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+ INSIDE
A Crash Course in Bathroom Design

**A jeweller's showroom and residence in Barsi,
by architect Nitin Kshirsagar**

Timeless Elegance

Della Tower, a luxurious residential tower in Mumbai, recalls the glory of imperial Zoroastrian culture in its architecture, and architect and designer Jimmy Mistry's residence here speaks of his love for elegance, art and family values.

TEXT: BRINDA GILL



The façade of Della Tower, a 21-storey residential tower, at Parsi Colony, Dadar, Mumbai, offers a glimpse of the grandeur of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the ancient Achaemenid Empire in Iran, whose rulers practised the Zoroastrian faith, and whose descendants, the Parsis and Iranis settled in India.



High ceiling-to-floor sheer curtains with black drapes pulled to the side, large glass panels and low-back Chester white sofas, a design palette of black and white with a touch of matt gold and wood, infuse the formal living room with openness, elegance and warmth.

The ruins of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire in Iran, speak volumes of the grandeur of the Persian Empire way back in the sixth century BC. The remains of the grand terrace, dual staircase, soaring columns, carved friezes, and structures lead the mind to recreate the splendour of the capital city, from the sixth to

fourth centuries BC, whose rulers practised the Zoroastrian faith and whose descendants, the Parsis and Iranis settled in India much later. While the mind's eye can only envision the majesty and scale of the ancient imperial city in the landscape of present-day Iran, residents or visitors to Mumbai can experience a vignette of the Achaemenid

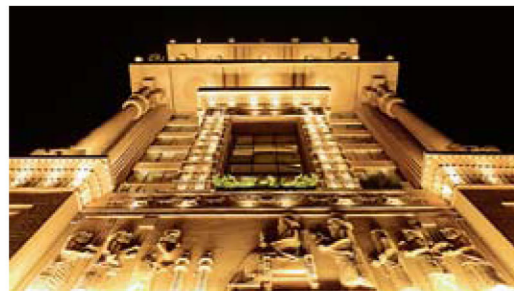
architecture and art in the eye-catching Della Tower located at Parsi Colony, Dadar.

A Masterpiece

Inspired by the heritage of the Zoroastrians, the oldest religious community of Iran, whose rulers founded the country's early imperial dynasties, Mumbai-based architect and designer



Architect and designer Jimmy Mistry.



The façade of Della Tower bears elements from ancient Zoroastrian monuments at Persepolis and Pasargadae, Iran. Jimmy interacted with and oversaw the work of two hundred artists over two years to ensure the images were perfectly conceptualized. Accent lighting in the evenings brings the reliefs alive and thus presents a striking architectural vista.

Jimmy Mistry was committed to creating a masterpiece that would inspire members of the Zoroastrian community and others to recall the glory of the Zoroastrian heritage.

Keen to design a unique secular building that would hold the essence of Zoroastrian culture, the first of its kind in 350 years of the community's presence in Mumbai, he researched the history, architecture and art of the Zoroastrian dynasties in Iran. Drawing from that heritage, whilst keeping in mind the authenticity and symbolism of its expression, he designed a 21-storey tower whose façade

is replete with elements from the Zoroastrian monuments at Persepolis and Pasargadae; both cities are UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Iran. It was a mammoth undertaking as two hundred artists, worked for two years, to create drawings and clay art works. Jimmy interacted with them throughout to ensure the detailing and scale of the sculpture on the façade would be perfect. And once the moulds were finalized, they were rendered through multiple mediums – GRC, stamp concrete and foam concrete-and then assembled on the façade.

And so the contemporary structure emerged, rising like a stately column with setbacks and projections, showcasing a façade graced with a standing image of Prophet Zarathustra and Shah Lorashp (each two-and-a-half floors high), a recreation of the famed 'Gate of All Nations' from Persepolis; carved friezes including a panel depicting people bringing tributes to King Darius the Great, mythological creatures such as human-headed winged bulls, and columns bearing capitals of composite figures. Adding to the historical narratives are symbolic



The breakfast table for the family with chairs designed by French designer Philippe Starck for Kartell and a Fabbian lamp overhead.



The family living room echoes the design palette of the formal living room in its colours and elements. A fan with chopper blades adds interest to the space.

depictions such as the struggle between a bull and a lion that has multiple interpretations including signifying the cycle of life and of seasons.

A Home infused with Art and Warmth

Yet, if the architecture of Della Tower is a tribute to his religious and cultural roots, Jimmy was certain that he wanted his residence to be rooted in his values of being family-centric, of shared spaces, of being surrounded by art and of endorsing an ethos of timeless elegance. So it is that while he set aside the top floors for his family, he ensured the spaces and their embellishments from artefacts to lighting, furniture, furnishings and technology, were designed to offer comfort, warmth and grace as much as they were customised and luxurious.



A horse, crafted with Austrian crystals, one of Jimmy's favourite artworks

The residence starts from the sixteenth floor that has a lobby, lounge, security, guest room, gym, salon and spa, office and library.

The seventeenth floor has the family living and dining rooms, home theatre room, kitchen and laundry. The next floor has the master bedroom and the kids' room. The couple's three children share a large room as Jimmy believes that (while there was space to give them individual rooms) they should grow up sharing space with each other, as he did as a child, and as that is the core of a family. The nineteenth floor has the formal living and dining room with a twenty-four seater dining table, and an outdoor garden. The twentieth floor has services and the filtration for the swimming pool, and the top-most floor has a swimming pool and terrace garden.



The bar with a display of Jimmy's collection of malts and vodkas



The horse-shoe entrance of the spacious children's room

Jimmy's love for beautiful art and elegance flows through the residence. He enjoys having friends and visitors over and entertaining at home; he is happy to have over two hundred guests over with everything required for the party prepared and at hand at home. The spacious living and dining areas are a testimony to his love for get-togethers as they have a choice of seating areas for large and small groups, bar counters with seating, and an adjoining open to sky terrace complete with artificial grass.

While high ceiling-to-floor sheer curtains with black drapes pulled to the side, large glass panels and low-back white sofas create a sense of space and openness, a design palette of black and white, with a touch of matt gold and wood infuses it with warmth. Small details like the



The powder room designed in blue tones reminiscent of the blue-tile work of Persia.

ancient, auspicious twelve-petal flower and the key pattern along the borders of the carpets add interest and meaning to the spaces.


A grand self-playing piano at the far end of the living room, porcelain figurines from Lladro, the dining table always immaculately set with a customised white linen tablecloth, black crystal chandeliers and a painting by artist Gadnis speak of his eye for art and for fine living. A large red dragon takes pride of place on a shelf. Jimmy's love for animals shines in equine collectibles from a sparkling crystal horse to a statuesque black horse lamp and sphinx figurines. The two powder rooms on the floor are aesthetically designed. One is designed in blue tones: it has beautiful blue tiles on the counter and sunken sink, the



The open-to-sky pool on the top floor with a covered lounge area that blends traditional and modern elements in its design.

The twenty-four seater dining table is always immaculately set with a customised white linen tablecloth, fine crockery and cutlery.

tap faucet set in a blue ceramic cup-shaped holder, and blue patterned wallpaper that is reflected in the large mirror.

As the sun goes down and accent lights come on, the façade of Della Tower and its sculpture glow like golden sandstone. Within his residence, Jimmy is at home with his family and friends, enjoying its space, beauty and art. And most of all, he feels blessed to have been able to create a residential tower that brings to mind the glory of the community's heritage that faded away in the land of its birth. 

Inspired by the imperial Zoroastrian architectural heritage of Iran, architect and designer Jimmy Mistry was committed to creating a masterpiece that would inspire members of the Zoroastrian community and others to recall the glory of ancient Zoroastrian art and architecture.