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A Collector's Special

CELEBRATING THE SOUL OF BENGAL

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A Drop of Red

FCML makes its way to the City of Joy, and here's an exclusive first look. Enjoy this vivid, bold convergence of colonial meets modern

FEATURE **TERESA PINTO** PHOTOGRAPHS **AVESH GAUR**

Spread across 6,700sqft, FCML's new experience centre in Kolkata takes cues from the city's architectural heritage. A visit to FCML Delhi convinced Rakesh Agarwal, the store's franchise partner, that Kolkata deserved the same level of craftsmanship and design. Kolkata has grown into a luxury housing market over the past 5-7 years, a change he believes makes the city finally ready.

Designed by Amith Chhabra of Studio LCD, the space reflects comfort and familiarity with a touch of modernity. Its references to Kolkata's colonial buildings and the elegance of Art Deco make this space truly enduring. Instead of a large, open showroom floor, the space comprises a series of connected rooms. Shower zones and display rooms flow into each other, so visitors can move across the space with ease and discover things at their own pace. "Discovery is far more memorable than instant visibility," says Amith. "We wanted visitors to experience moments of surprise as they moved through the showroom, with every turn revealing a different setting, product category or architectural element. The experience is less about viewing products and more about discovering spaces, much like walking through a thoughtfully designed home."

> Kolkata has always been a city that celebrates culture, creativity, and thoughtful design. Opening our showroom here is not simply about entering a new market, it's about becoming part of a community whose values resonate deeply with our own.
>
> — **ABHINAV KHANDELWAL,**
> MANAGING DIRECTOR, FCML



The carefully curated interiors ensure each product stands out, allowing its distinctive details and features to shine through.

Subtly mirroring the architectural identity of old Kolkata, material choices carry most of the weight in shaping a homely feeling. Warm timber panelling is paired with intricately patterned, black-and-white flooring. The same motifs and panels repeat from one room to the next, and this recurrence ties the spaces and materials together. Above these vertical panels, the walls turn a deep charcoal colour. Against the darker palette, the sanitaryware, fittings and surfaces stand out, adding depth and drawing attention to their different textures and features.

The design reinterprets patterns and details of Kolkata's colonial-era interiors, seamlessly integrating them into the design narrative. Ceiling height constraints rule out traditional arched openings, and they have been replaced with softer, curved corners around doorways instead. All these elements combined make the space feel open and light without deviating from the original inspiration.

Pockets of greenery show up in various corners of the showroom, infusing colour and adding a layer of warmth to the structure. These natural elements soften the richer tones and evoke a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Lighting is positioned strategically to highlight the textures of stone, wood, ceramic and metal, while keeping the details of each product noticeable without making the displays feel crowded.

A red pavilion stands out as one of the defining elements within the showroom. Its asymmetrical form and angular installation set it apart from the overarching neutral palette. This pavilion serves as the cynosure of the space, housing FCML's collections, including bathtubs, basins, taps and mixers, bringing together their classic collections in a modern setting.

This showroom unfolds through a variety of planned spaces, from fully designed bathroom settings to a section dedicated entirely to wooden flooring, accented with wall-mounted displays, material libraries and sample drawers. Each area lets visitors see products in different settings and understand how they can be incorporated into various spaces within their own homes. The kitchen gallery introduces three different environments. Ranging from a sleek and contemporary setting to something more classic, every single one of them is tailored to varying lifestyles and home sizes.

Over the years, FCML has built a legacy of excellence, trust, service and their new experience centre in Kolkata brings that legacy to life.






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