



Project
The Circus Canteen
Designer
Multitude of Sins
Material
Various donated objects
Resource Type
Urban waste
Country of Origin
India
Manufacturer
Multitude of Sins
Area of Use
Interior design
Category
Reused

A sustainable restaurant curating waste from the city

Located in Bangalore, Big Top, better known as the Circus Canteen, is a collage of discarded objects, exemplifying a grass-roots, democratic approach to design.

Multitude of Sins estimates that the Circus Canteen interior is made up of about 90% reclaimed materials, coming from multiple sources, including a nearby commercial building that was being refurbished and a citywide appeal for unwanted household objects.

The Circus Canteen embodies the Indian philosophy of *Jugaad*. A resourceful approach to problem-solving deeply ingrained in Indian culture, it rejects consumerism and makes do with what is available.

Visitors to the 2,134-sq-ft (198-m²) restaurant are guided through a series of scrap metal archways, lit overhead by old automobile headlights suspended from bicycle chains; the flooring below is a patch-work assemblage of tile samples sourced from local ceramic showrooms. The walls of the restaurant are decorated with various signs and defunct electronics, and its secondhand furniture has been upcycled with maximalist motifs referencing the city’s vibrant street culture.

