

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Livingetc

May 2021 ₹150

INDIA EDITION

HOMES

DOMINIC DUBE IN HYDERABAD
STUDIO OSMOSIS IN MUMBAI
IAAD IN GOA

Meet the
Queen of
Quirk

**BETHAN LAURA
WOOD AND HER
DESIGNS FOR
TOP ITALIAN
BRANDS**



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GLAMOROUS BATHROOMS NEW TRENDS & INNOVATIONS



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16

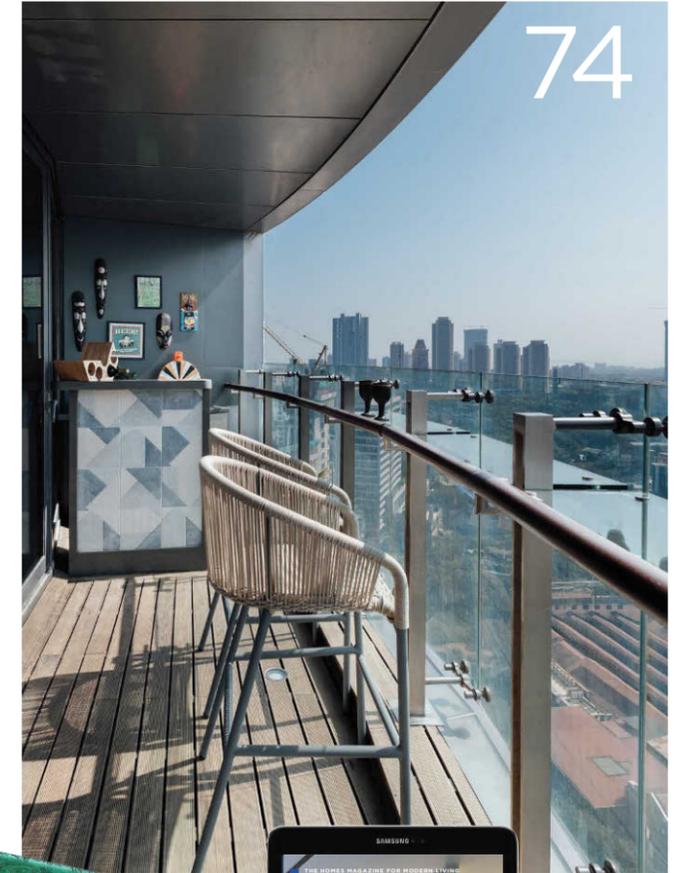
11



41



94



74

[News & views]

- 11 NEWS**
Check out all the gorgeous new home jewels: from Cappellini's Litos sofa; Illulian's Floralia carpets and the newsmakers...
- 18 ART**
Delhi Contemporary Art Week; Online Art Auction; Confabulations: New Paintings by Jitish Kallat and Subodh Gupta; This and That and The Art of Veneer group shows...
- 114 AT HOME WITH**
Archana Deshpande, a self-driven ceramicist who took to studio-pottery for a lark and turned it into a flourishing business.

[Shopping]

- 23 TREND**
Pattern-O-Pattern Inspired from the runway to home accessories...

- 24 STYLE**
Scheme of The Month Fantastic Florals
- 41 DECORATING ETC**
Summer forecast We bring you a whimsical taste of this season's new decorating trends, colours and moods from the SS21 collections.
- 49 BUYER'S GUIDE**
Bathrooms New trends and innovations.

[Edited Choice]

- 48 COLOURED GLASSES**
Add a touch of panache to your entertaining style.



26

84

Our cover stories are highlighted by a spot.

Cover photography Bharath Ramamrutham



[Modern Homes]

23



- 26 SPIRITUAL OASIS**
Awash in natural light, this atmospheric home pays tribute to a spiritual lifestyle where the self is in harmony with its surroundings.
- 62 WHERE THE LIVIN' IS EASY**
Rachna Agarwal of IAAD creates a beachfront holiday home in north Goa that is an ode to its lush surroundings.
- 74 THE HYGGE LIFE**
Celebrating memories in an atmosphere of cosiness and intimacy, Studio Osmosis designed this elegant, minimal 1,800 sqft apartment as an embodiment of the owners' lifestyle, based on the Danish concept hygge.

- 84 FASHION FORWARD**
The Melbourne home of media couple Rebecca and Chris Judd may be a study in glam, but it's also suitable for the family of six.
- 94 HEART OF STEEL**
Designers at Studio Clement deployed raw textures and bold statements to breath new life into this former factory space.

[Design Ideas]

- 102 DESIGN NEWS**
CPRN Homood's Infinity Walk-in wardrobe; Think Brick tile collection from Jindal Mechno Bricks; Bonasila's Fiber Reinforced plastic planters and more...
- 104 DESIGN PROFILE**
Designer Bethan Laura Wood finds Colour super fascinating because of its fluidity

[Food]

- 107 SUMMER FOODS**
Indian summer recipes that will keep your body cool.



107



Digital edition available online on Magzter



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A memory that you associate with summer?

Fragments of memories... early morning walks, billowy cotton dresses, sun hats and strappy sandals, bamboo forests, long-winding roads, Gulmohar trees, lemonade, sugarcane juice, swimming pools, visits to historical sites.

What is your most prized possession?

My family.

If you could time travel, where would you find yourself..

Hopefully... in a more efficient and peaceful future, far away in the galaxy!

One hobby or skill that you developed during 2020 to keep you fit.

Household chores, a new skill which is threatening to turn into a hobby.

Can't live without...

Air and gainful occupation.



Bharath Ramamrutham
Photographer

A memory that you associate with summer?

Ganna (sugarcane) juice and Nimbu paani.

What is your most prized possession?

My camera and my eyes.

If you could time travel, where would you find yourself..

In the not too distant future.

One person, you like to photograph?

My daughter, Keshia. She's my inspiration.

Your dream assignment?

Life in all its avatars.

If not a photographer, you would be...

An architect & a designer.

Can't live without...

Good food and Jazz.



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FAREWELL...

Yes, it is time to move on! A year into the pandemic and the world is not the place as we once knew it. There have been huge shifts in our mind-sets and the way we look at our lives. It is indeed uncanny that exactly a year ago, our May 2020 coverline said TECTONIC SHIFT, and here we are living it.

It is undoubtedly overwhelming for me to pen this piece. There is a whirlpool of imagery that sucks me in, everytime I try to put a finger on any point on the time-line. It's been fun and hard, gruelling and crazy in the same breath, satisfying and joyful at others. A mixed-bag, like anything else in life, but also full of lessons and acquired wisdom for the years ahead.

It gladdens my heart, that as I bid adieu to Livingetc India Edition which I have nurtured for the past five years I leave it with a cover story from one of my most-admired architects in the country; Ar Dominic Dube of DDIR Architecture Studio. A quiet person with legendary talent, his designs leave me awe-struck for their 'presence in simplicity'. He creates not a house but a universe for the homeowners. Other home stories include a R&R home in Goa and an apartment in Mumbai. Bring in the Summer Palette with our Deco feature and check out ideas for indulgent bathrooms in the Buyer's Guide.

Our homes have already started looking and feeling very different. I am sure, the sentiment is shared across the spectrum. As a parting line, there is only one thing I'd like to say: pay attention to the home, not just by slathering expensive materials on to it but by filling the nooks and crannies with joy and memories. These are the real things that will help us survive the trials and tribulations. Your home is the repository of memories and experiences, bring in only the best.

Stay safe and stay happy!
Au revoir!

Mridula Sharma

Mridula Sharma, EDITOR-IN-CHARGE



Italian Masterpieces

Get Back sofa designed by Ludovica + Roberto Palomba
Kyoto small table designed by Gianfranco Frattini

poltronafrau.com



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AGENDA

SHOPPING / NEWS / PEOPLE / DESIGN / EVENTS

Super comfy

At a time when we are mostly home bound, Cappellini's new Litos sofa makes for a perfect all day crash pad! Its low level back rest merges with voluminous large seats in rounded and irregular shapes that allow for creation of large or smaller compositions. You might just find yourself staying back home even after the lockdowns are over! (cappellini.com)



Rope in

In its journey from the design board to the living room, this seemingly straightforward Frigerio Huli lounge chair by Federica Biasi reveals a passion for detailing via its peculiar rope weave and the cross-over design of the front legs into the backrest arc. The solid wood structure comes in Canaletto Walnut or Ash variants with grey colour options. (frigeriosalotti.it)



Living
LOVES



Internal matters

The Moon table is an ingenious mix of form and function. Designed by Mist-O for Living Divani, this rather innocent-looking table opens up as two half circles to reveal ample space inside to stow away your knick knacks. Made of charcoal dyed oak, this versatile piece can double up as bedside or coffee table. (livingdivani.it)

Drama queen

If theatrics is what gets you your daily dopamine rush then these hand-knotted Floralia carpets from Illulian are just what you need. Bright colours in vegetable dyes bring to life eclectic pictures that put on quite a dramatic show in your living space. You can also create your own personal story with their custom-made bespoke design options. (illulian.com)



Snooze-sational
It's just that easy to transform a run-of-the-mill bedroom into the ultimate sleeping space. The elegant wooden and leather cylinders of the Yomei table bring in a dash of urban appeal and are a part of the S100 series of bedside tables and drawer chests. Available in three different heights, with choices in walnut or maple, the collection is launched in India by Plüsch. (pluschliving.com)

Blast from the past
A design child of the early 70s, the new avatar of the Soriana armchair from Cassina still creates a flutter in the contemporary design world. Its abundant curves are now draped in a selection of chromatic combinations that pair lush fabrics and soft leathers with a black, blue, burgundy, green and white painted metal frame. (cassina.com)



Living etc LOVES

Forbidden Fruit

In this quirky 21st century Garden of Eden, a skirted Eve in high heeled shoes offers the forbidden apple to a jean-clad Adam, while the serpent in a boho facade lurks behind on the tree. Christofle and Marcel Wanders celebrate the 10th anniversary of their iconic Jardin d'Éden collection with this rather unusual Haute Orfèvrerie Cuckoo Clock. Available in a numbered limited edition of eight pieces. (christofle.com)



Sink into it

The new De Padova Alberese Sofa by designer Piero Lissoni packs in just about everything that is mandatory for a super comfy sofa — bulky soft cushions, low contours and a feather-upholstered seat. The side module with the open-angle armrest makes it the perfect spot to relax with your favourite book. (depadova.com)



Harp on it

The ARP collection from Made Studio for Diabla is perfect for planning an alfresco get-together. Mimicking a harp, its vertical lines in cast iron make room for generously sized cushiony comfort. The collection features an armchair, a sofa for two and two tables. Available in a range of colours—our favourite is white. (en.diablaoutdoor.com)



Shelf line

Time to show off your books, planters, or even your favourite artefacts in the new vertical and airy Taylor Bookstand from DL Studio. Its linear, free-standing metal structure holds shelves in wood, marble and leather that juxtapose in perfect harmony to create a special ambience in your living spaces.



Living etc LOVES



Heads up

The sudden burst of colour in these mostly black and white sculptures comes as a delightful shock to the senses. Flawlessly crafted using resin, clay, fibreglass, metal or polycarbonate, these chic pieces from Ochre At Home can be placed strategically as eye catching conversation starters. (ochreathome.com)

Copper topper

Catalan designer Eugeni Quitllet gives a glossy makeover to the L'ame de Christofle flatware, with a brand new copper shade. The L'Âme De Feu selection also adds in six new pieces — a fish fork and knife, a steak knife, an espresso spoon, a butter knife and even a generously sized consommé spoon. Available at Emery Studio.



Bee Happy

Another one of those droolworthy knick knacks to spruce up your living space. L'Objet's latest Beehive Collection comprises an exquisite hand crafted porcelain honeypot and a candle, both dipped in 24k gold. Available at Emery Studio.



Living **LOVES**



New in town

Asian Paints launches its four ranges of furnishings. So any time is a good time for an upgrade. Pick and choose from our fav five exquisite collections — Thar, Makhmal, Soofa, Hazaribagh and Chowk, designed by Sabyasachi for Nilaya, a collaboration between Asian Paints and the designer. (asianpaints.com)



Bottled up

The vibrant Floral Galore Copper Bottle from India Circus is a cheery piece with its colourful birds and flowers. But its real merit lies in the anti-bacterial, antioxidant, anti-carcinogenic and anti-inflammatory properties courtesy the copper. In this day and age of the 'wellness' frenzy, its just what the doctor ordered. (indiacircus.com)

A different perspective

A classy addition to your home décor, the Scarpa sideboard is an artistic feat with pieces of oak-wood creating a dynamic interplay of three dimensional patterns. Its two hidden drawers add to the mystery. (wewood.eu)



Living **LOVES**



Bring in the rings

The RingO Slim Vertical light from Vizion Lighting is an amalgamation of the art, science and poetics of décor lighting. Its hypnotic glow- lines are suspended via steel wires that offer a handy height adjustment system. Available in white, black and grey colour variants. (vizionlighting.com)



Bed of roses

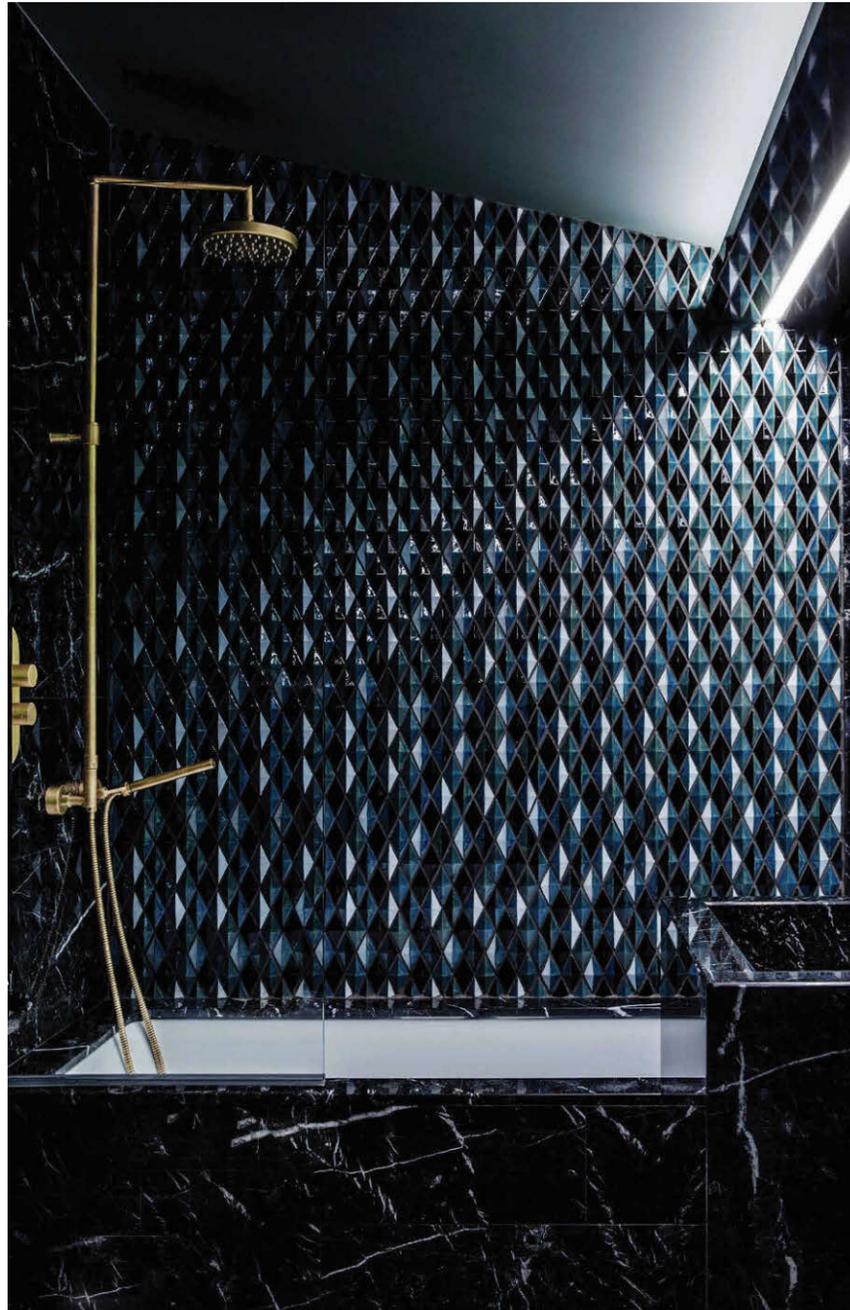
Pamper your senses with the new Sarita Handa hand-quilted bed spread. While the soft percale fabric pampers the skin, its the gorgeous floral Palampore print which adds that dreamy charm. (saritahanda.com)



Old world charm

A versatile combination of storage and seating, the Cochin Storage Bench from Gulmohar Lane brings a whiff of nostalgia to your décor. The cane rattan work in solid wood base creates neat silhouettes. (gulmoharlane.com)

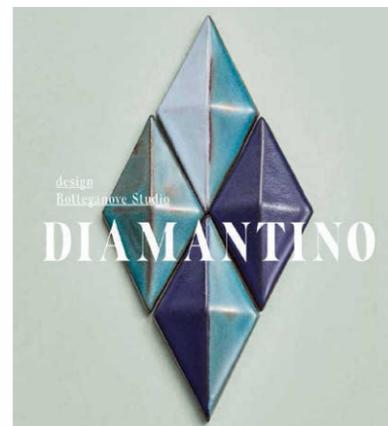
BottegaNove: Poetry in ceramic mosaic



In this bathroom of a home in Switzerland, the wall becomes the loom for tiling that gives the room solid vibrations through light, shadow and colour waves. The facets of the diamond in its four dimensions are apt for diverse decorations and colours. The laying gives you further possibilities beyond the classic harlequin-styled composition; you can also have a more original angular arrangement of the tiles.

Christian Pegoraro, the founder of BottegaNove, is an entrepreneur who has grown up among pottery, plaster moulds and kilns. His kinship to Nove, the fatherland of ceramics since the 1700s, is the basis of his passion towards what he and his company excel in. They specialise in the production of one of the greatest Italian excellences—ceramic and porcelain mosaics. Christian has developed a dynamic approach to design procedures making him an ideal partner for custom-made projects. At BottegaNove they combine the ancient artisans' tradition and a modern vision, in order to best meet the architects' and customers' needs without any project limit.

Available through Curoq Collectives.
www.curoq.com



Seen here is the DIAMANTINO: A lengthened diamond, three-dimensionally modelled, which immediately reminds us of ceramic tiling but also of the graphics by Gio Ponti. Diamantino allows infinite colour combinations, backed by the facet of a diamond.

Asian Paints forays into furnishings

With prices ranging from a whopping ₹8000 per metre to a modest ₹400, AP Furnishings is set to be a significant disruptor in the segment. Launching nothing less than four brands, Sabyasachi for Nilaya; The Pure Concept for Nilaya; PURE-Royale and the in-house Ador range, the collaboration with Pure Concept will be the manufacturing backbone for the vertical. We spoke with Amit Syngle, Managing Director & CEO of Asian Paints, to get to know more about Asian Paints Furnishings and their plans for the market.

MS: This year is obviously a huge turning point for you because of your foray into fabrics. How did this come about?

AS: Asian Paints has always been about colour and decor in a very strong way. Way back in 2004 the whole story of *Har Ghar Kuch Kehta Hai* came up in a big way. We were always inspired by the energy, passion and commitment which goes into home making, and we wanted to be a part of this in a very strong way. We started looking at any surface which needs Asian Paints. From there on it seemed only natural that the brand should expand into the world of furniture and furnishings. We launched lighting and furniture; we already had bath and kitchen and then we decided to increase our portfolio with the furnishing range. We are now taking it to the customer's doorstep; both physically and through visualisations.

MS: How do you plan to engage with and advise the customer?

AS: As you know, the market is very safe. You walk into the furnishing store and you are bombarded with the swatch books and then in your mind you are trying to see what works better and what the different combinations might be. Sometimes you are left wondering how it will look when finally put together. We want to help the customer with the visualisation process. Our USP is in encouraging people to start experimenting with something which really changes their homes dramatically.

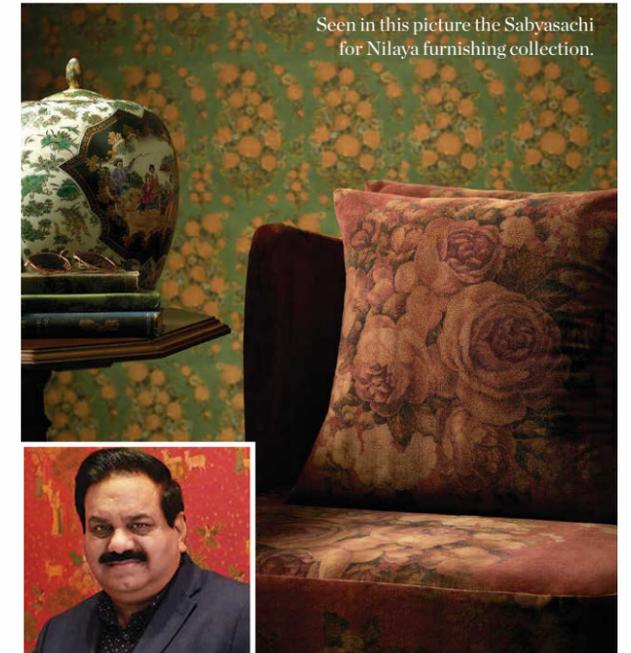
We have beautifulhomes.com which is an inspirational site where we talk possibilities, give ideas, showcase dream homes. We have Beautiful Home stores which have full 3D visualisation set-ups. You can make your selections and sit with interior designer, he/she will recreate your room on the screen in front of you and you would be able to visualise the entire room, how it would look with your kind of furniture, lighting, all this tailored to your budget. We have also introduced the beautiful homes service. This at home service basically helps you with visualisation on your mobile devices so you can talk to our experts in the comfort of your home. We are also trying to develop new technologies that can be used by the whole furnishings industry.

MS: What drove the design direction for AP Furnishings? What was the brief for the designers.

AS: First, we looked at three price points for the market. The starting range which we call Ador, is typically between ₹400-1200 per metre. This starting range, is for the mass market — the younger customer. It's mainly pretty, cheerful looking stuff with bright colours and florals; some in polyester or other durable fabrics which can take rough handling and is of good quality.

You can mix and match, there's lots to choose from; solids, florals etc. It is also high-end to some extent. We have about 32 collections already, and we are introducing 28 more; 60 collections in all is a very big portfolio.

Then we have the mid-range priced between ₹2000-4000, which is co-branded with Pure and Royale. This is the middle range which



Seen in this picture the Sabyasachi for Nilaya furnishing collection.



Amit Syngle, Managing Director & CEO of Asian Paints

has more interweaving and embroidery. The prints are more sophisticated, the colour palette more subtle. The textures, designs and weaves get richer as we move up the ladder. By the time we enter The Pure Concept for Nilaya, I think one can see a distinct shift in terms of design philosophy.

Our brief to Sabyasachi was that he could have a free hand in terms of designing. We were already aligned with his design sensibility and did not want to impose anything. As a designer he is already the master of this craft and has worked with fabrics for years. He is very particular about the quality of the linen, the makhmal, the wool, the silk. It has been quite an experience for us to work with someone of his calibre. The Sabyasachi for Nilaya range has a very different kind of subtlety and richness, spanning a very wide and varied colour palette, from whites and beiges to reds, purple and yellows. The price range is about ₹4000-8000 which is really high-end and exclusive. To that extent, something where we will do exclusive selling. It is a range that we are very proud of - there are 5 collections; Thar, Soofa, Chalk, Hazaribagh and Makhmal.

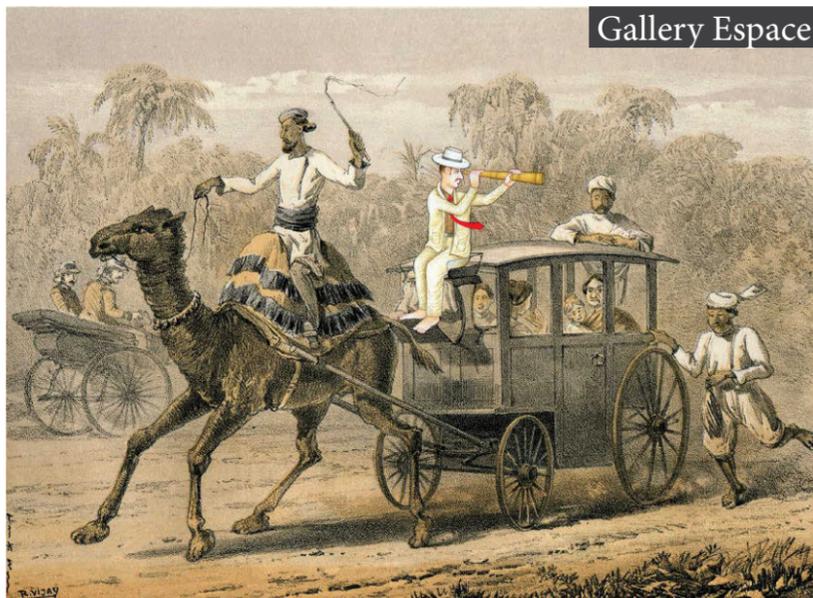
MS: Tell us about the collaboration with The Pure Concept.

AS: We are looking at the entire front-end of the operations. For back-end they have the looms, machines and the expertise. We don't want to get into managing the manufacturing sites. Further, they also have a huge export business, they have a window to the world in terms of trends, demand and supply, as they supply to Macy's, Potterybarn etc. We are very happy with the kind of innovation, techniques and the types of designers they have. So I think it's a good collaboration and co-branding.

Art & Art Shows

THE FOURTH EDITION OF DELHI CONTEMPORARY ART WEEK (8TH – 15TH APRIL) AT BIKANER HOUSE, NEW DELHI, WAS MARKED BY CURATED ARTWORKS, WALK THROUGH, EVENTS, TALKS AND WORKSHOPS BY PROMINENT GALLERIES IN THE CITY.

Latitude 28



Gallery Espace

Vadehra Art Gallery

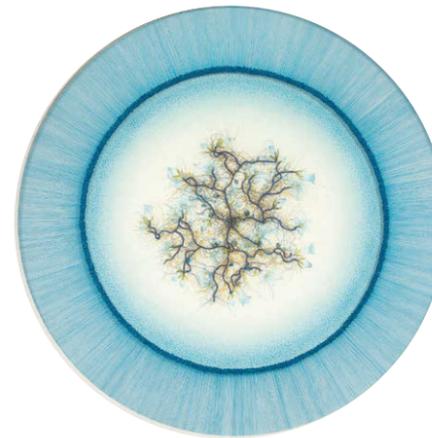
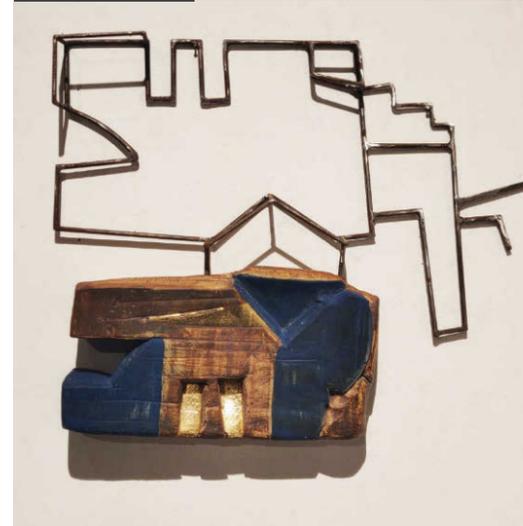
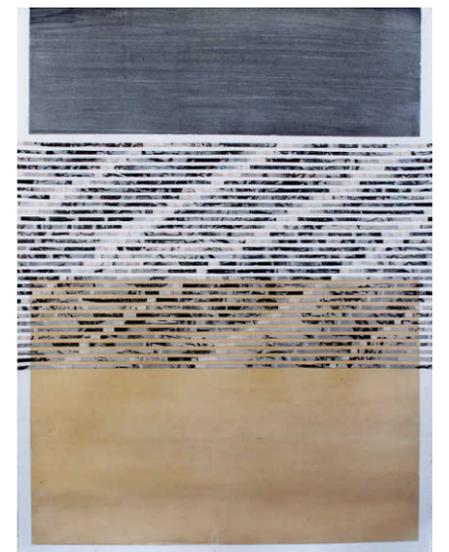
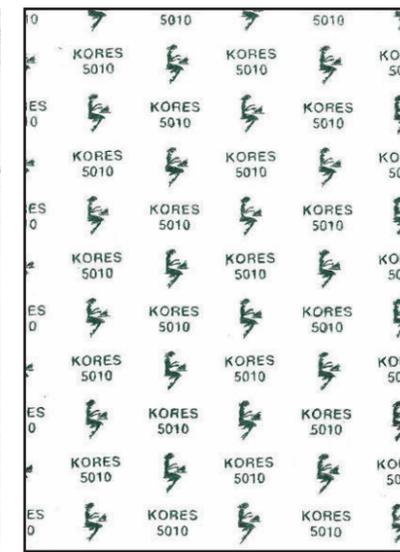


Exhibit 320



Blueprint 12



ONLINE ART AUCTION ASTAGURU



Delhi based artist Krishen Khanna, a Padma Shri recipient, showcased his Minstrels in The Forest, an oil on canvas.



V S Gaitonde, Untitled, Oil on Canvas, 1970

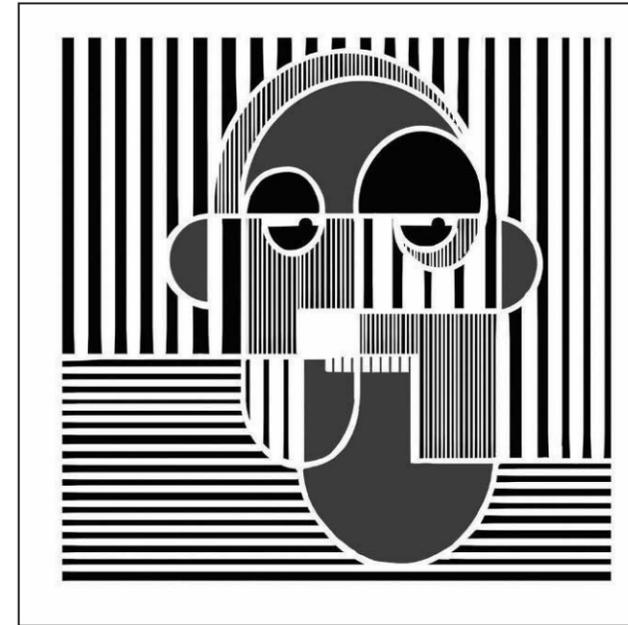
AstaGuru, the Mumbai based auction house, unveiled a stellar line-up of master artworks in its online auction 'Modern Indian Art', (March 30-31, 2021) that achieved a whopping white glove result. The catalogue featured an impressive compendium of 30 renowned works by stalwarts such as V S Gaitonde, Tyeb Mehta, Akbar Padamsee, Manjit Bawa, Jogen Chowdhury, and Jagdish Swaminathan, as well as never before auctioned creations by K H Ara, M F Hussain, Anjolie Ela Menon, Krishen Khanna and Bikash Bhattacharjee.

THE ANATOMY OF CHOICES STUDIO ART

Art curator cum musician Ashna Singh took the time spent in isolation due to the 2020 lockdown as an opportunity to bring together an assortment of artists for an exhibition named 'This and That'.

The presentation reflects on the situation and choices people had prior to, as opposed to the aftermath of the pandemic. Describing it as "an amalgamation of options that humanity has been gifted with", the theme is one of introspection and inner dilemmas brought on by the new world order.

The 'That' period deals with pre-Covid days where emphasis was laid on competition and success, while the present era is the 'This' period which highlights the uncertainties, anxieties, subsistence, needs, wants and survival, compelling humanity to choose how to proceed forward, by systematically rejecting obsolete options. A potpourri of art installations, paintings, videos, sculptures and photography, featured works of Pooja Iranna, Megha Joshi, Remen Chopra, W. Van der Vaart, Khalil Chishtee, Sharmi Choudhury, Baiju Parthan, T.V. Santhosh, Ranbir Kaleka, Veer Munshi and Shivani Aggarwal.



CODED ILLUSIONS by Anand Menon, the mono-toned lines highlights a universe of its own.

VIRYA by AMPM DESIGNS. Akash and Poonam Mehta's colourful set of windows is inspired by Raza, the famous Indian artist.



ART WITH VENEERS

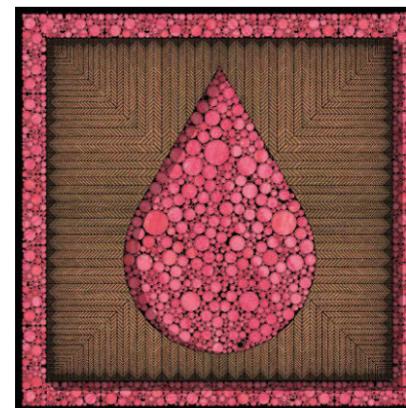
When a group of ten innovative designers were handed a set of veneers as their art material and allowed to let their imagination flow, the result was quite interesting indeed!

The Art of Veneer, an innovative campaign by Venzo Wood, was based on an endeavour to elevate the perception of veneer from a mere building material to the level of a substance that is worthy of creating art with. Working with veneer, a somewhat unconventional medium, was akin to creating an inimitable jigsaw puzzle where every shade of colour and shape of the veneer had to be

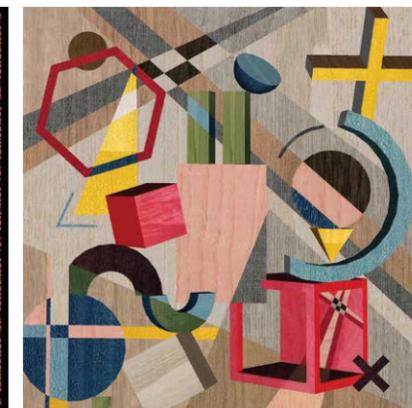
first painstakingly laser-cut and then delicately matched and inlaid into the canvas to deliver the final product.

The ten designers who took part in this campaign held during March 2021 included Anand Menon, Akash and Poonam Mehta, Ishan Grover, Kumpal Vaid, Sameer and Shilpa Balvally, Saniya Kantawala, Rajiv Khushalani, Manish Dikshit, Kanhai Gandhi, and Jannat Vasi.

The artworks will be put on sale by the end of the year on the *eestablish.art* website and the proceedings will be donated to charity.



'The Drop' - by Ar. Kanhai Gandhi emphasises water pollution and aims at instigating people to curb environmental damage.



'Equilibria' by Studio Osmosis is inspired by the Composition VIII, by Wassily Kandinsky; designers Sameer and Shilpa Balvally.



Lucky 7- by Jannat Vasi is based on the principle of seven horses bringing luck to a space as per Vastu, symbolising good fortune.

JITISH KALLAT & SUBODH GUPTA

NATURE MORTE



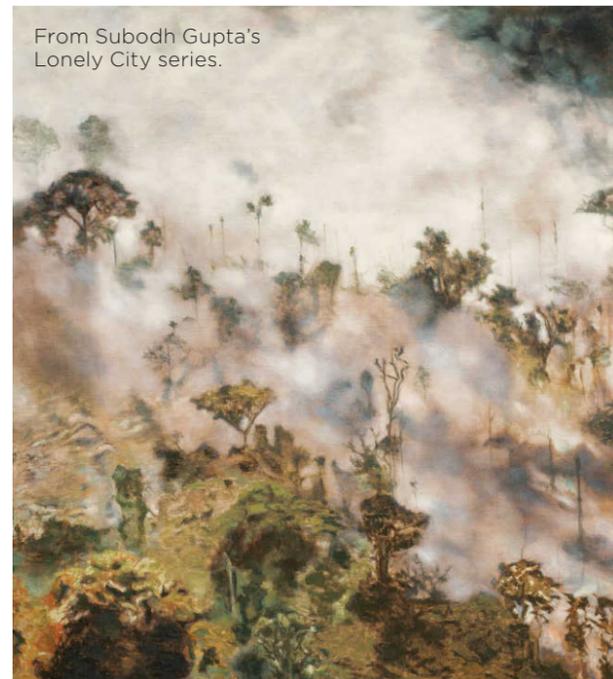
From Jitish Kallat's Palindrome/Anagram series.



Two artists who may seem to have little in common can be brought together by specific works. Nature Morte gallery showcased **Confabulations: New Paintings by Jitish Kallat and Subodh Gupta**.

Both the veteran artists have nothing in common except a notion of landscape and its relationship with Nature. The present works by Jitish Kallat and Subodh Gupta can be linked to those most primitive pronouncements through the inert act of representing Nature.

Jitish Kallat continued with a puzzle-like series of paintings that he had started working on in 2017, titled 'Palindrome/Anagram', inspired by the natural sciences, such as biology, geology, chemistry, astronomy, etc. Meanwhile Subodh, primarily a sculptor, has continued to make paintings and created four new works, all entitled 'Lonely City', marking a dramatic departure from his previous paintings, which had a close affinity with his sculptural works.



From Subodh Gupta's Lonely City series.



Sumi-E (Japan) tile, Bharat Floorings & Tiles

Janis cabinet, Etro Home Interiors

Bubble knit lantern, Missoni Home

Patterned lens mask sunglasses, Fendi

Hive crystal vase, Karim Rashid

Ceinture zig-zag belt, Hermes

Peep Toe Heels, Prada

Giorgio Armani Spring Summer 2021

Dolce&Gabbana x SMEG Majolica refrigerator, SMEG

Cubo side table, Fornasetti

Dakar armchair, Moroso

BFF sofa, Moooi

Catwalk Comes Home

PATTERN-O-PATTERN

There is a certain kind of joy that seems almost imperceptible in seeing patterns roll out, especially in these days of grim morbidity. The interplay of colour and shapes imbues a curiosity and sense of stability in its repeating format. Maestros like Giorgio Armani, Prada and Fendi indicate their preference for these all the way from the runway to pret lines. Moroso, Etro and Missoni Home, among others, lead the way in home interiors.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT
Pensée new floral mosaic design **tile** by Carlo Dal Bianco, price on request, Bisazza; Foilage Flowers **chair** by Patricia Urquiola, price on request, Kartell at IOTA; Flora Zari square multicolour linen **cushion cover**, ₹4,950, Sarita Handa; Buds Fragrance **diffuser**, price on request, Giorgetti at Sources Unlimited; Ophelia Cluster Floral 5" X 7" **frame**, price on request, Jay Strongwater.



Scheme Of The Month
FANTASTIC FLORALS

Add that touch of spring to your space with beautiful floral patterns.

Words / Swati Singh

Floral prints are used in both fashion and interior design in most countries. These designs first became popular in the 70s and 90s and re-appeared in 2012. Refresh your space with beautiful patterns inspired by nature.

According to Ar. Shilpa Jain Balvally of Studio Osmosis, floral prints are a growing trend in interiors and décor. "Floral prints are an ode to vintage but they are also used in a contemporary way with inspiration from vintage styles. The popularity of floral prints is timeless and post the pandemic its being used even more," she says.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Blossom **chandelier**, price on request, Tord Boontje; Florin **bed** by Roberto Lazzeroni, price on request, Zanotta at Vivono Designs; Floral Scent **dinnerware** collection from Casa Alegre, price on request, Vista Alegre; Camellia **tea set**, ₹26,000, Good Earth; Jardin d' Eden **cutlery** collection, price on request, Christofle at Emery Studio; Beige Uttam **serving platter** (set of two), ₹23,000; Ritu Kumar.



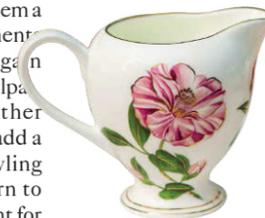
Adding to this, Poonam Mehta of AMPM Designs says, "It's a throwback to our colonial heritage and also our own Indian motifs - we have never been afraid of using floral designs in interiors. Floral prints add a fun yet bold element into interior spaces. Pastel floral prints on cushions can add a subtle yet cheerful note when added to the decor. I would also recommend the use of fresh flowers to add to the ambience."

Whether accent pillows, wallpaper, bedding with floral print or even a mural that brings flowery freshness to your spaces, there are plenty of options to choose from. "Floral prints can not only be unique and rare, but also allow for experimentation and personalisation. At our studio, we love to combine inspirations from vintage and give them a contemporary look or even recycle older elements to create a functional and unique piece, again based on what the client wants," explains Shilpa.

Akash Mehta of AMPM Designs further elaborates, "Wallpaper is a one-step way to add a dash of floral to your space. Try out a sprawling chinoiserie scene or a bold repeating pattern to make a major statement, or pick a simpler print for a hint of subtle beauty."

According to Akash, floral prints should look more nature-centric, more real. So choose prints wisely. He further adds a caution as it is easy to get carried away with this theme. "Too much floral can become distracting and not pleasing. You don't want your house to look like an old English tea cafe."

Shilpa adds, "We do need to make sure it's always used in the right way. Depending on the room function, space, and client's personality one can either go all out and go bold or just use it subtly among bolder and neutral solids, creating an eye-catching story that echoes through the home and creates an impact."



[Getting it right]

Shilpa Jain Balvally's tips for using floral prints:

* **FLORAL THEMES IN SOFT** furnishings, upholstery, as enhancers for curtains or cushions are the best alternative to soften up interiors, and also to add texture to an otherwise neutral room. And best part is these can be easily changed over time.

* **WALLPAPERS ARE A** beautiful way to add character to living or sleeping areas or even the den.

* **PRINTED OR HAND-PAINTED** floral print on furniture pieces becomes a unique talking point. Even wardrobe shutters can be dressed in floral-themed graphics or fabrics.

* **FLORAL-THEMED ART** CAN also add ambience to a space.

House of the Month

Spiritual Oasis

Awash in natural light, this atmospheric home pays tribute to a spiritual lifestyle where the self is in harmony with its surroundings.

Words/Varuni Mohan * Photography/Bharath Ramamrutham



LIVING ROOM

The living area is a large and expansive space which is supported by cast metal columns. This allows for visual continuity without any walls in between. The seating areas are divided into three sections; from a larger formal seating area, to cosier nooks for smaller groups to socialise.

GET THE LOOK The furniture for the entire living and dining area has been sourced from MDF Italia available with Vivono Designs..

designed to spiritually inspire and motivate its residents every day, this home's visual narrative is inspired by the "openness of existence". The client's brief was to create a home that would be sublime and serene, with its inherent qualities rooted in the Ramakrishna philosophy and built following Vastu principles. The ultimate goal of the design was to make the home a sanctuary that would maintain spiritual equilibrium for the family who would inhabit the space every day.

French-Canadian architect Dominic Dube of DDIR Architecture Studio, who designed the home says, "A simple creative spirit underlies the design of the entire residence, in order to offer a fresh environment for the clients. The aim is to offer something distinctive, both in its visual presence and the lifestyle within. The building and its connecting elements, like the staircase, lift, swimming pool, gardens and walls have been designed as a poetic whole. These elements work as a collective where views and vibrations ebb and flow from each other in a constant symbiotic play of form, space and light."

Situated in the upscale neighbourhood of Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad, this home is owned by Arjun Rao who is the CEO and Founder of ValueLabs. With a built-up area of close to 13,000 sq ft, the house has four storeys, and the ground level also features a large indoor pool. The lines of the home and the interior design are sleek and exceptionally modern, yet nature is close at hand. The pool caters to the home owner's love for swimming, but is also a visual focal point that creates dramatic impact by virtue of being a large water body, right next to the living room. It also possibly creates a change in the humidity and air flow within the house, as it is right next to the living area. However, the pool notwithstanding, the functional elements of air-circulation and temperature-control have been seamlessly addressed, through a discreet climate control system.

The pool leads to a resort style, private outdoor deck and garden that provides easy access to the natural beauty outdoors. Viewed from outside, the exposed steel structure can be seen to have been designed on a mathematical grid, where the visible



Photo by Shibu Arakkal

Ar. Dominic Dube, Founder DDIR Architecture Studio.

metal columns create a unique sculptural geometry. The main staircase in the living room has been fashioned out of cast metal and glass. The design appears light and airy, yet it is very strong with a diagonal supporting beam on each step. Thick frosted glass creates the step itself and allows natural light to fall through in a diffused way. This play of light gives 'life' to the staircase. Some of the furniture and art provide pops of accent colour that punctuate the predominantly white decor palette.

The spatial language of clean straight lines and the predominance of white with contrasting bursts of colour imbue this house with a timeless appeal. It fulfils all the functional requirements in a modern and luxurious idiom and at the same time has answered the client's need for a space in harmony with the self. 

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS

This is the primary family residence of the Founder and CEO of ValueLabs, Arjun Rao and his wife Harini Rao.

THE PROPERTY

This is a 12,900 sq ft villa in the Jubilee Hills neighbourhood of Hyderabad. This home is built over five levels including a basement, has four bedroom suites and features a large indoor swimming pool, gym and outdoor decks.

MAIN STAIRCASE →

The central staircase design is sculptural, with the frame cast in metal and the steps in translucent glass. The aim is to accomplish a seamless flow of space with an interplay of shadows and light.

GET THE LOOK The flooring for the entire house has been done with 120cm x 120 cm matte white vitrified tiles.



LIVING ROOM

The architecture and interior design of the living area adheres to the light-filled spacious theme. The clean and modern minimalist aesthetic evokes a feeling of peace and tranquillity.

GET THE LOOK The furniture for the living room has been sourced from MDF Italia. The designs are functional and sleek. As all the furniture is from one design house, there is a consistency in the visual appeal of the space.



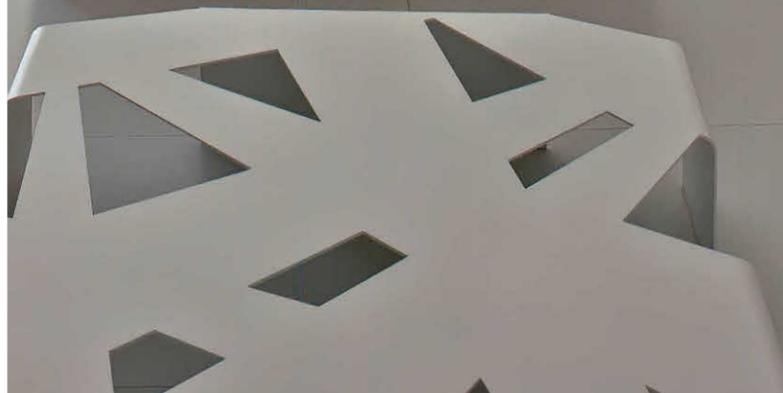
Tonal use of white as the predominant colour in the interior design keeps it Zen-like and classic.



FOYER SEATING AREA

The living space has been sectioned into different seating areas for different formats of social interaction. This all-white seating area looks out on to the outdoor deck and garden area allowing for moments of quiet contemplation.

GET THE LOOK The coffee table and sofa are from MDF Italia. The table is crafted in white lacquered aluminium with cut out sections that create an interesting play of light.



INDOOR POOL

One of the most striking features of this home is the long indoor pool adjacent to the living area. A discreet system of temperature control ensures that the spaces always have a comfortable ambience.

GET THE LOOK The swimming pool has been created by Olympia Pool in Hyderabad.



PRIVATE AREAS

The private areas of the home are on the first and second floors. Wooden flooring creates warmth and depth. Natural light streams in through large windows, while the central staircase remains in focus as it makes its way upwards through the home.

GET THE LOOK The windows by Veka have noise cancelling technology.



↓ **OUTDOOR SIT-OUT**

This is the outdoor sit-out area on the second floor which also has a private space for a peaceful stroll. Graphic concrete planters lend points of green interest.

GET THE LOOK The flooring for this space features sandstone tiles in a muted neutral tone. You can source similar concrete planters from Jaypore or Ellementary.

DECK AND GARDEN →

The indoor pool opens out onto an outdoor deck and garden area. Styled with palm trees and summery orange loungers this space brings a resort-like vibe to the living area.

GET THE LOOK The bold orange loungers are from Paola Lenti's outdoor furniture collection.



The entire home has a sleek and luxurious feel, with an expansive sense of space that feels personal and comfortable at the same time.



OUTDOOR DECK

The pool leads to this outdoor deck area where organic textures have been used to create a chic space. The landscaping is graphic with the use of palm trees and a herb garden. Weathered wood has been used for the flooring. Stylish Italian outdoor sun loungers add to the ambience. **GET THE LOOK** The orange loungers are from Paola Lenti's outdoor furniture collection available with Vivono Designs.

IDEAS TO STEAL

Use of white colour, natural light and the elements imbue this house with a unique calmness.



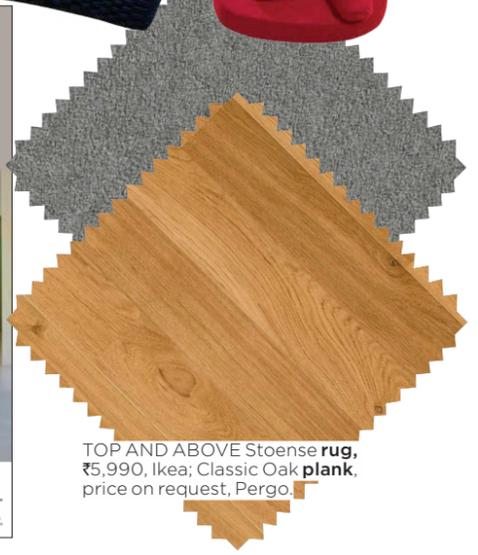
CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Aiku **stool**, price on request; Rock **table**, price on request, both MDF Italia at Vivono Designs; Spun Light Table **lamp**, price on request, Flos; Pupper Hero 2 **sculpture**, ₹2,676, Bent Chair; Wave **lounge**, Paola Lenti at Vivono Designs; velvet **cushion**, price on request, *woodenstreet.in*; Bhumi terracotta clay **water bottle**, ₹790, Wallistry; Vonny **planters**, price on request, Bonasila.



House of the Month
Spiritual Oasis

Awash in natural light, this atmospheric home pays tribute to a spiritual lifestyle where the self is in harmony with its surroundings.

LIVING ROOM
The living area is a large and open-plan space, which is illuminated by natural light. The furniture is minimalist and modern, with a focus on clean lines and neutral tones. The overall aesthetic is serene and calming.



TOP AND ABOVE Stoense **rug**, ₹5,990, Ikea; Classic Oak **plank**, price on request, Pergo.

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THE MAGAZINE OF FINE WATCHES

DECORATING / ETC

Summer forecast

We bring you a whimsical taste of this season's new decorating trends, colours and moods from the SS20 collections

PHOTOGRAPHY Jake Curtis
STYLING Hannah Franklin



HEATWAVE

These delectable Neapolitan colours are a playful twist on the joy of eating ice cream on the beach on a summer's day.

Constellation wallpaper in Pink, find similar at Elementto. Windbreak in Les Cabines, ₹5,446m approx. Casamance at F&F. Cone in Scallops in Blue, find similar at RR Decor. Check out D'decor for similar ice cream fabrics.



HIGH-SUMMER PALETTE

(left) Take your pick of the season's new florals, from exquisite embroideries and reimagined classics to joyful impressionistic painterly creations and trailing botanicals.

Clockwise from top left Check out Keramos for terracotta handmade ceramic tile. Find similar fabric at D'Decor. Fleurs de Jour fabric in Travertine, Designers Guild at D'Decor. For similar fabric in Rose Gold, try Maishaa. Rushworth F7407-01 fabric, Osborne & Little at F&F. Exuberance wallpaper in Fuchsia/ Ultramarine, Harlequin at F&F. Aspen wallpaper in Pine, *grahambrown.com*. For all such Paint shades, (Lake Red, Emerald Green, Crimson Red, Duck Green), all estate emulsions, try Berger Paints. Check out Goodearth for similar garden wallpaper in Teal. Habana 7109 wallpaper, Casadeco at *wallpaperdirect.com*. Bougainvillea 6016 wallpaper, Seville collection, Cole & Son at F&F.

FLOWER POWER

(right) This look celebrates the joys of the summer garden with its riot of colour, abundant beauty and heady mix of colourful petals and foliage. When is too much, too much? Never. This take on florals requires maximum impact.

Geranium 117/11035 wallpaper, Seville collection at Cole & Son available at F&F. Fabrics (from left) For similar fabrics, Check out Asian Paints furnishings. Hollyhock in Celadon, Designers Guild at D'Decor. For metal-framed doors, try Envirotech.



Blooms straight out of the hothouse are flourishing this season – so go big and bold



SUNDOWNER PALETTE

(left) Turn up the temperature with fabrics, paints and tiles in beguiling colours and lush, vibrant patterns. Not for the faint-hearted.

Clockwise from top Check out Intersekt for metallic vitreum Mosaics **tile**. Akbisar **fabric** in F3454001, ₹19,567m approx, Pierre Frey at Le Mill. Mareld **tile** in Honey/Ivory; Mareld **tile** in Maroon/Ivory, both can be customised at Bharat Floorings & Tiles. Shelley **fabric** in (from top) Berry, Pink, Poppy, find similar at Seasons Furnishing. Check out Fabindia for similar **runner** in Gold. **Paint**, Tufted Kilim; Mustard Field, for both try Dulux. Check out Keramos for handmade **tile**. For similar Desert Flower **fabric** in Koi; Sorbet **fabric** in Pamplemousse; Kuba **fabric** in Coral, try RR Decor. **Paint**, Orange Aurora, Leather and Carmine, try desertcart.in.

RED HOT LOVER

(right) The intensity of this deep, warm and earthy scheme, which includes touchy-feely velvets, a tufted rug and a tactile grasscloth wallcovering, sets a smouldering mood. It also includes on-trend curves and metallic highlights that dust it with a sprinkling of glamour.

Find similar **wallpaper** at arte-international.com. For similar **sofa**, check out Boconcept. For similar **cushion** in Murano in Gold, ₹1,795m approx; Clarke & Clarke at Maishaa. Rectangular **cushion** in Donwell in F7404-03, ₹9,424m approx, Osborne & Little at F&F. Find similar **footstool**, at The Rug Republic. Fly **side table**, ₹1,87,703 approx, Flexform at Vita Moderna. For abstract art **vase**, check out Claymen. Find similar **rugs** at Obsessions. Random **pendant light**, ₹77,883 approx, Moooi at Lightbox.

Curves and texture are big news – mix with rich sunset hues for interiors with a seductive edge





Boston water glass,
villeroy-boch.co.uk



Louxor tumbler,
baccarat.com

Living etc
LOVES



Ice highball and blown glass,
goodearth.in

The Edited Choice

COLOURED GLASSES

Add a touch of panache to your entertaining style



Medusa Lumiere glass,
versace.com



Graphik crystal glass,
christofle.com



Single old fashioned glass,
tiffany.com



Kartio glass,
iittala.com



Bump short glass,
tomdixon.net



Halden glass,
anthropologie.com

New trends and innovation in

BATHROOMS

IDEAS TO CREATE YOUR VERY OWN PERSONAL SANCTUARY THAT SOOTHES BODY, MIND & THE SOUL.

Bathrooms are no longer just plain utility rooms with a few art pieces, a book case and some greens on single shelves along the wall. These are carefully put together and planned consciously to give a few indulgent moments in the run of crazy hectic lives. Of course, build around workable facilities such as drainage and flow-in, but there is a good scope for imagination to come into play.

START AT THE ENTRANCE
A simple thing like double doors from the bedroom give the ensuite a theatrical presence.

bathroom trend: single-use colour

ALL-OVER DELICATE PINK ACCESSORISED WITH COPPER AND CURVES CREATES AN IMPACTFUL YET PLAYFUL EN SUITE

Designed for the youngest member of a family of three, this whimsical en suite benefits from the generous proportions found in traditional properties. Featuring high ceilings at approximately 3.2 metres and large picture windows, this dream-like bathroom is accessed directly via the bedroom. 'My client requested that I create something that would be unique using pink colours. She wanted her daughter's bathroom to be girlish, but not too childish,' says Maria Kalina, from Maria Kalina Interior Design.

As requested, pink has been used as a base, and diluted with subtle accents of blue in the form of the wall-mounted radiator and a freestanding bathroom cupboard. 'The focus of the composition is a bath on the podium, which is further highlighted by the LED illumination that surrounds it,' says Maria. Playfulness is achieved with an original soap bubble-style chandelier that hangs above the bath, which was designed to evoke a feeling of lightness and airiness. 'What also helps set a soft mood is the matte-gloss finish of the dusty-pink tiles. It is a very delicate shade.'

One of the most unique aspects of this project is that the designer has been able to use so much pink without

Recessed lighting introduces a gentle glow, helping to create a soft ambience



The brushed copper of the mixers brings in added luxe

it overwhelming the space. 'It can be difficult to persuade clients to use bright colours, as they believe they will get bored of one hue,' says Maria. 'This project goes to show that with the right design, colour in a bathroom can be great.'

need to know

THE PROPERTY A three-bedroom, four-bathroom apartment in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod.
DESIGNER Maria Kalina Interior Design.

A fantastical Giopato & Coombes chandelier highlights the bubblegum pink bath, which has views to die for

bathroom trend: industrial luxe

RICH TEXTURES AND BESPOKE FURNISHINGS MEET METALS AND EXPOSED BRICKWORK FOR AN UPSCALE SPACE WITH A UTILITARIAN VIBE

Light floods the expansive double-height room, bouncing off the metal fittings and the dark parquet floor

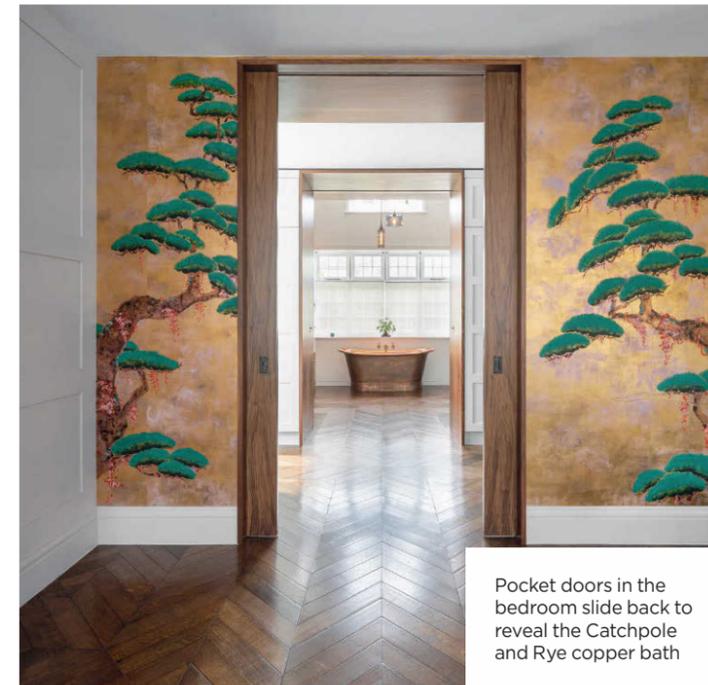


The space feels remarkably comfortable. Familiar materials are of the highest quality and are a joy to touch and use

need to know

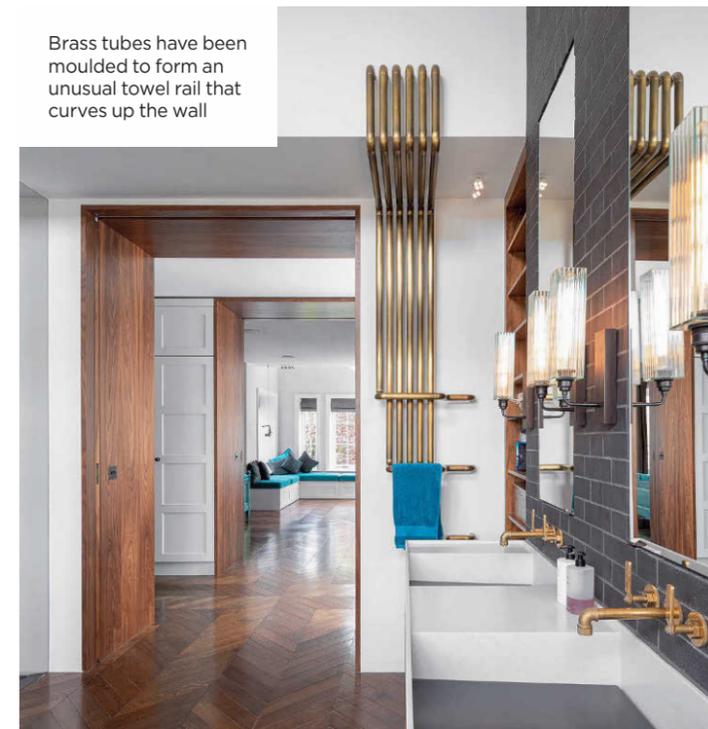
THE PROPERTY A five-bedroom detached Tudorbethan family home in north London
DESIGNERS John Konings and Jo Maudsley at Charlton Brown Architecture & Interiors.

Flanked by a striking de Gournay wallcovering, oversized pocket doors slide open theatrically to reveal this bathroom's modern utilitarian style. 'The owners wanted a standout scheme that incorporated the rich textures of industrial materials in a



Pocket doors in the bedroom slide back to reveal the Catchpole and Rye copper bath

Brass tubes have been moulded to form an unusual towel rail that curves up the wall



personal and unique way,' says designer John Konings of Charlton Brown Architecture & Interiors.

Space was carved out from the attic to achieve the double-height ceiling the clients presented in their reference materials of New York warehouses. 'The partially exposed structure helps rationalise the use of brick walls, but it made creating the walk-in shower area, which chicanes around a brick column, a challenge,' says John. 'Typically, shower waterproofing systems are designed to work with shallow tiles, but we wanted to use full bricks to give a sense of solidity.' Exposed bricks by Daas Baksteen in a Flemish bond arrangement frame the mirrored cabinets by Charlton Brown Architects & Interiors.

The quarter-sawn oak parquet floor is the unsung hero here and the pattern has been designed so that it links to the other rooms in the master suite. 'The copper bath was one thing the clients insisted on – the material palette that we developed was generally more understated but they were keen to include copper to link with the metallic textures in their bedroom wallpaper,' says John.

Walnut bookcases complement the custom twin vanity, with the bespoke heated towel rail adding a distinctive element that helps unify the space. 'The fabricators did a great job with the wall-climbing brass towel rail. It turned out even better than we had hoped at the stage where it was just a page in our sketchbook,' says John. 'This is a scheme with longevity. Brass, along with many of the other materials used, was chosen for its ability to age beautifully.'

bathroom trend: symmetry

A PERFECTLY ALIGNED LAYOUT BRINGS A BEAUTIFUL STILLNESS AND HARMONY TO THIS NEW-BUILD SPACE

need to know

THE PROPERTY A five-bedroom new build in California.
DESIGNERS Lisa and Roy Persse, Porter Bathroom.

A calming sense of symmetry ties this scheme together, celebrating the serenity of crisp lines and modern geometry. 'The room naturally called out for the bath to take centre stage,' says designer Roy Persse of Porter Bathroom.

'Placing the vanity units on either side of the marble bath created the perfect trio, with each piece given enough space around to make a calm but powerful statement.'

The marble is called Leige Grey and was chosen for its natural softness. 'It is without doubt the most neutral but interesting grey marble there is,' says Lisa Persse, also of Porter Bathroom. 'Together with the limed-oak finish on the vanity units, it is the perfect choice in a home that's focused on natural finishes and restraint. When you walk into the room, you can almost feel the weight of life's stresses lift off your shoulders.'

Any space of scale requires fittings to match and this bath was the client's choice. A double-ended design, the edges are mitred to form a monolithic piece that looks like it has been carved from a single slab. The vanity units are each designed for solo use, but they have been scaled up to match the room's proportions.

Measuring an impressive 2x1.6m, the shower is almost a separate room in its own right but frameless glazing ensures it doesn't loom too large. 'It had to accommodate two people comfortably, but it was important that it doesn't feel dominating,' says Lisa. A built-in seat provides comfort, while three storage niches keep toiletries close to hand.

A neutral palette can end up bland. Using symmetry and proportion, together with clean-lined fittings brings materials to life. 'Any size bathroom that is in proportion and features nature-inspired materials will provide the most important thing in today's hectic lifestyles – calm,' says Roy.



Barbara Barry's Art Deco-inspired Tuxedo shower controls by Kallista from West One Bathrooms deliver glamour.



A sleek polished nickel frame gives the stone-topped vanity a lighter feel.



FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON
 PHOTOGRAPHS JONATHAN MITCHELL

The views outside of California redwoods provide all the colour and pattern required in this magnificently minimalist bathroom.

When you walk into the room, you can almost feel the weight of life's stresses lift off your shoulders

bathroom trend: colour pop

RICH AUBERGINE UNDERTONES BRING SUMPTUOUS GLAMOUR TO THIS ELEGANT EN SUITE

With the ceiling soaring to 3.5 metres, the question of whether this light-filled ensuite could take strong accent colour was never in doubt. Choosing the right shade took a little longer. After establishing it needed to be from the warm side of the colour spectrum to help make the large room feel cosier, Ripples bathroom designer Sinead Hegarty collated a mood board for the other surfaces. 'The owners wanted a wood-effect tile, as dark as possible, on the floor and also had Carrara marble in mind,' she recalls. 'We discussed a brushed black finish to bring a modern twist to the brassware. Viewed together, we could see a rich red was in order and Brinjal, from Farrow & Ball, hit the spot.'

Although deep colour is only used in one area, the layout ensures its warmth resonates throughout the space. Previously a 'Jack and Jill' style bathroom, with doorways to the hallway and master bedroom, Sinead suggested blocking the public entrance to achieve a more symmetrical layout and private sanctuary. 'This allowed us to place the bath central to the original fireplace – forming the main focal point as you enter – and still have space for the large walk-in shower the owners wanted,' she explains. Originally the owners mooted a double vanity unit but Sinead suggested popping a single vanity either side of the fireplace. 'Separating the vanity units created a better sense of symmetry and flow. Opting for matt-black furniture means they don't get lost in the corners either.'

Underfoot, the owners' request for dark, wood-look tiles was translated in an elegant herringbone installation that references the property's Victorian heritage. A panel of basketweave marble mosaics was positioned rug-like beneath the bath, creating a strong colour contrast between the rich

A panel of marble mosaics was positioned beneath the bath, creating a strong colour contrast between the rich tub and cool white stone

need to know

THE PROPERTY A six-bedroom Victorian detached house in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
DESIGNER Sinead Hegarty, Ripples Solihull.

red and cool white stone in the process. An all-dark floor could have appeared bottom-heavy in such a tall room, but the mosaics balance the space vertically, while beautifully framing the bath and fireplace behind.

The antique mirror came from the owners' previous home but it fits perfectly above the mantelpiece and, together with the modern Flos chandelier, helps draw attention to the impressive ceiling height. 'The combination of colours, from the dark, wood-effect tiles and elegant veins in the Carrara to the brushed black brassware and, of course, the Brinjal-painted bath, makes this room such a unique experience,' says Sinead. 'The owners squealed in delight when they first saw my plans and everyone's delighted with how it has turned out.'

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPH PAUL CRAIG



Here are a few things that can add panache...



Apotheca Large Diffuser available at Beyond Designs Home



Linea basin mixer, Artize



Bath towels, Modal Collection from Maishaa



Shower shelf, Hansgrohe



Dornbracht CL.1 in Dark Platinum matte



Extractable shower, Armani Roca



Birillo soap dish, Alessi



Aura and Astro freestanding sink by Antoni Lupi



Talis Select E, Wash basin mixer, Hansgrohe



Voxnan hanger, IKEA



Orion Wall Mounted Toilet Brush Holder, Home Centre



Shower tray, Laufen



Contina foldable shower seat, Franke



Kalos Basin by Devon&Devon

INDUSTRY SPEAK

ABHIJEET SONAR, MARKETING HEAD, INDIA & SAARC COUNTRIES, HANSGROHE INDIA



Abhijeet Sonar

How is Rainfinity different from Hansgrohe's other rain showers?
The Rainfinity overhead shower can be set to tilt at an angle of between 10° and 30° using the ingenious wall connection. It helps you find your most comfortable showering position or keep your hair and face dry while your body is drenched in water. Thanks to its innovative spray surface, which curves inwards slightly, the water jet does not hit the person's head and shoulders from above like a conventional shower would. It gently envelops your body like a coat made of a thousand droplets.

The Rainfinity shower is also a style statement in your bathroom. The matt white colour stands elegantly in contrast to the graphite-coloured spray disc; new jet types, innovative functions and extraordinary design come together to set a brand-new standard in modern bathroom functionality.

Hansgrohe is known for its control systems. What is the latest offering and what does it offer?

It all started with the ShowerSelect thermostats, hansgrohe's first to integrate Select technology that make your showering experience seamless and safe. Select buttons help you to turn the shower on or off at a simple click of the button and switching between the shower modes was never that easy. Later we integrated the Select technology in our shower tablets too and the latest is hansgrohe RainSelect thermostatic module.

RainSelect is a new point of attraction for any bathroom, maximum comfort and just one product. The integrated Select technology allows the shower and shower spray to be selected using the generous 'Select' buttons. The hand shower finds its home on the RainSelect via the metal shower holder with integrated water connection. The water volume and temperature is controlled by the handles.

RainSelect blends harmoniously into any bathroom ambiance, effectively making it the "switchboard" for relaxed showering pleasure.



QUEO: ZINNIA BATHTUB

Zinnia is a work of art perfectly sculpted for your bathing experience. Incorporation of sleek lines and edges enhance the spa-like environment inside your bathroom. A luxurious bathtub like Zinnia, from Queo, not only helps relaxing senses, but also helps in improving blood circulation, lowering blood pressure, increasing metabolism and improving mental well being. co limes with a side panel and a pop-up drain.

SOMANY: SENSOR FAUCETS

With time, the need for modern contact-less technologies and utilities has risen to maintain a hygienic environment, especially during this pandemic. The demand for automated things has increased manifolds. If we talk about our homes, then it is very essential to keep places like bathroom and kitchen germ-free as they are considered as bacteria-ridden spots. Especially the faucets, we touch faucets many times in a day and the chances of getting infection increases if multiple people use the same tap. This is why the majority of people are switching to sensor faucets nowadays.

The Somany Smartsense features a range of Sensor Faucets ensure extra care and safety to give you a touch-less experience for added hygiene. These sensor faucets give you a contact-less experience and reiterate our promise of bringing the most fascinating and technologically advanced products for our valued customers in India Celebrate a comfortable luxury with Somany Sensor Faucets.



HOMES

INSPIRING / BEAUTIFUL / RELAXED

74

THE HYGGE LIFE

Celebrating memories in an atmosphere of cosiness and intimacy, Studio Osmosis designed this elegant, minimal 1,800 sqft apartment as an embodiment of the owners' lifestyle, based on the Danish concept hygge.



62

WHERE THE LIVIN' IS EASY...

Rachna Agarwal of IAAD creates a beachfront holiday home in north Goa that is an ode to its lush surroundings.

84

FASHION FORWARD

The Melbourne home of media couple Rebecca and Chris Judd may be a study in glam, but it's also suitable for the family of six.

94

HEART OF STEEL

Designers at Studio Clement deployed raw textures and bold statements to breath new life into this former factory space →

Where the livin' is easy...

Rachna Agarwal of IAAD creates a beachfront holiday home in north Goa that is an ode to its lush surroundings.

WORDS/ Ambica Sharma * PHOTOGRAPHY/ Bharath Ramamrutham



LIVING ROOM

The first floor living room provides a 200-degree-plus view of the river. For unrestricted vistas, blinds have been used instead of curtains. The decor is minimal, and the framed views of the surrounding natural beauty enhance the space. "The living spaces are where the family comes together, so those had to be large spaces. Ajay and Rajesh insisted that the rooms should not be filled up with furniture. Of all our projects, this one is the most minimal. They wanted the space, literally," says Rachna. **GET THE LOOK** Check out BoConcept for similar sofa. Find similar brass vase at Jaypore and wooden tray at Ellementry.

S

KITCHEN

A spacious kitchen by Benchmark opens onto a back verandah. The backsplash is by FCML Surfaces. “Minimal interiors was the requirement. In this home, the outdoors is everything. Plus, there are four families who use the home so the interiors are not about personal but collective choice,” says Rachna. **GET THE LOOK** Find similar kitchens at Godrej Interio.



olitude and space coexist in this beachfront property in Reis Magos, Goa. Created by Rachna Agarwal of IAAD, this home is situated in a

cove that overlooks the river Mandovi and is owned by business partners and friends Ajay Agrawal and Rajesh Jain. Refashioned from the remains of an older edifice, the house is completely in sync with its beautiful surroundings, with azure skies, lush greenery, grey-blue waters and dappled sunlight coming together as complementing elements in the whole symphony.

The building is situated in the CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) and is therefore not an imposing structure. It is, however, with its contemporary lines and planes, an eye-catching one. “When we got into the project, we knew it was an uphill task, simply because the plot is in the CRZ, and it is very difficult to get permissions to build in that zone,” says Rachna.

Ajay and Rajesh wanted the house to emanate an air of easy living. This has been executed by way of clean lines, optimum use of space, maintenance-free materials for cladding and by keeping interior decor to the minimum. It is a home that celebrates the outdoors, and the interiors definitely play second fiddle. “The river and the light are the heroes of this space, that is the whole context of the home,” says Rachna. Therefore, all artificial lighting is accent lighting and functional lighting has been added only in essential work areas such as the kitchen. During the day, the picture-frame doors and windows create a dynamic decor, affording wonderful views of the water. “We wanted all the rooms to have a clear view of the water,” says Ajay. In addition, the fact that the home would be used by more than one family helped in keeping the decor muted and minimal. “The good thing about this is that they are all partners at work so they have a very similar aesthetic. They wanted something serene and

understated,” says Rachna. This style was very compatible with the maintenance-free surfaces which Ajay and Rajesh insisted on. They specifically wanted surfaces that repelled or resisted moss build-up. Therefore, a stone veneer with eight per cent absorption was used on the ground floor external walls. Water-repellent paint on the rest of the surfaces, along with faux wood clads all non-contact surfaces.

Building and living on the coast is all about using the

varied natural elements to advantage in the design. Most traditional homes here have the ubiquitous sloping roofs, but Rachna put a spin on it. “We wanted to let the sea breeze into the home, and so we raised the roof in the front and sloped it towards the rear, so it appears almost as if the home is opening up to let air in...plus, the side-view almost looks like the Mandovi crocs basking in the sun...!” says Rachna. Once the doors are opened up, the breeze wafts through the house and circulates via the glass ventilation that frames the centrally placed staircase.

One of the challenges that this build presented was privacy. The plot is situated on an arterial road, and the beach is across from it. Since the water-view was mandatory, Rachna resorted to the age-old method of a flexi-screen, combined with raising the floor level to five ft above road level. “The retractable screens are part of the boundary wall when lowered, and when raised to four feet, it gives nine ft of privacy,” says Rachna.

Ajay’s words are an apt testimonial for Rachna’s efforts, “My children love this home, whether it is for a holiday or a work-from-home situation. Even my parents don’t want to return, once they are here!” 

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS

Business partners and friends Ajay Agrawal and Rajesh Jain are owners of this exquisite beachfront property. It has become a much-loved home away from home for both families, as they come here to unwind from their hectic city lives, for some much-needed R&R.

THE PROPERTY

Built on a site area of 6,705 sq ft, this home which was completed in 2020 is in north Goa, in a cove, where the River Mandovi swirls into the Arabian Sea. The ground-plus-one structure has a built-up area of 5,000 sq ft, and took four years to build.



DINING AREA

Overlooking the lap pool, which also doubles up as an ornamental water body, the dining area is a double-height space decorated with Restoration Hardware pendant lights. “We wanted to see what is the minimum we could do to the space, to make it look and feel good,” says Rachna.

GET THE LOOK The dining table is from Yellow Furniture and the chairs are from DeMuro Das.

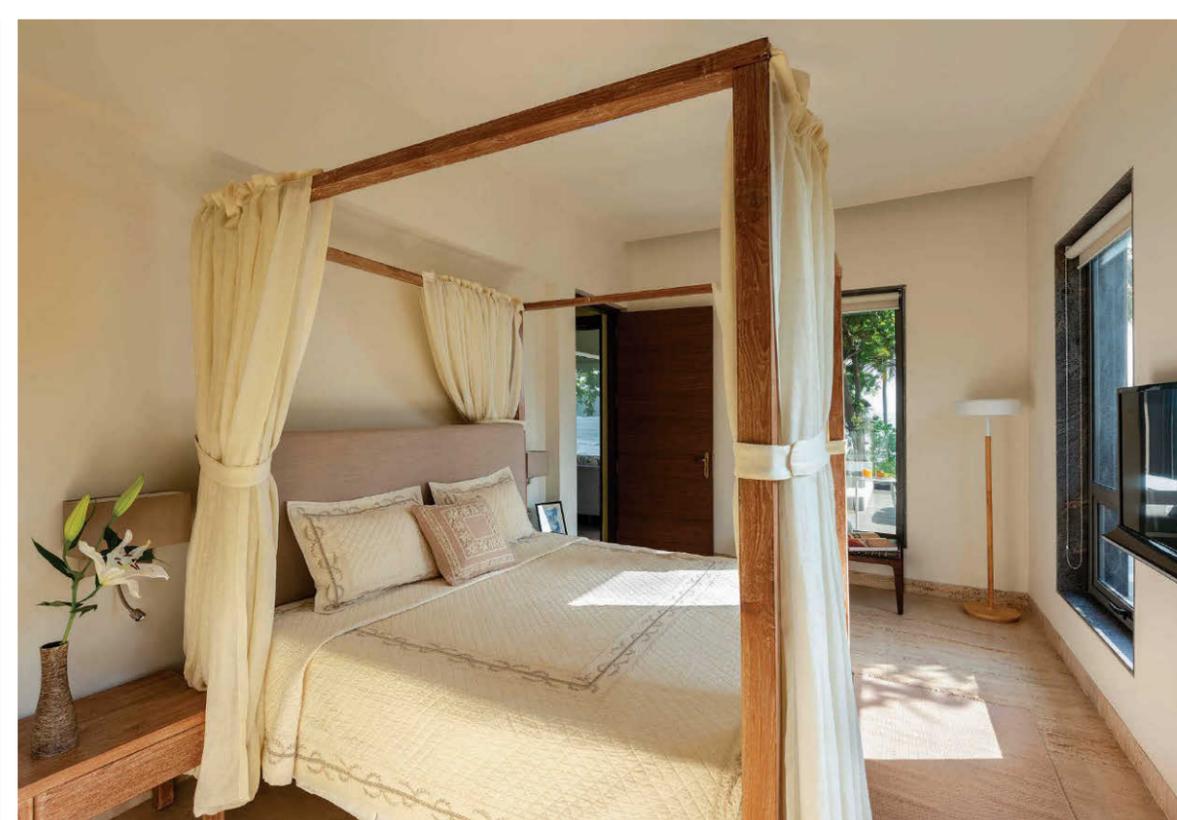
The theme of easy-living, has been implemented by way of clean lines, space optimisation and maintenance-free materials.

LIVING AREA

The ground floor living area is furnished a bit more than the first. Privacy is ensured by cloth curtains, and the Sabyasachi wallpaper clads the TV wall. This living room flows into the double-height dining area.

GET THE LOOK The curtains and tie-backs are from Tatva, and the Gulbadan wallpaper designed by Sabyasachi is from Asian Paints.





FIRST FLOOR BALCONY

The first floor balcony is a more private space than the ground floor deck. "It is my favourite space. From here I can see the waves rolling towards the beach. Plus, there is the beautiful tree cover all around since we have not cut any of the trees that were part of this property. All four coconut trees, the jackfruit, and wild almond trees stand as they were," says Ajay.

GET THE LOOK The outdoor furniture is from Fast Spa.

BEDROOM

The bedrooms have been optimised; simple and neutral tones with less furniture emanate a calmer and more serene vibe.

GET THE LOOK The curtains are from D'Decor, the bedcover from Sarita Handa, the bedside console from Yellow Furniture, and all lighting is from Debbas Lighting.

POWDER ROOM

All contact surfaces, such as this bathroom platform have been clad in real wood. However, the ceiling has been clad in faux wood to ensure low maintenance.

GET THE LOOK Checkout hindwarehomes.com for vanity, and Kohler for similar brass gold mixer tap.



Building and living on the coast is not just about resistance to the increased scale of the elements, but also acceptance of them, to advantage, by design.



OUTDOOR DECK AND POOL

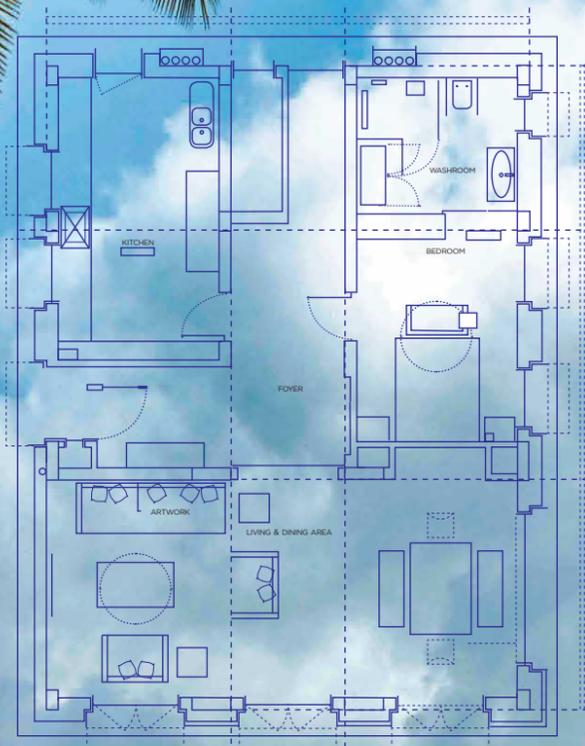
The external wall of the ground floor is clad in Eldorado stone veneer from USA. This cladding has an absorption rate of only eight per cent, and is ideal for coastal regions. The deck is hardwood and is under-lit. "The deck is my favourite space in the house and one that I cherish the most. It gives me goose bumps," says Rachna.

The lap pool has granite gargoyles spouting water. The rooms, especially the ground floor dining area, looks onto it and the pool brings a sense of movement and colour to the interiors.

GET THE LOOK The deck is from Timber Trendz, the outdoor furniture is from Fast Spa, and the swimming pool tiles are from Mosaico.

IDEAS TO STEAL

Picture-framed doors and windows paint the interiors with plentiful natural light



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Spazio **dining table**, price on request, Trica; Seascape charcoal frost **bedspread**, price on request, Shades Of India; black **vase**, price on request, Ochre at Home; blue Graphik **goblet**, price on request, Christofle at Emery Studio; Floral Trestle **platter**, price on request, SR Artefacts; Aikana **sofa**, price on request, Fast Spa; Keuco Plan blue **basin mixer**, price on request, ubuy.in; Hex **pendant light**, price on request, lightandyou.com.



Where the livin' is easy...

Bachna Agarwal of F&D creates a beachfront holiday home in north Goa that is attuned to its lush surroundings.

DESIGN: Ananya Sharma | PHOTOGRAPHY: Shantanu Bharambhore

LIVING ROOM
The living room provides a 200-degree view of the sea. The large windows are made of aluminum. The floor is stone, and the natural stone of the surrounding hillside frames the space. The living spaces are where the family comes together, so there had to be high-quality, low-maintenance furniture that the owner would love. The sofa is from Aikana. The coffee table is from SR Artefacts. The pendant light is from lightandyou.com. The stone wall is from Eladorado Stone and the wallpaper is from Nilaya by Asian Paints.

EXTERIOR
A view of the home as it appears on approach. The sloping roof tilts on its axis, as if opening up to let the sun and the breeze inside. "It is one of those dream projects. There are lots of things that are unplanned and develop on-site once you begin building. I am so glad to see the house so harmoniously blending with the outdoors," says Rachna.
GET THE LOOK The faux wood cladding on the roof is from Versito.

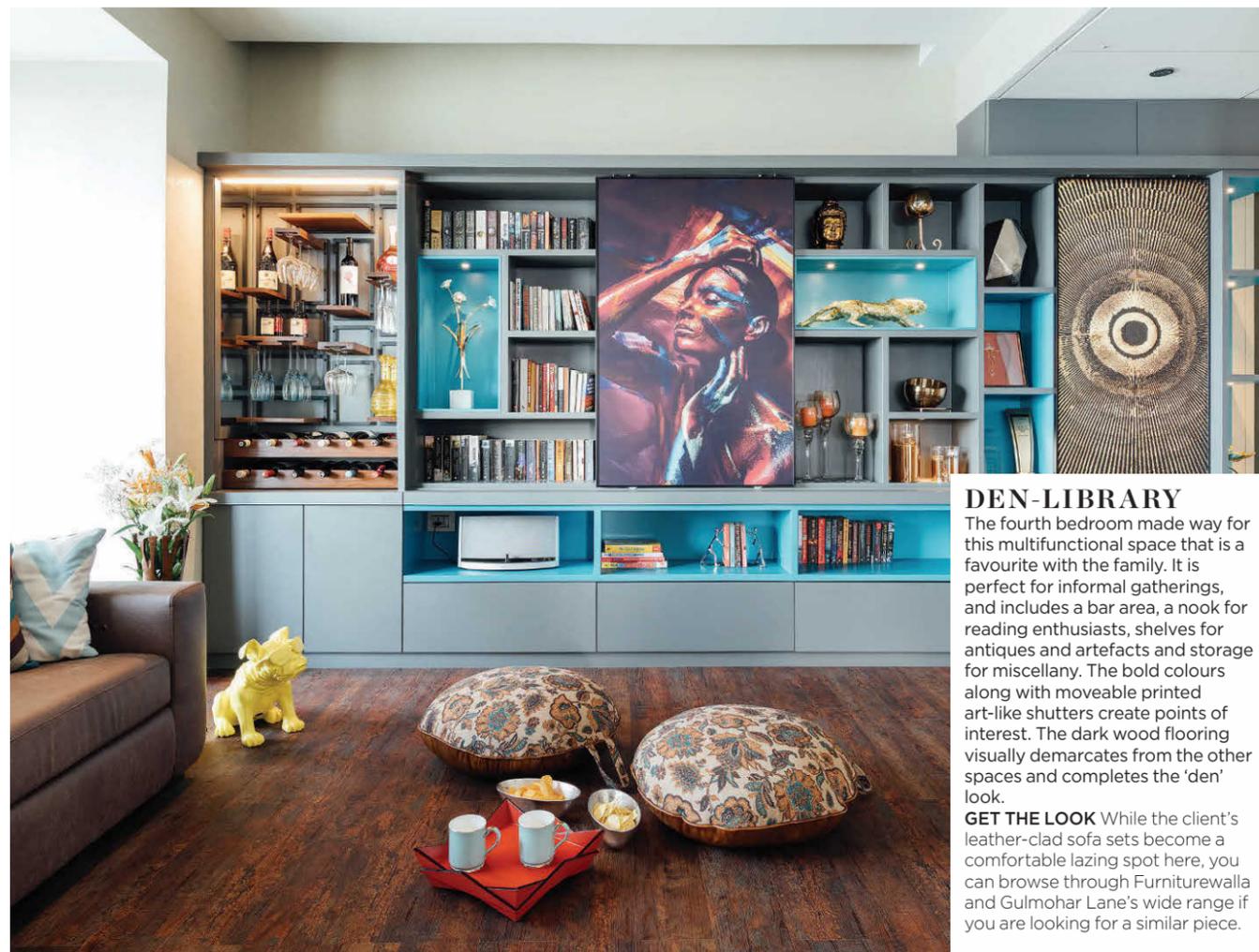
FOR CONTACTS SEE STOCKISTS

TOP AND ABOVE **Wallpaper**, price on request, Nilaya by Asian Paints; **Limestone**, price on request, Eladorado Stone available at indiamart.com.

The hygge life

Celebrating memories in an atmosphere of cosiness and intimacy, Studio Osmosis designed this elegant, minimal 1,800 sqft apartment as an embodiment of the owners' lifestyle, based on the Danish concept hygge

Words / Rupali Sebastian * Photography / Ishita Sitwala



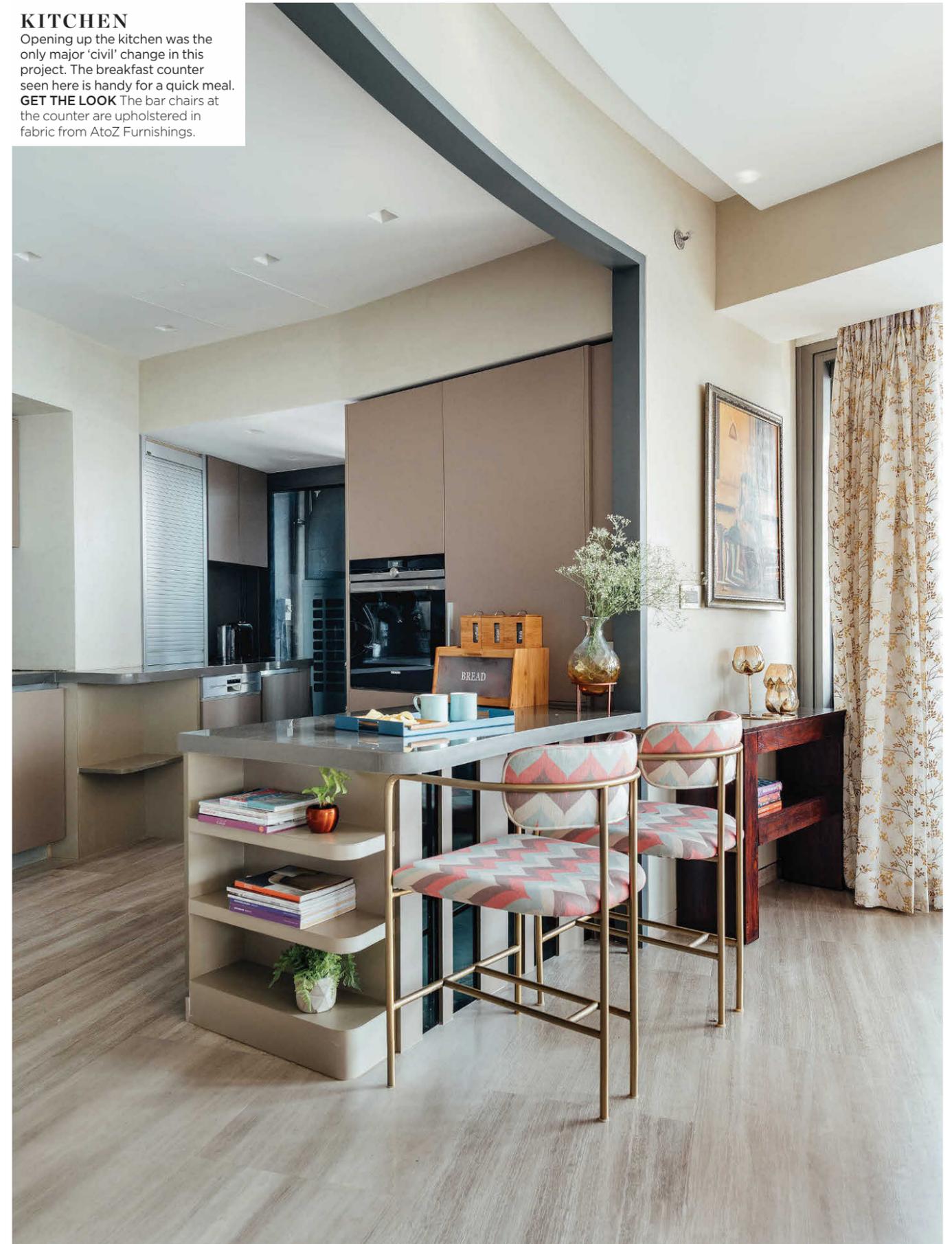
DEN-LIBRARY

The fourth bedroom made way for this multifunctional space that is a favourite with the family. It is perfect for informal gatherings, and includes a bar area, a nook for reading enthusiasts, shelves for antiques and artefacts and storage for miscellany. The bold colours along with moveable printed art-like shutters create points of interest. The dark wood flooring visually demarcates from the other spaces and completes the 'den' look.

GET THE LOOK While the client's leather-clad sofa sets become a comfortable lazing spot here, you can browse through Furniturewalla and Gulmohar Lane's wide range if you are looking for a similar piece.

KITCHEN

Opening up the kitchen was the only major 'civil' change in this project. The breakfast counter seen here is handy for a quick meal. **GET THE LOOK** The bar chairs at the counter are upholstered in fabric from AtoZ Furnishings.





Pastels temper the effervescence of the sun in the light-drenched interiors.



W

hat is home? Surely it's something more than four walls and a roof? A place peopled by hopes, dreams, aspirations and memories along with those who inhabit the spaces. Sameer Balvally and Shilpa Jain Balvally of Mumbai-based Studio Osmosis seem to have set this mantra as their

lodestar while designing this 1,800-sq-ft apartment located on the 25th floor of World One Towers, one of Mumbai's most sought-after addresses. "It is inspired by the Danish concept hygge which is more a lifestyle, a mood and a vibe rather than a style," Shilpa explains. "The home breaks away from the norms of over styling; monochromatic or singular styling and very muted spaces. It looks at the lifestyle of the occupants and creates joy and cosiness in everyday moments, and connects that with memories and collectibles that are important to the users of the space," she continues, adding that this tailoring of spatial narratives are a part of Studio Osmosis' work-DNA. "As a practice," she states, "we equate luxury or design with the quality of space and light, the tactile nature of materials, the attention to detail, the craftsmanship afforded to both the design and the build process. It's not a one-size-fits-all scenario—our designs are specific to each client's brief, and this allows us to explore and develop our ideas to arrive at a uniquely personal solution."

The 'personal' in this case was an appreciable number of art pieces and a few pieces of furniture the clients had acquired while working and holidaying across the world, and were keen on using in their new home. "The more discussions we had with the client," says Sameer, "the more we realised that their spaces would have to be a reflection of their lifestyle and the many things that were important in their journey so far."

The layout of the apartment was a bit unconventional, distinguished by a double-curve building elevation that has now become a landmark on the city's skyline. The large south-facing façades ensured that sunlight was by no means in short supply. This played an important role in deciding colours and materials. The chromatic palette, for instance, leans towards pastels and solid PU colours displayed against a largely off-white shell, while the material selection gravitates towards wood, glass and fabrics. The visual aesthetic is energised further with graphic prints and patterns, in addition to interesting art, paintings and artefacts which hold a special significance for the client.

HOME PROFILE

THE PROPERTY This is a warm, cosy 1,800-sq-ft apartment on the 25th floor of the ultra-premium World One Towers in Lower Parel, Mumbai. The views from one of Mumbai's tallest residential towers are stunning. The apartment now comprises three bedrooms (earlier there were four) a den-library (created in place of the fourth bedroom) and a spacious public zone.

THE OWNERS

This apartment was designed for a young working couple and their primary school-goer son who is an avid reader. Very involved in the design process, the couple have lived and travelled across the world and have a great collection of memorabilia and several furniture pieces. They enjoy entertaining friends as well as value their alone time to relax, read and work and enjoy the views.

In terms of demarcation of spaces, the public and private zones are distinctly separate. In front of and to the left of the entrance is the den-library, the living-dining room and the kitchen. The area to the right has been entirely taken up by the three bedrooms. "The only major change was opening up the kitchen to make it part of the public zone. A breakfast island counter now segregates the kitchen and the living-dining spaces," says Sameer, while talking about the spatial restructuring. "We also brought down a bathroom wall and installed a glass partition in its place to make the adjoining bedroom look more spacious and to allow light to filter through. Then, one bedroom of the original four-bedroom apartment was opened up and the bathroom was eliminated to make way for a den-library." The biggest challenge, the architects tell us, was meeting the new spatial requirements and functional changes while maintaining the developer-provided finishes, drywall construction and ceiling areas. All this had to be planned and smartly executed in a phased way without disturbing the existing finishes and services.

Empathy, understanding, listening and collaborating. The Hygge Life — which is how the architects refer to this assignment — is an outcome of these work-philosophies. It has resulted in a uniquely articulated narrative which, for all its aesthetic attractions, is distinguished by one trait — creating a sense of belonging.

← LIVING-DINING AREA

The beautiful curved windows are a highlight of the house. The shell of the apartment is treated as a muted canvas. In places, custom-panelled expanses — like the wall seen here — create interesting spatial 'pauses'. **GET THE LOOK** The custom-paneling is by Novvus Casa.

DINING AREA ↑

A lovely coral shade delineates the dining area. The breakfast counter stands at the junction of the kitchen and living-dining zone. This open public zone makes a warm, welcoming narrative. **GET THE LOOK** The dining ensemble is from Kerf Living, while the chandelier has been sourced from The White Teak Company.

LIVING-DINING AREA

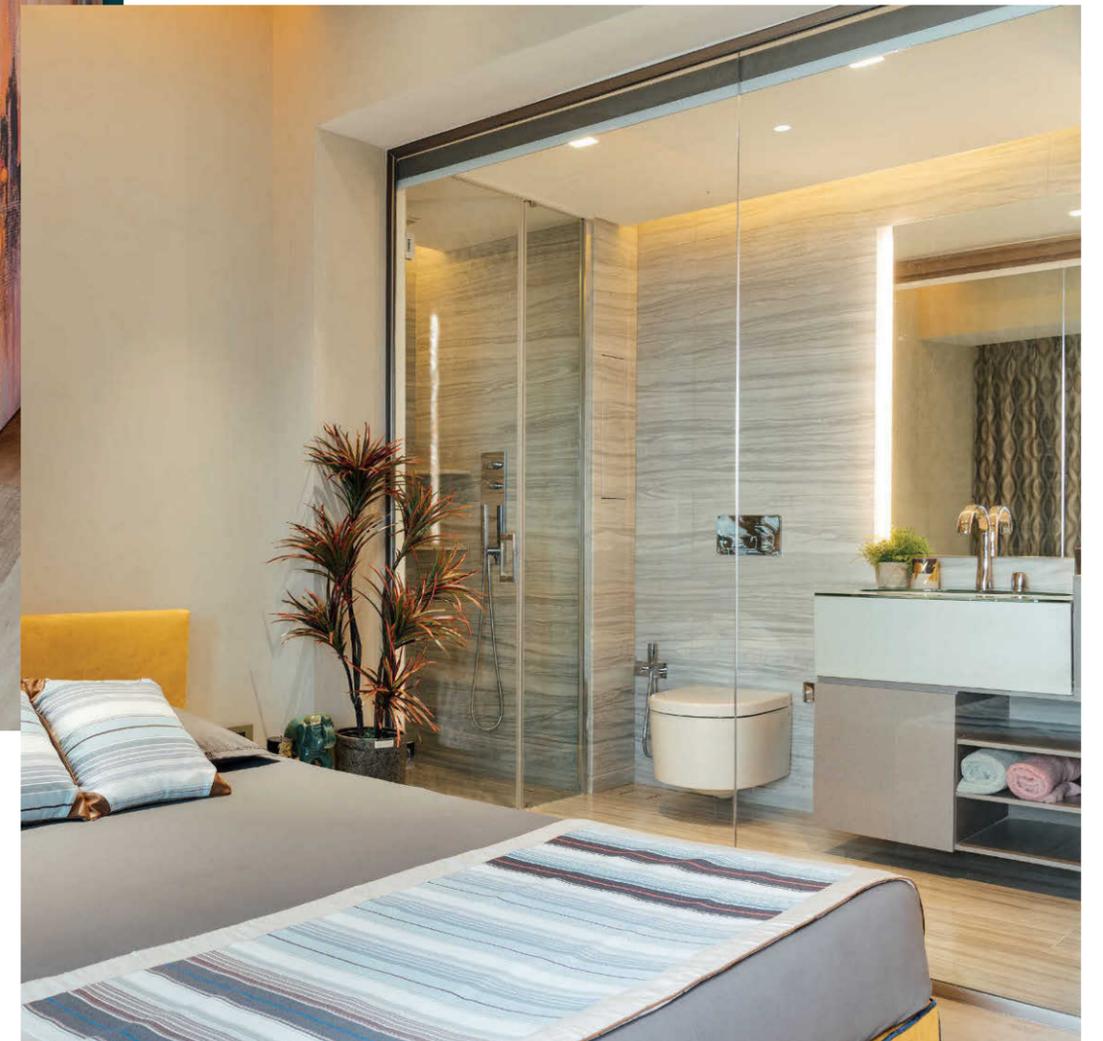
Mumbai's dynamic skyline forms a stunning backdrop to this living-dining space.

The clients' own white seating is paired with dining chairs in a lovely soft coral and pastel prints for the bar chairs.

GET THE LOOK The abstract-pattern rug, which defines the living area, has been sourced from Cocoon Fine Rugs.



Memories, collectibles, colours and textures create a nuanced, warm environment.



↑ **LIVING AREA**

A palette of neutral shades interspersed with pastel-coloured soft furnishings and vibrant hues makes this home bright and vivacious. From this angle, you can look into the den, which was earlier a bedroom.

STUDY CORNER IN THE SON'S BEDROOM →

This private space for a pre-teen is painted in a neutral grey with bursts of coral and pastel shades. Ample sunlight flows in through the attached balcony. **GET THE LOOK** The bedlinen is from Birchville Homes, while the modular study corner furniture has been sourced from Studio Kook. For the soft board, the design team used fabric from AtoZ Furnishings.

BEDROOM →

The use of glass panels creates a spacious feel and also facilitates natural light. **GET THE LOOK** The custom-designed mustard yellow bed by CraftreD is the main highlight of this room. Bed linen is by Birchville Homes.

BALCONY

The long, narrow balcony abutting the living area has been transformed into an outdoor bar with a happy Mediterranean vibe.



IDEAS TO STEAL

Designed around personal collection of art and travel souvenirs makes it a cherished home

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Open Sesame Signature (COGNAC) chandelier, ₹17,950, The White Teak Company; wool and bamboo silk rug from Project Error By Kavi collection, ₹22,700, Jaipur Rugs; Prague armless dining chair, ₹14,900, Gulmohar Lane; silk cushion cover, amazon.in; Kivik sofa, ₹34,990, Ikea; Round Pop ceramic vase, ₹1,840, Freedom Tree; Champagne gold indoor metal planters (set of 2), ₹7,000, The Decor Remedy at Jaypore; white paint, price on request, Asian Paints; Pupper Hero sculpture, ₹2,676, Bent Chair.



The hygge life

Celebrating memories in an atmosphere of cosiness and intimacy, Studio Osmosis designed this elegant, minimal 1,800 sqft apartment as an embodiment of the owners' lifestyle, based on the Danish concept hygge

Words / Rupali Sebastian • Photography / Ishita Stevia



DEN LIBRARY
The fourth bedroom made way for the bookish den, designed as a sanctuary for the family. It is a perfect blend of aesthetics, and practicality. The den is a reading nook, a place for writing, and a place for storage for mementos. The bookshelves are custom-made and are like shelves, create points of interest. The dark wood flooring, white walls, and the light green and white color palette for the walls and ceiling, and completes the den's look.

GET THE LOOK While the client's budget was not a constraint, a few things were non-negotiable. The client wanted a space that was functional, comfortable, and beautiful. The client also wanted a space that was easy to maintain and clean. The client also wanted a space that was easy to live in. The client also wanted a space that was easy to love. The client also wanted a space that was easy to share. The client also wanted a space that was easy to enjoy. The client also wanted a space that was easy to live in. The client also wanted a space that was easy to love. The client also wanted a space that was easy to share. The client also wanted a space that was easy to enjoy.



KITCHEN
Opening up the kitchen was the only option. The client wanted a space that was functional, comfortable, and beautiful. The client also wanted a space that was easy to maintain and clean. The client also wanted a space that was easy to live in. The client also wanted a space that was easy to love. The client also wanted a space that was easy to share. The client also wanted a space that was easy to enjoy.



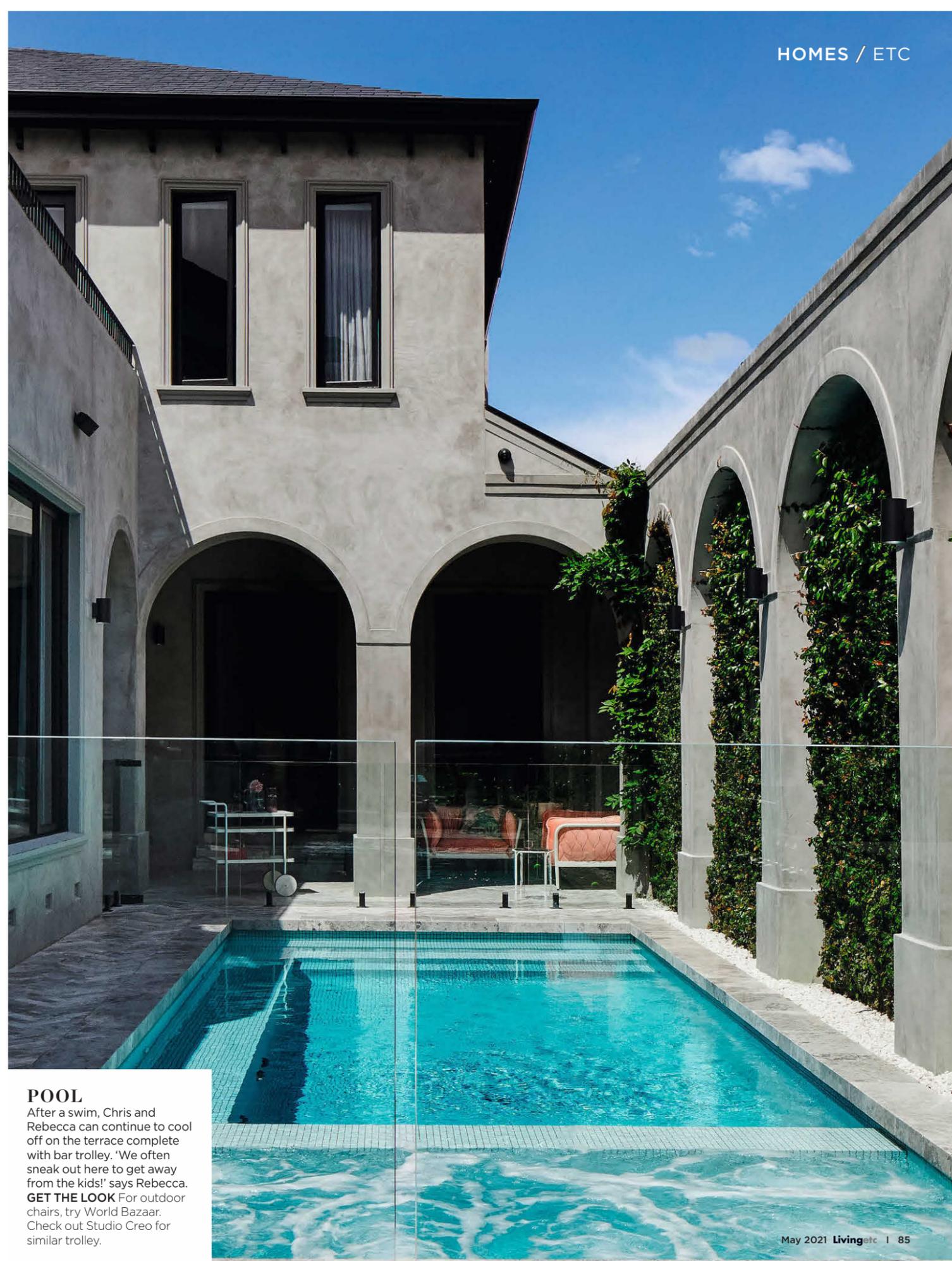
TOP AND ABOVE Upholstery velvet fabric, Maishaa; wooden flooring, price on request, Quick-Step.

FOR CONTACTS SEE STOCKISTS

fashion forward

The Melbourne home of media couple Rebecca and Chris Judd may be a study in glam, but it's also suitable for the family of six

WORDS/Leanne Amodeo * PHOTOGRAPHY/Armelle Habib *
STYLING/Bree Leech



POOL

After a swim, Chris and Rebecca can continue to cool off on the terrace complete with bar trolley. 'We often sneak out here to get away from the kids!' says Rebecca.

GET THE LOOK For outdoor chairs, try World Bazaar. Check out Studio Creo for similar trolley.

“Jean-Pierre of Biasol delivered exactly what I wanted—he completely nailed it”

LIVING AREA

This space has it all — beauty with its statement pieces and practicality with clever designs such as the built-in cabinet that hides away all of the kids' toys.

GET THE LOOK Similar sofa can be customised at Bram Woodcrafting Studio. Marble tables can be customised by Rooshad Shroff. Check out Mishcat Co. for similar rug. Try IDUS for similar stool. Artwork by Jasmine Mansbridge.



In her role as television host for Australia's travel series *Postcards*, Rebecca Judd has visited her fair share of new cafés, restaurants and hotels, and it's always the interiors that impress her most. 'I'm constantly inspired by amazing design,' says Rebecca, who is also a model, fashion blogger and radio host. 'I would ask the owners who was responsible and the same few names kept popping up.'

One of those names was Biasol and after seeing the Melbourne-based interior design studio's hospitality work, Rebecca knew she had found who she wanted to design the home she and husband Chris — a radio host, former AFL (Australian Football League) player and co-founder of their JAGGAD activewear brand — had purchased. Fortunately,

the two-storey Spanish Colonial-style villa in bayside Melbourne had last been refurbished in the 1990s, which made renovating easier from their point of view. 'Some of the other homes we looked at had been recently refurbished in a way that wasn't our style and I would have felt guilty changing something new,' says Rebecca. 'But this home's interiors were at least thirty years old and we had no qualms about ripping out terracotta floor tiles and getting rid of the entrance staircase's baroque balustrade.' Rebecca relished the opportunity to work with Biasol's director Jean-Pierre Biasol to retain the home's European character and charm, while injecting it with a decidedly sophisticated Melbourne vibe.

So the arches, colonnades and courtyards remained, but Jean-Pierre dramatically transformed the home's exterior appearance with a heavily textured concrete render and black architraves. Internally, existing finishes and fixtures were stripped out and new timber herringbone floors were installed throughout. He didn't have to reconfigure the

layout to any great extent, except to add a fourth bathroom upstairs so daughter Billie could have her own, and open up the kitchen, dining and family rooms below.

The result is a serene and elegant interior — punctuated with blackened steel frames, layered textures, soft furnishings and exciting art and objects. Although it has grand proportions, it feels relaxed and intimate, with warm corners and pretty vignettes, where the children feel at home as much as the grown-ups. A more formal living room at the front of the house contrasts with the laid-back vibe of the open-plan main living areas. The cohesive design, with bold artwork, luxe furniture pieces, sumptuous soft furnishings and curious objects, is partly thanks

to Melbourne-based stylist Bree Leech. 'She rocks colour and I knew she wouldn't go crazy, but just include pops where they were needed,' says Rebecca. 'I like pushing the boundaries to a degree, whether it's with what I wear or how I decorate my home, and I like playing with different shapes, textures and colours.'

As a self-confessed 'pink girl', Rebecca can't walk past the beautiful pink velvet outdoor armchairs without smiling. Jean-Pierre surprised Rebecca with the study's green scheme because it's not a colour she would normally have chosen. However, now she admits there's nothing quite like sitting

at the desk with the window open and the sound of the garden pond trickling in the background. Marble features and customised brass fixtures are the finishing touches that bring Rebecca the most pleasure. And although this home is a study in luxe style, it looks lived-in. 'We use every room every day and if it feels loved that's because it is,' she says. 'It's been custom-designed for our family and I couldn't think of a more perfect house for us.' 

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS

Media personality and television presenter Rebecca Judd, her husband Chris Judd, a radio host and former AFL (Australian Football League) player, and their four children, Oscar, nine, Billie, six, and twins Tom and Darcy, three.

THE PROPERTY

A Spanish Colonial-style home in a bayside suburb of Melbourne. The ground floor has a central open-plan kitchen with family and dining areas, plus a guest bedroom and bathroom, living room, study, laundry and bar. On the first floor is the master suite, three children's bedrooms and two bathrooms. Outside is a pool and entertainment area.



KITCHEN

'I love it because we can eat at the bench and also use it as a workspace,' says Rebecca.

GET THE LOOK For kitchen stools as above check out The House of Things. For super white marble work surface, try Classic Marble Company. Check out Benzoville for handles in Brass Gold.

HOME TRUTHS

Best thing about Melbourne in the summer?

Great weather, relaxed pace, outdoor drinking and dining, the Australian Open and fun parties.

Favourite designers to wear?

J'Aton Couture for red carpet, JAGGAD for activewear and Nobody Denim, Dion Lee and Zimmermann for everyday.

Dream celebrity interview?

I interviewed Sarah Jessica Parker last year and she was everything and more. Adored her.

What's your go-to tippie?

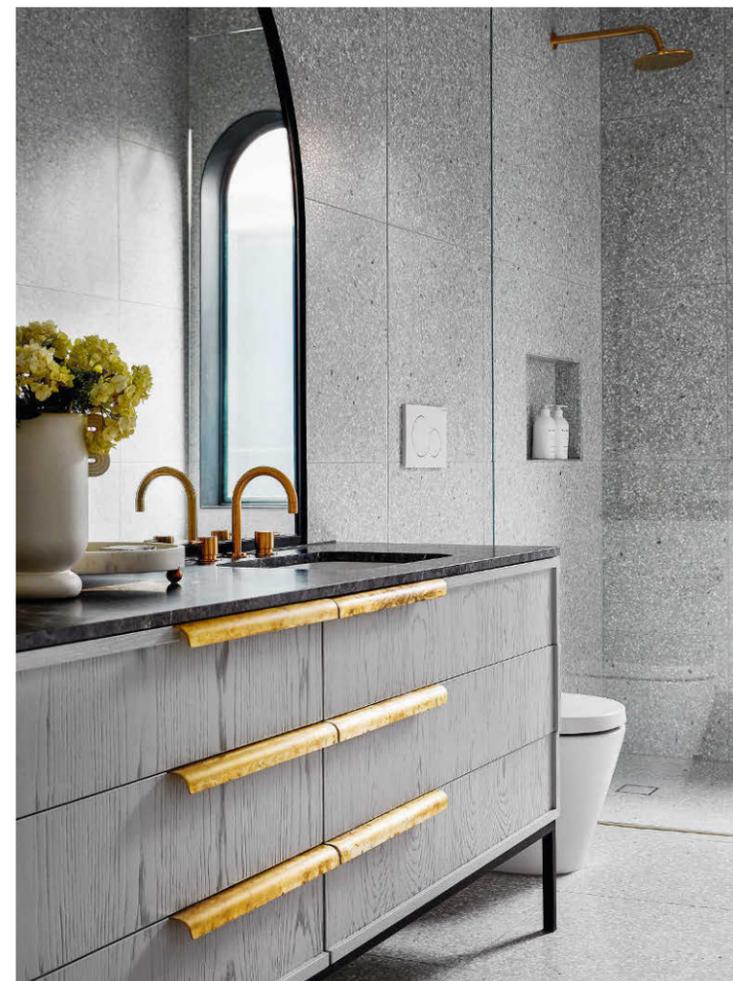
Spicy Margarita enjoyed by the pool.

Swimming, surfing or walking along the beach?

Walking along the beach or tanning.

How do you wind down?

Burn a Diptyque candle, play music (classics from the 70s, 80s or 90s), bake banana bread and drink a cup of peppermint tea — bliss.



STAIRCASE

The structure was updated with sculptural white cladding, marble treads and a black handrail, all of which accentuate its spiral form.

GET THE LOOK Try Home Artisan for marble pedestal. For similar flooring try Mikasa.

MASTER SUITE

(above right and right) Strong pastel hues, including Rebecca's favourite pink, pepper this space, which includes a large walk-in dressing area that opens out into the en suite.

GET THE LOOK Bed head, can be customised at Furniture Library. Artwork by Stephen Baker. Check out Fabindia for linen pillowcases; for linen bed cover try Shades Of India. For similar bathtub check out Keha Casa.

GUEST EN SUITE

(above) Natural stone takes on a luxe look with brass finishes.

GET THE LOOK Try Etréluxe for vanity and brass gold mixer tap. Check out Benzoville for handles. For terrazzo tiles, try Bharat Floorings.



“I’m from Perth originally, but I feel like Melbourne is in my soul”



CLUB ROOM
This is the perfect place to relax and socialise pre and post a friendly game of tennis. **GET THE LOOK** Check out Abaca for similar sofa and Flexform for a similar chair.

IDEAS TO STEAL

Nature and artworks work in tandem to give this home a character



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT **Showerhead**, price on request, Kohler; **Kabille kitchen faucet**, price on request, amazon.in; **velvet cushion**, ₹6,950, BoConcept; **Cattelan Aria bar stool**, price on request, IDUS; **Vase blossom**, ₹19,300, Frazer and Haws; **Enzo coffee table**, price on request, International Marmi at Artemest; **James trolley**, ₹77,100, Abaca; **Gold luster round vase**, price on request, Cellar Door; **Anchor chair**, price on request, Iqrup+Ritz.

FOR CONTACTS SEE STOCKISTS



TOP AND ABOVE Amalfi fabric, price on request, Clarke & Clarke at Maishaa; **wooden flooring**, price on request, Pergo.

HEART OF STEEL

Designers at Studio Clement deployed raw textures and bold statements to breath new life into this former factory space



LIVING SPACE

A section sofa subtly screens off the seating area and chandeliers made from bicycle chains draw the eye up to the building's original steel beams. Beyond, a partial room divider houses storage and a bar area.

GET THE LOOK Check out House Of Heirloom for similar chandelier. For similar fireplace, try Baarq. Coffee table can be customised at Diffurniture. Dining table and chairs can be customised at WoodnDesign Studio. For similar bowl check out Arttd'inox. For similar barware try INV Home.

PHOTOGRAPHY Peter Lander * WORDS Jo Leevers

W

hen Rose Wilkinson first visited this former factory in south London, part of it was still being used as a dusty workspace. 'It was a studio for a woman who did sculptural repairs, so slabs of stone in various states of dilapidation were scattered all around,' she remembers. The upstairs living area – which is where the transformative work would happen – was less poetic. Yes, the steel beams from the factory's original structure and the pitched roof remained, but the ceiling was studded with uninspiring spotlights and the effect was stark and soulless. 'The challenge was to make this long and cavernous top space feel like a home, bringing warmth into its industrial frame,' explains Rose.

To achieve this, she and Hannah Birtwistle, who co-run interior design practice Studio Clement, set about creating pockets of comfort within the main long open-plan space, which included inserting a multifunctional shelving room divider. 'We used the joinery to articulate and break down the spaces,'

Rose explains. The wall of shelving is used variously as a bar area, a library and storage, but wide openings mean the main living space still feels linked to the more private study. 'We also laid the same flooring throughout to accentuate the feeling of flow.'

Another way in which they created depth and variety within the long space was by adding lighting at varying levels. Wall lights, a central contemporary pendant and floor lamps help to create discrete zones, but the scene stealers are two bespoke chandeliers, constructed from loops of bicycle chains. They are by LA artist-maker Carolina Fontoura Alzaga and encapsulate this home's rough yet refined aesthetic. 'We immediately loved how these

lights blended luxe and industrial,' says Hannah. They also help to zone the open-plan space: 'In the evening, the chandeliers create a really intimate pool of light around the dining table,' she adds.

Natural materials became a key way to tone down the building's hard steel-beamed edges and the centrepiece dining table is a case in point. Rose went with the designer Laurent Peacock to select the walnut for this bespoke piece and she loves the way that the finished design combines rough with smooth, with beautifully irregular edges, traditional butterfly joints and plenty of knotty grain.

Another natural yet luxurious surface is the marble used in the kitchen. As owners Lauren and Mark are keen cooks, the supersized Sub-Zero fridge-freezer was integral to the design. 'We needed to balance this big block of stainless steel with a very different material,' Hannah explains.

They chose a slab of marble that came with its own hidden depths. 'Mark loves deep shades of red and, up close, this marble is actually threaded with a rust colour, bringing warmth into the scheme and linking with the island,' she adds.

A deep burgundy shade reappears in the bathroom tiling and on the tub, helping to soften a space that could otherwise feel cold and clinical. 'We love the tub – and the colour accentuates its shape,' says Rose. In the master en suite, Moroccan tadelakt is used to cover the walls and floor, coating the entire room in this tactile, earthy material that can also be buffed to a soft sheen.

As elsewhere, the rough and the smooth are brought together for an interesting mix of textures. 'We wanted to devise a home that feels warm but without losing sight of the factory's innate character,' Rose sums up. 'This intriguing mix of raw and refined lies at the heart of our design.' 

HOME PROFILE

THE DESIGNERS

Rose Wilkinson and Hannah Birtwistle of Studio Clement created this home for Lauren McMullen and her fiancé Mark Stephen. Lauren is founder of homeware brand Altra Living and Mark works in finance.

THE PROPERTY

A converted factory in south London. The main first floor space has the living space, dining area and kitchen, with a study on the other side of a room divider. There is also a TV snug, bathroom, guest bedroom and dining terrace on this level. Upstairs is the master suite with a dressing room and a balcony.



KITCHEN

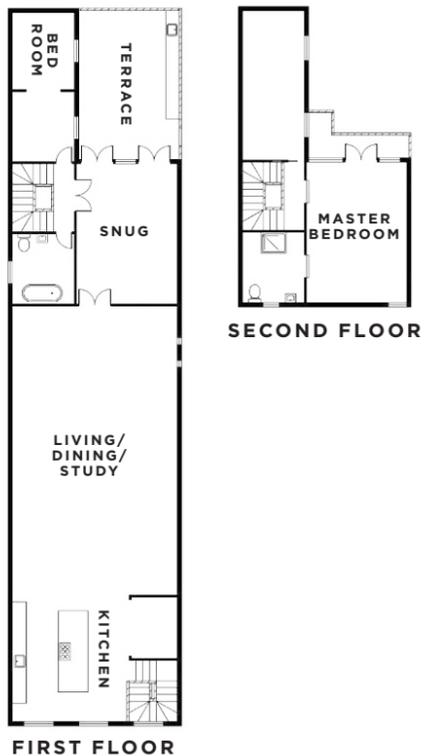
It's all about the raw and the refined, with the marble and iron corten on the island acting as counterpoints to the steel beams. **GET THE LOOK** Check out RK Marbles for Calacatta marble. These stools are CH58 counter stools, Carl Hansen & Søn. For Fridge-freezer, by Sub-Zero head to Top Products. For wooden flooring check out Mikasa.



STAIRCASE

Vivid artwork livens up the neutral space.
GET THE LOOK Find Warhol's Chanel No 5 print on artspace.com. For leather top table and tray, try PortsideCafé.

the blueprint



MASTER BEDROOM

A media cabinet is clad in a fabric inspired by 17th-century weavings, adding luxurious texture and pattern.
GET THE LOOK Wardrobe, bespoke for Studio Clement; using panels in Paradisio Castille, Métaphores at Abbott + Boyd. Bed, can be customised at Furniture Library. For similar bedspread check out Shades Of India. Check out Seasons for similar cushions. Chair, Carl Hansen & Søn.



MASTER EN SUITE

Tactile Moroccan tadelakt wraps around the walls, ceiling and floor of this bathing area.
GET THE LOOK Find similar pouffe at pepperfry.com. Carpet Cellar has similar carpet. Check out Jainsons for wall pillar light.

HOME TRUTHS

Best thing about autumn?
 Wearing warm layers again, says Rose.

Currently reading?
 The Power by Naomi Alderman. I'm also listening to Dawn O'Porter's The Cows for some light relief.

Favourite box set?
 The Originals (or anything vampire related).

Advice you always give?
 Be brave with your choices.

Artwork you'd love to own?
 Anything by Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Longing to visit?
 Pensão Agricola (pensaoagricola.com) in Portugal for a short break and Mexico for a longer family holiday.



IDEAS TO STEAL

Leather and wood make a wonderful combination to soften the Industrial look



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Antique rug, price on request, Carpet Cellar; Andy Warhol Chanel no.5 poster from Ads Series 1985, price on request, masterworksfineart.com; Nantucket basket, price on request, rafaelosoanauction.com; basin mixer, price on request, Dornbracht; Come Together sofa system, price on request, Poltrona Frau; Brass tripod, price on request, amazon.in; Delft cushion cover, price on request, shoppersstop.com; Gubi pouf, price on request, GUBI.



TOP AND ABOVE Calacatta marble, price on request, RK Marbles; paint, price on request, Asian Paints.

DESIGN

INSPIRATION / PEOPLE / PLANNING / SHOPPING



102
DESIGN NEWS
CPRN Homood's Infinity Walk-in wardrobe; Think Brick tile collection from Jindal Mechno Bricks; Bonasila's Fiber Reinforced plastic planters and more...

104
DESIGN PROFILE
Designer Bethan Laura Wood finds colour super fascinating because of its fluidity

DESIGN NEWS

Discover the latest in the market for your big-ticket buys and more...

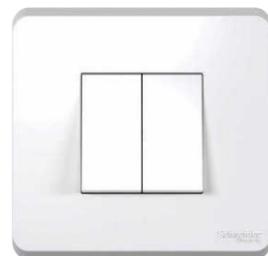


ROOMY AFFAIR

Time to end those frustrating rummages in the cupboard looking for your favourite shirt. CPRN Homood's new Infinity Walk-in Wardrobe is spacey and elegant, allowing you to neatly arrange your clothes and accessories into its multi-function drawers and shelves. When closed, any space is enhanced by the ultra chic metal vision doors finished in Moka, with transparent glass inserts. Available in India from Ottimo ottimo.in

SWITCHED ON

The pandemic has made disinfectants a part of our life and keeping surroundings germ-free has assumed top priority. Schneider Electric hops on to the bandwagon with its latest Clipsal X product range of self-disinfecting switches. Powered by Silver Ion technology, these anti-virus switches can conveniently be operated through your cell phones when connected to any Smart Home solution. se.com



Remote access

Heading out? ATPL's RA2 Select makes sure that you never have to turn your car back to switch off your lights or pull down the blinds. Allowing you to remotely take control of up to 100 devices in your home via its Lutron app, this one-stop home automation system can be synced using Siri, Alexa or Google Assistant. Additionally, within the house, grab the Pico remote to juggle or pre-fix the in-line dimmers, blinds and audio settings and instantly transform the ambience. anushagroup.com



#getworking



MOVE IT

Stay-at-home led to work-from-home and the gym-from-home necessity. The new versatile Synq.Fit bike comes equipped with an HD android tablet, a 1080p resolution screen and a 15.6in display that provides a seamless experience with your Zoom instructor. Its so compact, you can move it to any convenient corner of your house, and be ready to 'work'out!

synq.fit

POWER DRESSER

Dressing up your walls just got a tad sexier! The latest Think Brick tile collection from Jindal Mechno Bricks presents wall tiles in three broad finishes; Plain, Textured and Antique, each one comes in a wide colour range. Apart from good looks, these sturdy dressers are also weatherproof and are easy to install. jindalbricks.in



Living etc LOVES

PERFORMING ART

Looking for something different from the conventional wash basin? Designed by MuseLab, the new wall mounted series of Fluid Washbasins enhance the visual and tactile user experience by cleverly levitating off the floor, and concealing the bottle trap and the brackets. Made using highly malleable Litheoz concrete technology, these rock-solid basins from Nuance Studio are a delightful mix of form and function. thenuancestudio.com



Clean up your act

Time to untangle yourself from messy cords and hoses! The new Kent Zoom vacuum cleaner does a neat job sans the paraphernalia, making it so easy for you to access those unreachable nooks and corners. The handy mobile unit comes fully loaded with high-speed cyclonic technology and HEPA filters that suck away those pesky dust mites in a jiffy. kent.co.in



TREAD SOFTLY

Love the barefoot feel? The silkiness of Haro's new parquet floor offers an innovative textural intrigue that instantly connects you to the floor you walk on. The Plank 1-Strip 180 variant comes in the basic shades Light White, Puro White, Invisible, Oak Nature, Smoked Oak and Sand Grey, with surface finishes ranging from permaDur, naturaDur and naturaLin plus. haro.com



TECH IT OUT

Hi-tech gadgets have slowly but steadily been making their way into bathrooms for some time now. The new electric toilet seat from Panasonic Life Solutions India is cleverly designed with innovative features like the curved 3D antibacterial seat, an adjustable electric bidet, a built-in water filter, two washing modes, an electrical leakage indicator, occupancy switch and backflow prevention facility. lsin.panasonic.com



PLANT HAPPY

If outdoor is somewhat temporarily out-of-bounds these days, then why not bring a piece of it inside your home? These multi coloured Fiber Reinforced Plastic Planters from Bonasila come in all shapes and sizes, and are lightweight, frost free and rust resistant. Choose your favourite ones from over 25 designs and bring in that much-needed dash of cheer in your surroundings. bonasila.com

Living etc LOVES

DESIGN PROFILE

Bethan Laura Wood

FEATURE Fiona McCarthy



Bethan Laura Wood with her whimsical HyperNature installation, designed for Perrier-Jouët's champagne pop-up at the 2019 Masterpiece art fair in London.

There is no designer more colourful — both personally and professionally — than the Shropshire-born Bethan Laura Wood. Bold, intense hues reverberate through everything she touches, whether it's the Super Fake rugs she has designed for CC-Tapis, a wildly patterned and appliquéd Guadalupe daybed made with Laura Lees for Kvadrat, or the stained-glass-window-inspired collection of woven jacquards, Mono Mania Mexico, created with Limonta for Moroso.

It's even in the way she presents herself — adorned in layers of silky, vibrant-patterned dresses, scarves and kimonos, sporting an interesting headdress and accompanied by the jangle of bracelets and oversized earrings, with her eyebrows, lids and lashes covered in rainbow hues. 'I've always enjoyed colour; as a kid, I wore a lot of plastic star necklaces and I think I even had a Muppets backpack,' says Bethan, laughing.

Looking around her studio — a vast garage space she shares with other creatives, on an industrial estate in east London — the shelves heave with treasured finds from her travels, prototypes for previous projects, huge slices of fake fruit (left over from her Fruits of Labour window design project for Hermès in 2014), tea sets and woven water bottle holders.

'I've always collected things from flea markets and car-boot sales,' Bethan says, though her body of work is far less humble. Fresh out of a master's degree in Design Products at the Royal College of Art (under the tuition of iconic designers Jurgen Bey and Martino Gamper), Bethan founded her eponymous studio in 2009; only two years later, she exhibited at the renowned Nilufar gallery during Salone del Mobile with pieces such as Totem, a lighting collection made from Pyrex in collaboration with master glass-blower Pietro Viero. Totem has since morphed into the Criss-Cross chandelier and the Sputnik floor lamp, which Peter Pilotto showcased at its apartment pop-up during the London Design Festival in 2017. It's a perfect example of how Bethan's collections evolve from one idea to another. Drawings of rocks and crystals that were started at the RCA have informed various designs, such as her earlier Moon Rock tables and the more recent stratum-patterned rugs for CC-Tapis.

“I find colour super-fascinating because of its fluidity. It changes depending on what is put near it and the light on it”

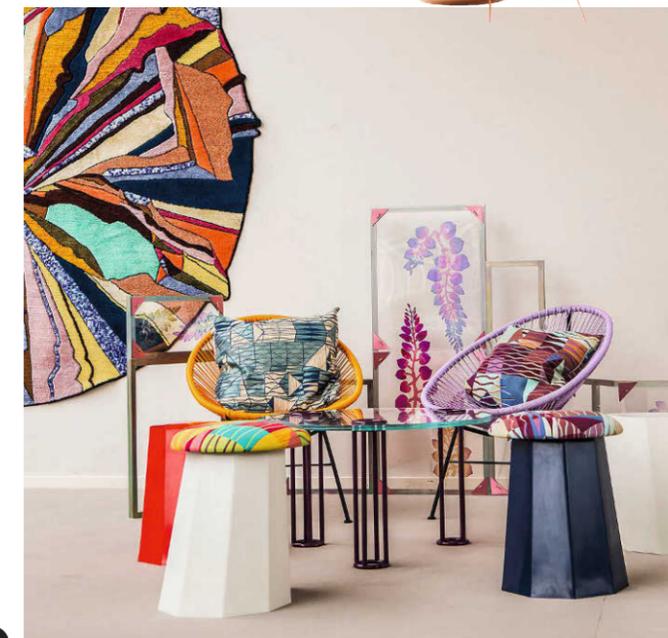
Sketches of particle boards inspired the patterning for TAC Rhythm, Bethan's decorative take on Walter Gropius' iconic TAC tea set, originally designed for Rosenthal in 1969. The toothpaste squiggle she created for the handles of Valextra's Iside and Passepartout bags in 2018 subtly echoes in the spouts and handles of this year's Tongue collection of cups, saucers, a sugar pot, teapot and plates, also for Rosenthal, in limited-edition hues of Hot Coral, Mild Turquoise, Peacock and Clay.

'I enjoy being from the design genre rather than a discipline like sculpture; as a sculptor, you can choose whether your piece is about being touched, but it's quite hard to make that argument for something like a teacup,' says Bethan. 'If I can make something where the length of time before it goes into landfill is longer, that's better.'

Bethan's latest immersive HyperNature installation for Perrier-Jouët, first commissioned for Design Miami 2018/, has been such a hit that there are now four versions of the champagne glass-holding tree (made from hand-dyed PVC) touring the globe. It was one of the star attractions at the champagne house's pop-up bar for the Masterpiece art fair in London in 2019 summer.

'I've always been interested in making physical things that can connect to people,' says Bethan. 'In a world where we have so much stuff, if we're not engaging with something, then does it need to exist at all?' she muses. 'When you manage to get that connection — it's normally a reminder of another person, time or place — objects can have great power. And I find people's connections to things, whether good or bad, are always very strongly affected by colour.'

TOP TO BOTTOM Bethan's Colourdisc for Cassina; Tongue tableware collection for Rosenthal; Part of the designer's pop-up for Perrier-Jouët at the Masterpiece art fair, with cushions and stool seats covered in her Mono Mania Mexico jacquard, produced with Limonta for Moroso.



PHOTOGRAPH DEBBIE BRAGG/PERNOD RICARD

PHOTOGRAPHS (TABLEWARE) ROSENTHAL; (POP-UP) DEBBIE BRAGG/PERNOD RICARD

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ENTERTAINING / ETC

Summer Foods

INDIAN SUMMER RECIPES THAT WILL KEEP YOUR BODY COOL



Water based fruits, which include all varieties of melon, top our list

PHOTO VINCENT RIVAUD / pexels.com



Vegan Protein Smoothie

- 250 ml unsweetened almond or soy milk**
- 1 ripe banana**
- ½ cup mango, chopped**
- 2 large handfuls of baby spinach**
- ¼ cup pumpkin seeds**
- 2 tbsp hemp hearts**
- ½ scoop of protein powder (vanilla preferred)**
- ¼ cup of water**
- banana slices or berries for garnishing**

- 1** Place the banana, mango, spinach, pumpkin seeds and hemp hearts in a blender.
- 2** Add the plant-based milk, protein powder and water, blend everything together until smooth and the pumpkin seeds are disintegrated.
- 3** Pour into a large glass (or two smaller tumblers).
- 4** Decorate with banana slices or berries and sip away!

ALL PHOTOS pexels.com



Facing page

Cucumber Mint smoothie

- 1 cucumber, sliced (fresh or frozen)**
- ¼ - ¾ cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk**
- ¼ cup fresh cucumber or ¾ cup frozen cucumber**
- 3 large mint leaves**
- ½ tsp pure stevia powder**
- 1 cup ice**

- 1** Place all ingredients in the blender and blend until smooth.
- 2** Pour into large glasses and garnish with mint leaves and enjoy this healthy and tasty drink!

Blackberry smoothie

- ¾ cup frozen blackberries**
- ½ cup frozen pineapple chunks**
- ½ cup plain non-fat Greek yogurt**
- 1 cup unsweetened almond milk**
- 1 tbsp honey (or to taste)**

- 1** Put all the ingredients (except honey) in a blender and process until smooth, add additional almond milk if it's too thick.
- 2** According to your taste add honey and garnish with a few mint leaves and blueberries. Enjoy!



Summer Cherry Strawberry smoothie

- 2 cups fresh or frozen cherries
- 2 cups fresh or frozen strawberries
- ½ cup kale and baby spinach, each
- 1 medium banana
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 tbsp flax seeds
- Honey, as desired for sweetness
- ½ cup to 1 cup water, as desired for thickness

I Blend all ingredients in a blender until smooth. Pour into glasses and enjoy chilled!

ENTERTAINING / ETC Radish smoothie

- 2 radishes
- 1 beet
- 1 carrot
- 1 pinch of parsley
- 2 glasses of skimmed cow milk
- 1 spoon of yogurt

1 Scour the radishes and peel of the rinds. Because of its rigid structure, you need to grate the radishes before you use them.

2 Scour the beet and get rid of its stems. You will only use its root. Chop up the root until you obtain a batch of beet pieces.

3 Scour the carrot and remove its heads. You need to grate the carrot too in order to use it in your drink.

4 Put a pinch of parsley with the beet slices, grated carrot and radishes in a blender and add two glasses of skimmed cow milk and a spoon of yogurt.

5 Mix the ingredients in a blender with ice cubes. Put it into a big glass and garnish it with a slice of lemon.



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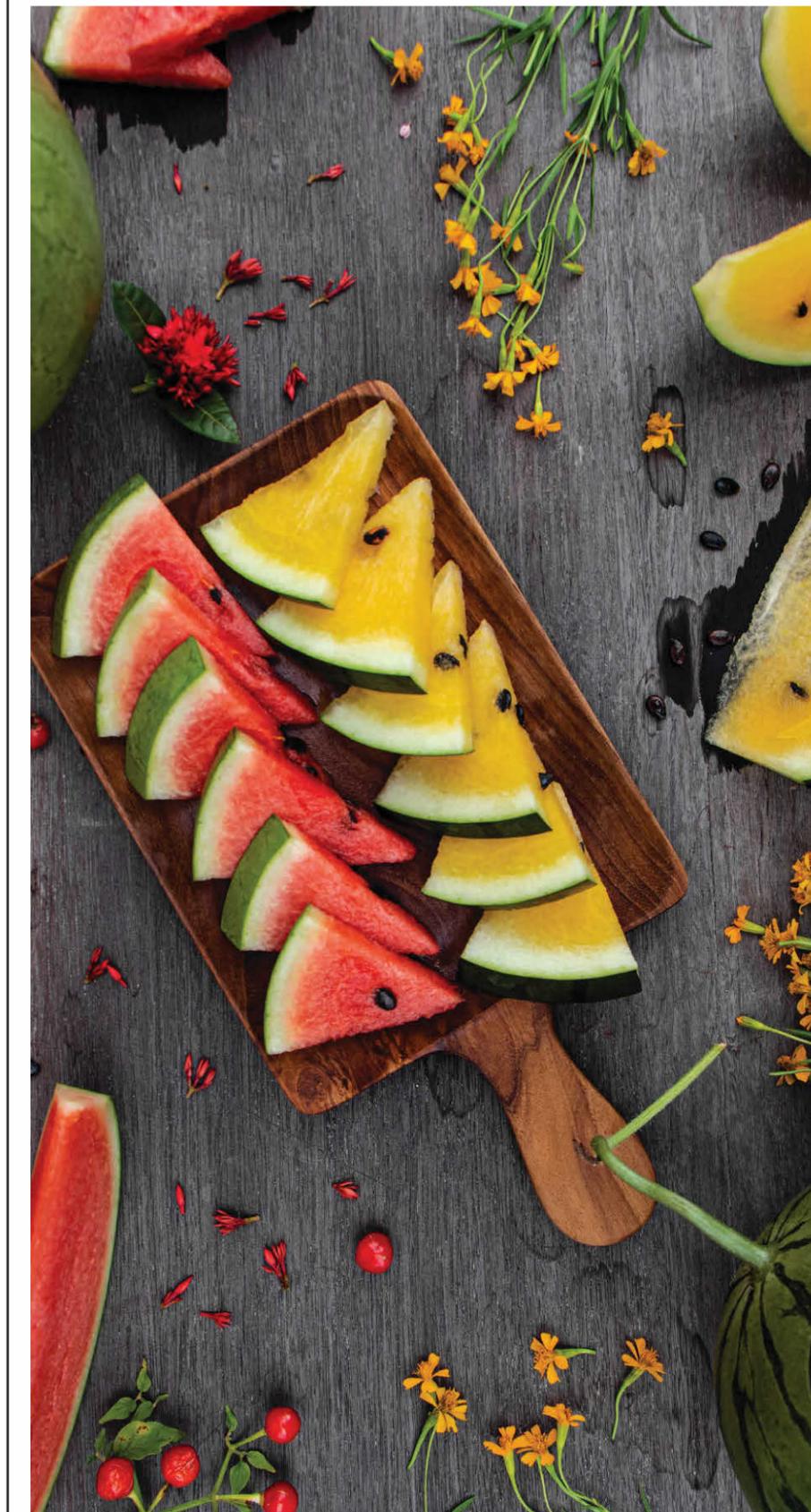
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At Home With
ARCHANA DESHPANDE

Self-driven ceramicist who took to studio-pottery for a lark and turned it into a flourishing business

MY JOURNEY

I BORN AND BROUGHT UP in a small town called Palghar. After completing my post graduate studies from Mumbai University, I got married and moved to Chicago. Then followed a long stint working for American Mortgage.

WHEN WE DECIDED TO COME BACK to India, I knew that I wanted to do something on my own. I was ready to embark on something new as the family was settling back to life in India. I am an avid lover of hand made products as they are imperfectly perfect. Earlier in Chicago my family and friends admired my crockery selection. This opportunity to try my hand at pottery and ceramics just came my way and I grabbed it. I was sure about my design capabilities and everything else just progressed from there.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

I BELIEVE THAT ART needs to be trendy and functional to be part of your daily life. At PotteryDen, we believe in the simplicity of design. Our collection is produced from different clays and further decorated in different ways. For example, you might use various glazes to create the effects you want or you might hand paint the items.

USP OF POTTERYDEN is to bridge the gap between tradition and style so you can have the best of both. Handmade products like a bowl, utensil, vessel, in different colours and inspired by nature are abundantly in demand, and we customise for the corporates and do bulk orders too.

ALL DESIGNS ARE INFLUENCED BY NATURE like seasonal colours, nature, festivities and earthy tones. We try to be as close to nature as possible. We launch limited edition collections every quarter, and every collection has a story to tell.



TOP TO BOTTOM Rustic handmade collection, Archana Deshpande, Santorini white with blue speckles coffee mugs and cup with square saucer.



CHALLENGES

INITIALLY WE FACED CHALLENGES to set up the ecosystem. We needed to find out good packaging solutions since our product is fragile. Now there are multiple packaging, warehousing, delivery solutions available.

CURRENTLY WORKING ON

We are working on a Traditional and Festive Collection 2021 and our upcoming collection is Rise Collection, we are working on designs and tones which will brighten up a space. After this pandemic everyone needs to bring and spread some cheer around to restart life.

WHAT'S NEXT?

WE ARE WORKING FOR LOT OF fine dining restaurants for tableware and with several architects and interior designers in the home decor segment.

MY LIFE

WHAT EXCITES YOU THE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK? Response from people is what excites us. When people wait till we preview and 90% collection gets booked at the preview.

THE LIFE MANTRA I LIVE BY Keep doing your job as best as you can and focus on quality.

FAILURE TO ME IS...nothing. I never fail, either I learn or I win. I believe that the learning process is when you rethink and come back again.

MY FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR PotteryDen is to open at least five fulfilment centers in USA, UK, Singapore, Australia and Canada. The basic infrastructure is ready and pretty much about to launch once the pandemic settles.

WEBSITE
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