

DESIGNERS' DAY OUT IN INDIA

Well known for their fabrics, cuts and silhouettes the three Pakistani designers were in India recently. Besides their love for Bollywood movies and music these designers also love Indian mithais and chikankari from Lucknow

WORDS | NIDHI JOSHI

The designers from Pakistan who had come to Delhi to participate in 'Aalishaan Pakistan' – a lifestyle exhibition held at Paragati Maidaan were a happy lot. They received a warm welcome from the shoppers and fashionistas here and were well appreciated for their designs and fine fabrics. While some of them were attending the event for the first time, others had been to the earlier event as well which had happened in 2012.

TLF Magazine caught up with Sanam Chaudhri, chairperson; Wardha Saleem, CEO and Deepak Perwani, spokesperson, all from Fashion Pakistan. Here is an excerpt from the interview:

TLF: What are your expectations from Aalishaan Pakistan?

Sanam: India has made exhibiting the products relatively easy, the approach is welcoming and forthcoming. We aim to build bridges and also see more of each other's creations and have more business for either side.

TLF: Where all have you been in India?

Wardha: I have been to Kolkata, Goa, Mumbai and Delhi. This is the first time that I have participated in Aalishaan Pakistan but I must say that the response has been tremendous and people have appreciated our designs.

TLF: What inspires you?

Deepak: The greatest inspiration for me is art and research completes your collection. But anything could inspire a collection, it just clicks sometimes and you don't really need to look for inspiration.

Sanam: I get inspirations in bursts. I was thoroughly inspired by Indonesia. I believe age has sobered me down, earlier my designs were edgier but now they are a little more mature.

TLF: Which are your favourite places in Pakistan to eat out?

Wardha: When you are in Karachi you must visit Okra. It is a small restaurant with around ten tables and is quite niche and exclusive. The steaks and sea food there is awesome. Then there is Buns Road where you have a huge variety of kebabs like dhaga kebabs and fried kebabs. Another place is Kolachi

where they serve authentic Pakistani food which is delicious and the ambience is to die for.

Sanam: In Karachi you must try Zahid's Nihari, it is the best and Delhi Mercantile is famous for kebab fry with paranthas.

Deepak: Some of Pakistan's famous dishes are Katakot, Karahi Gosht, Hapshi Halwa and the coffee cakes from Bombay Bakery are just lip smacking.

TLF: Who are the Indian designers whom you like?

Wardha: I love Manish Arora's work a lot because of the statement pieces he makes and there is an element of quirkiness in his work. I also like Manish Malhotra and Sabyasachi a lot.

Sanam: I am fond of Anju Modi's designs and Masaba is another designer whose designs I



Deepak Perwani at Aalishaan Pakistan Fashion Show



Sanam Chaudhri is all smiles



Wardha Saleem at Taj Mahal, Agra



The designer duo enjoying at Chandni Chowk, Delhi

Pakistan Fashion Design Council (PFDC) has a multi designer showroom in South Extension in New Delhi

Sanam Chaudhri's collection

look out for.

Deepak: I think Rohit and Rahul have a phenomenal palette in fashion and I also like Manav Gangawani's work a lot.

TLF: Tell us something about the nightlife in Pakistan?

Deepak: We have a lot of charity balls, soirees, weddings and many other occasions to celebrate especially during winters. As there are no pubs and bars in Pakistan we enjoy these get togethers with friends and family.

TLF: Any place in Delhi where you have had food and enjoyed it?

Sanam: I went out for dinner at the Pandara Road and had food at Gulati's. Let me tell you the food there was awesome and I really liked Butter Chicken, Karahi Paneer and Dal Makhni.

TLF: Is there anything you would like to take back to Pakistan from India?

Wardha: Lots of love. That is one thing I am taking back for sure. I am also going to carry Kaju Katli from Haldiram's and chikankari kurtas back home. ■

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