



accents
of luxury

Earthy tones ring through The Residence — a collection of luxuriously appointed suites and rooms on the ninth and tenth floors of The Park, New Delhi designed by Conran & Partners, UK.

Text collation: Averil Nunes
Photographs: courtesy Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels

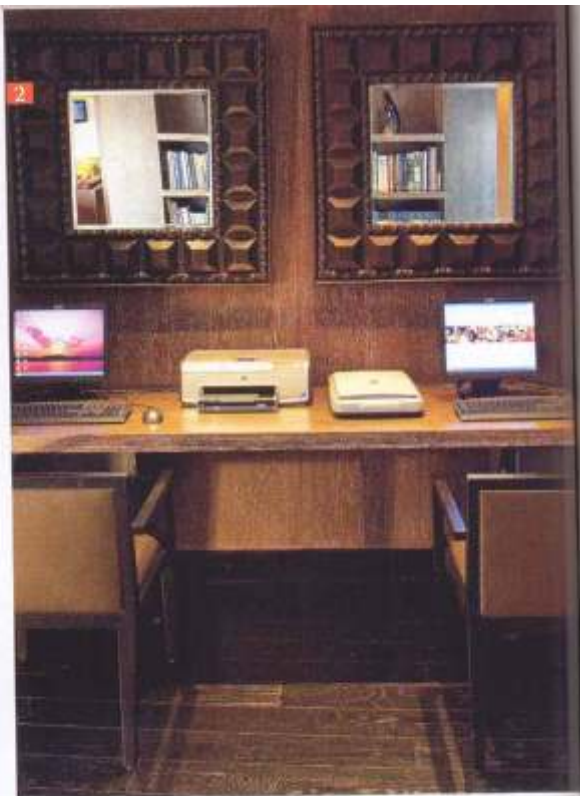
The classy boardroom at the Residence, The Park, New Delhi

A DARK, DINGY MIXTURE OF rooms and styles from the 1970s and 80s — this is but an honest description of what The Park, New Delhi, looked like three years ago. The external stone cladding was falling off the building and the pool terrace was deserted. This was before the Apeejay Surrendra Group decided they wanted a contemporary boutique hotel with influences from modern India and a strong design and colour concept. Over a period of three years, Conran & Associates employed Vaastu Shastra elements — Fire, Water, Earth, Air and Space — to renovate this ramshackle retreat. “You’ll see fire in the shades of orange, dark timber and bronze. Water finds expression through blues and pale greens, opaque glass, mirrors and reflective surfaces. Earth stays grounded as stone, reddish browns, bright greens and natural fabrics. Air and space manifest themselves as white, transparent glass, silver, and silk,” Robert Malcolm, Conran & Partners, and Priya Paul, Chairperson, Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels, jointly agree.

The 10-storey-high curved structure presented several difficulties in planning, which were successfully circumvented by the architects’ three-phase renovation scheme. In phase one, the restaurant and bar — Fire and Agni — as well as a model bedroom were completed. Phase two saw the execution of the lobby and coffee shop — Mist — in addition to the floors accommodating the bedrooms. Phase three involved the creation of Aqua, the snazzy pool bar; Aura, the exotic spa; the expansive banquet halls; and The Residence, a collection of luxuriously appointed suites and rooms on the ninth and tenth floors featured here.

The element Earth and the city of Delhi formed the inspiration for The Residence which comprises 25 deluxe rooms, seven deluxe suites, four presidential suites and one lounge with a boardroom. Shades of brown, rust and stone provide a warm background for the orange and green accents reminiscent of the colours of the capital city. Fired oak wall panels with a limed treatment hint at the aged patina of the metropolis, as a trough of live wheat-grass grows along the back of a desk alluding to the city’s green expanses.

A multiplicity of materials, textures and colours meld together seamlessly in this elegant setting. The furniture and accessories display extensive



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1 The wall in the lounge that's a three dimensional representation of Lutyens' Delhi

2 You can catch up on work from the business centre in the lounge

3 The Residence corridor on the 10th floor

concept & materials

Concept

Conversion of a 1980s hotel into New Delhi's first boutique hotel. The property has 225 bedrooms and suites, a restaurant, bar, coffee shop, pool-terrace bar, spa and conference and banqueting facilities.

Materials

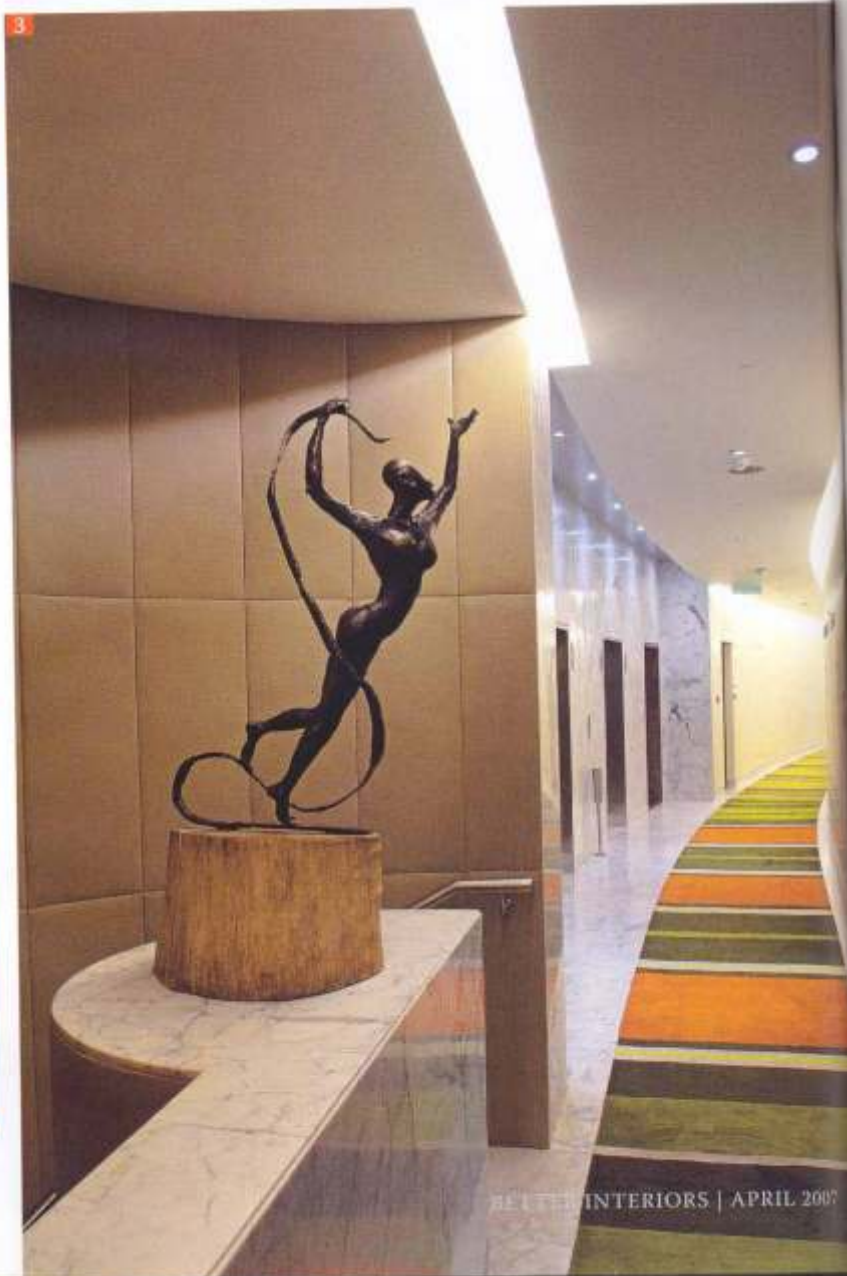
Corridors walls: White venetian plaster with graffiti symbols

Corridor floors: Custom-made coloured stripe carpet runners

Bedroom floors: Walnut laminated timber planks, custom-made circular rugs

Bedroom walls: White plaster, milky-white translucent glass and walnut panelling, white silk curtains

Bathroom floors and walls: Beige marble





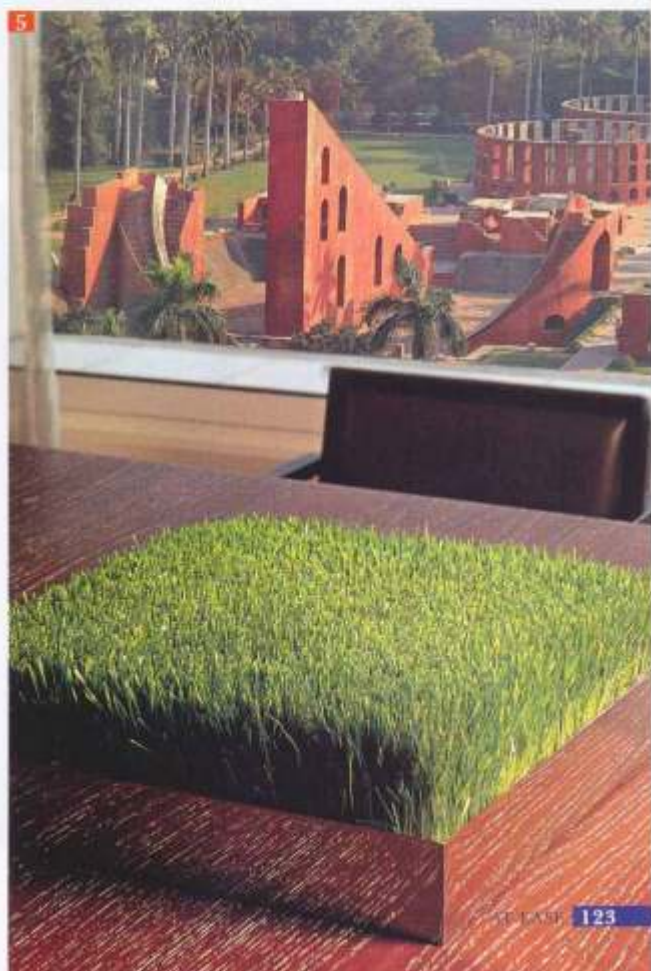
A multiplicity of materials, textures and colours meld together seamlessly in this elegant setting. The furniture and accessories display extensive but tasteful leather usage

but tasteful leather usage. The melange of furniture includes pieces designed by Conran & Partners, UK — which were fabricated in India — and others sourced from MOOI. Embossed panels and laser-cut suede bedspreads bring the floral motif indoors. Green and orange rugs and glass panels provide flashes of colour in otherwise calm spaces. Modern and traditional prints and artefacts, notably glass and ceramics by local artists and craftsmen, embellish the rooms. The subtle lighting strategy employed by Integrated Lighting Design, Los Angeles, integrates all these textures and tones colours into an enchanting and comprehensive whole.

The bedrooms have large LCD TVs, personal DVD players and JBL Sound Centers for docking your iPod. You can even conduct your business communication from within your private space, with the cordless dual-line phones, broadband internet connectivity and WiFi in the rest of the hotel. And when you're done with business, let your worries drizzle away beneath a mirror-finished rain shower. Or tune into your favourite channel on the

4 *"The modishly furnished lounge with a few private alcoves created by private 'wooden jaalis' and a spectacular view of the Jantar Mantar is a reminder of the bygone era, right in the heart of contemporary new age India"; says, Tejpal Uberoi, General manager, The Park, New Delhi*

5 *A view of Jantar Mantar through one of the enormous windows in the lounge*





LCD TV embedded in the wall, as you soak in a spacious sunken white statuario marble bath reminiscent of Japanese bathtubs. White plaster with dark walnut timber panelling is a constant in this space. A hardening agent was mixed with the venetian-style white plaster in the corridors to improve its strength and give it a stone-like texture.

The all-luxe floor has a lounge reserved only for floor guests that serves complimentary breakfast, and a la carte lunch and dinner. Teatime snacks come with a choice of favourite blended, single estate or organic teas. Complimentary drinks can be enjoyed later in the evenings. At the far end of the lounge is a wall with a three dimensional scaled down representation of Lutyens' Delhi. Traditional wooden *jaali* screens provide privacy between spaces where simple modern furniture intermingles with special furniture inspired by Lutyens' designs. Traditional armchairs have been given a contemporary twist with the use of modern upholstery. Each window frames a stunning view of the historic city — the busy road, the 18th century observatory Jantar Mantar, the lush green gardens of the capital... The well-stocked library has a range of coffee-table books, and a selection of international newspapers for your reading pleasure. You could choose from an exhaustive collection of rock, jazz, house, rhythm & blues, classical Indian or popular contemporary music; or even ask for an iPod loaded with music to be enjoyed


- 1** The living room in the Presidential Suite
- 2** A closer view of a workstation in one of the suites
- 3** A master bedroom in the Presidential Suite
- 4** A workstation in the Presidential Suite. In the words of Uberoi, "The Residence carries a stark, minimalistic look that beautifully blends the theme of 'Delhi' with the concept of 'Earth'. The presence of the fired oak wood and the subtle accents of green lent by the wheat grass, captures the essence of the theme"





in the privacy of your room. Two computers with scanners and printers are at your disposal. Adjacent to the lounge is a private boardroom that can host around 14 people. Suitable for private presentations and boardroom discussions, it comes fully equipped with a dropdown screen and other presentation tools.

But it's not technology that makes The Residence worth a visit. Here straight-lined

serenity, vibrant colour and 3D city plans are sculpted into one flawless work of art. "The flow of spaces and levels from inside to outside; and the changing light, views and surprises which this space offers are its most striking features. It is like a cool Miami Beach hotel with a touch of India," is Robert Malcolm's opinion. 

fact file

Client: Park Hotels

Location: Parliament Street, New Delhi

Principal architects: Conran & Partners, London

Associate designers: The Park Hotels Projects Department

Duration of project: Over three years (all three phases)

Date of completion: November 2006

Lighting consultants: Integrated Lighting Design, Los Angeles