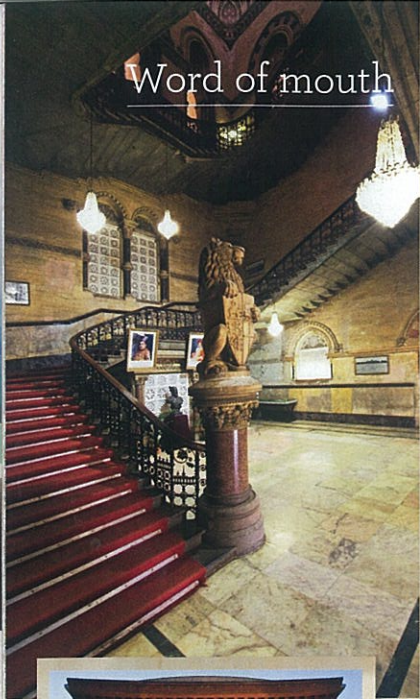


## Word of mouth



the colossal figure of the lady on top carrying a flaming torch that symbolises progress. Bringing home the Gothic theme, stone arches have carvings of birds such as owls, partridges and peacocks. At 125, this beloved building has endured everything from a controversial name change to a terror attack. You can explore its architectural history with the help of this heritage tour. (The heritage tour takes place daily at 3pm and costs ₹200 per person for one hour)

## 4 more beautiful train stations around the world



### KANAZAWA STATION, Ishikawa, Japan

Three raised island platforms combine to form this station, and its entrance is a drum-shaped wooden gate. Be sure to stop by the fountain out front, which displays time like a digital clock. ([www.kanazawa-tourism.com](http://www.kanazawa-tourism.com))

### ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL, London

This Victorian landmark's façade received an £800 million (₹6,681 crore) makeover in 2005. The station also houses the iconic St Pancras Renaissance Hotel London. ([www.stpancrastours.co.uk](http://www.stpancrastours.co.uk))

### CFM RAILWAY STATION, Maputo

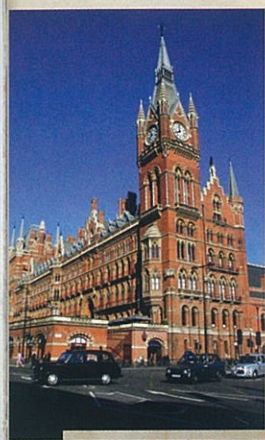
The station in Mozambique's capital resembles a grand palace, with marble pillars and green exteriors. It also houses KaMfumo Jazz Café, which plays live music on weekends. ([www.thompsontours.co.za](http://www.thompsontours.co.za))

### GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL, New York

This historic beaux-arts building is full of design gems like the arched ceiling painted with astronomical signs and fibre-optic stars. ([www.grandcentralterminal.com](http://www.grandcentralterminal.com))

### SUNAYANA KUMARI

**Left, from top:** Inside CST station; Kanazawa Station, Japan; London's St Pancras International; CFM Railway Station, Maputo



## Souvenirs from Mumbai to Malacca

For Rena Thiagarajan, the path to launching Project Bly—a travel, design and lifestyle website—could hardly be considered conventional. She grew up in Chennai, the daughter of an Indian father and German-American mother. After moving to the US for a geology degree, she spent 12 months working as an engineer on an oil rig in Mexico, and another year backpacking around Central America. This yearning for travel triggered the plan to set up her own souvenir website, stocking one-off pieces. Being in the Bay Area, the country's most fertile ground for start-ups, gave her the confidence to go it alone.

She dreamt up the idea of Bly during a holiday to Mumbai, while wandering around Chor Bazaar. The items for sale—only in the US for now—range from Inti woven necklaces from La Paz (US\$25 or ₹1,350) to an antique rug woven by inmates at Agra prison (US\$3,300 or ₹1.8 lakh).

Every two months, Bly will visit a new destination. As recognition of her Indian roots, Mumbai is its first city, with La Paz (Bolivia), Kumasi (Ghana), Bukhara (Uzbekistan) and Malacca (Malaysia) to follow. Whatever the destination, her sourcing methods don't change; she pounds the pavements of each city and purchases directly from vendors. "I'm trying to bring hard-to-get items—things that you might see in a designer's house—at affordable prices to the public." ([www.projectbly.com](http://www.projectbly.com)) **SANJAY SURANA**

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