

In Bhupal's cabin, get a glimpse of the mosaic table made from pre fab sheets of miniscule tiles, sitting on chrome yellow floors

UNDER THE STYLE UMBRELLA

Bhupal Ramnathkar's imagination runs wild at work with reclaimed materials and life size animals

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BAJIRAO PAWAR**
PRODUCED BY **MRUDUL PATHAK KUNDU**

110



Entering the Umbrella Design office of Bhupal Ramnathkar in Mumbai is a heady experience. "Leave your umbrellas and egos outside," suggests the large white bin at the door. And then the fun begins.... Every aspect of the decor in his studio, is clearly planned to serve a purpose. As Ramnathkar says, "Design should solve the problem." In his case, it was simple. The conundrum was lack of funds as he had pooled all his resources to buy a dream workspace. When it came to the interiors, he was virtually broke! But it was his creative genius that resolved the issue.

AN INSTALLATION A DAY

A love for the quirky and unconventional as well as a proclivity for installation art made this 5,000 sq ft area come alive. Some of its unique features include the use of stacked crates as the staircase, a conference table fashioned from wooden wine cases, which took eight whole months to source, after begging friends from around the world to save their cartons apres finishing the bottle.

Clockwise, from Top Left A proud red lion specially created by Bhupal dramatically partitions the office; Colourful pipes conceal wires at the work place; The yellow industrial flooring adds a dash of brightness to this funky design firm. Bhupal's office lies concealed behind the slatted white door; A vintage typewriter in vibrant red - another off-beat idea from the creative's stable



111



Clockwise, from Top Left To hide wires and beams, a cheap but effective ceiling of waste tin or patra is used; A view of the conference table created out of wine crates sourced from around the world; Regular aluminium stools against the wall add a casual flair; A line of retro robots from Japan; The fibre glass cow hangs proudly as the centrepiece



ELLE DECOR LOVES

Other eye catching additions include the giant cow that is suspended in the central space and is made in fibre glass. "Cows are coloured and milk is white but I have created the opposite effect," he avers. Functionality and form are juxtaposed in various elements across the zone. His trendy cabin precedes the reception and is neatly concealed in a similarly coloured cocoon. A clever use of shades and space ensures a relaxed and laid back style with a dollop of drollery. ♦ **Fareeda Kango**

