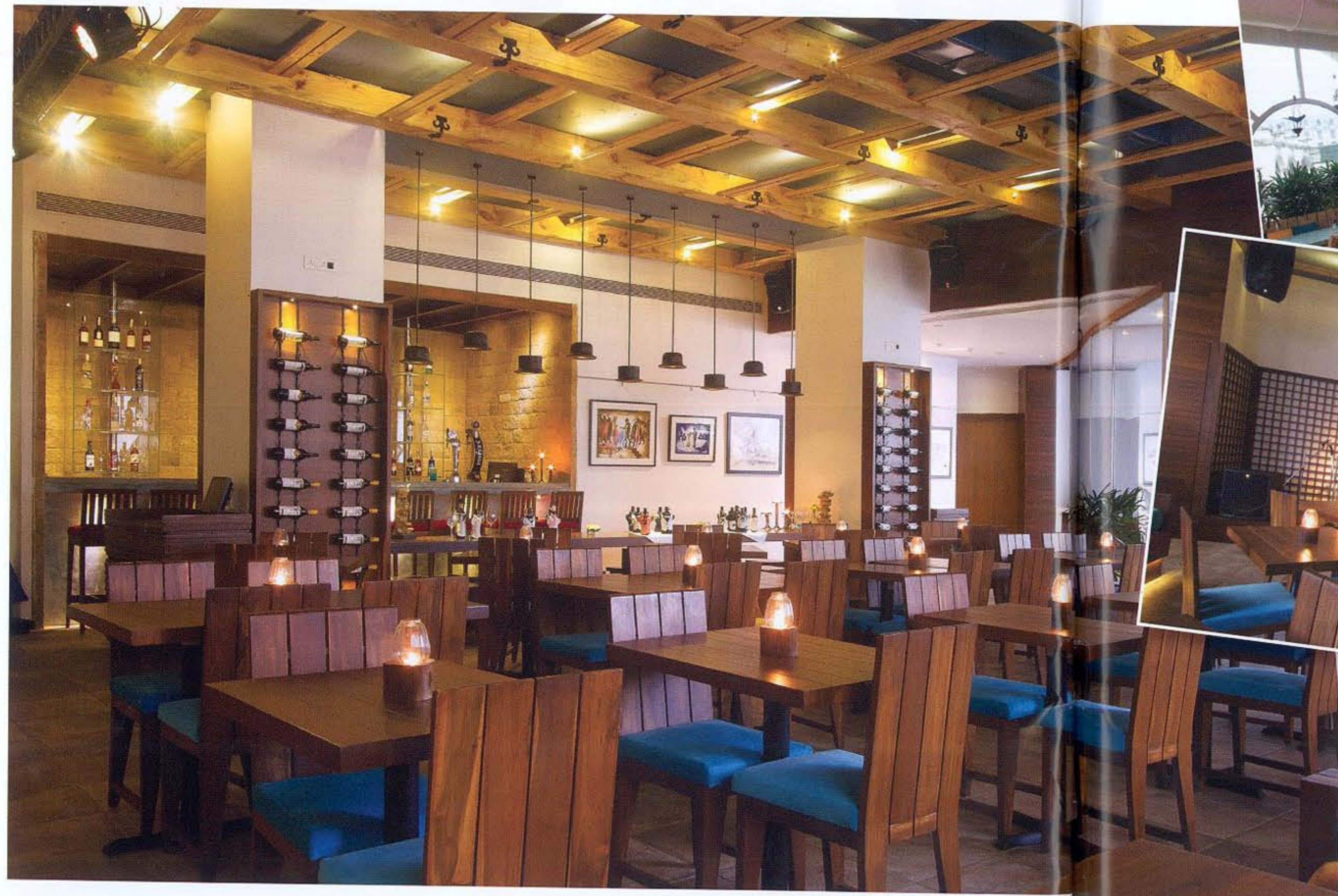


# BOLT FROM THE BLUE



OUT OF THE BLUE IN POWAI BRINGS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO MUMBAI'S SUBURBS WITH ITS QUIRKY TOUCHES AND COMFORTABLE INTERIORS, SAYS JANEES ANTIOO

Decorated in subtle tones to create a rustic ambience, Out of the Blue in the heart of Powai has altered the feel of the suburb. Amidst the verdant decor, ambient lighting and the statue of the enigmatic 'Wizard of OTB', this 150-cover restaurant is the perfect place for a casual dinner or to celebrate over delicious European cuisine.

"We take pride in making our design simple and not ornamental. We believe that ornamentation creates a sense of awe and is sublimely uncomfortable for clients. Our

guests can curl up on the Japanese-style seats or sit formally on chairs. However they may wish to be, Out of the Blue is theirs," discloses Shweta Kaushik, principal designer, Dr Art and Design.

The design concept was translated into rustic textural materials used to create a warm feel. The whole restaurant was designed in a monochromatic colour palette, which was ensured by utilising rough grey stone floor tiles along with an unusual shade of blue-grey on the ceiling. The coloured

ceiling contrasts with the natural pinewood rafters that run along the entire expanse of the restaurant.

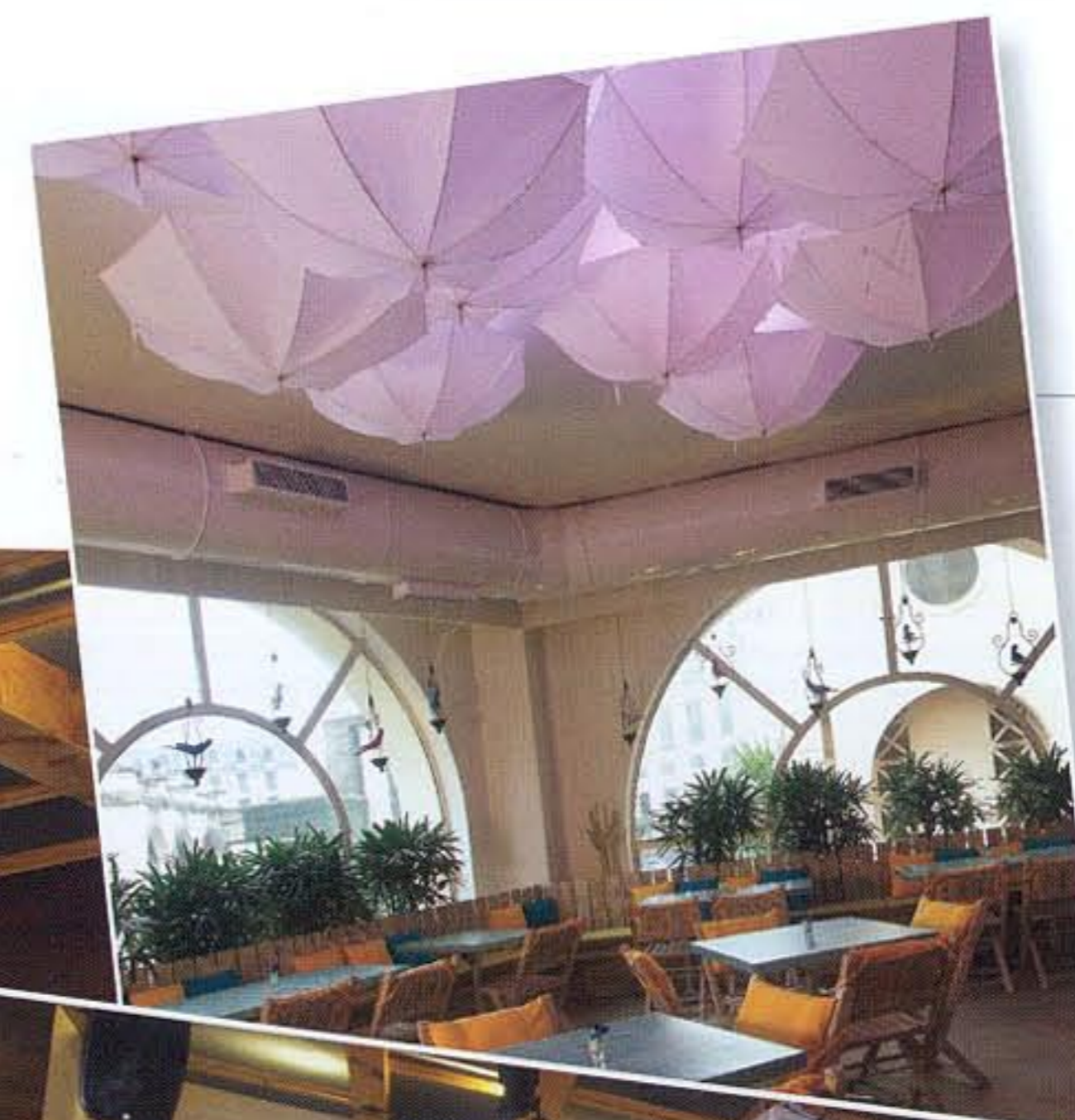
Five distinct zones were created: the main dining space, artificial courtyard, bar and community table, stage and exhibition area, and the dessert café.

The main dining area radiates urban sophistication and offers a romantic feel.

An air-conditioned verandah-like space is decorated with umbrellas placed on the ceiling, butterflies on the profusion of foliage

and sculpted parrots in suspended cages to give the feeling of a courtyard. The furniture and the colour selected for this section is designed to give a chirpy look and feel.

The stage area is an added attraction with its multitude of looks, thanks to the exhibitions, events and art shows that take place throughout the year. 'Aim', one of the aluminium sculptures displayed on opening night, depicted a man shooting at his goal in void in a powerful pose. The work demonstrates balance of movement and stability. Another sculpture, 'Leap' represents a lady taking a leap and breaking away from the confusion of reality and illusion to enjoy every moment completely.



## ELLA, ELLA... UMBRELLA

The cheery naturally-illuminated and air-conditioned outer room has a ceiling decorated with umbrellas. Parrots in cages and lots of foliage emphasise the feeling of a courtyard. The height of 13ft was achieved thanks to the fact that a false ceiling was avoided – making the place look and feel larger than it is.

## IT'S SHOWTIME, FOLKS!

The dining area includes a multi-functional stage/exhibition area. One can appreciate art at its best during 'Night of the artists' – when live sculpting, nouvelle art displays and other works by various artists are brought together under one roof. The best part is that each table gets to take home a free painting courtesy OTB.

## THE WIZARD OF OTB

The intriguing blue entrance tunnel beckons you inside the restaurant. The wizard of Out Of The Blue was created as a face for the popular brand and serves as a photo-op for patrons.

The sculptures displayed will change on a regular basis, according to the events held.

By using a mix of beige stone-work cladding on the walls and solid teakwood ceiling with rafters, the bar has been given a striking appearance. The shelves are made of glass to lend transparency, so one can enjoy the beauty of the natural stone. The community table was designed with bowler hats as lamps for a quirky touch. "The quiriness was further underlined by a 'one finger up' loo sign, which is quintessentially Indian," adds Kaushik.

### PROJECT DETAILS

Name of the project	: Out of the Blue
Location	: Haiko Mall, Powai, Mumbai
Design architect	: Shweta Kaushik
Project architect	: Dr Art and Design
Interior designer	: Shweta Kaushik
Management	: Dr Art and Design
Clients/owners	: Ambar Mahajan, Nikhil Gupta & Radha Bajaj
Area	: 4,200sqft
Project completion	: August 2011
Duration of project	: 3 months
Opening date	: August 17, 2011