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THE LIGHTER SIDE

Klove lighting design studio founders GAUTAM SETH and PRATEEK JAIN on where to shop in India and why they love Dubai Design Week

How does your love of travel inspire your lighting designs? Prateek Jain: Gautam and I pretty much use all the money that we make for our travels, picking destinations that can enhance our vocabulary of design. There is never a direct manifestation of travel to design, but your mind opens up and that helps you get inspired. It's the little things that spark our imagination or give inspiration – it could be while being on the sea, or at the top of a mountain.

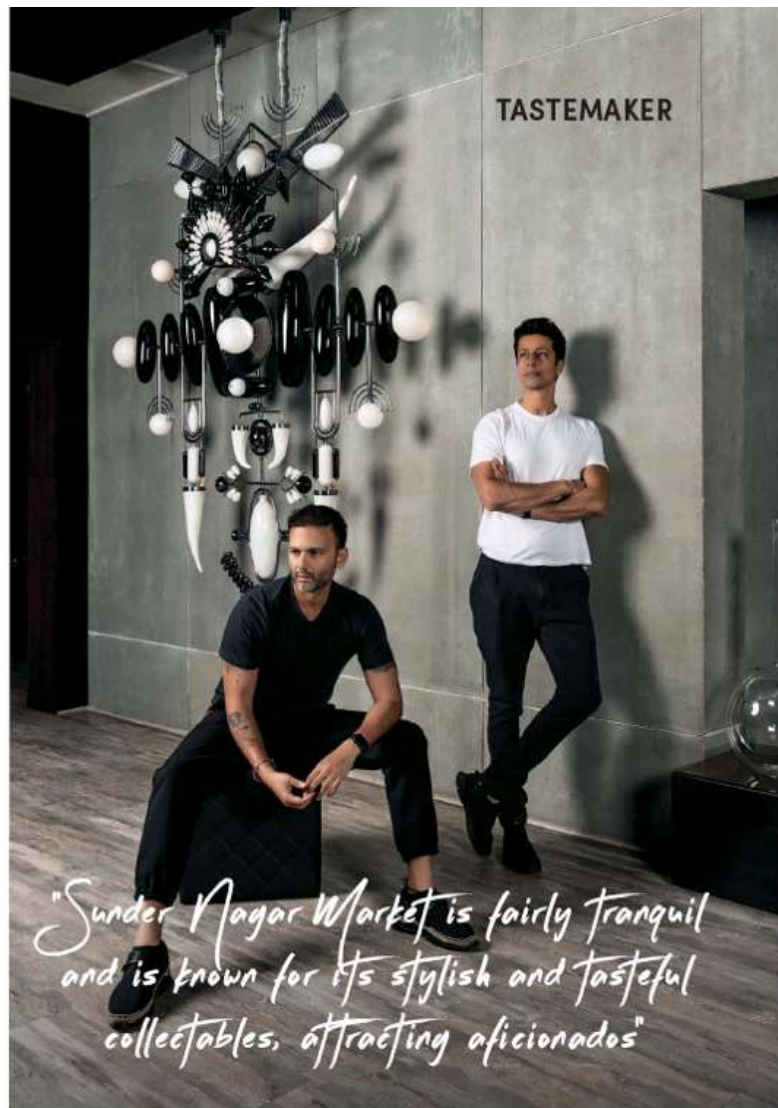
What stands out about Dubai Design Week, which you've participated in multiple times? Gautam Seth: Dubai is in a unique position, connecting East and West in the most cosmopolitan way. When we exhibit there, in comparison to India or Europe, what we find is that we're exposed to an audience that is not only cultured but aware of customs from around the world. That unique melting point is what makes Dubai the most interesting design week. It's also one of the best organised and most beautifully curated shows that we've been a part of.

Where are some of your favourite spots in Delhi, where you're based?

PJ: Delhi is a nation on its own. It has many places and different cultures coming together, and I can find anything I want without having to look very hard. Our cultural and design focal points, which are good for inspiration, shopping and food, include Haus Khaz Village, Janpath Road and – a recent find – Champa Gali, a street in South Delhi that's grabbing a lot of attention because of its Parisian passages and charming décor. It has Old World intrigue with small cafeterias, coffee houses and art exhibitions, and is enhanced with delightful lighting reminiscent of an entrancing night in Paris.

Your favourite markets in India? GS: Prateek and I like going to Sunder Nagar Market in Delhi for its artistic and antique collectibles. It's a fairly tranquil market known for stocking good-quality, stylish and tasteful products, attracting aficionados. Also in Delhi, Khan Market is a favourite for its amazing book shops, high-end boutiques selling furnishings and a variety of eating joints, and handicraft bazaar Dastkar is another good one. We also love exploring Mumbai's Chor Bazaar and Johari Bazaar in Jaipur.

The most stylish hotel you've ever stayed in? GS: The two that have stuck with me are The Alpina Gstaad in Switzerland and Bawah Reserve in Indonesia. What I loved about Alpina was the heated outdoor pools – sitting in them while being surrounded by the mountains, snow, trees... it's amazing.



The rooms, too, are beautifully done in a modern chalet design. Bawah Reserve leaves you speechless. The location was something out of a dream with crystal-clear ocean waters, and isolated so that it was well connected to nature.

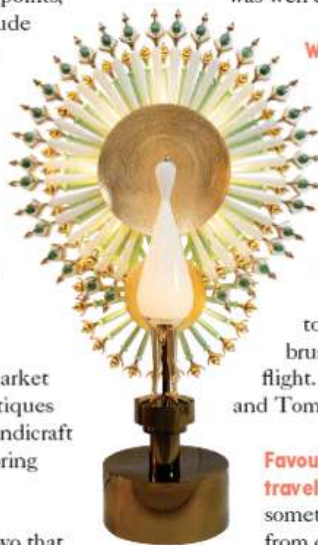
What's your airport style? PJ: The best way to describe my travelling look is stylish comfort: tailored sweatpants, a basic T-shirt, and I always carry a sweater or hoodie as it can get cold on the plane. I finish that off with a nice pair of sneakers. Some of my current favourite brands for this look include Off-White, Balenciaga and Supreme.

What are your grooming essentials when travelling?

GS: I can't travel without cologne, a toothbrush, toothpaste and face wash. Nothing feels better than brushing your teeth and washing your face after a long flight. I'm currently using Acqua di Parma Colonia Sandalo and Tom Ford Purifying Face Cleanser.

Favourite souvenir that you've brought back from your travels? PJ:

Every time I go somewhere new, I try to pick up something ceramic, rattan or terracotta – something artisanal from different parts of the world. When I began collecting pieces for my home, the first thing I bought was a set of Vietnamese gongs; they are beautiful and I still have them. I've bought a lot of things since, but that's the first thing I remember buying and that's why it's so special. 🍷



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