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## Luxury Meets Military Chic At Della D.A.T.A Resort

By Jimmy Mistry

by Beverly Pereira



*A wooden horse, larger than life, is the focal point of the Gurkha Lounge*

Military heritage may be an unlikely springboard for a design-driven hospitality group, considering the fact that military design places function over form. But inside the gates of [D.A.T.A. Resort](#), India's first military-themed glamping resort, both function and form are easygoing allies that create a luxurious, sophisticated and authoritative visual presence.

Sitting smack in the middle of a jungle in Lonavala just off the Western Ghats outside Mumbai, D.A.T.A by Della is the newest addition to the [Della Adventure & Resorts](#) group by designer, hotelier and entrepreneur Jimmy Mistry. Kitted out with bespoke interior products by Della — Mistry's design vertical — the property' is also the exemplar of channeling the rigour of the military to create a space that's stylish yet restrained and bold yet sensitive.

D.A.T.A. Resort conquers the utilitarian aesthetic to a tee. The experience begins with a drive to the resort in an all-terrain vehicle. Guests are presented with a set of army fatigues, should they wish to partake in a good old military-style training and survival session that takes place in a structure engineered entirely out of shipping containers rendered in camouflage. *"D.A.T.A. was created straight out of my dreams to prepare and train every man, woman & child with survival techniques for any adverse unforeseen circumstances with the help of some of the finest handpicked ex-forces from Indian Army. After the horrific 26/11 attacks that shook Mumbai to its core, I wanted to make a difference by empowering people and making them less vulnerable to future atrocities. When I first saw the jungle, it struck me that this would be the perfect place to bring this idea to life,"* says Jimmy Mistry.

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*Glamping tents are embellished with a touch of luxury and modernity*

Every one of the 27 glamping tents are far from spartan, yet free from unnecessary trims. Embodying the notion of camping in the outdoors, the 500-sq-foot cabin comes with a private outdoor patio. Leveraging material and finish, the rooms layer luxury and modern touches to command a polished army-inspired appeal. *"The army and navy have always held a major part of my fascination and continued to become a major inspiration behind this project. I made sure whatever about I had assimilated about them since childhood was put together in D.A.T.A. So, this is my vision of how an army camp should be,"* says Mistry.

The warmth of refined wood dominates, only punctuated by the richness of olive-green tufted leather head boards, and ottomans with AK47 rifle bases. Plush black foot runners and cushions with gold trimmings lend a decidedly decadent accent, as do the ivory knife-pleated lampshades; the latter effortlessly pursues the army aesthetic with a base fashioned out of a pistol. Each tent is further fortified by animal-print upholstery on desk chairs, grenade-shaped doorknobs, and faux taxidermy bull head wall mounts.



*Tasteful design details contribute to the palpable army aesthetic at D.A.T.A*

Outside, a passageway festooned with army helmets and Royal Enfield motorcycles opens out into the 80-seater Salaam Manekshaw Restaurant, meticulously designed as a tribute to the legendary Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw.



*Plush textures meet industrial finishes at the Salaam Manekshaw restaurant*

The military theme becomes apparent here, too, with army-green tufted-back seating, beaten copper lamps, and salt and pepper shakers modelled after hand grenades. The space, luxurious and industrial all at the same time, is a textural study in the layering of metallic, matte and gloss finishes.



*The Gurkha Lounge is emblazoned with chic details inspired by the military*

At the al-fresco Gurkha Lounge, a tribute to the Gurkha regiment led by Sam Manekshaw, equestrian charm and understated suaveness lead with a flourish. A large bust of a sculpted wooden horse holds sway, presiding over a pool deck outfitted with a glass panel-clad open kitchen, and a compact bar with nifty bar stools fashioned from horse saddles.



*The al-fresco deck of the Gurkha Lounge carries artisanal design elements*

On the deck, slatted chairs and teakwood tables shaded by cantilever parasols sit alongside rattan mushroom chairs, as loungers fittingly encircle a pit fire, and towering bird cage pavilions house more seating space.

In keeping with the military motif, D.A.T.A. resort is wrapped in camouflage screens at its fringe – a design detail that brings in unobstructed views of the surrounding hilly terrain while simulating the coveted outdoors experience.



*Subtle design elements reference India's military heritage at the Gurkha Lounge*

Photographs courtesy D.A.T.A Resort by Della

