

DESIGN DESTINATION: HAVANA

SPECIALIST: MADE IN HAPPY

DESIGN QUEST: MATERIAL IMMATERIAL

# HOME REVIEW

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THE THINK TANK  
MALIK ARCHITECTURE  
HAVING IT ALL  
ATELIER DESIGN N DOMAIN  
GREEN AND GORGEOUS  
PROJECT CO.

## PRESERVING THE OLD EMBRACING THE NEW

SICIDI ARCHITECTURE BREATHES NEW CHARACTER  
INTO A CHARMING OLD FAMILY BUNGALOW IN ALIBAUG

The Public house in Bhopal has a feature wall located in the private party zone. The long pitch-black wall has beautiful bouquets of colourful blooming flowers painted on it.



# SHABBY CHIC

*The Public House in Bhopal is an eclectic café replete with unique architectural elements making it a popular hot spot for many in the city.*

Text By Rashmi Gopal Rao  
Photographs Courtesy Sameer Chawda





The light studded polished black ceiling compliments the matt exposed brick white wall and subtle grey flooring.

Designed by architect Akshay Selukar of H & A Consultants, this 3380 sq ft space stands out for its universally appealing architectural design. A rugged industrial look complimented by the use of rustic colours, innovative light fixtures and a combination of different materials used in the building of the cafe makes it a totally unique space. A cafe that is full of character, Public House is as well known for its design as for its food.

The stage is set right from the entrance, where you are welcomed by the renowned animated "public-house keepers" with their inimitable expressions, positioned against a beaming white wall. A design that offers several photo opportunities and 'selfie zones' for guests, this 500-cover cafe has an interesting play of colours and contrasts. The polished black ceiling, brightly coloured furniture, vibrant accessories and bold accents on walls lend a distinct bonhomie vibe to the place.

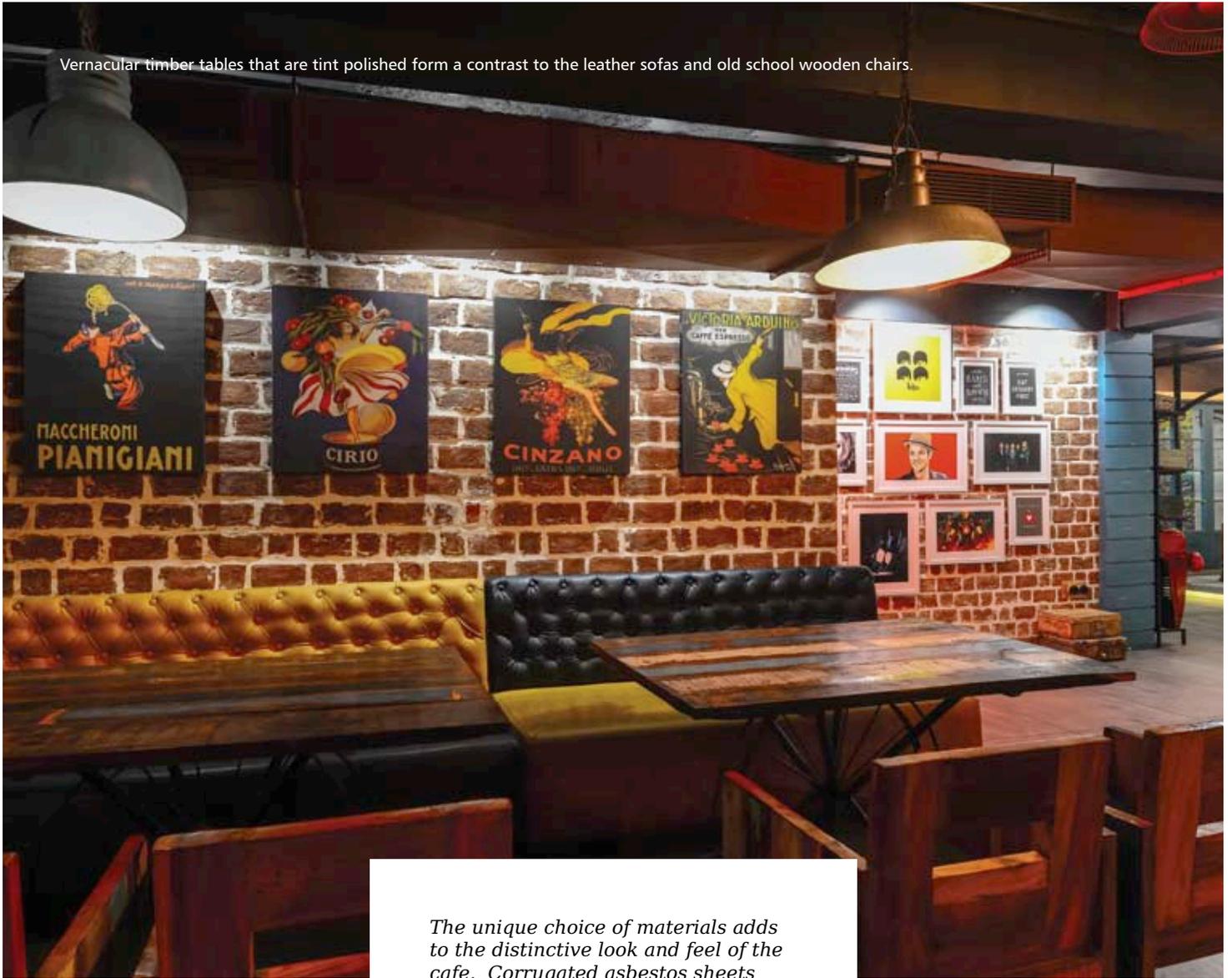
**Adding to this are the exposed brick walls adorned with multiple retro themed wall frames and old vinyl records; a stack of books forms a perfectly cosy corner.** The highlighted white pointing in the brick walls, whose joints are filled with white cement using a buffing technique, stands out. Old metal trunks, milk cans and chunky black switches on wooden switch boards complete the vintage themed look.

Arguably one of the most attractive aspects of the cafe's design is its lighting. The ceiling-hung tabletop lights have various shapes and textures complimenting the arches that they follow. While one is an upside-down steaming pot, the other is a steel plate. The red and yellow geometric u-shaped lights in the ceiling of the private party area are yet another highlight. The brightly hued refurbished table fan covers fixed on the ceiling with bulbs embedded in them are a focal point of the cafe and add to the aura of the space.



Wood and timber accents with padlocks and metal handles complete the industrial look.

Vernacular timber tables that are tint polished form a contrast to the leather sofas and old school wooden chairs.



*The unique choice of materials adds to the distinctive look and feel of the cafe. Corrugated asbestos sheets used as a wall texture, tin sheeting used to envelope the lights and refurbished tyre metal frames used as supports for the wooden tables add a raw element to the decor. Tin sheeting timber used predominantly adds an old school vibe to the space. A plethora of colours including turquoise and rustic blue along with neutral colours like greys and browns forms a wonderful contrast. Blue and green add a hint of rustic ethnicity to the place.*

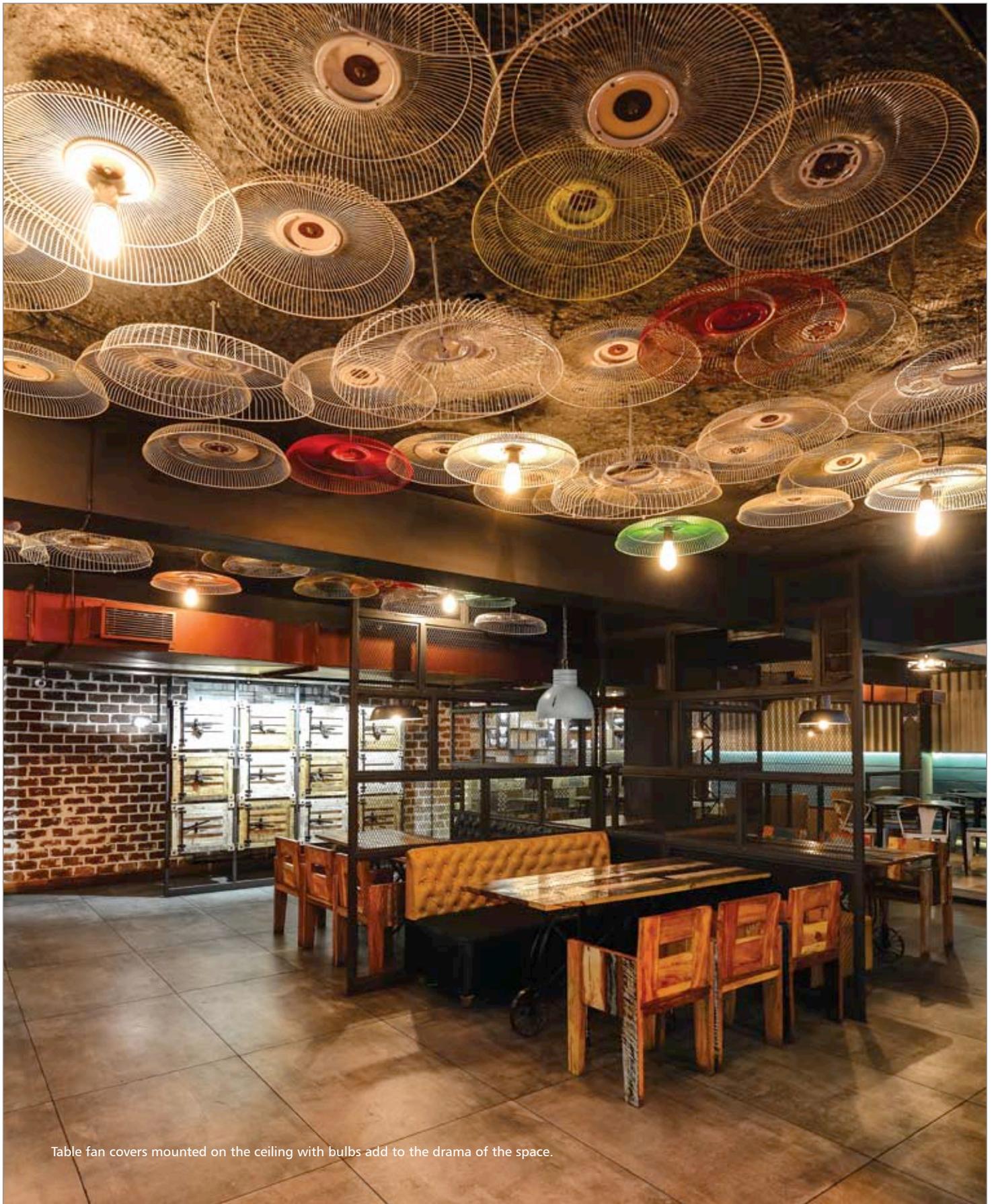


Table fan covers mounted on the ceiling with bulbs add to the drama of the space.



Outer view of the colourful and chic Public house Café in Bhopal.

The stunning design did pose its own set of challenges. According to the architect team, the installation of sanitary fittings and kitchen waste management since the cafe is located in the basement was a tricky task. Also, the procurement of antiques and the wide-ranging materials from various sources and integrating all of them together to create a synchronised look was indeed challenging.

All in all, the cafe is a perfect example of a space that is high on aesthetics and design sensibilities. A globally inspired design, it makes best use of both conventional materials like brick, timber and stone along with contemporary materials like metal and glass.

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