

# Preening On The Go

Nestled with all its opulence in Delhi's Karkardooma Metro Station, Affinity Salon did not have to give up its prototype store design that spells luxury. Working along with many challenges that come with being at a space as unique and unfamiliar as a metro station, Gurgaon-based Praxis Design & Building Solution Pvt Ltd. designed the project. Here's a short tour.



If you are from Delhi, you will know how does a metro station looks like. It's huge, true. It has some retail landscape, true. But least you would expect to pass through a modern luxurious salon along with the usual coffee shops and convenience stores. Well, Affinity Salons, with over 50 salons all over Delhi and 2 in Chandigarh, has actually opened its door at Delhi's Karkardooma Metro station. And guess what, all these without losing the plush decor that has been a signature design philosophy in all other outlets.

Going along with the design, what also posed as a challenge was the fact that there was a



**Garima Gupta, Principle Architect, Praxis Design and Building Solutions Pvt Ltd**, explained, "The design for this particular salon addresses the client brief whereby the architects were told to create a space, which is lavish, exhibits old world charm and gives a functional environment. The location was a very challenging factor here, as the site was directly under the metro station. Hence the space was to be designed like an oasis within this crowded and chaotic urban metro environment."



"We borrowed the gloss & shimmer from the banquet space and carried it forward to the entrance of the salon, where it was translated in the form of black hi-gloss mirror pillars. Keeping the triple height of the site in mind, the door was not kept at the human height, but three times of that, thereby giving a grand look from the entrance itself," said

**Pranav Gupta, Principal Architect, Praxis Design**



banquet space opposite the salon. There was a spill-out vestibule zone common between the salon and a banquet space just opposite to both the spaces, which was supposed to cater to clientele from both sides. Hence the design had to compliment the banquet environment instead of challenging it.

Adding to the vintage experience, a very modern element like Corian has been embossed and cut in traditional motifs with lit up Affinity Corian signage in the background at the reception of the salon. The use of backlit jaalis in double height adds to the grandeur of the design.

Inside, the large and homogeneous volume of space is fragmented not only in 2D layout but also in 3D volumes in order to make the salon look less overwhelming. The mezzanine space that houses the men's section above also has a huge bridal design space under it. The whole mezzanine floor is connected through two sets of carved staircases to give a perception of floating steps. This whole area renders a feeling of old-style Bollywood inspiration.

"Plumbing was challenging here in the mezzanine floor as all the pipes had to be suspended in the air and carried to this floor. Hence, an arch like feature was created out



"The cavern like space was cleverly utilised by keeping the backside for treatment & therapy rooms. Care was taken to make the partition acoustically treated, to minimise the metro sound above. All the essential spaces like toilets and pantry had been located here," said

**Lorenzo Gomes, Principle Architect, Praxis Design**

of square wood sections which not only cleverly hid the ugly pipes, but also looked like a design element," Garima informed.

The HVAC part was taken care via exposed spiral ducting which was left in the original aluminium colour thus not being very conspicuous yet adding as a design element to the industrial ceiling.

While choosing the material palette, care was taken to offset the glamour of chandeliers and silver leather of the sofas in the lounge with rustic white brick walls and concrete floor tile. Lighting was also designed as per the space. Grand fabric chandeliers offer a great greeting at the reception, while wall

fixtures in the pedicure section gives a soft glow to the white bricks. ●

**Satarupa Chakraborty**

**Design Team**

Pranav Gupta , Garima Gupta , Lorenzo Gomes  
Praxis Design & Building Solution Pvt Ltd

**Contractor**

ARS Interiors ( Deep Bellani)

**Lights**

Halomax Lighting

**Tiles**

Rajeev Sanitation

