

## NAME TO KNOW

# Bespoke Artistry

FUELLED BY PEOPLE AND PERSONALITIES, REHAN PARIKH OF BOMBAY DESIGN LAB IS LENDING A NEW LANGUAGE TO CRAFT FURNITURE

“Bespoke furniture is not just about reference images or floor plans, but about the people using it,” says Rehan Parikh. The founder of Bombay Design Lab started his brand as a passion project in 2018, and if you look closely enough, each piece that comes out of the shop still drips with his love for design. Rehan’s journey began while working with architect Ajit Shilpi. “I would find myself scouring through Pinterest for inspiration, and soon, was posting moodboards of collections that spoke to me,” he shares. This blog soon culminated into a studio, with several people approaching Rehan to craft the pieces he was curating. Now, the interior designer is promoting a shift in how the world looks at furniture, one commission at a time. “Furniture is what completes any space. So why not invest a little time and create something that resonates with you and your vision?” he asks.

To trigger this seismic shift in how people perceive interiors, Rehan understands the end use of each product and mingles it with sensible design. The modernist utilitarian approach is immediately enhanced with a touch of visual play, evident in dining tables with melting edges and bar cabinets that catch eye for their brass patches. Each piece stands on legs of reliable craftsmanship and enduring materials, moulded by its patrons’ personalities instead of fleeting trends.



The modernistic utilitarian approach in Rehan Parikh’s work is immediately enhanced with a touch of visual play, evident in dining tables with melting edges and bar cabinets that catch eye for their brass patches

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But in such a process, craft and inspiration need to go hand in hand. “Some of our retail collections undergo months of testing and refining, often sitting on the sidelines until each detail feels just right. The concept behind our Melt collection, for instance, originated back when I was a student in London, but has taken form now,” he shares. From concept sketches to three-dimensional models, each stage involves experimentation with various materials. Craftsmen enter at the final stage, at the point when any possible technical errors begin to reveal themselves. “That’s when they come back with inputs on how the gaps can be filled and the design details be executed with flawless engineering,” he says. Finding the right team has always been a two-way street for Parikh, as such a back and forth has helped him evolve his craft while allowing the artisans to showcase their expertise, all the while working towards one collective goal: the perfect show stealer. ♦ [bombaydesignlab.com](http://bombaydesignlab.com)



Clockwise from top left: The Tubby chair invites you to sink into all its retro glory while the suede burnt orange upholstery adds a luxurious touch; Rehan Parikh, founder, Bombay Design Lab; The Bear Hug chair finished in faux fur upholstery with its gentle contours is a cocoon of relaxation