



restaurants and bars



JUDY SHEPARD

Mezban – Inverted Topography

Calicut, India

Collaborative Architecture, Mumbai, India; Ningbo, China

Collaborative Architecture of Mumbai was recently called upon to renovate Mezban, an international cuisine restaurant located in a business hotel in Calicut. The goal was to create a new identity for Mezban through dramatic interior architecture, transforming it into a destination dining location that would attract business to the hotel.

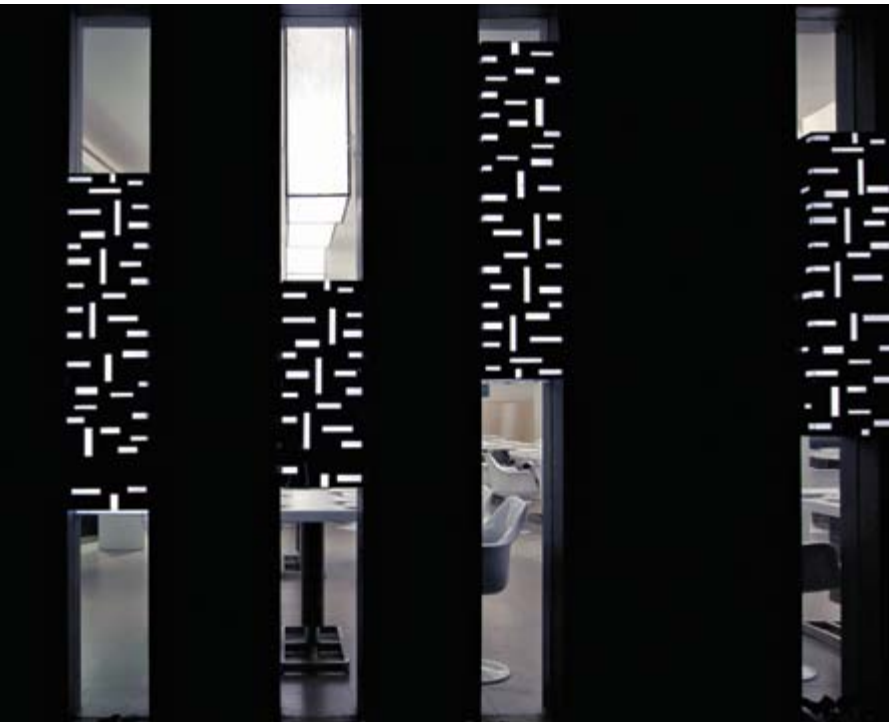
The design brief called for a flexible and efficient layout even though this meant lowering the seating capacity. There was also a tight budget to meet and environmental concerns to consider. In addition, the ambience needed to convert effortlessly from fine dining and lounge—fine dining during lunch and diner and lounge during the early evening hours.

At the outset, a challenge surfaced that was particular to the location. Principal and co-founder, Lalita Tharani, explains, “The biggest challenge was to execute a sophisti-

cated project like this in a tier three city of the subcontinent, where having the very basic work done satisfactorily is, in itself, a challenge. The project had a bizarre mix of logistics—local as well as international. So we had to work hard to put together an effective execution team.”

Put together an effective team they did. First they carved a vibrant waiting lounge from the original restaurant space. The main strength of the design, however, is the innovative lighting. Custom fixtures throw light that transforms and shapes the minimalist interior into an undulating topography.

The architects also designed a unique feature for Mezban, an exterior wall of lights they call “Thousand Moons.” It welcomes patrons with a contemporary and artful grace and sets the stage for what is to come.



The contemporary design is introduced at the entrance, above left. Glimpses of the restaurant and light wall.



Patrons are greeted with an exterior wall of lights designed by the architects called “Thousand Moons.”



The new waiting lounge offers patrons views of the festivities inside the restaurant.



Innovative overhead lights are the strength of the design, transforming the minimalist interior into a modernist landscape.

Booths offer seating for larger parties while furthering the design aesthetic of the restaurant.



Even the restrooms get the full design treatment.



DESIGN: **Collaborative Architecture**, Mumbai, India; Ningbo, China
PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS: **Lalita Tharani, Mujib Ahmed**
PROJECT TEAM: **Muneeb, Mazhar, Shoukath, Vineeta Parekh**
CLIENT: **Mohamed, Hotel Asma Tower**
CARPENTRY: **Bejoy Interiors**
CORIAN: **Genius India**
ELECTRICAL: **Salith Electrical Contractors**
LIGHTING: **Thousand Moons by Collaborative Architecture**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **Lalita Tharani**

