



Guys, you must get a whiff of these scents!

AH4

Shilpa and Manyata exchange mommy notes

AH3

Designs on Indore



Renowned architect Jimmy Mistry, is disturbed that not even a single city monument has astonishing architecture. But, he hopes that will change soon...

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A qualified mechanical engineer, Mistry never thought that one day he would be a renowned architect and in fact, it was only in Italy several years back that he realised how deep his fascination for design actually was.

"I spent close to three years in Italy studying different techniques of design and branding. So, when I returned to India, I was clear that I was genuinely interested in its architecture, and made it my profession," confessed Mistry, who also launched the unique Della Adventure Club in Lonavala, taking his love for

difficult," Mistry explained.

But his most prestigious projects include designing Vijay Mallya's Kingfisher lounge and Bajaj Pro biking's showrooms, because of the 'challenge' quotient in them. "Designing for a national-international brand is always a challenge, because it is apart from the owner, several other people are also associated with the brand. Moreover, dealing with the firms' own consultants and their rigid vastu experts and astrologers is too much sometimes!" laughed Mistry, underlining that for him, factors like vastu and feng shui are nothing more than a headache, when applied non-scientifically.

Designing seven townships (Richmond Park, Grande Exotica, Maple Woods, Bloomberg Township, Silver Mansions, Silver business park and Mittal Corp) and one school (Educom Millennium School) in the city, Mistry explained how each project is equally interesting.

"Modernisation is yet to take off in full swing in Indore. So, it will be interesting to see it happen and be a part of it," Mistry continued.

"I have been in Indore for several years, and have an emotional attachment to the city. It is famous for art and culture, food and hospitality, but there's not a single monument here which may be categorised as a work of astonishing architecture. This bothers me a lot," he rued, adding that it is also what motivates him to change things.

"The scope of architecture here excites me. Hopefully in the coming years, Indians will get to see the buildings they had always seen in photographs!" Mistry ended on an optimistic note.

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adventure sports a step further.

And even after winning prestigious awards like the Urban Heritage Architecture Award-2003, Young Design Practice Award-2001, Young Achiever Award-2004 and being nominated for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur award-2004, among others, it's his design of the Della House in Mumbai, which remains the closest to his heart.

"While constructing the Della House, there were approximately 200 artists working together at a time, doing Parsi and Persian art work simultaneously, which is



His disappointing track record at the box office hasn't stopped John Abraham from pushing the envelope as an actor or producer

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John Abraham's date diary is choc-a-bloc with shoots all this year—the actor has as many as seven films in hand. Even when not shooting, he will be extensively busy with his ad and film productions that include scripting a film that he hopes to direct too.

"I feel like I'm in my best phase ever," exclaims John, as we catch up with him for a quick *tete-a-tete*. About his multi-roles as an actor and producer, John reveals that no matter what the mantle, there're just no boundaries for him when it

comes to pushing the envelope!

You are shooting round the clock. Doesn't girlfriend Priya Runchal complain? Well, anyone who's close to me, understands me well enough to know how important my work is for me. So, no, no complaints!

As an actor, you have clicked better in commercial entertainers than in experimental cinema. Are you planning to cut down the risks as far as films go?

No, I am planning to increase the number of the commercial entertainers I do (smiles). Well, I am an adventurer at

heart, so just because one outing didn't work, doesn't mean I'll stick to the safe path the next time around. I'll never give up taking risks. Why my very first production Vicky Donor deals with a topic like sperm donation.

So, you are not afraid of failing?

I've faced criticism and brickbats right from my initial days as an actor. But I believe in accepting them, with as much dignity as I accepted the bouquets that followed. I have never been afraid of taking risks and that's what I will continue doing, whether as an actor or producer. Sure, the ideal combination would be to do

films that are both commercial entertainers, but also challenging to me as an actor. But let's face it. No film comes with a hit guarantee and each time it's a new gamble. I'm just glad that most times, it has well been worth the risk.

reel DEAL

The coming year has you tapping almost all genres...

Doing comedy is always fun, but I really love doing hard-core action flicks and dark thrillers too. I like to play characters that have an edge; films, where the protagonist may not always be the good guy.

Like Manya Surve, that you play

in Shootout At Wadala?

I've never played a character like that before, and when Sanjay Gupta (film-maker) approached me for it, I could see the layers that the character had. It automatically jolted me out of my comfort zone and that's what I'm always looking out for.

What's Kala Ghoda about?

That's a dark political thriller that I'm doing with Aditya Bhattacharya. He's a brilliant film-maker, and has that vision that can take a film beyond the expected. His film *Raakh* (1989 starring Amir Khan) was so much ahead of its time. It was Bollywood's loss that he didn't make films here. I just knew that he had to make *Kala Ghoda*.

'Girls in many areas of our country need healing'

...says singer Raageshwari Loomba, as she talks about the causes that she feels really need to be addressed

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When you empower a woman, by a ripple effect, you empower an entire household—the children as well as the man of the house. On the other hand when a woman is unfulfilled and unhappy, then the balance of the planet shifts radically towards unhappiness," she says.

"Women are born nurturers. The gifts that the world celebrates—great education, great safety and great health—should be available to them freely. Sadly that isn't the case, especially in the rural areas of our country," rues the songstress whose spiritual inclinations lead her to believe that what this planet needs most is healing.

"Girls in many areas of our country need healing from the trauma of living a life where people have a caustic approach to them and their rights as



HEAL A GIRL'S WORLD: Raageshwari Loomba

human beings. They need healing from disease as in the case of cervical cancer and they need healing from the trauma of being teased, or worse still attacked by either their own family members, or outsiders. For many of them, living is akin to being in a war zone where they're discriminated on the basis of their gender; or by other issues such as lack of education, lack of money or physical helplessness," she says.

Raageshwari believes that love among people is what will change the day. "I'm sorry to observe that we have become immune to people's problems and people are shutting down on others' sufferings. We need to take the lid off our hard exterior and tune into our warm, beautiful selves, into our connectedness where we are all part of one world. Instead of so many divisions at every step what we need is something that unites our hearts in a shared humanity. And feeling love and compassion in our hearts for others can change the world around us," adds the singer, who's feels more than passionately about these causes.

Bollywood's Romcomin'

B-Town witnessed a deluge of romcoms all of last month and even March began on a love-story note

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While February was the most 'loved-up' month of the year, courtesy the Valentine's Day, it wasn't too different at the BO either, as the romcom genre ruled.

Right from *Ek Main Aur Ekk Tu* to *Jodi Breakers* and from *Ekk Deewana Tha* to Riteish and Genelia Deshmukh's *Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya*, almost every week in the month saw at least one love story hit the marquee.

And while, March too began on a 'love'ly note with *London Paris New York*, and will have another one come up this week too with *Chaar Din Ki Chandni* starring Tusshar Kapoor, that's where the love affair of the box office with romcoms ends.

"Love stories have always found audiences here. But despite the high number of films in the same genre, it was still interesting for the audience, as they all were very different from each other. Despite all belonging to the same genre, no story resembled each other and that's an interesting point," feels trade analyst Taran Adarsh. Inciden-



LOVE ALL: Ek Main Aur Ekk Tu and Jodi Breakers

tally, it was only the first romcom of the season that went on to rake in the most moolah at the BO.

Point it out, but trade analysts insist that an overdose of the same genre had nothing to do with the failure or success of the films that followed.

"It would be unfair to say that, because there was an excess of the same genre, people lost interest," says trade ana-

lyst Bharti Pradhan. "Those films would have done just as good or bad, no matter when they would have released.

A senior distributor however has another point to offer: "I think the cinema-goers have had more than their quota of onscreen love for now.

Though love is the main ingredient in almost all Bollywood films, it was hard to miss the sudden deluge of romcoms there was these past few weeks."

bottomLINE The debate whether or not to rope in celebs for a fashion show continues...

Filmi tamasha in fashion season?

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The never dying debate, whether or not Bollywood helps a fashion collection get noticed or steals the limelight away from it, was sort of revived again at the ongoing fashion week.

While the likes of Kushali Kumar and Vikram Phadnis had the entire venue buzzing with Bollywood celebs on the front row and the ramp, those like ace designer James Ferreira kept miles away from the filmi crowd.

Kushali had actor Dia Mirza as her showstopper while Vikram's show, at an evening slot, grabbed eyeballs, as some cats in the crowd

were overheard saying, for all the wrong reasons. The designer was seen running to and fro, escorting his celeb guests right up till their seats. Actor Sonakshi Sinha had a fashion slip up, as she stepped on to her flowy gown while getting down the stairs. Her heel got stuck in the seams of the gown and the shutterbugs lapped up her struggle to get it out and smile at the same time.

But that was just the beginning of the big Bollywood *tamasha* that was in store for the day. The front row crowd with the likes of actors Karisma Kapur, Arbaaz Khan, Neha Dhupia, Neil Nitin Mukesh and Jugal Hansraj, cheered for showstoppers Malaika Arora Khan and sister Amrita Arora Ladakh. Neha kept teasing



Amrita every time she walked by, causing her to blush. All this during the show.

And how were the clothes? Didn't really notice, but the showstoppers definitely looked stunning. As one eager Bolly bee pointed out, it was all in good fun. On the other hand James's show was deprived of known faces and the designer himself said that the clothes should be the talking point at a platform that is meant to highlight just that.

The flamboyant designer even brought his *karigars* on stage for the final bow. "They are the real showstoppers. I can cut a garment but it is up to them to execute it the way I imagine them to," he said. And rightly so.

(right) Dia Mirza wearing designer Kushali Kumar's creation; (left) Vikram Phadnis with Amrita and Malaika Arora Khan