

## ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

# This 60,000-square-foot antique furniture store is Byculla's best kept secret

At The Great Eastern Home in Byculla, Mumbai, rare art deco finds from Europe, India, and the far east sit alongside pieces from its new Post Deco range.

By Nuriyah Johar

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*A handpainted screen from The Great Eastern Home's Post Deco collection that maps Mumbai, complete with its iconic art deco structures interspersed with markers of the everyday. The Great Eastern Home*

In the leafy neighbourhood of Byculla, removed from the art deco stretches across South Mumbai, an unassuming bylane leads you into a pocket of the city suspended in time. Here, in a former cotton mill, The Great Eastern Home emerges as a cabinet of curiosities—filled with antiques, collectibles, period furniture pieces and artworks that span both centuries and geographies. Difficult as it may be for any collector to play favourites, Anurag Kanoria, The Great Eastern Home's founder, says, "We have pieces from various periods—Baroque, Rococo, Art Nouveau, etc.—but the Art Deco period is special for us."



Featuring oversized wooden knobs and bold carvings, this Burmese art deco dressing table embodies the region's unique interpretation of the style. *The Great Eastern Home*

Housed within its rarefied repository are art deco treasures from Europe, India, Myanmar and other parts of the Far East. Kanoria's favourites include an extraordinary Burmese bed held up by sacred dragon structures and a Scandinavian art deco cabinet finished with an exotic burl wood veneer and inlaid with bone, brass and mother-of-pearl. Other highlights include a Burmese dressing table from the late 1800s, with a three-mirror panel shaped in the form of a simple petal detail, likely inspired by the sunburst motif.



Another view of the screen. *The Great Eastern Home*

In addition to the wealth of antiques, the in-house studio has been designing new ranges in a style they've christened Post Deco. "We looked at the times in which art deco was at its ascendant—earlier, it was a sort of hope for a new future," says Niti Gourisaria, design head at The Great Eastern Home. The pièce de résistance among their original designs is a handpainted screen that maps Mumbai, complete with its iconic art deco structures interspersed with markers of the everyday: banyan trees, kaali-peeli taxis and a tangle of overhead cable lines.



Furniture from the Post Deco collection. The Great Eastern Home

Kanoria is unsurprised that the ideas and concepts from the Art Deco movement have made a resurgence. He says, “Once again, it helps the design world to rearticulate its needs like no other period style has done.”

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