



**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, Soheli 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. Soheli'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
 Soheli is inspired by the Indian motif, paisley.



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

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.



“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.”