



## VOLUME ZERO

### Sweet Nation and Nanbai by Inout Design Studio Goa

Architecture

2025

Photographer : Captures by Brick Labs



Text provided by Shruti Mukumbi

Inout Design Studio reimagines two cafes in Goa, Sweet Nation and Nanbai, as more than dessert destinations. They're soulful, story-driven spaces where architecture becomes brand, and indulgence feels like home.

Some cafes serve you sugar highs. Others serve a mood, something that is layered, atmospheric, and surprisingly personal. That's the quiet magic of Sweet Nation and Nanbai, two stacked dessert cafes in Candolim, Goa, brought to life by Inout Design Studio. In the home is meant to feel linear or rigid."

Candolim, Goa, India

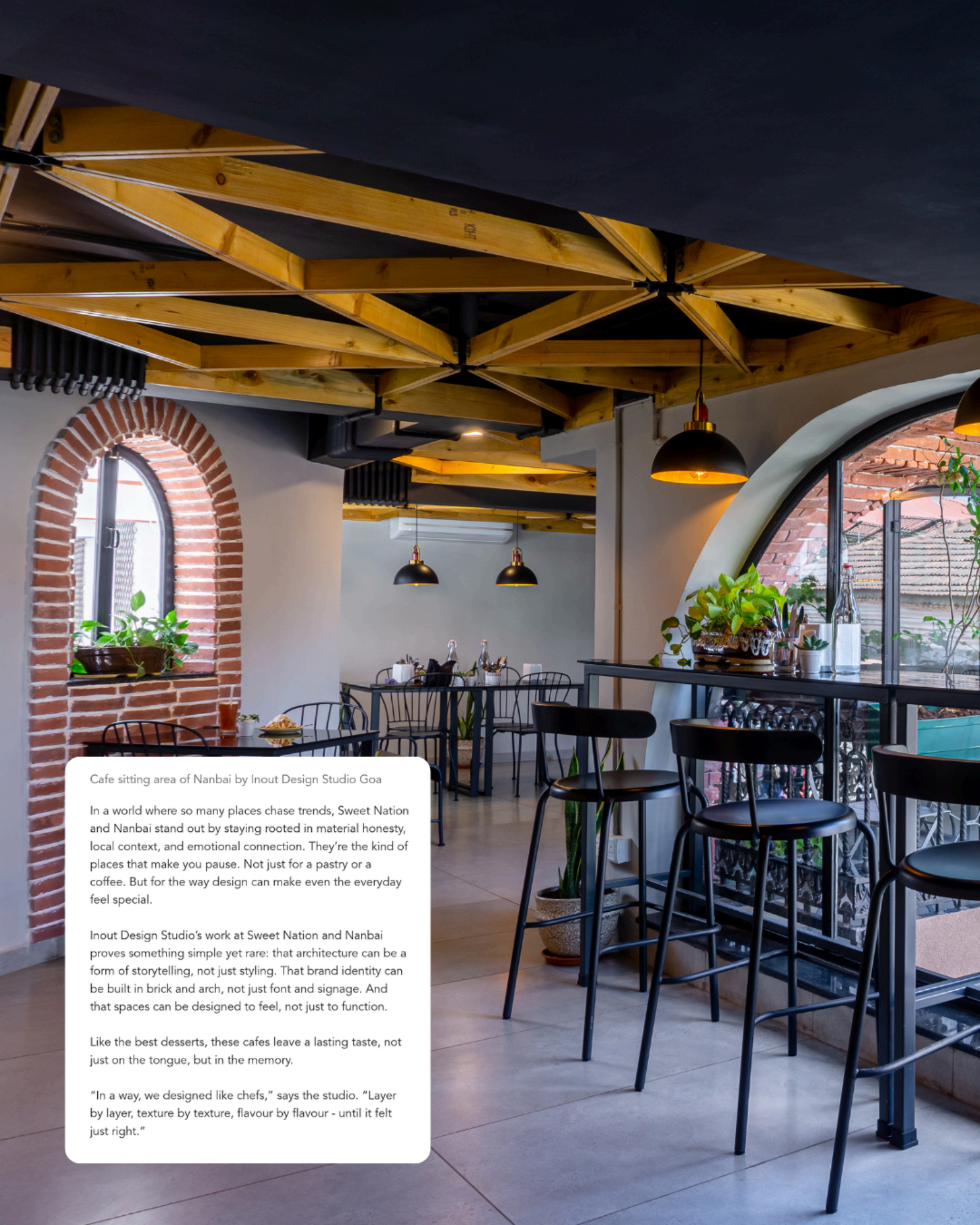
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Year	:	2025
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Cafe sitting area of Nanbai by Inout Design Studio Goa

The use of plants in both cafes softens the architecture, while the brick cladding keeps things grounded. The arch as a motif isn't just decorative; it's functional, structural, and instantly recognizable. It's the kind of detail that sticks in your memory, like the smell of freshly baked cake or the light at golden hour. These aren't just good-looking cafes. They're places where you feel like the design was made for you.

Inout Design Studio has created an atmosphere, one where architecture isn't shouting at you, but gently nudging you to stay a little longer. To notice the texture of a wall, the shape of a shadow, the comfort of a seat that's been thoughtfully placed.



Cafe sitting area of Nanbai by Inout Design Studio Goa

In a world where so many places chase trends, Sweet Nation and Nanbai stand out by staying rooted in material honesty, local context, and emotional connection. They're the kind of places that make you pause. Not just for a pastry or a coffee. But for the way design can make even the everyday feel special.

Inout Design Studio's work at Sweet Nation and Nanbai proves something simple yet rare: that architecture can be a form of storytelling, not just styling. That brand identity can be built in brick and arch, not just font and signage. And that spaces can be designed to feel, not just to function.

Like the best desserts, these cafes leave a lasting taste, not just on the tongue, but in the memory.

"In a way, we designed like chefs," says the studio. "Layer by layer, texture by texture, flavour by flavour - until it felt just right."

A photograph of the interior dining area of Sweet Nation restaurant. The space features a high ceiling with a recessed light strip and a large wooden beam. A circular pendant light hangs over a wooden table with matching chairs. The floor is tiled with a pattern of light and dark squares. A large window in the background shows greenery outside. A white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Indoor dining of Sweet Nation by Inout Design Studio Goa

The result is a soft, grounded space that invites you to stay. Just a floor below, Sweet Nation brings a whole different kind of energy. The exterior is playful, yet composed, a strong, bright red portal frames the entrance, acting like a celebratory threshold, while arched brick niches and a rustic terracotta facade hint at what lies within. While both cafes share the same design language, Sweet Nation is a little more maximalist in feel.

Step inside and you're met with interiors that feel like a layered dessert: There's checkered flooring in shades of ivory and brown, the columns are wrapped in mirrors, bouncing light around and adding height to the space. Soft pendant lights hang overhead, casting a gentle glow, and arched wall niches display handcrafted brass decor. It's dynamic but not chaotic, maximalist, yes, but thoughtfully so.



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Perched one above the other in a bustling Goan neighbourhood, the spaces speak the same design language, but in very different tones. Despite being neighbors, they tell their own stories through arches, exposed brick, soft light, and subtle design choices that make you want to linger. Everything you see, touch, and feel ties back to the brand, and both manage to strike that rare balance: they feel fresh and rooted at the same time.