



CANVAS: Groove to chartbuster Electronic music with DJ Madoc.
HIGH STREET PHOENIX, Lower Parel, 10 pm.

Imprint, in style



D&G's printed leather dresses are exclusive chic all right but these can't be as unique as a leather rocking chair or a wall hanging imprinted with your child's Picasso-esque portrait. Let your imagination run wild at Vaz Leather Store that offers to print any design on leather, and if you're up for it, you could be sitting in Brad Pitt's lap in three week's time

SHOP

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Think up all the stuff that you can do with photo-editing software these days: you can Andy-Warhol-up any image, add a soft glow or mask a favourite picture with a sepia tone to create a glamorous Madhubala-like portrait; you can tweak colours so a red dress stands out on a black-and-white background or transform a boring old photo into a vintage cine poster with fun graphics and text — the options are endless. Now, at Worli's Vaz Leather Store you can display the product of your creativity (or, just any print you like really) on a handbag, a shoe, a wallet, a hiplask or a dining chair even.

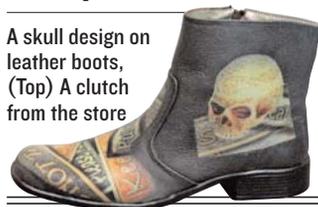
The store has a prêt-a-porter line of printed leather and faux-leather goods, so you'll find loads of clutches (₹900 onwards), sling-bags (₹1,500 onwards), key chains (₹350 onwards) and briefcases (₹3,500 onwards) imprinted with popular images like Buddhas, skulls, horses and geisha prints, but here's the hitch: to customise the print on most of these goods, the store does require a minimum order.

Should you choose to order leather wallets or coasters imprinted with your company's logo, for instance, they require a minimum order of 100 pieces, at least. Prices vary with the size of the order and the intricacy of the print. They take three weeks to deliver, whether you order 200 coasters or six dining chairs (approximately ₹12,500 per chair). If it's a single personalised printed leather accessory you're after, you can order a single wall-hanging (₹2,500), such as the sample we spotted at the store that bore the print of an Egyptian papyrus-painting and, at ₹24,000, you can personalise a leather rocking chair too. Buffalo leather is too pebbly, proprietors Ajay Ahuja and Jugal Vazirani tell us.

The duo that spent almost three years perfecting their leather-printing technique also explains that finer grains allow for a clearer print. They're happy to offer customers swatches and samples to pick from, but you can't give them your own leather, they tell us, "as the material needs to be treated with specific chemicals before and after the printing process so that the print endures the test of time." So, get to the drawing board and give your festive season gifts an edge over the rest.

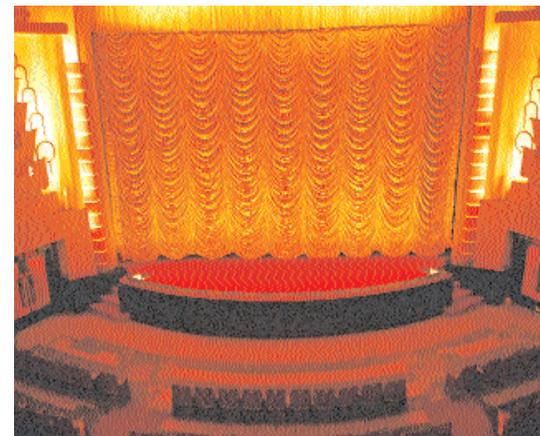
AT Vaz Leather Arts, 206, Atria —
The Millenium Mall, Worli.
CALL 24813626
LOG ON TO
www.facebook.com/Vazlifestyles

A skull design on leather boots, (Top) A clutch from the store



LIGHTS, CAMERA, PROJECTION

On the 148th birth anniversary of motion picture icon and co-inventor of the cinematograph, Louis Lumière, Dhara Vora dropped by Liberty Cinema, one of the oldest movie halls where the analogue motion film camera, one of the Lumière brothers' biggest successes, is still treasured



The main show area of Liberty Cinema, New Marine Lines

FILM

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October 5 marks the birth anniversary of Louis Jean, famously known as Louis Lumière, one half of the Lumière brothers. The Lumière brothers (Louis and Auguste) were pioneers of the motion film and also the cinematograph or the motion picture film camera. Thanks to their use of film, the movie industry is still known as the film industry, despite the digitisation of

cinema halls.

Very few cinema halls today (except for second rung theatres) use analogue projectors; besides the number of single screens in the city has reduced. Today, the same operators who would constantly be on their toes manning these projectors have made the switch with the digital projectors.

After tremendous efforts from owner Nazir Hoosein, Liberty has retained the romance of the single screen and its Art Deco style architecture till date. It uses a mix of digital and analogue projector. The cinema hall, which opened in 1949 with Dilip Kumar and

Raj Kapoor starrer, Andaz, went digital in 2007. Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, who has been manning the projector at Liberty for 17 years now, had to learn the ropes. "I worked at Super Cinema (Grant Road); it's where I learnt to use the projector. I shifted here when I was 20 and perfected myself at Liberty," says Aslam. He feels that the workload has reduced greatly with digitisation, but the room feels very 'sust' (boring, lazy) with less work, "Earlier, we would have to keep a check, constantly; sometimes, not even finding time to drink water, now you can attend a phone call."

Liberty still uses a mix of analogue and digital projection, the national anthem played at the beginning is still film, while for some movies the hall uses analogue after a week as it becomes cheaper. "We still have families asking if the movie is in 'film', if not, they aren't interested," he tells us. When asked if he prefers multiplexes to single screens, he replies, "Single screens have fixed shows, so families can plan their day according to the three shows, at 6.30 after the kids return from school or at 9.30 after the shops are shut. It isn't haphazard. Several well to-do families still come here despite several multiplexes."

Surprisingly, Aslam isn't a big film buff but has met several big producers from the industry who would come to the projector room — from Sanjay Leela Bhansali to the Rajshri Producers, "Rajiv Rai (from Trimurti) would organise poojas in the projector room. But the biggest hits have been Hum Aapke Hai Kaun, which ran Housefull for several weeks and also Dil Toh Paagal Hai, Mohabbatein and Kuch Kuch Hota Hai."

Ask him does he fear losing his job due to further advances in technology, he says, "People today might prefer the lesser load of work. But if a time comes when we too lose our jobs, I'll have to go back to the cheaper theatres, though I wouldn't want to."

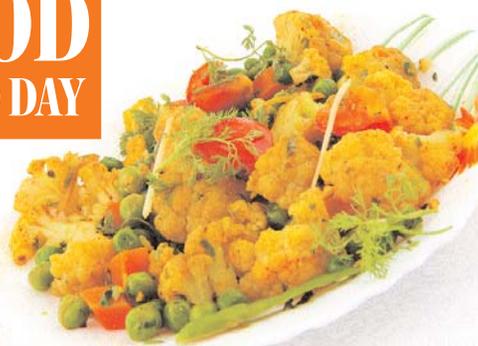


Sheikh Mohammad Aslam in the projector room. PICS/ SHADAB KHAN AND DHARA VORA

Dial D for your diet

**FOOD
IN MID DAY**

Cauliflower
Carrot Peas
from the Dial-
A-Diet menu



Giving a fresh approach to the many dabba services that operate in Mumbai, Dial-A-Diet is a catering service that comes as a boon to the health-conscious consumer. It offers a range of healthy meals with recipes from nutritionist Seema Poddar

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In a time-starved city like ours, eating regular meals often becomes a casualty. But thanks to several dabba services, one doesn't need to stress about the mid-day meal. The latest service that has been launched in the city is Dial-A-Diet, which offers a range of healthy meals that were devised as per nutritionist Seema Poddar's guidance.

Kickstarted by MBA graduates Alok Mody (28) and Rahul

Agarwal (27) on September 16 this year, the service ensures people get to enjoy healthy calorie-counted meals. "We have been running Magic-O-Meal, a tiffin and catering service for several years, and we would often get requests about offering diet food that tasted good. That's why we started this service," says Mody.

The packages are segregated into Medium Calorie (600 to 650 kcal), Low Calorie (525 to 575 kcal), and Soup n Salad (275 to 325 kcal). The meals include rice, dal, a vegetable,

salad, a health drink / soup, and three multi-grain rotis and are priced at ₹2,500, ₹2,300 and ₹1,900 respectively for a monthly pack of 20 meals. They also offer a 4-pack trial scheme. If you join their three-month programme you get a free dietary consultation from their in-house dietician.

An Indian/Continental specialty is provided once a week and the deliveries are done by dabbawalas. The food is cooked in rice bran / olive oil and using minimum spices. They have three chefs who cook the meals,

one of whom was employed at a hospital kitchen.

"It took around 6-8 months of research to zero in on what the consumers like and to focus on disposable microwave-friendly packaging. The pricing is also a bit higher but that's because some of the dishes require exotic ingredients which are expensive," adds Mody. They are also open to set up diet counters in offices, on request.

LOG ON TO www.dialadiet.in
CALL 9320022411