



Meet The Makers- Phantom Hands

Discover this Bangalore based furniture maker par excellence, with craft at its core and sustainability practices that protect the environment

Handcrafted furniture has a unique style and personality and more than once, I have appreciated a beautifully made piece, which was later attributed to Phantom Hands. This Bangalore based company is discreet in its marketing and let's its product speak for itself. Leading Indian and international interior designers and architects, place their furniture in their projects and some of the best

luxury brands in the world like Christian Dior, Burberry, Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, etc. have Phantom Hands' furniture, in their stores around the world. The company started as a monthly catalogue of curated vintage objects, and what began as a hobby project for founders Deepak Srinath and Aparna Rao gradually evolved into a brand for well-made vintage objects that highlighted the craftsmanship and design histories of India. Starting with one retail partner in Belgium in 2017, today they have an international footprint in 30 retail stores across 20 countries.

"The first and most significant turning point for Phantom Hands, was discovering the modernist furniture made for Chandigarh in the 1950s and 60s, under the guidance of Swiss architect Pierre Jeannerette. Our fascination with it sparked the idea of remaking them. After much thought, and investigations into its authorship, copyrights, etc., we finally took the plunge and made a collection of furniture, Project Chandigarh. We have also collaborated with Milan-based furniture designers INODA+SVEJE to launch their first contemporary collection in 2017. This led to collaborations with other international designers who were open to exploring the possibilities that our craft based production could offer." reveals Deepak.

Phantom Hands is a furniture maker who is extremely conscious of design, craft excellence and ethical practices. They pride themselves on complete transparency in manufacturing methods, with craft at the core of all of the products. Sustainability is an essential theme in the design process and the suppliers they source wood from are vetted, to make sure their supply chains are transparent and ethical. Out of this, they use as much reclaimed timber as they can source, which typically comes from old buildings that are demolished. For fabrics they work with partners who have spent decades working with grassroots weaving communities and hold themselves to a high standard and value system. They have also moved away from polyurethane finishes to water based finishes and natural wax for their furniture-these are far more environment friendly, as well as healthier and safer for the craftsmen. Other steps



From Top: Upholstered easy armchair in Zanav upholstery from Project Chandigarh collection; Craftsmen handcraft each piece to perfection (FACING PAGE) From top: Phantom Hands focuses on Indian Modernism and their furniture collections include re-editions of mid-century classics and contemporary originals; Founder-Deepak Srinath

towards sustainability include a design collaboration with Amsterdam based designers x+1 to create products that are specifically designed using leftover pieces of wood. The founder Deepak says, "We continue to explore new designs to make use of our waste wood and hope to move as close to zero waste, as we can. We're constantly evolving and try to incorporate sustainability into everything we do like using recycled PET packing straps and most of our packing material is recyclable or reusable. We have also changed all our lights to LED, to make them more power efficient."

The company plans to "continue to endeavour to become more sustainable in everything-from materials to the sources of electricity and everything in-between. And, to collaborate with the best and most creative designers in the world to bring out products that push the boundaries of craft and design." Phantom Hands is well on its way to become a truly global brand from India with exciting collaborations already underway, to be launched in the coming months. ♦ phantomhands.in

