



(Previous page) The wave-like undulations of the Roop Corridor at Design Hotel Chennai

(Current page clockwise from top left) The wooden curves of the Room Room; Ati Room - sofa with coffee table; The Ati Room's earth tones are broken up with the use of two bright red chairs; The work desk of the Ati Room is a unique feature

ROOM STORY

Managed by Ashish Vohra's Justa Hotels, the rooms are set out over two floors, with four distinct concepts - Ati, Maya, Roop and Nunya. The Ati corridor is inspired by a Chettinad trader's home and makes extensive use of the timeless Kolam rice art, or 'Rangoli' to adorn the corridor. The decorated passageway

leads you towards six opulent rooms whose floor-to-ceiling windows overlook Velachery (the locality where this hotel is located). Incidentally, these rooms give a fantastic view of the open section of the mall which regularly hosts events - from rock festivals to musical performances! These 420 sq.ft. rooms are magnificently done up in hues of red, black

and white and have frame vaulted ceilings that come with ornate crown moulding finished in gorgeous gold leafing. The rooms feature majestic bespoke furnishings, flat-screen televisions and bathrooms fully done in white Carrara marble and glass, inspired from palaces in the Pallava days.

The Maya Corridor on the opposite side of this floor has seven rooms spread over 390 sq.ft. In fact, the ceiling lights of this corridor reflect on the floor making you feel that you are walking on water! The rooms have a Tanjore panel painting that spans the length of one wall being a key aspect here. Much like the meaning of Maya or illusion, this room is magical with marble desktops, grey sandstone flooring, flat-screen televisions, plush leather seating and glass showers. On the third floor are the Roop rooms that are inspired by the 1,000 pillars of the Madurai Temple and the six 420 sq.ft. rooms are done up with exquisite furnishings, ornamented Bisazza mosaic tiles and restrained lighting. The room I stayed at in the Roop Corridor is straight out of a dream, with no straight lines, the look is minimal and contemporary but the comfort factor is superlative. The seven rooms in the Nunya Corridor on the other end are done up in hues of beige and white with resin tiles and white Carrera marble.