

# A Piece of Peaceful Coast

The buzzing, quaint and bohemian market place - Hauz Khas village in South Delhi, gets a whole new food hangout. Contrary to the market's bustling character, Coast café comes with an eclectic menu of coastal cuisines and offers a space that is calm and peaceful for its customers.



As an extension of designer Kavita Bhartia's designer store Ogaan, Coast Café's clean calm space is a surprising change, if you consider the market place it is nestled in. We are talking of Hauz Khas market in Delhi, which, in a short stretch of area, houses quite a few numbers of boutiques, stores, pubs and cafes that collectively contribute to the loud bohemian character of the marketplace mostly frequented by young people.

Lotus studio, explained, "We were handed a decrepit rooftop with a brief to create a simple, coastal cuisine restaurant and bar as a value addition to the renovation they had been commissioned to do for one of India's pioneering multi brand fashion stores, Ogaan. Hence our focus was primarily on creating a Zen-like space that serves a wide array of coastal cuisine from all over the country and world."

Keeping the brief in mind, Lotus has used elements like white in situ terrazzo floors, and the modernist furniture in oil finished teak, cane and marble are offset by the fluted marble bar, mild steel window frames and cast glass lamps. "All these amount

to the timeless lightness of the coast." The walls of the café are also nailed with artworks by young unknown artists, specially commissioned by the owner Aashti Bhartia, which add colour and narrative to the otherwise neutral palette.

Carrying forward the philosophy of the renovation of Ogaan that revolved around simplicity, modernity and attention to detail with a focus on a handcrafted material palette, the restaurant was conceived in the same line. Choksi added, "As an insert over two floors, with the ground floor serving as a bar and the first floor as a restaurant, an enclosed veranda is designed to open up to the outdoors in good weather."

Designed by Delhi-based Studio Lotus, it is situated on the top floor of Ogaan which was recently renovated by Lotus itself. Elaborating on concept and design of the café, Ankur Choksi, Design Principle,



Architecturally a courtyard was opened up in the middle of the building to bring light into the dark central bay and create lines of sight amongst various floors. The facade of the building was revamped through a series of painted brick arched openings which carry on to the upper floors as arches in painted metal mesh that will eventually get covered with creepers that have been planted on the terraces.

On the design aspiration, Aashti Bhartia, owner, Coast Cafe, explains, "With pubs and bars mushrooming in the vicinity quite regularly, we wanted our space to be different. We knew we didn't want a bar or club but a clean space where people could eat, talk and drink. We were looking at a contemporary space with art, plants and great materials. We are satisfied that elements like big windows and greeneries are part of the cafe. The gourmet experience that we are offering is not fully from one particular region but uses fresh ingredients and recipes from different parts of the world. I think the space reflects that."

The interiors of the cafe primarily consist of white painted stripped brick walls and some wall accents in pastel shades of aqua and white in situ cement terrazzo floors. Both floors of the café are connected by a compact staircase inspired by the form of a sea shell, built in milled iron and teak. "The end result is a building and an interior that in its repurposing uses restrained simplicity to stand out amongst the visual clutter noise of the neighbourhood," Choksi concluded.

**Satarupa Chakraborty**

## Design

Studio Lotus





