

J H A A L F A R E Z I

A SPATIAL, ARCHITECTURAL, CITYSCAPE AND CULINARY EXPERIENCE IN KOLKATA.

TEXT COMPILED BY KIRAN GROVER, PHOTOGRAPHS: SANJAY RAMCHANDRAN & SUBIR BANERJEE, COURTESY AMBUJA NEOTIA





We teamed up with some very talented and off-beat graphic artists to produce a visual tapestry that is light-hearted, reminding us not to take ourselves too seriously!





The seating area of the bar is a melange of the modern and old. The open brick walls flaunt a collection of enamelled plates with quirky colloquial expressions. Jute pouffes, cast iron stools and old barber chairs recall Kolkata's industrial past. A grid of suspended glass jars dramatises the ceiling.



The all white café with its bricked walls covered with tongue-in-cheek posters inspired by salacious Bhojpuri songs, graphically rendered in the old Kolkata street art style, the Kalighat Pat Chitra. A cluster of old style industrial lights add drama.



The private dining room with its dramatic light installation made of broken green wine bottles. A motley collection of coloured old chairs and the comic, colourful art on the walls, all lend a fun feel.



A happy dining room in the cheerful colours of pink and aquamarine. The walls tell a short story, in the comic strip format of a Bengali, Mr Mazoomdar, on a visit to colourful Rajasthan.



The fine dining room is a harmonious blend of warm wood, a varied collection of old colonial chairs, monochromatic graffiti on the walls and contemporary lighting on the ceiling.



restaurant



The décor – a riot of designs, ranges from rustic chic to Bollywood melodrama and comic strips. There is a harmonious balance of warm wood, cold metal, neon lights, stunning light installations, old posters, and monochromatic graffiti amongst others. While Rajasthan appliques of Bollywood songs scream from the walls in the Music Room, industrial fittings and furniture reflect the city's industrial past. The Cafe's bricked walls have framed risqué posters in Bhojpuri dialect done in Kolkata's street art, the Kalighat Pat Chitra.

The lower floor houses the Music Room, Cafe and the Bar, while the upper floor is reserved for fine dining, spread over a set of formal and informal dining rooms. The mood created by the

The vintage bungalow, spread over approximately 10,000 sq ft, stands stunning in its new avatar.



myriad art and installations adds to the versatility of the cuisine.

To quote Harsh Neotia of Ambuja Neotia, 'Jhaal Farezi has been somewhat of an exploration, giving me the opportunity to interpret eclectic impressions and sensibilities that have dented and stayed on in my mind over time. It is only when such restored buildings stay relevant in the march of time, that they can sustainable. We teamed up with some very talented and off-beat graphic artists to produce a visual tapestry that is light-hearted, reminding us not to take ourselves too seriously! The juxtaposition of the old with the new creates a unique feel. I can only humbly hope that the philosophy and creative energy that has gone into the making of Jhaal Farezi finds resonance in the "City of Joy" and beyond.'