

Colonial designs

They add a new look to your interiors, writes **Malati Kallapur**

You marvel at the cane sofa with elegant carvings and turn around to ask Kamini Bhasin of Colonial Outpost which period it belongs to. "That is something we created here in Bangalore at our factory Period Replica Furniture. In fact none of the furniture around here is antique, its all new stuff in period designs", she says. That makes you wonder even more. The design, finish, and aura are unmistakably antique, but made in Bangalore by local craftsmen. You feel proud. The best part is that this furniture goes all over the world through exports and some times through NRIs and foreigners who bring catalogues and get their furniture made here. And the smoothness of the colonial-style carving is unanimously appreciated.

Designer D R Bhasin has ingrained a special aesthetic appeal into these furniture pieces. And they use only solid wood. It's a strict no to ply at Colonial Outpost. Most of the wood is sourced from the Indo-Nepal border, and what they use mostly is sheesham, which is as heavy and long-lasting as teak, explains Kamini. "And since this wood is bought in bulk, works out cheaper than teak", she adds.



Each piece of furniture is unique. Elegant sofas and chairs, regal rocking chairs, roll-top desks, beds

nick-named Tagore beds, Chinese prayer cabinet with floral carving, exquisite curio stands, functional television units, majestic book stands, console tables, bars that can hold small refrigerators.... all of them have the sophistication of colonial furniture. Their tilt-top stools, coffee tables with fabric top, which also serve as cozy seating arrangement, attract special attention. They also do custom made wall to wall cabinets. Size is not a limiting factor. "We have made 16-ft long cabinet for a French customer", says Bhasin.

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