

TEXT: TINA THAKRAR

## Bengaluru-based architect Jatin Hukkeri has found his forte in hospitality design, infusing his projects with distinctly identifiable elements

Jatin Hukkeri's career was always focused on architecture, but the transition to the F&B industry only occurred six years ago. Since then, he's gone on to make a mark on Bengaluru's restaurant scene with his innovative designs, strong elements that prompt relatability and a packed portfolio of eateries and bars in Bengaluru, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, London, Mumbai and Pune.

Armed with a degree in architecture from RV College of Architecture in Bengaluru, Hukkeri began his career with stints at Khosla Associates and Anil Dube Architects, before setting up Workroom for Design + Architecture in the city in 2010. With a strong experience in hospitality, retail, residential and institutional projects, Hukkeri's initial work was largely focused on residences, until a chance project introduced him to the world of restaurants in 2012. The project was Bakasur in Bengaluru, which went on to have multiple outlets within the city. From then on, Hukkeri began to be known for his hospitality projects, which he is now solely focused on.

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“Every project begins with a moodboard and layout - the former identifies the look and feel of the space, and the latter specifies how the area will be utilised.”

— Jatin Hukkeri, Founder and Principal Architect, Workroom for Design + Architecture





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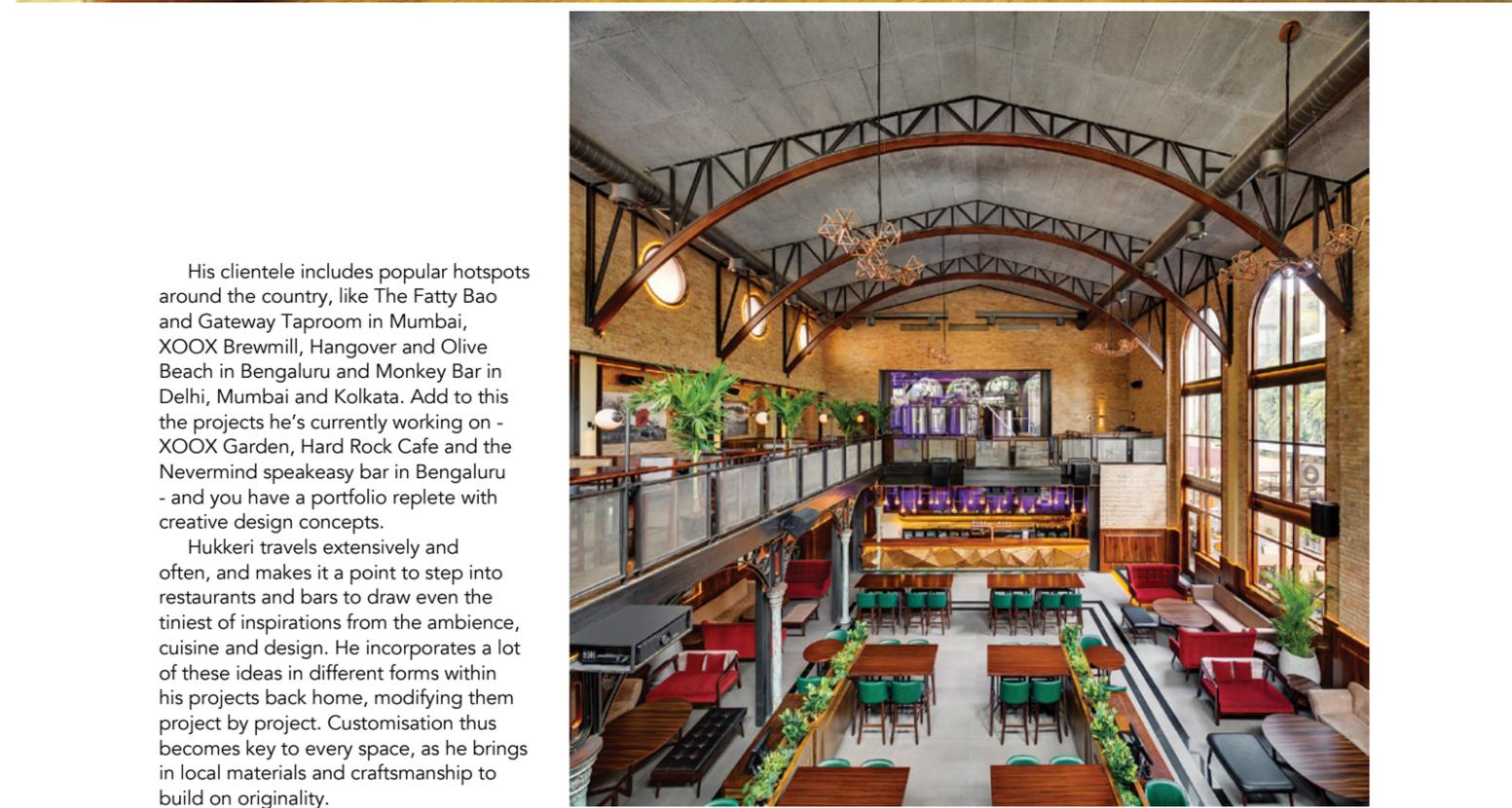
“We request every client to give us a wishlist that identifies everything they want to do with the space - from the theme to the furniture and curios. This gives us a clear understanding of their most innate desire for their space.”

— Jatin Hukkeri, Founder and Principal Architect, Workroom for Design + Architecture

**FYI**  
Hukkeri identifies The Pump House and XOOX Brewmill in Bengaluru as a few of his standout projects.

Apart from the smaller accessories and decor elements that are picked off the shelf of retail stores, Hukkeri designs every aspect of the project. In tandem with the brand identity put together by the client, he works out a balanced meld of not only the spatial aspects, but also the furniture, lighting and wall and floor finishes that are designed in-house. In combination with the cuisine and menu theme, this bodes well for Hukkeri to create a holistic design language, free of unmatched elements.

“Every project is primarily divided into the Back-of-House (BOH) and Font-of-House (FOH) areas, both being the backbones of the eatery in terms of functionality and aesthetics respectively, with a fair bit of overlap. First, we tackle the BOH, and make sure it’s designed to run smoothly. Then we are free to play around with the FOH, which becomes our canvas for creativity,” he explains.



His clientele includes popular hotspots around the country, like The Fatty Bao and Gateway Taproom in Mumbai, XOOX Brewmill, Hangover and Olive Beach in Bengaluru and Monkey Bar in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Add to this the projects he’s currently working on - XOOX Garden, Hard Rock Cafe and the Nevermind speakeasy bar in Bengaluru - and you have a portfolio replete with creative design concepts.

Hukkeri travels extensively and often, and makes it a point to step into restaurants and bars to draw even the tiniest of inspirations from the ambience, cuisine and design. He incorporates a lot of these ideas in different forms within his projects back home, modifying them project by project. Customisation thus becomes key to every space, as he brings in local materials and craftsmanship to build on originality.

