

[HOME](#) > [ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN](#)

## Kochi: This 200-year-old Art Deco hotel tells the tale of its glorious past and present

*Indy Old Court House in Fort Kochi, restored by Amitha Madan of Treelight Design features colonial architectural elements, elaborate paintings and old flooring*

[Share on facebook](#)

Chryselle D'Silva Dias

PUBLISHED: JUN 12, 2019 | 08:00:58 IST



*Photo caption: This restored hotel offers comfort and a promise of rest to tired travellers. All photos courtesy Indy Old Court House*

The Indy Old Court House stands out like an oasis in the dusty and busy Calvathy Road in Fort Kochi. Its elegant white façade and many arches lure you in from the heat and you feel you have stepped back in time. This 200-year-old colonial edifice has been home to the local courthouse, a warehouse for tea and spices and has also housed the former ANZ Grindlays Bank. After years of neglect, the building has been restored by Amitha Madan, the principal architect at Treelight Design. The property is now an invitation to linger in classical luxury.

## Kochi Hotel | Yesteryears Vibe

Every corner of this sixteen-room B&B takes you back to another era. The striking black-and-white tiles ground the décor and are evident across the property. The patterns change subtly (or dramatically, as in the massive lounge on the first floor) but the effect is the same—undulating stretches of monochrome elegance reminiscent of the glory days of Art Deco. Instagram-worthy nooks and corridors sneak up on you with unexpected splashes of colour.



*Photo caption: The striking black-and-white tiles ground the décor and are seen across the property*

## Kochi Hotel | Luxe Design

During the restoration process, a concerted effort was made to preserve as much as possible. The handmade Athangudi tiles, the railing of the staircase and the structure of the main building are original to the property. The sixteen rooms are a mix of suites, deluxe and twin rooms. They all feature luxurious beds and sofas or armchairs draped in velvet. A surprising (but welcome) touch of teal acts as an enchanting counterpoint to the black and white floors.

---



### **Kochi Hotel | Charming Touches**

The lounge on the first floor is a gorgeous space and is often used for events, including the prestigious Kochi Biennale. Relax on a comfortable sofa, borrow a book from the library or just admire the way the sunlight makes patterns on the tiles or glances off a vintage vase. The décor is kept simple with the spotlight firmly on the charm of the colonial architecture. Little touches like a pair of elaborately painted decorative cow-heads (an iconic Kochi souvenir) juxtaposed with twin mirrors remind you of where you are. Intimate corners are created with small groupings of tables and chairs and plants, so you can enjoy the space while you wait for a friend or a cup of tea. Around every corner is a welcome retreat.

---

## Kochi Hotel | Up and Above

Go up to the roof and you can breathe in the wide expanse of the Arabian sea. Grab a drink and enjoy the views of the water from the rooftop restaurant 'The Tea Lounge' or take a dip in the pool while gawking at the sunset. If you're feeling extra energetic, the gym is available for a workout. On the ground floor, 'The Court House' is the main restaurant and offers coastal, Indian and Mediterranean cuisine.



*Photo caption: Go up on the roof and enjoy the unending views of the sea and greenery around*

## Kochi Hotel | Lively Neighbourhood

The hotel's location on Calvathy Road makes it central to wandering about in Fort Kochi. There are several restaurants and shops within walking distance and the popular touristy-hangouts of Mattancherry, Jew Town and the Chinese fishing nets along the shore are all easily accessible. Whether you are in town for the Biennale or exploring historic Kochi, you'll look forward to coming back to the Old Court House after the day ends.

---