



LEFT AND BELOW: BINDOO MODULES LEELA, KAMA, AND NITYA COALESCE TO FORM A WHIMSICAL WALL TAPESTRY.

DESIGNED BY KUMAR LA NOCE FOR ALTREFORME, BINDOO IS A COLLECTION OF **WHIMSICAL MIRRORS THAT TAKE INSPIRATION FROM THE HUMBLE DOT.**

TEXT: VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ALTREFORME

Inspired by the Sanskrit word for “dot”, Bindoo, a trifold of geometric mirrors by Indo-Italian design practice Kumar La Noce for Italian high-end aluminium furniture company Altreforme—unveiled at Milan Design Week 2024—is an object lesson in infinity. “The dot is a recurrent symbol in Indian philosophy; in cultural and philosophical realms, yes, but also in day-to-day life, as in the case of the bindi,” says architect Bhavana Kumar, one half of Kumar La Noce, noting that the figure shapeshifts through the collection, manifesting within a triangle in the Kama mirror, and within squares in the Leela and Nitya.

Kumar avers that there are no rules when it comes to combining them, and Nicola La Noce, the studio’s other half, adds, “It’s a playful series of objects with endless possibilities: each mirror can be used on its own as a focal point or as part of a larger composition. Once you start putting the pieces together as your own graphic project, it’s almost like creating your own mirror work tapestry.”

Altreforme is an offshoot of Fontana Group, the producer of avant-garde aluminium parts for luxury car brands like Ferrari, Rolls Royce, and Jaguar. The collection is therefore born from the same know-how and technology, sculpted from the same aluminium as said automobiles, and even shares with them a production facility.

Kumar admits that the design process was equal parts visceral and cerebral, and that it took months of work, technical drawings, 3D modelling, and colour studies to realize the final product. “Every curve and fold was studied and precisely formed,” she notes, adding that the collaboration with Altreforme allowed for a healthy and continuous exchange of thoughts and ideas that ensured every iteration was better than the last. Even so, for Kumar and La Noce, taking Bindoo to Milan is significant in more ways than one. “As a project of Indo-Italian heritage, it’s special that we can give it wings in both countries,” La Noce signs off. **▲**





← **LEYRE LÓPEZ DE LA PAZ**

PHOTOGRAPHER Based in Ibiza, Spain, López de la Paz believes creativity is essential to human consciousness. In this issue, she photographs master weaver Shamji Vankar Vishram Valji at the Xtant festival in Mallorca (pg 19). "I loved every moment with Shamji bhai. We shared each other's life stories, and at one point, we even sang a song from my travels to India together."



↑ **SURYAN AND DANG**

PHOTOGRAPHERS For this issue, Saurabh Suryan and Lokesh Dang photograph Anupam Poddar and Eeshaan Kashyap's home in New Delhi (pg 90). "It was a delightful experience capturing the various hues and textures of the mud plaster walls, the many textiles, ceramics, art objects and other pieces."

→ **RAGHAV GOSWAMY**

PHOTOGRAPHER Based in Mumbai, Goswamy works across publications, advertising and fine art, primarily exploring themes of nostalgia, space, memory and reflection. For this issue, he photographs the studios of textile designer Hema Shroff Patel (pg 32) and artist Shakuntala Kulkarni (pg 44) in Mumbai. "Crafts serve as a reflection of India's rich heritage and both Hema and Shakuntala are doing a wonderful service by preserving and promoting them through their practices."



→ **DIVYA MISHRA**

WRITER The former deputy editor of AD, Mishra writes about architect and designer John Pawson's latest line of furniture with Danish flooring company Dinesen (pg 22). "I find John Pawson's handling of wood almost poetic in how it transforms absence to presence. This collaboration has created furniture that seems to embody its own essence, and in doing so, evokes a sense of stillness and calm."



← **VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR**

WRITER Talawadekar writes about Makaan, Tahir Sultan's Jaipur-based concept store (pg 36), and Bindoo, a new series of mirrors by Bengaluru-based Kumar La Noce for Altreforme (pg 14). "Writing for this issue was a treat. Covering both these stories was like venturing deep inside Aladdin's cave of undiscovered treasures."

↑ **AVESH GAUR**

PHOTOGRAPHER A Delhi-based photographer and filmmaker, Gaur is known for his abstract style where he amalgamates art and architecture through his visuals. For this issue, he photographs Tahir Sultan's store Makaan in Jaipur (pg 36). "Shooting with Tahir and his antique products brought out a sudden nostalgic feeling and it felt like taking a walk down the memory lanes of culture and history."



