

Berlin Report

Mai 2025

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1. Navi New Indian

Project Overview

India has seen remarkable economic growth in recent years and is gaining increasing influence around the world. In Germany, the number of immigrants from India has risen dramatically—especially in the capital, Berlin, where the Indian population has grown more than tenfold over the past decade. The relatively low cost of living and the growing IT sector appear to be driving this growth. Alongside the expansion of the community, the number of Indian restaurants has also increased. One such restaurant is Navi, a fine-casual Indian eatery that recently opened in Kreuzberg, a neighborhood known for its popular dining spots. The interior is beautifully decorated with traditional Indian colors and accessories, while intentionally avoiding stereotypical elements such as bright orange hues and figurine statues often associated with “Indian restaurants.” The space was designed by Curry Fwd Collaborations, an Indian hotel consulting firm. Except for the tables, everything—from the Art Deco-style bar counter to the wallpaper, cushions, and other textiles—was custom-made in India.

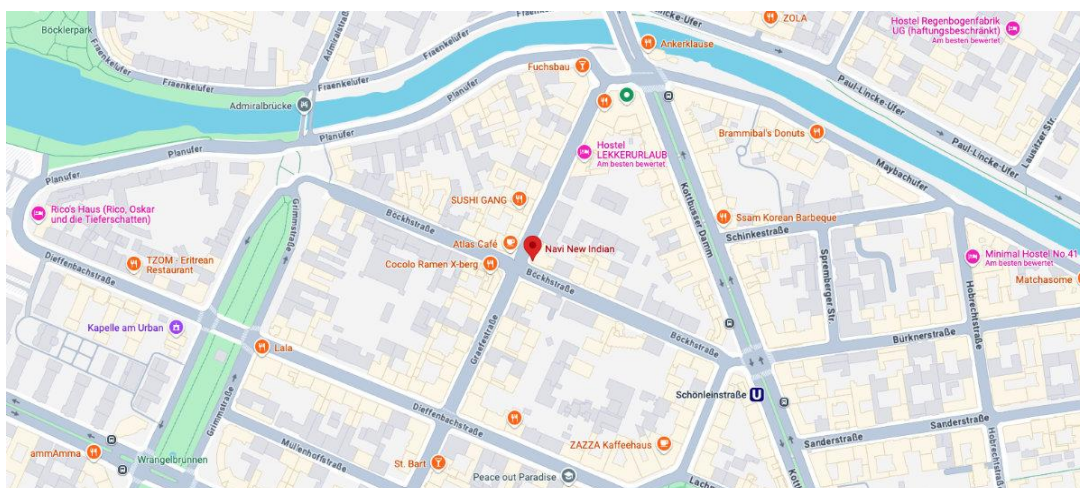
“India is a country full of color. There are currently 28 states, each with its own unique history and culture. I wanted to reflect that cultural diversity not only through the food but also in the interior,” says owner Heena Manglani, who moved to Berlin in 2019. The restaurant was envisioned as a living room where she, her family, and all guests could feel at home. Curved stools, wall openings, low tables, and soft colors contribute to the cozy atmosphere.

“I want to spread authentic Indian cuisine throughout Germany. First through the eyes, then the nose and the tongue—this is a place where you can experience the India you’ve never known, with all your senses,” she adds.

Project Details

1. Client: Navi Gastronomie & Lifestyle GmbH
2. Type of Business: Gastronomie
3. Open Date: 12/10/2024
4. Location: Gräfestraße 83, 10967 Berlin
5. Size: 120 seats
6. Designer: Curry Fwd Collaborations
7. Website: <https://www.wearenavi.de/>

Location Map





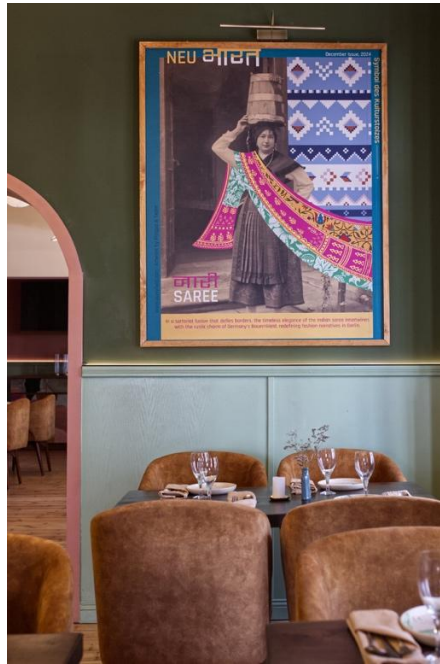
Colors that hold cultural significance in India are used as key accents throughout the walls, spaces, and furniture.



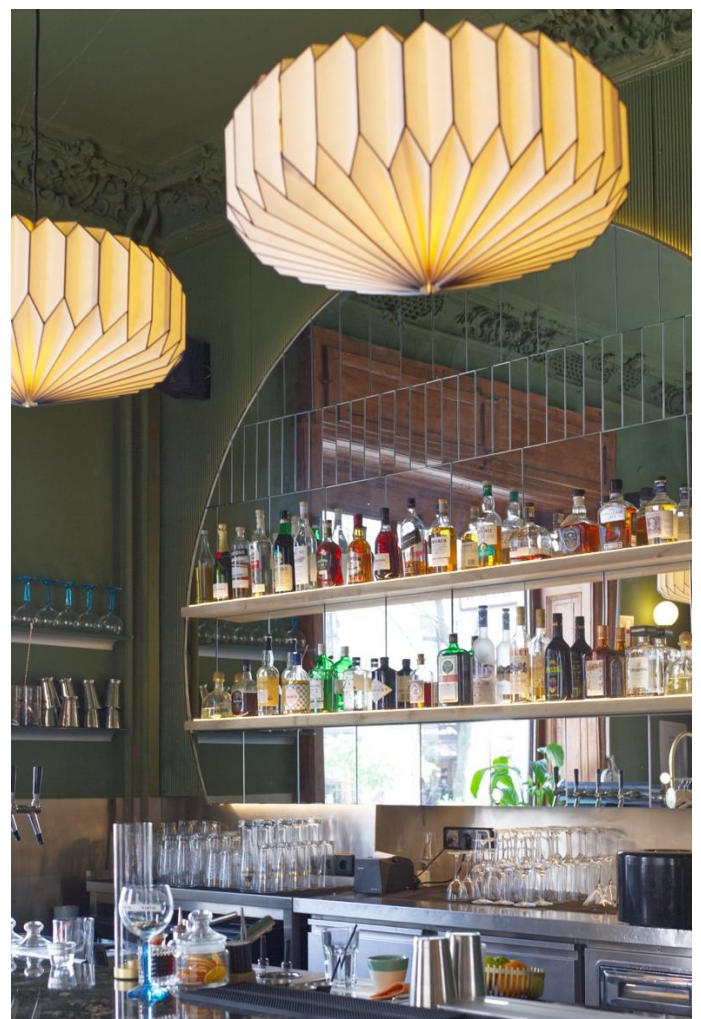
Above: The space is designed to resemble a living room, featuring low-profile furniture.

Bottom left: Draped fabric lighting adds a soft, ambient touch. Bottom right: Several design elements evoke the aesthetics of Art Deco





Above: The artwork on the walls blends German and Indian traditions—for example, a black-and-white photograph of a traditional German farm woman collaged with an Indian sari. Bottom left: Decorative tiles and ceiling paintings introduce movement and rhythm to the space. Bottom right: The bar features distinct Art Deco styling



2. ROOMS of AM TACHELES

Project Overview

A newly completed residential building in Berlin's Mitte district—designed by renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron in collaboration with Brandlhuber + Muck Petzet—serves as the setting for ROOMS of AM TACHELES, an exhibition in which architects and designers explore contemporary housing concepts by transforming rooms within the building. Since its launch, the exhibition has attracted considerable attention from architecture and design enthusiasts.

The inaugural edition, curated by creative director Garth Roberts, is based on the concept of “Vignettes”—brief snapshots, like sentences at the edge of a book—and features three unique room installations by invited design studios: Fernando Laposse, Lotto Studio, and studioutte. In a 79-square-meter apartment with a south-facing balcony, Berlin-based Lotto Studio presented a minimalist interior. They utilized aluminum plate furniture that reflects natural light streaming through the windows, embracing the raw brutalist aesthetics of Herzog & de Meuron's architecture. This room, the smallest in the exhibition, poses the question: What is the essence of living with the bare minimum?

In contrast, studioutte proposed a bold and spacious 146-square-meter loft-style interior. With walls left intentionally unfinished, the space features a dramatic black rubber canvas and a dining table made of black iron, highlighting a sense of scale and dynamic energy. Fernando Laposse took on a 107-square-meter maisonette unit designed by Brandlhuber, creating a sensual, playful environment filled with shades of pink. The dining table combines pink natural stone and solid oak, surrounded by stools and objects that resemble long-haired creatures. While the colors and forms are whimsical, the raw concrete backdrop grounds the space, preventing it from becoming overly sweet and instead lending a calm, composed atmosphere. These vacant, for-sale residences—with no furniture yet in place—serve as blank canvases, encouraging limitless imagination. More than just showcasing creative interiors, ROOMS of AM TACHELES offers a compelling vision of how we might live now and in the future.

Project Details

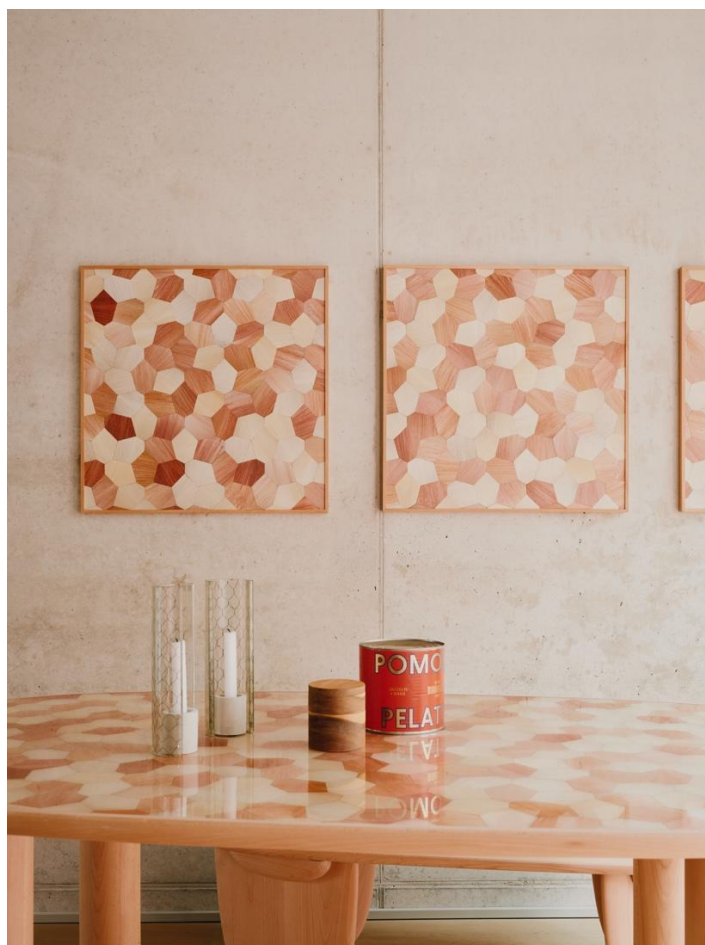
1. Client: AM TACHELES
2. Type of Business: Showrooms
3. Open Date: 20/03/2025
4. Location: Friedrichstrasse 110, 10117 Berlin
6. Creative Director: Garth Roberts, Design Studios: Fernando Laposse, Lotto Studio, studioutte
7. Website: <https://amtacheles.de/> Photography Robert Rieger

Location Map





A room created by Fernando Laposse. Textiles with a unique tactile feel made from agave fibers are used throughout.





Above: A room designed by Studioutte. Bottom: Lotto Studio expresses a pared-down minimalist lifestyle through furniture crafted from aluminum plates.

