Vijay Mallya's Office
Designed by Jimmy Mistry & Thomas Associates

Poetry in Bricks
Home of Suman and Pramod Adlakha

Daring Designs
By Vastu Shilpa Consultants

Emirates' Wolgan Valley Resort
By Turner & Associates & Chhada Siembieda Australia

Special feature on bathrooms
OFFICE ROYALE

Designed by Marites Thomos Associates and Interior Designer Francis Balingit, the United Breweries office in Hongkong is perfectly in sync with the larger-than-life image of its owner.

A combination of the stone and wood look in the corner of P. Shashikiran, CEO UB conveys class.

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There are offices, and then there are offices with personality. Which corporate headquarters, for example, would have the chutzpah to carry off art installations made of liquor bottles?

Sculptures designed out of liquor bottles arrest the eye in the headquarters of Dr. Vijay Mallya’s United Breweries group—in the second floor lobby, and in Mallya’s personal zone on the top two floors of the 17-storey building. The quirky feature, designed from bottles of the high-end brands of the group, is an apt symbol for its flagship business and the office—a reflection of Mallya’s flamboyant philosophy: Live Life King-size!

This office, with architecture by Thomas Associates and interior design by Jimmy Misty and his team at Della Tecnica, spells class, style and grandeur. “I love high ceilings and this project gave me decent ceiling heights to work with—a 37 ft high lobby and a 27 ft height on the top floor, Mr. Mallya’s personal zone,” says Misty, who enjoys working with UB group because of their free spirited attitude and minimal-interference policy.

CLASSIC YET CONTEMPORARY

The brief given to the design team was that the space should be representative of the group and reflect its brand image. Having worked with the UB group earlier, Misty and his team had a fair idea of what was expected. They came up with a simple, straight-lined and grid-based design—an office that is not just an aesthetic fusion of contemporary and classical design elements but also state-of-the-art in its function.

A ramp entrance takes one to the second floor lobby, where one is greeted by the aforementioned spirited sculpture. Divided into two parts by the elevator well, the two areas of the lobby host scaled versions of an aircraft and an F1 car each, representative of Mallya’s enduring involvement with aviation and car racing. A water body accompanies the aircraft while a seamless 8x12 ft screen that runs continuous AVs is hosted behind the F1 car. Though balancing the ceiling to floor ratio was the biggest challenge in this design, the way the heights have been used is commendable. Floor inlays lend character and enhance the space.

CONCERN FOR DETAIL

Besides reflecting the company’s image and its owner’s passions, the office shows concern for employee comfort too. Misty, who has used warm colours and textures on the walls says “I always ensure that workspaces I design have a lot of variety in textures for their walls because an employee looks at them as a refuge from his mundane work.”

Task and mood lighting illuminate the space, the former in the work areas and latter in the common zones. “Indirect lighting has been used throughout, and no light falls directly on the work desk,” explains Priti Sharma, DGM, Della Tecnica, who has been actively involved in the design and its execution.

OPTIMAL BUDGETING

Misty clarifies that though the group pays attention to
A sleek Marquina marble table makes a statement in the office of V Rade, President, United Spirits, while the floor-to-ceiling lights add a touch of glamour.

With emphasis on ergonomics, the furniture was all custom-designed. It has no sharp edges; units are of the right dimensions and they fulfill all functional requirements. Services are tucked in the periphery and the ceiling height is maintained to give a sense of space.

**INTERACTIVE AREAS**

Break out zones have been created on every level, and ample board rooms and meeting rooms have been provided for. The board room located on one of the two top floors set aside as Molly’s personal zone, can extend into a lounge area capable of hosting those famed parties.

Molly’s working table has a VJM crest. No
The private washroom attached to Mallya's cabin is done-up in black Marquina marble with floral tiles inlay. Gold gilding on the mirror frames add a touch of flamboyance.

crest is needed anywhere else. His inimitable style is imprinted on the design of this space. Much like him, it exudes business acumen with breathtaking flair.

TEXT SUMISHA ARORA
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COURTESY DELLA TECNICA

TOTAL AREA OF PROJECT : 80,000 SQ FT
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT : RS. 16 CRORES

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A sculpture made of UB brand beverage bottles adds dynamism to the 37 ft high lobby on the second floor.