


I N D I A ' S F I R S T W A S H R O O M M A G A Z I N E

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WASHROOMS AND BEYOND

- 
- **FOCUS:**  
The Washroom Saga
  - **DREAM BATHROOMS**  
The experts' definition
  - **TECHNOLOGY IN THE BATHROOM**  
Nanotechnology
  - **CONCEALED CISTERNS**
  - **MY SPACE: JIMMY MISTRY**  
The element of surprise



# Design is all about an Element of Surprise

The bathrooms at Jimmy Mistry's residence are a reflection of his deliberate and conscious approach to his most personal space.



Jimmy Mistry, labeled a "maverick" architect by a national business daily, has a method in his madness - or passion, if you please.

He designs and builds for clients, who, when it is all over and complete, would swear by his creativity; but, the process, according to Jimmy himself, can be tough and unforgiving. A workaholic of sorts, he confesses that the only time he can call his very own is when he luxuriates in the bathrooms he has built for himself and his family in his spacious 20,000 sq ft home at Della Towers in Mumbai's Parsi colony in the Dadar area.

The house is awash with high technology and upscale fixtures, although it is not an in-your-face luxury but a relaxed and very coordinated and constructed ambience, indeed. His architectural

practice - Della Tecnica - which he set up a little over a decade ago keeps him busy and creatively involved. As a self confessed "untrained architect and designer," he has brought great credit to his company with some exclusive projects and a considerable reputation for excellence and, as he would himself quip - his strong views on design and what is good for his clients!

His design philosophy, though deceptively simple, has a lot of thought simmering below the surface. As in his professional projects, he has paid great attention to every detail in the washrooms at his residence. With two growing daughters with minds of their own, he used all his persuasive skills to impress on them the necessity of his ideas and design. Thus, when it came to designing and constructing his own

living space, he put all his energies in one focused direction. "Dressing up, washing and resting - all these are a major part of the 'me' time I have in the day; therefore, it was vital for me to design my bathrooms exactly as I would like them and be comfortable in."

The leitmotif that runs through the bathrooms in his house is no different from that which pervades in every other room of this home.

## Master bathroom

"I wanted the master bathroom to be an extension of the master bedroom, and my fondness for natural light was one of the first things I incorporated in the design. There is a lot of cross lighting in the bathroom, and the position of the bathroom makes it easy for sunlight to move through that space in the full course of the day," says Mistry.









Continuity is an important element in all his designs, and he follows this dictum in every assignment that his company undertakes. By understanding the needs of the persons who will inhabit and use the rooms, Jimmy turns living spaces into a perfectly matched ambience for his clients.

He likens his role as an interior designer to that of any medical consultant. "Give patients a good hearing, understand their symptoms, needs and habits and desires, but at the end of the day you are the consultant and it is for you to prescribe what is best."

Not one to give too many explanations for what he does, he nonetheless has a sharp eye for understanding clients' needs. For example, while designing a residence in Indore, he went ahead and met the kids and elderly parents of his client, and only after getting a feel of their personality did he draw the first sketch on the interiors.

At home, it was his wife who he had to confront to push his designs, and it seemed to have gone quite well because she was only insistent on a walk-in bath, and it was just what he would have wanted too.

For the kids who would be more comfortable with a visual presentation, he went and showed them some built up plans to give them a hands-on experience of his ideas for their bathroom.

### Technology in design

The chromotherapy and color changing lights theme in the master bathroom is something that pervades the entire house. His idea of not to have just tone in any space is carried throughout the house.

The kid's bathroom has a silver touch, whereas the master bathroom has hues of grey and white.

As in many parts of the country, in Mumbai too it is important to conserve energy and water as much as one can as a responsible citizen. As an architect and designer, Jimmy's principle is to use technology and products that promote better environment sense.

The bathrooms at the Mistry residence have been perfectly calibrated to ensure least wastage of both water and energy. The faucets and showers release water at the right pressure, which ensures less water release for the same time. Even the temperature controls are designed carefully with preset temperatures so that not much water is wasted in the initial flow. The Jacuzzi is perhaps the only piece that utilizes 600 litres of water. Everything else, like the faucets with aerated flow mixers and lighting automation, is geared to save energy.

The bathrooms have a number of Kohler products with Villeroy & Boch in the main bathroom as well.

### Invest in design

Mistry's advice to his clients and colleagues has always been not to get taken in by brand names. That way living spaces turn into plastic and impersonal showpieces for branded products. "I work with a lot of research. The needs of a space need to define the equipment or product that is utilized in it," he reasons.

Investing in expensive products is no guarantor of getting what you always wanted. "The WC, which cost a whopping amount did not deliver what was envisaged with the electronic blue light in the toilet bowl, which instead of being steady, switches on and off erratically. This can be irritating visually. Even the shower cubicle, which costs Rs 5 lakh, didn't live up to the promise of the perfect internet radio, since there is no router in it.

While these hiccups might not be discernible or impact heavily on the performance of the particular product, when the client can be as finicky as Jimmy, things do matter.

Apart from this, Jimmy also believes that every corner of the bathroom, just like the living room, should be deliberate and focused on design.

### Powder rooms

The powder rooms are especially remarkable with an ethnic looking sink in a very Persian ambience created as a replica of a Moroccan piece. The faucet resting on the sink has an almost art like appeal to it. The same look is replicated in the bar tops elsewhere in the house. In another powder room, red onyx makes for the floor, lending it a romantic and welcoming aura.

According to Jimmy, design is all about an element of surprise. In the other powder room, the spout of the faucet seems to rise out of a cabinet with a mirror finish. When the water doesn't flow, one would probably find it difficult to discern whether or not, a faucet had been fitted there.

Apart from this, luxury is redefined in the in-house spa with attendant massage tables set in a soothing colorscape. Jimmy's attention to detail comes with a particular trait of striving for knowledge in what has got to be created.

"It is important to source the right products and not just bank on big names to deliver. Real design is about fulfilling a very inner need for harmony and not simply toeing the line - even if it is of factory-produced excellence," he emphasizes.

Indeed, a visit to the Mistry residence reflects just that!

Photography: Prashant Bhat









## "Special Contribution to Plumbing Design and Development"

The Honour for the "Special Contribution to Plumbing Design and Development" category, sponsored by Dornbracht India Pvt. Ltd.- was presented to Dr. Prem C Jain who has played a key role in designing only energy efficient, fire safe buildings since three decades.

The honour was presented by Parind Sarmalkar, Director, Donbracht India Pvt Ltd and Rock Galpin, International Designer from Rock Galpin Studio.

The founder of Spectral Services Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Dr. Prem Jain graduated in 1957 from Banaras Engineering College with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He completed his MS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Minnesota (USA) in 1960 and a Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering from University of Minnesota in 1967.

His company was established in 1980 with the mission of providing highly energy efficient, fire safe, fully coordinated MEP services designs for a variety of buildings planned in India. From being just four members strong in



1980, Spectral Services has grown to a large company with 500 members, 9 offices in India and 1 abroad.

Interestingly, a large percentage of India's finest hotels in India have borne his mark and that of his organization over the last 28 years, including ITDC, HCI, The Leela, Oberoi, Taj, Marriott,

Welcomgroup, Sheraton, Inter-Continental and others.

Dr. Jain has contributed significantly to the development of plumbing design and education in the country, and he is recognized for his valuable inputs in forming guidelines for the soon to be introduced plumbing norms.

## "Technology Driven Washrooms"



The Honour for the "Technology Driven Washrooms" category - sponsored by Grohe India Pvt. Ltd. - was presented to The Oberoi, Mumbai for special attention given in utilising technology to create efficient and luxurious bathrooms.

The honour was presented by Nilesh Sinha, G.M - Institutional Business, Grohe India Pvt Ltd and Jimmy Mistry Chairman and Managing Director, Della Technica to the Executive Housekeeper of The Oberoi, Mumbai, Suchitra Gambhir, who received the honours on behalf of the hotel.

Located in the city's prime business and shopping district of Nariman Point, The Oberoi, Mumbai has been completely redesigned to be the ultimate destination for contemporary style and luxury in the city. Apart from its legendary services,



The Oberoi, Mumbai is an ideal example for its technology driven washrooms with out-of-the box luxuries infused in it.

All the washrooms have water saving tap fixtures. The usage flow rate of water in the washbasins is less than 6 litres per minute and that in the shower head is 14 litres per minute. Also, the shower

head is designed to give a luxurious experience with three different modes, which also conserve water. The WC unit is designed for low water consumption as well. There's also a motorised privacy blind in each bathroom, and the hotel also has specially designed bathrooms for differently-abled people, as per ADA standards.





## "The Best Washroom Restoration in Heritage Building"



The Honour for the "Best Washroom Restoration in Heritage Building" category was presented to Devi Garh Palace, Udaipur - a heritage building that has been transformed into a high end resort with the perfect ambience of old glory.

The honour was presented by Tushar Desai, Vice President - Associate, IIID and Thorsten Bies, Sales Director, Villeroy & Boch Middle East, Asia and Subcontinent to Poonam Sethi from The Hotel firm, who received the honour on behalf of Devi Garh Palace.



The 18<sup>th</sup> century Devi Garh palace in the village of Delwara was conceived as a place where the past meets the future. The luxury hotel comprises 39 suites with an emphasis on design and detail, using local marble and semi-precious stones. The bathrooms at Devi Garh palace, are designed in a modern and contemporary manner, integrating traditional materials and motifs and contemporary designs.

The washrooms at the resort are the epitome of luxury and have tried to incorporate the old world charm with modern day conveniences. Modern products used in the washrooms are geared to conserve water and recycle it. Also, the plumbing and other internal works have been executed well, keeping the old ethnic feel of the property intact.

## "Unique Interior Design in Hotel Washrooms"

The Honour for the "Unique Interior Design in Hotel Washrooms" category, sponsored by Dornbracht India Pvt. Ltd. - was presented to ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru for its unique presentation of bathroom design.

The honour was presented by Parind Sarmalkar Director, Dornbracht India Pvt Ltd and Jimmy Mistry Chairman and MD, Della Tecnica to The Front Office Manager of ITC Gardenia, Neelam Kaul, who received the honour on behalf of the hotel.

ITC Gardenia is equipped with 292 luxury rooms and suites offering the discerning business and leisure traveller the best in hospitality and hotel services. And, flowing in from the rest of the exclusive and regal property is the washroom interiors, with its exquisite

designs, which makes the hotel stand apart from many of its contemporaries.

The washrooms in the hotel's suites incorporate a unique interior design along with modern amenities like a wooden chest, marble artefacts, marble lotus, among many more. The fine suite bathrooms come with exclusive rain, hand and head showers, which are crafted by the leading producers of bathroom products and accessories.

Moving on, the washroom in the Presidential Suite of the hotel comes in bullet proof glass with roller blinds for the bath spaces.

Last but not the least, reduce, re-use and recycle are the environmental messages sent out by every ITC Hotel. In step with this trend, ITC Gardenia, with its luxurious and stylish washroom interiors, also adheres to these strict environmental standards.



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