

INTERIORS

A vibrant interior scene featuring a brick wall with rows of blue and gold decorative plates. In the foreground, four red, conical table lamps with warm yellow light sit on a wooden surface. A window with a blue view is visible in the background.

**Canna Patel,
Sandeep Khosla,
Zoran Dzunic and
Jitendra Mistry
create vibrant spaces**

**Get personal with
Pallavi Joshi and
Rajeev Khandelwal**

HOTSPOT

RETRO

Designed by Sandeep Khosla, Roxy in Kolkata offers a heady cocktail of contemporary chic in an old-world ambience.

A photograph of a modern staircase with a brick wall and a glass railing, illuminated with warm and cool lights.

COLADA



The latest destination in Kolkata for a cosy drink with friends is Roxy, the new cocktail bar at The Park. The highlight of the place is its spatial simplicity and the ambience, which recalls the glamour and style of the 60s.

The space was lying unused for sometime when Priya Paul thought of having an exclusive cocktail bar at this site and Bangalore-based architect Sandeep Khosla was called in who brought it to fruition assisted by Amresh Anand. Sandeep says, "We have given the place a 60s-look because that was the glorious swinging time of Kolkata's Park Street. The initial inspiration was drawn from the distressed shell of the site with its brick walls, red sandstone ceiling and iron girders. Our concept was to keep the basic shell intact and keep the essence of the original building materials in the site exposed."

The place was cleaned up, repaired and strengthened, the ceiling with its steel girders and red sandstone was retained, making essential mechanical changes and touching it up in a way that would be quite

THE DISTRESSED BRICK WALLS AND IRON GIRDERS IN THE CEILING GIVE THE PLACE A RAW LOOK. SHEER CURTAINS IN AN ANTIQUE BRASS MESH DIVIDE THE SEATING AREAS

❖ Sandeep Khosla is the principal architect and founder of Khosla Associates, an architecture and interior design firm in Bangalore. After graduating from the Pratt Institute, New York, he worked as an associate with architect Charles Correa. Sandeep and his team design a versatile body of work ranging from architecture and interiors of residences and corporate offices to retail and hospitality spaces. The firm's interest in global and local trends in fashion, lifestyle and design is reflected in their varied palette of projects ❖

Khosla Associates, #18, 17th Main, HAL Ind A Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560008; Tel: 25294951/25278186; Email: info@khoslaassociates.com




inconspicuous. Wooden flooring with planks of Burma teak was used for the flooring. The columns, beams and face of the bar were given a waxed screed concrete finish. The columns were finished in polished cement. "They were mouldered to give a hint of old Calcutta. By the juxtaposition of the old and new elements, we wanted to create a new vocabulary," explains the designer. Near the entrance, walls are done in faux fur and the door is in a leather and steel combination.

The bar has two levels with the upper level spanning only part of the entire area. A flight of stairs with glass railings connects it to the lower level. The lower edge of the railing has LED lighting. Sandeep wanted to create a floating mezzanine that would distinguish itself from



THE FLIGHT OF STEEL AND GLASS STAIRS LEADING TO THE MEZZANINE MAKES AN INTERESTING BACKDROP TO THE BAR AREA

THE RED TRANSPARENT LAMPS MAKE AN ARRESTING VISUAL
AND THE USE OF MIRRORS ON THE WALL CREATES
AN INTERESTING DIMENSION

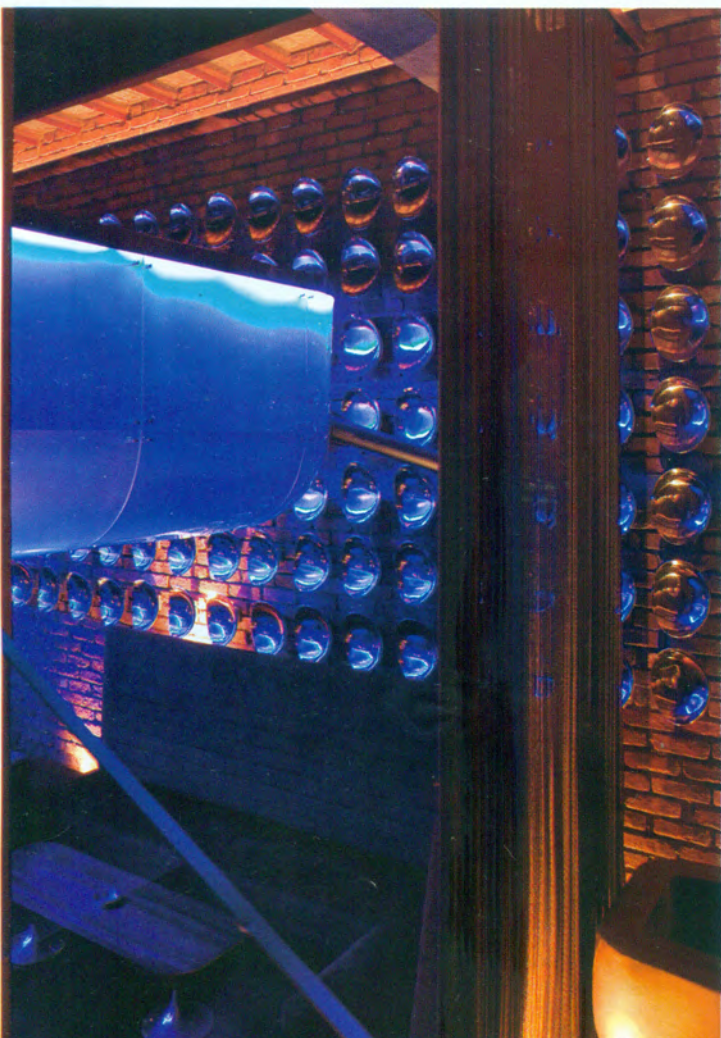


the surrounding shell in terms of form, texture and luminescence. This is actually a tubular steel structure sheathed in a composite translucent resin. The mezzanine is gently cradled by four arms emerging from the walls and was engineered ingeniously by structural engineer BL Manjunath. It is lit with LED lighting intelligently concealed inside its walls. The mezzanine is a futuristic element that contrasts with the natural elements of exposed brick, sandstone, wood and cement.

The spatial concept is simple — linear, 100-ft. long and narrow. The ceiling is

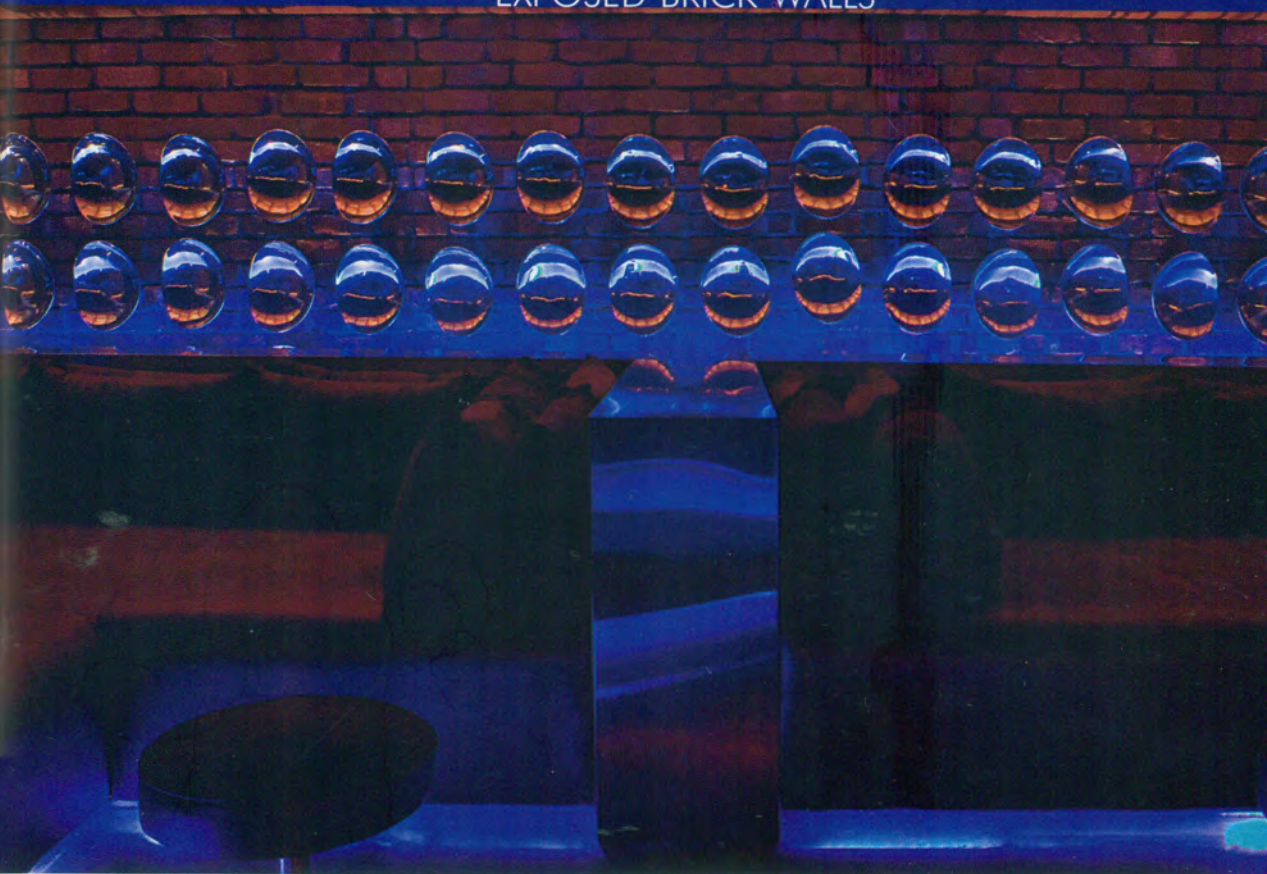
dimly illuminated, accentuating the vast volume. Polished concave aluminium ovals installed in the walls create a sense of drama sharply contrasting with the distressed exposed brick walls. At the Park Street end of Roxy, shadowy images of a virtual world are projected on a frosted glass wall bathed in aqua LED light to create a sense of mystery from the street, and the entrance of the hotel from outside. (Graphic designers, artists, film makers could be commissioned periodically to create moving art installations, sometimes even communicating the activities within the hotel on a moving billboard.)

The bar is dimly lit by uplighters set in the floor and the use of mirrors at two strategic places on the walls, gives it an interesting dimension. The seating arrangement on the lower level of Roxy is mostly linear — rust upholstered high-back ribbed sofas are juxtaposed with red transparent Kartell chairs and other single-seater sofas upholstered in a copper leather and faux fur combination. Red transparent lamps complement the chairs. The furniture is clad in Zebrano veneer while the base of the chairs and tables is in sleek steel. Sheers in an antique brass mesh work as subtle



THE DIMLY-LIT BAR (RIGHT) WEARING A SCREED CONCRETE FINISH IS COMPLEMENTED BY THE LUMINESCENT FLOATING MEZZANINE (LEFT)

POLISHED CONCAVE ALUMINIUM OVALS ON THE WALLS
CREATE A SENSE OF DRAMA CONTRASTING WITH THE DISTRESSED
EXPOSED BRICK WALLS



dividers for the seating areas. The rounded edges of the retro furniture (inspired from the stylish elements of the late 60s) are combined with upholstery and cladding in contemporary versions of materials used in the 60s, such as brushed brass, Zebrano veneer and chenille.

The seating on the upper level is almost bed-like with the upholstery in copper leather and cushions in faux fur. There are some single stools too, here, facing the bed-like sofas. The stainless steel floor of the mezzanine is washed in aqua light. A mobile DJ unit at the far end of the bar 'helps interaction with both the levels.

Besides an extensive wine and cocktail list, Roxy has a spirit of its own to offer: its sophisticated and discerning clientele — a fine juxtaposition of new and old ♦

TEXT: KAKOLI PODDAR

PHOTOGRAPHS: PALLON DARUWALA; COURTESY THE ARCHITECT

PROJECT DETAILS

Architects: Khosla Associates

Principal Architect: Sandeep Khosla

Associate Architect: Amaresh Anand

Structural Engineering: Manjunath & Co.

Primary Contractors & Furniture: Smith Interiors

Project Team: Sandeep Khosla, Amaresh Anand, Madhavi C, BL Manjunath, Surajit Viswanath