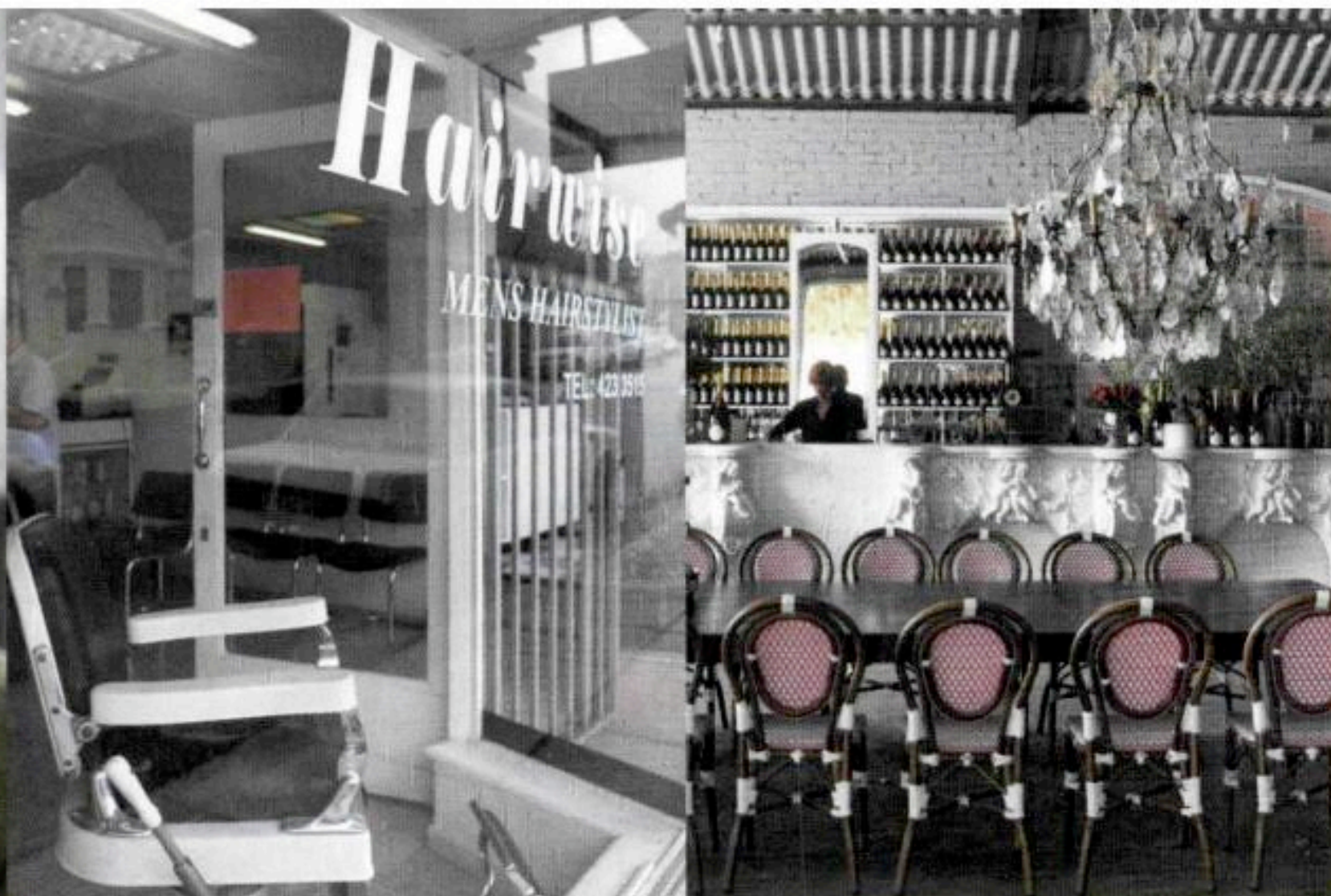
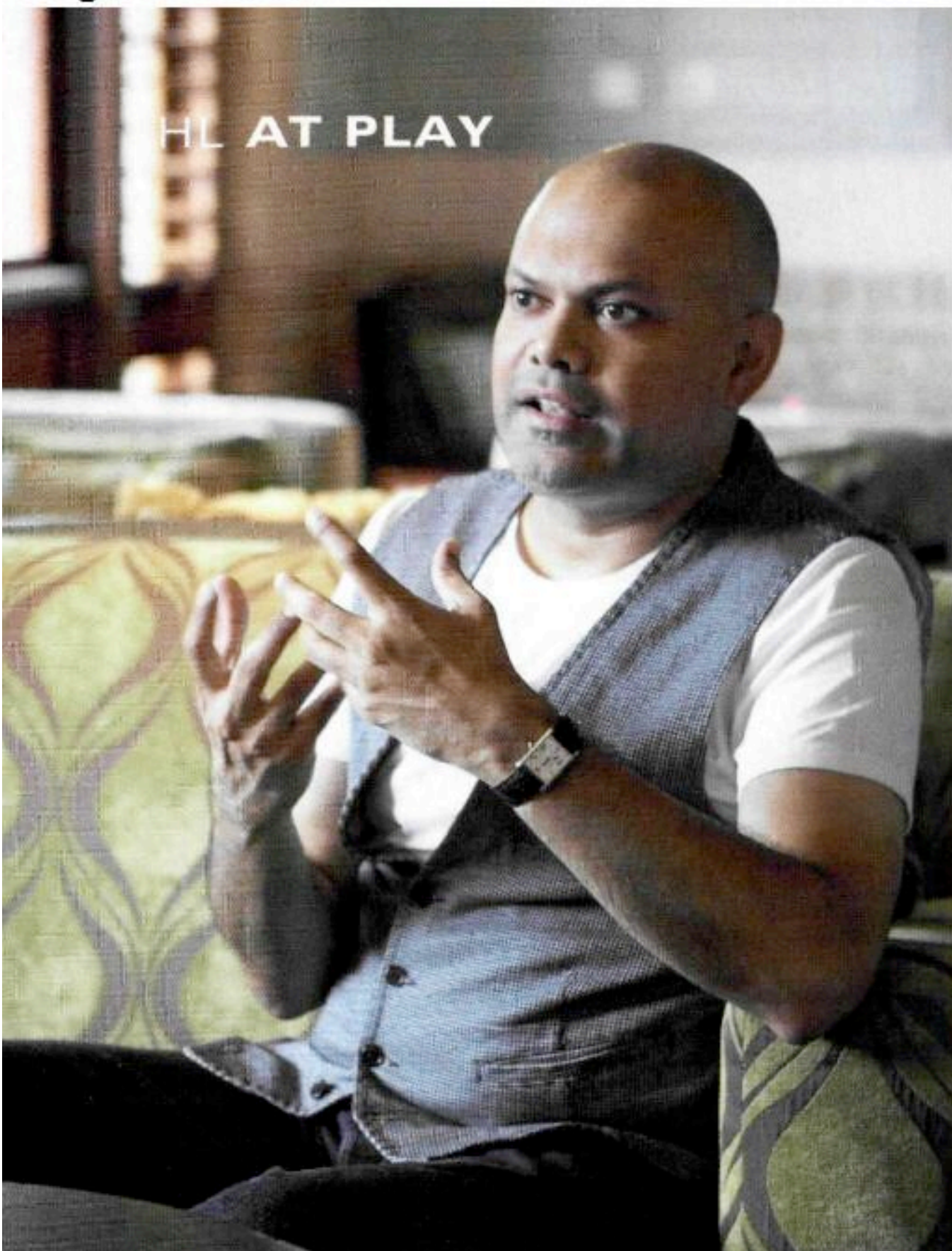


HL AT PLAY



WEEKEND WITH...

ravi naidoo

The Design Indaba founder loves his weekends at home in the Mother City

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Business dynamo Ravi Naidoo relaxes at Bascule in Cape Town; Hairwise takes care of Ravi's smooth shave; The Grand Café and Beach is a favourite eatery; a Strega pizza with smoked mozzarella from Col'Cacchio; Ravi loves the weekend papers; the Atlantic Seaboard promenade is a jogger's delight.

Ravi Naidoo, the firebrand managing director of Interactive Africa – the company behind the Design Indaba (DI), the *Design Indaba* magazine and IT entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth's trip to space – reckons it's thanks to a strict health regimen that he's able to keep up with his daunting work schedule. With the demands of the DI (held in Cape Town from 24 to 28 February) almost over for this year, Ravi has begun work in earnest for his biggest client, FIFA, ahead of the World Cup. He lives in Oranjezicht with his wife, Leshni Shah, a medical doctor turned project manager at Interactive Africa, and sons, Rahul, 13, and Rohan, seven. But, *HL* asked, do weekends even exist for him?

Interactive Africa, interactiveafrica.com; designindaba.com

'Because I spend much of my time travelling abroad and commuting to Jo'burg, when I'm in Cape Town over the weekends I'd rather cocoon with my family than work – although, being something of a geek, I have the work stuff I need at home.

'Around 4.30pm on a Friday I'll meet up with my personal trainer for a session at our home gym. My diet is generally healthy (I'm a vegetarian who occasionally eats seafood) and I drink a lot of green tea, but my one transgression is pizza. Friday nights might see us ordering in directly from Col'Cacchio, which makes the best pizzas in the world – I always have the Strega with smoked mozzarella.

'Because I do so much institutionalised socialising during the week, the last thing I want to do over the weekend is more of the same. But I might go to HQ Restaurant with my mates for a beer. I also keep a private bin at Bascule at the Cape Grace Hotel – as a member, I have a personal stash of exotic drinks to enjoy with friends, and we sometimes have whisky-appreciation evenings.

'On Saturday mornings I like to sleep in if I can, unless I have to play dad's taxi – our boys have a hectic social life. Sometimes we'll climb Lion's Head together. Without meaning to sound like a hey-shoo-wow Capetonian, I must say that one of the best things about living here is the mountain, which is a real energy point. I might go for a head shave in Kloof Street. My Swiss barber has been there for about 30 years and uses a cut-throat razor, but he's as steady as they come.

'One of our favourite things to do on a Saturday evening is to go for a brisk walk or jog along the strip between Camps Bay and Bantry Bay on the Atlantic Seaboard. We're a family of foodies – for casual dining we'll go to Mano's in Green Point, The Grand Café and Beach, or Willoughby's at the V&A Waterfront.

'I love reading the Sunday papers ... It's one of life's special treats. We'll have an early dinner and perhaps a session in our home spa. I'm a metrosexual who'll probably apply a face mask on a Sunday evening!' ☺

