

# Time for a break

Lively colours and a relaxed aesthetic across its two distinct halves defines this Mumbai office by Aum Architects

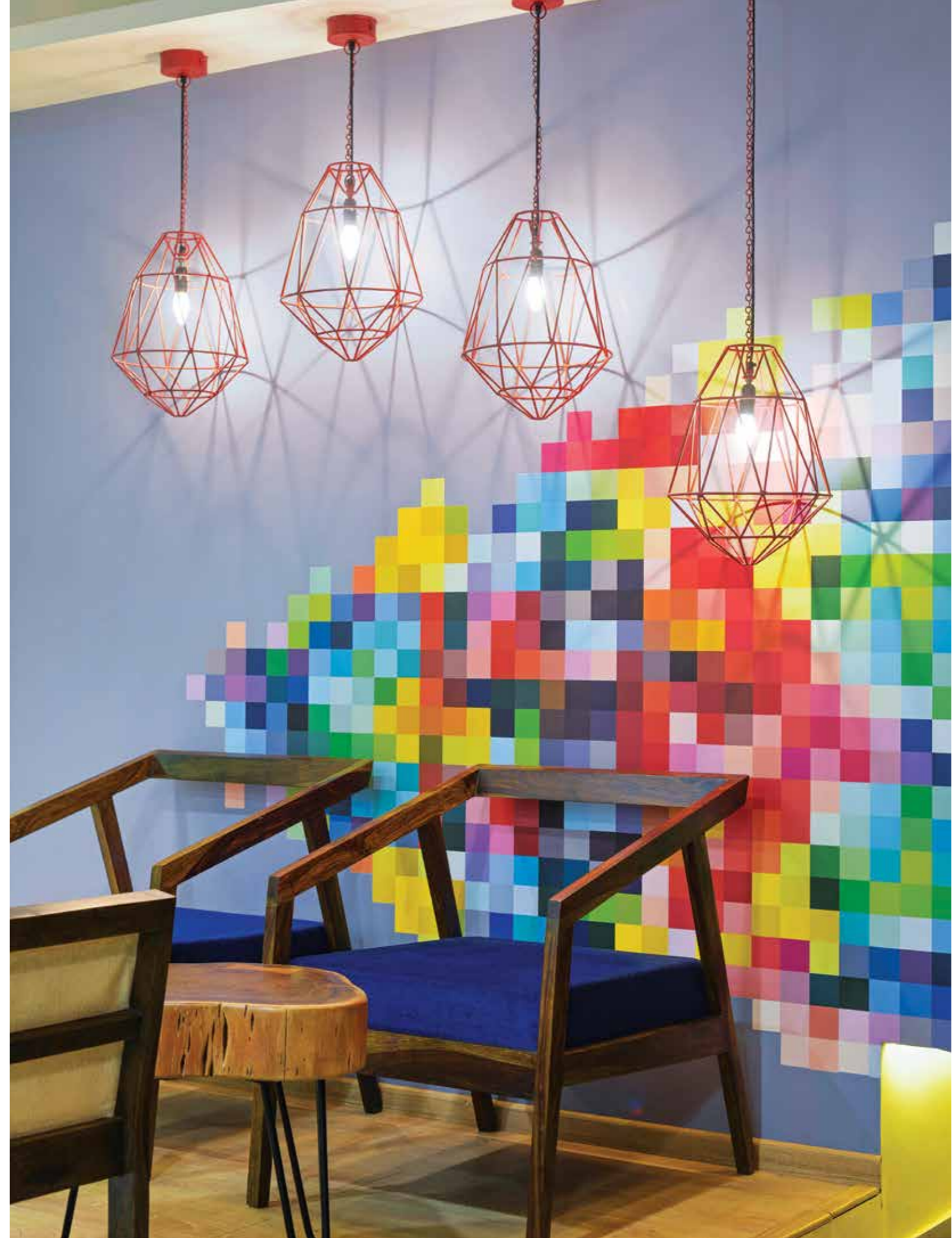
**Tasked with creating a laidback, youthful office** for a tech company, Aum Architects created a warm, vibrant workspace at this 2816 sq ft site in Mumbai. The Chillr office achieves its unconventional, casual look by splitting the open floor into two clear halves – a workspace and a recreational lounge, modelled like a cafe.

“The highlight of the office is the double-height space and the glass facade wrapping around two

sides that further boosts the volume,” says Sonali Pandit, senior interior designer at Aum Architects. “The client wanted to retain the open and voluminous nature of the site, yet create a minimal yet dynamic workspace,” she adds.

Entry to the office is achieved via an informal reception; a seating area created against a vibrant, multi-hued pixelated backdrop. The reception leads to the workspace, where the day-to-day functioning

**These pages** Aum Architects created an informal reception by creating a seating area close to the entry for this office spread over 2816 sq ft. The furniture and lights were sourced while the bright backdrop was designed in-house.





**Facing page** The staff workstations are contained on one side of the office and integrate the two brightly coloured columns into the table design. The column coverings were also designed in-house.

**Below right** A laid back, relaxed ambience characterises the lounge. The lit sign and art deco floor covering echo the retro American coffee shops.

of the office takes place.

Explaining the design of this half of the office, Pandit says, "The workstations were created using 12-seater and eight seater tables, while the two medium-sized meeting rooms are divided by a folding wall, which allows them to be merged into one large conference room."

The client's brief called for an open plan to promote employee interaction, so the cabins and meeting rooms are walled off with glass, also com-

plementing the facade. The open plan is brightened up by the two brightly coloured columns.

"We created the designs in-house, and had the wallpaper custom-made for the office," says Manish Dikshit, principal architect of Aum Architects. The nature of the open floor plan sees the workspace flow into the lounge area. The lounge space benefits from the voluminous double-height space that lends itself better to social functions. "For the lounge, we've kept the approach





**Facing page** The double height lounge exploits the glass facade of the building, creating a strong connection with the outdoor urbanscape.

**Below right and bottom** The meeting rooms for the office are separated by a sliding wooden divider, allowing them to be used separately or as a single conference room. The glass dividers further the visual continuity of the office.

minimal yet very lively,” says Pandit.

A pastiche of different furniture pieces lend the space a more personal feel as opposed to the more office-like atmosphere at the workstations. A mix of leather and upholstered couches and armchairs create a relaxed ambience. The neon sign, custom-designed and placed on the wall above adds to the cafe atmosphere.

The office’s seamless integration of the site’s structural elements into its eccentric design means that the Chillr office is a one-of-a-kind space.

“We always want the clients to enjoy the final design, so we take a unique approach to each project. The fact that it was a young office and open to ideas influenced the form this project took,” concludes Dikshit. ■

- Owner** MobME Wireless Solutions
- Interior designer** Manish Dikshit; Aum Architects
- Contractor** Ami Constructions
- Hardware** Hafele
- Tiling** Ami Constructions
- Plumbing** Ami Constructions
- Electrical** Ami Constructions
- Paints** Asian Paints
- Flooring** Maimoon Décor
- Ceiling** India Gypsum Pvt Ltd
- Veneers** Greenlam Laminates
- Lighting** Teknolite
- Furniture** Wood of Arts, Plan It Furniture
- Toilets** Jaquar
- Wallcoverings** Maimoon Décor

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