

COMMERCIAL DESIGN

In conversation with
Canna Patel; Interiors
that changed the world
Furnitures to 'fly' for

The definitive guide to successful commercial spaces

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Workspaces that work

Profiling the most hot and
happening offices in India

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Where weird meets wonder

Indian motifs, baroque detail and a dash of Bollywood bling... One Group's office in Mumbai is a perfect marriage of the opposites

Ever imagined a sport and development company landing up with a workspace that looks like a joint venture between the queer, the traditional and a complete opposite of sports? The answer lies partly in the demand of One Group, who wanted their office in Mumbai to reflect the young, dynamic organisation they are, and partly on the design ingenuity of Planet 3 Studios, who completed this obtuse wish within a record time of a year!

The magic of this workspace begins at the entrance, which has outsized mouldings on either side of the wall that frame the reception desk. Chrome-plated chandelier, baroque-inspired window and complementing custom-designed seats set the mood.

What follows is a line of eye-popping meeting spaces, made lounge style, with walls constructed of hand-carved MDF panels patterned and embossed in graphic floral motifs and painted in a crimson tone of PU paint.

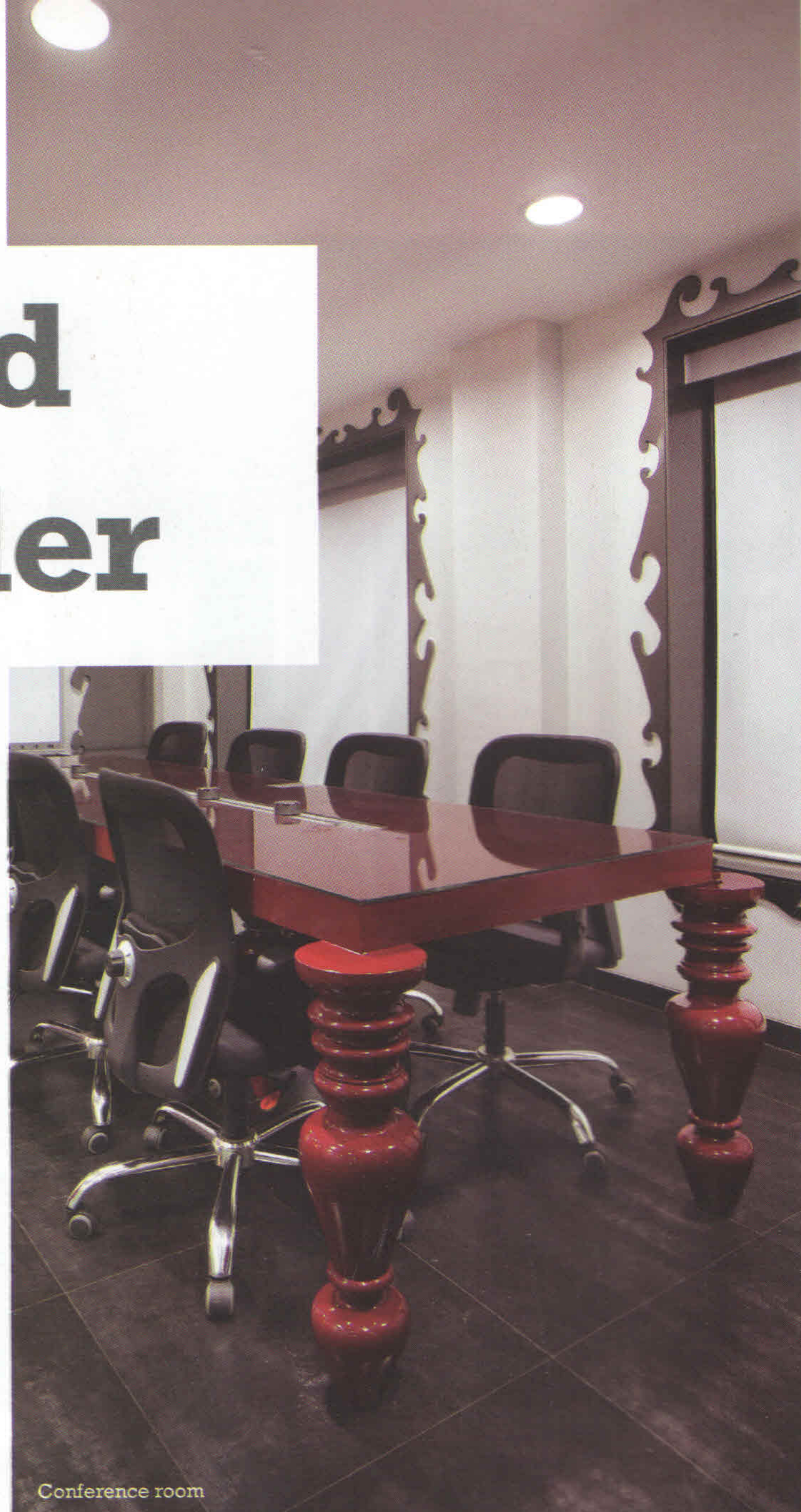
The chairs are locally sourced signature pieces created from chrome-plated metal strips woven in basket-like fashion with a neoclassic pedestal for a coffee

table. A long red conference table with charpoy posts for legs is the highlight of the conference room. An interesting colour-matched gunmetal grey bookshelf echoing Western cabinetry completes the room.

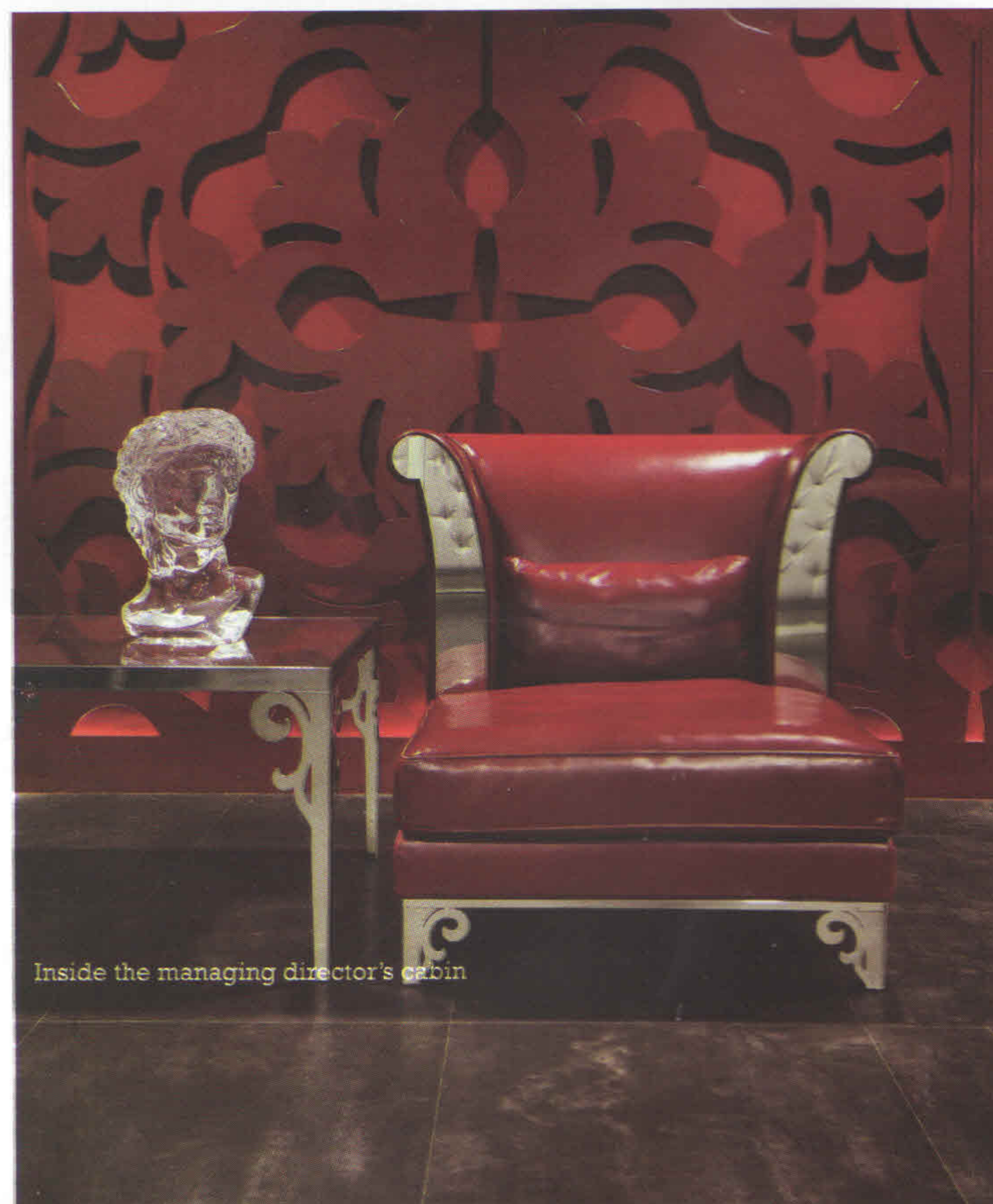
The open workstation area has demarcated bays framed in similar stylised manner that span the breadth of the hall. The flooring is a sheet of charcoal black ceramic tile with rustic finish and accents in silver specs. An organic, Indian pattern in white tile is inlaid into the passage suggesting a carpet of whimsical sorts. Similar organic patterns cover the storage units as well.

In keeping with the look, the work desks and cabinets in the bay have a strong design character much like the red charpoy posts similar to conference table hold up. The white desks are laminated to even the sheen. A red storage cabinet with a classical shutter design completes the work bay. Each cabin has a centered picture window at the back of the desk and the enclosure is in floor-to-ceiling glass.

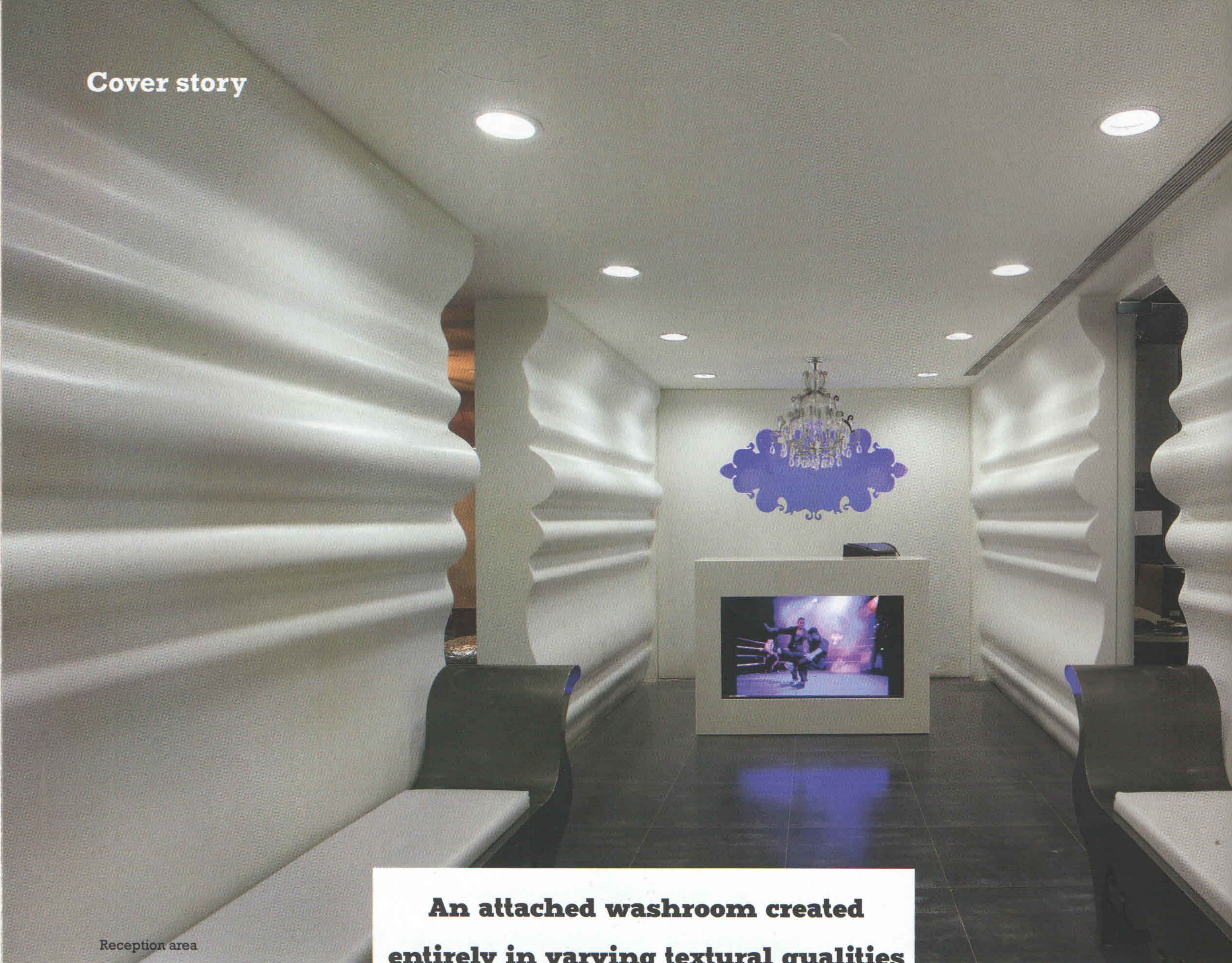
The large managing director's cabin is the most exuberant expression of this style that marries contemporary design to



Conference room



Inside the managing director's cabin




Reception area

An attached washroom created entirely in varying textural qualities of black granite and embossed with etched motifs on walls adds to the jarring yet inquisitive look of the 2,200 sq. ft office.

tradition. On one side is the backlit oversized jaali (lattice screen) layered in two tones of red giving the space a dramatic background, while on the other a white quilted panelling covers the entire room length, including the door.

The MD's desk is a humongous 8-feet long wooden panel in all white with lamination and dramatically designed in a neo-baroque style. A low, red calf leather couch with chrome accents set around a large touch-screen completes the room. An attached washroom created entirely in varying textural qualities of black granite and embossed with etched motifs on walls adds to the jarring yet inquisitive look of the 2,200 sq. ft office.

This office is an apt extension of the combined attitude of those who work there, day in and day out, 365 days a year. 



Managing director's cabin



Open work area



Washroom for the senior management



Santha and Kalhan Mattoo

About Planet 3 Studios

A young, award-winning design-build studio, Planet 3 Studios, led by Santha and Kalhan Mattoo, designed the office space of One Group. Their eclectic portfolio of built projects includes path-breaking architecture, interiors, product design and art, some of which are on display at the museums and galleries in New York, Barcelona and Singapore. Planet 3 Studios' USP is their use of intense programming to advocate solutions that are intuitive, equitable, flexible, experimentally satisfying, conforming to codes, environmentally sensitive and, most importantly, vehicles of positive change.

For more details, log on to www.planet3studios.com





Meeting area