

Rs.50 January, 2007

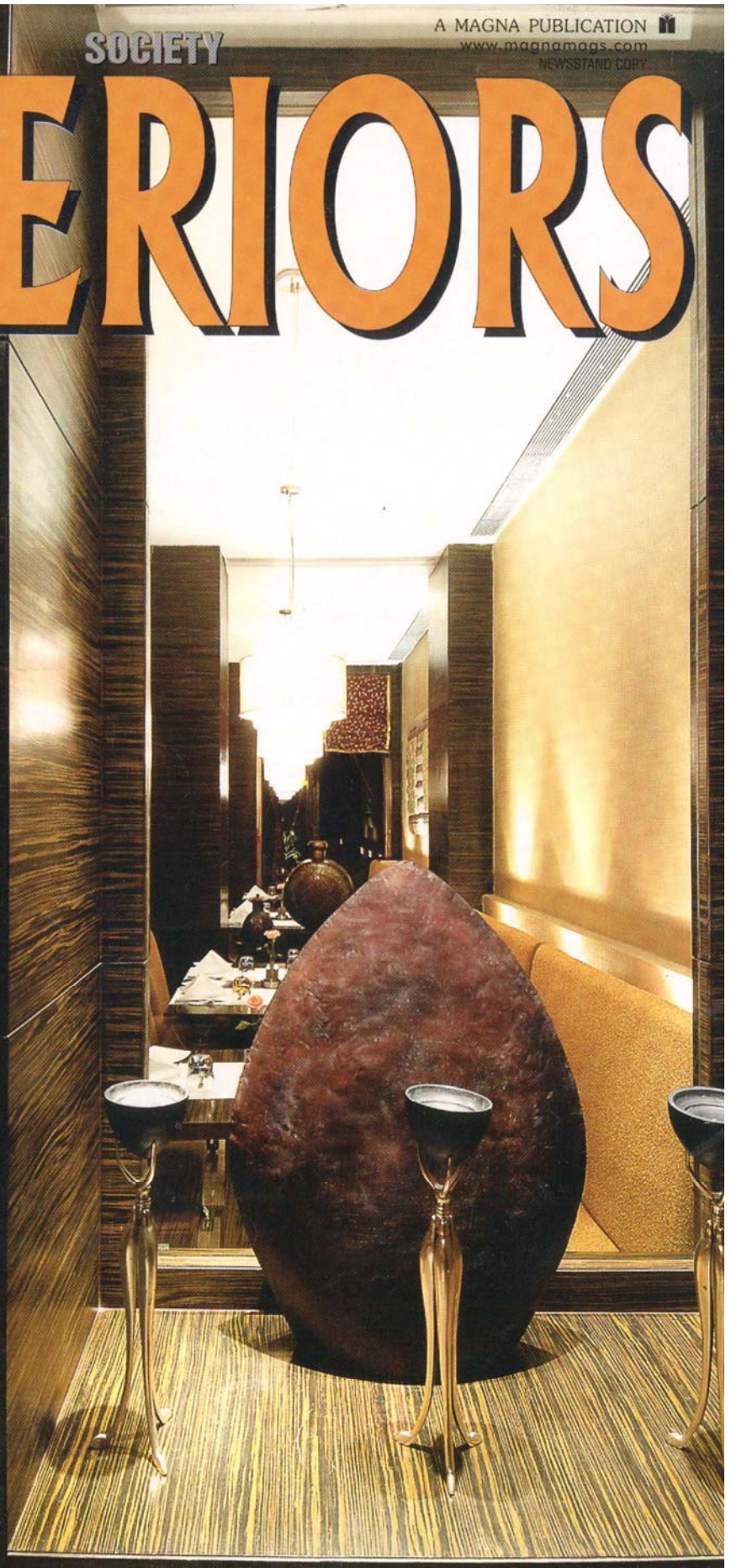
SOCIETY

A MAGNA PUBLICATION  
www.magnamags.com  
NEWSSTAND COPY

# INTERIORS

**Commendable works  
of Sen Kapadia, Nitin  
Killawala, Sudhir  
Diwan, Khozema  
Chittalwala, Bharat  
Shetty, Ninad Tipnis,  
Pranav Upasni, and  
sculptor Ankit Patel**

**Sneak Peak at the  
delightful spaces of  
Gauri Pradhan & Hiten  
Tejwani, and the  
Khorakiwalas**





## **HOTSPOT**

**Crossover Point in Bangalore combines strong architectural elements with unusual design treatments to become an 'ahead-of-its-time' entertainment destination.**

**W**hen a restaurant space combines four different kinds of eating areas under one roof, you're bound to push the limits of imagination. At Crossover Point in Bangalore that's just what Planet 3 Studios, the firm of architects from

Mumbai, has done. Says Architect Santha, "The empty shell of this three-storeyed building had to be converted from what would have been an office space to accommodate a restaurant, an outdoor grill, a pub and a fine dining restaurant."

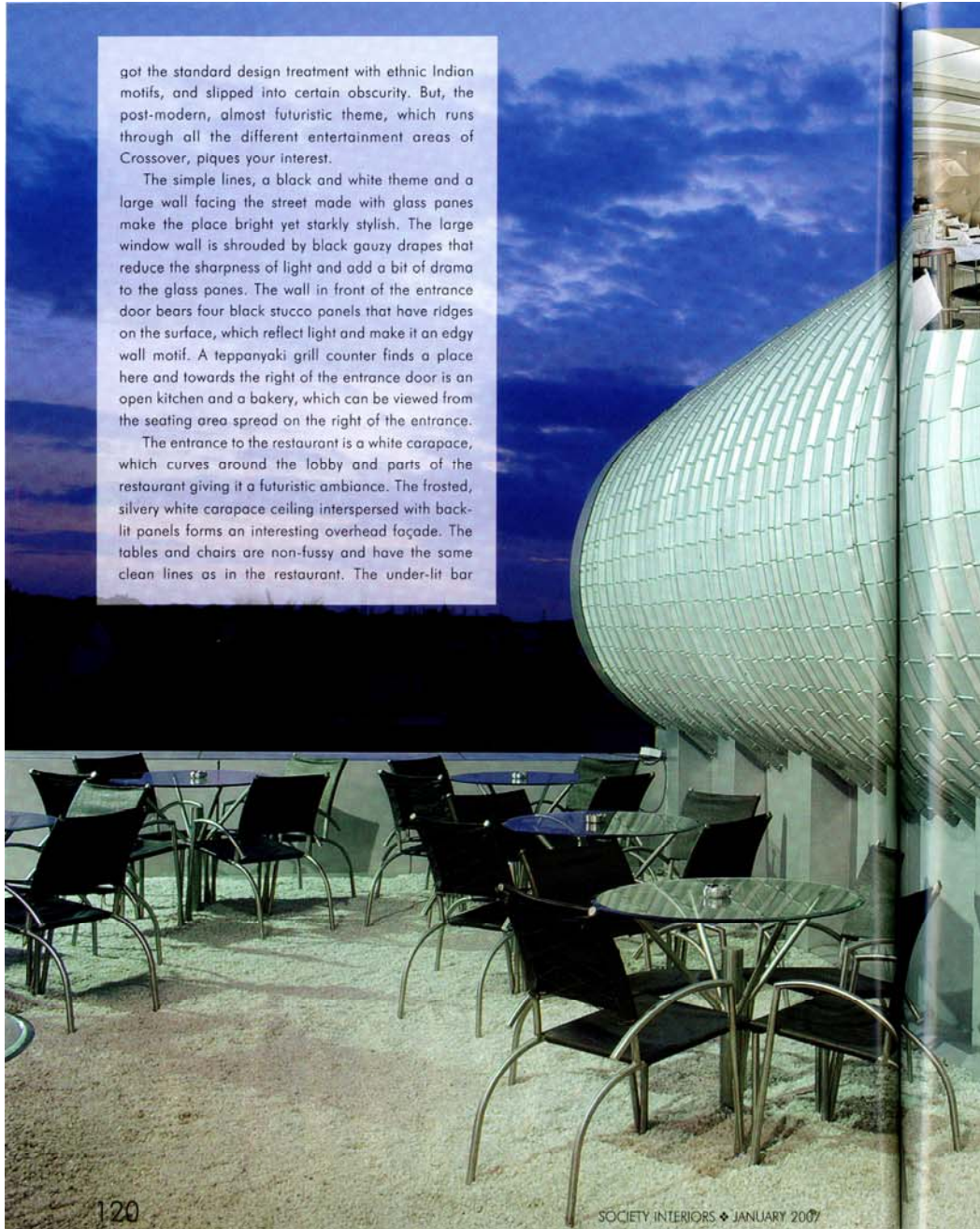
The second floor restaurant called Crossover, serving multi-cuisine vegetarian fare, could have

# FUTURISTIC FLAVOURS

got the standard design treatment with ethnic Indian motifs, and slipped into certain obscurity. But, the post-modern, almost futuristic theme, which runs through all the different entertainment areas of Crossover, piques your interest.

The simple lines, a black and white theme and a large wall facing the street made with glass panes make the place bright yet starkly stylish. The large window wall is shrouded by black gauzy drapes that reduce the sharpness of light and add a bit of drama to the glass panes. The wall in front of the entrance door bears four black stucco panels that have ridges on the surface, which reflect light and make it an edgy wall motif. A teppanyaki grill counter finds a place here and towards the right of the entrance door is an open kitchen and a bakery, which can be viewed from the seating area spread on the right of the entrance.

The entrance to the restaurant is a white carapace, which curves around the lobby and parts of the restaurant giving it a futuristic ambiance. The frosted, silvery white carapace ceiling interspersed with backlit panels forms an interesting overhead façade. The tables and chairs are non-fussy and have the same clean lines as in the restaurant. The under-lit bar



♦ Planet 3 Studios is a design centre where creativity, skill and knowledge are essentials and everybody is encouraged to bring an attitude to work. Their work culture focuses on addressing the fundamentals through intense programming and offer solutions that balance wit and wisdom, keep it fresh and never lose the visual appeal. They do not burden themselves or their clients with *isms* and focus on the context, the client and the realities of budget and time. This eight-year-old firm



has secured close to a million square feet of high-end projects in Hospitality, Institutions, Corporates, Retail, Residential and other categories. The project design team comprises Kalhan Mattoo, Santha Gour Mattoo, Jainish Jani, Jyoti Gujarani and Priya Pawar ♦

Planet 3 Studios Architecture Pvt. Ltd., 224/225 Dimple Arcade, Asha Nagar, Thakur Complex, Kandivali (E), Mumbai 400101; Tel: 66995442/3; Email: info@planet3studios.com; Website: www.planet3studios.com



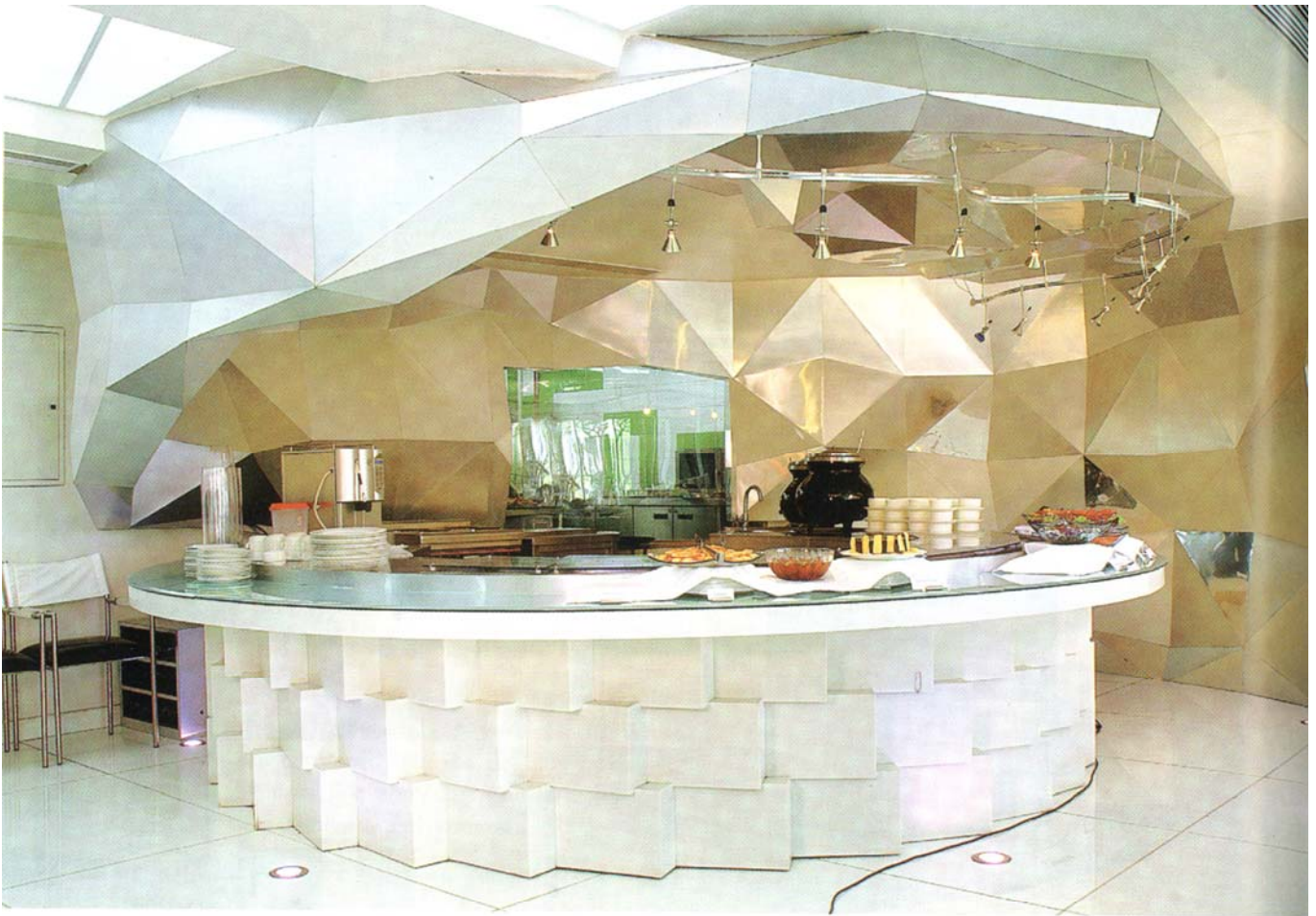
counter is tinged by a blue light, further intensifying the feeling of an ahead-of-its-time kind of space.

The futuristic flavours extend to the washroom too, where you may be surprised at the absence of faucets. When a sensor is activated, water flows from an outlet and flows out through a trough bordered by pebbles.

Riding up to the first floor, you're eyes first make contact with a tube-shaped silvery structure that looks like a space-ship. And then you spot a chi-chi room with soft lighting. But before you step inside the tube-shaped structure, the crunch of white gravel and an open grill counter beckons you as the vistas from here stretch far into the Bangalore horizon. An open-air grill, Fire and Flakes, makes an enticing stopover for someone keen on an outdoor dining experience.

The elliptical framework of this structure in the shape of a tube, has lead it to be christened thus, The Tube. As a pub, this pushes the frontiers of nightlife spaces with its unique interiors. The entrance to The Tube is a glass floor panel which acts as a walkway and a dance floor as it extends inside. Lit from below with white light





and the bottom of the passage made to look like a railway track with pebbles and all, it creates a feeling of walking on air which is at the same time, eerie and exciting. The Tube is made with a galvalume material stretched over an elliptical mild steel framework. The inside of the dome-shaped room has a quilted fabric finish and the seating is like a bed lounge. With mauve, silver, grey and light blue quilting highlighted by blue lighting, this area has a surreal ambiance.

In sharp contrast to the edgy environs of The Tube, is Ville Chaumiere, a fine dining wine and cigar lounge. The walnut brown and caramel creme colour schemes in this room infuse it with the warm tones of sophistication. A bar built of bamboo and set upon a warm walnut brown parquet flooring becomes the cynosure of attention in the room. From the bamboo bar, rise branch-like mild steel structures, which support the 19-foot-high ceiling. The ceiling is in the form of an S-curve and has cheese-like punctures, which act like light sources.

As you walk through the entrance, wood panelled grooves in the wall of Ville Chaumiere act as displays for decanters and glasses placed inside them. A large wine display occupies one side of the wall while another glass-fronted display encloses within it a pyramid-like formation with wine glasses. A large water screen also adds a subtle movement to a corner wall, panelled by glass. Seating around the bar is intimate and refined, with the best of world cuisine as a side order.

Says Santha, "The form and look of the space is important; not just candles or the curtains." And this has been achieved by Planet 3 Studios with strong architectural elements combined with unusual design treatments ❖

**TEXT: ANUPAMA BIJUR**

**PHOTOGRAPHS: SANJAY RAMCHANDRAN; COURTESY THE ARCHITECTS**