

## ALCHEMY DESIGN STUDIO IS A MUMBAI BASED, RESEARCH ORIENTED, AND DESIGN-CENTRIC INTERIOR AND ARCHITECTURE FIRM SPEARHEADED BY SANDEEP NAGPAL. HE TELLS BINDU GOPAL RAO ABOUT HIS DESIGN INSPIRATIONS

# DÉCOR DETAILS

**T**ransforming spaces from drab to fab is an art that needs the right education and experience. And this is what Sandeep Nagpal does as proprietor of his architecture firm, Alchemy Design Studio.

“Since my early childhood days until middle school, I had always liked to channelize my energy into extracurricular activities. Somewhere along the way that changed - when I let the pressure of excelling academically take over. Even though that was going well for me and I got admitted into computer engineering at a college of my choice, I knew I had lost that sense of curiosity and playfulness.”

Recognizing that his true calling lay

elsewhere, Sandeep took a leap of faith and chose to enroll himself into an architecture program at The IES College of Architecture and followed it with a Master’s program at SUNY Buffalo. “After 7 years of rigorous architectural education and 3 years of professional practice at various firms, the last one being one of the biggest in New York, I headed in a direction that I had ruled out from a very young age. I decided to join the construction wing of my family business since that has a symbiotic relation with architecture. Consciously or subconsciously I found myself constantly inclined towards design.”

The turning point came when Sandeep was designing a health food cafe called Fellas, which he jointly operated with his cousins. “This was the first concrete step in an allied field, which was that of interior designing and I decided to take the plunge and build a team under the label Alchemy Design Studio.”

The word Alchemy stems from a branch of science via which base metals were turned into gold owing to



the chemical procedures they underwent. “Similarly, when it comes to our studio, our design skills and methodology are the equivalent to those chemical procedures, which help up-cycle materials from their native or raw form into a surreal product.” Apart from their own office, some other projects designed by the firm include Juss By Sindhful, Farmers’ Café, and a home-run jewelry Studio - Midas Jewels.

Sandeep is inspired by the sum of all the experiences, people, and spaces he is surrounded by. “In the design world, Nari Gandhi, Peter Zumthor and Frank Gehry have definitely left an impression,” he shares. In his free time though, fitness and travel are his top activities. “If you have a curious mind and a restless soul, you could look at multiple avenues to channelize your creativity and pick up skills. There’s only one lifetime after all,” he concludes.

