



DISCERNING TIPS FROM BENTLEY OWNERS

SISTER ACT

Interior designers Rolly and Rajeeta Gupta reveal their favourite experiences, from Indian art and fashion to Crewe craftsmanship

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROGER BOOL

Rolly and Rajeeta Gupta are the founders of luxury Delhi-based interior design company House of Raro. The sisters started their furniture business in 1997 aged just 18 and 19, having been disappointed by the options on offer when their entrepreneur father was building a family home. Realising there was an opportunity to design Indian-crafted, high-end furniture, they got to work and, since their debut show in 1998, haven't looked back.

A combination of French art deco and sumptuous, rare materials influences the sisters' designs, which is partly how they came to buy their Bentley. "In 2010 we were designing the house of a friend, who ran the Delhi showroom," says Rolly. "One day, knowing our tastes, he called and said: 'You must come and see this.' It was a Flying Spur in Cyprus Green with a similar coloured leather inside. The colours were very deco and feminine – it was ideal for us."

Rajeeta adds: "We feel a certain closeness to the Bentley brand as its values correspond with ours. Old and new are beautifully combined in a timeless vintage feel. A certain tradition comes through when you look at a Bentley."

Having recently moved to London, the sisters would like to purchase another Bentley. They prefer to be chauffeured through the busy city, but would love to drive themselves outside London.

With their bespoke work and clients taking them all around the world, they share with us their influences, passions and escapes.



ART

We collect Indian contemporary art, particularly works by **Jamil Naqsh** (above), who is from Pakistan but lives in London. His work is a little like Picasso, an all-time favourite of ours. We also like the late Indian artist **Tyeb Mehta**, whose triptych *Celebration* sold for 15 million rupees (\$317,500) at a Christie's auction in 2002. We're interested in photography and are particularly close to portrait photographer **Alistair Morrison**, who is going to take our portraits soon. We'd like to collect some of his works for our flat, and give it a fresh note. jamilnaqsh.co.uk; alistairmorrison.com



FESTIVALS

We are very close to the Maharaja of Jodhpur and when we stay at his Umaid Bhawan Palace (Taj Hotels), the Royal Family personally takes care of us. The Maharaja invites us to his **Holi Festival** in March, where local singers and dancers perform. We're in talks to devise a collection of limited-edition art deco-style furniture with him. We also go to the **World Sacred Spirit Festival** (above) in February at the fort overlooking Jodhpur. Musicians from across the world come to play spiritual and mystical music; it's an amazing experience. taj.tajhotels.com/en-in/umaid-bhawan-palace-jodhpur; worldsacredspiritfestival.org



EXPERIENCE

Connoisseur's world

ARCHITECTURE

The architect Zaha Hadid's recent passing was a great loss to the world. Her **Heydar Aliyev Centre** (above) in Baku, Azerbaijan, made our jaws drop. Likewise, Frank Gehry's **Louis Vuitton Foundation** in Paris is incredible, resembling a boat with billowing sails, light and movement. zaha-hadid.com/architecture/heydar-aliyev-centre; fondationlouisvuitton.fr



FASHION

We love Indian couturiers **Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla** for their saris and Western evening gowns. They use a technique from Lucknow called *chikankari* and embellish it further with sequins and other decorations. It's traditional but super-glamorous. We invest in jewellery from **Hari Jewels** in New Delhi (they also have branches in New York and Los Angeles). For accessories, we favour the feminine watches crafted by **Michel Parmigiani**, a wonderful craftsman; **Roger Vivier's** evening clutches – we passed his shop rather too often when we lived on London's Mount Street! – and **Camilla Elphick's** delicate shoes (above). abusandeep.com; harijewels.com; parmigiani.ch; rogervivier.com/en-gb; camillaelphick.com

ESCAPES

We love taking spa breaks. **Amanpuri** in Phuket retains an old touch with incredible service. There's a huge, black-tiled pool and you can look up at the stars and feel the balmy breeze. We often travel to Italy. Last year, we stayed at the Capri Palace Hotel in Anacapri. The general manager, Ermanno Zanini, is a dear friend of ours and he makes such a difference to our stay. The hotel has a two Michelin-starred restaurant, **L'Olivo**, where Loro Piana has crafted most of the furnishings, all soft linens and cashmere. There's a terrace with a sea view and the food is exceptional. We also love the **Royal Mansour** (below) in Marrakech. You stay in riads, wonderful private residences, rather than in rooms, and the hammam is to die for. For a serious medi-spa, you can't beat **The Farm at San Benito**, a two-hour drive from Manila. It's owned by friends of ours who are like family and it's a stunning property with coconut groves, peacocks and a fantastic vegan restaurant. You come away looking amazing. aman.com/resorts/amanpuri; capripalace.com/en/; royalmansour.com; thefarmatsanbenito.com



Jamil Naqsh, Evoy, oil on canvas, Royal Mansour, Hufcon+Crow



BENTLEY



GOLDEN DAYS
BE EXTRAORDINARY

EXPERIENCE
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HIGH FLYERS
Sisters Rolly and Rajesha
Gupta, with the Flying
Spur VB S, feel an affinity
with the Bentley brand.