



A design by
Faraz Manan

Postcard from Lahore

Celebrated Pakistani designer Faraz Manan now resides in Dubai, where he has a glittering boutique in Jumeirah, but he frequently finds inspiration in his historic hometown. Here, he divulges some of his favourite spots

How would you describe Lahore to someone who's never visited?

Lahore is a beautiful amalgamation of creative arts, Mughal and colonial architecture, rich food and vibrant festivals. My family friends and childhood memories are what make it home. For me, the strongest signature or memory of Lahore is Mall Road: it's hundreds of years old and runs through the city, all the way from the old walled city to gradually moving through museums and colonial buildings and the National College of Arts. That's Lahore for you: it's a magical experience

What are the best things to do in Lahore?

Visit the old city, dine out at the abundant offering of Lahore's eateries, and take a stroll in the lush green parks. Lahore is a very green place – there are fig trees and banyan trees that are hundreds of years old, and lots of Mughal gardens and colonial gardens.

What is your favourite hotel in the city?

Pearl Continental, located on the iconic Mall Road – I especially like its Art Deco architecture and grandeur.

And what are some of your top dining spots?

Cafe Aylanto is a



Mediterranean restaurant with a lovely courtyard, and I always bump into friends and family there. Their béarnaise steak is something I like to order, and their bread-butter pudding – we end up having that, no matter

what. Cuckoo's Den is in the heart of the old city, overlooking the grand Badshahi Mosque and the Lahore Fort. The cuisine is traditional Lahori barbecue fare made with local herbs and spices.

Which cafés would you recommend?

Cosa Nostra is an Italian pizzeria and café – in the day, you find young people from colleges and universities, and in the evenings you find creatives having their meetings there. I love their thin-crust pizzas and their gelato is yummy.

Where should people who are interested in history and art go?

Lahore Museum is a great place to experience the magical history of the region. I frequent O Art Space in Gulberg for contemporary art.

Any favourite stores or markets?

Shop for khussas – local footwear – as well as bangles at Liberty Market.

What would you recommend for a day trip?

Visit the Wagah border, a short drive from Lahore, where India meets Pakistan.

Where do you go to relax?

Aaaramish spa in Gulberg is my go-to place to unwind.

How is your work inspired by your hometown?

My work is primarily a fusion of the East and the West, inspired by my alma mater Aitchison College and surrounding colonial monuments of British India built for the maharajas. 