



ROOTED INTEREST

Local design elements integrated with state of the art services at the first Andaz property in India, offer travellers a fresh take on the capital

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PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY **ANDAZ DELHI**



Above, from Left The Tower of Victory was made by artist duo Tanmoy and Mehula who worked closely with master curator Rajeev Sethi; The book 401 Reasons to Fall in Love With Delhi was authored by Fiona Caulfield. Each number corresponds to a suite in the hotel Left At the expansive Andaz lounge with Susan Grey marble flooring from Turkey, modern fittings like pendant lamps by Elektra Lighting Design for Global China Corporation coexist with more rustic pieces like the centre table and stools from Aadarshila

In a world of homogenised luxury, the Andaz chain by Hyatt Hotels Corporation aims to stand out with its unique, localised offerings. After all, the main purpose of travelling to foreign lands is to soak in the culture and native ideas of a city. Andaz Delhi, the first such venture in India by the group, is steeped in everything *Dilli* is famous for. Located conveniently in Aerocity, the property is close to the main lifestyle hubs of the metropolis. The swish architecture was envisioned by Chicago based Bauer Latoza while the humble clean interiors are the work of London based firm Virgile+Partners. “The brief was to create a modern style, targeting a smart, new traveller who appreciates design and is receptive to contemporary art,” explains Carlos Virgile, the firm’s director. “The idea was to envision a novel kind of luxury minus the traditions linked to it – quintessentially the space is open, accessible, friendly and free of pretentiousness.”

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Above Juniper Bar, bedecked with tables sourced from ADS, India and illuminators from Global China Corporation, serves libations inspired by the medicinal values of the namesake bloom Right, Clockwise, from Top The Large View suite features a bed from Concodia covered in linen from Welspun. The side table and blue ottoman are from Bressan Crafts; In the 201 Large View Twin, furniture from Concodia, China rest on the Hanif rug from Badoi; The amenity counter in an Andaz King room holds fresh fruit

This concept runs throughout the 401 rooms and suites, and the culmination of all of these is presented in Fiona Caulfield’s book titled “401 Reasons to Fall in Love with Delhi”. The volume has 12 sections catering to specific interests including heritage buildings, sports, devotion and nature. Andaz has amenities such as heated pools, sun decks, a spa and a fully furnished gym as well. Being a hotel for the global nomad, Andaz’s restaurants offer a delectable spread of several cuisines. Their flagship restaurant AnnaMaya for instance, is known for its consciously sourced, artisanal ingredients and local produce, while Juniper, a first of its kind gin only bar, offers upto 40 tailor made spirits.

For the curated artworks dotting the hotel, veteran designer Rajeev Sethi was brought on board as he “understands the subtle nuances of Indian culture and has access to many upcoming, talented artists,” explains Carlos. Andaz Delhi has achieved what it set out to do as “in little time, it has become popular among luxury travellers who look for different, personalised brand experiences,” concludes Kurt Straub, Vice President – Operations (India), Hyatt Hotels & Resorts. ♦

