

INNOVATION

NEW THINGS ON THE BLOCK

Whether transforming well-worn terrain, rethinking old crafts or experimenting with digital technology, these seven cutting-edge talents are challenging received wisdom and conjuring a bold new world

MATERIAL: STONE

NAME: RUCHIKA GROVER
COMPANY: ODYSSEY STONE
USP: STONE CARVINGS

She was tired of stereotypes and was willing to do all it took to break them, even if it meant long hours of research, incessant travelling and first-hand experience of stone quarries. Meet Ruchika Grover, the driving force behind Odyssey Stone, a stone value addition company in Delhi that is reinventing traditional stonework.

Along with her sister Shruti, Ruchika set about chiselling, hammering and carving—all with a view to creating something new. And create it they did—a beautiful, contemporary line of stone tiles that is at par with designs from around the world. Launched in 2006, Odyssey Stone is an experiment in progress aided by a fully equipped production facility that includes state-of-the-art machinery and water jet machines. “The intent is always to inspire and not to impress. We seek to achieve a balance of the old and new; of skilled workmanship and technology,” says Ruchika. True to this is their range, Façade, which combines traditional textile block patterns with modern production techniques. With hardscape projects for Pune’s Hyatt Regency the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Terminal 3, New Delhi, and a 32-foot-high pylon for a biodiversity park in Hyderabad already finished, Odyssey Stone is all set to carve a niche for itself in this area. (odysseystone.com)

—PRAGNYA RAO



WOMAN ON TOP
 Ruchika Grover at her Delhi studio surrounded by her work.