

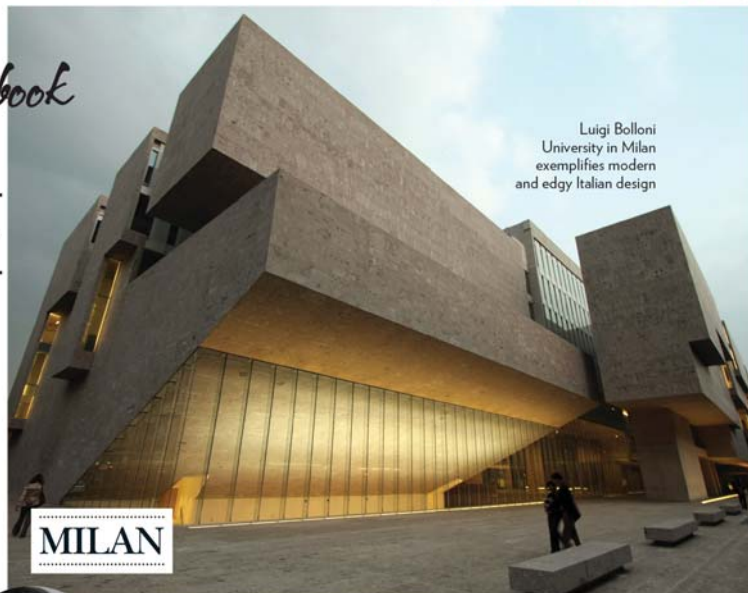


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GUIDE

ON THE TRAIL

We've got four experts to recommend the best stores from their favourite shopping destinations. It's time to book your air tickets, says ADITI BHIMJYANI



Luigi Boloni
University in Milan
exemplifies modern
and edgy Italian design

MILAN



THE BEST IN CUTTING-EDGE WOOD DESIGN

by **Alexander M Bellman**, architect and light designer

In the early 2000s, Bellman designed the lighting engineering calculation for Milan Cathedral and Piazza Della Scala. He is the owner of **Gruppo C14**, a multi-disciplinary design studio that has worked on the Tops International Arena in the Netherlands. Their portfolio includes Tod's, Luxottica, Mondadori, Deutsche Bank, Samsung and Illy.



'Tre Pezzi'
armchair, **Cassina**



'Zig Zag'
chairs, **Cassina**

CASSINA

Many important designers have worked for this landmark brand. The highlight is their Cassina I Maestri collection, conceived in 1964 with the rights to products designed by legendary names like Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand as well as Franco Albini, Marco Zanuso and Frank Lloyd Wright. Cassina.com

BOFFI

They have managed to singularly reinvent the kitchen with their innovations. What I like is that they can fit a kitchen anywhere, increasing the value of space. From a designer's point of view, it's perfect. For a user, it guarantees maximum comfort. These kitchens work in every type of house: modern, old style, minimal, fusion. Boffi.com



'Mimi' lamp,
Promemoria

PROMEMORIA

One of my favourites is the collection by Bruno Moinard, an important voice from the French design scene. It's a great compilation of sofas, consoles, coffee tables and lamps, all in neat lines and warm colours. Promemoria.com >

'Moicow' table
from Capsule
Collection,
Promemoria

PAOLO TOMATO, GRUPPO C14



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ETHIMO

They have a good range of products in line with new trends and international taste—right from tables, chairs and lighting, to parasols, planters, coffee tables and beautiful chaise lounges. For wood lovers, I would recommend their Cronos collection. Ethimo.com



Swing by Patrick Norquet, **Ethimo**

'Knit' chair by Patrick Norquet, **Ethimo**

SLOW WOOD

Slow Wood is the place to go to when you want to feel and 'taste' original finishes of wood. Designers go here to collect information about wood from all around the world through their Woodlab (Xiloteca), and also to just be inspired. Slowwood.net

ALPI

All of Alpi's wood products are unique and beautiful. When you enter their showroom, you might feel like you're in a tailoring shop, or out to buy fabric. If I want to reinvent a space with wood, I'd visit Slow Wood for their collection and then go to Alpi in search of inspiration before starting my creative process. Alpiwood.com

DUBAI

Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai with traditional Arabic design themes



FINDING HOMESPUN, MIDDLE EASTERN TALENT

by **PALLAVI DEAN**, design director of Pallavi Dean Interiors

India-born, Dubai-raised Dean's portfolio includes a string of high profile projects in the Middle East, Africa and the UK. Flagship projects include the upcoming Delano and Yotel hotels on Dubai's Palm Jumeirah island. "I love how designers here are fusing international style with local influences," she says.



NADA DEBS AT CITIES

Cities is one of the best places in Dubai to buy furniture and home accessories by Middle Eastern designers, especially the brilliant Nada Debs. Of Lebanese origin, she was brought up in Japan and studied interior architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design in the US. Her East & East collection reflects these diverse influences; I particularly like the cabinets and desks, where she takes a wooden base and inlays materials such as metal and mother of pearl (all made by local craftsmen in her Beirut workshop). I have one of her trays on my coffee table at home—it adds texture and pattern to the room as you tell everyone the 'local designer' story. I've used her stools in interior projects. Zoom-cities.com

CONCEPT ME

At Concept Me, the lines between furniture, art, lighting and accessories are blurred, almost beyond distinction. Founder Nina Parvaresh is from Iran and came to Dubai via Paris, where she studied architecture and design at Paris-Malaquais School. The store is located in Dubai's industrial area of Al Quoz, where cheap rents for vast warehouses have become a magnet for



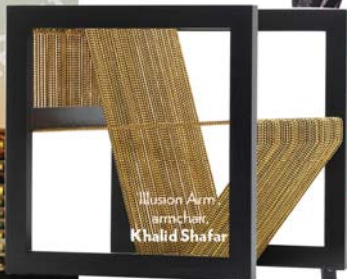
'Patwork' drawers, **Nada Deb**



SHUTTERSTOCK, PALLAVI DEAN



artists, designers and craftsmen. Concept Me opened in April 2016 with collections still arriving. This one's to watch for the future. Concept-me.com



FADI SARIEDDINE

An architect by trade, Sarieddine is making his name as an unconventional furniture designer. He takes everyday materials out of their original context, and fuses them together to create original, eye-catching work. It was inspired by his upbringing in war-torn Beirut, where improvisation was a way of life. I love his Main Frame shelving range because it blends the conventional with the quirky. At its core, you have clean lines and natural finishes such as wood and metal, creating a shelving system that is adaptable and flexible. Sarieddine brings it to life by making it a modular system: his customers can make it as playful or plain as they like with options that include vibrant colours, irregular angles and wooden finishes dotted with holes to give it a Swiss Cheese effect. Fadisarieddine.com

KHALID SHAFAR

Khalid is an Emirati designer whose travels have shaped his design aesthetic. I love his tables and coat stands inspired by palm trees. Same for his range of candles infused with the scent of amber that he says "resonates with the older generation of my grandmothers, but still has a contemporary twist for a wider international audience". His iconic Flip chairs are another modern twist on old Arabia. It literally flips to offer two different seating options: cross-legged in the ancient Bedouin style, or for a modern, upright posture that we use every day. Khalidshafar.com



ALJOU LOOTAH

Lootah is an Emirati furniture maker who's taking the UAE design scene by storm. She's been building a reputation for taking centuries-old Arabic patterns, abstracting them, and using them as inspiration for bold, modern, geometric designs.

Her Oru collection of marble furniture and accessories was a big hit at this year's Design Days exhibition in Dubai. Working with masons and sculptors in her homeland, she's created chairs, table lamps and shelves that are both angular and

'Dubai Syndrome' outdoor furniture chair, Fadi Sarieddine

curved. I also love her Misnad carpet, which takes traditional Arabic geometry and breathes new life into it. The carpets are based on an old technique called Al Sadu, which has patterns and designs about nomadic desert lifestyle and are handwoven in Afghanistan. Aljoudlootah.com





IN SEARCH OF THE COOL INDIE VIBE

by Sonny Singh, owner, The CUBE Gallery, Moira, Goa

Apart from curating his gallery, Singh is also an architect, builder, artist and animator. He moved to India from Los Angeles 10 years ago and is known for his uber chic choices in art and design. "My picks range through a bunch of funky and affordable furniture and accessories from stores I'd strongly recommend you visit even if you're not interested in purchasing," he says.

RARE REPUBLIC

It's Goa's first concept store and it combines home décor with fashion and furniture. They also have an amazing bakery—which serves the best bread in Goa—and a café that is part of the same space, with a cool open kitchen. It's a great place for picking up funky dinnerware and designer furniture. Look up Rare Republic on Facebook.

SOTOHAUS

Owners and designers Sonja Weder and Thomas Schneider moved to Goa from Switzerland in 1990 and set up Sotohaus in Candolim. It is among the best home décor design stores in the country. It's where I go for sculptural lighting fixtures.

They offer uniquely designed, custom-made pieces. Their products are very well made and backed by a wonderful team that comes and installs it. Sotodecor.com

PAPER BOAT COLLECTIVE

Yet another space run out of a charming white Portuguese home in Sangolda, this is a place I go to whenever I need to pick up a present. It's a fabulously curated store that carries a wide selection of quirky collectibles culled from various indie labels across India. This includes handbags, jewellery and shoes. Paperboatcollective.in

'Konnoi' table lamp, Freedom Tree

'Cylinder Squares' ceramic vase, Freedom Tree

'Mohuz' oil jar, Freedom Tree

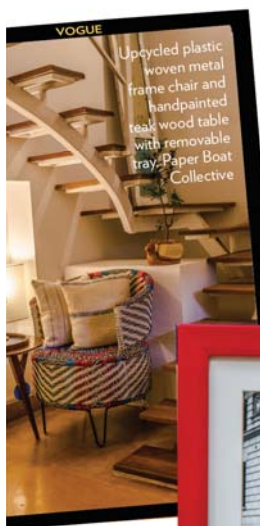
FREEDOM TREE

Latika Khosla's Goa outpost of Freedom Tree is run out of a colonial style Portuguese house in Sangolda, Bardez. It's the best place to get home linen and match it with dhurries and tableware. It's also great for furniture and accessories. A highlight is the wonderful Café Mustard restaurant attached to the store that serves Bengali as well as French cuisine and a great selector of beers. Freedomtree.in

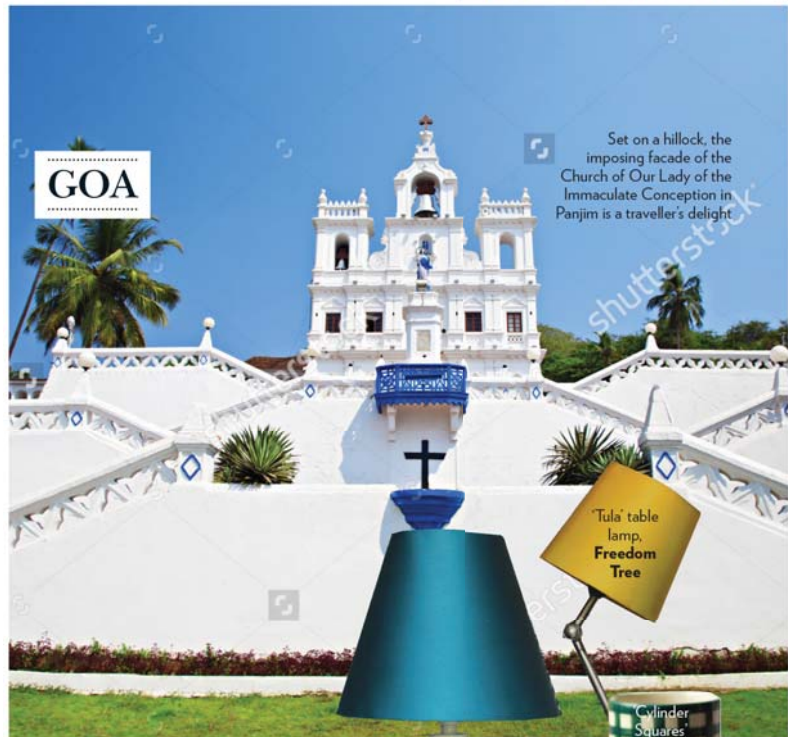
MOORTHY'S SAUDADES

For exquisitely finished colonial furniture and odd pieces of sculptures (ethnic, antique and otherwise), this is a winner. Mr Moorthy's attention to detail and his passion as a collector of fine objects is visible all over this showroom housed in an old Portuguese manor in Sangolda, Bardez. This museum-like space is a must-visit. Moorthys.com

Cluster of red artefacts, Paper Boat Collective



Upcycled plastic woven metal frame chair and handpainted teak wood table with removable tray, Paper Boat Collective



GOA

Set on a hillock, the imposing facade of the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Panjim is a traveller's delight





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JAIPUR

The Amer Fort in Jaipur blends Hindu and Rajput artistic elements



A HUNT FOR HANDICRAFTS AND ANTIQUITIES

by Gunjan Gupta, founder, Wrap Art & Design, New Delhi

Gupta is one of India's leading design entrepreneurs. Her work has been showcased at Sotheby's London, Triennale di Milano, Experimenta Design Biennale Lisbon, Fuorisalone Milan and Design Days Dubai. 'Jaipur is my absolute favourite city and shopping there is a delight for anyone,' she says.



Amethyst from South India, Frozen Music

FROZEN MUSIC

It is an incredible resource for anything in stone, whether it is beautifully handmade tiles or intricately carved sculptures. The attention to detail personally ensured by owner Varun Seth takes it beyond its inanimate state. The carved skulls in amethyst and crystal are a must for all rockstar interiors. Frozen-music.com

SHAMMI BANNU

National Award-winning Shammi Bannu hails from a family of miniature master craftsmen. His miniature paintings are patronised by the likes of Prince Charles and generations of leading business houses in India. A contemporary miniature portrait of yourself or your loved ones is a fabulous item to own or to pass on for posterity. Shammibannu.com



Varsha Pichwai, Shammi Bannu

Cosmic Vishnu, Shammi Bannu

SAURASHTRA IMPEX

Saurashtra Impex is a treasure trove for old textiles and a favourite among international fashion and home décor industry insiders. You can shop there for your home or if you're researching on old craft techniques and patterns. I really adore their old Piccawai and Kalamkari collections. Call: 0141-2632286

SAROJ ART AND ANTIQUES

Saroj is the go-to place for old prints, maps, lithographs, vintage photographs and other collectibles and antiques. My favourites are the old Raja Ravi Varma prints. I once bought a rare and beautiful one of Goddess Saraswati for my mother. You can check out Saroj Art and Antiques on Facebook.



Saroj Art and Antiques stocks on an array of antique jugs

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