

# cubes

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**going skin deep:**  
revenge of the pattern

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Featuring projects by Cell Space Architects, WOW Architects + Six Planes.  
Giorgio Armani and Paul Smith make a marriage of fashion and interior design.  
We decorate this issue with Bunch, Fumihiko Maki, Jayson Allenza, Stefani Hauger and many more.





Ted by Jemla Starb  
Photography by OSA Photography

# bollywood drama

THE RUPEE ROOM'S FASCINATING  
KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOURS IS A  
FEAST FOR THE SENSES.



Be prepared to have your senses launched into overdrive the moment you step into The Rupee Room. Vibrant, multi-coloured hues scream for attention, as do the bold artistic visual elements. The most surprising bit, perhaps, is the fact that this four-month-old Indian-themed bar is owned and operated by the same people behind the popular Harry's Bar chain. The Rupee Room is by far the most daring design concept the group has conceived yet, its closest peer being the nearby Moroccan – Moroccan Lounge & Bar with its heavily ethnic-inspired decor replete with intimate souk-style storefronts, also at Clarke Quay.

The Rupee Room calls to mind a certain Bollywood kitsch that actually works, drawing a strong following of high-profile, high net worth individuals in the Indian community, expats and locals alike. As an upmarket Indian-themed bar that pulls out all the stops in terms of cultural aesthetics, The Rupee Room is certainly the first of its kind in Singapore.

Its almost psychodelic display of visual imagery is facilitated by Indian artist Nehru Patel, known for her signature pop art laced with cultural messages, in collaboration with Jane Ilic Design Consultants, who's responsible for a number of Harry's Bars including its latest outing at Dempsey Hill. With lampshades, curtains and three PVC VIP booth seats as her canvas, Patel's iconic creative visual stimuli is interpreted as an amalgamation of images of Bollywood screen legends from yesterday executed pop art style. Bollywood followers will recognise familiar names like renowned Indian actor-director Raj Kapoor who ruled Indian cinema until the early 1980s. Pair these with the patterned upholstery draping the low-lying seats and metal beaded curtains that partition the VIP booths and the retro effect is cranked up to the max.

While the use of purple lighting plays a significant part in enhancing the audacious richness of the space, the cigar or smoking room, which sits up to 15, however, is dressed in more muted shades of beige, with only a modern-looking black chandelier and one of Patel's artworks on the wall to vie for attention. Over at the bar, the area beneath it is decorated with intricate designs reminiscent of Henna art.





Completing the *luxury-is-cheap*, irreverent vibe are two lamps that trace the silhouette of a lady's body. They are actually the torso of a female mannequin, with the lampshade imbued with Pata's artistry so that the 'head' is adorned with the visage of a legendary silver screen actress.

The Indian theme carries through to the choice of music spun by DJ Anurag, a well-known Indian DJ from Jaipur who's played for Indian royalty and Bollywood bigwigs. The Rupee Room enlivens anything fusion so only authentic Indian hip-hop party music is played and strictly-Indian MTVs are sownered on the two LCD displays.

Indians are known to love their drink as you'll find signature Indian cocktail concoctions here like *Chick-De-Pheta* (ay chick-deh-ik-eh), a head-spinning citrus mix of five spirits, *Jolly-Bolly* with a lychee liqueur and cranberry juice base the ladies love and an Indian version of the Mojito. Delhi-De amid an impressive array of single-malt whiskies including MacCallan, Singleton and Glenmorangie.

Stumbling out of the Rupee Room a lad inebriated due to the heady mix of visually-arresting imagery and fine spirits, we drew one conclusion: you either hate or love all that is dramatically daring about The Rupee Room. And judging from the number of mainstream private events that The Rupee Room has reportedly hosted since opening four months ago, there are many more, just like us, who seem to adore the sheer novelty The Rupee Room has to offer. **TR**

Rupee Room is located at 38 River Valley Road, #01-15. Tel: 6334 2485.