

Postcards

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Embracing Green Architecture in India's Elite Homes



Luxury apartment in Ahmedabad by Saptarshi Das

In the realm of luxury living in India

a new wave of architecture is emerging — one that seamlessly blends opulence with environmental responsibility. Green architecture, also known as sustainable architecture, has become synonymous with the aspirations of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) seeking homes that not only exude grandeur but also uphold principles of environmental stewardship.

Imagine a home where every aspect, from its foundation to its rooftop terrace, is meticulously designed to minimise its carbon footprint. In bustling metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Delhi where space is at a premium, architects are redefining what it means to build sustainably. High-rise luxury apartments are incorporating energy-efficient glass facades that harness natural light while reducing heat gain, thus lowering the need for artificial cooling — an essential feature in India's tropical climate.

A recent study by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) revealed that green buildings in India save up to 30-50% of energy and 20-30% of water compared to conventional buildings. This data underscores the growing importance of sustainability in the luxury real estate market. Beyond reducing energy consumption, green architecture in luxury homes focuses on materials that are not only durable but also sustainable. From bamboo flooring that regenerates quickly to reclaimed wood sourced from old structures, these materials not only add a touch of rustic elegance but also contribute to conserving natural resources. Moreover, the integration of advanced insulation techniques and solar panels further enhances energy efficiency, making these homes not just symbols of luxury but also beacons of environmental responsibility.

One of the hallmarks of green architecture in luxury homes is its emphasis on water management. In a country often grappling with water scarcity, especially during summer months, these homes employ rainwater harvesting systems that collect and store rainwater for various household needs. This practice not only reduces dependency on municipal water supplies but also mitigates urban flooding — an increasingly common concern in rapidly urbanising areas. According to a report by NITI Aayog, by 2030, India will face a steep fall of around 40 per cent in freshwater availability, making these innovations not just beneficial but essential.



Passage landscaping by Mahmud Kara

Examples of such green luxury properties include the Raheja Vanya in Gurgaon, which boasts of green rooftops and rainwater harvesting systems, and the Tata Housing Serein in Mumbai, known for its eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient designs.

As more HNIs prioritise environmental impact alongside luxury and comfort, the demand for green homes is poised to grow. By choosing to invest in green architecture, homeowners not only make a statement of their values but also contribute towards building a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come.

Furthermore, landscaping in these homes transcends mere aesthetics. Native plants that require minimal water and maintenance are favoured, creating sustainable green spaces that thrive in India's diverse climates. These gardens not only provide a serene sanctuary amidst urban chaos but also serve as natural habitats for local flora and fauna, promoting biodiversity in urban settings.

Beyond the physical attributes, green architecture in luxury homes fosters a lifestyle centred around sustainability. Homeowners are encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices such as composting organic waste and using energy-efficient appliances, thereby reducing their environmental footprint. A study by the World Green Building Council found that green buildings improve the health and well-being of occupants, with 80% of residents reporting increased productivity and well-being.



Project Tata Serein in Thane, Mumbai



To Gift

Ocio Travel Set With Carry Case

Imagine savouring your favourite tea wherever your adventures take you. This fine Ocio Travel Tea Set combines convenience and luxury, making it an essential companion for the discerning traveller. Encased in a stylish, durable travel case, this set includes a 260ml teapot and two charming 40ml cups, perfect for sharing a moment of quietude with a friend.

Crafted by Dancing Leaf, known for their high-quality teas, the Ocio set ensures your tea ritual remains uninterrupted, no matter where you are. The sleek design and compact size make it effortless to carry, while the double-walled architecture ensures a perfect brew every time. Whether you're a seasoned traveller or a spontaneous adventurer, this Travel Tea Set will add a touch of elegance to your journey.



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To Watch

Federer: Twelve Final Days

This documentary is an intimate and emotional piece that explores the final moments of Roger Federer's illustrious tennis career. Initially intended as a personal memento, this behind-the-scenes Amazon Prime Video documentary delves into Federer's emotional journey as he prepares to bid farewell to the sport he dominated for over two decades.

Throughout the documentary, we can witness Federer's heartfelt interactions with his greatest rivals and friends — Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray — highlighting the deep respect and camaraderie shared among these tennis legends. The documentary's poignant scenes, such as Federer's tearful farewell and his final match alongside Nadal, provide a deeply moving and very human portrayal of his journey.



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To Read

Becoming Steve Jobs

by Brent Schlender & Rick Tetzeli



A nuanced and in-depth look at the life and career of one of the most iconic figures in technology. Unlike previous biographies, this book delves into Steve Jobs' personal and professional evolution, painting a picture of a man who learned from his failures as much as his successes. Schlender, a veteran journalist who covered Jobs for over 25 years, brings unique insights and personal anecdotes that reveal the complexities of Jobs' character.

From his tumultuous early years at Apple to his transformative leadership at Pixar and his triumphant return to Apple, this biography is a compelling narrative of innovation, resilience, and visionary thinking. Whether you're a tech enthusiast or simply curious about the man behind the iPhone, "Becoming Steve Jobs" offers valuable lessons on leadership, creativity, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

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