

An Ode To Design

The Design Hotel By Justa, Chennai is a dream come true for the design aesthete! **Bindu Gopal Rao** discovers a whole other world of design inspiration during her recent stay.

Hotels are large spaces and offer much that can be done architecturally. However, while this may seem like a given, it is not something you can see as a common place occurrence. But the Design Hotel By Justa, Chennai is an exception. A boutique hotel, this space is high on design and actually reaches out to guests to make the experiences of staying here magical and wonderful. And make no mistake the form never overpowers the function!

DESIGN MATTERS

Nestled inside Chennai's most happening mall — the 17-acre Phoenix Market City, the Design Hotel is an oasis of unrivalled architecture as evidenced in each of its 26 rooms. The interiors seamlessly connect past and present through designs that blend local traditions of South India with the contemporary

times. Designed by renowned interior designer Pronit Nath, the design of this space is an infusion of traditional South Indian art and architecture interpreted with modern sensibilities. The main entrance has an elaborate wooden pillar set reminiscent of old temple architecture. Even the interiors of the lift have a grey, black and white pattern, a feature that runs through the hotel. The reception on the fourth floor has red panelled work with comfortable seating and brass artefacts. Also, not to missed are the large wooden figurines that are a key feature of Tamil Nadu's artistic influences. The hotel extensive uses artefacts that reinforce the design sensibilities here. Most of the walls have images of dance and craft forms and are framed beautifully with a 3D effect that makes them unique.