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The crèche is filled with toy houses, blackboards, teepees, train sets and dolls. **Top:** Thukral and Tagra's Play Pray series covers every wall alongside the main staircase. **Above:** One of the many collaborative spaces populated with bespoke furniture designed by Red, Blue & Yellow.



DESIGN HQ

Irish designer Cormac Lynch's ergonomic sensibilities lend a sense of privacy and community to employees at the Piramal Agastya office in Mumbai

WRITER TORA AGARWALA • PHOTOGRAPHER ASHISH SAHI

For the Piramals—the kingpins of pharmaceuticals in India—their love for art is perhaps only surpassed by their biophilia. And testimony to that is their expansive office complex in Mumbai's congested Kurla neighbourhood. The Piramal Agastya Corporate Park is an island not far, but, in fact, within the madding crowd—stood in the middle of a 50,000-square-foot, landscaped sea of green. "Perhaps the only office space in Mumbai to do so," says Cormac Lynch, advisor and interior architect for the Piramal Group. To a decor sense that affirms the Piramals' affinity to art and love for nature, Lynch added his own aesthetic—in collaboration with Mumbai design firm Space Matrix—to create an office where pride of place is reserved not for the employer but for the employee. Filled with art (a collection of museum-worthy, life-size pieces put together by the Piramals and Ashvin Rajagopalan, director of the Piramal Art Foundation), the office inspires healthy amounts of social interaction. And while interaction is key in a workspace, privacy is too. Throne-like soundproof chairs, can be found at various spots—their concave headrests designed specially to take calls, cutting out the din of office chatter. The break-out areas have cosy seating arrangements, nestled on playful rugs; lobbies are lined with portraits of the employees; conference rooms come with sheer curtains. "Almost makes it seem...residential," says Lynch. Almost like home—what more can one ask of a workspace? ♦

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CORMAC LYNCH *Mumbai*

Philosophy: Advisor and interior architect for the Piramal Group, Lynch absorbs inspiration from all quarters—whether an 18th-century vernacular thatched cottage from Ireland, his native country; a typeface he noticed on the cover of *National Geographic*; or the early-1980s postmodernist era. **2017 in Work:** Interiors, in collaboration with HBA London, for the Piramal Aranya Pavilion in Byculla; the playful Piramal Enterprises office at Agastya Corporate Park, with design firm Space Matrix; and the Piramal Revanta towers, all in Mumbai.

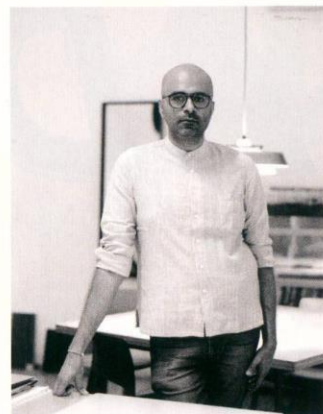
Coming Up: An Indian garden with landscape designer Sarah Eberle and Dr Swati Piramal for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show; a residential project in south Mumbai with Dubai-based design studio, One of a Kind.

VAISHALI KAMDAR ASSOCIATES

Gurugram

Philosophy: "Designing, for me, is intuitive. Our vision is to always create timeless spaces that are elegant and warm but never fussy—spaces that are inviting, interesting, eclectic and refined."

Current Projects: A 21,000-square-foot residence, and an apartment building, both in New Delhi; a 10,000-square-foot showroom for FCML, Pune. **Signature:** A contemporary sensibility, unusual art, interesting accessories and vintage accent furniture.



STUDIO ORGANON *New Delhi*
SAURABH DAKSHINI

Philosophy: "Context before everything else" is what Dakshini (pictured above) believes, because every project has its own parameters. **Project in Focus:** WD House (pictured below), a fine-dining restaurant in New Delhi, is housed within a nondescript archetypal bureaucratic building. The luxury here reveals itself through craft, material and experience—redefining the idea of what makes a luxurious ambience. **Current Projects:** A resort in Rishikesh; residences in New Delhi and Gurugram. **Approach:** "We work a lot with prototypes. We make mock-ups to understand the proportions, to see if a particular material works." **Influences:** Kengo Kuma, Enric Miralles, Paulo Mendes da Rocha. In the Indian context, AP Kanvinde and Joseph Allen Stein.

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