

WHAT a difference a tray makes. Designed for transporting things from room to room, trays also make great display spots, organizational tools, and even decorative accessories in their own right. A rectangular, teflon-coated, and steel edged cocktail tray in black serves up hors d'oeuvres in style. Or set it on a coffee table topped with a bowl of floating fuchsia orchids for a stunning pop of colour. Better still float a candle on a really large hammered aluminium platter, and see the brow-beaten metal shimmer to life. Mukul Goyal eyes are animated - as he discusses the endless possibilities of his home accessories - which come in all sizes, and prices.

The largest installation that Mukul Goyal remembers grappling with is a cross for an Armenian



Mukul Goyal

church in New York. But, scale is something always on his mind. Though you wouldn't really guess it from his intricate meshing of metal as he re-invents the dhokra for stylish, contemporary living. For proof, just get a grip on the teflon-coated servers - with metal handles at The

Next Gallery in Delhi's hot N-block market in the GK area.

Design history is littered with arresting objects that briefly turn heads and set fashion. The current moment it would seem belongs to this former IIT-Kanpur graduate., Goyal's life took an interesting turn when instead of pursuing an industrial career, he choose to go down a design

A New Game Of SKILL



Design history is littered with arresting objects that turn heads and set a fashion. Can designer Mukul Goyal?

path, and on to NID, Ahmedabad and then to Domus Academy, Milan for further studies in design. Yet, metal has always been his calling. One of the frontrunners for contemporary chic in India today, Goyal believes that his best designs have come from explorations while pushing the boundaries of materials and techniques. He attempts to combine the

conventional with the contemporary and the traditional with modern industrial techniques. "The challenge for designers like me - is how do I make complicated techniques easy on the eye, and relatively inexpensive to buy. Good design should be accessible to everyone, even if the market is learning to pay a premium for it."

The coloured glass bottles may come as a surprise - they double up as lamps, but there is a method there as well. "As a designer, I hate being compartmentalised. I

"If you uphold the old rules of form and function when eyeing a prospective purchase, the decision should be clear cut."

Destined to spark discussion, the dramatic designs combine industrial chic with a contemporary Zen sensibility. Textured and tactile surfaces, bell metal with aluminium, etchings with glistening steel. Perforations with polish. Goyal's new home accessory range move from just functional necessities to metal for the soul. How long this metal-in-

like to work with various materials and techniques. There should always be an element of surprise for the consumer."

His display of tableware platters, lamps etc resonate with his ideal -

HOME & AWAY

that investing in your home extends to all that surrounds you: Decorative accessories, artwork, fabric, and floor coverings should reflect the same level of style, craftsmanship, and materials as your furniture.

fused romantic revival will last - is anybody's guess. But Goyal has the answer: "Life is all about new discoveries and moving on."

CROY