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A WALK THROUGH THE WORLD OF IIID AND BEYOND

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Freshco: The Health Café

– Harsh Boghani (*The Crossboundaries*)

1-2. The interiors invoke a sense of playful freshness with carefully crafted cantilevered tables, lighting, wall features such as the splash wall and boxes combined with elegant furniture and finishes

The idea of the cafe germinated on a trip with a few friends and after a soulful deliberation over the differentiating theme of a health based café, I being an Architect agreed upon making a unique design with one of its kind café in the city of Vadodara for the health conscious generation of today. Certain design principles were used to give justice to the concept. The basic layout of the café and the placement of the kitchen was planned for proper circulation considering customers as well as for servicing, keeping in mind the small space of 780 sq.ft.

The combination of black and coloured fabric chairs, inspired by the form of the Eames Chair, and black glossy top tables were selected and arranged so as to neutralise the colour and not dominate the design visually. The

long cantilever, lime wood finish table forming an extended cantilever L-Shape with a chamfered edge consists of green artificial grass cutout in it, adds to the green ambience and the concept of minimalist design of the cafe. The high telescopic legged customised black stool is specially designed for the health conscious on the go. Similarly, on the right side of the entry is yet another floating long cantilever table suspended with an invisible thin thread. The variation in the sizes and shapes of the ten hanging incandescent light bulb plays an important role in the design, as a welcoming feature from outside and balancing the interiors through ambient lighting.

Another element adding to the green feature are the elongated boxes, designed to hold customised planter





trays, easy to lift and maintain and the button lights fixed at the bottom of the box give ambient light to the grey walls. The multiple plays of levels of the boxes and the creepers hanging from above acts like an interesting element. The vibrant splash wall, a prominent feature of the café, emulates the idea of colours of fruits splashed on a white canvas, difficult to execute manually, after multiple attempts in collaboration with artists, painters, even the client with coloured filled balloons and other techniques, I finally ended up with a tinkering on digital media and printing a customised wallpaper. On the left side of the wall is the play of wall installed transparent Acrylic boxes, which accommodate thermocol glasses and provision of green planter trays, substituting a vertical garden while utilising the space strategically. The white thermocol glasses, LED lit from behind creates a play of light by allowing it to penetrate and pass through the voids between them. The wall-hung boxes containing the green planter trays get an attractive indirect glow of light because of the transparent boxes. The dark grey wall notes the narrative of the inception of Freshco written with white fonts and a horizontal pocket has been installed to keep books or planters for the customers.

The elegant service counter is deliberately made jet black with a crisp, tiny button light enlightening "Freshco" which is in



lime wood finish laser cut letters. The washbasin area is a blue box, the small space emotionally changes the perspective and mindset of a person and makes him feel fresh already standing in front of the mirror, reflecting the blue colour.

One of the dearest and important features of the cafe are the 18 hanging lights, the concept of using a fishbowl came out from the unavailability of appropriate lights that fit our budget. People had already made terrariums using such fishbowls, but never before had someone used it for customised lights. We evolved a layered customised pendant light out of a large fish bowl with a spherical base containing six small bowls of which three

One of the dearest and important features of the cafe are the 18 hanging lights... we evolved a layered customised pendant light out of a large fish bowl



3. The high telescopic legged customised black stools adjacent to the customised planter boxes

4. Playfully conceived transparent acrylic boxes with thermocol glasses, LED lit from behind

5. Illusory custom pendant designed fishbowl lights, containing Ping Pong balls selectively lit with bullet LEDs

6. Black and colored fabric Eames inspired fabric chairs with black glossy top tables compliment the design visually



were coloured with stained glass paints, and three were transparent containing white Ping-Pong ball of which three were lit with a bullet LED, the most prominent feature of the light.

The transparency effect of those lights made it merge well with the ambience, unlike other lights with solid colours. In order to hang those pendant lights,

we prepared the neck of the spherical fish bowl with four holes on each side. Considering the safety of the customers a properly fabricated stand was installed above the false ceiling with nine rods hanging below holding the nine bowls.

In addition to all the elements the dark ceiling, indirect lighting and grey walls perfectly reflect the fresh atmosphere inside the café along with a pinch of greens. ●

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Architect Harsh Boghani pursued his B. Arch from SVIT, India and procured M. Arch from IAAC, Barcelona, Spain. He worked with MAD Architects (Beijing, China), RSP Architects (Dubai), ARUP (Singapore), NU.DE (Mumbai). His great experiences enriched him to serve the best synergy of aesthetics, design, ideologies and culture. While the parent organisation Boghani & Associates with a rich history of 35 years continues focusing on Commercial Projects, THE CROSSBOUNDARIES, established in 2015, works on smaller contemporary bespoke, personalised and custom architecture, product design and interiors.

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