

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCIAL
Spaces that portray diverse approaches to commercial design

PROJECT: RESTAURANT ▼ ARCHITECT: PATCH DESIGN STUDIO

TEXT: TINA THAKRAR
IMAGES: PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA



Additional Info

- AREA: 3,310 SQFT
- LOCATION: MUMBAI

This bar and eatery incorporates modern design elements into the traditional Asian shophouse aesthetic.



From the outside, Shizusan Shophouse and Bar in Mumbai displays hints of being the abandoned mill building it once was, with the addition of bright red moulding and painted chrysanthemums. The two-storey structure is primarily a reused space, reinterpreted as an Asian apothecary cum traveller's repository, when in actuality, it's a contemporary Asian eatery in the heart of Mumbai.

Designed by Rika Chaudhry and Ipsit Patel of Patch Design Studio, Shizusan takes visitors to a time in the past when vernacular building styles and nomadic environments were common. Similar to traditional shophouses, the space is lined with inlaid Chinese cabinets, rows of shelves, antiques and knick-knacks. At the ground level, the tables are spaced out around an 18ft long log bar counter, extended at one end to form a community table.



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On the first floor, each shelf is filled with paraphernalia intrinsic to the travellers' lifestyle – vintage enamelled Asian dinnerware used to transport food, storage jars and tiffin carriers. This has been treated as the travellers' personal bar, made to emulate an antique Asian dining table.

— Rika Chaudhry, Principal Architect, Patch Design Studio



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The concept of the restaurant is woven around a fictional Japanese traveller, who collects recipes, maps and curios across his Asian travels. The space has been designed as a repository of his stories, travels and collections.

— Ipsit Patel, Principal Architect, Patch Design Studio



Sheltering the space are suspended plywood ceiling panels portraying the bio-diversity of Japan. Seasonal florals have been painted in order of bloom, starting with the popular Cherry Blossoms for spring, Wisteria for summer and Chrysanthemums for winter. The ceiling holds up wire-framed fabric lanterns that dimly illuminate the colonial furniture, traditional art and material palette.

As one ventures further inside, an Abacus staircase leads to the upper level which has a pitched roof, metal inlays of water lilies on the wall and dramatic arches over booths. Here too, the highlight is the towering, full-height bar cabinet against one wall, filled with potted plants, Chinese pots and pans and bottles of drinks. The red-flecked counter, access ladders, wall shelves with apothecary bottles and a dim sum station add authenticity to the traditional vibe.

Glimpses of several Asian countries — Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, China, Korea and Vietnam — can be seen in the furniture, designed using prevalent materials like teak, rosewood, cane and jute. Selected art pieces like nautical maps and block print pieces stand their own against the subtle palette of dark smoked wood, stone, brass, terracotta, glazed ceramic tiles, dark leather upholstery, pale plastered walls and polished cement floors.

Every aspect of the eatery resonates with elements of the Asian shophouse aesthetic, taking visitors to a place that is truly worth experiencing.

FYI

The dim sum station is covered with wooden strips forming abstract mountain landscapes.

THE SPECS

Contractor: Add One Interiors
Lighting: Bombay Atelier