

What's New

Seiko

This model, from the new Seiko Lord Collection, is an exclusive timepiece for India. It features a 12 hour chronograph, and an alarm with dual-time option, all presented in a rose-gold plated steel case, with a hard coated bezel. It belongs to a fine collection of elegant timepieces crafted to endure.



Montegrappa

Nelson Mandela Pens is a collection of customised NeroUno pens, with a motif of triangles in a tribal pattern and a rose-gold plated trim on the pen cap's band. The top of the cap is engraved with the map of South Africa, while the side of the cap features a metal plaque engraved with Mandela's signature. To forge an indelible link to Nelson Mandela's homeland, the clip boasts a diamond, mined in South Africa. The collection being offered are a limited edition of 500 sets including pen, cufflinks and watch.



Carl Bucherer

This timepiece from Carl Bucherer features a case set in 18 carat white gold, 52 blue sapphire baguettes, 82 diamonds, 154 blue sapphires. Adorn your wrist with this watch from Bucherer's tri-colour collection.



THE BIG DOOR

FENDI CASA

Adorn your abode

A touch of satin, a splash of rich hues, the magic of space and the charm of vintage pieces, **Dhanishta Shah** shows you how to live in the lap of luxury

Infuse your decorative style with indulgent elements of opulence to display a unique sense of decadence.

Lush Lighting

Illumination is at the heart of pure, unblemished luxury. Select lighting fixtures that exude grandeur: A magnificent chandelier, an elegant lamp or a luxe bedside-lamp can amplify the lavish feel of any room.

Arty facts

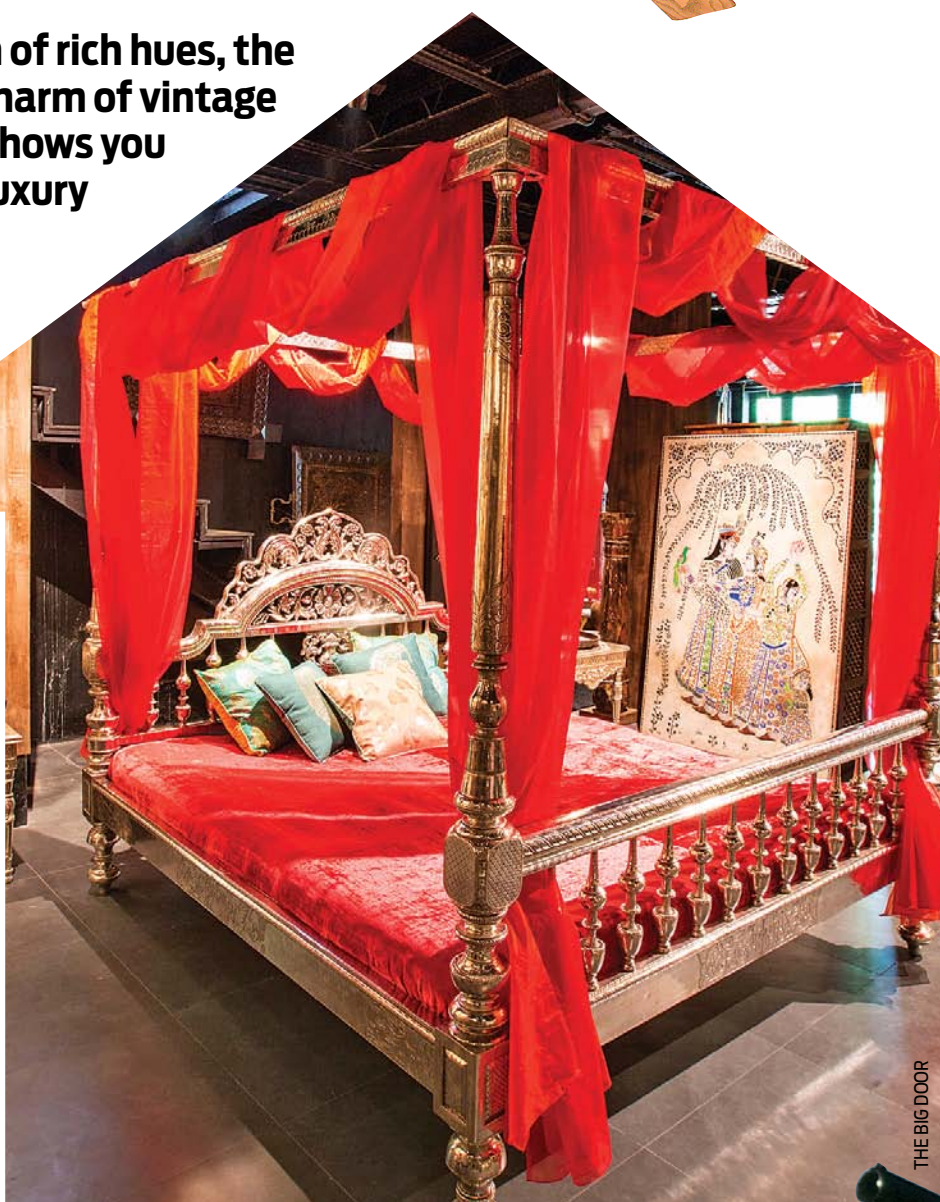
Embellish your home with works of art that speak to you and reflect your personal aesthetics. From delicate strokes upon a canvas to impressive sculptures, carefully selected pieces can accentuate the affluent feel of your home. Blend art into architecture, with distinguished murals and carved ceilings. Play with the textures of walls and floors to compliment your choice of décor.

Palette of the pampered

The character of any space is defined by its colour. Rich metallics like gold and silver are the essence of superfluity. Gilded cabinets and furniture with metallic leafing add a deluxe feel. "A silver or me-



MY TAILOR HOME



THE BIG DOOR

tallic piece adds a glamour quotient and the sheen from the surface draws attention to the space in which it is placed. Not only does the piece of silver add grandeur to your interiors, but it also spells luxury to a great extent," says Prashant Sarawgi of Episode.

Dress it up

Fine fabrics in rich colours and textures contribute to a plush look. For the bedroom, the right linen can ooze sophistication and comfort. Mix up embroidery, mirror work and playful textures to enhance the elegant feel. Creatively layer differently upholstered pieces to unveil a seamless blend of extravagance.

Selecting the right materials to work with, is important. "Moreover satin, velvet, silk and pure leather are the right fabrics to give your furniture a luxe feel. For upholstery, the right texture and colour are essential, as they actually enhance the furniture's design—be it traditional or contemporary. The right fabric and colour (preferably subtle) accentuate the intricate details of the furniture, especially silver furniture," says Vivek Gupta, partner at The Big Door.

To infinity and beyond

Open spaces, such as well-placed courtyard and high ceilings, create the illusion of a spacious setting which in turn, projects opulence. Playing with features like mirrors and tall windows magnifies the invite environment.

Affluence in architecture

Lavish fireplaces, ornately carved pillars, carefully placed water-bodies and other intricate architectural elements result in a natural luxe feel.

Centre of attention

Commanding attention in every room, allow for one or two ostentatious pieces that draw focus. From vintage or exclusive designer pieces to family heirlooms or up-cycled pieces, allow them to reveal the personality of the room.

"A statement décor piece spell magnificence and can become a focal point of any room. They tie the spaces in your room together," says Rajkumar Jain from Anemos. "This is a subjective notion indeed; for some, it can be oeuvres d'art (pieces of art), for others, pieces of furniture from famous (or not) designers and still others, it can be the use of luxurious materials such as alabaster, crystal de Roche, ornate Volevatch fittings, elegant leather walls and so on. Luxury is not necessarily what is seen the most," concludes Isabelle Vernhes, co-founder, My Tailor Home.

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The plush life of a princess

An Arjuna award recipient, owner of the Lallgarh Palace and author—**Princess Rajyashree Kumari** is a woman of immense talents. **Rama Sreekant** explores the world of this multi-faceted princess

She wears her hair in a short bob, drapes herself in predictable chiffon sarees and adorns her neck with pearls that defy her age. Born to the royal family of Bikaner, Princess Rajyashree Kumari is the daughter of Maharaja Karni Singh and Maharani Sushila Kumari. "The life of a princess is no different from that of any busy working woman," says the princess. A recipient of the Arjuna award for shooting at the age of 16, she transitions comfortably between the different facets of her personality. Besides sports, travelling and writing, the Rajasthani princess is involved with a variety of trusts and projects related to charity and historical preservation. "My job as the CEO of the many trusts in Bikaner is to ensure their smooth functioning; oversee their projects and make sure that charitable disbursements are made according to the wishes of my late father," she informs us.

A luxe life

When it comes to living life to the fullest, not many can surpass the ingenuity of Indian royalty. They are known to be patrons of luxury. "Luxury is not simply to be found in objects. It defines personal choices and the ability to make them freely. It also

means having an aesthetically pleasing home, devoid of clutter and a beautiful garden, in which one can connect with nature, contemplate and revitalise the senses," says the princess. Her most prized possession is the foundation of love, care and confidence, which her father laid down for her. "It has enabled me to live my life on my own terms and make my own choices. It has bestowed freedom and confidence, which I prize above all riches," says Rajyashree who has authored two books, *The Lallgarh Palace: Home of the Maharajas of Bikaner* and *The Maharajas of Bikaner*.

Priceless Treasures

Royal families are known for their love for beauty and style, which is evident from the bespoke orders they place with jewellery houses like Cartier and Van Cleef. But the princess roots for Indian craftsmanship. "The Gem Palace in Jaipur is my favourite jewellery emporium. They never cease to surprise me with the rich variety of jewellery they have; it's like being a kid in a candy store, you cannot leave with just one item! It's a treasure trove of local craftsmanship, intriguing novel pieces and bedazzling jewels." Besides the heirloom pieces that were gifted to her, by her parents, at the time of



her wedding, she treasures some of her inherited jewellery pieces. Rajyashree's personal favourite is a pair of diamond studs that belonged to her paternal grandmother, Rajmata Sudersha Kumari of Bikaner. "They are simple, yet classic pieces that transform themselves from day to evening jewellery effortlessly," she adds.

The word 'royalty' is almost always synonymous to 'a penchant for art'. "My grandfather Maharaja Sadul Singh and my great grandfather Maharaja Ganga Singh were prolific collectors of art. I am fortunate enough to have inherited from them. I love wildlife in all its forms; in the past few years I've managed to enlarge my collec-

tion with several water colours, oils and sculptures of animals and birds," she shares. Offering us a glimpse of her royal accoutrements, the princess mentions that Rolex is her favourite brand of watch, and Tom Ford and Hermes are her preferred fragrances.

Rajyashree loves the vibrancy of Bangkok—it's food, culture and warm locals. She finds peace and pleasure in gardening. "I have a lovely garden in my home in Bikaner and I spend hours in it. It is therapeutic," says the princess who loves to walk around in Europe with absolute freedom and in total anonymity.

@RamaSreekant