

“Sattva is the guna for balance, order and purity. Buddha epitomizes qualities of this guna and revolutionized the world with his teaching of Nirvana as the state of the unconditioned mind. This is his room and this is his story.”

The Buddha explains *Nirvana* as the unconditioned mind, a mind that has come to a point of perfect lucidity and clarity due to cessation of ones actively making choices and decisions. This is described by Buddha as deathlessness and the highest spiritual attainment.

*Sattva* is the *guna* for balance, order and purity. Buddha epitomizes qualities of this *guna* and revolutionized the world with his teaching of Nirvana as the state of the unconditioned mind. This is his room and this is his story. Though the Buddha is portrayed as a character, Buddha simply means awakened and it's a state of mind. Located on the Sattva floor, the décor celebrates a minimalist, celestial, ethereal and aesthetic ambiance.

The predominant sepia and shell white tones reflect the colours of the *guna* as does the minimalist aesthetic approach in style and selection of elements. The L-shaped wall space above the bed is a virtual canvas where the alluring and ancient art of fresco is used in contemporary form. A visual walkthrough of the main events influencing the emergence of the Buddha and his life and times are depicted in ephemeral progression with artistic fluidity. The underlying theme portrays that we can face various defeats, obstacles and temptations and awaken our mind as Nirvana is really a state of mind.

The theme was so powerful and creatively inspiring to the designers that there were three concepts telling the story — all complete rooms in themselves. It was, however, a fourth one, which became the Nirvan room. It was the most debated

and discussed of all the rooms to get it just right. “The initial concept behind the room is done by Tanya Singh. Amitesh Shrivastava has executed the fresco, and the dove and hand cupboard. The *khadaus* are done by Sherali and the Stupa chair concept is by Preeti D'mello and crafted by Neil Dantas,” reveals Mitali Bajaj of Dr. Art + Design (the Design Studio that created Le Sutra).

The **fresco** showcases Prince Siddhartha's journey to becoming Gautama Buddha. It shows his life as a wealthy prince, the four encounters, which were with the old, the sick, the dead and the monk. It shows the great departure where he left his house and family to find the truth. He then spent six years as an ascetic; was tempted by evil forces to leave his path but eventually conquering temptation, he attained enlightenment sitting under the Bodhi tree. Buddha went on to share his knowledge through his teachings till his death at the age of 80.

The **dove and the hand** on the cupboard signifies that one needs to control the flighty mind and prevent it from being caught up in flights of fantasy.

The **khadaus** are symbolic of control, not only of the body but also of the mind, using the body as a vehicle to attain an elevated state. They also help preserve energy as they prevent the outflow of energy from the body.

**Stupa chair** is inspired by the Sanchi Stupa. The four *toranas* of the Sanchi Stupa, each represents love, peace, trust and courage. These are all very important attributes of attaining the Bodhisattva state of mind. 🌀

