

# INTERIORS

84 pages free supplement on Bathroom & Kitchen along with December 2008 issue

Rs.50 December, 2008



Imaginative designs from Urban Studio, Architects Abhijit Sadhale, Hoshedar Eruch Carnac, Mukta & Rajiv Gupta, Dipen Gada, Karim Furniturewala & Mital Furia, Seema Sanon and Behzad Noshir Kharas.

Take your pick from various spas from across the country or discover the relaxing guesthouse of Dr. Vijay Mallaya

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LET'S HAVE FUN: ALLADIN RAHMAN



## just Not\_a\_furniture!!

Even as Abaca showcases the contemporary creations of Philippine-based designer **Debbie Palao**, we bring you the designer herself as she shares her journey from fashion designing to interiors, her interests, inspirations and India with **Shweta Iyer**.

TRIBAL POLARIS WOVEN CHAIR



**From fashion designing to interiors?**

My first love is fashion. So this shift to furniture designing was very difficult. Since my husband is into furniture manufacturing, I started designing after learning everything from the basics. It was the most difficult three years of my life. What got me through was the discovery of natural materials and what can we do with them. And of course, the excitement of traveling, seeing different arts and cultures and then, finally finding myself, my own culture and crafts whose roots are fused with other Asian cultures.

**What, according to you, sets you apart?**

The most important and striking element in my designs is the use of natural materials. I believe that my today's products will become tomorrow's antiques. They are contemporary in nature and most importantly reflect my personality.

**What will attract the Indian buyers?**

It certainly has to be exclusivity. I believe there is no substitute for my designs. They are simply the best and there is nothing like it!

ALL BABA: ACCUPRESSURE DOUBLE BENCH



GHOSTLY YOURS: CENTRE TABLE



ITS THE TIME TO CIRCUS: CHAIR LOUNGE

**Do you like to experiment?**

I love experimenting with varied materials and the use of natural material has always been my strength. I like to use these materials in different forms so that it does justice to the products.

**What kind of maintenance is required for your creations?**

Whenever I design a product, I make sure that these products have least maintenance and are easy to care.

**Apart from India, where else are your products available?**

My creations are available in almost every country including Europe, South America, South Africa and now in India too.

**According to you, what is the potential of the Indian market in terms of interiors?**

I think the sensibilities of Indians are very similar to Philippines. Indians also appreciate natural materials, value designs and understand the creative effort that we designers put in to come out with such creations. The designs that we see in India are commendable.

**What inspires you the most?**

I find inspirations from the simplest of things — be it films, books, functions, etc. Many of my designs are inspired

by unconventional things like spirits, moon (*duyan* in Filipino), and tribal to the most ordinary things like the shape of a leaf. Each product is something more than just furniture.

**Which is your favourite design?**

Every creation is special in its own way. But one that I enjoyed the most working on was the All Baba collection. Every piece in this range was created to add an element of fun.

**What are your plans for India?**

I would want to create more interesting designs here. I love mythology and am also learning a lot about the Indian culture and traditions and would definitely want to create something out of this. At the end of the day, my only aim is to design products that will help people to express their lifestyle through their house and offices ■

*With lot of inspirations around the corner, don't be surprised if you witness one of Debbie's collection inspired by Indian festivals. After all, every design reflects the creative sensibilities of its designer!*

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