

LUXE CODE

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ROMANCE OF MEMORY

At India's most anticipated design showcase, **India Design 2026**, immersive installations, material innovation, and a renewed reverence for craft signalled a future where spaces are felt as deeply as they are seen.

Photo courtesy: India Design 2026

India Design 2026 unfolded less like a traditional exhibition and more like a cinematic journey through the evolving language of contemporary living. This year's edition moved beyond the idea of design as decoration, presenting it instead as atmosphere, narrative, and emotional architecture. Across the showcase, materials carried memory, walls told stories, and craft stepped confidently into the future.

Stone set the tone. Marble appeared not as a finishing flourish but as a monumental presence, sculptural and luminous, reshaped into fissure-like forms and architectural volumes that felt carved by time itself. The message was clear: the most ancient materials are finding new life as the foundations of modern imagination.

Elsewhere, nostalgia was reinterpreted through a softer lens. Visitors wandered through interiors that felt collected rather than constructed—spaces layered with objects, textures, and quiet romance. The mood suggested a growing desire for homes that feel lived-in, storied, and deeply personal rather than perfectly pristine.

Material storytelling continued to unfold through veneer, wallcoverings, and textiles that transformed surfaces into sensory experiences. Colour, texture, and tactility played leading roles, reframing walls, panels, and fabrics as emotional landscapes rather than passive backdrops. The vertical plane emerged as one of the year's most compelling canvases.

A dialogue between global influences and timeless comfort appeared in parallel visions of modern living. Mid-century silhouettes, primary colour palettes, soft pastels, and classic



WINE ROOM & POTTERY ROOM



WINE ROOM



DRAPEY



A-CLASS MARBLE



COAST TO COAST

woods revealed a shared desire for familiarity—homes that balance collectability with comfort, modernity with warmth.

Craft, meanwhile, found new clarity through geometry and restraint. Traditional techniques were distilled into crisp architectural frameworks, allowing texture and handwork to take centre stage without ornamentation. The result was minimalism softened by heritage and imbued with quiet luxury.

Beyond aesthetics, the conversation shifted toward performance and adaptability. Surfaces and systems were presented as interconnected elements shaping comfort, durability, and the long-term evolution of space. The modern home, it seemed, is no longer static—it is fluid, responsive, and constantly redefining itself.

Art provided a final moment of pause. Kinetic forms moving in delicate balance invited reflection, reminding visitors that harmony—like design—is always in motion.

India Design 2026 ultimately revealed a defining shift: design is no longer about how spaces look alone, but how they feel, evolve, and resonate. The exhibition became an experience, and the future of design emerged as something immersive, emotional, and unmistakably alive. ■