



raw\_collaborative

# Bazaar HOT LIST

## A RETURN TO THE ORIGIN

### DESIGN

*Contemporary design finds a home at one of the earliest modern buildings in India*

Back in 1954, the Mill Owners' Association building in Ahmedabad was one of the first projects in India by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier. No wonder it's a matter of pride for designers to display their work in the iconic building. Last year, Tarvi Karu and Priyadarshini Rathore used the mid-century modern building as a space for *Raw Collaborative*, an exhibition they organised on contemporary design. "We wanted to create a dialogue among designers from the country to create a conceptualism both vernacular and modern practices. Then one evening we thought, what better place to do it than Mill Owners?" says Karu.

In their first edition, they invited Mumbai-based designer Rooshad Shroff. "My exhibition *15,336* had just finished. I had shown in Delhi and Mumbai, and when Tarvi called me, I was unlikely to do another exhibit. But she only had to mention that it was at Mill Owners' and I jumped at the opportunity. To have your work displayed in a Corbusier building, who wouldn't want that?" says Shroff.

This year, in their second edition, Shroff is guest-curating a section within the larger programme. "Called the Design Gallery, I am taking up the top floor space to showcase 40 designers, Indian or working in the Indian context." Some of the most seminal current voices are part of this series, including Bijoy Jain, Ashish Shah, Gagan Gupta, Maximiliano Modest, Paul Mattei, Sandeep Sangam, Anjali Meek, and others. "The pieces I've chosen may not be commercially viable or their newest works, but they represent their practice most eloquently," says Shroff. Apart from the Design Gallery, there are over 30 more designers showcasing on the ground floor.

There's hardly a singular way to define design in India, and diversity is our strength. *Raw Collaborative* promises to capture these diverse expressions, recalling that modernist ethos of design that Corbusier himself spent a lifetime exploring. ■

*Raw Collaborative* will be on from November



(Clockwise from top) Works by IDAM, Studio Metallurgy, Savana Living, and the legacy of Le Corbusier's Mill Owners' Association building in Ahmedabad



PHOTOGRAPH BY RAVI CHOWDHARY