

Vogue

living

EDITED BY RACHEL LOPEZ

SEAT OF POWER

My Beautiful Backside sofa created by Doshi Levien for Moroso. Inset: Nipa Doshi



DESIGN

INSIDE STORY

Design powerhouse **Nipa Doshi** is making waves by infusing her creations with Indian sensibilities. By SONAM SAVLANI

Design stars aren't made every day. Some, like Nipa Doshi, come once in a generation. And 40-year-old Doshi's visual signature extends across disciplines—she's designing cabinets one day and shoes the next. Born in Mumbai

and raised in Delhi, Doshi trained at Ahmedabad's NID, London's Royal College of Art and under architect David Chipperfield—her work has been aptly hailed as a cultural hybrid. As one-half of product-design duo Doshi Levien (with husband Jonathan Levien) in London, she's lent her style to highly regarded >



ART NO. 1312078
DES. KALI BRUSH
COLOR: WHITE
QTY: 4 PCS

INDIA
INK
Charpoys
made for
Moroso



RED ALERT

Doshi on the *Capo* chair fashioned for Cappellini. Inset: A sketch of the *Impossible Wood* armchairs made for Moroso



zionale del Mobile. There's also a collection of rugs for a Spanish company [Nanimarquina] and dressing tables and cabinets for B D Barcelona, inspired by mirror work. It references traditional almirahs and the beautiful mirror work that craftspeople in Kutch use."

Working with Italian design giants: "The great thing about them is that they are used to working with design. You don't have to show them the final product. For the *Capo* chair, we didn't have to show Julio Cappellini the final model; he came to the studio, sat on the cardboard mock-up and was convinced he wanted to us to make it. Even Patrizia Moroso can see a sketch and instantly know if she wants to back the design. Of course, meeting Patrizia Moroso was important for our career—we were well known in England, but she launched our work on the international platform. You rely on the creativity and imagination of your clients to do good work, and you are only as good as your last client." ■

Doshi will speak at the India Design Forum; March 2-10, Delhi; Indiadesignforum.com

Italian furniture companies like Moroso and Cappellini. The 10-year-old firm has also tied up with Swarovski, Tefal, Nokia and Intel. There's more on the cards, she tells us, as she prepares to visit India.

Her design's Indian side: "I am Indian. That is my history. Every designer's cultural leaning is reflected in their work. It's natural for aspects of the material environment that I have grown up in to seep into my work. But also, I love Indian culture—not just the visual side, but the values and our attitude towards the material environment. I subtly try to incorporate elements of Indian culture that I cherish, ones I want to introduce to people who are not Indian. The *My Beautiful Backside* sofas we created for Moroso

were inspired by [details from] Indian miniature painting. The product doesn't look Indian, but it reminds you of India." **Current obsession:** "We worked on an installation called *Das Haus* for the IMM Cologne furniture fair in January. It's where we had 2,000sqm to create our vision of home. It's not a practical house. We wanted it to look like a new blueprint for living. We are working on an installation for a big show on Indian contemporary art and fashion at the Arken Museum. There's also a collection of shoes that will launch in 2013, for which we're working with one of the world's best fashion brands. There's a new sofa collection called *Chandigarh* for Moroso, which will be launched at Salone Interna-

PLANE SIGHT

Graph-paper-inspired *Paper Planes* chairs created for Moroso

