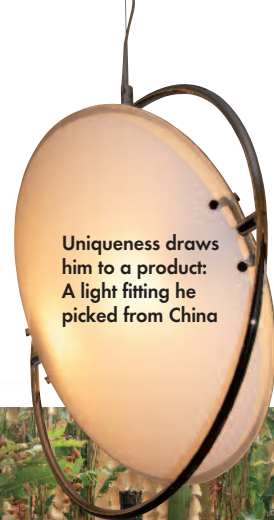


# DECOR PEOPLE AT WORK WITH



Uniqueness draws him to a product: A light fitting he picked from China



The outdoor patio is one of his favourite spots in the office. Lush greenery combined with wooden furniture makes it a rather inviting space

## QUICK WORD

### I'M AT MY CREATIVE BEST

Between 12 midnight to 5 am

**CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT** My closest people, and helping others

### FIVE THINGS THAT INSPIRE ME

Fire, water, people, *Ganesha* and the thought of working on something new

## IN THE STUDIO OF JIMMY MISTRY

We take you to the drawing board of your design favourites, giving you a glimpse of what keeps them ticking – tatty postcards, invaluable scribbles, priceless notes, et al

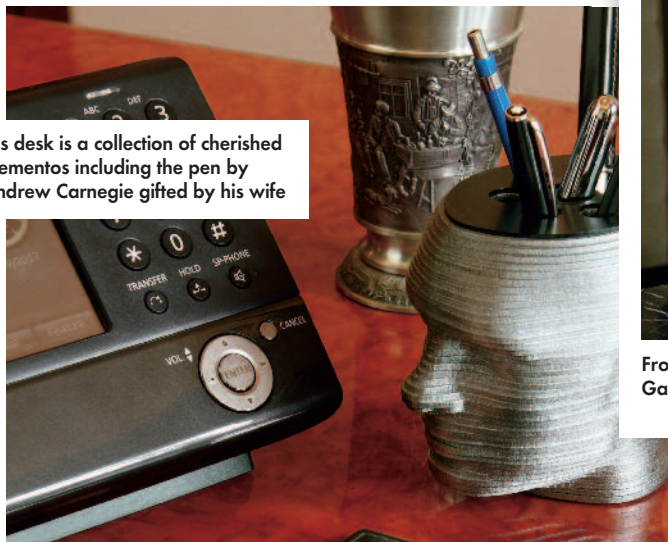
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **INDRAJIT SATHE** PRODUCED BY **SHAAN SHAHANI**

The lounge in his studio sees a LED screen that functions as his computer and CCTV along with a few handpicked pieces of furniture and accessories



## DECOR PEOPLE AT WORK WITH

His desk is a collection of cherished mementos including the pen by Andrew Carnegie gifted by his wife



From Villeroy and Boch, these Ganeshas remind him of his family



Depicts ambition to win: Statue by Jose Santaaulalia from Lladro



High profile projects notwithstanding, a mention of Jimmy Mistry is incomplete without his fleet of mean machines. Walking into his office is like stepping into a veritable technology hub: Everything here works at the push of a button – on an iPhone, no less. It wasn't the most fantastic start to the interview; he was running an hour late. Dressed in all black, he entered apologising for the delay, "Someone needed help with admission into a hospital." He takes less than a minute to settle in. You tend to notice that he is extremely hands-on, expressive, considerate, on-the-ball; and that his phone rings incessantly, most of which, he excuses himself from, except for a call from his mother, "Sorry that's my mum, can't ignore her call," he explains. A quick chat...

**ELLE DECOR: Tell us your story.**

**JIMMY MISTRY:** I'm not a qualified architect but a mechanical engineer. As a small time trader, I had the opportunity to collaborate with various Italian brands. This helped me understand design. I started initially with contracting, then moved to manufacturing, thereafter to design and turnkey interiors.

**ED: What did your first workspace look like?**

**JM:** It was a 200 sq ft rented studio in Mumbai that I set up in '93 in an electrical room located below a staircase.

**ED: Is there something that you have carried with you since then?**

**JM:** My Ganesha – he has always travelled with me; and also my people. Some of the first employees are still with me – a few who have been a constant; I firmly believe what makes a company is its people.

**ED: What is your inspiration behind the decor?**

**JM:** I have been heavily influenced by Persian art and architecture.

**ED: Do you have a favourite corner?**

**JM:** The table outside in the patio – I love a place where there's no roof over my head! ♦ **Pragnya Rao**



His passion: An all chrome, custom-made Harley V Rod



He has a penchant for lighting design. Here a fixture from Maro Design