

INDIA Good Homes

A Times of India Publication
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 04 JULY 2021

GOOD DESIGN CHANGES EVERYTHING

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PLAY WHILE YOU WORK

With our pick of the best speakers and headphones

SAY NO TO SHORTCUTS
Careful service and thoughtful setups are trending when it comes to dining in

GET SMART

EASY IDEAS TO SAVE ENERGY AT HOME

HARASSED BY HOMESCHOOLING?

We bring in the experts to sort you out

THE BIG TRANSFORMATION

FROM A BARE 50SQFT BALCONY TO A MOROCCAN INSPIRED HAVEN

A home inspired by the holidays

AND OTHERS THAT YOU WILL WANT TO CALL YOUR OWN

CANDLES, SCENTS AND VASES

Bring home the spa

CONTENTS

July 2020



In the past few months, there's been a tectonic shift in our lives. Nothing seems impossible anymore. We never thought we would ease into working from home so easily; we never thought homeschooling would become a norm, we never thought our work desk would so easily transform into our conference rooms, and well, we never imagined having virtual parties on Zoom!

Our homes have become our epicenter.

We will slowly get back to normal. We'll gradually get back to routine. Albeit, a little different from the Pre-Pandemic days.

But our homes will have evolved; evolved into our comfy yet well-equipped workspace, a vibrant and intellectually stimulating space for our children, as the go-to party destination for our families. Our homes have always been our nucleus, but never before has it enjoyed such an elevated status.

So, this issue is all about the home, actually the new, evolved Home.

Here's to celebrating our homes.

Happy Reading!

Seema Sreedharan
Editor



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THE COVER

FEATURE AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA
PROJECT BY SARAH SHAM
PHOTOGRAPHS GOKUL RAO KADAM

DOWNLOAD YOUR FAVOURITE MAGAZINES FOR FREE!

Stay Indoors. Stay Safe.



NEXT ISSUE

Go Vocal for Local

It is about that time we revive, support and reinvent the homegrown brands. From designers working in close collaboration with traditional craftspeople to indigenous brands with a strong design voice, this issue will bring together some of the biggest names in the Indian design industry, and introduce you to the new players working towards reviving Indian design and giving it a new, strong identity.



Calling all style interns – especially those based in New Delhi and Mumbai. Quick! Send us your resume if you'd like the opportunity to work with us.
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LOCATION COURTESY KITCHEN GARDEN, COLABA

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AS much as I've been a homebody all my life, I've also had restless feet for just as long. I like going out – I can do long drives without a specific destination in mind, I enjoy those unplanned evening chats over coffee with my girlfriends, I don't mind dropping off the laundry, I know all about the grocer's new home in the village, the neighbourhood chemist knows me by name, eating out is totally my thing, I'm happy to drop the kids off at school myself, I will not say no to running errands over the weekend, I don't mind working late...I could drive (and have driven) to the sea-face simply to watch the sun go down. I like going out, more so because I like coming back home!

While most of my close friends, family and even the kids, are now familiar with my curious bent of mind, they don't miss the chance to make their digs at me. I love it. For one, it's a beautiful feeling knowing you're accepted along with all your idiosyncrasies. And secondly, it balances things out.

Having said that, we must acquiesce that there's been nothing balanced about the last few months. We've seen, heard and experienced the scales tip in all odd manner of directions. First the malady came home, then work shifted home, then school, and now everything – literally everything – happens from home. And just when we're satisfactorily done accommodating all these new functions and multi-tasks into the already crammed corners of our households, there are talks of a slow comeback of the outdoors.

All this is really novel, and exciting, and the kind of stuff that our children/ grandchildren will study about in the coming years, but can we forget all that and just be normal again for a bit, please? But then again, who knows what's normal today?

Write to me. I'm waiting to hear all about your normal.

RONITAA ITALIA
Editor in Chief

SILVER LINING

July



WHITE DOMUS DESIGNS



GULIMOHARLANE



IOTA



NIVASSA



BEYOND DESIGNS



NIVASSA

It's as if you can touch the heavens. Bring home the invigorating cool of silver, grey and white, and pair it with design that is intricate and/or detailed. How far you want to take things, depends on your preference for either an opulent or restrained look

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

Shopping Guide on Pg 50

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BIENNALE**

JAIPUR
EDITION

CURATED BY
SHANTANU GARG

INDIA'S
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ART
AND
DESIGN
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FOR MORE THAN FLOWERS

Vases today are a style statement.
Pick yours carefully

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

1 Liquid mood vase by Mario Cioni*, **Sources Unlimited**. 2 Tulip vase by Daum*, **Emery Studio**. 3 Vase Kala photo MaximeTetard*, **Hermes**. 4 Shibori Glass Vase - Basil*, **Gulmoharlane**. 5 Ice cube vase*, **Yasanche**. 6 Terra M Peach and S Turquoise*, **Sources Unlimited**. 7 Textured vase*, **Ellementry**. 8 Vase*, **IOTA**. *Prices on Request. *Shopping Guide on Pg 50*

THE BEST COLOR IN YOUR CLOSET



VARSHA

Imagine you wake up in the morning, open your closet and see the most serene colours and designs you have ever adorned. That is the beauty of Label Varsha. An inception dated back in 1993, has now become an 'every woman's brand'. Label Varsha brings to your wardrobe ethnic Indian fashion with an element of sophistication like never before.



Actress Sonam Bajwa stuns in the delicacy of the cherry-blossom pink exaggerated yet subdued by the detailed embroidery. Label Varsha is one of those unique names in Indian Fashion that follow the motto of tenable and renewable ways, taking a huge step of an eco-friendly and social candor approach with its pieces.

Label Varsha has always sustained its position as well by addressing and catering precisely to their consumers' needs. Let it be a much-needed eco-conscious mindset or easy accessibility during the times of this pandemic, Label Varsha has time and again stayed ahead of its game. Its subtle silk and cotton pieces with the most charming designs are available on their website www.labelvarsha.com. From the comfort of your homes, you have the ability to access a range of offerings with the most intricately embroidered details.



Label Varsha hones a sense of creativity that intermingles modish and modern designs with traditional thought, creating a powerhouse of ethnic wear.

for more information, visit
www.labelvarsha.com | [@ /labelvarsha](https://www.instagram.com/labelvarsha)



SCENTS OF SPACE

To make your rooms smell as good as they look

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**



1 Candles by Baobab*, Sources Unlimited. 2 Delicate tea light*, Elementry.
3 Cipriani scents*, OTTIMO. 4 Lily diffuser*, Izzaar. 5 Sleep Deep Mishran*, Paro.
6 Scent*, Beyond Designs. *Prices on Request Shopping Guide on Pg 50

MUSIC IN MY EARS

Block out the world with these gorgeous-looking headphones. Perfect for the WFH situation!

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**

The Samsung AKG N700 NC Wireless headphones deliver sound free of distortion and distraction. Its design is perfect for travelling and blends first class adaptive noise cancelling technology with sleek and elegant design accents.



Its closed acoustic design blocks out ambient noise for a better listening experience.

"Sound is the vocabulary of nature."

— Pierre Henri Marie Schaeffer, *composer, writer and musicologist*

SENNHEISER



USP: The Momentum Wireless features intuitive controls designed for any situation. Active Noise Cancellation and Transparent Hearing functionality allow you to experience your audio world on your terms.

JBL



USP: The JBL Live 500BT wireless headphones support Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant voice control and delivers powerful, bass-forward audio.

BOSE



USP: QuietComfort 35 is enabled with Bose AR—the world's first audio-only augmented reality platform. Applications utilise contextual audio to deliver unique experiences.

PHILIPS



USP: Packing powerful, punchy bass into a sleek, compact package, this headphone is built for those who need more bass in their beats without any extra bulk.

Shopping Guide on Pg 50

SURROUNDED BY SOUND

Take the party wherever you go with these powerboxes!

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**

Taking inspiration from the architectural and interior trends of using warm colours and contrasting materials, Bang & Olufsen's limited-edition Bronze Collection features B&O's most popular multiroom speakers. Along with its sophisticated look, the vivid sound of this collection makes it perfect for the modern home.



"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music."

— Albert Einstein, *Scientist*

JBL



USP: The JBL Pulse packs quite a punch: Waterproof with a 360-degree LED lightshow and sound, these speakers are perfect companions for your parties! You can even customise the light sequences according to the music.

BANG & OLUFSEN



USP: A gorgeous design with an equally gorgeous sound quality, the B&O Beolit 17 features a unique speaker that disperses sound in all directions, so you can hear the music clearly no matter where you stand.

AMAZON



USP: Loaded up with parental controls and packed with games and "skills," the Alexa-powered Echo Kids Edition keeps children entertained while spurring their imaginations, all with you in control.

BOSE



USP: The Bose Portable Home Speaker comes equipped with Google Assistant or Alexa for home. It is portable and battery-powered, so you can move around with it.



IN A NEW LIGHT

Marrying the delicate disposition of porcelain with nature. The Ginkgo Collection, a bespoke series of suspended lighting sculptures in porcelain by Romanian artist Andreea Braescu, taps into the principles of nature and the life-sustaining relationship between the sun and trees. Each individually-crafted porcelain leaf is positioned to capture and reflect light in a way, mirroring the dynamic harmony nature itself creates.

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**

Shopping Guide on Pg 50



CHASING AFTER RAINBOWS

We find ourselves drawn to the iridescent charm of Shimmer Tavoli, a darling series of tables. The delicate design has a sparkling personality, and reflects the beautiful weather we are experiencing now

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**



SHIMMER TAVOLI

Crafted by Glas Italia, this series of tables is available in India at Vita Moderna. It includes high tables, low tables and consoles. The body is made up of laminate and glued glass, made unique with its iridescent multicolour finish. Depending on where you stand, the nuances of the finish varies.... Its beauty depends on your vantage point.

The bases can be dismantled and fixed to the top by means of metal plates, concealed by a circular decorated covering.





Click here
TO READ MORE

UPCYCLE QUEEN

Sharon Colaco Dsouza is not afraid of a challenge. This nifty designer can transform any discarded, neglected, or even a new decor purchase, into an item of much more coveted value!

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

The headline of this feature says it all! Sharon Colaco Dsouza is amazingly talented at transforming just about any ordinary item, into a thing of beauty and quirk! So much depth and detail behind every piece and the harder we look, the more we come away amazed with the content and quality!

Sharon repurposes discarded guitars into functional shelves or eye-candy storage units; she creates cake stands that are delicate, feminine and befitting of our baked goodies, her honey dippers are stunning creations...and the list goes on.

At the core of everything she does, is the vision that it must be functional. Every little trinket or design that comes out of The Keybunch, that's the name of Sharon's design atelier, strives towards that goal.



SHARON COLACO DSOUZA

I absolutely love the beauty we find all around us everyday. It's everywhere really. It is up to us to stop and smell the roses, and take time out to enjoy this amazing world!

— Sharon Colaco Dsouza, Founder, The Keybunch

THE NEW SCHOOL... OUR HOMES!

We've done our homework about homeschooling. Here's everything you need to know about how to get your home ready in its "studious" avatar

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

Adapt. Evolve. Create. Homeschooling is a detailed operation that requires you, as a parent, to be one step ahead of things. Sorry, but you can't take it one day at a time ---- some amount of careful planning is definitely required.

That's why we out with the above mentioned three words.

What we've quickly come to realise is that the traditional children's bedroom is just not going to cut it. All this while, children's rooms gave priority to sleep and play, with an elemental focus on studies, now, that's going to drastically change. The order is now, sleep, study and play. With the school now coming home, is the home equipped to handle the school?



PHOTOGRAPHS THE BABY ATELIER



TAKATOMO.DE



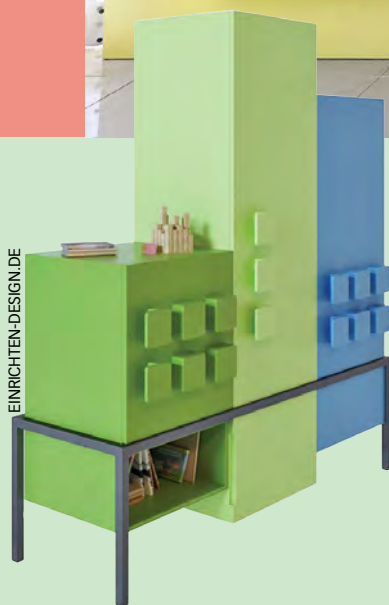
TAKATOMO.DE

STAYING CONNECTED!

Payal Karumbia, Founder, The Baby Atelier gets right to it, "The biggest change parents will see in their children's lives in this time of homeschooling is the lack of interaction with their peer group. This is especially hard for kids who are currently experiencing social isolation from any children their age. Since a child's surroundings have a very large impact on how they grow and develop, it is important to rebuild a kid's room that encourages comfort, creativity, and fun. Build the room around the child's likes and dislikes so they have a sense of belonging and familiarity." ▶



PROJECT BY WORKSHOP INC.



EINRICHTEN-DESIGN.DE



GO MODERN FURNITURE



GO MODERN FURNITURE

FURNITURE & STORAGE

Rooms that enable growth, now this is the need of the hour...not rooms that are primarily aesthetic and easy on the eye. While multi-functional furniture and storage are the obvious starting points, we are only just about scratching the surface. Rohina Anand, Owner, AA Living, says, "A clutter-free room is important when creating a setup able enough for homeschooling. The reason for a minimal space design is to avoid the evils of distractions... children have such vivid imaginations and it doesn't take much to get their minds to digress. Furniture that addresses a purpose, and storage that keeps the extras out of sight during study time...keep this in mind, it'll help in the longrun.." And boy, it's going to be a long run alright! ▶



HP PRINTERS, AVAILABLE AT FLIPKART



PROJECT BY WORKSHOP INC.

TECH-ABLE

And that's precisely what we mean. Homeschooling is not just between you as a parent and your little one, it involves a tech-heavy system that is interactive between teacher and student. Technology and its gadgetry are going to become intrinsic to addressing the educational requirements of children. A lot is going to depend on tech, to ensure connectivity and engagement. The trick is to ensure all the technology-based additions follow safety requirements and serve dual purposes. Printers, computers with anti-glare screens, headphones, speakers, a strong Wi-Fi setup...these are the basics, but there are more. ▶



YELLOW OCTOPUS

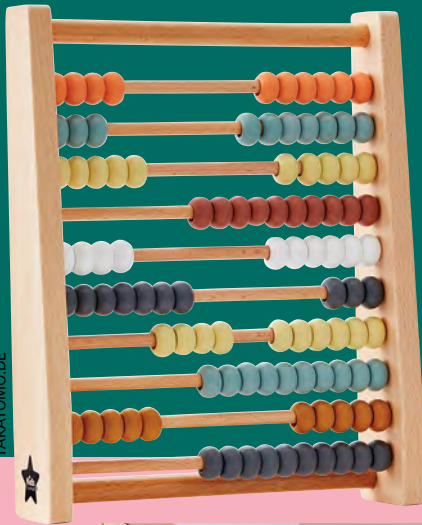
YELLOW OCTOPUS



YELLOW OCTOPUS

ENGAGING ADDITIONS

We go back to Rohina, "While traditionally, the children's room was a space to encourage creative thought and expression... now more than ever it is important to keep the distractions at bay! Creating a room with a school-room vibe will stimulate your little one's mind and help them focus on studying." This might sound serious and stuffy, but Rohina is quick to make an excellent suggestion - Activity boards (read: chalkboards, pinboards, whiteboards, etc), will introduce that certain school-vibe to the room. This feature will also share more ideas that will encourage and nurture the traditional sense of a school. ▶



TAKATOMO.DE



PEEKABOO



BLOOM TOYS



PROJECT BY WORKSHOP INC.



CHILDREN'S FURNITURE, AVAILABLE AT FLIPKART



CIRCU



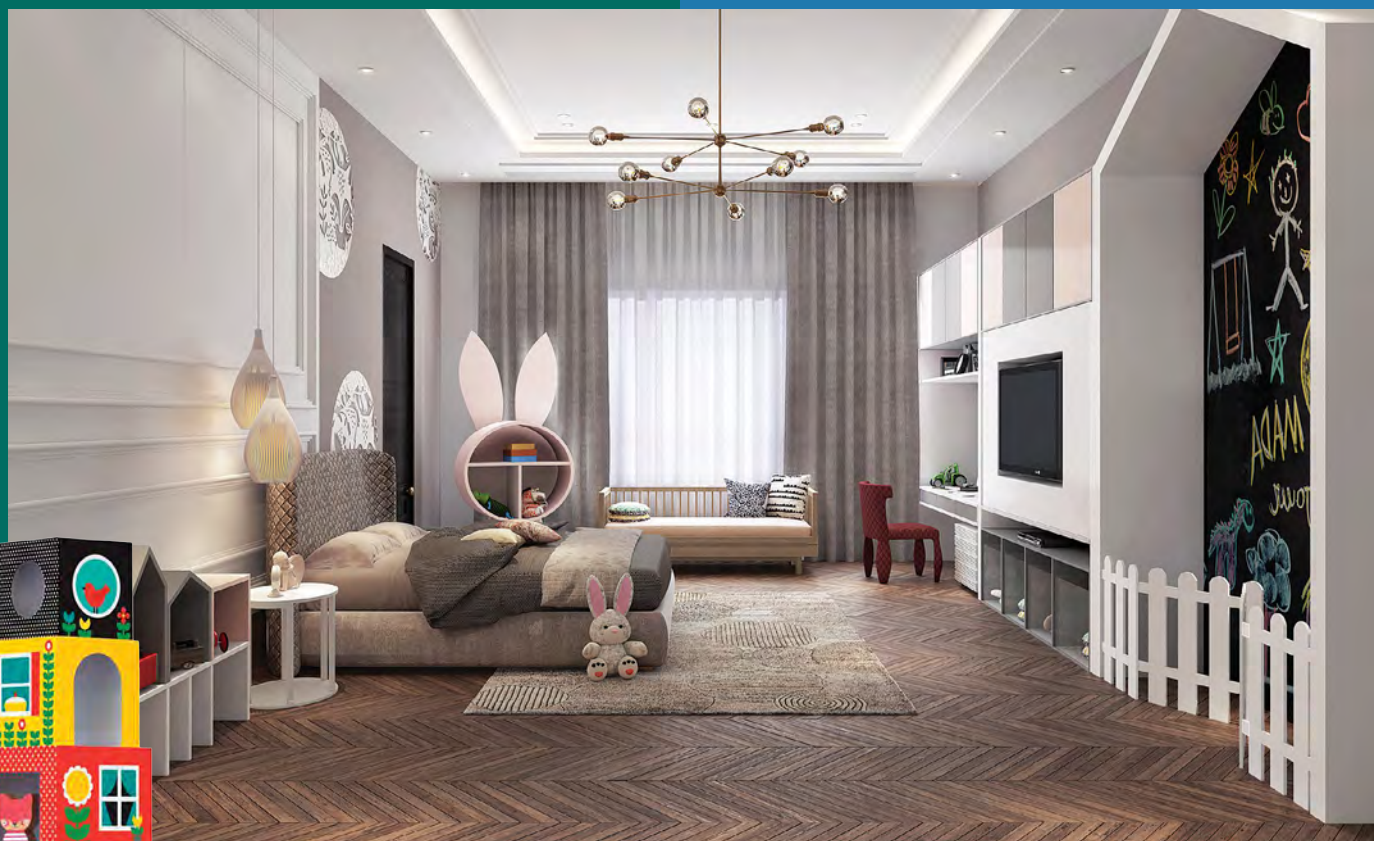
POSTCARDS HOME



TAKATOMO.DE

PERSONALISE THE ROOM

The design of your child's room cannot afford to be monotonous. Shake things up. Architect Keta Shah of Workshop Inc says, "There are many ways to design a kid's room to be fun and playful without making it according to a particular theme. Kids tend to grow out of themes very fast, and if they like a character or a theme, then it's best to invest in a theme-based accent piece that can be replaced once that fascination is over. Similarly, pops of colours can be added with the soft furnishings, cushions, art or loose furniture pieces, to make it cheerful. If the walls and fixed furniture is in a neutral colour, it will make it easy for you to change the look of the room without spending a bomb." ▶



PROJECT BY APARNA KAUSHIK



YELLOW OCTOPUS



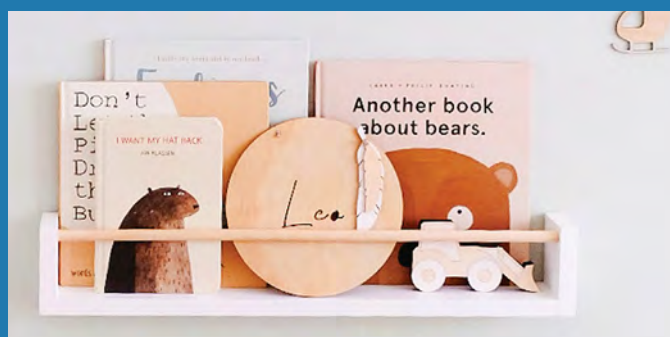
ENRICHTEN-DESIGN.DE

INVEST IN ESSENTIALS

Ruchira Nahata, Influencer & Blogger, @mommy_fiesta, and a young mother to a two-year-old gives us tips for toddlers. "Invest in a wall blackboard sticker or a wall hanging where we can show and teach them various concepts. Get a lot of chart paper and draw and make flashcards which work wonders for their right brain activation. With the help of pom-poms and candy sticks, we can do a lot of activities with them eg, number counting, colour sorting, sticking, water activities with pom-pom like transferring. Get a tray where you can do a lot of sensory activities with paints, water, animals, birds and ice. We can use coloured rice, grains and pasta for scooping, transferring, mixing, sensory play setups. We need colours and paints for learning though play way." Sounds like a lot of fun! ►



YELLOW OCTOPUS



WOODYOUBUY



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY THE BABY ATELIER

THE PLAN: REPLAN THE ROOM

We ask Ruchira this, here's what she has to say... "In terms of re-planning, try to stick to muted, soft pastels, it soothes the eyes of a child. Keep things in a fun way and rotate the toys. Get small shelves with partition and get a small study table and chair. Keep one wall for only studying so the kid knows this is where I will learn new things from. Remove your beautiful artefact or showpiece which might hurt the kid. Put colourful play mats where you can sit and do homeschooling." This is in regard to toddlers, but what about the older children? Rohina's advice, invest in lumbar-supporting pieces of furniture – a chair that is flexible with back support at a 90-degree angle, is one of the most important investments for an older child when it comes to homeschooling. **GH**



GO MODERN FURNITURE



LIME LACE





AN EFFICIENT NEW LIVING

We asked ourselves, what's the need of the hour? Almost immediately we had our answer: Energy-efficient gadgets that live long, help us reduce our carbon footprint and work intelligently to improve our lives...precisely this

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

Life as we knew it has changed. It's time we adapt and make smart choices to help us live a resourceful lifestyle. We've noticed and admired how smart gadgets make daily living an effortless model, but some super-efficient ones do more. They drastically reduce electricity consumption, minimise the need for water and ensure a hygienic household. We bring you designs that are working overtime for the living room, bathroom and kitchen. All unique in function, and showcasing incredible technology.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The AEROSmart air-coolers by USHA can cool a room within minutes.

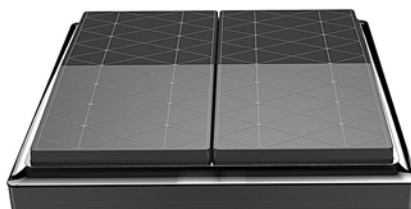


THE LIVING ROOM

It's the traditional nucleus of every Indian household. From a couple to a young family with children, to a large joint family, we all enjoy some serious downtime here. Aside from the aesthetics, ensuring our living room is an energy-efficient one, will help enhance our overall standard of living - by that we mean reduced expenses and better health! Let's start at the basic...the air we breathe. Being a high-traffic room, it's imperative that we invest in technology that improves and balances the quality of air the family breathes. From humidifiers, to air purifiers, and filtration systems, analyse the immediate requirements and the overall health history of the family. Give priority to the needs of our most vulnerable members. Also, fun times are mostly scheduled here, so opt for products with an energy rating. Entertainment too can be thoughtful! Next, lighting...watch out for motion-sensor designs that automatically switch on and off. ▶



The Stella Smart lighting solutions by Jaquar is a motion-sensor, 80% energy saving series of designs.



The wireless switch by Evolve, works on kinetic energy and can operate in a 100 metre plus range. No need for batteries, or internet.



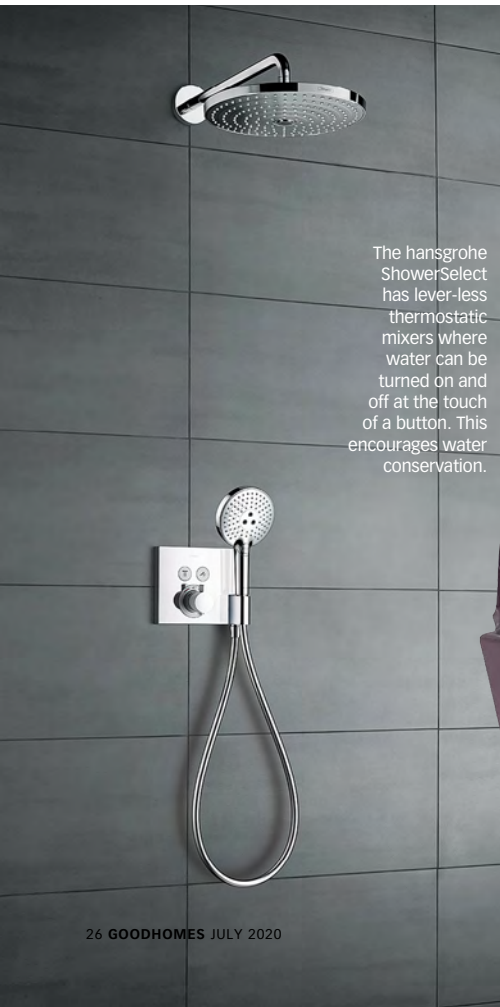
FOREST by OxyGarden, uses plants to convert 700ltrs of H₂O into O₂. It has a five-stage air purification system.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The touch-free soap/sanitiser dispenser by Grafoer works on batteries.



The technology behind the automatic sensor faucets by Grafoer saves water consumption by a whopping 70%.



The hansgrohe ShowerSelect has lever-less thermostatic mixers where water can be turned on and off at the touch of a button. This encourages water conservation.

VitrA's Aquasee faucet generates its own power with the flow of water. The Powerbox converts the flow of water into electricity with its internal generator.



E-Clenz, the remote-operated electronic wall-mounted water closet by Hindware is redefining sanitation.



THE BATHROOM

If there's one place we can escape to, and really spend time with ourselves, it's got to be the bathroom. Making smart decisions for our bathroom space, will go a long way in ensuring we live a healthy life and sustain an efficient household.

One of the biggest wastes that happen here is directly related to the way water is utilised. From the sink, faucet, bidet, shower head, etc...products that help us halve our consumption is the way forward. The bathroom is also where we can address our demanding hygiene-based requirements – from hands-free designs, to automatic toilet-seat cleaners and flush, if there's one place we encourage a high-tech living, it's here, in the bathroom. And another thing, air purifiers specially built to address moisture built-up, allergens...are a boon, and we could all use this tech right about now! The bathroom needs to be one of the safest and healthiest places in our homes, and that's a goal we should ascribe to. ▶

SPECIAL FEATURE



The semi integrated dishwasher by Fabre has a heat exchange system which uses the heat generated in the wash cycle to preheat the water for subsequent rinse cycles. It also conserves water.



THE KITCHEN

If there are 24 hours in a day, we spend most of our waking hours here. From grabbing a quick snack, preparing a day's meal, washing and tidying up, organising the pantry, using cooking gadgets to make masalas and pastes for future use...the kitchen sees some high-octave action through the day. We start things off with air purification! Be it a chimney, exhaust fan, or investing in a smart stove top that knows when to reduce the heat...clean, breathable air is so important here. Then comes the essentials, stove tops, faucets, ovens, the works! Keep an eye out for energy-ratings when planning your energy-efficient kitchen. Companies must adhere to strict regulations to get those stars on their products, so that's one way to ensure you get what is advertised. Next, don't indulge-shop! If your family doesn't drink juices daily, don't invest in one of those multi-functional designs. Stick to what is needed, to ensure the best use of energy and resources. **GH**



The hansgrohe Aquino Select M81 mixer comes with multiple spray modes. For washing hands, the StainFlow uses just 4 liters per minute.

The QUEO F-ITOUCH kitchen mixer by Hindware is equipped with patented technique allowing one to turn on and stop the water supply by just touching the mixer.

The InfinitiCook Halogen Oven by Usha is a CE certified, all-in-one cooking solution which harnesses the power of light as the source of energy for effective and efficient cooking.



Celebrating Outdoors

As the world went into lockdown, families the world over moved out onto their balconies and terraces, making it the setting of choice. And just like that, our outdoor spaces metamorphosed into outdoor living areas, like rooms we can no longer live without

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**



THE LOUNGE

Move a compact sofa or a couple of comfortable armchairs to the balcony. Set it up with a side table or two, a rug, lots of plants. If there's enough space, hang a hammock or a swing. Bring in cushions and throws to up the cosiness level. We love the piano in this balcony by Humbert & Poyet. ▶



COLE & SON



BESPOKE HOME JEWELS



FENDI CASA

FENDI CASA



ESSENTIAL HOME

THE OUTDOOR ROOM

Give your own twist to the open concept living room. Let your terrace be an extension of your living room. Who said wallpapers are not to be used outdoors. We love the idea of a botanical wallpaper, but the choice is entirely yours. Maintain continuity in decor by opting for furniture that's in sync with the indoors. Don't forget to look for weather-proof options. Fresh air, natural light and sofa to lounge in- what else in the world could one want? ▶



SIAN ZENG



JOHN EADON

1BKHK



ESSENTIAL HOME



NODO

BESPOKE HOME JEWELS

THE URBAN GARDEN

Unleash your inner plant lady. Transform your balcony or your patio into your own little green oasis. Plan your little retreat based on the space you have. Opt for vertical gardens if you are space-challenged. Climbers are a brilliant addition to outdoor spaces – it ensures privacy as well as effortlessly envelops your space in a green cover. A few well-placed pots filled with exuberant foliage or hanging baskets full of flowers can quickly transform a bare balcony or a patio into a lush, welcoming garden. Perfect setting to enjoy an intense game of chess...what say? ▶

A PRIVATE OASIS

Extend your master bedroom into the balcony. Create a cosy lounge to relax at the end of the day. Place a plush sofa or a daybed. Use wall paint, flooring and décor accessories similar to the bedroom or in contrast to it. Add some elegant mood lighting and décor accessories as well. The four-poster day bed and the sheers add an elegant touch to this balcony designed by Metr Group. **GH**



THE MACRAME MAN

THE MACRAME MAN

FENDI CASA, SEETU KOHU HOME

FENDI CASA, SEETU KOHU HOME

DEV & DEVON



INCLINED STUDIO

THE ULTIMATE *DINING EXPERIENCE* AT HOME

Just because we can't dine out, doesn't mean you should be reduced to eating sad meals on the couch. Instead, take this time to develop your culinary skills, decorate your dining area, and make meals a part of the day you look forward to

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**

SET THE MOOD

Lighting and music play important roles in setting the right ambience. Put those dimmers to good use, bring in some candles and tea-lights, fairy lights are welcome too.



VILLEROY & BOCH



SOURCES UNLIMITED

BRING OUT THE PRECIOUS CHINA

It's gonna be some time before we get back to serious entertaining at home. Might as well make use of what you have Now is the perfect time to dust off the special dishes, the heirloom crystal, the wedding china you never use, or even the precious silverware reserved for extra-special occasions. The simplest of the meals can be presented in a way that is special and avoids the mundane. ►

SET THE TABLE

Using tablecloths or placemats for meals is just one of many dining table hacks that you can use if you want your dinner to have a true restaurant vibe.



SABRINA MONTE-CARLO

CREATE A CENTREPIECE

You don't need to leave the house to create a centerpiece for your dinner table. If you've got flowers growing in the garden, cut a few and put them in a glass or vase for your table. Fresh fruit will also work wonders!



123RF



123RF



SOPHIE ALPORT

FIND THE PERFECT LOCATION

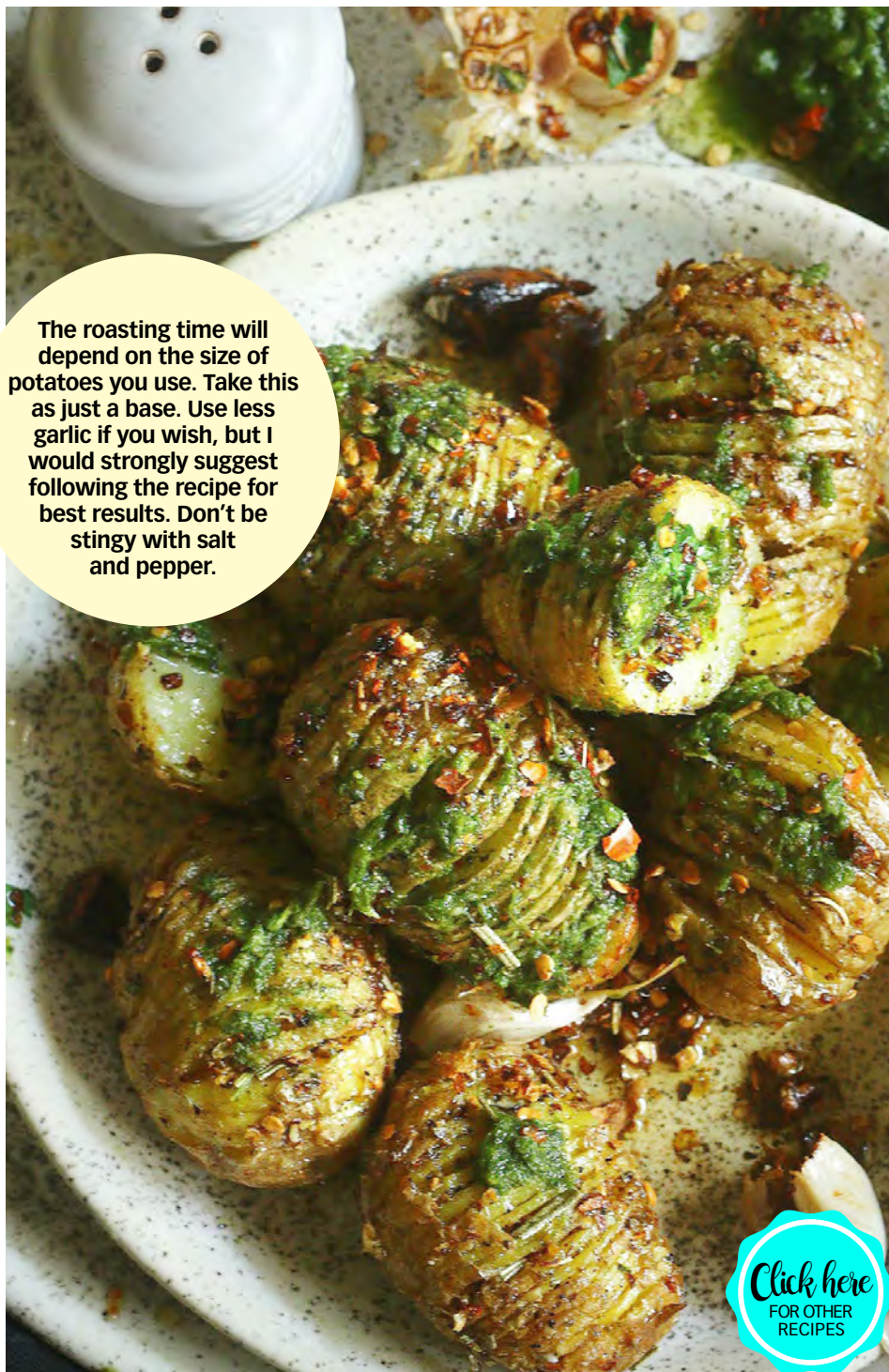
It's not just the food that attracts us to a certain place. It's also the ambience, the vibe. So, why not bring that vibe home? It's nice to shake things up a bit once in a while. Don't be lackadaisical about it. Put in the effort, make it a family affair to remember. Most of us end up eating on the couch, in front of the TV. Instead, at least once in a while, change the routine. If you usually eat on the couch or the kitchen table, serve the meal in the dining room instead. Or even better, if you do have a balcony or a terrace, take the party outside. **GH**

ONE POTATO, FOUR RECIPES



When it comes to 'ghar ka khaana', one name stands out! Swayampurna Mishra. Food goddess, owner of La Petit Chef, and author of My Indian Kitchen cooks up four deliciously simple recipes to show us how the humble potato can be more than just a side dish

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**



The roasting time will depend on the size of potatoes you use. Take this as just a base. Use less garlic if you wish, but I would strongly suggest following the recipe for best results. Don't be stingy with salt and pepper.

Roasted garlic potatoes with green garlic and cilantro chutney

Garlic, lime, honey roasted potatoes are the perfect side dish you can whip up on a short notice. Taking only 10 minutes to get these ready, these roasted potatoes are extremely versatile. Crispy on the top, soft within and flavored with garlic, lime honey, hint of chilli, they make great sides for celebratory occasions and 4th of July too!

INGREDIENTS

- Potatoes (any waxy ones)- 6 or as desired.
- For the spice rub:
- Garlic cloves chopped fine - 8
- Green chillies chopped fine - 2
- Juice of 1 lime
- Extra virgin olive oil - ¼ cup
- Butter, softened - 1 tbsp
- Sea salt - as needed
- Black pepper
- Red chili flakes -as desired
- Dried rosemary - just a pinch.
- Cilantro/ coriander/parsley- a big handful, chopped fine.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by scrubbing the potatoes clean and drying them off on tissues.
2. Hold the potato firmly and start slicing the potato lengthwise into thin slices, keeping the bottom intact. Essentially the knife shouldn't cut all the through the potato.
3. Mix all the ingredients needed for the mix (except rosemary and cilantro) thoroughly.
4. Use a pastry brush and apply it all over the potatoes, making sure to get enough into the crevices too.
5. Preheat the oven at 180C.
6. sprinkle the rosemary and cilantro on top of the potatoes arranged on a baking sheet.
7. Place it in the oven to roast for 60 minutes or till tender inside and crispy outside.
8. Serve immediately with a spicy chutney made of garlic green and cilantro leaves.

VARIATIONS:

If using cheese, put some grated cheddar cheese into the slices and bake in the last ten minutes till the cheese has melted. Serve hot, loaded with browned bacon and mushroom bits. Add a dollop of Tzatziki dip and some Thai sweet chilli sauce if desired.

Click here
FOR OTHER
RECIPES



Swayampurna Mishra

Owner of La Petit Chef, and author of My Indian Kitchen

Before pursuing her passion for food, Swayampurna Mishra was a banker and very good at crunching numbers. But her love affair with Indian gourmet fare got the better of her, and for that, we are grateful. Today, she runs the very successful LaPetitChef an online blog, is an Editor for Thefeedfeed, and is currently working on her second cookbook. What we love about this domestic goddess, is that she has created a community for like-minded food lovers and weaves delicious stories with her photography of every yummy dish she creates!

INSPIRED BY SANDY SHORES & MORE...



For this holiday home in Goa, designer Sarah Sham focuses on capturing the sense of being on a vacation

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL DSOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **GOKUL RAO KADAM**

SARAH SHAM

Founder, Esajaees Atelier

Sarah Sham founded Esajaees Atelier, the interiors atelier of Esajaees, her family-run business, a little after 2014. Today her company is touted as one of the country's most sought-after design firms, with Sarah quickly running out of shelf space to display her awards – including the TRENDS Excellence Awards 2018 for Best Hospitality Project (very happy to see our unique 3-D trophy sitting happily on your table, Sarah).



In the living room, Sarah has kept things light and bright. She opted for a neutral colour palette with pops through the accessories. The large windows ensure that the outdoors are an integral part of the living.



“ Nature is very important to me. I am obsessed with plants and I incorporate greenery in all my projects. This time, I used natural materials and sourced locally for an authentic flavour.

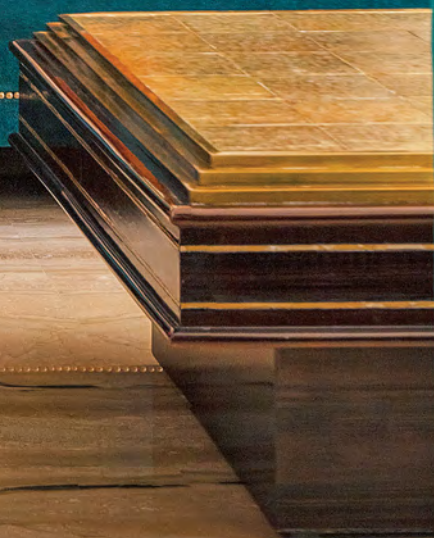
— Sarah Sham, Founder, Esajaees Atelier



THE GREAT INDIAN RENAISSANCE

Located in Gurugram, this 2,000sqft apartment sums up India Modern as a design narrative. Designer Rakhee Bedi Kumar marries jewel tones with richly-detailed designs for a home that is 100% rooted in India

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**
PHOTOGRAPHS **NIVEDITAA GUPTA**





THE CLIENT ASKED FOR AN INDIA-MODERN HOME THAT SHOWCASED HIS TOURISM BUSINESS TO HIS CLIENTS AND GUESTS.

— Rakhee Bedi Kumar, Founding Principal, RSDA



RAKHEE BEDI KUMAR

Founding Principal, RSDA

Rakhee Bedi Kumar is the founding principal at Rakhee Shobhit Design Associates which is a multi-disciplinary design firm delivering architecture, interior design and strategic services across India. As seen in this project, her designs prioritise the work of local artisans and skilled labour, by making them intrinsic to the overall narrative.



All the decor accents, pieces of furniture and hardware accessories are custom designed by RSDA. The beautiful curation of lights are sources from Beyond Designs, while the wallpapers are from Good Earth, and the beautiful selection of home furnishings are from Zynna. We love the celebration of design by Indian-based decor brands.





A NORDIC STORY

Simple, yet sophisticated,
this Mumbai home
channels a distinctly
Scandinavian vibe

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**
PHOTOGRAPHS **PULKIT SEHGAL**





ADITI VORA NAIR

**Founder & Director,
AVN Interiors**

Aditi graduated from the American University of Sharjah where she specialised in Interior Design. She followed that by mastering furniture design at the Kent Institute of Art and Design, UK. Soon after a couple of internships, including stints with Kamal Malik and Vinu Chadha, she decided to branch out on her own. She founded AVN Interiors in 2011, and since then has designed numerous residential and commercial projects.



THE MIRRORED PANEL IN THE DINING AREA HIDES THE CROCKERY UNIT AND THE BAR, KEEPING THE CLUTTER AWAY AND OPTIMISING THE SPACE AT THE SAME TIME.

— Aditi Vora Nair, Founder & Director, AVN Interiors

There's beauty in simplicity, they say. And nothing elucidates that better than this gorgeous home designed by interior designer Aditi Vora Nair — a space cocooned in natural colours, warm wood tones, and soft golden sunlight.



A FEELING OF CALM

A marriage of pastel colours with greenery indoors, and an exacting approach to design, give this Mumbai apartment its delightful and familiar air

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**
PHOTOGRAPHS **BIJU GOPA/BIZOU PHOTOS**

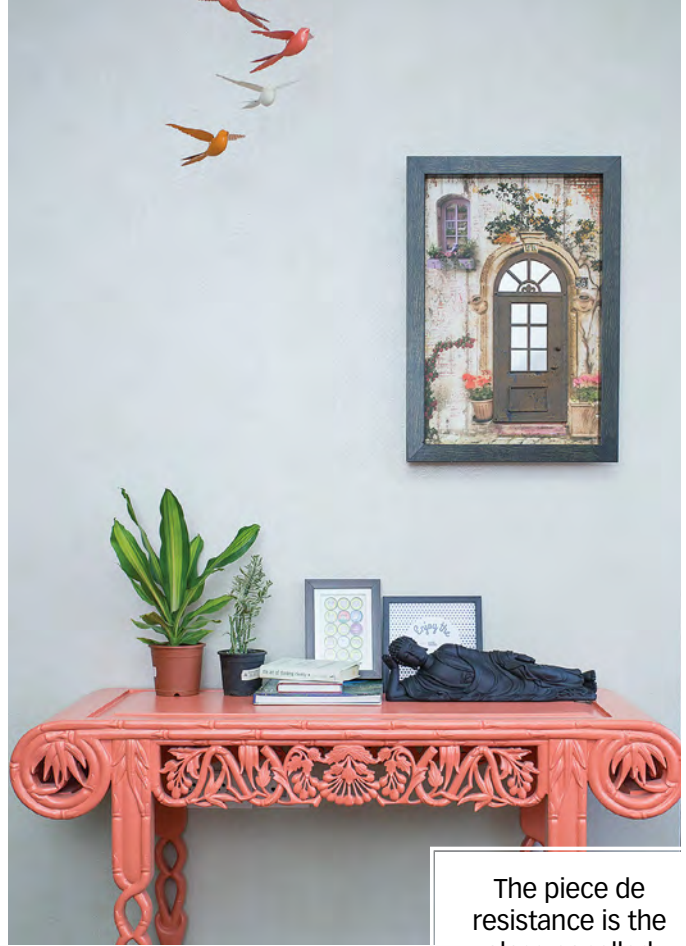




KUMPAL VAID

Founder, Purple Backyard

Inspired by the understated notions of visual arts Purple Backyard is an interior design and visual merchandising studio located in Mumbai, India. Since 2010, the studio, founded by Kumpal Vaid, has created a proud portfolio of projects across residential, hospitality, commercial spaces & shop floors. Timeless design with uncluttered and optimistic vision best describes the studio's aesthetic.



The piece de resistance is the glass panelled meditation room. Kumpal transformed the pantry and utility area with glass walls, patterned wallpaper, a couch and a media station.

“The idea was to keep the eye moving. So, we used wood to tie the design together. Even if the tones were different, it worked out as the narrative is unexpected yet carefully-coordinated.”

— Kumpal Vaid, Founder & Principal Designer, Purple Backyard



VITAMIN SEA

City apartment or luxurious beach house? Architect Padmini Pandey blurs the line to create an urban dwelling that encapsulates the sun, sand and surf, on home turf

FEATURE **TINA THAKRAR** PHOTOGRAPHS **PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA**



PADMINI PANDEY

**Principal Architect & Designer,
Studio Padmini Pandey**

Mumbai-based architect, designer and urban planner Padmini Pandey founded her own studio in Mumbai in 2011. Before that, she studied and worked extensively in Italy, with projects spanning the globe. Stemming from this experience, her unique sensibility can be seen in not only luxury homes but also hospitality, master planning and lighting design projects.

Defined by a breathtaking view of the Arabian sea, this apartment is like a beach house away from the city.



“

The apartment is designed as a minimal, low maintenance space with an emphasis on relaxation, rejuvenation and a holiday vibe; in spite of being within the city.

— Padmini Pandey, Principal Architect & Designer, Studio Padmini Pandey



It's the beachy colour palette and nautical influences that give this home its distinct language. Shades of brown and cream make the subtlest blues and greens stand out. Fresh potted plants and flowers are the perfect adornment here.

REAL HOME

The bookcase, which is the focal point of the room, is made of teak wall panels. Horizontal milling helps to integrate the shelves made of painted sheet steel. The cabinet under the bookcase, acts as a bench. An element, designed to store and display music records, acts as a room divider between the dining and the living rooms.



INSPIRED BY THE MOUNTAINS

Just outside the city of Prato, Italy, on the Tuscan Hills, this apartment has been designed for a young couple passionate about mountain climbing

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNA POSITANO**

JAVIER DEFERRARI & LAVINIA MODESTI

**Co-Founders,
Deferrari + Modesti**

DEFERRARI+MODESTI was founded in 2010 in Florence by Javier Deferrari and Lavinia Modesti (Italian). Before founding the studio they gained various experiences, including collaborations with Enzo mari, Manuel Gausa and Stefano Boeri. "Our approach is inclusive and collaborative, promoting creative dialogue with our clients, consultants and collaborators," says Javier.



The staircase is the real fulcrum of the house, the point where the different levels are connected, highlighting the various passages of altitude. The staircase becomes a sort of micro-architecture inside the house, a playful space to live in. Circulation element, but also rest area, reception area, container cabinet, filter and separation device, frame for climbing (the owners are passionate about mountain climbing.)



“

THE STAIRCASE NOT ONLY REPRESENTS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS LEVELS AND ZONES, IT ALSO BECOMES THE FULCRUM AND THE ELEMENT OF SPATIAL ARTICULATION.

— Javier Deferrari, Co-Founder, Deferrari + Modesti

TIMELY MAKEOVER

The transformation of a bare 50sqft balcony space from a neglected corner, to becoming the family's favourite spot for leisure

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA** PHOTOGRAPHS **YASH VORA**



“

OUR HOUSE IS LOCATED ON THE 32ND FLOOR. WE WANTED TO ENJOY THIS VIEW ON A DAILY BASIS AND DECIDED TO CREATE A SPACE FROM WHICH WE COULD TAKE IN THE SCENE.


— **Krishna Shah**, Interior Stylist & Homeowner

REAL HOME

The Moroccan tiles are the hero of this space. They instantly add freshness with their beautiful mix of floral and vintage patterns. The combination of pastel tones with greys is a winner!



Sometimes, Krishna Shah and her husband feel like they are living up in the clouds.... When you live on the 32nd floor of one of Mumbai's skyscrapers, that's obvious. During the monsoons, the clouds enter their home and that's a beautiful sight! The other sight being the city view. The couple wanted to enjoy it daily, but the balcony with the best view, was anything but! So, Krishna, an upcoming interior stylist, set about transforming it.

In her pursuit for perfection, she did a complete 360-degree makeover. From the ceiling to the roof, to the colour to the civil structure. The deck flooring was gutted to make way for tiles (also a solution to water seepage during monsoon). The ceiling has wood lookalike Alubond, to create the charm of wooden rafters, while the daybed and potted plants perpetuate an outdoor vibe. Krishna styled the space with quirky frames, cushy throws, pops of colour, and oodles of ambient lighting. This spacious nook is now the couple's fave corner to retreat to. Love! 



ABCD

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