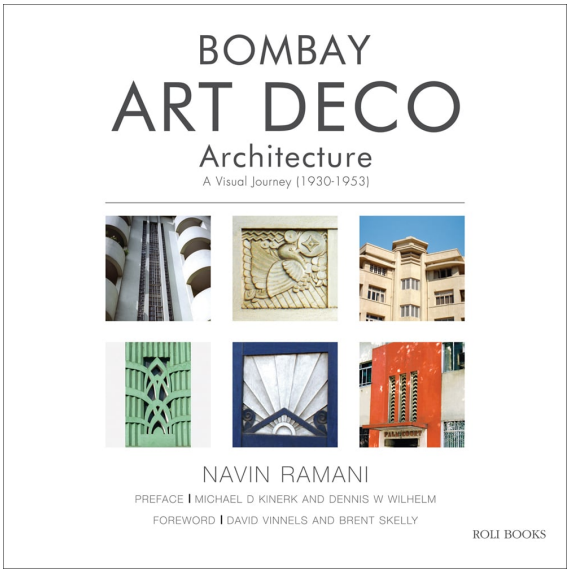
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Bombay Art Deco Architecture

A Visual Journey (1930-1953)

Navin Ramani

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- A photographic study of one of Bombay's most interesting districts
- A useful visual reference for any architecture student interested in Art Deco, twentieth century style shifts, or the Indian subcontinent

Bombay Art Deco Architecture presents a treasury of Art Deco buildings comprising residential, commercial and civic architecture. These monuments were created during the mid '30s and '40s, a glamorous and optimistic era that predated the official end of the British Raj. The architects, a small list of first-generation Indian architects and builders, were mostly educated in English schools and trained in western architectural traditionst. Impatient with the British reluctance to shed the Gothic and Indo-Saracenic architectural styles that had dominated Imperial Bombay's urban landscape, these visionaries were determined to imbue the city with a new modern style. That style shares its provenance with the Art Deco architecture of Miami Beach, termed 'Tropical Deco' by author Laura Cerwinske in her seminal 1981 book. Built in the same era, the Art Deco architecture of the two cities exhibits similar scale, geometry, tropical vocabulary, and love of romance.

An American originally from India, **Navin Ramani** grew up in the city then called Bombay. He is a graduate of Sydenham College, University of Bombay, and received a Masters of Business Administration from Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Ramani's career in the United States has included collaborations with leading architects in India and Miami as a developer's project coordinator. He serves on the board of The Miami Design Preservation League, the organisation responsible for listing the Miami Beach Art Deco District in the National Register of Historic Places, and was co-chairman of the Art Deco Weekend Festival in 2005. He has led guided architectural tours of the Art Deco District since 2002, has lectured in Miami on Bombay's Art Deco style, and has been an honorary tour guide of Bombay's Art Deco architecture for the United Kingdom-based conservation organization, the Cinema Theatre Association and The Twentieth Century Society. A founding member of the Florida Chapter of The Congress for the New Urbanism, Ramani also provided extensive research for the publication of A Guidebook to New Urbanism in Florida 2005.

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