

Inside Outside

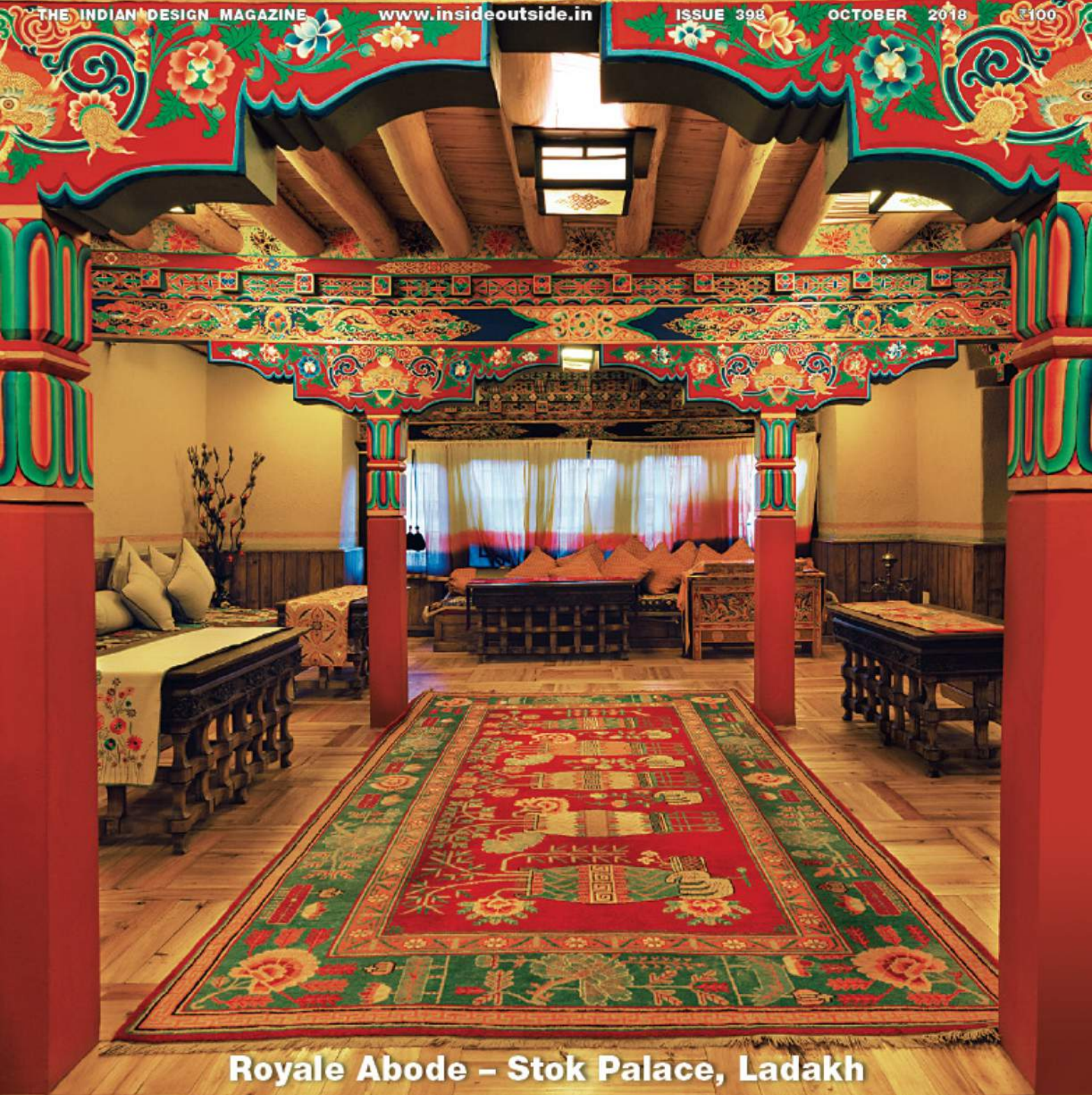
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Royale Abode – Stok Palace, Ladakh



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INSTALLATION STEELY 'NATURE'

Reputed for his eye-catching stainless steel installations, Vibhor Sogani has created two of India's tallest ones – New Delhi's 40ft 'Sprouts' and Ahmedabad's 35ft 'Kalpavriksha – the wish fulfilling tree'.

Text: Amita Sarwal

Photographs: Shailan Parker & Arvind Uplands

Courtesy: SOGANI by Vibhor Sogani, New Delhi

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PALACE HERITAGE HOTEL THE LURE OF LADAKH

The Stok Palace Heritage Hotel entices visitors to Ladakh with its rich architectural beauty – in turn offering a fabric of regal Ladakhi lifestyle.

Text: Amita Sarwal Photographs: Courtesy Stok Palace

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OFFICE EFFICIENT...WITH STYLE!

Designing a consultancy office in Vikhroli, Mumbai for the cargo industry, Parthenon Architects have followed the brief with customary efficiency, adding a judicious dose of style to the offering, says Devyani Jayakar.

Photographs: Soumanya Kalani

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BUNGALOW THE MAGIC OF GREYS AND WHITES

The Chiramel House in central Kerala combines the best of Kerala architecture with contemporary elements.

Text: Suman Tarafdar Photographs: Bhuwanchand

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LANDSCAPE INSPIRED BY NATURE

The landscape of Atmantan wellness resort, designed by architect and landscape designer Shobha Bhopatkar, seamlessly blends with the existing natural vegetation and contours of the site.

Text: Brinda Gill

Photographs: Purva Damle, Esther, Siddharth Lalchandani

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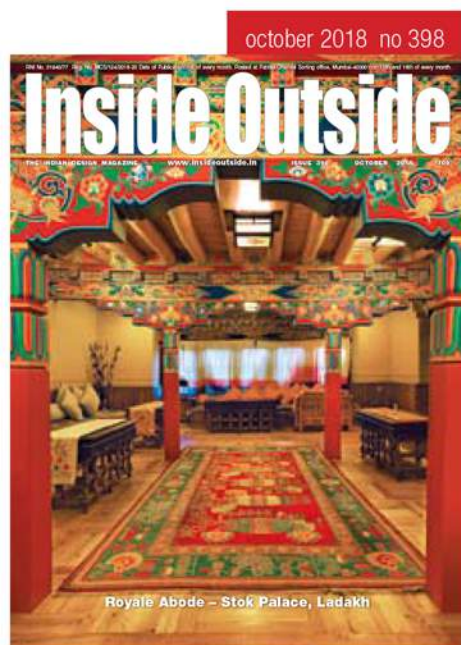
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Steely 'Nature'

Reputed for his eye-catching stainless steel installations, Vibhor Sogani has created two of India's tallest ones – New Delhi's 40 ft 'Sprouts', and Ahmedabad's 35 ft 'Kalpavriksha – the Wish Fulfilling Tree'.



TEXT: AMITA SARWAL

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHAILAN PARKER & ARVIND UPLANDS

COURTESY: SOGANI BY VIBHOR SOGANI, NEW DELHI

Sprouts

Standing elegantly 40 ft tall among the six acres of greens surrounding the AIIMS flyover, the familiar 'Sprouts' installation was an initiative by the Delhi Government in 2008 towards beautification of the capital.

'Chief Minister Sheila Dixit gave a one-line brief "From Walled City to World City" to me and the promoters and sponsors Jindal Stainless Limited. Having six words

as a project brief seemed ambiguous, but interesting. Intending to represent independent India in an abstract manner, the idea behind the installation was "when the seeds begin to sprout..." subtly suggesting that India, post-Independence, is transforming and growing. Hence, the new age material, stainless steel, representing contemporary thought, was used,' says 50-year-old Sogani.



The Sculptor

Since childhood, Rajasthan-born Vibhor Sogani played with different materials and forms. 'While travelling with my geophysicist father, I witnessed a diversity of landscapes. Constantly looking for novelty stimulated my thinking and broadened my horizons. The journey from design to art was seamless and interesting. Initially the shift was not felt, as I moved from one commission to the other, each being a real life, client-based assignment. Soon I deviated to installations independently,' recalls Sogani.

SOGANI by Vibhor Sogani was launched in 2002, as his signature brand for multimedia lifestyle accessories. The 35,000 sq ft flagship SOGANI Studio in New Delhi has an eclectic repository of over 120 indigenous designs. Early 2018, SOGANI became the first Indian Lighting Designer brand to exhibit at Frankfurt's Light + Building Fair in the high-end modern lighting design segment.

In 2016, to mark the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Sogani's solo exhibition 'Mahatma in Me', travelled to



Australia, jointly supported by both the governments. It showcased 12 stainless steel artworks representing the Mahatma's values of peace, equality and non-violence. In August 2017, the exhibition was invited to the Indian festival 'India in the Sunshine City' in Zimbabwe, marking 70 years of India's independence. Next was a showing at the National Museum in Tanzania. These were supported by the Government of India and ICCR.

Sogani's diversity in design has resulted in products for top global brands such as prominent trophies for international sports competitions and government events, developing India's first few go-karting tracks for Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh in 2000, redesigning Mumbai's suburban trains in 1999, and the redevelopment of Kashmir's copper craft.

In May 2017, he was nominated by the Government of India as a member of the Governing Council of the India Design Council.

The process took almost a year, and involved the initial conceptualisation, the detailing of the installation, the calculation of sizes and various cluster formations, their placing in the larger landscape and the actual installation on the site. As this was a public installation, various points like vandalism, longevity, the outer

environment and maintenance were kept in mind while working on it.

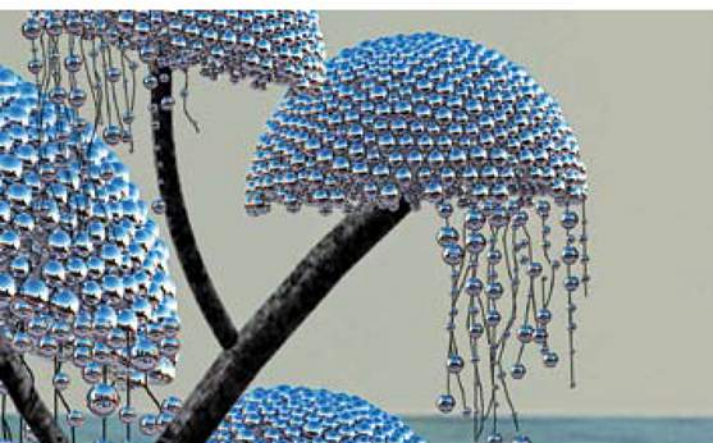
Besides the Jindal Stainless team, Sogani worked alongside a number of teams of professionals like Savita and Ravi Punde of Design Cell as Landscape Consultants, and Lighting Consultants Abhay Wadhwa Associates.





Kalpavriksha – the wish fulfilling tree

In 2017 Vibhor Sogani executed a 35ft. high stainless steel light installation – “Kalpavriksha – the Wish Fulfilling Tree” located on a 100ft. roundabout at Arvind Group’s Uplands, Ahmedabad. Reputed to be the largest public art installation in Gujarat and the second largest for India, Sogani drew inspiration from the surrounding landscape. An abstraction of a tree,



An abstraction of a tree, Kalpavriksha – the Wish Fulfilling Tree – embraces the nature of life and constancy of change. The 35 ft steel and lights installation is a visual drama in diversity – shimmering on a sunny day, muted against an overcast sky – and spectacular at night.





The 35,000 sq ft flagship SOGANI Studio in New Delhi has an eclectic repository of over 120 indigenous designs.

The challenges came after the ideation process was complete. Besides the art installation, the landscape conceptualised was tricky due to its complex but finely measured curves. A team of 20 people worked for 10 months to complete the process.

While the Kalpavriksha shimmers on sunny days, and is muted under overcast skies, an amber glow on the interior, and a cold white glow on the exterior in the evenings, adds drama. At night the mirror-finish steel balls and high reflectivity surface are spectacular.

Kalpavriksha embraces the nature of life and constancy of change. Kalpavriksha is a sacred tree in Vedic, Jain and Buddhist beliefs. It is a mystic symbol that grants man's

every wish and provides for all human needs. The installation is a modern interpretation of its form representing the harmonious relationship between nature and man.