

HOTEL

HIGH DESIGN HOTELS

AD plays globetrotter as we travel around the world and India to select the best new design hotels that define the notion of contemporary luxury

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...the design of the hotel is a blend of modern and traditional... the architecture is a mix of... the interior design is a mix of... the furniture is a mix of... the lighting is a mix of... the overall design is a mix of...



NIKOLAS KOENIG



PRIMROSE VILLAS, CHIKMAGALUR SUMITRA RAMU

"Even before lifting your head from the pillow, the first thing you should see are the mountain views," says Ravi Ramu, founder of financial advisory firm KPMG India, and, along with wife Sumitra, co-owner of Primrose Villas in Chikmagalur, a few hours' drive from Bengaluru. When the view becomes the focus, you'd imagine the design would have fallen into place. Not so much, since the resort site was a mountain slope, nearly 5,000 feet high. "The expertise to erect world-class structures in such demanding geographies had to be learnt on the job." The roof too posed a challenge. "We didn't want the typical Mangalore tile triangular roof, because the inverted 'V' shape cuts the view. We wanted a large sloping roof that would leave the front and sides fully open," explains Ramu. The final result is a fluid merging of the outside with the interiors, charmingly designed by Sumitra. The Indian and western furniture and their personal eclectic collection of antiques—"acquired over 20 years"—offer an old-world backdrop to enjoy the natural outdoor drama. But above all, the resort is about the view, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, sit-outs, and mostly all-glass walls.

primrosevillas.com



ANSHUMAN SEN