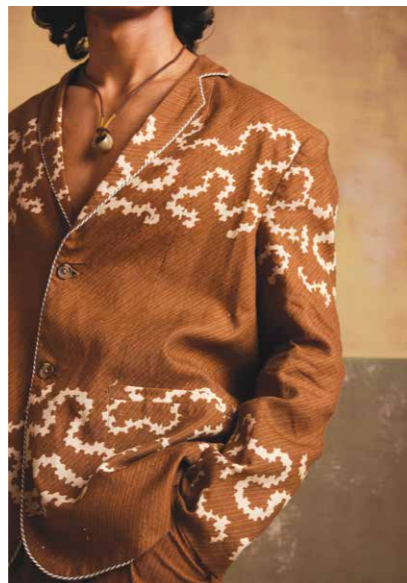




MUMBAI TO THE MAX

Now more than ever, the Indian megacity's original commercial district, Fort, is the place to head for designer boutiques and art spaces.



ART AND COMMERCE

Clockwise from above: Inside TARQ gallery's spacious new Fort address; a men's linen blazer at Cord; the Payal Khandwala store in Kala Ghoda.

MOONRAY

Craftsmanship takes on a contemporary edge at this lunar-inspired clothing shop in the by-lanes of the Kala Ghoda arts district. Co-founder Karishma Swali's export atelier Chanakya International has long been committed to the preservation and promotion of fine Indian textile crafts, collaborating with global fashion houses such as Dior. Moonray, which Swali launched with her teenage daughter Avantika in 2021, is its playful sister brand, turning out structured jackets, stone-dotted mesh dresses, and futuristic occasion wear in consciously sourced materials like hemp, vegan cacti leather, and forest-certified viscose. The shop also has a premium made-to-measure rack in addition to its ready-to-wear clothing and accessories (moonray.in).

TARQ

First opened in nearby Colaba in 2014 as an incubator for young artists, TARQ unveiled its expansive new digs on AK Nayak Marg earlier this year. The utilitarian yet beautiful space — think poured concrete floors and stark white walls punctuated by archways — has been designed by Japanese architect Katsushi Goto inside a century-old brick-faced building. A vigorous outreach program ties in with the gallery's exhibitions and overall raison d'être through workshops, walk-throughs, and talks. On show until



SWEET PRINTS

From left: Gauri Verma and Karuna Laungani at The Jodi Store; a work by Kerala artist Ratheesh T hanging in Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke; *ikat* table linens at Translate.



GALERIE MIRCHANDANI + STEINRUECKE

In 2003, prominent art dealer Usha Mirchandani and her daughter Ranjana opened Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke in Colaba, just behind The Taj Mahal Palace hotel, and began working with a circle of emerging young talents who are now significant names in the Indian art scene. Last year, the gallery relocated to a 460-square-meter space inside a stone-clad heritage building in Fort's Ballard Estate, where it continues to rep some of the country's most sought-after contemporary artists. The beautiful, light-filled viewing room makes this a superlative experience for art aficionados (galeriems.com).

THE JODI STORE

One of India's most popular homegrown brands now has its first flagship store in Mumbai. Founded by former fashion stylists Gauri Verma and Karuna Laungani, Jodi is a block-printed clothing label known for its floral and abstract motifs. The new shop is inspired by the circular mud-walled *bhunga* houses of the Kutch region in Gujarat, featuring colorful murals, rounded edges, and a gorgeous tapestry in the changing room — the perfect backdrop to Jodi's vibrant collection of women's wear, men's shirts, jewelry, and accessories (thejodilife.com). —Jasreen Mayal Khanna

the end of the year are ceramic works by sculptor Savia Mahajan (tarq.in).

CORD

Husband-and-wife owners Pranav Guglani and Neha Singh started this leather accessories label as a fun experiment on Facebook. So great was the response that they decided to branch out into clothing as well, opening their first flagship store in New Delhi in 2017. Cord's two-floor Kala Ghoda outpost carries its full range of easy, vintage-inspired apparel alongside hand-stitched leather bags, wallets, and clutches (cordstudio.com).

PAYAL KHANDWALA

The designer of this eponymous clothing label spent eight years studying and practicing fine art in New York City before moving back home to Mumbai and starting her own fashion line in 2012. Set under the teak rafters of Kala Ghoda's Bharthania Building, her charcoal-gray flagship store is hung with jewel-toned ponchos, jackets, trousers, dresses, and kurtas made with Benares silk, Bengal cotton, or *khadi*, the humble homespun fabric once popularized as a symbol of nationalism by Mahatma Gandhi (payalkhandwala.com).

POORANAWALLA

This vintage furniture and artifacts store is owned by Moorthy's, a company that

COURTESY OF SAMEER KULAVOOR/TARQ; COURTESY OF CORD; COURTESY OF PAYAL KHANDWALA

RAHUL MAHADIK; COURTESY OF GALERIE MIRCHANDANI + STEINRUECKE; COURTESY OF TRANSLATE