

HOT 100

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The top names in the world of Indian architecture and design disclose to us which of their landmark projects is on the anvil

Sumesh Menon

SUMESSH MENON ASSOCIATES

Sumesh Menon has been called the Super Potato of India — a fitting title, indeed, considering the large number of experiential, impeccably crafted restaurants he has created for several hospitality giants. (However, it would be correct to point out at this juncture that Menon is also equally adept at residential design.) At the start of his professional journey, when he established his firm Sumesh Menon Associates (SMA) in 2009, restaurants, he recalls, were just places to eat. But that's changed. "Now, it's also about the experience," he says. So that's exactly what he sets out to do when he designs one. If Taliq Turmeric pays an ode to the richly coloured and ubiquitous spice of Indian cuisine, 145 (Kamala Mills, Mumbai), which caters to 25-to 35-year-olds, incorporates a 60ft-long art wall and a high-energy bar that resonates with playfulness. The latter's Andheri (W) sibling, a work in progress, will feature a large kinetic sculpture of bicycles and human figures that will be seen through a 30ft show window. Inside, a life-sized human-body light fixture will levitate above the pool table. The upcoming refurbishment of a resort on Swaraj Deep (earlier Havelock Island), Andaman Islands, is the fulfilment of a long-held dream of working in this genre. "Always aim for the cutting-edge," is his advice to self and fellow designers.



145, Restaurant,
Andheri (Mumbai)