

TOP 10 Hospitality Designers

Interior design can make or break a space; more so, if the space is a restaurant or a hotel, intended to please a vast demography of customers with varying design sensibilities. One may argue that in a restaurant, function (the food) would assume a greater emphasis over the form (decor). However, it is increasingly being accepted that form assumes just as much importance as function, if not more — decor is the first point of contact for the potential customer; the actual hospitality experience happens later.

Given this, *Commercial Design* profiles India's Top Ten Designers and Architects in the Hospitality segment along with some of their outstanding projects.

BY TEAM CD



Khozema Chitalwala



Shabnam Gupta



Siraj and Renu
Hasan



Ketan Jawdekar



Ritu Bhatia Kler



Sumesh Menon



Bobby Mukherji



Sumeet Nath



Yeshwant
Ramamurthy



Sarabjit Singh

Siraj and Renu Hasan, Siraj & Renu, Bengaluru

Siraj & Renu was established by Siraj Hasan along with his partner and wife Renu Hasan in the early 80's, and the firm has since designed and implemented landmark projects all over South India through their offices in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. The firm has separate architectural and interior design wings and consistently endeavour to achieve the parameters set out by the clients in terms of aesthetics, function and costs. They successfully translate their visions into logical design, many of which have been acclaimed as landmarks and won many accolades.



COUNTRY INN & SUITES, MYSORE

The property reveals itself in parts — parts that gradually introduces one to what lies within; parts that offer stark visual contrasts; parts which break the monotony of probably having a single design strategy across the sprawling space. However, these very parts form the cohesive whole of Country Inn & Suites Hotel, their difference complementing the underlying theme. The hotel eases one into a thoughtfully landscaped waiting area lit up with warm lights and elegant decor. Jewel of the hotel is the Enigma bar. Awash with dim lights and modish furnishings, the space provides the panache that the hotel deserves. Here, lighting plays the most important part in creating the ambience and setting the mood. Flooded in purple hue, a massive light fixture wrapped in textile hangs down elegantly from the double-height ceiling to establish the elemental statement of the space. The next is the sculptural floor to ceiling wall panelling that catches ones attention. The dining accessories starkly contrast, yet do not seem to overpower; thus maintaining a balance within the elements. On the whole, the space offers a diverse dining experience within an elegant ambience.

**MERCURE HOTEL,
HYDERABAD**

Clean lines, uncluttered spaces and exquisite furnishings define the design of Mercure Hotel in Hyderabad. The spaces are designed to be unique, contemporary and exude a sense of unusual richness in texture and lighting. The copiously furnished grandeur of the lobby, reception and waiting area against the huge span of marbled floor space reinforces the hotel's brand equity. The rooms frame a relaxed and cosy ambience within its embrace. The dining experience, too, is an extension of the design maintained throughout the space.