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4 things to look forward to

Here are things to look forward to in Chennai.



Simply Chennai

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Story in Audio

Asian Delights: The newest to join the city's fast growing list of restaurants serving up popular, diverse Chinese and South-east Asian favourites, Hutong professes to be inspired by Sichuan flavours.

Asian delights

The newest to join the city's fast growing list of restaurants serving up popular, diverse Chinese and South-east Asian favourites, Hutong professes to be inspired by Sichuan flavours. The dimsum selection at the minimalist-decor restaurant is

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tofu and a hot chilli sauce and served warm in a bamboo steamer.



Those seeking comfort Chinese food have enough to pick from Asian Delights their crowd-pleasers like crispy-fried lotus stem with Sichuan peppers, creamy corn soup, sweet-spicy dragon prawn with cashewnut, kung-pao chicken and butter-garlic fried rice. For choices lighter on the palate, try their delicious clear, vegetable broth or sticky fried rice with edamame, that comes with a mildly pungent mushroom gravy. More interesting are their dessert experiments like the milk toast topped with browned sugar and condensed milk ice-cream and steamed Mantao buns dipped in custard. n

Story in Audio

By Krithika Sukumar

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MEAL FOR TWO Rs 1,500

By Krithika Sukumar

Glass filled dreams

When Anjali Venkat was 10, she saw how bangles were made and she was instantly enthralled. As she watched the way the glass was heated and bent to make perfectly

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expression. Known for her work with post consumer-glass, Anjali Venkat has transformed discarded glass bottles into works of art and utility products for over 25 years.



She returns to Chennai, for an art exhibition. Her latest collection aptly named *Alte* (Dreaming in Glass) features her take on nature. Nature, like glass, has always been my inspiration. Over the last few years, I have found myself drawn to the circular shape and this is my take on leaves, the earth, water, light, shadows and more, she says. The highlight of her collection is that all the glass that has been used is all recycled and discarded glass. From broken window panes to shower glass, each shard of glass has been individually sourced. Either I source the glass I work with, or people drop it off at my studio, she adds. This collection has been done over a period of six months and features 18 stunning art pieces that range from wall installations to wall hangings.

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Some of the larger pieces comprise over 1000 pieces of glass, intricately assembled together. With vivid colours and textured hues, she aims to use postconsumer glass to transform society's undesirable waste into something that is aesthetically pleasing.

By Anjana Palepu

Sound of fusion



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City-based independent music band, IndoSoul by Karthick Iyer, layers their classical-at-heart music with global influences. Currently working on their fourth album that will combine classical Indian music with electronic influences, IndoSoul by Karthick Iyer is no new name to lovers of fusion music in Chennai. At IndoSoul, we all come from diverse music backgrounds and work together to find common ground. We try and go beyond just jamming together, to understanding each others genres, says Karthick Iyer, a trained Carnatic violinist and vocalist, who formed the band six years ago. A bunch of us were performing our own versions of popular film numbers and classical music at my sisters wedding, and the audience loved it. The idea took off from there, recounts Iyer.

While they continue to belt out covers of pop hits and contemporary Carnatic at weddings and events, their original compositions have attracted a following that recognises their unique sound. Their first fusion album IndoSoul: Looking within to look beyond launched three years ago and the second The Pallavi Shift- which showcased six Carnatic songs with RnB, pop and jazz, in collaboration with Puducherry-based pianist Dondieu Divin, both aim to make Indian classical music more approachable to audiences who grew up listening to very different genres of music.

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Their third album too, which they premiered on a tour of the USA late last year, contains five original compositions, and two kritis of Saint Tyagaraja, "Theres a kriti with hard rock, and one of our songs Saramati combines poetry by the religious singer Pithukuli Murugadas, and Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa, says Iyer, who has been performing for over 20 years, and has worked with names like A.R. Rahman and D. Sri Prasad from the film industry. With guitarist Vikram Vivekanand, bassist Reshw.

Nishith  midangam player Sumesh Narayan and drummer Ramkumar Kanakarajan

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By Krithika Sukumar

Tales of Yore

Madras Inherited revisits Chennais history through architecture, including those of lesserknown heritage homes. Though they are rapidly being replaced by urban constructions, the decadesold heritage houses across Chennai are an important part of the narrative of its past, on heritage walks conducted by Madras Inherited a newly-minted initiative comprising architects and volunteers.



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Photograph by Sujith Kumar



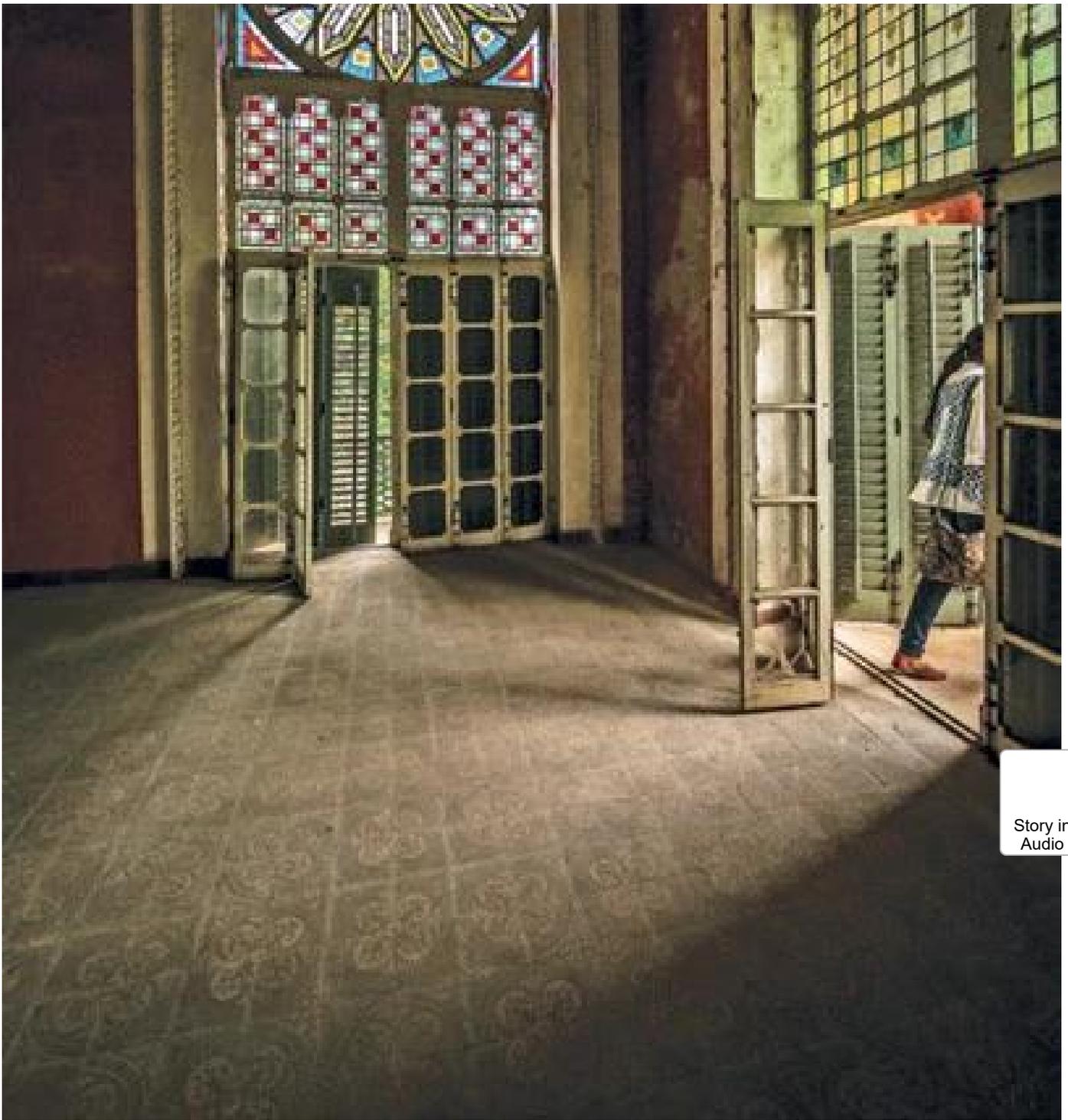
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Photograph by Sujith Kumar

Tahaer Zoyab, an architect and co-founder, had been conducting walks around the old houses in Mylapores bylanes for about three years, when he realised that many of these residences were fast being razed down. That area has beautiful houses that are often a hybrid of various historic styles like Indo-Saracenic, neo-classical and Gothic. But alarmingly, half of the heritage houses we mapped just last year have disappeared by now. While there is already some effort around preserving larger, more iconic heritage buildings in the city, its not the same with houses. There is no conversation

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who lived there, reflecting its vibrant history as a trade settlement close to the sea.

Theres even a Zoroastrian temple from the 1850s there, says Shalini Ravikumar, who studied heritage conservation at the University of Edinburgh, and organises walks along with Zoyab. Currently, these walks are mostly around Mylapore and Royapettah, but will soon expand to cover areas near Royapuram, George Town and Triplicane.

We research on each locality through books, newspaper articles, documents from the Mohameddan library and of course, conversations with experts of various histories like Ommai Anwar and Nivedita Louis to help us correlate its history and architecture, she says. Participants on the walks receive goody bags filled with notepads, fridge magnets, coasters and bookmarks, mostly featuring intricate patterns spotted on heritage buildings across town. The group also plans to document the many spectacular heritage houses they identify during their walks.

By Krithika Sukumar

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by Taboola

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