

StyleSpeak

The salon journal



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What's in your toolkit

Know the favourite styling gadgets of 10 top hairstylists

SS SHOOT

The Bold & Beautiful

StyleSpeak strikes balance with latest salon gadgets & some sharp looks

FACE 2 FACE

Meet the God of Long Hair, Patrick Cameron

DON'T WASTE, INVEST

Stewart Harland lends some tips on how to invest in right tools

the gadget issue



ARE YOU ORGANISED?

Get your salon organised with some quick tips from Nalini Naegamwala



Today, the salon is evolving, and the kind of services it offers is also changing. In fact, the salons of today need to accommodate these various aspects in their design. Well, the salon must be well organised to give a superlative level of service to its clients. Nalini Naegamwala of Nalini's Salon, a veteran in this field, shares her experiences.

Looking Back

Mumbai is an extremely expensive city to run a salon in. To start with, the price of property is very high. Hence it is important to design a salon very sensibly in order to present the client with ample services without the salon seeming too cluttered. As ours was one of the earliest professional salons in India there were no interior decorators or architects who specialised in designing salons. I worked with an architect who was given the requirements of our salon which needed to have 12 cutting chairs, a tiny beauty section, two small toilets, a pantry and two backwash





areas within 700 sq. ft. It was not easy but we managed all that and it was hilarious because our pedicurist had to sit under the staircase! Today I can design a salon due to that challenge! Firstly you have to decide what your salon model is and the services being offered. When we started our salon it was just Yasmin and me with a couple of helpers, but our tiny business grew rapidly and we bought the adjoining shop thus increasing the cutting areas and adding a beauty section. Today there are innumerable salon designers and salon interiors are also available on the net.

Design Thoughts

Our salon is fairly well-organised as there are helpers who are in charge of the cleanliness. They clean the salon and attend to the clients' refreshment needs. In fact, I have personally made them environmentally aware about using water sensibly and instead of washing one comb or brush or bowl under a running tap they now collect a whole lot and soak them in a bucket of water, sluice the colour etc and dip them in a bucket of clean water! Please bear in mind that the salon equipment and furniture should be practical and of good quality and that the salon space should look attractive too. I remember one designer suggesting white chairs and pale coloured laminate counters and I had to make her understand that the white table tops and chairs would be sprinkled with hair dye spots in a matter of days! So use practical and sturdy material which will stand the wear and tear of our work.



Nalini Naegamwala
Owner, Nalini Salon and
veteran hair expert

WHAT CAN WE DO

There are trolleys with shelves that are useful for brushes, combs and towels. These can be used to prevent brushes and combs from lying around on table tops and counters.

Wall space can house various stocks and display items too. Make your gadgets look like a display piece whilst you arrange to hang them beside mirrors.

A tiny area can be allotted to keep stocks which need to be kept under lock and key as they are so expensive. We have a stock assistant who is in charge of these expensive stocks, thus there is a tight control over the use of these products.

A clothes dryer is a sensible investment with a laundry service which washes towels daily. Each stylist or assistant should be allotted a drawer for their personal items such as their scissors, clippers etc.

While designing your salon, give it some thought. Allot a pantry area where the staff can have dedicated lunch breaks. You don't want your clients to walk-in and see your staff gathering up in a corner to have lunch.

Thanks to the innovations, there are new salon chairs that have storage space and small pockets to hang dryers and tongs. Ceiling plugged sockets also helps in keeping your salon clean and less messy. Who wants to see wires after all?

Invest in good interiors and half your job is done. Don't forget to place some funky coat and bag hangers, your clients shouldn't look lost and confused with where to place their bags.

It was a challenge to design a salon earlier, but today it is simpler. The actual challenge today is running a great salon. To me that's where the fun is! **SS**

