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AD

AD100: THE MOST
INFLUENTIAL
DESIGNERS IN THE
SUBCONTINENT

THE MAHARAJA
OF JAIPUR'S
PALACE
BACHELOR PAD

THE SANDCASTLE

EVEN THE COFFEE TABLE IS
MADE OF SAND AT THIS ALIBAG
BEACH HOUSE

Portfolio No.1

AD

X

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario Bellini', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mario Bellini

Italian architect Mario Bellini's first encounter with India in the 1970s led to a lifelong love affair with the country. For AD, the 83-year-old wrote a personal account of that relationship and shared photographs from his archives, providing rare insights into the mind and making of one of the 20th century's most significant designers.



Left: The Sun Temple at Konark, Odisha. **Below:** The city of Varanasi, in Uttar Pradesh. **Bottom left:** An old mendicant sits outside the entrance to a temple in Varanasi. **Facing page, top right:** One of the many ghats in Varanasi leading down to the Ganga. **Facing page, left:** A traditional hut belonging to the Toda community, who live on the Nilgiri plateau. **Facing page, bottom left:** A Hindustan Ambassador taxi, about which Mario Bellini says: "I loved that car; in a way, it was a symbol of our voyage through India. We used to take small planes to reach the cities, then someone would pick us up from the airport in an Ambassador." **Facing page, bottom right:** Many temples in Varanasi have carved pillars like these.

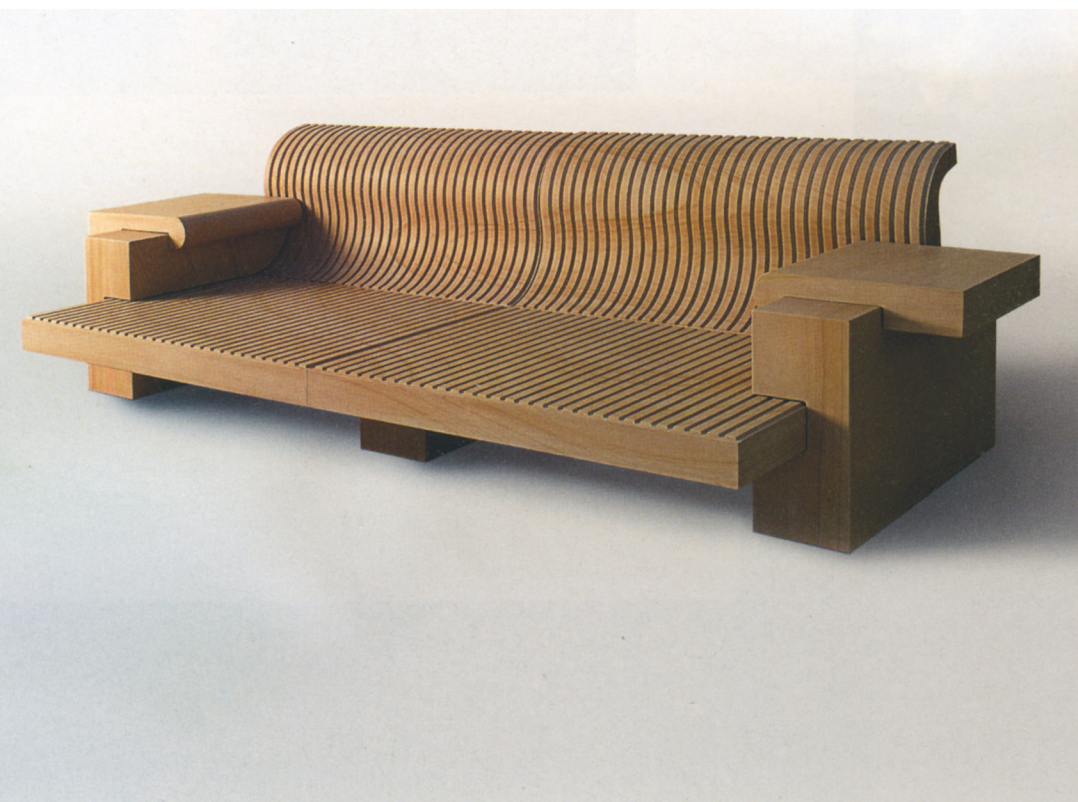








Top right: A supplicant in front of a temple at Narendra Sarovara, a man-made pond in Puri, Odisha. **Above:** Devotees outside a temple in Varanasi. **Right:** The Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. **Facing page:** Images from Bellini's 1985 visit to India for the 'Golden Eye' project. "Our task was not only to visit India, but [to take note of] furnishings, objects, fabrics, clothes and architectural components that increase the value of the extraordinary, imaginative and educated capacity of Indian artisans, their skills and their knowledge in using their hands."





This page: The cameras Bellini used, and his collection of slides. **Facing page:** Bellini designed the 'Forte Rosso' (red fort) bench, carved out of Agra red sandstone by Indian artisans, for the 'Golden Eye' project. **Right:** Bellini in his Milan studio, photographed in January 2018.

