

Shelfish about art

We pick the best new titles from Art Deco Mumbai's free library, and Piramal Museum of Art's shop for you to browse and buy



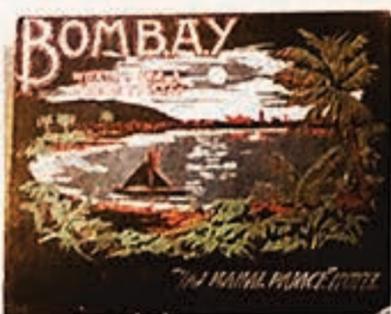
The library contains local and international titles on the architectural style. PICS/SURESH KARKERA

DALREEN RAMOS
dalreen.ramos@mid-day.com

A NARROW stairway in Fort's Jethalal Mansion transports you to an age of glamour. It's where the office of Art Deco Mumbai, a public charitable trust that documents the city's vast collection of Art



Bombay — The Island of Good Life: The 1950s title doesn't come only with a pretty cover but also serves as an illustrated guide to the city and its environs. Detailing what to see and where to stay, the compact booklet was pub-



lished by the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. Pointing to a picture of a vintage car, Kumar shares, "It tells you about the neighbour-

Deco structures, is situated. Due to the dearth of resources on the subject, they started a small library inside the office which houses Art Deco-related books that have been either bought or gifted.

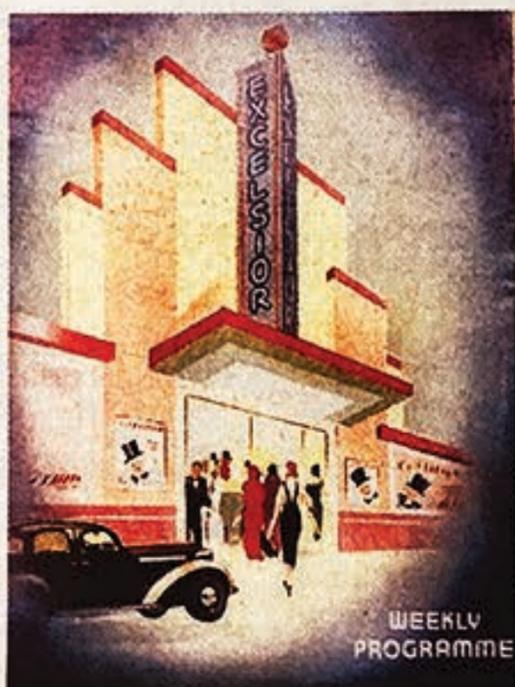
Art Deco Mumbai

Bombay 1956: The guide was published by the Government of India annually. "It's nice to see that the state then could talk about itself with such pride. It talks of not just Bombay but the state of Maharashtra — its size and agriculture as well as ethnic diversity," says Atul Kumar, founder trustee.

hood, the people, the food. All this helps us recreate the social and cultural fabric of that time."



Vishaka Bhat and Atul Kumar of Art Deco Mumbai



Cinema brochures: The library also has a collection of informational brochures circulated by the city's cinemas. This weekly programme circulated by Excelsior, for instance, opens with an announcement of the screening of Herbert Wilcox's *The Return of the Frog* that is based on Edgar Wallace's novel.

FREE AT Jethalal Mansion, 10 Bank Street Cross Lane, Fort. **LOG ON TO** artdecomumbai.com/research/compendium-of-art-deco-mumbai/ (Booking an appointment is mandatory)

Also check out

Art Deco Traveller: A Guide to Europe by Genista Davidson

Bombay Deco by Rahul Mehrotra and Sharada Dwivedi: It traces the genesis and decline of the Art Deco movement in the city.

Art Deco by Bevis Hillier: A comprehensive study on the style, written by the man who coined the term.