



FORM  
AND  
FUNCTION

DESIGNERS' DIGEST

*make*  
*for India*

SOME OF INDIA'S BEST PRODUCT DESIGNERS



## SOHEL CONTRACTOR SOLLI CONCEPTS

Form and function come together beautifully in Mumbai-based Solli Concepts' furniture designs.



**A** random favour for a friend which involved woodworking, Sohel Contractor's oldest passion and hobby, became the coup de grace of his automotive career in New Zealand and gave rise to another in India. Armed with an engineering background, Contractor took on multiple home and office renovation projects, before setting up Solli Concepts in 2006, in Mumbai. Sohel's furniture ably reflects the skillful application of his engineering knowledge in his linear and methodical designs, while also giving him an edge when combining wood with different materials.

He thrives on innovating and experimenting with different materials for various applications and utility. "The process of building furniture by hand, particularly something that has

multiple functions, really appeals to me. Design to me comes alive and takes form as I build it. At Solli, a product is designed from the heart. Function and design are of equal importance and we believe one cannot work without the other," says the organic designer.

### MATERIAL PLAY

With a strong leaning towards wood as a material, he celebrates the magic of Indian teak. "Sustainable Indian teak is synonymous with fine Indian furniture. It is a beautiful wood to work with and I use it for a lot of my furniture." Whilst wood plays the hero, handwoven fabrics, leather and stone are his preferred materials.



**IMMERSIVE SPACES**  
Contractor says, "In a bustling metro like Mumbai, it is nice to have a little outside space for morning musings." He is keen to explore a story board around buildings for low income housing, to take on the challenge of designing functional, small spaces.



**FYI**

Sohel is inspired by the Indian motif, paisley.

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I like to keep things simple by removing unwanted elements, to present an elegant, yet uncomplicated piece for everyone to enjoy using.



"Designing the joinery to build the sink was as much fun as having a bathroom built around these pieces, and bringing warmth to a space which is otherwise cold and utilitarian."

**A DESIGN PERIOD YOU WISH YOU WERE BORN IN**

The current one, because one witnesses the transition from old to new — analogue to digital, talking to texting,

**THE MOST ICONIC DESIGNS**

- The Wishbone Chair
- Broyhill Brasilia Credenza
- Conoid Chair

**A DESIGN PRINCIPLE YOU FOLLOW**

Form and function must go hand in hand. We create timeless pieces that are built to last.

