi, Gujarat, is 100% green with a zero-pollution level. It recycles R-22 gas, practices rainwater harvesting, and operates on 100% natural light during the day. We have put in place a strict e-waste management system. Our recently opened Global Development Center in Kadi is also playing a significant role in creating world-class, eco-friendly and sustainable products. It is equipped with research and testing facilities including Reliability Labs, APF Labs, EMC Labs, Electronics Labs and Semi-anechoic Labs to maximize the potential of local engineering talent.
At Johnson Controls - Hitachi Air Conditioning India, energy saving has become a key feature and the reason why Inverter Technology backed RAC and energy efficient and eco-friendly VRFs, are the future of the modern HVAC industry. We are one of the top brands in India with a 12 percent market share in the AC segment and intend to add a percent or two by the end of FY 2020.

**How does HVAC solutions impact/influence the architectural design of a building?**

A well-oriented envelop design ensures the energy efficiency and optimization of the equipment selection for HVAC systems. HVAC needs to be planned and integrated with the architecture and design of the building during the initial phase. This will ensure proper planning on the aesthetics and cooling functionality of the building. Architects needs to be familiar with the various types of HVAC systems and their associated strengths. Building design does impact the HVAC solutions if the architects do not allocate proper space for heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Heating is provided as per the corresponding indoor area, while ventilation is mainly to achieve input and output of indoor area. Air conditioning involves adjustments of indoor air temperature, humidity and to ensure the quality of indoor air. Therefore, the architect should be well aware of the technicality of HVAC solutions while designing a building.

Hitachi has launched a program called ‘HITACHI CORE’ through which we bring leading architects, technocrats and engineers on a common platform to promote and ideate on responsible design.

In the wake of rapid urbanization, increasing population and scarcity of space, the construction of high-rise buildings in both residential and commercial segment is seeing a boom. The growth of shopping complexes, malls and hypermarkets in tier 2 and 3 towns is also pushing demand for advanced HVAC solutions. Government’s initiative towards green buildings and smart cities is giving an added impetus to the HVAC industry to develop not only smart and energy efficient but also affordable solutions. And to meet the ever-increasing demands, more and more global and local players in the industry are making the country a truly global manufacturing hub for HVAC equipment.

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**2020 ASLA Student Awards deadline extended to May-end**

Due to disruptions caused by the current pandemic, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is extending the submission deadline for the 2020 ASLA Student Awards to Sunday, May 31, at 11:59 pm PST.

ASLA Student Awards are presented in eight categories: General Design, Residential Design, Urban Design, Analysis & Planning, Research, Communications, Student Collaboration, and Student Community Service. Like the Professional Awards, the jury may select one Award of Excellence and any number of Honor Awards. Selection of an Award of Excellence is at the jury’s discretion and may not be awarded each year.

"ASLA Student Awards are the most prestigious honors for landscape architecture students in the United States and around the world," said President Wendy Miller, ASLA. "We want to make sure that the program remains a robust reflection of the best and brightest the profession has to offer, so we’re giving students a little more time to get their submissions together."

Sustainability has been part of ASLA’s mission since its founding in 1899 and is an overarching value that informs all of the Society’s programs and operations. ASLA has been a leader in demonstrating the benefits of green infrastructure and resilient development practices through the creation of its own green roof, co-development of the SITES® Rating System, and the creation of publicly accessible sustainable design resources.

For further information, including Student Award categories, submission guidelines, and most current deadline updates, visit Student Award Call for Entries website. or contact Jacquelyn Bianchini, PRSA
Aster Cucine’s Brera Academy kitchens

Inspired by the famed 19th century Accademia di Brera, Milan, known for its annual exhibitions at its magnificent Palazzo Brera, showcasing the best art and culture of the time, and as a homage to this tradition, Aster Cucine has come up with a contemporary kitchen that encapsulates early 20th century Milanese design culture. Brought to India by Ottimo, Brera Academy features superior quality materials combined in imaginative ways to offer maximum style. Each unit offers unique geometric combinations with a thoughtful pairing of materials and finishes like wood, lacquered metal, glossy lacquered, matt lacquered, etc. The collection comprises sophisticated cantilevered table extensions/pullouts, tall column units with ample storage, wall units, island units with hi-tech melamine resin doors that matched the stone counter top.

Beyond Designs unveils exquisite Den Area

Unveiled at the India Design ID 2020, the stunning Wild Rose collection symbolises a love for diverse materials, arts and crafts from across the globe. These disparate elements are blended together in the true Beyond Designs signature style resulting in something new and vibrant. The den area, that can also pass off as library, exhibits elaborately layered interiors, with a myriad design elements which include a delicate vintage brass and crystal chandelier, rich wall paneling, marble fireplace, a carefully crafted ceiling in geometric pattern made of oak wood moldings, vintage-inspired English-style wooden paneling in burl veneer and custom-created artworks, a centre table made of brass and crystal, a study table with carved base and brass inlay top, and a book unit in wood with glass doors revealing a striking interior covered in printed velvet fabric and decorated with intricately crafted large brass knob.
Essentia Environment launches exclusive bedrooms

Essentia Environment has launched a collection of bedrooms that reinterpret the idea of luxury, comfort and rejuvenation with their signature style. The different design schemes include a neutral palette with plush furniture and a beautifully stitched headboard; wall claddings, colourful furnishings and accent furniture; a compact bedroom designed in warm tones to interact with green exteriors; a monotone palette with minimal décor, rich flooring, detailed wall cladding, abstract painting, finest materials and gold accents.

Maishaa launches a new collection of bed linen - Thread Art

Luxury home furnishings brand, Maishaa, known for producing superior quality fabrics with unique designs, great finesse and texture, unveils a new collection of thread art bed linen in whites and pastels in the finest fabrics. The enchanting thread art comes in subtle of pretty florals and vines in a lighter shade of blue, yellow, green, brown, pink, etc. The collection also offers complementary pillows and cushions in similar fabrics and thread work in a multitude of colours.
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Facts and figures*

39,173 Participants from 41 countries
668 Exhibitors from 26 countries
195,000 m² of exhibition space

Products on display

- All around construction sites
- Mining, extraction and processing of raw materials
- Production of building materials
- Component and service suppliers

Who must visit?

- Contractors
- Developers / Builders
- Government / PSUs
- Financial Companies
- Manufacturers
- Rental Companies
- Channel Partners

* Figures from 2018

For Bookings
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Serta introduces iComfort mattresses in India

Serta, the number one mattress brand in the United States, launched its newest iComfort mattress collections “Cool Solace” and “Cool Sense” in India. These mattresses are equipped with Serta’s patented iComfort technology which received overwhelming response across the globe.

Every iComfort mattress features Serta’s Cool Action Gel, an advanced material infused with millions of gel beads that respond to the body’s individual needs for comfort, support, durability and temperature regulation. With the right support, your muscles can relax and rejuvenate so you can wake up feeling refreshed.

Heat build-up during the night can cause uncomfortable and restless sleep. Serta’s Cool Action Gel Infused material combines an open cell structure to significantly increase airflow and the ability to dissipate heat. Together these properties help whisk heat away from the body and enhance cooling comfort.

Too much pressure build-up, while you sleep, can cause disruptive tossing and turning. Serta’s Cool Action Gel Infused material is uniquely designed to help reduce average body pressure while you sleep, which can help reduce tossing and turning for a deeper and more restful sleep.

iComfort features Serta’s revolutionary Cool Action Gel Memory Foam inspired an entirely new category of sleep systems. This is the world’s first material to infuse Cool Action MicroSupport gel into premium Visco-Gel Foam, commonly known as memory foam for an extremely comfortable and supportive sleep surface while helping to reduce the heat build-up that can be associated with memory foam mattresses. This material was developed after years of careful study and refinement of existing memory foam products.

Plüsch brings Walter Knoll living room furniture to India

With a history of more than 150 years in creating living spaces and furniture pieces, Walter Knoll commands a high degree of recognition and respect worldover. With the tagline, The Furniture Brand of Modernity, Walter Knoll is renowned for its handcrafted products using the finest materials and absolute precision. Featuring a clean form, the Jaan Living sofa system showcases cosmopolitan elegance with its spacious upholstered seating.

The casual look of the leather is complemented by the light down filling of the upholstery. The extension boards in glass or leather offer a casual appeal to the seating, along with the convenience to display lamps, vases, mementos or for resting your wine glass, coffee mug, or books and newspapers. The different variants of the sofa can be arranged to form diverse geometries depending on the layout of the space.
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