

india

arc

mondo

AN INITIATIVE BY STIR

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Piero Lissoni

#IMETLISSONI

*B&B Italia and FLOS recently hosted internationally renowned designer **Piero Lissoni** for a two-day event in collaboration with **mondo*arc india** at the **vis a vis Experience Centre** in New Delhi. Day one was dedicated to a presentation of the architect's work and the launch of new furniture and light collections by the two eminent brands respectively.*

After a long day of press interactions, a quick soiree around town, splurging on exquisite Indian teas and feasting on especially home cooked Indian fare, Piero Lissoni was not an ounce lighter on excitement, enthusiasm and energy having flown into town only the previous night. He was, in fact, a little nervous seeing guests pouring in. As evening dawned, colossal crowds gathered at the vis a vis Experience Centre for what promised to be an enthralling event. Prominent personalities and ardent enthusiasts from the world of architecture, fashion, art and design from across the country were joined by industry

professionals as well as selected students. The evening commenced with an opening note by Amit Gupta, Director, vis a vis and also Publisher, mondo*arc india. Reflecting on a journey over the last ten years and a fascinating interaction with Lissoni a decade ago, Gupta shared a warm welcome setting the stage for a spirited oration. Massimo Franchi (Area Manager of India and Asia Pacific, B&B Italia) and Carlo Moro (Commercial Director of Architectural & Outdoor Collections, FLOS) also took the mic to share about their distinguished brands that have paved the way towards leading innovation in product design. Referencing the many innovative



Pics: mondo*arc india

installations constructed at the venue by the STIR team and an extensive selection of products by B&B Italia, Franchi spoke about the newly launched SAKE collection of furniture. Moro commended the efforts of the curatorial team and applauded Lissoni for his latest collection of FLOS outdoor products launched for the first time in India. Hinting on conversations with the designer, Mrinalini Ghadiok (Editor, mondo*arc india) delivered a lighthearted but heartfelt introduction to Lissoni as a multiple award-winning master craftsman of spaces, furniture, products, as well as graphics. He then took the floor to share

his tryst with design, showcasing a series of products and the process behind them. This was elevated only by an extensive walkthrough of some of his iconic projects peppered across the globe, some of which include The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah in Ajman, Consortium Hotel in Amsterdam and even the renovation of The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai. Lissoni's casual demeanour was engaging and entertaining, and his work inspiring. This part of the evening was brought to a close as Gurjit Bains (Owner, B&B Italia and agent of B&B Italia in India) extended a heartfelt felicitation to Lissoni and invited the crowd to experience the studio and

"I never wake up in the morning with a good idea. I like to be curious, I like to make mistakes. To design something, you need some special craziness. It is not enough to choose just one crazy designer or one crazy architect or one stupid Piero. When you combine different stupidities, you design a process."
 – Piero Lissoni

witness the magic of Lissoni's design as manifested in the SAKE seating system and Formiche, manufactured by B&B Italia, and the Outdoor Collection of lighting products by FLOS. However, the night was just getting warmed, as the horde of visitors stepped out into the lawns for a special evening of networking over drinks and dinner, followed of course by a rocking party.
www.bebitalia.com
www.flos.com
www.visavisindia.com



Piero Lissoni, Aman Nath



Anuja Gujral, Sanjay Puri, Supraja Rao, Kanchan Puri, Sonali Bhagwati

#IMETLISSONI, did you?



Mrinalini Ghadiok, Piero Lissoni, Subhashish Mandal



Tarun Tahiliani



Gurjit Bains



Carlo Moro



Massimo Franchi



Amit Gupta



Mrinalini Ghadiok



Purshottam Bhageria



Sagar Chordia



Jattinn Kochhar



Samta Nadeem, Tithi Tewari, Gautam Tewari, Dinesh Panwar



Hardeep Gupta, Vistasp Kharas



Shubhajt Sen



Ashiesh Shah, Piero Lissoni



Arvind Hoon, Anil Singh, Linus Lopez



Pinky Pandit, Hardeep Gupta



Dominic Dube



Uphar Chibber, Jyoti Chibber, Prashaant Kochhar, Natasha Kochhar

... TO BE CONTINUED



Hotels today are defined not by a checklist, but an engagement with its patrons. They are judged not on their offerings, but the interaction with their tenants. These engagements and interactions are determined by the often-deliberate choreography of distinct ideologies and their physical manifestation of the design construct.

Great design creates great experiences... great experiences shape great hospitality.

On the second day of the event, mondo*arc india hosted a Round Table Conversation to discuss this very idea. Stalwarts from the fields of design and hospitality came together to share ideas and experiences, and to debate on how 'great design creates great experiences...great experiences shape great hospitality'.

Moderated by Mrinalini Ghadiok (Editor, mondo*arc india) and Sumant Jayakrishnan (ace Scenographer), the session witnessed an intriguing dialogue between Piero Lissoni (Architect, Lissoni Associati), Sunita Kohli (Interior Designer, K2 India), Sanjay Puri (Architect, Sanjay Puri Architects), Aman Nath (Founder, Neemrana Group of Hotels), Sunil Ghadiok (Hotelier, Nidra Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.), JJ Valaya (Fashion Designer, House of Valaya), Mohit Balachandran (Celebrity Chef, SodaBottleOpenerWala), Amit Gupta (Director, vis a vis and Publisher, mondo*arc india), Gurjit Bains (Owner, BGB Italia and agent of B&B Italia in India), Carlo Moro (Commercial Director of Architectural & Outdoor Collections, FLOS), and Massimo Franchi (Area Manager of India and Asia Pacific, B&B Italia).

Devil Is In The Details

I think I am interested in the Devil. God is too good and sometimes gets too aggressive. The other one is full of surprises. When you design in a country like the Emirates (referring to his project, The Oberoi Beach Resort, Al Zorah in Ajman), the devil is there every second to prepare incredible surprises for you, in terms of quality, creativity, and often even as ugly and horrible modifications.

– Piero Lissoni



Timeless Key To Perfection

The true trademark of a really fine design is the effortless simplicity of the product. It is when you do not see the complex ways that one has worked through solutions.

– Sunita Kohli



Present And The Past

When we talk about the contemporary, we should not always polarize it as history vs. contemporary. You do not have to copy everything. There are other ways to evoke the past. I think one has to mix and marry elements to evoke new design sensibilities.

– Aman Nath



Seeking Clarity

The problem today is that people are building in India in a way that they are building anywhere else. The real problem is the lack of awareness. By all means, build today, but you have to keep the construct contextual to the climate. We should definitely imbibe ideas from tradition but there isn't a need to copy.

– Sanjay Puri



Great Hospitality Is Synonymous With Great Operations

Brands have now very carefully set out their parameters in terms of design and specifications. Whether it is the definition of the artwork, the room sizes, accessories, or anything else; the fundamentals are established by the brand, which is a big plus for the hospitality industry. These elements, however, do not define the interior design. It sets the pace for the minimum. As long as the minimums are met, the designer has a free hand to create.

– Sunil Ghadiok



Going Global

I do witness the growth of design discerning audience in India. The design language is becoming more global and less local in the country.

– Gurjit Bains



Lending an Emotional Quotient

Lighting is nothing but the emotional quotient of a space. However, 99% of the times, designers fail to use it as a design tool to create an identity, which a brand or a particular project craves for. The personality which lighting derives from a design language is what is missing in most practices.

– Amit Gupta



Capturing Design In My Lens

As a photographer, to me, light is very important, especially the interaction between natural and artificial light. I believe that a building changes its personality from day to night. If it ends up looking the same after dusk, as it has all day, it has lost the mystery of the space.

– JJ Valaya



Serving Excellence

We believe that our mission in the hospitality industry, which is a great part of our business is to deliver iconic pieces from the best designers around the world who have been working with us for many years. Our approach to business is to deliver the ideas of master designers and integrate into their scope of work what they want for the operators and developers of hotels.

– Carlo Moro



Moments That Matter

Design is not restricted to architecture or interiors or fashion. Design is everywhere and is inherent in everything we do. The physical manifestation of design needs to be synergized with the experience of it. On the other hand though, it is interesting to note that a carefully considered experience will not always result in an (aesthetically) well-designed space.

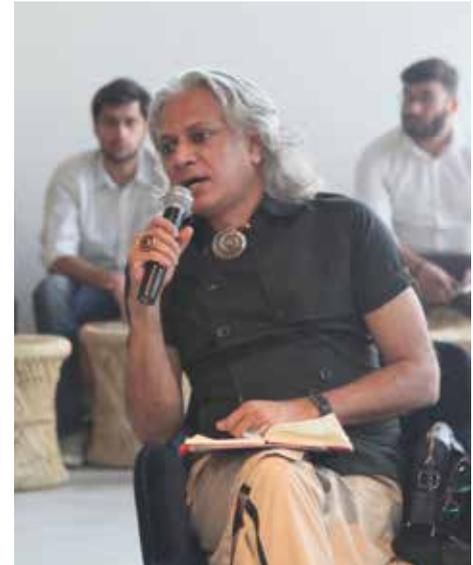
– Mrinalini Ghadiok



Opportunities Abound

It is very difficult to talk about modern design and tradition, but we must not forget that India is one of the largest countries in the world wherein different cultures live together. For many years, India was not on the international market in terms of trading. Nowadays it is fully open. There are a lot of great opportunities for designers looking to do something different.

– Massimo Franchi



The SHIFT

This summer, I spent two months away working on an Italian Opera. I was designing the stage and costume in London. I was not there as an Indian designer, I was there as a designer contextually coming up with what was right for the design. And that is what I find interesting – seeking opportunities and situations where one is looking at what is correct for the space. The rules are changing.

– Sumant Jayakrishnan

And How Can We Miss Food?

I run a Bombay- Irani Café. If we open an outlet in Hyderabad or even Bangalore, we don't become Hyderabadi or Bangalorean. We have to be true to who we are. We have to stick to the sensibilities of our particular culture in design. When a customer comes in, he wants the specific ideology that you are putting out.

– Mohit Balachandran

...When a diverse group of design discerning professionals such as this gets together to talk about design, the conversation is not only enthralling but also intriguing and rather beguiling. The talks would have continued and ideas would have flowed liberally, but as we know good things must come to an end. And they did, only temporarily, almost like a pause - for the most sumptuous fare of Parsi cuisine, delightfully presented and delectably sinful. The team at SodaBottleOpenerWala, led by chef Anahita Dhondy outdid itself in graciously providing a lavish lunch. And like we said, this is just a protracted pause, for there are many more conversations, ideas and exciting adventures lined up ahead. Till then, let's continue celebrating great design!