

Art and architecture

Last week **Navin Ramani** released his book *"Bombay Art Deco Architecture. A Visual Journey 1930-1953"* (Pub: Lustre Press/Roli Books) Price: Rs1,295 at Gordon House Hotel. This book is intended as a sampling of Art Deco Architecture in Bombay/Mumbai. According to the author there are around about 89 art deco buildings. The city's first art deco building was Regal cinema built in 1933 and designed by architect Charles F. Stevens and city's first Art Deco district, is Churchgate. Author Navin Ramani, though based in Miami was



born and educated in Bombay. He lived at Court View (Art Deco Bldg) overlooking Oval Maidan. Much of his childhood was spent exploring his Art Deco neighbour-

hood. It was not until Ramani moved to Miami in 1989 and encountered the Miami Beach Art Deco district that he recognised the great architectural legacy of his Bombay Art

Deco. But while that great treasure of Miami Art Deco have been internationally recognised, nationally protected. Art Deco buildings in Bombay has, until now, been taken for granted.

Ramani has led guided architectural tours of the Art Deco District since 2002, has lectured in Miami on Bombay's Art Deco style, and has been an honorary tour guide of Bombay's Art Deco architecture for the United Kingdom based conservation organisation, the Cinema theatre Association and the Twentieth Century Society. This book makes interesting reading especially for people who are interested in Art Deco Architecture. ♦