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-- Henry Ford



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## Going modular

By Sangeetha G. Jan 26 2011

Tags: Furniture, Fashion and style

**After kitchens, modular bedrooms are set to revolutionise and transform urban Indian homes**



Gone are the days of our forefathers when gigantic and antique furniture adorned spacious houses. Today, with spiralling residential land prices owing to inadequate availability, the apartment culture has penetrated almost all cities. As houses have become compact, heavy or old furniture make your house boring and cramped. Besides, they give a mundane look to your home where you spend your valuable free time.

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Modular furniture, especially modular kitchens, have revolutionised many an Indian houses with their global standard finish and design. Most importantly, such furniture occupy less space and are comfortable. After modular kitchens, modular bedrooms are making a foray into the Indian market.

Nolte Home Studio, a German manufacturer of modular furniture, is introducing the concept of modular bedrooms in India. The brand claims to have sold 300 bedrooms already.

"With the kind of labour shortage our cities are facing, the modular bedroom concept is going to be as popular as modular kitchens. A modular bedroom consists of a bed, wardrobe, side-tables and walk-in-wardrobes, if needed. We're providing furniture as individual pieces and the entire furniture for bedroom," said Suchita Talwar, director, business development, Nolte Home Studio.

The firm has showrooms in four cities and plans to enter two more this year.

"The modular kitchen concept was introduced 10 years ago. Now, it is looked as something that is standard and stylish. Like modular kitchens, modular bedrooms too save space and reduce the effort that's involved in making conventional bedroom furniture. They're readymade pieces that can be assembled in the house," said Dameem Ansari, principal architect of Ansari Associates.

He says modular bedrooms are best suited for apartments as there is a lack of space for carpenters to carry out work. "The modular furniture that's available nowadays is very international in their design. They are very popular in the West. They can be easily dismantled, transported and rearranged during shifting," said Ansari.

Beds come in three sizes – single, double and king size. The furniture comes in compressed wood, opaque glass and lacquer finish. Side-tables can be wooden or a combination of wood and glass. Headboards can be covered with glass or upholstery. Apart from the usual wardrobe, those who have extra space in their bedrooms can opt for walk-in-wardrobes.

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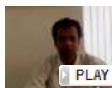
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"A carpenter will roughly charge Rs 1,200 per sq ft for furnishing a bedroom, while a modular bedroom can cost Rs 1,400-1,500 per sq ft. However, our modular bedroom set ranges from Rs 1.75 to Rs 3 lakh. Pure glass or lacquer finish costs more, while a combination of these with wood is less expensive," said Talwar.

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